

THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School
Volume 21, Number 1 October 23, 2015

Water Is Life



by NAOMI DUSKA

On Wednesday September 23rd, nine students from Maurick College and their teacher, Mr Wetzler arrived in Canada. Maurick College is a high school from Vught, the Netherlands. Our two schools have teamed up for the DELF French Exchange and now, for a Science-Literature exchange. ABE families have already hosted three groups from Maurick College (two for French and one for *Water is Life*). In June, eighteen Aberhart students in grades eleven and twelve are going to Maurick College to stay with their exchange partners and to attend an international water conference.

Aberhart students will present their water research at the Water is Life Conference. *Water is Life* is an event that occurs every second year, uniting students from across the world to discuss water issues. It truly is an international conference, as students from countries such as Australia, Zimbabwe, Germany, India, USA and Colombia will also be attending.

The Canadian portion of the exchange, prepped Aberhart students for their research and gave them a chance to collabo-

rate and generate ideas with their international friends. The Aberhart research groups are examining water issues like drinking water quality on the T'suu T'ina Reserve in comparison to City of Calgary Residents; the current reality of the Ray Glacier and the extent to which it will continue to provide water to the Elbow River; the effectiveness of educational programs in changing water usage behaviour and the environmental impact of wastewater effluents at the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant.

While in Canada, Maurick College and ABE students explored Calgary and surrounding areas. They headed to Banff where they were lucky enough to visit several museums. The Whyte Museum, one of Banff's most popular attractions, is currently having the *Water Exhibition*, a selection of Canadian and international art exhibits exploring the importance of water. The students had the chance to visit this museum and think about what these pieces meant, all the while taking in the hustle and bustle of life in Banff. The following week, the students headed out to Kananaskis Country, where

they stayed at the University of Calgary Biogeosciences Institute at Barrier Lake. Under the guidance of scientist Sue Alderidge, the lead educator at the centre, we tested water samples, studied specimens in the lab and hiked to the bottom of the Ray Glacier. Sue Alderidge was one of several guest speakers who joined us during this trip including Mr Sanford, an international speaker at the United Nations Institute for Water, Environment and Health, who shared his extensive knowledge about water and climate change.

Overall, this exchange is an excellent opportunity to share culture, language and insight. We are all looking forward to the rest of the exchange and the new friendships and knowledge it will surely bring. Thank you to Ms MacDonald and Ms Fehres, who are the coordinators for this ground-breaking exchange. Together, they have arranged for unique and meaningful learning opportunities, both through the exchange itself and through the research that we will undertake for the conference.

EDITORIAL

Civility and Tactlessness

by JORDAN BUNKE

While we do not live in America, the outcome of their election is still of the utmost importance. Yes, ours is more significant and relevant to us, but although we are an autonomous G7 country perfectly capable of handling our own affairs, our neighbours are our most important trading partner, a heavy-weight in foreign and international affairs and arguably the most powerful nation on Earth.

While one is already behind us and the other is over a year away, the respective federal elections are at the forefront of mass media news outlets in both Canada and the United States. As the terms of the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States do not align, (one being at her Majesty's pleasure with a 5-year maximum and the other being 4-year term, respectively) one rarely gets the opportunity to compare, juxtapose and analyse the two election processes. I, for instance, and perhaps irresponsibly so, have been simultaneously transfixed, appalled and entertained by the American presidential election, while being comparatively disinterested by our own counterpart.

In America, the presidential election is a maelstrom of bogus claims, accusations, empty promises, pundits and anger, with sprinkles of policy added for good measure. Many voters sway with the wind, abandoning candidates they were once adamantly in support of after an unfounded revelation; or as soon as a different name gets more on-air attention. CNN, the hosts of the recent Democratic debate, had a counter in bold white letters contrasted by a deep red background counting down the seconds to the debate on every program they aired for two days prior to the event. For those who are unaware, the American federal election is next November, but the campaign has been rapidly gaining momentum since before the summer, and will

only continue to crescendo until it reaches fever pitch late next year.

