

THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School
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Net's Working

by ADITYA KHATU



Netflix, the media giant that is now an essential part of popular culture has somehow managed to revolutionize the playing field in the entertainment industry. It's become an essential part of our life and it's hard to remember what a time without it was like. It all began with two software engineers that created a service to rent out DVD's (which was the new medium at the time) where the user would be charged a single monthly fee for and be allowed to receive as many discs as they wished. This eventually evolved into the streaming service with the same fee structure that we're all familiar with today. Today, there are 75 million users in 190 countries subscribed to this platform, with more than 125 million hours of entertainment being consumed daily. Netflix has managed to maintain its rapid growth while competing with the largest players in entertainment for several reasons.

The first of these reasons is the media that Netflix creates. "Netflix Originals" are their take on producing their own television shows and movies and they have been extremely successful. Heavily praised

for their quality by both critics and audience, they have raised the bar for all aspects of TV and movies. These original productions have been nominated for 4 Academy Awards, and have won 14 out of 75 Primetime Emmy nominations. By creating entertainment of this caliber and making it exclusive to their service, they are making a very strong case to those looking to make the switch from cable. Many networks are unable to provide the plethora of choices that Netflix offers and will find it near impossible to produce entertainment that can rival Netflix's originals.

Netflix has also managed to create an ease of access for those craving TV shows or movies in a way that has never been seen before. Viewing is possible on many different platforms like smartphones, tablets, computers and consoles to just name a few. All content can be seen on-demand and is completely ad-free. Combining all this with a very affordable price makes it a very enticing offer for a wide range of the population. These factors have caused Netflix to grow in subscribers every year. The ability to reel

in viewers from other networks like CBS or Fox is causing these companies to see a 35-42% decline in viewing among those who also use Netflix. All this information draws the point that Netflix is starting to become a real threat to traditional sources like cable television. Unless they adapt quickly, these companies will become a thing of the past. Blockbuster chose not to buy Netflix at the meager price of \$50 million and went bankrupt as it was unable to adapt to keep up with Netflix. What will happen to the new area of competition Netflix is dealing with? Cable networks face an uphill battle in a way that they never have before. If they were to change the way they operate to target Netflix's market share, it would be an arduous process that would require a large amount of time and money. The 21st century has brought with it a new way of receiving entertainment and it's hard to tell if the older players will be able to stay at the top. Very few factors stand in the way of Netflix getting more and more popular. If the competition's smart, they'll learn from the fate of Blockbuster.

EDITORIAL

Hanging Off the Edge

by JORDAN BUNKE

Along with ballooning budgets and an increase in CGI, glaring trends can be observed in the entertainment industry, on both the silver screen and the small screen. One of these trends is the use of cliff-hangers. With the culmination of the sixth season of AMC's *The Walking Dead*, fans were less than pleased with how one of the pivotal moments of Robert Kirkman's comic book was adapted to the screen. The incident occurred during the last scene of the season finale, and for the next six months, the outcome of the event that the entire latter half of the season had been building towards will remain a mystery. Apart from the obvious disappointment that this copout created, one of the principal things that people took issue with was how this was a tactic used to ensure that the extended off-season break wouldn't have a toll on the show's viewership once the seventh season started. It virtually guaranteed mas-



sive ratings for the 7x01 episode of a show that was already breaking 10 million viewers an episode every week. Though the excessive use of cliff-hangers within entertainment has been well noted for a number of years, this



event warrants a deeper look into what is becoming routine, and how it may not only be a disappointment or a betrayal, but also unethical.

One trend that has become a staple of the Marvel Cinematic Universe is the post-credit scene. It has become so popular that many other studios incorporate the same technique into their films, such as 20th Century Fox with *Deadpool* (2016) and *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014). With the exception of 2014's *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the post-credit scenes in the MCU serve to set up future events in the universe, such as Thanos wearing the Infinity Gauntlet, Loki masquerading as Odin, or the infamous Thanos smile at the end of *The Avengers*. While these are not outright cliff-hangers, they still use the fact that the movie containing the scene is part of a greater "universe" to set up an entirely different film. This can be separated into two categories. First, films like *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* and *Ant-Man* are guilty of using a technique that has been dubbed as "sequel baiting". Here, films will use a closing scene or a post-credit scene to establish a premise for direct follow-up film. In *Ant-Man*, Hope Pym is given the Wasp suit by her father, and lo and behold, *Ant-Man's* sequel is called *Ant-Man and the Wasp*. Meanwhile, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* used its closing scene to introduce the villain Rhino. With Sony's sale of the rights to the Spider-Man character back to Marvel Studios, the film in which Rhino would have featured was never made. Contrarily, the other category, of which *Avengers: Age of Ultron* is guilty, can be

