

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

LEADING A NEW LEADERSHIP BY VICTORIA MEYER

It is common knowledge that BASIS Scottsdale's very own Leadership Society knows how to throw a good party—Prom, of course. However, aside from T-shirt sales and Spirit Week, Leadership has not been extremely active in the BASIS community. Ms. Das, the new Head of Leadership, acknowledging these changes, is determined to make this year's operations extremely student-led, incorporating and collaborating with others to have plenty of new activities that promote a stronger school spirit.

For the first time in Leadership history, executive positions have been introduced. In addition to specific committees, Leadership boasts Co-Presidents Victoria Meyer and Elizabeth Barnitt, Event Coordinators Jayati Sharma and Seerat Jajj, Character Development Heads Mia Carlson and Sierra Yavari, Late Bird Heads Pooja Venugopal and Ashwath Vijayakumar, Cookbook Leader Rohith Boyilla, Candygram Leader Lauren Rasmussen, and Secretary Rachel Lincoln. That's only to list a few.

Leadership's members and administration alike have worked tirelessly to organize the details of the first new event: "Class Night." On one fine night in April, seniors will rejoice at school for an evening to celebrate college acceptances, to spend time together, and to enjoy one final hurrah before embarking on the exciting, and only slightly scary, adventure of attending a school that is home to more than 600 students.

While currently unofficial, Leadership is also working to organize two different sporting events: a staff versus student basketball game, which is expected to take

place one day after school, and an all-girls tag football game during the Junior-Senior Picnic.

Alongside new high school events, Leadership, working with the Lower School, intends to create more school spirit and fun opportunities for Lower School students at BASIS Scottsdale, beginning with a revitalization of BASIS's famous House System. Each student is sorted into his or her respective Hogwarts house. Certain Leadership members have been selected to serve as "Prefects," and they will collect House points from each teacher to keep the system organized.

While this is only a short list of the many activities Leadership plans to introduce this year, students in all grades should cheer on their peers as they (hopefully) "destroy" our teachers in a friendly basketball game.

SAVE THE DATE

October 5 – 8, 19 – 22,
Variety Show Auditions

November 13:
Variety Show

October 24: Halloween
Dance

November 20-21:
Fall Concert

October 26-27:
Spirit Week

FEATURED

iHOLA!

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DIY HALLOWEEN

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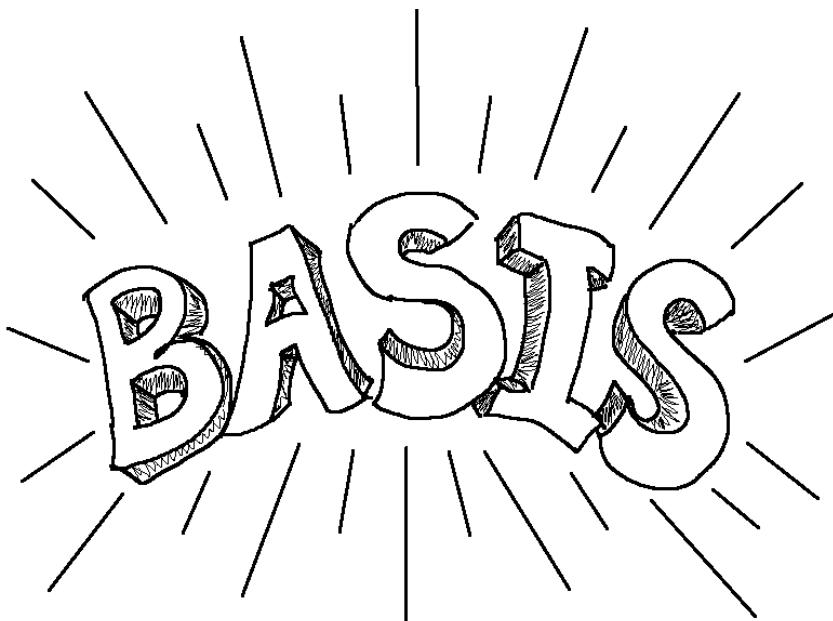
THE BASIS OF SUCCESS

BY ARIA NARANG &
REYNA PATEL

BASIS has many stereotypes, but the image is not always accurate (For more information, please refer to Orwell's *Animal Farm*). Many praise the concreteness of statistics and discount the validity of personal opinion when evaluating BASIS Scottsdale. During the past few weeks, collecting information from a spectrum of students at BASIS highlights differences between the naïve 5th graders' and the sophisticated 10th graders' answers. A few special insiders have volunteered to share their experience of BASIS Scottsdale.

We first interviewed fifth graders regarding hallway conditions. All of the responses were negative. Fifth grader Ryan complains, "The hallways are small and crammed and people always stab me with pencils--it hurts." Ryan's classmate L.J. adds, "The hallways are small and *squeeezy* and I rate them a -20/10." Secondly, fifth graders compared BASIS Scottsdale to their previous school. The fifth graders had immediate answers for this question, and all definitely thought that BASIS was by far a better school than their previous school. Ryan says enthusiastically, "BASIS is way better than my old school. My school was very bad." Our final topic was how the students felt about BASIS overall and what they would rate it. The fifth graders who were interviewed all had a very high rating for the overall view of BASIS. They all believed that it was the ideal school for any student. L.J. rates BASIS a 9 because she loves that she gets a longer lunch with more freedom and time to eat her favorite snacks. With the given information, we can conclude that the fifth graders are huge fans of BASIS, and they believe that it is a school much better than their previous schools.

The tenth graders, having been embedded in the BASIS environment for much longer than the fifth graders, were also in favor of BASIS. Their answers cited different aspects of the many years they have been at BASIS and shined light on their feelings about the school. From the first



question asked to them, it was clear that none of the tenth graders liked the hallways.

From fifth grade to tenth grade, the tenth graders said that their perspectives on the hallways had never changed.

Freshman Joey Peles explains, "The crowd in the hallways makes everyone late to class and creates

chaos for everyone," sophomore Vanessa Jones agrees with her classmate, noting that the hallways are compact and crowded. When asked to compare BASIS to a previously attended school, the high school students, like the fifth graders, all felt that their experiences at BASIS were far superior.

"At my last school, I had one class about science. By that, I mean we spent one single day of class playing with magnets and never spoke about science again," laments Vanessa Jones sarcastically. The other two students agreed with Vanessa that BASIS is better than any previous school. As an overall view of BASIS, the students rate it a 9 and two 8s out of 10.

Though the students ended up giving us slightly different answers, they all showed us that they had an admirable view on BASIS Scottsdale. BASIS supports academic adventure, individual pursuits, and an encouraging environment. You may have thought that the opinions of the 5th graders would differ from the opinions of the 10th graders, but the interview proved that once you fall in love with BASIS Scottsdale you will always be in love with BASIS Scottsdale. As Oliver Wendell Homes says, "Where we love is home--home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts."

