

STUDENTS

JANUARY 2021

**SCIENCE,
TECH,
POLITICS**



**HOUSE COMPETITIONS
LIMBO, STORIES,
FOOD COLLECTION
& MORE**

**CHRISTMAS
RECIPES!**

**Y12 ART TRIP
TO NIEMEYER**

Editors' Note

Welcome to the first **Students** magazine issue of the 2021/22 school year.

As we wrap up this first term of the school year, we are pleased to introduce to you a brand new edition of Students. There has been quite a lot going on this term, and we have covered as much of it as possible throughout these pages.

Thank you to the new house captains for all the amazing competitions they prepared this first semester and stay tuned for the ESA Football League and many other competitions that we will cover in the next issue. Thank you everyone for this incredible first semester of the 21/22 school year!

As always, we'd like to thank everyone that has contributed to this term's edition, and we encourage all those who want to take part in next term's issue to come along to the next Students meeting.

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Special thanks to Mr Boldison and all of the journalists for making this edition the best it can be!

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HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Limbo



Our incredible house captains from Y13 prepared a limbo competition this past October. Thank you to everyone that participated and especially the winners of each year group, who are the following:

Y7

3rd place: Jimena Pereda (Egyptian)
2nd place: Alejandra San Juan Pañeda (Romans)
1st place: Sonsoles García (Romans)



Y8

Joint 2nd Place: Aroa Aller (Greek)
Claudia Martínez (Vikings)
1st Place: Noa Velasco (Egyptian)

Y9

3rd Place: Lola Hurle (Roman)
2nd Place: Irene Trabaedo (Egyptians)
1st Place: Covadonga Pérez (Roman)

Y12

3rd Place: Mateo Iglesias (Roman)
2nd Place: Kevin Huang (Vikings)
1st Place: Jaime Llorente (Egyptian)

Y13

3rd Place: Cristina Concheso (Egyptian)
2nd Place: Jacobo Álvarez (Egyptian)
1st Place: Paloma García (Greek)



By Carlota García

We were able to interview some of the Y7 winners, Sonsoles, Alejandra and Jimena:

How were you selected?

"By practicing with my classmates", Alejandra said.

"I put all my effort, " Jimena added.

Did you think you were going to get to the finals?

Our winner was fast to answer, "I thought I had a chance."

"Not at the beginning, but later yes",

Alejandra confessed. "The support of my friends helped me a lot."

"I thought I was going to get fourth because I was so nervous.", Jimena said.



The Science Behind Social Media

By Carlota Piney Oliver

On January 1st, 1983, the Internet was 'created'. It's hard to imagine a world without it— without the instantaneous results Google conjures at the tap of a button, without the notifications that accumulate on your phone, without the messages that can be sent to people on the other side of the globe. 38 years ago, nobody used the Internet. Now, 4.66 billion people have access to it.

So what exactly made it so successful?

The World Wide Web became increasingly sophisticated in the 90s, being able to support media such as images, text, videos, and the like. By the 2000s, entire search engines were being created, with its most popular being Chrome, following its creation in 2008. However, long before Chrome's release, came the very first social networking platform— also known as Six Degrees. It is possible that the World Wide Web's rise to fame was due to its incredible capacity to provide the world with easily accessible information, but with a whopping 3.6 million users on social media, these platforms are also deserving of credit.

When it comes to social media, the most remarkable phenomenon is arguably Facebook. Made available to the public in 2006, this platform is widely recognised as the turning point of how we use the internet today. Scrolling through your "feed", whether it be on Instagram, Tiktok or Twitter, has become an increasingly common activity over the past decade— but what is it about social media that makes it so appealing? Is spending hours watching videos simply a lack of self-discipline, or are there darker tactics at play?

CHEMICAL REACTIONS

The basis of what makes social media so addictive can be largely attributed to the chemical effects it may cause. When a user receives a notification, such as a like or a comment, dopamine is rushed to the brain and is sent through connections known as "reward pathways". Dopamine is a neurotransmitter designed to make us feel pleasure; doing exercise, for example, can trigger the release of dopamine. However, social media allows us to receive multiple of these "rewards" for little to no effort, and our brains are rewired to desire these notifications because of the positive reinforcement associated with them.

