

BASIS GAZETTE

THE QUESTIONS THEY ASKED

BY DIVYA VATSA

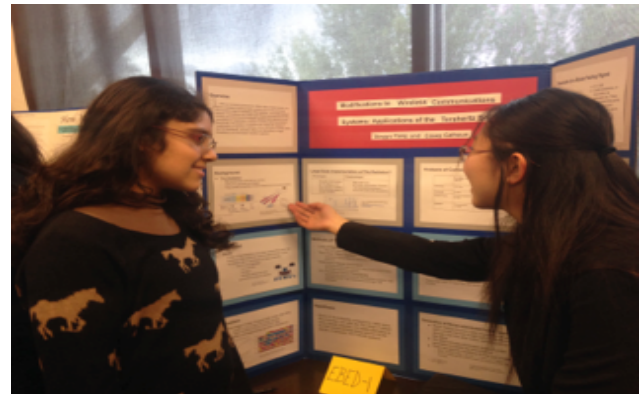
Albert Einstein said it best, “To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.” Science fairs revolve around this idea. On Saturday, February 28th, BASIS held its annual Science Fair competition. Students from all grades submitted projects to the fair in a range of categories including behavioral sciences, biological sciences, medicinal sciences, physics and astronomy, and chemical sciences. And the questions each student researched were extremely impressive.

In the high school division, eleven projects were submitted, each with the goal of moving forward to the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair to be held at the beginning of April. Contestants had to create a presentation board that thoroughly discussed their experimental setup, results, and conclusions and present to three faculty judges. The judges then scored them, so that in each category, there was a first place project.

As Ms. Cooney said in the awards ceremony, picking a winner in each category was extremely difficult, because so many projects asked such intriguing scientific questions. And this is evident from just the project titles, such as Abijith Krishnan’s “Ion Beam Analysis of Sodium Percolation into Glucose Sensors”, Shrey Gupta’s “A Novel Event-Driven Vehicle-to-Vehicle Response System for Self-Driving Autonomous Cars”, or Alice Yang and Casey Calhoun’s “Modifications to Wireless Communications Systems: Applications of the Terahertz Bandwidth.” While only the category winners have the opportunity to compete in the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair, all the projects submitted can solve huge problems and have major

implications.

The fair was a major success this year. All the students had a wonderful time sharing their scientific findings with others, the judges were extremely impressed with the scope of the projects, and the viewers enjoyed learning so much about the world of science from our fellow BASIS peers.



Junior Alice Yang explains “Applications of the Terahertz Bandwidth” to a fellow student.

SAVE THE DATE

Sat. March 21 (7-10 p.m.): Viva Las BASIS

Sat. March 21 (12 p.m.-2 p.m.): She's The First (Not a Beauty) Pageant

Thurs. April 2 (6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.): Annual Teacher's Fund Thank You Gala

FEATURED

BASIS CHINA

WHAT'S IN STORE?

PAGE 2

HARPER LEE

GO SET A WATCHMAN

PAGE 2

IMAGINE DRAGONS

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

PAGE 12

SECTIONS

BASIS News.....1

OPINION..... 5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT.....8

FOOD.....11

BASIS SPREADS TO CHINA

BY GEORGE YANG

The speculation has truth. BASIS does indeed have plans to expand internationally, specifically, to China. To learn more of this exciting development, I interviewed the CEO of BASIS Global, Ms. Hana Somolova.

Ms. Somolova is much like the international students that have transferred to BASIS: a native of Slovakia, she spent a year in the U.S. as a high school student, graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law, and became a senior legal counsel with BASIS just two years ago. In that time, she has filed the paperwork for BASIS's numerous expansions within Arizona, started the international student program based on her own previous experiences, and now, has become the CEO of BASIS Global.

And so, on a Thursday afternoon in Mr. Nishan's room, I had the privilege of interviewing Ms. Somolova by phone, to learn about BASIS's recent growth and its plans for the future.

Content with the company of a few new exchange students, many of us are unaware of the International Student Program's mechanism, the means through which students traverse halfway across the globe to arrive at our small charter school in the middle of Arizona. Surprisingly, the process is not overwhelmingly difficult: simply go to the website and apply.

