

# THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School  
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## Twenty years of publishing *The Advocate*



## Another Band Camp Has Come And Gone

by STEPHEN PITTMAN

This year's band camp proved to be yet another promising start to another year of concert and symphonic band, where over 160 band students spent their weekend from September 26-29. As always, band camp was at River's Edge, just outside of Cochrane in Cremona, Alberta. The symphonic band, led by Mr Willms and comprising of Grade 11 and 12 students, arrived Friday after school. The concert band, comprising of Grade 10 students and led by Mr Gingrich, arrived on Saturday around lunchtime. Although the Grade 10's had been in the Aberhart music program for about a month, this is where they really saw what it was all about.

This year's guest conductor was Dr Dale Lonis from New York, who had a

fun and humorous approach to his teaching. He gave many helpful hints and tips that led to vast improvements in the sound of the concert and symphonic bands. His flamboyancy was most obvious when he danced to the music he was conducting. The bands intensely practiced for an estimated six hours on Saturday, and about three hours on Friday and Sunday. As always, students, teachers and volunteers were well-accommodated by the camp staff, who provided delicious meals and good spirits.

On Saturday night, over a hundred band students were rounded up in the dining hall to participate in the annual band camp activity stations hosted by the music council. All stations were run by student volunteers. This year's theme was spies,

which left room for creativity for the station leaders. There was a mission impossible course, a nerf gun target shooting practice, various puzzles and lots more. Spy attire was popular among all the station leaders, including dress shirts, shades and fedoras.

On the final day there was mixed feelings about leaving. Everybody was glad to return home and take a break from playing their instrument. At the same time, many Grade 12 students were a bit sad realizing that this was going to be their last band camp. On the other hand, there will be the Vic Lewis festival coming up soon in November, and most of all, the international trip to Spain later on this year.

## E D I T O R I A L

# The Fight For Democracy and The Right To Be Free

by DENNIS KWOK

The recent protests in Hong Kong echo a sentiment of democracy and the pursuit of essential human rights that still are not present in all walks of life in this world today. After being under British colonial rule for one hundred and fifty-five years, Hong Kong has remained separately governed and significantly culturally different from its original mainland roots for the past seventeen years. Until now, this second system under one nation has remained relatively independent from the atrocities of the Chinese government. The People's Republic of China is not known for being neither the most democratic country nor a country that supports certain individual rights. As the citizens of Hong Kong prepare for a general election for the future leader of the territory, higher-ups in Beijing insist the candidates must be approved by the socialistic Chinese government prior to any sort of illusion of democracy planned in Hong Kong.

Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters shut down activity in the city centre in an effort to change the mainland's socialist views on how Hong Kong should be governed in the coming future. In the eleven major days that people from all ages gathered, there was no uprising of citizens towards the decisions of the government. Roads were blocked; government buildings were temporarily shut in the name of universal suffrage and the autonomy of Hong Kong, but in no way

was this protest radical. However, the police had resorted to using tear gas, pepper spray and excessive violence in order to quell the dissent. On the mainland, Chinese government authorities ensured that news of this opposition never reaches the ears of its own citizens via mass censorship, control of the media and political intimidation. This is an example of the unjust oppression of the liberties of expression, peaceful assembly and right to vote in a democratic society that is present in the world today.

China is not a third world country that fails to fulfill even basic human needs. It is becoming one of the world's most powerful figures economically and politically. As a permanent member of the United Nations

Security Council and one of the fastest growing global trade markets, it is evident that China's influence on the world is creeping up as an immediate superpower. However, these recent events show that refusal to support democracy and the rights and liberties we know so well still exists globally today. Citizens of the world should be able to vote for their government without intervention of another power. Citizens of the world should not have to worry about being arrested for expressing their opinions. Censorship should not occur in order to sway public opinion. Hong Kong recognizes these traits and the Umbrella Revolution is hopefully among the first steps in gaining these fundamental rights for the people of Hong Kong.



## *The Advocate* wants YOU!

Do you like to write?

Do you like to take pictures?

Do you have a special affinity for organizing and laying out massive amounts of material?

More importantly,

do you want to wield PERSUASIVE POWERS you never thought possible?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, we want YOU! We're looking for journalists, columnists, cartoonists, photographers, and layout lackeys to help us with *The Advocate* this year.

Email your submissions and letters to the editor to [advocateabe@gmail.com](mailto:advocateabe@gmail.com)!

