

Beverly Underground  
Issue #1  
September 2003

[www.beverlyunderground.com](http://www.beverlyunderground.com)

# Top Stories

## Tribute to Richard Sprouse

On August 8, Beverly Hills High school lost one of its most cherished teachers. US History teacher Mr. Richard Sprouse died of a massive heart attack at the age of 58 leaving a patronage of students who truly valued his teaching and cared for him dearly. Mr. Sprouse was not one who was restricted to guidelines when it hurt the opportunities of his students, but rather, he bent the rules to give his students a better opportunity to learn and succeed in life. He inspired creativity and was there for the students whenever they needed his help. Whether it was one on one work with students, or conducting AP study sessions at his own home, it is clear that Mr. Sprouse was dedicated not only to his job, but also to his students. He will be dearly missed by all of the students that he has touched and his fellow teachers including his loving wife Ms. Susan Sprouse who, through her dedication, remains teaching in these times of turmoil.

- Jim Moore

## Oil Well - The Student's Perspective

The recent controversy surrounding the alleged toxins and harmful substances in the oil well at Beverly Hills High School seemed to cause quite a stir in the public. A class action suit was filed, victims made claims, testing was conducted, and the school issued several statements. In all this fiasco, little has been done to find out what the students who now attend BHHS have to say. An interview with student Julie Kluff pretty much sums up the general opinion: "If it was that big of a health risk we wouldn't be in school.... you can't get cancer from just sitting outside or living in LA." Apparently students find the alleged high levels of benzene, radioactive iodine, hexane, xylene and other harmful chemicals present on and near campus grounds a non-issue. This is despite the overwhelming evidence including the cancer-related deaths of former faculty members. Surely some students must at least care about this topic, whether they believe the oil well presents a threat or not. Mark, another student of BHHS, has said that neither he nor his parents find the subject at all worrisome or important. He doesn't stress over it and feels indifferent towards the issue. In another student interview it was found that students don't care about what they "don't smell" and "don't feel." Evidently the common belief is that dangerous chemicals now have to be smelt and felt in order to have an effect on our bodies! So there you have it: students, in general, feel unconcerned about what may be affecting them severely each and every day that they are on campus. Frank Blackwell, a junior, doesn't exactly follow the general trend. He states "I don't know if the oil well is causing cancer or not but I find it pretty fishy that the school is keeping the oil well running in spite of a 280 person class action lawsuit." The school itself is clearly biased. They earn \$700,000 a year from the oil well, not a bad source of revenue. Statements issued deny any allegations that there exist any harmful substances at the site of the oil well. Beverly Hills High is generally doing a good job suppressing the story which could easily disrupt an important source of income for them. The parents are not as easily moved

by the announcements, telephone calls, reports, and other such propaganda issued by the school. At board meetings parents have demanded that the oil well be shut down and some parents are even asking air quality officials whether it is a good idea to pull their children out of school. For those of you out there who feel the need to educate yourselves further on the subject, feel free to check out the links provided below.

<http://www.beverlyhillsoilwellhealthstudy.com/>

[http://www.bigclassaction.com/class\\_action/beverlyhills.html](http://www.bigclassaction.com/class_action/beverlyhills.html)

[http://www.venocoinc.com/bh/0418\\_bh\\_courier.pdf](http://www.venocoinc.com/bh/0418_bh_courier.pdf)

<http://www.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us/environmental/environmentalfacts.main.html>

[http://www.enn.com/news/2003-02-25/s\\_2775.asp](http://www.enn.com/news/2003-02-25/s_2775.asp)

<http://www.nbc4.tv/education/2319099/detail.html>

- Lithium

## **Budget Concerns**

Beverly Hills High School is known across the country as perhaps the richest high school in the world. In reality however, Beverly Hills Unified School District is in a major budget crisis. Now a budget crisis is not unique to our district, with today's economy there are many districts that are not able to buy what they need when they need it. The difference is that in this district we have much more money than the average school district in this country. What the issue boils down to is pointless spending. We are in desperate need of improvements to the school such as physical repairs and it would be nice to join nearly every other school in the nation and to get some kind of air conditioning system. Indeed the school has addressed the issue and tried to deal with it. The results however are hard to see. Last year 12 district employees were laid off. This year the school is advertising the hiring of 17 new teachers. This is great, but they do not mention that the new teachers have been hired to merely take the place of retired or laid-off teachers from last year. We still do need more teachers, and many critical repairs are necessary at the school. The school board often discusses the budget, and their efforts are commendable, but their plans for action have many problems. For example, the district's new technology action plan calls for \$39,000 in computers and software for the PE department. Is it really worth a teacher's salary to get computers for the PE students to research new stretch techniques. The call for such funds to go to the Physical Education department is absolutely absurd. The board obviously has good intentions, but they just don't get it. They don't understand that spending \$140,000 on a temporary heating system is a complete waste of money. That price doesn't even include the price it is going to cost to have the temporary system removed to make room for the permanent system which will come sometime in the (very) indefinite future. Also included in the technology implementation plan is the allocation of \$70,000 for a Versace Language Lab for the Foreign Language department. It seems that technology is a primary concern for the school board. The technology implementation plan is in fact a great method of bringing the school into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but critical aspects of the school have to be dealt with before the district can spend that kind of money. Even more disturbing is the oil well. Even if there was a remote possibility that the oil well is causing cancer, is it really worth the risk for \$700,000 a year? Between \$15,000 halftime shows for homecoming (many will recall last year's circus), \$30,000 advertising campaigns for new field lights, and \$145,000 salaries for the superintendent, it is clear that certain reconsiderations must be made. If the district takes a look at what is necessary and what is extra, they can actually get somewhere.

