

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

European Schools of Luxembourg

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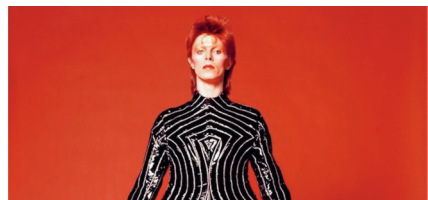
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Stressed out?

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Do we need pills to pull through?



Illustration: Anna Savel

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Chief Editor's Column

Vidar Önnersfors

Dear Readers,

This is the last issue of The Pupils' Voice for this school year, and also the last one for me as Chief Editor. I say this with a heavy heart, as the newspaper has come to mean more to me than I ever would have imagined. My journey with the paper has been a long and exciting one, but all good things must come to an end.

Being Chief Editor is a lot of work, as I have found out during this year. But in spite of all the time and the long nights this job requires you to put in, I have come to find it all incredibly rewarding. Being able to look through a newspaper and think "We made this" somehow makes it all worth it. Therefore, I must first and foremost thank Diana Öpik, last years Chief Editor, who convinced me to take over after her.

I was reluctant to take over at first. I did not believe that I would be able to lead and manage a group of people, nor that we'd be able to actually get any high-quality newspapers out. But we did. So thank you, Diana, for this and everything else you have done for the newspaper; you have set an example for me and all future Chief Editors to follow.

As of this year, The Pupils' Voice is not only the newspaper of ESL 1, but rather of the European Schools of Luxembourg. Setting up a newspaper in a new school, as we have done in Mamer, is bound to be difficult and is not something anyone can pull off. But we have, thanks to the wonderful people in the Mamer newspaper team and, most importantly, to the Head of Mamer herself, Ailsa Tyrrell. Not only did Ailsa figure out ways to deal with all the administrative parts that went into introducing the paper in ESL 2, but she has also been a great person to bounce ideas off of. Thank you Ailsa, for all your help and everything you have done as Head of Mamer.

Looking back upon this school year, I think the entire team should be proud of what we have managed to achieve. I want to take the opportunity to everyone who has helped out The Pupils' Voice this year. To our journalists, who have written some of the best articles in the history of the paper, and who have started new sections and columns, like "What ESL students wear" and the Travel Column. To all the editors, who make sure that our articles are always of a high linguistic quality. To all the photographers and illustrators, who always make sure our papers are visually appealing. To our proofreader, Nereida, who always manages to spot even the slightest mistakes and has guaranteed that our newspaper looks as good as it does. To the Pupils' Committees, for sponsoring us and updating people about current events in our schools. Thank you to everyone who has made 2017-2018 such a memorable and successful year for The Pupils' Voice.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our very own designer, Mathias Obrzut, who has spent so much time to make sure our paper looks as good as it does. Always ready to help and open to making adjustments, Mathias epitomises the meaning of teamwork, which is fundamental to our newspaper. The position of designer is one of the most important for us, as the designer puts all the content together into the paper you are holding in your hands. We are actively looking for a new designer for next school year, which you can find more information about in the last pages of the paper.

Looking forward, I truly hope that the newspaper we have maintained and built up during this year remains a part of our school for many more years to come. Next year, a new Chief Editor and Head of Mamer will replace me and Ailsa, and I have absolute faith in them to keep up and improve The Pupils' Voice even further.

So thank you to everyone, for being part of this project called The Pupils' Voice. I hope you enjoy this year's last issue; it's a good one.

Yours Sincerely,



6th Year Trips

En Route pour la Sicile



Photo: Viviana Girard

Comme nous le savons tous, le voyage de 6eme année est le moment le plus attendu par la plupart des élèves du secondaire. Pour les élèves plus jeunes ne connaissant pas encore le contexte, il suffit de choisir quatre des sept destinations proposées par l'école et d'avoir une bonne motivation afin d'être choisi dans le voyage souhaité. Parmi les voyages nous ayant été proposés se trouvait la Sicile, cette magnifique île aux parfums d'Italie.

En effet, cette année un nouveau voyage en Sicile auquel pouvaient participer 25 élèves a été organisé par des professeurs volontaires. Étant donné que le voyage n'avait jamais été proposé auparavant, nous n'avons malheureusement pas eu la possibilité de voyager en avion. Certains étaient d'abord réticents à l'idée de voyager en bus, mais la deuxième partie du voyage effectuée en ferry a vraiment été une nouvelle expérience pour nous tous.

Le 20 avril 2018 au soir, nous sommes donc partis de l'école en bus dans la joie et la bonne humeur, et sommes arrivés au port de Naples le lendemain en fin d'après-midi. Puis, nous avons passé la nuit à bord du ferry afin de rejoindre le port de Palerme tôt le dimanche matin. En route, nous avons fait une halte dans la ville de Cefalu où nous avons pu prendre notre premier bain dans la mer.

Une fois à Catane, nous étions tous heureux d'être arrivés à l'hôtel après un si long voyage et ravis de constater que nous avions une grande plage de l'autre côté de la route! Au cours de notre séjour de trois jours à Catane, nous avons eu l'occasion de faire une partie de l'ascension de l'Etna - ce volcan sicilien culminant à 3300 mètres d'altitude - et de visiter la splendide ville de Taormine, en balcon sur la mer face à l'Etna d'où la Calabre est visible par temps clair ainsi que la nuit.

Les visites de la ville de Syracuse, de l'île d'Ortigie et de leurs belles plages sous le soleil sicilien ont également été des moments clés du voyage.

Le séjour à Catane terminé, nous avons pris le bateau en direction de l'île de Vulcano où nous avons profité de la plage de sable noir et pris le fameux bain de boue que nous attendions tous avec impatience! Malgré quelques brûlures aux pieds sur des mini geysers, et le fait que nous ayons incommodé notre entourage pendant les jours suivants à cause de l'odeur nauséabonde due au soufre, cette journée restera dans nos mémoires pendant très longtemps!

Après avoir voyagé en bateau de Vulcano à Lipari, nous nous sommes dirigés vers notre second hôtel. Nous avons tous été très agréablement surpris par les prestations proposées, notamment la piscine.

Le lendemain a probablement été la journée la plus chargée de tout le voyage. Nous avons pris le bateau en direction de l'île de Stromboli où nous avons fait l'ascension de ce volcan encore actif! Une fois sur l'île, nous étions à la fois excités et pas très rassurés, étant donné que nous avions dû signer une décharge en cas d'éruption du volcan. L'ascension fut assez dure mais malgré la fatigue, nous pouvions profiter du panorama qui embellissait au fur et à mesure que nous avançons. Une fois au sommet, la nuit était tombée et nous avons pu observer les éruptions des cratères du volcan. Ce moment au sommet du volcan a été extrêmement intense et aussi un peu terrifiant. Après la descente escarpée, nous étions tous épuisés mais nous repartions avec des souvenirs plein la tête.

Notre dernière nuit à Lipari passée, nous sommes retournés en Sicile où nous avons passé la journée et visité Palerme avant de remonter dans le ferry pour le trajet retour en direction de Luxembourg.

Ce voyage en Sicile a donc été très agréable et restera dans nos mémoires pendant de longues années.

Et aux futures sixièmes années qui attendent le voyage comme nous l'attendions, peu importe la destination qui vous sera attribuée, le voyage sera l'opportunité d'apprendre à connaître de nouvelles personnes, à connaître mieux celles que vous connaissez déjà, et de passer des moments inoubliables.

Emma Penzo

Style

What ESL Students Are Wearing



Mats Weijermans, 17

What is your favourite country to shop in?

-It's gotta be Hong Kong. All the sketchy stores with all the high fashion, second hand clothes and also all the fakes which are pretty funny to buy sometimes.

Who is your style icon?

-Scott Disick. I like the way he changes what he wears... yeah, he's cool.



Estere Feldhune, 17

When did you discover your personal style?

-I guess you have to constantly experiment with different styles to find your personality.

How does your outfit make you feel today?

-I feel casual.



Abigail O'Driscoll, 15

How much does your outfit cost?

-Well, I'm a bargain hunter, so around 35 Euros. Oh wait and the shoes... so 200 Euros maybe.

Who is your inspiration on instagram?

-I love @lissyroddy just because she's so versatile with everything she wears and she's got so much colour in her wardrobe that makes it really nice.



Elis Bright, 16

How does your outfit make you feel today?

-Steezy. I feel like my dad, because literally my dad used to wear this. So, shoutout to my dad.

Where do you shop?

-Internet, Asos...yeah that's it.