## 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 Stress of Being Seventeen

by *CLAIRE KELLY*

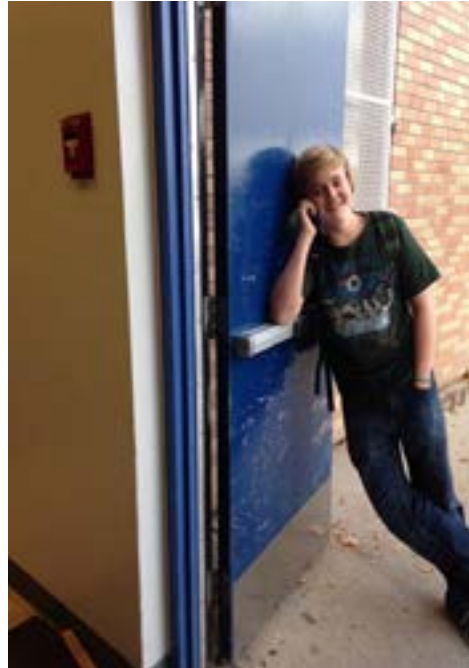
Applying for university, getting good grades, applying for scholarships, trying to make honour roll... what else am I forgetting? Oh right! Don't forget to join clubs and sports teams, have extracurricular activities, and help out in your community. Universities look for that! We've heard it a million times, but now it's all really coming into play. That frequently asked question, "What are you going to do when you get out of high school?" We are expected to have our entire life mapped out by the time we are seventeen, and it is extremely stressful for a number of students (including myself) who don't have any idea what they want to do, nor do they know what the future holds for them. Then there are the lucky few who seem to have their whole career and life paths figured out, while the rest of us are sitting here trying to make it through English class. For being seventeen years old, we have a lot of weight on our shoulders and a lot of eyes watching us, waiting for us to make our move. How do we know that we are going to stay on the same career path our entire life? Not very many people do, and that's another stressful thought since secondary education is expensive and will be even more so if you decide to change your major.

With family members constantly asking what you want to do when you're older and the reply always being, "I'm not sure", or "I haven't figured it out yet", you really start to wonder "Where am I going with my life?" Do you even know if you're taking the right classes to get into the program you think you want, will your grades be good enough or are you participating in extracurricular activities? At the end of the day, there is one thing that I know for sure. I'm tired. People will tell you that you need to get your life together but in reality the choice is yours and you get to decide where your road will lead. If you don't know where you're going, take it one day at a time. We're not failures. We're not uneducated. We're tired of being seventeen.



## HUMAN SOFABE

by *KYLAH WILSON-ZELMER*



"Only two things are infinite; the universe and human stupidity. Although I'm not to sure about the first one."

## HALL MONITOR

### How will you celebrate the long weekend?

"I'm practicing with CYO, going for a girls get together, and I'm going to BC."

**Patricia L. (Gr10)**

"By getting money for the Spain trip and stuffing myself with turkey."

**Anna C. (Gr 11)**

"With my friends from camp! We are going to hit the skies at 5600 feet!"

**Enrique C. (Gr 12)**



## Teen Impact

by *ALANA MCPHERSON*

On September 23, 2014, over one hundred of the world's political leaders met at the UN to discuss the next course of action for climate change - one of the biggest problems of today. Our very own Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, was one of the many state heads who did not attend this meeting. Instead, he sent a representative to say that Canada was going to follow the same agenda that they announced back in 2009 (which isn't much). This got me thinking; if Stephen Harper isn't willing to contribute to solving this crisis then what does that say to today's youth? If we don't grow up thinking that this is important, then how will our world look when we are older? What will happen when it's too late? Canada is the eighth biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Although I am guessing the majority of Canadian teens aren't aware of that, because who is talking about it? Now is the time too spread awareness that we are all sharing this world and realize that as young adults we can make an impact. Just because some may not agree doesn't mean its wrong- so get out there and let your voice be heard! If everyone did little things we could definitely get the ball rolling and strive for global change and cooperation.

The first step to helping the environment is to have everyone motivated and willing to be open to new ideas. Here at Aberhart we have an Eco-Club - a great place to go if you want to be more involved in helping our environment. You will discuss the changes that you can make in your everyday life to help change the world we live in for the better in the long term. Just remember actions speak louder than words. If you are interested, the Eco-Club meets Tuesdays at lunch. Make a difference and hear about their new project that will use solar energy to power our school!

