

# B A Today

A publication of Bessemer Academy's Creative Writing Class

April 15, 2014 Volume 1 Issue 10

## The Mystery of the Missing Moonstone

by: Warren Rocksvold

New to keep you entertained until the end of school is a mystery presented in episodes. You only get one piece of the story each week. Enjoy!

The sun was setting when I got to the house. I had taken a nap after my last class and overslept. I got caught up in traffic because of it and kept cursing myself all the way here. This was the second time this week I was going to be late to my job, and Mr. Buchanan is not a forgiving man.

I pulled up in the driveway around 6 o'clock to find the house completely dark; not a single light on. I ran up the steps and was about to punch in the passcode to open the door when I noticed it was already slightly ajar, so I pushed it open. The hall was very dark, but right away I could tell something was wrong. I called out, but I didn't get an answer.

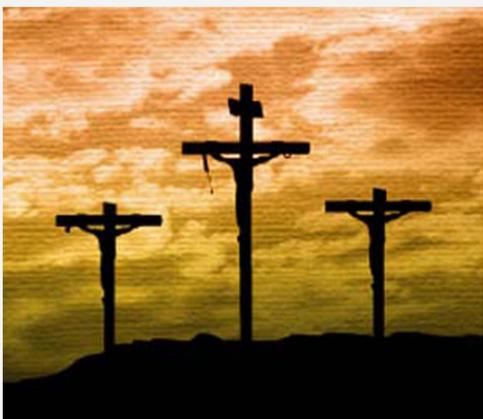
I thought maybe Mr. Buchanan was out of the house; he may have been old, but he was still an influential part of the social scene. If that was the case, he may have given everyone the night off. I, of course, was going to be exempt from this special night off, so I went about my work, cleaning the house systematically starting with the foyer. In some of the rooms I noticed things seemed very out of place. For instance, in the living room, I noticed that a vase of flowers and some sculptures had been knocked off the coffee table. Also some books had fallen off the bookshelf in the corner. And in the parlor I saw that the desk he kept in the corner had been opened and gone through.

I began to suspect a burglary had occurred, so I got out my phone to call Mr. Buchanan. That's when I heard his ringtone coming from upstairs. I ran up and saw a trail of blood leading to the study door.

I walked up to the door and pushed it open. . .

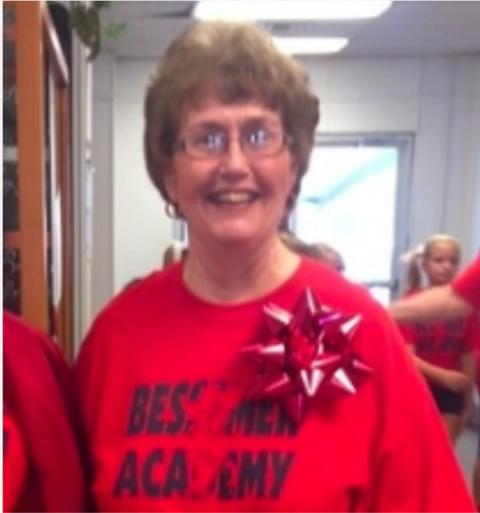
*.....to be continued next issue!*

## HAPPY EASTER!!



## Teacher of the Week: Mrs. Reach

by: Tila Vines



This week's teacher of the week is none other than Mrs. Reach. She teaches high school honors English for grades 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> and most students would agree that she is the strictest teacher but also one of the best. I sat down with her to get to know her a bit better.

### You have a reputation of being one of the hardest teachers at BA. Where did you receive your education?

I received my BS in English and Spanish at Samford University, my MA in leadership and English at The University of Montevallo, and my AA certification in school administration at The University of Alabama.

### Most students know that you leave after 3<sup>rd</sup> period. Do you enjoy this time off, and if so, why?

Yes, because I have time to run errands, much more time to grade research papers, and have time to myself.

### You only teach grades 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Which grade is your favorite to teach?

12<sup>th</sup> because they are more mature, understand literature more quickly than my other grades, and I love teaching British Literature which is what the 12<sup>th</sup> grade learns.

### What are some of your hobbies?

When I have time for my hobbies I like reading, traveling, watching TV, and vacationing in Gulf Shores.

### What is something about yourself that most students don't know?

I play in a hand bell choir, my child was born while I was on vacation in Pensacola, and taught Spanish for thirteen years.

## Possible Cure for Spinal Cord Paralysis?

by: iZac

What if paralysis due to spinal cord injuries wasn't such a big deal? Recent research has shown that some spinal cord injuries may be possible to treat with simple electric stimulation and intense physical therapy.

Back in 2011, Rob Summers was able to stand and take a few steps on a treadmill after receiving electric stimulation to the area where his spinal cord had been injured. Many scientists assumed that Rob was an unusual case. However, three new guys have undergone the same regiment that Rob did. Now they are also able to do simple tasks and are slowly regaining their motor functions.

Of course, none of these men can move without the electric implant that gives off the electric stimulation, but the research shows that it is possible to overcome spinal cord injuries. In time, the research team plans to develop their own device to stimulate the spinal cord rather than using the repurposed pain reliever they are currently using. With time, perhaps spinal cord injuries will not become a major deal.

Questions for our tech guru? What would you like to see in the next issue? Text or email [batodaytechtalk@gmail.com](mailto:batodaytechtalk@gmail.com)

## Think on This

by: Tila Vines

We sometimes try to fit God in our daily schedule or whenever is appropriate for us. We go to church every Sunday and Wednesday night, do every youth retreat imaginable, read our Bible in free classes. We put on the Christian mask and advertise that we are strong in our faith. But what happens when we are out of our school or our Christian environments?