However, I am not nearly as shocked by the piranha-like frenzy that the country has fallen into, as I am taken aback by the statements that potential world leaders are making, and the glaring lack of consequences for them. For instance, Dr. Ben Carson, the runner-up in recent polls for the Republican primary, openly stated that he believes the Islamic faith is inconsistent with the American Constitution and "would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of [the United States]. [He] absolutely would not agree with that." Keep in mind: Article VI of the American Constitution clearly states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as Qualification to any Office or Public Trust under the United States", as well as the fact that since the days of Thomas Jefferson, the third man of 44 to govern the United States as president, the church has been distinctly separated from the state under the First Amendment, alongside and clearly as integral as freedom of speech. Additionally, the candidate that is currently and rather aptly trumping Carson in the race for the Republican primary has made some ridiculously ludicrous statements himself. These include and are most definitely not limited to: discrediting a fellow candidate based on the appearance of her face, criticizing and demeaning the character and morals of Mexican immigrants and claiming that those in the current administration are idiots.

The sheer thought of people like Donald Trump or Mike Huckabee joining the ranks of individuals like Abraham Lincoln, FDR and Ronald Reagan seems alien. While many people in positions of power have and have had questionable motives, beliefs and actions, all of the aforementioned individuals had an undisputable capacity to lead, which I fear is lacking in the bulk of the candidates in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Perhaps it is just the phase of my life that I am in, but I feel that the logoes of one of American's two most prevalent parties has never been more indicative of what it represents. Loud, lewd, tactless, caricature. The spitting image

of the elephant, woefully attempting to mask their porous shortcomings with statements to rally a vulnerable and frustrated people.

As this vicious dogfight goes on, there is hardly any mention of feasible policy plans amongst a myriad of insults, pandering and shock value. In Canada, however, things are quite different. While many campaigns rely on casting their competition in a negative light, there is still a certain civility with which it is being done that is utterly lacking on the other side of the border. The primary argument against Trudeau cites his inexperience, a valid concern that is called into question in an appropriate way. I nearly chuckled at the NDP's recent campaign ad, structured as a performance review of Stephen Harper, with Tom Mulcair waiting in the wings for Harper's firing. After he was let go, the people in the room remarked "Nice hair, though." as the party's logo faded onto the screen. Comparatively, it was polite, almost friendly. While I am not suggesting that a position as fiercely contested as the highest command in all the land should be decided through pillow fights, there is still a proper way to conduct oneself. The needless shouting, finger-pointing and bellowing exhibited so consistently in America is just that: senseless, pointless, and ultimately, in virtually all cases, fruitless.

THE ADVOCATE

THE ADVOCATE is the official newspaper of William Aberhart High School. We publish on a bi-weekly basis and encourage letters to the Editor of THE ADVOCATE.

THE ADVOCATE is meant as a forum for student expression and is published to inform and entertain the students and the entire school community.

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The Digital Revolution

by CHRISTINE O'BRIEN

In recent years, the use of the internet slang IRL (in real life) has increased drastically. The digital revolution has taken over schools and workplaces around the globe. Despite what you may think, the change is not specific to teenagers. Doctors have developed technology that allows them to consult other specialists in real-time about dire or difficult medical decisions. On a smaller scale, parents have recently discovered the emoji tab on smart phones. Mocking posts have popped up all over the internet with screenshots of parents using slang and excessive amounts of emojis. The change of dialect has been woven into the magazines we read and the media outlets we use to inform us. Sites such as *Urban Dictionary* have been specifically constructed to help us understand old and up-and-coming slang.