Having instated such an effortless system, Ms. Somolova has plans to reverse the process. Just as the students of Shanghai have access to a BASIS education in America, future BASIS students will have access to a BASIS education in Shanghai, and possibly many other countries, too. This mutual international exchange would, for example, manifest itself in students' potential senior research projects, wherein they would have the opportunity to immerse themselves in foreign traditions and cultures. Already negotiating relationships with prominent companies, schools and universities, BASIS



would only be better equipped to provide its students with as much practical experience as possible.

BASIS.ed also has some plans to expand our model to nations other than China. The tenets of the BASIS model – excellent curriculum, dedicated teachers, and cost-effective financial support – may soon be crossing international lines.

There are certain causes for caution, however. In dealing with other nations, Ms. Somolova clarifies, one must tread carefully. One must not only be conscious of social norms, but also adjust curricula and accommodate the various educational systems already present. China, for example, does not teach calculus until the college level. Europe uses the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, rather than the AP Program.

As an immigrant to the U.S. herself, however, Ms. Somolova has both the experience and ability to cross these barriers and take our school to new heights around the world. As she asserts, cultural differences provide an opportunity to learn something new.

THE DAY OF NATIONS

On Saturday, February 21st, 2015, the BASIS Scottsdale International Club hosted its second annual Day of Nations. Last year, the event displayed many dynamically decorated booths, diverse and delectable foods, and fun, compelling performances representing the myriad of different ethnicities present throughout the school. This year's event was also filled with live karaoke, cultural dance performances, and several booths depicting this gamut of ethnicities. The purposes and goals of the event were essentially achieved: to support BASIS Scottsdale's multiculturalism, celebrate the international cultures that shape our school, and bring together the racially diverse community that comprises it. Traversing across the North Café was like circumnavigating the globe.

Many countries, such as Egypt, China, India, Peru, France, Malaysia, the Philippines, and America, were well portrayed with cultural booths that provided viewers both a sense of the environment and customs of the country.

The Egyptian booth, for example, was constructed with large pillars in a fort-like structure, reminiscent of the country's ancient architectural style. The Chinese were not left behind either. In a vibrant display of all things red, the booth exuded the essence of the Chinese culture, replete with traditional trinkets and timeworn symbols, characteristic of the Chinese New Year that had passed just two days before. An iconic symbol of the South American nation, Machu Picchu was a considerable part of the Peruvian booth, decorated with ancestral ornaments and, of course, emblems of the llama. The French booth, too, engaged viewers with its unique display of authentic fencing equipment.



The colorful Brazil Booth.

Image Courtesy:
Kimy Lecamswam

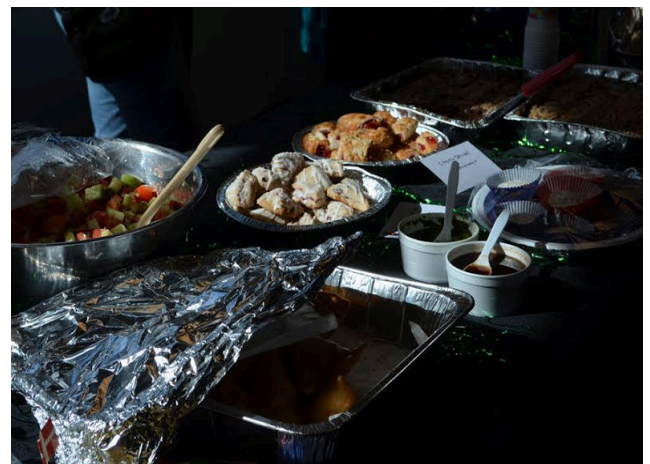
BY LUCIA WANG

Tanmyaa Gupta, a member of the International Club and coordinator of the event, said the event's success exceeded her expectations. Although there were fewer performances than there were last year, they were nonetheless thoroughly enjoyed by all. One such performance was a traditional Indian dance set to a Bollywood soundtrack, a fusion of the classic and the modern, expressive of the nation's intricate culture. In another performance by Luke van Reede and Michael Appel, the duo boasted their soprano-esque vocal abilities, a treat pleasurable to all those in the audience.

Not only did the booths and performances represent all of the diverse cultures of the Day of Nations, but the wide spectrum of culinary delights also demonstrated the same. For example, Chinese dumplings, German chocolate cake (truly amazing), Indian samosas, American cupcakes (complete with little flags on top), Italian sausage lasagna, Greek spanakopita, and Asian noodles all added to the heterogeneity of the event. In addition to being both filling and delicious, the foodstuffs provided attendees both a literal and figurative taste of the countries they rendered.

