

The Pupils' Voice

Your right to know

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Edition 44



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Escalation in the Middle East

The pressure on teenagers to have it all figured out

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Lisbon's quiet genius

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DEAR READERS,

It is with great pleasure we present you with the 44th edition of the European Schools Newspaper «The Pupils' Voice».

The Pupils' Voice is always growing -just like students at the school- and exploring different aspects of life.

This year, we have reached an unprecedented milestone, fielding our biggest team ever: over 105 students dedicated to piecing this newspaper together. It takes a village to make a project like this come to life.

We are extremely lucky to have a devoted team that each year, works very hard to create what you're holding.

So thank you to our journalists, editors, illustrators, comic artists, proofreaders, designers, IT, PR managers and treasurers. And, of course, thank you for your support and for reading The Pupils' Voice.

Warm thanks for the EIB for funding projects such as ours, your support is what makes The Pupils' Voice possible!

Léa Guérard and Vilja Heinonen, Editors-in-chief of The Pupils' Voice
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Visit to the European Parliament on 11th February

Lucas Netrval
S7ENC LUX 2

On Wednesday, February 11th, our S7 political science class (S7SCP-A), alongside the other class, swapped the Mamer campus for the corridors of the European Parliament. We were there to meet with Isabel Wiseler-Lima, a Luxembourgish Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the Christian Social People's Party/European People's Party (CSV/EPP). While school trips to the Parliament and interviews with MEPs can sometimes feel like a series of rehearsed talking points, this one was a little different.

Wiseler-Lima, who spent 25 years as a teacher before entering politics, was incredibly candid with us. She admitted right away that she was stepping out of her "teacher mode" to give us a raw, political perspective. "I wouldn't have answered that as a teacher," she noted, "I don't think any of my students ever knew which party I belonged to."

The Conflict: Ecology vs. Survival

One of the most shocking parts of the discussion was how she addressed the environment. For years, Wiseler-Lima's work, both as an educator and as a politician, revolved around human rights and protecting nature. She told us how, 25 years ago, she was always bringing texts about "protecting nature" into her classroom. However, she was very honest about the fact that she felt it vital to shift her priorities.

She explained that while ecology is still vital, it has had to take a backseat to the immediate survival of democracy. "Today, I am convinced that if I want to be able in the future to talk about ecology and human rights, I have today to put [defense] at the forefront," she said. It was a heavy admission. She basically told us that if democracy falls to a dictatorship, we can "forget everything else"—including the green agenda. For her, it's a painful but necessary trade-off: "If for the moment I have to put to the back the rules I have been defending for years now, I do."

Waking up from the "Pink World"

This shift in priorities stems from what she described as the end of our "naivety" regarding global threats. She argued that Europe has spent too long living in a "pink world"—a bubble in which we assume that everybody else wishes to live by our democratic standards.

"If we don't take that into account, we are in a pink world that is only our world, but that will be blown away if we don't make measures," she warned. She pointed out that dictatorships like Russia don't share our logic or our value for human life. This led into her most sobering comment of the day: "If you want to avoid the war, prepare the war." It's a tough message for our generation, but she was adamant that being ready to fight is the only way to ensure we never have to.

The "Nightmare" of European Unity

We also asked about how the EU can actually get anything done when it's so divided. Wiseler-Lima didn't hold back on the internal "nightmare" of the European Council. She described the current system—where one country can block everything—as a recipe for blackmail.

She specifically pointed to the difficulties with the Hungarian government but noted that even "democratic" countries sometimes use their veto to hold the Union hostage for national interests. Her solution? Moving to Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) for foreign policy. "We have to learn to be faster," she argued, "but without throwing democracy away. I prefer it's slow and complicated than to have a small or big dictator saying how things should go."

"You Are the Idiot"

On the topic of the economy and global competition, the MEP gave us another dose of Realpolitik. She talked about how Europe often plays by the rules while others, like China and even the US at times, don't.

"Take any situation where you respect the rules and the other is not. You are the idiot," she said. It was a surprisingly informal way to describe global trade, but it made her point clear: Europe needs to be more "effective on a geopolitical level" rather than just being the "nice guy" on the world stage. She warned that we are losing our industries because we are fighting with our hands tied by regulations that our competitors simply ignore.

Final Thoughts: "Win Together or Lose Separately"

Despite the heavy talk about "bazooka" commercial tactics and military preparedness, the meeting ended on a more personal note. Wiseler-Lima talked about her own life—her Irish granddaughter, her son living in Ireland, and her friends across Hungary and Germany.

She told us that when she votes, she doesn't just think about Luxembourg; she thinks as a European. "We will win altogether or we'll lose separately," she warned.

As we left the Parliament and headed back to Luxembourg, it felt like the "ideal" of Europe we study in our textbooks is at a major crossroads. It wasn't a "feel-good" session, but it was an honest look at the world we are about to enter as voters. The "pink world" might be fading, and the green transition might be facing a temporary pause for defence, but the determination to protect the core of European democracy was very much alive in that room.

—Article by S7SCP-A European parliament trip group 5—

Ed. Julia Dec S6ENC LUX 2

Escalation in the Middle East

Chanel Bordet S7FRC LUX 1

Recently, tensions in the Middle East have heightened, leading to a direct confrontation between the United States, Israel, and Iran. What began as a series of military strikes has now developed into a full-scale crisis involving these nations and others. These tensions between these nations have been simmering for a while and can be linked to decades of hostility between Israel and Iran.

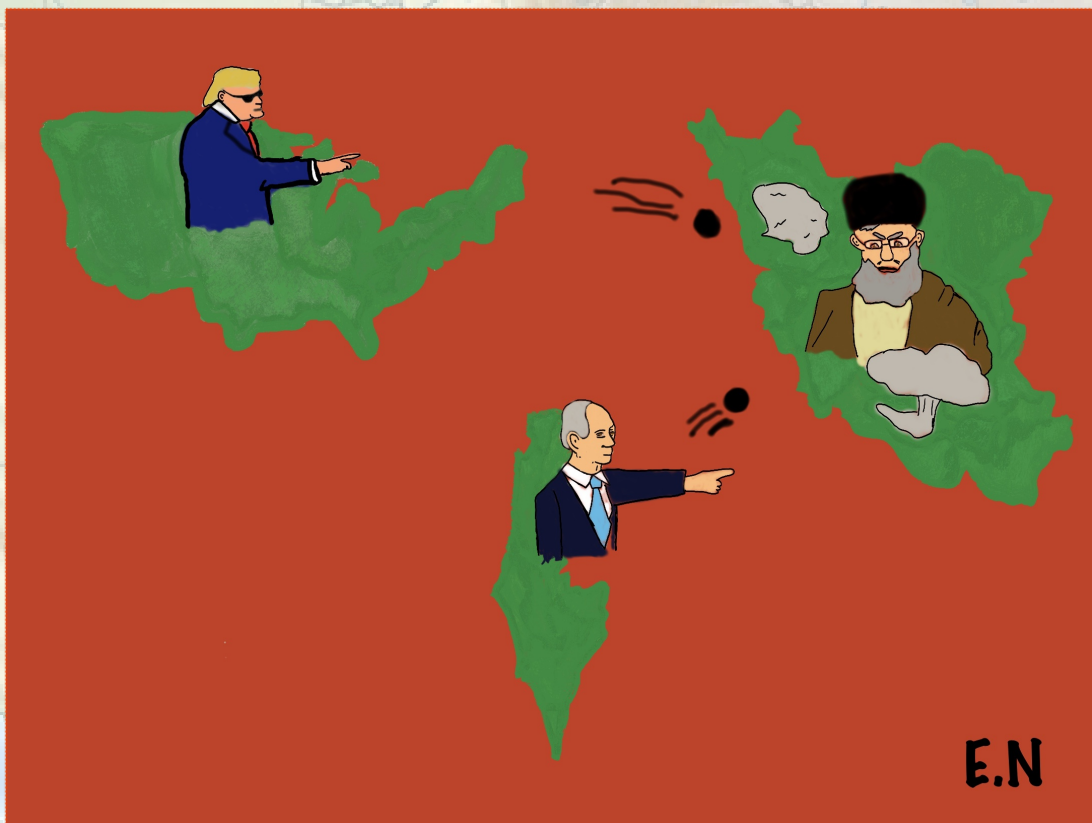
Iran has supported radical groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in Gaza, while Israel has repeatedly accused Iran of developing advanced missile technology and pursuing nuclear weapons, which could pose a threat to its security. This has led to decades of tension between these two nations, often manifesting itself as proxy wars since the mid-1980s.

The current escalations between these nations can be attributed to a military strike carried out by the United States and Israel on Iran's military infrastructure. The attack targeted strategic military installations and senior military officials. This action represents a shift from indirect confrontation to an open conflict due to its magnitude and targets. Iran retaliated with missiles and drones, targeting Israeli territory and American military bases in the Gulf region. Iranian authorities also threatened to disrupt maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait is a critical passage in international shipping and a significant proportion of the world's oil passes through this area. The threat has already had a noticeable impact on the global economy.

The conflict escalated further, and the allied forces in Lebanon entered the conflict, launching rockets into northern Israel, prompting additional retaliatory strikes. The situation has been further complicated by the reactions of neighbouring countries, and defensive forces from all over the world have been deployed to protect national and international interests and those of the allies. The conflict, though taking place in the Middle East, has already been felt around the world, with oil prices going up in anticipation of a possible disruption in the supply chain, international airlines diverting flights to avoid conflict zones, and heightened tensions at the United Nations, where emergency meetings were held regarding the conflict and the chances of further escalation. European countries' role has been defined as largely reactive, with a focus on protecting civilians and maintaining regional stability.

International law is a key aspect of the discourse on how to understand and evaluate this conflict. According to the Charter of the United Nations, states are prohibited from using force against another state unless it is done in self-defence or authorized by the Security Council. The strikes by the United States and Israel have been justified by both countries as necessary measures to defend themselves against a threat. However, it has also been argued that these strikes were not justified since they did not have authorization by the Security Council.

Moreover, it has also been argued that these strikes were not justified since there was an imminent threat that could be addressed by preventive strikes. Iran has justified its strikes as a measure of self-defense but it has been argued by legal experts that even if a state is acting in self-defense, it is still the responsibility of all parties to distinguish between civilians and military targets and to avoid the use of disproportionate force. As seen in the debates in the United Nations, as well as among legal experts, it is clear that there are legal aspects to the issue as well as political ones. The countries involved in the conflict are basing their actions on principles such as sovereignty, self-defense, and collective security. Despite the ineffectiveness of the enforcement mechanisms, international law remains an important criteria for measuring the actions of the countries involved in the conflict.



Elsa Nelvin S1SVA LUX 1

The escalation of the violence has been significant not just because of violence itself, but also because of the rapid progression of the regional tensions into a global phenomenon. The energy sector, as well as international travel and diplomacy has been affected by the conflict. However, this situation also highlights that international law remains an important part of global politics. The status of the situation remains unstable, and the long-term consequences of the conflict are not yet clear. However, it is obvious that the causes of this escalation and the resulting direct military confrontation have triggered one of the most critical international crises of the year.

Ed. Constance Bazireau S7FRC LUX 1

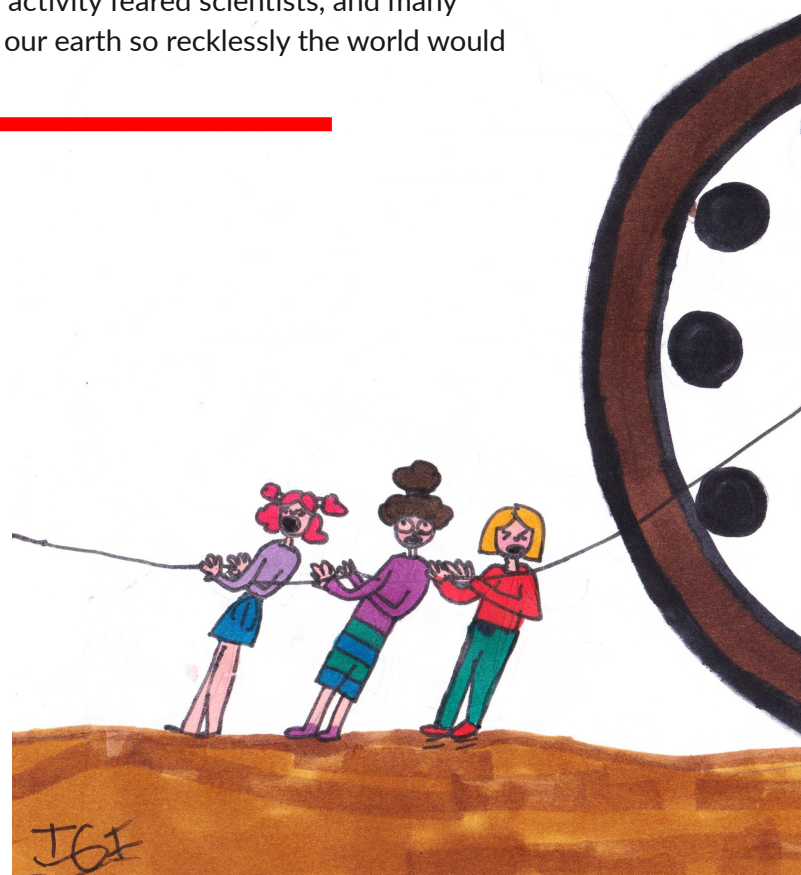


In 2026, our world received an enormously powerful and fearful reminder that our actions have consequences. The doomsday clock, created by atomic scientists is a tracker on how atomic bombs and environmental damage leads to our impending doom. The doomsday clock does not calculate a sure ending of the world, however it is a metaphor to warn the world that if we don't learn to treat ourselves and value our surroundings, we will dig a hole so deep to the end of humanity that we will never get back up.