*Continued on next page****The Advocate* wants YOU!**

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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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Contributors: Catalina Ryman, Aditya Khatu, Riley Martens, Monique Vigneault

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viewed as worse than the former. Following the near universal praise and whopping box office return of *The Avengers*, its sequel was a relative disappointment, and was criticized for being a set-up film that catapulted the MCU into its third phase. The events that unfolded in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* had an immediate impact on the upcoming films *Captain America: Civil War*, *Black Panther*, and *Thor: Ragnarok*. Following the film's release, director Joss Whedon voiced his disappointment with the final product, citing some strong-arming from Marvel executives as one of the reasons for the film's disjointed and awkward pacing. The MCU has films slated at seasonal intervals until the end of the decade, and has been producing films since 2008's *Iron Man* and *The Incredible Hulk*, grossing more than \$9 billion USD in the worldwide box office. Though many still enjoy the MCU's films, myself definitely included, this makes the entire affair somewhat formulaic and it is difficult not to see the corporate side of the operation.

While post-credit scenes are one thing, proper cliff-hangers can also leave a sour taste in the mouths of viewers. Cliff-hangers can be used very effectively by shows on a week to week basis, creating apprehension and a sense of anxiety. However, when the main plotline of the latter half of a 16 episode season is left wide open for a six month hiatus, it feels cheap and underhanded. Retrospectively, the fact that the conclusion of *The Walking Dead*'s sixth season was so lacking makes the entire season seem less substantive.

There is a time and a way to use cliff-hangers effectively. Additionally, there is ample time for set up and exposition among the promotional material of the relevant film and perhaps even in the film itself. Shoe-horning scenes and premises into an otherwise unrelated project tarnishes the concept of overarching film universes, an otherwise great idea that has been implemented with great success.

ORANGE PULP

Off the Shore of Panama

by YUSEF ZIA

On April 3 2016, 11.5 million documents from a Panama law firm were leaked to reveal the details of over 200,000 different offshore companies, including the names of their shareholders, many of whom were public officials. These offshore companies are essentially used for people from another nation to store their money with little to no taxes. Countries that have no little to no income taxes are the prime nesting grounds for these companies, so-called "tax havens". A person who would like to store their money tax free would invest in these companies and the stored money would not be counted for any income tax, therefore, an investor would pay fewer taxes than they should.

Rather unsurprisingly, taxpayers around the world are furious to learn public officials are not giving back to their nation. Just three days after the leak of the documents now named the "Panama Papers", the Prime Minister of Iceland stepped down from office after it was discovered that he was involved. The scrutiny from any citizens under an involved politician is both expected and justified, due to the fact that people avoiding taxes further increase the burden on those that do pay them. As the dilemma unfolds, the individuals whose names were leaked will have to answer to their own fellow citizens.

President Obama said, "hard working Americans feel the deck is stacked against them," when he addressed this issue. The names of political figures from around the world are on the long list of individuals holding their money offshore. Since this matter is more of an issue with how one is seen in the eyes of the public than a legal issue, any public official involved will be criticized. In the eyes of the people, any government official keeping offshore accounts would seem as if they had little confidence in the government they served, and they would also be scrutinized for having a say in how tax money is managed without any personal investment into the nation.

There is often a large grey area where the line between tax avoidance and tax evasion is drawn. Most people who were exposed technically did not break the law, because they were "avoiding" taxes rather than "evading" them. It is ironic that two synonyms mean completely different things in the eyes of many legal systems. Tax avoidance is legal, while tax evasion is illegal. After an exposition such as this, governments should revisit what should be determined as legal or illegal and further regulate or monitor the exchange of currency over international borders, so countries don't miss out on money that should be going to public services for all taxpayers.



opActivism_mp4

by MONIQUE VIGNEAULT

Can you think back to art class in kindergarten, when you, a hyper-active child, were assigned the task of mixing the colour green? Then to your surprise, instead of creating green, you created a beet-red pile of slush?

Now can you remember the absolute satisfaction of simply mixing two distinctly vibrant colours together, and being satisfied with whatever the outcome was? Well of course, you were a child. You loved anything that ranged from throwing up on your great-great-aunt Linda to wailing on planes and the results didn't matter much as long as you got a reaction.

