

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

January 2022 - Edition 30

Euroschool

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Gender-neutral bathrooms

Necessity or trend ?

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Illustration by Riona Rushe

"It's about not confining people to boxes," the fundamental right to feel comfortable at our school.

Whilst conducting a survey in October 2021, questioning a total of 67 s6 students about their opinion on gender-neutral/transgender bathrooms, I found out that a majority supported this idea. The statistics are as follows...

One voice, a big impact

The story of Yola Mgogwana

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Illustration by Zerena Dutta-Nielsen



Most of the time, adults are the people who, in our eyes as teens, try to solve global problems. When you're watching the news and something bad has happened, political or economic, it's always grownups talking about it and sharing their experiences and solutions to the problem...

Chief Editors' Column

Léa and Anni

Welcome back to the Pupils' Voice!

Our school newspaper was founded 8 years ago, crafted by the hands of students from Mamer and Kirchberg. Now, we are proud to present you with the 30th edition of the Pupils' Voice. 30 editions, over 8 years, with hundreds of articles and illustrations have been made possible by our great teams and supportive readers.

Like always, we have plenty of articles on a variety of topics, so there is surely something for everybody. If you are interested in what is happening in our schools, you can check out Jan's article on ESL2's Baccom election, or Cailin's article on the library of ESL1. Affecting both schools, we also have Tobias' article on gender-neutral bathrooms.

An ever-interesting topic is common past times, such as Eleonore's article on how 'Booktok' – the literature side of TikTok – is affecting the publishing industry.

Two movie reviews might catch your eye as well. By now, most people have probably heard of 'Squid Game', which holds the position of most watched series ever on Netflix. Our German-speaking readers can



learn more about it in Marc's article: Kritik der Series Squid Game. For fans of cult classics, Steven's review of Pulp Fiction is made for you.

On more international news, you can read of Andrea's experience at the 2020 Dubai Expo. With climate change being an increasingly relevant topic, there is also an increasingly prominent number of young activists. One of these is Yola Mdogwana, who you can learn about in Josephine's article. Be sure to check out a new feature of the newspaper – short comics by Dana and Alexndru.

Whatever you choose to read, we hope you enjoy it,

Léa and Anni



The ESL1 Library

The library is one of the most loveable places in school – let's show it some love!

This year, we welcome a new librarian to the school – Mrs Nadia Khemiri. With this change comes massive opportunity.

Working alongside Mrs Khemiri, I've put together this article containing analytics, rules and opportunities we'd both like to share with you. Before we dive into it, the current librarian would like to thank our former librarian – Alexandra Cransac – on behalf of all the students. Mrs Cransac has been a wonderful helping hand these past two years of COVID-19 confusion, and never failed to show her kindness through work. Thank you, Mrs Cransac for your time and dedication!

Rules, opening hours and borrowing of books

The library is open every day from 8:30 until 16:30, spare for the 15-minute breaks:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 12:15-12:30

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 12:45-13:00

As of right now, masks **MUST** be worn in the library. Studying, reading and using computers is now **ALLOWED**.

When borrowing books (max. three at a time), the librarian will ask you to return them (in two weeks or less) in the same condition as you borrowed them in.

To ensure a nice and relaxing time in the library, these rules must be obeyed:

- No eating or drinking in the library
- No loud conversations or messing around. (The library is a safe place, do not make others feel unwelcome or disrespected)

As long as you follow these regulations, the library is a free, creative space where you get your work done, use the crafting material provided, borrow books and revise for tests in.

Mrs. Khemiri would also like to remind you that the library is open to **EVERYONE**. There are books in **EVERY** language of the school sections. She hopes that the ESL1 students will continue to see the library as a safe, happy place and discover new worlds through books.

Remember, the library is yours to use.

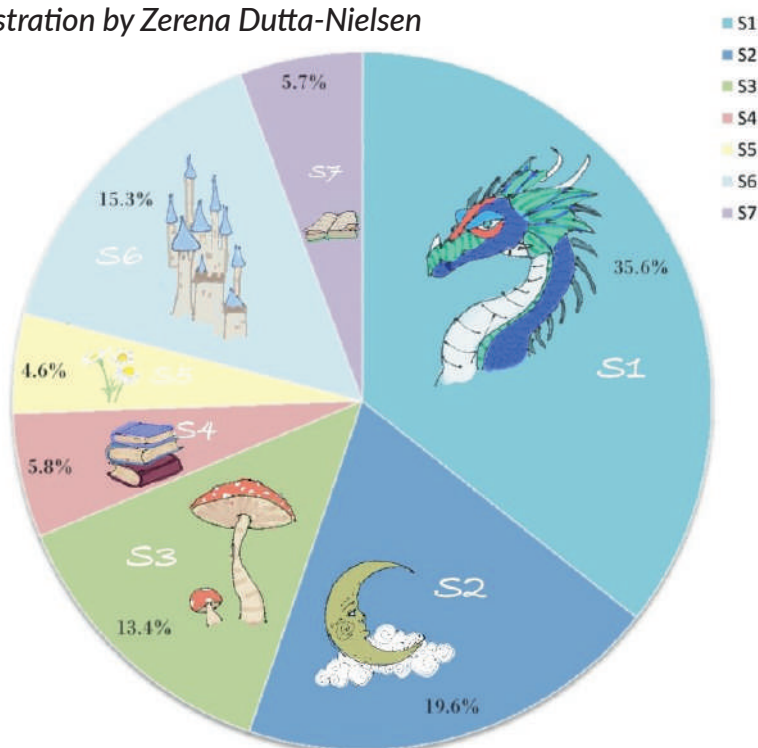
Reading Challenge

- Pupils are asked to read a book from a defined theme.
- The theme changes every one or two months.
- At the end of the year pupils who completed the challenge will be invited to a little tea party in the library.

Analytics

- As of this school year, comic books and fantasy books remain the most popular amongst students.
- S1 students visit the library most frequently, followed by S2 and S6, while S5 and S7 students visit it the least.

Illustration by Zerena Dutta-Nielsen



Dalmatians, Bananas and Carrots

A semi-satirical look at the 2021 Mamer Baccom elections

In a spectacular display of school democracy, “dalmatian” Ettore Bus from the Italian section was elected Baccom president on Friday, 29 October. Over 120 active members of the Baccom cast their votes to elect their president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. They had to choose between 16 courageous candidates who did not shy away from the spotlight. The BAC committee decides on hoodie designs, the yearbook, and organises S7 events, above all the proclamation ceremony.

At first glance, an observer would have suspected that the students in the Salle des Fêtes were choosing the best Halloween costume. Between mummies, potatoes, peas and crime scenes, the usual pullover and jeans outfit really made you stand out. Luckily, a short speech by S7 adviser Mr Toussaint brought all delegates back to the same page. Mr Toussaint was the secret star of the day, joking amiably and assuring the S7 students that he would stand by their side during exams. Had he run for an office, he would have doubtlessly scored an easy victory.

Speaking of an easy victory: Marcel Ebert and Rafael Branez (both S7DEA) were elected treasurers by a huge margin. The only other candidate on the ballot had to accept that being born in 2004 does not quite make you a mature adult. Let us hope that the two Men in Black will keep a strict eye on the Baccom’s finances and resist the temptation to spend all funds on partying.

With the treasurer post allocated, the moment all candidates had been anxiously waiting for had come: the speeches. But first, they had to struggle with a wicked microphone that seemed to be jinxed by an evil witch. Too close, too high, too low, too loose ... the mic insisted on its share of attention.

When the candidates finally got to speak, their campaign slogans strongly resembled one another. There was a striking lack of concrete proposals. Demagoguery eclipsed competence. Almost all candidates focused on parties, barbecues and dinners. The orators seasoned their vague proposals with a spice of poetry, promising to make S7 “the best year of our lives” and emphasising the warmth and cosiness of the “S7 family”. Only one candidate stood out from the crowd, albeit by raising eyebrows. He confidently declared an end to “teacher tyranny” and promised to “impose student tyranny”. Would Mr Toussaint have accepted such a BAC president? We will never know.

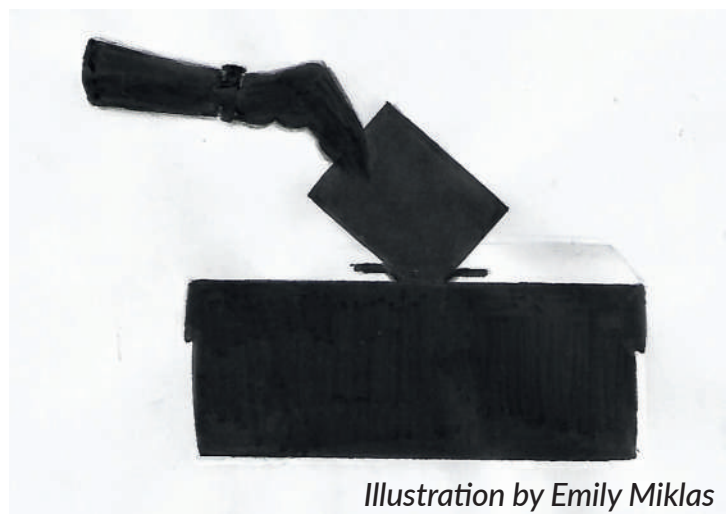


Illustration by Emily Miklas

Finally, the students cast their votes in an agonisingly slow procedure. Perhaps the candidates who had stressed their organisational skills should have assisted the administration in organising the elections. For some inexplicable reason, all students (120!) were invited to vote one by one. No wonder that dozens of students were late for their next classes. But hey, the elections were supervised by... a banana and a carrot. Would it be fair to say that our school is a banana republic?

The same afternoon, the election results were published by Mr Toussaint via email. Ettore Bus’ cute ear dogs and his fiery speech earned him the president’s post. Ettore will be assisted by his vice presidents Vittoria Molé (S7ITA) and Daniel Goury-Lörincz (S7ENA), and Secretary Arno Laurie (S7FRA). Apparently, our school still has a long way to go when it comes to gender equality.

Now it is time for the committee members to deliver on their promises. Their main challenge will be to take back the BAC year and fill it with “truly unforgettable memories”. Making the BAC a great experience despite the pandemic will not be easy. Let us wish them the best of luck.

Jan Hübel

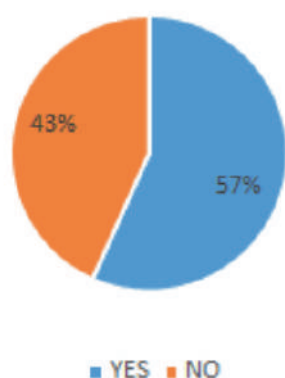
Gender-neutral bathrooms

Necessity or trend ?

"It's about not confining people to boxes," the fundamental right to feel comfortable at our school.

Whilst conducting a survey in October 2021, questioning a total of 67 s6 students about their opinion on gender-neutral/transgender bathrooms, I found out that a majority supported this idea. The statistics are as follows:

Do you support the idea of having transgender/gender-neutral bathrooms at our school?



Out of the 67 students, 41 identified as boys, 22 as girls and 4 as gender-neutral. As the two latter proved to be quite supportive of this idea (81% and 100% of approval respectively), the boys were the only group whose majority was against it (about 57%).

In an interview with an s7 student, Finn Allaway (they/them), I gained more insight about this topic as they – a non-binary person – are one of the individuals who will benefit the most from this proposed idea.

As you can see, most boys have voted no – why do you think that is? Why is there such a clear division of the results based on the gender of the individual?

"I think that this is due to the fact that being gay, being queer is seen as a weakness. As a boy, you are taught that you should not be weak, that boys are strong, they always have to be tough. Being gay is considered a weakness. That's why "gay" is an insult nowadays; queers are seen as weak, and boys don't want to be seen as weak or inferior. I believe that toxic masculinity and sexism altogether are at the heart of it, that's why the trans movement and the feminism movement are so closely intertwined. I feel like hatred or rejection would also be seen towards more feminine boys. When a boy is acting or dressing in a more feminine way, he is usually seen as being gay, because he is regarded as being weak and vulnerable due to him dressing like a girl.

Many people assume that a lot of my friends, who are LGBTQ+ supporters, because of their kindness, acceptance and because they don't have this apparent element to toxic masculinity, are gay, bi or questioning their sexual orientation. I get a certain picture of what a straight guy is – or should be –, and it's quite narrow; he's got to be strong and manly; he has to embody the stereotypical alpha-

male. A lot of people think that every guy that breaks that, must not be straight or he must have some issues – which is quite sad."

When discussing the topic of toxic masculinity, we paint ourselves a clear picture: a manly, strong, decisive alpha man: a man who tends to assume a dominant or domineering role in social or professional situations.

When analysing the statistic – despite its suboptimal sample size –, the clear conclusion that many boys in our school are afflicted with toxic masculinity can be made, but not the kind one might imagine. This subtler form of unhealthily macho behaviour is characterised by the aversion to any change in the status quo that would challenge their perception of the gender binary.

Whilst I tried to conduct the survey, many students took it as an opportunity to hijack the conversation, steering it to an argument, debating and sharing their homophobic and transphobic opinions with me. This proves that LGBTQ+ representation and support at our school is still lacking.

To have a clear understanding of the following interview, one must know the meaning of the terminology used throughout it:

Transgender: a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with the gender assigned to them at birth.

Gender-neutral/nonbinary person: a person whose gender is neither a boy nor a girl.

Cisgender: a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their assigned gender.

If the school were to implement gender-neutral/transgender bathrooms, do you think that change should also be applied to the school's changing rooms?