"Il me reste encore du temps"

La Procrastination

La procrastination ou la tendance à remettre des actions au lendemain est courante chez certaines personnes. Celles-ci vont repousser des actions telles que le ménage, le travail ou les études car ces actions sont pénibles, ce qui est compréhensible. Ces personnes vont donc faire des activités plus plaisantes au préalable et vont s'occuper de la partie ennuyeuse plus tard. Cependant, tout le monde n'adopte pas cette stratégie. En effet, près de la moitié des personnes préfèrent se débarrasser des corvées en premier lieu et ensuite se consacrer aux choses plus agréables. Faisant partie de la première catégorie et donc étant une procrastinatrice, j'ai décidé de partager les recherches que j'ai faites pour essayer de mieux comprendre ce qu'était la procrastination.

Tout d'abord, quelles sont les causes de la procrastination?

De nombreux facteurs sont mis en jeu, mais il ne faut pas oublier que tout dépend de l'individu. Un facteur commun peut être l'anxiété. Elle peut être liée à l'incertitude et à un manque de confiance en soi. Il peut aussi s'agir d'une anxiété sociale, par exemple pour des rendez-vous que l'on repousse. Un autre facteur pourrait être le fait d'être perfectionniste et de placer la barre trop haut pour ensuite ne pas l'atteindre. Cela peut directement conduire à la procrastination puisque l'élève préfère ne pas faire face à un possible échec.

Ensuite, l'hyperactivité (due au manque de concentration) va amener plus facilement la personne à être distraite. Cette distraction facilitée de nos jours par les écrans et autres supports numériques. Cependant, un manque d'envie, de la paresse, de la fatigue ou encore un manque de motivation pour accomplir ces tâches pourraient tout simplement en être la cause.



Photo: Eder Pozo Pérez

Enfin, comme dernier facteur, il y a la mauvaise estimation du temps nécessaire: les personnes concernées ont tendance à surestimer le temps qu'il leur reste avant la date limite.

Quelles sont les conséquences ?

Prenons en exemple une phrase que je me dis souvent bien qu'il ne me reste plus qu'une heure avant l'échéance: « Ça va, il me reste encore du temps ». Résultat : Je perds des heures de sommeil pour faire un travail que j'aurais pu faire quelques heures, jours ou semaines auparavant.

La procrastination conduit donc à de faibles performances ainsi qu'à une diminution du bien-être. Elle est également associée à de hauts niveaux de stress, de dépression et de faibles résultats académiques.

Pour finir, voici quelques conseils afin d'éviter la procrastination :

Dans un premier temps, il est nécessaire de prendre le problème au sérieux. La reconnaissance du problème est l'étape la plus importante. Ensuite, il faut fixer des priorités. En premier lieu se focaliser sur ses objectifs et commencer par ceux qui comptent le plus. Il faut également se poser des règles et les respecter tout en n'oubliant pas de se reposer et d'alterner entre pauses et activités durant la journée. Il est nécessaire de choisir les jours ou les horaires où l'on est le plus productif pour une meilleure réussite. Enfin, il est primordial de ne pas oublier de se récompenser. Comme on le dit souvent : « Après l'effort, le réconfort ». Cela sera sûrement une bonne source de motivation pour enfin se mettre au travail!

Emilie Steinbach

Ilona Pataki
Photography: Natalia Stewart

Commemorating 60 years of EIB EIB East Building



Photo: Aoife Madden

As 2018 is the 60th year of the European Investment Bank, I've decided to commemorate the event by writing about the EIB's East building, which was finished in 2008. You might have seen the East building from the John F Kennedy avenue or from Konrad Adenauer, on the way to Lux 1. From the outside, the building looks like a horizontal skyscraper, a glass tube 170m long and 50m wide.

Since its founding in 1958, after the Treaty of Rome, the workforce of the EIB has not stopped growing, from 66 people to 1 000 in 1999, and now over 2 900. The East building accommodates up to 750 workers, spread over 10 stories and 72 500m². The offices are in V-shaped modules, creating triangular atria that act as common areas, some of which contain trees.

In my opinion, the most interesting part of the East building is its environmental friendliness: it was the first building in continental Europe that was certified as "Excellent" by the British BREEAM rating system, which measures the sustainability of buildings. There are automatically operated glass flaps in the outer windows that ensure air flow and comfortable temperatures. The materials that were chosen were materials whose production polluted the least possible and are intended to be recycled. Rain water is collected on the roof and

is used as grey water, for irrigation and toilet flushing, for example. Large atria act as thermal buffers, limiting the energy needed to heat the building. Timber was used for the façade, to reduce the amount of embodied energy. Heating energy that is needed is provided by the co-generation plant next to the Coque, and is twice as efficient as a conventional power plant.



Photo: Aoife Madden

Another aspect of the East building that I find interesting is the contrast between it and the West building. The West building was built in 1980 in the brutalist style and was meant to signify the solidity of the EIB, whereas the East building was meant to portray transparency. Sir Denys Lasdun, the architect of the West building, is best known for designing the Royal National Theatre, a very divisive concrete building once compared by Prince Charles to a nuclear power station.

The East EIB building is already ten years old, but it continues to be an example of what the office building of the future will be like. It is a reminder that the environmental aspects of a building don't need to be sacrificed for a perfect aesthetic.

William Shaw

Preserve Local Culture

Toxic Tourism

Following the rise of social media, the travel industry has been given the opportunity to reach out and sell their products to a whole new audience: the younger and more impressionable generation which we, as students, are a part of.

We are no strangers to posting pictures of ourselves to showcase our latest holiday destination; whether they are of serene beaches, jaw-dropping mountains or funky dinners, anything will do to give our friends and family a little appetiser of our experience. Low-cost airlines have enabled anyone, anywhere, to travel to just about any destination that their heart desires.

Tourism has, under these circumstances, become the biggest industry and employer in the world. It hires 1 in 11 workers and plays an important role in most countries' economies. France, for example, has used the extra income to protect its national heritage sites and has provided a comfortable experience for all tourists, therefore becoming the world's top holiday destination.

However, if not kept under control, tourism can completely destroy the culture of a destination. Venice is a good example of this. Many of us imagine the small city of fewer than 60 000 inhabitants as being a peaceful haven intertwined with canals where one can enjoy sumptuous Italian cuisine and lounge on a luxurious gondola. Nevertheless, this vision is abruptly shattered by the sound of a massive cruise ship honking its horn and belching black fumes into the previously blue sky, bringing a dreamy tourist crashing back down to reality.

Venice receives over 2 million tourists every year, making the locals flee as the small authentic shops and restaurants they used to know are gradually replaced by big-name brands and expensive tourist traps. Foreign demand has also made real-estate prices go through the roof. Although one may say that tourism has helped Venice boost its financial situation, most locals are probably rightly fed up with having cruise ships on their doorstep all year round.



Photo: Emily Steinbach

Some may argue that tourism has helped some countries overcome poverty, but this task is trickier and less frequent than it seems. More often than not, money that tourists spend doesn't stay in the local community. It mostly goes towards international brands that tourists know and trust, and the local elites.

So, what can be done to save these beautiful destinations? Well, sadly, as an average tourist, not much. What you can do, though, is invest in what seem to be artisanal shops and restaurants when visiting an area instead of going to McDonald's. However, always remain aware of your surroundings, as tourist traps are sometimes well disguised.

Does this mean that we should stop travelling altogether? No, of course not! Travelling enriches us culturally and intellectually, helping us to come to grips with the world around us. Like many other activities, travelling requires caution and careful planning in order to remain as inoffensive as possible to the place you are visiting. So, go out there and explore, but don't forget to throw that ice cream pot into the bin!

Clémence Smith

Marks's Tech Column

The GDPR Sky is Falling

If you're anything like me, and even if you're not, chances are your email inbox has been under relentless assault by waves of emails from websites proclaiming that "we've updated our privacy policy" or "you need to confirm something". There's a reason for this: the GDPR.

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulation, and it's an EU-wide regulation to update its policies on companies storing people's personal information. It officially came into force two years ago but there was a "grace period" built in to allow people time to comply; it actually becomes enforceable on May 25, 2018, around the time that this newspaper will go to print, which is when almost all internet businesses lose their heads and start panicking. But why is it such a big deal?



The GDPR is such a big deal for three reasons. One, it is vastly stricter than many prior laws. To process basically any of your personal information, a company needs your explicit consent, and it can't be "implied", like all those pre-checked boxes you've seen to "subscribe to our spam emails". Once they have your data, it must be kept under lock and key, checked by a Data Protection Officer, and you have the right to view, correct, or completely erase any and all data that they have on you. Two, it applies even to non-EU companies – any website that is used by EU residents has to comply with these provisions, whether it's in Croatia, California or China. This is a Very Big Deal, as up until now the situation has been very murky, but now it's clear.

And three, the fines for violations of these new rules are massive – they cap out at €20 million or 4% of a business's annual global turnover, whichever is greater. That means that these fines are no longer a "business expense", as they have been with previous laws (not just data protection related – Microsoft saw monopoly violation fines as a necessary cost).

