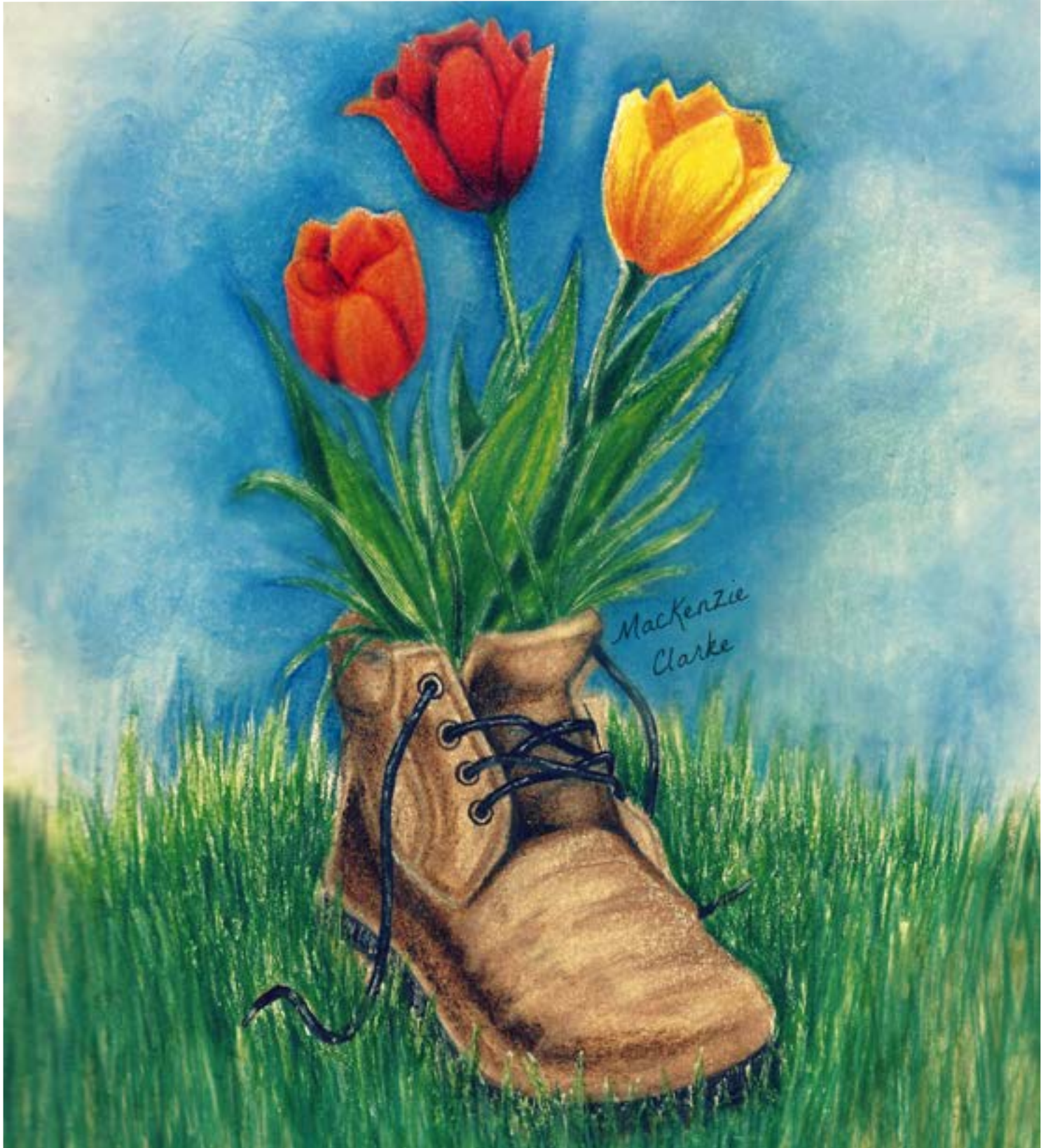


THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School
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EDITORIAL

Because We Said So

by JORDAN BUNKE

The 59th Annual Grammy Awards were televised on February 12, 2017. Like the Oscars in 2016, the ceremony and the Recording Academy as a whole were met with a fair share of criticism, even boycotts from some. Frank Ocean, who released the critically acclaimed sophomore album *Blonde* in 2016, went as far as to omit his work from the nomination process, as well as writing a scathing open letter about the Grammys on his Tumblr account. Ocean made several complaints about policies and past actions that the Grammy Awards were responsible for, such as Taylor Swift's 1989 topping Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly*, and concluded by stating, "...if you're up for a discussion about the cultural bias and general nerve damage the show you produce suffers from then I'm all for it." The award show also had several notable absences. Kanye West, who has 21 Grammy Awards framed in his

own home, decided to skip the show despite being nominated for his seventh studio album *The Life of Pablo* in order to attend New York Fashion Week. Drake, who has referred to winning his one Grammy several times as a high point in his life (recording an entire song called *Grammys with Future*), skipped the ceremony for his *Boy Meets World* European tour. Justin Bieber, nominated for *Album of the Year* with *Purpose*, was also absent from the ceremony.

