

# THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School  
Volume 19, Number 10 April 25, 2014

---

## Slide Into Spring

by JOCY MCCORMACK

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, William Aberhart was home to Calgary's very first international trombone day celebration. The inaugural event brought more than 50 trombone players from Calgary and area together in our very own band room. The morning featured workshops from two of Calgary's very best players. The first was a jazz workshop from trombone god Carsten Rubeling. Carsten, a former member of the jazz faculty at Mount Royal University took us on a journey throughout the history of the jazz trombone by playing the standard "skylark" with an array of varying intonation and tone. Carsten, from behind his thick-framed glasses, with his seemingly effortless playing and clear tone, stole the hearts of everyone in the room. James Scott, principal trombone for the Calgary philharmonic orchestra, gave us our second master class on the classical side of trombone playing. His talks included an emphasis on the importance of warming up, and featured the performance of several solos and duets, both by James Scott and his pupils in the audience.

We then all had the opportunity to learn three pieces as a massed



trombone choir and have them conducted by the resident conductor of the Calgary philharmonic orchestra Adam Johnson.

The concert in the evening featured performances by soloists James Scott and Dave Reid as well as featuring a classical trombone octet and a smaller jazz ensemble to finish the night. Slide Into Spring was yet another of the amazing opportunities, large and small scale, that our music program is a part of. Over the past year our students have had the chance to participate in numerous events such as holiday tuba fest, workshops

with visiting artists and this year our choir was even given the opportunity to travel to Europe to participate in the annual Young Prague Festival. Overall Calgary's first annual Slide Into Spring was a huge success and was orchestrated by none other than our very own Mr. Gingrich, who was a part of both the octet and the jazz ensemble. The day was another demonstration of the immense talent held in our very own city and even, in the case of Mr. Gingrich, our very own school.

---

## The Final Stretch

by DENNIS KWOK

In a brief month and half's time, the bell will finally ring the conclusion of the official last day of classes for the 2013/14 school year. For some of us, it will signal the beginning of a whole new chapter in our lives whether it be further education or the bold industries of the workforce. For the less fortunate, the sweet promise of summer time is sandwiched between another tedious year (perhaps two) left to go. Although we are surviving the final semester of the school year when everyone from teachers, staff and students are frantic to complete the year, spring's seductive prophecy of warmth, joy and sunshine are also coincidentally the year's most notorious demotivators and slaughterers of productivity.

It's quite a daunting task to try and withhold the temptations of the great outdoors when there is finally light before and after school, the sun is out and to top it off, there's no snow on the ground! Hours of schoolwork imposed by teachers didn't seem all that bad in the winter months since the cold was just as depressing as the mountain of homework, being inside seemed like a better option. A flashback from reality would like to send a kind reminder that no matter how gorgeous it is outside or what is going on that evening, there still isn't a valid excuse to drop the effort put in over this entire year for a premature celebration of the imminent weeks of freedom. For some of us, these final months have a grand significance on our future opportuni-

ties more than others. Post-secondary institutions continue to look earlier and earlier for academic achievement for enrollment into their programs. Keeping this in mind, sometimes it's a necessary sacrifice to give up a day outside in order to ensure the maximum number of prospects in a not so distant future. That being said, it's also not impossible to share time between both. These last few months will test our willingness to push ourselves to the top or to fall to the middle of pack. The final stretch of any race is for sprinting- one last accumulated burst of determination and work before it's finally over. So enjoy the springtime while it lasts, but don't be a victim of a serial work murder!

## EDITORIAL

## The Necessary Coexistence of Skepticism and Idealism

We only care about issues when they make us look good. Whether it's appearing socially conscious on the internet or for filling out a resume, it seems that our sympathy towards issues is far too often driven by our own narcissism. While this may seem harmless, because you're 'raising awareness' and at the very least helping, it can actually get quite twisted quite quickly. By not having a genuine concern as to the legitimate outcome of the causes you support, you can end up hurting the people you're attempting to help. Apathy masquerading as justice is still apathy, and for progress to be achieved, we need to evolve to a position where we're actually invested in the outcomes of our actions.