The interplay of all these means that companies have to get your consent for everything even vaguely related to your personal information. This is a good thing for us, though. Yes, it will make it hard or impossible to survive for companies whose business models are based around harvesting your data, but ultimately our data is a liability, not an asset, and needs to be secured and kept safe from abuse.

Don't believe me? Here is an actual chat conversation between Mark Zuckerberg (of Facebook fame) and an unnamed friend:

Zuck: Yeah so if you ever need info about anyone at Harvard, just ask, I have over 4,000 emails, pictures, addresses, SNS
[Redacted Friend's Name]: What? How'd you manage that one?
Zuck: People just submitted it. I don't know why. They "trust me"
Zuck: Dumb f***s

I think you see what I mean.

Marks Polakovs

WWIII?

Why Fire & Fury is nearing Peace & Tranquility

Many remember September of last year and the intensity of the threats exchanged between North Korea (DPRK) and the United States following sanctions being placed on North Korea's nuclear program. The most notable of these came from none other than Donald J. Trump, stating: "They best not make any more threats to the US or they will be met with fire and fury and frankly power the likes of which the world has never seen before." This series of confrontations between two of the world's most nuclear-able countries resulted in nearly all western powers fearing a conflict on the scale of a Third World War.

Following this, Sweden intervened. Due to the fact that they have been foes for many years, the US has no diplomatic presence in North Korea (apart from the DMZ on the border between North and South Korea, which is occupied 24/7 by American soldiers). Sweden and its neighbouring state of Finland (which is also on good terms with the DPRK) agreed to set up host meetings between the two nations in Stockholm. Löfven, the Prime Minister of Sweden, featured in an interview with a Swedish television network in which he said, "If we can help and provide a forum for this and support this process, then this is something we should do."

These encounters between Foreign Ministers seem to have been of great use in achieving peace between the two opposing nations, as they've resulted in talks between both Security Chiefs in San Francisco, and finally the planning of a trip to North Korea for the President of the United States himself to discuss peace and the release of three Americans held captive in the DPRK. In addition to all this, Trump has issued statements that Jong-Un's intentions seem "very open" and "very honourable based on what we are seeing".

Despite him saying all this, the US State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert issued a very different statement on April 25th: "For more than 60 years the people of North Korea have faced egregious human rights violations in virtually every aspect of life. In addition to the roughly 100,000 individuals, including children and family members of the accused, who suffer in political prison camps, North Koreans face an almost complete denial of fundamental freedoms by their government. Those trying to flee this oppressive environment, if caught, are often tortured or killed."

In short, though the two powers are in discussions to reach a truce, the US will not willingly accept any sort of inhumane actions in any country and it will be very difficult to change anything about the DPRK and to reverse the hatred their people have for Americans in general.

Christopher Stoneman

Truly awful

Dad Jokes

Why is the letter B particularly hot?

It makes oil boil.

When is a door not a door?

When it's a jar.

What time did the man go to the dentist?

Tooth hurt-y

Want to hear a joke about a piece of paper?

Never mind, it's tearable.

Are you all right?

No, I'm half left.

One broken puppet for sale.

No strings attached.

Equality

#MeToo Movement

One can argue that social media is a breeding ground for hostility, bitterness and, of course, fake news. However, over the past few months, we have witnessed the #MeToo movement.



Illustration: Sarah Rogers

Founded in 2006 by Tarana Burke on a social network called MySpace, this movement was initially set up to promote "empowerment through empathy" among women of colour, particularly within impoverished communities, who were survivors of sexual harassment. Moreover, in October 2017, activist Alyssa Milano advocated for the use of the #MeToo hashtag in order to spread awareness of the ubiquity of sexual misconduct. Although several other hashtags had previously been created as platforms on which to denounce sexual assault (most notably #MyHarveyWeinstein and #YouOkSis), the #MeToo movement gained by far the most traction and public attention.

You may think that this movement started in late 2017, and we're nearly in June 2018, so why cover such an old story? Although many celebrities (most notably

Harvey Weinstein) who have been accused of sexual misconduct have been thrown out of their sector of business thanks to this movement, the immorality and disrespect continues to thrive, not only in the world of celebrities but in the daily lives of a significant part of the population. The World Health Organization reported that an estimated third of all women have been victims of sexual violence and that 54% of American women have experienced "unwanted and inappropriate" molestation, of which 95% declared that this sort of behaviour usually goes unpunished.

These days, we live in an environment in which the Free World is governed by a man who has possibly sexually assaulted women and has said abhorrent and profane things to so many more. News stories are being fired off faster than we can count, and concerning Donald Trump, his abominable, misogynistic behaviour seems to have fallen down in our list of immediate priorities. We have to learn to distinguish between the crucial stories and the irrelevant ones, and to stay focused and obstinate to castigating the wrongs we see in the world, and voicing shameful behaviour, regardless of the latest, hot-off-the-press topics.

Recently, there have been movements started off by men with the aim to change societal culture through personal reflection on the past and the future, such as #IDidThat and #IHave. A new movement, called Time's Up, was founded in January of 2018 by various Hollywood celebrities in response to the #MeToo movement and the Harvey Weinstein uproar. Since February 2018, it has managed to raise \$20 million to support court cases of women having suffered sexual harassment fighting against their perpetrators.

We have, undeniably, gotten closer to universal equality between genders and ethnicities, but to believe that sexism and racism is over is a myth. We still have a long way to go, but slowly and steadily we are getting there.

Daria Nikolova

A Girl Marries Every 2 Seconds

Child Brides



Photo: Sinclair Kagati

According to Plan-International's research, roughly two girls have been married off by the time you get to this part of the sentence. 15 million girls marry before the age of 18 each year – the equivalent of one every 2 seconds. Despite being prohibited by international law, child marriage continues to rob millions of children under 18 of their childhood. Early marriage denies children their right to make vital decisions about their sexual health and well-being. It tears them out of education and forces them into a life of poor prospects, with an increased risk of violence, abuse, ill health and possibly suicides and other causes for early deaths.

Early marriage and forced marriage is most common in South Asia and West and Central Africa. For example, 66% of Bangladesh's brides were married before the age of 18. The countries with the highest observed rates of child marriages below the age of 18 are Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea and the Central African Republic, with a rate above 60%.

What could possibly be the cause of willingly robbing a child of its innocence and happiness?

In economically disadvantaged regions, poor families see child marriage as a way to improve their lot in life. A dowry, for example, will help support the family and shelter their child from financial problems. In developing countries, such marriages play a role in the preservation of culture and strengthen the ties between important families. Unfortunately, those families often oversee or deny the consequences their decisions will have on the child. Child marriages constitute a violation of children's rights—in particular the rights of girls. Deprived of their childhood, they become wives and mothers, yet have neither the maturity nor the discernment necessary to accept and understand what marriage involves and entails.

These marriages will have harmful effects on both their physical and psychological health. The girls are likely to get raped by their husband and suffer physical and emotional abuse throughout the marriage.

Furthermore, they are completely unprepared, both physically and mentally, to undergo pregnancy and childbirth. Many of them give birth prematurely to infants whose chances of survival will be lower than normal. As most of them are too young for childbirth, the birth might not only be fatal for the child born, but also for the child birthing it.

For the sake of these young children, I encourage you to further educate yourself and others on the topic in hopes of creating a ripple effect and raising awareness of the on-going suffering.

Chiara Janssen

Music

The New Voices In Pop

Pop is one of the most controversial genres out there, and one of the vaguest as well. How can you specify anything about a genre where it's the number of plays a song gets rather than the actual layout that defines it?

Even though I am incapable of singing, playing any instrument or creating music in general, I still love listening to all types of music all the time. Which means that, to my friends' chagrin, I'm always talking about it as well.

However, a lot of my friends only listen to what is number one on the charts and a lot of the time, I find those songs insufferable (mainly because they're so overplayed). Nevertheless, there's a lot of good pop out there and when I sift through the endless music that streams through the charts, I often find myself digging up some hidden gems. Pop music is a broad, all-encompassing genre that contains the good, the bad and the ugly. But today I'm here to show you what I think is the good: some of what I think are the most exciting new voices in pop.



Billie Eilish

"My boy loves his friends like I love my split ends, and by that I mean
He cuts 'em off"

To get a feel for Billie Eilish's music, you'd have to listen to all of her debut album...which I have, multiple times, as have most of the fans that attended her sold out 'Where's My Mind?' tour. She's been described as electropop, but since every song she makes is completely different from the last, it's hard to put a finger on the style of her music. She goes from the soft, slow melancholy of 'dontwannabeyouanymore' ("If teardrops could be bottled, There'd be swimming pools filled by models") to 'my boy', a song that manages to be dark and simultaneously upbeat filled with outrageous lyrics "Alright dude, go trip over a knife" and strong bass, that was made to be blasted on speakers.

Not to mention her gorgeous single 'Ocean Eyes', which has now racked up over 35 million streams on Spotify, and another personal favourite: 'Bellyache', a song written from the perspective of a serial killer.

