

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

June 2021 - Edition 29

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Illustration: Blanka Herbály

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Illustration: Blanka Herbály

Transition from school to university

On the Way to University

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Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg

After having graduated from our school, many S7 students struggle with the difficult transition from school to university. It involves more than passing bac exams and deciding what to study. It is a complex procedure of important decisions, research and work. The Pupils' Voice has invited three former students to share their personal experience which may be helpful in your decision making process.

What the f***?

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Why Do We Swear?



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

It is part of growing up. The first time you hear the F-word, your face reddens, almost as if you spoke the cursed word yourself. Then comes the time when you do say it yourself... let's face it, everyone cursed at least once in their lives. Some more than once, and some cannot live without the F-word and the S-word. Swear words became part of our lives, whether we like it or not... Scientists have concluded that cursing could also have positive effects on our health. So, why do we swear?

Chief Editor's Column

Jan

Dear readers,

We have almost reached the end of a long, challenging, and sometimes exhausting school year. We hope that the Pupils' Voice has succeeded in providing at least some normality in this exceptional year. However, before you lie back and enjoy your well-deserved summer holidays, we recommend that you check out the edition you are seeing on your screen. As usual, there are 20 gripping pages packed with student journalism to discover.



In the Euroschoool section, Laura and Alberto-Pablo give you an insight into the production of the Lux I BAC mural. It looks awesome and as a Mamer student, I must admit I am a bit jealous... On the next page, you can find Inés' interview with former S7 students who now study at university. If you are unsure about your university applications, this article is worth reading.

Do you love relaxing at a beach in summer? Well, we cannot provide you with one in Luxembourg, but we do have two articles which will bring you in the right mood. Sidonie recounts the history of surfing, while Olivia takes a closer look at an app claiming to save coral reefs.

Damn it! I almost forgot Julia's article about cursing. If you have ever asked yourself why we swear, you should turn on to the Featured section.

Finally, Evdokia invites you to join her on a terrifying and touching journey into a dark future of Supreme Indicators and Middons. A dark future might also await football, if owners continue to exploit their clubs to the last penny, says Kai. Read his article on the European Super League to learn more.

Speaking of money, we are proud to announce that we have, thanks to our loyal customers, made a €900 profit over the course of the year. We decided to donate it to three different NGOs. Make sure to check our Instagram account where we will upload a poll to determine which NGO will receive €500, €300, and €100.

Finally, the time has come to say thank you. First, I want to thank all team members for their efforts during home-schooling and the sales in school. Working with them was a real pleasure. Second, thank you to the school administrations for allowing us to sell copies despite the strict sanitary measures. And last but not least, thank you, dear readers, for supporting us in these difficult times.

As always, do not hesitate to contact us on Facebook, Instagram or via email (newspaper.euroschoool@gmail.com). We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

The whole The Pupils' Voice team wishes you a good read and the best of luck for your exams.

See you soon – with or without masks,

Jan

A truly unique experience

MEC 2021



Photograph: Alicja Wunsch

Stepping into a head of government's shoes, debating over phrases and words in specific articles, enduring nail-biting votes on a European army, vaccination passports, Myanmar and abortion... Model European Council is a truly unique experience.

The Model European Council (MEC) is a simulation of the European Council, with students from all European Schools and Europa School UK representing the different EU Member States, allocated to them by draw. In ordinary times, the event is organised in a Conference Centre, but this year, MEC was held via TEAMS. Consequently, the Salle de Fetes was transformed into a stage for one week of EU politics for the two country delegations - Cyprus and Hungary - represented by Luxembourg II. The event kicked off with a small opening ceremony, followed by brief statements of all heads of government. The participants then spent most of MEC in five different councils, discussing proposals from the European Commission with their counterparts from all over Europe. The topics covered ranged from environmental protection to rising unemployment rates. All 10 Lux II students ensured that their country's views were heard in heated, but mostly constructive debates. They also bravely faced the probing questions of the press. A particular highlight were the urgent debates on vaccination passports and sanctions against Myanmar in the plenary, in which the entire team could participate. At the end of a taxing week, all MEC participants were rewarded by an inspiring and moving speech by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, who encouraged them to live their dreams.

MEC has helped students learn about countries they would have otherwise never dealt with and improve their public speaking. Moreover, they got to know students from six other countries. MEC is an opportunity not to be missed – no wonder that most participants have already pledged to apply again next year.

Marc's MEC experience:

Since the Model European Council could only take place online this year, I had very low expectations. In retrospect, however, I can say that my reservations were not justified.

I was allowed to represent the Foreign Minister of Cyprus. Since Cyprus is one of the smallest countries in Europe, this post did not sound spectacular at first. The more I dealt with Cyprus, the more interesting I learned. So, through MEC, I learned a lot about a country that I would otherwise never have dealt with. For that reason alone, it was worth it for me.

The actual meetings were well structured and organized. And since almost all the other students researched about their countries, the debates were interesting. Here, I learned a lot about the other Member States and how the European Council works.

In the beginning, I was also very sceptical about the social meetings in the evening. But after taking part in them, I can say that this scepticism was also without reason. In these meetings, I got to know many students from other European schools.

In summary, I can say that I do not regret taking part in this MEC. On the contrary, I would do it again if possible and recommend everyone to take part.

Jan Hübel and Marc Küster

Are we prepared for the *real world*?

Real World Preparedness

Students love to talk about the “real-world”, this misconceiving word that we use to talk about the dreaded adulthood. Perhaps we use this funny euphemism because we fear being adults and we, at times, are even unprepared for it.

Even though many of us students are on the verge of packing our bags to live alone in the upcoming months, most of us have never received advice or instructions



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

to remain safe and healthy once we'll be on our own. Although, this information is most crucial for the older students at the European School, it is just as helpful for the younger ones since they, alike us, live in this real-world.

Many countries like the USA or Sweden implement Health classes or similar courses in their secondary schools. Those have the purpose of informing students about various topics such as mental health, nutrition, bullying, sex education and even CPR and self-defense. All those topics tend to be taboo in society, and certainly avoided by parents.

The crude reality is that during secondary many students are confronted to problems related to the topics mentioned above, but they are not equipped to deal with them accordingly. One period a week, or even once a month would be enough to get some of these necessary discussions going. It's not so much about being prepared for the future but being prepared for today.

Blanca Morillo

Interview with Alberto Puente

2019-20 BAC Mural

Alberto Puente, a student in S7, has dedicated a lot of time to finishing the 2019-2020 bac mural in the 7th year room. That year he was the yearbook president and took on this project as his responsibility. Not having been able to finish it last year and not being able to graduate, this year he decided to finish it as his personal milestone. And after a lot of time and work, the mural is finished!

I had the pleasure of interviewing Alberto and he gave more insight into the mural, what it represents, how it was done, why he decided to finish it this year and what the plans are for this year's bac mural.

