

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

May 2021 Edition 28

Euroschool

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Illustration: Blanka Herbály

Teen moods explained Teenage Brains

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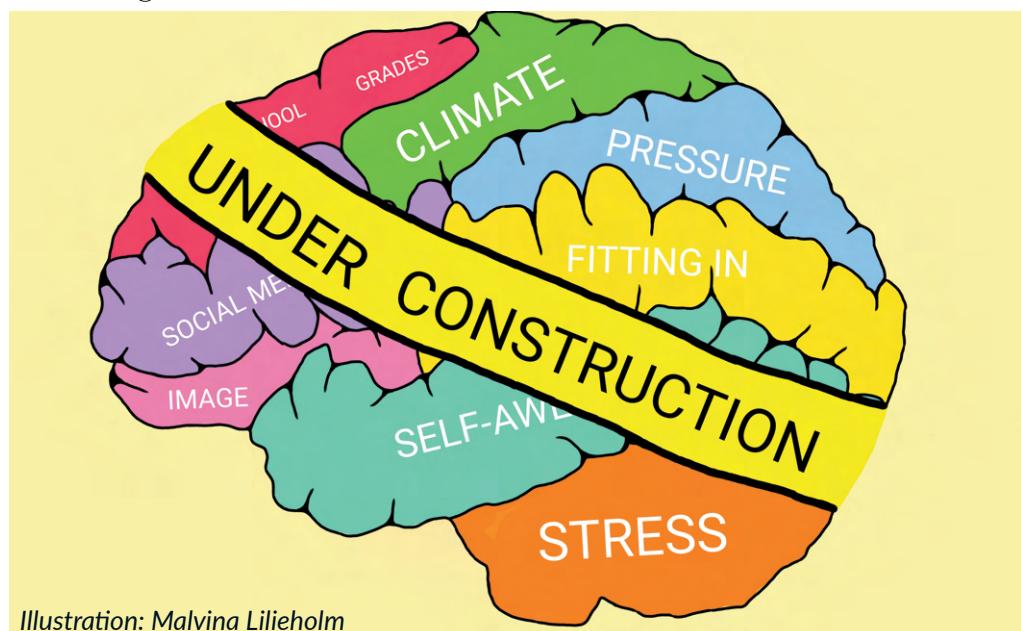


Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

When we think of puberty and the changes that occur during adolescence, we tend to talk about the body changes we go through. We are taught in biology class about sex hormones like oestrogen and testosterone, how girls start menstruating and boys grow facial hair. But something we forget to learn is the changes that are happening in our brains and how these changes explain how teenagers tend to behave...

The new super-stupid excuse for being transphobic

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Super Straight



Photograph: Maia Tanasa

Editorial

Super Straight

17



Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg

During the past few weeks, a bizarre new, let's call it idea for now, has been floating around. It's being paraded as a sexuality when really, it's just a sorry excuse for being transphobic. As of right now, 14th of March, if you search up "super-straight" on the TikTok app, you get no results and a comment may come up saying that the phrase "super-straight" may be associated with behavior or content that violates the community guidelines...

Chief Editor's Column

Jan

Dear readers,

finally, after a long, dark and often scary winter, spring has arrived. And while we can enjoy a revival of nature, we also slowly move towards normality, as the vaccination campaign gains speed. In March, we were finally able to resume sales in school and I want to thank all of you for your support. Sharing our work directly with you means a lot to us. In addition, we hope that you enjoyed our Insta/Facebook post to celebrate April Fools' Day.



As you most certainly know from personal experience, most teenagers tend to be moody. In Laura's article about the "Teenage Brain" (Euroschoo) you will discover one of our most fascinating organs full of hormones, neurons and synapses. If you are not too keen on science, you can alternatively check out Marc's interview with the founder of the European Schools Discord server (also Euroschoo).

Did Marie Antoine™ say "Let them eat cake"? Did Einstein fail his math exams? How short was Napoleon? Anna investigates these common "Misconceptions" in the Featured section. Speaking of inaccuracy and falsehood: Julia brilliantly continues our series on "Fake News", one of the greatest threats to democracy. On a lighter note, Evdokia describes the magic and the wonders of the moon ("Lune").

Dracula, Ghostbusters, Hotel Transylvania... what jumps to your mind if you hear about vampires or ghosts? You can learn about these spooky creatures by reading Esther's and Sidonie's articles (Featured). If you are still bored while browsing through the pages, I suggest that you follow Cailin's advice in the Entertainment section to take up a new hobby. There is something for everyone!

Last but not least, Ioana introduces us to a "new super stupid excuse for being transphobic": being super straight. If you have never heard this term before, I strongly recommend you to consider our Editorial section. If you do know the concept, you should read the article anyway.



See you next time
with or without masks,

Jan

The sustainable search engine

Ecosia

The world has never been as threatened as it is today. If we don't act now, it will be too late. Therefore, we would like to introduce you to one of the easiest ways to tackle our biggest problem, climate change: It is

Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg

simple, free, and most importantly, effective. We all use the internet every day. Wouldn't it be nice if we would not pollute the environment while browsing the web, but use a search engine that protects nature? Even though this sounds improbable, it is possible. With Ecosia, the search engine that plants trees!

Ecosia, a B-certified cooperation, has already planted over 110 million trees in all over the world. They support reforestation in countries like Brazil, Kenya, and Indonesia. On average, Ecosia plants 10 trees every 8 seconds, that adds up to more than 100,000 trees per day! In total, Ecosia's trees remove more than 50,000 tons (!) of CO₂ from our atmosphere per month.

To support Ecosia's cause, all you have to do is download the app or add the extension to the search engine. Then, you can continue to use the internet normally. And as I said, it is all completely free. You will not pay a single penny.

But how does Ecosia make a profit? Like all other browsers, Ecosia makes money through advertising. They pass 80% of their profit on to organisations which plant trees in the respective areas.

Install Ecosia and start planting trees today!



Marc Küster

S IIstand, Reform und Flickenteppich

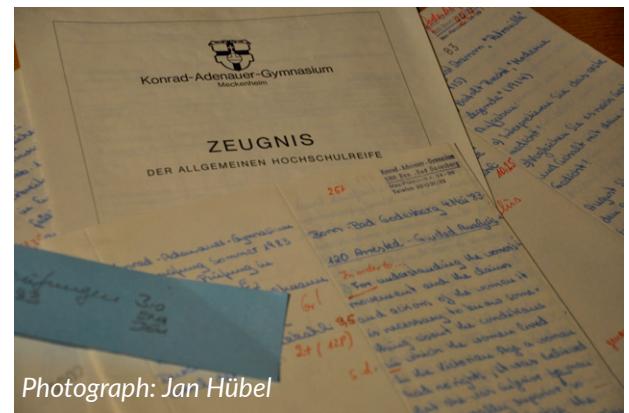
Die Reifeprüfung (II)

1914 Heute

Die deutsche Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts ist geprägt von Nationalismus, Faschismus, Krieg und Zerstörung, aber auch voller Neuanfänge, Aufbruchsstimmung und Hoffnung. Immer wieder stand das Bildungswesen im Zentrum von Umbrüchen und Revolutionen, folglich wurde auch das Abitur ein ums andere Mal von Grund auf umgekämpft. Die Machthaber wussten nämlich über Jahrzehnte hinweg, wo jeder Staat sein Fundament errichten muss: in der Schule. Friedrich Ebert, Joseph Goebbels, Konrad Adenauer, Helmut Schmidt und Gerhard Schröder – sie alle haben in Deutschland ihre Reifeprüfung abgelegt.

In der allgemeinen Kriegseuphorie der ersten Tage des Ersten Weltkrieges („Augusterlebnis“) wurde die Reifeprüfungen für Oberprimaner, die in der Armee dienen wollten, stark vereinfacht. Das Kriegsabitur, bestehend aus mündlichen Prüfungen, verkaufte zu einer Farce. Der Dichter Carl Zuckmayer, 1914 ein junger Kriegsfreiwilliger, bemerkte hierzu: „Das Abitur, der Schreckenstraum vieler Jugendjahre, wurde zu einem Familienfest.“ Als die Kriegsmaschine begann, immer mehr Soldaten zu verschlingen, erhielten viele Schüler ihr Abschlusszeugnis auch ohne Reifeprüfung. Und kämpften und starben nur wenige Tage später in den Schützengräben der Westfront.