"Ideally, changing rooms would not be divided by gender at all, and just have separate cabins for every individual. But due to many factors: budget, space, etc., that is not the case now. I have quite some friends who have issues with the changing rooms; being there makes them feel bad. A friend of mine, who is cisgender, feels uncomfortable being in the changing room with other girls. She prefers being alone and that means that she must change in the bathroom or ask the teacher if she can change in another room. All of it is just a question of comfort and honestly, being in a room full of near-unknown people and undressing in front of them is rather weird and uncomfortable. I like to think of it as a question of comfort when you have an uncomfortable sofa. You have the right to find the issue; maybe it's a loose spring or whatever, and people who deny you that comfort by being against that idea are just being ridiculous."

How do you feel about students being reticent towards that idea? Do you feel like the argument that "creating new bathrooms is going to take so much time and is going to clog up all the normal rhythm of our lives" is valid?

"I mean, it's not like we're asking the pupils to do the work. Besides, we have plenty of bathrooms at hand and we won't need to construct some new ones, with a whole new design, plumbing and electric system. There are a lot of toilets in the entire building – would it really be a hassle to convert 3 or 4 to gender-neutral ones? I mean, you still have enough rooms to go to the toilet; it's really about putting a sticker on a door. People make such a big deal out of it but it's not about them, it doesn't affect them, it's about people who want to feel comfortable while they're using the bathroom, a

Illustration by Riona Rushe



basic right that everyone should embrace."

Do you think that the number of negative answers is due to people having prejudices or being misinformed?

"Well, I do believe that this school does not do a sufficient job at educating its students about this kind of stuff. A big number of pupils might not be informed enough and hear about it for the first time. Or they perhaps adapted some transphobic behaviour from an outside influence, like on the internet or maybe their favourite social-media star has promoted such things. Hate is learned behaviour, being a bit suspicious of the unknown is completely normal but you shouldn't really hate it, you should get informed about the topic before placing a judgement upon it. There is a simple way of correcting this issue: educating our students about it! We have the luxury of being in a well-developed country that has the resources to inform people about the subject – why not do it? A lot think that ignorance makes them strong, for some reason and they have to appear as such."

Do you think that this school is a safe place for LGBTQ+ members/supporters?

"Well, I have heard some homophobic and transphobic slurs and I think that many people misunderstand this notion of "safety", just because we aren't getting beat up in a corner doesn't mean that this is a safe environment for us. I recall this one time when I took out my pride flag and was greeted with slurs and menacing looks. Of course, this does not apply to everyone, lots of students were supportive and told me some nice things but there are a lot who seem to be hateful about it, either because they think it's funny or they were raised to believe that. Unfamiliarity can also be a cause."

"I believe that if an environment of safety is created, a lot more kids might find out that they are gay, or bi. I think that many struggle with the fact that they need to be in a box, in a certain category, and some people are stuck in the middle of two or three or more of those boxes. At the end of the day, you should feel comfortable and be free to identify yourself as you please; it's about not confining people to boxes."

Tobias Rault

White Supremacists Are Using Social Media To Recruit Young People Especially Boys

How even our school hasn't escaped the influence of the alt-right

As you walk through the Mamer European School, you will often see art adorning the walls, the lockers, the bathroom stalls, even the classrooms. Our school is filled with incredibly talented young people whose art deserves recognition.

On the bottom floor, you will find the BAC posters. Beautifully designed, these posters are an intricate collection of smaller drawings that work together to form a beautiful picture. However, if you look closely at said pictures, you will be horrified.

Illustration by Friede Feil

Drawn on the paintings, often in black markers, you will find Nazi imagery: swastikas, offensive abbreviations, and drawings. Similarly, swastikas are drawn on the walls, on the lockers; you cannot avoid them. Why is this happening in our school? Is it just our school that is affected by this?

Over recent years, we have seen a rise in alt-right groups and white supremacists. They are now proudly spreading their ideologies in spaces with people who are willing to listen; the most obvious that springs to mind is, of course, social media.

You may have noticed it during the pandemic; small, but harmful, ideas and theories that become popular on sites like 4chan and eventually end up on Tiktok and Instagram.



A few notable examples come to mind; there are the "super-straight" on Tiktok; the infamous "QAnon" supporters on Twitter and Facebook. They have become increasingly vocal about their beliefs becoming a huge problem mainly for young boys on social media. There is an increasing amount of anti-left or really just anti-human rights propaganda posted on these sites, aimed at children as young as 11.

There are several ways in which these recruitments take place. The first, and the most sinister, is through internet memes. These alt-right groups will design memes with fascist subliminal messages and dog whistles, that will then be branded as edgy humor. They use these memes and jokes, which have racist and homophobic ideology as a way of promoting bigotry to young people, while still being able to remain on these social media sites.

These posts are not obviously fascist, as these would be removed, but they are often filled with subliminal messages. This allows them to spread quickly on the platform without being taken down. Once this starts, it becomes much harder to stop, due to the algorithms these platforms use.

Another way these alt-right groups try to recruit young boys is by talking to them one on one. They try to convince these teens, who might be suffering in their personal or social lives that, by joining one of these groups, they will find a community of like-minded people.

For a young boy who feels alone, either at school or at home, this would be seen as a great opportunity.



Illustration by Friede Feil

Without much effort, a stroll through the downstairs corridors will provide more than adequate evidence that our school is no exception to this targeting.

The acronym "NSDAP" which stands for "Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei", the NAZI party, framed with a heart, is brandished across the mural celebrating one of the Bacs. On the same mural but further across, several swastikas are painted in fat black strokes on the cheeks of cartoon zombies. However, not only are the walls of the corridors sullied by hate speech, but also the desks in the classrooms.

Obviously bored students have decided that, instead of writing notes or chatting in class to pass the time, writing antisemitic remarks in big black indelible pen underneath the tables in science classrooms, hidden from the teacher but clearly visible to all the students. This highlights a systemic problem in our school that can't be solved by a simple "ban on graffiti".

These groups are more far-reaching than anyone could have expected, and young people must be careful in order not to get trapped in these schemes.

Ioana Hárátu

Le plagiat et ses conséquences

Pour un étudiant, que ce soit à l'école ou l'université, la rédaction de longs textes est inévitable et incite à se laisser inspirer d'idées qui ne nous appartiennent pas. Mais comment savoir exactement, si cette inspiration est du plagiat ?

La définition de l'université d'Oxford du plagiat, accessible sur son site internet, traduit littéralement en français : « Le plagiat consiste à présenter le travail ou les idées de quelqu'un d'autre comme les vôtres, avec ou sans son consentement, en l'incorporant à votre travail sans reconnaissance complète. Tous les documents publiés et non publiés, qu'ils soient manuscrits, imprimés ou électroniques, sont couverts par cette définition. Le plagiat peut être intentionnel ou imprudent, ou non intentionnel. Aux termes du règlement des examens, le plagiat intentionnel ou imprudent est une infraction disciplinaire ».

Avec Internet, l'accès aux articles, romans et textes en général, est donc peu limité. Cela rend le plagiat encore plus facile. Cependant, cet accès simplifie aussi le repérage du plagiat. Il suffit de taper une partie d'un texte sur Google pour vérifier si des résultats similaires apparaissent. De plus, il existe des programmes qui permettent de repérer les passages qui ont été copiés-collés et de retrouver leurs sources. À cause d'Internet, cette tendance à se laisser influencer par le fruit du travail d'autrui devient plus fréquente. C'est pour cela qu'il est important d'utiliser les bonnes sources et de connaître les règles concernant le plagiat : Tout d'abord, il faut toujours indiquer la source, que ce soit simplement citer le nom de l'auteur et le titre

de son œuvre, ou ajouter le lien du site internet utilisé. En outre, Il faut être prudent de ne pas tomber dans le piège du plagiat inconscient, ou involontaire, en utilisant des informations sans s'apercevoir qu'elles ont été mémorisées, et sont donc le fruit du travail d'un d'autre. Même si la phrase contenant ces informations est partiellement différente à l'originale, et que l'action semble innocente, cela peut toutefois compter comme du plagiat. Donc, en cas de doute, il est préférable de nommer l'auteur.

Les mesures concernant le plagiat à l'École européenne sont prises individuellement par les professeurs. Comme conséquence, l'élève ayant commis du plagiat, a tendance à recevoir un zéro pour le devoir en question. Même si le copier-coller, n'a seulement des conséquences limitées au secondaire, les implications peuvent devenir graves plus tard dans la vie. À l'université, le plagiat est pris d'avantage au sérieux. Il peut entraîner des répercussions importantes, qui ne risquent pas seulement de causer des problèmes à l'instant même, mais aussi à long terme. Le site internet de l'université d'Oxford

indique que les mesures prises en cas de plagiat varient selon la gravité de la situation. Cependant, les conséquences ont tendance à être très lourdes : déduction de points ou même exclusion temporaire ou définitive de l'élève en question de toutes les universités du pays. De surcroît, la crédibilité en tant qu'élève peut être endommagée.

Un article écrit par Pol Reuter publié sur Reporter.lu en octobre 2021, présentait l'histoire du plagiat du Premier ministre du Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel. L'article explique qu'il avait rédigé en 1999, un document contenant 56 pages. 54 de ces pages contenait des passages, et parfois des pages entières, plagiées. Le travail en question qu'il a rédigé pour l'université de Nancy II avait été validé à l'époque. Ce cas dans lequel le premier ministre est impliqué, montre que le plagiat peut sembler la solution la plus facile sur le moment, mais cette histoire nous prouve qu'il est souvent repéré, et peut entraîner des conséquences sévères même des décennies plus tard.

Katja Skylv

Making important life choices in S7

As years go by, one is faced with more and more choices of increasing importance. At first, you had to choose who to be friends with in kindergarten. Then perhaps one day, you had to choose if you wanted to study sciences, or math, or literature... Then one day you were informed that the choice you were about to make would forever shape your future and that now, you were expected to become more and more of an adult. This becomes abundantly clear in S7.

In this school year, there are many things you must do. You are expected to look up schools to apply to, maybe go visit a couple of campuses, perhaps take driving lessons, possibly do a couple of internships that'll look good on your CV, whilst continuing to work at school because S7 is no joke. Amidst all of that, you will need to find some time for you, to avoid losing yourself.

This is the tricky part about S7. You are in a period of your life when you're told to live to the fullest or you'll regret it when you're older. At the same time, you are burdened with additional work, often resulting in stress and anxiety, added to the fact that

you need to figure out what you want to do in your life. You need to make choices and make the fast. Figuring it all out is tough, especially as you see the deadlines coming closer and closer. It can easily be overwhelming and finding the balance between all of this can be excruciatingly hard.

And so, as life goes on, you will have to make choices. Some will be easy and obvious. Others will be tremendously complicated. In your final year in this school, you will have to finally make these choices of a lifetime. For some, it will be easy, as you might have known for a long time what you wish to do in your life. For others, finding your path will be like trying to get out of a maze blindfolded.

In the end, we all eventually need to advance in life. This means deciding things, as scary as it can be. The S7 year is a core one. It involves making challenging decisions and can easily be overwhelming. But in the end, we move forwards. Later in our lives, we will look back at this, and hopefully be proud of how far we've come and what we've accomplished.

Shaun Ferrand

Pulp Fiction Forever

Pulp Fiction has been one of my favorite movies for a long time now. It is one of the most interestingly complex, action-filled, and comedic movies I have ever watched and has maturely changed my views and understanding of concepts to a great extent. I wish to, with this review, hopefully persuade you to view the classic treasure yourself which, will in my view, ensure almost two and a half hours of enigmatic enlightening that you will enjoy.

Let us take it back to 1990's America. The Cold War has just ended and the Americans are experiencing some of the best, lively, and most peaceful times in history. Particularly in form of pop culture, everything seems to be attractively blooming, many teens are going through their golden age in life and are eager get hold of all the newest things coming out, both domestically and imported. Materialistic capitalism is the new fashion, and with it the demand for more and better entertainment.

Back then there were not any iPhones at your disposal, what you had were your beloved televisions instead. TV shows such as Seinfeld, Ellen and The Fresh Prince of Bel Air were played into the living rooms of millions back in the day. Cinemas were obviously packed as well, with some of the movies we nowadays regard as legendary nostalgic trips down memory lane being shown. Take 1994, The Lion King, Forrest Gump, The Mask and Dumb and Dumber, all these universally loved classics came out just this one year.

Then there was Pulp Fiction, now this was the defining movie, something that stood out so well for its time. You would walk in, sit down with your popcorn whilst the relaxing conversation between the lovely Pumpkin and Honey Bunny unfolds in front of you, slowly revealing itself to be a robbery. Then suddenly BAM, you get hit by the deafening sound of the legendary Misirlou playing as the opening begins. This is then followed by the iconic Royale with Cheese scene whilst they also, very fittingly, talk about foot massages (classic Tarantino), only to then be changed to Samuel L. Jackson yelling "English mother*****, do you speak it?!" Even if you have for some reason, that I will not judge you for, not seen this movie yet, you can tell by the way I describe it that it is an emotional rollercoaster. And that is just the first 20 minutes in.

Pulp Fictions plot is not so easy to just describe, it is really one of those complicated movies you must watch yourself, even a couple of times, before you think ahhhh, now I get it, at least in my case. The film plays out through 4 stories, starting with the two hitmen Vincent Vega (John Travolta) and Jules Winnfield (Samuel L. Jackson) re-obtaining a

briefcase for their badass deep-voice boss Marcellus Wallace, with a couple of problems occurring along the way. Marcellus has also asked Vincent to take out his wife, Mia Wallace (Uma Thurman) for a night, a situation that will not possibly go wrong in any way whatsoever by the end of it. Meanwhile, boxer Butch Coolidge, who has been approached by Marcellus, is told to throw his final fight in exchange for some sweet gangster money, but completely ignores this bribe and kills his opponent instead.



