

THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School
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A Fragile Peace

by RILEY MARTENS



As of December 18, 2015, The United Nations' Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2254 that is meant as a starting point for peace negotiations to ease the military, ideological and political tensions in Syria because of the war. The ceasefire was one of the first major consequences of the early efforts of resolving the Syrian issue. The Syrian ceasefire commenced Friday the 26th of February at midnight. The Russian and American intelligence agencies have been monitoring the situation carefully ever since.

There have been, however, several claimed breaches of the agreement, most notably the Russian air force employing more air strikes against militia groups labeled as terrorists by the United Nations. In theory, the ceasefire includes all of Syria, but Russia has reserved the right to conduct air raids in parts of Syria with the

claim of fighting ISIL or the al-Nursa Front. In the past, Russian forces have caused citizen casualties and excess damage in their efforts to combat these groups.

Another significant event was a car bomb that exploded on the eastern edge of the government controlled town, Salamiyeh, killing two and wounding four; an event no group has yet claimed responsibility for.

ISIL and the al-Nursah Front are two groups who were not included in the ceasefire that more than 60 other groups did sign. Russian monitors have described a total of nine violations of the ceasefire, most notably in or near Damascus, a city still being held by a rebel group.

The ceasefire was a product of early peace talks that seek to allow a Syrian-led political transition in the country with the Security Council expressing the desire for fair and free elections and a new constitu-

tion to resolve the conflict.

To date, the Syrian crisis has killed an estimated 250, 000 people and has left another 4, 000, 000 homeless, leading to the greatest European refugee crisis since world war II.

The ceasefire has been spearheaded by America and Russia. While the ultimate hope of the UN Security Council is a permanent peace, even the reduced fighting in Syria is having a positive effect on the Syrian people because of the greater ability for organizations to bring humanitarian aid and support to them safely.

It is hoped that the upcoming peace talks, starting on March 7 will delve into the important issues in greater detail and depth if the ceasefire holds. Although the fragile peace is holding temporarily, many fear that groups such as ISIL may undermine the process and cause more violence and upheaval.

EDITORIAL

Take 88 - The Oscars

by JORDAN BUNKE

The Academy Awards are the crowning celebration in the motion picture industry, and the pinnacle of prestige in the entire awards season. As such, the Oscars are viewed with an additional layer of scrutiny than the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards, and are even more prestigious than the People's Choice Awards. The Academy Awards are directly representative of the industry as a whole, and are therefore expected to be equally reflective of what the industry stands for. Though marred by controversy, the 88th Academy Awards hit many highs, including the relaying of important messages about equal opportunity, showcasing serious issues such as sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and on college campuses, the end of a now infamous drought, and the wealth of accolades won by a non-traditional, blockbuster films.

In many ways, the Oscars were a success. *Mad Max: Fury Road*, the high-octane fourth iteration of George Miller's brainchild post-apocalyptic saga, received six Academy Awards on the big night; the biggest winner there. Granted, the awards that it won were primarily for technical feats, but the mere fact that a high-action film was so highly revered by the principal organization that awards films marks a welcome shift in the Academy's attitude towards the genre. In all categories, especially those for acting, the Academy historically leans to more muted, somber entries, and films that showcase actors who strictly adhere to the "Method Acting". These films reflect the traditions of the medium, and are signs that the Academy can be slow to evolve in certain respects. *Mad*

Max, however, is a completely bombastic film that was extremely well-praised by critics, virtually universally, and that degree of praise translated into Oscar gold. If this occurrence is more than a mere blip, the Academy, in all respects, could acclimatize to 21st century filmmaking and recognize films on a level plane impartial to genre, merely regarding their quality and contribution to the industry.



Another trend that ended was one actor's seemingly perpetual disappointment. After six nominations and 22 years after his first Oscar nomination, Leonardo DiCaprio finally clinched the elusive trophy for his performance in Alejandro Iñárritu's, *The Revenant*, based on the life of frontiersman Hugh Glass. DiCaprio's previous Oscar dis-

appointments have reached a considerable notoriety and have made him the 21st century Pacino, and although most critics pegged him as the undisputed favorite in the category, the ghost of Christmas past still loomed over the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles before Julianne Moore read out the contents of the envelope. Upon accepting his award, the ever-poised Leo gathered himself and gave a fairly concise speech, thanking those who worked with him in bringing *The Revenant* to the screen, as well as his family and friends. He then proceeded to draw attention to climate change and the active role that the world must play in preventing what he called, "the most urgent threat facing our entire species."

