

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BASIS GAZETTE

BY MALIA KUO &
ESTHER LI-CHEN

In the beginning, there was only darkness. Ignorance ran rampant in BASIS Scottsdale, and the only thing students did was study. If new events occurred, nobody would report on them. It was a time filled with chaos and confusion. But then, one year, Robert Witz, bright-eyed and hopeful, walked through the doors of BASIS Scottsdale. He had heard rumors of an underground newspaper, a newspaper which gallantly battled the shroud of confusion surrounding the school, but every time he would look for this miraculous publication, it'd disappear. One day in 2009, he heard students whispering and trading papers underneath their desks during AP Lang. Aha! This was the moment of truth. Would he finally be able to find the underground newspaper?

“Check yourself before you wreck yourself,” he murmured underneath his breath as he strode up to the students and snatched the paper out of their grubby hands. This was it! He had finally found it: the holy grail of BASIS -- the Gazette. He felt power surge throughout his body, tingling with electricity. What was happening to him? Out of the corner of his eye, he saw one of his students, Natasha Bonfield, nodding as she proclaimed, "he is the chosen one." Was this her doing?

He could barely think as a blinding light streamed out of the paper and began to envelop his entire being. It felt like his body was being rewritten, transformed one cell at a

time into something better, something powerful. The students sat, awestruck, as they saw a figure emerge from the light. In that moment, Gazetteman, the faculty advisor for the new extracurricular club the BASIS Gazette, was born.

Now, after a decade, BASIS Scottsdale has been purified of its darkness due to Mr. Witz's commitment and patience. Recently, we were lucky enough to be able to sit down with this legendary figure and ask him a few questions about the BASIS Gazette.

How did the Gazette start?

I was teaching AP Lang and Honors Lang. Natasha Bonfield, a sophomore, had started producing an underground newspaper, the Gazette, and I asked if she'd be willing to adapt it to be a school-sanctioned newspaper. She said yes, and I asked her to type up a proposal for me to submit for approval.

What's your favorite part of the gazette?

I've always liked the comic and any school news articles. But, I have a soft spot this year (move "this year" to after but) for Ask ME.

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SAVE THE DATE

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What was the first advice column?

Our first advice column was called "Dear Abby," written by a girl named Abby. Later, more advice columns would sprout up, such as Yaship Girl and Ask ME.

Have there been any traditions in the Gazette that you hope will continue or will be revived?

I'd like to bring back the "match the teacher to the quote" idea. I like to hear what my colleagues say in class.

How has the Gazette impacted BASIS Scottsdale, in your opinion?

I hope that it's led to more students knowing more about what's happening at our school. I know it's also added to the quantity of our school's recycling.

How has the Gazette changed since the beginning and what do you look forward to in the future?

We have fewer articles now, and we have more specific sections of the paper than we started with. I look forward to having it reflect what students want to read and write about.

What advice do you have for future Gazette journalists?

I would say for most writers, it helps to read more. I would pay attention to what other journalists are putting out there in the world. Find articles that people enjoy and think of different articles that you would like to write. We would give you the chance to write that.

How would you describe the Gazette to people who have never heard of it before?

It's a monthly school newspaper produced entirely by students outside of the school day, unlike most school newspapers. It has a few news stories about the school, some interesting opinions on our world, and a dash of wit(z).

There have been many contenders over the years. "Worthy" opponents, semi-threats of publications. The battles have been quiet. No blood has been lost ... yet. From the BASIS Inquirer, to the BASIS Blurb, to the BASIS Bulldog Blast, all have fallen.

Gazetteman stands triumphant over a sea of conquered enemies. Our reign... Not over. Our peak ... Not yet reached. The ending of this paper... never truly finished... You too could be a part of Gazetteman's team! Batman is nobody without his Alfred, just as Gazetteman is nobody without his team of journalists, editors, photographers, and illustrators.

