

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

WELCOMING DR. STUMPO

By DERRICK KANG

With the recent transition of power from Ms. Boyle to Dr. Stumpo, students have become curious about our new Head of School. I decided to interview Dr. Stumpo, our new Head of School, detailing his journey before arriving at BASIS, as well as his future goals for our school.

Do you mind telling our readers a little bit about yourself, and your time before you assumed the position of Head of School for BASIS Scottsdale?

Dr. Stumpo: I started my professional educational career almost 40 years ago. I started as a classroom teacher and as an athletic coach. Mostly, I taught physics and chemistry and I coached Track and Field, Cross Country, Wrestling, and Football. Then, at some point, I decided that I wanted to go into administration. I was the head of several science departments and the principal of a few schools.

What made you decide to become the Head of School here at BASIS Scottsdale?

Dr. Stumpo: Two very important reasons. One is the mission of the school. I believe in it deeply. I always believed that students were capable of great things, but the adults in their life must appropriately challenge them. The second thing, of course, is related to the first thing and that is, I have two kids here. Why do I have two kids here?

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Dr. Stumpo

SAVE THE DATE

Nov. 24-29:
Thanksgiving
Break

Dec. 6:
Last Day of
Hanukkah

Dec. 11:
Winter Formal

Dec. 25:
Christmas Day

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It's because I believe in the philosophy of the school. So, when you have the opportunity to work in a school whose mission you believe in and you also have the opportunity to help the school that your kids are in, it's just an opportunity too good to pass up.

Are there any differences or similarities in the environment here at BASIS Scottsdale in comparison to the previous schools you have worked in?

Dr. Stumpo: There's no doubt why everyone is here. If you don't want academic rigor, you wouldn't be here. Sometimes with schools there's a confusion, especially with groups in the school that think that different things are the top priority. But here, it's clear that academic excellence is our number one priority, and I think that makes it all the more special. When you're part of a community or a team where everyone agrees with the big picture, then you can have a generally more productive organization.

Do you have any set goals that you wish to fulfill during your time here at BASIS Scottsdale?

Dr. Stumpo: The one thing that I'm in the process of doing is making a distinction between urgent and important things. Things that are important are those things that advance us on this mission statement. Here's the mission statement: "BASIS seeks to provide an accelerated liberal arts education at internationally competitive levels for all students. The rigorous college preparatory education at BASIS readies students for the competitive admission process, helps them become eligible for scholarships, prepares them to prosper at top colleges and enriches their lives." That's our mission statement, so in other words, that's why we're here. Important things are things that advance us towards that mission. Urgent things are not necessarily important things. The more you focus on important things and the less on urgent things, the more successful you're going to be as an individual, and the more successful your organization and community is going to be. The question is: how successful are we at fulfilling that mission statement? An organization approaches the mission as an asymptote. You get closer and closer and closer, but it's not something you ever achieve and then you can stop, rest, and say we did it.

In the Bulldog Blast during Spirit Week, I saw that on Halloween you were wearing a football jersey. Do you have any favorite sports teams or favorite sports that you wish to tell the readers about?

Dr. Stumpo: Well, in terms of favorite sports, I was a track and field athlete in prep school and in college, so that's always going to be near and dear to my heart. In terms of favorite sports teams, I was born and raised in the Philadelphia area. I've lived in 11 different states, but you always maintain your primary loyalty to your hometown, so my love and affection still goes out to the Philadelphia sports teams.

Is there any message that you would like to leave with the readers of the Gazette or wider student body before we end?

Dr. Stumpo: I really want students to strive to do two things. One, try to obtain some balance in your life. We want you to be healthy. We want you to be happy. So, you have to try to maintain some balance. You simply cannot be working 24 hours a day at anything. You have families, you have hobbies. So, have balance. Maintain your health. The second thing is to lift your head up every day. In other words, think about the big picture. Students get consumed with tests and homework, and that's all understandable because you have to get it done. But think about the big picture. Why are you here? And how is being here going to affect your life after you graduate? You need a life balance, and you need a big-picture view.

Thank you to Dr. Stumpo for the sound advice. Evidently, Dr. Stumpo is well-equipped to lead our tight-knit BASIS community to even greater heights. We welcome Dr. Stumpo to BASIS Scottsdale and hope we will meet the challenges of the future in new and exciting ways with him as Head of School.



Vincent Stumpo

Head Of School

Dr. Stumpo is an experienced Head of School whose academic training is in Physics and Chemistry. He began his career in education 40 years ago, initially serving as a classroom teacher at the middle school, high school (AP), and university levels. He also contributed to his schools as an athletic coach (Track, Cross Country, Wrestling, and Football) before moving into administration. His leadership experience includes roles as Science Chair, Principal, and Head of School in a number of schools that have ranged from PK through grade 12 and with extensive programs in both AP and IB. Dr. Stumpo has completed the Harvard University School Leadership Program and received

CAMPUS COMMENTARY

COMPETITIONS AT BASIS

BY RAHUL JASTHI

The selection of extracurriculars is one that promotes our school's competitive nature and academic achievement, since it offers a variety of opportunities for national recognition in a variety of subjects.

