

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## LOOKING BACK ON HOOPCOMING — BY MALIA KUO THE GAME AND THE DANCE



Pictured: Varsity point guard Ravi Patel preparing for a free throw during the Hoopcoming Game

Fresh off the relaxation and contentment of Winter Break comes the inexplicable aura of resignation and defeat that comes with the return to school for the second half of the academic year. Thankfully, to keep spirits high, BASIS had our annual Hoopcoming basketball game Friday, January 11th from 8-10 p.m., as well as a subsequent dance on Saturday the 12th. Here is a quick run through of these exciting weekend events.

**SAVE THE DATE**

January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	February 2: Groundhog Day
January 22-February 1: Trimester 2 Exams	February 14: Valentine's Day
February 1: End of Trimester 2	February 18: Presidents' Day

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On Friday, anticipation was high for the upcoming game between BASIS Scottsdale and BASIS Chandler. The mood was electric. Seeing as the bleachers were entirely filled, most of the players' family, friends, and fans resorted to squeezing too many people in the limited space. With great players such as Brendan Flaherty, Dustin Miao, and the Gazette's own Tanay Vedartham, the junior varsity team won with nearly double the points of BASIS Chandler. At 8 p.m., the varsity game began with starting juniors Ravi Patel and Case Parsons and starting seniors Joey Reed, Nishant Kanaan, and Jack Flaherty. Immediately, the game was off to a great start, with an early lead in the first quarter, though Chandler kept up with Scottsdale throughout the game. During the second quarter, the score margin was close, but by halftime, Scottsdale was up by ten points.

During the varsity game's halftime, the junior and senior Hoopcoming Kings and Queens were named! Congratulations to the senior queen and king, Julie Loison and Nishant Kanaan, as well as our junior queen and king, the Gazette's very own Angie Wong and Bobby Yalam.

Following this illustrious coronation, the game continued. During the third quarter, Chandler made a small comeback, hitting 3 three-point shots in a row. Nonetheless, Case Parsons put the nail in the coffin with his own three pointer. After maintaining a lead of at least ten points throughout the game, the varsity team's Hoopcoming game ended with a score of 55-43. One of the crowning moments of the entire game was when senior Harrison Miao made a half-court buzzer beater at the end of the fourth quarter. Congratulations to both the JV and varsity teams for such a victorious night!

After the Hoopcoming games on Friday came the Hoopcoming Dance on Saturday, from 6-9 p.m. Let's give a huge thank you to the BASIS Boosters for sponsoring this retro-themed dance. They enlisted a professional DJ and Photobooth, as well as arguably the best part of the dance – Donut Bar donuts. Being able to take a break from dancing to take photobooth pictures with ridiculous props was definitely a highlight of the dance; the pictures taken were immediately printed onto small postcard-sized sheets as a personalized souvenir. Pastel pink balloons lined the dance floor, with mini records pasted to the windows and miniature strobe lights contributing to the 1950's theme. All these factors likely contributed to the fact that the dance was BASIS Leadership's most successful one ever – with ticket sales totaling over \$3000!

Overall, the first weekend following Winter Break definitely stood out for our school this year. While our school may not have a traditional football Homecoming, our Hoopcoming game has remained a tradition in BASIS for many years and our most popular sports event of the school year. Even though the Hoopcoming Dance is a new event, it may become a new BASIS tradition considering the success of this last dance. Let's give a final congratulations to our new Homecoming Kings and Queens and our JV and varsity wins!



Pictured: BASIS's varsity team in action during the game

# 2019 SENIOR SEND-OFF

BY ANYA WAHAL & NITYA  
AGGARWAL

The time has come! The annual BASIS senior send-off is approaching, and soon, the school hallways will feel much emptier; the parking lot, safer; the lunch tables, cleaner; and attendance rates, higher. Despite these benefits, we have to admit that seniors are important to BASIS – we’ve made our share of mistakes, but we’ve had our triumphs as well. That’s why we wanted to take the time to interview some seniors about their experiences at BASIS, as a final hurrah.

*What are you most excited for going into college?*

**Srishti:** I’m excited to meet new people, take interesting classes, and pursue what I’ve always wanted to do, but haven’t had the time for yet.

**Bella:** I can’t wait to go somewhere where the donut per capita is greater than Arizona’s. Going to college in a place where the sushi is better would be an added bonus.

**Anuka:** The independence to do what I want to do. I’m excited to learn more about myself.

**Shivalee:** I’m excited about the different extracurriculars and classes that college offers. Everyone says college is the best four years of your life, so I’m looking forward to seeing if that holds true for me.

*What are you most scared for?*

**Jackson:** Getting a terrible roommate! I’m scared I’ll get someone I can’t get along with.

**Fajr:** College is supposed to be really challenging, so I’m most scared about balancing my own interests and keeping track of everything, from my education to my mental health.

**Srishti:** College is portrayed as the best four years of your life, or the period when you really find who you are, but I’m scared that it won’t live up to those expectations.

**Michael:** I’m scared about adjusting to the different environment of a new school. I’ve been at BASIS for 8 years, so I’ve never really had to deal with new social situations like that.

**Michelle:** Only being able to afford instant ramen!

**Anuka:** I am scared that I’ll begin eating uncontrollably and gain 30 pounds.

*What are your favorite memories of BASIS?*

**Fajr:** Definitely playing JV and Varsity volleyball, and winning our state tournament.

**Sophia:** There was a kid who would draw butts on the

chairs in Mr. Weaver’s classroom, and we called them the “butt chairs.” So, I guess I’ll miss our beloved butt chairs.

**Srishti:** Last year’s prom! I had so much fun, and I tried In-N-Out for the first time – it was just as delicious as I always imagined.

**Bella:** My favorite memory was the 9th grade trip to San Diego. Actually, I’ve enjoyed every event where all of us bonded and rallied together.

*If you could, what would you change about your high school experience?*

**Fajr:** I took the classes that I wanted to take, and challenged myself as much as I could. So, I don’t have any regrets!

**Sophia:** I would probably change how much time I put into classes that aren’t particularly relevant to my college education.

**Bella:** I’d be more adventurous and take more extracurriculars, instead of being so focused on academics.

**Michael:** I wish we’d stayed at the old school – the hallways here are technically bigger, but they feel smaller. Also, I’d go back to the fast food we used to get for lunch!

*What advice do you have for younger BASIS students?*

**Fajr:** It’s important to apply to schools that you can envision yourself going to. The application process is truly personal, and you shouldn’t let anyone take that away from you.

**Jacob:** Make sure that you keep an open mind, because you’ll likely find schools that you’re interested in but have never heard of. There are so many good colleges out there!

**Srishti:** Remember to cherish the people around you! You’ve been seeing the same people every day for years, so it’s easy to take them for granted, but after graduation, you’ll all go separate ways.

**Bella:** Dream big, but be realistic. Hope for the best and don’t go into the college application process thinking you’ll never succeed. Be proud of how far you’ve come!

**Michael:** Health is wealth. Don’t overexert yourself on

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high school work. Most good college essays need at least 8 re-do's, so don't be afraid to be yourself.

**Michelle:** Detach your grades and your college decisions from yourself, because "college admissions decisions do not determine your worth," according to Ms. Hager!

*What will you miss most when you leave for college?*

**Alicia:** My dogs, because they're always there for me no matter what.

**Fajr:** My mom's cooking, my bed, and my family and friends.

**Bella:** Free laundry and free food! I think we often forget the ease of having your laundry already folded and not having to buy detergent. I might go broke in college.

**Anuka:** Hanging out with my friends every day at the lunch table, because sometimes we get into deep conversation, and other times we talk about popcorn.

**Michelle:** I'm going to miss sleeping in my own bed – the mattresses colleges provide for you are subpar.

*What do you plan to pursue in college?*

**Jackson:** Mathematics, because there's a certain beauty in numbers. There's no other language that can be understood across cultures.

