

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

European School of Luxembourg I

November 2015 - Edition no. 7

Euroschool



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Special Report

Refugee Crisis - The Grim Report

Our Chief Editor gives his thoughts on what could be Europe's toughest political and humanitarian challenge to date.



Cartoon: Simon Kneebone

I would like to preface this by saying that this article is simply an opinion. The way the refugee crisis has, or rather hasn't, been dealt with in Europe has been infuriating me for some time now, and I feel I just have to get my opinion out there and get the frustration out of my system. This article is not specifically about how we deal with immigration generally in Europe, nor about the right-wing Europhobic parties that have come to power in recent years and their hatred of immigrants. It's about what many see as the greatest humanitarian crisis the

world has experienced in several decades, and the seemingly outlandish concept of basic human decency.

As most of you undoubtedly know, there are hundreds of thousands of refugees in Europe and another four million in Turkey who are fleeing everything from civil war to economic stagnation and famine. But Europe has yet to create an effective system to take care of all of them. The UN estimates that anywhere between six and eight million Syrians have been

Continues on Page 2 ►

Music Scene

Interview with The Wombats

Our music journalist interviewed the living legends from Liverpool in person.

Continues on Page 10 ►



The Wombats celebrated their return to Luxembourg once again by playing den Atelier in November. The band is currently on a huge world tour to promote their third studio album, "Glitterbug".

Glitterbug is a mix of fat synth sounds and big blasts of pop energy. Some believe the variety is a little too much in comparison to the last two albums, which were more rough and raw punk-rock. Read on to find out more.

Taken from wort.lu/en

Photo: Chris Karaba

Chief Editor's Column

Henrik Young



Dear Readers,

We're back! For what I hope will be another amazing year. We have managed to assemble yet another highly motivated and highly skilled team this year, which I hope will be able to bring you a fresh year of brilliant newspapers. This year, not only do we have an awesome team of journalists and editors, but some extremely talented photographers and for the first time a group of great illustrators, who will be filling these pages with some phenomenal content for you to enjoy over the coming editions.

As you may or may not have noticed, I'm not Josh Oudendijk. This is because, as Josh said in the last edition, he has stepped down from the role of chief editor to focus on his last year in school. After we had a group vote last year it was decided that I will be taking over from him. It is an honour for me to carry the baton from here on out, but don't worry, he is still taking an active part in the newspaper and is helping us produce this year's editions. I would like to thank Josh, on behalf of not only the team but the entire school, for the amazing newspapers he has brought us over these past two years and the service he has provided for us by keeping us informed about what is going on around school, Luxembourg and the World.

So what happened during our hiatus over the summer? The FIFA scandal worsened, Greece going bankrupt (again), the Iran Nuclear deal has been reached, gay marriage has been legalised in the US - there's been a lot going on. But the one thing we found to be the most current, most important, and most relevant to us is the ongoing refugee crisis. That is why we have decided to devote quite a few pages to it.

Our Featured section has some interesting variety in this edition. One of our journalists has written an article about a woman came to school to talk about life in East Germany before the Berlin Wall fell. She tells us how she and her husband were arrested several times just for speaking up against the oppression that they faced. We also have an article about procrastination and about the effect of war in Ukraine on its children. And we are very excited to bring you an interview with the one and only indie titans The Wombats. Read the interview on page 10.

You may have noticed that this newspaper feels slightly thinner than what they have been before. It is. This year we thought we'd try and greatly increase the number of editions we can produce, and hopefully have one out every month. So as to not completely overwhelm our journalist, we have made the decision to slightly reduce the number of pages per edition.

I look forward to the coming year. I think it will be a challenge, but I think it it'll be great. And I look forward to sharing it with all of you!

Yours Sincerely,
Henrik Young

Refugee Crisis Special Report (continued)

displaced within Syria, and more than four million have fled the country, mainly to Turkey. These kinds of numbers have not been seen since the end of the Second World War. Yet Europe and the EU, which have occupied a moral high ground for years as a fair and equal society, have failed to make any significant moves to aid the sudden influx of people.



Illustration: Eseme Ayiwe

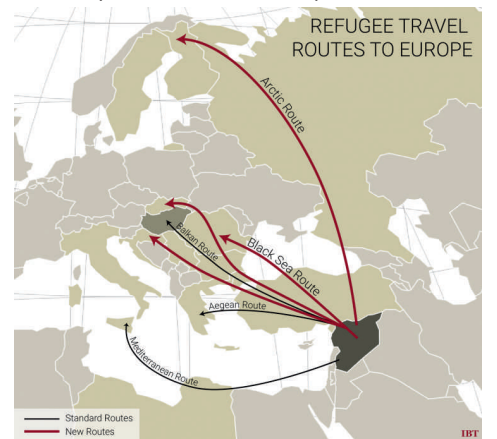
When you're dealing with a mass of people that large, you really ought to be a bit careful with how you describe them. Many politicians have been using unnecessarily emotive language which hardly helps the situation. To take just one example of many British prime minister David Cameron has been criticised recently for describing the refugees as "...a swarm of people coming across the mediterranean", "swarm" having a very negative connotation. Something else which has become increasingly common is reducing the migrant population to one far-fetched stereotype: that they are terrorists. This is sadly becoming the norm whenever there is a story like this involving Muslims, but specifically in this case there has been a lot of fear-mongering in the media, which has resulted in alienating the refugees to a large number of people. One American news channel (Fox News) for instance,

used a video of a large group of Muslims on a train chanting "Allahu Akbar" with the caption "Terrorists Inbound?". Later investigation found that that same video had been uploaded to Youtube in 2010, long before this crisis even started. The point some people try to argue is that the refugees have ISIS members hidden amongst them, but this is simply not true and there hasn't been a single piece of credible evidence to support this.

One of the reasons many are hostile to the idea of accepting refugees is that they think they will be a drain on the economy and that they will bankrupt social systems, living on benefits while staying unemployed. While there is a cost upfront for accepting refugees into a community, a new study has found that "an influx of lower wage immigrants into a community tends to raise wages for everyone else" while another found that "immigration benefited local populations in 19 out of 20 industrialised countries studied". People and politicians basing their arguments as to why migrants should be denied entry on the fact that they are a drain on the economy are quite frankly wrong. When several scientific studies show that immigration is beneficial 95% of the time, you can not spout the opposite in what should be a grown-up debate with arguments backed up by facts.

And saying that they are lazy migrants who won't work once they reach a host country is an incredibly presumptive statement to make. They're not lazy migrants, have you seen how hard they work to get to Europe in the first place? Many of them die trying to reach Europe. In fact, if you want to talk about lazy migrants, that is perhaps closer to what most of us are. I'd reckon that the majority of us at this school were born elsewhere or at the very least our parents were. We didn't have to travel on foot for hundreds of kilometers or pay illegal people smugglers to transport our families in treacherous conditions, we flew over or got a removal company to do it for us. Calling the refugees "lazy migrants" is blatantly hypocritical.

Another point is that often many of them want to



What can be done to help?

Clothes donations can be made to the Red cross at different locations around the country (more info at <http://www.croixrouge.lu/en/vestiaires/>)

The charity Caritas is running a **campaign** to help Syrian refugees where you can make donations or get involved in the charity itself (<http://www.caritas.lu/>).