THE DOOM DOOMSDAY

The clock was first introduced in 1947 after WW2 and during the escalation of the cold war. During this time nuclear activity feared scientists, and many believed that if we continued to treat our earth so recklessly the world would plummet.

When corporations do something to create peace and make strategic cuts to our issues the clock furthers from midnight. However, when threats appear the doomsday clock approaches midnight. When midnight strikes and the bells sound the earth wont crumble, but it will reach a state where the world can never go back to its original state. Think of the doomsday clock as a measure of cancer. If we do not treat cancer it can spread to a point where the human must die no matter what due to their own ignorance.





In 2026 the **doomsday clock** is reaching the lowest it ever has at a whopping 85 seconds to midnight. This event is not only due to one major event and is instead a pile of our negligence. Due to conflicts in many countries and our environments rapids descent the clock points closer towards midnight. However, bad things are not the only reason the seconds are decreasing. Our end is also caused by the rapid increase in inventions. In other words, we are being too smart too quickly and maybe we cannot control our power. It will only take 85 seconds. 85 seconds is less than a minute and a half. Have you ever spent time with friends and realized that 30 minutes already has passed? Then imagine how soon our end is.



OF THE CLOCK

Aayush Seth S3ENB LUX 1



The **small time** left is not an extremely critical indicator of how we treat our world but a plead for society to learn to respect the earth and cooperate with mankind. If humanity chooses to address these global challenges, there is still time to move the clock back from midnight.



Ed. Lina Welin S4SVA LUX 1



Inara Gongora-Tuncer S1ENA LUX 1



SUDOKU

				9			5	
			6			8		3
		3			2			9
	9			7	1	5		
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The pressure on teenagers to have it all figured out

Elsa Virkkunen S5FIA LUX 1

Young people are expected to know their plans and direction of their life way too early. When major decisions affecting your life sometimes must be made at as young as 15 years old, it's normal to not know what to do in the future. And often, adults talk about how the youth is so unmotivated and lazy. But teens just don't know and haven't found a passion yet. And it should not even be expected.

You can also on the other hand have so many things that you love doing, that it can be challenging and overwhelming just choosing one. Adults can often think that teenagers aren't interested in anything, but it can be the opposite. Many are interested in so many things, that it can be difficult to choose one path. This can feel strict and overshadowing, also sometimes fear or self-doubt might stand in the way.

Social media adds pressure on knowing your path unrealistically early as well. Many teenagers follow influencers who are 10 years older than them and have their life perfectly figured out. Content creators share the highlights of their life. But it isn't the reality. Who would post something about being confused or lost? Of course, you will make the best and most organized parts of your life public, not the confusion and disorder. Young people are comparing their ordinary Thursday to someone else's best day of their life. That's not real.

Personally, I don't know what I want to do in the future either. When someone asks me something like "What do you want to be when you grow up?" or "Any idea what you would like to study in the future?" I never know what to answer. I'm always scared that I'll end up hating my job when I'm older, that I choose and commit to something and then realise halfway that I actually hate it and it's not for me. But I know that things will fall into place. And if I actually do end up picking something I later discover doesn't interest me, it's never too late to change your path.

So, here's some advice for the next time you're stressing about the future: *just let it be. You'll find out eventually. Just relax and enjoy the becoming!*

Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENA LUX 1

The geopolitics of your entertainment

Johanna Larsson Krausová S7SVA LUX 1

Russia is competing in the Paralympic games, Israel is participating in Eurovision, and Donald Trump is the recipient of FIFA's peace prize. In recent years, criticism has been directed at major sports and cultural events for seemingly shifting from their traditional associations with values of unity, joy, and sportsmanship into a platform for something decidedly more sinister. However, these types of events being politically charged is nothing new.

International entertainment events have always been used as an opportunity to push certain agendas and ideas, and for good reason. People do not automatically associate the things they watch on TV for enjoyment with words like propaganda. They are paying attention to the ones they want to win, the performances of the athletes and artists they're watching, and enjoying the community it brings them rather than analyzing the broader implications of what's happening on their screen. It's easy to make viewers care about an individual they can root for in a competition, without realizing they are simultaneously rooting for a country they normally wouldn't.

This makes these occasions an ideal platform for countries to expand their "soft power" – their ability to influence others using appeal and persuasion rather than coercion. During the cold war, the US and USSR both heavily invested into their sports teams, both wanting to perform better than their opponent as it would be seen as a win both for the country and the ideology they represented. The Olympics were on multiple occasions used as a platform for political clashes and statements, for example during the US-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics following the Soviets' invasion of Afghanistan. Eurovision, despite explicitly calling itself non-political, has multiple times raised controversies regarding the

entries they have allowed to compete – including the 2016 Ukrainian winner, who was allowed to compete despite her song 1944 alluding to the deportation of Crimean Tatars by the Soviet Union. She went on to win the competition, in the context of the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014.



And yet, time after time the governing and organizing bodies of these events refuse to acknowledge their part in shaping the world. We hear over and over again that participants should remain neutral and that politics has no place in occasions such as these. In this year's Winter Olympics, Ukrainian skeleton athlete Vladyslav Heraskevych was disqualified after refusing to stop wearing a helmet featuring the faces of Ukrainian athletes killed during the war against Russia. The reasoning is that no political messaging is allowed by the athletes during the competition.

However, inaction is also political. Excluding Israel from Eurovision on the grounds of the government's human rights violations in Gaza would be a stance against the Israeli government's actions, and thus a political act. Not excluding Israel is a signal from the EBU that they do not view Israel's use of the competition to further their influence over viewers in Europe as a cause for concern, and is therefore also a political act. Wearing a helmet with the faces of your countrymen who died in an international conflict

is politically charged. Choosing to disqualify someone wearing said helmet means promoting neutrality in a conflict where the existence of an obvious aggressor means that any so-called neutrality must be viewed as a refusal to condemn the aggression, and thus a support of the aggressor.

International events of any kind are, have always been, and will always be political. There will always be discussions over who should be allowed to compete in them under what terms. People will always have different opinions, and that has to be fine in a world where democracy is valued. However, international organizations explaining their rulings in these situations by saying that.

Ed. Lina Welin S4SVA LUX 1



Elsa Nelvin S1SVA LUX 1

Why are we so afraid of being bored ?

Klara Maïndron S7FRB LUX 1

The new generations run from boredom as if it's their enemy. Why is it that most teenagers are so afraid of boredom when it isn't as useless as they would like to think it is?

Boredom is a universal experience and despite being a common emotion, it gets very little attention compared to other emotions. Yet recent studies have shown its significant impact on human wellbeing, productivity and creativity. Boredom is essential and here's why.

Boredom is an experience in which you are not occupied cognitively, the brain switches to a part called the "default mode network". This brain region is most active when the mind is at a wakeful rest. The region involved in self-reflection, daydreaming, memory and imagining the future. For example, if you are not working or using any distractions then your so-called default mode network goes on.

Yet what's stopping us from being bored? And the question isn't so difficult. It is mainly due to humans not liking boredom. Dan Gilbert, a professor at the psychology department in Harvard, carried out experiments where people had to sit in a room for 15 minutes with

instructions to do absolutely nothing. There were no distractions in the room except for a button that, when pushed, would send a painful electric shock. A big majority of the participants in the study, found themselves pushing the button and receiving electric shocks rather than thinking about nothing. Why is boredom so terrible? It is because the "default mode network" makes us think about things that may be uncomfortable existential questions.

However, being bored can lead you to ask big questions and whether we like it or not, they turn out to be important and have a positive impact on human lives. One of the reasons depression and anxiety rates

have exploded in our society is due to the lack of boredom in people's lives and therefore they don't question the meaning of their lives.

Furthermore, boredom has been eliminated from our daily routine almost completely by the use of the phone in the shortest



spans of time such as standing on the street waiting for the light to change even though that wait is approximately 50 seconds. We try to not be bored, because the “default mode network” is slightly uncomfortable with the type of questions we don’t particularly wish to get our minds around.

In conclusion, if every time we get slightly bored and replace that short time span with the use of our phones, it will eventually get harder for us to find the meaning of life resulting in possible anxiety and depression.

Being bored is not a want, but a need that

has to be instated in our daily routine. Doing an activity without your favourite artist playing though your headphones will result with what will possibly be your best ideas.

Eventually, when boredom becomes part of your routine, you will be able to dig into philosophical questions. What’s your purpose? What’s your life’s meaning? Who knows, you might be happier.

So, be bored.

Ed. Lina Welin S4SVA LUX 1

La place stratégique de la Pologne dans le futur de la mobilité européenne

Port Polska. Cet aéroport pourtant tellement controversé est une merveille d'ingénierie supposé sécuriser la place de la Pologne dans la stratégie long-terme des transports en Europe. Mais ce but noble et ambitieux serait entouré d'innombrables problèmes et obstacles, posant des questions sur la faisabilité du projet et ses conséquences sur son entourage, rappelant la controverse de la 3e piste d'atterrissage à London Heathrow, le plus grand pôle de correspondance aéroportuaire international de l'Europe.

Avec une date de mise en service en 2032, Port Polska est actuellement le plus grand projet d'infrastructure mené par la Pologne. Le gouvernement de la Pologne a, jusqu'à aujourd'hui, investi 131 milliards złoty polonais, l'équivalent de 30 milliards d'euros, pour achever la construction de ce projet. En effet, l'idée serait de créer un pôle d'échange rivalisant London Heathrow, le pôle du Royaume-Uni, et Istanbul, son équivalent turque, les deux géants des vols commerciaux depuis et vers l'Europe. Le projet ne serait, cependant, pas basé sur le trafic aérien uniquement : le plan est de compléter les 2 pistes d'atterrissage jumelles avec la plus grande gare ferroviaire de la Pologne, ainsi que d'assurer une très bonne liaison routière, avec des services de bus fréquents et concentrés, et avec un accès aux voitures par l'autoroute. Tout ça a 40 km de la capitale, a proximité de la ville de Łódź, ce qui permettrait la future ligne a grande vitesse de le relier a Warsaw en 20 minutes seulement. C'est pour ça que le nouveau bilan estime que 40% des passagers viendront en train, une très bonne initiative pour la neutralité climatique de la Pologne en 2050.

Cependant, la polémique autour de l'aéroport a explosé lorsque le projet a été relié à la corruption politique du gouvernement polonais, ce qui explique que les travaux n'ont toujours pas commencé sur le point d'échange, pourtant approuvé en 2017. Le projet ne cessait de gagner du retard suite a un référendum en 2018 ou 80% des votes étaient contre le début de

la construction. Les élections gouvernementales de 2023 ont enfin remis en mouvement les procédures avec but de commencer les travaux quelque-part en 2026, un planning bien plus optimiste que l'extension de London Heathrow qui se débat déjà pendant des décennies. Les 2 projets proposés au sein du cadre TEN-T, The Trans European Transport Network - une législation de l'Union Européenne visant à augmenter l'interconnectivité des pays européens jusqu'en 2035 - la 3e piste d'atterrissage de Heathrow et un éventuel 5e terminal rencontrent sans cesse obstacle après obstacle, se trouvant dans une position bien pire que le futur aéroport principal de la Pologne. Heathrow Airport Holdings aurait proposé déjà en novembre 2007 d'ajouter une 3e piste suite à des inquiétudes sur la capacité insuffisante de l'aéroport face au trafic gigantesque qui y circule. Le projet serait alors annulé en 2010 pour des questions environnementales et repris en considération en 2016 après des chiffres en pointe alarmants. Depuis, le gouvernement n'arrête pas de changer sa position sur une extension, maintenant planifiée depuis presque 10 ans, avec une date de fin des travaux projetée pour 2040, une date aussi lointaine que problématique, avec la capacité de plus en plus surmontée de l'aéroport.