- Zack Anderson

## **A Close One in Long Beach**

On Friday night, The Normans almost took away a win against Div. 1 Long Beach Cabrillo. After a nice first and early second quarter, where Beverly was up 24 – 7, a trick play to Chris Hill was dropped in the end zone. Hill was alone. That near TD would prove very important. Going into the Second half Beverly was up 24 – 10. The Jaguars started their comeback with fierce speed from their wideouts. The final score was 35 – 35, with Cabrillo almost stealing the win in the last 15 seconds. This should have been a win for the Normans. A depleted line played exceptionally well, due to the fact Long Beach's defensive line had a couple 300 pounders. The line gave Quarterback Ollie Linter a good amount of time to get the pass off. Also wide receiver Brandon Rice had magnificent game, scoring 3 touchdowns, successfully filling in the shoes of last year's phenomenon, Sonny Shackelford. Defensively Beverly successfully kept the Jaguars out of the end zone for the first half. In the second the Norman offense didn't have much success, so the defense had to put up with the Jaguars explosive speed for longer period of time. Also in the early second half starting cornerback Jimmy Abe went down with a knee injury, which didn't make the D's job any easier. The Normans can walk away with this tie knowing they can handle a Div. 1 school, and this will prove to be a boost going into next week's home game against Long Beach Wilson.

- The Walrus

# The Wide World of the Walrus

1st Volume - 2nd Edition of the Wide World of the Walrus

"Never settle for anything less than the truth."

This page may be updated throughout each month.

- The Walrus

## **School-Work**

The institution of school is a cherished thing, but something that isn't challenged as much as it should be. In my personal opinion the amount of work we are told to do, and the amount of knowledge we are supposed to acquire is ludicrous. Ask yourself a question, will you ever really use calculus in your life, or be asked the phylum which an octopus is in? For me, the answer is no. What school does is package us with enough information to fit on a computer and then we are supposed to translate that knowledge, and sort it out into its individual sections. We are not computers boys and girls, so why are we supposed to act like them?

## **ASB**

Aside from a ridiculous workload is another school institution that is also questioned very seldom. This would be our Associated Student Body, ASB. ASB is our recognized student government, but is it really that? I would really call ASB the Student Finance Council. ASB does some amazing things in the means of fund raising. From the extravagant halftime shows at Homecoming games, to supporting clubs, carnival, and more, ASB raises a substantial amount of money for student activity. ASB though, is recognized as our student government. Now in being a "government", does ASB do anything a government is supposed to do? Does ASB structure the code of conduct for Beverly students? Does ASB set policy on student protest, or other activities? The answer is no. All of this is controlled by the School Administration. So should ASB be called a student government just because the students vote its members into office? The answer is no. ASB is just a sad excuse, by the administration, to give Beverly students an example of government and make students feel that they are taking part in how the school is run. I do appreciate the work ASB does in fund raising for student activity and how ASB looks after students. I know that if ASB's hands were untied, it could actually act as a real student government.

## **District Themes**

Next on the list are the district's annual "themes". Do the district leaders really think these annoying slogans really take affect in student minds? Really, just give me a break. All these "themes" do is to give the administration and teachers a reason to preach. Why doesn't the district put the time they use to advertise their themes into issues of much greater importance like the budget?

## **Why Are There Even Stands?**

If you have been to one of the two football games this year, then no, you weren't attending a funeral. You didn't attend any normal high school football game, but a Beverly Hills High School football game. Something that really annoys me about our school is the total lack of school spirit. I don't understand how our administrators can be more hyped for a football game than the student body. Beverly has had a history of low school spirit, but this year is one that might be especially remembered. At the football game versus Long Beach Wilson, you would have thought the game was being watched by a jury in its 100<sup>th</sup> day of trial. The ever-enthusiastic cheerleaders attempted to stir up the crowd by throwing colorful beads at lucky recipients, but alas, they only found people who wanted to extend their collection of junk. The biggest laugh was when the school mascot ran across the crowd about 5 times with a wave sign but this crowd wouldn't make a peep if it saw a tsunami. I was disgusted by the total lack of appreciation for the mascot, the cheerleaders, and the band that are mainly attending football games to entertain the crowd. They might as well have had cardboard cutouts to cheer to, because the response would have been the same.

This era of non-enthusiasm needs to come to an end. What Beverly students need to understand is that a lack of enthusiasm is not a habit America can afford to have. A lack of enthusiasm means not only do people not cheer at football games, but also they don't go out to vote, or don't care about who comes to power in our great nation. If there ever comes a time when the American people have such a great lack of enthusiasm and nationalism, as did Beverly students at last week's football game, the United States as we know it might simply collapse.

How would you feel if you worked your ass off at something that you truly cared about and no one seemed to care? Put yourself in that place and you will experience what the cheerleaders experience every time they shake their pom-poms. If you can cheer and scream at a concert or a professional sporting event, why not at a school event. Other sports like water polo and cross-country are lucky to have all their family members attend, it would be a miracle to have any students. I understand people have schedules that may not permit them to attend many Beverly events, but if you are fortunate enough to attend, make your attendance known. Believe me when I say that a simple cheer could have an amazing effect on the person or team you are cheering to. As we venture off to become adult citizens we must get in a pattern of participation and enthusiasm. It is a necessity for democracy, therefore the country. If we can show some spirit now and in this time, I believe we don't have to worry about the collapse of our nation anytime soon.

