



The Bleater

Knox Academy, Haddington— December 20th, 2016 — Free

The Class of 2017 Panto: *Back To Knox*

This year, the sixth year decided to scrap the overdone theme of fairytales, and (after great deliberation) we wrote an entirely original pantomime. The concept was derived from the hit 80's film *Back To The Future* and became a merger of famous pop-culture films from over the past few decades. From the hipster classic *The Breakfast Club* to coming-of-age films such as the *Harry Potter* series, this year's writers have truly made this pantomime more inclusive than ever before.

With our very own Head Boy playing the hard, womanizing, and slick-back haired Danny Zuko, there is the question of whether he will be

able to portray these characteristics effectively. Miriam Mells will play the sweet scottish-accented Sandy Olsson and, with her stunning vocal capability, it is an excellent pairing on the casting crew's part. There are other magical characters that will take the stage...but I don't want to risk spoiling the show so I'll keep my mouth shut.

The work for the Christmas panto actually began the second week of term, so igniting and keeping the Christmas enthusiasm high has been a momentous task. The musicians, artists, dancers, actors and stagehands have all been hard at work every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to bring this panto to



life.

On the 22nd of december (or the 21st if you were lucky enough to snatch a ticket), you will hopefully see a wonderful piece of art produced entirely by S6. So until then, sit down, buckle up and be prepared to travel the budget pop-culture universe.

Rebecca Keegan

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello readers,

After a one-year hiatus, the Bleater is back with a brand new team of young writers. We'll be reporting on the day-to-day news of Knox, as well as writing reviews of the latest books, albums, and films we've been enjoying. What's more, we'll be delivering sharp think-pieces with every issue.

Some of you may already be following us on Twitter (search "[@TheKnoxBleater](#)", you won't be disappointed) in which case you've probably been able to vote in some of our polls, the results of which we intend to publish in each issue.

Rebecca Keegan will be reporting on sport, Riona Bruce will be our Agony Aunt (send all your problems our way in the submissions box in the library), and we'll be publishing a column by Tristan Jackson with every release. On top of this, every member of our team will be working hard to put together articles and reviews to make the Bleater as chock-full of great content as possible.

Finlay Logie



WINTERTIME MUSINGS WITH TRISTAN JACKSON

Well I guess it's winter again, that's where I'll start. What did you expect? A deep philosophical musing on the pros and cons of municipal darwinism (somebody somewhere will understand this reference)? If you did you came to the wrong place.

Yes, it's winter and yes, it's cold, so stop wearing shorts you morons (I'm talking to you Jack). Right now the halloween parties are going ahead and those in sixth year that failed their exams are crumbling apart bit by bit. At this point I'm just sitting here, typing whatever comes into my head.

As I write this, it's dress down day, where everyone's just wearing strange variations on the same style; I thought we weren't supposed to wear uniform?

Alas, that's just how it always is. I can't say much really, sat singing along to 'Fascination' by Alphabeat - nobody's perfect.

Tristan Jackson

Agony Aunt

We're always looking for submissions to our 'Agony Aunt' column; if you have a problem, we'll help resolve it! Whether it's stress about exams, a relationship problem, or maybe just an argument between friends, we're here to help.

The box for submissions is located on top of the Book Returns box in the library.

Staff Writers: Riona Bruce, Georgia Herriott, Tristan Jackson, Rebecca Keegan, Finlay Logie.

Photographer: Megan McKirdy

Freelance Submissions

We're eager to include pieces of writing from other Knox students in our Spring/Summer edition. If anyone has a piece of writing which they are particularly proud of (anything from a piece of poetry or a short story to a discursive essay or thinkpiece), send it to us at theknoxbleater@gmail.com.

Music Reviews

22, A Million, Bon Iver

8/10



This year, Justin Vernon released his 3rd studio album under his alt-folk project Bon Iver. This album comes with a slight twist on his usual sound, incorporating a lots more electronics in its post-production - a bold move which has paid off well, making this one of the best albums of 2016

Favourite Track: "29 #Strafford APTS"

Awaken My Love, Childish Gambino 9/10



Donald Glover, the multi-faceted actor, rapper, and singer, has revisited his Childish Gambino project this year

with his latest release "Awaken My Love." This is his third studio album (discounting an extensive back-catalogue of mixtapes) and it is notably different from his usual style: he takes influence from African-American soul and funk musicians (see George Clinton, De La Soul) and seems to drift from his usual tendency towards producing hip-hop music.