With catchy beats, iconic lyrics and a wide variety of songs, with more coming out all the time, Billie Eilish is a must on any playlist. Did I mention that she's 16?

Khalid

"I don't wanna fall in love off of subtweets so
Let's get personal"

You've probably already heard of Khalid; he's been on the charts a lot lately with 'Love Lies', 'Young, Dumb and Broke' and 'Location', and he's recently worked with Billie Eilish (yes, the very same one!) to create the new single 'lovely'.

His catchy yet relaxed R&B songs remind me of careless summer days and what has been described as his iconic 'croon' is different from the rap which I'm used to hearing on the radio.

I discovered how good he was whilst listening to 'Rollin' on Calvin Harris' album Funk Wav Bounce and I feel like the song encompasses everything that I like about Khalid. He's fresh and unique and perfect for chilling out to, which is why I've jumped on to the bandwagon that Calvin Harris, the creators of Love, Simon and the creators of Black Panther have already hopped on to.

Lauv

"To be young and in love in New York City
To not know who I am but still know that I'm good long as you're here with me"

I started listening to Lauv a few years ago, back before he had produced the hit single 'I Like Me Better', and I soon fell in love with his hypnotic voice and catchy melodies, which were on full display in his 'Lost in the Light' EP. Now, having captured the attention of the world with 'I Like Me Better', things have only been going up, travelling the world on a sold-out tour and continuing to release successful songs such as 'Paris in the Rain' and 'Chasing Fire'.

His electronic music is smooth, fresh and his lyrics are often wistful and melancholy, simultaneously making me want to dance and also go sit in a corner and write terrible poetry about love. It remains to be seen whether Lauv will be a one hit wonder or whether his songs will climb back up the charts, but either way he's definitely worth a listen (and a dance).



Albin Lee Meldau

"Every time you tell me how it's gonna be
Draining all my energy
Dunno what you do to me"

I found out about Albin Lee Meldau when my dad and I were in the car discussing music and he told me that there was a song on the radio that he had heard a day ago that he quite liked. He started playing the song for me and my foot instantly began to tap along. It was that sort of song: the sort where you just want to get up and dance. And then I heard Albin Lee Meldau's voice. To say that I was pleasantly surprised would be an understatement. Its soaring power and unique sound is one of the best things about him.

However, the bouncy beat of 'The Weight is Gone' didn't just capture my heart; after I heard it for the first time, the soul-soaked song continued to be played again and again on the radio. I can't say that I was upset - in fact every time I heard it, I broke out into song and dance.

After doing a bit of research, I found out that he'd released a few EPs...but his debut album 'About You' would be released on the 1st of June. I can't wait for it to come out, but in the mean time I will continue listening to his previous songs on replay.

Madison Beer

"You say you can't live without me
So why aren't you dead yet?
Why you still breathing?"

Stuck on who else to write about for this article, I asked my friend if she could think of anyone else. She told me instantly that Madison Beer was great for what I wanted to write about. And after listening to her debut EP which has been in the making for years, I have to say, I agree. Madison Beer has mixed a pop style with an R&B edge, an impressive voice reminiscent of Ariana Grande, and clever lyrics to create an impressive and diverse collection of songs from the sweet wistfulness of 'Tyler Durden' to the loud, bold 'Home with You'.

Madison Beer is an interesting new artist and I have no doubt that she will soon become a familiar voice on the radio.

Juliet Gartside

Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb

Why you shouldn't trust film ratings

If you are like me and often hesitate between two or more films to watch, then you might go to Rotten Tomatoes or IMDb to see what the ratings for each film are, in the hope that it will help you decide which one you are going to devote two hours of your time to. In that case, it will probably come as a surprise to you that, as I recently found out, these websites might not be completely impartial to the way they rate films.

If you are completely new to this and have no idea what Rotten Tomatoes or IMDb are or how they work, let me quickly try to explain it to you. Rotten Tomatoes is a website that gives films (and TV shows) ratings by using the reviews of their so-called 'approved critics'. To be an 'approved critic' you need to write for a well-known website, magazine or newspaper. These 'approved critics' give films a score out of 100; if a film has a rating of over 60% it gets a fresh tomato - the film is worth watching. But if it has a rating below that number, it gets a rotten tomato - the film is not worth your time.

For IMDb, the films are given a rating out of 10; these ratings come from the website's users, who can submit a vote on each of the website's films. The website often slightly changes the vote to prevent large demographics from having too much influence on a score. This means that a film's ranking on the website is not the exact average of all the votes, but it is close. Even though IMDb does this to make it fairer for minorities on the website, most of the voters are male, which means that the rankings tend to favour films which are aimed more at men.

For example, the films on IMDb's All-Time Top Films include The Shawshank Redemption (9.2), The Godfather (9.2), Pulp Fiction (8.9) and Fight Club (8.8). All of these films have male protagonists and are directed towards a more masculine audience. Films aiming at a more female audience tend to have a much lower score on these websites, like romantic comedies or films with women in the leading roles. For example, on Rotten Tomatoes, Love Actually has an overall score of 64%, but women on the website gave it an average score of 80.5% whereas with the men on the website it scored an average of 59.3%. And Divergent got a score of 41%, even though the average score of the women's reviews was 59% and the men's was 35.6%.



Illustration: Pentagram

The difference between the scores women give and the ones men give is not exactly surprising; we all know that men and women generally have different tastes and therefore look for different things in films. But the problem lies in the fact that there is a majority of men voting and reviewing on these websites. According to a study from the San Diego State University, only 20% of film critics on Rotten Tomatoes are women. Because they are the majority, men have a more powerful effect on how films aimed at women will be received by the public as they can lower the average score of these films by almost 6%.

People often argue that these films, sometimes called 'chick flicks' (the pejorative term for movies aimed at or starring women), aren't exactly groundbreaking cinema and that's the reason why they get lower scores on the websites. But are films aimed more at men, such as action films like Deadpool, which got a score of 83% on Rotten Tomatoes, or The Guardians of the Galaxy, which got a 91% on the same website, much better? They too have stereotypes and clichés intertwined in their story and deliver cheesy plots like many of the so-called 'chick flicks' but still their ratings are more favourable.

If there is one thing that I have learned from this, aside from the fact that we definitely need more female film critics to have fairer and truer reviews and therefore more accurate scores, it is that I will not trust Rotten Tomatoes or IMDb anymore to tell me what film to watch when I find myself hesitating between two. Because it is important to remember that film critics, as objective as they try to be, will never be able to make a fully unbiased critic, which is what I was naively seeking by going on these websites. And as Melissa Silverstein, the founder and publisher of Women and Hollywood said "We all bring our baggage and our experiences to every movie we see." Which means that we can only really know if the film is good (or bad) by watching it ourselves.

Louise Proissl

Me and You

by Eduardo Gracías Baptista

Let me set the scene
so this bloody war can begin:
his primal speared-heart on one side,
his tanked-will on the other.

Wholeheartedly he did not foresee
the blind fight you had been witnessing—
hitting, stabbing, shooting, spilling
the dear blood of his enemy.
The wood was no match for the steel
and the stupid heart perished brutally.

The victor demanded winds of change,
however the defeated was no scorpion,
the failure was just a wild stallion
running wild through the wild prairies of passion.

You! You stood there and did nothing!
Sadist fool, watching me suffering.
All I needed was a friendly hand
to put an end to this fighting.
Speak now or forever hold your peace,
For now death is all I can see.

The blood will not come off my hands,
I am full of scorpions in my head,
"fair is foul and foul is fair",
your true you is elsewhere.
This blood is as red as your ignorance
spilled by the heart, you are both belligerent.

Do not feel bad for the heart,
for it forced the bee to choose
a flower way to smart and
ruthless, like Monsieur Bonaparte.

From the darkness emerged a beautiful daisy,
a bright new flower the bee could pollinate;
this time the heart would not be lazy,
it brought fresh water to keep the plant hydrated.
For the first time in what seemed forever,
the heart and the will were fighting together.

The flower kept on growing taller and taller,
he had now found his true new lover;
the birds sang, and the sun shined,
the flower and the bee were now intertwined.

The heart, the will, the flower, the bee,
all ended well, in harmony,
you are the only piece missing:
Will you now save me?

Kirsty's Travel Column

London



In this edition's travel column, I will be talking about London, the capital city of the UK. It is one of the biggest cities in the world and is well known for its fashion influence, fashion week and its entertainment industry. Being home to the West End as well as the Royal Albert Hall, London also has an impressive musical culture. It was founded by the Romans in 43 AD, so there's plenty of history as well. If there is one place that has it all, it's London.