Nach der Niederlage im Krieg und der Ausrufung der Republik am 11. November 1918 änderte sich zunächst wenig im Bildungssystem. Wie in vielen anderen Bereichen auch blieb eine kritische Auseinandersetzung mit dem verhängnisvollen Nationalismus des Kaiserreiches aus. Erst 1926 verabschiedete der Reichstag die „Prüfungsordnung“. Erneut wurde das Abitur reformiert; nun mussten ein Deutschaufsatz und eine mathematische Arbeit verfasst werden. Hinzu kamen zwei weitere schriftliche Prüfungen in Wahlfächern sowie die mündlichen Prüfungen. Interessanterweise blieb die Prüfungsordnung auch im Dritten Reich unverändert in Kraft, obwohl das Bildungssystem zentralisiert wurde. Die Indoktrination der Schüler durch den nationalsozialistischen Staat zeigte sich allerdings in den Abituraufgaben. Im Jahr 1938 schrieben die Prüflinge beispielsweise einen Deutschaufsatz über die „Bedrohung des europäischen Lebens durch Bolschewismus, Judentum und schwarze Rasse.“ Flächendeckend fanden Abiturprüfungen derweil



Photograph: Jan Hübel

immer seltener im vollen Umfang statt. 1937 entfielen sie sogar komplett, da die Schulzeit am Gymnasium auf acht Jahre reduziert worden war. Während des Zweiten Weltkrieges wurde erneut das Kriegsabitur eingeführt. Nach dem Zusammenbruch der NS-Diktatur lagen nicht nur Deutschlands Innenstädte, sondern auch das Bildungssystem des Landes der Dichter und Denker in Trümmern. In der jungen Bundesrepublik erlebten Humanismus und Föderalismus eine Wiederbelebung. Offensichtlich erschienen die Klassiker Shakespeare, Goethe und Schiller weniger problematisch als etwa die Literatur jüdischer Schriftsteller. Der Blick richtete sich strikt nach vorne. Dass Hunderte Lehrer, manche sogar NSDAP-Mitglieder, einfach die Werte einer Demokratie für die Ideologie des Nationalsozialismus eintauschten, wurde hierbei großzügig übersehen.

Erst 1972 traute sich die Kultusministerkonferenz wieder an das Abitur heran. Die gesamte Oberstufe wurde mit dem neu eingeführten Kurssystem auf den Kopf gestellt. Unterricht im Klassenverband wurde zur Seltenheit und Schüler konnten nun zwischen drei verschiedenen Aufgabenbereichen (sprachlich-literarisch-künstlerisch, gesellschaftswissenschaftlich & naturwissenschaftlich) wählen.

Größtenteils sind die Regelungen von 1972 heute noch in Kraft. In den meisten Bundesländern werden Abiturienten heutzutage in vier bis fünf Fächern (zwei davon Deutsch oder Fremdsprache oder Mathematik) geprüft. Mindestens drei Prüfungen müssen schriftlich abgelegt werden, mindestens eine mündlich. Es ist, wie so häufig bei der Reifeprüfung, kompliziert. Verglichen mit Karl Marx' Marathon im 19. Jahrhundert ist das heutige Abitur aber eher ein Abitürchen.

Bei einer kritischen Bewertung des Abiturs dreht sich alles um eine Frage: Bereitet es Jugendliche wirklich auf ein Studium vor? In der Pädagogik schwankt die Diskussion zwischen Befürwortung und Ablehnung. Bereits im Jahre 1836 kritisierte der Medizinalrat Dr. Karl Lorinser, die „Gesundheit und Lebenstüchtigkeit“

der Schüler sei durch den Umfang und die Anforderungen des Abiturs gefährdet. Dieses Argument bleibt brandaktuell: Als alle Bundesländer nach der Jahrtausendwende G-8 einführten, war der Aufschrei groß. Eltern und Schüler behaupteten sogar ein Abitur nach 12 Jahren käme „moderner Kinderarbeit“ gleich, obwohl Schüler in der DDR über 40 Jahre lang nur 12 Jahre die Schulbank gedrückt hatten. Einige Kultusminister gaben dem öffentlichen Druck jedoch nach und ordneten eine Rückkehr zu G-9 an – der föderale Flickenteppich lässt grüßen. Das Fehlen einer bundesweiten Bildungspolitik hat auch zur Folge, dass ein deutsches Zentralabitur in weiter Ferne zu liegen scheint. Im Gegensatz zum französischen Bakkalaureat sind deutsche Abiturprüfungen in München, Schwerin und Bremen verschieden – und von unterschiedlichem Wert. Die Tatsache, dass es in Niedersachsen schwieriger ist, einen 1er-Schnitt zu erreichen als in Thüringen, wird jedes Jahr angehenden Studenten zum Verhängnis. Beim Numerus clausus für Medizin wird nämlich nicht zwischen einer bayrischen und einer Bremer Abiturnote unterschieden...

Doch wie sehen die Schüler selbst das Abitur? Immerhin steigt die Zahl der Gymnasialabschlüsse immer weiter, zuletzt von 30 % des Abschlussjahrgangs 2006 auf 41 % des Jahrgangs 2014. Generell kann festgehalten werden, dass die Einstellungen der Schüler gegenüber Prüfungen ambivalent ist. Sie lehnen Prüfungen und Noten allerdings mit der zunehmenden Bedeutung der Zensuren immer mehr ab. In einer Studie des Pädagogen K. Czerwenka gaben nur 4,7 % der befragten Viertklässler an, sie sähen Noten negativ. Bei Oberstufenschülern lag dieser Wert bei 55 %.

Das Abitur – kann es etwas deutscheres geben? Geschaffen von preußischen Beamten, Grundpfeiler des Bildungssystems, missbraucht von Nationalismus und Faschismus, wiederauferstanden als erfolgreicher föderaler Zankapfel. Auch wenn kaum ein Abiturient den Wert der Prüfung zu schätzen weiß, ist sie doch unersetzbar für Universitäten und unsere Gesellschaft als Ganzes. Der beste Zugang zum Abitur ist, Noten nur als Noten zu verstehen und lesen zu können. Das Abitur bestimmt nicht das Selbstwertgefühl der Jugendlichen – die Interpretation einer Zahl obliegt alleine dem Schüler. Hier ist genau die Reife gefragt, die in der Reifeprüfung unter Beweis gestellt werden soll.

Jan Hübel

Meet students from all European Schools

European Schools Discord Server

The European Schools Discord Server is run by students for all students in European schools. This project unites us all in times when we cannot be together. I asked the founder of this project how it came about.

How did you get the idea to start a Discord server for all European schools? Why did you want to start it?

I didn't come up with this idea. I got kind of slotted into the project. The idea emerged during a CoSup meeting and the student president of my school told me about it as she knew that I would be interested. The idea of the server is to make a friendly place for all secondary and alumni of all the European Schools.

I think starting such a server is not necessarily trivial. Is this your first attempt or have you organised servers before? Also, have you created this server alone or with friends?

I have created and managed some other servers in the past. They were mostly for projects I have worked on in the past or creating communities to teach people how to code. A lot of them I'm still running and managing.

Likewise, did you face any obstacles or problems in the process? And now that it is running, how are you able to organise it?

Setting up the server was straight forward, like any other server. We have some bots for auto-moderation which helps us manage the server when there are a lot of active people, as well as some helpful mod bots to manage strikes, mutes and allow us to make staff notes on members.

The server has grown to over a thousand members and is still growing quickly. Did you expect this, how did you react to it and how do you feel about all the feedback from the students you got? What surprised you most?

We did expect a lot of members to join, but it was still amazing to experience it. We gained 200 members on the first day and 500 members on the second. It was amazing! We are really thankful for all the suggestions we have received, and we will continue to improve the



Illustratio: Instagram @timeo.dvrs

server and implement new ideas.

Is there anything you are most proud of?

Most probably the verification bot. Most people can't see it, but it's built-in an extendable way and it's fully documented to allow the admins in the future to modify it or fix bugs with ease. It also has a whole admin panel to manage both the bot and the backend which turned out nicely.