Remember, it's your world too and you can prove that age doesn't coincide with the amount of potential impact.



## Aberhart At Band Camp







by ALANA MCPHERSON



by KYLAH WILSON-ZELMER

## PRINCIPAL'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Off the Ground!

by ADAM BROWN

September has flown by much too fast! Nevertheless, as everyone is getting settled into the new school year, so is the Principal's Advisory Council! Here is a quick summary for those who haven't heard of us before: our goal is to promote student-administration communication and make Aberhart the best it can be! We now have our complete Executive Group established and have already been discussing issues and ideas around the school, which you will hopefully be hearing about soon.

On Monday, October 6, we also met with a Community Engagement Consultant from the CBE to work on establishing goals for the Council, different ways to address the student body, and how to gather and use information in the most effective way possible. It was a very engaging meeting and everyone came away from it with heads filled with new ideas, so keep your ears open for new ways to voice your ideas and concerns.

We are now in the works of organizing our first Open Meeting, where anyone can come and be part of Council discussion. This meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28. Also, just a reminder that we now have an operational Student Email Feedback System at [abefeedback@gmail.com](mailto:abefeedback@gmail.com). This is a great way to voice your ideas, while knowing that all information will be kept completely confidential. Things are rolling now and we can't wait to hear from as many of you as possible! We hope to see you October 28!



# H O R O S C O P E S



## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You get an opportunity to take part in an unusual activity or job. Beware of the consequences if you don't end up believing in yourself, because you could miss out on an amazing opportunity.



## Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

A past idea from a while ago may suddenly become possible. It may seem too good to be true. Just because this has been a fantasy or goal for a long time does not necessarily mean that it is wise for you to persevere. Make a wise choice.



## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Find the right time and moment to display your talents in the workplace. You have to convince yourself that it can work. You will be rewarded if things go exactly as planned.



## Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

You're under pressure from authority in the professional front, which you are not happy with. It might be hard, but you have to suffer in silence, as now is not the right time to protest. Convince yourself that your situation will change.



## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

You have some personal secrets to protect. Keeping your mouth shut is important, as things could go very wrong if you are not careful.



## Cancer: (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

You are relishing close and rewarding relationships newly formed in your professional life. Those individuals introduce you to new opportunities. Expanding your professional network is necessary.



## Leo: (July 23 - Aug 22)

Complaining isn't getting you anywhere. In fact, it's only a waste of your time. You need to make sure that you are giving yourself the best chance of reaching your goals and fulfilling your ambitions.



## Virgo: (August 23 - Sep 22)

You need to concentrate your time and energy in moving your life forward. If you spend too much

time looking back, you will miss out on an amazing and rewarding opportunity. You need to stop thinking too much and just go for it.



## Libra: (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Lately you've been keen not to waste a single minute of your time so that you can get everything under control. Opportunities come up and you are extremely curious about it. You need to stop thinking and just go check it out.



## Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov 21)

You've had an ambitious plan in mind for a while now. When the opportunity comes knocking soon you will try your luck. This could be a good chance for a fresh start so make sure you do it right!



## Sagittarius: (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Block out the anxiety and guilt inside you recently. This could hinder your chances in the professional, cause rivals won't hesitate to take your place if you slip up. Keep a cool head at all times.



## Capricorn: (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You owe a superior an explanation. Prepare for the encounter well or it could go extremely wrong. You come across so confident that some are trying to get you down.

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

# P L A Y L I S T

## The New Alternative

by ARIA POUTANEN

1. **Rapt** – Karen O
2. **1989** – The Rakes
3. **Beast** – Catholic Girls
4. **Love Illumination** – Franz Ferdinand
5. **Main Offender** – The Hives
6. **Jocko Homo** – Devo
7. **Dickinson** – Hollerando
8. **Walking In Your Sleep** – The Romantics
9. **Boyfriend** – Teledrome
10. **Holiday** – The Other Ones
11. **Michael Cera** – Ruth
12. **Fighting In Built Up Areas** – Ladytron
13. **Walk Like A Man** – Divine
14. **Battle Royal** – The Prabes
15. **Cinnamon Winter** – Cinderpop

## The Advocate's Policy on Letters to the Editor

*The Advocate encourages signed letters to the editor and prints both positive and negative comment.*

*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.*