- The Walrus

# Orange Mist

## Introduction

You are about to read philosophy. My philosophy. Now this will not be a conventional philosophy reading. In fact, quite the contrary. This is simply an introduction to the daily thoughts of Orange Mist, me. I don't hold these thoughts to be all inclusive nor do I think they are necessarily right. These are my thoughts on life, society, and the way we think. Often I will see something, or something will happen to me, or I will think of something, or I will meet someone who inspires these thoughts. What you are about to read is meant to provoke thoughts. It is up to you to build upon them. Perhaps they have some truth, perhaps they are simply the ramblings of someone who just wants to write what he thinks. I think it should be obvious to the reader so far that I do not hold myself to be right. I understand I am ignorant in many matters - the most prominent being relationships and love: I realize I have no authority to comment on such matters because I have never been in love. I may try to ponder notions based on love, but I understand that I may, and probably am, very wrong. Perhaps there are no all-inclusive philosophies. Perhaps there is no such thing as universal laws. Maybe life is just mystical and completely random. Nevertheless, it is obvious that patterns do exist in this universe. Therefore, I will try to explore such patterns as based on today's society because everything I think and feel is based, in one way or another on what society has showed me. I will attempt to rise above society, but I truly have doubts if it is possible.

## Society

I do often feel like I'm above society. I feel that there is so much societal manner nonsense that is a complete waste of time. I feel that people should be natural and not waste time with societal prohibitions. Why repress your real feelings. Now I am not calling for a fight every time someone is mad, but at least verbally, I feel that people should express their feelings openly. I stand adamantly on this issue. I see, every day, people around me being fake - I know that that is not what they are like; they are simply acting differently to impress or feel like they fit in with the group. I especially see this among guys when around girls. It is a waste of time and sets a possible relationship back in time because it doesn't express the person's true self.

Why can't we all just openly express our innermost thoughts. I feel it is healthy. I am not a social anarchist, I believe in society, I just think superficial social restrictions should be lifted. I don't however see this happening in the near future. Therefore I believe people should rise above the limitations of society and be real. In conclusion on the issue, I think we should just be, if something happens – let it – accept it – accept your feelings and feel free to express them. Every day I feel constrained by society and must repress many of my thoughts. They aren't harmful and in fact would probably be taken extremely well. But because of societies restrictions, I feel it would be completely inappropriate to relay my thoughts. I am at the hands of society. Why should I be ruled by society? I try to refrain as best I can from being fake and putting up a front. I can only do so much however. Everyone puts up another self for each person they are around. People are different around their parents than when they are with friends. It's natural. Or is it? Is this a society thing? Are there certain ways to act around parents? It's society. Society threatens with embarrassment or even worse, social shunning. If one "inappropriate" thought is divulged, obviously social shunning will not occur to the person, but a feeling of not fitting in will occur. This is many's worst nightmare. More people are afraid of speaking in front of a crowd than dying. How can this be? It is because of society. Everyone wants to feel like they fit in and embarrassment in front of a group is a great way to not fit in anymore. Once again I am at the mercy of society. I am not afraid of dying – I am afraid however of dying alone. If I am with loved ones, or know someone is there for me, I have very little fear of dying. I don't think most feel this way, but I do.

## **Power**

Getting back to how unimportant I see myself as, or, maybe the opposite... Often I feel powerful and important. There have only been a few times in my life that I felt the grasp of true, or maybe not so true, but still real, power. I never understood why people would and have for millennia killed for power. Why I thought. Until I felt power, immense power the other day. It was over the stupidest thing, but nevertheless, I felt it. Power. It is completely egotistical and self-centered – I know, but I am simply writing about how I felt. To reveal the details of the incident would probably reveal my actual identity. I am not at a point in my life yet, however, that I can be so open. I have high self esteem, but for some reason I hold in my feelings. I am confident in my feelings yet I am scared that they will be rejected. To reveal how I think to the world, for everyone to know my innermost thoughts is too much for me. I hope the day will come that I will feel free to disclose my identity. Until then, you will be able to get to know me, on the most personal of levels, without actually knowing me. Getting back to the issue of power. On that day, I felt for but a moment that everyone at school would want to help me with a certain task I was to perform. As fallacious as the thought was, and as self-centered it was, I believed it for that moment. I felt absolute power and it was one of the greatest feelings I had felt in my entire life. Better than everything, and I mean everything, other than my "moments" which I will describe in a later post. I am not sure why I felt this great feeling derived from power. I always thought the appeal of power came from material benefits of power, but if this great feeling truly was brought about from power, then I understand the craving of power. It was but a fleeting moment but still the same, I felt it. I also felt something else. This is the only possible other explanation I can imagine the feeling came from. The thought that a very beautiful, and extremely nice, sweet, and smart girl that I know would want to help with the task. The feeling I had could have been due to the thought that she would want to help me with this task. As juvenile as my rational mind makes it sound, that was how I felt for that moment into my unconscious. Since I have felt power before, and it felt nothing like that moment, I am led to believe that sustained power

has the effect of the moment I had spread across an expanse of time. Nevertheless, the moment I had made me feel something I had never felt before.