Favourite Track: "Me and Your Mama"

Film Reviews

Hunt for the Wilderpeople

9/10



If you only go to see one film about a boy trekking through the wilderness of New Zealand trying to avoid child services, make it Taika Waititi's latest film, "Hunt for the Wilderpeople". Combining established actor Sam Neill (*Jurassic Park*, *Hunt For Red October*)

with young Maori actor Julian Dennison, this film is as heartwarming as it is hilarious, and it's guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them

8/10



When we hear the name J.K. Rowling, I don't think there is anyone who doesn't feel their inner-child scream with delight, and "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" certainly made us scream. The lovable, comedic characters, wizards, wands, and wonderful special effects will have you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end during this latest instalment of the wizarding world.

An evaluation of the 2016 US Presidential Election



Well it's over now, but damn was it a bumpy ride. Suddenly, at the end of the road, the shocking (but not really unexpected) happened.

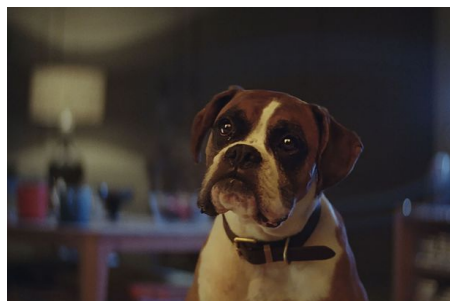
Yes, a businessman will soon sit in the White House, and perhaps this is a fate we would always have had to face in the increasingly corporate consumerist society we live in. Now this particular businessman has had many titles; fraudster, misogynist, racist, member of the one percent living off of daddy's money (despite what he says), and liar are just a few of the things Donald Trump has been labelled. Despite this, 25.5% of the US' registered voters believe he can "Make America Great Again", so that's the verdict. What the future will hold for the establishment that Donald Trump swore to destroy? I suppose we'll find out after the next sexual assault trial is over. Oh, and of course he's pledged to cut corporation tax by more than half...yay?

That's enough against trump for now, I could go on but I'd probably get very angry and throw the schools netbook out the window (not a huge loss, but I'd probably be yelled at a bit and I can't be bothered with that).

So, on Trump's side of things...well after looking on the internet I can't find anything good. Oh well, I tried to be unbiased but he just makes it so hard!

Tristan Jackson

A critical analysis of the 2016 John Lewis Christmas advert



It's December and the winter chills have finally descended upon us. Every shop, restaurant, and coffee stall have begun their maddening spiral of festive cheer. This can only mean one thing for those of us who simply cannot live without their trusty television: Advert Wars.

Year after year we are faced with the decision of who has the most, heart-warming, cute and enjoyable Christmas advertising campaign. Be it for us to know and the superstores to find out, that though we all enjoy the bashing of the plot twists and the battering of the empty characters, we'll still not sway our loyalty to our local shop.

The excitement sets in as soon as a slightly ominous social media account appears, often in the form of a 'Christmas' animal, the bear, the hare, the robins, the penguins and this year...a boxer. Just doesn't quite cut it now does it?

Poor Buster isn't even the worst part, where is the family love and sharing, and hello? A cheesy Christmas song? This year's advert is

based on a company trying to regain their 'serious' image and that is simply unacceptable at Christmas. Everyone loves their ugly jumpers from Nan and dressing up as an elf in the workplace would be deemed "greatly unprofessional" in any month bar December so why must John Lewis come along and ruin it for everyone. They think they are being clever with the goofy animated animals and the disapproving family? They aren't. John Lewis have disappointed the British public and themselves.

I mean really the best part about the whole facade is the badger and us Brits don't even like badgers (our last prime minister heavily encouraged the badger cull).

This year, John Lewis certainly do not have my vote. Anyway, I'm on my way to write to Mrs Claus and ask for the eradication of the pay gap. M&S? Now

that's a shop I'd buy my Christmas pudding from.