Do you have any specific plans, such as adding more games and self-assigned roles, or goals for the future of the server?

We keep an eye out for suggestions and implement them when we think it could be a good addition or if a lot of people request it. We also have a lot of events planned, such as movie night, which we just announced what movie we will be watching, chosen by the community; game nights, which we are still planning; and much more!

Why should one join this server? What would you tell someone considering joining?

We have an amazing time talking in voice channels with other members and have very interesting conversations with other members.

If you want to meet people from European Schools or want to meet other people from your school, this server is the best place for you.

You can join this server and become a part of it, via the QR code or this invite link: <https://discord.13stars.eu/>



Credits: Mike Hofmann

Marc Küster

Teen moods explained

The Teenage Brain and How It Explains Teen Behaviour

When we think of puberty and the changes that occur during adolescence, we tend to talk about the body changes we go through. We are taught in biology class about sex hormones like oestrogen and testosterone, how girls start menstruating and boys grow facial hair. But something we forget to learn is the changes that are happening in our brains and how these changes explain how teenagers tend to behave. Why are we prone to risk-taking, or making decisions based on

emotional impulses? Why are we labelled as lazy or do we go to bed much later than adults and children? Why are we more vulnerable to mental illnesses?

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, girls' brains reach their full size at around 11 years old; for boys it's at around 14. Therefore, the brain doesn't grow much during adolescence. However, the brain still develops and matures throughout our teenage years, forming and strengthening connections between neurons. The development of the brain occurs slowly, moving from the back of the brain, the more primitive and fundamental parts, to the front, where the more advanced and complex processes

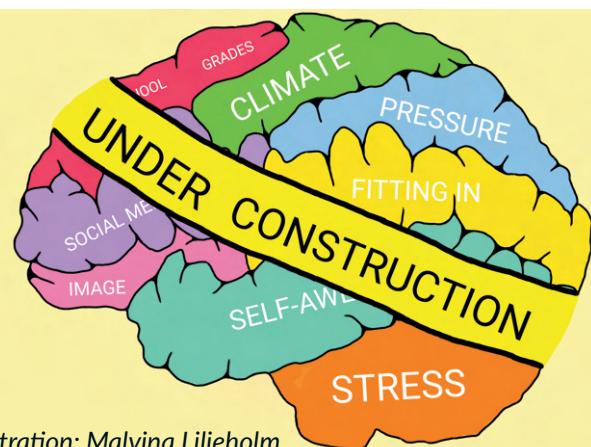


Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

happen. This leaves the prefrontal cortex to be last. The prefrontal cortex is the region in our brain responsible for what scientists call "higher order cognition", things like decision-making, problem-solving, long-term planning and impulse control. This part of the brain is not fully developed until we get to our mid-twenties! This is one of the reasons, next to hormonal changes, for the risky behaviour and poor judgement most teenagers have. Whereas adults use the reasonable prefrontal cortex to make decisions, teens have to use another part of the brain called the amygdala, which is located in the back of the brain and is part of our more primitive limbic system. The amygdala is in charge of emotions, impulses and other instinctive behaviours, one of the reasons why teenagers are more inclined to be moody, or impulsive. The development of the teenage brain consists of two major processes: myelination and synaptic pruning. The connections between neurons are slower in children. This is because the axons of the neurons don't have myelin sheaths surrounding them and increasing the transmission speed of electrical impulses. During adolescence, myelin starts to cover the axons and we get quicker thinking and processing in the brain.

Synaptic pruning happens as well. Unused connections between neurons that are called the grey matter are “pruned” away. This process sounds bad, but it actually fine-tunes the brain to the specific environment it’s in and the functions it is used to do. It eliminates the connections that we don’t use and strengthens the connections that we do use, allowing the body to focus energy and resources on what we really do or need. This ultimately means that our actions in our teens will shape our brain for the rest of our lives. If we spend our time reading, socialising, doing sports or focusing on academics, these are the habits that will be reinforced, and our brain will be prepared to do this through adulthood. Whereas if we spend all our time procrastinating and being couch potatoes, this is what will be strengthened. In addition to this, teenagers experience a crucial change in their sleep patterns that may contribute to sleep deprivation and thus moodiness, irritability and the stereotype of the lazy and zombie-like teenager. A normal sleep cycle is driven by two hormones released in our brain, cortisol wakes us up during daytime, and melatonin makes us sleepy when it gets dark. Most adults start releasing melatonin around 9 pm, which is perfect timing for the average 10 to 7 sleep-time. However, during puberty, the release of melatonin is pushed back for at least 2 hours. This change explains why many teens stay up late and struggle with getting up in the morning. Of course, other factors can contribute, light exposure from electrical devices being an important one. As Wendy Troxel says in her TED talk “Why Schools Should Start Later for Teens”, this delay means that “waking a teenager up at 6 am is the biological equivalent of waking an adult up at 4 am”. And when she has to wake up at that time she is “functionally useless”. Sleep deprivation makes you unable to focus, process or remember anything, and leads to worse academical results. This is why many sleep researchers advocate for later high school start times, more adapted to teenagers’ sleep patterns. Troxel is one of them, but we could also include the “Teensleep” Oxford study, dedicated to “assess the effects of sleep education on academic, health and sleep outcomes”. Finally, all these changes in the brain make teenagers more susceptible to things like substance abuse and mental health problems. The poor lack of judgement of our emotional amygdala and sleep deprivation lead to the consumption of alcohol, drugs and other harmful behaviours. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that 13.6% of teenagers aged 15-19 years experienced heavy episodic drinking in

2016 and Cannabis was the most widely used drug among young people with about 4.7% of 15-16-year-olds using it at least once in 2018. This is especially dangerous in adolescence, since our brain is still so vulnerable and malleable to its environment. I know many people that started smoking in their teens and now as adults, they are unable to quit! Adolescence is also a time when many mental disorders emerge, such as eating disorders, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, etc. The WHO estimates that “10-20% of adolescents globally experience mental health conditions, yet these remain underdiagnosed and undertreated”. This is especially worrying because mental health problems can lead to self-harm and suicide, which is the third leading cause of death in older adolescents (15-19 years). My advice would be, first of all, to ask for help if you are struggling and not be ashamed if you suspect you have a mental disorder, the statistics clearly show that you are not alone. And secondly, to enjoy this time as much as possible and use it to pick up habits that you enjoy but are good for you and your health. This is the perfect time to explore and find what you want to strengthen, what habits you want to keep up with throughout adulthood, and which vices you don’t want your brain to get used to.

Laura Fuentes Gómez

Quelques conseils pour décider

Que choisir entre un livre, un anime ou un film?



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

Etes-vous plutôt livres, animes ou films ? Bien sûr, un anime (se prononce animé) n'est pas du tout pareil qu'un film. Quand on regarde un film, on le vit, on aime les acteurs qui jouent dedans. On peut même s'imaginer rencontrer les personnages des films même si ce sont des acteurs. Tandis que les animes, eux, sont des dessins donc on a tendance à se projeter un peu moins que dans un film.

Dans les livres on ne voit pas d'images, seuls les mots décrivent les personnages et l'histoire. Ne pas avoir de

représentation illustrée des personnages, en dehors de la couverture parfois, peut avoir pour effet de moins se projeter dans le récit. Cependant, il y a une solution à cela :

Certaines sagas écrites sont adaptées à l'écran et les acteurs ressemblent beaucoup aux personnages du livre. C'est le cas des fameux Harry Potter, Le Seigneur des anneaux ou encore Percy Jackson. Il se peut que les adaptations cinématographiques ne soient pas bien réussies, mon conseil est donc de commencer par lire le livre. De plus, un livre est disponible plus facilement et peut se dévorer n'importe où, contrairement aux films et aux animés.