**Fajr:** I plan to pursue computer science, because it is a very flexible field. I want to see how it applies to other fields, like law, medicine, or the humanities.

**Jacob:** Either economics or computer science. Maybe something in between, because I enjoy the ways of thinking that both fields require. Both fields are very pertinent in solving global issues.

**Bella:** I aim to study biochemistry and public health, and after my four years, I hope to pursue an MD Ph.D.

**Anuka:** International relations and environmental studies. I think that saving the environment is one of the most pertinent issues on the planet today – I believe the way to resolve such issues is with diplomacy.

We hope you've enjoyed this chance to bask in the brilliance of this year's graduating class. As we depart from these hallowed halls, it's important that you all take advantage of our insight while you still can. With that, we bid you a fond(ish) farewell and wish you the best in all your hallway-crowding and anxiety-inducing endeavors!

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# NEWS

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## THE END IS NEAR?

BY SANAYA NICHANI

The start of 2019 is sure to bring new experiences, including ... the end of the world? Some devout Christian groups are preaching about the so-called “Apocalypse,” which is supposed to happen at the same time as the next eclipse, on January 21st. This eclipse, a Super-Blood Moon, will paint the skies an eerie red, but will it mark the coming of doomsday?

“Blood Moon” is the term given to Earth’s Moon when it is in total eclipse, or when the sun and moon align and the moon fully obscures the sun. The moon turns a deep, dark red because it is illuminated by sunlight, which is bent back toward the moon through refraction. The 2019 eclipse, dubbed a “Super-Blood Wolf Moon,” will be quite unconventional, as it will be much larger than usual blood moons. It will be visible in all of North and South America, including Arizona, and some parts of Europe, Africa, and Russia.

This phenomenon has caused panic among some religious believers. A few Bible passages in the Book of Revelations and the Book of Joel blatantly say that the Moon will turn into blood during the final days of humanity, and the appearance of the ominous Blood Moon is believed to be a sign that Jesus Christ will soon

return to Earth, creating the Second Coming of Christ. With the reddish glow and new magnitude of the Moon, many are preaching that the end is near.

One of the most prominent leaders of this movement, the Christian pastor Paul Begley, has warned that “this Super Blood Moon on the second anniversary of President Trump being sworn into office is a prophetic sign.” He argues that these events are fulfilling biblical prophecies, adding that such a warning is cited in the Book of Joel 2:31; “The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day the Lord comes.”

So, are these theories true? Will the world end much sooner than anticipated? Of course not! Blood Moons, even Super-Blood Moons, are rare, but completely natural. The last Supermoon was on July 27th, 2018, and, as that date came around, theorists predictably raged about the apocalypse, yet the fateful day passed and the planet kept spinning. So yes, maybe when Earth actually ends, the skies will be red and the moon will be dark and ominous, but that will be much deadlier than a mere eclipse.



Source: Business Insider



# TAKING THE “YOU” OUT OF YOUTUBE: T-SERIES & ARTICLE 13

BY ZANDER HILL

Anyone who’s been active on YouTube recently has probably seen some news about a channel called “T-Series.” Owned by Super Cassettes Industries Private Limited, an Indian music producing company, T-Series has one of the fastest growing subscriber bases in YouTube’s history, originally predicted to surpass PewDiePie, the channel currently boasting the most subscribers. This may not sound like a big deal, but if T-Series becomes the biggest channel on YouTube, it could have consequences far beyond the site itself.

It’s not T-Series itself that’s important, but what it represents. As a channel owned by a large production company, it doesn’t act as an individual producer, like more traditionally popular creators. Instead, T-Series exemplifies the burgeoning presence of big business on YouTube. YouTube has always focused on giving individual creators as much of a voice as those working in mainstream media; however, if the most subscribed channel on the site is part of a large corporation, users may think that their input is valued less than that of big business.

Because of this, creators have been working to maintain PewDiePie as the most subscribed channel; in early December, 2018, the difference in subscriber counts between PewDiePie and T-Series was only a margin of a few thousand, but now, PewDiePie is leading by millions. Even if it doesn’t necessarily show which channel is more popular, the subscriber count symbolizes the grassroots pushback: YouTube’s users don’t want T-Series to win.

Unsurprisingly, YouTube isn’t the only social media site where corporations are becoming more prevalent. The European Union recently passed a law known as “Article 13,” informally known as the “meme ban,” which places more liability on websites for user-generated content. Before, if a user posted something violating copyright laws, the website would not be held accountable for preventing its posting, only for removing the post itself. Article 13 marks a significant change, saying that sites must work not only to remove unlicensed posts, but also to “prevent their future availability.” It may sound as if the law is in place simply to protect companies’ intellectual property, but legislation rarely serves the purpose the public hears.

By holding a website responsible for every single upload, the EU is forcing websites to monitor all uploads that may infringe on copyright. And, unlike most internet users, big businesses can’t infringe upon their own copyright, so, while Article 13 doesn’t affect content made by corporations, it significantly inhibits the general public’s freedom to create.

Social media sites currently have far too much traffic to police every post before it is shared. So, to keep from violating the law, the easiest solution would be to allow only verified users, or users with significant public interest, to make content. Even the most popular users often use clips from copyrighted content, so most users would have a hard time earning that sort of verification. Normally, this isn’t a problem, as fair use laws allow copyrighted material to be used in content for “transformative purposes” (e.g., parody or criticism) and in small amounts. However, websites would be naive to think that someone making content under fair use wouldn’t ever slip up. Because of the increased consequences for those mistakes, websites wouldn’t want to verify anyone who doesn’t own everything in their content, or in other words, anyone who isn’t a major producing corporation.

Both T-Series and Article 13 show the same trend: big business becoming more and more prevalent on the internet, regardless of whether consumers want it. Unless people act to stop restrictions, like Article 13, on internet culture, the online world may be a lot less free for expression. The internet serves as our last bastion for communicating ideas with each other. Entering other forms of media, like journalism or television, is an achievable prospect for most people, so, without a medium for their voice, people lose the power to make change.

# THE (RE)DISCOVERY OF A LOST CITY

BY CALEB KING

A groundbreaking archaeological discovery was made in late 2018, just in time for the new *Aquaman* movie, by a team of British excavators: the Lost City of Atlantis was found on the coast of Spain! Well, that's what news headlines and Merlin Burrows say. Merlin Burrows, the satellite company that identified the site, wants to publicize their findings and raise money for the expedition of the century, but the reality is not as glorious as it sounds. In fact, the excavation of "Atlantis" is a perfect example of modern-day pseudoarchaeology.

Pseudoarchaeology is the practice of unprofessional or unqualified individuals hunting for lost artifacts, often sloppily and for personal gain rather than for historical merit. Many pseudoarchaeologists explore a site in hopes of finding particular items of interest, and instead of properly evaluating all the evidence from a site and making an unbiased historical conclusion, they cherry-pick whatever evidence suits their narrative and dismiss opposing facts.

One of the most famous pseudoarchaeologists in history is Heinrich Schliemann, a German nobleman who was obsessed with finding the site of Troy. In the late 19th century, Schliemann took a team to Turkey to excavate a tell, or an artificial hill made out of multiple ancient cities built on top of each other. This tell was made up of eight cities stacked on top of each other, named Troy 1-8, with 8 being the highest and most recently built. Instead of excavating from the top down, slowly but carefully unraveling the secrets of the many sites, he used explosives to dig into the side of the tell, eventually blasting his way down to Troy 3, a city which he declared to be the famed Priam's Kingdom.