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

BY TREY CONNELLY

Look out NHS: there's a new honor society in town. This school year marks the inauguration of BASIS Scottsdale's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society. Officially titled the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH), the society is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). The official mission statement of the SHH is "to recognize high school achievement in Spanish and Portuguese and to promote

interest in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies."

The BASIS Scottsdale chapter joins more than two thousand chapters worldwide. The school's chapter currently consists of approximately 60 members enrolled in Spanish from 10th grade and above, a number which will likely increase in subsequent years as the society gains traction. Members of the society have been assigned to various committees, in charge of activities ranging from drafting of the chapter constitution to heading advertising campaigns for the society. Elections for officer positions will be held later in the year following the completion of the constitution.

Our school's chapter already has several plans for activities promoting Hispanic culture in school this year. The society's first event will be the construction of Altars de Muertos in honor of the Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead), a holiday celebrated primarily in Mexico but also throughout the Hispanic world. These altars will be in both cafeterias one week before and after the holiday, which takes place on the same day as Halloween.

The SHH also plans to represent several Hispanic countries in the school's annual Day of Nations festival. Further activities, both in and out of school, will be planned and carried out later in the year.



BASIS BULLDOGS F.C.

BY GURSAJAN GILL

In case you have not noticed, BASIS Scottsdale has a new varsity soccer team. After a tough week of tryouts and practices, only a handful of the twenty-five hopefuls who tried out for the BASIS team were chosen. Coached by Mr. Campbell, the Bulldogs kicked off their season against West Phoenix High School on September 3. Although the Bulldogs lost the game 4-1, they showed tremendous promise.

This is the first year, in fact the first month, for Bulldogs Soccer – meaning through practice and training, our Bulldogs can find winning ways and hopefully make

BASIS Scottsdale proud.

Not only is our soccer team a great addition to BASIS Scottsdale athletics, it is also a great addition to the BASIS social environment. Now, BASIS has another source of pride, beside the track team, basketball team or (the ever-revered) cricket team. The soccer team will hopefully bring a greater sense of community and school spirit to BASIS Scottsdale. Make sure to come to the Jewish Community Center to support the BASIS Bulldogs soccer team at their home games.

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Right: Ved Narayan (11) kicking a shot for the Bulldogs

Photo Courtesy: Luke Forsman



NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

BY CATHERINE O'NEILL
& FRIDA GUZMAN



Dr. Scaling: Chemistry and Capstone Organic Chemistry

Likes: Camping, Disneyland, and science

Dislikes: Olives, cats, and 115° F temperatures

Hometown: Las Cruces, New Mexico

College: New Mexico State University

Quote: "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." -C.S. Lewis

IN THE SPIRIT OF SPIRIT WEEK BY JAYATI SHARMA

More than just the advent of a scary, orange-blasted holiday, October signals the coming of BASIS's famous Spirit Week. With teachers, students, and staff members alike donning their craziest and most creative outfits in anticipation of flaunting their full-blown Halloween costumes, Spirit Week guarantees four days of themed coordination that attracts all of BASIS together.

This year, Spirit Week will span from Tuesday, October 27th to Friday, October 30th.

Day one of Spirit Week will be centered on school spirit, perhaps the most important of all. Students will be strongly encouraged to come to school in whatever BASIS wear they own, from t-shirts to hoodies to even the once-popular sweatpants. Though a slight depart from the traditional "Green-Out" day, BASIS wear day strives to inspire students to express their love for BASIS in whatever ways they can, even if that means temporarily painting part of their skin green.

A crowd favorite and popular choice among teachers and students, Pajama Day will take up day two of Spirit Week. Because Wednesday, October 28th also happens to be the day of the PSAT, Pajama Day

conveniently calls for students, teachers, and staff to casually roll out of bed in their best and cheesiest PJs. Come to school wearing some onesie, in your kingly bathrobe, or even with your nostalgia-inducing childhood blanket. Live out the day in the comfort of a sleepier self.

Inspired by the pointed success of previous attempts at "twinning," day four of Spirit Week will be crazy twin day and dress-like-a-teacher/student day, with a twist. Students, teachers, and staff and their twins will be encouraged to come to school wearing not just similar outfits, but outrageous ones, in an attempt to stick out like needles in a haystack. Coordinating math-y ties and bicycle helmets is with no doubt enjoyable and humorous, but imagine coordinating temporary hair dye or glittery antennae.

Friday, of course, will be taken up by Halloween, wherein all BASIS community will arrive at school in witch hats, white ghost sheets, batman masks, cow costumes, and much, much more.

This year guarantees an enjoyable and engaging Spirit Week, and, with full participation, can potentially be the school's most exciting one yet.

SPIRIT WEEK 2015

Tues, Oct 27th: BASISWear Day

Wed, Oct 28th: Pajama Day

Thurs, Oct 29th: Crazy Twin/Dress-Like-A-Teacher Day

Fri, Oct 30th: Halloween

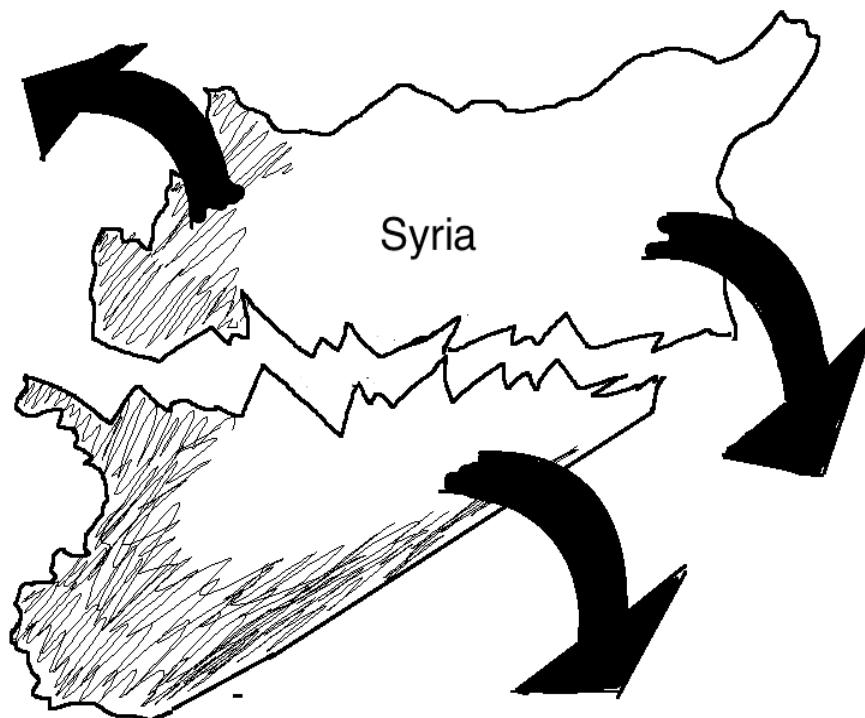
NEWS

SERIOUS SYRIAN CRISIS

BY ZOË MHUNGU

The heart-wrenching image of three year old Aylan Kurdi wrapped in white plastic after he died during his family's escape from Syria to Turkey left the global audience appalled at the severity of Syrian displacement and enraged at the poor conditions the refugees were forced to live in. Before the photograph broadcast on media outlets all over the world, many (mostly residents of the North American continent) were oblivious to the four-year repercussions of the Arab Spring. 2011 marked the start of a desperate dash out of the chaos caused by the Spring with 5,000 Syrians fleeing to neighboring Lebanon. However, the situation has quickly transitioned from bad to worse: now, Syrian refugees compose a quarter of Lebanon's population.