As you might have figured out, Marcellus is not over the moon with his decision and comes after him. Finally, we end back at that scene I was talking about with Pumpkin (Tim Roth) and Honey Bunny (Amanda Plummer) whose real names are never revealed, attempting to rob the restaurant, running into our beloved hitmen eating breakfast there, Jules and Vincent. By the end of the movie, Jules is determined to retire from this whole killing and bribing gangster lifestyle and just walk the earth, and that is where the movie suddenly becomes philosophical.

What is so appealing about Pulp Fiction? It is the beautifully written Tarantino-styled dialogue, the coolness these characters are able to display in situations considered, not necessarily unreal, but mildly surreal. The way they modestly, yet comically in their own way handle each problem thrown at them. This mix of seriousness and comedy the movie plays on is well demonstrated in the 'golden watch' story, which believe me you will want to hear Christopher Walkin tell you about. Each one of the stories intertwine impressively with each other and

that is the "ahhhh, now I get it" feeling that comes to you in the end, blowing you away and wanting to see this movie once more straight away. The cast is so elegant. Besides the big three, Samuel L. Jackson, John Travolta, Uma Thurman, we get to see the credible Bruce Willis, Tim Roth, Christopher Walken, and Amanda Plummer. Even an appearance by the director Quentin Tarantino himself is unmissable. How Tarantino managed to get them all together, I have no clue.

All these class, thick skinned actors and actresses combined with a story so original and excellently executed we get the masterpiece baby produced, Pulp Fiction as we know it. One of the greatest movies of the 90s and still holding strong today. It is one of the few I have ever seen where I cannot think of anything to criticize it for. This was Tarantino at his peak and would set a whole new standard for the upcoming cinematic western Hollywood movies. You are bound to watch this at some point in your life so you might as well do it right now.

Steven Lee

Goodreads

A hotbed for bookworms and trolls

Launched in 2007 by self-proclaimed "book-devourers" Elizabeth and Otis Chandler, Goodreads quickly rose to become the world's largest site for book recommendations and readers, with over 90 million members and 297 million books read and critiqued. Today the website is owned by American mega-corp, Amazon.

Enabling its users to find out if a book is well suited for them from the thousands of reviews available, the multi-functional platform offers the opportunity to check out new releases, personalized book recommendations as well as online book clubs, giveaways, and challenges for readers to take part in.

Books are tracked and shelved depending on whether they have been read, are being read, or to be read. There are, truly, countless ways for one to use Goodreads to organize reading throughout all stages of the book-hunting, reading, and reviewing process.

Despite its dizzying popularity, members of the book community have been increasingly vocal regarding its inconsistent and unreliable rating system as well as the low-quality reviews influenced by media campaigns against authors and books - which get upvoted, thus hiding quality ones.

"Goodreads has created a very easily gamed system too often driven solely by uninformed outrage and disconnected from actual books themselves," author Gretchen Felker-Martin posted on twitter after her novel Manhunt had been subjected to review bombing ahead of its release.

Goodreads has become over the past couple of years a breeding ground for fraudulent troll accounts known for threatening and blackmailing authors.

Book influencers have taken to social media to suggest alternative home library management apps

namely Booksloth, Libib or The Storygraph. All with features that match or exceed those of Goodreads such as mood tracking tools for recommendation, movie, music and video game cataloging options and A Did Not Finish button. BookRiot writer Emily Stochl stated, "In the end, we all want different things from bookish sites and apps (...) If you're dissatisfied with the features Goodreads has to offer, it's likely there's a platform out there that will better serve your needs."

Despite Goodreads' intention to help readers find and share books they love as well as improve the process of reading and learning, its rating and review system is proven to cause more harm than good, especially to independent authors and publishers that rely on the site to promote their work.

The Essential Bookish Vocabulary (acronyms and more):

TBR: stands for To Be Read

CR: stands for Currently Reading

BOTM: stands for Book of The Month

Buddy Read: This is when you get a buddy and you read a book with them!

Readathon: A person is having a readathon when they are reading a book series from start to finish without reading other books in between or taking long breaks.

DNF: stands for Did Not Finish. A book that is so bad that you've got to put it down and you will not finish it.

WL: stands for "wish list," and is any book that you want and do not own physically.

Booktok: a niche of TikTok where readers post content relating to books.

Booktube: a niche of Youtube where readers post content relating to books.

Bookstagram: a niche of Instagram where readers post content relating to books.

Booktwit: a niche of Twitter where readers post content relating to books.

1/1: This refers to the 1st edition, 1st printing of a book.

ARC: stands for Advanced Reader Copy. These are the early copies of books which are sent out to authors, booksellers, publicists, and members of the bookish community to read, review, and promote the book prior to its release.

Laura Fioretti

Kritik der Serie Squid Game

Die Handlung von Squid Game ist relativ einfach: 456 Kandidaten, alle hoch verschuldet, haben sich für ein mysteriöses Spiel angemeldet. Die Aussicht auf eine enorme Geldsumme lockt sie in ein verstecktes Lager, in dem sie in einfachen Kinderspielen gegeneinander antreten. Aber mit brutalen Folgen. Denn wer eliminiert wird, wird auf dem Spielfeld getötet.

Doch nur vier Wochen nach ihrer Veröffentlichung wurde diese Serie über 110 Millionen Mal angesehen, der bisher erfolgreichste Netflix-Serienstart. Wie konnte es zu diesem Riesenerfolg kommen?

Zunächst einmal ist die Serie einfach gut gemacht. Die Handlung nimmt sich Zeit, um die Charaktere mit ihren Problemen und Sorgen vorzustellen. Die Motive, warum sie sich an den brutalen Spielen beteiligen, werden klar und man fiebert mit ihnen mit.

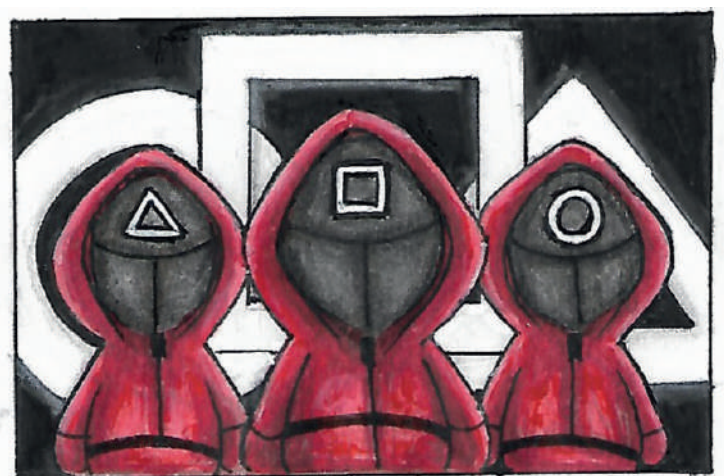


Illustration by Emily Miklas

Seong Gi-hun zum Beispiel, der im Mittelpunkt der Geschichte steht, lebt noch immer bei seiner Mutter. Er hat kein Geld, um sich um seine Tochter aus einer früheren Beziehung zu kümmern. Als sich ihm dann die Möglichkeit bietet, alle seine Schulden loszuwerden, ergreift er die Chance und macht bei den Spielen mit.

Darüber hinaus werden die Charaktere realistisch dargestellt und sehr gut von den Schauspielern gespielt; als Zuschauer kann man ihre Handlungen verstehen und mit ihnen sympathisieren.

Jedoch wird die Serie oft für ihre gewalttätigen Szenen kritisiert, aber diese sind für populäre Filme und Serien eigentlich nichts Ungewöhnliches. Die wahre Brutalität von Squid Game besteht darin, dass einfache, scheinbar harmlose Kinderspiele zu brutalen Blutgemetzeln werden.

Sehr gelungen ist auch, dass die Serie nicht so leicht vorhersehbar ist. Die Frage nach den Drahtziehern hinter den Spielen wird beispielsweise erst ganz am Ende geklärt.

Die Serie ist eine gelungene Mischung aus Drama, Gesellschaftskritik, Thriller und Survival-Horror mit Cliffhangern immer an den richtigen Stellen und die Handlung fesselt den Zuschauer schnell.

9/10

Marc Küster

Booktok

Impact on readers and publishing industry

As most of you may know, TikTok is a free social media platform that allows users to create their own content in short-version videos. Although this social network is often regarded as a soundtrack, choreography and challenge generator, TikTok is composed of innumerable subcultures operating hence the app's algorithm. One of these subcultures is BookTok, a hashtag used by the bookish community to classify content related to books. Creators make videos in which they share, review and discuss them; those can often be displayed in the form of book hauls and TBR (to be read) piles.

Novels, whether they be old or new, have been going viral on TikTok on account of a wave of book-loving influencers discussing their literary preferences and choices. This subculture has been gaining popularity recently and has a notable impact on the publishing industry.

This, therefore, establishes that although TikTok is an entertainment platform, it can be used as a marketing tool to reach targeted age groups, increase a book's popularity and help new authors launch their careers. Such as E. Lockhart's "We Were Liars" (2014) and Taylor Jenkins Reid's "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" (2017) both of which were published before BookTok began to dominate the industry. They are among the many other books that have found fame amongst similar readers on the app years after their initial release.

Usually spread through users who film recommended books, readers record time-lapses of themselves reading the whole book itself, a part of the book they picked or even their raw reaction to the final moment of a novel.

Those of which are usually filled with emotions like anger, frustration, awe and most frequently, sorrow. For instance, "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller, despite being published in 2011, has taken a major U-turn on the publishing charts. Selling around 10,000 copies every week after receiving nearly 96 million views on TikTok-#thesongofachilles.



Illustration by Blanka Herbály

The book has found regenerated success among adolescents and young adults thanks to 'the tearful trend'. In one video, users record themselves crying over the novel. For instance, a user records a time-lapse video of her reading the entire book in one sitting and weeping, with "I'm broken" as its caption.

This growing community had and has a strong impact on wide ranges of readers. Its presence on an extremely popular social media platform can influence individuals in different ways: new readers might decide to give reading a real try, it may influence old readers to pick up a book again or even increase a current readers' book intake. Users

with similar taste or in a similar age group as you are able to give useful recommendations and ratings on books they've enjoyed or disliked. This subculture of TikTok permits you to share your love for literature.

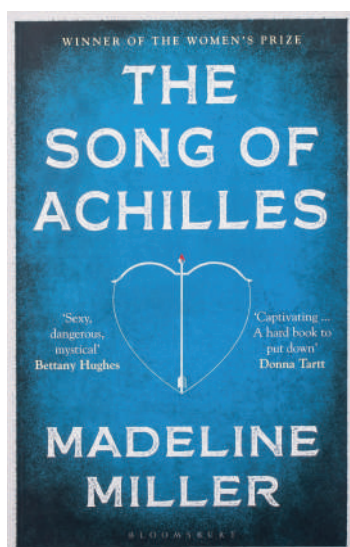
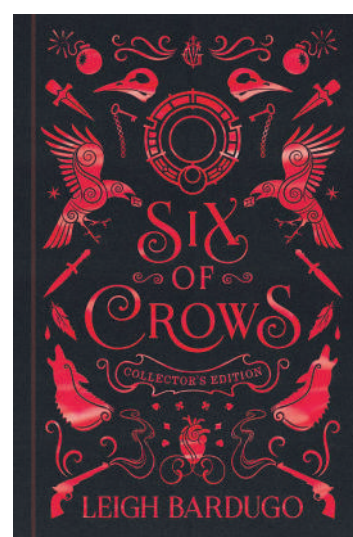
Bookstores now have specialized sections that are dedicated to trendy recommendations found on BookTok. For example, in Luxembourg, Ernster and Fnac now have sections of their store with popular BookTok books displayed. Additionally, numerous authors are now starting to set up their TikTok accounts to further advertise the publishing of new or potential books as it reaches a more concentrated and highly influential audience. For example, Adam Silvera, author of famous BookTok book: "They Both Die at the End" set up a TikTok profile to promote his book and currently has 40,5 thousand followers and nearly 355 thousand likes.

Some BookTok book reviews

1. **Six of Crows** (#sixofcrows: 706M views) by Leigh Bardugo is one of BookTok's most popular books. It was originally published in September 2015 but thanks to BookTok, its popularity was renewed and over a million copies were sold. It was rated a 4.5/5 by Goodreads and a 9.7/10 by the Fantasy Book Review. Some say the "Six of Crows" duology (book #2: Crooked Kingdom) is the best young adult series ever written, and personally, I agree with them. "Six of Crows" is a fantasy novel following a thieving crew attempting to pull off an impossible heist, primarily set in the city of Ketterdam, loosely inspired by Dutch Republic-era Amsterdam.

This book is the perfect blend of a character-driven and plot-driven novel. Bardugo creates the most realistic and interesting characters I've ever read, they're deeply flawed and not just because they're criminals. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who loves fantasy fiction, the character growth is so well written that you can't help but love each one of them no matter their faults. With six main characters, six backstories and six plots intertwined throughout the novel, Bardugo successfully creates a thrilling heist story that pulls you in from the start.

"No mourners, no funerals"



2. **The Song of Achilles** (#thesongofachilles: 95,8M views) by Madeline Miller is another of BookTok's most popular books. Originally published in 2011, mentioned above, "The Song of Achilles" skyrocketed in sales after BookTok's popularity blew up. Set during the Greek Heroic Age, it is an adaptation of Homer's Iliad as told from the perspective of Patroclus.