First, tell us about the mural. What does it mean or represent? What painting technique did you use?

I produced the design using Gimp, composing it with various altered images to make it cohesive. Then, we started with a base layer of white on which we painted the background. Once that was done, we projected the outline of the drawing and started painting the design itself. After that, it was just a matter of patience to get the result I wanted, slowly building up the layers until I felt satisfied with the overall look of it. The meaning is open to interpretation since its visual representation of what the pandemic entails from an individual's point of view. We have all seen our lives

disrupted by what has happened, bringing upon consequences that in most cases were out of our control. Through it all, we have all had to find ways to cope with it and depending on the nature of the problem we have either learned to internalize it or externalize it. As we confront and fight the pandemic, we compromise our mental health and well-being.

Why couldn't you finish it last year? Was it because of covid?

It's funny that you ask because without the pandemic I don't think we would have been able to work on it as much as we did. Last year, I was overwhelmed by the responsibility of being the yearbook president and academically I wasn't doing good enough as. So, in some ways and quite ironically, quarantine gave me the space and time to continue with the mural. Around May 2020, I asked the administration for permission to come to school and progress on the project. They allowed me

to do so, alongside a few other students that would come from time to time to lend a hand. However, it clearly wasn't enough, and since I didn't manage to graduate, I felt quite discouraged to bring myself to finish it at that moment.

Why did you decide to finish it now?

I think it was a personal milestone that I wanted to see myself achieving. During the months leading up to the pre-bacs I would stare at it in the 6th year room, and I couldn't help but feel unfulfilled by it. Eventually, I gravitated towards it in February and started working step by step to see it finally done. In doing so it helped me ground myself amongst my personal struggles, so I just decided that it had to be done.

It takes a lot of persistence to say: this is my year, my mural, and I am finishing what I started: How did you find the determination to finish it?

By missing lots of classes, staying afterschool to work on it and, especially, with the support and company of many students and teachers alike. I do tend to torture myself with this kind of stuff and, lately, I always have something I'm working towards. However, in this case, I think it brought me some kind of peace and sense of realization. And as much as my back hurts like a b****, I really enjoyed putting all those hours towards it.

Did you have any help?

YES! Lots of it, many students and even Mr Louette have had their hands in it, and as the control freak that I am, I'm surprised how helpful it has been. Not to mention the constant support that I had from my friends, that had to bear with my constant complaints and were there to keep me company while I would struggle to hold a proper conversation.

How did you feel when you finished it?

I would say it was a bittersweet feeling. Really happy and fulfilled by the work I did, however, since it did come at a personal cost, and I was battling with other issues, letting go of what had been uplifting me and keeping me afloat has made me feel rather sad about it. Although, I don't think that will last for long. I've started to look ahead of it and my goal now is to finally graduate and get out of this school. With that in mind, I'm able to find some comfort and bring myself

together to keep up with the schoolwork.

Are you still in contact with your class last year and do they know that you finished the mural?

Of course I let them know! I shared it in our year's Facebook group and in my



Photograph: Alberto Puente

Instagram and some of them, especially the ones in the yearbook have reached out to me about it. I was very happy to hear from them.

Finally, how is the mural for this year going? Is there already a design? How is it going to be?

We do have a design ready for it!! We are just waiting for the new wood planks to be installed and we'll start working on it right away. With the big advantage that this time, the weight won't lay just on my back. Emma Sorgato has committed herself to work with me and we'll count on the help of a handful of students that she has asked to volunteer. Personally, I won't be as invested as I was with last year's wall. However, if we don't manage to bring it to terms before the holidays in May, I'll come after the bacs are over to finish everything left. As for the design, the concept that Emma and I came up with is based on our year's theme 'Bring Me Bac' and will guarantee that anyone who wants to have a go at it will be able to do.

Laura Fuentes Gomez

Transition from school to university

On the Way to University

In this article, I would like to approach an important topic: the transition from school to university. This involves more than graduating high school and deciding what to study. It is a complex procedure of research, work, and important decisions. To make this article helpful, I decided to interview former students of our schools: Erik Konijn, Mona Liang and Max Chalabi.

What field of study did you choose?

Erik – I first did a film course. It took place in Denmark and was supposed to last for a year, but ended early because of Covid. This course was in my L2, in English. In the middle of the year, I realised that the course was too specific for me, and I wanted to have the freedom to explore other aspects of the media. So now, I have applied to more media-based courses.

Mona – I am in my second year of medicine studies in Munich. I am currently studying in German, my L1.

Max – I first did a year of journalism, before deciding I didn't want to study that. I then studied psychology, and I am now graduated on that. Both psychology and journalism were in England, where I studied in my L3. I would not say it was difficult, as language courses at our school prepare us extremely well. My L3 got even better than my L2, French. I am currently doing a master's degree on neuroscience, in Paris. I am now working in my L2.

When did you decide what you want to study?

Erik – Pretty recently. The film course wasn't a real choice, as it was a last-minute idea, because my plan for that year had been to take a gap year. I would say my real decision was around one year ago.

Mona – A month before starting university. I applied to lots of different universities and topics, as many as I could. When I got accepted in medicine, I decided to try, and now I enjoy it a lot.

Max – My first decision was journalism, around the beginning of S7. Then, I decided I wanted to do psychology; journalism was not really "made" for me. I also found out what other things I liked. In short, in the middle of my first journalism year.

Do you think the European School prepared you well enough for entering university?

Erik – Yes. However, I have not really been using that stuff during these two years. There were almost no

writing tests or homework in the film course, as we were supposed to learn how to film, etc. I would say more about life experience.

Mona – Yes. We studied many different things at school that prepared me for what I am doing right now. I only had to learn by myself how to study and organise myself. I received no help from the school for that aspect.

Max – The school was helpful with written homework and studying techniques. And it basically did almost all the work for the applications to universities. I think it would have been much harder without the school.



Illustration: Leyre Schulenburg

Were the first weeks harder than the rest of the first year?

Erik – No, not really. It took around two weeks to get into it, but I would not say it was too hard. There wasn't a lot of pressure either.

Mona – Not really. The beginning was quite easy. It seemed to be like a "realisation" part. It really felt like all students were friends. I think we were all in the same situation, feeling the same way, etc. Kind of an invisible connection. Then it got a little hard about a studying plan, apart from that, I didn't really notice anything.

Was there a big difference between the quantity of work you had in S7 and in university?

Erik – It was more stressing. But I think that it felt like that just because I wasn't really enjoying the work I was doing in the course. I think that it made a big difference.

Max – It depends on how much you study yourself. If you aren't well prepared, it can be overwhelming. Anyway, I would not say the work was or harder.

Did the workload keep getting bigger as the years passed by?