Vous connaissez tous les séries animées japonaises comme Naruto et Hunter x Hunter mais connaissez-vous les films japonais ? Les studios Ghibli ont un peu le monopole en la matière. De plus, il y a de tout dans ces animés japonais, mais vous trouverez surtout des histoires très touchantes comme La colline aux coquelicots, Le château ambulant, Nausicaä de la Vallée du Vent, Si tu tends l'oreille, Le royaume des chats ou encore Le vent se lève. Les studios Ghibli touche la sensibilité des spectateurs en mettant en scène des histoires d'amour dans lesquelles il est presque impossible aux personnages de s'aimer et de vivre leur histoire. Ces animés sont disponibles sur Netflix alors précipitez-vous dessus !

Alors, que préférez-vous ? Livres, animés ou films ? À vous de choisir en fonction de votre humeur.

Sidonie Hébert



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

We are sorry...

Dad Jokes

Someone complimented my parking today! They left a sweet note on my windshield that said "parking fine."

What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese.

Shout out to my fingers. I can count on all of them!

Things to do when you are bored Hobbies to Take Up



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

Hobbies:

Scrapbooking. Do you have hundreds of photos you've collected over the years? And haven't got anything to do with them? Easy, try to start scrapbooking. Decorate pages with photos and give them descriptions so you will always remember where and when they were taken!

Reading. Yes, I know, you've probably heard this phrase one too many times in life. I reassure you though, it's for a good reason! Pick up a good book and dive into different realities! What are you waiting for?

Photography. Capture moments as photos! Though we are mostly at home these days, there is still so much to look at. Take pictures in your garden. Frame a cool aesthetic photo of your bookshelf. Let your imagination run wild!

Calligraphy. Have you ever wanted to have a neat and beautiful handwriting? Or, wanted to have a certain style of calligraphy? Take lessons online or do calligraphy worksheets. It might not be particularly entertaining, but it will be worth the time. It could be quite therapeutic as well, repeating the same letters over and over.

You know, people say they pick their nose, but I feel like I was just born with mine.

Why don't eggs tell jokes? They'd crack each other up.

Did you hear the rumor about buTMer? Well, I'm not going to spread it!

Elisa Lazzaroli

Things to do when you're bored:

Make some music playlists. You could have a playlist for when you're bored, for doing a workout, for when you're sad... Go crazy with it and make a playlist for anything and everything!



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

pet at home, what's stopping you from teaching them a new trick? Maybe even a dance move? That would certainly be entertaining!

Re-do old clothes. Draw a design on a plain shirt. Turn a skirt in to a pair of shorts. Even start from scratch making new clothes. Go for it!

Cailin Rei

A threat to our way of life and democracyLiTMe Lies, Big Lies and... Fake News

In our age, all types of information is available instantly, and everyone carrying a phone in their pocket has access to an almost infinite reservoir of data at their fingertips. 'What a blessing' - one might say. It can, indeed, be a blessing, but it can also be a curse, considering it's almost as easy to produce the content as it is to access it. And, as we all know by now, not everyone's intentions are pure. Some people produce content to intentionally harm, disrupt and divide. Such 'product' has often very little in common with actual information. It's fabricated with no (or maybe partially)



Photograph: Clarissa Schweikle

verifiable facts, sources, or quotes, yet it looks and feels very real. Welcome to the world of 'fake news'. We've all heard (or - God forbid - have spread) rumours about our friends, peers, or family members. "I saw this girl from another class kissing this dude!", "Someone told me that her friend peed in the swimming pool!" and likes... Whereas those who spread such rumours may not always have bad intentions, they can certainly cause a lot of harm. Rumours spread rapidly — once they do, it's impossible to stop them. People get hurt, and it may sometimes lead to very dramatic consequences. In the digital age, where everyone is on WhatsApp, Twitter or Discord, rumours travel instantaneously, and within minutes, can reach hundreds if not thousands of recipients. Something which may seem innocent at first, may have fatal outcomes. Therefore, when you clench your teeth in anger, and think about the most painful vendetta on your disloyal friend and want to start the most vicious rumour — Stop! Take a breath and think about all the consequences of your actions. Maybe spreading rumours isn't a solution after all. Many of us may think that such silly gossips are not fake news and are not nearly as dangerous. Well, in my opinion, a malicious gossip has got a lot in common with fake news. They both have similar purposes and can cause a lot of harm. They differ by scale and context.

Fake news isn't predominantly about gossips. Who has not come across all sorts of conspiracy theories? There are those which are not very harmful and, while silly, seem rather innocent. One of the most well-known is the rumour that the US government is detaining extra-terrestrial creatures in Fort Knox, Kentucky. (Wow! I cannot believe I'm writing this, hopefully I won't be accused of spreading this hoax). However, certain types of fake news are dangerous not only to specific individuals, but to all of us. Since last year, the world has been fighting with Covid-19. Next

to an ample effort on scientific research to fight the deadly disease, we all witnessed a considerable number of completely unfounded theories. The internet is overflowing with fake news such as "There is no virus at all, and Corona is just a joke", "Covid-19 is nothing but a light flu, and people should not be afraid of it". Bad enough you may say, still the latest hoax being spread right now concerns the vaccines against Covid-19. Rumour has it, that together with the vaccines, "microchips are being injected into people's bodies, so that Bill Gates can control people's brains". Now, what on Earth would make you spread such a lie? In whose ill mind can such a preposterous nonsense be conceived? Unfortunately, this fake news has spread all over the internet and social media very rapidly. Some people believe this lie and are too afraid to be vaccinated, delaying the moment of victory over the virus.

Finally, there are those who use fake news for influencing people's choices and behaviour. We have all heard that Donald Trump has been banned from Facebook and Twitter for having continuously spread fake and unfounded news about rigged presidential elections. He did this to incite anger and fear among his supporters. This led to his followers storming the US Capitol and five people losing their lives as a result of this attack. It is a painfully adequate, yet a very bitter example that fake news costs real lives and grievance of families.

So, what can we do to prevent fake news and rumours from influencing our existence? We should develop a critical mindset. Approach what you see and hear rationally and critically. Always ask yourself why has any particular story been written or told in this particular way?

Your second line of defence is always checking the source. Is this a viable source? Does it come from a major news outlet, or does it come from an obscure and unknown source? Obviously, in case of allegations of Donald Trump spread over Facebook and Twitter this test may not have been very effective.

Finally, you're always left with your third line of defence, i.e. your gut feeling. Does what you hear or read sound right? If it does not pass the smell test, then you should be careful. Go back to asking yourself about the purpose, and ideally check multiple sources to see if versions concur.

If we all use these simple, yet effective techniques, we will all be prepared to face the ever-spreading virus of fake news.

Julia Dec

Assez d'ail dans l'armoire?

Les suceurs de sang

Quand on parle de fantômes et d'autres monstres de films d'horreur, on évoque inévitablement les vampires. Les vampires sont des hommes aux yeux rouges et aux dents pointues que l'on peut voir dans certains films ou dessins animés pour les enfants. Par exemple, un dessin animé connu : Hôtel Transilvanie, avec le très célèbre comte Dracula. Mais avant que les vampires deviennent comme Dracula, il faut revenir en arrière... À l'origine, on disait que les vampires étaient des morts revenant à la vie qui venaient rendre visite à leurs proches en se construisant au passage une réputation à faire froid dans le dos, comme par exemple, celle de répandre la mort et le désespoir partout où ils allaient. On pensait aussi que ces revenants avaient, de leur vivant, une maladie grave qui, dans la mort, provoquait une forte attirance pour le sang. Plus tard, le vampire est devenu celui qu'on connaît grâce au livre de John Polidori, *The Vampyre*. Avant et aujourd'hui encore, on prétend que le vampire serait allergique (ou intolérant) à l'ail et qu'il n'a pas de reflet dans un miroir. On se serait servi de ça pour démasquer les personnes que l'on croyait être des vampires. Beaucoup de personnes s'accordent à dire que le vampire n'existe qu'au cinéma et dans les livres. Pour ma part, je n'y crois pas non plus mais, j'apprécie inventer des histoires où les vampires jouent un rôle.



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

Le saviez-vous ?