However, Troy 3 turns out to have predated the Trojan Wars by thousands of years, and the contemporary bronze age city, Troy 6, was completely destroyed due to Schliemann's carelessness. Rather than using historical documents written during the time of the Trojan War, Schliemann instead used Homer's *Iliad*, an epic poem written about the Trojan war well after it happened, as well as local myths in Turkey, to choose the site of his excavation. As a result of his poor researching, historians today aren't even sure that Troy 6 was the real Troy, or if it just happened to be another city built at the same time; any

definitive evidence was destroyed by the explosives used to excavate Troy 3. In fact, most evidence found in actual historical records, which Schliemann ignored, suggested that the real Troy may have been located somewhere else entirely.

While Merlin Burrows did not aim to perpetuate lies about Atlantis when excavating the Spanish site they chose, they still followed a lot of the same flaws as Schliemann, except for his use of explosives. First and foremost, the site they chose was entirely based on the description of Atlantis in Plato's *Republic*, written ten thousand years after Atlantis allegedly fell into the sea. Additionally, the description, limited to a very brief paragraph in an otherwise lengthy work, is vague, explaining that the city is near water, west of Athens, and close to the Gates of Herculaneum (modern day Gibraltar).

Obviously, this is not specific enough to develop any solid conclusions, but there is even more evidence against Merlin Burrows that they failed to take into consideration. While the site currently looks like three concentric circles of islands, as Plato described, in the past it would have actually been many feet above sea level, resembling more of a mountain than an island. The site is actually part of a national park in Spain, and geologists ensure that there is no evidence of human habitation at the site from any historical period. Nevertheless, as pseudo archaeologists, the researchers at Merlin Burrows dismiss all of this opposing evidence in favor of their own fantastic narrative: that the ancient mythical city of Atlantis has been found after all these years.

No matter the motives of the archaeologist, it is extremely dangerous to present evidence in a misleading way. Manipulating facts to suit your own narrative is not going to reveal truths about our history and our culture, but will instead confuse it and mix our past with fantasy. In the case of Atlantis, the sole danger lies in the disregard for historical fact, but in the case of Troy, this pseudoarchaeology led to the destruction of important sites due to carelessness and a lack of training.

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# SCIENCE & TECH

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## 2019: THE YEAR OF AI & AUTOMATION

BY ZAK HORI

*“Hey, Google. Do you know what Siri is?”*

*“Siri is Apple’s virtual assistant. You know what? I’d love to watch Blade Runner with Siri.”*

This is one of the many examples of the complexity of artificial intelligence, or AI. 2018 saw developments such as the Pixel Buds, which is Google’s form of instant translation across languages, and 3D metal printing, which has the potential to transform production in various industries. With these impressive prior inventions, new AI technology in 2019 will likely surpass current expectations.

With the expansion of the AI industry, as evidenced by products like Siri, Cortana, Alexa, and Google Assistant, scientists predict that new technologies will focus on improving user interaction. Current AI has only limited functions, like playing music and turning on a light. However, new AI technology strives for more conversational, personalized interactions. Autodesk’s AVA (Autodesk Virtual Agent) attempted to integrate human speaking tones and facial cues, but faced technical issues. Despite the technology’s shortcomings, it signaled a new age of interaction of users being able to speak to their front door, shower head, fridge, or car with artificial intelligence.

For instance, car technology is becoming more intelligent, as more companies are integrating self-driving technologies into their models. Scientists claim that self-driving cars can move past human error, as they can scan 360 degrees and drive in difficult conditions like dust and snow. In fact, TuSimple, a company with a testing field outside of Tucson, created a self-driving truck that is able to see 1,000 meters ahead using cameras and lasers. Although these self-driving cars don’t use typical AI technologies that respond to users’ voices, they require in-depth intelligence to take into account weather, debris, pedestrians, emergency vehicles, and potential hazards.

Qualcomm’s Snapdragon 855, a new chip that functions inside smartphones, is expected to revolutionize cellular devices by providing access to 5G data networks, which are more efficient, and AI. Competing against similar technologies like Apple’s A12 Bionic and Huawei’s Kirin 980, the Snapdragon 855 is one of the smallest chips on the market, and has the potential to improve the general performance of cell phones. Moreover, Qualcomm’s newest technology offers AI services that are capable of performing a trillion operations.

The influence of AI has not only expanded on Earth, but also in space. In 2018, SpaceX sent a free-floating robotic assistant named CIMON to the International Space Station. CIMON, the “Crew Interactive Mobile Companion,” was created to relieve stress and provide instructions for the station’s crew to have a safer experience. In reality, Alexander Gerst, a German astronaut and a “friend” of CIMON, states that the robot has developed quite a stubborn attitude. This exemplifies the shift in AI technologies towards a more personal, unique, and ultimately human experience.

What will the world become when AI permeates most aspects of daily life? Will AI fight humanity like *2001: Space Odyssey* or *The Terminator*, or will AI become companions with humanity, like in *Star Wars*, *WALL-E*, and *Moon*? Although AI seems a little basic right now, new developments in the technology are rapidly expanding its role in our lives.





# A NEW ERA FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

BY ZAK HORI

After NASA's Apollo missions, planetary exploration was placed on hold. However, China is planning future space expeditions, with recent developments like Space X's reusable boosters and NASA's InSight device. These new missions, planned for 2019, will explore uncharted territory on the moon's "dark side," or the part of the moon that is not visible to our satellites. In addition, since that side of the moon is obstructed from Earth, communication has been difficult. Despite these obstacles, China's Chang'e-4 spacecraft is making a monumental mission to that very region of the moon.

The original Chang'e-1 in 2007 placed a satellite in orbit of the moon, and marked the first step for new moon-exploration programs. More recently, China's Chang'e-3 landed on the moon in 2013, but failed to bring samples back to Earth. Nevertheless, this event made China one of the few countries to successfully land a robot on the moon. Since the 2013 mission, the frequently upgraded Chang'e-4 spacecraft has gained plenty of new technology, including instruments to measure radiation levels and tools to study how particles interact with the sun. Additionally, this spacecraft will carry a tiny biosphere, or greenhouse, which will help scientists study the possibility of respiration and photosynthesis on the moon's dark side.

These impressive developments beg the question: why would China seek to explore the dark side of the moon? Planetary scientists believe that this region's terrain is distinct from that of the moon's visible side, with fewer craters and "seas," which constitute the dark shadows of the moon we can see on clear nights. New information on the composition of the moon's surface would catalyze further space research, and this mission could solve the mysteries of the moon's formation and its interesting geology. Former geologist and astronaut Harrison Schmitt said that scientists "who work directly with samples certainly would like to get their hands on those new rocks," providing one example of the science community's fascination with the unknown aspects of the moon.

In addition, the planned landing site of the Chang'e-4 is projected to contain potential frozen water craters, indicating the possibility of sustaining life on the moon. This new rocket will collect samples that could then be preserved for future analysis when new research tools are invented. China's new mission will surely awaken the world to the rewards of exploring space, now and in years to come.



Pictured: A digital rendering of the Chang'e 4 spacecraft on the moon  
Source: Middle East

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# SPORTS

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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR ARIZONA SPORTS FANS

BY TANAY VEDARTHAM &  
VIRAJ MAHTA

Phoenix sports fans are some of the most passionate in the country. However, aside from a 2001 World Series win for the Diamondbacks, none of our Big 3 teams – the Suns, the Diamondbacks, and the Cardinals – have seen much success in their respective sports. As fans, it may be enticing to jump on the bandwagon of a team with more success, but it is always more rewarding to see a team rise from the ashes and succeed. This is all we can hope for our Arizona teams, so here are some New Year's resolutions for sports fans to consider during these slumps.

**Suns' Fans: *Complain less and actually go to more Suns' games while they are still cheap.***

The Western Conference is highly competitive, as 14 out of the 15 teams have a solid chance of qualifying for the basketball postseason. It might seem embarrassing that the Suns are the one team that doesn't stand a chance of qualifying, but this dismal fact may not last long. Even though their poor record doesn't draw in the masses at games or on television, the team is still fun to watch, with plenty of high-flying dunks, impressive defense, and shots from Devin Booker, the team's star player. As their schedule is loaded with Western Conference talent, even the neutral observer can watch an interesting matchup, like the Suns vs. the Warriors, for an inexpensive price, a subtle perk of any rebuilding team.