Of the three overarching fields of science, Chemistry is the most similar to both Biology and Physics. The national exam for this subject is the Chemistry Olympiad. In this club run by Ms. Yanashima, the club members are provided with the exams of the previous years on a biweekly (every other Thursday) basis. By the time the next meeting comes around, the club members are given the solution to the last meeting's exam. The two students who score the highest will advance to the next division, where if they qualify, they are granted a chance and national and even international recognition.

You Be The Chemist is a chemistry exam intended for middle schoolers who have an interest in chemistry. This club meets every other Tuesday, where they review certain chemistry topics like States of Matter and Types of Mixtures. During the last segment of their club meeting,

they usually perform simple experiments, such as using dry ice to make soda. This teaches them basic chemistry principles and offers a fun task they can work on.

Mu Alpha Theta derives its name from three letters from the Greek alphabet. They are a national educational foundation in support of promoting math. They are a nonprofit organization that hosts math-related competitions and provides scholarships and grants using its donations. The club meets on Fridays, where they review various math topics in preparation for their exams. For example, these students will have taken the AMC Exam on November 10.

Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide competition to inspire and encourage a passion for poetry. For this competition, students must recite a poem from memory while emphasizing the various emotions intended. The student will be presenting in front of their classes, while being judged by both Ms. Antal and Ms. Hunt. If the student moves on to the next round, they will present in front of the whole school while also being judged to move even further up in the competition.



You Be The Chemist members experimenting with dry ice and soda

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Academic Decathlon is a nationwide competition where a team is meant to research a provided list of topics on a specific theme. The Academic Decathlon covers economics, math, literature, science, social science, art, and music. This year, economics will be over microeconomics, macroeconomics, and the economics of water. Math will cover statistics, algebra, and permutations. The long work for literature is Jack London's *The Sea-Wolf*. Science is marine biology. Art is the various uses of water, such as watercolor, ink wash painting. Water's inspiration on music will also be taken into account. Finally, social sciences will cover water's impact on the history of humanity.

Speech and Debate include a variety of competitions that is hosted by the National Speech and Debate Organization. The Speech part of Speech and Debate comes in two types of events, Public Address and Interpretation. Public Address involves one to two students that create a speech on a provided topic either with limited preparation or in advance. This student or group of students will be judged against other speeches on similar topics. Interpretation has students selecting a published work and performing it. Finally, debate has a group of students researching both sides of an issue and trying to convince the judge of their assigned side. Judges will select the most persuasive side to advance in further rounds.

Science Bowl is a science trivia competition where students buzz in to answer questions. This tests not only one's scientific knowledge but also their reaction times. Once a question has been announced, each team is given around five seconds to answer. Once a team buzzes and answers correctly that team is given a bonus question where they may discuss amongst their group for twenty seconds before finally giving a response. This process repeats until the set (the list of questions) ends, and the teams are given a short break. After another set finishes, the round is over, and the winner is determined by which teams scored the most points.

Quiz Bowl is another trivia competition except it covers a much broader scope of subjects and, unlike Science Bowl, is internationally recognized. Some of the subjects that it covers include science, history, literature, fine arts, music, current events, popular culture, and more. It works in the same way Science Bowl does, since Science Bowl was modeled off Quiz Bowl. But what makes Quiz Bowl unique is that it promotes more well-rounded students from all interests and backgrounds. It also runs at many different levels, such as middle school, high school, and college.

This variety of extracurricular competitions is something BASIS prides itself on, and one that we hope continues to flourish in the coming years.



Mr. Witz conducting a weekly Quiz Bowl practice

BASIS SCOTTSDALE

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

BY ANDREW KANG

Thanksgiving is celebrated across the United States as a festival of the Fall and a time of thanks. But because the BASIS Scottsdale community is so diverse, I wondered how families celebrated Thanksgiving differently. So, I decided to go around the school to gather some information from each grade - and even some teachers!

Each person was asked the following questions:

What's your name and what grade are you in?

What are some of your Thanksgiving traditions?

Sri: My name is Sri, and I'm in 10th grade. I mostly watch football for the whole day during Thanksgiving, and throughout the break, I'll play games of Among Us with my friends.

Dylan: I'm Dylan, and I'm in 9th grade. During Thanksgiving, I eat turkey with my family and hang out with my friends whenever I can.

Nihar: Hello! My name is Nihar and I'm in 9th grade. I usually just watch the Cardinals over the break. For the holiday itself, my family and I cook a turkey at my grandma's house.

Derrick: My name is Derrick and I'm in 11th grade. On Thanksgiving, we go out to get a barbeque as a family at the local Korean restaurant. Afterwards, my brother Andrew and I will play board games together. Unfortunately, Andrew usually wins.



Source: bigseventravel.com



Source: Farmers' Almanac

Oliver: My name is Oliver, and I'm in 9th grade. My mom makes homemade cranberry sauce, and we all enjoy it together in a family dinner.

Cameron: My name is Cameron, and I'm in 9th grade. We don't do many "unique" Thanksgiving traditions, so I guess we just eat meals together as a family and celebrate it that way.

Asher: My name is Asher, and I'm in 5th grade. For Thanksgiving, I have a family dinner at my aunt and uncle's house with most of my family.

Lina: My name is Lina, and I'm in 5th grade. We do have a fun family tradition where we hang up a paper turkey and we sign all our names on it along with the year that we're celebrating Thanksgiving in.