The Grammys are following the Oscars of last year in what is becoming a trend of disenfranchisement with the establishment and authority in a specific artistic medium. This same sentiment is also cited as by many pundits as a reason for Donald Trump's election to the office of the President of the United States. The boycotts and general discontent call into question the validity of the entire affair. Contrary to acting, which is very personal, but can easily be determined as objectively being either good, bad, or somewhere in the middle, music is much more arbitrary. While many would agree that the goal of

an actor, or at least one of their goals, is to seamlessly inhabit their character, the goal of music cannot possibly be determined.

Music, especially nowadays, is infinitely divergent. Genres spawn subcultures, which quickly develop into their own genres with a specific, distinct sound. In rap alone, two dominant subcultures that dominate the charts in 2017 are trap and grime, based in Atlanta and London respectively. A scholar of hip-hop could hear a two second drop of a beat instrumental and could categorize the genre to which the song belongs, so clear is the distinction. Thus, with more and more distinct sounds cropping up with a different base, different goals, and different purposes, how can the best music be determined if not simply by popularity? If this is the only way to objectively evaluate excellence in the recording arts, is it still truly a measure of excellence? If not, then the entire paradigm upon which the Grammy Awards are built must be reassessed.

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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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Contributors: Mackenzie Clarke,
Christopher Pratt, Aditya Khatu, Riley Martens

ORANGE PULP

Mettle versus Metal*by YUSEF ZIA*

Jobs: the things that every politician can't stop talking about. The availability of jobs is the best selling point for any economic policy, and dictates the direction of the popular vote in elections across the world. The significance of employment in an economy is simple: workers get paid by their employer, then they spend their money on goods and services that also require a work force, and the cycle repeats itself. When work is scarce, people lose their source of income and are unable to spend any money, so the economy stagnates. Recently in the media, the scarcity of available work has been considered the result of outsourcing and immigration, but there is a much more significant factor at play: machines.

We live in an age of rapid techno-

logical advancement, and we are forced to adapt to change or risk losing our place in society. Plenty of labour work in the developed world has been lost due to corporations outsourcing their work to save money. The same philosophy dictates the use of machines in place of workers, because it will cost more to pay an employee in the long term. Companies are aware of this, and as a result, Henry Ford's assembly line has evolved from a line of people to a line of steel.

When companies focus too much on saving money, they begin to hurt the economy and themselves by making it more difficult for people to buy what they want. Economies are unable to grow when citizens are unwilling to spend, and they will not spend if money is harder to obtain. Bill Gates proposed that machines that take jobs should be required to pay taxes. From the point of view of the government, this is quite reasonable. Every job lost to a machine means less income tax for the government, and more money spent on welfare. If this was compensated by a "robot tax," the government would be better able to support those in need, and companies would be less likely to automate labour.

Solutions like this are only short term, however. While companies strive to create the best product at the lowest price, the need for manual labour will diminish. The day McDonald's decides to completely automate their restaurants will be the day where countless jobs are lost. Not only

would those working at McDonald's lose their jobs, but any restaurants competing with McDonald's would be forced to automate to lower their prices, or go out of business. Either way, a significant portion of employment in the fast food industry would vanish. As ridiculous as it sounds, the technology for this hypothetical scenario is very possible. Any time a worker is doing something repetitive, a machine is capable of working in their stead.

The greatest challenge is for the workers of the developed world. Unskilled labour cannot be relied on as a steady source of income anymore. People need to provide necessary services or focus on innovation in order to succeed in this day and age. Obviously, that is easier said than done. While we are in this transitional phase leaning towards machine labour, governments need to ensure that all citizens have the skills they need to earn a decent income, so the economy can continue to grow. This means that in the future, governments must make college and apprenticeship programs available to every member of society. The developed world has the resources to ensure every future worker is a skilled worker that can provide insight and adapt to any situation they face.