Erik – No... I would consider it as a white net experience. I would say there were kind of small differences. A good example would be the length of the movies the professors asked us to do: the duration had to be longer.

Mona – I would say the hardest was to stay motivated.

Max – In England, the first two years are quite easy, and when you get to the third, there is just a huge change, and it starts becoming harder. The work starts getting more complex and specialised. All courses have their own examinations; the problem is that professors do not really communicate among them, so it is not balanced at all. You can have a few weeks with 1 or 2 exams every day, and then have a month without examination.

To how many universities should a student apply?

ona – I would suggest applying to the maximum universities you can. Even if you only want one.

Max – Well, it is hard to say for me, as I only applied to universities in England, where you have a maximum of five choices. Anyways, I do think applications are hard and take time to prepare, so don't choose too many. I think ten is good. You should choose and select, so that you can really focus on few applications, which are well done. You must have a clear idea.

What tips would you give to a future university student?

Erik – Make connections and friends that last!

Mona – Make friends. As many as possible. Try to hang out, to find opportunities to relax between studying. Try to have as much fun as you can. Definitely try not to give up hobbies. Do your work so you do not get behind. Most importantly: DO NOT procrastinate.

Max – Make many friends and enjoy it as much as you can. University courses can be useful for life and possibilities, but you need to work and to show you care about it.

Not everyone deals with university the same way. Everyone has his/her own way to do things, and this does not mean that one method is good or bad.

It is also important to feel well wherever you are studying, as you are surely going to spend a few years of your life there, and you should remember that period of your life as a good, happy one.

In conclusion, you can approach the university topic in different ways. I hope this article will be useful for students who are still wondering about their near future or trying to find their place in this big world.

Inés Peyró Núñez

Missed the mark on the charm

Little Women (2019) Film Review

Little Women, the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott, published in 1868, and has since been adapted to film seven times. It tells the tale of the March family, consisting of four sisters and their parents, living in America during the Civil War. Meg, oldest sister, is seen as the most mature one, completing the expectations of women at the time. Jo, most independent and creative of the sisters but is stubborn and boyish. Beth is the shy, yet always helping others and playing her beloved piano. Amy, the youngest, is the most coddled of them, leading her to be quite self-centered and spoiled. Little Women is a delightful coming-of-age story, but sadly, not all the films quite captured its charm.

This is where the newest of the adaptations comes in, that being the 2019 one, directed by Greta Gerwig. Being a fan of the book and having heard the praise from critics and the public alike, I went in hoping to love it. Unfortunately, the film presented numerous issues that while possible to overlook on their own, came together in an overall unsatisfying experience.

Still, the film was not terrible and there were some parts I really enjoyed. Firstly, the scenery was quite calming, with the same coziness I had imagined based on the book. As for casting, Saoirse Ronan's portrayal of Jo was delightful and is one of the highlights of the film. Meg, as played by Emma Watson, was not very memorable. Meryl Streep as Aunt March and Laura Dern as 'Marmee' (mother) were also fine, but, like Watson, they did not stand out.

Unfortunately, all the other main characters felt miscast. Eliza Scanlen gave an adequate performance as Beth, but she looked too old for her character. Timothée Chalamet played Laurie, the March's neighbor. In the beginning he was good, completing the character's youthfulness, but he was too youthful for the latter part of the story, where the character was supposed to be seven years older. The worst casting choice was undoubtedly Florence Pugh as Amy. The actor was quite good at playing older Amy, but she was far too mature and deep-voiced to play the youngest. The character of



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

Amy is supposed to be spoiled and childishly vain in the beginning (the character is 12 years old), but Pugh's character appears to be at least 16, making her seem pretentious and bratty, and just altogether unlikely.

Another problem I had was with the pacing and editing. The story spans the time of seven years, and these events aren't put in chronological order. This made it hard to follow. Since they were disconnected it was hard to know what happened to who. I often struggled to understand the timeline. One character could be 12 in one scene and 15 or 19 in the next, with no visible changes. It was even more confusing since there were four sisters. So, four plotlines to follow. With every scene I had to figure out when it happened, taking away from the scene itself.

This also made it difficult to follow the development of the characters' relationships. This is one of the main appeals of the story. Characters appeared to go from hating each other to loving each other and back to hating each other, making it altogether confusing. Character development also suffered because of this.

Long story short, I didn't enjoy this movie. It's a great pity because I really wanted to like it. Of course, this is my opinion and anybody who is interested in this should feel free to watch the film and form their own opinion of it. I wouldn't recommend this film to anybody unfamiliar with the story, I think the editing would make it confusing to follow. Still, if anybody is interested in seeing *Little Women* for the first time, there are always the six other films to choose.

Anni Myllymäki



Illustration: Blanka Herbály

We are sorry...

Dad Jokes

My dad told me a joke about boxing. I guess I missed the punch line.

What does a bee use to brush its hair? A honeycomb!

Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

Discover the exciting life of Emily Dickinson

Dickinson

Perhaps one of the only silver linings of this draining time has been that we have plenty more time to discover new tv shows and movies. I have been able to discover so many, especially during online school, which is less tiring and gives you more flexibility and freedom when it comes to doing schoolwork.

One of the series I discovered and that I recommend you watch is *Dickinson*. It's a comedic period piece about Emily Dickinson's life. It's a funny, yet accurate representation of her life and of what people assume her character was like. The only real downside to this show is that it streams exclusively on Apple TV+, which is as popular as Netflix, still if you are subscribed, I suggest you try out this comedy. It really is worth watching.

As I said, the tv show centers around Emily Dickinson, who is fantastically played by Hailee Steinfeld. Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was an American poet. She has written thousands of incredible poems. Throughout her life, she was not really appreciated and her poems were often disregarded. Since her death, though, she has been regarded as one of the most important and prominent figures of American poetry. She was born in 1830 and died in 1886. Obviously during that time, women were not taken seriously as poets and the show emphasizes this.

While she is the central character, with her life and poems being the focal point of the show, there is



Pictured: Emily Dickinson (1847)

How much does it cost Santa to park his sleigh?
Nothing, it's on the house.

I used to hate facial hair, but then it grew on me.

I wouldn't buy anything with velcro. It's a total rip-off.

Elisa Lazzaroli

another very important character: Susan Gilbert, or Sue as Emily calls her. Susan was a writer, poet, editor and Emily's sister-in-law. She is very important to the plot because she is Emily's lover and best friend. Historians have always disregarded Susan as just being a very close correspondent of Emily's and their relationship has never really been acknowledged. I believe this is because, often, same-sex couples in history are dismissed as just being close friends as opposed to lovers. In my opinion, and in the opinion of many others including new historians, it is because of our heteronormative society and homophobia that we dismiss even the possibility of same-sex couples. It might not always be the case, but I find that it is way too often. In this case for example, the letters shared between Emily and Susan could not really be interpreted as anything else but love letters. The ardent passion and longing and love, specifically forbidden love, is present in each letter. It has been said that most of the poems Emily wrote were about or for her muse, Susan. Of course, there is still the possibility that the two were just friends, very close friends, but don't dismiss the possibility of a relationship.

