

# The Teen Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



## Junior States of America Trip

By: Joey Frederic

On high school campuses across the country, there are students concerned with what is going on in the world around them. The Junior States of America was created by and for those young people. Since its founding in 1934, more than 500,000 students members have become active, informed citizens through JSA. The mission of the Junior State of America and the Junior Statesmen Foundation is to strengthen American democracy by educating and preparing high school students for lifelong involvement and responsibility in a democratic society.

JSA is a student run organization that revolves around the enthusiasm, and hearts of its participants. A few of the many purposes, and responsibilities JSA is accredited with is helping develop leadership skills, challenging one another to think critically, to voice and advocate their opinions, respect others views, and help gain the ability to put self interest aside for the greater good of the people. My experience with JSA has truly been a remarkable one. Having had the privilege to go to three major JSA events, including Fall state in Boston, Debate Wars at Stuyvesant, and Winter Congress in Washington.

April 2015, Issue 2

Have a Happy Spring  
from The Excalibur staff!

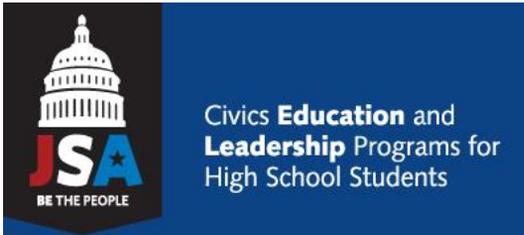


- Upcoming 2015 Events -

SAT Exam 5/2  
AP Exams 5/6-5/10  
Fine Art Exhibit 5/7  
Sports Awards Night 5/14  
Last Day of Classes for Seniors 5/15  
Senior Prom 5/20

## JSA trip continued...

For two to three days, participants engaged in debates styled in a similar form of how our U.S. Congress functions. I remember many of the awe inspiring debates that I have had the privilege to participate, watch, speak, and learn from. The topics debated varied from a wide range of ideas. Formatted in a bill system, some of the debates included controversial topics such as feminism, federal minimum wage, and standardized testing . In a world full of endless problems and conflicting opinions, the art of debate is a very valuable tool to have.



JSA also provides as a link to a number of academic and political organizations, and activists that strive to get a younger audience to support their cause. Some of these organizations include Stanford University, University of Virginia, and even abroad with the Diplomat Program in Beijing, China. I am thankful for a great many things in my high school experience , and I can say, with the utmost honesty, JSA is one of them. JSA allowed me to develop a deeper interest in the political world; a world I may one day wish to partake in as a career.



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# Riddles



1. Until I am measured  
I am not known,  
Yet how you miss me  
When I have flown.  
What am I?

2. Take away my first letter, and I  
still sound the same. Take away  
my last letter, I still sound the  
same. Even take away my letter in  
the middle; I will still sound the  
same. I am a five letter word.  
What am I?

3. At night they come without  
being fetched, and by day they are  
lost without being stolen.  
What are we?

\*Answers on last page



# THE TIME HAS COME

The time has come,  
We must stand,  
To become light,  
And save the people,  
Before us.

The Good, the Bad,  
and Funny days,  
That brought us  
together,  
To the very end.

We must remember,  
Our old friends,  
And the new,  
That soon to become.

And now let,  
Party.  
For the people,  
Whom leaving,  
joining,  
And becoming  
The new senior.

Never forget,  
Who YOU are.  
And never betray,  
Your heart,  
To make new friends.

This will never,  
End.  
In our heart.

And as we walk,  
To the door.  
We turn around,  
And remember,

**BY: JEREMY RIGAULT**



Visit our website at:

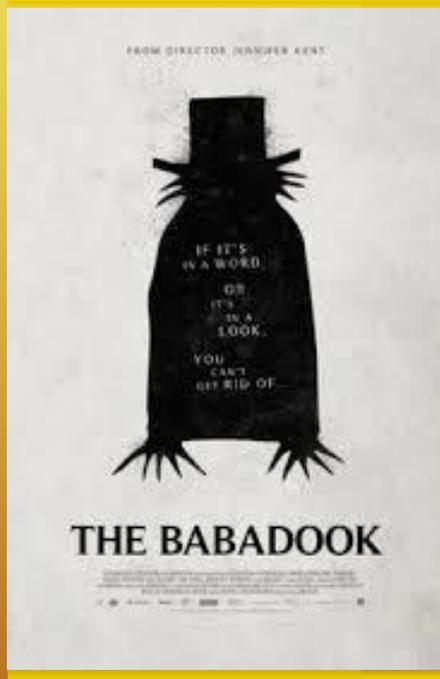
<http://www.nazarethrhs.org>

## Movie Review: The Babadook

by: Yajá Mulcare

I chose to review a film that is most likely unknown by many, as it came and went among several movie theaters and was quickly brushed off as the typical "monster" horror movie. In 2014, the Babadook was a film that used its fair share of symbolism, heightened emotions, and deepest fears. This movie primarily focused on the idea of depression - how it warps the mind of an individual and creates a surrounding aura of darkness. Within that darkness remains the Babadook - an evil creature derived from a child's storybook, who eats up people's fears and regrets to grow stronger. This creature portrays the evil of depression and the human emotion behind it. The Babadook can sense when a person is angry, guilty, or even distressed about something that happened in their life. Although the film is said to be a "monster" movie, this creature turns out to be something you don't entirely expect. When revealing real and truthful situations such as family issues, detachment from society, and mental disability, The Babadook proves to be an outstanding horror/drama experience.

**Story:** The story is just riveting. It's intense, dark, and overall brutal. The Babadook makes sure that you feel what the main characters feel, and introduces a world where everyone is an enemy. There is no compassion in this film; there is only a matter



of survival both physically and mentally. When viewing this film, you will see that everything is straight-forward. There's no plot holes, no unnecessary scenes, no convoluted ideas. The Babadook cares about portraying its message to the audience and makes sure that message stays in your mind. It's professional, it's clear, and it's concise. 9/10

**Characters:** The main characters of The Babadook are your average, everyday mother and son, trying to make a living. Or, at least you think so. This family is very dysfunctional, as the mother suffers from loneliness and regret, while the son fails to control his emotional and behavioral state. These protagonists are both sympathetic and empathetic as they portray an actual messed up family that tries everything in its power to just live normal lives. The side characters are annoying and unlikable, but in a way it makes sense. They're supposed to be an obstacle, or barrier, that holds the mother and son back. These other characters serve as the major source of conflict for this movie, as they constantly attack and berate such a desperate family. 8/10

**Effects:** If I had to choose the best effect for this film it would most definitely be the silence. There is NO soundtrack during the movie. There are only silent moments, and those moments make every little scene disturbing. 9/10

### Movie Review continued

**Overall:** The Babadook is brilliant in every way. The story is deep and truthful, the characters are very simple to understand, and the effects of the movie bring it home. This film may just be what your looking for if you're into the psychological sense of horror. It doesn't even count as a horror film, let alone one with tons of jump scares and ridiculous found-footage scenes. This is the best psychological horror I've seen in a long time. I'd never want to go through what the characters go through, which makes me give The Babadook a fantastic 9/10.



Yaja' Mulcare



In Celebration of African American/ Women's History Month  
FEBUARY 2015



## Senior Interviews - A Reflection

by Jacob Donato

**Topic:** Reflecting on your senior year and the past four years as a student at Nazareth.

**Participants:** Glen George, Joshua Germain, Yaja' Mulcare

1) First off, If you could describe your years as a student in Nazareth in only one word, what word would that be?

**Glen:** Complex

**Joshua:** Great

**Yaja':** Intense

2) Over the course of your 4 years in high school, how much do you feel you've matured?

**Glen:** On a scale from 1-10, I'd say... 9.5.

**Josh:** I felt like I've really grown up throughout high school.

**Yaja':** I've felt like I matured, mostly because of the classes I took and all the people I've interacted with.

3) Now that you're nearly 3 months away from graduating, which major highlight of your senior year do you look forward to the most before you bid farewell in June? (e.g. Senior Trip, Spirit Week, Senior Prom, etc.)

**Glen:** I can't decide.

**Josh:** Mostly the prom. Oh and also the Paintball Trip. I wanna try to get headshots! \*chuckles\*

**Yaja':** Honestly, just the Senior Trip... and also the Senior Prom because this is the last chance I'll ever get to party with my friends before we all move on to college.

4) Have you caught senioritis already (to the point where you're just dying to leave and graduate)? If so, how do you try to stay motivated to keep succeeding academically until your last day of school?

**Glen:** No I haven't. I don't want to leave. There's something at Naz that makes me happy and I can't leave it.

**Josh:** I think it's starting to kick in. I'm trying to avoid it so that I can try to get exempted from final exams for two of my classes (Statistics and Economics). So...I have to work hard.

**Yaja':** Of course I have! Well... I guess I just keep on doing my work as much as I can. It's not like senioritis is stopping me from doing my work. I'm still doing it!

# Support

## Nazareth Kingsmen Baseball



&

## Lady Kingsmen Softball



## The Excalibur Staff



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Riddle Answers:

1. Time
2. Empty
3. Stars