I realize that this proposition is rather socialist, and would require more taxes, especially on the wealthy; but it is the only way to ensure the working class continues to work and stimulate the economy.



Facts Across The Ages

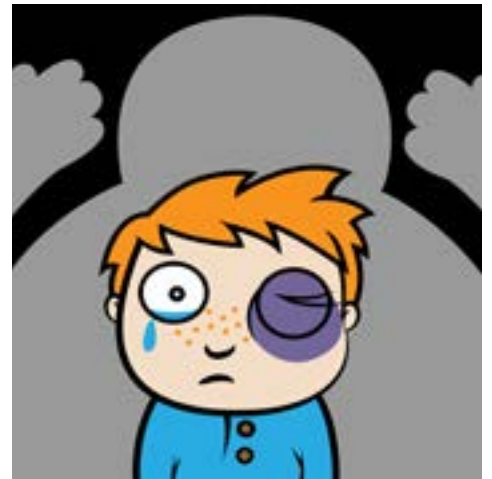
by MACKENZIE CLARKE

There is a super spunky eleven year-old girl I know who is brimming with sass and joy. This girl is my sister. Yet, despite her amicable personality, she has been a victim of bullying. Recently, a few of her classmates chose to target her, for no apparent reason. They would not only mock her and spread rumours, but would push her around, emotionally and physically. They created a game out of making her cry. My sister has her flaws, but that doesn't mean she deserves to be bullied. Nobody does.

Each individual has a unique character. While there are a myriad of "societal categories" used to classify each individual. It should be understood that people are too complex to be placed in a societal box. Queen's song, Radio Ga Ga, epitomizes this statement. Society is con-

and people should be free to express themselves, no matter what they're expressing.

Luckily enough, matters were resolved and turned out alright in my sister's case. However, the same can't be said for everyone who faces a bullying situation. Bob Dylan's Song, Blowin' in the Wind demonstrates that in the same way that music remains relevant over time, people of any generation are subject to societal problems that have been in existence for years. Perhaps the solution to these problems is blowing in the wind, as Bob Dylan suggests, or perhaps it can be reached through the accumulation of small acts of generosity. Nonetheless, it is better to be the person who is known for kindness, than for malevolence. Each individual deserves happiness and to live a life they're excited about.



tinuously instituting rules that encourage orthodoxy, but it's important not to "become some background noise, a backdrop for the girls and boys". Limitations should be due to personal incapacities, and not the impositions of others. One shouldn't be obliged to modify one's character in order to conform to the ideals of others.

It is okay to dislike others, even if it's for no reason, but it is not okay to disrespect, degrade, or humiliate them because of their differences. So long as one's actions don't disrespect the existence of another individual, people should not be treated adversely due to unique characteristics. Rebel Rebel by David Bowie specifically opposes the idea that sexuality or gender should govern one's life. In a time where these concepts were considered obscene, David Bowie understood that the approval of others isn't necessary to succeed. This message remains relevant today; differences do not justify disrespect,



Suing For Stupidity

by CHRISTOPHER PRATT

In today's world, it never ceases to amaze me what we are going to court over. It seems like almost everybody is out there nowadays to nail some unsuspecting company for something the rest of us find common sense. A recent post on social media shows just how far civil lawsuits have come in the last few decades. Poking fun at how people will take companies to court on practically anything, it depicts a man patiently waiting underneath a hanging Walmart sign, hoping to get hit in the head by the loose letter and get a lawsuit out of it.

But seriously, has this age where lawsuits can literally be found left and right gone too far? I mean, do we really need to put a warning label on the side of every single hot beverage, so that a customer can't turn around and sue the company for burning themselves? Of course, your cup of joe in the morning is going to be hot, so you would then hope people would have the common sense not to put it between their legs.

Besides that particular incident, there have been a boatload of similar cases. And we only need to look at the lawsuit an American filed against Michael Jordan and Nike to really get an idea of how mindless some lawsuits can be. Michael Jordan's mistake in the whole affair? He looked too much like the plaintiff, which had caused the man "emotional pain". Nike's fault? They had

started the problem by making made Jordan "famous" in the first place.

So why is common sense appearing to be available in very limited quantities nowadays? It would appear that the answer lies with money. No one can resist a chance to strike it rich and live out their wildest dreams.

However, taking such laughable cases to court can create a host of problems, for both the party bringing legal action, the court system as a whole and the general public.

For one, civil cases take an average of 2 ½ years in Canada to move through the appropriate proceedings. Any case that is filed must be reviewed, which takes time, and even if it is tossed out by the presiding Justice, mindlessly stupid cases can still cause delays in the entire legal system.