Studies have shown that these chemical reactions are similar to ones that occur with recreational drugs and even gambling. In fact, some even compare the effects of social media to a "syringe of dopamine being injected" into your body. But there's a trick to producing these chemical reactions— in other words, a criteria that social media needs to fulfill in order to keep your brain engaged.

THE ADDICTIVE ALGORITHM

This is commonly referred to as an 'algorithm'. By definition, this is a process designed to satisfy a problem to achieve an outcome. Usually, the goal is to make money by convincing the consumer to scroll through social media for as long as possible. This allows them to show a higher amount of advertisements, which naturally increases the chances of the user clicking on them. Therefore, what these algorithms need is to find out what exactly makes you feel that surge of dopamine and decide what it is that makes you want to continue scrolling.

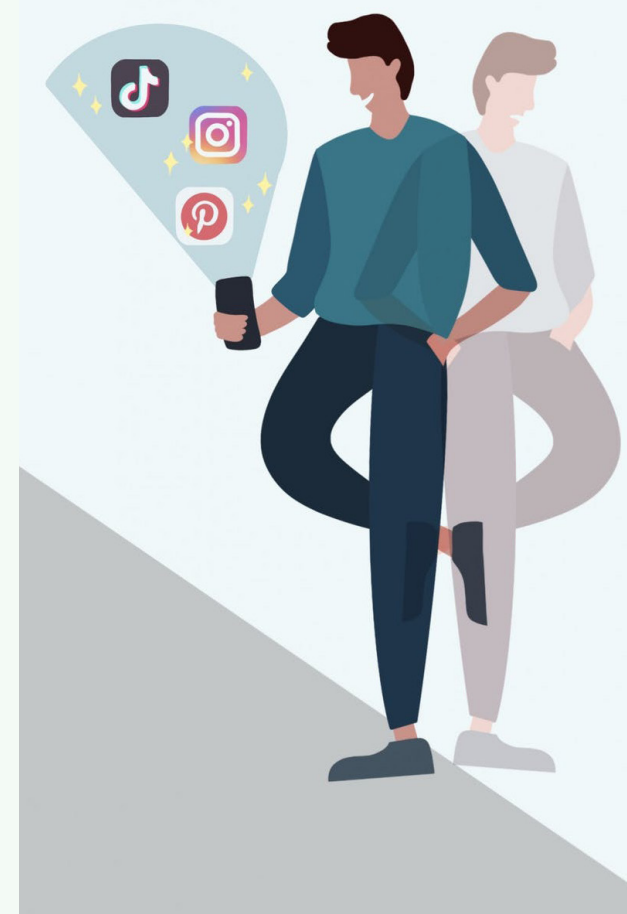
And that's exactly what they do. In a manner that is both fascinating and unsettling, these algorithms constantly keep track of your every move— after all, they are just a string of code and binary numbers, not real people behind the screen. What makes it so interesting is that nobody knows exactly how they work; artificial intelligence algorithms develop and grow, elusive and ever-changing. The time you spend hovering over a post before giving it a like; the photos you absent-mindedly skip past; the notifications you instantly tap... Woodrow Hartzog, a professor at Northeastern University, summarises all of this activity in one sentence:

"If you want to know when social media companies are trying to manipulate you into disclosing information or engaging more, the answer is always."

Needless to say, the tactics social media platforms use are under scrutiny. The moral implications of these algorithms are debatable, with some insisting that they help both the business and the consumer, while others argue that they take away free judgement. The latter suggest that because of these algorithms, the posts, videos and other media we see are too controlled, and some even point to these platforms as the cause for people's 'online radicalisation', wherein a user gets stuck in a "bubble" of like-minded individuals. The lack of opposition leads the said user to become more and more certain of their ideology, consequently leading them down a rabbit hole. Additionally, the collection of data is of utmost concern almost universally, from the people who use social media for hours at a

time to the people who struggle to search something up on Google.

In conclusion, we've come a long way since the start of the Internet. Websites, social media platforms, artificial intelligence... The technological world is always expanding, and with it comes a wave of both criticism and awe. What's important is that users know exactly what they're getting themselves into, and know how to manage the data they send— consciously and unconsciously— to protect themselves from the possible negative consequences. Moreover, as the use of social media is so common at such an early age, it is also important to monitor the time spent on these platforms to develop a healthier relationship with them. Social media is a powerful tool, but one that needs to be used wisely.



