

BERLIN HIGH NEWSPAPER

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B.H.S. 'Shop' class, 1945

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY THE MEMBERS OF
THE BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

INTERESTED? VISIT THE LIBRARY ON ANY
MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL, OR SEE MR SCANNELL
OR MS LARSEN.

Ms. Bush, Our New Library Aide

By A Regular Library User

Q: What made you want to become a librarian?

A: Well, I love books, I love to read and I want to get other people to love books and love to read as well.

Q: Where were you before this?

A: I worked in publishing, and I was an editor. It sounds more glamorous than it actually is.

Q: How do you like the school so far?

A: I love it. Everyone is very nice.

Q: What is your favorite genre to read?

A: I read a lot of Y.A (Young Adult), but my favorite would have to be fantasy.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Oh, I don't have a favorite, but my favorite author is Oscar Wilde; he is neither fantasy nor young adult but he is my favorite author.

Q: What does he write about?

A: He mainly wrote plays and poems. Unfortunately, Oscar Wilde died in the 1900's, so maybe you will get to him someday.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say?

A: I worked in publishing for almost ten years. I was an editor and I worked at a couple different publishing companies. I worked at one that published crossword puzzles and things like that. Then I worked a company that published trade magazines, but it wasn't as

It was actually really stressful career. So then I got a job at a public library and I was there for a little while working in the children sections room, which was a lot more fun than publishing.



Computer Science Education

by Mr. Swirka

"Computer science drives job growth and innovation throughout our economy and society. More than half of projected jobs in STEM fields are in computing occupations; computing occupations dominate "help wanted" ads; and computer science is one of the hottest degrees for new college graduates. Further, computer science is fundamental knowledge all students need for the 21st century. However, computer science education is marginalized

throughout K-12 education—denying access to this critical knowledge, particularly among underrepresented groups." <http://csedweek.org/files/states/CT.pdf>

Berlin High School now offers AP Computer Science, preparing students not only for the AP exam, but for college and real-life experience. With computer science experience in high-demand, students are setting themselves up for success in the future by taking computer science now. BHS is fortunately enough to have CS classes count towards your mathematics credit requirement, allowing students to study their interests. Computer Science Education Week is here to bring awareness to this underappreciated field and to encourage all students to branch out. See Mr. Cwirka in room 223 with any questions.

Manga Madness

by Tyre Brinson

For the past hundred years, the remnants of humanity have hidden behind three enormous cities surrounded by gigantic walls, protected from the giant, cannibalistic humanoids known as Titans whose sole purpose is to devour any human in sight. Eren Yeager is a whiny, self-entitled brat who constantly screams and foams at the mouth about his hatred for the Titans. He has been living behind these walls all his life with his adopted sister Mikasa, a cold and apathetic little girl who gives everyone the death stare, and also with his best friend, Armin, a weak and spineless, overly religious crybaby who had his family eaten right in front of him. All their lives they've sought the outside world and dream of taking back the world from the Titans, who have dominated the outside world

for over a century. They have been protected by 100 foot walls for a hundred years, but conveniently, a Titan who is 200 feet appears out of nowhere one day and knocks down the first wall, letting in a horde of Titans. Eren's mother is snapped in half and eaten right in front of him, and the Titans get away. Eren vows revenge, while foaming at the mouth about how'll he'll destroy every last Titan. And that is the plot for every single volume for *Attack on the Titan*.

Attack on Titan is a great book with a genius premise and character development, but it is too bad that the main character is a loud mouth, cliched twit who does nothing but complain, and conveniently has super powers. The art of the books is cheesy and looks more like rough sketches than the final work of what is supposed to be one of the greatest manga of all time. The story makes up for this, however, with its mysterious and twisted plot, memorable and heartbreakingly tragic death scenes for main characters, and action scenes that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat. Even though the main characters are one-dimensional, the story is excellent. The plot is filled with mystery and adventure, so I would recommend it to someone looking for an action-packed story.



Could you Live on \$1.50 a Day?