Hello Ms. de Blas! Are there any Thanksgiving traditions that you do over Thanksgiving?

Ms. de Blas: Yes! This has been a tradition that my family and I used to do for many years for Thanksgiving. We go out to eat at Chinese restaurants.

While the BASIS community may be very diverse and certainly, that was reflected in the myriad interview responses, especially in terms of food, BASIS Scottsdale comes together to celebrate perhaps the most important idea of all for Thanksgiving: family and friends. Have a good Thanksgiving, everyone!

PARKING LOT PROBLEMS

BY MINTRA WARAM

Our school's parking lot resembles an inner-city car dealership, cars are packed right next to each other, packed to the brim without any space for anything. Our school is much too small for the insane number of cars that come to our school. It's not just an in-school problem: the school's drop-off/pick-up line even blocks East Shea Boulevard and causes massive traffic jams on main roads.

The large number of cars in our parking lot include those belonging to student drivers, parents, teachers, and the occasional bus. Though they all have somewhere to be, almost everyone drives like they are trying to win some sort of road race and end up getting nowhere. Ironically, those who break the rules and behave badly to save time don't save more than 5-10 minutes. Instead, they add to delays and create a dangerous situation in our parking area.

Before the start of the school year, all students and families signed the "Parking Lot Agreement." It seems that most people have not read it or have simply chosen to ignore those rules, leading to a disastrous and dangerous situation in our school parking lot. It gets worse: the problem is not isolated to our school lot. Our school's drop-off/pick-up line chaos has repeatedly caused traffic jams along Shea, even extending past 124th street on hectic days.

Student drivers have their own parking lot with assigned spots. As each student driver had to pay \$100 for a parking lot space (even as good parking spaces were quickly filled), the expectation was that the parking lot would be free of major traffic. Only students and buses are allowed to enter using that entrance; however, some parents rush through that entrance and almost run over people walking through the parking lot. It's not allowed, yet many still do it.

I remember that during the first week of school, police had to come to monitor the parking lot and direct everyone--still, no one listened. If drivers don't even listen to the police, who will they listen to? The lawyers. One parent is facing legal consequences because of their horrible driving. They almost ran over a child! Currently the parent is not allowed on campus without facing legal consequences--imagine how bad their driving must have been.

In fact, 62.1% of the students that I asked said that they felt unsafe in our parking lot. Most people named parent drivers as the problem, stating "The parents are

crazy," "Sometimes during pick up or drop off, parents get extremely upset and there's just lots of drivers who aren't following the rules," or "I feel unsafe walking to the student parking lot."

However, parents are not the only ones at fault. 63% of the student drivers said that other students drive badly or horribly. One person said that "Some student drivers drive way too fast in the lot. And then once we get onto Shea, it's like the Indy 500." Another student stated that he sees a girl driving while texting practically "all the time."

These students then need to cross through the waiting car line to enter the school. Some students have said that the car line sometimes did not stop for these pedestrians. That crosswalk doesn't even have a crossing guard to get children to the other side safely. How would anyone feel safe crossing that? It's impossible to feel safe crossing a road with racing drivers.

But the people crossing are not angels--they too have faults. The student drivers that can't see some of the small children crossing and running around in their parking lot often have to check in all directions to make sure the road is clear before driving off. Other students who take the bus don't cross in the designated crosswalk area, instead weaving through cars as they please, creating a dangerous situation for everyone involved.

Finally, imagine how the teachers feel. Teachers work on campus, but they can't even get to the parking lot because of the car line (unless they can come very early or stay very late). The student drivers at least have a separate lot and space to reverse and exit without getting into the carline, but the teachers have to reverse into the line of parents. Often, the parents do not let them in! They face all the problems of the student drivers and parents, with the added bonus of no secure parking spots. Sounds miserable.

School is supposed to be a haven for students and teachers. We talk about classroom safety and COVID safety but what about parking lot safety? When the drop-off and pick-up lines are as big of a safety issue for student well-being, it's about time we started to talk openly to find a solution.

CURRENT EVENTS

OPINION

“HARDSHIP OF LIFE,” A COUNTRY IN NEED OF LIBERTY

BY ZAINA JASSER

“The picture has reached the world,” says Zeinab, mother of Mustafa and wife to Munzir. “We’ve tried for years to get our voices heard by anyone who would listen, to help with his treatment. We’d give anything to give him a better life.”

Mehmet Aslan, a Turkish photographer, won the 2021 Siena International Photo Awards for his heartbreaking picture depicting Syrian father Munzir and his son Mustafa who were left irrevocably debilitated by the Syrian Civil War. The image, titled “Hardship of Life,” was chosen among tens of thousands of submissions between 163 countries and will be on display in Siena, Italy from October 23rd at the Siena Awards Festival. As a



Source: Mehmet Aslan

descendant of Syrian citizens and immigrants, I find profound satisfaction in such international recognition of the disastrous and inhumane events occurring in my country, however late it may be. My family really has been trying for years to tell the world. But this is just the beginning.

Simply put, the Syrian Civil War came about as a clash between the tyrannical theocratic government under Bashar Al-Assad and the indignant, pro-democracy Syrian citizens. Beginning in 2011, the Syrian government has used police and military violence to suppress liberty demonstrations. And today, citizens are threatened with their life to obey and never speak ill of their government, all while the Syrian economy witnesses terrible inflation, unemployment increases endlessly, and ISIS continues to grow.