Par comparaison, l'aéroport qui s'appelait auparavant CPK (Centralny Port Komunikacyjny) présente l'avantage d'être un projet tout à fait neuf, ne souffrant ainsi d'aucune contrainte d'espace, de rénovations ou de connectivité. Au contraire, Port Polska envisage d'ajouter encore 2 pistes dans le futur, et de relier l'aéroport directement à Francfort sur l'Oder par une LGV pour introduire des trains directs depuis Berlin en 4h.

Ainsi, comme tout autre aéroport de telle envergure, Port Polska a aussi tant d'avantages que de désavantages, et encore de nombreux obstacles à venir à surmonter. L'année 2026 se montre pivotale pour l'aéroport, car c'est cette année qui jugera si le projet est faisable et si les travaux commenceront bientôt ou si l'aéroport rencontrera de nouveaux retards. Dans tous les cas de figure, cet investissement stratégique va définitivement être décisif dans le rôle futur de la Pologne dans le cadre de TEN-T, mais aussi dans sa place et sa pertinence dans la mobilité européenne. Reste à voir si Port Polska, cet projet d'envergure gigantesque, arrivera à rivaliser les aéroports de la gamme de Londres, Paris et Francfort avec la récente rénovation du Terminal 1 à Paris Charles de Gaulle, ou avec l'ouverture du Terminal 3 à Francfort International, ou est-ce que tout se finira en désastre, comme le nouvel aéroport de Berlin, Berlin Brandenburg, qui a ouvert il y a 5 ans avec un système d'incendie dysfonctionnel et avec un coût quatre fois plus grand que le budget prévu de 2 milliards d'euros ?

OVERCONSUMPTION

and its hidden dangers

Katarina Cubonova S6FRD LUX 1

The Hidden Costs of Overconsumption

Mystery dumping unboxings, bathroom restocks, back-to-school hauls worth thousands of dollars, Stanley Cups (whose price has dropped massively) ... It seems like new trends rise every week, new products you supposedly “need,” and more clothes you want to wear.

But what is the real impact of this overconsumption on our planet, the environment, and us as individuals, aside from garages full of junk and overstuffed closets? Let's dive into it.



Astrid Kaczmarek Rydberg S1SVA LUX 1

What Causes This Overconsumption?

One reason is that many products today are not made to last. They are hard to repair, often made with mediocre materials, and are sometimes even designed to break. This practice, known as Planned Obsolescence, forces consumers to buy new items more frequently.

To cut costs and maximize profit, companies often produce lower-quality goods or move production to countries with cheaper labour. If you look at it from this perspective, it can seem easy to place all the blame on producers.

Seen from another angle, however, we consumers are not exactly innocent either. Trends on social media constantly promote new items and lifestyles, encouraging people to buy more than they really need. “Retail therapy,” impulsive buying, and product launches of things no one truly needs all contribute to this cycle. Sometimes it feels as though we live in a society that revolves around unhealthy spending habits.

America is often used as an example of this: the average American household carries around \$6,380 in credit card debt, much of which is linked to non-essential purchases.

The truth is that both parties share responsibility. Corporations manufacture and market the goods, but it is we, the consumers, who incentivize them to keep producing by purchasing those products. Put simply, for the industry to exist, there must be demand – and unfortunately, that demand continues to grow.

Impacts

Mass production and overconsumption have many negative consequences. One of the most obvious is waste production.

Global waste is currently estimated to be over 2 billion tons per year, with about 30% consisting of paper, cardboard, and plastic. Much of this waste is never recycled or disposed of properly. Predictions suggest that by 2050 this number could rise by about 70%, reaching 3.4 billion tons annually.

Where does all this trash go? Unfortunately, just about everywhere. Water bodies such as oceans and rivers are increasingly filled with plastic, entire ecosystems disappear because of pollution, and landfills overflow with discarded clothing. Industries such as Fast Fashion contribute heavily to this problem by producing large quantities of cheap clothing that are quickly thrown away.

It doesn't only harm nature, though. Electronic waste from discarded devices releases harmful substances such as heavy metals into the environment, contaminating air, soil, and water. In many poorer countries, chemicals and industrial waste are dumped into rivers, harming local communities and worsening already existing poverty.

Another serious issue is resource depletion. Fossil fuel use, deforestation, and extremely high-water consumption is all tied to large-scale production. Humanity currently consumes the equivalent of 1.8 Earths each year to provide the resources we use and absorb the waste we produce. At our current consumption rate, certain rare metals and fossil fuels may become extremely scarce within the next century, leaving far fewer resources for future generations. At the same time, the massive carbon emissions linked to production and transportation continue to worsen climate change. In many ways, it is a ticking time bomb whose fuse is running dangerously short.

Solutions

So, is there anything we can do, or are we doomed forever?

Thankfully, consumers can collectively have a significant impact. By being more thoughtful with each purchase and asking ourselves whether we truly need everything we buy, we can reduce demand. Buying certain items second-hand, borrowing rarely used products, and repairing what is possible instead of discarding it immediately can help break the buy-use-throw-away cycle and extend the lifespan of many items.

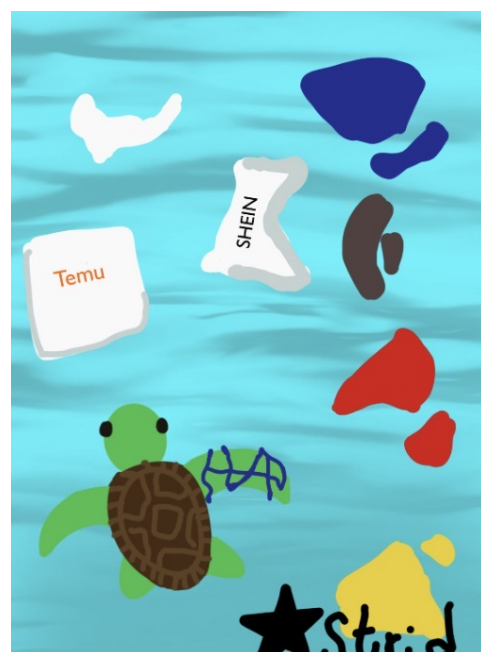
Companies can also play a huge role in this fight. By focusing on producing durable, repairable products and reducing unnecessary production, businesses could significantly decrease the amount of waste generated. Ideas inspired by the Circular Economy aim to design products that can be reused, repaired, and recycled rather than quickly thrown away.

Conclusion

Overconsumption might seem like a normal part of modern life, but its effects go far beyond cluttered homes and overflowing closets. From environmental destruction to resource depletion and social inequality, the consequences are far-reaching.

If both consumers and companies start reconsidering their habits and priorities, it is still possible to slow down this cycle and move toward a more sustainable future.

Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENB LUX 2



Astrid Kaczmarek Rydberg S1SVA LUX 1

La justice sociale

Natalia Laskowska S7FRA LUX 1

On entend souvent dire qu'il faut « taxer les riches », ou encore parler de « redistribution de la richesse », mais qu'est-ce que cela signifie concrètement ? La sécurité sociale, les indemnités de chômage, un travail protégé et régulé, un salaire minimal... Ce sont toutes des initiatives reposant sur le principe de la justice sociale : les mesures ayant pour objectif l'égalité des droits et la solidarité collective, une situation injuste étant considérée inacceptable socialement.

Ceux qui soutiennent qu'il est moralement injuste de taxer le revenu des plus riches car ils « méritent » leur argent semblent penser qu'un multimilliardaire ne devrait pas, alors qu'il en a les moyens, aider les plus pauvres à survivre. Cela n'impacterait pas son niveau de vie personnel, mais il n'a pas l'obligation de la faire, car lui a été « chanceux », et eux non. C'est une conception défendable, mais il est essentiel, avant de la soutenir, de se poser la question suivante : la société est-elle vraiment, par nature, injuste ? Et si elle l'est, pourquoi ne devrions-nous pas chercher à y remédier ?

Avant de soutenir une idéologie, il est primordial de s'informer sur elle en fond et en comble, et ne pas justifier chacune de ses opinions par la position politique que l'on prend. La radicalisation de la jeunesse ne laisse plus de place au débat, à la discussion : la haine vient première alors que vouloir l'égalité, la liberté et la paix de chacun ne devrait pas être une question divisant notre société, et certainement pas un établissement comme le nôtre, fondé sur les valeurs européennes.

Une véritable injustice pèse sur notre monde et s'en préoccuper n'est pas une question d'orientation politique, de pays ou de niveau de revenu : la pauvreté et les inégalités concernent chacun d'entre nous et même au Luxembourg, contrairement à ce que l'on pourrait penser, elles sont saillantes et plus importantes qu'elles ne l'ont jamais été. L'exposition Les Exclus du Festin au bloc D de l'EEL1 en parle et son installation, bien que nécessaire car c'est un sujet primordial et incontournable, est en elle-même contournable. C'est comme si ce sujet, comme lorsqu'on emprunte le chemin qui passe autour de l'exposition, pouvait être contourné et ne concernait pas les élèves de notre école, alors qu'il concerne chacun d'entre nous.

Beaucoup considèrent que cela ne les regarde pas, se sentent mal à l'aise lorsque l'on parle de pauvreté, se révoltent en entendant des mesures telles que l'impôt sur l'héritage ou l'utilisation de taxes pour la construction de logements sociaux, et pourtant sont contents de se faire rembourser les rendez-vous chez le généraliste par la CNS et de rester chez eux le week-end. En parallèle avec la montée de l'idéologie d'extrême-droite apparaît un véritable mépris pour le socialisme, surtout parmi les jeunes adolescents issus de milieux aisés. Aider les plus pauvres et lutter contre les inégalités n'est pas une affaire de « gauche », mais une affaire d'humanité.

La réduction des inégalités est le 10e des 17 objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies. Comment pouvons-nous parler d'égalité dans un monde qui reste complètement injuste, dont 10 % vit dans l'extrême pauvreté, et dont les 10 % les plus riches détiennent 76 % de la richesse ? Certains diront que, depuis l'Antiquité, il y a des riches et d'autres qui ne le sont pas, mais la vérité est que nous ne devrions pas pouvoir encore parler de pauvreté extrême dans un monde qui se veut équitable.

Dénoncer les injustices et en discuter est un bon début pour y remédier, mais ne reste qu'un début. Nous semblons, en tant que société, avoir du mal à franchir la frontière entre dénonciation et action. Que ce soient les institutions internationales qui « condamnent » les actions violant le droit international ou encore les statistiques tragiques que l'on trouve partout, par exemple sur la famine dans le monde (approximativement 673 millions d'individus sur Terre ont souffert de malnutrition en 2025), on a tendance à beaucoup parler sans, au final, que cela aboutisse à des solutions viables.

La justice sociale est et restera un débat car notre société n'est pas juste, et tant qu'elle ne le sera pas, deux visions continueront à s'opposer : faut-il aider les pauvres en agissant suivant le principe de l'équité, ou faut-il « laisser-faire » car c'est inévitable et du côté des plus aisés, se considérer chanceux de ne pas être nés dans la pauvreté ? Car ne pas chercher de solution est un privilège dont peuvent bénéficier seuls ceux qui ont la chance de ne pas être contraints par le milieu dont ils sont issus et limités par l'inégalité des chances, n'ayant pas à se préoccuper leur survie.