It seems that the circumstances we find ourselves relating to have been largely shaped by our digital experiences. The relevance of social media has been an increasingly discussed topic in classrooms. More and more essay prompts revolve around the subject of social media and its impacts on our world. Surely you have noticed the shift in daily conversations between friends. Do your greetings usually begin with the mentioning of celebrity news, cat videos or a conversation you had on a social media site? If not, by simply taking a stroll through the hallways at ABE you should hear bits and pieces of conversations, seemingly picked out of a post on Tumblr. Look left and a girl with cropped bangs and floral high rise shorts may shout, "Oh my gosh, same." Look right and a stricken looking boy staring down at girl who "just can't even." It seems that we have become less and less aware of our internet alter egos and the way we reflect them outside of our smartphones and tablets. Aside from simply forgetting to switch our dialect back to something intelligible, it has become increasingly difficult to avoid giving into the peer pressure of sounding like a whiny teenage blogger. It usually begins with speaking in this tongue ironically. However, slowly individuals begin to speak this way without realizing it. The result is everywhere.

Often in class situations students find themselves listening to peers and teachers alike as they go on to share their own internet experiences and apply them to classroom discussions. More so, the impact of social media and its outlets have sparked creative thinking in classroom settings.

One grade 12 ABE student anonymously admits that the use of social media has extended her vocabulary. It's not surprising that teens are learning from the medium that they are glued to for a large part of their day. Let's face it teachers - students are on their phones in class no matter what you do.

It seems that the virtual connection of numerous minds has resulted in a broader creative awareness. This student goes on to add, "The creative assembly that is social media makes my mind tingle, because there are so many ideas at once." Social media has ignited a fire of ideas and concepts that are altering the world as you read this. The impact of the digital world has touched billions. It has given us new insight at the touch of our fingertips and despite the less than ideal use of language that has come along with it, it seems unlikely that we will die off as a species due to our poor communication skills. All of that said, it is probably best to limit your screen time to avoid any new tech viruses. If that's simply impossible, then just try to catch some rays through the bathroom window and maybe take some vitamin C supplements to avoid scurvy.



PLACES and SPACES

If You're Tired of Cafeteria Coffee...

by DENIZ COSKUNER

Being a coffee lover at Aberhart is a constant struggle. The isolation our school enjoys is a little hindering when you're a coffee snob. Thankfully, Postino is here to save the day.

Located at 2050 24 Street NW, Postino is only a three minute walk from the field. While being that close to ABE, Postino offers a removed feeling from the school, making it a great place to spend your spare or lunch period if you actually plan on getting work done. The chill vibe and nice staff make it easy to stay there for hours.

What really makes Postino worth the trip is the coffee. For any coffee snobs like myself, it is the perfect answer to mediocre cafeteria coffee. And if caffeine is not your thing, then fret not! Postino offers many other drinks, including a killer London fog and a delicious chai tea latte. Also offered at Postino are some amazing artisan breakfast and lunch options. The selection is quite limited (normally only one vegetarian option) but it rotates often and is always expertly handmade by the baristas. Along with the delicious eats at Postino are some amazing baked goods. Changing each day, these delicious cookies, loafs and muffins are perfect if all you're looking for is something to grab and go.

My only warning is if you don't have a lot of time or you are on a tight schedule, this might not be the place for you. With usually one worker there during the day, it takes a while for the food and drinks to be made. That aside, I have no qualms towards this little café, it is the perfect option if you are looking to get away from school for a while without actually getting away. Whether you're looking to get some work done, need some recuperation time from all those crazy teachers, or you're looking to get that caffeine and hunger fix, Postino is the place for you.



TRACKS and TUNES

Choose Your Weapon: My Weapon of Choice

by DAVID CARR

Fresh, innovative and groovy, Hiatus Kaiyote's *Choose your Weapon* is an 18-track neo-soul/ alternative album released in May of 2015; it's a masterpiece of contemporary music that will shed new light on your musical interests as well as your preconceptions. Where most music in popular culture dominates with a driving pulse, lead singer Nai Palm composes refreshing and unique songs that might make you think differently about the 'requirements' of a good jam.

Need lyrics to enjoy a song? Killer vocals by the lead and backup singers will funk you up on the tracks *Molasses*, *Fingerprints* and *Breathing Underwater*. Tired of such repetitive beats and electronic melodies of pop music? Do acoustic covers make you depressed? The tracks *Shaolin Monk*, *Motherfunk*, *By Fire*, and *Jekyll* explore rhythms not typically used in popular alternative and pop music; an innovative approach to soul, while still making you want to groove along.