There are several very prominent examples one could look at. Programs that build homes for the poor that end up saddling them with unaffordable taxes and maintenance fees. Charities that discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation or religion. Organizations where the bulk of contributions go towards the organizers themselves. The direction of costs towards causes considered safe and uncontroversial to avoid criticism. Food programs for the poor that only supply them with cheap, unhealthy food. Trips to impoverished parts of the world that neglect to address the legitimate needs of the communities and assign them with irrelevant, unnecessary utilities. Environmental programs that direct all of their vitriol towards people

who leave the tap on while brushing their teeth instead of trying to combat the excessive industrial usage of natural resources. whitehouse.org petitions, kickstarter funds, charity singles. We think we're helping, but we neglect to look deeper. To adequately address an issue, there needs to be insight into why it happened and how to go about fixing it, and if we, the people, lack that insight, we can't criticize poor efforts made to heal the world. The fact of the matter is that the bulk of humanitarian efforts are ineffective, and feigned social justice movements are how they can get away with it so easily.

We all want to seem more empathetic than average. We see ourselves as the heroes of our own stories, and it's a virtually inescapable bias. But we need to be critical at the same time. We're not achieving great things by supporting discretely harmful causes. Pragmatism and skepticism is a necessary evil when it comes to implementing justice. Not all protests are worth supporting. Not everything that appears beneficial actually is. It is the true humanitarian who takes causes with a grain of salt. There are plenty of causes and charities who do great things, but are often overlooked because they lack the pizzazz needed to attract fair-weather social justice fans. Critical thought and empathy are not mutually exclusive, and for either to succeed, there needs to be balance, so that you're neither causing destruction through cold pragmatism nor illogical flights of fancy.

There's a lot of negative stigma around humanitarianism, and there really shouldn't be. People who care about causes are often painted as 'bleeding heart' idealists or obnoxious do-gooders. It's more socially acceptable in many parts of the developed world to be selfish than to care about the greater advance-

ment of society, and that's harmful. When we start persecuting those with a dream of a better future, we sabotage ourselves. We can't live in a world that's falling apart as a result of environmental destruction. It's unsustainable of us to allow others to starve or freeze to death. Moreover, the philosophical implications of that are incredibly bleak. What makes any of us more deserving of wealth, health, or life itself? Nothing. Some of us were just born lucky. Why should we prioritize money over our own health, or the health of our children or grandchildren? We shouldn't, because we need to prioritize the concrete over social constructs like money. After all, if the world's suffering at a rapid pace, what good is money anyways? Surely we can't embrace that sort of lifestyle. The ethical backbone of humanitarianism is something we simply can't let go of. The fundamental messages of social justice holds our world together, and we need to remember it. However, for that to be taken seriously, people who claim to care about societal advancement need to as well. To get goals accomplished, there needs to be a presentation of seriousness. That means there is a necessity for criticizing our own movements, and taking causes and organizations with a grain of salt.

Balance is the key to everything, and that can only be achieved when we actively put our minds to achieving it. We need to be critical about what we support, and we can't take upon causes we don't understand.

### *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!

## 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 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.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Esther Schmidt-Brown

**Assistant Editors:** Catherine Fong, Polina Sutyrina

**Staff Sponsor:** K. Kempt

**Columnists:** Natalya Rambold, Cameron Bardwell, Evan Gibbard

**Contributors:** Dennis Kwok, Jocy McCormick

**Distribution:** The ACCESS class



## Orange Ties, Crystal Trophy

by CATHERINE FONG

Dobrý den, wir sind zurück!

It has been over a month since Aberhart's very own Concert Choir left for their European tour. This group, composed of mainly grade 11 and 12 choristers (but let us not forget the beloved grade 10 men), has represented Alberta at the National competition level for the past two years in a row. However, on top of advancing to the National level again this year, this outstanding choir took the next step in their musical journey and proudly represented Canada at the Young Prague Festival of 2014. This year, this festival was pleased to host over nine hundred participants aged eight to twenty-six years old from fifteen various countries.