Essentially, the story follows the pair through childhood all the way through the Trojan war and although you've probably all heard of the story of Achilles, you've never heard it from Madeline Miller. It was beautifully and poetically written, therefore really capturing the aspect of Homer's epic poem. "The Song of Achilles" is also a winner of the women's prize. If you are a fan of history, mythology, poetry or romance, this book is all you need. Miller's writing is short, concise and lyrical and fully captures the beautiful aspects of hero Achilles and his companion Patroclus.

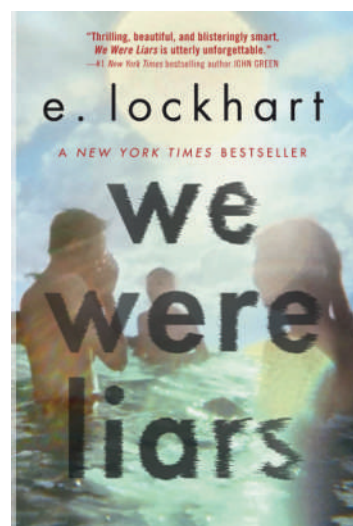
This is definitely one of my favorite books and I would do anything to reread it for the first time. A person's worth isn't based on destiny or strength but how they treat the ones they love.

"He is half of my soul, as the poets say."

3. **We Were Liars** (#wewereliars: 66.8M views) by E.Lockhart is the last book I will be reviewing, also a popular BookTok book, rated a 3,8/5 by Goodreads. Originally published in 2014, the novel has received critical acclaim and won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction. "We Were Liars" focuses on the theme of consequences of one's mistake.

It centers on a wealthy and seemingly perfect Sinclair family who spend their summers on their private island. However, something happens to Cadence during 'Summer 15', the four "Liars" reappear after two years to prompt Cadence to remember the incident she's lost knowledge of.

I personally disliked the writing style as it felt dry and bland to me as well as the non-existent character development, although the concept was well thought of. I didn't hate it but I do think it was really overhyped and the ending was predictable. But keep in mind this is only a personal opinion, I've heard of people actually enjoying it as well as the writing style. If you like psychological thrillers you might as well give it a try. "Here I am, frozen, when I deserve to burn"



Eleonore Andre

Audiobooks and eBooks

Revolutionizing reading

Stories have always been told, from spoken-word stories to early written texts. With languages and writing surfaces developing and changing, we eventually arrived at books, which have been the customary format for hundreds of years. However, another type of format may be coming to literature.

Audio- and eBooks are quickly gaining popularity, while bookstores are losing it. With our lives becoming increasingly tech-reliant, one may pose the question: what is the future of literature?



Illustration by Blanka Herbály

Let us first examine the current state of printed books by their pros and cons. Firstly, a physical book may have sentimental value, if it is a childhood favorite or was given by a loved one. They also look nicer from an aesthetic standpoint. It can be easier to make notes if they can be written directly on the margin or on the page saved with a sticky note. A physical book also makes for a better gift than an electronic one.

Additionally, it is possible to lend, which saves money. The experience of going to a bookstore is generally enjoyable and going to buy a specific book and finding another one that seems interesting may result in accidentally finding your new favorite novel.

At the same time, printed books do have weaknesses too. Firstly, having a printed copy of a book means carrying it around, which can be annoying. Printed copies are more expensive than electronic ones. While going to bookstores is pleasant, it can be difficult to find the book you are looking for, especially if it's not a bestseller. Finally, physical copies of books require a lot of paper. One tree can make about 8,333 pages, which means it can produce about 32 copies of a 500-page book. This means tens, even hundreds of millions of trees get cut down annually to create books.

Recently, schools have been turning to electronic books as a more practical alternative to printed books. There are certainly many benefits to this. To begin with, adjustable font size and brightness makes it more versatile for readers. Many eBook companies operate on a subscription-basis, which makes thousands of

books available for a monthly fee. Considering companies usually operate via an app for mobile phones or tablets, it is much easier to transport and store.

Older books are easier to find, since these companies usually have a very wide selection of books. The texts can also be interactive with links to dictionaries, related websites, etc., which is useful for schoolwork.

However, since the books are electronic, they cannot be lent to people and reading is impossible if you have forgotten to charge your device. Sometimes with Kindle and similar products, you might have to buy a whole new electric device. These devices require environmentally harmful minerals to be produced and continuing electricity. On average, the environmental effect of an eBook is smaller than that of a printed book.

Whether printed or electronic, both are still read. In recent years, another format for literature has risen, which technically doesn't count as reading, since the texts are listened to. This format is audiobooks, read out loud by a narrator, who can be a professional voice actor, a celebrity or the author themselves. Consumption of audiobooks skyrocketed amid the pandemic and so one wonders: what makes them so good?

Audiobooks share many pros with eBooks: cheaper, easier to carry, store and find older books. Many companies also operate on a subscription-basis. Audiobooks have several unique qualities to them too.

They work as great background noise for anything, so people can do other things while consuming books.

Some people learn better by listening than reading and the speed of reading is adjustable, so audiobooks increase efficiency

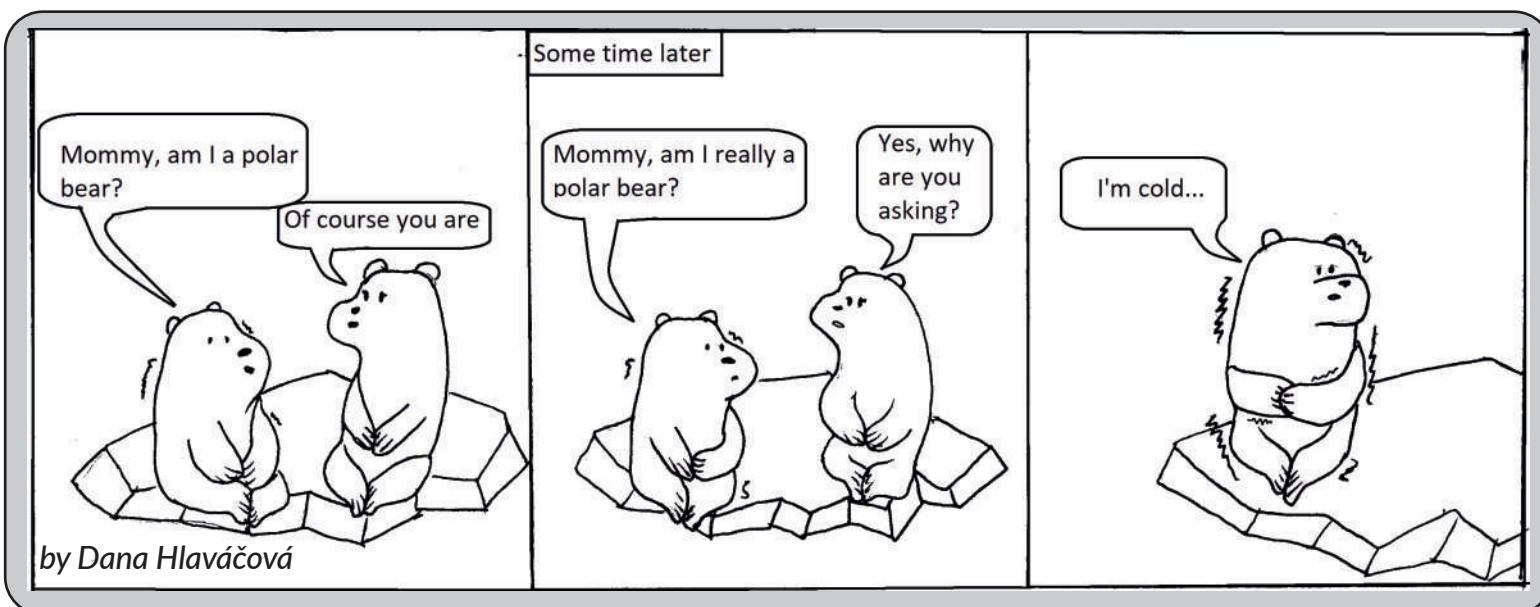
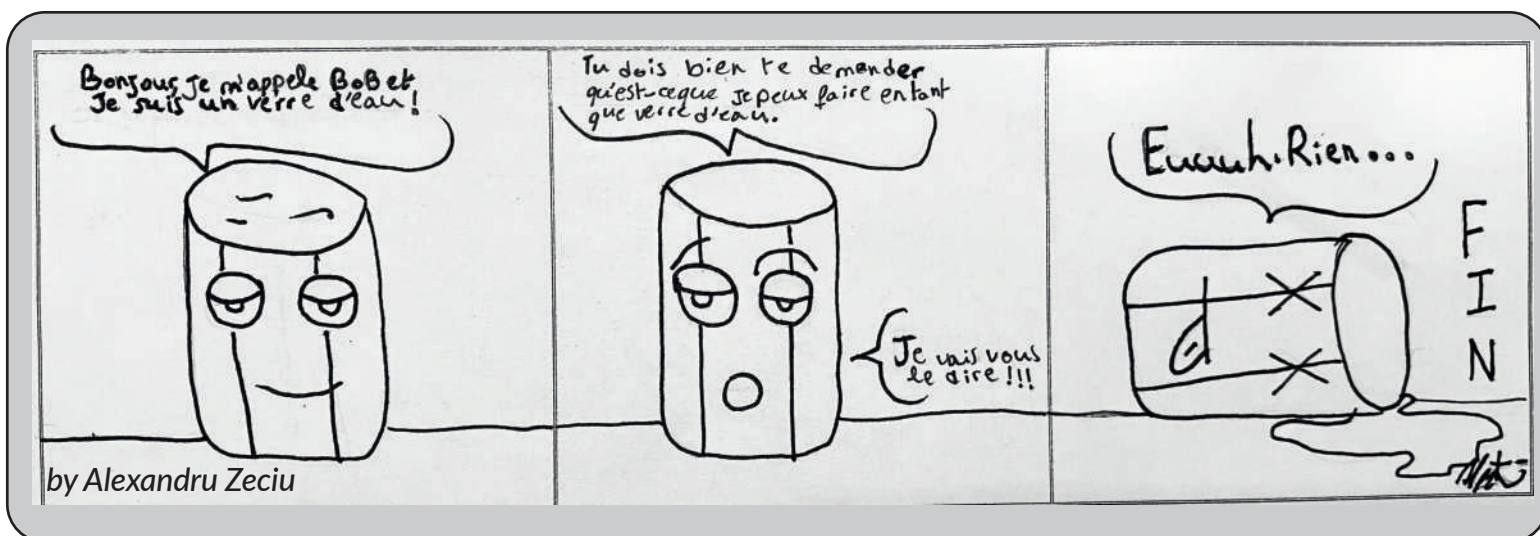
and are good for those who have trouble concentrating. Some books may even work better when they're listened to. Poetry can be read with rhythm and autobiographies can be read by their writer, which makes for a more personal experience. Sound effects can also be added to make the story more immersing.

On the other hand, audiobooks also share many cons with eBooks, such as being impossible to lend and having to charge them. It is also more difficult to find a certain moment in an audiobook than in a printed book. Furthermore, people generally take in less information by listening than by reading. People will absorb less information if they are multitasking as well, which, as mentioned, is common with audiobooks. The existence of a narrator between the author and the listener can lead to different interpretations based on how it is read. Even if the narrator attempts neutrality, subtle intonations in their voice might prompt a different understanding of the story.

Thus, the question is raised: is this the end of an era? Audiobooks and eBooks are here to stay, but this doesn't necessarily mean the end for printed books. Some people buy physical and audiobooks to listen while reading. Another option is to initially buy audio-/eBooks and then buy the printed versions of the best ones to display. Whether through ordering books online, reading them on devices or listening to them, it seems that the future of reading is electronic, to a certain degree. Perhaps this is not such a bad thing, since at least it assures the continuing life of literature as a whole.



Comics



We're sorry...

Dad Jokes

What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common? They're both Paris sites

I'm worried about the calendar. Its days are numbered.

How did Harry Potter get down the hill? Walking. JK! Rolling.

What did the police officer say to his bellybutton? You're under a vest.

Why do some couples go to the gym? Because they want their relationship to work out.

When does a joke become a "dad joke"? When it becomes apparent.

Our humour's broken, but we'll play for therapy

Antoine Laurent : les visages humains de la migration

Le 21 octobre 2021, à l'abbaye de Neumünster de Luxembourg, lors d'une conférence portant sur la migration en mer Méditerranée, Antoine Laurent a échangé en tant qu'ancien sauveteur avec Pierre Galloro, professeur de sociologie à l'Université de Lorraine. Lors de cet événement organisé par l'Institut Pierre Werner, un centre culturel européen, Antoine Laurent a exploré la question de la migration d'une manière particulièrement humaine et empathique, tout en restant très terre à terre.

C'est un angle de vue qu'on retrouve aussi dans son livre *Journal de bord de l'Aquarius* : Dans la peau d'un marin-sauveteur publié en avril dernier. L'écriture est concise mais sensible, et empreinte d'indignation envers les injustices tues et les drames humains jalonnant les routes des migrants qui traversent la Méditerranée.

Le parcours d'Antoine Laurent est une histoire d'éveil politique et humanitaire. Le jeune homme a une formation d'officier de marine marchande, il travaille pendant plusieurs années à bord de navires pétroliers. Cette expérience de terrain lui permet de se rendre compte très concrètement des mécanismes de la mondialisation et de l'impact de l'industrie sur les hommes et la nature.

Cela influence son regard sur le monde globalisé et les relations humaines. Antoine Laurent est cependant animé d'un esprit fraternel et sensible aux valeurs humaines qu'il ne met pas réellement en pratique dans son travail centré sur la recherche d'hydrocarbures. « Comment, dès lors, reconverter intelligemment le capital ainsi forgé ? » interroge-t-il dans son livre. Pour Antoine Laurent, ce sera au travers de l'engagement humanitaire en mer.