## "Moments"

Now to my "moments". I don't know why they happen, sometimes they occur when I am immersed in beauty, sometimes it's triggered by a smell, or a sound, a feel, something I read, a thought – it's usually, if not always, an environmental trigger. I am usually already in at least a decent mood. And suddenly, for less than a second, I feel immense joy. They are the happiest moments, or should I say seconds, of my life. I feel like I am living another life – a life on another level – another planet – another universe. I can't explain the feeling other than saying it is the greatest feeling one could imagine. If I could only harness the moment and live in it! I have never seized the moment however. After these moments I wonder what other people's lives are like. I can see people, interact and talk to them everyday and it seems like they live a life like mine. Of course specifics are different, but the basic feeling of life is the same. That's how it seems. But these moments, and some other evidence that I will get to in a moment, lead me to believe that some people are living a better life than I. I don't mean materially or socially: I mean they feel, their inner soul, is happier. I have tried so hard to capture my "moments" but always it has been unsuccessful. But I am determined and I think it can be done. I can't talk to someone and ask what life is like to them because no one can explain what their life feels like. Some people are depressed. Some so much so that they want to end their lives. I would like to feel such depression just to see if life could feel differently. I have been depressed, never like I'd like to end my life, but depressed nonetheless. It was not a different life feeling, just a phase. At least to me, so far, depression is just a phase, not a state, not a feeling of life. But then again, I've never been to the point where I'd like to end my life. And if someone can get there, then perhaps someone can live their entire lives like I feel in my "moments". I am happy with my life, my family, friends, school, etc. but these moments lead me to think that I can be even happier. I don't think I will ever find out if someone is living in these moments. That is a mission of mine however, to live in the moments. The only problem with this is that I will not appreciate the feeling after a while and I will take it for granted. I guess the fleeting moments are best after all. If you have never experienced such moments, then you probably have no idea what I'm talking about. I don't know if other people have them. But if you ever have had such moments, then you will know exactly what I am talking about.

- Orange Mist

# The Pelican Pit

I am the Pelican. On this site you will have the opportunity to read ramblings of mine about school and teenage life. Enjoy!

- The Pelican

## Movies

They're huge moneymakers, they're the best way to spend two hours in a chair, but now they're turning into just another way to capitalize on the average consumer. For years I had considered those two dark hours with popcorn and a soda to be bliss, but recently I've been finding myself avoiding the big screen.

It used to be that going to see an action flick would mean you got big guns, a hero and lots of blood. Now it seems that every action movie is plagued with love stories, too much dialogue, worse acting than a daytime soap and pretty boys that don't know how to hold a gun. Every teen movie and chick flick ever created was the same. Even the spoofs are getting boring!

Movies used to be an art form. Try and think of three known directors. The first three that come to my mind are Spielberg, Kubrik and Lucas. Spielberg's last two movies Minority Report and AI were terribly boring, Lucas' last two Star Wars films were awful, and Kubrik is dead. Now try and think of three famous directors from the last ten years. It's a lot harder to do. Movies went from being an art form that few were good at to being a form of money that many are attempting.

The last movie I saw in theaters was American Wedding. While it was funny, I've heard all the jokes before, in one form or another. Before that I saw Bad Boys II, which held up to my expectations for an action movie. And the wonderful Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle was the funniest movie I've seen all year. While the jokes sucked and the storyline was weak, nearly every camera shot and "cool thing" they did was hilariously absurd; I couldn't stop laughing. I, for one, am not going to see another movie unless I think that in one month I'm going to care that I saw it. Hopefully enough people will start to feel the same way, and movies like The Hulk will stop getting \$60 million their opening weekends.

## Money

Many parents don't know how to teach their children about money. They simply dish out twenties every time their kid goes out, and they pay for hundreds of dollars worth of clothes. In an overall wealthy town like , money usually isn't an issue and kids don't get jobs very often. With that example, how are you going to manage your money when you're on your own? Without knowing how to be responsible with money, you will be in debt in a few short years. I assume you don't want to live in your parents' house until you're thirty, but isn't it almost the same thing if they're paying for your rent?

Allowance is a great way to learn to handle money, and a simple way to learn to save up. I get a rather small amount of money every week, and unless I am going out of town without my parents, I don't get any more. Getting the things I want is easy; I have to save the money for a few weeks. With this important skill, I will be able to live off of a mediocre paying job for quite a while, so I don't have to worry about life so much.

To all the readers that aren't getting any allowance, I suggest bringing up some of the points I mentioned here. Sure, you may not get a new pair of pants every week, but when you think about it, don't you already have enough? One more tip: when you're negotiating your allowance, start high. ;)

Addendum - I'm sorry if I came off like your father.

- The Pelican

# The Renegade

You have reached the page of the infamous Renegade. Unlike most people, I don't take

things for face value and I investigate and tear issues apart to get to the true motives. Call me a rebel or a revolutionary if you would like, but in my opinion I am simply addressing the truth in important matters pertaining to the school.

- The Renegade

## **In the Beginning**

Another year of Beverly High begins, but with this year unusual happenings are about. As we all know, the school district budget is a huge issue so there are cuts everywhere. As a result, teachers were fired and laid off. But now what do we have this year? 16 teachers were hired! Well you could say that the teachers fired last year were probably unqualified and on emergency teaching credentials...but...there were a quite a few of them who were great...I won't go on to names here, but you see how incompetent Gwen Gross, the last superintendent, was at managing things Was it that she couldn't handle the job or was her reputation blown, over the 'oil well crisis'?

Well there's another superintendent now, another one of those politicians as it seems, concerned more about his reputation and image of the school as a whole instead of the welfare of the students. With the oil well, why can't they just take that shit down? No amount of money is worth having a safety risk for students. I mean, can anyone cite any other schools ANYWHERE having a oil well basically right next to campus? Last year in PE, it smelled like shit on a lot of days. I mean if they don't care about students getting diseases and cancer, why not put a nuclear reactor or maybe a toxic waste dump right there? Hell, how about a prison? They would get a lot more money with that. Take it down!