The group of young singers arrived at the Calgary international airport on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, starry-eyed with their minds set on a prompt arrival in Frankfurt. However, they did not stay there long! Soon after they had arrived, the group was rushed away to Vienna where they would then stay for the next three days. While there, the students became immersed in Austrian culture and barely had any time to rest despite how jet lagged they all were. The choir had the fantastic opportunity to work with Franz Herzog, a great composer, conductor, and lecturer who is the current artistic director of the Austrian Choral Association. During the next three days, these young choristers were whisked from place to place, visiting the Schoenbrunn Palace, Zentralfriedhof, and even the prestigious Vienne State Opera House where they watched an amazing performance of *La Bohème*. The choir were also given the amazing opportunity to perform at the Stephansdom, which is arguably the most important religious building in Austria's capital.

Even though the group had not nearly had their fill of the great city that is Vienna, they set off to Prague to prepare for the competition. After many impromptu concerts, little to no sleep, and a wonderful opening ceremony welcoming all the groups to the festival, it was finally time for the choir to compete to the best of their abilities. The next day, the choir suited up to take part in not only a Gala Concert at St. Nicolas Church, but they also took part in the festival's parade, which lead them and the rest of the participating groups around the streets of Prague. It was certainly an in-



The William Aberhart Concert Choir poses for a photo after their adjudicated performance during the Young Prague Festival.

teresting experience; ask one of the many choristers what it is like to change from a uniform to a bright orange shirt in the middle of a crowded Czech street! Nevertheless, once the students tended to their aching feet and sore voices, they showed up looking spiffy and styling (as they always do) at the Young Prague awards ceremony. The group could hardly contain their excitement while the other winners were announced one by one. When the much-anticipated moment finally arrived, many of the choristers could be seen clutching each other's hands and holding their breaths.

Never before had a room filled with adolescents been so quiet. It was almost eerie in a sense.

Then the announcement was made, they had done it! William Aberhart's Concert Choir had won their category! With their fantastic musicianship and stage presence, they had risen over the top of other outstanding choirs from the Czech Republic, Turkey, Northern Ireland, and two choirs from the United States. To celebrate their terrific victory, the youngsters danced the night away at the disco party, which was held to honour all of the hard work of the festival participants. This group could not have accomplished such a feat without

the dedicated work of their conductor Ms Phare-Bergh, the wonderful supervisors, and the trip organizers.

The next five days of the trip went by in the wink of an eye. The young singers were very busy while traveling to Munich, Mainburg, Salzburg, Heidelberg, and finally Frankfurt. They shared among them many memories that will last with them for a long time to come. Some of these memories include the start of international friendships, the 'meatsauce' incident (don't ask), Ms Phare-Bergh's wonderful rendition of *My Favorite Things*, and of course becoming closer not only as a talented choir, but also as a group of friends. There are obviously many more hilarious tales to be told of this trip, but you will have to ask one of the choristers yourself! Do not worry, they are all very nice people and only somewhat socially inept.

They became Alberta bound on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April and touched Canadian soil once again after an unforgettable 13-day trip. They come back champions, friends and ridiculously behind on their school work.

The internationally acclaimed choir will be performing again on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Jubilee Auditorium at 7:00pm. Come Czech them out!

## THE BARD'S BANTER

# Choosing the Right University

by CAMERON BARDWELL

The process of selecting a university involves many factors and I will be honest with you, making the decision is not necessarily easy. The choice of programs, class size, the quality of education, location of the university and the cost of attending school are all important. Evaluating all these criteria might make your decision seem as obvious as using an Ouija board. I suggest that your choice might be rendered much easier by simply touring schools that interest you. And yes, I understand that some of you may have your heart set on some prestigious foreign university. But for those that plan to attend a university closer to home, making that visit may make the difference between a good and outstanding post-secondary experience.

I will start by repeating a fact that is universal knowledge: university websites suck. This is not only because navigation is confusing but the layouts are reminiscent of the 90s. My real problem is that websites just can't give you a genuine feel for the university. You can read, look at pictures and watch all the videos you want regarding the school but it will not be the same as standing on the university grounds, absorbing it all in person. Now, I'm not saying that you should completely ignore your research; knowing a university's reputation for your program and as a school in general are key components to narrowing down your choices. But selecting a university based solely off of a website does not give you the full scope. The same goes with interviewing people somehow affiliated with the university. They may be helpful to you, especially if the interviewee is in your program of choice. You are unique, nonetheless, and as much as they might seem to love the school, your expectations may be completely different.