Mijin Lambert-Petrone SGFRC LUX 2

COMICS

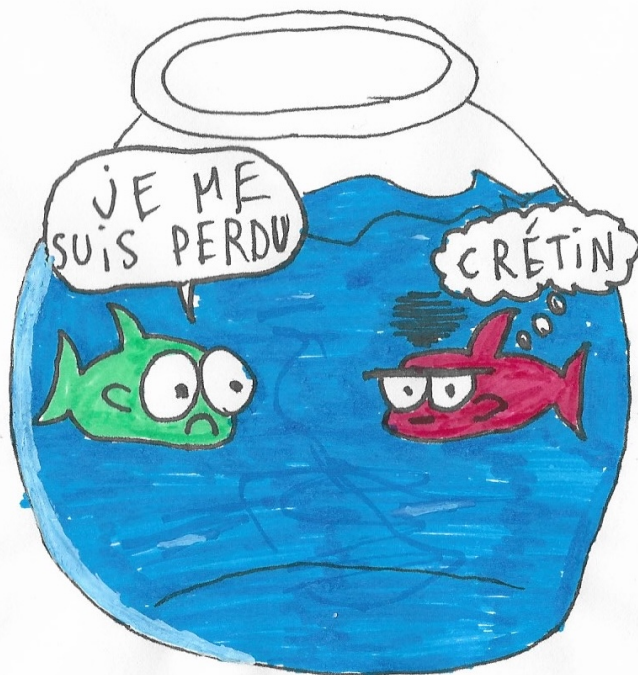
To decrease the tension



Beatriz Semedo de Abreu S2PTA LUX 1



Aggela-Maria Moura S2ELA LUX 2



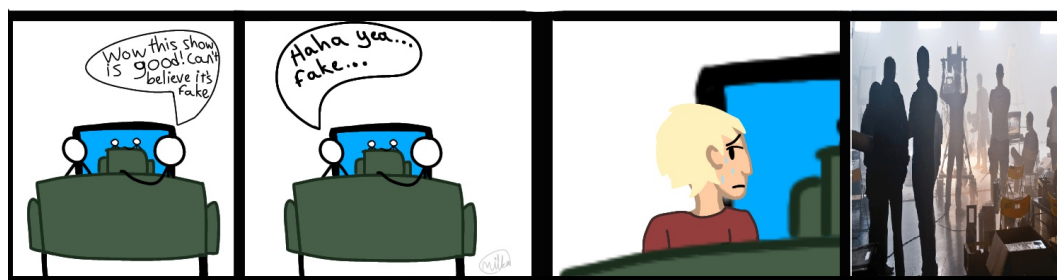
Luka Blond Svecnik S1FRD LUX 2



Luka Blond Svecnik S1FRD LUX 2



Raphaël Despierris S1FRD LUX 2



Alkim Beray Küçük S7ENA LUX 2

Behind the Icarus 6 Team's Journey of Building a Satellite

Seven students take on the challenge of building a soda-can-sized satellite for the CanSat competition

Imagine building a satellite, but there's a catch. It has to be the size of a single soda can, yet be able to perform real scientific missions. In this article, you will discover the challenge of the CanSat competition and Icarus 6, who are taking it on.

During the competition, teams of students are challenged to design, engineer, and build tiny satellites that fit inside the volume of a normal soda can. These mini satellites must be able to carry sensors, batteries, and antennas, while collecting scientific data and transmitting it back to a ground station.

Unlike traditional satellites that orbit, the Earth CanSats are launched on a rocket, this year from a military base in Belgium. When they reach an altitude of around 1000 meters, the satellites start descending through the atmosphere.

After release, the Icarus 6 team's CanSat must conduct two missions: the primary mission which includes measuring the air pressure, speed, and temperature. Additionally, the teams must also complete a secondary mission, which the group has chosen to be measuring the amount of CO₂ in the air.

Let's now talk about Icarus 6. The team consists of seven students, working together to build a functional satellite. They all have to focus on multiple tasks simultaneously, like programming the satellite's sensors so data can be measured. Others work on mechanical design, making sure everything fits together. To receive the data, the team has also built and tested a Yagi antenna that helps capture the radio signals from the CanSat while it descends.



But building a satellite this small comes with its own challenges. Fitting all the necessary components inside a hull the size of a soda can requires very careful planning. The parachute must also be big enough and deploy in time to slow the descent so the CanSat can be recovered intact. Additionally, the teams must ensure all systems work perfectly together before the launch. One student explained that “the hardest part is fitting all the electronics into such a small space while making sure everything still works together.”

Before launch, the team also performs multiple tests of the electronics, communication systems, and parachute to make sure the satellite works reliably during its descent.

Despite the technical difficulties, the team members of Icarus 6 enjoy their work, because the CanSat competition is not just about building a piece of electronics, but also about experiencing a real engineering project. On launch day, Icarus 6 will have the chance to see their hard work rise skyward, collect real data, and test their system under real flight conditions.

Regardless of the outcome, the students say the journey itself is already a remarkable achievement as they prepare for their drone drop test in March, which will evaluate whether their satellite is fit for launch.

Through Icarus 6’s journey, it becomes clear that space technology is not just something reserved for governments or billion-dollar companies. Even a soda-can-sized satellite can demonstrate the excitement of science, innovation, and collaboration, and that the next generation of engineers may already be among us, building the future.

Ed. Constance Bazireau S7FRC LUX 1



Inara Gongora-Tuncer S1ENA LUX 1

Europe's security runs on American technology

European military chiefs note that the continent's armies depend on U.S. technology for communication and intelligence gathering. In fact, Europe is so far behind the U.S. in digital infrastructure that it has "lost the internet". It is impossible to store data fully in Europe because American companies dominate the digital infrastructure.

Beyond American weaponry and infrastructure, which include intelligence satellites and command-and-control systems, European officials highlight the significance of U.S. technology firms in safeguarding communications, collecting intelligence, and managing data for the continent's military forces. Any attempts to limit U.S. companies' access to the European market might jeopardize regional security.

This reliance was not previously a significant security issue for the EU; nevertheless, Europe was falling behind in essential new technologies being pioneered in the U.S. and other regions.

Now, however, the fluctuating rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump, along with his January 2026 threat to invade Greenland, has led to increased calls from various European capitals, including Paris, for a faster development of sovereign defence systems and reduced reliance on U.S. technology.

European officials, including French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized at the Munich Security Conference that the EU must rapidly and decisively develop all elements of its geopolitical power. This includes defence, technology, and measures to mitigate risks related to major global powers, aiming to achieve greater independence.

Additionally, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen highlighted data technology platforms and information as critical areas where the continent needs to safeguard its security interests.

There are numerous ambitious perspectives regarding European independence; however, these lofty aspirations often come into conflict with harsh realities.

Calls for "tech sovereignty" from the United States have emerged from two distinct perspectives: one concerns the potential for the Trump administration to activate so-called digital kill switches on fighter jets and other advanced weaponry, rendering them ineffective. The second perspective suggests that Europe should utilize its market access as leverage against American tech companies by threatening to restrict them if Washington intensifies its trade conflict.

Prior to the resolution of the Greenland crisis, there were voices within the EU urging the European Commission to develop the proposed anti-coercion instrument aimed against the United States. This tool, which has never been utilized, serves as a "trade weapon" capable of limiting digital service providers' access to the EU's single market. U.S. tech companies are actively working to assure European businesses and governments that they can depend on their services, no matter who is in the White House. They are also providing alternatives in case of a potential "kill-switch" scenario.



Such arguments resonate more strongly with European military officials than with politicians, as military leaders have a clearer grasp of the risks associated with a sudden separation from the United States. This separation would lead to capability gaps and fragmentation, which could undermine military operations and cybersecurity, as well as hinder the efficiency of intelligence gathering.

The Greenland crisis has highlighted the extent to which European militaries rely on American control over their digital infrastructure. The EU has come to understand that many of its systems would become unusable if the Americans were to deactivate them.

However, it would be impractical for Europe to try to replicate tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google in the near future, nor would it be beneficial to compel companies to place their servers within Europe. There is a growing awareness that data localization does not equate to data sovereignty.

It is no coincidence that major technology companies, such as Microsoft, Amazon, and Google, formed what is known as a trusted tech alliance during the Munich Security Conference. This initiative aims to assure governments that they will follow a shared set of rules regarding security and data protection, "regardless of a supplier's nationality."

National security is directly tied to digital security. The European Union requires a diverse range of contributors and complementary skills to succeed. This necessitates enhancing digital resilience, especially at a time when threats are more significant than ever.

How is AI transforming medicine today?

Helena Hojny S7DEB LUX 1

AI is no longer science fiction, but a very real and relevant, yet futuristic concept nowadays.

However, it's not as new as you might think. Medical researchers have been using early versions of artificial intelligence since the mid 1960s. And, in the early 2000s it was a commonly used tool in fields such as radiology.

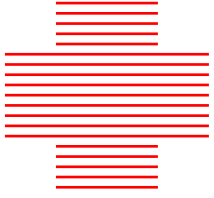
However, the use of AI in medicine has rapidly grown since then. Currently it is being integrated deeper than ever into practically every field of medicine.

But how much can we trust AI and this rapid progression?

AI is particularly trustworthy in medical imaging, as AI algorithms can analyze X-rays, CT scans and MRIs at a rapid speed with little to no mistakes.

A study published in *The Lancet Digital Health* found that AI systems were able to detect breast cancer mammograms with an accuracy comparable and in some cases even exceeding human radiologists. It was estimated that AI reduced false positives by almost 6% and false negatives by up to 9,4%. And although these improvements seem small, they translate into thousands, in large populations.

Additionally, AI is being used to predict diseases before symptoms even appear, analyzing large datasets of patient records to identify patterns that indicate higher risks of certain conditions. Predictive AI tools could help doctors intervene earlier, potentially saving millions of lives yearly.



However, the integration of AI into medicine also raises important ethical concerns.

Algorithms are trained on data, but if that data is biased or incomplete, the AI system might produce inaccurate results, which can be dangerous.



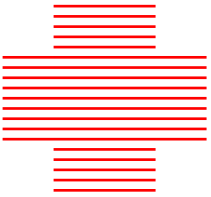
Studies have shown that some healthcare algorithms underestimate the medical needs of certain minority populations due to historical data disparities.

Adding on to that, questions about accountability and safety remain:

How is this sensitive data going to be protected and who is responsible for diagnostic errors or inaccurate analyses that are made by an AI system – the developer, the hospital or the doctor themselves?

Despite these challenges, most experts agree that AI is not meant to replace doctors but to support them.

Many see this progression as an advantage, as a helping tool in healthcare. However, careful regulation and ethical oversight are crucial.



Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENB LUX 1



La place des animaux dans le domaine scientifique:

Ces animaux marin méconnus indispensables à la recherche

Brieuc Belpaume S6FRC LUX 2

Chaque année, des millions et des millions d'animaux contribuent à l'avancée de la science et de la technologie humaine. Ces acteurs de l'ombre, souvent méconnus du grand public, sont à l'origine de nombreuses élaborations de vaccins, médicaments, de traitements de maladies auparavant incurables, mais aussi d'avancées technologiques notables comme dans l'aérodynamique et la mécanique. Derrière cette industrie en constante évolution se cachent de nombreuses espèces du règne animal, des plus évidentes aux plus étonnantes. Préparez-vous à être surpris !

Un acteur majeur du développement scientifique d'aujourd'hui n'est autre qu'Aplysia, communément appelée aplysie ou...la limace de mer ! Cette dernière, rendue populaire par le prix Nobel de médecine autrichien Eric Kandel dans les années 60-70, a été étudiée sur le sujet des bases neuronales de la mémoire. En effet, possédant un système nerveux composé de neurones géants allant jusqu'à 1 mm de diamètre, elle rend possible l'observation de son activité cellulaire lorsqu'elle apprend. De plus récentes recherches ont donc montré que la mémoire n'était pas immatérielle. Plus tard, des études effectuées sur Tritonia, une espèce de mollusque, ont révélé des mécanismes de formation de la mémoire, ce qui permettrait, en stimulant les neurones spécifiques, d'implanter de nouveaux souvenirs. Cela constituerait une avancée majeure dans la guérison des lésions cérébrales, par exemple.

De plus, d'autres espèces de limaces de mer, comme Elysia chlorotica, peuvent "voler" des chloroplastes aux algues environnantes, ce qui leur permet de réaliser la photosynthèse, et donc de "vivre comme une plante" (c'est-à-dire de se nourrir de sucre, de dioxyde de carbone et de lumière), pendant plusieurs mois. Cette capacité éclaire les différents mécanismes jusque-là encore obscurs du transfert de gènes entre différentes espèces et de la symbiose animale.

Ensuite, place à "l'ourson d'eau", le tardigrade. Découvert en 1771, Tardigrada est à l'origine de plusieurs découvertes et innovations capitales à l'espèce humaine. Cet ourson, atteignant la taille d'un millimètre, se distingue par sa capacité à survivre dans de nombreux milieux hostiles, tels que le vide spatial, les radiations intenses, les températures extrêmes et la déshydratation. De nombreuses entreprises produisant des matériaux destinés à former des fusées ou des satellites artificiels étudient la composition du tardigrade pour élargir leur gamme de fabrication. De plus, possédant une protéine Dsup (damage suppressor) qui protège son ADN des radiations, le Tardigrade offre des pistes pour la protection de tissus sains lors de traitements contre le cancer. Grâce à sa capacité à résister aux températures extrêmes, son étude pourrait permettre de développer un vaccin ne nécessitant plus de réfrigération. Ce minuscule "ourson d'eau" pourrait également être un acteur majeur dans le développement de la médecine spatiale, pour aider à protéger les astronautes des stress de l'environnement spatial.

Enfin, le poisson des glaces de l'Antarctique est célèbre pour être le seul vertébré dépourvu d'hémoglobine sur la Terre. En 2021-2022, dans la mer de Weddell, proche de l'Antarctique, une immense colonie de poisson des glaces de plus de 60 millions de nids a été découverte, ce qui a été d'une aide considérable à l'étude de la biomasse et de l'écologie sous l'Antarctique. Ce "laboratoire vivant", qui occupe une place de choix dans la recherche scientifique moderne, agit comme modèle pour comprendre les mécanismes d'adaptation aux conditions extrêmes et les conséquences du réchauffement climatique.