Il embarque en tant que sauveteur et chef d'équipe de l'Aquarius, un navire franco-allemand affrété par l'association SOS Méditerranée et dont le personnel médical est affecté par Médecins Sans Frontières. Sa mission est de recueillir les migrants venant de Libye et cherchant à rejoindre l'Europe sur des embarcations de fortune.

Dans cette région de transit, la détresse des migrants est particulièrement intense à cause de la précarité et de l'insécurité qui pèsent sur eux. Cette détresse, Antoine Laurent la décrit dans son livre. C'est ce contact brut, direct avec la misère humaine qui le poussera à s'engager ensuite en politique, auprès du parti écologiste, afin de remédier aux

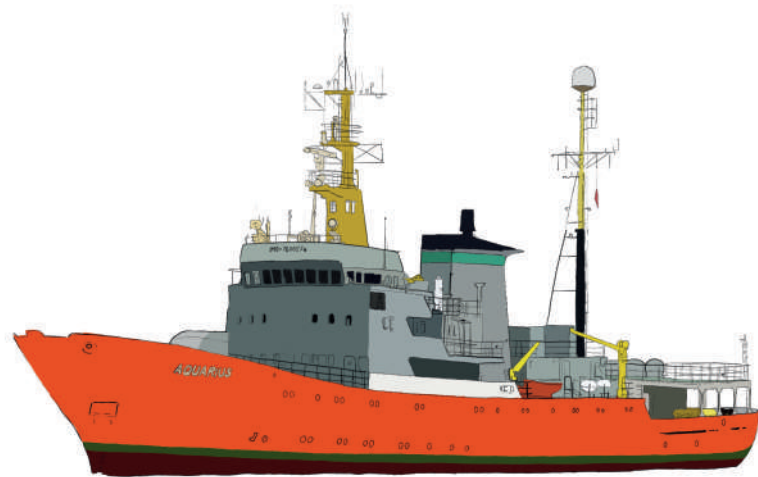


Illustration by Blanka Herbály

dysfonctionnements systémiques en profondeur et à leur racine.

Antoine Laurent reste cependant lucide sur le fait que ses actions ont alors des conséquences moins directes ; « Les résultats de la politique sont difficilement perceptibles à l'échelle d'une vie » estime-t-il lors d'une interview donnée au journal *Le Point*.

Dans *Journal de bord de l'Aquarius*, Antoine Laurent expose la situation des migrants originaires de pays comme le Soudan, la Somalie, l'Erythrée ou la Côte d'Ivoire et passant par la Libye.

Là, se trame un drame épouvantable, une violation constante et impunie des droits de l'homme, un déni total de l'humanité, de la dignité des migrants. Lorsqu'ils arrivent en Libye, les réfugiés sont arrêtés par la milice. Ils sont alors enfermés dans des centres de détention desquels ils ne peuvent sortir que s'ils payent une rançon.

Et, comme la plupart d'entre eux n'ont pas d'argent, on les torture, on les filme et on envoie les vidéos à leurs familles pour qu'elles payent la rançon. Sinon, ces migrants sont réduits à l'esclavage.

Ils travaillent pour les militaires, ne sont pas payés et sont à peine nourris. Antoine Laurent parle aussi beaucoup du regard des femmes rescapées ; ils sont « creux, vidés de toute humanité » écrit-il. En effet, presque aucune des femmes secourues n'est épargnée par les viols que commettent les miliciens qui abusent d'ailleurs aussi des hommes et des enfants.

Certaines femmes, sont également piégées par des proxénètes dans des réseaux de prostitution. Les migrants font donc tout pour fuir la Libye. Ils s'en remettent aux passeurs, qu'ils payent une fortune et qui les envoient vers la mort. En effet, on les installe sur des embarcations fragiles et surchargées. Une fois en mer, les émigrants pensent rejoindre la côte italienne en quelques jours.

Ce qu'ils ne savent pas, c'est que celle-ci se trouve à 300 km de la Libye et qu'ils n'ont que très peu de chance de survivre, à moins d'être "sauvés" par les gardes-côtes libyens qui les ramènent alors vers la nation qui les a maltraités.

L'Union Européenne a elle aussi une responsabilité dans ce système en n'agissant pas pour créer des voies d'accès sûres et légales vers l'Europe. Nos dirigeants européens apportent même un soutien matériel aux gardes-côtes libyens, alors que ceux-ci – tout comme leur gouvernement – sont souvent corrompus.

La mission de l'Aquarius est donc essentielle pour amener ces migrants en Italie, en port sûr. Lorsque les réfugiés arrivent à bord, la plupart d'entre eux sont blessés ; ils ont la peau brûlée par le mélange d'eau de mer et d'essence des canots, beaucoup sont

en sous-nutrition, certains ont été blessés par balle par la milice libyenne et d'autres portent sur leurs corps les marques des actes de torture qu'ils ont subis.

Il y a aussi les meurtrissures de l'esprit créées par les abus physiques, sexuels et psychologiques. Antoine Laurent explique dans son texte à quel point les histoires individuelles de ces migrants l'ont marqué. Il met d'ailleurs l'accent sur des parcours personnels, ramenant le problème de l'immigration clandestine à sa dimension humaine. Il parle aussi de l'équipage ; les médecins, les sauveteurs, les marins. Il écrit à quel point cette vue directe de la détresse humaine les a affectés.

En 2018, Matteo Salvini, le ministre de l'intérieur italien à l'époque, annonce que les ports italiens vont fermer à l'Aquarius et le conseil Européen demande aux ONG de sauvetage de ne pas entraver le travail des Libyens. Antoine Laurent quitte alors le navire. Dans son livre, il dénonce la politique européenne face aux migrations, qui consiste à compliquer les procédures de demande d'asile et à renoncer à créer des routes maritimes ou aériennes légales et sûres. Les réfugiés sont par conséquent pris aux pièges des guerres, de la famine et des violations de leurs droits humains.

Ainsi, l'Europe semble favoriser ses bonnes relations avec la Libye, notamment en lui fournissant du pétrole et en bloquant la route des migrants au détriment de son devoir moral envers ces réfugiés que l'on déshumanise pour mieux les ignorer.

Raphaëlle Lallemand

Why and how we dream

While everyone dreams, the content of those dreams varies dramatically from person to person. They are one of the most fascinating and puzzling aspects of sleep, and even the most fundamental question - "why do we even dream?" - is still subject to significant debate.

Dreams are stories that our minds create while we are asleep; through images, feelings, or thoughts. Visual imagery is the most common form of dreaming. Some people tend to dream in colour while others dream in black and white and people who are blind tend to have dreams with more sensory components. Some typical characteristics of dreaming are: dreaming in first-person perspective, feeling strong emotions and the content may be illogical or incoherent.

20 Featured

Though we may not remember dreaming, seeing as around 95% of dreams are forgotten by the time a person gets out of bed, everyone dreams between 3 and 6 times every night (Medical News Today).

There are five phases of sleep, and dreams are most likely to occur during stage 5.

- The first stage is light sleep; there is slow eye movement and reduced muscle activity, followed by stage two where eye movement completely stops and there are occasional bursts of rapid waves called sleep spindles.

- Stage three and four are called deep sleep; they produce extremely slow brain waves called delta waves and make it difficult to wake someone.

- The fifth stage is called rapid eye movement (REM), where breathing becomes more rapid, irregular and shallow, eyes jerk rapidly in various directions, and limb muscles become temporarily paralyzed; heart rate increases and blood pressure rises.

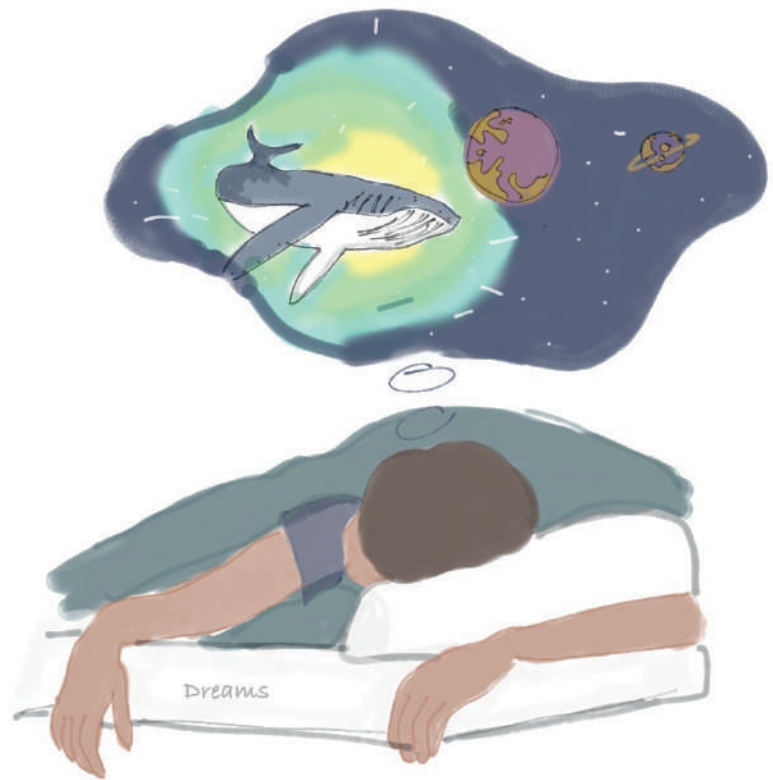


Illustration by Zerena Dutta-Nielsen

Despite advancing scientific knowledge, there is much that remains unknown about sleep and dreams. There are a number of theories about why we dream. Some theories state that the dream is representing unconscious desires and wishes or that the dream is simply consolidating and processing information that was gathered during the day. A dream could also be an interpretation of random signals from the brain and body during sleep.

Dreams also work as a form of psychotherapy, as dreaming during REM takes out the stress and pain out of difficult emotional situations experienced during the day. REM sleep is the only time when our brain is completely free of anxiety and at the same time key emotional and memory-related structures of the brain are reactivated.

This allows us to re-process distressing memories in a safer and calmer environment.

Seeing as dreams can be entertaining, bizarre, funny, or romantic, they can also be disturbing and frightening. This is called a nightmare; it is a bad dream that causes a person to wake up from their sleep. Bad dreams are normal and harmless; however, frequent nightmares may interfere with a person's sleep and even have an impact on their mental health. Another form is lucid dreaming, where the dreamer is aware that they are dreaming.

This can result in some control over their dream, but this control can vary. Lucid dreaming often occurs in the middle of a dream, when the sleeping person realises that they are dreaming. While some people experience lucid dreaming at random, others have the ability to increase their capacity to control their dreams.

Though dreaming is an experience encountered by all, it continues to be a mystery that leaves everyone astounded.

Melissa Mir

Dubai Expo 2020

My experience



Illustration by Vasileios Vannis

During the Toussaint holidays, I had the lucky opportunity to attend this year's Expo held in Dubai – which was initially supposed to happen in 2020 but got reported to this year due to Covid complications. But what is the Expo? And how does it work?

This popular event is a worldwide tradition that has been going since the 19th century. Every four years, each country in the world is required to meet in a certain city anywhere on the planet to show their latest technology/inventions, facts about their country and their own plans for the future. After the inauguration, the expo stays open to the public for six whole months, until the buildings constructed for that occasion get used for other purposes when the event is over.

Illustration by Andrea Powell

The first thought I had as soon as I got through the main entrance and the security was that everything was much bigger than I expected. The area reserved for the Expo was so big that there was the option of renting bicycles or being driven by buggies to get around the area.

Each country pavilion had its own unique architecture/structure and they all varied in size - some of them even organised shows related to what their country was presenting. Of course, there was a map of the Expo that was distributed to everyone to help them find the country pavilion they wanted to visit, the restaurant they wanted to eat in or other services. Some of the activities/pavilions needed to be booked a few days prior, which was usually the case for the most popular ones so people would have to avoid waiting in line for them.

On the day that I went to the Expo, I managed to visit several country pavilions in the little time I had - they were all well-presented and organized, even though some offered more information than others. One of my favourites was the Germany pavilion, whose focus was climate change and environmental issues.



The building was quite large, and we were led from one room to another while being shown videos, games and well-thought-out ideas concerning what we can do to stop our planet from deteriorating. All the information on climate change was explained in clear and simple ways, which made it easier for people to completely understand the problems concerning the environment.

A few other of my favourite country pavilions that I saw were the U.S., Spain, India and Singapore.

In conclusion, I think that Expos are a fun way to learn about all the different countries in the world. This one also showed me how different every country's culture and architecture are – all the buildings seemed to have their own touch that separated them from the rest (while still somehow harmonising with each other).

This year's Expo is open until the end of March 2022, but if you find it impossible to attend to, you can always go to Osaka, Japan for the next Expo in 2025. See you there!

Andrea Powell

Let it out...

Growing up, more and more of us are looking for new ways to express ourselves. Revealing our feelings, emotions, understanding others, and being understood, is dear to our hearts.

Since school plays such a paramount role in our lives, and we spend so much time here, I started asking myself about ways we express our feelings and emotions at school. There are those - extroverted - who easily connect with others and communicate their feelings in an open (and sometimes too open) manner. They are always ready to share their happiness and worries with the world.

There are also those who are introverted. One cannot see through their emotions, and one is never sure what this person feels in a particular moment.

And there are those (vast majority of us) who are in the middle... There are days when we are full of emotions: they come, they go, they change. Sometimes they last for just few brief moments, some other times they persist, and turn into a mood. Some of our emotions are mild, some are genuinely intense. Some bring us to tears or laughter, but some deserve nothing else than a short 'bruh...'. Finally, they can be positive (like love, joy, happiness, serenity...) or negative. Negative does not necessarily mean bad. They just appeal to our 'darker side'. Fear, anger, jealousy, sadness, frustration - just to name a few.