Though devastating, Aslan’s photograph is an excellent portrayal of the beauty within the Syrian people as well as the suffering they continuously endure under their government. Munzir was injured in a market bombing, losing all of his right leg, and his son Mustafa was born with the congenital disorder tetra-amelia due to medications his mother was taking for nerve gas poisoning while she was pregnant with him. “We need to bring attention to this,” says Aslan. “The boy has lots of energy. The father seems to have given up.” Since fleeing to Turkey after his accident, Munzir has been searching fruitlessly for medical treatment and prosthetics for his paraplegic son.

All of my grandparents were fortunate to have fled the tyranny in the early 1970s and 1960s, hoping to find greater opportunity and freedom in the United States. My paternal great-grandfather and his father were both liberty activists in Syria who advocated strongly for the reformation of the Syrian government to model that of America’s liberty.

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But their work wasn't enough, and the civil war eventually broke out in 2011 as Syrians became more and more outraged after decades. My father, Dr. Mohamed Zuhdi Jasser, currently continues to raise awareness and discuss the unnecessary suffering of innocent Syrian civilians. He frequently appears on news channels and radio stations to advocate for the separation of mosque and state and for liberty and democracy in the Middle East.

As an internationally recognized commentator on the situation in Syria and its region, here's what my father has to say on the Syrian Civil War and its effects on the world stage in relation to the United States:

Why is the liberty of Syria currently a pressing matter for Americans?

Dr. Jasser: There are three main reasons. First, ISIS is probably the most potent and radical group of terrorists within the Syrian region. Thus, the radicalization of Syrians by ISIS in their civil war driven by the Assad regime, and other foreign powers who exploit the civil war via al Qaeda and ISIS, will have no obstacles if the US does not get involved. Second, Syria is a nexus between the West and our greatest security threats on the planet. Assad is supported by Iran's radical anti-American regime and Russia. It also receives economic support from various anti-American countries. Without a stabilizing influence in Syria, it will leave the entire region under our greatest antagonists next to our Israeli allies. Finally, the United States is a beacon for morality and righteousness, and with over 600k deaths from war crimes and a displaced population of 21 million, without any attention from America, it will mean we have given that inhumanity tacit support.



Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, Source: Wikipedia Commons

What is the best thing people can do to help Syria and its citizens and refugees?

Dr. Jasser: The best thing to do is to increase global awareness of the reality and truth of what is happening in Syria through new and traditional media instead of propaganda. We must educate Americans of other options for Syrian people besides Assad's military dictatorship and radical terrorism. Americans can also donate to various nongovernmental organizations that provide monetary assistance directly to the Syrian people. Lastly, we must convince our policymakers of the importance of the three items I previously discussed.

Today, I have family scattered across the world from the U.S. and Sweden to Turkey and the United Kingdom for they were desperate to leave such circumstances. It is possible I have family elsewhere, but it's difficult for us to stay in contact. Nonetheless, most of my great uncles, great aunts, and second cousins remain in Syria. As much as they despise their government, inflation has left them in poverty and unfit for refuge. And Syria is their home. They have nowhere they can go, nor do they want to leave.

I am entirely American, but I am also Syrian. And the Syrian Civil War has left me without a country, my identity's roots. I have never been to Syria out of fear for my life, and I still have yet to meet the majority of my extended family for they wish to remain in Aleppo-- their home. So, when I saw the recognition of Aslan's image, I felt relieved and inspired. The people of Syria have too long been under the world's radar considering the rampant inhumanity and lack of modern democracy, and this international awareness will be a crude awakening for us all. I intend to continue my father's work, if still need be in the future, and emphasize the prolonged inhumanity in Syria. I cannot do much currently as a young student, but I can spread awareness and write an article for whomever may read this about my family's and the country of Syria's necessity for relief and reformation.

If you would like to learn more about the war or my father's work, please visit these addresses:

www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35806229
bridge.georgetown.edu/research/factsheet-zuhdi-jasser/

SPORTS, ARTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

OPINION

WHY WE CAN'T QUIT *SQUID GAME*

BY SAHIL SUD

Since the release of *Parasite* in 2019, commentary on poverty and difficult socioeconomic situations has become very prominent in pop culture, particularly in South Korea. Criticizing status quo ideology in media has become more and more popular, resonating with the large, dissatisfied section of the population, particularly those in crippling debt and poverty due to unemployment, low pay, or medical and rental debt. In the UK, household debt amounts to £1.74 trillion, and the average adult has a debt of £32,931. In the US, median household debt is \$59,800, and 78 percent of workers live paycheck to paycheck. Instability only increased following the recession instigated by COVID-19. And by October of this year, after only four weeks on Netflix, *Squid Game*, another piece of Korean media that comments on the current economic dystopia, had amassed 111 million views worldwide, becoming the streaming site's most successful launch.

So, why can't we quit *Squid Game*? Why has this show, which was not heavily marketed to fans in large media markets like the US and UK, become so engrossing for fans in these areas?