That's precisely the scale at which Cyber-activism is measured; it seems like a good idea, but no one has really considered the rules or the consequences.

Cyber-activism, a topic I touched on earlier in the year, is a precarious balancing act between immorality and vigilantism. While on the one hand, groups infamous for activism like Anonymous, claim to fight injustice with twitter hacks, leaks and public protesting, there are serious drawbacks to this type of movement.

The essence of cyber-activism is that the protests are passive. However, what happens when your beet-red pile of slush, meets the astounding self-realization that your blob will be graded on it's blue-to-green-ratio. You got red??? You weren't totally correct with your assesment of colours. Yes, while it's one-hundred percent true that I just compared some of the biggest current activism movements to a child's artistic skills, the point is -- there some similarities between said child and said cyber-activists.

For example, I looked into Anonymous' current operations list, and found a twitter account by the username of 'Anon-sOpsSE' as the second result. Otherwise known as 'Anonymous Operations Sweden'. The first thing to note is the astonishingly low resolution header of a masked face for the account. For a group of sophisticated hackers, finding pictures with a resolution of over 300x300 seems like a tough task.

As I read on, I found hundreds of tweets containing at times graphic images around the globe of people being victimized or protesting. Then there were other tweets, with no images or URL's attached, but rather a person's individual opinion. It's clear this isn't the most accurate way of getting concrete information. In fact, it's as verifiable

as a twelve year old's paper on living organisms in grade six. Kathy, a vegetable isn't a human being, get it right Kathy. I continued my search, finding the main site for the operations. The list was flooded with coded phrases, sarcastic remarks and a speech as propagandist as 'V's speech in *V for Vendetta*.

Before you question why Anonymous is under fire in this article, I must admit that my last one was strongly in favour of this pacifist cyber activism. In fact, I still am, but there is a long way to go before Cyber-Activism no longer looks like a hate crime; but rather a fight against hate crimes. My sudden distrust in the media is due to recent events. That's right, the infamous Panama Papers; the millions of controversial documents released to put large corporations and even public figures under scrutiny.

Thanks to these papers, corporations and politicians are suddenly in a panic and the working class are satisfied with this breach of privacy because its finally putting the billionaires under fire for millions of tax dollars stolen.

It's true, no multi-national company should be allowed to run amuck with billions only because they are capable of "business-man talk."

(Bussiness-man talk: The art of sugar-coating a potentially mass destructive truth with technicalities and unresponsiveness for your personal monetary gain. Also known as "Trumpin' it.")

The act of blowing the whistle on



politicians and corporations with the "Panama Papers" is a good thing. The problem is that groups like Anonymous are uncontrolled and so they have the ability to strip the privacy from innocent victims as well as multi-national corporations. Their lack of professionalism and organization leaves the door open for malicious destruction through fear-mongering and rumours as well as helpful whistle-blowing on unscrupulous corporations.



International Women's Day

by CATALINA RYMAN

Every March 8th marks the annual celebration of equality, a day of human rights, International Women's Day. Women's Day, also known as the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, is a day which celebrates the progression of women's path to complete and equal rights and freedoms, and the progression of feminism.

Why is this day significant? Because the fight for equal rights has been an uphill battle for generations. Women have long advocated for the right to vote and run for office, the right to birth control and maternity leave, the right to own property after divorcing or becoming widowed, the right to independence, employment, and involvement in the military and religious office, and in some cases the right to life. Women earned these rights, they weren't just given. It is important to appreciate how far the female population has come, and how the beliefs and actions of feminists of the past has paved, and continues to pave, the path for future generations. Both women and men have faced and continue to face the difficult struggles of inequality and gender expectations. Not only have equal human rights been fought for by many generations, but many of the issues continue to be present today. International Women's Day serves as

a day of awareness for the rights and freedoms that all humans so rightly deserve, and the struggles that both men and women undergo every day due to gender inequality.

