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# The Carver Times

## Life Without Water

By Emese Bata

We hear in the news that water is a big problem in Cape Town, South Africa, but is that only a problem in that part of the world? The answer, sadly, is no. The number of areas that have experienced a lack in water supplies is growing dreadfully. It reaches deserts and hot places first, like in the country of South Africa, the Middle Eastern country of Jordan, or India.

The lack of water is an effect of overpopulation and climate change. These terms are common knowledge, but not many people seems to want to or know how to help the the situation.

The first city to run out water might be Cape Town, the second largest city in South Africa. The day when there is no running water from the tap is called "Day Zero," which will affect 3.75 million people who live in the city. This date was already delayed from April to July, but it is still an imminent threat. On average, one person is allowed to use 50 liters (13 gallons) of water. That covers 90 seconds of shower time (4.7 gallon), one flush of the toilet (2.4 gallon), 0,5 gallon is for drinking and there is 1.3 gallon that one can use for cooking and washing one's hands brushing one's teeth, and washing clothes. In comparison a normal U.S. citizen on average uses between 80 and a 100 gallons of water a day. A resident Darryn Ten said, "unwashed hair is now a sign of social responsibility."

So what caused this extreme situation? First of all, South Africa is considered to be the 30th driest country in the world. At the moment there is a long-term drying trend (desertification) in the region. Usually in winter, the wind brings rain, but because of climate change these rainy days become less frequent, and it could reduce annual rainfall by 40%. The South Atlantic high pressure and the growing population also doesn't help the situation.

The dam which supplies the city with water continues to sink. In my research, I read this perspective: "It's frightening," admits Anna Verbist, so it's no surprise that so many people are leaving the city." "The consensus is that everyone who can get out of town should do so in order to help lessen the burden" says Darryn Ten.

But what happens to those who stay? They have to pay for water, but that is not a guarantee that they are going to be able to buy it. There is a shortage of water, and if a shop has water bottles, it sells out fast, leaving the shelves empty for days. "People were already rushing in and out of the shop to buy water," says Adele van der Spuy. "Some actually went in several times as we were only allowed to buy five boxes at a time."

What happens if water is controlled by the mafia? Sounds scary? In Asia, in the Indian city of New Delhi, this is the reality. The so called "water mafia" forces residents to buy stolen water. In southern New Delhi the water pipes are not properly installed, therefore most people get water using their water buckets. Drinking water arrives once a week in governments-supported water tankers.

Again, my research led me to the story of Devendra Singh. "I took a shower for the first time in a week when it rained a few days ago. I usually don't wash properly because there is no water" says Devendra Singh. "All of us hate them (the water mafia)."

She refers to the "water mafia", an illegal group of locals that steals water from the government or digs up wells, so they can resell it at a higher price. The "police aren't on our side. Without them, we have to get water from the Yamuna River, which is 30 kilometers away," says a local resident. The mafia can also threaten to withdraw water entirely from people if they do not act as they want them to.

"A few weeks ago, water supply had been cut off in the entire village. I was forced to buy water from the water mafia. I couldn't complain about the water they provided. They threatened us that they would stop water supply if we complained" says Bhavesh. 100 million homes experience a lack of water in the country.

One of the driest countries in the world, Jordan also has a water crisis. The country is getting hotter and drier than it was previously predicted. Researchers in Stanford University predict that it could have 3% less rainfall by 2100 and the annual temperature can increase by 8 Fahrenheit. *Continued on Page 3*



# Inspirations at Carver HSES

**Aijea Fowler has been a four year starter for the Carver HSES Women's Basketball teams. She hopes to continue her playing while studying nursing at Neumann College.**

**in·spire**

/in' spī(ə)r/

verb

1. fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.  
"his passion for romantic literature inspired him to begin writing"  
synonyms: stimulate, motivate, encourage, influence, rouse, move, stir, energize, galvanize, incite;

**James:** How long have you been playing sports?

**Aijea:** I have been playing sports since I was in 6th grade, so about 11 or 12.

**James:** What drives you to keep playing?

**Aijea:** Something that drives me to play basketball is my mom and dad. When I was younger I would always see so many trophies and pictures up of my dad playing basketball. I remember wanting to pick up one of my dad trophies but it was too heavy for me... lol I wanted to get one if the same trophies but I wanted to be able to pick it up for myself.

**James:** Does school help you mentally on the court?

**Aijea:** School does motivate me to play. I know that I have to keep good grades in order to play because if not =my mom will not allow me to participate in athletics. Also, there were plenty of days I didn't want to come to school but I knew I had a commitment to my team and myself which pushed me to come.

**James:** Do you plan on playing in college?

**Aijea:** I would love to have the opportunity to play in college. In my academic career, I've never just been a student, I have always been a student athlete. The transition to college will be so different if I do not play basketball while learning. I do not have a plan at the moment to play at any college or university but which ever school I do choose to attend, I have no problem with walking on to their women's basketball team.