Scrumptious Christmas Recipes

By Thomasina Margareta

Ho ho ho....Christmas is less than a month away! The festive season is a time of indulgence and sharing, what better way to do this then making a few delicious treats. These make delectable gifts for friends and loved ones but, be warned - once tasted, they are hard to give away! Perhaps, make double?

BUTTERSCOTCH GINGERBREAD BISCUITS

Prep: 15 min. + Chilling Bake: 10 min. + cooling.
Makes: about 3 dozen

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup packed brown sugar
2 large eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 packages, cook-and-serve butterscotch pudding mix
3 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

1) Cream the butter and brown sugar together in a large mixing mixer until it's light and creamy. Add the eggs and mix well. Combine the flour, pudding mixes, ginger, baking powder, and cinnamon in a mixing bowl; gradually add to the creamed mixture and thoroughly combine. Cover it and chill for 1 hour, or until cool enough to handle.

2) Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness on a lightly floured surface. Cut with cookie cutters that have been lightly floured. Place 1 inch apart on baking pans that haven't been greased.

3) Preheat the oven to 180°C and bake for 6-8 minutes, or until firm. Allow to cool on wire racks.

Gingery and splendid, a classic biscuit for anytime of the day



CHOCOLATEY CHRISTMAS FUDGE

Prep: 15 min.

Cook: 10 min. + cooling.
Makes 96 pieces

Ingredients:

4-1/2 cups sugar
1 can of evaporated milk
1/2 cup butter, preferably cubed
2 packets of milk chocolate chips
4-1/2 cups of miniature marshmallows
57 grams unsweetened chocolate, chopped
3 cups chopped walnuts, toasted
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
113 grams white baking chocolate, melted

Directions:

1) Coat a 33x23-inch baking pan in cooking spray and line with foil.

2) Combine sugar, milk, and butter in a heavy Dutch oven (a big saucepan). Over medium heat, bring to a vigorous boil, constantly stirring. After 5 minutes of simmering and stirring, remove the pan from the heat.

3) Melt the chocolate chips, marshmallows, and chopped chocolate together in a large mixing bowl. Add the walnuts and vanilla extract in a mixing bowl and stir to combine. Spread into the prepared pan right away. Allow to cool completely before drizzling with melted white baking chocolate.

4) Lift the fudge off the pan using foil. Cut fudge into 96 squares after removing the foil. Keep between layers of waxed paper in airtight containers.

Creamy, rich and chocolaty an ideal sweet dessert.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Food Collection

By Ana Cano

Last term we relaunched the traditional school food collection, an event that we unfortunately couldn't do last year because of the pandemic. With the help of everyone that participated in the donation, we got to give to Cocina Económica lots of food. And congratulations to the following houses for winning each of their corresponding categories:

- Romans (fullest table)
- Vikings (most pulses)
- Egyptians (most oil)
- Egyptians (most tinned fish)

Each of these houses got 50 points. However, it was impossible to decide on an overall winner because there was so much food, so congratulations to every house because each of them have been awarded 25 additional points.

We had the pleasure to talk personally with Sor Fernanda, the nun in charge of La Cocina Economica, and she gave us really valuable



information all of us can take into account next year with regards to donating food. Even though any kind of food is appreciated, volunteers and workers in La Cocina Economica advise us to donate tin food and oil rather than packets of uncooked pulses. Even though Cocina Economica cooks in their own kitchen, they also tend to give food to families that have their own place. Since COVID, a lot of middle-class families that had businesses were forced to close down, and now find it difficult to buy food but still have their own kitchen. With the recent increases in energy prices, families find it more difficult to pay for the electricity required to cook these packets at home, so cooked food in tins and oil is the best option for them. Tins with tuna for example are ideal because fish is a source of protein, which is normally the most expensive and the nutrient people with little purchase power lack the most of. So remember, next year we want to see lots of oil and tins!