A DECADE OF DICTIONARY DEVELOPMENT: THE WORDS OF THE 2010'S

BY VIRAJ MEHTA

The English language is constantly evolving, with new words added to its dictionary every year. The past ten years have seen the development of countless new words and phrases that have become integrated into pop culture. While some are now official dictionary entries and others remain simply slang for now, they have all contributed a lot for modern culture. With the end of the decade, a look back at the most impactful words and phrases of the decade is in order.

The first word on this list is “Facebook,” which is defined in the Oxford English dictionary as “to spend time using the social networking website Facebook.” The entry of this word and its shift from a noun to a verb signifies the monumental role online platforms have played over the past decade. While Facebook was introduced prior to 2010, social media’s explosion occurred within this decade, and people’s usage of social networking sites has skyrocketed. The entry of “Facebook” perfectly encapsulates the way culture has shifted to center around technology and social media.

While it was coined originally by Merriam-Webster Dictionary in 2002, the word “selfie” wasn’t popularized until this decade, becoming the Word of the Year in 2013. Another indication of cultural shifts reflecting the growth of technology such as the iPhone, “selfie” is colloquially used in a widespread fashion today, even if professional photographers may scoff at its usage.

What a happy coincidence — that last sentence was a perfect example of the next phrase: “throwing shade.” While the early forms of this were used in the 1990s, it only gained traction after an episode of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* in 2010. The phrase is used to indicate a “subtle, sneering expression of contempt for or disgust with someone,” as defined by Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and has been popularized through a host of memes.

A slew of other important words was developed this decade, including “binge-watch” and “tweet”, but I believe these three words best encapsulate some of the most impactful developments of this decade, demonstrating the importance of technology in our everyday lives. Whether through social media, selfies, or memes, our culture has seen a monumental shift with technology— and what better way to signify that than through the English language?

AN EXCHANGE WITH THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

BY DAVID YIN

Each year, BASIS Scottsdale hosts up to four Chinese students for a one-year exchange program. This program started seven years ago and has since offered exchange opportunities to many students. To commemorate, I interviewed one of the previous exchange students -- Shirley Yu -- who is currently studying at the University of Southern California.

Did you face any difficulties in some courses while you were at BASIS? What sorts of difficulties?

APUSH was definitely the hardest class for me. I needed to focus all my concentration on what the teacher was saying and take notes throughout the class. Even so, I sometimes got lost in the lecture. Besides, I was a little lazy, so I usually didn't review the notes until several days before the quiz or exam, which was difficult. Honestly, it's not easy to get a good score in this course.

What about STEM subjects, like math and physics?

They were much better than APUSH. Generally, it didn't take me a long time to study, even though I hadn't studied them before I came to BASIS. Physics class was the most interesting class I had the whole year because it helped refine my understanding of the field.

Did you suffer from culture shock?

I think I quickly became adapted to the new environment. It was not as hard as I initially thought it would be to make friends since there are lots of Asians in BASIS, who generally share a similar background. Also, I was not alone, as there were other international students who were experiencing the same thing as me. We backed each other up when needed.

Do you want to share any of your anecdotes?

I enjoyed my time in the Calculus AB class, though it is a freshman course and I, as a junior, seemed to be the odd-one-out among them. Among the students, I remember a boy named Chris who always said hello to me and talked with me in his spare time.

Overall, what do you think the International Students Program provided you?

The exchange experience allowed me to have a smooth transition from Chinese high school to American college. The curriculum BASIS offers not only makes me feel at ease with college subject matter but also let me become acquainted with many students with whom I still communicate and have a long-term friendship.

Over the next few months, I will be in touch with other previous international students and share their stories from BASIS Scottsdale. At the same time, I hope there could be volunteered interviewees that are willing to talk about their own take on the international students' program and how it affects themselves and other local students. If you are interested please make contact with me either by email (davidyinyida0609@gmail.com) or face to face.

TO RECLINE OR NOT RECLINE?