What has prompted such a dramatic surge in the number of Syrian citizens seeking asylum and protection in other countries? The majority of Syrians list continual bombings and intimidations, such as kidnapping as the main motivations to leave. A desire for safer conditions may be a shared characteristic of the refugees, but the desired destination varies.



North of Syria and often a stopping-point before entering the European Union, Turkey shelters one million refugees; 30 percent refugees live in one of the twenty-two government refugee camps, leaving the remaining 700,000 Syrians taking shelter in local cities. The Turkish government has spent \$1.5 billion housing the refugees, putting a high price on generosity.

A price, however, that many other countries are paying too. One hundred fifty thousand Syrian refugees have landed in the European Union since the dismantling of Colonel Gaddafi's government. Economic opportunity and social stability tempt many refugees to make the dangerous journey to European countries, such as Greece, Germany, Sweden, and England. The influx of migrants in Europe has caused transportation systems to be overcrowded and borders to be highly protected.

The struggle does not end once refugees leave Syria; lack of employment, sanitary conditions, and education for children prevent a "return to normalcy" for many Syrians. Still plagued by malnutrition and attacks targeted towards women and children in camps, many refugees are still far from escaping the horrors of war. Our own nation has played a large role in addressing these problems by providing humanitarian aid to refugees and resettling 67,000 Syrians. Some argue that the U.S. should play a larger role by settling more than the current 1,393 Syrians within our own borders.

Nevertheless, the Syrian crisis, now highly publicized, will remain relevant on the global radar as the number of refugees continues to increase and the issue enters debates in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

PSST... A NEW PSAT

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation uses the PSAT (Preliminary SAT exam)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) as a standard for determining which eleventh graders become National Merit Semifinalists. As part of its efforts to improve standardized testing, the College Board has restructured the PSAT. On October 28, ninth, tenth and eleventh graders will be among the first students to see how the PSAT's content and format have changed.



The new PSAT premieres Wednesday, October 28.

The PSAT, like the SAT, consists of three sections: reading, writing, and math. While the updated PSAT retains its three sections: math, evidenced-based reading and writing. The "Evidence-Based Reading and Writing" section is essentially a combination of the reading and writing sections. Along with the name change is content change. Although the reading test will maintain questions assessing the test taker's ability to interpret a passage's meaning from context, new test takers will see marked changes. Unlike before, the reading test will focus on scientific and historical reasoning, rather than solely

BY BRIAN GLUCKSMAN

reading comprehension. Additionally, the dreaded and obscure vocabulary questions will have been replaced with questions asking what a more common word means within a certain context.

The writing section remains an essay-less evaluation of an understanding of English conventions. New to the sub-section are questions asking about the strength of provided evidence and requiring evaluation of informational graphics. The mathematics section is largely unchanged, as a mix of multiple choice questions and grid-ins still compose the same. One significant change, however, is the limit on permitted use of a calculator, as certain sections will not allow calculator use.

The PSAT has experienced a change in not only its content basis, but also its structural framework. The test has been lengthened by a half-hour to two hours and forty-five minutes by increasing the length of some sub-sections.

Additionally, the guessing penalty, which previously deducted a quarter of a point for each incorrect answer, has been removed; students should leave any blanks on the test. Beyond those changes, testing procedures remain the same. Remember to arrive early, bring No. 2 pencils, and have your approved calculator on test day.

BASIS Scottsdale prepares students well for all standardized tests. To avoid any and all last minute surprises, be sure to familiarize yourself with the idiosyncrasies of the test.

GENDER: CHOOSE ONE, ALL, OR NONE

Most college classrooms today no longer require the Socratic method of teaching; most college admissions applications, however, still remain exercises in expounding upon Socrates' command, "Know thyself." Besides demanding self-reflection in required essays and career commitment in major choice, applications for a growing number of colleges and universities now offer prospective students the option of declaring gender identity and sexual orientation.

BY LAUREN APPEL

Expanding students' gender choices incorporates the burgeoning social acceptance and legal protection afforded to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community—most recently expressed by the Supreme Court's ruling validating the constitutionality of same-sex marriage in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. With gay-straight alliances commonplace in many high schools and transgender celebrities profiled in the media, colleges have followed suit to foster inclusiveness, welcome diversity, and document data on LGBTQ student needs.

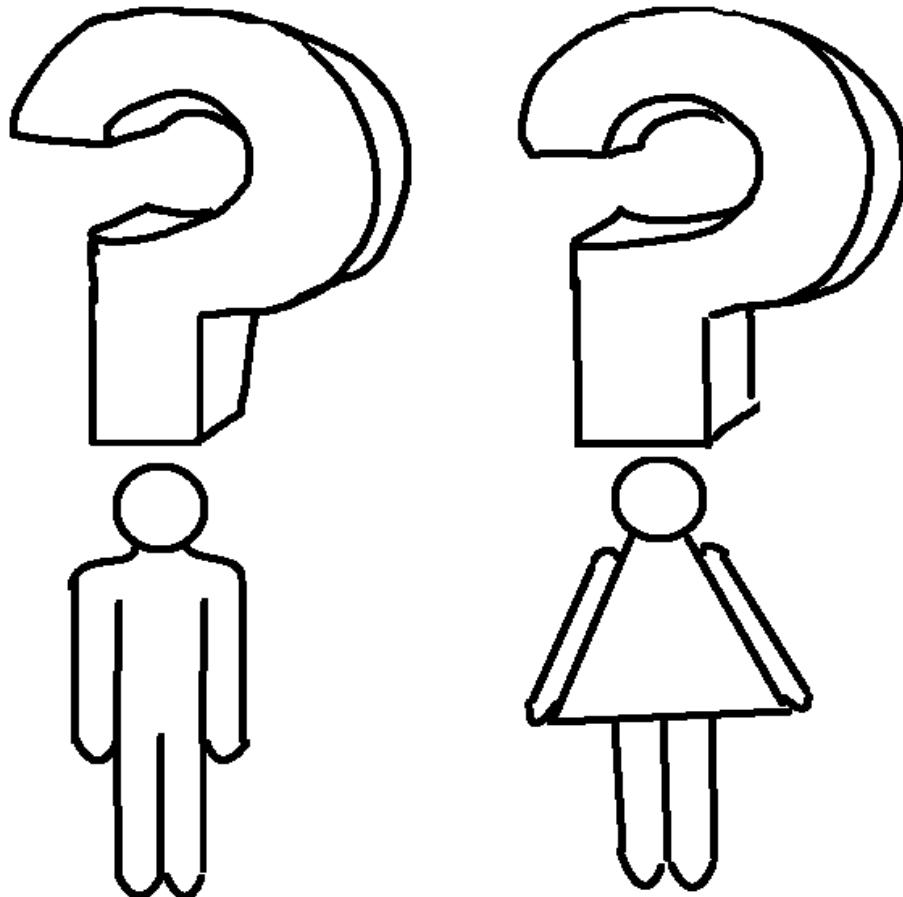
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Replacing the traditional gender question's binary choice of male or female, some colleges have begun to offer multiple gender identity choices. In 2011, Illinois' Elmhurst College was the first to inaugurate a sexual orientation question on its application. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology followed in 2013 with an optional check-box question covering both "sexual orientation/gender identity," allowing respondents to check all that apply among the following: lesbian, gay, straight/heterosexual, bisexual, transgender, unsure, a fill-in-the-blank another identity, or a "prefer not to answer." Boston University, the University of Pennsylvania, Connecticut College, Elon College, Northeastern Illinois University, Ohio State University, and the University of Iowa are among the more prominent colleges providing an optional question concerning self-identification with the LGBTQ community, according to *Campus Pride*.