Georgia Mae Herriott

Bake Off



As you must all be aware, the events of September 2016 left many feeling overwhelmingly desolate. Devastation covered the breadth of the country. Children and teens alike were turning to their elders for support during this difficult time, but they too were unable to formulate a response. The nation had PGBBOTSD: Post Great British Bake Off Traumatic Stress Disorder. This was the effect of the horrid news that, as of 2017, *The Great British Bake Off* will no longer be aired on the BBC.

Our love affair with the show is down to many things: Mary Berry; the innuendos; Paul Hollywood; Mel and Sue; the visual aesthetics; the friendliness; the tent and the highlight of no adverts. The fact of the matter is, it cannot be replicated without these; one missing ingredient and the cake will sink. The epicentre of this disaster was when the BBC announced that they could no longer afford to broadcast *Bake Off* and thus it was moving to Channel 4. Although this technically only meant that viewers would have to move a few channels down, the damage caused by this catastrophe was irreversible. Adverts? During *Bake Off*? The thought seemed unfathomable, and was loathed by many.

The aftershocks were prodigious. Mel and Sue announced that they would not 'follow the dough' and resigned from the GBBO and if this was not enough to melt your chocolate ganache hearts, darling Mary also followed suit and said she too would depart *Bake Off* once it left the BBC. This left us with Paul. Those of us who hadn't already died from despondency were holding out hope that there would still be a tangible mark left of the old *Bake Off* when it switched sides. Or there were those of us who, like Gordon Ramsay, couldn't keep our anger subdued and reverted to egging Paul on to depart with the rest of them so we wouldn't have to look at the commercialised 'new' *Bake Off* as an ugly sister of 'old' *Bake Off*. If Mr. Hollywood had resigned like his fellow co-workers we would have been able to distance ourselves from the relationship between the BBC and Channel 4 *Bake Off*. But no, Mr Hollywood has over whipped this family resulting in...well that's for the bakers to work out.

With *Bake Off* moving to a channel which broadcasts people standing naked and rates them on their looks, or where people marry complete strangers through the oh so imaginatively named '*Naked Attraction*' and '*Married At First Sight*' it really isn't on the same level as *The Great British Bake Off*. No. I want to sit with my cup of tea, switch my television on 5 minutes early so that I don't miss anything, and happily watch the end of

Maybe you couldn't help it. Like a

whatever show happens to be on beforehand. Casualty? Excellent! Poldark? Jolly good! Hollyoaks? Bollocks! A 2 minute advert with a guy singing opera about car insurance? Not my cup of tea; even with the prospect of a choux bun to drool over.

Holy Mary Mother of Cake, pray for us - you're our only hope. Our salvation can be found in your seductive commentary, which truthfully can be discomfoting, but I'd never say that out loud. You captivate our minds and our hearts like no other can. We cherish you dearly like you're one of our own. The ghastly thought of you no longer being a part of *GBBO* is like having a soggy bottom on a Victoria Sponge; it's just not good. When you said that you will not pack your muffin cases and move to Channel 4 because you are 'loyal to the BBC', myself and all other patriotic persons shed a tear for National Institutions. Oh, how we have enjoyed seeing your face on our televisions every Wednesday. We must learn to cope with this unimaginably terrible fate, but in the spirit of our ancestors, we will make do and mend, our broken hearts.

My darlings, Mel and Sue. You are renowned for your innuendos and puns (Buns? No? Okay, I tried), and rightly so; not many people could get the same amount of explicit jokes past the BBC. Even Ofcom won't regulate you! You are loved and every viewer secretly wishes you were their best

friends. You provide comedy to a show that's otherwise like *Big Brother* but with cupcakes. The entertainment you manage to produce is impressive given the sparsity of available material.

Twitter users, as always, were quick to get involved in the unfolding events, with one user being quoted as saying 'Mel and Sue are leaving the bake off, that's it my life is over' contrary to your belief that this is hyperbolic, I can assure you that this is very much fact. This was the general consensus of the GBBO fans: the show without you is like toffee with no chew. Even in your resignation letter did you oh so generously provide us with one final innuendo. "(We) have loved seeing it (GBBO) rise and rise like a pair of yeasted Latvian babs", I don't believe any comment is necessary.