In addition, the amount of speechlessly obvious warning labels that now plaster every single item in our life are a result of such lawsuits. For example, many sleeping pills now warn the user that drowsiness may result as an effect of taking them. Other examples of this spoon feeding include labeling scooters as "Caution, items moves well in use" and making sure that chainsaw users do not use the blade to hold the saw. As a result of such dumb lawsuits being launched in today's world, the rest of us users have to suffer and be treated like idiots. If this keeps



up, we may be mandated to wear helmets while walking down the hallways.

In short, people are making money off of their own stupid decisions.

Common sense is something that cannot be stopped at the doors of the courtroom and not allowed inside. If we start viewing cases without looking at just pure common sense, then tripping on the city sidewalk, or falling off a cliff which was clearly signed and fenced, will become the cases clogging our courtrooms today. Our justice system is part of why our country is as proud, free and equitable as it is. It's why our democracy is a model for the world. Therefore, when we all start making a mockery out of it, we are undermining the base of which our country has been built on.



The Disintegration Of Social Norms

by ADITYA KHATU

With the introduction of the internet, social interaction has seen more change than it has ever seen before. The way we interact with those around us has adapted to whatever the latest trend may be, with several consequences. A major player in this game, Facebook, has become a large part of our lives and began the wave of social media. With more than one billion accounts, it's clear that Facebook has created a hold on our lives. Instead of meeting people through social events, it's as easy as hitting the friend request button. In the 21st century, you don't have to deal with any of the problems that arise from real contact. All the information needed to maintain a relationship is simplified to its basic elements. By creating a new medium for interactions, Facebook has inadvertently removed the foundation of human contact.

There are several complications that this form of communication has created. Due to its relatively new nature, it is difficult to determine the long term impacts that social media will have on our social skills. Already, there is a movement towards more time spent on the internet than actual time outside. The human need to fulfill social interaction is be-

ing completed by social media which is more convenient than the ways of the past. There's little effort required to be active on the internet and often, it becomes more attractive than reality. In a way, isolation will become the norm because of social media. The social skills of the past will be forgotten because they will be seen as useless. Over time, there will be psychological effects of this movement that will take years to understand.

Another basic human need is the desire to reproduce. In the past, social conventions had very set rules to fulfill this desire which meant creating a relationship with the desired partner. This method required effort and time on both sides but in today's world, there is an easier alternative. For many in their twenties and thirties, it has become normal for them to be active on Tinder. Tinder is marketed as a dating website, where individuals choose to meet others mainly based on the picture that is presented. It's an unspoken rule for many that all they are looking for is a sexual interaction without the mess that a relationship brings with it. Social media has again changed one of the most important aspects of human life. By eliminating some forms of interaction, what it means to be "human" is essentially being changed. It used to be plausible to believe that people in the past behaved similarly to those in the present. In the near future, this will no longer be true.



PLAYLIST

Coolio ft. L. V. - *Gangsta's Paradise*

OutKast - *Ms. Jackson*

50 Cent - *P. I. M. P.*

Snoop Dogg ft. Pharrell Williams- *Drop It Like It's Hot*

Soulja Boy Tell'em- *Crank That (Soulja Boy)*

Akon ft. Eminem- *Smack That*

Kanye West - *Stronger*

Nicky Jam - *Hasta El Amanecer*

Palisades - *Hard Feelings*

Oliver - *Good Morning Sunshine*

Phil Harris - *The Thing*

Li RongHao - *Xi Ju Zhi Wang*

LuHan - *Winter City*

Philippe B - *Nous Irons Jusqu' Au Soleil*

Elvis Presley - *Wooden Heart*

Issues - *Flojo*

I See Stars - *Running With Scissors*

Blue Swede - *Hooked On A Feeling*

Ella Fitzgerald - *Summertime*

Crossword



Across:

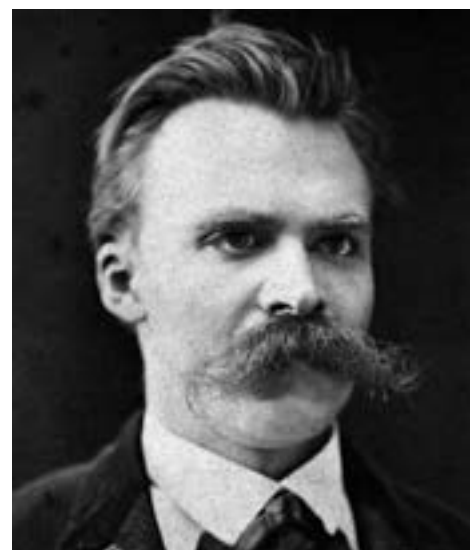
1. Exhibiting human physical characteristics
6. The largest aquatic creatures
7. Robin [_. _ . _]
8. Urban term for an automatic fire-arm, also a helicopter
11. Dikembe [_. _ . _ . _ . _]
12. Odysseus's island domain
14. One who perscribes to an ideology largely cultivated by Friedrich Nietzsche
16. South American mountain range
18. Paris's brother
19. "Able was I [_. _ . _] I saw Elba."
21. A hairy arachnid
22. [_. _ . _] and dash

Down:

1. Thematically opposite
2. Historically black university in Washington, D.C. - [_. _ . _ . _ . _] University
3. One of the elements discovered by Marie Curie
4. Describes a hockey net
5. High ranking Roman legionary
8. Murderer or violent criminal
9. [_. _ . _ . _ . _] house, shortened to pub
10. [_. _ . _]-A-Fella Records
13. Prison of the Titans in Greek mythology
15. Recently portrayed by Alexander Skarsgård

17. To cut a sheep's wool

20. [_. _ . _] cow disease



HOROSCOPES

by TWINKLEGAZE ASTROPANTS



Aries (March 21 - April 19)



After realizing naming your 15 pet frogs after famous French fishermen wasn't standard practice. You'll decide to start a food truck business selling deep fried chips. Poker chips. They like the crunch.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



After speculating about possible aliens living in your shoe grit. You'll learn one of the greatest secrets. All fictional characters are the same. All crane operators are Mac. All butchers are Sloan. All detectives are Sherlock and all superheroes have daddy issues.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



You'll realize after reading these horoscopes over and over and over again that you're done with the puns I've thrown at you so you will decide to rebel and fight the man. You'll buy fake twitter accounts from the black market and create the trending hashtags #horriblescopes and #NoScopeMyScopes.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



The new and improved way to treat cancer will be by giving them crab blood. Blue bloods. All of them. Then you'll learn why Trump trumped. He hates haters of hate speech who hate his heinous speech while wearing a hating hat for and by haters. He's a pretty casual guy.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)



After sewing a bathrobe from corn chips, you'll realize you needed some salsa, but now you're salty. You'll soon be told a bad joke, but you won't realize what the punchline is. Wapow!

Virgo (August 23 - Sept 22)



After learning that playing guitar and rapping to yourself in the dark, dressed like a Goth may be classified as being overly optimistic. You'll be the sunshine in someone's black hole. This event is on the horizon. It may be hawking to disappear in radiation. I'm trying to keep all the puns generally relative theoretically.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)



After learning redneck zombies are the ultimate handymen because of their duel. After realizing naming your 15 pet frogs after famous french fishermen wasn't standard practice. You'll decide to start a food truck business selling deep fried chips. Poker chips. They like the crunch.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



Ever since your grandmother gave you her laffy taffy she's been drying out since the creation of dirt. You have learned to appreciate the finer things in life, like saw dust, powder and some sand. Some though will have to run its course. Marble is so fine though for interior decorating.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



After figuring out becoming ambassador to Lebanon doesn't say schwarma eating in the job description, you'll leave the world of politics behind. You'll decide to become a haiku memist. Combining two of the greatest arts, memes into haikus and the other way around.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



MEDICAL ALERT: SCIENTISTS HAVE JUST DISCOVERED ARSENIC DOES NOT PROVIDE HEALTH BENEFITS. CAUSES FOR THIS BELIEF HAVE BEEN NARROWED DOWN TO TWO SOURCES WIKIPEDIA OR THE POKEDEX. MANY HAVE HELD THESE IN HIGH REGARDS, BUT THE RECKONING HAS COME TO DESTROY YOUR DESIRE FOR CAPTIONS.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



After the Catholic Church recently canonized Michael Moore as the patron saint of rigged systems, you'll realize you had a higher calling. You'll be compelled to ascend to higher level of existence, elevation wise. It's going to be an uphill battle. It's going to be a hilly journey through hill. They'll name you Billy, you redneck.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)



After thinking about a way to revolutionize the clothing market for parakeets, you'll learn fashion designers all secretly put braille in their clothing. The braille tells of times people have done shady things with shadier people in the shade of secrecy. You might want to invest in the foil market.

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.