Over spring break I took a trip to Ontario to visit family and to tour three of the universities on my hit list. In the process, I travelled through a sizable chunk of Ontario and took three freezing campus tours. Right from the beginning I got tips from my family, some not that helpful ("go to Western"). There was one piece of advice, however, that stuck with me and is, in my opinion, one of the best tips for students choosing post-secondary schools – you will

know the school meant for you when you get there. I was told this three separate times from three different people, all of which had very positive university experiences.

This proved true once I completed my tours. While one of the schools left me emotionally flat, two of the universities clicked with me for very different reasons. Looking through the work-out facility, cafes, classrooms, seeing the students in action, taking in the campus location, I started to feel genuinely excited to be there. It was a new feeling, not experienced through interviews and websites, but by being in the facilities and imagining life as a student. It was the realization that I could actually see myself spending four years there.

This gut feeling pretty much eliminated

any doubts I had regarding my final selection; after the tours, my decision was pretty much clear-cut. Seeing the campus through a screen and actually being there are two hugely different things. I suggest that you pay a personal visit to the schools that interest you. It just may be the deciding factor in your choice of university.




**INTELLIGENT LEARNING**  
**RENERT**

call:  
**974-8600**  
[www.RenertOnline.com](http://www.RenertOnline.com)

Calgary's Leading

## Diploma Exam Review Courses

Get Top Marks for University

- Math 30-1
- Math 30-2
- Math 31
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 30
- Physics 30
- English 30
- Social Studies 30

*"I got 99% on my Chemistry diploma. Thank you so much!"*



Over 20,000 students prepared

## Tutoring on Demand

All Subjects  
All Grades  
All the Time

- Grades 7 - 12 & University
- Over 20 hours of access to tutors each week
- Centres open evenings & weekends
- Help with homework & test preparation
- Get the help you need, when you need it

*"I got a final mark of 96, my highest mark in math ever, and the first time I've cracked 90%."*

Southland/Macleod
Centres throughout Calgary
Springbank Hill
Country Hills

# FREE Tutoring



**THE RENERT CENTRE**  
For Excellence in Education

Calgary's tutoring and test prep leaders

Present this coupon for FREE admission to an evening of math/science tutoring at any Renert Tutoring Centre location.\*

To register, call: **974-8600**

[www.RenertOnline.com](http://www.RenertOnline.com)

## CONTROVERSY

# About A Boy

by POLINA SUTYRINA

Having recently been reacquainted with the British film bearing the same title, I have decided to explore a few topics society associates with 'masculinity', 'guy stuff' and 'men's humour'. Firstly, it is crucial to acquaint you with some vocabulary prior to our discussion. The term *biological sex* is reflective of the reproductive organs an individual possesses. As any proper biology class will teach you, a person can either be male (XY), female (XX), or intersex (anything that does not follow the 'normal' chromosomal pattern, such as XXY or XYY). According to the Intersex Society of North America, approximately one in every 1500 individuals is born intersex. The word *hermaphrodite* is an out-dated and derogatory term used to describe this condition. *Gender*, on the other hand, is a product of our sociocultural interactions. According to Laci Green (creator of Sex+), gender "is expressed in our varying degrees of femininity and masculinity" and despite the general consensus, "there are many genders and they do not necessarily reflect the sex of the individual". *Gender identity* is how someone identifies their own gender. *Transgender* individuals "may not identify with a gender or may identify with a gender that does not match their assumed biological sex pairing". *Transsexuals* have "taken steps to make their outward appearance match their gender identity". This terminology is important to consider when discussing the following issues, because a lack of understanding and empathy is (generally) the root cause for bias, phobias, bigotry and hostility.

In the spirit of equality and open-mindedness, I would like to bring to light some of the problems and hardships biologically male people face in our society. I will not pretend that I know exactly what it is like, because I was not raised according to that sex, but I believe that it is imperative to address all groups when discussing controversy. We have to reach out and attempt to sympathize with those who are not like us, because only then can we form a healthy society in which all individuals reap the benefits of human interaction.