Overall, BASIS's second annual Day of Nations was successful. With art, music, cuisine, and much more illustrated so completely throughout the event, it was inevitable for viewers to be even more appreciative of our school's many cultures.

Here's to more such great events in the future!



Delicious cuisine at the Day of Nations.

Image Courtesy: Kimy Lecamswam

BASIS TAKES DISNEYLAND

BY ERIC KIM

This year's band trip to the Forum Music Festival in California was once again a success! Students from the Rock Band, the Upper School Orchestra, and the A Cappella Choir all attended the yearly band trip to Disneyland as a fresh start to Spring Break. On Thursday March 6, the group left immediately after 8th period for a six-hour drive straight to Anaheim, CA.

Early on Friday morning, each of the three music groups performed several pieces and was judged by experts in the field based on attributes such as pitch, synchronization, stage presence, and other musical qualities. Based on the scores, each group was ranked into one of several categories: the top 40% receiving a "Merit" rating, the top 30% a "Bronze" rating, the top 20% a "Silver" rating, and the top 10% a "Gold" rating. In addition, judges selected one performer from each group who displayed an outstanding performance.

The A Cappella "Accidentals" Choir received a silver rating in its first year, and Eric Kim (11) received the outstanding performance award. The Rock Band, also

in its first year, received a silver rating, and guitarist Matt Ward (10) received the outstanding performance award for the group. Lastly, the US Orchestra received a bronze rating, and oboist Grace Shin (11) received the outstanding performance award.

After results were released, the group indulged in churros and Pineapple Tiki Dole Whip Floats while at the "happiest place on earth". Though California Adventure Park was not a part of the agenda, the trip was still a memorably enjoyable experience for all. At approximately midnight, the bus drove back overnight, arriving at school campus at about 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning, bringing the great, tireless trip to a sleepy close.



OPINION

FOR THE JOBLESS JUNIORS

BY JAYATI
SHARMA

From the summer camp instructor to the exasperated busboy, stereotypes of the typical high school job abound. Not only does having a job give you invaluable life experience, but it also gives you the ability to save (or spend) some of that hard-earned wealth. (And some work experience never did those looming college applications any harm.)

But with the constant burden of schoolwork, extracurriculars, and a social life, the prospect of getting a job gets pushed somewhere to the bottom of our seemingly endless list of priorities.

And so, as jobless juniors, we are faced with a dilemma. What should we do? Do we prioritize our homework or the opportunity to gain work experience? How important is it to actually get a job and will we really benefit? To find out, I asked some of our own job-holding peers to get a sense of what they thought about their respective occupations.

All of those surveyed agreed that having a job is surely an encouraging experience. Junior Eve Fabre, a waitress at Venues Café, describes her job as “amazing” and cites the experience as both “enjoyable” and a facilitator of organization and communication skills, both essential to future life experiences. Junior Alex Popescu, who worked over the summer as a tennis coach, recalls the experience as both “delightful and inspiring.” Theatre Assistant Director Natasha Milligan recounts her experiences working with children as “truly magical” and thinks of her job as a positive, albeit sometimes stressful, addition to her schedule, and values having a job as being able to contribute to “an idea of what you want to do in college.”

Being employed certainly has its merits. Having a job “serves to teach young scholars...responsibility and interaction with clients,” Popescu states. This opportunity to have a summer job sounds more than lucrative, what with the extra months off to really hone those interpersonal skills and make the most of the occasion.

Lifeguarding is one such popular summertime job. Max Godart, who worked as a lifeguard, recommends looking for a job where employers “are compatible with our busy schedules” and preferably, where other BASIS students have worked or do work presently. Indeed, with the stressful workload of high school, it’s essential that any job allow a degree of flexibility. Tutor and guitar instructor Jayden Soni advocates much of the same; for him, it is “not having to work long hours and choosing when” he works that allows him to “balance school life and work life.”

Not all is so simple, however. Having a job creates a lot of restraints, and sometimes, as Milligan states, “it becomes difficult to balance” everything. Coming home to what is sometimes hours of homework after a long day of teaching, rehearsing, waiting tables, or the like is definitely no small feat; the task of maintaining a job is truly laudable. But how should we take this advice? What if having a job still seems like too distant a worry?

A common voice that resounded throughout these interviews was one advocating “doing what [we] enjoy,” as Soni put it. At the end of the day, Milligan’s words ring true: “I’d recommend to really think everything through before accepting a job...it’s definitely worthwhile.” The verdict is out. It’s really we who have to make the decision and judge our ability to “effectively juggle...work life, school life, and social life,” according to Popescu.

