



# The Bayan Post

“Innovative, Insightful,  
Informative”

Welcome back Bayan students! Hope you all had a great summer and are ready for a fresh new year of sleep deprivation, unnecessary quizzes, hours upon hours of homework, and coffee for every morning, I mean all the time. This year, Bayan has gone through several changes, firstly being the new building for the preschool students, which creates more space for student. Moreover, the tent has been removed, as the construction of the **science lab** and **robotics facility** has begun. This building is going to be used for physics laboratory experiments, and also for the technology teachers to teach through the newly introduced "**Lego Mindstorms Robots**". Also the board of directors, installed **over 190 CCTV** cameras, which will be further discussed in this issue by one of our writers Zain Al Bastaki in her article. Work hard, be friendly to others, and good luck to all.

**-Basel Al Jishi**  
(Editor-in-Chief)

## **CCTV Cameras**

**By: Zain Al Bastaki**

This summer Bayan underwent many big changes including what I'm sure most of you heard about, 190 new CCTV cameras were installed all through campus. CCTV has forever been a debated issue and the case in Bayan is no exception. There are many different opinions regarding the board's motives and whether or not it will be an effective means of security.

When the news went up on Bayan's Instagram page, many parents and faculty members seemed to highly approve, saying that it ensures safety for their children. During an interview with the parent of a Bayan School student, he/she agreed that they were more at peace with the new cameras in place and felt that it was a safety concern that sparked the administration's action, contrary to what students and alumni believe was a matter of distrust, as a Bayan graduate stated "it is clear that there is a lack of trust towards the

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students and staff [...] which resorted to this level of security". A board member however agrees with the parent, commenting, "Students safety and security are of the utmost importance to the board and administration". A teacher in an interview shows agreement with both parties with this justification "Keeping in mind the pranks that went off limits the past years wherein the security of staff and the students was at risk, this is much needed to keep the students within their boundaries to protect one and all". Therefore one concludes that the board actually got the cameras for the protection of students and faculty from outside threats as well as themselves, and for that reason it would seem like a good decision.



However most of the student body still disagrees with the concept of preventing pranks with such surveillance. A student comments in a survey conducted about the new CCTV "However, with the new CCTV system we feel very restricted and instead of acting like a normal teenager we will be held very big

responsibilities". Students believe that it is surely part of every high school experience to organize a few pranks as a means of leaving a legacy for every graduating class. Some teachers disagree with the practice of pranks because they pose a safety concern, so students should understand that pranks must be harmless for there to be no consequences. With no consequences there would not be an objection to CCTV by the student body.

Now the question remains, we had CCTV cameras monitoring Bayan's hallways for the past couple of years with no objection, why the opposition now? Many students and parents are actually not against CCTV cameras, they simply disagree with the exaggeration of surveillance with the number of new CCTV cameras. They believe it is a waste of funds that could have been used for something more useful to the education of Bayan students. When asked about the CCTV a Bayan parent said "I agree with the whole concept of CCTV but when you buy so many that you have nowhere to put them anymore so you place four in one corner, that's a waste of hard earned money that can be used in a more productive manner".

In addition, the student body believes that the excess of cameras makes school feel a lot more like a prison

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than an environment that fosters innovation and thriving ambitions. One student mentioned that it adds to his/her existing anxiety, "it makes me feel like I'm constantly being watched and I already feel anxious at school to begin with, this just makes it worst".

As with everything, this new CCTV monitoring system has many pros as well as cons, and people can't seem to agree on how they feel about it. Only time will tell whether or not the positives here outweigh the negatives but the administration's efforts in developing the school and making it a safe environment for all of us are very much appreciated by everyone. A big thank you to them for giving us a campus where we can seek education knowing we are protected.

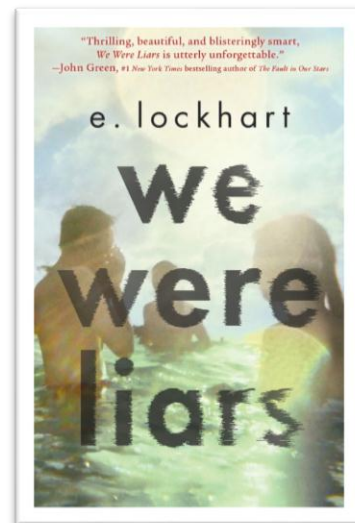
## Book Review: We Were Liars

By: Zain Buhindi

Going into this book I did not know what to expect. It started out simple, revolving around a rich girl with family problems. However, after a few chapters the book took an unexpected turn. Cadence Sinclair is the eldest daughter of a filthy rich family that tucks away all their issues under carpets and behind their strong chins; one of them being the amnesia Cadence experiences. Two years before the current setting of the book, Cadence was found unconscious; lying on

