

# THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School  
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## Remember, Remember, the 13<sup>th</sup> of November!

by MONIQUE VIGNEAULT

The events on November 13, 2015 caused public outrage on a global level. The multiple bombings in Paris were the most violent attacks in France since World War II. These attacks, coupled with the bombings in Beirut, Lebanon and Iraq have heightened peoples' awareness of the danger extremism poses.

Normally, in this column, I usually take politics or current events and go on a tangent, eventually coming to a lighthearted, humorous conclusion. However, there is nothing funny or lighthearted about the events that took place last Friday. The events that took place on that Friday were acts of war, terrorism and evil, taking the lives of many innocent people.

On the flip side, as the Paris bombings were broadcasted live, within an hour the hashtag #PrayForParis had over ten million tweets on twitter, and the hashtag #PrayForLebanon was trending worldwide. The empathy felt for the victims was ex-

pressed by millions of people, as was the frustration with the events. It showed the humanity of everything and how as a whole, millions of people came together to search for justice for these inhumane acts. It really displayed how humanity was tired of the fact that terrorism is still a part of our daily lives when it shouldn't have to be. It shone a light on the truth that our world doesn't have to be a merciless and violent world, that we can still change things for the better.

Nevertheless, these attacks worldwide have also caused an unsettling wave of panic. The Pope, for one, announced that he believes this could be the beginning of "World War III". As it is clear now, all of these (and I cannot stress this enough,) ruthless attacks were planned and carried out by ISIS, however the repercussions of these events are far from subtle.

I truly believe that as global citizens, we are done with having to see all of this violence continue on an international

level. Many hacktivist groups have gotten on board with trying to stop planned attacks of violence. The famed group *Anonymous* and all its counterparts is one of these organizations. International representatives have gathered for informal meetings on how to stop terrorism. Anti-terrorism raids have been held worldwide, displaying how people worldwide are outraged. This has to stop.

I will leave you with one last thought. As I expressed in my last article about the proposed ban of freedom of speech in Mexico, I am a strong believer in the use of words and journalism to better our world. I believe that every human being has the right to freedom of speech, and that a paper and pen will always find a better solution than a gun and bullet; but the fact that I am so terribly frightened to publish this exact article, just leaves me with a feeling of complete hopelessness. My heart breaks for the world at it's current state.



## EDITORIAL

by JORDAN BUNKE

As the snow builds, so does the alleged Christmas spirit. At the end of each year, and seemingly more so year by year, aggressive marketing and the subsequent consumerism spike to emphasize just how materialistic society can be. These increases are endless. Whilst they are evident in most industries, they are rampant in retail and entertainment. Furniture stores promise ludicrously low offers, and, not to be outdone, jewellery stores during the Christmas season are reported to increase sales by 70%. The entertainment industry, however, is an entirely different beast.

Television, video games and most notably films are tremendously impacted by Christmas. Most shows, whether they are network shows or cable, take breaks over the holiday season. Therefore, the episode prior to the start of the break, commonly referred to as the mid-season finale, is often a cataclysmic ordeal that entirely alters the dynamic of the show. Frequently done to secure ratings and ensure the return of viewers after the break, this technique is enforced when shows that plan to air a 20/24 episode season require an exciting, abrupt awakening for the audience after several slow episodes that heavily relies on character development over the progression of plot.

The effect on the two latter media is far more defined and apparent. In the video game industry, some games are marketed as 'holiday' games well over a year in advance of their release. For example, Microsoft's *Gears of War 4* unveiled at June's Electronic Entertainment Expo, was labelled "Holiday

2016". The holiday season also plays host to the year's most anticipated games. This year's holiday lineup includes the likes of *Halo 5: Guardians*; *Rise of the Tomb Raider*; *Fallout 4*; *Call of Duty: Black Ops 3*; *Just Cause 3*; *Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege*; *Assassin's Creed Syndicate* and many more. Over the last few years a worrisome trend has befallen the industry. With access to more powerful hardware and an ever more demanding fan base, games' development cycles increase and their lifespans decrease. In the past games would remain relevant for years after their release, and while many still do, triple A titles for which the market has yearned endlessly become irrelevant and forgotten in as little as two weeks. Amidst the rush to satisfy overly critical and cynical consumers who yearn for fractionally more pixels on a screen or a frame rate boost from one that is already faster than that of the human eye, game developers are put in a gladiatorial position, often having to postpone release dates. This leads to even more pressure and heightened anticipation, which often becomes unrealistic. Unable to sustain the sky-high expectations set for them, games frequently flounder and bring a breakneck 'hype train' to a screeching halt right after the finish line. A deeply disappointing feeling for developers and gamers alike, this has bred a cynicism and an unprofessionalism from both sides of the game industry that are in desperate need of rectification.