If you have a passion and think you can successfully balance the multiple aspects of being a BASIS student, the general consensus is to go and seek out opportunities to get a job. Many possibilities exist: from lifeguarding to waiting tables to teaching children to coaching a sport, the choices are plenty and teem with benefits.

No matter how clichéd it may be, the *Life is Good* brand is probably right: “do what you like and like what you do.”

MARCH MADNESS HISTORY

BY GURSAJAN GILL

College basketball will once again put us under its spell for the month of March. Start placing your bets and start filling out your brackets, for March Madness is upon us. The greatest part of March Madness is watching the underdogs win. This month, we will once again see our fair share of those Cinderella stories. In honor of these unexpectedly successful teams, here is a look at the 5 greatest Cinderella stories in the history of March Madness.



champion) they remarkably defeated their bitter Oklahoma rivals, the reigning popular favorite. Against all odds, however, the Jayhawks defeated Oklahoma by four points and became national champions, earning the nickname “Danny and the Miracles” thanks to Danny Manning, who carried the team to its victory rather singlehandedly, recording 31 points, 18 rebounds, and 5 steals for the Jayhawks.

2. North Carolina State Wolfpack (1983)

5. Loyola Marymount (1990)

Unlike the other teams on this list, Loyola Marymount overcame not only improbable odds, but also great tragedy. The team’s star player, Hank Gathers, collapsed and died at the free-throw line during a home game. The second player in NCAA history to lead the nation in both rebounds and points per game, Hank Gathers’ loss was a major blow to the team. Empowered by Gathers’ death, Loyola overcame this tragedy and went on to defeat both Alabama and defending champions, Michigan. Loyola made it all the way up to the Elite Eight in the tournament before losing to University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

4. Texas Western (1966)

Texas Western, however, was not an underdog when it entered the NCAA tournament; in fact, it had lost only one game before it had entered. What set the team apart was that it was the only one to have a starting lineup comprised entirely of African Americans. Texas Western faced all kinds of racial barriers in the tournament. Yet, when they defeated the Kentucky Wildcats in the championship game, a new era of racial integration in college basketball was born.

3. Kansas Jayhawks (1988)

The Kansas Jayhawks, on the other hand, were the true underdogs when they entered the tournament. Even with an 11-game loss season (the most by any national

The North Carolina State Wolfpack rode luck all the way to win its title against Houston. In the first round, the Wolfpack nearly lost to #11 ranked Pepperdine, and had to force overtime. The greatest of their luck came when they played Houston. In the fading seconds of the game, the game was tied at 52. Hakeem Olajuwon (Houston) was guarding the paint when Dereck Whittenburg (NCS) took a long three. Whittenburg ‘airballed’ it, but to Olajuwon’s surprise, Lorenzo Charles (NCS) snuck past him, and put back Whittenburg’s three to seal the upset of Houston. This buzzer-beater put-back is now one of the greatest shots in the history of college basketball. And this sealed the extremely lucky upset of #1 Houston by the North Carolina State Wolfpack.

1. Villanova Wildcats (1985)

The story of the Wildcats, however, is the greatest Cinderella story. The Villanova Wildcats first upset #1-ranked Michigan in the round of 32. Next, the #8-ranked Wildcats upset #2-ranked North Carolina. Reaching the Final Four, it first upset #2 Memphis to reach the finals, where it finally upset #1 Georgetown. When the Wildcats had entered, they were considered nobodies and most thought they would not even reach the round of 32. But in an unexpected turn of events, they defeated two #2 seeds and two #1 seeds to become the greatest Cinderella team in the history of the NCAA Men’s College Basketball Tournament.

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2015

BY NICHOLE
KYPRIANOU

With the end of the Year of the Horse, we now welcome the Year of the Sheep. Or the Year of the Ram. Perhaps the Year of the Goat.

English speakers are thrown into the same confusion when we first learn that cougars, bobcats, and mountain lions are actually the *same* animals.

Interestingly enough, the Chinese character *yang* translates into ‘sheep’, ‘ram’, and ‘goat’ in English. Even ‘gazelle’ is included in this translation. However, the best translation for *yang* is probably ‘goat’, given that the animals are about as commonplace in China today as they were under the rule of the Han; the nation’s culture developed primarily in areas where goats were abundant. In recent years, sheep have become the more popular

New Years icon for what is perceived as its superior fluffiness.