- The Renegade

# Editorials

## **Reasons to Love School**

I loveeeee schooolll! Its SOO Much fun. Especially Beverly Hills High School. I just wish it lasted for more than 4 years. And we only have 9 months outa the year to go to school. If you ask me the district is wasting a precious 3 month period. Coming back to school I've come to realize all the things I took for granted last year:

1. The trash in the hallways and the odd smell the origin of which you cant really be sure but know is something gross
2. The strong whiffs of perfume/cologne you get from walking by people trying to cover up their nasty BO
3. All the different colors of Juicy velour clothing
4. All the cool people hanging out in front of staircases and in the middle of hallways during passing periods

5. The soft cushiony seats and thank god they took away those arm rests they always got in the way

6. All the different shades of eye liner and mascara and all that good stuff people use to cover up their faces

7. The sound of subwoofers from the gangstas nice enough to turn their stereos loud enough so everybody can hear the beats as they drive into the parking lot

8. The conscientious drivers

9. The teachers with years of experience and ranging from great colleges around the country, Arizona state University included

10. The line at el pollo loco..ahh how ive missed the line

11. Homework and the rush you get from going into a test knowing your completely unprepared

12. Farsi

and lastly- all the super cool intelligent students at our school this years gonna be so much fun. I cant wait for my first test

Here goes another year.. or at least another

- Jeff White

## **Recycling Club**

Please tell me the recycling club website <http://hometown.aol.com/diamondgirl1041/> is a joke. Please do tell me! I find it very distressing that the writer of the site is actually in high school. Now please note, I am in no way against the Recycling Club for their efforts. I think it is important to recycle resources so that we humans don't ruin the environment. A little off topic, but I would like to make a comment on the \$10 littering fee at school..."oh please". Number one: I highly doubt anyone will enforce the rule, and number two: a \$10 fee isn't very intimidating. A \$10 littering fee, in my opinion, is just asking for students to litter. If the school wants to take a stand against littering make a \$50 or \$100 fee. That will stop the students from even considering littering, given, that it is enforced. Now getting back to the original topic, please first read the website before you read the rest of this editorial.

Hopefully you have read the [BHHS Recycling Club Site](#) so that you can better understand my commentary on the marvelous work of literary genius that the site contains. The articles are broken up in the same fashion as sections are on the site.

Article I) "First Year": If I am not mistaken, the aim of the recycling club is to make a difference at the school by recycling bottles and cans. I am very curious to know why the Recycling Club wanted to contact the Tree People and other such organizations.

How would that help their goals?

Article II) "Second Year": Good job Recycling club! There's nothing bad to say there.

Article III) "Scandal... Gasp... Scandal... OMG...": Just the section title gives away the immaturity contained in the text. This section sounds like a highly misinformed and biased account of what really happened. Why in the world would Ms. Utley hold a Recycling Club meeting without any of the members? Is that even considered a Recycling Club meeting if nobody is there? I am truly astonished to hear that people were having private conversations during the club! Private conversations? That's unheard of! In case you didn't catch on to the sarcasm, I find it pathetic to accuse people of wrongdoing because they are talking to each other during a lunchtime club meeting. I would also be interested to find out who the cruel "they" is. Why would "they" do such things as take away community service credit when it is "they" who would benefit from the hours? The motives don't make sense. This is obviously a huge misinterpretation of the actual events, probably induced by gossip and hearsay.

Article IV) "sO, wHaT HaPpeNeD???" I love the flowing wave of capital letters and no caps. So now, somehow, the efforts made by "they" were destroyed and the bins did in fact arrive. Now here I have to make an assumption. If I am mistaken I apologize, but the facts point towards my conclusion. Why would Ms. Utley "wrest power" from the Recycling club? It sounds like the writer of the website has power issues of her own. She seemingly wants full credit for an effort that is to help the entire school. Furthermore, I doubt Ms. Utley accused the Recycling club of being lazy, unmotivated, and irresponsible in front of class. These three adjectives seem to describe the club very well however, given the fact that "scandal" and gossip seemed to comprise for most of the club's meetings. Also, I haven't heard "Fair, Shmaer" used since my days in the second grade. It doesn't sound like something Ms. Utley would say.

- Jim Moore

## **Iraq**

Things are just getting worse and worse and even more troops are going to be sent out to be placed on the firing line.

American troops kill 11 Iraqi policemen by mistake. In another incident, an American Humvee is blown over when it goes over a bomb, number of casualties not yet reported.

Will any compensation be paid to the families of the slaughtered policemen?

Truck loads of sand and buckets are to be delivered to the Whitehouse for the government to bury their heads in.

- Anonymous

## **New Slogans**

There are a couple of slogans that I think the school should change around. The first is the "Tower of Hope" (what the Oil Well is called because it was painted by sick children... many with cancer, can you see the irony?). The old name, the Tower of Hope, should be called the "Tower of Despair".

Another slogan that needs revisiting is the school motto "Today Well Lived" (you can

see the explanation for the slogan [here](#)). The new slogan, in light of the Oil Well threat, should be:

"Today Well Lived, Tomorrow Not Lived"

# Creative Writing

This page is a place for students to demonstrate their creative writing skills. If you wrote an interesting story that you would like published, please send it to [publisher@beverlyunderground.com](mailto:publisher@beverlyunderground.com)

## "Nothingness"

The other day I was walking home from school when I saw the most incredible cloud formation I had ever seen in my life. The large white puffy clouds towered and covered the sky while streaking beams of light shone through. I felt the immense beauty about me yet I felt nothing positive. I realized the absolute grandeur and tranquility of the scene but at the same time it intensified my own pain. That's what my life is like: pain. 17 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, every year of my life. The only escape I get is sleep. That seems to be all I look forward to. Since I was 12, sleep was my only desire. Anything to get away from my life. I couldn't even overeat like other normal people when they are depressed because of my fucken parents who fed me with left over money after buying crank from my grandmother's husband. As I walked home that day I realized the state of my life. I have been fooling myself, playing fucking mind games, probably to further my own existence. Don't worry, things will get better. Just wait. I used to set goals. Oh, if I get on the football team I will make some friends. It never happened. Then the goals stopped. I couldn't even think of desires to hope for. I just said to myself, things will change, you just wait. For what? WHY THE FUCK DO I HAVE TO KEEP WAITING. What's the point of life? I learned that early on: pleasure. What pleasure do I have in my life? None. I don't have any hopes. There isn't a point, they never come true. I've never even had a girlfriend - nobody has ever liked me in my entire existence. Not even my parents. No girlfriend equals no sex. I don't even enjoy jacking off anymore. It's just a bunch of rubbing and then pop. Too much work.