The Christmas season has produced even greater seasonal tropes in the film industry than in the aforementioned video game and television industries. Along with the significantly broader summer, the Christmas season

is one of the film industry's two relatively busy periods in terms of box office revenue. The Christmas period's impact on the industry is so pronounced, that it has spawned the dreaded January release window, a drought created by the clamour of the previous month that is usually filled with subpar films with lower production standards, or under-the-radar arthouse films. This year, we have the rare opportunity to regard an upcoming release that is head and shoulders above all other blockbusters of the season in terms of anticipation. For the first in a decade, a mainline live-action *Star Wars* film is being released. A much needed palette cleanser for many *Star Wars* aficionados after the mixed reception that the prequel trilogy created at the turn of the millennium, *Episode VII* promises an all-new tale set after the events of the original films, with all new leads in John Boyega, Oscar Isaac and Daisy Ridley. However, the approaching fever of excitement surrounding the release of the film begs some important questions: Will it live up to the hype? Given the disappointing nature of the first return of George Lucas' brainchild, what insurance of quality and satisfaction do fans have for *Episode VII*, or is it a calculated risk that the masses are clearly willing to take?

Regardless of its uncertain outcome, the amount of buzz generated by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* ensure the continuation of the trend of feverish marketing and excitement over whatever the Christmas period produces next.

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## 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 Reasons Why...

# Disney and Pixar are a Dangerous Combination

by KAARI HALL

On November 25th, *The Good Dinosaur* (a Disney-Pixar film), came out in theatres. Now, we all know that Disney movies are amazing, but some people seem to think that they're only for children. Those people have been wrong their whole lives, and in everything they've ever done. Here are five reasons why Disney-Pixar (or any Disney combination for that matter) is for everybody:

1. Disney doesn't only target their movies to small children. In fact, sometimes they release movies that younger kids won't watch at all, like *The Pirates of the Caribbean*, which has enough action, comedy, romance and drama for any adult to enjoy. Plus, Jack Sparrow. Disney has also bought *Star Wars*, which people seem to enjoy for some reason.

2. Disney movies ooze angst. In most movies, the main character's closest 'companion' (family member, friend, etc...) dies at the worst time. Whether it's at the very beginning, starting the adventure, or at the very end, which helps in resolving the problem. In *Big Hero 6*, Tadashi, the brother, died in the first 18 minutes, just enough time for you to get attached then have him ripped away cruelly. Disney actually has no chill.

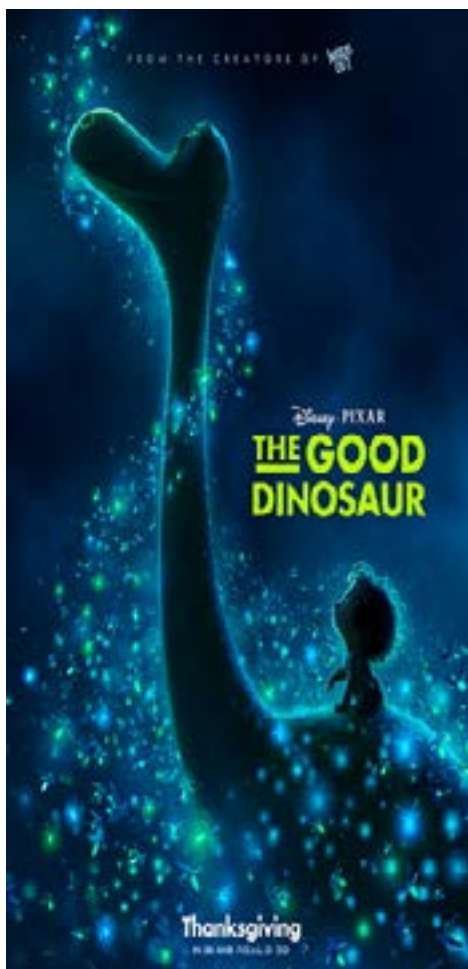
3. Disney-Pixar movies always have an adorable and heart-wrenching animated short in the beginning, like *Lava*, the short for *Inside Out*. It's about a volcano, that's looking for love, and says "I lava you". If you didn't get a bit teary during that short, I'm afraid you're heartless.