We recieved the following message from Sor M^a Fernanda García, on behalf of the whole team at Cocina Económica, to everyone that participated this year's food collection:

A TODOS LOS QUE FORMAIS EL COLEGIO INGLES DE ASTURIAS:

Queremos agradecerles la recogida de alimentos que han realizado en su Centro para esta Cocina Económica. No se imaginan lo bien que nos vienen todas estas aportaciones y la alegría que nos produce el ver que las personas más desfavorecidas son importantes para ustedes.

Nos consta que son conscientes de las muchas necesidades que existen en todas las ciudades, más con esta pandemia que estamos sufriendo todos. Es con gestos como los suyos con los que poco a poco iremos saliendo adelante.

Gracias de nuevo por esa sensibilidad especial hacia los más vulnerables.

Cuando quieran estaremos encantados de poder enseñarles la casa.

Un saludo de todo el equipo que formamos la Cocina Económica.

Sor M^a Fernanda García



Interview with Mr McMullan

By Izzy Hylton & Ana Luisa Gonzalez

Which is your favourite place out of all the places you've lived in and why?

My favourite place that I've lived in is probably Madrid. For someone from Edinburgh, Madrid was exotic. It was very welcoming and even though it's a big city, the neighborhoods have a friendly, village-like feel to them.

What are some of your favourite pastimes?

I really enjoy being with friends and going out to eat with them. It's really important to socialise! I also enjoy playing with technology and setting up computers. I like going to different cities and learning about the architecture of a city because it is an interesting reflection of life there.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

I think caring, dedicated and inquisitive would describe me best.

Do you have any tips for studying?

It's important to think about what you are trying to achieve. You should think about the things you know and apply that knowledge to what you're studying. It's important to always have an open mind and be ready to try new things.

What is the most memorable thing that happens in a classroom?

Rather than one memorable

thing, what I always enjoy is when I am working on a topic with a student and guiding them and I see that sense of wonder that spreads across their face when the concepts fall into place. That gives me a real sense of satisfaction.

What was your least favourite subject in secondary?

I didn't really have one. Of course I liked some subjects more than others, but I always loved learning and enjoyed working in different subjects.

How many jobs have you had, what were they and where did you go?

I have had a few jobs, like when I was young I worked as a newspaper boy. I also worked in a supermarket, and obviously I have been working for many years as a teacher. I worked in two schools and a Further Education College in Edinburgh, and I have worked in 4 schools here in Spain.

Why did you decide to come to this school in particular?

I decided to come to this school because, well, I came to Asturias to be closer to my wife's family. This was the best school I found here, and as I spoke English it was a perfect place.

Why did you want to be a maths teacher?

I have always enjoyed maths and my high school maths teacher was the most inspiring

teacher I have had, so here I am now in the ESA maths department!

Do you like this school?

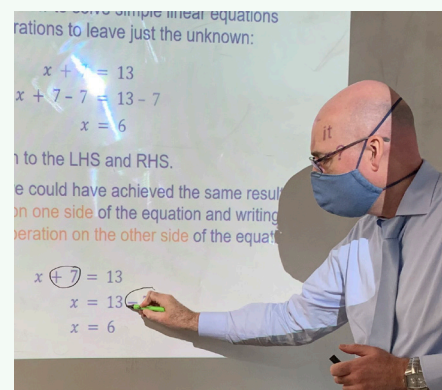
Yes, because there are so many amazing teachers. There is such a good community and I think of this school as a big family. I love the way all the teachers work together and I have made some great friends with many of my colleagues.

How many places have you traveled to?

I have gone to many places but only in Europe. For example, I have been to Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

What are your favourite series and films?

My favourite series is The Sopranos, and I love loads of different films, especially Star Wars, but I think my favourite has to be Cinema Paradiso.



NFTs Explained

By Mateo Pérez

WHAT IS AN NFT?

A non-fungible token. NFTs can be associated with photos, videos, audio, and other types of digital files as unique items. NFTs can be paid with digital currencies such as Ethereum, Polygon and Katlyn.

OPEN SEA

Opensea.io is the largest Nft marketplace in the world created by a man called Devin Finzer. Open Sea users can create their own customizable marketplace using the software and set their own fees for their sales. Users can create auctions for items with any cryptocurrency of their choice.

The most known artist from OpenSea is Bleep who recently sold a NFT called CryptoPunk #9998 for 530 million dollars.

Why are they so expensive?