Until now, Emily Dickinson has always been portrayed as quite boring and bland and her relationship with Susan has never been explored. This show does exactly that. It portrays Emily as a fun-loving young woman and it doesn't shy away from a relationship between her and Sue. The tv series is still based on facts, although not entirely, and many of Emily's verses and entire poems appear or are narrated throughout the show.

I think Dickinson is a brilliant show as there is a need for more LGBTQ+ representation in the media and, at the same time, the show is very funny. The dialogues are not exactly accurate but this makes the plot funnier and more understandable.

If you have Apple TV+ I strongly recommend you give it a go and if you don't, you can still find clips on YouTube, or you can check out the list of LGBTQ+ shows available on Netflix or any other streaming service. There are some other good ones out there, as well.



Ioana Háratau

La liberté sur les vagues

L'histoire du surf



Illustration: Viannis Vasileios

Le surf a été inventé en 900 avant J.C. dans les îles polynésiennes, plus particulièrement à Hawaï où le surf s'est beaucoup développé, surtout au 15e siècle. Lors d'un voyage sur place en 1778, James Cook aperçoit des surfeurs et fut le

premier à écrire sur le surf. Suivant leur tradition, les Polynésiens utilisaient des planches en bois taillées dans un tronc d'arbre.

Au 15e siècle, le surf était considérablement pratiqué. Ce sport permettait aux chefs des tribus hawaïennes de prouver leur supériorité ainsi que leur puissance en défiant la mer, les éléments, la nature. Les Polynésiens s'affrontaient dans des duels de surf, le vainqueur se voyait attribuer une position supérieure dans la tribu. De nos jours, pour la plupart des gens, le surf est devenu un sport de détente que l'on pratique afin de s'amuser, évacuer le stress, avoir des sensations fortes, avoir un lien avec la mer et pour se faire plaisir. Mais c'est aussi un sport sérieux pour quelques personnes qui en font même leurs métiers parce qu'ils excellent en la matière.

Ces personnes sont de champions de surf et gagnent leur vie en participant à des compétitions. Kelly Slater et John John Florence sont considérés comme les meilleurs surfeurs du monde.

Lorsque l'on parle d'un lieu pour faire du surf, compliqué de ne pas penser à Hawaï. Avec ses énormes vagues et ses rouleaux, Hawaï a tout d'une destination de rêve. Le Brésil est aussi un lieu où l'on pratique beaucoup le surf, tout comme Puerto Escondido. Situé sur la côte Pacifique du Mexique, Puerto Escondido est connu par les amateurs de grosses vagues, elles peuvent monter jusqu'à 6 mètres de hauteur ! Il existe également beaucoup d'autres bons spots de surf qui n'ont pas été cités dans cet article. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'aller jusqu'à Hawaï, le meilleur spot de surf proche du Luxembourg se situe en France, sur la côte basque, à Hossegor !

Sidonie Hébert

Protecting a unique ecosystem

Can an App Save the Coral Reefs?



Photograph: Malvina Liliehölm

Nearly everyone has heard of coral bleaching, a phenomenon that has left around 75% of the world's coral reefs pale and devoid of their natural vivid colours. Corals get their colour and their energy from algae. Under certain conditions, in particular the rise in ocean temperatures, corals expel these algae, which leaves them bleached. Bleached corals are not dead (dead coral is dark brown) but they are more sensitive to diseases so are at risk of dying if the water does not cool.

Coral reefs provide a habitat for about a quarter of all marine life despite covering less than 1% of the ocean floor. They have often been described as "underwater rainforests", and we all know how important the forests are to the well-being of the planet. So, what happens if the coral reefs die?

Coral reefs are essentially colonies of distant relatives of jellyfish called polyps. They provide a rich habitat for a wide range of maritime organisms. So, their extinction would pose an existential threat to the marine life (including 4,000 species of fish), which depends on them for food.

Reefs also play a broader role in preserving the balance of our environment. They are filter feeders which means they consume food particles suspended in the water, cleaning it. They also protect coastlines from hurricanes by acting as a buffer for shorelines protecting against death, destruction and erosion of the coast. As hurricanes increase in frequency due to global warming, we would rapidly feel the loss of the protection the reefs provide.

Multiple solutions and ways to mitigate this threat are currently being investigated to help protect the reefs that remain. For these initiatives to succeed, scientists urgently need to obtain more and better information about the condition of individual coral reefs, to assess their health, but how can we map the entire ocean floor?

NASA has released instruments that capture 3D images of the seafloor to several ocean locations including Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa. NASA has also created a game called NeMO-Net that allows the general population to classify reefs, making the job of information gathering a lot faster and more efficient than it would otherwise be. The app is a "convolutional neural network" designed for marine ecosystem classification. The information gathered is then fed to a supercomputer for analysis, giving us information about the location and health of the coral.

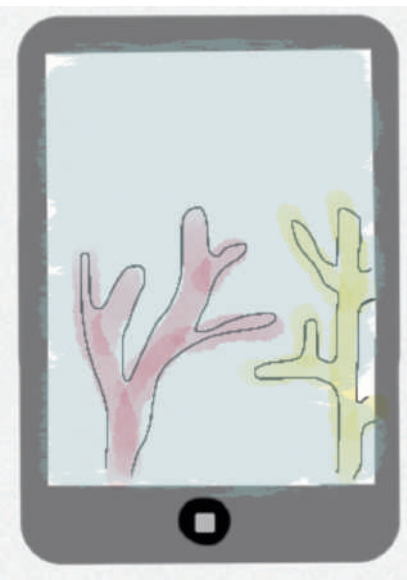


Illustration: Clarissa Schweikle

On opening the app, a user is greeted by an introduction from renowned marine biologist Dr Sylvia Earle, explaining the game. The user is on a mission on a research vessel called "The Nautilus". The vessel travels the world finding and identifying coral reefs. The concept is for people to play the game by painting the 3D images captured of the coral reefs. The players paint specific corals and the "bare substrate" (non-living materials like sand) in different colours. As the player advances with the game more coral types are introduced and their differences explained.

Not only does this app aid in research to help the environment it is also educational. It allows everyone, regardless of their age, to learn about the ocean and the ecosystems within it. This app is an example of the importance people hold in really making a difference in the world.

Olivia Toun

What the F***?

Why Do We Swear ?