by Mr. Ott

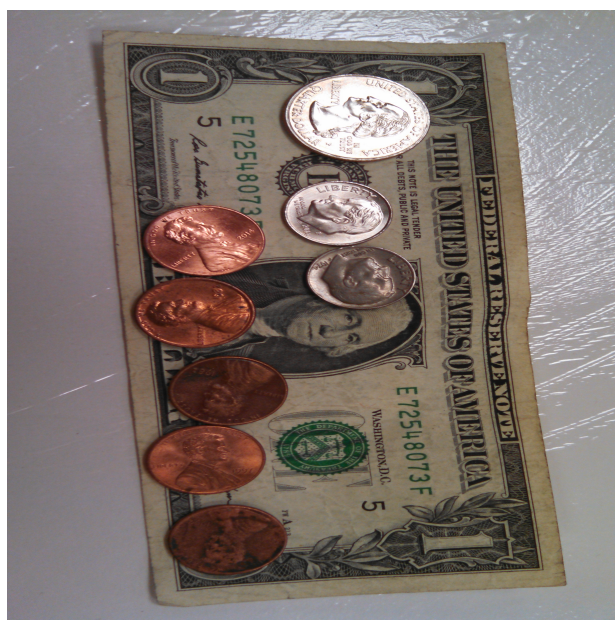
Below is a link to an article in the Berlin Citizen about a project taking place at BHS this week. Students in my "Global Poverty" course are challenging themselves to live on \$1.50 per day for 5 days in an effort to raise awareness of, and funds to help, the over 1 billion people that live on less than \$1.50 per day, every day.

If you would like to contribute, you can do so via our website or in-person at lunch, where the students are collecting donations for the two charities (Heifer International and Skateistan) they selected after researching two dozen reputable organizations.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/onefiftyperday>

More details on the project can be found in the Berlin Citizen article:

<http://www.berlincitizen.com/news/allnews/6371105-129/students-take-150-per-day-challenge.html>



Heisman Race

~Sam Barton

With the college football season coming to a close, the biggest question mark of the season still has been yet to answered: Who will win the Heisman Trophy? Here are your top 7 candidates heading into the selection.

QB Marcus Mariota- Oregon

So far, I believe that Marcus Mariota deserves the Heisman. Mariota has single-handedly lead the Ducks to a great record and a spot in the College Playoff. Plus, Mariota has luck on his side. The last four winners that have won the Heisman have been Quarterbacks. The best part of Mariota is his arm. This season, he has thrown a whopping 36 TDs and only 2 INTs. Mariota by far has the best stats for all the quarterbacks, too. Mariota has 3470 YDS this season, which is the best for all quarterbacks. Don't be surprised if Mariota wins the trophy this year.

RB Melvin Gordon III- Wisconsin

Until 2 weeks ago, I would've said that Melvin Gordon would win the Heisman, no question. Gordon, this year has run for a ridiculous 2260 YDS and has lead the Badgers to a great record. Although Gordon has run for all these crazy stats, one of his records was eclipsed. After compiling a massive 408 YDS vs Nebraska, Oklahoma freshman RB Samaje Perine broke it just a week later. I mean, I'm not taking anything away from Gordon, but this shows just how reachable that this record really was. It takes a special running back to break the record, but an even better running back to break it a week later

WR Amari Cooper- Alabama
Amari Cooper is a really under the radar guy. Although there has not been a lot of attention on him, this guy has been quietly catching passes and making jaws drop. Cooper has 103 receptions this year with an insane 1573 YDS.



Chomping at the BIT Wows Audience at First Show of the Year

By: Mr. Recore

Where were you on Friday, November 21st? Well, if you weren't in the Video Amp at 7 pm then you missed one heck of a show put on by the Berlin Improv Team, known as Chomping at the BIT (a.k.a BIT). Comprised of 9 students, BIT was created last year by Mr. Recore to expand Berlin's notoriety in the growing improv scene in Connecticut. Since its inception, BIT has been very active in growing and improving their skills. Last year, BIT competed in the CCSU Improv Olympiix competition. In addition, they opened for each of the four performances of the Senior Class Play, and they even opened for a public performance by professional improv group, the Great Make Believe Society, which is based in Middletown. After graduating three seniors last year, this year the troupe held

auditions in early September and welcomed four new members: senior Jordyn Tabury, junior Heather Mader, and sophomores Meghan Oates and Emma Wilcox. The returning members are senior captains Tom Pietruszewski and Dylan Stetson, seniors Megan Carroll and Kade Lamontagne, and junior Matt Barden.

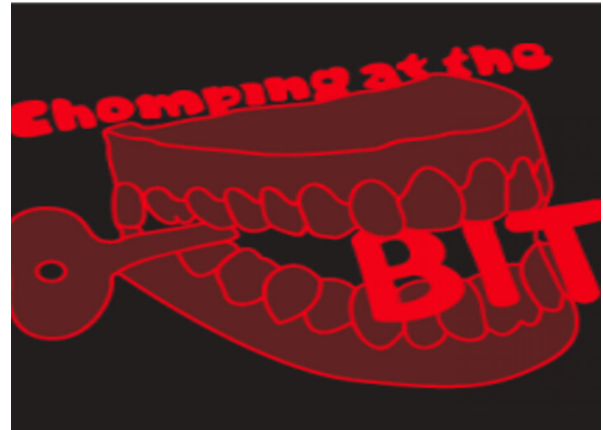
Chomping at the BIT worked for two months to get ready for their first show. The Berlin Improv Team performed for just over an hour to a crowd of approximately seventy-five, and they did not disappoint. Splitting the show into two parts allowed the audience to witness the variety of forms improv can take. Students began with Shortform Improv, which is most commonly recognized through the television show "Whose Line is it Anyway", where the improvisors take audience suggestions and play short 5-10 minute games of varying structure. All of these games included audience involvement in some way to ensure that the audience understood that all aspects of the show were truly made up on the spot. A crowd favorite during the first half was called "Lines in a Pocket," where the improvisors constructed a scene on top of the Empire State Building. Whenever a member came into the scene, they would grab a word or phrase written by the audience members beforehand. The audience was all laughs through this scene, as well as during the other short form games the team performed.