Pourvu d'un sang sans hémoglobine, la sève des poissons des glaces est entièrement blanche. Cette caractéristique peut être expliquée par la grande concentration de dioxygène dans les eaux australes et par un système circulatoire à basse pression. De plus, le poisson des glaces est très sensible à l'augmentation de la température. Ils servent de "sentinelles" pour anticiper les effets du réchauffement climatique sur la biodiversité de l'océan Austral.

Ce poisson permet donc aux chercheurs de dépasser les limites de la biologie appliquée aux vertébrés, de l'adaptation évolutive et de la recherche biomédicale.

Pour conclure, il existe bien des animaux qui sont encore inconnus du grand public, mais qui représentent des valeurs inestimables dans les différents domaines scientifiques. Grâce à leurs capacités étonnantes, ils permettent aux chercheurs de mieux comprendre le vivant, de développer des médicaments vitaux, et d'explorer de nombreuses voies pour le futur. Derrière ces espèces plutôt discrètes se cachent sans aucun doute les découvertes de demain ; il n'est donc jamais trop tard pour commencer à les protéger.

Les ressources que possède notre planète la Terre sont incommensurables, et leur potentiel ne doit en aucun cas être sous-estimé.

Ed. Leon El Assadi S6FRA LUX 2



Maksim Teuwen S1FRD LUX 2

The Tiny Components That Control the Global Economy

Microchips are among the most important inventions of the modern world. They are tiny, flat pieces of semiconductor material (usually silicon) that can hold millions, or even billions of microscopic electronic components, that act as switches to process, store, or transmit data. They power all types of modern electronics that we use daily such as computers, cars, phones, washing machines and even medical equipment. Yet despite their importance, most people rarely think about where they come from, or much less about how fragile their supply chain is.

Modern microchips are incredibly complex to produce. Manufacturing the most advanced chips requires factories that cost billions and machines built with extreme precision. Producing a single chip involves hundreds of steps, ultra-pure materials, and highly specialized equipment. Because of the cost and technical barriers faced in building a microchip, only a handful of companies in the world can manufacture them.

One of the most notable producers of microchips is Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). They produce chips for many of the world's largest technology firms, including Apple and Nvidia. In fact, TSMC produces over 60 percent of the world's semiconductors, and almost 90 percent of the most sophisticated chips worldwide. This centralization drives efficiency but leaves the global economy vulnerable to supply shocks.

The fragility of the semiconductor supply chain became clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. Factory shutdowns, transportation disruptions, and sudden shifts in demand triggered a global microchip shortage. Car manufacturers including Ford Motor Company and Toyota were forced to slow down or halt production because they could not obtain enough chips. Millions of vehicles were never built, and prices for electronics rose as companies struggled to secure supply.

Although the broad shortages that defined the period from 2020 to 2023 have largely eased, the semiconductor industry has entered a new phase of strain. Instead of a general shortage of chips, the pressure has shifted to specific parts of the supply chain. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence has created enormous demand for advanced AI processors and high-performance memory. This demand is pushing manufacturing capacity to its limits.

One major bottleneck is advanced chip packaging, the process that connects multiple chips together into a single powerful computing unit. Technologies such as TSMC's Chip-on-Wafer-on-Substrate (CoWoS) packaging are essential for building the GPUs used in AI data centres, but the available capacity for this process is extremely limited and often fully booked by major AI companies.

Another challenge is the growing demand for high-bandwidth memory (HBM), a specialized type of memory required for AI accelerators. As companies race to build larger AI systems and data centres, demand for these components is rising faster than manufacturers can expand production.

At the same time, the supply chain remains geographically concentrated, as chips are produced in Taiwan, and TSMC alone dominates the global semiconductor foundry market. This heavy concentration means that geopolitical tensions or disruptions in the region could have serious consequences for the global economy.

Even older types of chips known as mature-node semiconductors continue to create challenges. These chips, which use older manufacturing processes, are widely used in cars, industrial machines, and household appliances. Because many manufacturers are prioritizing advanced

chips for AI applications, industries that rely on these older components sometimes struggle to secure enough supply.

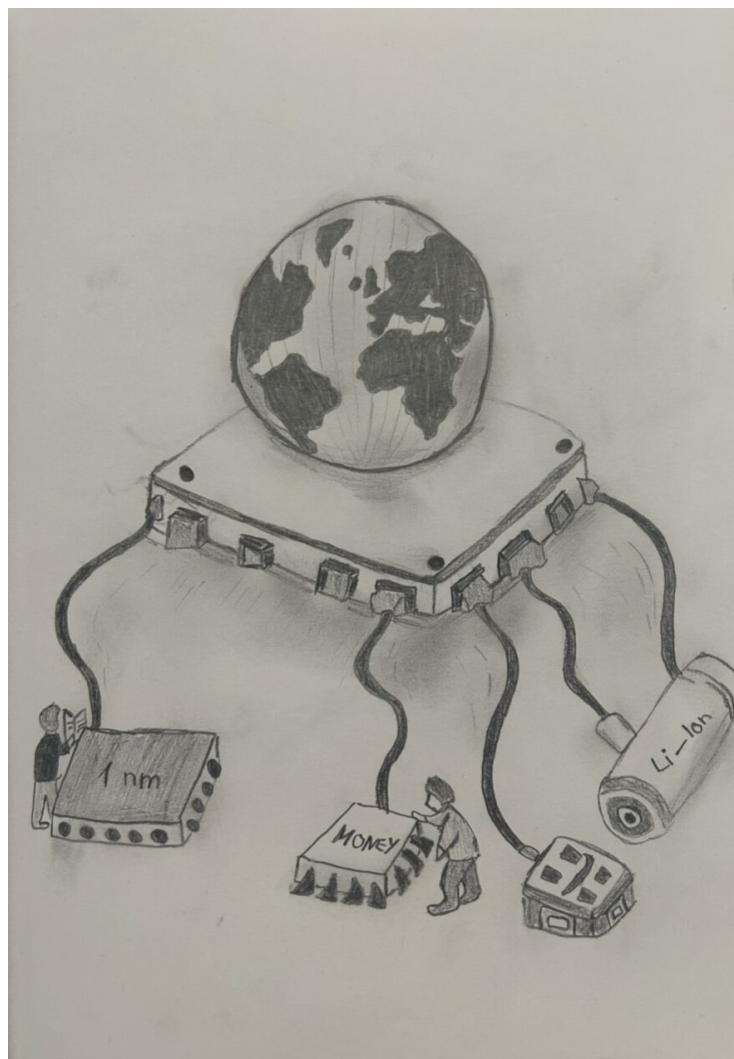
Governments around the world are increasingly aware of the strategic importance of semiconductors. In 2022, the United States passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which provides more than \$50 billion in subsidies to expand domestic chip manufacturing. The European Union, Japan, and China have launched similar initiatives aimed at building more resilient and geographically diverse supply chains.

However, expanding semiconductor production takes time. Building and equipping a new semiconductor factory can take several years, and the most advanced facilities require extraordinary expertise and investment. Major projects including new factories planned in the United States and Europe are unlikely to reach full capacity until the later part of the decade.

For this reason, many analysts believe that specialized bottlenecks, particularly those related to AI infrastructure, may persist until at least 2027.

The global semiconductor industry illustrates how deeply interconnected modern technology has become with country diversity. A device in your pocket may depend on materials mined in one country, manufactured in another, assembled in a third, and designed by engineers across several continents.

Ed. Julia Dec S6ENC LUX 2



Raisa Nicolae S5DEA LUX 2

AI AND FUTURE CAREERS

Josephine Brassey S7NLA LUX 1

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is something we have become extremely accustomed to in our day-to-day life. We use it for general questions, some even for advice, and many for school. One example of an AI tool is ChatGPT, which is the most common one amongst students. It helps students with studying, brainstorming ideas, or explaining difficult topics. As AI is becoming such a big part of everyday life, it also raises the question for students: How will AI affect our future careers?

Some people worry that AI will replace many jobs, which is a valid concern. For example, AI can already write basic texts, analyze data quickly, and create images. Tasks that are repetitive or very predictable could eventually be done by machines instead of people. This can sound threatening, especially for students who are starting to think about what they might like to do in the future.

However, we can also look at it this way. AI probably won't only take jobs away; it will also create new ones. If we think about social media managers, influencers, app developers, or data analysts, those jobs did not exist 30 years ago. If we use the growth of the internet as an example of what the growth of AI will do for jobs, new professions will appear that we might not fully be able to imagine yet. There's a high chance that there will be more jobs related to programming, technology, and managing those AI systems.

How AI might change the future of your career

Additionally, we should keep in mind that AI still depends on humans. Critical thinking, proper communication, and empathy are things that machines, unlike humans, truly struggle to understand. Professions like psychiatrists which involve working closely with people will probably remain very important.

This all means that for students in our generation being adaptable will matter the most. Instead of fixating one career path, we may have to keep learning new skills throughout our lives, so we are able to adjust to changes. Technology and with that AI continuously changes, and the people who can learn and adapt quickly are those who will have the most opportunities.

In the end, AI will definitely change the job market, but that does not automatically mean it will be worse. While some jobs might disappear because machines are simply more time and cost efficient in some situations, new careers and opportunities will likely appear as well. Technology and the rise of the internet brought many changes for previous generations, and they eventually found ways to adapt. The same will likely happen with AI. And who knows, it might open up completely new possibilities that could change our lives for the better.

Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENB LUX 1

Horoscope

Capricorn



Hard work pays off, but don't forget to rest. A financial or school-related decision may come up.

Aquarius



Creative ideas flow easily. Share them, you might inspire someone (or yourself).

Pisces



Take time to recharge. Your emotions are strong, but they can guide you if you stay grounded.

Aries



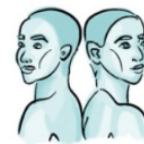
A burst of energy helps you start something new. Just don't rush decisions, slow down near the end of the month.

Taurus



Comfort and stability matter more than ever. A small change in routine could bring a surprisingly big benefit.

Gemini



You're extra social and curious. Great time to learn something new or reconnect with someone you've missed.

Cancer



Focus on home and close relationships. Honest conversations will strengthen bonds.

Leo



You're in the spotlight, use it wisely. Confidence is high, but listening to others will take you further.

Virgo



Details matter this month. Stay organized and you'll feel more in control than usual.

Libra



Balance is key. You may need to choose between pleasing others and prioritizing yourself.

Scorpio



Things beneath the surface come to light. Trust your instincts, they're sharper than usual.

Sagittarius



Adventure calls, even in small ways. Try something different, it could spark new motivation.

Lisbon's Quiet Genius

Fernando Pessoa and the

Art of Reflection

Ana Borcoman S6ENB LUX 2

Walking through the narrow streets and cafés of Lisbon, literature almost feels woven into the city itself. Bustling, vibrant streets are lined with bookshops and antique stores filled to the brim with forgotten artefacts. Culture stirs within its people and lives on in traditions that unfold along every corner. At certain turns, the streets open to breathtaking views of the Atlantic stretching beyond the city's open skyline. In Lisbon, nature, poetry, and artistry seem to root themselves deeply in the heart of Portugal's dazzling capital.

With an upcoming planned excursion into the city of colour and art, I find myself strolling down memory lane, remembering my own time wandering Lisbon's busy streets only two years prior. In particular, I recall the presence of the city's most celebrated literary figure, Fernando Pessoa, and the enduring value of his most famous prose work, The Book of Disquiet.

Few writers captured the spirit of Lisbon as profoundly as Fernando Pessoa. Writing through a semi-fictional narrator named Bernardo Soares, The Book of Disquiet transforms the quiet routines of city life into a deeply philosophical meditation on identity, solitude, and imagination.

Through Soares, a quiet assistant bookkeeper living in Lisbon, Pessoa explores the inner life of an ordinary city dweller. And through its meticulous observations, the city of Lisbon exceeds the normal confines of a literary setting, it becomes almost a character within the book itself. The narrator spends much of his time observing the city: the rhythm of the streets, the quiet melancholy of the river, and the small details of everyday life, capturing the essence of its mysterious streets filled with passion.

Rather than focusing on dramatic events, the book captures moments of reflection: watching people pass by, sitting in cafés, or simply thinking while walking through the city. This creates a sense that Lisbon is a place where ordinary life becomes a source of philosophical reflection.

One of the most unusual aspects of Pessoa's writing is his use of "heteronyms." Rather than simply writing under a pen name, Pessoa created entire fictional authors, each with their own personalities, biographies, and styles of writing. Bernardo Soares is one of these figures. Through him, Pessoa explores a quieter and more introspective version of himself, blurring the line between author, narrator, and character.