Unfortunately, the fight for women's rights is often times perceived to be, "too strong, too aggressive, too isolating, anti-men, and even unattractive." Feminism is not always viewed as a vocal movement for human rights. In fact it is sometimes viewed rather negatively by certain people, including women. Many individuals assume that pro-women means anti-men. This is not the case. Feminism, by definition, is the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes. "The sexes" referring to both male and female. Inequality is an issue that affects us all. Gender inequalities and stereotypes create a world where men are taught to be aggressive, athletic and masculine; where the father's role as a parent is less valued by society than the mother's, where men worldwide who suffer from mental illness are unable to reach out and ask for help out of fear that it would make them less of a man, and where something as simple as liking the colour pink or joining a dance class is seen as feminine and shameful. The feminist movement and the battle for equal rights and social respect for both sexes is not an issue that affects only half of the population.

It is an issue that affects everyone.

The persisting inequality faced by women and girls worldwide is an issue that needs to be addressed in day-to-day circumstances. Despite the incredible progression throughout the past century, there are many issues that have yet to be addressed. The objectification of women, unequal pay, underrepresentation in government, and domestic violence and sexual assault are still topics of concern not only for the women across the world but for the women living down the street as well.

From a young age, girls are taught that it is normal to be sexualized by men. Rude remarks and offensive comments, aka sexual harassment, are often seen as a normal part of daily life. Women are taught to brush off such remarks and "learn to take a compliment". Young women wearing shorts or showing their bra straps at school are asked to change their clothes or go home; this tells a girl that the "distraction-free learning" of boys is more important than her own education, and that she should dress herself according to what makes men feel comfortable, not according to what makes her feel comfortable. Women are shamed or labeled based on how much of their bodies they choose to show or not show, and for their personal decisions about their bodies,

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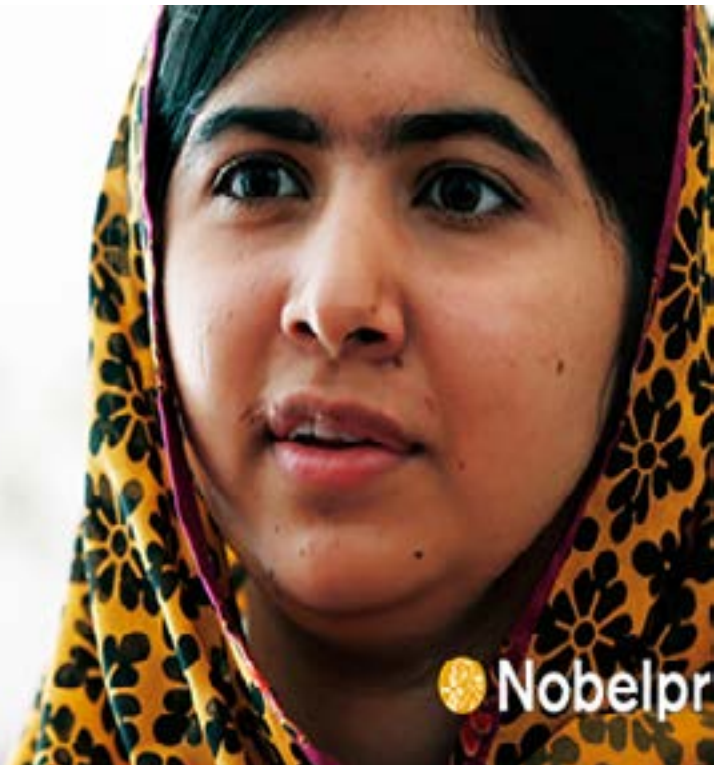
such as their sexual activity and their opinions on marriage, children, birth control, and abortion. Young girls fear walking down the street alone at night in their own cities. Worldwide, 1 out of every 3 women will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. According to www.canadianwomen.org Canadian women earn seventy two cents to men's dollar. One in five members of Parliament worldwide are women. Although Canada continues to see positive progression towards equal gender representation in government, work has yet to be done. Across the globe, UNICEF claims that 121 million children around the world are denied the right to education; 65 million of these children are girls. It is estimated that 15.5 million girls worldwide will be married off as children within the next 16 years.

The progression of women's rights has been a long and difficult journey for many. International Women's Day is a chance to take a step back and appreciate the rights and freedoms we so often take for granted. However, it is also an opportunity to address the discrimination and injustice that often continues to be a sad reality for many women and men around the world. Women's Day is not just a day of appreciation but a day of opportunity, an opportunity to fight for equality. Gender equality is an issue that affects us all and we must continue to work towards it. If not for us, then for our daughters and sons. Women's Day should be celebrated every day, not just March 8th.



"I tell my story, not because it is unique, but because it is not. It is the story of many girls."