Squid Game begins with the main character, Gi-Hun, struggling to afford a birthday present for his daughter, while evading loan sharks, and having lost the trust of his ill mother. As he becomes more desperate, he and 455 other Koreans in similar economic situations are recruited for a seemingly golden opportunity to play children's games for 45.6 billion won. They are not informed, however, of the catch: the losers will be killed. After discovering the horrific consequences following the first game, the players vote to leave; however, when faced with life on the outside—where they are struggling with medical bills, running from the police, and not receiving

payment from employers—the majority quickly return. The players believe that their lives are no better than playing brutal games for the entertainment of a group of billionaire VIPs.

The first reason *Squid Game* is so irresistible to viewers is its ideas about the myth of meritocracy. Players are initially led to believe that those with the most skill will be able to succeed. However, a doctor is able to cheat and easily win many of the games with advantageous information, demonstrating how ideas of equality cannot even apply in the game. The larger lie of meritocracy, of course, is that the players are not competing against one another. They are competing against the system, a system with the odds stacked against their favor, which is why the majority of the players are shot after every game. The players who survive succeed not because of their skill, but because of their ruthlessness in search of money. Viewers can relate to the necessity of brutal ruthlessness in their own lives, as they are continuously force-fed messages of succeeding in the “grind” with a ruthless mentality.

The second reason the show is compelling for so many is the resignation the players feel, and the capitalist realism embedded in the show. The players are forced into the idea that competition is the only way to survive and risk their lives in a game that only serves the enjoyment of the VIPs, because they see no other alternative. This serves as a reflection of the idea that the current economic system is the best situation possible, so it is no use trying to change it. Workers across the world are resigned to the idea that the only way they can succeed is submission to capitalism, just as the players are resigned to their fate of playing the horrific games.

What sets *Squid Game* apart from other dystopian

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pieces of media is its focus on inequality in our reality. Series like *Battle Royale* and *Hunger Games* comment on the difficulty of living in a dystopian or authoritarian society. But *Squid Game* explicitly highlights themes of class and inequality, particularly in modern South Korea, providing an example set in the current time. This is particularly illustrative and attracts empathy from those suffering in unequal societal conditions.

Squid Game's anticapitalistic message is an intentional outcome of creator Hwang Dong-hyuk's beliefs. He wrote the show at a difficult time in his life when he was financially struggling and wanted to critique the system that perpetrated it. Hwang says, "I wanted to write a story that was an allegory or fable about modern capitalist society, something that depicts an extreme competition, somewhat like the extreme competition of life." *Squid Game* demonstrates the ruthlessness and competition the status quo incentivizes, and this commentary is why we're glued to it. However, this very attraction to the criticism of the status quo has been exploited by societal forces.

The cruel irony is the way that *Squid Game*'s anti-capitalist message has been hijacked to generate massive profits through the exploitation of workers. Netflix estimates that *Squid Game* has generated more than \$891 million dollars of "impact value," but its production cost was just over \$21 million. It was many times cheaper to make the show in South Korea due to the lack of union regulations. And even while the show is about western capitalists coming to South Korea to watch people work for their entertainment, it was made by a western corporation using South Korean labor to fuel their entertainment complex.

And this is perhaps the most poignant lesson of *Squid Game*. Though the show itself emphasizes the dangers and moral decay present in today's society, it only serves as entertainment for an apathetic society. From Halloween costumes to figurines, the *Squid Game*'s central message has become so obfuscated by consumerism it has ironically become the very thing it sought to criticize.



Source: MSNBC

SLOWING DOWN FAST FASHION

BY STEPHANIE
LOBODANESCU

Ever shopped at Nike? H&M? Forever 21? Maybe you're a person who likes to purchase clothes online-- Shein, Fashion Nova, perhaps? It's likely that if you're a teenager in this generation, or simply someone who goes to malls occasionally, you've bought something from one of these stores. And why not? Most of them are affordable, and each of them has something that caters to our overall tastes and preferences. If we take a closer look, we can see why these places are all so well-known and generally popular places to buy from-- every single one of the mentioned retailers, and countless other ones, utilize fast fashion.

The term "fast fashion," simply put, refers to the rapid production of mass quantities of clothes made with low-quality material. Its popularity has exploded over the last half-century, particularly with the rise of social media and the ever-changing trends that go along with it. However, what's made it all the more appealing, to both the producer and the consumer, is its cheapness. It's easy to source materials, easy to sell, easy to buy and even easier for the person purchasing it to feel as if they're getting so much for so little. On the surface, it's perfect-- an efficient and effective way to get the most out of everyone's money-- but the problem arises with its heavily concerning but often disregarded manufacturing methods.

The vast majority of companies participating in fast fashion use child labor to create their garments-- and an incredible amount of their factories are located in countries where labor laws allow children as young as 13 to work. The workers that aren't children are adults, either forced into the factories or given less than a dollar an hour for their effort. The air quality in the factories themselves are extremely detrimental to one's lung health, even more so for developing children, and the excess pollution and byproducts that are released from the production process certainly aren't helping the environment either. Even now, parts of deserts in Chile are being covered with fast fashion trash and waste, releasing toxic chemicals contributing to the pollution in the area.

Fast fashion certainly isn't helping small businesses or businesses with handmade products, either. A designer who creates something that happens to fit with what's in the moment find themselves seeing their own product made quickly and cheaply for half the quality just for people to participate in a trend.