Interestingly, *The Book of Disquiet* was never completed during Pessoa's lifetime. When he died in 1935, he left behind a wooden trunk containing more than 25,000 manuscripts of notes, poems, fragments, and reflections. Scholars later organised these fragments into the book we know today, published posthumously, giving readers a glimpse into the private thoughts of one of Portugal's most enigmatic writers.



Elsa Nelvin S1SVA LUX 1

Pessoa's reflections often capture the tension between insignificance and imagination. In one of the book's most famous passages, he writes: *"I am nothing. I'll never be anything. I couldn't want to be something. Apart from that, I have in me all the dreams in the world."*

The Book of Disquiet

Within this line, Pessoa reminds us of the strange duality of the human condition. No matter who we are or where we find ourselves in life, we remain dreamers, capable of imagining worlds far beyond our everyday reality.

The atmosphere of the book mirrors the city's own mood: calm, nostalgic, and faintly melancholic. As the sun sets over São Jorge Castle and its warm light spreads across the avenues of Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon seems to unfold like one of Pessoa's reflections: quiet, contemplative, and layered with history. From the haunting ruins of Carmo Convent to the historic riverside district of Belém, the city carries a sense of beauty shaped by time, memory, and loss. Like the thoughts that fill the pages of *The Book of Disquiet*.

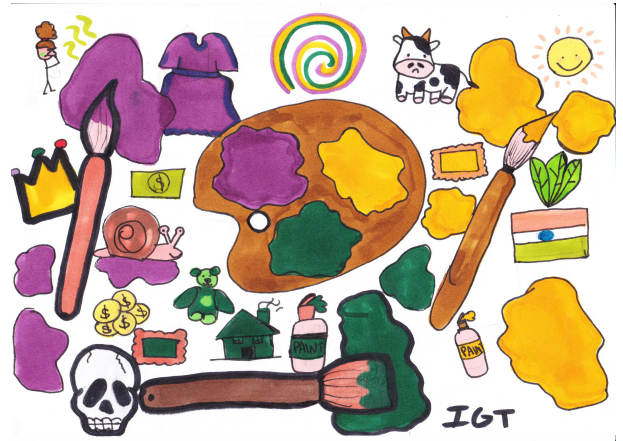
Walking through Lisbon today, it is easy to imagine Pessoa doing the same, quietly observing the rhythm of the streets and transforming ordinary moments into reflections about existence. In this way, *The Book of Disquiet* is more than a book about Lisbon; it is a reminder that even the most ordinary city walk can become a journey into the inner world of the human mind.

Ed. Lina Welin S4SVA LUX 1

Past Paints: Daft or Dangerous?

Three of the Most Curious Colours in History

Inara Gongora-Tuncer S1ENA LUX 1



Have you ever wondered how Van Gogh achieved such bright yellows, or how Monet managed to paint such vivid greens?

Behind many famous paintings, there are surprising and sometimes quite strange stories about the colours used to create them. In this article, we will explore the history of pigments, how they were produced, and the most important question: were they harmless or actually toxic?

Tyrian Purple

The Colour of Kings

Tyrian purple, also called royal purple, is a dye with a long history. It comes from the ancient city of Tyre in Phoenicia, which is in modern-day Lebanon, and dates back to around the 16th century BCE. There is also a legend connected to its discovery involving the god Melqart, a nymph called Tyros, and the god's dog. **According to the story**, the dog bit into a sea snail, a type known as a murex snail. When Tyros noticed that the dog's mouth had turned a deep purple colour, she demanded a dress in exactly that shade. She even said that if she did not receive it, she would refuse to love Melqart any longer. To satisfy her request, Melqart gathered the snails and created the dye. According to the myth, this is how the colour was first discovered.

The reason this colour is rarely seen today is because of the way it was produced. It came from the mucus of a Mediterranean sea snail called *Bolinus brandaris*. The problem was that each snail produced only a tiny amount. To make just one gram of dye, around 12,000 snails were needed. Because of this, the pigment was sometimes worth more than gold in the ancient world. Producing enough for a whole piece of clothing required an enormous number of snails.

Because it was so expensive, Tyrian purple became a symbol of wealth and power. It was often associated with rulers and important people. This is one reason why purple is still connected with royalty today, including the English royal family.

There was also another problem: the smell. After the dye was extracted, the snail remains were often left on hot Mediterranean beaches. In the summer heat, the smell must have been terrible.

Another reason the pigment is so rare today is that the exact ancient method was eventually lost. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the original recipe disappeared. Scientists have tried to recreate it, but nothing is the same as the original process.

Emerald Green

A Beautiful but Deadly Victorian Colour

Emerald green, also called arsenic green or Paris green, was a very popular colour during the Victorian era. It was a copper-arsenic compound developed as a brighter version of Scheele's green, which had already been used in the 18th century. Chemists Russ and Sattler first produced it in the city of Schweinfurt in Bavaria, Germany, and it quickly became fashionable across Europe.

However, there was a serious problem: Paris green contained arsenic trioxide, which is a highly poisonous substance. It could release toxic particles when touched or when the air was damp. This meant that many Victorian homes were decorated with something that could slowly poison the people living there.

The colour appeared almost everywhere: wallpaper, clothes, books, toys, tableware, and many other everyday objects.

The pigment was also used in well-known paintings such as Vincent van Gogh's Self-Portrait (1888), Claude Monet's Luncheon on the Grass (1866), and Georges Seurat's pointillist masterpiece A Sunday on La Grande Jatte (1886). Artists liked it because it produced a very bright green.

During the 1830s and 1840s, some countries, including Prussia and France, banned the sale of the pigment. Even so, it continued to be used for many years. In the 1860s and 1880s, its popularity began to decline, especially after factory workers became ill or died from exposure. Companies gradually stopped using it in homes, although it was still used as a pesticide. The official ban on Paris green in household use finally came in the 1960s. Today, it is remembered as a beautiful but dangerous Victorian colour.

Indian Yellow

A Pigment with a Very Unusual Origin

Indian yellow was an important colour in many paintings, including the bright moon in Van Gogh's The Starry Night. As the name suggests, the pigment originally came from India and dates to around the 15th century. We know about the traditional production method mainly because of a letter written in 1883 by T. N. Mukharji to Sir Joseph Hooker, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in England. In his letter, Mukharji explained how the pigment was made in the Bengal region of India. Cows were fed almost entirely on mango leaves. This diet produced a very concentrated urine that was then used to make the pigment. The liquid was heated, filtered, and shaped into hard, strong-smelling balls. **These balls were called "purree" and were exported to Europe**, where paint-makers used them to produce pigment for artists. When people in London discovered how the colour was made, many were shocked.

Because of this discovery, the pigment was eventually banned in 1910. The reasons included animal cruelty, religious concerns (since cows are sacred in Indian culture), and the declining number of cattle in some areas.

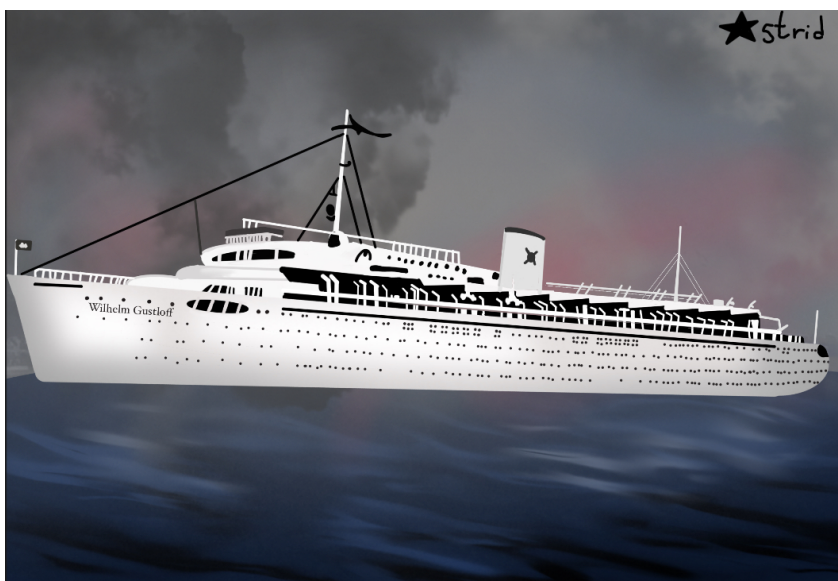
Today, the Indian yellow found in art shops is not made in this way. Instead, it is produced using synthetic chemicals that recreate a colour very similar to the original pigment.

As you have seen, many pigments used in art have unusual and sometimes surprising histories behind them. Some were extremely expensive, some smelled terrible, and others turned out to be dangerous for the people who used them. The next time you look at a famous painting, it is worth remembering that the colours on the canvas might have quite an unexpected story behind them. Sometimes, the most beautiful colours in art history came from very strange places.

The Forgotten Shipwreck: The Story of the Wilhelm Gustloff

Lydia Bisti S2ENA LUX 2

I spent hours racking my brain trying to find out what I would write about. I was on the bus when the idea came to me. I had recently started reading a book about the disastrous sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff, so I decided to search it up. I mean, how disastrous could it have been, I had never heard of it. Turns out it was the worst shipwreck in history with an estimated death toll of around 9,300. Yes, you read right... 9,300, that's 6 times more deaths than the Titanic. I took some time to process all of this, but then I thought, if it was so big, how come most people haven't heard of it. That's when the idea came to write about it and share the story of this horrendous event with you guys.



Astrid Kaczmarek Rydberg S1SVA LUX 1

What Was the Wilhelm Gustloff?

The **Wilhelm Gustloff** was originally built in 1937 in Nazi Germany. The ship was initially intended to be called "Adolf Hitler," but it ultimately ended up taking the name Wilhelm Gustloff, after the leader of the Nazi Party's Swiss branch who had been assassinated by a Jewish student in 1936.

The **Wilhelm Gustloff** wasn't a military ship from the beginning. It was a cruise liner which was built for the Nazi organisation Kraft Durch Freude ("Strength Through Joy") which aimed to provide affordable vacations and entertainment for German workers. The ship was designed as a symbol of the regime's promise that even ordinary citizens could enjoy luxury travel. For several years, the Wilhelm Gustloff sailed as a cruise ship, taking passengers on trips around Europe.

A Cruise Ship Turned War Ship

When the war began in 1939, everything changed. The German navy took control of the ship and used it for military purposes. In the beginning it was used as a medical ship that carried wounded soldiers. Deeper into the war, it was used as a barracks ship for submarine trainees.

A Dangerous Journey

By early 1945, the situation of the Germans was getting bad. The Soviet forces were advancing quickly in the east and millions of Germans in east Prussia were leaving their homes to escape the Red Army. In response the German navy launched the Hannibal Operation whose goal was to evacuate injured soldiers, but also civilians.

The Wilhelm Gustloff departed from the port of Gotenhafen on the 30th of January 1945. The ship was designed to carry about 1,900, but that night, the ship had more than 10,000 people on board. The people on board were made up of children, women, elderly people, wounded soldiers and naval personnel.

During the night, not deep into the voyage, disaster struck.

A Soviet submarine spotted the ship, and since it thought that it was a military ship, it fired several torpedoes. Panic erupted and chaos exploded. Everyone rushed towards the lifeboats but only nine were lowered. The ship began to list heavily within minutes.

In the cold waters of the Baltic Sea, there was a small chance of survival. Since the temperature was below 0, most people who jumped into the water, died of hypothermia. The ship sank just an hour after being hit.

Some ships eventually came to the rescue and managed to pull 1,200 people out of the water. This is nothing compared to the 9,000 people who lost their lives in these cold, freezing waters. It remains the deadliest marine disaster, far surpassing the Titanic.

Despite this fact, it is not widely known. The reasons? The main reason is that it happened towards the end of WWII, and people were too emotionally overwhelmed with much bigger tragedies. At the same time, the ship was carrying German civilians, which were under the Nazi's regime, which complicated how the story was remembered after the war.

Why This Story Matters

The sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff reminds us of something important:

War hurts everyone, even people who have nothing to do with it.

We still see conflicts today – in Ukraine, Iran, Israel, and many other places. These events show why peace matters and why we should never ignore the suffering of others.

What I hope you remember from this story isn't just the name of the ship. It's the reminder that every life matters, and that tragedies like this happen when war takes over. Our world needs peace, and it starts with us caring about what happens to others.

Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENB LUX 1



Jak NBA podbiła świat: historia największej ligi koszykówki

Gabriel Mirocha S4PLB LUX 1

Koszykówka należy do jednych z najpopularniejszych sportów zespołowych i od lat przyciąga zarówno zawodników, jak i kibiców. Jedną z najważniejszych ról w jej rozwoju odegrała liga NBA, której historia pokazuje, jak koszykówka zyskała światową popularność i stała się jednym z najbardziej rozpoznawalnych sportów na świecie.