BY HENGZHI LI

Many of us know the horrible feeling -- you're stuck on a long flight, cramped in your tiny seat, trying to make yourself comfortable with the limited space you have. You close your eyes, ready to take a nap, but you are suddenly woken by a sharp pain in your knees. You open your eyes, surprised to find a couple inches of your precious legroom missing, your knees pressed tightly against the seat before you. Yes, the person in front of you decided to commit a horrendously selfish act -- reclining.

It goes without saying that it can be annoying to have other people shorten your legroom for their own comfort, especially when your space is barely enough to help you relax on a long flight. Considering this, airlines such as Delta and Spirit are already using new airplane seats with reduced reclination to help increase passengers' comfort. Union official Simon Sapper went so far as to call seat reclination "one of the most irritating, inconvenient, self-indulgent habits."

Some protesters of seat reclination even put their words into action. Troubled by knee pains caused by a seat-recliner, Ira Goldman created the Knee Defender. The Knee Defender is a gadget that can be attached to the legs of your tray tables so that the person in front of you cannot recline their seat. Although the Knee Defender is not prohibited by the Federal Aviation Administration, it has nevertheless caused conflict. In 2014, the Knee Defender sparked a confrontation between two passengers on a flight that forced the plane to make an unscheduled stop in Chicago to remove angry passengers. Currently, almost every major airline has forbidden the use of the Knee Defender on their flights.

Despite these attempts to prevent people from leaning back their seat, seat reclination remains a right for every passenger. The passenger has paid for their seat; if the seat allows them to recline, that is included in the purchase and it is hence a right to use it. Reclining can have health benefits too. Bigger space in your seat can allow you to move your legs and arms so that you can avoid deep vein thrombosis, deep vein blood clots that can pose serious health risks to long-flight travelers.

Thus, the message is clear: seat reclining is your right and can bring you comfort but be considerate when doing so. Remember that there is someone behind you who is just as uncomfortable as you are. Similarly, do not start a fight just because the person in front of you decided to recline their seat. Polite requests are much more effective than irate conversation, especially on a high-stress flight. Maybe that way, there won't be any repeats of incidents like the Knee Defender debacle.



(source: telegraph.co.uk)

BASIS-TO-COLLEGE

BY RITVIK WARRIER

BASIS Scottsdale's consistent top 5 ranking has put us at the top of college preparedness rankings. Our alumni are faced with the daunting task of maintaining excellence throughout their college careers. But a university education is different for everyone. I interviewed three alumni from the class of 2019 to determine how our consistently top-5 metrics truly play out from a personal perspective. In this interview, I spoke with Nishant Kannan at the University of Arizona, Saaketh Narayan at the University of Pennsylvania, and Gokul Karthikeyan at Drexel University.

What aspect of university tradition/lifestyle surprised you the most upon first sight?

Gokul: I would say the proximity to city-life. Drexel is located in Philadelphia, PA, which hosts a rapidly growing market. A lot of jobs are located here in the city, and conveniently enough, the university is located in the middle of it all. Obviously, Phoenix has a huge metropolitan area, and at BASIS we had the peace and quiet of the suburbs. At university I've definitely gained more exposure to city life, which is probably the most surprising thing I've encountered.

Nishant: The most surprising thing I witnessed upon entering college was the number of people in my classes. BASIS is a relatively small school, and our graduating class didn't even have one hundred students. To go from that type of close-knit school community to walking into a business class with 600 students was definitely a new experience.

Saaketh: To me, the most surprising thing was probably attendance. At college, as long as you're paying tuition, you're free to pick and choose which classes you want to attend and which classes you don't. Obviously, class attendance is crucial to succeeding academically, but really, the decision is up to you. You get more freedom in that way.

How well do you think BASIS Scottsdale prepared you for college, relative to the metrics published on Niche, GreatSchools, and other sites?

