

Sara Yu, Jivika Raut, Jolyna Weng, Joanna Kwak
Big Green Beans
Jericho High School

One of my favorite shirts to wear is the John Galt New York City shirt. This specific t-shirt originated from John Galt, Switzerland, and it was made out of 100% cotton.

According to my research online, John Galt, a sub-brand associated with Brandy Melville, is part of a fast fashion operation. I've realized that Brandy Melville has little transparency around details about its supply chain, sustainability, and labor practices. When I looked on the Good On You website, they rated Brandy Melville as a "We Avoid" rating for its environmental policies due to its lack of publicity about its practices. They also highlight how as a fast fashion brand, Brandy Melville (and therefore John Galt) has a problematic take-make-waste business model with clothing waste ending up in landfills, and the company has yet to address these concerns. Regarding labor conditions, reports have shown that there have been troubling labor discrimination and waste practices in Brandy's operations, which were highlighted in the *Brandy Hellville & the Cult of Fast Fashion* documentary. Reflecting upon these findings, I believe that this shirt most likely would've been made like any other fast fashion garment, and could have the same negative impacts on the environment and laborers.

Instagram Reflection:

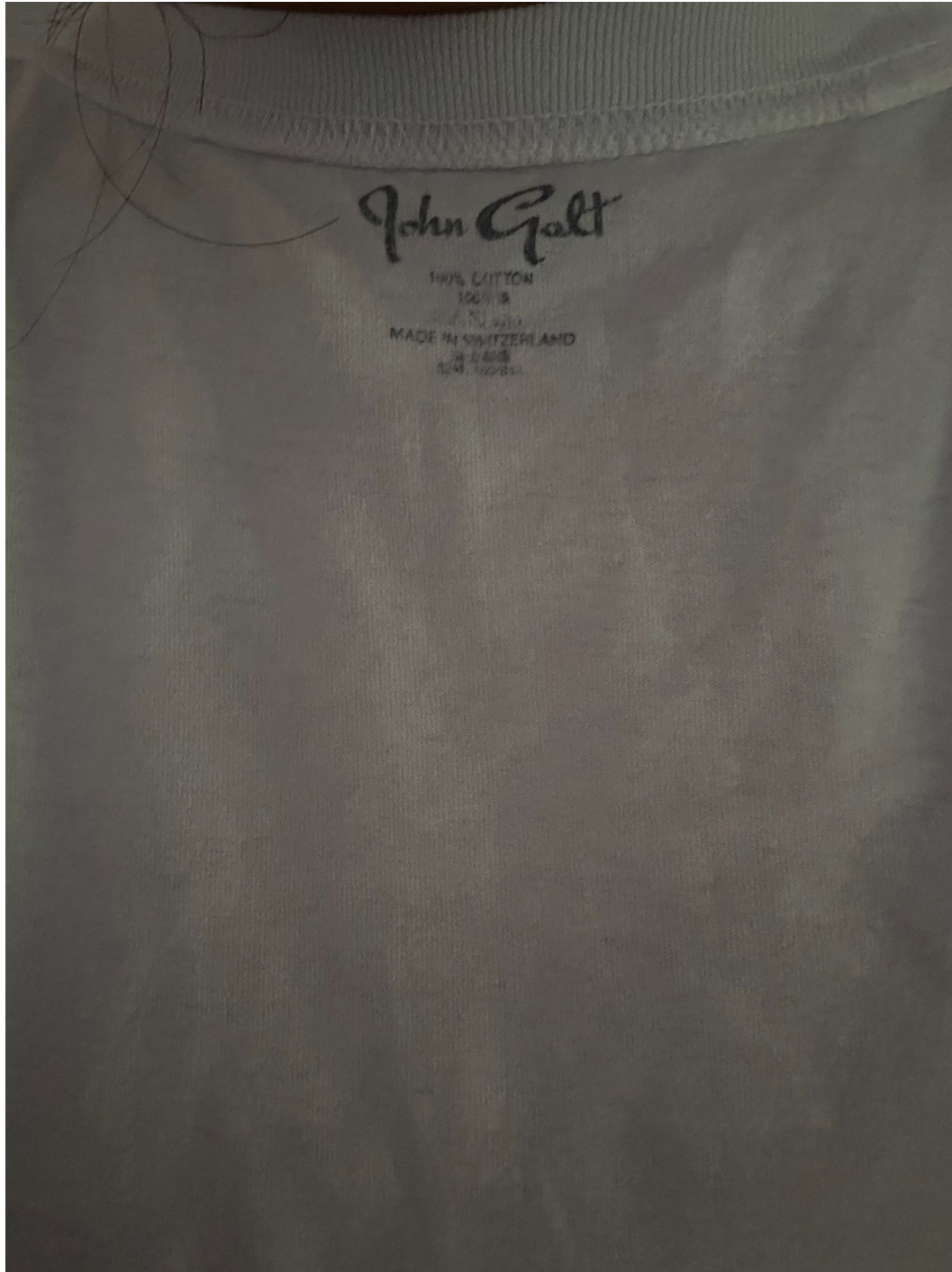
When I wore this shirt inside out, the label revealed the brand (John Galt), the materials (cotton), and where it was made (Switzerland). This information made me feel that the materials and the methods used to create this shirt might've been more environmentally friendly compared to other fast fashion brands. The fact that the shirt was made in Switzerland made me believe that this shirt was sustainably made since Switzerland generally has more sustainable practices. However, since the tag never said that the type of cotton was organic cotton, and John Galt is a fast fashion brand, I felt that this shirt wasn't as environmentally friendly as I thought it would be.