identify their sexual orientation by selecting "heterosexual or straight," "gay or lesbian," or filling in the blank option. However, the UC application retains the binary choice of male or female in response to the optional question: "What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?"

The UC gamut of gender categories aims to derive "better information" to engender "better decisions" to better serve the demographics of its students, and responses bear no implication on acceptance, according to Kate Moser, spokeswoman at UC's office of the president. The UC system's separate questions on gender identity and sexual orientation underscore the difference between the terms: gender identity reflects individuals' perceptions of their own gender and sexual orientation refers to their physical attraction.



This year, the ten-campus University of California (UC) system introduced six gender identities for undergraduate applicants: male, female, trans male, trans female, gender queer/gender nonconforming, and different identity. In addition, UC applicants may voluntarily self-

The application changes, in a statement by UC president Janet Napolitano, are one way it "must continue to look at where we can improve so everyone at UC feels respected and supported." *UCR Today* reports that UC schools have allowed student record systems

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bathrooms into gender-neutral restrooms on many of its campuses and has commenced a two-year program facilitating the interdisciplinary study of genders and sexualities.

The Common Application so far has refused to incorporate gender identity and sexual orientation questions, whether optional or not, rejecting a recommendation by LGBTQ organizations in 2011. Locally, Arizona State University similarly maintains the male/female choice.

Duke University, however, broke ground this fall by expressly inquiring about applicants' gender identity and sexual orientation, presenting an optional 250-word essay question asking students to elaborate on their identity, citing sexual identity as a prime example of the same. Originating with Duke's undergraduate LGBT organization, Blue Devils United (BDU), this additional question aims to announce that "at Duke, your identity won't just be tolerated, it will be celebrated," according to BDU President Daniel Kort. Beyond just collecting data on sexual and gender diversity, the essay allows applicants to voice one significant aspect of their identity, instead of using the 650-word Common App essay to define themselves solely by their gender or orientation.

The University of Vermont leads the vanguard in the next stage of gender identity by acknowledging the existence of a third gender: gender neutral. Currently recognizing students' right to self-invent their own gender identity by registering a new first name that need not have been legally changed, the University of Vermont also invites students to list a preferred pronoun in campus information records. To expose the inherent biases of the "he" or "she" binary pronouns, the university administration uses the unisex "they" substitute, the favorite—although grammatically incorrect—choice of the transgender community, according to the *New York Times*.

This seemingly simple shift, the *New York Times* further reports, was not so simple: gender neutral options cost the University of Vermont almost ten years of lobbying; a task force of student, faculty, and administrators; and an \$80,000, six-month creation of software. Beginning in 2009, almost 2000 students at the university have selected a preferred pronoun. Fourteen of those students chose "ze," a single unisex pronoun popular in the trans community as a substitute for the masculine

"he" ("hir" replaces "his/her"). The university predicated its name and pronoun policy upon its desire to dismantle the difficulties endured by transgender students, noting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that LGBTQ teens suffer from more than double the likelihood of attempted suicide than their heterosexual peers.

Perhaps the transgender question resonates the most deeply for women's colleges—schools that define themselves as single-sex institutions. Barnard, Smith, and Wellesley accept applications from trans women, individuals who were born male but identify as female. Mount Holyoke goes one step further, admitting not only trans men but everyone on the entire gender spectrum, only excluding applicants born male and still identifying as male, according to AP reporter Jocelyn Noveck.

Nevertheless, broadening the gender spectrum of acceptable students correspondingly inflates the potential for religious grievances and sex-discrimination allegations, especially with regard to housing practicalities. Roommate preferences based on gender identity, as pointed out by Mount Holyoke President Lynn Pasquerella to *Wall Street Journal* fellow Daniella Greenbaum, are as impermissible as discriminatory requests to avoid rooming with a person of a certain religion or race. In the end, women's colleges wish to maintain the same welcoming environment for all persons identifying as female.

While most schools, including the more than 600 schools utilizing the Common App, retain the traditional male-female gender question, evolving cultural norms suggest that gender will likewise continue to progress from a binary to a continuum. The theoretical debate has already spawned a host of pragmatic modifications in its wake, from gender-neutral bathrooms to revised English grammar, which will foreseeably filter into educational institutions everywhere, including high schools and middle schools.

The teachings of Ancient Greece remain relevant today, after all. The more society changes, the more the fundamental questions stay the same—exploring what it is to be human.

OPINIONS

A DIY HALLOWEEN

Scanning the aisles of Party City's Halloween section, seeing the typical witch or clown costume, shying away from the unreasonably high prices the store offers, only to be left driving home without any luck: this can be an unbelievably frustrating experience for anybody. Halloween is a time of unnecessary social expectations; one cannot simply arrive at a costume party in casual attire. It is a time when uncalled-for measures must be undergone in order to look original and presentable (read frightening).



But luckily for you, these efforts do not have to be as demanding as they are often made out to be. With these simple costume ideas, you can prevent unneeded spending, save the pain and energy put into creating a time-consuming costume, and still look both imaginative and unique.

Before you begin, start by thinking of something you would be willing to dress up as. Why not center your costume on something you love? How about your favorite snack? For instance, tape a bunch of purple or green balloons onto a dark T-shirt and go as a cluster of grapes! Or, if you are not the type of person who cares much for

BY BAILEY MIRMELLI

blowing up balloons all day, cut out a spiky hat from green construction paper and throw on a yellow t-shirt, and you can be a pineapple.

Use this occasion to become somebody else. Perhaps you have a favorite role model. Copy a photograph. Put together an outfit and wear a wig. You can also be someone you know very well. Does one of your best friends have a certain look? Make them laugh by impersonating them. Imitate their wardrobe, their hairstyle, and their personality. You can also plan it out with a friend or two, and switch roles for the night.