We are teenagers - we are driven by emotions, we express ourselves through them, our behavior, to the

largest extent, is shaped by these special vibes. Emotions are part of us, of our being, of our character, and of our identity. Therefore, I think there are no 'good' or 'bad' emotions. There are only 'good' or 'bad' ways of expressing them.

Unfortunately, days where boys are told to 'be a man' or girls to 'be a lady', have not yet passed. However, it is important to be ourselves, to express what we feel and who we are. Quite often it is not possible to do so at school. It is a place with rules, regulations, and certain form of a drill, which makes, from time to time, expressing your emotions unfeasible or even undesirable. It is not always possible to 'let it out', and release the frustration or anger accumulated over eight periods of tests, exercises, or intense classwork. Nonetheless, the 'School' is not the only one to blame. We live in a world of peer pressure, where we are afraid of being constantly judged by our classmates. Many of us think we should conform to a certain way of behaving, and limit emotions to a few 'acceptable' ones. We tend to self-impose a code of emotional conduct, by fear (it which is an emotion as well!) of being perceived as 'strange', 'weird' or 'grotesque'.

Thus, I believe that creating a secure, open, and respectful environment at school, where everyone is able to express their emotions is of cardinal importance. I do not have a miracle solution for achieving it, but I think we should look more closely at certain areas, which can help us improve understanding and communicating our sentiments.



Both students and teachers should be involved in the developing of a culture in which everyone can talk freely about their emotions. A good start would be encouraging people to name their emotions, which you will see, is not always easy. Obviously, in a 25 student-strong class (plus the teacher) not everyone will feel the same way - therefore it is important to acknowledge it and learn to respect each other. Another key point would be to create a climate where people can express themselves in a calm and serene manner. Giggles and laughter really do not help when you are trying to open up, and talk about what you feel.

Another way in which we enhance our emotional intelligence at school is expressing ourselves through art, music or literature and poetry. I acknowledge that we are at school, and that there is a curriculum which needs to be taught, but I think giving the students this little extra 'liberty' during classes, where they could draw, play, or write about their emotions would be a great benefit to all. We could express ourselves,

and the teachers would get to know the 'real' us better! When talking about art, I cannot omit the infamous graffiti wall, where students (especially S7s) can leave their artistic mark. Maybe this is not enough? Maybe we need more graffiti walls like this at our school?

Judging by the number of engravings on school walls, epitaphs on the walls of students' toilets, or eulogies written on classroom tables, it looks like there may be a need for some additional 'dedicated' space for us to express what we feel, and the way we feel (however within limits of decency and respect for the others). We could all benefit from it.

What do you think?

Julia Dec

One voice, a big impact

The story of Yola Mgogwana

Most of the time, adults are the people who, in our eyes as teens, try to solve global problems. When you're watching the news and something bad has happened, political or economic, it's always grownups talking about it and sharing their experiences and solutions to the problem.

But these days more and more children and teens want to get involved and share their opinions. For example, with the subject of Climate Change.

Climate Change has always been a topic of interest around the world. It is something that we see as unsolvable and out of our hands. Which, it's true that maybe we cannot prevent it, but we can definitely try to lessen the impact of it on our earth. And that is what 13-year-old South African Climate Activist Yola Mgogwana is trying to do. She lives in a poor area in Cape Town South Africa with her family, where she experiences the effects of Climate Change more than most every day.

For instance, she and 55 other families share one communal tap. During the summers when there is unbearable heat and dryness, the tap dries out and they have no water. In that circumstance, they have to choose if they want to buy food or water, because often there isn't enough money to buy both.

However, that's not the only thing Yola experiences. When it rains, hers and her neighbors' homes are prone to floods. And it is not easy to have to deal with. Yola realized that these extreme weather conditions had to do with the treatment of the environment. She soon saw how poorly it actually got treated: plastic on beaches blowing into the ocean, cutting down forests, burning fossil fuels, etc.

Yola wanted to change that and inspire younger kids to help her educate and lessen the effects of Climate Change. She started an Eco club, where they proceed to clean up beaches, go to marches and hold inspirational speeches for all ages to hear.

She also finds it important that schools start teaching about Climate Change, as it would be an effective way to get even younger kids interested in helping improve our climate. It is, after all, their future and they would have to live with the consequences of Climate Change.

But most of all, her goal is to unite people of different races, ages, and cultures to fight Climate Change together as one.

Josephine Brassey



Illustration by Zerena Dutta-Nielsen

Zeitumstellung

Wir alle kennen sie, wir alle werden von ihr beeinflusst: die Zeitumstellung. Jedes Jahr am letzten Sonntag im März und Oktober wird die Zeit umgestellt. Im März eine Stunde nach vorne, zur Sommerzeit, und im Oktober eine Stunde wieder zurück, zur Winterzeit.

Es wird diskutiert, ob die Umstellung abgeschafft werden sollte. Eigentlich hatte die EU sich auch hierfür entschieden. Aber noch ist nichts passiert und es gibt einige Komplikationen.

Doch zunächst müssen wir verstehen, warum es die Zeitumstellung überhaupt gibt. Ursprünglich wurde sie eingeführt, da es im Sommer abends schon relativ früh dunkel wurde und dadurch die Stromkosten stiegen, weil man Licht erzeugen musste.

Mit der Umstellung war es eine Stunde länger hell und auch morgens ging die Sonne nicht mehr so früh auf. Doch da man im Winter lieber morgens wenigstens etwas Licht haben wollte, musste die Zeit wieder zurückgedreht werden. In der EU gibt es seit 1994 eine einheitliche Sommerzeit, zu der in allen Ländern die Uhr umgestellt wird.

Die Zeitumstellung hat aber auch Nachteile. Wie vermutlich einige von euch schon bemerkt haben, ist man nach der Umstellung oft in einer Art Jet-Lag. Man ist müder, gereizter und kann sich manchmal schlechter konzentrieren.

Unsere innere Uhr richtet sich nämlich nach der Sonnenuhr, die natürlich nicht umgestellt wird. Es ist also so, als würde man in eine andere Zeitzone fliegen. Der Körper kann sich aber nicht an den unveränderten Licht-Dunkel-Rhythmus anpassen und ist dadurch verwirrt.

Einige Länder stellen die Zeit nicht um. In Europa finden sich viele Menschen, die gegen die Zeitumstellung sind. Auch die EU hat mittlerweile entschieden, sie abzuschaffen. Eine EU-weite Umfrage zeigte, dass 84 Prozent der EU-Bürger die Abschaffung der Umstellung befürworten. Seit März 2019 unterstützt die EU-Kommission die Abschaffung öffentlich. Eigentlich sollte sie 2021 durchgeführt werden.

Doch damit die Reform gelingen kann, müssen sich alle Länder der EU einheitlich für Winter- oder Sommerzeit entscheiden. Da sie geografisch verteilt sind, gibt es bei bestimmten Zeitzonen in verschiedenen Ländern Probleme. Im Westen würde eine dauerhafte Sommerzeit dazu führen, dass die Sonne im Winter erst sehr spät aufgeht, während eine dauerhafte Winterzeit im Osten dazu führen würde, dass es sehr früh dunkel wird.

Doch auch einzelne Länder haben unterschiedliche Vorlieben. Wenn nun die Länder im Osten und Westen unterschiedliche Zeitzonen hätten, wäre das nicht so schlimm. Doch wenn Nachbarländer dabei variierten, könnte das ihre Beziehungen belasten. Ein Beispiel hierfür sind die baltischen Staaten, die lieber die Sommerzeit einführen würden, während Finnland lieber durchgehend die Winterzeit hätte.

Solange sich die einzelnen Länder nicht einigen können, wird die Zeitumstellung bleiben. Wir müssen abwarten, was die Zukunft bringt, ob man sich irgendwie einigt oder anders zu einer Lösung kommt.

Melinda Koch

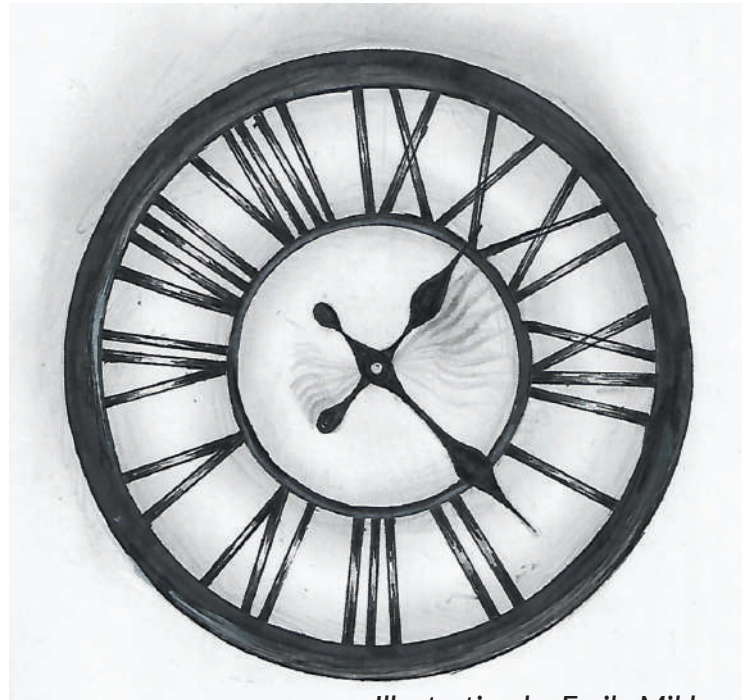


Illustration by Emily Miklas

Refugee Olympic Team

We all know some worldwide known athletes and teams. We read about them in the newspaper, see them on television – but have you ever heard of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Refugee Olympic Team? Not many know it exists. I wanted to share its story because I think it holds an inspirational message.

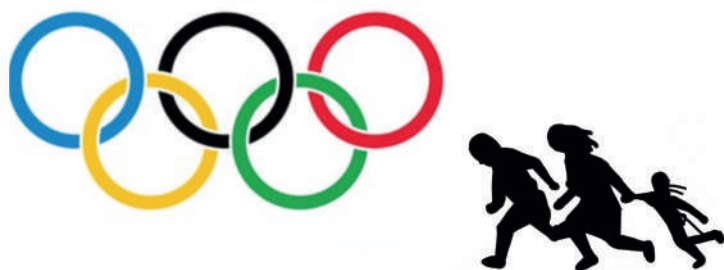


Illustration by Malvina Lilieholm

This team competed for the first time in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. The goal of the IOC when creating the team was to allow athletes to keep competing, even if they had been forced to leave their home countries, particularly during the global refugee crisis, that had seen millions of people in the world displaced.

In the 2016 Olympics, this team had only 10 athletes competing, but, in this last Olympics (Tokyo 2020), 29 athletes were representing the team.

They compete in 12 different sports and come from 11 different countries. They don't represent any specific nation or country, and that's why they compete under the Olympic Flag.

All athletes don't live in the same country, and only meet rarely. Most of the athletes composing the team already competed in the national team of their native country, before having to emigrate.

Yusra Mardini is probably the most famous athlete of the team. She used to live in Syria, and had to emigrate with her older sister Sarah to Europe, finally settling in Berlin, Germany, where they were later joined by their parents and younger sister. She was among the 3 first candidates for representing the team in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and finally made her way to both 2016 and 2020 Olympics. She competed in swimming, more specifically in the 100 m women's freestyle and butterfly, but has not won any medals yet.

A few years ago, Yusra published a book – *Butterfly: From Refugee to Olympian, My Story of Rescue, Hope and Triumph* –, her autobiography, telling how she went from refugee to Olympian, everything seen from her point of view. Lately, Netflix has announced working on a new movie titled "The Swimmers", based on the true story of Syrian refugees turned Olympic swimmers, Sarah and Yusra Mardini.

After seeing that the Refugee Olympic Team was turning well, the members of the IOC thought that a Refugee Paralympic Team (RPT) should also exist...

And in this last Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, we found this team competing for the first time, with 6 athletes – 1 woman and 5 men – in 4 different sports (Athletics, Canoe, Swimming and Taekwondo).

The "Chef de Mission" of the team is Ileana Rodríguez, a refugee from Cuba who competed in the London 2012 Paralympic Games in swimming for the USA.

The Chef de Mission, or "head of mission", of an Olympic team is an ambassador for the entire team, leading into and during the Games. The position is often filled by former Olympic athletes.

Before this Refugee Paralympic Team, the Independent Paralympic Athletes Team, that was kind of the same, already existed, but was deleted when the RPT was created, even though some athletes from the eldest team were either taken or moved into the new team.

These 2 teams represent more than 82 million people around the world that have been forced to flee war, persecution, and human rights abuses, 12 millions of whom live with a disability.

Siegfried

The legend of Luxembourg's founding as a result of a devilish bargain

The myth of Melusina is, without a doubt, Luxembourg's most well-known legend. I'm sure you have all heard about the mermaid-like creature who dives in the rivers of Luxembourg. But I find that her husband - the man who fell in love with the lake maiden and then broke his promise about keeping his wife's true nature a secret - has a far more interesting myth.

Legend tells that Siegfried the 1st, the founder of the Luxembourg house, and later the first prince of Luxembourg, went hunting and somehow got lost. He ended up at Bockfiels, the rocky cliffs over Alzette River. Looking up at the cliff, he realized that this was the ideal spot for him to build his dream home, a magnificent castle, which is now a ruin and a popular tourist attraction in the city.

He sold his fields and castle, a nice piece of land near Ettelbruck, without hesitation in order to purchase the rock from the abbey in Trier. But Siegfried, in his haste to purchase the property, overlooked a minor detail. He lacked the financial means to construct the castle on the hill. In his fury, he cursed the devil. A reckless decision.