It is part of growing up. You hear this more and more often. The first time you hear the F-word, your face reddens, almost as if you spoke the cursed word yourself. Then comes the time when you do say this word yourself... let's face it, everyone cursed at least once in their lives. Some more than once, and some cannot live without the F-word, the S-word, or anything similar. Swear words became part of our lives, whether we like it or not... since cursing is such a widespread phenomenon, scientists have extensively studied it and concluded that it could even have positive effects on our health. So, why do we swear?

By their definition, swear words are offensive. They include sexual references, those that are profane or blasphemous, disgusting objects, animal names, offensive ethnic/racial/gender slurs.

When doing research for this column, I came across an article mentioning a study by an American psychologist, Timothy Jay. He states that people swear on average from 0.3% to 0.7% of the time — a tiny but still significant percentage of our overall speech (for those less gifted in math it seems that on average for every 150-300 'normal' words comes a swear word! It has also been pointed out that swearing is a natural part of human speech development. We learn which words are taboo, and which words are not through our normal childhood development.

Timothy Jay compared using swear words to using the horn on one's car, which can be used to signify several emotions (e.g., anger, frustration, joy, surprise).

Most of the time, swearing has a kind of cleansing role. It often frees us from the feelings of anger or frustration and allows expression for them. It can also be a useful substitute to physical violence (who would rather be punched, than to withstand being sworn at?).

Not all swear words fall under this category- racial, ethnic, homophobic, transphobic, religious slurs are not substitutes for anything. They are just proof of extreme intolerance and bigotry. Do not confuse slurs for swear words, for they are not the same.

Fortunately, most of us are not like that. From time to time, we do use swear words, but in a much more unoffending manner.

It turns out that swearing helps mitigate pain. It is easier to keep an arm in ice-cold-water for longer if you are simultaneously effing. "Cursing helps you deal with pain," says Richard Stephens, a psychologist and author of a study on the subject. In his opinion, it works like this: swearing triggers a stress response that initiates the body's eternal defense reflex. The adrenaline rush speeds up your heart rate and breathing, preparing your muscles to fight or flight.

Many people consider swearing to be a symptom of poor vocabulary. I have also come across opinions that some people use vulgar terms when they run out of words, e.g. adjectives, that would describe their emotions. Recent research by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts found that vocabulary-deficient people use spacers like "hmm" or "yyy" much more often than swear words, and people who are particularly vulgar can be extremely articulate and intelligent at the same time. Moreover, those who swear can achieve 'poetic mastery of swearing', and they use profanity as a concise, expressive, and direct message to express their feelings in a very articulate yet vulgar manner.

Those who speak more than one language (all of us in this school) may have already realized, that swearing in a foreign language is probably 'easier' as it seems that the swear words do not have the same 'weigh' in your mother tongue.

Let me be clear about one thing – this article is not intended to be the eulogy of swearing. I merely want to provide you with a handful of interesting facts and research results on this matter. Do I like when people around me swear? No, not really. Like most people, I find exposure to too many swear words embarrassing, even if from time to time, I also let an occasional s-word slip out of my mouth. Nobody's perfect after all...

Julia Dec

Do gemstones have any health benefits?

The New Crystal-Craze Around the World

Over recent years, many things have made a comeback into people's interests. One of the things that has recently skyrocketed in popularity is crystals. It isn't rare to see people wearing crystal necklaces and bracelets etc., and the amount of Google searches relating to crystals has continuously increased over the past ten years. So, it is natural to pose the question, what is it that makes crystals so wanted?

Firstly though, what is a crystal? To put it simply, a crystal is a solid material composed of molecules, atoms, or ions in a repeating ordered pattern in three dimensions.

This definition also includes things such as table salt and snow, but in this article, I will be focusing on the shiny rock-like material that probably first come to mind when thinking of crystals. These crystals are often believed to have therapeutic, healing, and supernatural powers, from helping headaches to decreasing stress and even increasing wealth. There aren't any scientific studies to back up the claims of healing, yet more and more people are gaining interest in them. Many get them purely for aesthetic and decorative reasons, but if you search 'healing crystals,' you will also find beginner's guides into different crystals and how they can help you. I, however, do not know much about these crystals, so I interviewed my friend to learn more about crystals.

When did you first become interested in crystals and why?

I first got interested in them midsummer of last year, through Tiktok and Sámi culture (an indigenous people living in northern Scandinavia), when I wanted an escape from the everyday boring life.

How do you use crystals?

I place them on my face and manifest (a process of

focusing on something you wish to happen by repeating a sentence in your head/ writing it down repeatedly). Different crystals have different powers.

Do you believe they have physically or mentally healing powers?

Crystals cannot physically heal, but mentally absolutely.

Do you feel that they have helped you?

They've helped me a lot through school stress, and I always have a stress-releasing green aventurine on me.

Crystals have been called an alternative medicine and pseudoscience; do you agree with this this?

I'd say they don't hold a special power in them, but they do work very well if you put intention to it.

Would you recommend crystals to people?

I would recommend them for openminded people who

don't only rely on science. For others, it might just be interesting to try something new, or to have crystals as decorations.

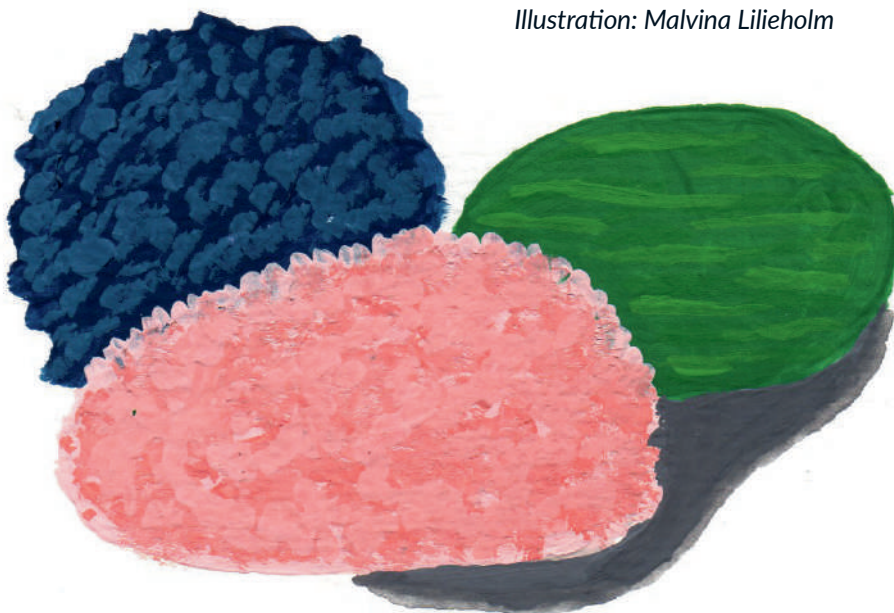
How would you recommend people getting started?