London's transport ranges from classic black cabs (taxis), to iconic red double-decker buses, to the tube (pronounced ch-oob), to overground trains, and its five airports. I don't think you can get better transport than that! If you're staying in London for more than a couple of days (which I highly recommend because there is so much to do) then I suggest you get an Oyster Travelcard as it'll be cheaper to travel - you're going to need to visit different parts of London. The Oyster Travelcard gives you access to the Underground, buses, the Docklands Light Rail and overground trains.

When to visit?

London is one of those cities that you can visit all year round. Personally I enjoy walking around cities in nicer weather so I would say spring or summer, but there is always something going on. The famous Winter Wonderland takes over Hyde Park from mid-November until the first of January. However this can also be seen as a downside, because I wouldn't really say there is an "off season" when it's quieter or cheaper plane tickets are available.

What to visit?

What I love about London is the fact that there is so much to do. You could live in London for years and never see or do everything, so I have picked out some of the most famous but also some of my personal favourite sites to see.

The Tower of London is a 900 year old castle that was originally fortified by William the Conqueror in 1066. Over the years, it has been used for many things, such as holding prisoners and being the home to the Royal Family. Nowadays you can go on tours around the castle, learn about the history and see the crown jewels.

The Tower Bridge is a bridge which crosses the river Thames. It was built in the late 1880's and still remains an iconic landmark of London. Most people walk across and admire the views of the river banks, but a tour inside and across a glass floor are also an option.

If you enjoy history and the Royal Family then Westminster Abbey is the place for you to visit. It's a gothic cathedral, where all coronations have taken place since 1066, as well as many royal weddings, the most recent one being Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011. Whilst you're visiting Westminster Abbey, how could you miss out on the iconic Big Ben? Technically, Big Ben is the name given to the gigantic bell inside the Tower, which weighs approximately 13,760 kg. Sadly, Big Ben isn't open to public tours or visits, but admiring it from the outside is all you need.

Buckingham Palace is the administrative headquarters of the UK's current monarch, so Elizabeth II. If you would like to go inside and see some of the beautiful rooms, make sure you visit during the summer when Buckingham Palace is open to the public. Throughout May and June you can also watch the Changing of the Guards, which takes place right outside Buckingham Palace at 11am every other day.

Southbank is a great area to walk around. Whether it's street performers, live TV talk shows being filmed, or street food markets, there is always something going on. Strolling along the river bank and admiring the views of the Shard and the London Eye is the best kind of way to explore London, unless of course you would rather go into them and admire the view from the top! From Southbank you also have a great view of St. Paul's Cathedral, which sits on the north side of the river, just across Millennium bridge.

As you're getting from point A to point B, make sure you walk through different squares and gardens like Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square, St James' Park and Hyde Park, to make your trip that bit more exciting, experiencing different surroundings.

If you're into movies, then a few things you might want to see would be the MI6 building, where part of the James Bond movie Skyfall was filmed. Another thing you might want to pass by would be the Millennium Bridge, which is where a short scene from the movie Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince was filmed.

Apart from visiting tourist sites, the best thing you can do in London is walk around markets, areas and gardens. Portobello Market has everything from antiques, to clothes, to food - just be sure to check the schedule online to make sure you go on the day that suits you best, as they don't always have all the stalls open everyday. Borough Market is a delicious food market and a great place to wander around if you don't know what you fancy. If you're like me, you'll probably end up eating your way around it! Brick Lane is a hipster part of London and is well known for its markets, independent shops and thrift stores. Both Covent Garden and Camden Town are lovely and bustling markets to stroll around.



If you're into shopping, London is the place to be. Soho is a great place to walk through for individual boutiques. There is also Carnaby Street, which has shops like Monki and Cheap Monday, and Oxford Street, which has huge department stores and shops like Urban Outfitters and Primark.

As a Musical Theatre enthusiast, I highly recommend seeing a show on the West End, but if you prefer just acting, seeing a play is most likely to be a cheaper option. If you do not have a preference and haven't booked tickets, then I suggest you visit the TKTS Ticket Booth in Leicester Square for last minute theatre tickets and deals. A classic show to see in the West End would be Les Misérables, but if you'd rather see something more lighthearted, Matilda or The Lion King are highly rated.

My last stop for you would be the museums, most of which are free entrance! Some of which would be the Natural History Museum, the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Science Museum and my personal favourite Tate Modern. Even if you're not interested in art, I recommend going up to the top of Tate Modern because the views of London are spectacular!

Places to eat

To finish off I always like to include a few places to eat. Chick 'n' Sours, just off Shaftesbury Avenue, is where you can find the best fried chicken. Après Food Co. is an adorable little cafe near the Barbican that serves delicious food for breakfast, lunch, or an afternoon snack! I highly recommend getting a Bagel from Beigel Bake on Brick Lane and whilst you're in the area why not pop into Paper and Cup to grab a coffee; it's a great independent coffee shop on Calvert Avenue. One of my personal favourites would be the Cereal Killer Cafe. It's a quirky cafe that serves more than 120 types of cereal, as well as different milks. Just because they serve cereal doesn't necessarily mean you have to eat there for breakfast! London has so many amazing places to eat and drink, it would be hard to go to a bad place. I really encourage getting street food. Do not shy away from it! There are so many amazing food markets and halls to choose from. Borough Market has to be the best market to eat at; there's such a variety of food to choose from. Many of the stands give out free samples, so take your time and try all the samples whilst you're deciding! If you're feeling like something more exotic try visiting Chinatown for tasty Chinese food.

I believe that everyone should visit this amazing, vibrant city at least once in their lives, because you will find something, or multiple things that you love about London and hopefully will want to go back again for another visit. To put it simply you cannot get bored in London. There is always something going on and a lot of it can be enjoyed for free!

Article and Photography by Kirsty Smith

Stressed out?

Do we need pills to pull through?

Whether you have a big test to study for, procrastinated for too long or simply have an unreasonable amount of work to do, as students we're all familiar with having to do a lot of schoolwork for long stretches of time. Especially during compo-periods, pulling "all-nighters" and cramming as much as possible are common solutions, not only in the European School. Generally, it seems more and more assignments require us to focus intensely on one single task for long periods of time. It appears as though there is more pressure to be able to do well on these than ever before. However, many people struggle with this, and find it hard to gather the concentration needed to do so.

The Netflix Documentary "Take Your Pills" features among many Dr. Wendy Brown of UC Berkeley, who claims that in nowadays' world, we are all seen as a piece of human capital, a term used frequently throughout the documentary. Human capital refers to the stock of knowledge, habits, social and personality attributes embodied in the ability to perform labour so as to produce economic value. In other words, it's a measure of the qualities or virtues a person has that are important to employers.

From the point of conception onwards, parents use various tactics to improve their child's human capital. Many children born today, for example, will have listened to Mozart in the womb, as this allegedly makes them smarter. Through life they are raised by parents who constantly see the need for them to pursue activities which add to their human capital. Parents may, for example, choose for their children to do a certain sport or learn a language, as this is supposed to add to their children's human capital value in some other way.



Photo: Simone van der Koelen

High school and university are where the most pressure is put on the individual to further add to their human capital. There is an immense pressure on students to get good grades, participate in a number of extracurriculars, have a lot of friends and a social life, all while staying in shape and maintaining a healthy sleep schedule. The constant pressure on people to always be at their best in so many different ways leads almost inevitably to students choosing to take performance-enhancing drugs.

Dr. Chatterjee of the University of Pennsylvania explains in "Take Your Pills" that the main use for drugs back in the day was to be able to "check out". Drugs like alcohol and marijuana were common as they helped the user to get away from work. Nowadays, however, people are increasingly taking drugs in order to "check in". In other words, students are choosing to use performance enhancing drugs because they feel as though they need to get ahead in order to achieve academically.

There is a range of performance enhancers out there that are being used and abused by people all around the world. In American high schools and colleges, Adderall is one of the most common and popular drugs used to achieve this. The iconic blue pill was originally meant to be used to help people with ADHD calm down and "mono-task", i.e. focus exclusively on what they need to do. However, as I mentioned before, Adderall is increasingly being used by students who do not have any attention disorders. The pill is widely and readily available, which may not come as a surprise since 11% of the American population has been diagnosed with ADHD. Combine this with fact that most people prescribed sell it to others as well, and it's evident why more and more people are turning to ADHD medication.

What's appealing about these drugs is that they make you "wired", giving you the ability to focus and concentrate on the work you need to do without being distracted. As students we constantly face assignments where our main task is to focus for long periods of time, and many see performance-enhancers as a way to power through these long, boring study sessions in a productive way.