These traditional artworks, such as

paintings, sculptures, and statues, are valuable because they are completely original. NFTs cannot be faked because it is maintained and verified in real-time by thousands of computers all across the world. Smart contracts which can pay the artists part of future sales can also be integrated into NFTs.?

BORED APES

The Bored Ape Yacht club is the most famous NFT Line with more than 10,000 digital collectibles. Each Bored Ape is unique and programmatically generated from over 170 possible traits, including expression, headwear, clothing, and more. All apes are unique, but some of them are rarer than others. When a user buys a Bored Ape, they gain membership access to a club whose benefits and offerings will increase over time.

The Screenshot Controversy

Recently, social media has brought controversy. Some people say that if you take a direct screenshot from the NFT you will gain the same value that if you spent millions. The controversy still doesn't have a clear winner to this debate.



Bored Ape NFT

News on International Politics

By Sebastian Batchelor-Walsh

A Kremlin - backed "coup d'etat" was set to happen on the 1st or 2nd of December, the president of Ukraine has affirmed in a press conference. Speaking to local and international news stations and journalists, Volodymyr Zelenskiy said that Ukrainian intelligence services had obtained audio recordings of the plotters, who according to the president were trying to enlist the help of Ukraine's richest man: Rinat Akhmetov.

"We have challenges not only from the Russian Federation and possible escalation - we have big internal challenges. I received information that a coup d'etat will take place in our country on December 1-2," Zelenskiy said.

Zelenskiy also confirmed that Mr. Akhmetov was not involved in the plot, with the Eastern country's richest man, who has business ventures that include metals, mining, banking or energy, saying:

"I am outraged by the spread of this lie, no matter what the president's motives are. My position has been and will be explicit and definite: an independent, democratic, and united Ukraine with the Crimea and my home region, Donbass. My actions live up to my words."

This comes after the Russian Federation has been building up troops on the border between the two countries. Some US intelligence agencies say that as many as 92,000 Russian troops are currently stationed in border

regions. This is what the British newspaper The Guardian said about Mr. Akhmetov:

"With a net worth estimated by Forbes magazine at more than \$7bn (£5.25bn), Akhmetov is richer than the next three Ukrainian tycoons combined. He is also the country's largest taxpayer and employer, with about 200,000 staff nationwide."



Music: WHAT ARE THE LIMITS TO ITS POWER?

By Carlota Fernández

From the first ancient melodies sung in groups by the fire to "bella ciao" played over and over again all around the globe due to a netflix show, music is undeniably vital for humans in need of expression.

In essence music is just a series of waves perceptible to our hearing. So then, how come they have such a gigantic influence over things as simple as our mood or as complex as a political or social movement? In this case we must look at the control center of not only the individual being but the society as a whole: the brain. It is fascinating that, in fact, music activates every area in the brain, like no other external influence can. Just by hearing your classmate humming at the desk next to you, your auditory cortex activates as it tracks rhythm, volume or pitch. Just a few dots on top of 5 lines activates the visual cortex and if you follow along with a tapping of your foot or a nodding of your head your motor cortex begins to be present. Finally, just hearing a song you have heard before triggers your hippocampus to work as that melody engages your memory. It is clear that what some may call noise has an unprecedented effect on the

brain. In fact, research shows that very often dopamine, a neurotransmitter that makes you feel joy, is produced in significant quantities when listening to music. Not only that, music is actually known to increase neuroplasticity, which makes the brain more flexible when reorganising its neuron structure, and has also helped patients with Alzheimer's unlock memories.

We have settled that music is a powerful device, but how far does its actual influence go? In the book *The World In Six Songs*, neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitin came to the fascinating conclusion that all cultures around the world share the same 6 motives within their songs. This not only explains the massive musical trends that cross the world and are heard in every corner of such, but also implies music making as something primitive and intuitive in the human species. Whilst languages and other decisive characteristics of each society have remained different depending on several features, music has remained unchanged and reliable everywhere in the world.

Music has not only played a great part in the ancestral communities in the past but has also been a source of innovation. For Instance, Neil Harbisson, who is completely colourblind, has an antenna

planted in his skull that turns colors into sound or what he proudly calls a "massive concert worth of music". The waves created by the microchip are conducted through bone vibration and now he not only dreams in color, which he couldn't before, but he can create music out of people's faces, or even the cleaning products aisle in the supermarket.