You can start off with rose quarts (for relationships), then work your way up to amethyst, green aventurine and clear quarts. You can really try anything, except for moldavite (that is dangerous). Luxembourg doesn't have many crystal shops, but I would recommend checking out 'Nature & Découvertes' and 'Bookstore Scarabaeus'.

Do you have anything else to add?

To everybody, please don't tell people it doesn't work, it's a really unkind thing to say!

Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm



Innovative solutions for our urbanised world

Sustainable Cities

As the world's urban population continues to increase, billions of people suffer from diseases caused by polluted air, lack of sanitation and drinking water shortage. At last, cities around the globe, among them some of the main culprits, are taking steps to reduce their ecological footprint.

We live in an urbanised world. In 2007, for the first time in history, more people lived in urban than in rural areas. Today, the urban population is over 4 billion people with another estimated 2.5 billion joining them until 2050. Unfortunately, this urbanisation process puts further strain on the environment: Cities consume 78 % of the world's energy and account for 60 % of global greenhouse emissions. Moreover, urbanisation puts increasing pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment and public health.

Urban populations are particularly vulnerable to respiratory infections connected to polluted air. In developing countries, 98 % of cities with populations above 100,000 do not meet WHO air quality standards. Even in high-income countries, this figure stands at 56 %. Especially children are at risk: 1.8 billion children breathe polluted air which endangers their development every day. In 2016, 600,000 of them died of respiratory diseases. In addition, the people living in cities have a higher risk of having strokes, being diagnosed with lung cancer or dying from heart failure. All these facts emphasise that the situation is serious.

But luckily, there is some reason for hope, as the world community becomes more aware of the negative effects of pollution and climate change. On all continents, urban planners develop innovative concepts to shape the cities of the future. Sustainability is key to these projects, as their initiators have the ambition to provide green urban areas for populations, while preserving the environment for generations to come.

One of the main cornerstones of any low-impact city is a low- or even zero-carbon strategy. Transportation alone accounts for over one fifth of global carbon dioxide emissions. Road vehicles are responsible for 74 % of those emissions. Nevertheless, car ownership continues to increase rapidly, as a consequence of economic development in Africa and Asia. Most experts see only one way out of the gridlock many megacities are faced with: massive investments in public transport and bike infrastructure. They recommend municipalities to offer their citizens attractive bus or rail networks in densely populated areas. As soon as travelling with public

transport becomes significantly faster than being stuck in congestion, more and more car drivers will switch to green alternatives. Furthermore, a few cities accept bold actions to promote bicycles. After all, cycling causes zero carbon emissions and improves public health as a side effect.

Another aspect of most eco pilot projects is state of the art building design. Skyscraper grass facades in Milan, gardens on roof terraces in London or artificial skiing slopes on factories in Copenhagen... this non-exhaustive list underlines the diversity and creativity in this field. The plans do not have much in common, but they all rely on reusable and/or eco-friendly building materials like bamboo, reclaimed wood or recycled plastic.



Illustration: Clarissa Schweikle

Some ambitious governments take a more fundamental approach and want to redefine our entire understanding of cities. The Chinese urban construction model Sponge City is supposed to alleviate water shortages and the urban heat island effect. Sponge cities absorb water through ecological flood management, infrastructure and a sustainable drainage system on an urban scale. Besides creating a beautiful landscape environment, the water collected in ponds, swamps and marshlands can also be repurposed for irrigation and home use.

Meanwhile, the Sheiks of the oil exporting U.A.E seem to be willing to improve their public image. Located on the Persian Gulf, Masdar City is advertised as an "emerging global clean technology cluster". It is supposed to become one of the most sustainable urban developments worldwide, powered exclusively by renewable energy. However, the completion date for the initial 1 million square meters was delayed from 2015 to 2025, and then to 2030. Not for the first time, politicians saw their priorities elsewhere.

But what do all these promising ideas tell us about the

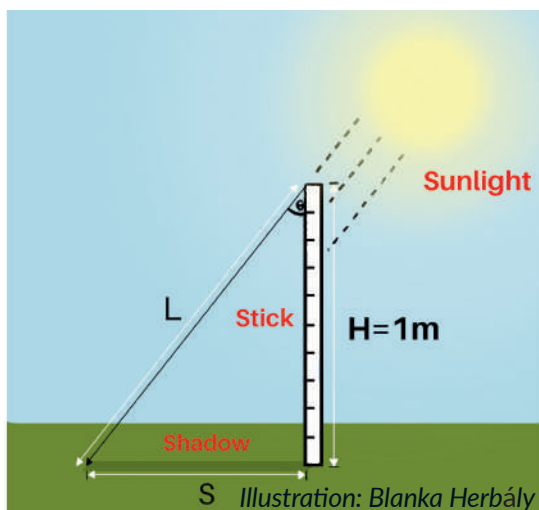
global picture? Around the world government are very cautious to support truly sustainable cities in national legislation. Many politicians fear the rage of unemployed steel workers, coal miners and the car industry, and point towards the "high costs" of innovation. Too many of them choose to disregard the consequences of their inactivity and instead put a burden on the next generation. In contrast, scientists warn that climate change must be dealt with now. It is crucial to develop a global vision for the environment, of which cities must be a central part.

To sum up, many of the examples mentioned above are steps in the right direction. Optimistic entrepreneurs and activists fill the gap left by reluctant governments. However, the current pace of slow change is not sufficient. Countries must act more quickly to respond to air pollution, traffic congestion and water management. There is a need for progressive policies and honesty. There is a need for a new mindset and focus on the future. There is a need for change.

Jan Hübel

DIY: Step into the shoes of Eratosthenes

Measure the Size of the Earth



Did you know that you could measure the circumference of the Earth by yourself and without any scientific material? Ancient Greek mathematician Eratosthenes managed to do so thousands of years ago and the method he used still inspires children from all around the world to perform his famous experiment!

Who was Eratosthenes and what is his famous experiment?

Eratosthenes (276 BC – 194 BC) was a Greek mathematician, geographer and astronomer. He was characterized as a polymath, since he was talented at many topics. He may have been the first to use the term geography, which is why he was later called the

"father" of geography. He invented a system of longitude and latitude and was the first to create a map of the known world.

In 240 BC, Eratosthenes used his mathematical and geographical knowledge to perform his most famous and important experiment: determine the Earth's circumference without even moving from his position in Alexandria, Egypt. First, Eratosthenes chose two specific cities: Syene (today known as Aswan) and Alexandria. Syene is close to the tropic of Cancer. Eratosthenes chose Syene because, at that line of latitude, at noon on the summer solstice (June 20 or 21), the sun's rays are directly overhead. On the other hand, Alexandria is further north, so the noon sun is not quite overhead on the day of solstice. Eratosthenes measured that, at noon on 21 June in Alexandria, a stick placed vertically in the ground would cast a shadow with an angle of 7.2° degrees or about $1/50$ of a complete circle (360 degrees). Realizing that the angle of the stick's shadow in Alexandria was equal to the angle between Alexandria and Syene and knowing that the distance between the two cities was about 800 km, Eratosthenes calculated that the circumference of Earth would be $800 \text{ km} \times 50 = 40\,000$ kilometres, which is very close to the truth! The exact circumference of our planet is 40 075 km, which means that Eratosthenes only missed the spot by a few kilometres.