There can also be creativity in the old ideas. For example, add a twist on the traditional bed sheet ghost. Add a humorous facial expression, accessorize using hats, jewelry, glasses, or anything else you may come across, or use color to add effects or details.

Why not use this opportunity to bring back your childhood? Wear your most childish pajamas and fuzzy slippers, carry an old favorite stuffed animal, a baby bottle, or a blanket, put your hair into pigtails or braids, and let your inner child out.

And if these ideas still seem like too much work, embrace your laziness. Celebrate Halloween in sweatpants and a comfortable T-shirt. Bring a Snuggie and a bag of chips or popcorn along with you. Or, take a Sharpie to a plain white T-shirt and write in your sloppiest penmanship "404 Error: Costume Not Found".

Now, take some time this Halloween to enjoy the actual pleasures it offers. Costumes aren't a dire necessity. Don't spend any more time stressing over finding the perfect costume.

HALLOWEEN'S WORST COSTUMES

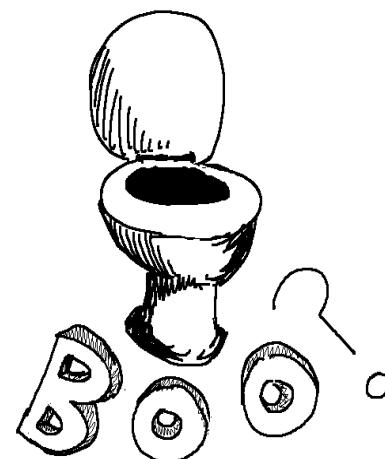
October 31 marks a day filled with costumes upon costumes upon costumes. Some Halloween costumes are amazingly crafted and meticulously realistic (the Grim Reaper, Tutankhamen, even baby pumpkins). Others, however, don't quite make the cut. What follows is a thorough (though not comprehensive) list of some of Halloween's worst costumes.

1. **Hitler costume** – Anything reminiscent of Hitler, such as his moustache, hairstyle, or Nazi symbol, falls under the category of most offensive costumes a person can wear for Halloween. Although Halloween is a time to dress up as spooky characters and monsters, emulating the man who was responsible for the genocide of 5.5 million people crosses a line from which you can never turn back. (Note: Dressing up as other equally offensive characters/groups of history – the KKK – is entirely discouraged.)
2. **Writing “This is my costume” on a plain white T-shirt** – Seriously. This costume idea is incredibly lame, and it is obvious that someone waited until the last minute to think of an idea for Halloween. It's much better if you don't wear a costume at all. (See previous article.)
3. **Dressing up as a mummy, using toilet paper** – Not only will the costume most likely unravel on you, but wrapping yourself with toilet paper will make you one of the most unattractive people at a party.
4. **Toilet costume** – While one may think this might be an original idea, the idea of walking around with a toilet seat is more disgusting than scary. People will more than likely question your hygiene and your sanity.
5. **The overrated ghost costume- a.k.a. cutting two holes in a sheet and putting it on your head** – No costume has ever been more overdone than this costume idea. Unless you are between the ages of five and ten, this costume idea is no longer cute. Sorry.

BY NICHOLE KYPRIANOU

6. **Prison uniform** – Looking like a runaway convict will probably do you more harm than good. If you don't want to run the risk of attracting the police and getting yourself arrested, please don't do this.
7. **Milk carton head** – A failed attempt at comedy. Putting your face in place of where a missing child's would be is anything but hilarious. Not only is the effect of the costume borderline offensive, but a milk carton for a head is not particularly attractive. To anyone.
8. **Human Big Mac** – Of the most awkward and unforgettable costumes to wear, this one rounds out the list. Not only will you have trouble maneuvering around dressed as a sloppy burger, but this costume will also turn you into a super-sized advertisement for McDonald's.
9. **Christmas tree costume** – Expect many groans and other sighs of exasperation. Not only will it be hard to get through doorways, but it is also evident that you cannot distinguish between holidays. Halloween is not Christmas! Get your holidays straight, people.

Following the guidance of this review and not getting yourself stuck in any of these sub-par costumes will ensure you a Merry Christmas. Oh wait, I meant to say Happy Halloween.



COHEN'S COMPLAINTS

HALLOWEEN HANG-UPS

When I was two years old, my mom and I went on the first of many walks through our local Party City in early October to search for a Halloween costume. She was excited to do a paired costume with her little pudgy toddler, something masculine and exciting like Steve Irwin (remember, this is the early 2000s) and another safari-going adventurer.

I had other plans, however; toward the end of our peripatetic Party City search, I spotted something that I must have thought was the clear answer to our costume dilemma.

"Mommy! I be baby cow and you be mommy cow!" I excitedly said.

"Honey, I've been spending my whole life trying to avoid being called a cow. I don't want to do that."

Still, two-year old me had his way, and my mother and I were calf and mother cow for Halloween.

That's my main beef with Halloween: it's a selfish holiday.

For that reason alone, I assure you that group Halloowees are never fun. For example, if you and all of your friends dress up as Elsa or some other comparable queen of commercialism, you might take an Instagram picture saying "Elsa Squad! #qween #3hot5you," but in your heart, you'll think that *your* costume was the best. Even if your dress is an old blown-out potato sack painted blue and clumsily adorned with one bedazzling crystal, the mental need to self-serve will convince you that you must be the single *best* Elsa that ever Elsa-ed.



Alex Cohen and his mom dressed as cows

BY ALEX COHEN

Really, group discord is unavoidable. If you think you'll get around it with an "amazing" group costume idea, there's always a chance that you'll get stuck with the worst costume in the bunch but be forced to go along with it anyway. See, I didn't care in the slightest that my mom would have to dress up as a notoriously fat animal, because the group costume idea made *me* happy. *Oh what's that, we're all going to be Marvel superheroes? I want to be Thor! Oh, you're Thor? What's that? The only superhero left is Ant-Man? Well...all right.*

Beyond being another excuse for you to dislike your friends behind their backs, Halloween also provides multiple reasons for you to dislike complete strangers.

On Halloween, you are guaranteed to see a retinue of memes (*wow, dank Rare Pepe costume*), short-lived pop culture jokes (*that's an awesome Ebola nurse costume*), and shamelessly repurposed costumes that are no longer relevant (*I didn't even know they still sold George W. Bush costumes*). It's a living holiday, people, and trends change: if you show up at my house dressed as Left Shark from the Super bowl halftime performance, then you won't be receiving any candy.

And on the point of giving/receiving candy, does anyone else think that we need to rethink a holiday where people send their children knocking on strangers' doors asking for candy? It seems pretty intuitive that you wouldn't want random people giving your children things in the dark and sticking them quickly in a dark bag. *A Milky Way for you, a Baby Ruth for you, and a hypodermic surgical needle wrapped in used tissues for you. Happy Halloween, you crazy kids!*

Don't let all of my complaining fool you, I love Halloween for what it truly is – an enormous excuse for people to judge each other all around. I just don't like how my feet hurt when I walk too far, how stuffy the costumes are, how most of the candy is terrible anyway, how most of the parties are generic, and how many unknown things are lurking in the dark. Oh, yeah, and the selfishness that I mentioned before.