Music has shaped, shapes and will shape not only our way of perceiving a mixture of sounds but society as a whole in its need to relate and express, to communicate and understand.



Neil Harbisson

European Youth Parliament

By Ana Cano

BILBAO NSC 2021

Sara, Elena, and Ana, three students of Y13, represented our school in the Bilbao Nationals 2021. It was a weekend packed with intense emotions and a lot of new friendships and experiences.

On the first day, we already got to know our committees and we had so much fun playing some ice-breaking games.

On the second day, we already got down to work on each of our socio-economic issues. Sara had to look for solutions to revive the entertainment sector after the great impact the pandemic has had in this specific industry. Ana also had a theme related to COVID, diving into how the Parliament can help small and medium sized enterprises that were highly affected by all the restrictions. Elena had a more directly related question to COVID, as her committee was trying to look into how the COVID vaccines could be evenly distributed worldwide.

The big day, the General Assembly, was both exciting and full of nerves. It was a long day of big discussions and great speeches, where most of us were sleep-deprived as we preferred having conversations with our new friends than wasting time with sleep. We know even though nationals have ended, we will always be active members of the EYP and part of the Txoripan family forever.

Thank you Jose, for believing in *Our Power to Transform*, and accompanying us on this incredible experience none of us will ever forget.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

STORY COMPETITION

The Reconciliation

Y9 1st PLACE WINNER

Rain could be seen all around and the smell of wet soil gradually filled everybody's nose. The ground beneath their feet squelched, then the sound came to a stop when they reached the tombstone. It read : MARY ANNE. A LOVING MOTHER AND WIFE. RIP. Alan frowned and his eyes watered. He bit his lip, trying not to cry, and drew blood. The metallic taste that gushed into his mouth was almost as sour as when the news of his mother's death first came. He looked at his father next to him, but his eyes seemed unfocused and absent. He looked neither sad nor happy, but instead completely out of it, trying not to think at all. Alan looked to the casket being lowered into the depths of the earth, and tears glided on his cheeks, joining the rain that cascaded all over them.

"Alan, please come over to the building. You're getting wet." Alan glanced behind him and saw his father. The man looked broken, eyes empty and soulless.

Weeks had passed and Alan wouldn't stop watching an old video his Mother and Father had recorded years ago, when they had first started dating. It was them in Paris. They had gone to a nearby forest to have a calming walk, but got lost in it. "I know they say travel expands the mind, but nothing could have prepared me for this," commented his Mother. Everytime Alan heard her voice, a part of him wanted to scream and sob. But he couldn't. Nothing would

come out of his throat. Everyday, his Father would come into his room, and would look at him with pleading eyes. Dad knew that Alan hadn't eaten since. He knew that every time he'd come into his room, Alan looked sicker and thinner. Still, what could he do?

Alan was about to go to bed when he realized that that day his Dad hadn't gone into his room. He wanted to think that maybe he'd just been busy, but a little voice in his head shouted that something wasn't right, and that Dad needed help. Alan was sceptical of leaving his room at first, and glanced back at the video tape.

And he left.

The house was silent. Alan thought that no lights were turned on, until he neared the kitchen. Cold floors welcomed his feet as he cautiously and hesitantly entered the kitchen. His father was there. Beside him, on the table, was a glass of water. Alan looked closer and saw the contents of a pill bottle spread carelessly across its surface. Hearing commotion, he looked up and saw Alan, who was petrified, eyes almost bulging out of his head. Dad suddenly got up and ran to his son to hug him. "I'm so sorry." They both burst into tears when Alan whispered this. "Please don't leave me Dad."

"I won't." Muscles relaxed and tears stopped flowing. And as they held each other, Father and son realized that, even without Mother, they'd get through this.

If Mother could see them, wherever she was, she had let out a sigh of relief.

By Valentina Ramos Ramirez

Taking a Puma for a Walk

Y9 2nd PLACE WINNER

A craving for adventure. That's probably what got me there. Isolated, deep in the jungle, with an apex predator tightly wrapped around my body and its hot, humid breath on my face. I know they say travel expands the mind, but nothing could have prepared me for this (except maybe previous training).