The Oscars also used their immense platform in front of millions of viewers to present and discuss pressing issues of our time, both subliminally through films showcased at the awards, and directly by presenters and executive personnel. *Spotlight* and *The Hunting Ground* both brought attention to the problem of sexual abuse, with the former focussing on abuse within the Catholic Church and the prevention of another event such as the one uncovered by The Boston Globe, and the latter on abuse of college campuses and the lack of prosecution and consequences that followed it. One highly applauded moment was an appearance by Vice President Biden, who introduced Lady Gaga and implored the audience to take action against campus abuse. The gravitas of sexual abuse notwithstanding, the biggest issue of the night was diversity, or the lack thereof, in film. Brought about by an

Continued on the next page

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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!**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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all-white nominee list amongst the 20 actors and actresses that were up for acting Oscars, the backlash that the Oscars received was immense. Several figures very closely tied to A-list Hollywood such as Spike Lee and Will and Jada Smith boycotted the event due to the lack of diversity. Urged to quit himself, Chris Rock decided to continue on as planned and host the event, opting to use it as a platform instead. He addressed the issue head-on, making jabs at parties on both sides of the fence, mocking both the Academy and the Smith family. Throughout the show, the issue was addressed on several occasions, and though it was regarded in a respectful and fair manner, there were times where it seemed that the Academy was overcompensating for the all-white acting nominations list. The takeaway from the endeavor was not simply the fact that the nominations should be diversified, but a conscious effort on Hollywood's part to provide equal opportunity to actors of all ethnicities, sexualities, and beliefs. Through controversy and uncertainty, the biggest night in film was a relatively successful event that promised progress and offered an ample supply of memorable moments.



ORANGE PULP

Escapism vs. Realism

by YUSEF ZIA

As usual, the Academy Awards were presented to a large variety of film categories this year, but there were two distinct categories that I noticed the films could fit into. They were either movies that were made to be enjoyed and fun to watch, such as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, or the highly awarded *Mad Max: Fury Road* or higher impact films that provoke thought in the viewer.

The first are the types of films that are the most fun to watch, and are simply made to be entertaining for any range of viewers. There is nothing wrong with films that are tailored like this, but the escapism that they evoke is what sets them apart.

Mad Max: Fury Road walked away with the most awards on Sunday and is a prime example of escapism through film. It was acclaimed for the outstanding audio and practical effects utilised through its multitude of action sequences, but was not even mentioned when factors such as writing were brought up. Without much of a story or dialogue, *Mad Max* gave viewers an experience to enjoy while watching it, but there was nothing take away from it after the credits began to roll. This leads me to the second type of film, which has nearly the opposite effect on its audience.

Some movies are not focused on providing fantasies for their viewers, instead they provoke thought about real world issues. Many filmmakers recognize the importance of creating an aware audience. When the film *Spotlight* was awarded Best Picture, a film that addresses child molestation within the Catholic Church, the filmmakers said they would bring the issue to Pope Francis. They used the power gained from their film to spread awareness about a real life issue, and it was very effective. Even Leonardo DiCaprio mentioned climate change in his first ever Oscar speech. For an audience, these types of films are generally slower to watch, but they can have a lasting effect on their viewers.

Film is a powerful medium for spreading both ideas and information about the world around us. Many of us are blissfully unaware of some of the things that happen in the world around us, and movies that attract attention to these issues bring awareness and support that can help resolve said issues. Since film is such an integral part of mainstream media, they

are one of the most effective ways to bring awareness to the masses. While relaxing and watching an action filled blockbuster is enjoyable, I find that it is essential to watch a movie that encourages thought and opens my mind. The reason blockbuster movies don't win Best Picture is because they are not as impactful. When a film can open one to new concepts or change their outlook on the world they live in, then it can be a timeless, influential masterpiece.



Hit and Miss at Kawa

by ANNA SVIKNUSHKIN

Previously this school year, a few Aberhart students had the privilege of attending a fateful October Saturday Kawa Jam, witnessing perhaps the most cringe-worthy musical collaboration of 2015. After that point, David Carr, Serena Reuten and myself all abstained from participating in the Kawa jams up to this past Saturday, when we decided to give the all-ages venue another chance.