For those who still see sheep as meek and doltish, though, the Year of the Ram is a more suitable title, perhaps because of its masculine connotation. To those who are still wondering which title to choose, however, here’s a bit of advice: while the goat was a symbol of wealth and prestige in ancient China, the sheep, because of its newfound, widespread popularity and agreeably comforting nature, is the new goat of the twenty-first century. With that said, have a happy Chinese New Year and good luck to you all in the Year of the Sheep!



Chinese residents walk past a giant sheep outside a Beijing shopping mall in preparation for New Year celebrations.

Image from: CBS News

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CAN LITERARY LIGHTNING STRIKE TWICE?

BY LAUREN APPEL

The explosive aftermath of the bombshell announcement that America's beloved author, Harper Lee, will release a second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, fifty-five years after the publication of her instant classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, brings to mind the opening lines of Charles Dickens' equally seminal work, *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Admirers have embraced the news, elated to finally quench their decades-long thirst for another work from arguably America's favorite author. Critics, however, have cast doubt on the merits of the long-forgotten manuscript, suspicious of the motives of Lee's agents in light of her reclusive self's past protests against writing another book. The clash of heartfelt passion on both sides perhaps can be resolved using the wisdom of the words of Atticus Finch himself: "It's not time to worry yet."

Scheduled for release on July 14, 2015, this literary lightning rod will either confirm fans' hand-clapping or verify skeptics' hand-wringing, delivering a verdict as provocative as that of the charged courtroom drama in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Enjoying an exalted position in the pantheon of 20th century American literature, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* has endured shifting social mores and literary styles to remain securely ensconced in the hearts of generations of schoolchildren. The fact that Lee declined to write another book and shunned publicity has only solidified the book's Teflon-tough impermeability to becoming outdated. A half-century after its initial publication, the book has consistently sold more than one million copies annually worldwide and has been translated into over forty languages, according to *The Atlantic*. CliffsNotes already plans a guide to *Go Set a Watchman*, according to the *LA Times*, in anticipation of another literary juggernaut.

One day after the announcement of its release, *Go Set a Watchman* skyrocketed to the No.1 spot on Amazon.com's bestseller list, as reported by the *LA Times*; more than three weeks later, the novel remains highly

ranked in categories 'New Release', 'Most Wished For', and 'Bestsellers' on the website, reflecting the power of pre-ordering for the \$17.21 hardcover. According to the *New York Times*, the book's publisher, Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins, committed to an unprecedented printing of two million copies for its July 14 release.

Indicative of its iconic status, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was not only adapted into an Academy Award-winning movie in 1963, but it was still featured in 74 percent of America's public schools by 1988, as reported by Lee's biographer Charles J. Shields. Consequently, the release of *Go Set a Watchman* threatens the unparalleled persistence of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the childhood memories of legions of fans.

Reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* often allowed students to cross the threshold to literature, a literary rite of passage, offering easy entrance to often-uneasy issues of adulthood, accessed through the perspective of the precocious child protagonist, Scout. The second novel will either crush memories of that moment with the jaundiced eyes of an adult, viewing it as a publishing ploy to make money, or reward fans with more insight into favorite characters, which can be better appreciated by their adult selves.

Precisely because the stakes are so high, many question why Lee would risk her reputation at age 88 with the release of her earliest work, a sequel which was written before *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but abandoned when her editor at the time, Tay Hohoff, convinced her to rewrite the novel, shifting her focus to the early childhood remembrances of Scout, instead of the adult perspective used in *Go Set a Watchman*, according to the *LA Times*.

Written in the mid-1950s, the setting of the 304-page book occurs contemporaneously, twenty years after that of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in the same fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, modeled after her own hometown of Monroeville. Following the same characters, an adult Scout, properly called Jean Louise Finch, leaves New

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York to revisit her father Atticus in Maycomb. The burgeoning Civil Rights Movement in the South during the 1950s plays a prominent role; likewise, the father-daughter relationship of Scout and Atticus deepens.

Despite being the work of a relative amateur, the work, according to the *New York Times*, will not be edited, leaving the original manuscript intact—an almost unheard-of publishing practice. Although many scholars had known of the existence of an earlier manuscript, they had dismissed it as merely an early draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, not a different story set twenty years later.