Luxembourg Office for Reception and Integration, OLAI, is looking for **volunteers** to sort clothes, help children with their homework, and provide language courses (<http://www.olai.public.lu/en/>).

There are several facebook groups and pages as well which offer **support or information**. Some good ones are: Refugees Welcome to Luxembourg (page), Mothers for refugees Luxembourg (page), Refugees Luxembourg (page), Refugee Support Luxembourg.

work, but can't. The problem is that there isn't any unity in the process of applying for asylum, and every country has its own application process and many are totally overwhelmed and underfunded. Some asylum seekers are having to wait anywhere between three months and five years(!) to find out if they have been accepted or not, and the reason that is such an issue is that they're often not allowed to work in that time period. So migrants, who often already have spent thousands of euros to get here, cannot work and earn money to feed themselves or their families. ►

► What many people say is that they fear that the massive influx of people will mean they may lose their culture. While I can not sympathise with this fear, I can understand it. It is a natural human emotion, the fear of the stranger, which is a part of our instincts left over from when we lived in tribes and tight-knit groups. In those days it was important to be able quickly to tell if someone was part of the group or not and to assess if they could be a threat. But in today's world we no longer need to fear people just because we perceive them as being different. And they won't dilute our culture and make us lose our traditions. Even if say half of the refugees come to Europe, which they won't, that would be a vast land mass of around 500 million people absorbing two million. It's a drop in the bucket. And many of the refugees will likely move back to their home countries once the conflict has been settled.

Ex-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has written a letter to all the EU-leaders, signed by the heads of all the UN organisations as well as the Red Cross, pointing out several concrete measures the EU could implement to solve or at the very least improve the situation. He begins by pointing out that everything should be done first of all in the interest of the migrant, in the countries of origin, of transit and of final destination. We need to be able to send out information closer to where they are moving from, to indicate how they can legally seek asylum, how they can get migration status and how they can have family reunion. His suggestion is to open several offices along the routes the migrants take which would act almost as European embassies, which would provide the migrants with information and safe ways to cross into Europe. This would in turn put the traffickers and smugglers out of business, as the refugees would much rather seek out legal ways of getting into Europe than turning to criminals. He also proposes that refugees be flown out to the countries that will take them: if the UK wants twenty thousand, you fly them out there; if Germany wants a hundred thousand, you fly them there, to avoid the situation we have now where they are stuck in Hungary being quite frankly mistreated.

The thing is that if nothing is done, and Hungary decides to put up a fence, the migrants will simply find a new route through other countries who may also close their borders, so the problem will simply be moved around making it more dangerous for everyone. This is a very immediate problem. We all know there are laws regarding migration in every



When refugees are accepted, most celebrate and welcome them warmly. Some complain.

single European country, there is no need to quote them. Anyone can apply the law, but it takes a true leader to know that this is an exceptional situation that requires exceptional measures, before we can deal with the long-term problems. In some countries, it's the people who are forcing the leaders to change position and generally what we

Migration cannot be stopped. It has been going on since time immemorial.

- Kofi Annan

are seeing is that the people aren't as hard-hearted and harsh as their governments think they are. Governments may want to follow the stream and go with the flow, whether it be right or left, but the people by and large have compassion and understanding and we're likely to see more of this. Where leaders fail to lead, the people will lead and make them follow.

I know, lot's of people still have fears. Fears that

migrant's will bankrupt social systems, which many studies show does not happen. Fears that migrants might have ISIS members lurking amongst them, which there has been no credible example of. And no one is saying this is easy, but the fact it's so hard is not a reason to do less, it's a reason to do more. From countries improving their application processes for asylum seekers; to properly funding the UNHCR (the UN refugee agency), whose current fund for aiding Syrian refugees is at less than half of what it needs to be; to simply, and I know this sounds crazy, just treating them with respect and helping out other human beings who are in need. Basic human decency is something I firmly believe everyone can have if they actually try. And it is a staple of our European values to be accepting and supportive of others. Right now this is not a question of whether or not they will ruin our culture, it is a question of whether or not we will save theirs.

Henrik Young

What do you think? Mail us and be featured.
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Let's Sort This Out Like Real Men



George and Antonio Photo by Adriana Perez

Everyone has heard about the cliché of guys using their fists rather than their mouths to solve an argument, but is this ancient judgment still up to date?

In our school we have specially trained student mediators to help all pupils with their conflicts. How come that the majority of these mediators is female? It's a fact that more girls apply for the training to become a mediator than boys, but the

reason for that isn't clear yet. Two male mediators have given their opinion on this issue.

Antonio (S5) doesn't understand why so few boys volunteer to do the job, but he blames it on their common laziness. George (S5) on the other hand, believes that girls would be more likely to solve their problem with a mediator than boys. This is why girls would also be more willing to join the team of mediators, he says.

That wasn't the case for Antonio. His motivation for the training lay in the desire to assist (especially younger) students with their problems. During his past cases, being a guy has helped him a lot with male students. He even says that they might have felt uncomfortable had they only been with female mediators. Also, during the application process, Antonio thought that being one of the few boys would help him get picked, while George didn't take this into consideration.

Previous experiences of mediators have shown that not only girls, but surprisingly boys too like to sort out their problems with the assistance of a

mediator. This proves that today's men are courageous enough to talk their conflicts through before they end up badly and that the students who ask for the help of a mediator aren't necessarily girls. Boys shouldn't be scared to apply for Peer Mediation. Girls might be known to be more "suitable" for such a task, but this shouldn't keep any boy from joining. Having a boy's opinion during a conflict is just as helpful and useful as a girl's point of view and should lead to an equally good understanding between two fighting parties.

Like George mentioned during the training sessions: "I can offer a boy's touch". And adding another "boy's touch" to the Peer Mediation team would only do good. Quoting Antonio during our interview: "I don't regret joining and I don't understand why there aren't more boys."

In the end, we hope to encourage some of our younger students to join our team and to make sure future female and male students will receive the assistance they need from the Mediation Team.

Giulia Timme

Opinions

What Teachers Think

Reporting by Henrik Young. Photos by Anselm Havu.

We took some time to go around and ask some teachers at school about their opinions on and reactions to the **refugee crisis**. Here are the questions we asked and the rather insightful answers we received.

1. What is your opinion on the refugee crisis?
2. What is your opinion on how it is being dealt with?
3. What do you think should be done?



Matthew Gambrell

1. Crisis is the right word. And I think it's an issue that goes past countries and borders, that needs a human response. And as human beings we have a responsibility to act.

2. It's a mixed response, because it's such a complex issue, but I think the German government has been the most rational. And I think there is still a fear of outsiders changing the culture of countries that they're coming to.

Gambrell: teaches English

3. I think people should stretch out a hand of friendship. Not just people, but governments, and be able to see things from the other side. I think that if someone sees their home be destroyed, they'd look to their neighbours for help, and we're all neighbours. There are more effective ways of helping Syria than just bombing it, I think.