I was on vacation, volunteering at an animal shelter. There, I saw all kinds of animal bites and scratches. It was common for people to show off their fresh wounds and share their stories at the end of each day. But no one had a story like mine.

The volunteers usually had weekly parties, but this time, it got out of hand. Almost everyone, including those with the appropriate big animal training didn't wake up or sign in to the morning's meeting, they just were too drunk to. I was one of the few people there. Hungover, but there. Since there were no staff, I agreed to help out with the puma, even though it normally requires months of training and animal integration and familiarity, and I knew it.

After an hour of trekking through the jungle, one of the volunteers and I reached the puma's enclosure. The huge feline growled at me with an instinctive sense of dislike. But that didn't stop us from continuing our task. We entered the caged area, attached two ropes to the puma's "collar" and began to walk him

through the jungle. It kind of reminded me of walking my dog... except for the fact that I was walking a beast that was at least 1' 15ft taller than me...

The puma, completely displeased with my presence, stepped forward hesitantly. After only a couple of minutes, he stopped, looked back at me and growled directly into my soul. I watched helplessly as the puma leaped 10ft into the air towards me. In a split-second, its powerful legs wrapped around my waist, arms wrapped around my throat and fangs pressed into my forehead.

I heard my teammate scream. But I couldn't move. Completely still, I assumed the worst. Yet, somehow it felt completely natural. The circle of life. I was going to die. The scream faded as I began to lose consciousness. Then, all of a sudden, I was released. The animal let me go and stepped backwards for some reason.

After sweating profusely, my partner told me: "Stick your palm out towards him."

"There's no way I'm doing that!" I answered

Even though I said no, for some reason, I did. I was so scared that it would make my hand disappear after one of its huge bites. But it didn't. The huge cat stepped back towards me and licked my palm. It tickled. And that was it.

By Helena Yaxuan Yang- Lin

Y12 Art Trip – Joan Ponç Exhibition

By Ana Victoria Roza

Last Friday 17th December, the school organised a visit for Year 12 Art students to the Centro Niemeyer to see the Joan Ponç retrospective exhibition.

Joan Ponç was a philosophical Surrealist Artist who travelled a lot during his artistic career between the 1940s and death in 1984 and was close to several other artists and philosophers of his genre including Juan Miro, Salvador Dali and Arau Puig.

The exhibition was curated really well between information on walls, a video interview and

the chronological order of the work presented in which the styles and cultural influences of other artists as well as the places where he was living at the different times of his life were evident.

Emma Daniel Silvosa, Lola Domínguez Fernández, Zurich González Álvarez, Sofía Prieto Corrales, Ana Victoria Roza Álvarez and Jonas Velasco Berguño were the six privileged Art students to witness this amazing, prestigious exhibition in Aviles. They viewed and reviewed the artist's work following a worksheet the Art

Department produced. Their next task will be to produce work that has been inspired by their visit.

Ana Victoria Roza Álvarez wrote the following report on her experience and thoughts on the exhibition:

Inside the exhibition building we could enjoy certain artworks from the surrealist artist Joan Ponç, an artist born in Barcelona in November 1927. He attended Colegio Salesiano San Antonio de Padua de Mataró Boarding School from 1940-1942, during

which time he decided to pursue an interest in painting.

The art exhibition we visited included sketches and main drawings which expressed distinct emotions and feelings. The artist mixed vibrant colours such as yellows and greens which will normally connote happiness and positivity with tetric body language and expressions. This contrast makes his artwork memorable and clear.

The exhibition was very clear, and combined his artwork with information on the walls and quotes of words said by the artist throughout his career. There was also a video in black and white of an interview with the artist. The exhibition was presented in chronological order. From the beginning of his career as an artist until the



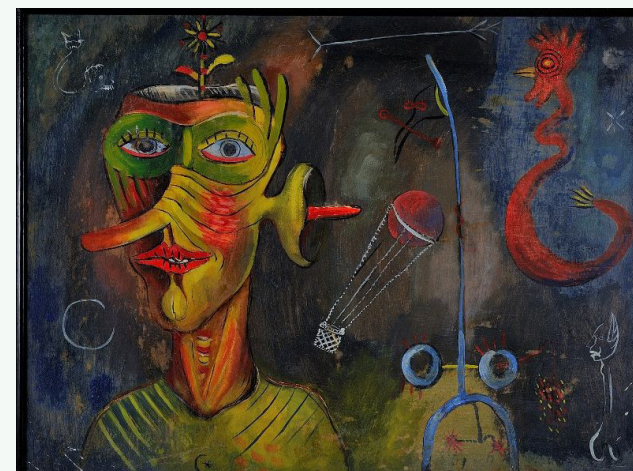
end, we could really see a development in his artwork, for example, how he started applying more and more small details.