The album explores a variety of musical influences ranging from video games to shaolin monks, and combines them with a laid back funky feel to create Hiatus Kaiyote's unique style.

Listening to the whole album reveals more of the beauty of *Choose Your Weapon*. The main tracks are all connected through transitions in the songs themselves (*Atari* to *By Fire*) or short tracks that are transitions in themselves. In using these, the album becomes not a collection of amazing songs, but one big picture of the beauty of groove and innovation becoming one.

Feature Tracks:

- Jekyll
- Atari
- Molasses
- Breathing Underwater



Photo courtesy of hiatuskaiyote.com

FRUIT PRESERVES? JAMS!

Tenor Madness at Kawa Espresso

by ANNA SVIKHNUSHIN

Bit by bit, the local arts scene is expanding to youth in all parts of the city. Thanks to JazzYYC, Calgary's Jazz collective, there are emerging events that are becoming more and more accessible to musicians of all ages. This year, Saturday Afternoon Jazz Jams have been reintroduced, hosted by the chic and welcoming Kawa Espresso Bar on 8th St SW.

Saturday, October 10th, myself and a couple of other ABE students met at the Kawa Espresso Bar for a chance to unwind, listen to some jazz and collaborate musically. Two tunes in, a middle-aged, balding man stepped up to the performing area, worn-out, silver trumpet in hand. He wasn't at the previous jam, and we didn't know if he held a certain musical reputation throughout the city, so we had no idea what to expect. In fact, we weren't expecting anything in particular, as this jam environment is always full of strangers who we end up communicating freely and openly with music. Nevertheless, this particular dude took us by surprise.



Happy students before the trumpet player played. Photo courtesy of Youth of YYC.

The name of the song called by the temporary combo on stage has slipped my mind, but the sound that emerged from that rusty, scratched up trumpet will be permanently etched in my mind. He took a full-bodied breath, squeezed his eyes shut and blew out all of the air he could into his instrument. The trumpet wailed loudly, several semitones above the intended harmony. I could see a girl in the front row flinch with

terror, as we both realized it was only the start of this man's mission to play loudly, proudly, and with all the wrong rhythms and harmonies.

For those unfamiliar with the typical jazz jam "format", it consists of the melodic instruments (trumpet, sax, etc.) playing the head (main melody). Then, whichever musician chooses to solo takes a chorus or two.

Jazz is type of language, and these solos give musicians a chance to tell the world what they have to say. You wouldn't think twice of interrupting someone mid-sentence if they were pouring out their heart and soul, so why would you play loudly over someone's solo? Apparently, this trumpeter had set solid of reasons to blatantly noodle over the jazz contributions of saxophonists, bases and pianists alike. For the first couple of songs, this rude behavior was ignored by musicians and audience members alike, but as the strange behavior continued, the tension rose.

Eventually, one tenor saxophonist stepped up and began to give the trumpeter a taste of his own medicine. Brassy, roaring notes emerged from the tenor saxophone, interjecting into the feeble solo from the rusty trumpet. Voices were raised and curse words were thrown about as the confrontation progressed. Audience members were cringing in their seats, watching the situation unravel.

The artistic brawl escalated to light pushing and shoving, and no peaceful resolution was in sight. The tenor saxophonist sassily put his saxophone in it's case and huffed off, while the trumpeter triumphantly ordered his fourth alcoholic beverage. By this point, the afternoon jam was spoiled by this brash, middle-aged man, and along with other jam-enthusiasts, I left.

Ben Isenstein, a local high school pianist, remained for the remaining hours of the jam. He says that "[The trumpeter] annoyed a bunch of other people and eventually got kicked out. Too weird." All in all, musical justice was served that day. After encountering that trumpet player, I can safely say that the qualities of the jams will only improve from that point on.