Michael Davey

1. It's a really difficult one, isn't it. I think it is a responsibility for Europe to help, but at the same time the numbers are so big, it's an avalanche really. As an economist I think about the cost of helping them, but as a sociologist I think about our social responsibility to help them. What disturbs me is that we're seeing a lot of polarisation within Europe. Polarisation to the extreme right for instance, fear that the migrants will come and take our jobs, without seeing the other side of how they bring new blood and new ideas.



Davey: Economics and Sociology

2. I think Germany is being remarkably generous, making everyone else seem rather mean. I mean the British for instance have pledged to take twenty thousand over five years. That's only four thousand a year. Interestingly, some church groups in Britain have stood up and said that we can do more. And I think what is sad is that it's shown the divisions in Europe and that there isn't a great deal of consensus.

3. We need some sort of political solution, through the Commission or the European Parliament, but I'm very pessimistic of anything of anything coming out of that. All the countries have different views. And the countries under most pressure are the ones which are economically weakest, if you think of Greece for example. What we need is real socially minded leadership.



Markström: Religion and Swedish

Irene Markström

1. That is far too big a question to ask, you have to break it down into smaller issues. We have a situation in Europe that we haven't seen before. It's making people panic, mostly the politicians. Europe has always been a continent for emigrants, emigrants to America for example. So what we have now is a new situation. We have countries who have never before had to take on immigrants, but who have rather had a large number of people emigrating to other countries. There have been several mass-migrations in Europe previously, mainly in eastern Europe. For example in Warsaw in 1968 when very many people had to flee and were well received in other countries. Now when people are coming to Europe who are fleeing political oppression and war and extinction borders are being closed to stop them. I come from Sweden which has always had a generous immigration policy, and has accepted quite a large number of refugees, like for example Germany has done. We also have to on a personal level act to help. Most people won't put their lives in danger to get over the Mediterranean to get somewhere else for no reason.

2. It's a catastrophe really. Especially on a European level, and we are a European school after all. There are so few countries that are helping it seems. Spain, Italy and Greece have under a long time received a lot of refugees. In Germany and Sweden there has for the most part been political consensus that something must be done, but other than that it seems as though everyone is paralyzed and incapable to act. A lot of it is built on volunteering, but there has to be more resources to aid the refugees. The whole of Syria is ablaze. Actually, not just Syria. And I can imagine parents in Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia who can't themselves get away from there because of the immense cost of fleeing, that would probably at least want to be able to save their children and give them a future in another country. It really pains me to see all the young people trying and often failing to get to Europe. We have to learn to live with each other.

3. If only I knew. We need politicians on a European level that take executive decisions that state mandatory minimum quotas of refugees that each country has to take. After that I think the situation in Syria has to be stabilised. Infact it has to be stabilised in the whole Middle East. It's gotten that bad that not even I dare travel to Israel like I used to, let alone to Syria or Judaea. Lebanon used to be an oasis, but now it's just too dangerous. It all has to be stabilised. But I fear that ship has already sailed.

Sarah Roper

1. It's a difficult problem. One where I'm glad I'm not in a position where I have to try and solve it, which I suppose implies that it is a global problem and not just for Syria.

2. I think from the European perspective the closing of borders and the non-welcome of refugees is disturbing and I think people need to remember that this isn't a unique crisis. People need to remember what it was like after the Second World War and remember that many of our relatives or fellow countrymen once were refugees. And humans have always been migrants.

3. Peace needs to be found, or some kind of solution, but in the meantime you can't just let people die. However I suppose I have a British view of things, as your opinion is always dependant on your background.



Roper: History and Geography

Handy SMS App?

We are all familiar with the SMS system on which teachers post homework assignments, test dates and results, timetables and a bunch of other things that, let's be honest, many of us probably don't read. A generous amount of students have admitted that they don't use SMS daily, weekly or at all, because they "can't be bothered to go on the site and check" or because they simply prefer the use of their good old agenda.

Marks Polakovs, a student in 4th year English section, has taken on the task to turn SMS into an app that promises to be more accessible and easier to use than the site. It's not an easy job because the programming of the application is extremely time consuming and it definitely requires a certain skill and quite a lot of determination. The app is said to have very similar features to the site, such as a quick access to timetables, homework assignments and more. It is also supposed to be available for all types of phones "but it would be helpful if someone gave me an iPhone, a Mac and \$100 to make it work on iOS," Marks jokingly states. According to him the process isn't especially demanding, just rather tedious, but nonetheless he's determined to see the end of it. Further information on his progress will be included in upcoming issues of the newspaper.

Rada Biyukova

Musik

Pentatonix - Die etwas andere Band aus Amerika



Sie haben A cappella revolutioniert: Pentatonix verpasst bekannten Liedern einen neuen Anstrich und mischt die Musikindustrie ein bisschen auf. In den letzten Jahren gewannen sie immer mehr an Popularität, gingen auf Tour und wollen nun mit ihren eigenen Songs durchstarten.

Begonnen hat alles mit drei Freunden aus Texas. Kirstin „Kirstie“ Maldonado, Scott Hoying und der ein Jahr jüngere Mitch Grassi, alle drei Schüler an der Martin High School in Arlington, bewarben sich mit einem A cappella Cover von Lady Gagas „Telephone“ bei einem Wettbewerb. Sie gewannen zwar nicht, aber das Video hatte in der Schule für Aufmerksamkeit gesorgt, und so begannen sie, in der Schule aufzutreten.

Kirstie und Scott studierten bereits, als die drei bei einer Casting-Show namens „the Sing-Off“ mitmachen wollten. Es gab nur ein Problem: Sie mussten mindestens zu viert sein. Während seinem Studium mit dem Hauptfach Popmusik hatte Scott dank eines Freundes Aviel „Avi“ Kaplan, einen gut anerkannten Bass-Sänger, kennengelernt. Sie schafften es, ihn an Bord zu holen. Über YouTube machten sie anschließend Kevin James Ousola ausfindig, einen Beatboxer der außerdem Cello spielt. „Ein Freund hatte mir eines seiner Videos gezeigt. Ich wusste sofort, dass er das fehlende Stück unserer Gruppe ist“, erzählt Scott in dem Vorstellungsvideo vor ihrer ersten Performance bei the Sing-Off. Zu fünft gewann die nun vollständige Band die Show und bekam einen Plattenvertrag bei Sony und zusätzlich \$200 000.

Als „Pentatonix“ begannen sie, Videos auf YouTube hochzuladen. Ihr erstes Video, ein Cover von „Moves like Jagger“, wurde schnell beliebt und hat heute über 6 mio Klicks. Viele weitere Videos folgten, Covers und Mash-Ups sowie eigene Kreationen wie z.B. Love Again oder die neue Single Can't Sleep Love.