Mr Woodrow, our Art & Design teacher, gave us a worksheet to do throughout our observation of the exposition. This sheet helped us with our orientation and the analysis of Joan Ponç's art work.

Personally, I felt a personal connection with his artwork, from which I gathered inspiration for my new project for January. The surrealist art is a perfect style to express emotion on paper.



Joan Ponç



Blue Origin Space Travel

By Ocean Larkey

WHAT IS BLUE ORIGIN?

Blue Origin is a privately funded aerospace and suborbital spaceflight company. It was founded in September, 2000, by Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon. Its goal is to enable a future where people are living and working in space. Blue Origin believes that humans need to expand our knowledge and resources. It also wants to move industries that harm Earth into space. Their motto is "Gradatim Ferociter" or "Step by Step Ferociously".

Space Tourism

Blue Origin's first human flight launched on July 20th, 2021. It broke four Guinness World Records, including being the first suborbital spaceship carrying paying space tourists. It also carried the oldest person to go to space at the time (Wally Funk) as well as the youngest (student and son of hedge fund manager, Oliver Daemen). It was also the first time siblings have been in space at the same time (Bezos went with his brother, Mark).

While several people have been to space on Blue Origin's rocket, one of the most notable customer is William Shatner, who flew to space at 90 years old, breaking Wally Funk's record. Shatner is best known for the original portrayal of Captain James T. Kirk of the USS Enterprise in the Star Trek franchise. After the flight Shatner was in tears. Shatner said, "I'm so filled with emotion about what just happened. It's extraordinary, extraordinary. It's so much larger than me and life. It hasn't got anything to do with the little green men and the blue orb. It has to do with the enormity and the quickness and the suddenness of life and death. To see the blue color whip by you, and now you're staring into blackness ... everybody in the world needs to do this. Everybody in the world needs to see this."

How much does it cost?

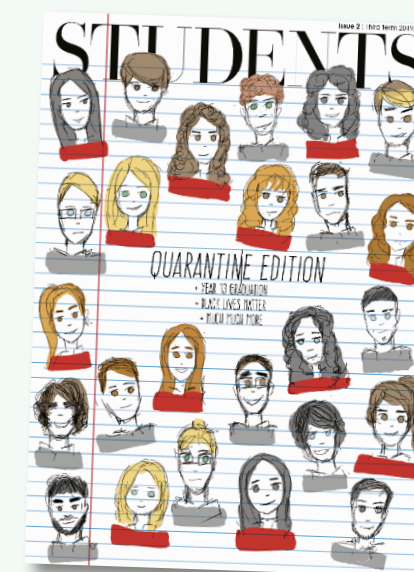
For the first flight, Blue Origin auctioned off one of the seats, with proceeds going to Bezos' space-focused nonprofit. For the money, the person got training, an eleven minute flight, and on-site accommodation. The final price that it sold at surprised even Blue Origin officials. It sold for the crazy amount of \$28 million U.S. dollars (24,981,600 Euros). The price for non-auction tickets are a mystery, though Bezos says the company is reaching \$100 million (89,219,00 Euros) in sales so far. Is that all for Blue Origin?

The short answer is no. Blue Origin is continuing to send tourists into space. The crew on the upcoming NS-19 flight will include four paying customers and two honorary guests including Good Morning America's co-anchor Michael Strahan. Another honorary guest is Laura Shepard Churchley, who is the daughter of the second man (and first American) in space, Alan Shepherd. The New Shepard spacecraft was named after him.

For better or worse, space travel seems to be the future of mankind, and Blue Origin seems to be one of the leading players. Blue Origin continues to work on new ways to improve space travel and maybe one day you'll be on one of their rockets.



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