Od BAA do NBA

Historia NBA to opowieść o ewolucji od lokalnej ligi do globalnego fenomenu sportowego. Wszystko zaczęło się 6 czerwca 1946 roku w Nowym Jorku, gdy powstała nazwa Basketball Association of America (BAA). Wydarzenie to uznaje się za początek historii ligi koszykarskiej w Stanach Zjednoczonych. 3 sierpnia 1949 roku BAA połączyła się z konkurencyjną National Basketball League (NBL), tworząc NBA. Założycielami ligi byli m.in. Walter Brown, Maurice Podoloff, Ned Irish i Edward Gottlieb. W inauguracyjnym sezonie NBA (1946/1947) wystartowało 11 drużyn. Do dziś w lidze przetrwały jedynie dwie z tamtego czasu: New York Knicks oraz Boston Celtics.

Era dominacji Boston Celtics (1957-1969)

Boston Celtics zdominowali NBA na przełomie lat 50. i 60., a w centrum tej koszykarskiej dynastii stał Bill Russell. W 13 sezonach Celtics wygrali 11 tytułów mistrza NBA. Lider zespołu pięciokrotnie zdobywał statuetkę MVP finałów. Drugą siłą ligi byli St. Louis Hawks, którzy z czasem pokonali

Boston w finałach.

Wilt Chamberlain i Philadelphia 76ers

W 1959 roku w NBA zadebiutował Wilt Chamberlain z Philadelphia 76ers. W sezonie 1961/1962 rzucił średnio ponad 50 punktów na mecz, w tym słynne 100 punktów przeciwko New York Knicks. W 1967 roku Philadelphia 76ers zakończyli serię 8 tytułów Celtics i wygrali finał z San Francisco Warriors. Pod koniec tej ery do NBA dołączyły nowe kluby, m.in. Bulls, SuperSonics, Bucks i Suns.

Złota era lat 80

Lata 80. to złoty okres NBA, uważany za jeden z najlepszych w historii koszykówki. To była era 'Showtime' Los Angeles Lakers, znanych z widowiskowego stylu gry. W 1980 roku debiutant Magic Johnson zastąpił kontuzjowanego Kareema Abdul-Jabbara w finale, zdobywając tytuł i statuetkę MVP i od razu zdobył serca fanów. Lakersi zdobyli w tej dekadzie 5 tytułów i stali się ikoną popkultury w Hollywood. Przed dominacją Detroit i Chicago, Sixers byli głównym rywalem Lakersów. W 1983 roku zawodnicy Sixers,

Moses Malone i Julius Erving stworzyli 'superzespół', zdobywając mistrzostwo w dominującym stylu.

Bad Boys Detroit Pistons

Pod koniec dekady narodzili się Bad Boys z Detroit, którzy zburzyli hierarchię ligi. Isiah Thomas, Joe Dumars i Bill Laimbeer stworzyli drużynę, która nienawidziła przegrywać i grała niezwykle fizycznie w obronie. Pistons wprowadzili słynne „Jordan Rules”, strategię mającą powstrzymać Michaela Jordana i wybić go z rytmu. Udało im się to i zwieńczyli dekadę mistrzostwem w 1989 roku.

Narodziny legendy - Michael Jordan

Chicago Bulls w latach 80. nie zdobyli mistrzostwa i byli pośmiewiskiem ligi, dopóki nie pojawił się Michael Jordan. Świat oszalał na punkcie „Air” Jordana, który w 1986 roku zdobył 63 punkty przeciwko Bostonowi i Larry’emu Birdowi, pokazując całemu światu, że jest nową gwiazdą NBA. Jordan uczynił NBA globalną, a rywalizacja z Detroit Pistons torowała drogę do dynastii Bullsów. Pod koniec lat 80. do ligi dołączyły cztery nowe

kluby: Miami Heat, Charlotte Hornets, Orlando Magic i Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dynastia Chicago Bulls - lata 90

Lata 90. to era dynastii Chicago Bulls. Bullsi pod wodzą Phila Jacksona i duetu Jordan -Pippen zdobyli trzy tytuły z rzędu, pokonując Portland, Lakersów i Phoenix Suns. Po przerwie Jordana na baseball, Bullsi wrócili w wielkim stylu, ustanawiając rekord 72 zwycięstw w sezonie regularnym i zdobywając kolejne trzy tytuły. W tym czasie legendarna trójka - Jordan, Pippen i Rodman - skradła serca fanów NBA.

Globalizacja NBA i Dream Team

Rok 1992 był przełomowy dla popularności NBA na świecie. Na Igrzyskach Olimpijskich w Barcelonie zadebiutował „Dream Team” z gwiazdami NBA - Jordanem, Birdem i Magic Johnsonem. Zrewolucjonizowało to postrzeganie koszykówki i sprowadziło nowych graczy z zagranicy. W tej dekadzie dominowali środkowi, tacy jak Hakeem Olajuwon, Karl Malone i Patrick Ewing. Liga rozszerzyła się również o Kanadę - dołączyły Toronto Raptors i Vancouver Grizzlies. W tym czasie odbył się jeden z najlepszych draftów w historii, czyli coroczny proces wyboru nowych zawodników przez drużyny NBA, z którego wyłoniono takie gwiazdy jak Kobe Bryant, Allen Iverson i Steve Nash.

Początek XXI wieku - Lakers i Spurs

Na początku XXI wieku

dominowali Lakersi, prowadzeni przez Phila Jacksona, którzy zdobyli trzy mistrzostwa z rzędu. Drużynę napędzał niszczycielski duet Shaquille'a O'Neala i Kobe Bryanta. Shaq był u szczytu formy, zdobywając Finals MVP w każdym z trzech sezonów, a młody, nastoletni Kobe Bryant przeobraził się w supergwiazdę zespołu. Mistrzostwa były efektem Triangle Offense Jacksona, który wykorzystał słabości obrony rywali. Choć Lakersi dominowali na parkiecie, to Allen Iverson, gwiazda Philadelphia 76ers, stał się ikoną młodych fanów, wprowadzając do NBA kulturę hip-hopową: tatuaże, warkoczyki, szerokie opaski i luźne ubrania. Podczas gdy Lakersi byli hollywoodzcy, w Teksasie rozwijała się dynastia Tima Duncana i San Antonio Spurs. W 2001 roku NBA zniósła zakaz obrony strefowej i wprowadziła zasadę 3 sekund.

Era LeBrona Jamesa

W latach 2010 zaczęła się era LeBrona Jamesa. Liga przeszła w tym czasie transformację, dając graczom większą kontrolę nad karierą. LeBron stał się centralną postacią ligi, meldując się osiem razy z rzędu w finałach NBA. Jego seria finałów rozpoczęła się od czasów wielkiej trójki w Miami Heat, w składzie z Dwyane'em Wadem i Chrisem Boshem, z którą zdobył dwa mistrzostwa w cztery lata. W 2014 roku LeBron wrócił do Cleveland Cavaliers. W finałach 2016 Cavs przegrywali 1:3 z Golden State Warriors, ale LeBron wraz z Kyrie Irvingiem dokonali pierwszego w historii powrotu z takiej sytuacji, dając Cleveland upragniony tytuł.

Nowa generacja NBA i przyszłość ligi

Na scenie NBA pojawili się Golden State Warriors, rzucając wyzwanie LeBronowi. Golden State, z Braćmi Splash - Currym i Klayem Thompsonem - stali się nową potęgą ligi. W 2016 roku dołączył Kevin Durant, a drużyna pobiła rekord Chicago Bulls, wygrywając 73 mecze w sezonie. Pod koniec dekady LeBron przeniósł się do Los Angeles Lakers, gdzie do dziś należy do najlepszych koszykarzy ligi. Obecna era to gwiazdy takie jak Nikola Jokić, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Luka Dončić, Victor Wembanyama i Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. To era równowagi - od 2019 roku niemal co sezon mamy innego mistrza.

Dzisiejsza NBA to koszykówka najszybsza i najbardziej ofensywna w historii. W tej erze legendy jak LeBron i Stephen Curry mierzą się z nowymi talentami ligi. Liga testuje nowe formaty, jak wprowadzony w 2023 roku turniej NBA Cup, aby przyciągnąć młodych fanów. Czas pokaże, jak rozwinie się obecna era, wpisując się w legendarną historię NBA.

Zbliżają się Play-Offy w NBA, a oto moje typy na ten sezon:

Rookie of the Year: Cooper Flagg
Coach of the Year: J.B. Bickerstaff
Czarny koń: Miami Heat, Charlotte Hornets
Western Conference Finals: San Antonio Spurs
Eastern Conference Finals: Detroit Pistons
Mistrzostwo NBA: San Antonio Spurs
MVP finałów: Victor Wembanyama

Le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord

Hippolyte François

S3FRA LUX 1

Souvent les termes Royaume-Uni ou Grande-Bretagne portent à confusion : est-ce que la Grande-Bretagne est un pays ? Le Royaume-Uni est-il une nation ? Ces termes reviennent en boucle et continuent de perturber les esprits de génération en génération. Par conséquent, dans cet article je tenterai de répondre à vos questions et nous aborderons les sujets tels que la monarchie, la culture, la politique, ainsi que les pays qui constituent le Royaume-Uni.

Premièrement, il est nécessaire de rappeler quelques termes géopolitiques qui vous seront utiles pour la suite de votre lecture. Une nation, c'est l'ensemble des êtres humains vivant sur un même territoire, ayant une communauté d'origine, d'histoire, de culture, de traditions, parfois de langue, et constituant une communauté politique (selon le Larousse). Un État, c'est une entité juridique qui se compose d'un territoire, d'une population et d'un pouvoir politique, exerçant une souveraineté reconnue sur son territoire.

La nuance entre ces deux termes, souvent confondus, n'est pas si compliquée qu'on peut le penser : une nation peut s'étendre au-delà des frontières. Par exemple, une nation nord-américaine peut se constituer de différents États, le Canada et les États-Unis. L'État, lui, ne s'étend pas au-delà des frontières : l'État français, par exemple, est un pays délimité par des frontières. Il y a là, d'ailleurs, encore une différence : l'État est une entité juridique qui se compose d'un territoire géographique. Cependant, nous verrons qu'il existe certaines exceptions, notamment dans le cas du Royaume-Uni.

Le Royaume-Uni dans son nom complet "Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord", est un pays constitué de la Grande-Bretagne et de l'Irlande du Nord. La Grande-Bretagne est une île constituée de trois nations constitutives. Contrairement à la notion de nation, une notion constitutive désigne une subdivision territoriale, c'est-à-dire une division interne d'un État. Grâce à cela, le Royaume-Uni est divisé en plusieurs pays partiellement autonomes : l'Écosse, le Pays de Galles, l'Angleterre et l'Irlande du Nord, qui, contrairement aux autres nations constitutives, ne fait pas partie de la Grande-Bretagne mais appartient géographiquement de l'île d'Irlande.

Zoomons un peu sur notre carte, et les îles de Man, Jersey et Guernesey apparaissent alors. Ces îles sont en fait des territoires autonomes qui appartiennent à la Couronne britannique mais qui ne font pas partie du Royaume-Uni. Elles sont des territoires à part, mais faisant tout de même partie du Commonwealth.



Andrea Roman S3FRC LUX 1

Le Commonwealth est une organisation intergouvernementale réunissant majoritairement les anciens membres de l'Empire britannique. Le monarque Charles III, souverain du Royaume-Uni, en est le chef. Il est considéré comme le souverain de ces pays également, mais n'a pas de pouvoir sur ceux-ci. Cette organisation réunit les pays par leurs liens culturels, linguistiques et historiques. Le Commonwealth regroupe des membres sur presque tous les continents, tels que le Canada et l'Australie.

Parlons maintenant de la politique au Royaume-Uni. Le système politique du pays est assez complexe, tentons de le décrypter. Le système de Westminster (nom pour désigner le système politique anglais) peut être divisé en deux branches distinctes. Le gouvernement et le Parlement.

Dans le gouvernement, nous retrouvons les ministres, les ministères, le cabinet des ministres (regroupant seulement les 20 ministres les plus importants) ainsi que les administrations. Le Premier ministre est choisi par la Couronne, qui est conseillée par le gouvernement. La Couronne a le pouvoir exécutif, elle règne mais ne gouverne pas.