Gokul: The classes BASIS offers, even to freshman, are incredibly high level. The exposure to college-level classes such as APs and Capstones gives you more than just credits — it helps you understand complex material well before you see it in college. It really made that high-

school-to-college transition smoother for me.

Nishant: Since I took so many different high-level courses each of my four years at BASIS, I felt very prepared for the workload and barrage of homework that college gives you.

Saaketh: So BASIS, as we all know, gives us an intense load of coursework each night. BASIS taught me how to manage different activities alongside that schoolwork, such as basketball, Science Bowl, Quiz Bowl, etc.. Time management is very important here at the university setting. AP credits were also very useful, they can save you a lot of time, effort, and money.

How do you think the college lifestyle and newfound independence will prepare you for the future?

Gokul: College is that level between dependence on your parents and total independence in the professional world. Obviously, we still have our parents for financial backing and more, but this is really the transition stage into becoming completely independent. Once you get a job, you're on your own.

Nishant: The college lifestyle forces you to become more independent. You're really on your own. Planning meals, getting homework done — those are all on you. You don't have your parents to lean back on anymore.

Saaketh: Everything you do as a professional is your own responsibility entirely. Your parents will still be around, but for the most part, you're on your own. The independence that you'll feel in college might hit you hard at first, but it'll set you up well for your future.

For many of us, it's hard to think that the independence of college life is only a couple years away. While BASIS may be tough, our alumni's points of view show that its classes really do prepare students better for college. But getting into college is a whole process in and of itself. We can look up to our alumni as references to guide ourselves into the future, but for now, we should enjoy high school as long as we are still here!

ASK M.E.

BY MALIA KUO &
ESTHER LI-CHEN

Welcome to the 20s, decade dudes!

How was your winter break? Good? That's great! We know you missed our column while we were away. Don't tell the other journalists but *Ask M.E.* may be the only column with true journalistic integrity. This may be an understatement, but we view ourselves as Prometheus providing the fire of knowledge to poor, desperate humans. Will we be punished for our actions? Only time will tell. Just as the eagles plucked out his organs daily, we may suffer from the harsh editing of our editors. But now that we've gotten this off of our collective diaphragm, let us begin.

How do I cope with the inevitable loss of the seniors?

Everything is about you. ALWAYS you. Have you ever considered our feelings? "Ask ME?" Why doesn't anyone ever ask, "How's ME?" Not once have we received a question asking how we are. We remember when we first came to BASIS, we were both seven feet tall. We had luscious heads of hair. Our eyes were bright with the desire to learn.

Not anymore. We are now squat, sad, ugly, and depressed seniors. Burdened by the pressures of peers and the already crushing college debt, we are a bonafide Atlas holding up the world that *definitely* revolves around us. After being deprived of nutrients and the ability to hold a non-college-related conversation, we can no longer look people in the eye. We huddle in the darkness, eyes diminished into small sightless nodules that can only detect vague shadows ...

Anyways, YOU'LL be able to cope. And, we're doing GREAT, so thanks for asking.

How do I tell my parents about my pre-comps/finals grades?

It's always important to be honest and truthful with our parents. Education has always been of the utmost importance to parents, even though grades don't mean everything. So, who cares if you got a 98 instead of the 100 that you wanted to get? It's okay. Everyone makes mistakes. Everybody has those days. And it's okay to be a little stressed out about it. It's okay to use your lunch money to buy a ticket to Mexico and create a new identity. It's okay to find a new family and start a new life. It's all okay. And, when you get arrested by the Mexican authorities for tax evasion, it's okay to gnaw yourself out of the handcuffs and escape into the dead of the night. Although it is shameful that you were less than

perfect in some assignments, it can't be said that you never had options. There is always room for improvement. Once you return from whichever country you run away to, beaten-down and ragged, your parents will be so glad to see you that they'll forget all about your low grade. Now they have to focus on harboring an international criminal instead!

Is being lonely on Valentine's Day all that bad?