In fact, the work was allegedly rediscovered accidentally by Lee's current attorney, Tonja Carter, who, by chance, had been thumbing through "precious family items kept under lock and key" in Monroeville and noticed the old manuscript attached to *To Kill a Mockingbird*'s original manuscript, as quoted by Lee's agent Andrew Nurnberg in *The Guardian*. Nurnberg also disclosed to *The Guardian* that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was initially planned to be the first of a trilogy, with *To Kill a Mockingbird* released first and *Go Set a Watchman* last.

To compound the confusion further, the competency of Lee is disputed. Suffering a stroke in 2007, the author left her New York apartment and permanently settled in an assisted-living facility in Monroeville, after having lived part of the year in the same house as her sister, Alice Lee, a lawyer who was the author's protector and companion, for many prior years.

In response to critics who question why Lee never decided to release her first work before her sister died in November of 2014 at age 103, Lee's lawyer Carter released a statement from Lee to the *LA Times*, proclaiming, "I hadn't realized it had survived, so was surprised and delighted when my dear friend and lawyer Tonja Carter discovered it." In addition, Lee has repeatedly insisted over the years that the overpowering publicity surrounding *To Kill a Mockingbird* dissuaded her from any more publicity—an attitude that raises the question of why she changed her mind now.

When Lee sued Marja Mills for an unauthorized biography in 2011, her sister Alice wrote a letter to Mills, explaining that Harper "can't see and can't hear and will sign anything put before her by anyone in whom she has confidence," according to the *New York Times*. Calling accusations of Lee as blind, deaf, and battling dementia "total nonsense," Nurnberg denied to *The Guardian* that the elderly author was duped into signing a new book deal, adamant that she is "in very good form for a woman of 88." Indeed, *USA Today* issued a statement from Lee in wake of the outcry protesting that she had been manipulated unethically, declaring on February 5 that she was "happy as hell" with the excitement over her upcoming release. However, outlets have only spoken indirectly to Lee, through her editor and agent.

To paraphrase an old adage, this controversy should not be judged by its cover, which has instigated its own uproar over its horror movie-worthy typefont. Perhaps the title itself offers insight into the pending publication, borrowing from the Bible's "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth." The ultimate judgment on this debate will have to wait until the public reads for themselves the book on July 14.

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

BY SUNSKRUTHI
KRISHNA

It's no secret that *Kingsman: The Secret Service* has received great reviews and achieved even greater success at the box office. And deservedly so. *Kingsman* is the adventurous tale of a secret spy organization that recruits Eggsy (Taron Egerton), an unemployed, abused street teenager, to become a world-class spy and save the world from an eco-terrorist, Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson). The movie features the impressive acting of Colin Firth, who plays Harry Hart, an experienced spy that bonds

with Eggsy throughout this training sessions.

In addition to the action-thriller's fast-paced storytelling and engaging visuals, the characters are well-developed and relatable; there is not a single boring moment in the movie. Every action sequence seems to have a purpose, and is not just another of the entertainment fillers that are far too common in action movies today.

The film's **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

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FROM PAGE 9**

emotionally touching scenes do indeed provide the story's impressive stunts with both substance and purport.

The movie pokes fun at other cliché spy movies, by, ironically, using the clichés themselves. Alluding many times to the characters of famous spy movies (James Bond), the movie seamlessly and hilariously incorporates the over-exaggerated screaming of “no”, an evil antagonist’s crazy schemes, and outlandish gadgets like poisonous pens and electrocuting cigarette lighters, successfully satirizing the traditional spy movie. Through hyperbole, the film is able to pull comedic value from the overused clichés of a regular spy movie, and is original by mimicking the unoriginal. In doing so, the film lives up to

the famous warning: “expect the unexpected.”

Although the movie is rated R – mainly for its excessive violence (lots of explosions, shooting, and a lady with knives for feet who cuts up everything and anything) and explicit language – it is worth the slight trouble. Eggsy, as a teenager, does indeed swear in almost every sentence.

I would recommend seeing this movie because, whether you love spy movies or hate them, the film manages to capture and keep the attention of both audiences. The movie has funny dialogue, interesting action sequences, likeable characters, and even puppies. So, if it’s still in theaters, go see *Kingsman*! If it’s not, rent it from Blockbuster. Just kidding. #Netflix.