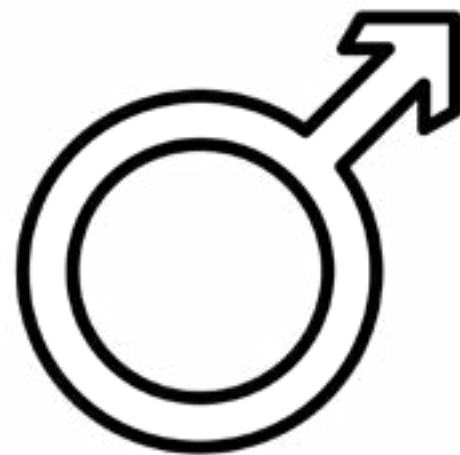
The first issue that comes to mind when thinking about the detrimental consequences of imposing what is deemed to be 'masculine', is the emotionlessness that

boys are taught to display. Many people believe that in order to be strong, you have to be emotionally detached, since showing feelings makes you look 'vulnerable'. Boys are constantly being told to "man up", "don't cry", "don't be a pussy", "keep your mouth shut", "don't let your woman run your life", etc. The problem with this, is that we now associate any form of sentiment that falls outside the realm of placidity with being 'feminine', urging those who do not wish to identify themselves in such a way to flee in the opposite direction. What is the effect of this emotional suppression? A lot of pent up feelings of anger, frustration, anxiety, fear, despair and melancholy. It perpetuates an endless cycle where the inability to express anything, leads to even more negativity and stress within the individual. This feigned passivity takes a significant toll on both psychological and physiological health. It causes the person to either leak this antagonism and manifest it in the form of abuse, violence, contempt, etc, towards others, or to become a ticking time-bomb which will one day explode with a dire and irrational response. When someone suppresses these feelings, they become stiff and closed minded in their beliefs. They are not flexible and cannot adapt to the natural highs and lows of life. Disclosing emotion should no longer be a sign of weakness, but become a symbol of strength. Why? It shows that you are not only comfortable with yourself and who you are, but you are also comfortable exposing yourself to others. It means you are confident in your interpersonal relationships - confident enough to know that no one should ever be able to bring you down.

Another issue with our modern idea of masculinity, is that it attaches negative connotations to anything 'feminine'. We know what consequences this has on those who identify themselves as female, but what does it do for the male population? It makes their world that much smaller. Imagine if you were told that eating/experiencing anything chocolate is bad, shameful and should be left to those who are 'made' to eat it (if you don't like chocolate, pretend). You are being limited on such a grande scale! Not only can you never experience the millions of dishes made from chocolate (some of which you are bound to like), but you can never attend any chocolate-themed parties/festivals/conventions, read any books or watch any movies which are associated with love for chocolate, or spend any time with

people who respect chocolate and relish its tasteful presence. You will never be interested in researching chocolate for its medicinal properties, or discuss chocolate in the context of philosophy, economy, politics, art, etc. Sounds ridiculous, right? Well, that is exactly what happens when you close yourself off from a particular facet of society. Just like an economy with no middle class, a society with a lack of compromise, diversity and stability between the 'masculine' and 'feminine' extremes is headed for collapse.

Lastly, if the entertainment industry is based on ostracizing the two groups from one another, the advertising industry capitalizes on the associated downfalls of both for profit, and families impose obsolete sociocultural definitions of gender based on sex (despite what their children want/need), how can people have a clear picture of what either 'norm' is all about? How can people make decisions about what identity to pursue, or what identity would satisfy their internal desires? How can you prevent stereotyping or the use of misunderstanding as justification for atrocious crimes against humanity? How can you spread tolerance and accept those who are not part of the 'norm'? How can people be psychologically healthy and satisfied with who they are? How can they surround themselves with people who support them and nourish their idiosyncrasies? How can you recognize that it is completely okay for the mother to provide financial support and the father to run the house (and vice versa)? How can you be comfortable with the roles you take on as a parent and how do you know what to teach the next generation? How can you justify the importance of all these things and apply wisdom when navigating the world around you? How can you be open to trying new things? How?