THE REASONS WHY . . .

Baseball is Absolutely Pointless

by KAARI HALL

This year, the Toronto Blue Jays played in the playoffs for the first time in over twenty years. On top of that, they won the first series! But that's not what's really important. What is important is the fact that baseball is absolutely pointless. Here are the 5 reasons why baseball makes no sense:

1. First of all, baseball players are usually wearing white. If they're playing in dirt and grass, why are they wearing white clothing? Who does the laundry? Who raised them?
2. Why are they also chewing gum, Spitz or tobacco? Baseball is the only sport in which the players run around while chewing. What if they choke, what are they going to do then?
3. Baseball helmets only cover one ear. Is one side of your head more important? How do you choose what side needs to be protected? Do you flip a coin, or do that weird hand thing Chad and Ryan did in High School Musical 2?
4. The umpire is always yelling, always. I'm pretty sure everyone saw that was a strike buddy, no need to scream. Contrary to what you may believe, we have been watching the game and the only thing happening is people striking out. Not a lot to miss.
5. Finally, the post-game commentary is almost twice as long as the actual game! We know they hit the ball with the bat, that's the point. So why are we listening to two old men talking about the game as if we didn't just watch it? If you missed the game, too bad. Google the final score, stop wasting my time.

Thank you for reading our biweekly *The Reasons Why...* Join us next time as I rant about everything and anything and put my complaining to something productive. Have a great week, and take some time to complain about the less-than-fine things in life.

POLITICAL PATTER

We Can't All Be as Chill as Hillary

by MONIQUE VIGNEAULT

As the federal election approaches, not all of us are taking it as easy as others. As I interviewed people at the polling stations for the federal election, I began to see a trend in all of their responses: there wasn't any. Zero. Null.

While most of the voters told me politely to go eat dirt, one first-time voter's response was quite unique.

"Hey! Congrats on your first time voting! It's pretty exciting, I'm sure!", I exclaimed excitedly.

She gave me a blank look, and clutched onto her scarf nervously. No response.

"Would you, um, do you want to or have the time for a quick exit poll?"

I then asked, my speech starting to sound startlingly similar to Dr Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham.

She backed away a couple steps, muttered something under her breath, stuttered and then showed me her ID. Then, her dad who was on his way to the parking lot, turned around and ran to her aid. He looked at me and nervously smiled.

"Maybe next time."

I wished her good luck once again, and we exchanged a couple nervous glances. Shortly after that though, I realized that "next time" would entail the next federal election, which meant four years later.

I hadn't given up hope yet, however. I walked over to a voter who was carefully examining the empty bulletin board in front of him.

"Hi there sir! Would you be interested in a short exit poll?"

He stopped for a second, quite obviously upset. To be fair, the empty bulletin board did have some juicy gossip.

After a few seconds he attempted to smile and eloquently responded:

"No."

The women manning the polling station were all very excited when they heard I was writing an article on the federal election, however. They enthusiastically dished out many facts and their hopes for this election. They said that for the advanced polling, they already had around 800 voters a day. As they continued, I began to notice they were very vague about their personal opinions.

When asked "What are your hopes for the 2015 election?" all three of them responded in unison.

"Good turnout, hope it goes smoothly, and that we won't have to do this again." They chuckled.

What surprised me the most was their answer to this particular question:

"Do you think you will volunteer for the next federal election in four years?"

One of the volunteers laughed stating "If there is one in four years, ha!"

After a couple more questions, two of the women expressed concern.

"You won't mention our names right? Can you just say the name of the polling station?"

I told them that it would remain anonymous, and they sighed in relief.

I'm almost 110 percent sure, based on my findings were that the general public were either too scared or too apathetic to even answer my questions.

What that means could be interpreted in several different ways. Has our good pal, Steve scared the general public so much that they're afraid to even speak up, or are voters just too scared to have their secret ballot compromised? My personal viewpoint is that I'm actually quite terrifying with my clumsy demeanor, notebook and Supernatural t-shirt. I don't blame them. I'm downright petrifying. I'm so scary that I don't even need a Halloween costume.