A landfill full of "fast fashion" clothes, Source: *The Guardian*

The original item that likely took them hours of effort to design and produce and is thus sold at a price that reflects the time and work put into it, is now rarely purchased over the less expensive alternative up for grabs at every popular retailer. "Microtrends" that cycle in and out of the focus of the media every few weeks cause people to buy clothes in mass quantities, wear them until the trend fades, and then dump them at their nearest Goodwill or thrift store.

So, with all of the clear downsides to fast fashion, why do people keep purchasing these products? Is it the affordability? The availability? FOMO? Most people can't afford to continuously buy new clothes every time something becomes "in fashion," or even to buy clothes at their leisure. Sustainable clothing items from businesses and larger corporations are expensive, and our alternatives are these massive companies that sell the clothes we want.

The only way to really combat fast fashion is to cut down on purchasing items from these brands. While it's not reasonable to expect everyone to simply stop suddenly, check out a thrift store and buy something second hand occasionally, do a clothing swap with your friend, or find a small business that might sell something close to what you're looking for. Turn fast fashion into slow fashion and consider every aspect of the clothes that you buy.

GOSSIP WELL TOLD: BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE

BY TRISTAN
CLAKRE

Dance has been for many centuries one of the most prominent forms of art; whether it's paired with music, strict group choreography, or simply exists by itself, the dance form is often appreciated as an outlet for creative expression. That being said, today it's time for us to explore an instance when the groove went too hard.

Let's set the stage. The year is 1518, the place, Strasbourg, France. The middle ages are transforming into the Renaissance throughout much of Europe, however, in smaller towns, and especially among peasants, life is still grueling, but simple: you awake every morning to tend to the land by this point largely liberated from the feudal lords of yore, process your grain, eat a feat paltry meals and get ready to do it all again — that is until one day in July a woman begins to dance.

From there the event itself is fairly simple. As July turned into August, the group of dancers only grew, peaking, by some accounts, at around 400 people engaged in the writhing spectacle. The crowd was not following any particular style or discipline but instead more of a mob all engaged in strange and unpredictable movements back and forth that seemed to be a rudimentary dance. As it played out, several attempts were made to intervene, including from the likes of priests, the bishop and magistrate of the region, and several doctors, but to no avail. This bizarre event continued to unfold, uninterrupted, until early September when at last it dispersed as quickly as it had collected.

One of the key reasons this event is so shrouded in mystery is due to the lack of historical details properly preserved. While several accounts made a description of the size or the general form of the mob, many contemporaneous accounts differ drastically.



Source: historynet.com

Perhaps most dramatically, at the time there existed no accounts that attributed deaths to the plague, however, the claim was widely spread by accounts only years following it. This has led many modern-day scholars to posit that these accounts may have been exaggerations, however, due to the poor quality and sheer lack of the primary accounts, it is difficult to make this claim with absolute certainty.

Beyond the death toll, the lack of information has also made it far more difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of the plague. At the time, many chalked it up to demonic possession or unbalanced and overheated blood, though these explanations have long since fallen out of favor. Nowadays two main theories persist, though each has a glaring flaw.

The first attributes the plague to ergot fungi, the same hallucinogens commonly cited as suspects in the Salem Witch Trials. It's quite possible that the conditions for such poisoning were met at the time, however, the glaring issue is that these women, supposedly poisoned and sent into a madness, would hardly be able to sustain themselves for over a month of continued activity.

The second theory, which is more widely accepted though still flawed, is in stress-induced mass hysteria, essentially a physiological phenomenon by which people placed under extreme pressure begin to exhibit strange behaviors all in line with each other. This theory seems to be generally true, however its flaw comes in its generality too. If this was to be attributed as a definitive cause, it further poses the question of what caused this stress, and why was it manifested in dancing?

What's most interesting about the Dancing Plague of 1518 is that it is not alone. History has borne witness to several other examples of similar "dancing plagues" such as those that took place in Italy in the 15th century or in Saxony in the 11th, and yet despite this non-uniqueness, these events remain some of the strangest mysteries still around today. Maybe, Michael Jackson was right when he said it all those years ago, maybe we should just 'blame it on the boogie'.

SUPERPOWERED STEMINISTS

BY CALISTA WILK

Take a moment to think about some of the best or most well-known science fiction movies. What do they all have in common? Maybe it's the uniqueness of their ideas. Or the relationships built between the characters. Possibly the to-die-for special effects. But one major similarity can easily remain unnoticed behind the scenes: an overwhelming majority of these top films star a male as the lead.

From *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* to *Men in Black* to *Jurassic World*, men are the ones driving the plot and calling the shots. As a result, of the top few hundred most popular science fiction films from 2009 to 2013, only 10% featured a female solo lead, 26% with male and female co-leads, the Women's Media Center reports. With the rise of films like *Star Wars* and *Hunger Games* that feature women, however, these numbers have increased to nearly 17% for female solo leads and 36% for co-leads in 2014 to 2018. But how does this phenomenon translate to life off camera?

"I think [the gender gap in STEM] is like, at least from my experience, getting a lot better," noted Ms. Proctor, who teaches AP Physics 1, 2, and C and computer science courses at BASIS Scottsdale. "Like the whole breaking down the idea of what a woman should be doing has changed substantially. [But] I think there's a lot more gap once you actually go to get a career than...while you're in college [and] that the pressures that women feel come from the industry more than our experiences of growing up."