Heute haben sie zwei YouTube-Kanäle (PTXofficial und PTXVlogs), auf denen sie regelmäßig posten. Zusätzlich laden Mitch und Scott Videos auf ihrem eigenen Kanal namens „Superfruit“ hoch. Das fünfte von bisher sechs Alben, ein Weihnachtsalbum namens „That's Christmas to me“, war zumindest in den vereinigten Staaten das am vierbesten verkaufte Album des Jahres 2014. Es verkaufte sich über 1 Millionen Mal und gewann Platin. Zusätzlich gewann ihr meistgesehenes Video auf YouTube, ein Mash-Up verschiedener Daft Punk Songs, einen Grammy in der Kategorie „Bestes Arrangement – A Cappella und Instrumental“. Eine große Sache für eine Band, die ihre Musikclips normalerweise nicht in Studios dreht. „Wir haben dieses Lied in einem Kleiderschrank aufgenommen und in der Küche gefilmt, und nun gewinnen wir einen Grammy“, erzählt Scott bei der Entgegennahme des Preises. „Das zeigt einfach, dass alles möglich ist.“

Ihr neues Album, „Pentatonix“ erschien am 16. Oktober und ist das erste, auf dem nur eigene Songs zu finden sind. „Wir sind an einem Punkt in unserer Karriere angekommen, an dem wir unsere eigene Musik produzieren müssen und auch wollen.“, so Scott in der am 18. Juni erschienenen Dokumentation „On my way home“, benannt nach einem von der Band geschriebenen Lied, das sich auf dem Album „PTX Vol.III“ befand. Sie handelt hauptsächlich von der Welttournee der Band letzten Jahres, aber auch von der Produktion des neuen Albums und dem Werdegang der fünf Bandmitglieder.

Lisa Hawelka

Science Fiction

The Force Awakens

The prominent Star Wars series is awakened after a 10 year slumber.

If it's not the pernickety fans begging for another movie, it has got to be the over 4 billion dollar investment Disney made with George Lucas' production company that catalysed the rebirth of the famous Star Wars series. This investment led to the announcement of a new Star Wars trilogy, which would continue the epic story. Star Wars episode III 'Revenge of the Sith' completed the prequels trilogy and returned the story back to the first film in the series (1983). The new movie, named 'The Force Awakens' is set 30 years after the events portrayed in the 'return of the Jedi' (episode VI), which means that we will be reunited with the likes of Han Solo, Chewbacca, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker. To our excitement, many believe that not only will episode 7 be “more true to the Star Wars series” than the prequel trilogy which was released over 20 years after the first film 'A New Hope', it is also expected to be the best movie in the franchise.

Most of the filming was done at the Pinewood Studios in England, however some location shooting was done in Abu Dhabi and on the Irish island Skellig Michael. The life-long Star Wars fan and director of the last 2 Star Trek movies, JJ. Abrams, has been given the honour of directing and co-writing the new movie. His popularity among the Star Wars fans has grown partially due to a collapse of the notorious tradition of few notable female roles existing in the Star Wars franchise; we now know that the new movie has multiple talented actresses including one of the protagonists Rey, portrayed by Daisy Ridley. In fact the cast is as a whole very diverse: the notable new characters include a female scavenger, a black Stormtrooper and a Hispanic pilot.

Episode 7 is widely anticipated to be extremely successful and despite being released shortly before the end of the year, it is predicted to be the highest grossing movie of 2015. I'm sure all of us impatient Star Wars fans will be on the edge of our seats until the movie is finally in cinemas.

Yasmine Ayman



Photo: Anselm Havu

Star Wars Facts

The actor who played Obi-Wan Kenobi, Alec Guinness, thought of the Star Wars films as “fairy-tale rubbish”.

Peter Cushing, who played Grand Moff Tarkin, found his costume boots so uncomfortable that he wore slippers during many of his scenes, and insisted his feet just never be in the shots.

The sound of the TIE Fighter engines is actually the sound of an elephant call mixed with the sounds of a car driving on wet pavement.

Many of the buildings constructed to be used in shots of Tatooine are still standing in Tunisia. In fact, some of them are still used by locals.

No physical clone trooper outfits were actually produced for the films. Every clone trooper seen in the Star Wars films was created with CGI.

Yoda was originally going to be played by a monkey carrying a cane and wearing a mask.

Musique

David Guetta - Un Concert Pour Jamais Oublier

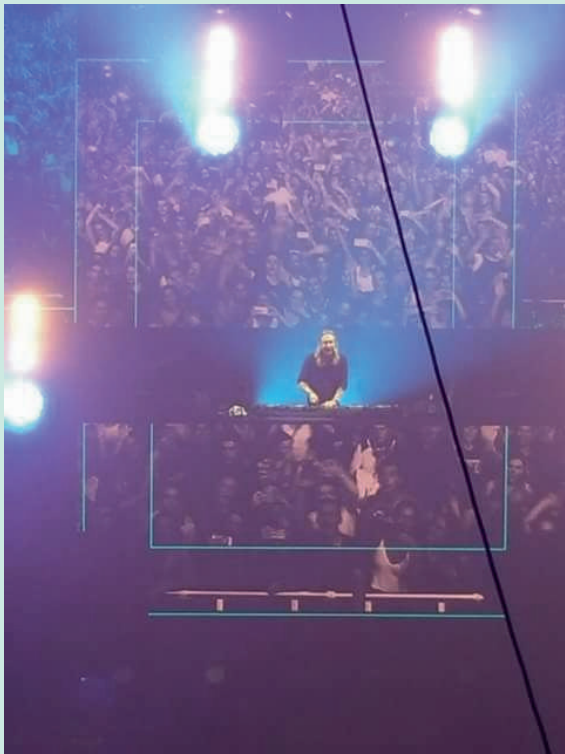


Photo par Diego Laquintana

David Guetta, un des Dj le plus prestigieux de notre temps, offrais un concert le passé 9 octobre au Galaxy, Amnéville.

Ce DJ Français, née à Paris, ne fais que triompher depuis 2009 avec la sortie de son album «one love» Gagnant de plusieurs Grammy et avec plus de 7,2 million de disques vendus, Guetta décide de retourner à son pays d'origine pour offrir un concert qu'on oubliera jamais.

Celui-ci commença avec l'actuation du binôme de Dj CLUB BIZARRE, qui prépare aux spectateurs pour une fête de musique techno et électrique. Une fois que David Guetta est rentré en piste, la fête est commencé et tout le monde s'est mis à crier jusqu'à la fin du concert, car le français a joué un mélange de ses chansons les plus nouvelles de son dernier disque « Listen », mais aussi les chansons les plus anciennes en créent comme ça une explosion d'énergie qui a fait danser à tout le monde. Avec une ambiance parfaite David Guetta a réussi lever aux 12.000 spectateurs, qui se sont rendus à Amnéville pour voir à son idole, avec une mise en place spectaculaire et une musique idéale pour finir bien la semaine.

À la fin du concert on a pu demander à quelques spectateurs ce qu'ils pensaient de celui-ci et la conclusion est que le concert était comme un vendredi soir en boîte sauf que 100.000 fois mieux et que la musique te faisait sentir comme si tu étais dans une espèce de boule où on oublie le monde extérieur et tu connectes avec les vibrations, en créent comme ça une sensation indescriptible.

Tout ça nous fais penser à que ce concert était parfait et qu'on espère que Guetta viendra nous visiter une autre fois, bientôt.

Andrea Valadez

Would you like to review concerts for us? Let us know.

newspaper.euroschool@gmail.com

SPACE

Water on Mars

On 28 September, NASA confirmed that they had found liquid water on the surface of Mars. The science world lost its mind, because water on Mars is a spectacular find.