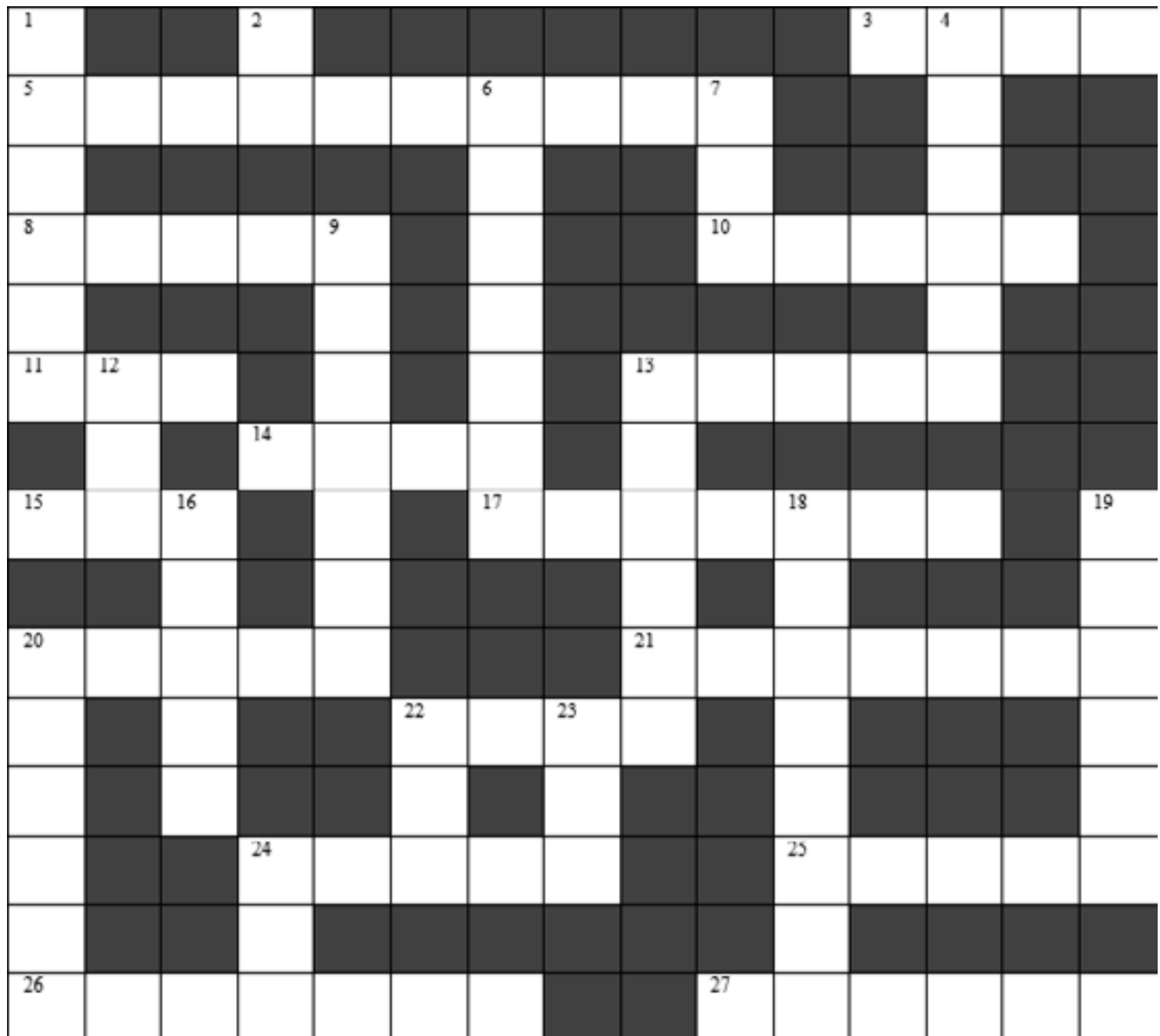
Malala Yousafzai
Nobel Lecture, 2014 Peace Prize



 **Nobelpr**

The Road to the 6

by JORDAN BUNKE



Across:

3. a double reed woodwind musical instrument
5. readily apparent; everywhere
8. Dignified, majestic
10. MCMB
11. Japanese currency
13. Family of instruments
14. Mel Brooks has achieved this
15. A mineral deposit underground
17. 's Very Own
20. Getafix's profession in the Asterix and Obelix comics
21. The medieval predecessor to chemistry
22. A sign of dark things to come
24. Former Cuban leader Castro
25. SNL boss _____ Michaels