The pressures Ms. Proctor notices are indeed reflected in society, as the 31% of middle school girls who believe that

they would not enjoy a coding or programming job increases to 40% by the time girls reach high school and shoots to 58% when they're in college, a 2018 study from Microsoft finds. This trend is similar to the level of confidence young women have regarding how they could pursue a career in STEM — the older they get, the less confident they are.

The reasons for such mindsets seem to be founded in the fact that there tends to be much more support for girls when they're younger than when they're older, opening the dangerous possibility that they suffer from a sense of isolation and hostility as they continue to pursue STEM. At BASIS, the only club we have to familiarize and encourage girls with topics in STEM is BASIS TechGirlz. This club has a phenomenal mission of introducing young girls to coding exercises and languages in hopes of inspiring them to choose a career in technology. However, because TechGirlz is geared toward middle schoolers, high school girls at BASIS unfortunately don't have a club to join. So as STEM classes become more advanced and complex, young women at BASIS and high schools in general can begin to feel discouraged and steer away from STEM fields.

Such self-doubt carries on later in life, creating the gender gap in the STEM industry that has remained prominent for centuries. The progress to make women feel confident and secure in their abilities has improved in recent decades. Making sure this upward trend continues is rooted in the amount of support women are provided throughout all levels of education and career development. This not only makes information taught in STEM courses more accessible and enjoyable for women but also opens innumerable possibilities for the future with the new, unique perspectives women can offer.



Source: CommercialCafe

PUZZLES, RIDDLES, AND MORE

MONTHLY MUNCHIES

THE CONVENIENT DELICACY: EASY-BAKE BREAD STUFFING

BY ZAID JASSER

Everyone knows the Thanksgiving staple foods. From the ever-present turkey to scrumptious mashed potatoes, Thanksgiving has no shortage of delicious foods. But what if I told you that of all the Thanksgiving foods you know, it is the bread stuffing (in my opinion) that is truly the star of every Thanksgiving meal? Don't believe me? Just try it for yourself with a quick and easy recipe. Now, there are many bread stuffing recipes, but I recommend this easy one, especially since its cheap to make and all the more delicious for it! This recipe is one that my family and I traditionally use each year for each Thanksgiving. After all the studying we as Basis students have to do over our breaks, I love coming downstairs to a nice Thanksgiving meal with bread stuffing.

Ingredients that you'll need:

- 2 small 'diced' onions
- 4 'diced' stalks of celery
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of butter
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons of poultry seasoning
- Black pepper to whatever amount you'd like
- Salt to taste (I recommend 2-3 pinches because you don't want it to be as salty as I am if stuffing isn't at my Thanksgiving dinner)
- 12 cups of croutons
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons of fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon of fresh herbs such as sage, thyme, and rosemary.

Most of these ingredients can be found at your nearby market or even in your garden, if you have one. But if you're like me, you should probably leave the shopping to your parents, especially because you don't want to ruin the best part of the meal with mismatched ingredients.

How to make Thanksgiving bread stuffing:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. Mix all of the ingredients together in a bowl
3. Put it in the oven to bake (55 min)
4. When the stuffing is done, put it in the freezer before eating
5. Now, enjoy and eat your bread stuffing, or the best dish on the table ;)



Source: fincooking.com

BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING QUIZ

BY ALLISON LI

Congratulations! Christmas is just around the corner, and you know what that means... It's time for holiday shopping! Everyone knows that Black Friday is the supreme shopping event of the year aside from maybe Cyber Monday, but have you ever been to Walmart on that day?). I'm sure you've heard legends about the store and I'm sure you've wondered "Would I survive?" So, answer a couple of questions and discover your inner Black Friday monster!

1. It's the week of Black Friday and you have a long list of items that you need for Christmas, when do you start camping outside Walmart's door?
 1. The day before at about 4 PM (1 pt)
 2. I don't do camping (3 pts)
 3. There's no need for camping when I'm just gonna by everything on Cyber Monday (2 pts)
 4. The week before Black Friday, I grab my handy dandy tent and set up right outside the doors (0 pts)
2. It's 12:00 AM on Black Friday and you've finally entered the store, what is your shopping strategy?
 1. I go for the most expensive items first and then everything else that's on my list (0 pts)
 2. Grab everything off the shelves (1 pt)
 3. Uh wait until everyone's gone so I don't have to fight anyone (3 pts)
 4. I am currently asleep (2 pts)
3. After about an hour, someone grabs the last Widescreen TV that you really wanted, what do you do?
 1. I challenge them to an old-fashioned duel *Ten Duel Commandments starts playing across the Walmart speakers* (0 pts)
 2. When they're not looking, I steal it from their cart and run away (1 pt)
 3. Oh well, it wasn't that important anyway (3 pts)
 4. I'll just buy it online during Cyber Monday (2 pts)
4. You got the TV but it looks like someone is trying to steal your entire cart, how do you fight them off?
 1. I knock them out with the Widescreen TV (2 pts)
 2. I steal their cart, lol, karma (1 pt)
 3. I scream *bloody murder* (3 pts)
 4. Eh, that was just the decoy cart... (0 pts)
5. Now that you've grabbed all of the important things, what other miscellaneous items do you grab just because it's cheap today?
 1. Clothes, I guess, there's nothing else that I really need (1 pt)
 2. Literally everything else off the shelves (0 pts)
 3. Nothing, I don't need it (2 pts)
 4. I buy my groceries there if I have time (3 pts)
6. The checkout line wraps around the entire store, what do you do to pass the time?
 1. I scroll through TikTok on my phone (2 pts)
 2. I glare at anyone staring at the stuff in my cart (0 pts)
 3. I send my friends out to grab more stuff (1 pt)
 4. I take a little nap (3 pts)
7. What is your total at the end of the day?
 1. \$0-100 (3 pts)
 2. \$101-200 (2 pts)
 3. \$201-300 (1 pt)
 4. \$300+ (0 pts)
8. You have returned home with your haul, what do you do now?
 1. Go over everything that I've bought (0 pts)
 2. I go to bed (2 pts)
 3. I start using everything that I've bought (1 pts)
 4. I didn't get anything aside from clothes so... (3 pts)
9. It's Cyber Monday! Do you buy anything?
 1. Yes, I buy everything (0 pts)
 2. No I got everything on Black Friday (2 pts)
 3. What's Cyber Monday? (3 pts)
 4. I don't trust it so no (1 pt)