On peut qualifier d'autres êtres vivants de vampires, que ce soit des animaux, des insectes ou des humains. Pour commencer, les chauves-souris vampires. Les chauves-souris vampires sont des chauves-souris qui, au lieu de manger des insectes, plantent leurs longues dents fines et tranchantes dans la chair des vaches ou des chevaux pour sucer leur sang et se nourrir. Il y a aussi le pinçon suceur de sang qui est un oiseau vivant sur une île déserte et qui a trouvé le moyen de se nourrir quand il y a un manque de nourriture. Il profite de la présence d'une autre espèce d'oiseau pour leur arracher des plumes et boire le sang qui en découle. Je pense que l'histoire que je vais vous raconter est la pire de cet article. Il s'agit d'une comtesse Hongroise qui vivait dans un manoir en Roumanie et qui n'en sortait quasiment jamais. Elle avait la réputation d'être folle et

qui, après avoir découvert un beau jour a découvert que le sang offrait à sa peau une douceur incroyable, elle décide de prendre des bains de sang ! Était-elle donc plus vampire ou plus folle ? Enfin, je vais parler du plus grand suceur de sang connu au monde : le moustique. Cet insecte nous pique pour boire notre sang et sa piqûre nous est très désagréable. Le moustique transporte aussi beaucoup de maladies et tue plus de sept cent vingt mille personnes par an. Maintenant que vous avez lu cet article, de quoi croyez-vous avoir le plus peur ? des vampires venant du cinéma et des livres ou du moustique ?

Esther Godefroid

Une femme spéciale pour une journée spéciale Lady Diana

Le 8 mars était la journée internationale des droits de la femme : on rappelle tous les droits que la femme a gagné à travers les années (comme le droit de vote) et on réfléchit aux inégalités hommes-femmes qui malheureusement existent toujours dans la vie courante (par exemple le salaire).

Des femmes importantes ont existé (Truth Sojourney, Marie Curie), existent (Michelle Obama, Kamala Harris) et d'autres qui sont encore à venir.



Illustration: Jan Hübel

À cette époque, Diana commence à souffrir de la pression médiatique. A ce sujet, elle dit « c'était moi qui étais toujours mise en avant, que ce soit à cause de mes vêtements, ma coiffure, des sujets assez intéressants mais qui ont été traités dans tous les sens à travers les années ». C'est dans la même occasion qu'elle révèle en toute honnêteté ses troubles

alimentaires, ses tentatives de suicide et d'automutilation.

Pourtant, même dans ces moments de difficulté, Lady Diana reste très active dans la vie publique et participe à des nombreuses actions caritatives. Par exemple, « Il y avait cette crainte infondée selon laquelle serrer la main d'une personne atteinte du VIH ou du sida suffisait à vous transmettre la maladie, mais Diana n'y croyait pas. Les personnes qui l'appréciaient à l'époque l'ont aimée d'autant plus parce qu'elle se servait de son statut de personnalité publique pour montrer au monde que ces individus avaient, comme tout le monde, besoin d'attention et d'affection.

Toujours à cette époque, à la fin des années 1980, elle s'est attaquée au problème des sans-abris, notamment au Royaume-Uni. De nombreuses images la montrent en train de se promener et d'aller parler à des personnes sans domicile fixe, qui vivent dans des tentes sous des ponts. [...] Elle a insisté sur le fait que personne ne devrait avoir à vivre dans ces conditions dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Juste avant sa mort, elle s'est saisie de la question des mines antipersonnel dans les pays d'Afrique déchirés par la guerre, notamment en Angola.

Elle a eu une prise de conscience : « Quitte à avoir les caméras braquées sur moi en permanence, autant me servir de cette publicité à bon escient ». Et c'est ce qu'elle a fait. Elle savait que se rendre dans les hôpitaux ou dans des champs truffés de mines attirerait immédiatement l'attention du monde entier sur le problème. » (Tom Jennings pour Nation Géographique).

Plus tard, le prince Charles annonce au monde entier sa relation extraconjugale avec Camilla Parker Bowles (sa femme actuelle). Après ce triste mariage, plein de trahisons bilatérales, Diana n'attendait que cela : en 1996 elle divorce le prince. Pour cette raison, l'écrivain Manuel Vázquez Montalbán va la définir « étrange prototype de princesse adultère mais vierge et martyre ».

Malheureusement, elle vit une seule année de « liberté ». Le 31 août 1997, Diana meurt dans un accident de voiture : même aujourd'hui les circonstances ce ne sont pas très claires. Ses funérailles télévisées vont être regardées par 32, 10 millions d'anglais, une des plus grandes audiences jamais enregistrées.

Lady Diana était une princesse guerrière qui a lutté, sous les yeux du monde entier, pour ce que chacun de

nous veut et mérite : du respect et d'amour, pour soi-même, ses enfants et pour les autres. En effet, elle a employé toutes ses forces en faveur des plus démunis (malades de sida, sans-abri, victimes des mines antipersonnel).

Loin d'être une princesse des contes, elle a suscité admiration de peuple anglais et du monde entier.

Eleonora Gobbi

Qu'est ce que c'est?

La peur

Est-ce le monstre qui se cache sous le lit ?

Ou encore celui dont l'ombre prend la forme d'une sorcière ?

La peur est une émotion qui se ressent en général lorsque notre instinct nous dit qu'un danger, réel ou pas, est proche. Elle est également le fruit de notre imagination. Donc, si vous croyez toujours au monstre qui se cache sous votre lit, vous pouvez considérer votre imagination comme débordante. Mais peut-être seulement en histoires d'horreur, ce qui n'est pas mauvais non plus, juste différent.

D'après diverses analyses approfondies, les peurs les plus communes sont les suivantes :

L'Océan

Les cafards (!)

Les araignées

Les serpents

Les aiguilles

Les examens

Les évaluations

Le confinement / isolation sociale

Il existe bien évidemment beaucoup d'autres peurs, semblables ou tout à fait différentes.

Ces peurs peuvent conduire à des cauchemars, ou même y trouver leurs origines. Parfois sorties des films, des scènes peuvent avoir été modifiées par notre imagination, les rendant plus effrayantes.

Chez nous, la peur se manifeste souvent ainsi :

Des tremblements

Un écarquillage des yeux

Une hausse dans la rapidité des battements du cœur

Une perturbation dans le rythme respiratoire

La chair de poule

Ces différents « symptômes » sont généralement dus à l'adrénaline ressentie, qui peut provoquer dans certains cas un cri ou même une perte de connaissance, mais

cela reste très rare.

La peur est divisée en deux branches : la peur interne, et la peur externe.

La peur interne est une peur connectée à une émotion, souvent négative.

La peur externe est une peur venue de l'extérieur, que notre instinct nous motive le plus souvent à éviter.

La peur peut être décrite selon les émotions ressenties, mais elle est différente chez chaque personne. Ces émotions varient depuis la prudence jusqu'à une extrême phobie et paranoïa.

Quelques exemples de phobies sont :

L'acrophobie (peur des hauteurs, similaire au vertige).

La claustrophobie (peur des espaces confinés).

L'arachnophobie (peur des araignées).

La phobophobie (peur d'avoir peur).

Il y a des peurs pour tous les goûts... Saviez-vous qu'il existe même la peur d'avoir du beurre de cacahuètes collé au palais ? Cela s'appelle l'arachibutyrophobie.

Les expériences de la peur peuvent se manifester très longtemps après les avoir vécues, on parle ici de traumatismes issus de faits bien réels et non pas de l'imagination.

La méfiance, une autre émotion reliée de près à la peur, peut survenir lorsque quelque chose ou quelqu'un est remis en question ou nous est inconnu. Souvent, c'est le changement

qui nous inspire la méfiance, car, pour nous, cela représente quelque chose de nouveau, une chose à laquelle on ne peut pas faire confiance.

« Fun Fact » pour les fans d'Harry Potter : l'épouvantard prend une forme différente devant chaque élève, car chacun craint des choses différentes.

Personne n'a peur de rien, même si certains ne connaissent pas leur peur car ils ne l'ont pas encore « rencontrée », ou qui n'y croient tout simplement pas. Cela étant, il y a les « courageux » qui osent affronter leur peur, ceux qui n'en ont jamais l'occasion, ou encore ceux qui préfèrent partir en courant. À chacun son choix.

Finalement, la peur n'est pas quelque chose de mauvais, car la peur nous rend méfiants, donc, prudents, et cela peut nous aider à éviter beaucoup de dangers, peut-être même des « catastrophes » :).

Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg



Inés Peyró

Matches, cornflakes, Post it and Play Doh

Astonishing Accidental Inventions



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

"Oh, sorry, it was an accident" – I cannot imagine the number of times I said it. Usually, in an apologetic tone, trying to get myself excused for another one of my blunders... but guess what, accidents aren't always bad... some of the most well-known products are results of such accidents. Some of them made a great impact on our lives, others just made it more enjoyable. Let me take you on a short journey of the most iconic accidental inventions.

This story takes us back all the way to 1826, to a beautiful town of Stockton-on-Tees in County Durham, in north England. Local pharmacist John Walker used a thin piece of wood to mix chemicals and, at one point, he noticed that a dried-up layer of mixed substance appeared at the end of the stick. Without too much consideration, he tried to wipe it off against the wall, but to his greatest astonishment, the wooden stick caught on fire. Thereafter, he managed to produce and sell a few boxes of the first matches in a local shop. He did not have the idea of the filing of a patent for his invention, so someone else has managed to take the credit for inventing matches – it was Samuel Jones, who first made serious money on them.

Now back to a fundamental question - do you enjoy cornflakes with your milk for breakfast? If so, you may be interested in knowing that cornflakes are also a result of an accident ...

Cornflakes were "invented" by the Kellogg brothers - that name sounds familiar, doesn't it? William and John Kellogg worked together at a sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan. They created flakes by accident in 1894, trying to make easy-to-digest bread from wholegrain wheat flour for the patients of the sanatorium. The result was initially disappointing - the "bread" they baked was thin and very fragile, easily breakable into large flakes. The taste however was more promising than the texture. The patients loved the taste so much that they reportedly ordered it even after leaving the sanatorium. The Kellogg

brothers decided to launch the production of flakes on a larger scale but used corn instead of wheat, thus creating one of the evergreens of breakfast tables - cornflakes. However, what they did not know by the beginning of the 20th century, was they also created one of the most important controversies ever - what goes first, milk or cereal?

We all know and use Post-It notes (or some variation of this product) in our everyday life. Their invention was also due to an accident. Spencer Silver, a chemist who worked for a US corporation, 3M Company (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company), was trying to develop strong adhesive material for the aerospace industry. Despite numerous attempts, he succeeded in inventing a complete opposite of what he was looking for - a very weak glue, that can be peeled off many times without dirtying the surface. Spencer's boss was not thrilled, especially since he tried to put glue on a board and tried to stick ordinary pieces of paper. It wasn't until five years later that another 3M chemist, Art Fry, came up with an idea that the glue invented by Spencer should be applied on the paper and not on the board... this is how yellow notes were created. 3M is manufacturing them until today - over 50 billion (!) Post-it Notes are produced and sold to over 100 countries each year.

Let's end on a less serious note - one of the most beloved toys in the world, Play-Doh, was also created by accident. In the past, houses were heated with coal stoves. A side effect of burning coal, the soot, was being deposited on the wallpapers of people's homes. Noah and Joseph McVicker of Kutol Products developed an adhesive substance helping in cleaning the soot. The soot stucked to the pasty surface without staining the wallpaper. The McVicker brothers were using this substance to the greatest success of their enterprise. However, since 1950s, coal stoves were replaced with gas stoves not generating any soot, and the McVickers' business almost went bankrupt. There is however a twist in this tale. McVickers' sister was a teacher and used their paste during classes. Children loved to create different shapes and models from it. Eureka! The two entrepreneurs had an idea how to save their business - the paste had to be sold as a toy. Play-Doh modeling clay was born!

Now that you know what matches, cornflakes, Post-Its and Play-Doh have in common (yes! they were all invented by accident!), think about this next time, whenever an accident occurs. When you think you're on the verge of a breakdown... maybe the next great invention will be yours?

Did curiosity kill the cat?

Misconceptions

People are always being told to not believe everything they hear. This is indeed good advice, but still, many falsities, myths and fables continue to exist. While it is difficult to truly get rid of this problem, small steps can still be taken. So, here are some rectified common misconceptions. Not only is it good to get your facts straight, but these are also some interesting things to throw into a conversation and might even be relevant in some subjects in school.

We will begin with Marie Antoinette, the wife of king Louis XVI. She was very hated by the French during her time. One of the first things people will probably remember about her is her famous response to hearing about how French citizens couldn't afford bread: "Let them eat cake!" This quote was written down by philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in book VI of his book, Confessions (around 1767), he said that a "great princess" had said this. However, during this time Antoinette would have been 12 years old, so it's unlikely she had said it. Indeed, Rousseau didn't invent this quote. In 1843 Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote he had found the quote in a book dating to 1760.

This isn't the first time that slander of historical figures has morphed into a misconception, nor the last. Napoleon was around the average height of his time, but is known for being very short. The myth of his height can be attributed to the British cartoonist James Gillray. He made multiple cartoons of Napoleon. One of them, "Maniac-raving's-or-Little-Boney in a strong fit" (1803), satirized an event in 1803 at Tuileries palace. Napoleon expressed his anger at the British ambassador in front of hundreds of high-ranking people. The cartoon depicted him as being very short, no taller than a table, throwing a childish tantrum. Gillray would make similar cartoons, eventually cementing the image of Napoleon as the tiny emperor of France.

When getting a bad grade, people might console you by saying "Don't worry, Einstein failed math in school, and look where he ended up." However, Einstein never failed math. He did extremely well in maths and physics, receiving top grades. He did, however, do bad in some non-scientific subjects, like languages and botany. He failed these at an entrance exam to a college in Zurich, but he had no trouble with the maths part. He was seen as a difficult student because he enjoyed problem-solving but didn't put effort into other aspects of school. Therefore, he also struggled to

get a job after graduation until a family friend helped him get one in a patent office, which led him to his world-famous theories.

Some inaccurately named plants have led to some confusion about their nature. You may have heard the debates about avocados, tomatoes and whether they're fruit or vegetable, but how about peanuts? Peanuts, despite their name, are actually legumes! This is because they are edible seeds enclosed in pods, while nuts have a single seed in a hard shell.

People know of the proverb "curiosity killed the cat", meaning that being too curious can end badly. Curiosity, however, isn't its initial form. The original saying is "care killed the cat". Care, in this context meaning sorrow or worry for others. The saying comes from the 1598 play "Every Man in His Humor" by Ben Johnson. It's first recorded mention was in an Irish newspaper from 1868.

To end, a misconception about the human body. Some say that we only use 10% of our brain. Many have tried to figure out ways we can 'unlock' a brain's full potential, imagining how much easier life would be. According to neuroscientists, most parts of the brain are active during most activities, from reading, walking and to talking. The brain doesn't "shut off" during sleep either.

In conclusion, misconceptions are practically everywhere, and sometimes they're so well established that it's hard to believe they're not true. "Curiosity killed the cat" may discourage some people from trying to learn more, but hey, the proverb does have a second part too, "satisfaction brought it back", the satisfaction that comes from discovering new things is amazing. You shouldn't take things for people's word, but to keep an open mind.

Anni Myllymäki



A merciless, bloody industry

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern day global ethical issue many people don't know of. It is an industry that stretches to most countries on all continents. The number of victims is in the millions and rising fast. Human trafficking is a wide topic, ranging from slavery to forced labour.

Modern human trafficking takes place on a surprisingly massive scale. Estimates have shown that about 40 million people worldwide are being trafficked. This number is enormous, especially compared to the 12 million Africans robbed of their freedom and shipped to the "New World" in the Atlantic Slave Trade. The majority of people affected today are women, and a frightening portion are children. Forced labourers are found in every sector of the economy, from the infamous sex industry to the extraction of materials that are required in our everyday privileged lives.