Stefano Valdo, director of the Bass Academy at Ambrose University, hosted this week's jam with his trio. The small size of the drum kit and lack of keyboard would have been musically limiting for some, but the participants made good use of the constrictions. The first half of the set was heavily guitar based, which made for some interesting rhythmic and melodic improvisations. The second half of the set was opened up to the audience to join the jam. Two people present at Kawa had horns: Robin Pearce, and to our surprise, the trumpet player from the "Tenor Madness" October jam.

Immediately upon seeing the balding man's rusty trumpet once more, audience members' eyes widened and breaths were held as we anticipated the worst. David Carr, making an appearance for the

first time in the jazz scene since his injury, frightfully exclaimed "that's him!" Prior to inviting the other musicians, the host band decided to perform "Someday My Prince Will Come", however, this trumpeter had other items on his agenda. Halfway through the guitar solo, he came in out of time, noodling with ill-tone. Thankfully, the musicians of the host band handled the awkward situation with grace and patience.

After the famous Disney tune, William Aberhart student Robin Pearce joined the jam and proposed the classic standard, "It Don't Mean a Thing" by Duke Ellington. Robin claims that clarity of the form was particularly challenging, as the trumpeter wove in and out of the chord changes and didn't seem to follow the band at all. After a thoughtful conversation with the host, Valdo, the trumpeter eased off of his incoherent playing and sat through the rest of the jam.

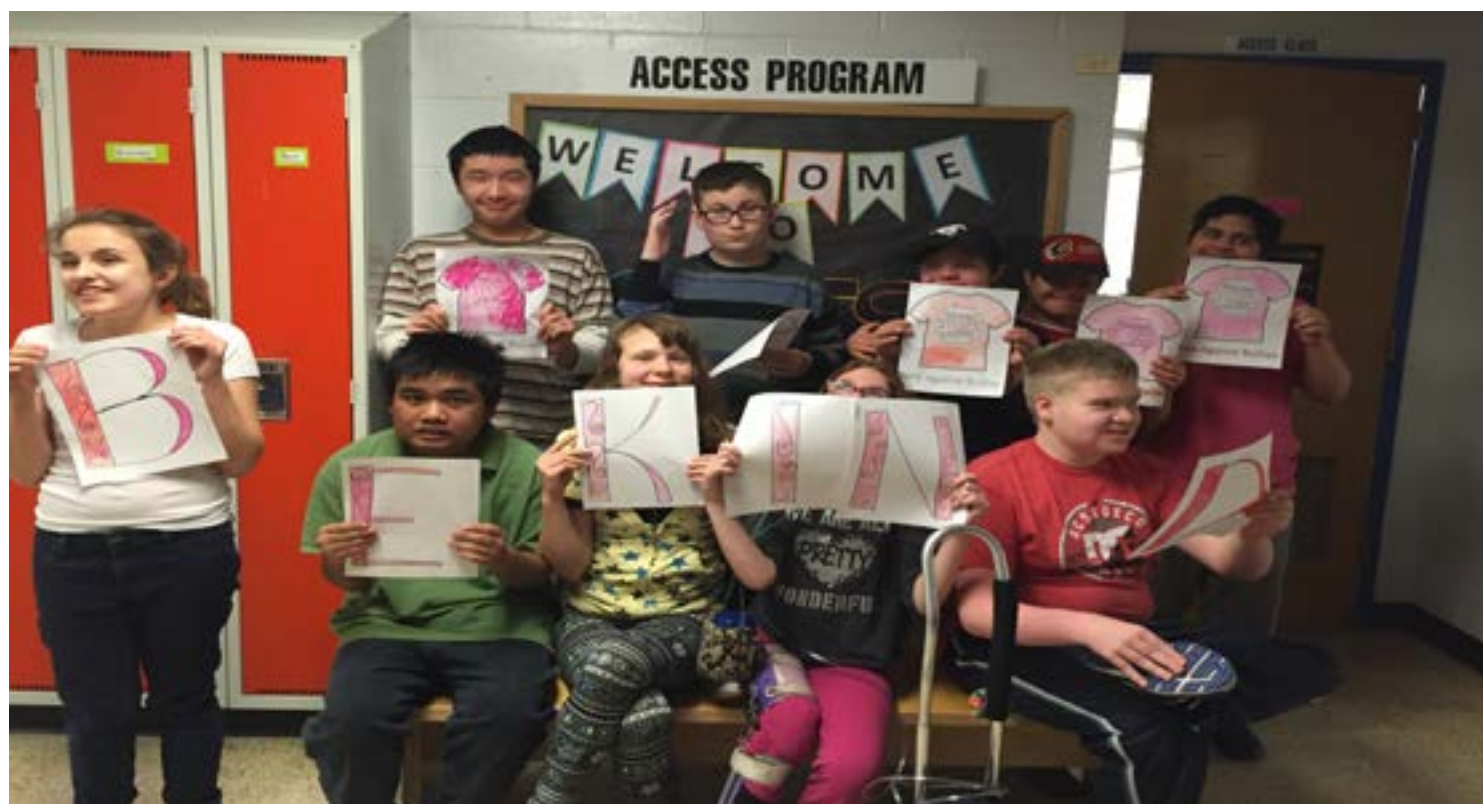
Truly, jam sessions are hit and miss. The expanding music scene in Calgary does provide us young musicians with amazing opportunities to explore musically and push our comfort zones, but we still experience the odd hiccup once in a while.