Other than that, there isn't much to complain about.

MALAVIKA'S MUSINGS

TO ED OR NOT TO ED

Being a senior at BASIS necessitates receiving thousands of emails reminding you about last minute standardized testing, hundreds of college brochures in the mail that have been steadily collecting on your desk, and dozens of open browser tabs loaded with profiles of schools you're not even sure you're applying to. But even after picking schools which are the right fit for you, there is another decision to be made – should you apply under the Early Decision (ED) plan or hold off until later?

As most college-bound students know, there are three overarching categories that encompass the different ways you can apply to a school – Regular Decision, Early Action, and Early Decision. In particular, the Early Decision plan requires that any student applying under the agreement commit to attending at the undergraduate school if admitted, no matter the aid given by the school. Though applying ED is an inherently binding contract, most students seriously consider this option in the hope that it will increase their chances of getting into the school of their choice. In fact, according to the Common App's executive director, Rob Killon, 51 percent of high school seniors applied under an Early Decision or Early Action plan in the past year.

With so many colleges publishing the vast difference between regular acceptance rates and their early acceptance rates, it is easy for students to assume that there is a statistical advantage in applying early decision. Vanderbilt University published a 22 percent early decision acceptance rate this past year, compared to a 13 percent regular decision acceptance rate. Of the University of Pennsylvania's early applicant pool, 23.9 percent were granted admission, compared to a 9.9 percent regular decision acceptance rate.

What students often fail to recognize, however, is the caliber of the students who are applying early every year. The Early Decision application pool is often much stronger than the Regular Decision pool, and colleges often tell students to be wary of this before automatically assuming they have a better shot at getting accepted.

BY MALAVIKA KRISHNAN

Northwestern University's Associate Provost for Enrollment, Michael Mills, points out the quality of the early decision applications the university received this past year. Northwestern did admit their highest number of early applicants in 2015, but it is also important to note that 91 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their class, and the combined math and critical reading scores of over a third of these candidates were over 1500.

As we ask ourselves whether or not we should apply to a school under the early decision plan, it is important that our reasons for doing so surpass merely a published early decision acceptance rate. Maybe you are the student who has had a dream school for a while and wants to get her application over with. But if you are the student who likes multiple schools or is unsure of your current financial situation – Early Decision students must be comfortable with the level of aid they will receive – there is nothing wrong with taking a little more time to decide where you want to commit to spending the next four years of life.

SCIENCE & TECH

APPLE'S IPHONE 6S SUCCESS

BY JAYATI SHARMA

From the back pocket of our jeans to the front row of the movie theatre, they have practically taken over our most inter-connected world. From snapping the most poised selfie to creating new soundtracks, they have infiltrated nearly every aspect of our lives, and show no signs of stopping soon. And the iPhone, perhaps the biggest deal of the smartphone generation, continues to parade new features every year.

On Wednesday, September 9, Apple CEO Tim Cook unveiled the company's latest line of shiny, new products, among which were the iPad Pro, new Apple TV, iWatch OS 2, and, of course, the coveted new iPhone 6S.



Labeled as the “most popular” smartphone to have vibrated on the planet, the iPhone (even with its size adjustments and operating system transformations) seldom disappoints. Though released in an all-new rose gold color, the newest model, largely consistent in size when compared to its iPhone 6 counterpart, exhibits more software than hardware improvements.

The new iPhone boasts 3D touch, an innovative technology that allows users to leverage finger pressure on the phone screen in systematic commands. A light push on the screen enables the “Peek” feature, whereby one views a preview screen for a picture, text, email, webpage, social

media post, etc. Pressing the screen only slightly harder, the “Pop” feature is enabled, taking users to the full screen view of the selected material. With the ability to detect the slightest changes in distance between the cover glass and the phone’s backlight, 3D touch provides an innovative way to increase efficiency on the iPhone. Though the capacitive pressure sensors add weight to the model, the extra clicks and swipes that 3D touch saves us may just be worth it.

Users can also shoot video in 4K, a resolution four times that of 1080p HD. The phone’s 12-megapixel iSight camera prides itself on being able to take the clearest, sharpest, fullest pictures yet.

Also featured is the fun, new Live Photos functionality that turns captured photos into small videos, kind of contextualizing the moment in time. With the feature turned on, users can press a picture to reveal the movements both immediately before and after the photo was taken.

Though the latest model does not feature any particular groundbreaking changes, such as those seen in the iPhone 5 or 6, its subtleties enhance the inherent simplicity Apple strives to breathe through all its products, making the 6s a success.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WATCH IF YOU DARE

The all-around spookiness brought about by the month of October merits an analysis of the best (read, scariest) films to spend your Saturday night on. The following are three of the scariest movies to watch this Halloween season:

Scream (1996)

Scream is a horror movie based on horror movies. This humorous satire makes fun of the slasher genre as a whole, while providing a truly suspenseful and terrifying thriller. In the fictional town of Woodsboro a killer is at large, wearing a plastic Ghostface mask and armed with a sharp blade. Sydney (Neve Campbell) is at the center of the story as she tries to stay alive. Any horror film lover will enjoy the multiple allusions to classic horror films, such as *Halloween*, while following the thrilling and enticing plot.

Black Swan (2010)

Natalie Portman stars as Nina, a ballet dancer set

BY CATHERINE O'NEILL

at perfection. This psychological thriller follows Nina as she reveals her inner darkness through striving to portray the Black Swan. Through intense hallucinations, Nina's nightmare of a mother, and the characters' disturbing habits, *Black Swan* illustrates a day in the mind of a dancer.

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)

Wes Craven's *A Nightmare on Elm Street* blurs the line between dreams and reality. Freddy Krueger, a burn victim equipped with a sharp-clawed glove, haunts the dreams of four teenagers, one of whom is played by the young Johnny Depp. Nancy Thompson (Heather Langenkamp) soon realizes after the death of her best friends that the only way to keep this horrible monster at bay is to fight the urge to fall asleep. While the special effect may be mediocre as this was made in the 80s, the plot is captivating and chilling, elevating it into a horror classic.

SNIGLETS

Snagabar (snæg ə bar) v. To take more than one candy from the “Only Take One Please” bowls that are regretfully placed outside inhabited homes.

Pumpkable (pəmp kə ble) adj. Able to be spiced up with pumpkin flavors

Cleariddance (klɪr ɪd dæns) v. To put all unwanted, post-Halloween candy on sale. (Typical of large grocery/convenience stores)

Nahtumn (na təmn)n. The (now) official name for the autumn season in Arizona, or lack thereof.

Snowflock(s) (snoo flak) n. Dreaded, traffic-inducing snowbirds that migrate to Arizona during the winter.

Flossitile (flas ɪt ɪl) adj. Having the ability of craftily using anything other than floss (keys, nails, etc) to clean between your teeth.