**Diamondbacks' Fans: *Go to as many Spring Training games as possible.***

The Diamondbacks recently traded their best player, Paul Goldschmidt, and it doesn't look like the owners are willing to spend a lot of money to retain key players like A.J. Pollock and Chris Owings. Although it seems like Arizona's baseball ship is set to sink, the D-backs' roster is young and exciting, with talented players like Jake Lamb and Archie Bradley, both of whom are All-Stars with playoff experience. While the team's future is bright due to its fresh talent, this team is unlikely to make

the next round of playoffs. Fear not – there's always Spring Training, where most MLB teams warm up in Arizona and give fans an opportunity to watch players that they wish the D-backs had.

**Cardinals' Fans: *Embrace the future; stop with the nostalgia.***

The Cardinals recently fired their head coach, Steve Wilks, after a horrendous 3-13 season in which the Cardinals were widely recognized as the worst team in the league. With all five offensive line starting players injured, rookie quarterback Josh Rosen was put under so much pressure that he had little time to prove that “there were nine mistakes ahead of [him]” (as Rosen put so eloquently when selected tenth overall in the 2018 draft). While it's easy to reminisce about the glory days of Kurt Warner and the over-50 wins amassed under coach Bruce Arians, lingering on past successes would be a disservice to the Cardinals' bright future. The current line-up includes a sophomore quarterback ready for a fresh start, the innovative Kliff Kingsbury as head coach, and of course, the number one overall draft pick. With playmakers already on both sides of the ball, including David Johnson, Christian Kirk, Patrick Peterson, and Chandler Jones, this team is bound to become something special within the next few years. So, Cardinals fans, have a little patience and faith, continue to cheer on your team, and anticipate the team's bright future.

While it's easy to become frustrated watching Arizona's struggling sports teams, it's important for fans to continue to support the Suns, Diamondbacks, and Cardinals. Fans should keep in mind that all 3 of these teams have young, explosive talent, and they could become top teams in their respective leagues soon enough. In the meantime, fans should consider these New Year's resolutions as superior alternatives to wallowing in the “pit of misery” until a sports championship is finally brought to the Grand Canyon State.

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# BUSINESS

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## HOW YOU CAN MAKE THOUSANDS INVESTING IN ONE STOCK

BY ZAND  
GORGI

The main advantage of investing in stocks at a young age is that it offers more time to accumulate wealth, while still learning the intricate facets of investing. One important lesson to learn about investing when young is that it is okay to lose some money. When you're young, you generally have less risk than an adult, with fewer bills to pay, no loans to worry about, nor children to feed.

Now, I'm not saying that, with a thousand dollars, a teenager should risk it all on a high-risk penny stock; however, it can be rewarding to invest a portion of that money in a high-growing, more volatile stock. To do so, students must approach their parents about the idea, as individuals under the age of eighteen cannot invest in the stock market on their own. Once an account under a guardian's name is created, it is time to invest. While blue-chip stocks, such as Google, Apple, Amazon, and McDonald's, are necessary to promote a diverse, well-established portfolio, riskier stocks may prove to have a higher reward, coupled, of course, with higher risk. My high-risk stock of choice is New Age Beverages (NBEV).

NBEV focuses on selling high-end, trendy drinks, including a line of "Coco Libre" drinks that contain a blend of coconut and other fresh, tropical ingredients, and their most popular product, "Marley," a coffee drink infused with relaxing herbs and teas. NBEV capitalizes on the millennial market, and champions the use of natural ingredients. With current trends favoring higher-quality ingredients in food and beverage

production, I project that powerhouses like PepsiCo. and Coca-Cola will soon lose market share to companies like NBEV.

Regardless of NBEV's products, what really matters are the company's sales. Its finances and future growth potential in stock price are the real reasons why NBEV rises above other drink companies, and help explain why I purchased shares at a price of \$3.26 each. Since last September, NBEV has grown by more than 195%, increasing from \$1.59 to \$5.04 per share. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of NBEV is its recent acquisition of a company called Morinda Holdings, an online advertising firm that promotes plant-based products. This new acquisition has many benefits, including the expansion of NBEV's products into not only grocery stores, but also in e-commerce and home-goods stores, which could boost sales and, as a result, increase the stock price.

Considering it is beneficial to have a portfolio that contains large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks, NBEV offers a perfect balance between the established sales of large-cap companies and the rapid growth of small-cap companies. As a high-risk, and yet higher reward stock, NBEV has many opportunities to grow both as a company and as a stock, with many analysts targeting its price at about \$8 by the end of 2019. Regardless of its future prospects, NBEV is a perfect stock for young investors who can take on the risk, and a great way to make some money in the market.

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# OPINION

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## AN OBITUARY FOR MY BASIS CAREER

BY MICHAEL GARBUS

Eight long years. I've been at this school for eighty percent of a decade. Twelve hundred days of constant hard work. Like most things, for better or worse, my career at BASIS has come to an end. Because I have such extensive experience at BASIS, it's only natural for me to reflect upon my time spent in this school, provide some insight, and, most importantly, force you to listen, for one last time.

As part of the last group of high-schoolers who experienced the semi-original BASIS Scottsdale building, I feel that I must preserve my memories as well. The old school was totally different: across from an out-of-business drug store, the building had quiet air conditioning and the most amazing desks on the planet. After all, the desks had built-in footrests. Footrests! Could you imagine? Nowadays, if you try and find a space to place your feet, you will almost certainly scratch your knees.

There was a certain "je ne sais quoi?" at the old school, a feng shui, an environment which can never be replicated. Aspiring philosopher-king Caleb King explains: "There was something about the air... perhaps it is because we had a fully closed ceiling. It was business air, it was city air. Now we breathe in the kind of air we find in a Chick-Fil-A. It satisfies you, but it doesn't make you any smarter."

Fellow Gazette journalist Nitya Aggarwal says that she misses the dysfunctional hallways that were perfect for relaxing. In the current building, it seems hard to find a quiet spot anywhere, and even when one does find one, it isn't a peaceful quiet, but an ominous one. To be free of the air-conditioner's grasp is a futile dream, a Sisyphean task, a lost cause: we all feel annoyed with it, but also sad without it.

However, from the old building, we will never forget the beloved fast-food lunches, provided by the epitomes of nutrition, Panda Express and Pizza Hut. Nor will I forget the heavenly aroma diffused throughout the entire building by the current lunch program. We also will never forget the great times we had at school dances. I know I'll never forget how Axel Gogoi, a member of the graduating class of 2018, would rock the entire building (or just the lower school MPR) with his DJ-ing expertise and a look of complete enthusiasm. When I asked some people about their favorite BASIS dance memory, they stared off into the distance, unable to give a response, undoubtedly thinking of better times.

I will never forget the period of time two years ago when, for a solid two weeks, the school had doors without door knobs, showing how we were all open to learning, even if the doors did not show the same enthusiasm. I will never forget the first time we heard the often-deafening air conditioning and thought "Oh, this is our lives now." I know my grade especially will not forget the PERSIA notes we had to complete in AP European History, a testament to our resilient character. I will never forget the incredibly important "Beyond BASIS" awards, and how certain people never showed up in any pictures of the slideshow representing our grade.

Overall, seeing as we will soon be gone from BASIS for good, the seniors' memories will slowly disappear, like someone stuck in quicksand, so it's time for us to acknowledge them before it's too late. As Caleb says, "we march in a straight line towards the inevitable heat death of the universe."