After the short form games, the troupe transitioned to a Longform Improv game called Montage. Based on the audience suggestion of the word "seagull," two members of the troupe performed monologues recalling true stories from their past that somehow related to seagulls. In the game of Montage, these monologues provide some ideas for the other team members to perform scenes. The scenes generally consist of short snippets of various ideas that connect back to the original audience suggestion, hence the

name Montage. These scenes ranged from the improvisors looking at the world through the eyes of the seagull to being attacked by a swarm of seagulls on the beach. The game of Montage lasted for approximately 30 minutes, which concluded the very successful night.

Choming at the BIT has a busy schedule ahead of them in the upcoming months. BIT prepared to finalize plans for a statewide Improv fest that we are hosting called the IMPROVitational, which was held on December 6 at Berlin High School. Many high school teams from all over the state were in attendance for an afternoon of workshops put on by professional improvisors, along with performances by BIT as well as the professionals. On December 20, BIT will perform in Hartford at the Carriage House Theater on "New Teams Night." They were accepted through an application process. BIT will return to BHS to continue their monthly shows in January, so keep an eye out for their flyers.

BIT rehearses on Tuesdays and Fridays, with Tuesday's rehearsals always being open to an audience. BIT rehearses from 2:30-4:30 in the Video Amp. Feel free to stop by and learn more about Improv or just watch and laugh. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Mr. Recore or any members of Chomping at the BIT or follow us on Twitter at @BIT_improv. You can also watch the whole performance on our youtube channel at youtube.com/BITimprov.



Logo by Matthew Bardon

Knicks Forecast

Sam Barton

With the NBA season in full swing, the New York Knicks have stirred up a lot of questions, so let's go through who's playing well, and who needs serious help.

Carmelo Anthony- Playing well
As long as the Knicks have Melo on their roster, they will always be considered a contender. This was exactly what they were thinking when they signed the superstar to a 5 year/\$124M deal. Anthony is of course an all-star, shooting a whopping 23.9 PPG this season, but obviously has major flaws, with two being the most apparent. First, Anthony plays no defense. This really is not the kind of role mod you want leading your team to a championship. Even if he would attempt to try to go for some steals or blocks, Anthony would be double the player he is right now. Also, Anthony has no experience in the playoffs. Even if you go back all the way to his days in Denver, Carmelo really can't lead a playoff game. Even when they did make the playoffs two years ago, Melo had to rely on teammates way too much in his game.

Iman Shumpert- Playing well
Despite having his name thrown around on the trading block, Shump has played well this season.

With possible reasons of being part of a deal to Atlanta or Los Angeles, Shumpert has blocked it out and played very well. Shooting 7.9 PPG on the season is not bad, especially when you're on the trading block of one of the worst teams in the league. But Shump, of course, has some problems. His main problem is his three point shooting. When you're a natural guard, you should average more than 1 three a game. Of course this is not really his fault. With Carmelo Anthony taking 85% of shots per game for the Knicks, Shumpert doesn't have much of an opportunity to show his true basketball skills.

Cole Aldrich- Needs help

As a center on the Knicks, Aldrich is having a horrendous season, stat wise. He only has 31 total rebounds this season. Of course, he's not the starter. With Amar'e Stoudemire finally back at full health, Aldrich doesn't really have the only job on the team at center. But, even with the terrible rebound stats, Aldrich still has his strong points. One thing that really sticks out is his Free Throw Percentage (FT%). This season, Aldrich is a 100% FT shooter this season. This is great at the center position because so many guys have bad Free Throw Percentages in the league. With brick-layers like Dwight Howard at Aldrich's height, it really shows how valuable he is at the line.