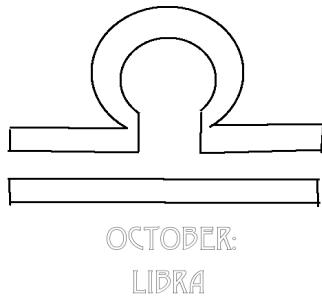
BY MICKI CALO

Hallowinner (həl ou win ner) n. The phenomenon resulting when one hits the candy jackpot by trick-or-treats at a house that generously hands out only king-sized bars.

Pretreatly (pri trit laɪ) adv. An anxiety-filled movement triggered when one must reach into a candy bowl whose automated witch hand that clamps down on your fist while you grab a candy.

Portendtrend (pər tend trend) n. The period between late September and early October in Arizona where the temperature is still too hot for your winter wardrobe.

HOROSCOPES



Libra

September 23-October 22

Stop posting selfies on Instagram! It is neither the time nor the place (and it never will be).

Spirit Meme: Doge

Scorpio

October 23-November 21

Enjoy the heat while it lasts. Your fragile body probably can't handle another 70° winter.

Spirit Meme: John Cena

Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

You may think that you're in love, but love can often be mistaken for indigestion, among other ailments.

Spirit Meme: Blue black white gold

Capricorn

December 22-January 19

Applying to college is a lot like learning to swim: either way, you're going to drown.

Spirit Meme: Miley, what's good?

Aquarius

January 20-February 18

Remember to set an alarm for the morning. And in class. And in the afternoon. You should probably stop falling asleep all of the time.

Spirit Meme: They crave that mineral

BY MOLLY ONO

Pisces

February 19-March 20

A rolling stone gathers no moss. Actually, does anyone actually gather moss? Harvesting it doesn't seem very profitable.

Spirit Meme: The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell

Aries

March 21-April 19

You need to find yourself. Hopefully it's not in a trashcan.

Spirit Meme: Psych! That's the wrong number!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Um, quit procrastinating. You're welcome.

Spirit Meme: Who is she

Gemini

May 21-June 21

You may or may not be forgetting to do something. Planners are helpful.

Spirit Meme: One does not simply

Cancer

June 22-July 22

Love thy neighbor. Not too much though—that's creepy.

Spirit Meme: *hacker voice* I'm in

Leo

July 23-August 22

This is the time to explore new things, new places, new people. Just remember, baby wipes are always helpful.

Spirit Meme: Rare Pepe

Virgo

August 23-September 22

Treat yo' self this month—you is kind, you is smart, you is important.

Spirit Meme: Bye Felicia

JAYDEN'S JAMS

NO CLOSER TO HEAVEN

BY JAYDEN SONI

From the first song on their fifth full-length album, it is clear that The Wonder Years have recorded yet another emotional rollercoaster. Debuting at No. 9 on the Billboard Album charts, *No Closer to Heaven* marks a continuation of singer Dan Campbell's raw, autobiographical songwriting, but with a few new twists.

Though they have always been largely known for their straightforward yet moving lyrics, the band knocks it out of the park this time around. Campbell departs from a trilogy of albums dealing with personal struggles, primarily with depression. Spanning a more comprehensive array of subjects, the band also brings to the table a more developed sound, one still rooted in pop punk, but more complex and intricate.

The first track, "Brothers &," consists of a minute and-a-half of musical buildup and a single line of lyrics: "We're no saviors if we can't save our brothers." That theme continues into the second song, "Cardinals," a regret-filled apology to a friend as Campbell sings, "So if you call me back or let me in, I swear I'll never let you down again."

The story comes to a close on powerful fifth track of the album, "Cigarettes and Saints." Unfolding in three acts, it is revealed that the friend passed from a drug overdose. What starts as a somber but beautiful memorial, featuring church organs and quiet vocals, slowly builds up to a triumphant defiance as Campbell practically screams, "You can't have my friends. You can't have my brothers."

Backtracking a bit, the third track on the album is the first of its two odes, "A Song For Patsy Cline." In this song, as well as on the seventh track, "A Song For Ernest Hemingway," Campbell compares his own writer's block to the sense of impending doom that followed both figures leading up to their tragic deaths. Both songs pay homage in a very ominous but intriguing way.

For all its amazing lyrics, the album's music deserves some spotlight as well. Track six, "The Bluest Things on Earth," features a smooth, fittingly bluesy guitar break near the middle of the song, a pleasant surprise from Matt Brasch, Casey Cavaliere, and Nick Steinborn, the band's three guitarists. A similar riff follows the chorus on the album's eighth track, "Thanks for the Ride," keeping it

interesting alongside steady, driving power chords.

"Palm Reader," the twelfth song on the album, features quiet, minimalist verses, with some interesting rhythms from drummer Nick Steinborn. Also prominent is a bass line that melodically bounces around from note to note, unconventional when it comes to pop punk but in some ways a return to Josh Martin's jazz roots.

And, of course, there are Campbell's vocals. Often bordering on yelling, he manages to mix just the right amount of pitch into his singing to balance raw emotion with musicality. For a song that exemplifies the singer's classic sound, look no further than track four, "I Don't Like Who I Was Then." The tenth track, "I Wanted So Badly To Be Brave," brings with it a similar feeling of nostalgia, briskly moving along at a tempo reminiscent of the band's earlier work.

Beyond "Cigarettes and Saints," the album's ninth track, "Stained Glass Ceilings," stands out as one of its best. Contrary to its complex lyrics, which tackle everything from death and religion to racism, inaction, and the American dream, the song is musically somewhat simple. It builds slowly from mellow verses into a powerful bridge, featuring the aggressive vocals of Jason Butler of Letlive.

In contrast, "You in January," the eleventh track on the album opens with a soft music box. It is fitting for the sweet and genuine love song, bolstered by a sense of vulnerable realism, with the occasional moment of exaggeration as Campbell sings: "You were the one thing I got right."

Finally, the album closes with the title track, "No Closer to Heaven." Driven by the acoustic guitar and music box, Campbell ties the record together, bringing back Hemingway and elements from "Stained Glass Ceilings" as he wraps up his thoughts. Regardless of music taste or ideology, the raw emotion present throughout the album makes it well worth a listen.

Rating: 4.5 stars

YASH-IP GIRL

Dear Yash-ip Girl:

I feel that my friend and I are drifting apart this year. Now that we have different lunch periods, we never hang out, and I miss him/her greatly. What can I do to become close with him/her again?

--STRANDED in a Sea of Friendship

Dear STRANDED:

Now, that's some food for thought! Personally, my lunch consists of finishing homework and "balling," rather than interacting with friends. Isn't that what lunch is truly for? Face-to-face interactions are overrated, and your Lit annotations aren't getting any better. Seclude yourself upstairs and focus on building your college app for your true Ivy League destiny.

Of course, you could try a worse solution. Make new friends with people in your lunch period. Don't worry about a lack of face-to-face time in our digital age. Connect with him/her over social media and make a conscientious effort to meet with him/her outside of school to study for a shared class or maybe even to relax at Scottsdale Fashion Square.