# FOOD

## ESTHER EATS: CAFÉ PARIS

BY ESTHER LI-CHEN

As we all make New Year's resolutions, hoping to change for the better in the new year, many of us also plan to expand our culinary horizons by visiting new restaurants. One great option is Café Paris, a family-run French restaurant with a mission to bring French culture and cuisine to Arizona. Open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, and closed on Sunday, Café Paris is located on North Hayden Road and Raintree Drive, tucked away in the Scottsdale Design Center.

The restaurant is owned by a couple from Paris, France, and the husband serves as the head chef. He boasts twenty years of culinary experience, which allows for a more authentic and exceptional experience. As an added bonus, almost all of the meals cost under twelve dollars, a very reasonable price for the food's high quality, and a great reason to order more than one dish if you visit.

The ambience of Café Paris consists of wooden tables and chairs with red and white checkered tablecloths, which give the impression of a small, rustic French restaurant. While the furniture is slightly uncomfortable, the exhibition of beautiful local art on the walls more than makes up for it. Café Paris may not fit the high-end style many envision when they think of restaurants in Paris, but it instead reflects a calmer, rustic atmosphere, which, in my opinion, allows the food to stand out.



Source: Old Town Scottsdale

When I visited, I found the staff to be very attentive, and, throughout my meal, I witnessed their friendly interactions with regulars. For my lunch, I got a chicken panini, which included tomato, grilled chicken, bacon, and swiss cheese. The bread was grilled perfectly, and while I'm not usually a fan of tomatoes or cheese, the flavors deliciously complimented each other, adding to the dish's complex flavors.



Source: Alliance Française of Greater Phoenix

Most restaurants that serve crepes offer only two or three variants of the same thin pancake, but Café Paris has many different crepes for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert. I chose a crepe with nutella, strawberry, and banana, which they don't offer on the menu, but the staff was able to accommodate my requests without any hassle. The presentation of the food was lackluster, as the crepe looked limp and the whipped cream was uninspiring, but the focus was obviously on the taste, which exceeded my expectations.

The setting and delicacies in Café Paris all add up to an enjoyable dining experience that you can share with family and friends as you begin your new year, hopefully with a new appreciation for Parisian food. As we all know, January is a great time to embark on new experiences, so try broadening your tastes and visit Café Paris!

# ENTERTAINMENT

## THE HYPE IS REAL:

BY SAM ENNIS

## ENTERTAINMENT IN 2019

2018 was a great year for movies and video games. Entertainment sales went through the roof: four movies grossed over a billion dollars (*Avengers Infinity War*, *Black Panther*, *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, and *Incredibles II*) and *Red Dead Redemption 2* became the second-fastest selling video game of all time. However, the upcoming year has much to offer; it may even top 2018's record-breaking successes. From final installments of film franchises to highly anticipated video games, 2019 is sure to be a year to remember in the entertainment industry.

One of the world's top entertainment powerhouses, Marvel is continuing with its three movies per year. Coming out in March, Marvel's first release in 2019 will be *Captain Marvel*, which chronicles Carol Danver's arc into a hero and Nick Fury's early days at SHIELD in the 1990s, making history as the first female-lead Marvel movie. In July 2019, another Marvel movie, *Spider-Man: Far from Home*, takes the stage as a sequel to 2017's *Spider-Man Homecoming*. This movie follows Peter Parker going on a school trip to Europe, while also dealing with his secret superhero personality. Though all these will succeed without doubt, the most highly anticipated movie of the year is *Avengers Endgame*, releasing in April, which will continue where *Infinity War* left off. This will be the movie where Marvel's classic eleven-year-long journey will end, passing the torch on to a new era of Marvel films.

Whether you think the company is trying to help you relive your childhood or simply put out shameless cash grabs, Disney is releasing three live action remakes in 2019 – *Dumbo*, *Aladdin*, and *The Lion King*. All seem highly anticipated with likely success at the box office this year. Pixar is also releasing the fourth installment of the *Toy Story* franchise, which is said to have an ending so sad that Tom Hanks and Tim Allen had a hard time recording their lines. Another movie, whose trailer took the world by storm, is *Pokemon: Detective Pikachu*. While all video game movies that have come before are horrendous, this movie, starring Ryan Reynolds, seems

to have Reynolds' characteristic charm, possibly breaking this trend.

In addition to these exciting releases, new video games will be coming out throughout 2019. In January, *Resident Evil 2*, a remake of the fan-favorite 1998 game, is coming out, being completely remade with modern graphics. Although many of the upcoming PlayStation-exclusive games are speculated to release in 2019, one game, *Days Gone*, has a confirmed release date for April. Although it is another zombie game, it brings new mechanics to this genre with zombie hordes and infected wildlife. Also in April comes *Mortal Kombat 11*, which looks to bring fans more gory fighting and fatalities – a staple for the series.

Finally, Nintendo is also debuting exclusive games for the Switch, including *Fire Emblem: Three Houses*, which will finally bring the acclaimed strategy series back to a non-handheld console after twelve years. By the end of the year, Nintendo will also release a new main *Pokemon* game, already cementing itself as a massively successful hit.

Each year, entertainment gets better and better. 2019 seems to be a year that will blow 2018 out of the water. Whenever a trailer comes out, millions of people clamor with excitement over the upcoming releases. Entertainment is going to dominate everyone's lives in 2019, with many box office records expected to be broken. No matter what happens, there will definitely be one loser – our wallets.





# CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

BY ALLISON LI

Across the country, many people stayed up all night on December 31st, 2018, counting down the seconds until the new year. However, many cultures have not only different celebrations, but also different days that recognize the new year. Here are a few different ways the New Year is celebrated all over the world.

The Lunar New Year, better known as Chinese New Year, is celebrated near the beginning of February, on the “January 1st” of the Lunar calendar, a calendar based off of the cycle of the moon. This year, the Lunar New Year falls on February 5th of our calendar. The celebration lasts for fifteen days, instead of just one. During Lunar New Year celebrations, many families decorate their homes with red items and firecrackers in honor of an ancient folktale about a monster named Nian.

According to legend, each year, Nian would go through towns, destroying everything in sight. One year, a beggar arrived in a small village just as the residents were leaving. The beggar claimed that he could make the monster go away, and put up red decorations and readied firecrackers. When the monster arrived in the town, the red decorations and firecrackers scared him, forcing him to run away from the town. After returning, the villagers were amazed, so each year, the villagers put up red decorations and lit firecrackers on the Lunar New Year.



Pictured: A common depiction of the monster Nian  
Source: Time Magazine

Other than the Lunar New Year, there are three other prominent celebrations for the New Year: the Korean New Year, Tet Nguyen Dan, and the Spanish New Year. The Korean New Year, also known as Seollal,

also celebrates the lunar new year, but, in contrast with the Chinese Lunar New Year, the Korean version lasts only three days. The Korean New Year includes celebrations that honor ancestors and large-scale family dinners. This year, the Korean lunar new year will fall on February 5, 2019.

Celebrated in Vietnam, Tet Nguyen Dan is similar to the Chinese Lunar New Year, as it also celebrates the beginning of the next Lunar year. However, Tet Nguyen Dan is celebrated for seven to nine days, during which people visit the temples of their ancestors and pray for a better year. They also often return to their homeland to visit an ancestor’s grave or to be with their family. This year, Tet Nguyen Dan will also fall on February 5<sup>th</sup>.



Pictured: An altar honoring ancestors during Tet Nguyen Dan  
Source: VietNamNet Bridge

Finally, falling on the same day as America’s new year, the Spanish celebrate their New Year by eating grapes, as strange as it may sound. People of Spanish descent ring in the new year by eating 12 grapes, one by one, in time with the striking clock at midnight. The Spanish believe that by eating 12 grapes at midnight, they would have a better year than the previous one.