Hearing his name, Satan himself appeared next to him in the hopes of a good trade. He was able to persuade Siegfried to make a deal with him, just like he did with Goethe's Faust a few hundred years later. He promised the young man that he would build a marvelous castle over the course of a single night. In exchange, he would receive his soul after a period of 30 years. Siegfried, lacking other choices, agreed and shook the hands of the hoofed guy.

The Satan kept his promise and, the next day, the full-on castle appeared. Siegfried happily lived in the Satan's creation for the next 30 years. He made Luxembourg into a flourishing principality and soon became the ruler of the land. But the bad decision he made had slowly found a way to creep back in. Consumed in anxiety of losing his soul, Siegfried tried to donate as much as he could to the one thing that could save him from the grasp of the devil. The church. He built temples, and organized readings for people, as if he could redeem his sin. But it was too late for that.

On the 30^{est} anniversary of the castle, Siegfried organized a huge banquet to at least enjoy his last minutes. Security was tight; hundreds of guards roamed the hallways of the castle, not letting one single person slip in without an invite. But the devil is a force no human can stop, so he appeared inside the mist of visitors, dressed in all black, and stretched out his hand for Siegfried to take. The ruler said his goodbyes to his people, took the Satan's hand, and they disappeared into thin air.

Years later, a priest claimed that the Satan only took Siegfried's body, and that he saw his soul fly up into the heavens to find peace. Did it happen because the ruler donated money to the church? Or maybe the only thing he needed to do to get to Paradise was to truly regret his past choices.

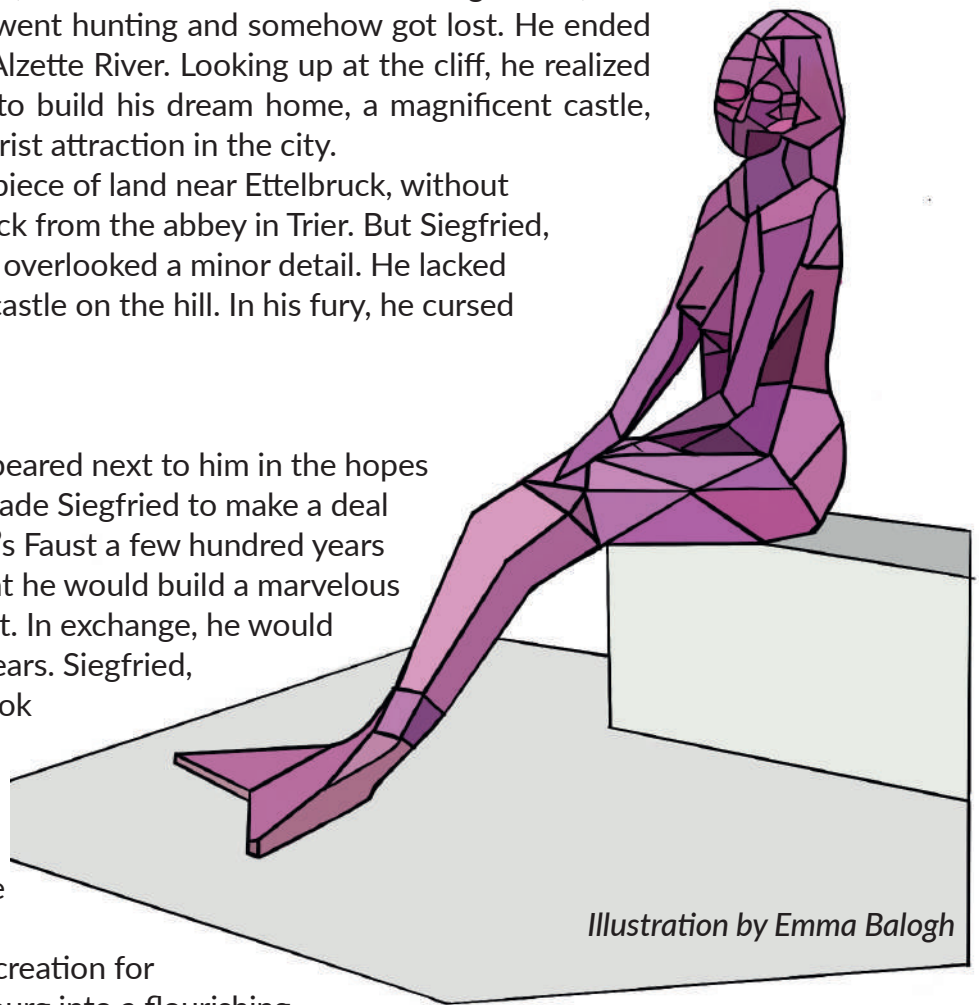


Illustration by Emma Balogh

Space travelling

Have you heard about the TV series "Star Trek"? If so, you probably know that it's about the future, about travelling in space with spaceships, about galaxies, planets, and lots of other interesting things that people thought that would be impossible to explore. But now, the imaginary journeys in space, from Star Trek have become real life. What is even more amazing is that an actor from the series is one of the first ordinary people to travel to space!

First of all, let's define the meaning of the word "space": space is the area beyond the upper limits of Earth's atmosphere. It is where all the asteroids, comets, planets, stars, solar systems and galaxies in our universe are found. Space is a vacuum, which means it contains almost nothing but it is not completely empty. On Earth, space begins at the Kármán line (100 km above sea level). This is where Earth's atmosphere ends and outer space begins.

On October 4th 2021, the founder of Amazon, Jeff Bezos' aerospace company Blue Origin announced that the Emmy Award-winning actor, William Shatner, aka Captain James T. Kirk of the original Star Trek films, will travel on the New Shepard rocket for the NS-18 mission – the historic program's eighteenth mission.



Illustration by Brina Gulič

The actor from "Star Trek" has finally made his way to space on October 13th, 2021. At 90 years old, he set the record for the oldest person to go to space! William Shatner was on a quest to launch to space and was willing to pay a lot of money to do so.

However, it appears that he paid nothing for the ticket. Mr. Shatner, along with Audrey Powers, Blue Origin's vice president of mission and flight operations, were listed as guests for the trip.

More space journeys have taken place recently or are planned for the near future. On September 15th 2021, the inventor of Tesla, Elon Musk's SpaceX company sent four people to space for tourist purposes. Another space enterprise, Virgin Galactic, is planning to send tourists to space every 32 hours by 2023, with the price of \$250.000 each ticket.

Private citizens have flown to space before, but they have always gone on government-owned spacecraft and with trained astronauts by their side. They were simply rich enough to afford it ; paying about \$20 million for the trip. Others were extremely wealthy people, who decided to spend a part of their fortune on a ticket. One man, Richard Garriott, paid \$30 million to "visit" space for 12 days! Only about 550 people have ever travelled to space. Now, some companies are letting any healthy person who is 18 or older go to space.

The world is dominated by the view that these events contribute to the evolution of technology and that it has advanced so much that everything is possible nowadays. Moreover, some people agree with the opinion that these journeys are a huge step for humanity, because now the world knows that, in the future, ordinary humans will be able to leave Earth more easily, if needed, mainly because of climate change.

However, many other people say that instead of focusing on important problems on our planet, we are wasting money on space trips just for fun. It is believed, for example, that a small percentage of some billionaires' wealth could suffice to eliminate world hunger.

Being, myself, passionate about science and space, I would love to participate in all of the initiatives to explore space and exploit it for the benefit of humanity.

At the same time, I need to see our planet become a better place to live for my generation and the next to come.

Maximos Sortikos

Don't choose extinction

As we all know, dinosaurs went extinct; disappeared, after getting hit by asteroids. They didn't really have a choice. But what's our excuse? We are going extinct by ourselves!

In a news report, the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) said that the amount of money spent by governments annually to support fossil fuel companies could be used to pay for every person on the planet to be vaccinated against Covid-19 (US \$423 billion). Right now, in Glasgow, Scotland, 197 countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are attending the COP26 summit, a large meeting that brings countries together to discuss climate change problems, whose aim is to make actions to battle climate change and slow the Earth's warming.



Speaking of climate change, I recently watched short new film, produced by the United Nations Development Programme, in which Frankie the Dinosaur, voiced by the famous actor Jack Black and animated with CGI, urges humans to change course before it's too late.

During the film, an unexpected, strange visitor shows up in the UN General Assembly, warning world leaders to act against climate change – a dinosaur! A speech delivered by this unique guest highlighting that it's 'Now or Never' is currently breaking the internet.

In the film, as the dinosaur enters the building and walks through the aisle, the representatives are shocked and terrified. However, instead of starting to chase or eat everyone in the room, Frankie stands on the podium and begins a speech.

"Listen up, people. I know a thing or two about extinction,". "Going extinct is a bad thing. But driving yourselves extinct? In 70 million years? That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard", said Frankie. We are driving ourselves extinct, destroying our OWN planet. We are headed towards a climate disaster, and yet the governments keep investing in fossil fuels, which harm the natural environment, while hundreds of millions of people live in poverty. With all that money, we could do a lot of other important and useful things, and eventually save our species.

And so, Frankie ends his speech with an important message to humanity: save your species before it's too late. Stop making excuses and start making changes. It's now or never.

Konstantinos Sortikos

January 2022 Horoscopes

**Aries:**

You've had a tough time recently, but a pleasant surprise awaits you very soon. Be prepared and keep your chin up.

**Taurus:**

You will face a tough choice. Take time to think about it and choose carefully, so you make the right decision.

**Gemini:**

Someone new and important will enter your life unexpectedly when you're feeling low.

**Cancer:**

Your recent heartbreak hurts now, but it will be fixed, by someone you already know.

**Leo:**

Remember to speak your mind and don't let others boss you around. It might feel difficult, but standing up for yourself will do you good.

**Virgo:**

Sometimes simplifying things helps. By letting go of something or someone important now, you'll save yourself from nearby chaos.

**Libra:**

Ask your friend to pick you their favorite book and annotate it. You deserve some rest and alone time.

**Scorpio:**

Don't lie to yourself, because it will only make things worse. Be honest and stay true to yourself, it will be better in the long run.

**Sagittarius:**

By confronting that person who is making your life more difficult and letting go, you will grow into a peaceful mind.

**Capricorn:**

Make sure to have your closest friend's best interests at heart when advising them on what to do. This will make their as well as your life easier.

**Aquarius:**

You've been through a lot. cry it out and get some rest, because you're worth it. Never forget that.

**Pisces:**

Don't cling onto that person just because you like the idea of them. like them for who they really are until you see their true colors.

Le dragon noir

Il était une fois, dans un lointain pays, un dragon noir comme la nuit.

Ce dragon, grâce aux petites tâches blanches qui parsemaient son corps noir, devenait invisible dans la nuit. Là où il passait, tout n'était plus que cendres et désolation. Nombreux étaient ceux qui le défiaient, mais peu, voire aucun ne s'en sortait vivant.



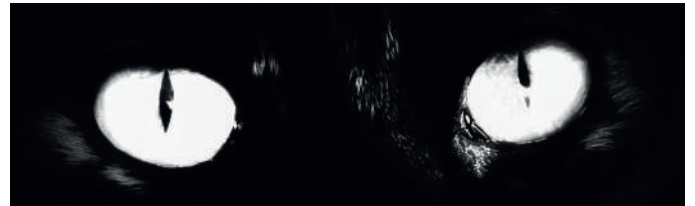
Le royaume, qui faisait jadis la fierté de son roi, dépérissait à vue d'œil. Le roi, désespéré, avait décidé qu'il donnerait la main de la princesse, une ravissante jeune femme, à celui qui tuerait le dragon. Les affiches annonçant la nouvelle attirèrent de nombreux hommes, qui échouèrent lamentablement face au dragon.

Vint alors un jeune homme, Charles, gentil et très attachant. Celui-ci décida de relever ce défi afin de venger son père qu'il n'avait que peu connu, et qui avait été tué par le dragon. Avant de mourir, l'homme avait réussi à mettre Charles en sécurité en le confiant à un paysan qui l'avait élevé comme son fils. Charles ne se plaignait jamais, travaillait rude auprès de ce père adoptif, mais nourrissait en secret son désir de vengeance.

Le roi prêta à Charles un pur-sang noir. Sur sa nouvelle monture, il traversa par monts et par vaux le pays pendant de longues semaines. Arrivé au terme d'un long périple, il parvint finalement devant le dragon, qui dormait dans une grotte humide et sombre.

Charles, profitant de cette sieste, construisit une chausse-trappe puis fit du bruit pour réveiller le monstre.

Le dragon attiré par le bruit, se retourna vers Charles, affamé, et fonça vers lui. Le jeune homme courut derrière le piège et le dragon tomba dedans, s'arrachant une aile au passage. Ses cris de douleur résonnèrent dans tout le pays. Il se releva tant bien que mal et repartit à la charge. Le garçon l'esquiva puis lui sauta dessus. Le dragon se cabra de toute ses forces pour le déloger de son dos mais n'y parvint pas. Le jeune garçon enfonça son épée dans la nuque du dragon. Il tomba, raide mort. Le garçon lui coupa la tête et revint chez lui au grand soulagement de son père adoptif.



Il alla devant le roi, se prosterna et montra la tête du dragon. Pendant que le roi s'extasiait, notre pourfendeur de dragon vit la belle princesse et en tomba éperdument amoureux. Le roi tint sa promesse et donna la main de sa fille au jeune homme.

Celui-ci promit de revenir pour l'épouser mais dit qu'il devait d'abord terminer sa mission.