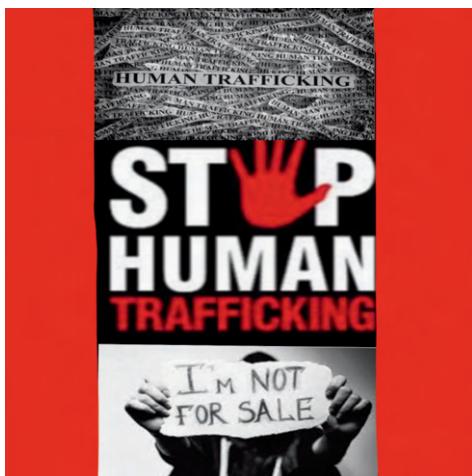


Illustration: Vasileios Viannis

Many victims of trafficking are trapped by what is referred to as debt bondage, or debt slavery. This is a process that forces people to work to repay a debt that ultimately can never be repaid. Many people trapped in these sorts of situations are unable to seek outside help, as they are often immigrants whose visas have expired or are simply far from outside help. There are countless examples of people being kidnapped and brought in an inescapable location where they have no choice but to work to survive, like a boat in the middle of the ocean where they have to fish or never see land again.

Human trafficking as an industry generates a whooping 150 billion \$ per year, even though profits are significantly lower. According to certain sources, a modern slave is "worth" about 90\$. In the beginning of the 19th century, a slave's "worth" was estimated at about 40.000\$ (modern currency).

Human trafficking is something present everywhere but hidden in the backstage. People are being coerced, exploited, manipulated by individuals every day. Situations of trafficking can happen right in front of our

oblivious eyes, and in that case, actions can be taken and research can be done to fight against this global ethical issue. Human trafficking needs an international solution.

Shaun Ferrand

Aimez vous les maisons abandonnées?

Les fantômes existent ils ?



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

Il est impossible de prouver que les fantômes existent, car il n'y a pas de preuves. Cependant, il est tout à fait possible qu'ils existent et on retrouve cette idée de fantômes dans de nombreux domaines tels que le cinéma ou les parcs d'attractions.

Dans les légendes et les histoires, on peut trouver plusieurs types de fantômes. Les classiques (blancs ou transparents), la dame blanche, les spectres, les revenants, les croque-mitaines, et plein d'autres encore. Tous ces types de fantômes appartiennent à la même catégorie : le paranormal ; et tous viennent du même ancêtre : les lémures. Remontons un peu plus dans le temps... Les Romains étaient persuadés que les esprits des morts revenaient régulièrement sur Terre. Ils les nommaient "lémures". La légende a traversé les siècles et les lémures ont évolué selon les croyances locales et sont devenues les fantômes que l'on connaît aujourd'hui.

Beaucoup de gens assimilent les maisons abandonnées aux fantômes, et les croient hantées. Les parcs d'attractions ont d'ailleurs repris l'idée de ces maisons hantées pour en faire des attractions terrifiantes et dans lesquelles vous êtes certainement déjà allés. Mais pourquoi ce concept a-t-il autant de succès ? Le cerveau humain dégage de la dopamine lorsque l'on a peur. Cette substance chimique est responsable du plaisir, ce qui expliquerai notre envie de croire aux fantômes bien qu'on en ai peur, et pourquoi nous avons une fête spécialement dédiée aux fantômes :

Halloween. C'est également pour cela que nous lisons et racontons des histoires d'horreur.

On aime tellement se faire peur que l'on fait des films d'horreur comiques, à grand succès ou encore dramatiques comme : SOS fantômes, le tout nouveau SOUL, Casper, Harry Potter, Coco, Beetlejuice, Sixième Sens ou encore Poltergeist. Mais ce ne sont que quelques exemples de toute la culture cinématographique que peuvent nous apporter les films d'épouvante. Il y a aussi des livres comme la série Chair de poule, Les Fantômes d'Isa et énormément d'autres encore.

Voici ma réponse à la question « Les fantômes existent-ils ? » : à priori non, ils n'existent pas car il n'y a pas de preuve concrète de leur existence... mais il n'est pas non plus prouvé qu'ils n'existent pas ! Chacun est libre de croire ce qu'il veut.

Sidonie Hébert

Comment affecte-t-elle notre vie?

Lune



Photograph: Maia Tanasa

Elle a toujours été là... le soir quand on rentre chez nous ou le matin tôt, en allant à l'école, ou même encore quand on était petit dans la voiture de nos parents nous donnant l'impression qu'elle nous suivait... je parle bien évidemment de la Lune !

Mais d'où vient-elle ? Sa présence est-elle vraiment importante ? Et si oui, pourquoi ?

Bien sûr, la plupart des gens se cantonnent à l'explication scientifique : la Lune est l'unique satellite naturel de la Terre et a été créée lors d'une, ou de plusieurs, énorme(s) collision(s) d'un impacteur et de la Terre. Et son unique « utilité » est qu'elle provoque les marées. Point final.

Mais elle est tellement plus que ça ! Dans cet article nous allons découvrir le pourquoi du comment de la Lune !

Son influence sur la Terre

Premièrement, la Lune exerce une forte attraction gravitationnelle qui provoque le changement des marées dans nos océans et nos mers. L'attraction de la Lune ralentit également la rotation de la Terre, qui augmente la durée de nos journées de 2,3 millisecondes par siècle. De plus, l'énergie que la Terre perd est récupérée par la Lune, ce qui augmente sa distance par rapport à la Terre, ce qui signifie que la Lune s'éloigne de 3,8 centimètres par an. L'attraction gravitationnelle de la Lune a peut-être joué

un rôle clé pour faire de la Terre une planète vivable en modérant le degré d'inclinaison de la Terre, ce qui a conduit à un climat relativement stable pendant des milliards d'années où la vie a pu s'épanouir. Imaginez-vous que nous ne serions sûrement pas là sans la Lune !

Son influence sur l'être humain, les plantes et animaux

Des chercheurs se sont aperçus que les troubles du sommeil étaient plus nombreux à la pleine Lune et à la Nouvelle Lune. Mais, certaines personnes sont plus sensibles que d'autres, donc, si vous passez de mauvaises nuits ou avez du mal à vous endormir au moment de la Pleine Lune et de la Nouvelle Lune, vous êtes peut-être luno-sensible. Bien sûr, les autres hypothèses sur comment elle affecte l'être humain sont nombreuses mais aucune d'entre elles n'a été véritablement prouvée et sont toutes controversées.

Son influence sur les plantes et les animaux

Les plantes: La Lune aurait peut-être également une influence déterminante sur la croissance et le développement des plantes, qu'il s'agisse de semer, de planter, de tailler, ou encore, de récolter. Il existe également l'agriculture biodynamique qui est une agriculture biologique qui prend en compte l'influence de la Lune et ses cycles lunaires. Ainsi, en se référant à la Lune, il y a des jours 'racines', jours pendant lesquels -d'après les agriculteurs biodynamiques- la position des astres rend idéale la plantation de certains végétaux.

Les animaux: Assurément, les prédateurs qui utilisent surtout la vue pour détecter leurs proies sont particulièrement affairés les soirs de pleine Lune car la luminosité leur facilite le repérage. Un autre exemple serait, en reprenant le cas des marées : certains oiseaux ont un régime alimentaire synchronisé avec les cycles lunaires, leur permettant d'attendre la marée basse pour déterrer des vers et en faire un véritable festin.

Conclusion La Lune reste encore un mystère pour nous, mais, ce qui est sûr, c'est qu'elle n'est pas là pour rien ! Il y a eu (et il y a encore) tant de légendes et de contes sur la Lune qu'une partie doit sûrement être vraie. Mais avec tous les progrès technologiques que nous faisons de nos jours, il est certain que nous découvrirons tous ses secrets. En attendant, il y a toujours des faces cachées sur son Histoire bien que j'espère que mon article vous a fait découvrir quelque chose !

Evdokia Stefanik



Photograph: Julie van Rossum

May 2021 Horoscopes


Aries:

It's time for you to take control of your own life. If you have been putting off starting something, now is the time to do it. Focus on the task at hand.


Taurus:

You may feel restricted at the moment, but don't worry. Your current problems will pass as long as you maintain a positive outlook.


Gemini:

Try to stay out of any drama that may appear in your life, and try to focus on your work instead, as this will pay off much more in the long run.


Cancer:

This month you might be feeling more independent and more on top of your emotions than before. This good mood will bring you lots of opportunities, so don't pass them up.


Leo:

Be sure to think carefully over all the decisions you make. Decide what is best for you and those you love and avoid acting without proper thought.