4. Disney movies aren't always about happy topics. *Lilo and Stitch* is about a family torn apart by a tragedy and two sisters trying to put their lives back together. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* spoke about a lot of social justice issues and inequality that the Romani people (Gypsies) faced in that time. It also went against movie clichés as the main character didn't get the girl in the end, and was okay with that.

5. The animals talk, and sing. How can that not excite you? They sing songs about friendship, love and happiness and they're always catchy! Even if musicals don't appeal to you, there are still a lot of

movies without any singing at all. Though why singing wouldn't appeal to you doesn't make any sense whatsoever. I guess you don't like to be happy or have a good time.

Disney has a lot of great aspects to it, but like anything you enjoy, there's always something a little bit off. Their version of *Pocahontas* had many missing details and didn't at all portray what actually happened. So while they do have a lot of amazing movies, take them with a grain of salt as there is always a more accurate version of what you're watching.



## Orange Pulp

# Smoke and Mirrors

by YUSEF ZIA

It is important to be educated on any kind of social or economic issue, but there are some issues that attract the most attention due to their simplicity. I am referring to wedge issues; social issues that are often controversial which can divide a population. Abortion is a prime example of this. These issues tend to define the ideologies of political parties and voters can be swayed based on a party's stance on a single particular issue. There are opposing views on abortion between the two major political parties of the United States, for example. Democrats support the idea that the mother's decision to birth an unborn child or not is a constitutional right, while Republicans believe a human at any stage of life should be treated as a human. If any voter believes that an issue such as abortion is important enough, their vote could be decided based on that single issue, regardless of any other issues that the party they are voting for addresses.

Knowing this, a party could get clever and use wedge issues to their advantage, and that's what they do. In the most recent election, the Conservatives were falling in the poles and in a last ditch attempt to snag some extra votes, they brought up a wedge issue: banning the niqab. The Conservatives were the only major party that would support the ban and voters supporting it began to draw closer to their party. As we know, it was too little too late but it did lift them in the polls. Every party will hold a firm stance on some wedge issues and even have them as a part of their platform, like the Liberals legalizing marijuana.

The reason voters are drawn to wedge issues so easily is because they are the easiest to understand and involve the most substantial changes the average voter would notice. They are more appealing to voters than social programs or tax rates. A wedge issue can cause a debate that most people will pay attention to and can take precedence over economics when it comes to public interest. We need to assure ourselves we are always looking at the bigger picture, and not getting hung up on a single issue, because that can obscure our perspective about our own ideals and prevent us from getting a clear idea about what's best for the nation both socially and economically.



## QSA

## To the Students of ABE

by KATRINA JOHNSON

In the second publication of *The Advocate*, an article was written to the teachers of ABE, informing them of what they can do for transgender students on behalf of November's status of Transgender Awareness Month. The members of QSA have decided to create a similar list containing four things students can do in and around the school to make transgender students at ABE feel more comfortable.

### #1 – LGBTQ+ is not a joke:

Teenagers are at an age where bullying becomes more prominent. The issue first arises as students enter junior high and senior high. One phrase I have heard many times in the hallways is "that's so gay". Students have used this term so often that its value has diminished. In reality, this can be one of the most hurtful things to say to a classmate. Students often use and abuse this term without understanding its true meaning. Think before you speak, is what you're referring to really 'gay' or are you just using the term for the sake of insulting someone?

#2 – Do not "out" your friends: To out someone means you tell another individual about someone's chosen identity or sexual orientation, particularly without their consent. It is not your job to out someone unless you are clearly instructed to by that individual. Be respectful and support your friend's identity. Transgender students can be closeted for a number of reasons. Perhaps their parents don't know and they don't want them to find out through you. It's rude, insulting and potentially dangerous to intentionally out someone. Their chosen identity or sexual orientation could be the biggest secret of their lives. Imagine having your biggest secret revealed to your teachers, parents or friends by another individual.