The idea of a new year is often associated with a fresh start, and it can be fun to stay up and count the seconds to the new year. Many cultures celebrate the upcoming year differently, whether by putting up red firecrackers or eating grapes, and while everyone’s traditions may differ, the new year is always viewed as a sign of change for the better.

# A FLASHBACK TO 2018

BY MARGARET  
POLUKHTIN

We're all looking forward to seeing what 2019 will bring. But before we forget all that 2018 had to offer, let's look back on some of the most popular trends of the year.

Several dance trends took over our lives in 2018, including the popular, often annoying Fortnite dances that brought about mixed responses. However, one dance was arguably the most popular – the In My Feelings challenge. This challenge included dancing to Drake's hit song, "In My Feelings," and mimicking moves from the lyrics. The challenge even went as far as hopping out of a moving car and dancing alongside it. Though dangerous at times, this dance trend flooded the Internet, and celebrities such as Will Smith and Shay Mitchell joined in the fun.

One of the biggest food trends of 2018 was colorful Instagram foods, mainly unicorn and mermaid themed dishes. For example, foodies went crazy over unicorn-rainbow grilled cheese sandwiches, which featured multi-colored cheese melted into a normal grilled cheese sandwich. Whether or not it actually tastes as good as regular grilled cheese isn't of any concern, as it certainly became a social media spectacle in 2018.

In the world of fashion, one style trend of 2018 was a revival of '90s fashion. The fanny pack, originally created in the '80s, but more popular in the '90s, made a comeback this past year. Although it initially received a

fair share of criticism for being a sort of "grandma bag," it has become a fashion statement for both men and women, and was featured in almost every major brand's accessories line, from Gucci to Adidas. Even if you believe this trend didn't deserve the praise, the fanny pack will certainly persist in our memories of 2018.

The last major trend is somewhat random, but definitely sparked controversy. The infamous "Yanny vs. Laurel" challenge blew up on the Internet in early May, and people could not stop listening. As you may remember, it received lots of attention because it was a recording of one word that sounded like two separate words – "yanny" and "laurel" – to different people. This is because of the ambiguous pronunciation of the vowels in each word, as well as the similar timing and tone of the words' pronunciations. And although it was created earlier in the year, debating which word it really was became one of the most unforgettable trends of 2018.

Although strange, most of these trends became hugely popular, and are each unique in their own way. As time goes on, these trends may be forgotten, but before we know it, there will be newer, even more entertaining ones, and we can't wait to see what they will be.





# RESOLUTIONS: NECESSARY, OR NEEDLESS?

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

Resolutions are important to many people when celebrating the New Year. We all make commitments to goals that we feel will be significant going forward. For some of us, a new year is like a clean slate, a chance for a fresh start. However, others see New Year's resolutions as hopeless shots in the dark. The truth is not black and white: studies support both sides of the argument, and can provide a more definitive guide to creating a meaningful resolution.

To begin, Forbes reports that only 8% of people actually follow through with their New Year's resolutions. Typically, we don't follow through due to the grandeur of our resolutions and the seeming infeasibility of the change's magnitude. Another possible issue that prevents people from effectively carrying out their resolutions is the vague nature of many resolutions. Resolutions that deal with specific goals, such as not playing video games until one's homework is done, are statistically more likely to be accomplished.

Though making good resolutions can be difficult for some people, these promises can be very helpful for the 8% that make effective resolutions. One of the greatest benefits of making a resolution is self-reflection. When

creating resolutions, we are forced to look upon ourselves and decide what should change in our lives. The aforementioned benefit even applies to those who attempt to complete a resolution, but never actually finish it.

All things considered, effective resolutions can only help, improving our lives one step at a time. Because they can be so hard to make effectively, the following is a checklist of all the things you should consider in order to make a good resolution.

- Is your resolution specific?
- Is it achievable in one year?
- Does it entail an area of real, important change in your life?

With these steps and tips considered, you will likely be able to make effective resolutions and have a great new year. A good resolution can bring much needed change and self-reflection into your life. So, together, let's make a resolution to have at least 9% of people follow through with their resolutions in 2019!



# THE BEST ALBUMS OF 2018

BY MICHAEL GARBUS &  
SACHIN SAHOO

2018 has been an incredible year for music, with many exciting new releases and a resurgence of older artists reinventing their sound for today's audience. Regardless of whether you are a genre-specific fan or a casual listener, there was certainly something new for you to listen to this year. Considering the large amount of outstanding albums to cover, we decided to compile two top 5 lists. We hope we can provide at least one new album for everyone to check out before diving into the upcoming albums of 2019!

## Michael's Top 5 Albums of 2018

### 5. *Anonymized Internal Criminals* (Died)

An underground band hailing from the bustling New York punk scene, which has produced acts like Turnstile and The Voidz, Died blows its competition away. Some of the album's tracks sound like they could have been recorded by post-hardcore band At the Drive-in during their prime. Every musician in this group has a lot of talent, demonstrated by the band's ability to pack so much aggression and virtuosity into just 20 minutes. Plus, the cover art is amazing.



The album cover of *Anonymized Internal Criminals*  
Source: Died - Bandcamp

### 4. *Veteran* (jpegmafia)

If you like interesting production, aggressive raps, and semi-serious lyrics, this album is for you. The experimental production combines glitch, industrial, and trap music in one tight 45-minute package. Groovy basslines and manic drum patterns pervade this project.

"1359 N. Calvert," a reference to the Bell Foundry, a now-defunct creative space in jpegmafia's native Baltimore, sounds like a trap banger from 20 years in the future. If you want to hear trap reinvented, listen to this album from start to finish.

### 3. *2012-2017* (Against All Logic)

I have many qualms with house music. It's usually overly repetitive, and feels stale. However, Nicolas Jaar, switching from his usual genre of spooky ambient house, recognizes these follies and combines cut-up soul, disco, and funk songs with house beats, electronic interludes, and other drum samples. It feels like a combination of Burial's depressive ambient techno masterpiece, *Untrue*, and The Avalanches' plunderphonic *Since I Left You*, but with a heaping teaspoon of funk added.



The album cover of *2012-2017*  
Source: Pitchfork

### 2. *Wide Awaaaaake!* (Parquet Courts)

Although many say that rock music has been dying for a long time, Parquet Courts' *Wide Awaaaaake!* suggests the genre has much more to offer. Combining the new wave of dance-punk found in bands like LCD Soundsystem with classic rock instrumentation and punk lyricism, Parquet Courts brings rock from its deathbed with exciting new tracks. It's 38 minutes of everything from calming protopunk ballads to songs about street fighting.

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Source: Pitchfork

1. *무너지기 (Crumbling)* (공중도둑 (Mid Air Thief))

My top pick, *Crumbling*, sounds like folk music from an alien civilization who came to Earth to spread peace and love. Traditional folk instrumentation, including a solo guitar, bells, and a cello, is interwoven with dreamy electronica synths and vocals, with a heavy dose of reverb. Do yourself a favor and listen to this as soon as possible. It's relatively short, at 45 minutes, but there's never a dull moment.

**Sachin's Top 5 Albums of 2018**

5. *Time 'n' Place* (Kero Kero Bonito)

Kero Kero Bonito's past projects may lead you to anticipate that this one would be another silly, casual listen; however, their newest LP took a turn into the genre of noise pop, abandoning the bubbly electronic sound they have been previously known for. Many of the lyrics seem to be in direct response to their past projects, with their lead song "Only Acting" explaining the process of covering up struggles with an happy demeanor. While Kero Kero Bonito has changed as a band, *Time 'n' Place* still has a fresh and fun production that fans and newcomers should welcome with open arms.

4. *Little Dark Age* (MGMT)

MGMT has an uncanny ability to bring retro nostalgia for the 80's to a psychedelic, new wave pop album without sounding dated. Though fans believed the band would not be able to reach the same high quality as their debut albums, MGMT proved those worries wrong, putting out what is arguably their best album yet. The groovy, yet atmospheric structure of their production creates an unique sound that ultimately cements their work as an critical release.