Recreating the experiment at school

Over the last 15 years, Eratosthenes' experiment has inspired schools from 105 different countries, with more than 39,000 students in total. Every year, pupils from all around the world take part in this scientific project at school, in collaboration with their peers in countries on the same longitude, trying to give an estimation of the Earth's circumference simply by observing the shadow of a vertical stick at noon local solar time. The experiment is recreated during the spring equinox (20-21 March), but it can also be performed in the summer solstice. According to students who have participated in the experiment, it was an unforgettable experience, which made them realise, by applying they already know, its usefulness in the real world.

This year, though, was special. Because of the pandemic, the experiment could not take place live, so it was organized virtually. Since many students in different countries are currently homeschooling, each one of them did the experiment outside their house, in their garden or balcony. However, despite the circumstances, the experiment turned out to be once again remarkably accurate and precise!

It is very impressive that this experiment has existed for more than 2200 years and still attracts so many people. Finally, it seems fun and interesting, so I hope our school will take the initiative to organise it for classes sometime soon, why not for next June's summer solstice!

Konstantinos Sortikos

Habits shape our identity, and identity changes them

The Duality of Habits and Identity

Have you ever tried to start a good habit, maybe run every day, read every night, or study a language two hours a week, and find yourself giving up on that habit two weeks in? It seems that our system always consists of mustering up enough motivation to start a good habit dedicated to achieving a specific goal and dropping it shortly after. However, when it comes to bad habits like eating junk food or procrastinating, they seem to stick so easily. Why is it so hard to change our habits and start good ones?

The answer is simple: we are trying to change the wrong thing. As James Clear explains in his book *Atomic Habits*, there are three layers of behavioral change: change in your outcomes, change in your processes, and change in your identity. Simply put, 'outcomes' are what you achieve or get, 'processes' what you do, and 'identity' what you believe and who you are.

When we try to change our habits, we focus on what we want to achieve: we follow an outcome-based habit. However, we should turn the direction of this approach to whom we want to become, which would build an identity-based habit. In other words, we set goals and plan what we should do to achieve that goal, but we never stop to think about the beliefs that drive these actions. We don't realize that to make this change we need to change how we think of ourselves, or our old identity will eventually seep through and sabotage all actions. We just think "I want to lose 2 kg (outcome) and I will therefore do exercise (process)" and forget that, if our identity is to prioritize comfort over achievement, we'll eventually be drawn to the couch and skip a run; one can go against their identity once or twice, but not forever. As James Clear explains, "you cannot change your habits unless you change the underlying beliefs that led to your past behavior".

"True behavior change is identity change. You might start a habit because of motivation, but the only reason you'll stick to it is if it becomes part of your identity." You can gather enough momentum and go for a run once or twice, but if you don't change the belief behind that habit and thus your identity, this habit won't last. Changes only become long-term when they become a part of who you are. "This



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

is because when your behavior and your identity are fully aligned, you're no longer pursuing behavior change. You are simply acting like the type of person you believe yourself to be".

Affirmations like: "I'm horrible at math", "I'm not a morning person", "I'm shy" or "I'm bad at remembering people's names" are beliefs that are holding us down. If we adopt a position and repeat the same story to ourselves, we accept them as facts, as solid, as unchangeable. But identity is fluid and always changing; we are learning all the time about ourselves and who we want to be. The ultimate reason why we cannot stick with habits is our self-image, how we believe we are. We feel pressure to maintain this image and be consistent with our beliefs to not contradict ourselves. When, honestly, contradiction is only human and changing and growing can only be a good thing.

So, instead of making our goal reading a book, the goal should be to become a reader; instead of running a marathon, it should be to become a runner; instead of learning an instrument, it should be to become a musician; instead of cleaning your room, it should be to become organized; instead of studying to get a 10, it should be to become studious.

Once you start looking at it this way, the first step towards habit change will not be what (goal) or how (process), but who (identity). Who do you wish to become? This is quite an overwhelming question, so you can start with the results you want. Maybe you want to get a promotion, then ask yourself: Who is the type of person that could get the outcome I want? Who is the type of person that would get a promotion? Someone hard-working and confident. Now focus not on getting a promotion (outcome), but on becoming hard-working and confident (identity). We shouldn't focus on an outcome, but on who we want to become. And through incorporating habits, you will prove to yourself, bit by bit that you are this person. Once a habit becomes a part of your identity, it will stay.

Laura Fuentes Gómez

June 2021 Horoscopes



Aries:

Make sure you take time to rest and recover after this long and difficult year. Take time to think about your future also.



Taurus:

Try to see a positive aspect to every situation you're in, to make hard times more bearable. Remember to enjoy the sun too!



Gemini:

You may have some tough decisions to make right now, but don't let choice paralyze you. Choose what makes you happiest and don't be afraid to leave your comfort zone.



Cancer:

You may find yourself conflicted or in the middle of conflict. This is a difficult place to be, but try to be forgiving and be kind to yourself.



Leo:

It's time to stop holding yourself back. There are so many opportunities waiting just ahead of you, so keep moving forward and trust yourself.



Virgo:

Don't focus too much on what you have lost in the past, but rather what you learned and what you have to look forward to in the future.



Libra:

Now is the time to start something new. You should find things you are passionate about and give them your attention so you can learn new things, improve, and have fun.



Scorpio:

The hard work you have put in over the last few months is finally paying off. Make sure you continue to work hard to see even more results.



Sagittarius:

You're learning more and more everyday about how to manage your time and energy a bit better. Enjoy all the fun things you do, and try to find joy in the other things you do.



Capricorn:

Try as hard as you can to control your one-track mind. Be mindful of not becoming too obsessed or enamored with any one thing.



Aquarius:

Your instinct right now may be to isolate yourself and pull back from life a bit. This can be a good thing if you're making sure to take care of yourself in the meantime.



Pisces:

Happy endings are on their way this month. You may not think things will work out well, but have faith that they will.

Deidinn Collins

A dark future...

A Middon's Memory

Year 2059

"Because of toxic wastes and fumes, humans were forced to settle just on one continent. On the others it was not possible to live any longer. At first people were afraid that because of overpopulation on Earth there would not be enough space for everybody, but many died from contamination, diseases or the impurity of the air".