Of course, politics has always been a taboo subject, and we're always strongly advised to avoid the topic at events such as your grandma's 80th birthday bash, or your bosses' intervention. Politics hold a different meaning for everyone and it affects every aspect of our lives from our digital citizenship up to the food we eat.

This gives us all the more reason to take it seriously, right? Well, yes and no. For example, it's pretty difficult not to laugh at Donald Trump's "hair". C'mon dude, we all know that's a rat on your head, or Hillary Clinton's attempt to get the youth audience's attention by nicknaming herself the pseudonym "Chillary Clinton", or this picture of our one and only Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, I find the biggest joke in this election is that the one clear fear on Canadian's minds is their own opinion. We've reached a point where we're too scared to even answer to a scrawny fifteen-year-old. A big thing we should ask ourselves is why there's an unusually large amount of voters, with very little opinions.

Vote Smart

by LAURY FECTAEU

The passing of the federal elections reminds teenagers that in four years from now, it will be their turn to vote. Although the concept of voting might seem strange for some, the results can deeply affect your daily life. The first step to a smart vote is to understand all of the possibilities it offers; get to know the parties and their leaders. It is crucial to make up *your own* mind about the political issues. Remember your vote is secret, so you can never be penalized for your opinion. The ideal way to make up your mind is not to see events as black and white: Sure, Harper has been in power for almost as long as you have been in school (yep, ten years now) he did however help Canadians through the recent recession. Let's not forget Trudeau. His pretentious attitude might cause you to cringe, but perhaps his acceptance of different budget approaches could be refreshing for Canadians? What about this Mulcair dude? Never heard of him; nonetheless his promise to offer affordable childcare and cut taxes for smaller businesses could be beneficial for Canada.

Politics can be seen as a grey zone, it is your duty however, to discover where you sit on the political spectrum. If you are not yet eligible to vote, know that there are plenty of others ways to get involved. Actions as minor as watching the news every night, or even volunteering in your community count. Participating in ABE's student council or taking part in Calgary's many youth groups can also matter. Most importantly, understanding how and when to voice your opinion is key to successfully being involved in a community. Be aware that your political opinions might change throughout your lifetime and they do not necessarily have to match your family, religious or racial community's values. They are yours to grow and learn to understand.

All this to say, Canadians have the opportunity to vote, and ultimately make a change in the world. As a young adult, it is important to get politically educated and show the older generations what generation Y is really made of; a generation who lived through the digital revolution. Let them know you are more than tweets about sandwiches and Nicki's anaconda (who also don't want none). We are a generation who is capable of more than simply receiving orders, one who is resilient and smart.

Vote because you are informed, and vote knowing you make a change. After all, it's your future, why not shape it the way you'd like it to be?



The Return Of ABE Debate

by YUSEF ZIA

The first meeting for Aberhart's debate team is long overdue. On Wednesday, October 14th, ABE Debate will be up and running again, and asks anyone who's interested to stop by room 323 at lunch. This is following a recent cancellation of the team that was initially expected to end debate for the entire school year. ABE Debate is typically run by teachers and Ms Griffin and Mrs Fraser have dedicated their time to help it succeed for the 6 last years. Unfortunately, there is an insufficient amount of teachers this year to support all of ABE's extracurricular activities, so debate was scratched. However, this didn't spell the end of debate this year. This year, the club will be run by students to ease the strain it will have on this school's staff, yet keep debate an active part of this school. I would like to thank Ms Pet-

tigrew for providing us a space to hold our meeting and practices, and Ms Griffin for all the hard work she's put into debate last year and all years prior.

Over the years, debate at Aberhart has made quite the name for itself. It has participated in competitions on a local, provincial, national, and even international scale. While optimism is high going forward for this club, the team has some rebuilding to do to bring it to its former self. Two factors will ensure the strength of the team: interest, and commitment. Debate thrives off of the passion from the debaters within it, and the more passionate debaters are, the more successful they'll be. Anyone interested in participating in this new learning/teaching style for debate should come to room 323 at lunch this Wednesday, October 28th.