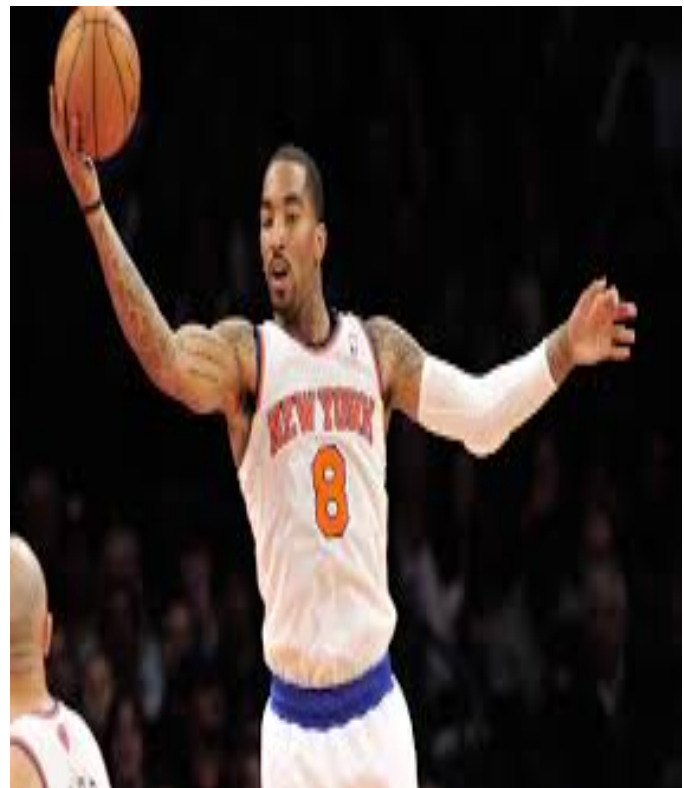
Samuel Dalembert- Needs help

Since Dalembert came over in that blockbuster trade that sent Tyson Chandler and Raymond Felton to Dallas, the Knicks didn't really expect much from him. The main problem with Dalembert is he has delivered less than expected. Dalembert has played horrid in all aspects of the game. Dalembert has played all 14 games this year for the Knicks, and has managed to grab only 67 rebounds this season. Honestly, Dalembert isn't necessarily a starting-quality in Dallas, starting experience. All

in all, Dalembert could really put up some better stats as a center in the Big Apple.

J.R. Smith- Needs SERIOUS help

I really don't need to explain my reason on this one. Smith is a giant problem to any team. Smith is generally a overall pretty good player, but ever since he left Denver, he hasn't paid any dividends for New York. Smith has gotten tons of criticism from across the league, but he deserves it. Dalembert has played horrid in all aspects of the game. Dalembert has played all 14 games this year for the Knicks, and has managed to grab only 67 rebounds this season. Honestly, Dalembert isn't necessarily a starting-quality starter. Dalembert was always Any given team could count on at least 9-12 bad shots from Smith each game. The main problem with Smith is that he tries to be the hero too much. This results in Smith throwing up terrible shots and missing most of them. Basically, the Knicks should really try to get rid of Smith and get a better team-player in his place.



Transitions at B.H.S.

Andrij Kouts
Denis Mercado
Theresa Owens

Three students from Transition class visited the newspaper the other day. They reported on their class and its activities so far this year. Andrij Kouts, Deniss Mercado, and Theresa Owens were the reporters. The fourth member of the Transitions class is LuAnn Landon. LuAnn only attends on Fridays, while the other three students come every day.

The Transitions students say “ In our class, we learn job skills, like how to behave at work, and how to earn and save money. Work evaluations are part of the class, too. We go out to different work sites. We also operate a small laundry. “ The class also researches recipes and cooks up a breakfast now and then. Some of the class’s trips have been to Lyman Orchards, Fairweather Acres, a bowling alley, Stop and Shop, and Powerhouse Gym. For Thanksgiving, they donated their time to the “Stuff a Bus” project, which helped people who might have trouble paying for groceries get complete Thanksgiving dinners.

The students brought with them a sample of the class’s new project: B.H.S. Barkery doggy treat cookies. “ We developed the recipe, tested the cookies, baked them, bagged them, and froze them for safe storage, “reported Deniss Mercado. The cookies are made from whole wheat flour, and are flavored with peanut butter and pumpkin. To test the cookies, the students gave samples to people who owned dogs. If the dogs wagged their tails after eating a cookie, that was a good sign that the recipe was a good one. Theresa Owens said that her black labrador’s tail wagged vigorously, he liked the cookies so much.

The cookies will sell for \$2.00 a bag. Half the money from selling the cookies will be donated to Berlin Helping Berlin. The

Other half will help pay for some class activities. All the students hope that their teachers and classmates will buy their B.H.S. Barkery cookies and give their pets a great treat.

Ms Downes, Ms Bergron, Ms Norton, and Ms Leary help the Transition class with its projects.