FOOD

FLOWER CHILD

BY BRIAN GLUCKSMAN

Flower Child

5013 N 44th Street Suite B 2025B

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★

Flower Child, a Fox Restaurant (as are Culinary Dropout, The Arrogant Butcher, and Zinburger), does everything it possibly can to try to live up to its name: the walls are laden with posts for fake farmers markets and awkwardly enlarged photographs of supermodels pretending to be “Flower Children”. The tables are wicker—they look like management stole them from a Wendy’s patio—and all have a flower that can only look good in the pocket of a caricature of the homeless. The tables are so densely packed as to make sure you to appreciate that their beef is free-range. The only thing louder than the scream of the yellow walls is the constant roar the restaurant exudes.

But, if you are able to make it past the price and the environment – a blindfold and ear plugs help – the food is delicious. Salads, wraps, grains, each with a protein of choice, offer an ample variety of sustainably sourced, local food. Drinks are just as diverse: there are more types of lemonades, juices, and teas than I can count (the Passion Fruit Tea is a real standout).

My personal favorite entrée is the Thai Dye Wrap, in which a fantastic Thai sauce accentuates fresh avocado, carrot, radish, and snap peas served in a whole-wheat wrap. The sweetness is immediately balanced by the

savory cilantro and a spicy after-taste.

The quinoa protein bowl features the best-prepared quinoa I have ever tasted. Mixed with heirloom beans, roasted chili, avocado, corn, cilantro, and pico de gallo, a spoonful of the quinoa is the freshest bite I have ever tasted. The Greek yogurt on top provides a great medium to allow the flavors to linger.

The most interesting entrée options, however, are the vegetable plates. You are given a choice of protein to add to one, two, or three of the following sides: sweet potato, beets, soba noodles, brussels sprouts, spinach, mac and cheese, and more. I recommend the roasted seasonal vegetables, red chili glazed sweet potato, and brown rice for a plate of coherent, natural flavors.

Unfortunately, the great food doesn’t come with a great price. The average entrée with a protein will cost around fifteen dollars. Sides are around seven. Drinks will cost you at least six. Worst of all, the food, despite large quantities, is not filling.

No one gets hipster points from eating at Flower Child, either: a chain restaurant is a chain restaurant is a chain restaurant. However, if you are looking for something fresh and are willing to pay the higher prices, I can recommend no restaurant more than I do Flower Child. Just be sure to order take out.

JAYDEN'S JAMS

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

BY JAYDEN SONI

After blowing up back in 2012 on the back of the debut album *Night Visions*, Imagine Dragons is back with the sophomore record and a host of new singles. The difference comes in its success: they certainly are not doing poorly, with *Smoke and Mirrors* debuting on top of the Billboard Charts and the immense success of the single "I Bet My Life," but it's a step back from a tough act to follow. Employing a similar formula as with their debut, the band produced what is without a doubt a good album, but one that does not quite reach the high expectations set by their original triad of singles, "It's Time," "Demons," and "Radioactive."

The first song released with the album, "I Bet My Life," is representative of many of the songs on *Smoke and Mirrors*. It starts off very promising, with some unique electronic sounds and vocal harmonies that supplement a guitar-driven verse. Then comes the chorus, which features excellent repetition of the title of the song, in case the listener happened to be unaware.

That unfortunate trend of repetition continues in "Gold," the album's second single, the almost obligatory song about the band's quick rise to fame and fortune. Though the title is too short to make up an entire chorus, the repetition of "everything" solves that problem. The chorus may be somewhat annoying, but the interesting beats and whistles make up for it, to an extent.

Now, I have been fairly harsh on the band so far, so I feel that I should mention that there are some real gems on the record, as well. "Dream" is a piano-infused ballad that finds a way to feature both booming vocals and nuanced falsetto from lead singer Dan Reynolds. The title track, "Smoke and Mirrors," is another haunting ballad that contrasts beautifully with the loud and pounding "I'm So Sorry" that follows.

Easily one of my favorite Imagine Dragons songs, "Friction," is quietly stowed away in the middle of the album. Driven by a Middle-Eastern-sounding riff, the verses compliment a simple but passionate chorus. The powerful guitar tones that are thrown in, especially the bends following the first chorus and the chords that end the

song (along with a near-yelling Reynolds), bring back the energy the band has become known for.

The rest of the album, unfortunately, is just okay. "Shots," which opens the album, optimizes this trait, starting with a very promising guitar riff, only to devolve into a lackluster track. Similarly, "Trouble" opens with pulsating piano, similar to the sound of the band Bleachers, and is largely a great song, yet it ultimately falls just short, leaving the listener wanting more.