Photo: Simone van der Koelen

Although Adderall is the first-choice drug for many, other types of ADHD medication such as Ritalin, Vyvanse and Concerta are also frequently used for the same purposes. These drugs have become such a large part of higher education in North America that they have had an influence on pop culture, and have even become the focus of a variety of rap songs, including Kendrick Lamar's "A.D.H.D"

So is there an issue with this? Isn't the fact that more and more people have the ability to live up to the "perfect student" ideal and succeed academically a good thing? Well, Adderall itself can be dangerous as it essentially has the same chemical structure as meth (one methyl group separates them) and can lead to cardiovascular diseases, psychosis and more. In spite of this some would say that the rise of it is generally something positive. Cognitive enhancers are part of the "brain-hacking", a subset of the "bio-hacking" movement. People involved in this are basically exploring various ways we humans can boost our mental and physical performance using different drugs. They do not see the use of drugs in order to improve academically as immoral or wrong, but rather as the next step of human evolution and as a way for our species to become even better than it already is.

What we need to ask ourselves is: Where do we draw the line for what is a legitimate performance enhancer and what is not? When struggling with a subject in school, a lot of people get a private tutor to help them; this is also a type of performance enhancer as they help the student improve academically. Yet, this is not looked down upon whatsoever but is rather encouraged by teachers and the school, in spite of the fact that a tutor and a pill can have a similar effect academically. This also a question of class and status: if a person cannot afford a private tutor and instead takes pills to improve their academic performance, is that a way to level the playing field? Other popular substances like coffee or energy drinks could also be seen as performance enhancers, since they also give people the energy and motivation to be able to power through work. These are used by the majority of the adult population in the Western world and are not looked down upon or seen as something abnormal. Why do people then see taking a pill for the same effect as something absurd? When it comes down to it, these are all questions of ethics and what we see as moral and immoral ways to become better at what we need to do.

"I'm getting disillusioned with this whole higher education thing. You need a bachelor's degree to be anybody, and we're all high on ADD meds as a group of 20-something-year-olds just fighting each other for what? To set the curve in a class?"

Personally, I see the increasing use of cognitive enhancers as a symptom of the real problem. What we are witnessing with the rise of Adderall and other such drugs is that people feel like it is so important to become the best that they are going beyond their natural capacity in order to do so. The academic environment has become so competitive that people do everything they can to add to their human capital value, and when they cannot, they use drugs to help them do so.

It is clear to me that the real problem at hand is not the ADHD drugs people are using; those only function as a means for people to do what is expected of them. The expectations themselves, as well as our culture around them, are at the core of the problem. Doing well and trying to be the "perfect student" is understandably something most pupils strive for. What we need to ask ourselves is whether or not it is worth it. Getting into your dream university, landing a job you've always wanted or becoming rich, whatever the end goal may be, is getting there through drugs and not through personal motivation or trial and error the best way? That is up to you to decide.

(All quotations are from the Netflix Documentary "Take Your Pills")

Vidar Önnersfors

SpaceX

Falcon Heavy



Many people say that the golden age of space travel is over. They think back to the exciting space race in the 1960s. The competition between the world's two superpowers at the time, the United States and the Soviet Union, laid the foundation for most of what space travel means to us nowadays and culminated in the American Apollo 11 moon landing mission. On the 20th of July 1969, the landing module touched down on the lunar surface. The rocket type used for all of the moon landings was the Saturn V, which remains the most powerful rocket ever used. It is considered to be one of mankind's most impressive technological achievements, and for more than 40 years, no rocket has been able to rival its sheer power and size, until now. The Falcon Heavy, developed by the commercial space company SpaceX, is the latest in rocket technology and the closest we have come to the old beast, the Saturn V.

The concept for the Falcon Heavy goes back as early as 2004, but the project was put to rest until April 2011, when SpaceX released the plans for the rocket, with the first test flights planned for 2013. It was delayed by five years. The founder of SpaceX, Elon Musk, said in an interview: "It actually ended up being way harder to do Falcon Heavy than we thought. ... Really way, way more difficult than we originally thought". And as they would find out during the first test flight, you should never expect a perfect result.

The Falcon Heavy itself is based on the Falcon 9, SpaceX's previous rocket, used to carry equipment into Earth orbit. The Falcon 9 is a single-core rocket which has been used by SpaceX for a few years now. Here's how you build a Falcon Heavy rocket: You take a Falcon 9 core, you strengthen it up, attach two Falcon 9 boosters, or rocket engines, to either side. You're pretty much ready to go. You've just created the second most powerful rocket in history. It stands 70 metres tall and is able to carry 63.8 tonnes of cargo into low Earth orbit, compared to the standard Falcon 9's 22.8 tonnes. In fact, only the old Saturn V beats the Falcon Heavy when it comes to carrying payload. That is very impressive in itself, but not what made all the headlines.

SpaceX has become famous for their reusable boosters. Before SpaceX, when rocket engines had burned up their fuel, they were dispatched and let to fall back to Earth, never to be used again. What SpaceX did, was to design a booster that would go into space and come back down in a controlled manner and land on Earth standing up. The concept seems obvious and means a great reduction in costs for sending equipment into orbit. It leaves you wondering why it hasn't been done before. Firstly, it has been done, sort of. NASA's Space Shuttle was built to reduce costs by not throwing away a whole rocket every time you wanted to go to space. The Shuttle itself came back to Earth, but the two side boosters and the large fuel tank were still wasted. Secondly, it is anything but easy. We are talking about cutting-edge rocket science here, and SpaceX had to try several times before they successfully landed a booster without it falling over, exploding or crashing. SpaceX uploaded a video on YouTube called "How not to land an orbital rocket booster", a two-minute video containing quite a few exploding rockets. SpaceX received a lot of critique because they kept failing, but failure is a vital part of progress and development. You learn more from failure than success, by finding the problems and fixing them, so they don't occur again.

In December 2015, SpaceX managed to land a booster successfully on land for the first time. Not only was it the first big achievement for SpaceX, but also an important step for rocket engineering in general. In April 2016, they did the same thing but landed on a drone ship in the ocean, which looks even more impressive. The ultimate test was the Falcon Heavy, where they had two side boosters and the centre core, all to come back to Earth and land safely. It was what they had already mastered, only three times more difficult.

So on February 6, 2018 at a quarter to nine in the evening, the rocket blasted into the sky from the same launch pad where the Saturn V moon rockets were launched, Launchpad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Every step of the test flight, except one, was successful; an unusually high success rate for a new rocket. SpaceX were delighted with the outcome. The flight lasted a little over eight intense minutes and was streamed live on YouTube. It is the second-most watched live stream in YouTube history and has been viewed millions of times since it aired. If you haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend you do.

Arguably the coolest thing about the whole test flight was what the rocket carried into space. Besides having started SpaceX, Elon Musk is also the founder of Tesla, the electric car maker. He decided to send his own red Tesla Roadster, the company's first model, into space with a doll astronaut behind the wheel. The astronaut is called Starman, a reference to David Bowie's song with the same name. In the livestream, when the capsule of the Falcon Heavy opens up, the red Tesla with its doll astronaut in the driver's seat finds itself in open space. "Life on Mars", one of Bowie's most famous songs, is being played during this sequence. In the song "Starman", Bowie sings "There's a Starman, waiting in the sky". I don't think anyone had expected that to become true one day, but it did!



The car is also playing "Space Oddity", Bowie's first hit. Not that anyone is going to hear it, but it was great of Musk to do something out of the ordinary. If only Bowie himself were still around to see it ...

Now, you may think that sending a car into space is pointless and a bit ridiculous, and yes it might be a bit silly, but it did have a purpose. When rockets are being tested, they carry a dummy load to simulate a real cargo load, a concrete block, for example. But that would be ordinary and boring, Musk thought. Why not send something cool up there that gets everyone talking? Stunning pictures of the car orbiting the Earth were taken. Maybe the astronaut was thinking "Planet Earth is blue, and there's nothing I can do".

The test flight was not completely perfect. The final burn of the second stage lasted a little too long, so when the car was released, it had higher speed than intended, meaning it will go beyond Mars. The idea was to get the car to orbit the red planet. That is not too catastrophic, but what happened to the centre core was worse. It was supposed to land on a drone ship, out on the ocean. However, it missed the ship and plunged down next to it into the Atlantic at a speed of 500 km/h. But again, these are failures you can learn from.

When you see the two side boosters land on their pads simultaneously, it is hard not to be amazed. The two rockets that had been in space moments before came back on their own and landed flawlessly on an area which seems inconceivably small when looking from space. It's a marvel of modern engineering.

SpaceX is planning to do two more Falcon Heavy launches later this year, with the first one expected sometime in June, carrying a variety of satellites into orbit. We are looking forward to finding out if all three engines will land standing up.

Falcon Heavy's first flight this year on the 6th of February will remain a very important date for the future of space travel, and if you ask experts today, they say that today is a great time to be involved in the development of rockets and space engineering, as it has properly lifted off again.