I chose to flip this shirt inside out today to raise awareness of the hidden environmental and social impacts of cheap fast fashion clothing. I know that a lot of people in my school, community, and home wear this type of clothing without knowing the full story behind its creation. I also wanted to spark curiosity about why I was intentionally wearing my shirt inside out, and educate others about the processes (such as the resource-intensive cotton farming and energy/labor heavy manufacturing processes) involved in fast fashion. My goal was also to make others more aware of their choices when they buy, wear, and discard their clothes.

One particularly meaningful conversation that my actions sparked was with my friend who knew a lot about the environmental costs of fast fashion. She told me that in certain countries, leather factories use chemicals like chromium salts that contaminate waterways and cause cancer among the workers. To reduce this impact, she told me that she avoids buying leather from fast fashion

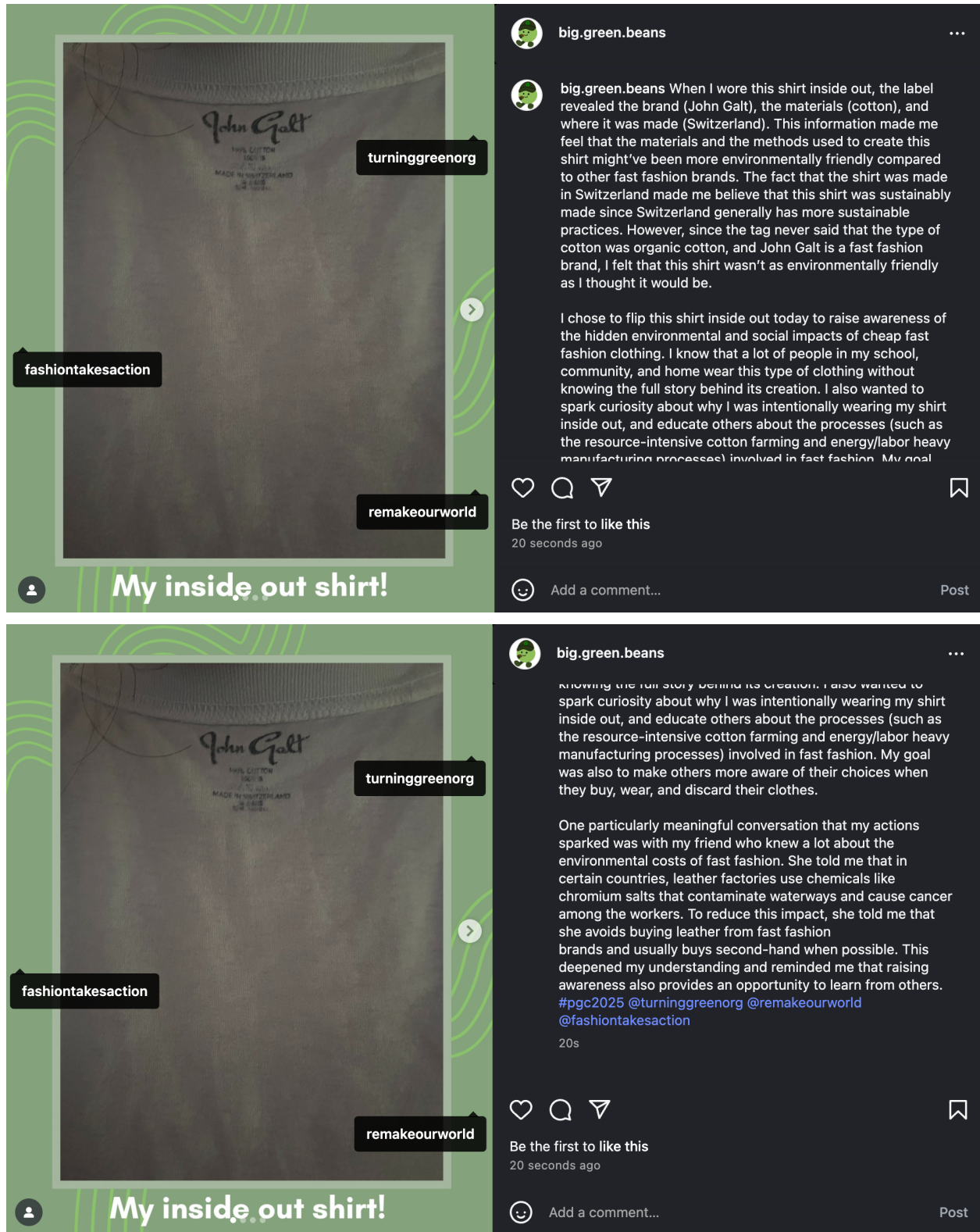
Sara Yu, Jivika Raut, Jolyna Weng, Joanna Kwak
Big Green Beans
Jericho High School

brands and usually buys second-hand when possible. This deepened my understanding and reminded me that raising awareness also provides an opportunity to learn from others.