**James:** Would you take a position with a (W)NBA team in an administrative position? If not what is your dream job?

**Aijea:** If I had the opportunity to take a position with a (W)NBA team in an administrative position, I would take the job because it's a job doing and being around something I love more

than anything (Women's Basketball). My dream job is to be a neonatal nurse.

**James:** Can you describe what it feels like when you're on the court?

**Aijea:** When I am on the court I feel free. Everything that causes me stress is now relieved and I feel like I can be myself. The feeling is really impeccable and every time I step on the court I attempt to make it a time that I can remember. Each time is better than the last time!



# Life Without Water (Cont.)

Continued from page 1 More than the half of Jordan's water is used in agriculture. Some farmers grow water-intensive crops, like tomato and banana, which contributes to the cause of the water supply loss. Ali Subah, the assistant secretary-general of the Ministry Of Water And Irrigation, says that the country wants to solve water shortage by desalinating seawater, but until that is used, the water crisis just gets worse.

Earth is running out of fresh and clean water supplies, including America and Europe. In the future water scarcity is expected to become the leading cause of national political conflicts.

**Emese reflects on solutions to this crisis:** "One solution to the water crisis is that we should all reduce our carbon footprint. This is not working, because most people won't change their lifestyle that drastically." Are you up for the challenge? Join the Carver community on **May 22nd** for **WATER IS LIFE Day**.

## Exploring The World Of Science

By Cira Diop

I see you geeking out in your AP Chemistry class. But what if I told you that your interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields does not stop after class is over? Science Olympiad is a team competition in which students from all over the United States compete in 'events' pertaining to various [scientific disciplines](#). These events are based on career fields such as earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. On March 17th, 2018, Fahmida Lubna, Alonzo Lawrence, Nathan Augustin, Rasheed Bacchus, and I all participated in the Science Olympiad.

Nathan Augustin and Alonzo Lawrence participated in the Mousetrap Vehicle event, whose objective was to build a vehicle powered by one or two mousetraps. Rasheed Bacchus participated in the Towers event, whose mission was to design, build, and test the lightest and tallest tower to carry a maximum standard load. Mr. Koehler, my mentor, introduced me to Fahmida. Although I only knew her for about half of the year, she was a great partner, and I look up to her. Fahmida Lubna and I were participating in the Thermodynamics event. Thermodynamics is a branch of physical science that deals with heat and forms of energy. The objective of this event was to construct an insulated device that is designed to retain heat, predict temperature after a certain time, and complete a test on thermodynamics concept.

This was an amazing experience! Going into this I didn't think I could do it because my interest was mainly in the field of engineering.



Cira Diop, Alonzo Lawrence, and Fahmida Lubna

I knew only about the basics of Thermodynamics like conduction, convection, and radiation, while my partner knew a good amount because she was taking a Thermodynamics class at Community College of Philadelphia. Constructing the device was one of my favorite moments because I love building stuff. The competition allowed the students to bring in documents that will help them with the Thermodynamics test. Are any of the documents that we printed were used because we had both been studying up to that day. We were both nervous, but at the end we felt relieved. The team we were up against seemed really confident that they were going to win, so we were second guessing whether we were going to win or not. We actually ended up getting first place in the Thermodynamics event!

You should get involved in the Science Olympiad, even if you don't have a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics interest. It's not always about winning, because win or lose, you're always going to learn something, and the more you know the further you'll go. If you have any questions about the program or about how to get involved you can ask Mr. Koehler or any of the students who participated in the Science Olympiad this year.





Alonzo Lawrence, Rasheed Bacchus, Fahmida Lubna, Cira Diop, Safiyyah Franklin all at the Science Olympiad Events at the Saint Joseph

# Exploring The World Of Science (Cont.)

By Cira Diop

## Safiyyah Franklin shares her perspective:

I was at the Science Olympiad as a spectator and as a support member for the teams competing from our school. Watching the events was really cool as I was able to see the many different events that the Science Olympiad has. Cira and Fahmida, who were competing in the Thermodynamics event against another team, were really nervous after they completed their objective. During their lab, their opponents were super ecstatic and thought they had won. I reassured Cira and Fahmida that they might have still come out on top as there are many variables to the objective to determine the overall winner. In the end, Cira and Fahmida did in fact win first place, which was great. Next year I plan to participate in the Science Olympiad in the forensics and helicopter event. I encourage others to join as there are many events that you can participate in and learn something new!



## Fahmida Lubna shares her experiences at the Science Olympiad:

I had an amazing time at the Science Olympiad. Even though I studied chemistry for two years, I still needed to learn a lot more about thermodynamics. Because of that, I was nervous to -->

compete at first, but Mr. Koehler and Safiyyah helped us out throughout the whole process. I've learned a lot from my experience. We spent hours collecting data for our project, and I realized how persistence made a huge difference in the results. I also realized how teamwork and communication allowed us to combine Cira's engineering skills and my chemistry knowledge to make this work. This experience only amplified my interest in biochemical engineering. I would definitely like to continue participating in competitions like this in college, and I encourage everyone else to do the same.

## Editorial Board April 2018 Edition

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Interested in joining Carver Times Editorial Board? Meetings during lunches EVERY THURSDAY in the IMC.

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