Some of us stick to our word that we sell off and are honestly firm in our faith, but some of us will lack the will to turn away for the temptations of this world. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so no matter what you do we are forgiven, but that does not give us an excuse to do as we please. Once you preoccupy your mind with pure thoughts they will shine through you and eventually become your lifestyle.

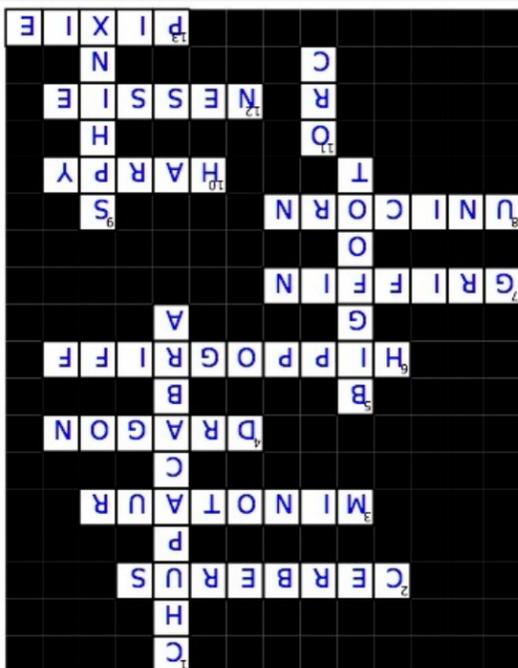
**“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8**

**Gamer's Corner:**  
**Watch Dogs**  
 by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of gamerscollection.com

**Crossword Puzzle Answers**



No peeking!

Welcome to Chicago. Just like anywhere else in the world, you are in a society that the central network connects everyone and everything. But, try to not see yourself as an individual but more of a data cluster. Your life is measured in gigabytes. Data comes at a cost. Algorithms can predict your interests, your desires, even your fantasies. You go about life unaware of the digital shadow you cast. In *Watch Dogs*, you explore the impact of technology within your society. Using the city as your weapon, you will embark on a personal mission to inflict your own brand of justice.

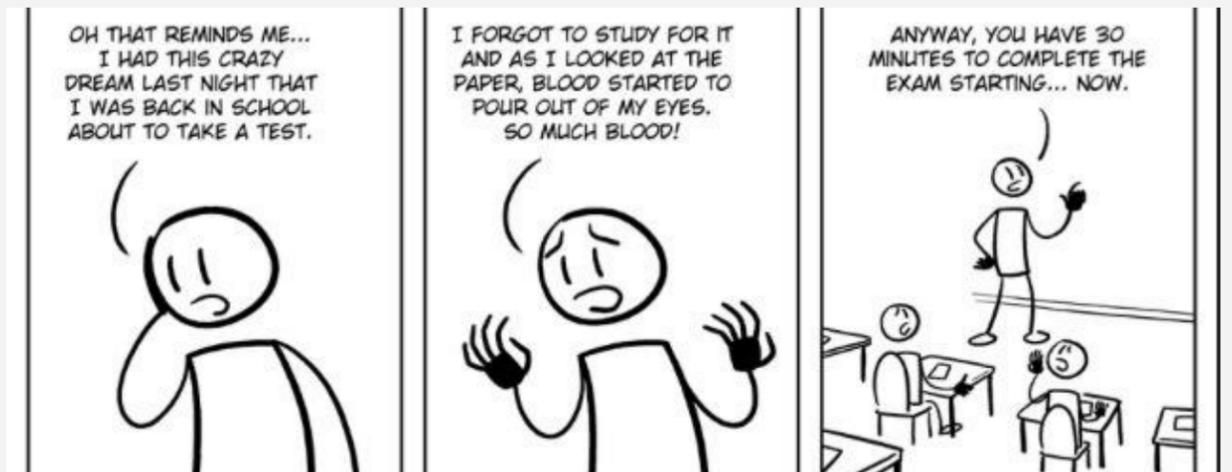
In *Watch Dogs*, you play as Adrian Pearce. As a brilliant hacker and former thug, Pearce's criminal past led to a violent family tragedy. As Pearce, you use your smartphone to take control over the city's infrastructure. You'll access omnipresent security cameras, download personal information to locate a target, control traffic lights and public transportation to stop the enemy and more. Also, not only does *Watch Dogs* give you the ability to take advantage of the ctOS (Central Operating System), but it also allows you to explore the many layers of Chicago itself. Cut through buildings, scale rooftops, and explore the city's dangerous underground to catch your target.

In addition, Adrian Pearce is extremely skilled in hand-to-hand combat and lethal force. He can handle himself very well in any situation whether it involves guns, knives, or any other different weapons. This combined with his hacking abilities make a pretty dangerous adversary. Due to his troubled past, his family unfortunately encountered a severe tragedy. This infuriated him to where he decided to take the law into his own hands. Now he is on a vengeful mission to track down the enemies who harmed his family and bring them to justice. Now that the city is at his fingertips, he'll use his hacking abilities to carry out his revenge and keep the streets safe. Adrian knows that it's only a matter of time before his family will be attacked. But this time, he'll be ready.

This game hits stores May 27, so pre-order yours if you want to be ready to save the world that day.

Agree? Disagree? What game would you like to see reviewed in the next issue? Email [batodaygames@gmail.com](mailto:batodaygames@gmail.com)

**Private School Probs** by: Casey Burnette



**Countdown to College** by: Zac Wade

Seniors, for those of you choosing to pursue higher education, there are a few things left on your to-do list in these final two months of high school. It is time to make sure you do these things before heading off to college.

April

- Review college responses and aid offers with your parents and counselor
- Write withdrawal letters to colleges you will not attend or reply to their emails asking you to confirm
- Be sure to respond to acceptance letters by 5/1
- Turn into counselor a copy of all scholarship award letters

May

- Confirm housing plans