10. Now that you've finished shopping, did you buy any of the things on your gift list?
1. Absolutely not, who even does that? (0 pts)
 2. I got basically everything but there are a couple of things that I'll buy during Cyber Monday (1 pt)
 3. I didn't buy anything (2 pts)
 4. What gift list? I don't celebrate Christmas. (3 pts)

The Black Friday God (0-8 pts): After all the effort you've put into shopping on Black Friday, you've rightfully earned the title of the "Black Friday God". Not only are you the first when it comes to entering the store, but you somehow always get what you want whether it's that Flatscreen TV or the new iPhone 12 mini.

The Black Friday Enthusiast (8-15 pts): Every Black Friday, you don't go all out, but you still believe that the holiday holds some importance and is worth celebrating. During this time, you buy what you can, but you'll usually try not to start any beef with anyone else.

The Online Shopper (16-23 pts): While you enjoy getting great deals, you would rather stay at home and wait till Cyber Monday to start shopping instead of Black Friday because it's just a lot easier. Generally, you believe that Black Friday is a bit overrated, but you do enjoy the cheap prices it provides.

The Hermit (23-30 pts): I'm not entirely sure what you do during this time, but you clearly don't normally participate in things like this. While you're not very familiar with this holiday, you seem to enjoy running around following everyone but wouldn't challenge anyone to a duel.

NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH

BY GAZETTE STAFF

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

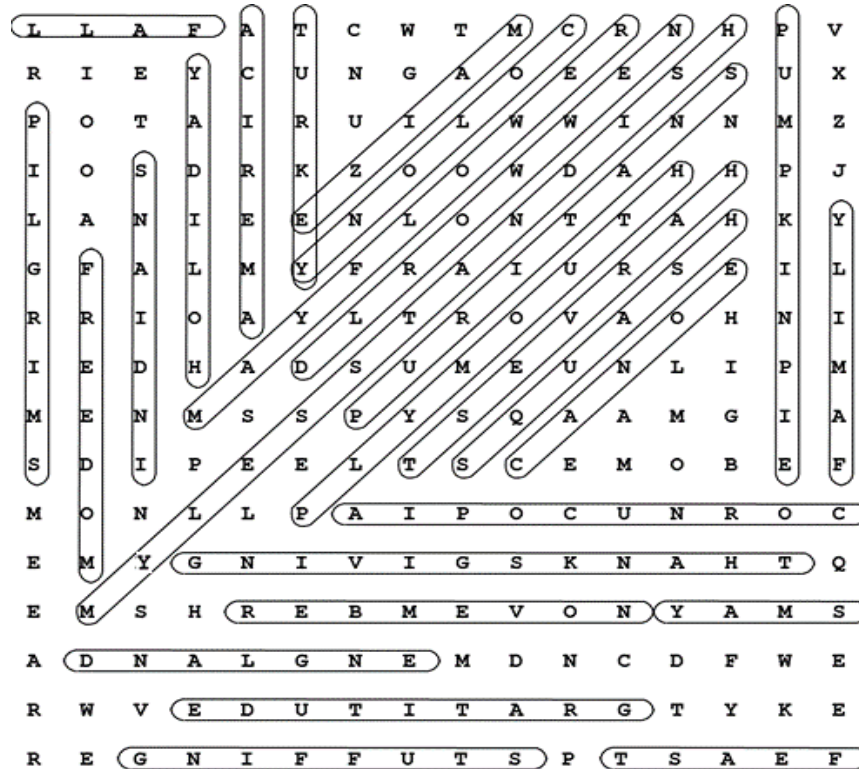
*Answers on Page 17

The Words: England Gratitude Mayflower Squash
 America Fall Harvest New World Stuffing
 Canoe Family Holiday November Thanksgiving
 Colony Feast Indians Pilgrims Turkey
 Cornucopia Freedom Maize Plymouth Yams



PUZZLES, RIDDLES, & MORE ANSWERS

November Word Search Answers



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