On a more harmonious note, Saturday, March 5, William Aberhart High School will be hosting their annual Dessert Night, an evening of jazz for the community's listening pleasure, and rest-assured, there will be no rude middle-aged trumpeters that are under the influence at that performance.

Pink Shirt Day at ABE

by Mrs. Swett

On Wednesday February 24th Aberhart was a little less orange and a little more PINK! Pink Shirt Day and Abe's support of the zero-tolerance for bullying message was evident throughout the building. ACCESS spent part of their day in the Learning Commons colouring pink t-shirts and anti-bullying pages and invited a few students on spares to join the campaign by colouring pink t-shirts. As Ellen would say, be kind to one another!



Oh Boy! Can't wait to see which snobby white-man wins an Oscar!

by MONIQUE VIGNEAULT

Last Sunday, the 88th Academy Awards took place; otherwise known as the classy event where snobby rich people hang out and give each other awards, with a small venue budget of 1.5 million dollars! The Oscars is really like *Say Yes To The Dress*, except the bride is Leonardo DiCaprio; he's the one bride on the show that's really intent on getting a certain dress, and pouts in the lobby until he eventually gets the gold one.

Don't get me wrong, I love movies and TV as much as the next gal; but the Oscars are the quintessential cesspool of political landslide, overly excitable caucasian 60 year olds, and probably the cause of a sales peak for Safeway cheese platters. However, while the Safeway sales representatives are content, not everyone is when it comes to prestigious awards shows such as this one.

One of the films that was nominated, *The Revenant* has been the topic of controversy, especially in Alberta. The story follows Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his First Nations son, Hawk (Forrest Goodluck) who are surviving off of the fur trade in the early 19th century. The issue of controversy isn't the fact that you feel like you're going into cardiac arrest every thirty seconds of the film, or that the fake blood industry's revenue grew coincidentally during the filming; but rather, the historical inaccuracy of the story. The First Nations aspect of the film is only used to further boost the plot and add details, in fact, not much about the topic was said in the film. Actually, nothing about the topic was explored; the whole dialogue consisted of pierced grunts and painful whispering, followed by the sound of roaring firearms.

Besides *The Revenant*, there's even more racial controversy, following the fact that the majority of the nominees were caucasian. While that's a subjective statement, many are outraged at the segregation at the Oscars and by the historical inaccuracy of many of the films.

Quite frankly, the Oscars have always been an elitist concoction that film buffs once a year indulge in; with billionaire film-makers and actors attending, followed by the huge budget and the obvious

favouritism and bias towards mainstream actors. While the Oscar's aren't an accurate or ethically moral awards show, we can all agree that it's just an event to show appreciation to the creativity of Hollywood films.

I mean c'mon, what kind of societal pressure does a golden Oscar put on society? Why wasn't the Oscar a more achievable color instead of gold, like white, black or blue? My point is, the Oscars is really stupid; and all you need to win one is to be mauled by a grizzly bear and die almost ten times, but if you don't want to watch it; don't.



ABE Blood Drive

by ADITYA KHATU

It's that time of year again! Aberhart is hosting it's annual blood drive once again and we need all the donors we can get! Last year, our school was recognized as having the largest amount of blood donations from any school in Canada and it's our job to continue

this legacy. On March 17th, do your part to help save lives. If you are 17 and older, 110 lbs and healthy, be sure to sign up! If you are not sure about your eligibility to donate, take the quiz at <https://www.blood.ca/en/eligibility-quiz>. If you want to sign up, head to aberhart.ca and look for the blood dona-

tion banner. Donating now can help create a lifelong habit that will save countless lives. Not only will these donations be used to save lives, it will help William Aberhart High School stay at the top and be known nationally as a school with a strong community and a student body that cares about helping.