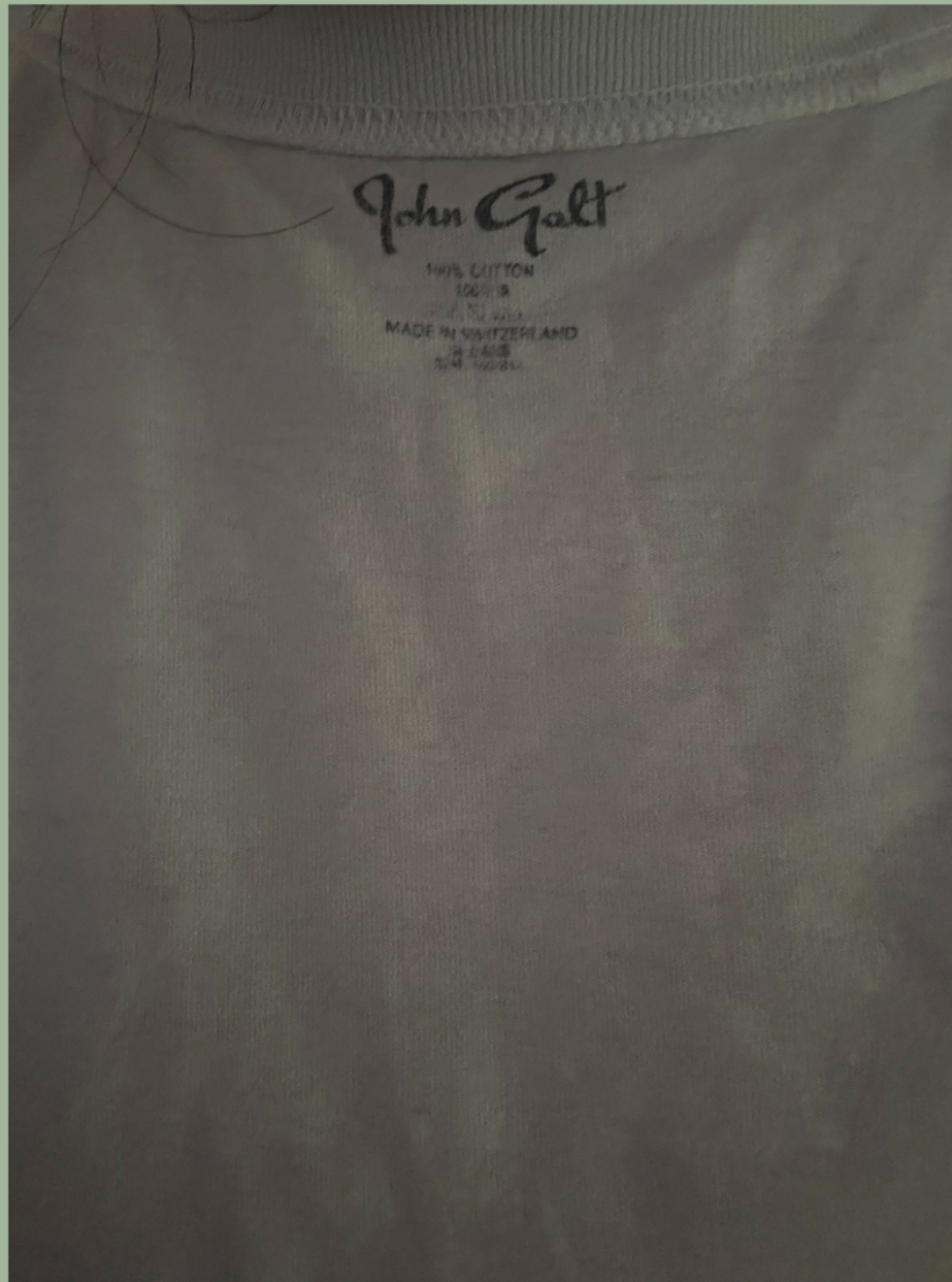


Sara Yu, Jivika Raut, Jolyna Weng, Joanna Kwak
Big Green Beans
Jericho High School

Instagram Post:



Sara Yu, Jivika Raut, Jolyna Weng, Joanna Kwak
Big Green Beans
Jericho High School



My inside out shirt!

When I wore this shirt inside out, the label revealed the brand (John Galt), the materials (cotton), and where it was made (Switzerland).



This information made me feel that the materials and the methods used to create this shirt might've been more environmentally friendly compared to other fast fashion brands. The fact that the shirt was made in Switzerland made me believe that this shirt was sustainably made since Switzerland generally has more sustainable practices. However, since the tag never said that the type of cotton was organic cotton, and John Galt is a fast fashion brand, I felt that this shirt wasn't as environmentally friendly as I thought it would be.

I chose to flip this shirt inside out today to raise awareness of the hidden environmental and social impacts of cheap fast fashion clothing. I

know that a lot of people in my school, community, and home wear this type of clothing without knowing the full story behind its creation.

I also wanted to spark curiosity about why I was intentionally wearing my shirt inside out, and educate others about the processes (such as the resource-intensive cotton farming and energy/labor heavy manufacturing processes) involved in fast fashion. My goal was also to make others more aware of their choices when they buy, wear, and discard their clothes.



One particularly meaningful conversation that my actions sparked was with my friend who knew a lot about the environmental costs of fast fashion.

She told me that in certain countries, leather factories use chemicals like chromium salts that contaminate waterways and cause cancer among the workers. To reduce this impact, she told me that she avoids buying leather from fast fashion brands and usually buys second-hand when possible. This deepened my understanding and reminded me that raising awareness also provides an opportunity to learn from others.