the shore of her family's private island is nothing but her underwear. Terrible migraines and memory blanks come in the way of discovering the truth. *We Were Liars* doesn't quickly tell you what has happened to Cadence, instead the story unravels slowly, like a rope whose separate strands are fraying and coming apart, and it's only towards the end you realize the rope is completely broken. Lockhart keeps the reader on the edge of their seat dangling countless possibilities of what happened on that dreaded night. This is not a narration by a girl who is in puppy love; it is not a

teen who is suffering, because other than the obvious Cadence does not remember the terrible events that led to her being washed up on shore. She ponders with the reader about being raped or attacked or going through a trauma that would cause her to lose her memories. This narrative is by a girl who is fractured; messily piecing parts of her



life back together. The final revelations in this novel are chilling and so shocking they are almost unacceptable. By the end the beginning makes sense. You'll be flipping back to the first page all over

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again. How could you possibly have missed it?

## Extraterrestrial Life?

By: Amal Sarhan

Individuals interested in astrophysics and the great unknown of outer-space..

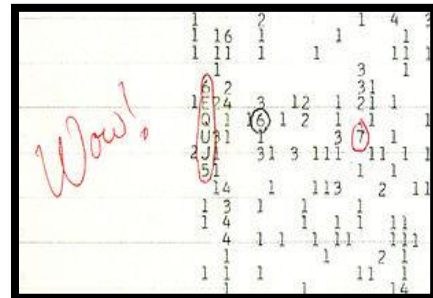
Brace yourselves for one of the most critical breakthroughs yet.. The discovery of alien intelligence. Yes, you read it right. Although this happened about 40 years ago, surprisingly not many people have heard about this marvelous innovation.

On the morning of the 18th of August, 1977, Dr. Jerry R. Ehman, then a volunteer at the Big Ear Radio Observatory at the Ohio State University, received a knock on his door. It was the usual technician delivering reams of printouts. In those days, hard disks could hold not more than a few megabytes, and someone had to visit the telescope every three days, record the data onto the disk, print out the data, and erase the disk clean only to return after three days and repeat the process all over again.



Ehman lays the printouts scattered across his kitchen table and gets to work. He starts searching among the sea of letters and numbers for an unusual reading.

This catalog of numbers and letters depicts the strength of the signals



received. A blank space signifies low intensity, while higher intensities are marked by numbers 0 to 9. Even higher and stronger intensities are marked by letters A to Z. Most of the time, the intensities of the data recorded by Big Ear do not exceed the number 2. However, on this occasion, Ehman staggered upon something extraordinary. On the 15th of August at 10:16 pm Eastern Standard Time, a radio signal of utmost intensity was captured by the antennae of the Big Ear telescope and was recorded with the code 6EQUJ5. It lasted 72 seconds, which is the exact amount of time it takes for the telescope to sweep across the source as the Earth rotates. U marks the peak of the signal and is the strongest to ever be recorded. This is highly significant because the signal would not have risen and fallen as such coincidentally with the rotation of the Earth if it was an Earth-based interference.

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Ehman, being absolutely flabbergasted at this remarkable finding scribbles 'Wow!' on the printout, thus the name. Naturally, he checks to see if the signal had been repeated (since the telescope would inspect each area of the sky twice separated by a 3-minute gap). So Ehman should have viewed a similar reading three minutes after the first one. Unfortunately and oddly enough, this did not happen. But it does not eliminate the possibility of alien intelligence.

Further investigation revealed that the signal's source was located within the Sagittarius constellation not far from a star by the name of Tau Sagittarius - an orange star twice the mass of our Sun and about 122 light years away. Numerous attempts have been made to revive the signal using highly advanced telescopes, but nothing unusual has ever been detected since that Monday night at 10:16 pm.

## **History of Cell Phones**

**By: Rashid AIMusalam**

Phones and communication technology in general play a major role in our lives. They help us communicate with each other over long distances. Today's smartphones are lightweight and capable of much more than communication, such as taking pictures or browsing the internet. However, it all started with a simple cellphone.

Martin Cooper, also known as the father of cell phones, was responsible for

revolutionizing communication.