We know that around 4 billion years ago, the Red Planet still had flowing rivers and vast oceans, but nearly all of it has disappeared; it either tied into the crystalline structures of the surface rock or vaporised due to the lack of atmosphere. The big deal now is that liquid water could mean alien life, but definitely not the 'Tiny Green Men' type, but rather the tiny not-so-green bacteria.

The dark streaks of water that occasionally appear on the surface of Mars during the Mars summers were first noticed in 2010 in images from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, but it's only recently that they were confirmed as liquid water. However, the water isn't just H₂O on its own, but it's a corrosive, super dangerous, salty mud. These are liquid hydrated perchlorate salts. The salts are able to hold water and prevent it from freezing. The mud isn't salty like our salty seas, as it's a different type of salt, but it's still really interesting and important to further study it, because if there really is life on Mars, it would be in the mud.

The next step is to figure out how to analyse the mud, but NASA need to be extra careful going there, because if life in some form already exists, it would be really stupid to contaminate it with earth bacteria.

All of this is great news for Mars exploration and the interest in sending a manned mission there is rising. With the release of *The Martian*, a film based on Andy Weir's novel with the same name where an astronaut gets stranded on Mars, will most definitely popularise the idea of a manned mission, or completely freak people out, because all sorts of things could go wrong. But more funding for NASA to explore Mars would be really good, because at the moment the U.S. government isn't focusing enough on space exploration, even though space is the next place to go.

We're getting closer to unveiling its secrets. With this new discovery there are a bunch of new questions about Mars, as we still don't know exactly where the water is coming from. Did life on Earth originate from Mars? Does life still exist there if it ever has? But the most important question of all is: Why does Matt Damon keep getting stranded on desolate planets over and over again?

Jeremi Pasanen

Rugby World Cup

B(I)ack to the Future for McCaw

The William Webb-Ellis trophy has made its way back to Wellington, as the New Zealand All Blacks have won their second consecutive, and third total rugby world cup. Being the favourites for winning the tournament, the men in black claimed the title with a string of excellent performances ending with a 34-17 win over Australia at Twickenham. Six New Zealand players played their last test match in the final, with the world cup victory truly ending the international careers of Richie McCaw, Dan Carter, Tony Woodcock, Keven Mealamu, Conrad Smith and Ma'a Nonu with a bang. Carter did an especially good job of this, helping to secure the victory in the final with a stunning, Jonny Wilkinson-esque 42-meter drop goal.



England have become the first ever world cup host to not make it out of the group stages, with their loss against a superior Australian side prematurely ending their world cup. The loss came as a huge disappointment to English supporters, whose hopes to be crowned world champions for a second time lay in tatters. England had a hopeful start to the tournament, beating Fiji 35-11 in the opening match. However, England's potential to be a world cup winning side was called into question by a fierce Welsh side who beat their eternal rivals 25-28. Hope still remained for the host nation, who just had to beat the Australian wallabies to survive the group stages. This however, proved impossible as the men in gold dominated the match, winning 13-33. That same match sparked some controversy concerning the man of the match election system in use this world cup. England lock Joe Launchbury was chosen man of the match, a decision even the player himself doubts, as other nominees Bernard Foley and David Pocock were more key to the outcome of the match. The problem lies with the system itself, which is based on a voting system operated via social media site twitter. This means factors such as time zones and sheer popularity come into play, making the system biased. The ultimate decision of the man of the match is also made 18 minutes before the end of a game, 18 minutes that can be crucial to the outcome of a match.

In 2015 even non-participating nations have a reason to be proud, as Tim Visser has become the first ever Dutchman at a rugby world cup, with the Zeewolde-born winger making his world cup debut for Scotland, whom he is eligible to play for due to his time spent playing for Edinburgh, against the USA. The Scots were knocked out in the quarter finals by finalist Australia. The men in blue were two points up in the final minutes of the game, and seemed to have secured a semi-final spot after an awe-inspiring performance, when referee Craig Joubert failed to call for TMO assistance on a question of Scottish offside or accidental offside, with the former resulting in a penalty while the latter results in a scrum. The penalty was given, and Australian fly-half Bernard Foley kicked the wallabies to the semi-finals. **Ruben Albstmeijer**

I'M 12
NOT A CHILD



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SPUERKEESS

Art, of sorts

Is Modern Art Real Art?

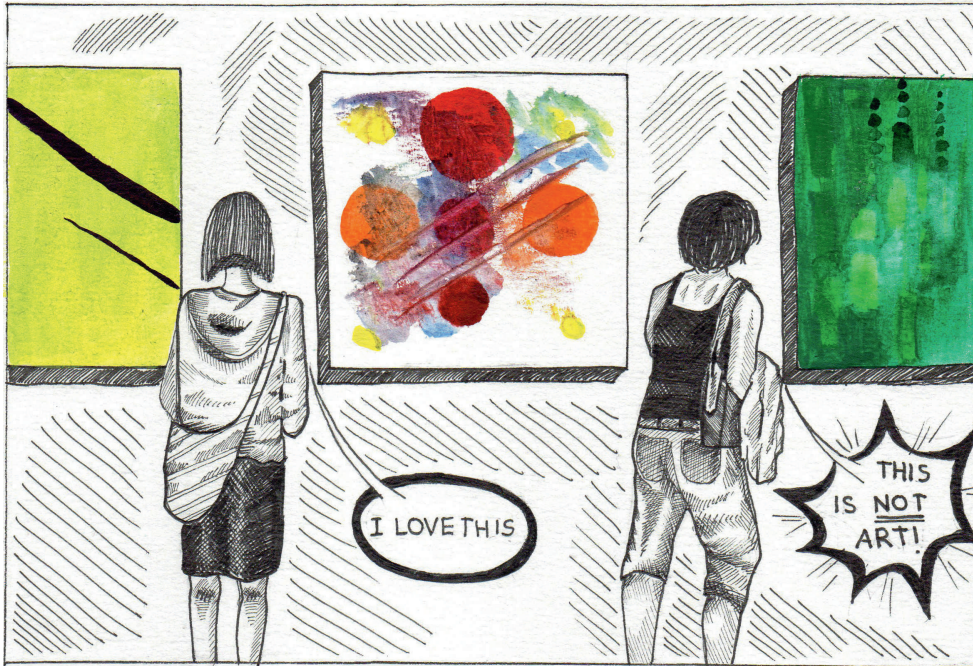


Illustration: Brigita Olbrisa

What is art? Art is a painting, maybe a sculpture. It's something that is nice to look at or something that makes you feel: those are the common answers. But modern art throws these rules out the window, because it can be anything.

After the invention of photography in 1839, a camera could create images that artists spent months painting. They began to wonder - was painting what they saw precisely even worth doing? And so, art took a creative turn. The war also had influenced people, including artists which reflected it in their art. Art became abstract, disturbing and odd.

In 1917, an upside-down urinal was displayed in an art gallery by Marcel Duchamp. His goal was to create art that would shock people because he was

annoyed by their arrogance and wanted to make it more fun. This became the most famous work of modern art. In fact, beauty lost its value completely. "I am interested in ideas, not merely in visual products" he had stated, and this is very true to most of modern art - the idea is more important than the aesthetics.