I'm sorry, but I can't help you with this question. I'm never lonely. I have all of my friends on the internet. Even though I've never met my Nigerian prince who is running from his tyrant uncle, I know that he loves me for who I am. I'd do anything for him. I just venmoed him \$2,000 to fly here and visit me. He's sent me only one picture of his gorgeous face. And I don't mean to brag, but he looks exactly like Ryan Gosling in *La La Land*. I'll attach the photo he sent below.



We'd like to leave you with one note:

As our penultimate month at the Gazette, we'd like to thank our readers for sending in so many great questions. Not once did we have to make up our own questions to answer. That would be embarrassing! Even though we weren't able to get to all of them, we enjoyed providing our large readership with legitimate, psychiatrist-recommended advice that hopefully, made everyone's lives a little easier. And, maybe, when you see us begging for change in the street in the near future when our careers ultimately fail, you'll be reminded of how much good we provided to the world and spare us a dollar or two.

Deuces,
ME

SCIENCE-FICTION PREDICTIONS FOR 2020: TRUTH OR SPECULATION?

BY ZAK HORI

In various forms of media like films, comics, and books, the year 2020 has proved to be a time period for widespread prediction. From alien invasions to a massive autonomous takeover by artificial intelligence, events during 2020 are moving towards some of these fictional speculations. While most of these predictions from the 20th century and beyond have not come true, our society can't help but to keep introducing new ones. Below, we take a look at predictions for 2020 events.

Men Step on Mars

A popular book in 1993 titled "Red Mars" and the 2000 film "Mission to Mars" both predicted that humans would walk on the red planet by 2020. Although humans cannot reach Mars yet, NASA is hosting another rover exploration this summer in July. The physical robot rover, named *Mars 2020*, will accompany the pre-existing rover, *Curiosity*, on this exploration journey. This new rover will be able to track and calculate a travel path five times faster than *Curiosity*. The improved version also incorporates automation, allowing the rover to explore and collect more data without waiting for commands back on Earth. With NASA's goal to start a settlement on the moon in 2024, Mars can't be far behind on the list. Several operations on the moon will be testing experiments for future human settlements and robot exploration. This rover is the first step towards making this prediction come true.

Giant Robots

Movies like Transformers, the Marvel films, and Pacific Rim predict that giant robots will live and coexist in our human society. As the current Largest Walking Robot in the world, approximately 15m long robot, is incapable of processing complex actions. Today, in 2020, we are experiencing a robot revolution on a smaller scale, ones that are able to process many complicated actions that humans perform on a daily basis. The fourth industrial revolution, the revolution of automation, is affecting our society in many ways. From self-driving cars, data gathering, and even automated kiosks at our local McDonalds, we might be adjusting to the integration of smaller, more intelligent robots in our households, workplaces, and schools. Even if we don't consider AI assistants like Alexa/Siri to be full robots, future evolution could make it possible. Large robots aren't going to be widespread this year, but on the flip side, tiny autonomous robots are becoming useful in a multitude of ways.

Connection Between the Brain and Internet.

In novels like "Air" authors have written about speculative science where our brains could be wired to the Internet. Of course, this is implausible, but even prior to 2020, people have had technological implants inside their bodies. Since 2018, companies in Sweden have been implanting microchips in workers' hands to reinforce more security and connect the user to more technology. For example, the user wearing a chip would only unlock the owner's computer if the chip unlocked their front door that day. Physical microchips are planned to increase individual security to near unbreakable levels. In addition, Elon Musk's company Neuralink is making progress in 2020 as well, specifically with experiments. The company plans to start testing technology on humans in 2020, with current progress on animal testing. However, the complex process of implanting has sparked a debate about the ethics and proper safety of this technology, similar to many other technologies that deal with artificial enhancements such as CRISPR editing.



(source: theguardian.com)

With all these science fiction realities, 2020 is definitely going to set the bar for new technological innovation. Even if these developments do not come this year, 2020 is setting the stage for bigger and better developments with technology centered around a goal of assisting humans in an unimaginable way.