The album cover for *Little Dark Age*

3. *You Won't Get What You Want* (Daughters)

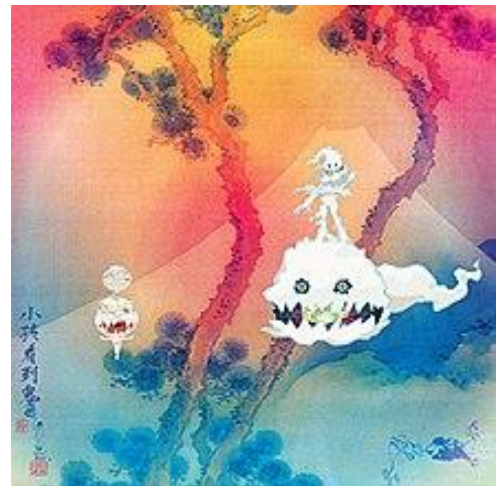
This album is harsh, relentless, and brutal, yet still compelling thanks to the raw emotion it delivers to listeners. Daughters switch between punk, metal, and noise rock conventions to constantly engage their audience.

2. *Some Rap Songs* (Earl Sweatshirt)

As a reaction to the current over-saturation of the hip-hop industry, Earl designed the album with a minimalistic mindset – several tracks are a mere minute long. The production of the album is incredibly lo-fi and grainy, stripping what is unimportant glamour from the music. For anyone that wants to listen to a change from traditional hip-hop, I highly recommend this album.

1. *Kids See Ghosts* (Kanye West and Kid Cudi)

After rekindling their friendship and fighting through mental health problems, Kanye West and Kid Cudi have created the most groundbreaking album of the year. Between its use of synth-pop, psychedelic rock, industrial and other experimental sounds, *Kids See Ghosts* makes an unforgettable impression in only 24 minutes. Kid Cudi has not sounded so confident with his vocal delivery since he released his debut album series *Man on the Moon*, and Kanye has only become more avant-garde since his last album release. A lyrical journey through their struggles, this album proves powerfully poignant and compelling for any listener.



The album cover for *Kids See Ghosts*  
Source: Dezeen



# SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

BY SAM ENNIS

2018 saw a plethora of superhero movies though none stood out as much as *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. As a product of Sony Animation, the studio responsible for *The Emoji Movie*, my expectations were far from ambitious. My assumptions were immediately challenged when the reviews came out, hailing the studio's newest release as one of the best films of the year. Still doubtful, my expectations grew before its debut in theaters, and I am happy to report that *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* far exceeded those preconceptions.

The most prominent aspect of this film lies in its animation. Probably the most unique style since *The Lego Movie*, this movie is designed like a comic book, creating beautiful, eye-catching shots. It even features classic comic book thought bubbles and sound effects, helping this movie stand out from other animated releases. Also, since this movie does not produce the typical computer-animated look, it is safe to assume that its ingenuity will hold up over time compared to normal animated films released today.

Besides the movie's unique look, its story offers an original and emotional origin story compared to other Spider-Man movies by following Miles Morales, who takes on Spider-Man's role in his universe when many universes across the multiverse collide. This collision calls an abundance of Spider-People across these universes to unite to save all universes. Each of the main characters has their own motives and is relatable in some way to anyone in the audience. Even side characters have unique personalities and traits, creating a dynamic and engaging world, without making the movie feel too crowded.

However, what I did not expect was the movie's perfect emotional balance. Its great comedic moments never overshadow its more serious moments, some of which deal with heavy topics. This type of tonal balance is rare for a superhero movie and adds to *Into the Spider-Verse*'s unprecedented success.

One of the only drawbacks to the film is the soundtrack. Though it features good songs, the overuse of the music was unnecessary and obnoxious at times, especially at the beginning of the movie. All the music did was make the emotional impact hit the audience less hard. As with any other superhero movie, the plot relies on a couple abrupt coincidences, but they're forgivable. However, these nitpicky flaws are truly the only negative aspects of the film.

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* is my personal favorite Spider-Man film to date because it captures the essence of what makes Spider-Man great. He is relatable, funny, and most of all, human. Spider-Man is a reminder to everyone that anyone can go out of his or her way to make someone's life better – an ideology that no other Spider-Man or almost any superhero movie has captured. With an animation style that will hold up for years to come and a captivating story, this movie is not only one of the best movies of the year, it is one of the best comic book movies of all time.

Rating: 9/10



Source: Sony Pictures



# HOW HYPED ARE YOU DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

BY ANGIE WONG

Winter always brings a hectic storm of holiday spirit, so here's a test of your resistance to the crazy festivities. Follow along to see how much you can stand up to the whirlwind atmosphere of wintertime. Enjoy!

1. Someone gives you a present. How do you react?
  - a. Accept it and ask for more. (1 pt)
  - b. Give a present in return. (3 pt)
  - c. Eat the present. (2 pts)
  - d. Adamantly refuse the present because the peasant gave you something you didn't want. (0 pts)
2. Time to decorate the house! How do you help out?
  - a. "Ew, that sounds like work." (0 pts)
  - b. Spring up immediately and start putting up lights and various other shiny things. (3 pts)
  - c. Stick a red piece of paper on the front door. (1 pt)
  - d. Roll around in tinsel and hop around like a fully-decorated tree. (2 pts)
3. It's snowing outside and your friends want to go outside to play. What do you do?
  - a. Jump headfirst into the snow and disappear. (3 pts)
  - b. "Too cold — I'm staying in my burrito blanket." (1 pt)
  - c. Eat the snow. (2 pts)
  - d. Throw your friends into the snow and close the door. (0 pts)
4. Celebratory food time! What do you do?
  - a. Eat everything, duh. (1 pt)
  - b. "Food is life." (0 pts)
  - c. "I am on a 'see-food diet.' I see food and I eat it." (3 pts)
  - d. "The only real option is to eat." (2 pts)
5. You stumble across an intense gingerbread-house contest. What is your plan of attack?
  - a. Since the houses have the same base, put more detail into frosting and decorating. (3 pts)
  - b. "Nothing — that's not for me." (1 pt)
  - c. Eat the house. And the ingredients. All at once. (2 pt)
  - d. Destroy your opponent's houses with a sledgehammer. (0 pts)
6. The entire extended family and a bunch of friends are coming over for a celebration. What do you do?
  - a. Party it up like a cool kid. (3 pts)
  - b. "It depends on the people." (1 pt)
  - c. "Gross! Leave me alone." (0 pts)
  - d. Hide in a corner and eat all of the assorted finger foods. (2 pts)
7. Holiday songs start playing on the radio. What do you do?
  - a. "I already started singing holiday songs in August." (2 pts)
  - b. Change the channel. (0 pts)
  - c. Scream the lyrics out the window. (3 pts)
  - d. "I have no opinion on this matter." (1 pt)
8. A reindeer comes up to you while you are standing outside. What do you do?
  - a. "Um, we live in Arizona. Why is it here?" (1 pt)
  - b. Call animal control. (0 pts)
  - c. Try to ride it and give it carrots. (3 pts)
  - d. Moo at it. (2 pts)
9. You see a plate of cookies with a sign that says "Do not touch." What do you do?
  - a. Simply touch them all but don't eat them. (1 pt)
  - b. Take one and run. (2 pts)
  - c. Be a good kid and don't touch them. (3 pts)
  - d. Take the entire plate and the sign and run. (0 pts)
10. Someone is asking for donations for the holidays. What do you do?
  - a. In the holiday spirit, donate. (3 pts)
  - b. "I'm broke." (1 pt)
  - c. Ignore the person. (0 pts)
  - d. Give the person advertising a cookie that you were conveniently carrying (2 pts)

## Results:

(0-7 pts) The Scrooge: Well, as the name suggests, it seems that you don't care that much for the holiday season. Actually, a better description is absolute loathing for anything happy during the winter months. Maybe watching *A Christmas Carol* a few times will change your mind.