--Yash-ip Girl

Dear Yash-ip Girl:

When I walk up the stairs, I don't know where to look. If I look straight ahead, I feel creepy. If I look up, I feel detached and run the risk of tripping. And of course, I cannot look down, since I am an alpha male.

--STAIRED and Afraid

Dear STAIRED:

Even I don't know where to stare going up the stairs. To paraphrase fellow columnist Trey Connelly, stairs have their ups and downs, especially when you use the stairs.

I always walk up and down the staircase with a friend, so we can talk, avoiding the awkward scenario you

described. Also, going with a friend can allow you to assert your dominance over him/her, achieving your alpha male desires. If you do chose to use this advice, make sure you walk carefully. That is, don't trip. Though your well-being may be awarded some importance, falling downwards in the middle of the staircase would yield greater problems, specifically impeding the "flow."

-- Yash-ip Girl

Dear Yash-ip Girl,

I'd like to submit a question to you and talk to you in person. If only I knew who you were...

--CURIOS

Dear CURIOS:

I'm sorry to let you down, but for the purposes of this column, it is imperative that I maintain my identity a secret. It's the only way I'll be able to provide just, unbiased answers to your most pressing questions.

--Yash-ip Girl

Dear Yash-ip Girl,

I've been looking for advice from a high school peer but I don't know where to get advice that would be both amusing and germane. Any suggestions?

--CONCERNED Reader

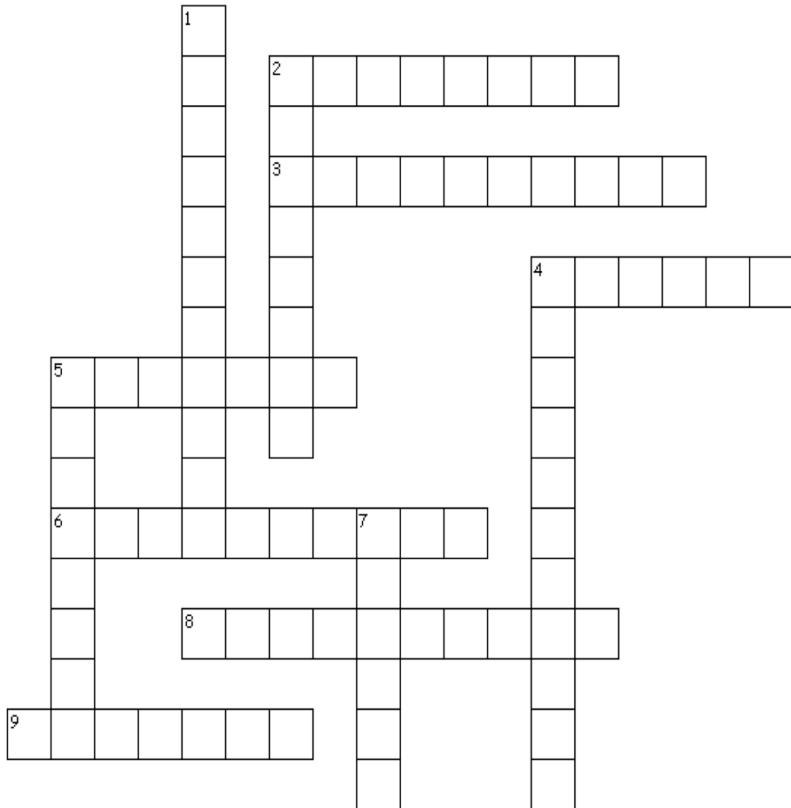
Dear CONCERNED:

I would love to answer your questions. Email any questions to basisgazette@gmail.com. We'll also have a form up on our website soon.

-- Yash-ip Girl

ALL A'S

BY TREY CONNELLY



Across

2. Termite-eating animal
3. Greek who studied water displacement
4. Catherine of ____
5. To refrain from voting
6. To speed up; derivative of velocity function
8. To look forward to something; to expect, to predict
9. Opposite of synonym

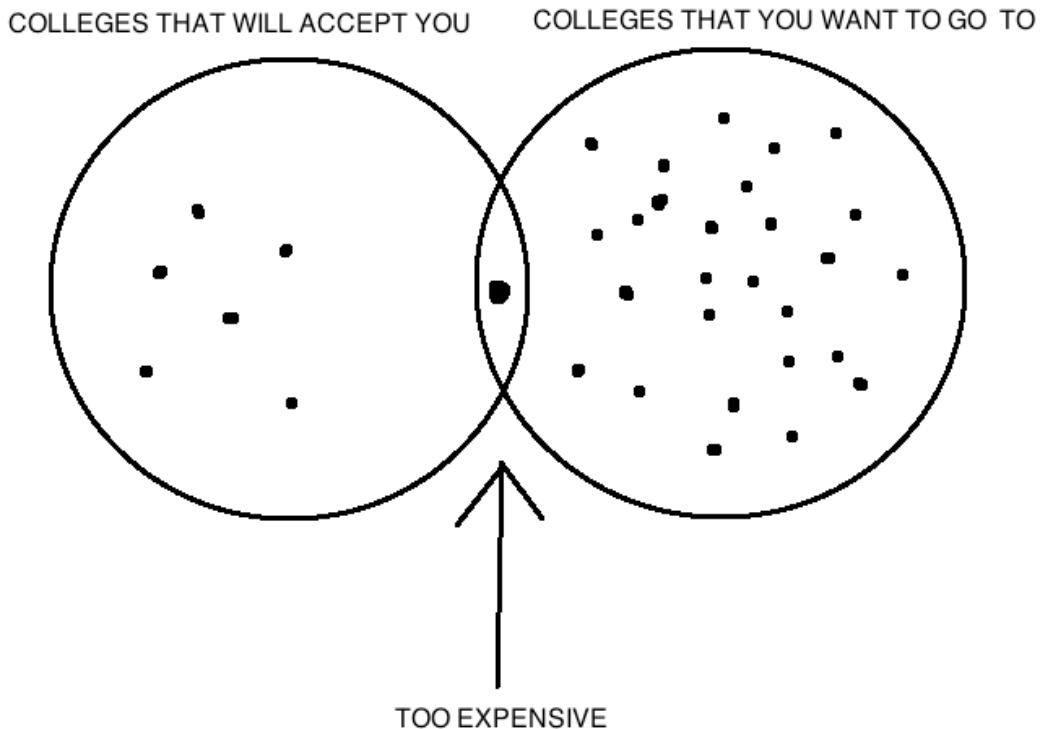
Down

1. The science of farming
2. A spider or a scorpion falls under this category
4. ___ Action in College Admissions
5. Lee Harvey Oswald or John Wilkes Booth
7. Examples include the Southern drawl ___, the Valley Girl ___, and the British ___

Down: 1. Agriculture; 2. Arachnid; 4. Affirmative; 5. Assassim; 7. Accent

Across: 2. Aardvark; 3. Archimedes; 4. Aragon; 5. Abstain; 6. Accelerate; 8. Anticipate; 9. Antonym

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