Many works of modern art are acts of rebellion against society or political situations. Gavin Turk's "Bag" (2000) is a black metal cast that is shaped and looks like a real bin bag. His message? A reminder that we lead very wasteful, consumerist lives.

People were outraged at this new art movement 100 years ago. They said that these random objects had no significance and that they could

have easily been made by anyone. Many are still outraged today - which, in a way, is what some of the artists were trying to achieve. However, many people admire art taking unexpected forms, leading to heated discussions about whether modern art is something entirely absurd or a way in which people can convey their ideas to the world.

Martin Creed designed an empty room in which the lights kept switching on and off at intervals of 5 seconds - he called it art and won a prize for it in 2001. All at once, everyone was complaining - surely no work had been put into this! Creed explained that he was exploring society's assumptions and expectations of art. He wanted to provoke reactions of disbelief, anger, surprise and comedy. Even though his installation was successful, people still argue whether it's real art.

I decided to go ahead and ask this same question to certain people all around the school and here are a few of the answers I got:

"Yes, anything which has to do with self-expression is art." - Anonymous (15)

"I guess it is art for some people but I don't really see what's so spectacular about it and most of the time it seems too random." - Paula (16)

"Yes, I think so, because there is no fake art." - Nora (13)

"No, it doesn't represent any artistic values and is often just a money-making scheme." - Anonymous (16)

"I think that in the last few decades the line between what is and isn't modern art has faded, and I might not see the beauty of a white canvas with a dot on it, but if it makes someone feel something then I believe it is art, because in my opinion art is anything that is capable of making you feel." - Zofija (18)

Madlena Udre

Is Esports a Sport?

Esports is playing competitive video games professionally. Players who have trained for many years face off to win huge prizes. And huge is not an understatement. Just two days ago, as I write this, the League of Legends World Championship concluded with SK Telecom T1 taking home \$1,000,000. At The International, the biggest Dota 2 tournament of the year, the prize pool this year was \$18,429,613. No, that's not a typo, the total prize pool was 18 million dollars. And, since the winning team takes 36%, Evil Geniuses walked away with \$6,634,660.68. Since Dota 2 is a five-player game, each player got over a million. But is it a sport?

The issue has come to a head recently, with the finals of the Heroes of the Dorm tournament being broadcast on ESPN2. Twitter exploded, and that's putting it mildly. People were complaining all day and night, saying that "Video games on TV is ridiculously stupid." And that's just one example. But let's take a step back for a minute and consider the objective arguments.

Esports requires just as much training - or perhaps even more - as "real sports". You need to know every single detail of the game you choose

- be it the units of Starcraft 2, the heroes of Dota 2, or the weapons of Counter-Strike - like the back of your hand. You need to be able to think fast, to adapt to any situation that gets thrown at you. You need to remain calm under pressure. You need lightning fast reactions - some professional gamers do more than 300 actions per minute, meaning that every second they're hitting 5 keys or clicking 5 buttons. You need to have a good battle plan. And, most of all, you need three things. Practice, practice and/or practice. Because your experience is the only thing standing between your hard-earned prize money and the biggest fail of the season.

On the other hand, though, to some people, like former UK snowboarding champion Tim Warwood, it "doesn't seem right" that these kids are sitting inside and typing on a keyboard for 14 hours a day, when they're outside running, skiing or what have you. And just recently John Skipper, president of ESPN, said that "It's not a sport - it's a competition. Chess is a competition. Checkers is a competition....Mostly, I'm interested in doing real sports."

You have no idea how angry inside I am at their

amazing argumentation skills. "Doesn't feel right"? But let's not be rash and consider the arguments like adults. First, define "real sports". I'm assuming that he's using the definition "sports = athletics". In that case, why is chess recognised as a sport by the International Olympic Committee? And let's not forget that ESPN2 is a channel reserved only for serious sporting events like the Spelling Bee and competitive eating.

Also, may I inform you of some viewership numbers. The League of Legends World Championship pulled in some 32 million viewers. For comparison, the 2013 NBA Finals were watched by 17.7 million people.

I'd like to finish with a quote from James Dator, a professional sports journalist:

I have one suggestion to people categorically dismissing and denigrating eSports: Stop acting like stodgy 1960's parents complaining that Jimi Hendrix "Isn't music." There's a good chance history won't side with your close-minded way of thinking.

Marks Polakovs

History

Surviving the East

A witness from East Germany visited our school to tell her tale.



Masses gather on the Berlin Wall. It's a bout to fall - a life changing event for many.

What Happened?

After Germany had lost the Second World War in 1945, it was divided into four different sectors, which were controlled by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Russia. In 1949, The Russian sector became an independent socialist state called the German Democratic Republic (GDR). As a result of this, the other three sectors formed the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Due to the SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany/Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschland) basically ruling the GDR on their own and because they were economically far behind the FRG, many Germans left the GDR, which resulted in the government building a wall in 1961 to separate the two German states. Though it was officially called an antifascist rampart, it became widely known as the Berlin Wall. Pretty much locked up in their country and with no freedom of speech, people in the GDR eventually started to stand up for themselves, with the protests reaching their peak on the 9th November 1989. Finally, The GDR gave in and opened the borders. The Berlin wall fell. On the 3rd October 1990, Germany's national day, the GDR and the FRG signed a Unity Treaty. Germany was unified again.

Elke Schlegel and her husband were, in the eyes of the GDR (German Democratic Republic/DDR: Deutsche Demokratische Republik), trouble-makers: they insisted on getting their exit visa and also participated in several demonstrations for peace and human rights. They were often arrested and even prohibited from entering Jena's city hall because of their constant demands for permission to leave the country for good. On 7 October Elke visited our school and talked about her experiences.

After Elke and her husband had already applied for an exit visa 12 times, Elke was offered to become an unofficial member of the STASI, the state security (Staatsicherheit). This position held a lot of benefits. "I don't know how, but I managed to decline", she said during her speech, "and I'm proud of that." She later found out that they had also tried to lure in her husband, but he threw them out of

the house before they even got inside.

This proves that in the GDR "one couldn't trust its own people", as Elke Schlegel recalled. "Even your own family members, as everyone else, could be a member of the STASI and could betray you. That was not uncommon."

One day it actually seemed like they'd succeeded: after being told to make a list of their belongings for the customs, they believed that they were finally able to move to the West. Elke called her family on the other side of the border and told them: "We made it."

It turned out that wasn't the case.

The next morning at 5 o'clock they were arrested. But something was different than usual: this time, her husband was put in a different car than her and was driven out of the city. Elke was allowed to bring her son to her mother to stay there for a while. She told her mother that she believed they would "never see each other again". To her son she said that she'd just go buy something nice for him and would be back soon, knowing that she probably wouldn't see him in a long time.

We could see that she was close to crying and had tears in her eyes whilst remembering that moment.

She was remanded in custody for months, going through several interrogations, some of them 13 hours long. "I was treated like a criminal and didn't know why", she recalled.

Eventually, they both got their trials and were sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment for trying to flee, sending a message that could hurt the GDR and for gathering more than 2 people wanting to leave the country (including their son).