Everyone has his or her own delusions: their own scapegoats that keep them sane. Personally I don't have one. Some have found Christ or some other religious bullshit, some have high aspirations, and many have friends, relatives, or mates. Is there something about me? Am I as fucked up as it everyone sees me? Its not like I haven't tried to make friends or get a date. I try to be friendly, find something to talk about. I've asked girls out but none ever accepts. They always make up some bullshit about why they can't go out with me. Can't they at least have the decency to tell me the truth and not lie to my face? I guess not.

Let me get to the point. Or should I say lack thereof. If the point of life is to have a good time, and there is no happiness in the future, then what's the point. Do I want to deal with this crap for another 10 years? I don't. Why can't I capture the only thing I have ever looked forward to for 5 years: sleep. Only this time let it be eternal.

Is there something horribly wrong with nothing. Not nothing as in an empty cup nothing. A nothing beyond any human's comprehension. Just pure void: not black, not white, not joy not depression. Nothingness. What is wrong with suicide? When someone isn't enjoying a game, he or she quits. Life should be like that. I can only think of one string: love. If someone loves you and you take your own life, that would have adverse effects on his or her life. This would be selfish. Well, if I had someone who loved me, hell, someone who even likes me. If I could just get even a friendly smile then maybe I wouldn't feel this way. But I do feel this way. And who is it going to effect if I leave this world. Is anyone going to give a rats ass if some fucked up drugy puts a couple bullets through his brain? Why is today's society so adamant in its stand against suicide? Many cultures have, and still do glamorize or at least not condemn suicide. Are some people too scared of death to contemplate the notion? Has church dogma changed the tide of society's viewpoint on suicide? Death is not a bad thing. It's just an end to a single life out of six billion. Isn't the very essence humanity the ability to choose? To choose one's path. I choose to end my path now. Why drag it on. An end is inevitable. Let me quit before I plummet further. I have come to the point in my life that nothing else matters to me anymore. The pain is so constant that it blends in to create my life. Small joys just bring about this pain. Nothing matters to me. I don't care about life and I don't care about death. I don't want either. I want nothing. Is that too much to ask for? Nothing?

- Anonymous

# The Unconfirmed Report

"The Unconfirmed Report" contains stories that have a definite base, but a shaky truth behind them. Please take them as comedy; don't freak out and believe they are 100 percent true!

## Locker Room Fungi



On September 22, 2003, a group of concerned parents hired a private fungal research lab to conduct an investigation into the source of the strange yellow spots that inflict so many PE uniforms at the school. Some students reportedly have the yellow spots on their backs as well. Up until Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, most parents dismissed the spots as mud or bleach spots. What they did not notice however is that the spots were growing gradually larger.

At 6 PM on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a team of researchers entered the boy's PE locker room. The researchers, sealed in airtight biohazard suits for their own safety, took samples from the interior of ten selected lockers, the cement

floor from two locations, and from the air ventilation shaft. After 24 hours of vigorous testing, culturing, and research, the results were in. Every location tested had traces of a never before seen strain of the lethal fusarium oxysporum. Although the original strain of the fungi is lethal to most plant life and poses a direct threat to humans, the strain found in the PE locker rooms seems to have mutated into a non-lethal spore producing fungi. Even more surprising is the amount found. The cultured fungi from the cement floor turned out to be minimal, as did two of the ten selected lockers. The other eight lockers however, contained massive amounts of the fusarium oxysporum spores. The spores are not visible to the human eye. Once they attach to a favorable material to live on, the fungus exits its spore phase and starts to grow. These manifestations show up as yellow spots. Sweat and warmth, provided by the wearer of the PE uniform, provide favorable living conditions for the virus. According to Junior Danko Krajisnik, "I always knew that theyellow spots were the result of fungal invasions, but nobody ever believed me!"

The big question is how did this fungus enter the PE locker room. The research lab concluded (due to the colossal amounts of spores found in the ventilation system) that the fungus is spread to all of the lockers through the ventilation system in the locker room. Due to the unhealthy levels of spores found in the Boy's locker room, the Health Department has been contacted and they are making arrangements to conduct their own tests.

Myra Goldstein, mother of Alex Goldstein, was one of the concerned parents that funded the research effort to discover the source of the yellow spots. "I don't want my son to be forced to dress in a fungi-rampant locker room where he is risking his life to dress for a PE class which then in turn gets to enjoy the sweet smell of toxic and carcinogenic gasses given off by the Oil Well. I just don't want it and neither does he! That school is deadly! First it's the Oil Well, now fungi, what is next?" said Mrs. Goldstein after an interview last Wednesday.



According to school officials, there is absolutely no health concern with the fungi that they claim does not exist at the school. They deny all allegations and they are planning on conducting their own experiments to disprove the independent research lab. A high-ranking anonymous district official says that the allegations have "no merit", are "aimed at destroying her career", and "are completely and outrageously moronic and malicious accusations that strike at the heart of the new school theme of responsibility". She claims that students should be responsible for cleaning their PE uniforms and

that the school is not to blame for the recent (and non-existent according to her) outbreaks of the fusarium oxysporumfungus.