26. Game developer _____ Miyamoto
27. Elizabeth II's husband's title

Down:

1. _____ Drake Graham
2. The benchmark for mental aptitude
4. _____ & Noble
6. The 6
7. _____ Stallone; nickname
9. displaying a disinclination for physical exertion or effort
12. Aural, relating to this
13. The mentor of Dick Grayson, Jason Todd and Tim Drake.
16. The most interesting man in the world advertises this liquor: Dos _____
18. Pad, -ette, vanilla

19. The Grim Reaper's weapon of choice
20. The father, Quaid, the Menace
22. The principal authority on the English language
23. Snakelike submarine creature
24. A bulbous fruit



HOROSCOPES

by TWINKLEGAZE ASTROPANTS



Aries (March 21 - April 19)



You will become a private sushi contractor in the future. You'll be providing all the high school students of Calgary with sketch' Sushi, yes that was the name of your company. I see it now, people puking whenever they eat your sushi because it's from Sketch Sushi, get it cuz' it's safe. Wink, wink.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



You will read Le Petit Prince and be struck by how you want to be just like the narrator but instead of drawing a shoop, singular of sheep, you'll draw a fish. It will be a mighty fish, you'll ride it accross deserts and mountains to conquer the world and make sushi

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



You may have realized the impending doom of giant fish riding conquerors, bad sushi, not from the fish riders, shoops and my poor use of, commas. But don't fear I'll be the wise person and tell you to solve your problems all you have to do is eat SPAM, yes then you'll break the monotony. The only way to break the standard is to eat it! A salt with a deadly weapon, we'll have to blurr the limes. GET PUNished!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



Only half of the diameter is radical. It's mathematical anarchy. The question of empiricism or rationalism, whether to be a rationnal empire or an imperial scientist. It's mathy madness. The insanity of integers! I don't understand why would we ever use math to explain anything. It makes too much sense. Just like my horoscopes.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept 22)



I've been writing about SPAM and terrible food puns, but only because we're friends. I feel like this is kaleing to me, but you guys have mint alot to me. I'm so flancy but you don't evn know. All the way from Swissconsin to Pretzelvania. I know it's cheesy but I feel great. I 'm gonna mary but I canteloupe. Get SPAMmed! It's nacho problem. Orange you glad?

Leo (July 23 - August 22)



I've been at this awhile now with my poor commas, misspelling and lack of proper grammar. But I dearly hope you guys will furgive I. Me don't even no what I'm talking about. How can we have an established friendship if you don't even know who I am? Well, I tell you who I am. My name is... sorry my keyboard does't work when I type my name, I'll try again. Here we go. I'm stalling for space. Okay, here it is. My real name is Alias Pseudonym Sobriquet.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)



You'll soon realizde after going to the Netherlands, you've had bad study habits and will have to cram and SPAM as much as possible. THE only thing holding you back is remmebering if water is alive or dead? Is it really life? Couldn't I live off papaya juice?

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



The best way to break the ice like a fat polar bear is to speak icelandic like a mad internet troll. Let me try! Go Google Translate, I choose you! (Google is registered trademark, along with the cathphrase.) Ég er lækni Hannibal da ' Cannibal. It's the direct translation.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



I'm now scraping the dirt from the bottom of the metaphorical well of horoscopes. The only advice I can give you is: Go to the dark side young padawan! Wrong copy and paste. Here we go! Don't listen to me except when I tell you stuff, is when you should listen to me.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



I may really sound like I'm complaining all the time but the only real way is to realize I'm giving you the cheat sheets on that speling test you really need to get good on! I'm the best narcissist around because I'm the only one that matters.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



Sing your weird harp Aquarius! Because I command you from the future. You'll soon be hired by a dazzling and quite charming fortune teller, not me, to sing and dance but he'll decide you have no skill. He makes you carve out an ice harp with you earlobes and wait until you hear Oscar Meyer sausage jingle.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)



Because we're now being honest with each other I have to say my real name is not a bunch of fake names. In the future I will tell you my name. (Insert time wasting here.) The time has come. My name is Jordan Bunke. Get punked by the Bunke.

When you're done, please pass this on or recycle. Thanks!

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Anonymous letters will not be published.

Letters to the editor are published as written by the author.

Spelling and grammar are not corrected.

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

Editorial responses are not printed.

We reserve the right not to print letters that do not bring new light to an issue.