At first, communication was possible, but only through

certain locations such as cars and offices. Cooper realized that people needed to access a phone from anywhere, not just their homes or workplaces.



Cooper assembled a team and managed to build the first model of a cellphone. It was large, heavy, and lasted for an incredibly short amount of time before it needed to be recharged again. After 10 years, a better cell phone was built and Cooper was able to bring it to the market. After his success, he founded a few companies and worked along with Samsung to provide cellphone services and invent new phones.

Later on, second-generation (2G) was launched in 1991 to defeat other cellphone companies with inferior first-generation (1G) phones. Third-generation (3G) phones were launched in Japan in 2001. Cell phones constantly evolved until they reached the stage of smartphones, which many people use today.

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## The Nurturing behind Nature By: Razan Hafud



Are we born artists, philosophers and criminals? Is it upright to bear such a view as a culture-bearing species? Nature and nurture are partners in development. Together, they mold each of us into who we are. While “nature” offers a biological account of development that focuses on the influence of genes and inherited characteristics, “nurture” refers to environmental aspects such as one’s socioeconomic background, culture and upbringing. Although heredity is a vital contributor to development, its effects are overshadowed by those of nurture. Heredity is limited by environmental factors and it is only within healthy conditions that most children are able to blossom. In this case, even the most exceptional genes are stunted by a harsh environment. Children that carry DNA associated with great intellect, for example, will not be able to reach their potential without an environment that offers the right opportunities and

supporting resources. Surroundings that do not cater to an individual’s needs have the power to affect one both physiologically through nutrients and stressors and cognitively through meaningful experiences. These fundamental aspects of development cannot be solely provided by biology. Without a suitable environment, biological factors fail to come into play. This is particularly true at times when nurture is not nurturing. Extreme cases such as feral children- children brought up by wild animals- serve as notable testimonies. Victor is a wild child who lived in 18th century France. Victor behaved like an animal despite his human DNA. Although he was taken into the care of a physician, he made little to no progress over the years. Victor was incapable of verbal communication, ate rotten food and held no morals. He died at the age of 40, still feral. The wild had left an irreversible imprint on his development. His story ultimately points to one truth- that human nature is not wholly innate but instead instigated by one’s environment.

To fully grasp the influence of nurture, it must be recognized that it goes far beyond a household setting. We are nurtured not only by our parents but our community; our friends, schools and government. We are also nurtured by our culture. Culture establishes norms that all members must conform to.

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When these norms are common beyond one's borders they may be mistaken for innate behaviors, inherited and congenital among humanity. Anthropologist Margaret Mead asserts masculinity and femininity as examples. Upon studying secluded tribes in New Guinea, Mead discovered communities that held gender views unfamiliar to those of the West. In the Tchambuli tribe, female members were dominant and authoritarian and men were sensitive and vain. Despite their supposed rigidity, norms present in society yield to culture.

Admittedly, the findings put forth by scientists with the use of genetic research and twin studies have provided humanity with information of undeniable use. That being said, its basis lies within explanations of inheritance and the role of specific genes. Although DNA gives rise to the development of certain physiological functions that shape our characteristics, a single gene fails to account for a complex behavior. Heredity does not act alone but in relation to environmental stimuli.

Consequently, genetic research cannot claim any definitive cause-and-effect relationship between a gene and a specific behavior, no matter how strong the relationship between variables. Even more problematic, studies are often conducted on traits and behaviors such as crime and intelligence that are difficult to define objectively and even

more difficult to measure. Crime, for example, can range from shoplifting to murder while intelligence is perceived differently across communities. Thus, findings waver in the face of cultural variations and bias due to social construction.

As humans, we are more than biological systems operating according to genetic code. We are beings complete with influence, reason and morality. While alive, our environment provides our biology with an influencing dynamic for physiological development. Factors such as social learning and cultural influences come into play and offer alternative happenings to inheritance. In harsh conditions of nurture, environment trumps heredity. An extreme nativist outlook on development implies that we are born imprisoned to a persona dictated by DNA. Lest we forget that human nature is malleable. We are individuals.

**Hand on the loose!**

**By: Mariam Al Bastaki and Yahya Al Hayki**

Despite the countless advancements the field of medicine has achieved in recent years, some neurological disorders remain as baffling as ever. Alien hand syndrome refers to a rare disorder that causes involuntary hand movements, most often in the non-dominant hand, that the victim is unaware of. Sufferers even tend to separate their arm from themselves as if

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it has a mind of its own due to their lack of control over it. Some of the least worrying symptoms include the tearing of clothing, and the grabbing of one's face. Although unfortunately some individuals find that their arm may inflict pain, for instance causing them to choke or punch themselves or even others, thus making the

disorder dangerous to those who have it. There are some



individuals who suffer from this disorder, that have been able to somewhat control their arm, although the movements they make could end up being imprecise.