Elke was sent to Hoheneck Castle, a women's penitentiary that didn't exist officially, while her husband went to Cottbus. In Hoheneck, Elke shared a cell with 41 other women, mainly criminals. Every day she had to make tights, but

because hers didn't meet the standards, she didn't get an address that her relatives could write to. She would have had to choose between her son or husband writing to her, would she have gotten an address. "I was kind of relieved that I didn't have to make that decision."

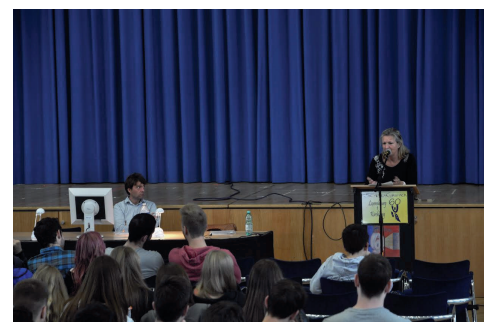
The prisoners lived under horrible conditions. The bathtub, which all 42 women shared, resembled a feeding trough for animals, and they were beaten when they weren't dressed properly. Many women who had been there for a long time had lost their hair and had brown teeth. They got the same food every day. "Once I saw the food being delivered. It was stored in bags that clearly said "not suited for human consuming". That's what they cooked our meals from", Elke remembered. Every now and then, the ministry for state security (MFS) would ask her if she'd like to take her application for an exit visa back, but she refused every time.

But the worst thing was dealing with the criminal prisoners. "They dominated the other prisoners and the guards preferred them. "Better a murderer than someone who betrayed the state", is what they told us." In her cell, Elke had to sleep next to a woman who cut up her husband and daughter because he hit her. "I told her that it was okay to do that and that I would have done the same, because I was scared that she'd do the same to me if I didn't agree with her."

//
Even your family members could betray you.

After somehow getting through all of this and even managing to avoid sexual assault, which was common in prison, western Germany bought her together with many other political prisoners off the GDR and brought her into the FRG (Federal Republic of

Germany/BRD: Bundesrepublik Deutschland). Thinking that she wouldn't be able to see her family (especially not her husband and son) ever again, she managed to make a living, until she got a telegram a month after her liberation, telling her that her husband was coming to the FRG as well. Not long after receiving this telegram, in January



Elke Schlegel Photo by Diego Laquintana

1985, they were able to get an apartment and in February they were allowed to go and collect their son.

Even after 30 years, Elke still has to deal with what she went through back then. "I have nightmares and sometimes my wrists still hurt from the handcuffs", she told us. "Telling my story is all part of my therapy", she said.

Lisa Hawelka

Music Scene

Interview with The Wombats By Josh Oudendijk

The Wombats are an indie-rock band from Liverpool. The three members, Matt, Dan and Tord have built their music up to top and produced three albums, their latest being "Glitterbug". They played den Atelier early November as part of their huge Glitterbug 2015 Tour.

Drummer Dan and Bassist Tord took some time off for an interview to talk about their latest album, building a circle of real friends, why not to drink before a show and their love for wines.

I must say, talking to Tord and Dan backstage before Wednesday's gig was far from the ordinary, stiff interview style. The atmosphere was relaxed, and some moments I forgot I was talking Liverpool's biggest musicians, but more like some good mates.

After a quick round of table football with Dan, who pretended not to be in his element but in fact scored the first goal, we sat down together at Atelier's backstage area.

The lads had played Paris the night before and passed by a friend who was a wine expert. They are big wine lovers themselves. "My uncle and dad set up a wine bar when they were like 22, and it's in Liverpool, so I grew up being in there and surrounded by it," Dan remembers. Also Tord from Norway is a huge fan of wines, but finds the good ones often slightly overpriced. Dan prefers red wine: "I really like red wines, but now I've now found many good white wines. A friend of ours who we saw in Paris last night was a sommelier in this



Music, friends & booze - the main topics of our interview.

Photo: Chris Karaba

really amazing restaurant that has all biodynamic and natural wines."

Upon asking whether the evolved sound of their latest album "Glitterbug" had changed them as musicians during the production of the record, they said it was more of an extra learning experience than an actual change. "It's not that the album changes you, as you learn stuff from each album that we've made as you grow as a person and as a musician, and as a band obviously, but the sound you make has changed."

Asking them about their careers and success and if they would give themselves a number on the scale, Tord thought it wasn't the best approach to enjoy what you love doing most. "We don't really think about it much. We just feel really lucky. Feel lucky to play music and travel the world."

Dan comments: "When you think too much about the destination you obviously miss out on the actually journey, which is the fun part. **Continues on Wort.lu/en. Read and hear the full interview and podcast with The Wombats there.**

Sanity Maintenance

How To Deal With Your Low Self Esteem

In the society we live in there are unspoken rules that everyone knows about. The main one is that you have to be like everyone else. You must be a copy, not an original because original is "weird" and since no one wants to be considered weird, everyone does what society tells them to. However, if you do try to differ from everyone else, you will be excluded; everyone will judge you. But don't think that only original people are judged, because everyone is being judged. Constantly. And everyone is judging someone. Always.

For example, if you are a nerd, they judge you; if you struggle in school and therefore don't get good marks, they judge you. They judge who you hang out with and what you wear. Your flaws are being judged; all your actions are being judged. All these negative comments coming from other people make you feel more and more insecure and they lower your self-esteem. We all think we're not good enough, but not good enough for what? For whom? I myself am a very insecure person, always fearing what others think of me.

But lately I've been thinking: everyone is always going to judge you, no matter what. But everyone is so much more than the opinion of others. Everyone is beautiful, no matter what others say, and everyone is so much more than those stupid labels people put on you. Everyone should love and appreciate themselves.

For those of you who feel insecure, I'd like you to boost your self-esteem so here are some tips that have helped me and hopefully will help you too:

1. Be yourself. Don't pretend you're someone else just to please another person, you don't have to be unhappy to make someone else happy. If they like you for who you are, that's great, but if they don't then they are obviously not worth it.

2. Learn to say no and do what you feel like doing. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Don't say "yes" just because you are afraid you'll hurt the other person's feelings or let them down. Because when you say a yes that you don't mean, you'll end up doing a half-hearted job. Also, don't be afraid of pursuing your favourite activities. You can't give up on your hobbies just because your friends don't find them "cool enough".

3. When you make a mistake don't punish yourself and lower your self-esteem by saying you're stupid, but instead learn from that mistake. It will make you a better and happier person. **4. Help others.** Helping others will give you a great self-confidence boost. Help them in any way you can, but help them genuinely. You will see that at the end, you'll be so pleased with yourself because a genuine "thank you" from someone will make you happy. You will have actually helped someone, instead of being wrapped up in your worries.

I hope this short list of tips will help you. Just remember that you are so much more than the labels that others put on you, you're unique in your own way. Don't be afraid to be different and don't let other people's negative comments bring you down.

Jeremi Pasanen

To Procrastinate or not to Procrastinate?

To procrastinate, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is to "delay or postpone action". It doesn't sound like something very serious, does it? But perhaps it is, so why do we do it?