- Zack Anderson

## **New Science Building Projected to be Completed by 2087**

A small Santa Monica, CA architectural firm named Monte Archi has been drafting plans for a new science building at Beverly Hills High School. After 25 years on the job, Monti Archi claims that they have the final plans finished and they project the new

science building will be completed by 2087. They say that their rapid yet thorough work on the new science building will enable construction crews to construct the building at a rapid pace. Science teacher Dave Knowlton is jubilant about Monte Archi's claims. "I remember when I first came to this school 35 years ago. There was talk about a new science building being constructed and I was ecstatic. I'm just so grateful that my great great-grandchildren will be able to experience the new building."

Indeed the new building is a necessary addition to Beverly Hills High School. Remnants of the pre- environmentalist movement clutter the rooms with large chambers which pump toxic fumes to the English department just downwind from the science building. Even more disturbing are the large cracks in the walls of the science building. Over the years the wall support structures have been eaten away by mold, weather, time, and termites. Unable to be seen by the naked eye are large cracks that expanse across the hallway. School officials have strategically covered such cracks with paint and drywall to make the building look safe. Science teacher Mr. Chris Busheé however, is concerned with the new florescent fixtures installed throughout the department. He finds it odd that construction workers would mount heavy fixtures and steel beams to the cardboard roof panels.

Even more good news came out when Rubenstein Contracting, hired to construct and install the air conditioning system for the high school, offered to build the new building for only 94.6 million dollars. This comes as a relief to the district, for they were originally planning on hiring another contracting company to complete the project for 153 million dollars. According to company spokesperson John Rubenstein, Rubenstein Contracting has set the price so low because they feel bad that they were unable to complete the air conditioning system at the school. Many will recall the 22 million dollar contract with Rubenstein Contracting to build the air conditioning system for the school that they never followed through with, but took the money nevertheless. Although some are skeptical as to whether they will cheat the district again, school officials believe Rubenstein Contracting is legitimate in their offer.

This new science building will, naturally, only be a temporary solution to the problem. Experts say the 94.6 million dollar project will last for five good years before a new one will need to be made in 2092. To pay for the expensive science building, the district has planned to layoff 125 percent of the district personnel. This is the first time in district history that more layoffs will be made than there are employees. To keep the school running smoothly however, non-credentialed teachers will be hired so that the district can start them out on a minimum paycheck. According to district officials, the new science building will be a truly remarkable accomplishment.

- Jim Moore

# Features

This is the feature section of Beverly Underground Newspaper. Here you will find miscellaneous articles from both staff writers and readers such as yourself.

## Who is Guy Demeter?

In a word, sophomore Guy Demeter is difficult.

Since at first he didn't want to be written about, he gave me fake e-mail addresses and avoided me. Eventually Demeter agreed, but the interviewing process proved to be even harder. He would only give simple answers to straightforward questions. Here are the known facts:

Demeter was born June 5, 1987 in Manhattan. He lived in Long Island for five years before moving to Hawaii because his mother Myra Demeter got a job there. You may recognize her name from the lawn signs when she ran for Board of Education member last year and won.

One might imagine Hawaii as an ideal place to live but Demeter hated it.

"The kids made fun of me because I was white and Jewish," he said.

So the Demeter family, who included Myra and Dan and their boys Ron, Gil, Guy and Roy, moved back to Long Island.

In third grade Demeter decided to follow the footsteps of his older brothers and learn to play the bass. Now he plays in the school orchestra and knows how to play the piano too.

A year later the family moved to California. Demeter said that LA is his favorite place of the three where he has lived.

"It's warm here and there's not snow like in New York," he said.

After he moved, Demeter began playing AYSO soccer. He played for eight years, but then became a referee.

"[Playing] just got too hard," Demeter said of why he refs instead of being on a team. "And I hate running."

In sixth grade Demeter became involved in Boy Scouts. He says that in the program he learned a lot of new skills like camping tips and outdoor survival.

After telling me this information, Demeter was ambiguous with all other questions.

He told me that his goal is to become rich, but wouldn't elaborate on how he plans to accomplish this.

I asked what his favorite TV show is, and Demeter replied, "'The Simpsons,' but I don't see how that's relevant."

Demeter likes science-fiction books and graphic arts, but he wouldn't consider that important either.

I told him that I was trying to get a sense of what kind of person he is. I asked how he sees himself.

"I don't really know how to describe myself," he answered.

"Well, are you optimistic?" I asked. "Do you procrastinate a lot? Are you hard working? Et cetera."

"I'm an optimistic procrastinator," Demeter replied. "And I can be hardworking if the right offer comes around."

He continued to give indirect answers for many of my other questions.

"You know, you're not being very quotable," I finally told him.

"Just make something up," he said.

"That goes against everything in journalism," I snapped. "Don't you want this to be good?"

He smiled knowing that he was getting on my nerves.

"Please say something I can use in the story," I begged. "Anything. Who is your role model? What is something people don't know about you? What rules do you live by? We want to know more about you."

"I'm a mean person," he said. "No, don't write that. I was lying."

So who is Guy Demeter really?

The world may never know.

- Brittany Darwell

## Memorable Quotes

These quotes have been said during class and assembled over the years. Many are quotes from math teacher Mr. Lee Morris. He is definitely the funniest teacher who doesn't try to be funny. Others come from other teachers and students.

"I'm not pro-choice or pro-life; I'm for mandatory abortion"

- Mr. Morris

"You have penis envy! You know what that is?!?!?"

(After a long discussion about how bad republicans are) "So you are a democrat?"

"No, they are jerks too" "What are you registered as?" "A democrat"

- Mr. Morris

"Yeah, people get shot all the time around my house. I usually just turn up the radio."

- Mr. Morris

"All gamblers lie! Even your parents."

- Mr. Morris

"Christine, what did you get for your answer on the calculator?" "Low Battery"

"Democracies don't start wars, dictators start wars"

- Mr. Stern

"We bring them in from the LA Zoo in Australia"

"Do we have high and low tides in our swimming pools?"