Le Parlement est constitué de deux chambres distinctes. La chambre des communes et la chambre des lords. La chambre des communes compte 650 députés, c'est elle qui décide des lois et qui les vote. Elle peut aussi adopter des motions de censure en cas de tensions politiques. La chambre des lords est constituée de près de 800 lords, comprenant les 26 lords spirituels (évêques et archevêques de l'Église anglicane), les 92 pairs héréditaires et les pairs à vie. Cette chambre a pour rôle d'examiner les lois et de vérifier leur conformité avec les principes constitutionnels. Auparavant, la chambre des lords agissait comme la plus haute instance en matière de justice, elle a maintenant été remplacée par la Cour suprême. Celle-ci est chargée de traiter les affaires les plus importantes en matière juridique, administrative et pénale dans le pays, à l'exception de l'Écosse, qui possède son propre système juridique. Grâce à la dévolution du pouvoir, le Pays de Galles, l'Irlande du Nord et l'Écosse ont leur propre parlement. Ce système permet à chaque nation constitutive de prendre des décisions pour son territoire dans des domaines variés, allant de la santé à l'agriculture, par exemple. Cela permet de traiter des affaires locales sans devoir forcément faire appel au parlement du Royaume-Uni. L'Angleterre, quant à elle, a fait le choix de ne pas créer un parlement spécifiquement anglais, le pays est donc dirigé par le Parlement britannique.

Continuons notre voyage sur l'île la plus peuplée d'Europe. Parlons de la culture britannique, une culture riche en histoire. L'union de l'Écosse et de l'Angleterre en 1707 a formé le royaume de Grande-Bretagne (le Pays de Galles faisait auparavant partie de l'Angleterre à la suite de l'Acte d'Union de 1536). Ensuite, l'Acte d'Union de 1801 a rattaché l'Irlande au royaume. Celle-ci s'en est retirée à la suite de la guerre d'indépendance de 1921 seule la partie nord est restée rattachée, formant ainsi le Royaume-Uni que nous connaissons aujourd'hui. Le drapeau britannique est l'Union Jack, représentant les quatre nations. La culture britannique est très variée, allant de l'art au cinéma en passant par le théâtre et la gastronomie.

Nous allons maintenant présenter chaque pays et sa culture, en commençant par l'Écosse. L'Écosse est caractérisée par des paysages époustouflants tels que les Highlands au nord et les Lowlands au sud. Le drapeau de l'Écosse est illustré par la croix de Saint-André, saint patron des Écossais. Le chardon est également un symbole national. Selon la légende, une armée ennemie aurait tenté d'attaquer les Écossais de nuit. Un soldat aurait alors marché sur un chardon et son cri aurait réveillé les sentinelles écossaises. L'Écosse est aussi connue pour les Pictes, qui ont peuplés le territoire et laissé de nombreuses traces, notamment de pierres gravées. Le porridge et les haggis (panse de brebis farcies) sont des spécialités écossaises. Le whisky est également une boisson typique, tout comme le kilt, costume traditionnel. Le rugby à XV est un sport national en Écosse. Tous les pays du Royaume-Uni à l'exception de l'Irlande du Nord participent au célèbre Tournoi des Six Nations.

De plus, l'Écosse partage une frontière avec l'Angleterre dont nous allons parler maintenant. Ce territoire a d'abord conquis par l'Empire romain, qui a laissé beaucoup de traces, telles que les voies romaines ou les basiliques. L'Angleterre est notamment populaire pour sa capitale, Londres, l'une des plus grandes villes du monde. La culture anglaise comprend également le rock, avec les célèbres Beatles, ainsi que le fish and chips, un plat à base de poisson frit accompagné de frites. William Shakespeare est un auteur, poète et dramaturge du XVI^e siècle qui a marqué l'histoire avec ses pièces célèbres comme Macbeth ou Roméo et Juliette. Le British Museum témoigne de la richesse du pays avec ses nombreuses collections. Le drapeau national est la croix de Saint-Georges. Le thé noir est la boisson typiquement anglaise.

Le Pays de Galles est notre prochaine étape. La littérature galloise est l'une des plus anciennes d'Europe avec des textes datant de XIII^e siècle. Les plats typiques sont les saucisses de Glamorgan, et le rugby à XV est le sport le plus populaire. Le drapeau national représente un dragon rouge, symbole emblématique de la culture galloise, issu de la légende arthurienne, sur fond vert et blanc, couleurs associée à la dynastie Tudor.

Dirigeons-nous maintenant vers l'île d'Irlande. En Irlande du Nord, le pays est connu pour son folklore similaire à celui de l'Irlande. Les danses traditionnelles y sont très populaires, tout comme la mythologie celtique. L'Ulster fry est le petit-déjeuner typique nord-irlandais. Les sports pratiqués incluent le football gaélique ainsi que le rugby à XV. Le drapeau national est l'Union Jack, après l'abandon en 1972 de l'Ulster Banner.

Le Royaume-Uni est un pays riche en histoire et en culture. J'espère que cet article vous en aura appris plus sur le pays de la royauté. Goodbye !

Moving on to the next meme trend

6-7 IS OUT. What's in?

Vivienne Yates

S1ENA LUX 2

We can all agree that we have all heard of the 6-7 virus, right? Although everybody says it, where did 6-7 even come from? 6-7 is a line in a rap song made by an American rapper called Skrilla, and his song "Doot Doot (6-7)", which was officially released in February 2025, had the repeating line "six-seven" as a hook. The phrase went viral after being paired with video edits of NBA player LaMello Ball, who just happened to be 6 foot 7 (2.01 m tall). 6-7 was named 'word of the year' in 2025 due to its popularity.

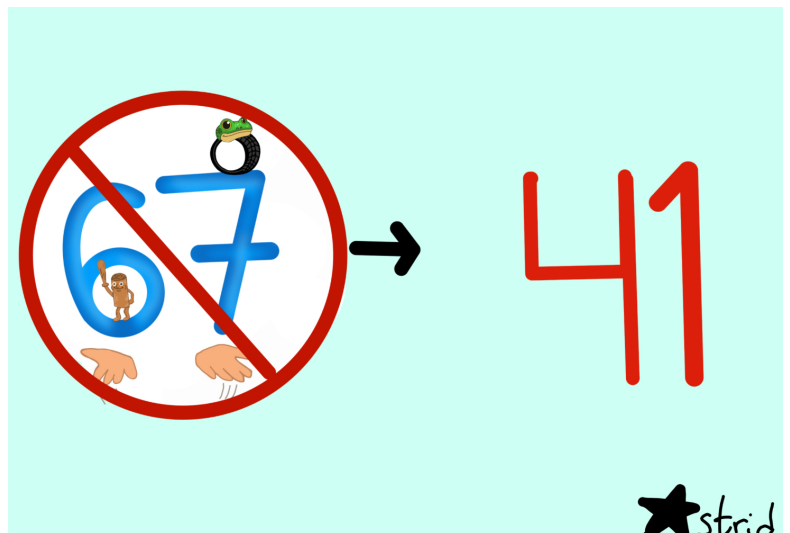
Italian brainrot is another widely known meme trend declining in popularity. In 2023, different internet users created memes about the famous actor and wrestler Dwayne Johnson in which he rhymes about absurd topics. In one video, he would say this nonsense phrase "tralalero tralala" which he would later rhyme it with "smerdo pure nell'aldilà" after that, in early 2025 people added on to that and made more weird rhyming phrases like "Tung Tung Tung Sahur" or "Bombardiro Crocodilo".

After 6-7 was taken over by our parents and other adults, most of us have moved on. 41 (forty-one) is one phrase in the running to take over, and some people find it even better than 6-7. Rumor has it that the reason 41 is on the rise is because $6 \times 7 = 42$, but 41 sounds better, so it automatically became more popular. However, it is more likely that 41 originates from another rap song released in 2021 by an artist called Blizzi Boi. His rap is about himself as 41-year-old man and how he has 41 of everything, which is why it is called "41 Song".

Gen Alpha memes are moving so fast. 41 is popular because, like 6-7, it means nothing and everything at the same time. Part the reason our generation think these memes are funny is because there isn't any punch line or reason to laugh about them, so most of them mean absolutely nothing. Most of us don't do it because of what it means, but because the other people around us say it. The cool thing about it is that although it's on the internet, it connects kids all around the world in real life. I was in India for the February break, and even there, the kids knew 6-7. As one S1 student put it, "I don't care about the actual meaning of 6-7, I like the feeling of being a part of my generation."

We may not all speak the same language, but we all speak 6-7."

Ed. Sophie Bua S7ENB LUX 1



Astrid Kaczmarek Rydberg S1SVA LUX 1

S7 SENIOR TRIBUTE

S7s' final words and advice

From: Mattia Paganotti S7ITB LUX 2

There's a powerful Chinese proverb that says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." For me, this quote encapsulates the essence of my entire school journey, and I believe it holds a universal truth for each of us.

Life is about planting seeds: seeds of passion, curiosity, and perseverance. It doesn't matter if others doubt you, laugh at you, or try to bring you down. What truly matters is the judgment you pass on yourself and the courage you have to pursue what sets your soul on fire.

So, I challenge everyone in this school, plant your seed today. Nurture it with dedication, water it with resilience, and watch it grow into something extraordinary. Your tree will be unique, just like you, and it will stand as a testament to your journey.

From: Dana Hlaváčová S7ENA LUX 2

It is hard to imagine a busy life, when you get to go home and do nothing for the rest of the day. But believe me, things are going to get busier. You will find yourself having to stay up at night, working on some essay due the next day. You will be preparing for projects outside of school. You will be spending days putting together university applications. You will be catching up with whatever you didn't learn back then which you will need in the future. You will look back on the times when you didn't have to sacrifice sleep and hobbies.

So please, find your passion, find something you love, something that fulfils you, before that time gets flooded with a busy life.

From: Klara Maindron S7FRB LUX 1

Being a student in secondary school means gaining a little bit of experience, knowledge and responsibility every single day. As you take your steps for your future, enjoy the present moment, get things done by the deadline you put yourself and don't hesitate to say yes! Yes to projects, yes to activities and yes to any type of opportunity, you will be ending up learning the most from them. All I can say is enjoy your last years, they are the best, filled with laughter, fun and opportunities.

From: Léa Guérard S7FRB LUX 1

During your life and especially during your education, there will be moments of doubt. Doubt about your abilities, your career path, or the choices you make. That is completely normal, especially as a teenager. Yet many people allow fear to take control of their dreams because they are afraid of failure.

Do not be that person. Be the one who isn't afraid to speak their mind and dream big. Dreaming big is not embarrassing, it is inspiring. Let your fear of failure become the drive behind your success. Create your own bubble and focus on what truly matters for your future.

Don't let others decide what is possible or impossible for you. Believe in yourself. I know it sounds cliché, but if I had listened to many people, including teachers, I would never have come this far. Take ownership of your goals, no matter how far away they may seem or how different they are from others. Only you know what it takes to achieve them.

Because in the end, the tears of joy after receiving that acceptance letter made every tear shed over chemistry worth it.

From: Lucas Netrval S7ENC LUX 2

Dear students,

If there was one thing I believe the younger generation should hear it's this: "Carpe Diem" this is Latin for "seize the day." Act now! Not tomorrow. Do now what you will regret not doing tomorrow or in 5 years time! But if that's not motivation enough then there's a similar proverb in German, which is more direct: "Wer nicht wagt, der nicht gewinnt," or "He who does not dare, does not win." Putting yourself out there, taking that leap, may seem really difficult and useless but take it from me: it is so worth it! There is nothing better than the feeling of 'I did it and it worked' and if it doesn't work then okay it's sad but keep going! Never give up! If there's something you want then fight for it.

This might sound very abstract to you but how do you think that your favourite influencer got so famous? Or how the biggest fortunes in the world came to be? They dared to take the leap, and it payed off. And you can do the same, whether it's passing your next test or even asking someone out, you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. So, take them, and you'll maybe hit 10, 20, or even 30%+ of those shots with a bullseye dead centre!

But don't just apply this to school or relationships, this works for everything. In your favourite combat game, your upcoming work life after your studies and also your personal life now and as an adult. You can do anything, so long as you start today, not tomorrow.

Thank you

From: Ricardo von Zweidorf S7DEB LUX 1

Don't be afraid to take up to experience new things, take that extra additional subject, do that extracurricular, eat new food, drink new drinks, life is too short to waste it on doing the same mundane things.

Fun Facts

The Earth isn't a perfect sphere, it's slightly squished at the poles and bulging at the equator (called an "oblate spheroid").

Bananas are technically berries, but strawberries aren't.

Your brain uses about 20% of your body's total energy, even when you're doing nothing.

There are more possible games of chess than atoms in the observable universe

The spring migration of birds can span thousands of kilometers, and many species return to the exact same tree or nest every year.

Dad Jokes

I only know 25 letters of the alphabet...
I don't know y.

Why did the computer go to the doctor?
It caught a virus.

What did one wall say to the other wall?
I'll meet you at the corner.

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

What do French people call a bad Thursday?
A Trajeudi.

How do you call a Mexican that lost his car?
Carlos

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