Most people reading this article are quite familiar with the habit of procrastinating. It can be found across most situations in everyday life. For example, a student may decide to watch Netflix instead of doing homework, or a translator working in the European Parliament might finish translating an important document later and go have fun with colleagues and have a drink first.

According to Joseph Ferrari, a professor of psychology at De Paul University in Chicago, there are three different types of procrastinators. The first group of procrastinators are the ones who do it for the thrill that one experiences when working on a job at the last minute. The insecure people who fear that they may experience failure, and therefore try to avoid the work, are included in the second category. And last but not least there are the indecisive ones who postpone work due to the fact that they simply can't decide on what to do, so they choose to ignore it. Which category do you think you belong to?

There are certain things one can do to combat this problem. For instance, giving yourself a tiny prize (e.g. a pack of crisps) when you're progressing and meeting your targets would help because it will further motivate you to do more. Another method is to make a list of the consequences if you don't meet your targets.

Even though it may seem appealing to sit back and use your laptop or PC to chat on Facebook, while watching videos on Youtube, you'll have to put some effort into school work in the end, so why not do it already instead of delaying it?

Tomass Dravnieks

Josh's Joys of Life

Left Yields to Right

Luxembourg being the second European Capital during the EU Council for some months has made me think. It is great that this lovely country can be the centre of attention for a while, but having all these meetings and discussions here seem to be more of a curse than a blessing at times.

Last week I was driving down the main road of J.F. Kennedy on my way home. The majority of traffic lights were green and luck was on my side. But as my bus accelerated, police motorcycles with flashing blue lights soared past us and planted themselves in the middle of the crossing, waving their hands to signal all vehicles to stop right away. In the middle of rush-hour, somewhat hundreds of cars stocked up behind each other at the crossing within minutes. What was going on? Some drivers sneakily tried to move forward only to be caught and pointed at by the angry officers.

For many minutes nothing happened. It seemed the junction had to be cleared to provide a easy crossing. I wonder if there was a lack of communication or if it had simply just been a bad timing guess by the officers, but the vehicle they were escorting obviously wasn't going to arrive soon.

Then, a small tour bus with more Mercedes Benzes and flashing lights crossed the road and vanished in a side street. The motorcycles quickly moved off, leaving the mess of traffic to be sorted out by itself.

I find it quite unacceptable that important government officials have the right to receive priority in traffic. I have absolutely no problem with a police escort, but in traffic, and especially in rush-hour, every single passenger is trying to get to his or her own destination, and so also a politician can neatly wait in line. Maybe they can all just rent some Veloh bikes instead. Probably faster than Friday afternoon traffic, anyway.

Josh Oudendijk

Ukraine War

What About The Children?

Since war broke out in Ukraine in April 2014, thousands of human lives have been taken. Families are torn apart by death, starvation, and in some cases even mental breakdown. "Fake states" have formed, ruled by separatists and paramilitaries. After a ceasefire was called last February, situations have improved, but "smaller fights" and outbursts are still common. While this war is going on between men fighting in the name of their beliefs, what happens to the younger generation, the children caught in the middle of it?

Khartsyzsk, in Eastern Ukraine, is a city controlled by Russian separatists wanting independence from Ukraine. Many families there have lost their homes to bombing and destruction caused by the on-going war, so they have ended up living in crowded bomb shelters along with others who've had the same misfortune. In families where it's possible, parents still take care of their children nonetheless, but there are also numerous unfortunate children who don't have parents that can take care of them, or any parents at all, and end up living in orphanages, growing up in the midst of war and chaos.

One such orphanage is in Khartsyzsk, in the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, a fake state. The orphanage itself is called Khartsyzsk Children's Social Centre, with Elena Nikulenko as its director. According to Nikulenko, many children are in the orphanage even though their parents are alive, but they have either been imprisoned, judged unfit as parents or simply don't have the money to feed their child. As the Republic of Donetsk is separated from the rest of Ukraine, the country can't take care of its people, and so an "institution" has been set up in Khartsyzsk by a rebel unit calling itself the Pitnashka Brigade. The orphanage is dependent on this brigade to have a steady supply of food and medicine. "Doc", a member of the rebel unit, is the man involved in delivering the food and medicine to the orphanage. He also visits the children from time to time, he's brought them DVDs about his brigade so the children can "grow as patriots", and even took them to his military base to see weapons. The children are of course thankful to Doc for what he's doing for them, and he is proud that the children look up to him in a way. However the truth is that these children are against the war as they already know its effect, but the given circumstances and Doc's influence will likely shape their opinion in the future on what should be done about it and in whose favour.

Ludmila Chekh, a nurse at the orphanage, said they can hear fighting from the orphanage every night and that the children are scared they will be bombed. Having grown up in these conditions, they can even identify weapons from their sound. Chekh believes that if the war stopped right now, the children could still have a happy childhood, and by all means, that is exactly what should happen. These children, so young and already having seen so much evil and chaos, should not have their lives and childhoods affected by things like war. They have a right to a safe and secure environment just like we do, and even though the Khartsyzsk orphanage takes care of the children the best they can, they still deserve better, and we can only hope that matters will improve and offer a better life for these children in the future.

Diana Opik

Open Letter

Is Our School a Safe Place?

I think it is fair to say that every student wants to feel safe at school, which should be a place where we don't have to worry about our safety.

I always thought our school was a safe place, and that violence between students was very rare. But a couple of weeks ago, I heard of a very shocking situation. A student, who was in one of the school common rooms, was mishandled by a couple of their classmates as other students watched on but didn't do anything to help.

The following questions came to me as I heard this. First of all, why were there no adults nearby, and second, why did none of the other students step in?

At the meetings Mrs Vassilacou gave at the start of the year, she briefly mentioned a new anti-bullying project the school had taken on called KiVa, and said that if we wanted more information on the subject, we should consult the school's website. I did just that, and found the results very disappointing.

The school had just copied out the claims of the project and added a couple of links to the KiVa website. There was no information on how students, teachers and parents could get involved with the project and try to make a difference, or what the project was actually about.

For those of you who want to know, KiVa is an international anti-bullying project that was first established in a Finnish university. It has since



expanded greatly, and is now a well respected programme worldwide. The people in charge of the foundation claim that their project reduces the percentage of bullying in schools almost immediately after being applied.

But does KiVa really work? While several studies have proven that KiVa works in schools which take the program seriously and invest time and resources in it, the situation I described before shows that the project hasn't made much impact on our school yet and that there is still a lot of work to do. After some research I found that only two primary teachers and a school psychologist have been certified as KiVa trainers in our school. I think our school should talk more about bullying, as this is a very important issue that cannot be

ignored. You may ask, then, what can I do to help out? I went to talk to a counsellor and she told me the following two things:

If you are being bullied, do not hesitate to speak up, either to a counsellor or a teacher. If you are not comfortable confiding in an adult, go and consult the student peer mediators. Also, if you witness bullying, do your best to remember the students' faces, then go and see a counsellor as soon as possible.

I sincerely hope that bullying in our school will be less of a problem in the next few years, and that everyone can go to school with peace of mind. Always remember that there is someone who can help you - you're not alone. **Clémence Smith**

The Pupils' Voice

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