## CURRENT EVENTS

## Elections in the Syrian Civil War

by EVAN GIBBARD

In recent reports, the Syrian government has announced that it will be holding multi-candidate elections on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This comes as President Bashar al-Assad's term comes to an end in July of this year. The decision to hold elections in the middle of Syria's civil war has been widely rejected and condemned with the US calling it a "parody of democracy" and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressing worries that it may damage the potential for a successful resolution of the conflict. Even as the elections draw closer, their legitimacy is widely contested. Approximately 10% of the population has fled the country, and while the government has set an earlier voting date for Syrians out of the country, the government is unable to hold elections outside of their territory. Additionally, there have been reports from government officials that elections will solely be held in government controlled areas of the country. Prior

to this election, voters were given two decisions on the ballot, yes or no to the continuation of the Assad regime. The potential for candidates to run is already being limited: the Syrian government has announced that only citizens who have resided in the country for the past ten years may run. This eliminates chief opposition rivals, many of whom fled the country during the war.

Amidst political scuffles, humanitarian tolls of the three-year war continue to rise. Mere hours before the election announcement, five people were killed by bombs in Aleppo. Since 2011, over 150,000 people have been killed and one-third of Syria's population has been displaced by the civil war. Furthermore, the UN has stated that Syria has used the withholding of healthcare as a weapon. Aid agencies have stated that almost half of all medical personnel have left the country, and there have been reports of doctors tortured to death after treating rebels. The lack of available resources has led to desperate measures. In some situations, patients were reportedly hit on the head due to a lack of anesthetic.

Worries of a decrease in Syrian stability extend into other areas as well. The

head of a UN team surveying the removal of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile says that the country seems set to meet the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline for complete elimination, upwards of 80% has already been handed over or destroyed. However, this week France and the United States have brought new allegations that the chemical weapon chlorine was used in an attack against the village Kfar Zeita on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

There seems to be no easy solution to the war in Syria. Earlier this year talks between Assad's regime and the opposition in Geneva failed. Assad's regime still holds Russian support, causing attempts for increased UN intervention to be vetoed by their seat on the Security Council. Even as the United States considers increasing their support of the opposition, America is forced to consider the potential for weapons to fall into the hands of extremist groups in the already unstable Syria.

The number of people left behind in this horrifying conflict is immense. Over 2.5 million Syrians are now refugees. A number of charities are currently helping to serve this need and there are vast numbers depending on aid and relief for survival.



## THE FACE OF FEMINISM

## Who Likes Short Shorts?

by NATALYA RAMBOLD

It's that time of year again, the sun is out, the birds are chirping, and one of the AP's will have the daunting task of going on the intercom and telling us all to cover up. Dress code, in all its glory, never fails to be an issue. Now, we all want to come to school in short shorts and spaghetti straps, but where do we draw the line? There's something to be said for modesty, but there is also something to be said for personal freedoms. This article is not meant to be in any way demonizing, the school administration is doing its best, even if we don't always see it that way.

As much as I can try and write this article in a non-gendered way, the fact is that dress codes are more often than not aimed at girls, or those who wear normally, 'female' articles of clothing. You all know what I'm talking about, there will be an announcement telling us all to cover up our cleavage, our legs, our shoulders and any other parts that we "don't need hanging out".

This raises the question: who are they to be telling us how to dress. This is after all a public school, based on the notion that we are all different and we should all be able to express ourselves as such, so why isn't the way we dress a part of that?

Before we go into this, we need to

examine the stigma around bodies that we have here in Canada, and for the most part in the western world. It's true that our bodies are covered most of the time living here in Canada, not out of stylistic choice, but rather out of necessity. But come summer time we want to show a little more skin, and it seems like lots of people are uncomfortable with that. We live in a culture that has turned a body, especially a naked body, into something other than a vehicle for movement and a storage place for our organs.

The irony is that magazines, movies and increasingly TV shows (*Game of Thrones* anyone?) are bombarding us with images of naked bodies left right and centre, but when we chose to willingly expose some of our bodies, for comfort or for personal expression, it makes other people uncomfortable. Younger and younger girls are being asked to cover up, because before they are even sexual beings, their bodies have been sexualized for them.