WHAT ELEMENT ARE YOU?

BY ANGIE WONG

Being a BASIS student, you may have thought the word element referred to the periodic table of elements. Unfortunately, I do not have nearly enough space to put 118 different choices and results, nor do I have the brain capacity to think of different personalities for each of them. By element, I meant the four classical elements, as in the ones from the Last Airbender; however, this quiz is not related to the Last Airbender.

1. Someone insults your best friend. What do you do?
 - a. Join in and insult your friend (3 pts)
 - b. Defend your friend, possibly with words, possibly with the nearest throwable, heavy object. (1 pt)
 - c. Spill all the tea behind the offender's back but avoid confrontation because that's too scary. (2 pts)
 - d. Ruin the offender's life through a series of small plans that build up to their total destruction. (4 pts)
 - e. What friend? (5 pts)
 2. What is your favorite food?
 - a. Hot and spicy lava rocks. (1 pt)
 - b. Freshly ground coffee. (4 pts)
 - c. Ice water. (2 pts)
 - d. Oxygen. (3 pts)
 - e. None of those are food... (5 pts)
 3. Where would you like to be?
 - a. Inside my Minecraft dirt house. (4 pts)
 - b. Tanning at the mouth of a volcano. (1 pt)
 - c. About 36,070 feet under the sea. (2 pts)
 - d. Just chillin' at the top of Mt. Everest. (3 pts)
 - e. At home. (5 pts)
 4. If you were to have any power, what would it be?
 - a. To move liquids. (2 pts)
 - b. To move wind. (3 pts)
 - c. To move dirt. (4 pts)
 - d. To move hot things. (1 pt)
 - e. Wow those choices aren't obvious at all. (5 pts)
 5. Your favorite activity is:
 - a. Burying yourself under a mound of dirt. (4 pts)
 - b. Drinking water. (2 pts)
 - c. Playing with fire. (1 pt)
 - d. Breathing. (3 pts)
 - e. Watching TV. (5 pts)
 6. Someone compliments you. How do you feel?
 - a. Confused. (4 pts)
 - b. Angry. (1 pt)
 - c. Stressed. (2 pts)
 - d. Afraid. (3 pts)
 - e. Bruh none of those make sense. (5 pts)
 7. What is your favorite temperature?
 - a. Room temperature? (5 pts)
 - b. Boiling. (1 pt)
 - c. Freezing. (3 pts)
 - d. Depends on my mood. (4 pts)
 - e. Perfect. (2 pts)
 8. What is the best battle strategy?
 - a. Run away. (2 pts)
 - b. Cheat. (3 pts)
 - c. Offense is the best defense. (1 pt)
 - d. Defense is the best offense. (4 pts)
 - e. Fortunately, I've never been in battle. (5 pts)
 9. What is your favorite color?
 - a. Spicy hot orange. (1 pt)
 - b. Clear. (3 pts)
 - c. Tree green. (4 pts)
 - d. Ocean blue. (2 pts)
 - e. Other. (5 pts)
 10. My favorite state of matter is:
 - a. Plasma. (1 pt)
 - b. Liquid. (2 pts)
 - c. Solid. (4 pts)
 - d. Gas. (3 pts)
 - e. I don't have one. (5 pts)
- (1-11) Fire - Everything changed when the fire nation attacked. You have a hot personality! Take that as you will.
- (12-23) Water - Water is wet. You go with the flow and have a chill personality!
- (24-35) Air - People cannot survive more than three minutes without you. But your personality is also rather unpredictable.
- (36-47) Earth - You got dirt. *cough* I mean you have a strong, independent personality!
- (48-50) Surprise - You got: the element of surprise! Why? **BECAUSE YOU CHOSE NO FUN ANSWERS.** If you got this result, you took this quiz way too seriously. Try again.