Virgo:

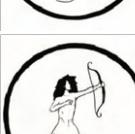
Some friendships and relationships from your past may start to resurface this month. Follow your heart and make choices based on what you want. Everything will turn out fine.


Libra:

A few things in your life will be changing this month, so focus on the important things like your family and friends. Don't be afraid to ask for help, there are plenty of people who are willing to help.


Scorpio:

Focus on the future this month, Scorpio, because things are looking bright for you. Try to stay on top of your tasks and be nicer to yourself, and everything will work out well.


Sagittarius:

You might be feeling a little bit anxious lately. Talk to your friends and don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't let the opinions of others affect you.


Capricorn:

When facing decisions this month, make sure to weigh all your options equally. Disbalance could cause things to fall apart, so keep a level head.


Aquarius:

You might be feeling a bit isolated, like you're stuck in your head. Try your best to remain focused so you can get a win.


Pisces:

You might be feeling a bit spacy, but try to stay grounded and stay in contact with your emotions. They are a great asset to you.

New super stupid excuse for being transphobic

Super Straight

#SUPERSTRAIGHT

Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg

During the past few weeks, a bizarre new, let's call it idea for now, has been floating around. It's being paraded as a sexuality when really, it's just a sorry excuse for being transphobic. As of right now, 14th of March, if you search up "super-straight" on the TikTok app, you get no results and a comment may come up saying that the phrase "super-straight" may be associated with behavior or content that violates the community guidelines.

On TikTok, lots of uneducated trolls have decided that they are being discriminated against because they are transphobic, so they decided to spread the word around that by inventing a new sexuality called "super-straight". This newfound "sexuality" refers to heterosexual people who only want to be with cisgender individuals. It remains unclear whether this "sexuality" was introduced initially on 4chan and Reddit but was quickly chased off for "promoting hate towards marginalized or vulnerable groups" or whether it was introduced on TikTok and then picked up by sites like 4chan. But at the moment, Reddit threads and TikTok results have been limited because of the insensitive posts.

On 4chan, the flag was created as an attempt to spread Nazi imagery, as the super straight flag and the Nazi symbol are perilously similar and have the same SS symbol. This movement was simply created to further the transphobia that already exists and to drive separation between transgender people and the community. It was created so that transphobic people could hide behind the excuse of their invented sexuality instead of facing the truth of their bigotry and transphobia which is a worrying symptom of the alt-right pipeline that preys on young individuals to

inevitably be radicalized on forums such as 4chan and Reddit.

This sexuality is very damaging to the community and has only done harm. It invalidates transgender people and their feelings. "They are denying the reality of transgender people's identities" was a quote on an Instagram post explaining the harm that the "super-straight sexuality" is doing. As this is a fairly new topic, there haven't been many concrete sources or evidence and the timeline of events is blurry.

The individuals who claim to be "super-straight" have declared themselves as part of the LGBTQ+ community and have said that they are "beating LGBTQ+ people at their own game" and that "if you are dating a trans person you aren't as straight as us"; a transphobic idea. By saying that you are anything other than straight or that you are less straight if you are dating a trans person is just simple transphobia. They are denying trans people's identities over and over again by basing the whole concept of being super straight on the idea of having a preference. No one is forcing anybody to date anyone they don't want to date but not acknowledging someone for their true identity is truly disgusting. The main video that blew up on about this issue was a man claiming that trans women are not "real women", an incredibly transphobic, hateful and just repulsive statement. "Super straights" refuse to acknowledge trans people beyond their gender assigned at birth, they have been spreading these harmful ideas all over the internet and they need to be stopped.

By declaring themselves as part of the LGBTQ+ community, they are just mocking the whole systemic struggle. They have made videos of them "coming out" as super straight, diminishing the importance of people actually coming out, accepting who they are and sharing it with the world, being proud of their queer identity, finally feeling safe enough to accept themselves. The "super straight" individuals are attempting to mock this. They are attempting to mock the entirety of the LGBTQ+ community and they seriously need to be stopped. We need to protect trans people at all costs and we need to stand up for their rights today and every day.

Please spread the word and help end this terrible "movement", or whatever they claim it to be.

Ioana Haratau

18 Pupils' Committee ESL1

Advertisement



Any suggestions? Straight to our le мербок next to B001 (LUX 1)!!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This year despite the circumstances (wearing super cool masks like in the picture) we are very excited to represent each one of you as students at the European School of Luxembourg I.

The members of the PC are:

Co-Presidents: Georgia Anderson & Diogo Sousa Cabral Fernandes

Vice-President: Léo Doineau

Executive Advisor: Hugo Gällstad

CoSup Reps: Ben Kehoe, Erik Lemmens Sjöstrand

Conseil Réprésentatif: Paulina Den Otter, Georg Poensgen, Jan Piaskowy

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INTERVIEW TO THE CO-PRESIDENCY: DIOGO & GEORGIA

How has it been like being a president of the PC so far while living this COVID situation?

It's been a rather challenging experience. Obviously the position of president is never an easy one but this year especially, it has been rather hard to deal with the coronavirus situation. This is actually one of the reasons

why we decided to be Co-Presidents this year, as we already expected it to be quite hard.

Are you positive about events being able to happen throughout the second half of the year?

While we are trying to think of events to do in this situation, it's a bit hard although we have come up with a few ideas you might see popping up eventually, so keep your eyes peeled. Obviously, we really hope that the vaccines that are being announced will be effective, and with a bit of luck and some good planning, we might be able to pull off "normal" events by the end of the year, but we'll have to wait and see.

What are your aims as PC in order to make the year bearable after all?

One of the things that the coronavirus situation brought on is a feeling that all days are the same, as no events break them up. We hope to be able to organize certain "special days" so that this feeling doesn't last. Our first attempt at this is the PJ DAY which hasn't yet happened at the time of writing, but which we hope you all remember at the time of reading. If you have any proposals though, make sure to contact us!

Can you give your personal advice to students in order to motivate them this school year?

In one word, innovate. We can't have much of what we used to do, so we must all find new ideas on what to do. Try to break up with your days and make every single one just a little different. The only way we'll get through this is if we all get out of a daily routine. Wish you all the best for this school year!



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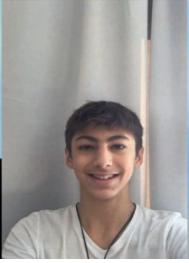


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Any suggestions? Straight to our le'merbox next to A201 (Lux 2)!!



Hello everyone and welcome to the Pupils' Committee of Lux 2's spread on the third edition of The Pupils' Voice! This time we would like to share an interview with Ines Ojja, one of the youngest members of this year's PC. She's in S3FRA and joined last year, when she was in S2!

What made you want to apply for the PC?

I really liked the idea of being able to know what's going on in the school and help other people be able to be heard.

What position did you initially apply for and why?

Last year (my first year), I initially applied as an Eco rep because I was really into ecology, climate change etc.. but this year I applied as a Conseil member because I like being in a team (with the other conseil members) and liked the idea of talking to the administration about things and, like I said, being able to make other people's voices heard.

What position are you in this year?

This year I'm in the Conseil d'Education. The difference between an Eco rep and a Conseil member is that as an Eco rep you'll be on your own whereas in the conseil you'll be with two other people. An Eco rep mainly focuses on how to make our school more

ecological friendly. The Conseil focuses more on putting other student's thoughts and suggestions forward to the administration. We have meetings with the cantine, the deputy head and many other people in the admin.

What is it like as a younger student working in the PC?

It can be very fun and make you feel "special" in some way because you tell yourself "Wow, I am one of the youngest in here" so you can't help but feel a bit of pride! But sometimes you can also feel a bit of an outsider because you're one of the youngest. But that's really only if you're the actual young one. I was lucky because there have been enough young students in the PC for me to feel included. But I'd definitely say that if there were more younger students I'd feel a bit more "equal" if that makes sense.

What advice would you give to anyone in the younger years who wants to apply?

I'd say that you should not let your age make you feel like you can't get in. Sure, some are older but that doesn't mean they will be better than you, it really only depends on how you use your young age as a tool. Because very often, you need younger people for different things. And also don't get intimidated by the older people, they're always very nice!



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The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know



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