MOVIE REVIEW

Black Mass

by RAZA HYDER

Crime, law, politics, family. The story of James Whitey Bulger contains all four. For the first time ever, witness the story of Whitey Bulger, the most notorious gangster in U.S. history. The story has been told before in Joe Berlinger's 2014 Documentary *Whitey*. It focuses on Bulger's eventual trial in 2013. This film, tells us the entire story of Bulger from the amazing director Scott Cooper.

Audiences around the globe have seen Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow (*Pirates of the Caribbean*), a Vampire (*Dark Shadows*), a gangster (*Public Enemies*). Now Depp will deliver his most intense role by taking all three of those characters' personalities and combining them into one to portray Whitey Bulger. To many and to myself, I believe that this is Johnny Depp's best performance yet. The way Depp throws himself at this character is just incredible. Whitey Bulger was a very serious person when it came to trusting people. The classic 'bad guy must calmly accept an apology from an underling and then kill the guy the very next second' happens a lot in the film. Yet on the other hand he is very kind to others. When speaking to an elderly neighbour she asks, "Jimmy! When did you get outta Alcatraz?" He replies saying with a sly smile, "Ooh, that was nearly ten years ago." She says, "Well its wonderful to have you back in the neighbourhood son!" He then helps with her groceries. Scenes like this make you think about the two sided Jimmy Bulger.

This performance is all in the facial and vocal talents of Johnny Depp as are all the rest of his. The only thing that I believe



Johnny Depp in an intense scene in *Black Mass* ©Warner Bros



Johnny Depp as James Whitey Bulger pulls the trigger on an enemy in *Black Mass*. ©Warner Bros.

makes this performance so unique is the way he does it. You could put in Brad Pitt and he would not deliver the same level Depp did for this character. Also the makeup. You can see Johnny's eyes and face through all of the makeup but, his performance covers it all up to just show you Bulger. The slick back hair, the ferocious teeth, blue eyes, and maniacal laugh are so well done. I also quite liked the jackets he wore.

Director Scott Cooper starts the story off in 1975 and tells us the story up till present day. It begins with Bulger currently head of The Winter Hill Gang in South Boston. His brother, a US senator, is played by Benedict Cumberbatch, who was recently nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. The senator is aware of Whitey's crimes and actions but wants no part of his life. As he tells good friend and FBI Agent John Connolly (Joel Edgerton), "Jimmy's business, is Jimmy's business." I find it amazing how these brothers were opposites. When Connolly (Edgerton) comes to offer Jimmy protection from the FBI if he will help them stop the Italian Mob, he accepts. The story is an unholy alliance between Bulger and the FBI that at some point gets out of control, allowing Whitey to evade law enforcement while using his power and becoming the most ruthless and dangerous gangsters in U.S. history.

I never knew or heard about Whitey Bulger until I watched the trailer for this film. I was immediately drawn to it because of Depp's incredible performance. I couldn't believe the intensity he brought to the character. Now I that I know who Bulger was I feel terrible for the families who have lost someone to Jimmy Bulger.

I saw this movie on opening day with my friend, a Grade 10 student Seth Carpenter. This is what he said about the movie. "Even though there was a lot of action, the story was a bit slow but I underwhat was going on. This was also based on a true story and the Director made a good connection to the actual events."

This film was excellent. If you have not seen *Black Mass* yet and you like these type of movies, make sure to watch it!

The Advocate Wants YOU

by ADVOCATE STAFF

You could have your own byline in the next issue of *The Advocate*. The staff at *The Advocate* cannot be all things to all people. It is physically impossible for them to cover everything that is happening here at ABE. That is where you can help.