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(8-15 pts) The realist: You're not totally resistant to the holiday spirit, but you're just extremely, extremely realistic. In other words, you're bluntly pessimistic. You're the person who makes self-deprecating jokes. For the holidays, you put in a reasonable amount of effort, but you'd rather just not do anything special.

(16-23 pts) The average holiday spirit: You have about the average amount of excitement that most people experience during the winter season. You decorate a bit, you get into the holiday spirit with everyone else, and you celebrate with family and friends, but at a reasonable amount so it doesn't become totally crazy.

(24-30 pts) The all-out enthusiast: You absolutely love the holiday season. You really, really, really love it. You're the house that everyone intentionally drives past because your decorations are the most extensive and fancy. You get completely into the spirit and go all out on everything festive.



## THE END OF CHILDISH GAMBINO

BY KOBE SIMON

Donald Glover, a modern-day Renaissance Man known for a variety of professions, including musician, producer, and actor, recently announced that he would retire from one of those fields. Glover plans to end his iconic rap alias "Childish Gambino" after the upcoming release of his fourth studio album, a shocking revelation for many devoted fans. Nevertheless, the multi-threat talent has accomplished a truly impressive amount in his career.

Born to a retired daycare provider and a retired postal worker at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County, California, Glover came from humble beginnings. In his high school yearbook, Glover was voted "Most Likely to Write for the Simpsons," yet even his peers could not predict Glover's outstanding triumphs. Primarily known for his rap alter-ego "Childish Gambino," Donald Glover is also an actor, comedian, writer, producer, director, and DJ. Recently, the thirty-five-year old has found success with his hit television show *Atlanta*, of which he is a creator, director, executive producer and lead actor. He has also help supporting acting roles in films such as *Spiderman: Homecoming* and *Solo: A Star Wars Story*.

In 2017, Glover was included in TIME Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Perhaps most notably, Glover's recent music video

"This Is America" was highly praised due to its "surreal, visceral statement about gun violence in America," according to *Rolling Stone*. With all these artistic accomplishments under his belt, Glover is set to play the voice of Simba in the 2019 live-action adaptation of *The Lion King* alongside Beyoncé and James Earl Jones.

Glover has received numerous Primetime Emmy and Golden Globe awards, and his alter-ego Childish Gambino has been featured multiple times on the *Billboard* Hot 100 list. Despite his successes in the music industry, Donald Glover announced that his fourth studio album would be his last endeavor as Childish Gambino. This marks the end of an iconic era, but certainly not the end of Glover's career, with several future projects already planned and many yet to come.

When asked why Glover's most recent album would be his last as Childish Gambino, Glover merely stated that it was no longer "necessary" and that continuing Childish Gambino would compromise his newfound "punk" persona. Though this answer may not satisfy many of his most dedicated, and most disappointed, fans, they will have plenty more to look forward to as Glover continues his other creative pursuits.

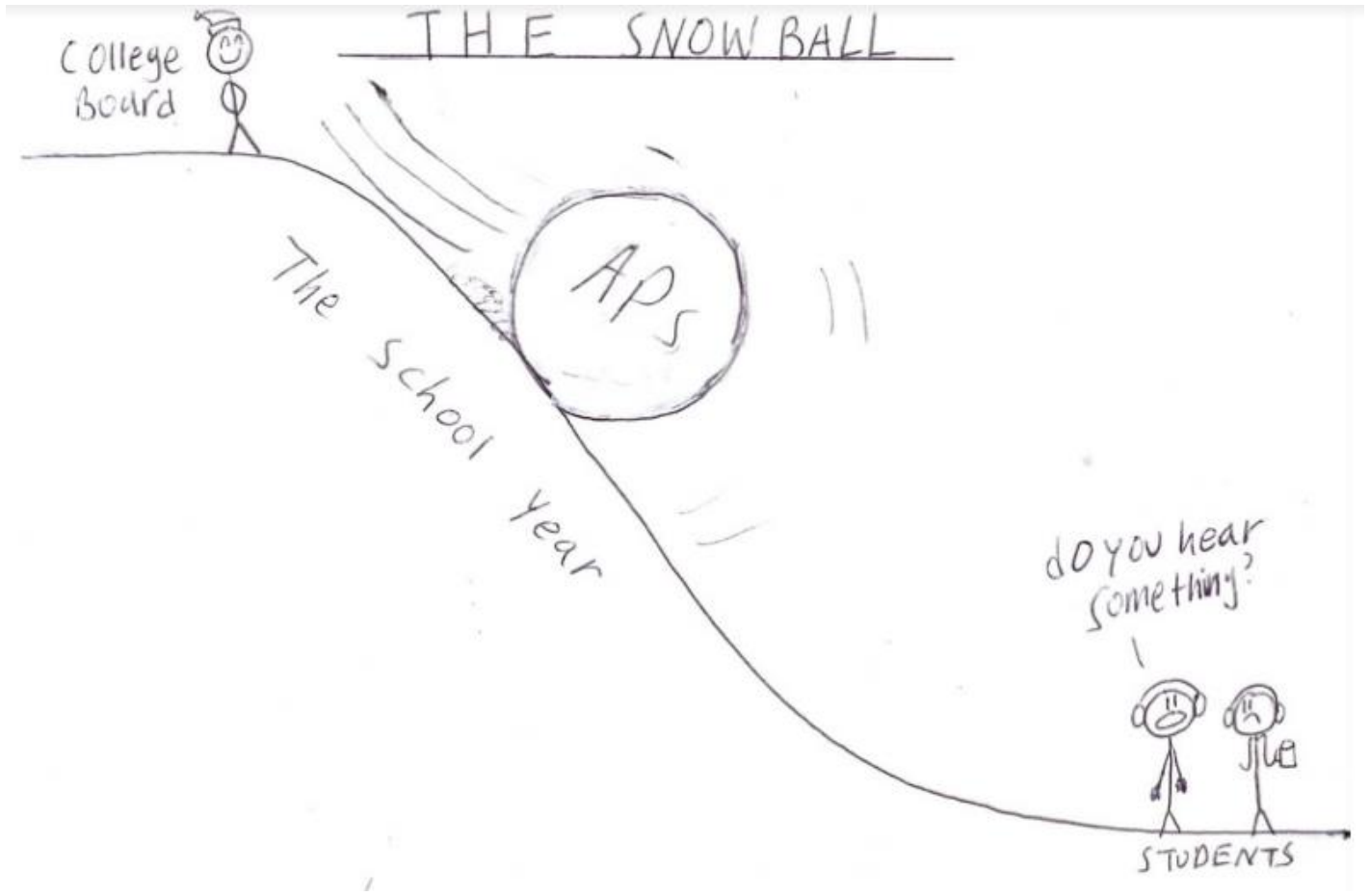
# NEW YEAR'S WORD SEARCH

BY RYAN  
DONG

E R K J J T A O C O C C E S D  
 C E B R E A K R Z G A F O L B  
 A U B I Y T R E H N H T O O G  
 L G V W R Q F S M R R C H B X  
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 I I W O A O E T P R L O N U K  
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 P R E C O M P S Y D A H N O O  
 R H S H J R M G E B S W S W A  
 N V P A K L W B A G G B Z N Z  
 L E D J K V Y T R A P A Y D T

BREAK  
 CAPRICORN  
 COCOA  
 COLD  
 COUNTDOWN  
 FIREPLACE  
 JANUARY  
 MLK

NEWYEAR  
 PARTY  
 PRECOMPS  
 RESOLUTIONS  
 SNOW  
 WINTER  
 WISHES



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