Il revint dans le village de son père adoptif pour lui témoigner sa gratitude et lui annoncer qu'il avait enfin pu venger la mémoire de son père. Ensemble, ils contemplèrent le paysage et le ciel rougeoyant au coucher du soleil. Charles pensa à son père qui l'avait protégé et sauvé au péril de sa propre vie et se promit d'être digne de lui.

Après les adieux à son père adoptif, il retrouva le roi et épousa la belle princesse.

Illustrations by Apolline Petit-Jean

Benjamin Ganter

The Game

In an underground room, hidden to the world, a man was laughing maniacally. Today, his dreams would finally come true. All his years of hard work would finally be worth it. As his laugh began to fade, he got up from his chair and looked at the video cameras in his office. They showed a young woman. She was his first player. The Game was finally ready...

She blinked a couple of times. Where was she? The room where she seemed to be appeared surreal; large stone walls, with giant monster statues adorning them. Several aligned grids seemed to overlook cells. It was cold and the air was heavy. Her ears were ringing. She looked around, trying to find a clue to help her figure out what was going on. A body lay on the floor. Lifeless, it was covered in blood. She tried to scream but no sound came out of her mouth. Suddenly she took a step and shot the person on the ground in the head. What was happening? Why did she shoot that person? Why couldn't she control her body anymore? Without warning, a voice coming from her laughed "It was just to check, but no hard feelings, right?" followed by a mocking snicker. It seemed to be aimed at the dead corpse on the ground.

Who was that other person using her body? Why was he so cruel?? All of these questions were unanswered and as her confusion grew, a loud voice resonated in the whole room. "Congratulations, you have completed the task. Please go to the nearest portal to find your next assignment." That's when it struck her. She was in a game. A horrible and barbarous game but a real one this time. And her body was used as an avatar.

While she was realizing that, the portal was opening and the Other One (that's what she had decided to call the person using her body) jumped in it. And that's how, one after the other, she had to see all the horrors the avatar did. Of course, sometimes, she told herself that it was just a video game. But if she was a real human would that mean that all the other persons in the game were real too? Would that imply that if they died in the game they also die in real life? She promised herself that it will not happen to her. That she will find a way to get out of this game before she could get hurt. And she was working on it...

With every new assignment she gained more control over the Other One and her body. Sometimes, she could stop the Other One or say something. Then she learned how to make the other turn in a different direction, stop eating something and stop moving. These were little steps but somehow, she knew that they could change something. That they were not supposed to happen and that the person controlling the whole game knew it too. At one point she also realized that the avatar wasn't meant to have her conscience. That her soul wasn't supposed to be there in the first place. She was disturbing the natural course of the game.

And then it happened, the Glitch. Everything started to shake, blue and white lights appeared everywhere, all things were starting to disintegrate, her sight was becoming blurry. And then nothing...

The next morning, she woke up in a hospital completely disoriented. She had been in an unconscious state for the last 2 months. The TV was on, and she could hear the news presenter say "[...] doctors report an inexplicably high number of comas for no apparent reason and no awakenings. They fear that a new disease has appeared and..." So, she had been right. Real people played and real people were getting murdered.

In his belowground lair the man fuming. She had destroyed his creation. She was the one who ruined everything. But he would get his revenge. The girl still had the chip. He could still control her and all the others. So, when everything is ready again, because it will be, he swore himself, she would finish playing...

Evdokia Stefanik



Illustration by Emma Balogh

Entretien

Un élève, un avis

Ce dernier mois a été très riche en actualités politiques, c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire.

Les affrontements diplomatiques entre l'Union Européenne et la Pologne gouvernée par le Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Droit et justice), la Conférence des parties 26 à Glasgow, les révélations de l'ancienne salariée de Facebook Frances Haugen, les débats concernant le "wokisme", rien n'arrête les imprimantes des rédactions de journaux.

Pour réagir aux événements de cette semaine, quoi de mieux qu'un élève.

À l'occasion de cette édition du "Pupil's Voice", Bruno Rull (S7ESB) n'a pas hésité une seule seconde à accepter la proposition d'entretien.



Illustration by Emma Balogh

–Bonjour Bruno.

–Bonjour.

–Avant d'aborder les sujets d'actualité, je veux te remercier pour ta disponibilité.

–Merci à vous, je vais répondre avec plaisir à vos questions.

–Donc, pour ouvrir le bal, le Groupe des vingt a eu lieu à Rome (Italie) ce week-end, les chefs d'état ont évoqué principalement, lors de leurs réunions, le réchauffement climatique. Est-ce que tu penses que à la suite de cet événement diplomatique on peut s'attendre à des gros changements politiques ?

–J'espère que oui ! Mais malheureusement je pense que rien ne va changer. En 2015, une grande conférence a eu lieu à Paris, en 1995, la diplomatie mondiale s'était donné rendez-vous à Kyoto pour contrer le réchauffement climatique. Que des belles paroles lors de ces rassemblements, mais selon moi, les actes et les résultats sont encore invisibles ou très minces. Je pense donc que les conclusions de ce G20 et de la Cop26 de Glasgow ne vont avoir aucun impact réel sur le monde.

–Le président espagnol Pedro Sánchez avait l'air très optimiste et très satisfait à la suite des réunions avec les différents chefs d'état. Si rien n'avance, que doit- selon toi -faire la jeunesse ?

–Nous devrions essayer deux choses. Premièrement, agir individuellement, changer notre mode vie et discuter de ceci avec notre entourage proche. Sinon, à l'image des manifestations qui ont eu lieu avant le Covid-19, nous pouvons nous rassembler pour rappeler aux politiciens quelles sont nos priorités.

–Ces dernières semaines, la question du rapport entre les peuples et l'histoire se pose à nouveau. Une partie de la communauté latino, suite à la fête nationale de l'Espagne qui célèbre la "découverte de l'Amérique" le 12 octobre, a déploré le fait qu'on puisse fêter un événement qui a fait des morts par la suite. Ils ont demandé à l'État, comme certains algériens suite à la commémoration du 17 octobre 1961 en France, de demander "pardon". Que penses-tu de la relation que doivent entretenir les peuples à leur histoire ?

–En tant qu'espagnol, je pense qu'on doit regarder l'histoire en face, accepter et donc, ne pas nier ce

que nos ancêtres on fait en Amérique. Cependant, je ne pense pas que les Espagnols de 2021 ont le devoir de demander pardon au nom de l'État pour des actes commis majoritairement entre le XVIIème et le XVIIIème siècle.

Je dis ceci car, les Espagnols d'aujourd'hui, nous n'y sommes pour rien de ces actes commis il y a des centaines d'années. En revanche, je pense qu'il est important de "créer" une version objective des faits historiques pour que les peuples puissent avoir une version non-biaisée par l'idéologie et les intérêts politiques. Il est important de conserver une version "saine" de cette histoire pour pouvoir aussi apprendre des erreurs du passé.

-Donc, quelle est ton opinion vis à vis du conflit israélo-palestinien, qui engage des combattants qui se battent aujourd'hui à cause de querelles vieilles de plusieurs millénaires parfois ?

-La situation dans le Proche Orient est très compliqué. Je pense qu'il faut engager pleinement la société et utiliser l'éducation comme levier pour refermer les cicatrices.

-Pour continuer, par rapport à la Pologne, que devrait faire l'Union Européenne quand un État-membre ne respecte pas les traités ?

-L'Union Européenne devrait agir fermement, le cas de la Pologne est l'exemple parfait du laxisme de Bruxelles. L'UE doit être strict quand un État-membre ne respecte pas les parties fondamentales des traités telles que l'indépendance de la justice et la suprématie des traités européens.

-Comment l'UE peut agir face à ce genre de problématiques ?

-L'Union Européenne devrait user de méthodes plus punitives (éliminer leur droit de vote, sanctions financières) pour créer un organisme stable et fort. Si les mesures ne fonctionnent pas, l'administration de Bruxelles devrait réfléchir à l'exclusion des « mauvais élèves » de cette union qui débuta après la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Ce qui me semble important c'est de ne pas juste sanctionner au niveau financier mais aussi au niveau politique.

-Actuellement, Frances Haugen est en train de faire un tour du monde expliquant les méthodes qu'utilise Meta (anciennement Facebook). Elle dit, notamment, que la grande entreprise néglige les dangers que peuvent avoir les plateformes vis à vis des plus jeunes. Quel est ton avis vis à vis de l'impact des réseaux sociaux dans la politique ? Ont-ils trop de pouvoir ? Sont-ils trop dangereux ?

-Ils interviennent totalement dans la sphère politique. Je pense très sérieusement qu'il va falloir rapidement corriger leurs actions sinon il faudra les éliminer définitivement.

-Éliminer les réseaux sociaux ?

-Si on enlève le fait qu'ils sont un objet utile pour la communication entre membres de la société, ils sont un véritable poison. Ils créent de la jalousie et des stéréotypes. Ils changent le cours des élections, ils manipulent la population, ils pratiquent la culture des « Fake News » et plus grave encore, ils sont le domicile idéal des groupes extrémistes qui font ce qu'ils veulent dans l'espace médiatique.

-Penses-tu que la société va de moins en moins bien avec les réseaux sociaux ? Est-ce qu'ils ne sont pas finalement le meilleur recours pour la liberté d'expression ?

-Clairement, la situation va de moins en moins bien. La société ne sait plus voir la différence entre les réseaux sociaux et la réalité ! Nous sommes hyper connectés.

De plus, il est amusant de constater qu'avant nous avions plus de liberté d'expression. Sur Twitter, par exemple, nous avons tellement de liberté d'expression que cette liberté est utilisée pour bloquer la liberté de parole d'autres acteurs de la société. Par exemple, ceci peut être vrai quand les internautes appellent au boycott massif de certaines personnalités médiatiques à cause de faits qui peuvent être avérés ou pas.

-Merci pour cet entretien !

-À bientôt.

34 Pupils' Committee ESL1

Advertisement

Welcome to the school year!

The Pupil's Committee of Kirchberg is excited to represent our school and the students.

We are currently working on bringing back our annual events such as the S1-S3 disco, 16+ parties, LuxFactor and Euronight in cooperation with CoSup. Our team has lots of ideas that are going to make this year another great one! For example, we have started posting on our new TikTok account, where you can find fun videos about our school and the Committee.



Of course, we will be selling our school hoodies again this year as usual. The school merch brings us together, and this year we have added more options to choose from! In addition to the hoodies, a school sweater and a tote bag are now available as well.

Interview with Léo, our President

What do you do as the president?

One thing I like about being the President of the PC is that you get to be involved in so many different topics – and that's exactly what I do. Together with the whole group, we're working on turning raw ideas into concrete actions. A big part of being President is to steer and organise the work of the Pupils' Committee. From representing students' opinions and meeting with various stakeholders of the school to chairing the weekly PC meetings or organising a merch sale, there's always something going on. Trust me, if you become President, you won't be bored – for sure.

What motivated you to join the Pupil's Committee?

Definitely the fact that within the PC, you get to see and be a part of the inner workings of the school and also contribute to improvements. You get to meet so many people around here, whether they are other fellow students, parents, teachers, directors or other staff members. At first, having to make a speech to join the PC may sound terrifying, but in reality it really isn't that bad and the efforts we are all making are absolutely worth it!

What are you most looking forward to in the PC this year?

We have many exciting projects and plans coming up! At each of our events – such as the S1-S3 discos, the LuxFactor talent show, 16+ parties and Euronight, which we are working on together with CoSup – it is truly satisfying to reach the day of the event after a long preparation. We're also looking into the possibility of having an S4-S5 event this year.

What achievement of ours are you most proud of?

As the year is still quite fresh, one of our achievements so far is the brand new school merch products we have introduced. I'm also really happy that we managed to have fully in situ PC elections and Class Rep meetings, which was not possible last year. On top of that, we have already managed to plan a S1-S3 disco under safe sanitary circumstances!

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and successful school year!

The Pupils' Committee

Any suggestions?
Straight to our letterbox next to B001
(Lux 1)!



@pc.kirchberg



@pc-kirchberg



@pc.kirchberg



contact@pupilscom-esl1.eu

Straight to our letterbox next to A201 (Lux 2)!

Any suggestions?

Pupils' Committee ESL2 ³⁵

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The Pupils' Committee is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of all students within the administration. We are working to improve our daily life at the European School of Luxembourg II. This year, we can be proud of having succeeded in creating such a close link with the various bodies of the school administration. Indeed, this link allows us to carry out various projects, which we will tell you about in this article.

First, let's start talking about one of our greatest projects since the beginning of the year: the feminine hygiene products' project. As you may already know, feminine hygiene products have been put in the girls' toilets at the school, so that they do not have to go to the nursery in case of need. This gesture was greatly appreciated, and we had a lot of positive feedbacks, which means that this project can be funded by the parents' association or directly by the school, allowing us to have even more products of better quality.

Secondly and as always, let's talk about... Water fountains! The project is, like every year, discussed by members of the school's administration. This year, the canteen committee is thinking about putting some

water fountains in the cafeteria. If they manage to do this, we will surely be able to have water fountains in the whole school!

Now, let's talk FUN! How annoying would the school be without all those spirit days, lawn mowers (Spirit Day: bring anything but a backpack to school (theme respected by the way)) and parties? Well, we don't want to find out, so we will organise monthly spirit days! After some problems with the spirit days, we are still able to do them if the school rules are respected during those (i.e.: do NOT bring a lawn mower to school!). We are also looking forward to seeing all of you at our different parties: S1 to S3 Disco – S4 to S5 Prom – 16+ Event, if we have the possibility to organise them!

I know you are sad that it's already the end of this article and that you can't read through other amazing ideas, but no worries, if you want you can read all our meeting minutes on our website and please, contact us if you have any good ideas! Love you all <3

Best regards,

Your Pupils' Committee

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know



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