You can contribute articles to *The Advocate* in a variety of ways as often as you like. If you want to share your opinion on a particular topic, write a letter to the editor. Please sign your letter, as we believe everyone should stand behind what they have to say. If you are involved in or know of an event which you would like to write an article on for *The Advocate*, go ahead and do it.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the paper, however the editor reserves the right to edit the article and decide if or when the article will be published. Drop your article off to Ms Griffin (room 331) or Mr Kempt (room 313) or any of *The Advocate* staff. You can also submit your article electronically by sending it to advocateabe@gmail.com

Your article will make *The Advocate* better at covering what's going on at ABE.



HELPFUL TIPS**Improving Your Work Habits**

by ADITYA KHATU

I don't know how everyone else has felt but a month (almost two now!) of school seems to have passed by in an instant. Keeping up with school and the fear of what awaits in the future frightens all of us and what might be truly important may be out of sight. Stress and anxiety is often a result of this lack of certainty and it can become very easy to feel like you have become trapped and there is no way out. I know that I am guilty of falling into this pit over very simple problems. I was so worried over a simple test once that I misspelled the one thing everyone should know how to spell. My name! It took a long time for people to stop joking about that. Making dumb mistakes like that made me take a hard look at what I could do to improve myself.

I know that I have a very bad habit of accepting that I am doing the best I can possibly do and leaving it at that. I'd do badly on a test and think, "Well I studied as best as I could. Not much else I can do for that," when in reality I looked at my notes for five minutes at most and was distracted for the rest of the time. I've started asking myself questions like, "Should I be watching a movie or playing a game or have I really done all my homework, in an effort to catch myself on the lies I tell. If I spaced out my time for studying I would be more relaxed the night before a test instead of staying up late trying to get as much information in

as possible. If I'm not understanding some things in class I could try to get help from teachers at school. It's simple choices like that that make all the difference change in how you see yourself going forward in the long term. I've started to notice this and I hope that this is the year that I actually take my own advice instead of remaining a hypocrite. So far, I've noticed an improvement and hopefully it keeps getting better from here.

On the subject of advice, the one thing that I need to remember and should help others too it to STAY AWAY FROM THE INTERNET. For the most part, it sucks up time and you'll never benefit from it unless you are using it for school specific reasons. I often find myself on sites learning useless facts or watching videos on YouTube when I should I really be getting some sleep or preparing for the test tomorrow. Avoid it for a couple hours when you need to focus and it will be there waiting for you when you are done. Nothing drastic is going to result from getting offline for a while and you will start retaining information better for tests. I can say confidently that if many people (including me) used their time effectively in the ways I mentioned and practiced ways to maximize good results, there would be a lot less stress and collectively, and our goals would become easier to reach. I hope that by writing about this, I can use my time better and that I'm able to help others like me. There is still plenty of time to make change in your life and I hope that this year helps set you on the path that you want to take. What you choose to do today can help change what you might do in the future, let's make sure that we make the right decisions.

**P U N S A N D
B A N T E R****Why did the comedian leave the café?**

He was shocked at the lack of cinnamon puns.

Why did the mole stay out of Little Mexico?

It didn't want to become Whack-a-mole.

Why was the crazy man struck by lightning?

He desperately needed shock therapy.

Where are cows most commonly found?

In C-Attle.

Why wasn't the lichen invited to the party?

It turns out he wasn't a fun guy.

When Justin was asked why he didn't deny using marijuana, what did he say?

It's True-deau.

What did the cannibal get when he arrived at the party late?

The cold shoulder.

**IN-BREAD CAT****P L A Y L I S T****Variety is the Spice of Life**Elle King – *Ex's and Oh's*Kenny Loggins – *Footloose*Aerosmith – *Dream On*The Weeknd – *The Hills*Halsey – *New Americana*Iron Maiden – *Speed of Light*Frank Ocean – *Bad Religion*Florida Georgia Line – *Anything Goes*Edith Piaf – *La Vie En Rose*Mike Oldfield – *Nuclear*Magic Man – *Paris*Amy Winehouse – *Back to Black*

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Spelling and grammar are not corrected.

Occasionally, letters will be edited for length and/or inappropriate language.

Editorial responses are not printed.

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