"Polaroid," "It Comes Back to You," and "Summer" all share this blandness: they are all nice songs, but there is always something missing. Initially very similar to "Polaroid," "Hopeless Opus" comes close to falling into this trap, but the electronic breakdown and guitar solo save it and turn it into one of the more interesting songs on the album.

The final song, "The Fall," represents the entire record in a way similar to "Shots." It has some great parts, starts off well, and finishes strong, but the six-minute song ultimately has some lulls, just as any thirteen song album is bound to. With the band continuing, as it always has, to write and release a great multitude of material, fans can most likely expect more of the same in terms of style.

Even if it continues to be rare to enjoy the band's albums in their entirety, there will always be something for everyone, casual listeners and longtime fans alike. Based on its success, Imagine Dragons is not going anywhere anytime soon, and they have the artistic freedom to write however they want to.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLE

BY BRIAN
GLUCKSMAN

“Elementary”

Coincidentally, – or perhaps not – the initials of several famous British people are the same as the symbol for several elements. Given the element and the clue about the person, can you identify the Brit?

Confused? Here is an example.

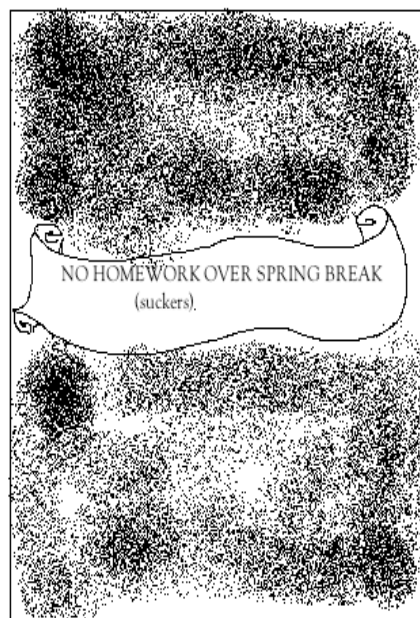
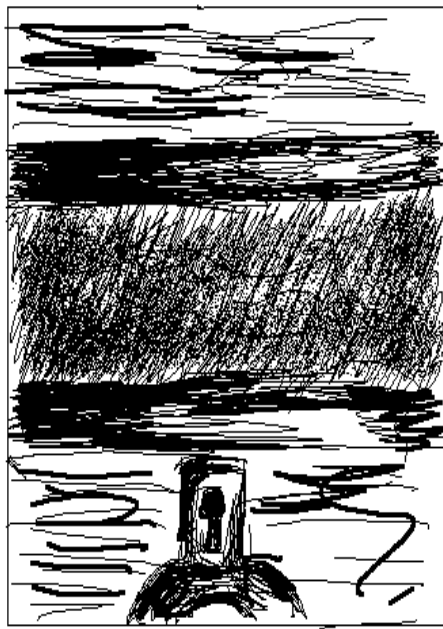
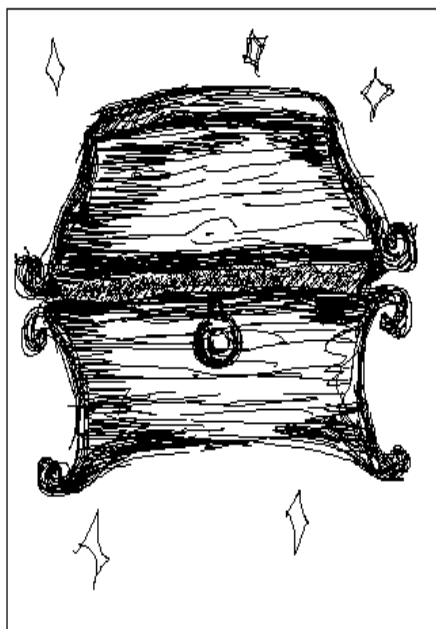
For the clue, “The initials of this 16th century physicist and mathematician shares are also the symbol for indium,” the answer would be Isaac Newton.

Good luck!

1. The initials of this One Direction singer are also the symbol for hassium.
2. The initials of this 19th century geologist and believer that Earth has always been shaped by the same processes are also the symbol for chlorine.
3. The initials of this 20th century crime novelist and playwright are also the symbol for actinium.
4. The initials of this comedian, actor, and ex-husband of Katy Perry are also the symbol for rubidium.
5. The initials of this actor who played the Ninth Doctor are also the symbol for cesium.



THE BEST TOLD LIE



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