Fifty-five-year-old Karen Byrne is a New Jersey resident. She occasionally had her left hand behaving as if it were under the control of an alien intelligence. It all started when Karen had surgery with the aim of curing her epilepsy. She suffered from its dominance ever since she was a toddler. At the end of the surgery, Byrne was left with radical results. Her epilepsy had been cured, though her doctor tore her brain's corpus callosum. Extremely odd behavior later was observed. Dr. O'Connor shockingly cried out at Karen when her left hand began to undress her. An emergency call was taken as soon as Karen struggled to stop her left hand with her righty hand.

Another bizarre battle involves one hand lighting up a cigarette and the other stubbing it



out. After eighteen years, Karen has been healed. She gave her syndrome a farewell by allowing both hands a firm shake.

### The Future, Today

By: Faisal Al Doseri



Recently, new technology has been released that revolutionized personal transportation in a whole new way. The IO Hawk is a self-balancing motorized personal transporter. It is essentially a part skateboard, part segway device that

relies on minimal movements from the person controlling it, and as a result the device will move. This device will move up to a speed of six miles per hour (approximately 9.65 kilometers), and is dubbed the "21st Century makeover of skating" since its release in mid-2015. Over the summer, social

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media was filled with images and videos of different people using this device, and as a result, has become part of strangely delightful social phenomena.

It quickly was able to climb up technology lists, and is picked by many well-known reviewers, such as CNN and USA Today, as one of the top ten most revolutionary and simply coolest pieces of technology of 2015. Below you'll find information about the IO Hawk's specifications. During the IO Hawk's first reveal that took place in a popular technology convention called CES 2015 this year, the company behind it, also called IO Hawk, explained the multiple features that this futuristic board has. The presenter stated that the board is 22 lbs (about 10 kg), and it can hold around up to 220 lbs (about 110 kg). The board is currently available in red, black and white and is available for online orders on the IO Hawks website, [iohawk.com](http://iohawk.com).

## Food Myths revealed

By: Shaikha Al Khalifa

“Let’s face it, myths and misinformation are much more seductive than the truth,” says Keith-Thomas Ayob

We have been deprived of certain foods growing up due to it being allegedly harmful

instead of being beneficial.

Certain foods that you

vetoed for

various supposed reasons will now be revealed for the benefit it possesses.

These are four food myths that most certainly has gone to people’s heads:



1-“Chocolate causes acne”:

Starting off with arguably one of the most popular food myths is the much beloved chocolate. Chocolate was given a bad reputation of causing acne, this is actually not true. Coming down to the science of it, there is no actual connection between eating chocolate and developing skin problems, it actually may even be good for you.

2-“High-Fructose Corn Syrup is worse for you than sugar”: Not saying that High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) is actually healthy, but those claiming it’s worse than sugar are supporting a food myth. As High-fructose corn syrup was created to mimic sugar, its mix is almost identical to sucrose. Both HFCS and sucrose have very similar effects on blood levels of insulin, glucose, triglycerides and satiety hormones.

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Overall, the food myth is inaccurate as they HFCS is no worse than sugar is.

**3-**“Carbohydrates make you fat”: There is nothing inherently fattening about carbohydrates despite the popular belief that it makes you fat. The only exceptions are refined-carbohydrate-rich foods such as white pasta, bread and doughnuts can increase the risk of developing heart disease and diabetes, other than that, foods such as whole grains, vegetables, fruits are your body’s main source of fuel along with vital nutrients and fiber.



However, despite all the benefits, the key is always to have food in



moderation and to be aware of what you pair it with for example, having it with butter on your toast or a side of bacon is not ideal at all.

**4-**“Eggs are bad for your heart”: One of the essential foods in almost everyone’s grocery list are eggs. Yes, eggs do contain a considerable amount of cholesterol in their yolks which contributes to clogged arteries and heart attacks; however, labeling eggs as “bad for your heart” is a complete food myth. Your body actually needs the egg in order to make hormones, vitamin D and it also helps you digest foods. Vitamins and minerals in the egg contribute to many health benefits which include weight loss and maintenance of healthy eyesight and strong muscles.