We live in a sex-craved culture, but as soon as any woman chooses to embrace that, and view herself as a sexual object she is demonized and 'slut shamed'. Thus, the public school system has taken it upon itself to cut the problem at the source and tell girls (and sometimes boys) to cover up.

Now, as a female who sometimes enjoys wearing shorts, that admittedly are pretty short, is it my job to stop you from sexually harassing me? Should it not be the

job of the school system to teach boys and girls alike that no matter how much someone else's body is showing, it shouldn't affect you and it certainly does not give you any right to harass or catcall someone who is exposed.

Naturally, it violates social norms to go to school, or anywhere else in public, totally naked, but it is important to examine why normal body parts like shoulders, legs, and midriffs are being so overly sexualized. Too often we come back to the effect that the media has on us. In cultures where bodies are overly sexualized there becomes the dichotomy of purity and sexuality, and there is no place inbetween. Women, or at least the so-called 'good women' are expected to be modest in the streets and wildly sexual behind closed doors, only with one partner though, of course. This kind of all or nothing thinking hurts everyone.

It's time that we in the Western world embrace the fact that a body is a body, and that in fact, my legs, or anyone else's legs really have no sexual value, unless the person who owns them chooses to use them as such.

In terms of dress code, there is a fine line, but in my totally biased opinion, my rights to my body include using that body in any way that I choose. It is time that people learned that the body of others is not a sexual object and that the way that they chose to portray that sexuality is totally up to them.





# H O R O S C O P E S



## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Not everyone is going to like you. If, in the near future, you find yourself dealing with this, don't take it personally. Focus on being yourself and forget the haters.



## Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Open yourself up to new people. Everywhere you go, there's the potential to discover things entirely new simply through the act of interpersonal connection, so don't let those opportunities go to waste!



## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Try to avoid becoming arrogant. You're fighting hard to pave success for yourself, but never forget those around you. Stay friendly, and things will be even more likely to go your way.



## Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

Don't belittle your accomplishments. You've done a lot to establish your place in the world, and diminishing the importance of what you've done is a major disservice to yourself.



## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Make sure to avoid putting yourself on a pedestal. You're an interesting person, but so is everyone else, and it's dangerous to forget that.



## Cancer: (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

You've lost control of what's going on around you, and it's causing you to suffer. Take charge and don't be afraid to defend your needs.



## Leo: (July 23 - Aug 22)

Avoid turning others into cliches. Like you, they are human, and have infinite unexplored nuances that you can easily miss out on through stereotyping.



## Virgo: (August 23 - Sep 22)

Think carefully these next few days, and avoid making rash decisions. You never know what you could get yourself into!



## Libra: (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Spend more time considering how your actions make others feel. You may be surprised by how much people value you, so don't take it for granted.



## Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov 21)

Take more chances. You may not know where something will take you, but that's no reason not to consider it. Adventure awaits with any possibility, and it might be interesting to start considering unexpected paths.



## Sagittarius: (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Life is rough, but that's no reason to give up. Let your bad moods motivate you to achieve greater things, instead of letting them swallow you up whole. Happiness will come if you set your mind to it and persevere.



## Capricorn: (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Even if it involves switching up your normal routine, take some time to relax and enjoy life. Later, when you're faced with more difficult challenges, you'll appreciate it.

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

# P L A Y L I S T

## Connection

1. **Valerie** - Amy Winehouse
2. **Flightless Bird, American Mouth** - Iron & Wine
3. **Hey Ya** - Outkast
4. **Time After Time** - Cyndi Lauper
5. **Bound 2** - Kanye West
6. **We Sink** - Chvrches
7. **Diary** - Bread
8. **Home** - Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros
9. **Mesmerize** - Chapterhouse
10. **Frame and Focus** - Lights
11. **XO** - Beyonce
12. **Ava** - Coeur de Pirate
13. **Little Talks** - Of Monsters and Men
14. **Supernova** - Mr. Hudson
15. **Strange Magic** - Electric Light Orchestra

## 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.*