Mom and Dad look at me one last time to check if I was ready. A grey-dressed agent walks in and pushes me outside without a word. I didn't even have the time to say goodbye or to put my mask on properly. A breath of polluted air rushes into my lungs and I cough. The man turns around, scanning me from head to toe, to decide if I am valid enough to follow him. He stops looking at me and walks on. I put my mask back on. I hate those masks! So heavy, so thick and covering my whole face. A huge flying machine is waiting in the street. The cockpit is opaque. At its back, a huge platform with plenty of teenagers standing like statues. I am ordered to climb up to join the group while the agent enters the next house, collecting even more children. Once on the platform, I can feel that my feet are literally "stuck" to the ground as if attracted by a magnetic force. I fall ridiculously but regain my balance. Suddenly I'm scared to death. Like the others, I cannot move. Silently the machine flies a block further. The journey to the next Socla will be exceptionally long. A Socla is a kind of group that has its own place in the hierarchy.

There are many different Soclas but there are three main ones. The highest one is the S.I. (for Supreme Indicators), but almost nobody except themselves call them that. I know that some people call them dictators, but no one ever explained me that word properly, because it's banned (by the S.I. obviously). The people in the S.I. are the most privileged: they live underground, far from

pollution in very luxurious accommodations, because all the Supreme Indicators (and their families) are rich. They have most of the cleanest water. Clean water is now awfully hard to find and get. All the water sources that humans used before no longer exist or are too polluted to be used. The only way to get water is to extract it from air and make it as "dirt" free as possible. The S.I. people are a minority but that doesn't prevent them from being the most powerful. They command all Soclas and make laws. For example, it's them who forbade us to consider our genitors as our parents (to call them Mom and Dad). The S.I. want to prevent us from developing affection for our "parents", since our destiny is to be separated.

Then there is the middle Socla, mine. I'm a Middon. Middon kids don't get serious education because schools are far, and trips are too dangerous. We have food and water, not as much as we would want to, but we don't complain. Even though we don't live underground, we still have protection from the polluted air.

And last, there are the Transitorians, the poorest of us all. Transitorians have barely enough to eat, they can only drink if it rains and their water's not even clean. Sometimes the S.I. organise water distribution but in such small quantities that we all assume that their so-called 'humanitarian mission' is just to make a good impression.

Late evening, we arrive at the entrance of a fortress. The agent reappears and pushes a button on his glove. I can move my legs again. A group of Zeds pass in front of the machine.

Zeds don't have a Socla. They are treated like nothing. They are born artificially in glass capsules. A lot of them don't seem to be able to think by themselves, probably because of the chemicals they were given before they were "born". They don't have any education. They move, speak, look, and obey as robots. The S.I. use them to accomplish the most strenuous and tiring tasks. Zeds are divided in two main categories: First, the ones who work on Earth, in the pollution - once their skin is worn out to bones by the acid rain or their members break by work injuries, they are simply thrown into big holes and recycled as manure. The other group works underground in fields where they grow vegetables using the above manure, but as we now use so much pesticide (due to mutant insects, fungal plague) it is just as dangerous as working above the ground.



We are entering a big building without windows. At the end of a tight corridor, we arrive in a room with metal walls. The grey man leaves us just in time. The door has barely closed when a gas invades the room and suddenly, my sight becomes blurry, and I faint.

When I wake up, I'm alone in a cell with nothing inside except the chair I'm sitting on. Without warning, the door opens. What am I going to do? Should I stay or should I go?

I didn't come all this way just to stay in a room. My fate therefore wants me to continue.

When I walk through the door, I tell myself: this is where my future awaits me and where my end will come. That's it, I'm on the other side. Behind me the door closes with a sinister creak.

And then everything becomes dark...

Evdokia Stefanik

Poetry for the summer holidays

Relax, It's Almost the End of the Year

Wow! It's almost the end of the year!

A few are beginning to shed tears, while others let slip happy cheers

We're all finishing off our last few tests

Hoorah! Those things really are something to detest

The seasons are changing

The landscapes look more like a painting

... I suppose what I'm really trying to say

Relax, the year may almost be over, but tomorrow is still the next day.

Cailin Reiff



Illustration: Malvina Lilieholm

When owner take over football

The ESL Explained

The European Super League (ESL) is a league composed of the best – hence why name “Super”. Regular Super League fixture would take place mid-week, while the Cup would take place in the week-ends.

This format, however, is dangerous. How many times have football fans seen their players injured more often than ever in the pandemic era? Many clubs saw their squad halved down due to injuries. Still, this only represents 1% of the problems associated with the congestion of fixtures. With a game every third day, the quality of football decreases. Physical fatigue results in mental fatigue.

The Premier League has witnessed it already. May it be Liverpool v Manchester City, or the Manchester Derby: With little time in between the fixtures, there's no or little creativity. Training sessions mostly focus on physical preparation, rather than tactical preparation. When players think about running up and down the field, rather than on the art we expect from them, football is losing the battle.

Where players are burned on the pitch, money bags are filling. The pandemic has become an incentive to restart, but money remains the #1 influence. While the pandemic resulted in economic crisis, clubs looked to enrich themselves. No surprise the ESL can seem attractive when 350 million euros are promised to the 12 clubs.

Both La Liga and the Premier League have published official statements. Both statement speak against the clubs joining the ESL, calling it “a cynical project”. If clubs were to join the ESL, their players would not be able to participate in domestic leagues and World Cups. Even the UEFA has spoken against ESL, concluding the statement with the three words “Enough is enough.” There's an obvious clash going on, between so-called elite clubs, and possibly their domestic leagues.

Still, multiple reports have found that Agnelli and his mafia had begun serious talks as early as last summer already. Football for the elites, without football. The Premier League, more than any league, would suffer the most from losing the elitists. With the PL attracting millions of viewers every week, these numbers would plummet should the top six leave.

There's a conflict of interest. It's managers against money, it's owners against domestic leagues, it's clubs against fans. In that battle, it is football, the fans and the culture that lose, while owners enrich themselves. A sad but steady direction football has headed towards to. The good news is that there's little chances that such a proposal goes through. Clubs are most likely not ready to sacrifice the income they earn from UCL nights. Therefore, the sanctions that would be imposed should clubs join seem too harsh. For now, at least.

Kai Iliev

18 Pupils' Committee ESL1

Advertisement



Any suggestions?
Straight to our letterbox 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 Représentatif: Paulina Den Otter, Georg Poensgen, Jan Piaskowy

Treasurers: Valeria Masheva, Jason Hart

Public Relations: Isabella Jimenez

Secretary: Marta Gilotti

IT: Henri Ahola

Poster Designer: Yolanda Villanueva

Leisure: Catherine Cook, Fredric Jacob, Lourenco Porto, Ines Boutayeb, Alex Immonen

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 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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Any suggestions?
Straight to our letterbox next to A201 (Lux 2)!

Pupils' Committee ESL2

Advertisement

19



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 canteen, 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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