Mikas Lilieholm

Pupils' Committee Lux 1

Kirchberg's Pupils' Committee 2017/18 was a huge success, with many different people investing so much time into making the school better for everyone. I am certain that the 2018/19 committee will be just as successful, if not more. Every year there is some confusion as to what jobs do what, so here's a quick summary:

-The President is in charge of the PC. It is their job to make sure that everything that the committee does runs smoothly, and make sure that everyone is doing their job. The President is a part of all the groups in the PC, such as the leisure committee or the treasurers, and supervises all the members. Because the President is a member of CoSup, they have to be 16+. It is important to remember that the President is individually superior to the rest of the members, but subordinate to the committee as a whole.

-The Vice-President's job is to help the President wherever they can, and to replace him/her if the President is absent. The Vice-President is also a member of all the groups and actively participates in the work. Because the Vice-President is a member of CoSup, they have to be 16+. A new rule is that both the President and the Vice-President cannot both be in 7th year – this is to ensure the continuity of the PC so that both the people who know the most about how the PC functions don't leave at the same time.

-The Head of Internal is in charge of everything within the school, such as booking rooms, organising class rep meetings, sales and much more. Along with the poster designers, they form the Internal Committee.

-The Secretary takes the minutes and absences of all the PC meetings, is in charge of email communication and lessens the PC's administrative burden in whatever way they can. The secretary keeps track of all the important dates and reminds the PC members about upcoming meetings.

-The Treasurers oversee the finances of the PC and organise all income and payments of the PC. There are two treasures so that they can make sure that there aren't any mistakes and the PC's financial situation stays healthy.

-The two CoSup Members attend CoSup meetings, four times a year in Luxembourg or in Brussels, with representatives of all the other European Schools. They discuss higher level issues, such as the syllabuses or the bac. Because the members must travel alone, they have to be 16+.

-The two Poster Designers make posters to inform the students about upcoming events and the PC's activities and help the Head of Internal whenever needed.

-The Public Relations Member is a new position we created to communicate with the students via social media.

-The three Conseil Representatives attend all the meetings with the administration, the teachers and the Parents' Association where they represent the student's interests, and then keep the PC informed about what is decided at the meetings. A new addition this year is that one of the Conseil Representatives, called the Junior Conseil Representative, must be in years 1-5, to better represent the younger students.

-The IT Member runs our online communications systems, such as our emails accounts and our website. They are in charge of doing anything that has to be done online, such as public votes.

-The Leisure Committee is made up of 5 students, who organise the parties, discos, and other events throughout the year. They remain in close contact with the rest of the PC as well as the Mamer PC, to organise events for the students of both schools. One leisure member, called the Junior Leisure Member, must be in years 1-5 and represents the younger students.

These are the Pupils' Committee positions in Lux 1, they are different from those in Lux 2. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, feel free to contact us at any time.

Contact us:

Email: contact@pupilscom-esl1.eu

Website: www.pupilscom-esl1.eu

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Snapchat: pc-kirchberg

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PUPILS' COMMITTEE ESL II

This year's Pupils' Committee is sadly coming to an end after an amazing year, but there will be elections for next school year's Pupils' Committee in September next year! So, if you have ever wondered about whether you should apply for the PC, here is some information to hopefully motivate you to join.

WHEN AND HOW DO I APPLY?

This year's electoral board will be organizing and holding the PC elections at the beginning of the next school year. Applications will open on the first day of school next year. Apply at: www.pupilscom-mamer.eu/apply. You will also need to prepare a short speech to present in front of all class representatives and others wanting to join the PC.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

- you'll be able to improve our school life
- you'll make so many new friends
- you will have a huge advantage when applying for universities, especially in the UK
- you will learn how to work as a team
- you'll have a lot of fun!



THIS YEAR'S ELECTORAL BOARD

This year, the electoral board will consist of Surya Selveraj, Harry Bolton (one of this year's and next year's CoSUP reps), Louise Stafford, Marie-Amélie Ramillon, Ekin Cotuk, Amalia Ikonomidis and Francesca Andrich. These 7 students will organize next year's elections and will automatically be a part of next year's PC. Feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions. There will also be a video up on the PC website early next school year explaining the roles in the PC and why you should join.

DON'T FORGET TO ADD US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

@pupilscommamer



Pupils Committee Mamer – Lux II



pupilscommamer



Sign Of The Times

How Music Affects Fashion

In the last five to ten years, artists like rapper Kanye West or Rihanna have influenced the fashion (and beauty) industry greatly with their brands or collaboration pieces, from shoes to clothing to accessories. Millennials and younger generations wear these items mostly to show off status, to fit into a certain category of style, to match the criteria of the type of person they want others to see them as. But not only do they buy their idols' products, they copy their style by buying similar clothing.

Fashion has, whether we like to admit it or not, a grave impact on society and it



is easy for us to identify an era in pictures or movies based on what people are wearing. And while influence on trends used to come from practical needs, in the last 100 years there has been a link made between music and fashion. The theory is that in the past decades, leading up to now, music has become a reflection of one's individuality, one's political and religious beliefs, which were then expressed through style. The following are a few examples:

When jazz was on the rise in the 1920s, it was considered incredibly scandalous and "improper"; the music was one of the first of its type to be played in nightclubs that were attended by people of all colour – thus, the music became one of the symbols of the Civil Rights movement. It was supported as well by feminists, who were encouraged to differentiate themselves from the traditional woman's look; they started wearing short dresses and skirts, no bras and loose clothing instead of corsets.

Fast forward 30 years, music, movies and television became more accessible to the wider public and again, this development can be seen in the way people dressed. Movie stars and rock and roll icons such as Elvis influenced groupies to seek clothing that had resemblance to their idol's gear. This market, known now as "teen fashion", expanded to the point that big fashion designers could no longer ignore it and started producing goods that fitted the new-found interests.

During the transition from the 50s to the 60s, a subculture of society in London began exploring the beginnings of ska, R&B and soul. They became known as "modernists" and to match their Bohemian lifestyle, they started exploring fashion to impressive extents, gaining them the nickname "Mods". By the middle of the 1960s, the beatnik-meets-modern fashion became one of the biggest manias in the high fashion industry; its impact can still be noted as inspiration for today's top designers.

During the draft for the Vietnam war, pacifist musicians expressed their opposition to traditional views through their art – as well as finding this new genre of music, they also discovered psychedelic drugs like LSD and peyote, which resulted in both fashion and music turning trippy.

The 70s brought a new musical movement known as punk, which also introduced social change with it. Punk's main focus is on freedom and being unique in this world, which was supported by those who stood against society's norms. To show off their individuality and inspiration from punk rock music, people wore mostly black handmade items and dyed their hair crazy colours.

Furthermore, this same era also had the underground movement of the so-called "Glam Rockers". Singers like David Bowie took inspiration from the new sci-fi movie rave and dressed accordingly – and yet again, this spiky strange style was adopted by fans and spread across countries.

The 80s became most famous for Goth, which was similar to death rock, and was enjoyed generally by anyone who loved wearing black and other aspects of the gloomier and more depressing side of life.

The fashion industry was once again revolutionized through artists like Kurt Cobain, a singer who thrived during the 1990s Grunge phase and captured impeccably the teenage angst and commercialized lifestyles happening in American suburbs, which caused anger and frustration in people, and a desire to be able to relate and express the latter.



Clothing became edgy, gritty and unpressed; this type of look is still largely recognizable today.

The 90s also introduced us to the world of Hip Hop culture. From close quarters in urban areas it extended outside; people started copying the rappers' laid-back and comfortable style. By the time the genre became mainstream, everyone made a connection between its music and fashion.

Finally, the end of the 90s and the 2000s put us in touch with Rave, EDM and Techno music.

Parties known as Radical Audio-Visual Experiences were hosted in warehouses that promoted hippie-style messages, heavy drug usage included. The movement and what it stood for almost immediately became associated with wearing bright colours, candy bracelets, wide pants, glitter, neon headbands, bikinis, anything that glowed, sparkled or had some kind of fluffy feature.

In conclusion, it is unclear whether the fashion industry influences the music industry more or vice versa, but it is evident that there is a strong link between the two, which impacts society as a whole on all different types of grounds. Whether we do it consciously or not, we let ourselves and our daily lives be influenced by music and fashion, which can have both positive liberating effects, or on the other hand promote unhealthy dynamics.

Bottom line, fashion is an ideal sign of the times and music will forever hold a special place in the world of fashion design, as well as in the hearts of a diversity of individuals.

Michela Bandilla

Are you interested in Graphic Design? Would you like to work in the newspaper?

The Pupils' Voice is looking for a new designer for 2018/19!

The designer of The Pupils' Voice does many things, but primarily their job is to take all the articles and pictures that the rest of the newspaper team creates, and put it together to create the newspaper you are holding in your hands. Furthermore, they also make all the posters which you'll see hanging around the school halls. Generally, the designer is given a lot of freedom in creating the layout of the newspaper and the posters, but will still need to coordinate and work closely with the Chief Editor.

Why should you apply?