Paul. Every inch of me is begging to scream out in condemnation of your decision. But I am better than that, I know when the to keep my mouth shut. Whereas you will just keep shoveling delicate delights into your money hungry body. No, it is fine honestly, Mary will just discuss her favourite recipes by herself, please don't go out of your way to help the elderly. It's not like you've referred to her as your 'second mother' or anything, because abandoning your - second - mother after losing her baby is a dreadful prospect Mr Hollywood.

fictional character, maybe your name reflects your desires. But your character arch has failed miserably old chap. I could be really mean and draw parallels between you and Darth Vader, but I won't.

Being ever the optimist, this situation could be worse. After all, it's not often a show makes it out alive when a production company and a broadcaster have a fracas! We do still - technically speaking - have *The Great British Bake Off*...just minus Mary, Mel, Sue, Dignity, and Morality.

And so, one can say firmly and with a heavy heart that one will not be following *The Great British Bake Off* past season seven. One will proceed to side with the British Broadcasting Corporation forever more, and will grow to resent Channel 4 because of its affiliation with corrupting something so pure, so British. Thusly with one's British politeness and poise, all I have left to say is this: sod off Channel 4!

Rebecca Keegan

Netflix Picks

NETFLIX

- ❖ *Gilmore Girls*
- ❖ *Freaks and Geeks*



- ❖ *Suits*
- ❖ *Stranger Things*



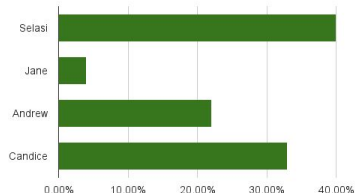
- ❖ *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*
- ❖ *How To Get Away With Murder*
- ❖ *How I Met Your Mother*



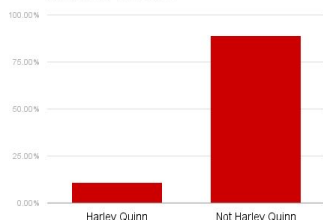
For more recommendations, follow us on twitter at @TheKnoxBleater

Twitter Poll Results

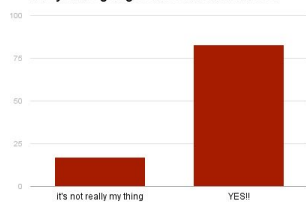
Who did you want to win GBBO 2016?



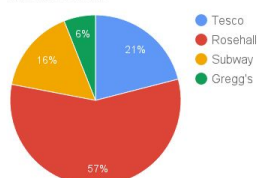
Halloween Costumes



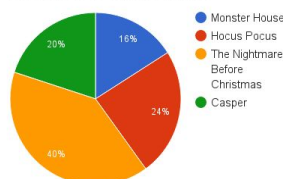
Will you be going to the Christmas dance?



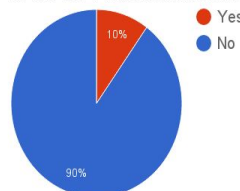
Lunch Locations



Favourite kids' Halloween film



Are you happy with the outcome of the US Presidential election?



Activity Programme

Here at Knox, you are spoilt for choice regarding extra curricular activities. For further details on these, contact Mr Wands or any member of staff from the P.E. department

Sports

Girls In Sport

On Friday the 18th of November, all S1 to S3 girls were taken off timetable and brought down to the games hall for an event focused on inspiring young girls to participate in sports, run by the Sports Council.

Anya Wylie, the Young Ambassador for Knox, had the following views on the event: "We had loads of positive feedback from all the girls, telling us to start up extra clubs so they could keep taking part in sport which was amazing to hear". The girls had a fifteen minute taster session of a variety of sports: rugby, table tennis, dance, football, and hockey. Active Schools funded some refreshments such as oranges and bottles of water to further promote a healthy lifestyle.

Some of the girls who participated said that "It was so much fun to do" and "I had a great day trying new sports". I hope - and i'm sure many share this view - that this event continues to run and grow as its effect on young girls is indisputably positive.

Rebecca Keegan

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