"Mine can do 450!, not like your CHEAP calculators you guys have"

- Mr. Morris

"Is it absolute value or magnitude? The answer is yes"

"And so Abraham begot Isaac"

- The Bible

"I ALWAYS do it... except when I don't"

The Mr. Morris Theory of Attraction: "It's all about the antibodies and the hip to waist ratios"

"The proof is beyond the scope of this book"

- Math Analysis Book

"He acquired the semen specimen by means of natural methods"

"Hmmm...Gastric Juices...Yum"

- Mr. Morris

"Bubbling pool of protoplasm"

"Pleasantly plump"

"I heard that Stern students do worse than others" "Well, we don't color maps and watch videos all day!"

- Mr. Van Rossum

"You move at the speed of thought"

"Having more than two children is greedy, immoral, and should be illegal!" "How many children do you have Mr. Morris?" "That doesn't matter"

"I'm attracted to A negative people and people born on Saturdays"

- Mr. Morris

"They do stuff to you and they'll kill you if you go to a hospital. Don't!"

"What's a biopsy?" "They cut you open and they kill you!"

"That cum line is a sticky situation."

"Gamblers are SICK people! They are all losers. They are like heroin addicts. Comparing gamblers to heroin addicts is like comparing Hitler to Mussolini."

- Mr. Morris

"Its very hard on the eyes" (referring to the strobes for the fire alarm system)

- Mr. Stern

"You're such a turkey." "Uh, senior, do you mean you're a chicken?"

- Senior Peixoto

"But then you have to think!" "Well that's nice."

"And now I am angry because I don't like to be angry!"

"Now Mr. Openheimer was 127 lbs and disliked fat people"

"Is Russia the biggest country in the United States?"

“What happens is these mollusks have a big old orgy”

- Ms. Weiss

“And then the whole farm broke out into the Breasts of England”

- Alex Wolf

“It was the only good thing that came out of religion”

“After going through a slight faint”

“A clever form of one”

“My father the mutant”

- Ms. Weiss

Someone is humming a Nelly rap song and teacher replies: “Don’t hum your Mozart yet”

“A chicken is just an egg’s way of making another egg”

“BC – Before calculators”

“Is this trash economics class” (as the recycling club comes to take away the bottles and cans from the blue bin)

- Senor Peixoto

“you accidentally inhale some mildly poisonous fumes”

“We are fully prepared, but we just didn’t bring anything”

“There’s nothing like coming in with a dramatic flare”

- Mr. Stern

“That’s what’s great about it – the porn and the poverty”

“This is like a whitewash school”

“Do you know any of the Hebrew prayers” “They’re all stupid”

“I’m a born again atheist”

- Mr. Morris

“It’s not that it’s wrong, it’s just not completely accurate”

- Ms. Weiss

“There are more ways to shuffle a deck of cards than there are atoms in the universe”

“To correct the ill scent of the armpits”

“One foot is 12 inches, right?”

“What are you doing on your calculator back there?” “I’m just calculating”

“Why weren’t you here yesterday?” “Because I was absent”

“So China is where there’s millions of people smoking opium”

"It's not quite right, in fact, it's wrong"

"The safest mode of transportation is the elevator"

"I read a book about nothing"

"Insects – I used to dissect them, play with them – it was perhaps the greatest memory of my childhood"

- Insect Video

"Okay, Cyrus!, you have #4, that'll be a really fun one for you" "Uh... Mr. Stern, Cyrus isn't here"

"This is the Morris way, not the right way"

"This is un-timed, however, there is a time limit"

"I think I'm going to sneeze...Oh no, I guess I'm not in touch with my feelings"

"But on the foot, grow these colorful delights" (referring to a fungal growth on the foot)

"Beer is not necessary for survival, however, some would have us believe otherwise"

"It makes your brain go into a catatonic freeze"

- Mr. Knowlton

"They are non-defensive defensive remarks"

"I never have insomnia, but I have many nights where I can't ever fall asleep"

- Mr. Knowlton

"Darwin was into hypnotics" "He was also into his cousin" "What wasn't Darwin into?"

"Are you serious?" "No, I'm Mr. Morris"

"That's nonsense, that's a terrible proof"

"Scientists are all hung up on reality"

"It's the same...except it's different"

"Once you hit 35, your life is basically over"

- Mr. Morris

"What happens if you don't study for the final?" "You won't get into BC Calculus, you won't get into a university, and you'll be collecting aluminum cans for the rest of your life!"

"There's no point to anything"

"Hey, look, if you don't get into BC Calculus, you won't make any money so you won't have to pay taxes"

"I have a general question" "I'm not a general"

"Countries are nonsense. You know those governmental warnings...yeah, be warned of governments"

"Now what I'm trying to introduce you to is the world of infinity... without drugs"

"I was racing a friend down a hill, and then I crashed into a parked car. As I flew over the car, I thought to myself, wow, the forces of inertia are amazing"

- Mr. Lee

They have some major cracks on the walls, but they've patched them up so we won't notice them"

- Mr. Knowlton

"Why do you keep that old computer?" "I don't know, I keep my wife and she's old too."

- Mr. Morris

"I would rather just pay the interest and have my children pay the loan"

- Mr. Morris

"It's the Ronald Regan approach to mathematics"

"We are not confused, we are just puzzled"

"Let's try to keep the units fairly standard, so let's use furlongs per fortnight"

"In the real world, most people are idiots"

"If Bush wants to make jobs, we should build a pyramid. Nobody was ever unemployed in ancient Egypt"

"Sharing is caring; that's what STD's are all about."

- Mr. Taylor

Please Email Us if you have any funny or thought provoking original quotes. Be sure to include the quote and the name of the person who said it.