- You'll get to know the team and the process of making a newspaper
- You'll get a chance to showcase your design skills
- You can get creative with your poster designs, show what you can do!
- Gives you valuable, real-life experience in design

If you're interested, send us an e-mail at newspaper.euroschool@gmail.com by July 1st with a brief explanation of why you are interested in the position and a list of any past experiences which may be relevant for the job. Feel free to also include an online portfolio (Instagram, Behance...)

We hope to hear from you!

Ireland's People Vote...

Abortion - the right to life?

On the 26th of May, a historical vote will have taken place in Ireland. A referendum on the 8th amendment will change the course of Irish history, society and culture eternally. For those of you unaware, the 8th amendment, implemented in 1983, restricts abortion in Ireland almost entirely. Abortion has been illegal in Ireland since the foundation of its state, but the 8th amendment specifies that the life of the mother is equal to that of the foetus developing inside her. The issue isn't just a political, or social one either but a religious one; Irish history and society has been so influenced by the Catholic Church that we are to this day still breaking some of the archaic ties they hold over us. Considered like a political coup, it was a small group of right-wing Catholics who succeeded in implementing the 8th amendment as part of Ireland's constitution.

Since the Abortion Act of 1967 was invoked in England, Scotland and Wales, Irish women have been making the journey across the choppy Irish Sea to seek out abortions. An offence in Ireland that is punishable by jail time; up to fourteen years for aborting in your own country. So 100s of Irish women flee their country every month, carrying the stigma and shame on their shoulders.

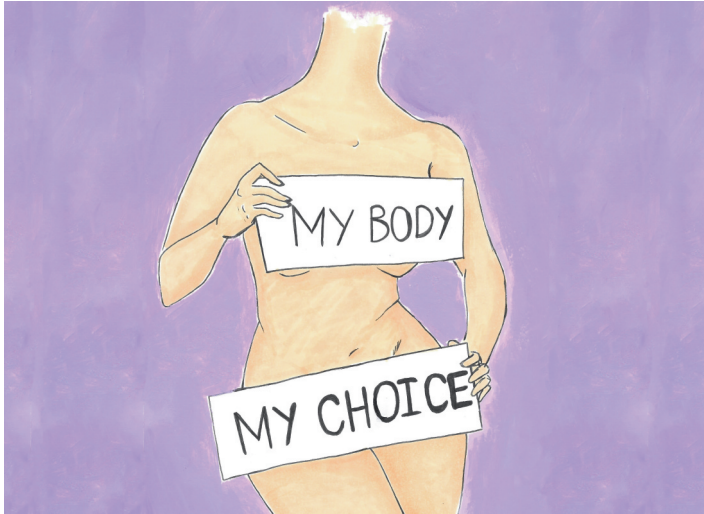


Illustration: Leonie Schusterschitz

Ireland has long been a relatively conservative country, but we've made monumental strides in recent years. Only two years ago we legalised gay marriage by referendum, proof that people can enact change. And our current prime minister, Leo Varadkar, is the gay son of an Indian immigrant. We have come a long way in a short time, but with one of the world's strictest abortion policies, we have a long way to go.

After years of campaigning it was finally announced in February that the Irish public would have the opportunity to vote on the repeal of the 8th amendment. It was a long time coming, but when it did, it sparked a huge division of the public: those "pro-life" and those "pro-choice". With a whirlwind of fake information being spread, like babies being aborted at 6 months and 1 in 5 babies being aborted in the UK, it was easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of propaganda around. The "pro-life" campaigners were criticised for spreading misinformation all over the country.

To those of you who are on the fence, let me pose to you a scenario. You're in an abortion clinic; the reason why you're there is not important. A fire has broken out and as you are fleeing, you reach two doors. In the door to the right, you can hear a child screaming for help, through the door to the left is a fridge; in it are 100 viable embryos. Who do you save? The answer is basically automatic, isn't it? You save the child, because fundamentally, a fully developed human being with thoughts, feelings, emotions, in no way equates to a few developing cells.

While you may be wondering, "If they don't want the baby why don't they just give it up for adoption?", an unwanted baby is not the sole reason to seek out an abortion. In Ireland, you can become extremely ill, going through chemotherapy, radiation or any other life saving treatment; but if you fall pregnant during that time, all your care is suspended until a suitable alternative, which will not harm the foetus, is found. In many cases it isn't found, and women all over the country die. The process of pregnancy and childbirth can be extremely traumatic, especially for mothers suffering from Fatal Foetal Abnormalities, who have to give birth to a baby they already know is dead. Our country claims to provide abortions in the cases of extreme danger to the mother's health, but the severity of those situations are often misjudged, and inevitably end in the death of the mother. One such case is that of Savita Halappanavar: she suffered a miscarriage that took seven days to unfold. After the miscarriage was deemed inevitable, she

requested an abortion, but because her life wasn't considered "in danger", her request was denied. She died on the 28th of October 2012.

No one is denying the complexity of the issue, but it really boils down to one question: do you believe women should have the right to choose for themselves, what is best for them? It is important to remember that no woman takes the decision to abort lightly. It is not replacement for contraception, but an invasive experience, one no woman wishes to be put through, but sometimes has to.

By the time this article is published, the votes will be counted and a decision will have been made. I can only hope that our country will make the right decision and return the autonomy of women's bodies to the only people who should have it: themselves. For the sake of future generations, I hope the vote is overwhelmingly for the repeal of the 8th amendment, so that no more women have to make the deplorable departure from their home.

Note: On the 26th of May 2018, the people of Ireland voted 66% to 37% to repeal the 8th amendment.

Ailsa Tyrrell

Denial is not the way to go

Defying Conspiracy Theories

It may sound astonishing, but certain people actually believe that climate change is nothing but a conspiracy. Whether it be for fear or just as an act of sheer stubbornness, denial is not the way to go. The endless demonstrations of global warming on our planet (take for instance, Hurricane Harvey or the severe drought that affected Southern Europe last summer) and the alarming record level of CO2 in April (410 parts-per-million), should be sending a message: denialists, just give up already!

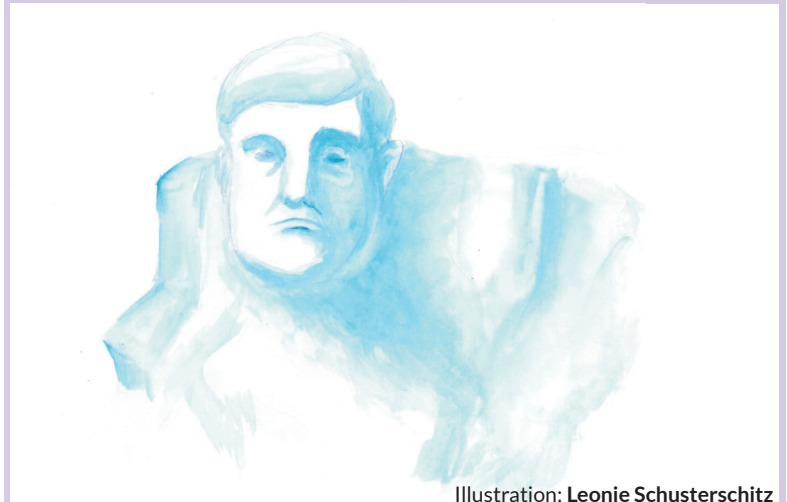


Illustration: Leonie Schusterschitz

Personal interests are what have driven several influential figures to openly discredit this issue as a "hoax" or a "myth". It is needless to say that 90% of them had relations with ExxonMobil, an American multinational oil and gas corporation.

Among others, one of the people who should least be a supporter of such conspiracy theories is the president of the USA. Donald Trump is the leader of the second biggest contributor to this terrible phenomenon (just consider that an average US citizen produces 8 times the amount of greenhouse gases than the average Indian) and all he's done is deny, deny and deny the undeniable.

He could almost – and I repeat, almost – be considered a philosopher, given his paradoxical behaviour: he's in charge of the political system, yet he never fails to be politically incorrect in most of his statements. Leaving aside the fact that he has tweeted about climate change scepticism over 100 times, he drew out of the Paris Agreement on June 1st, 2017. Surprisingly enough, Rex Tillerson, former CEO of ExxonMobil, was the one urging him not to. When someone so powerful behaves this way, all efforts against him seem to be in vain but, as my mother always says, hope springs eternal. And I must add to it: "What Finns want, Finns get". Proving faithful to their motherland and the natural beauty of it, Finnish environmentalists seized the opportunity to defy Trump's inexplicable stubbornness. The Melting Ice NGO is planning to launch "Project Trumpmore" (inspired by Mount Rushmore) as soon as they meet the \$480 000 target. Their mission is to sculpt a 20m wide Trump face model on an arctic glacier and film it continuously until it melts completely.

I am confident that by displaying it openly, the president's head will emerge from the sand he was burying it in and his eyes will finally open to the cold hard truth.

Maria Victoria Garcia

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know



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