#3 – Become an ally: The easiest way to become an LGBTQ+ ally is to attend Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) meetings. Often the term "Queer Straight Alliance" is associated solely with queer students in our school community, but in fact, QSA is a safe place for all students; straight or queer to be educated on LGBTQ+ related topics. The straight alliance part in QSA is just as important as the queer. Besides, without the words "straight alliance", the club would just be called Q. Not quite as catchy, right? Attending QSA meetings is a crucial fac-

tor in LGBT education. This shows a great deal of respect and support. Start by asking friends who are knowledgeable about the subject. Be open to making mistakes and learning from them, as long as you are respectful and show a willingness to learn, asking questions is certainly acceptable and encouraged. All teenagers love to know there's someone who care for and support them, and becoming an ally is the first step.

### #4 – Respectful VS apologetic:

Like most things in life, there is a fine line between being respectful and being too apologetic. Misgendering is not only awkward for the individual, but it is awkward for you and those around you too. If you recognize that you misgendered someone, the best thing to do is to quickly and quietly apologize for your mistake and to continue what you were saying. Do not stop mid-sentence and make a huge deal of apologizing. The conversation will become awkward for everyone! When you excessively apologize, it's disrespectful and the conversation becomes about you and your comfort, not the individual you misgendered.

### Examples:

#### Wrong way

Student #1: "Can you pass this to her please?"

Student #2: "Actually, I use they/them pronouns."

Student #1: "Woah, chill out! I'm trying to get the hang of it."

#### Wrong way

Student #1: "Can you pass this to her – err... them. Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry I used the wrong pronouns again! I really am trying and I promise I will get it right one day."

Student #2: "Don't feel bad, it's not a big deal..." (Notice how the first student makes a big deal out of it and the conversation is now focused on them. That makes the LGBTQ+ student feels embarrassed and uncomfortable.)

#### Right way -

Student #1: "Can you pass this back to her - I mean them, sorry- please?" (Notice how the first student corrects themselves quickly and only apologizes once.)

These four suggestions are simple techniques to add to daily routines when students have open minds and show willingness to support their fellow classmates, whatever their chosen identity. They help transgender students feel included and appreciated in a school environment. Comfort is essential in every student's learning environment and demonstrates support towards the transgender students in our community.

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## HOROSCOPES

by TWINKLEGAZE ASTROPANTS



### Aries (March 21 - April 19)



I'm lazy right now, go away. I'm eating my fair share of cat food burgers. If you want to know your horscope go use the internet randomly generated crap they hand out. They have nothing in common with what I spew.

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



You're studying in the spanish culture has led to your dream of becoming a matador in tight pants and elegant shoulder pads. You will have a greater self control because of your pizzazzy passion.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



When you look into the mirror every morning, you will not be able to speak sarcastically to your soap or your butt chin.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



You will realize how mature your elders are after they laugh at the usage of butt, yes you will too. How mature you all are.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)



After being inspired by Tarzan, the Jonas Brothers and McNish who all have manes. You want to grow your very own lion coiffure. You'll look like like MacGyver.

### Virgo (August 23 - Sept 22)



You will dream of a new margarita recipe that will ensure you write a hit song about it. Of course the margarita is virgin.



### Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

You will be blissfully blessed by Batman in the scales of boisterous banter because Batman doesn't bother with justice.



### Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

After having your specials somebody ask you out for italian, you'll want to hide your dislike of alfredo in your afro. One of many reasons you're attractive.



### Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

With your arrow of hope and love you cannot hit the horse of despair, but you will strike the bullseye of metaphors.



### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Your horoscope resmebles a mush and is too complex to care about, like your sign.



### Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You will make alot of money right now. Then you'll pay alot me because I told you.



### Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)

After watching Forest Gump you will love love shrimp and go soul seeking in the pacific.

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

## Playlist

## Put Another Dime in the Jukebox

Amy Winehouse - *Rehab*

Nico & Vinz - *Am I Wrong*

Beyonce - *Mine*

Jimmy Eat World - *The Middle*

The XX - *Angles*

Vance Joy - *Mess Is Mine*

The Lighthouse and the Whaler - *Venice*

Twenty One Pilots - *Ruby*

Destiny's Child - *Survivor*

Paramore - *Where the Lines Overlap*

Nicki Minaj - *Favourite*

The Script - *Talk You Down*

Fall Out Boy - *Pretty in Punk*

Bastille - *No Angels*

PVRIS - *Holy*

The Weeknd - *Earned it*

Panic! At The Disco - *I Write Sins Not Tragedies*

## 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.*