#WE BLEED ORANGE

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH

MUST BE

-17+

-5'6+

-110LBS+

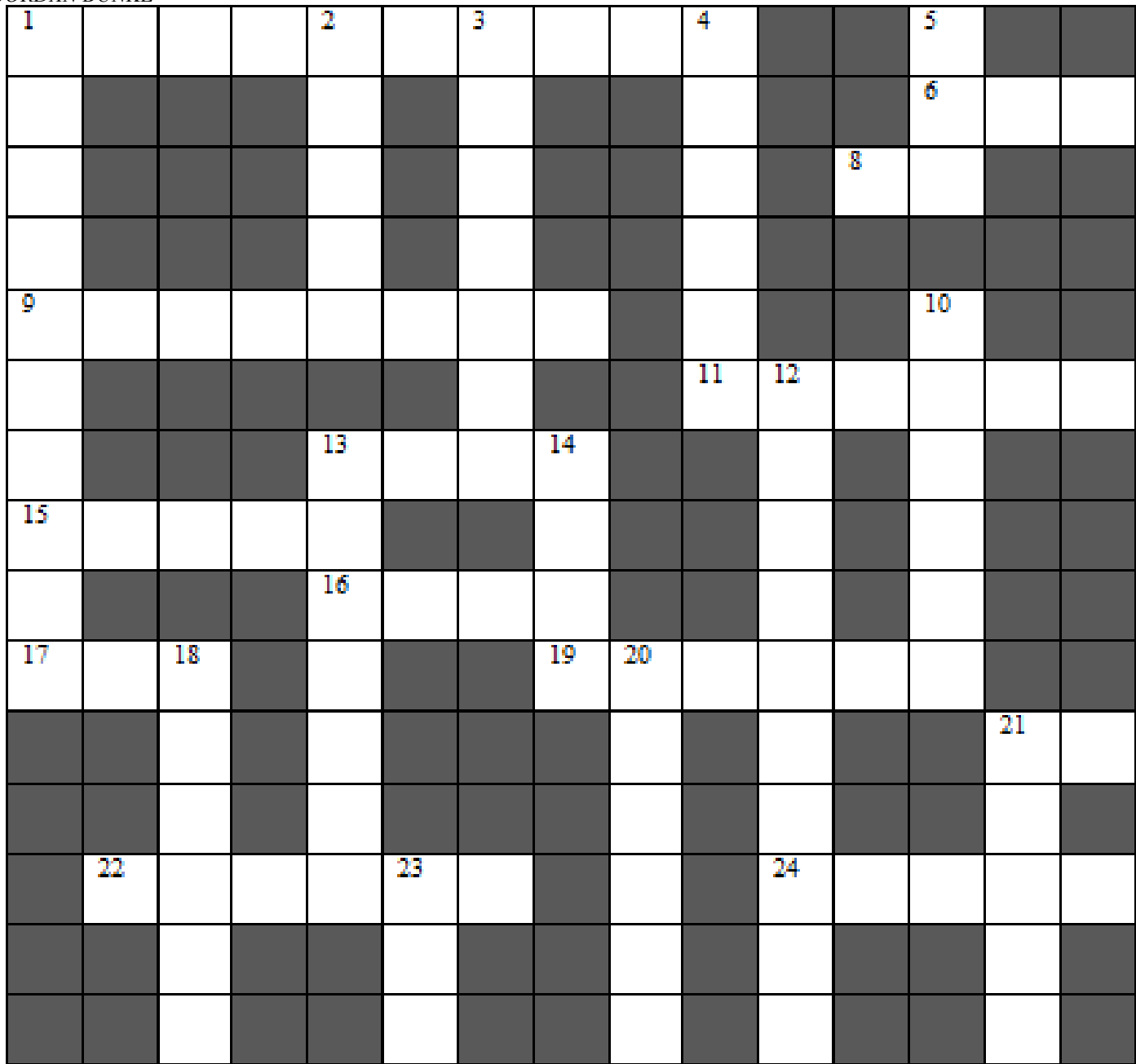
-HEALTHY



SIGN-UP TODAY ON ABE'S WEBSITE

Crossword

by JORDAN BUNKE



Across:

1. German commercial airship that crashed in 1937
6. Actor ____ Schreiber
8. American company founded on April 15, 1892
9. Spiders and scorpions can be classified as this
11. Capital of Libya
13. Antonym of crazy
15. Last letter of the Greek alphabet
16. A point in many net-based sports including soccer and hockey
17. Segment of a circle's circumference
19. 2015 game that heavily empha-

sized 4 v 1 gameplay

21. Synonym for bashful
22. The Great Famine in Ireland saw a scarcity of this staple food source
24. To set alight (it rhymes)
26. Evolution of a Diglett
27. Drake's record label, co-founded with longtime friend Noah Shebib

Down:

1. Caribbean island that is split between Haiti and the Dominican Republic
2. A period of time; English variant of La Belle ____
3. A person, place or institution that firmly defends something; the last

4. ____ of hope
5. colloquial slang for the esophagus
6. a type of beer
7. Relating to a fox; fox-like
10. thinly scattered or dispersed
12. making something that was unknown known, often in an extravagant manner; plural
13. Latin for "arrow" (see horoscopes)
14. Dakota Fanning's sister
18. Twin arteries that deliver the head and neck with blood
20. Film by Alfred Hitchcock
21. Amaterasu is a major deity in this Japanese religion
23. A pastry, as well as a flavour
25. Synonym of therefore

HOROSCOPES

by TWINKLEGAZE ASTROPANTS



Aries (March 21 - April 19)



When reading this your skin will stand on end, your blood will have goosebumps and your hairs on your neck will be cold. These are all signs that someone is clearly sleeping in the bush in your backyard or standing behind you. You choose, just like your lawyer when you charge them for stalking.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



I will give you great knowledge. The wisdom I impart on you is this, always, always use an oxford comma and, drink orange juice and, get better at grammar and, become a self-employed poet and, realize what I'm doing.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



You'll realize how smart Donald Trump is by watching the news tomorrow after making your mom a grilled cheese sandwich and seeing how seriously he's taken. Then you'll send him an email from one of your a thousand fake accounts to challenge him in a game of poker. But he'll win because it'll make 'M'erik'A' Gret Agan! and he has the trump

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



I need to dearly say sorry to all of the readers out there who read this. I'm truly, deeply, sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, grossly exaggeratedly, profoundly, really, truthfully, wholeheartedly, genuinely, candidly, frankly, in all consciencely, ingenuously, earnestly sorry. To make you feel better, the dinosaur with the biggest vocabulary is the thesaurus. It's my pet clearly!

Virgo (August 23 - Sept 22)



People with OCD will soon rule the future with colour coded M'Ms in matching bags and organized alphabet soup. To dispel this madness ensure you wear mismatching socks, shirts that have two different length sleeves and one eyebrow shaved off and the other dyed purple. Vive chaos!

Leo (July 23 - August 22)



You will get your great aunt Winifred to put a bowl on the top of your head. You will realize your hair is beyond terrible and the permed mullet look never really worked for you. The bowl will be the greatest thing since square bread and it is a great guide for cutting the hair. You will start a new trend with your bowl-tiful hair and your bowl cut. People will think it's exotic beauty because you have a coconut head.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)



You'll realize I'm always right and how *Sharknado 2* deserves all the Oscars every year around because it's just that good. But beware the greatest film, *Sharktopus!* And then connecting the lines between sharks, you will be targeted first for the invasion.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



Oh dear Scorpio, you really are the worst sign. It looks like a scorpion but we all really know you guys are trying to be a scorpion when you are actually a starfish. A poisonous, clawed and insectoid starfish. Oh one that also has multiple eyes. So, the reason you're bad is because you're not the Illuminati!

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



You will realize the greatness of mother Russia! But if you deny it, I'll be russian to be Putin you in jail, so quit Stalin because you haven't made a Marx on this Earth I will not be Lenin you go. But if you try to Trotsky away then I'll be Ivan you. It's terrible.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



Dear Capricorn, what're you? You're a water carrying goat mermaid fish? Is that your excuse? That won't slide. We have to talk you and I. Meet me in the future after you invent a time machine, of course.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



Since you were a child you've always wanted to be a fortune teller. But you can't become me without a few secrets, like I have a secret sixth toe that is shy of sunlight and feasts on rat's blood. Along with that, I have endless boring logic to confuse you with. Chances are you just aren't understanding and logical enough to become a foot reader.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)



I am now out of creativity so I'll write the rest of this in Scots Gaelic. Is toigh leam mo Eilbheis càise agus chan urrainn dhomh aicheadh e. Ach bu chòir dhut dè an àm ri teachd ag innse dhuibh. Chan eil mi cinnteach dè tha mi ag ràdh agus mhua tha sibh.

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

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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.