A dance of lights and shadows
SOCIAL MEDIA VS RÉALITY

ALICIA WOEHLBIER

The average teenager spends 2.5 hours a day on social media. But what does it do to you? On social media, everything seems perfect. A person’s life, their figure, but influencers often only show 8% of their lives. When we see people on social media posting about how happy they are, living their best life, it doesn’t mean it’s true. Practically everyone on social media seems to be doing well. But what we don’t see is when they’re sad or having a bad day. Most people see you on social media are very different from their real lives. So you can’t really compare yourself to them. Many people do. They spend hours watching videos that are not good for them. They think they have to look like that and put pressure on themselves. This leads to physical problems; this can also lead to mental health issues like depression and eating disorders. But these are just two of many.

Beauty and body image issues are particularly common; being too fat, having short legs, small lips and a crooked nose. People, especially young women, often criticise their own appearance. What we don’t see is that influencers often edit their pictures to make themselves look perfect.

But we don’t see that. So young women think they have to look like the girls on social media. They look in the mirror and think they’re not beautiful, but they still keep watching these videos. And so it goes on. They don’t see that most of it is fake. There is a lot of fake news content on social media. Every day we read a lot of things on social media that may be true, but often are not. I just want to say that you are perfect the way you are, you don’t need to change. Be careful, not everything you see is true.

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LES CHARMS DU CLAIR-OBSCUR

Le clair-obscurs, mettant en évidence une action ou un personnage à travers des reflets de lumière sur un fond sombre, a toujours été mus des artistes.

SALOMÉ BÉRESSE

E-clair-obscurs, mettant en évidence une action ou un personnage à travers des reflets de lumière sur un fond sombre, a toujours été mus des artistes. En effet, nombreux sont ceux qui, par ces effets de contraste diissimulèrent ou accentuèrent diverses informations et idées. Prenons-nous donc sur quelques classiques :

Entre 1906 et 1909, le peintre et ex-illustrateur publicitaire, Edward Hopper, s’aventure en Europe. D’un voyage, Edward aime déambuler dans les rues des grandes villes comme Paris, Bruxelles, Lisbonne, Londres et Amsterdam, pour lesquelles il développe un fort penchant artistique.

En 1942, Edward peint le décor d’une soirée passée dans un restaurant de Greenwich Avenue à New York, en compagnie de son épouse, Josephine Nivison, peintre elle aussi. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. Il nous introduit en pleine rue, la nuit, face à un bar américain propre aux années quarante. 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The essence of light has fascinated and baffled some of history’s greatest philosophers and physicists for centuries.

NINA MELKA

The earliest records date all the way back to the classical antiquity, and yet, still, three thousand years later, we are far from fully understanding the complex nature of light. Until the twentieth century, scientists continued to believe that light was made up of particles. Newton proposed the corpuscular theory and believed that light was made up of particles because it traveled in a straight line and was reflected by objects. This theory was disproved though, as it could not explain the interference of light, which is a property of particles lacking waves. Until the twentieth century, scientists continued to believe and prove that light was unequivocally a wave. Einstein provided a new theory which has not been disproven to this day.

Light behaves in a number of different ways. When you look at an object, the color of the object is determined by the wavelengths of light that reflects. Different wavelengths of visible light excite electrons in different atoms, which is what causes some wavelengths to be absorbed while others are to be reflected and together they form the final color you see. Absorbed light energy causes the electrons in the atoms of a material to vibrate and provide it with kinetic energy to convert into (or thermal) energy. The more light an object absorbs, the more heat it will can store. That’s why you may have noticed darker objects which absorb more light are warmer when left in the sun, compared to lighter objects which reflect more light. Apart from being absorbed and reflected, light can also be transmuted.

We know that light can travel through air, but there are other forms of matter through which light can pass. These materials are called mediums. To understand this you need to know that light travels at a speed of 299,792,458 meters per second. This is the speed at which light travels in a vacuum, which is commonly denoted as c in quantum mechanics. When light passes through mediums such as air, glass, water or diamond, it still travels at c. However, we get the impression that it slows down because the light waves combine with the electric field waves of the atoms in the medium. This forms a merged wave, which is what we call light.

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Light waves also bend when they encounter an obstacle or hole in their trajectory, in a process known as diffraction. You can notice this inside, when the light bends in the crack of a closed door, or outside, in the silver linings of clouds blocking sunlight. Since visible light travels at very slow wavelengths, diffraction is more observable in smaller obstacles and holes.

There is one more behavior of light that is worth mentioning. Scattering is a process where light particles called (recall the photons) that are scattered, and bounce off an object in separate directions. The light’s wavelength as well as the object’s size are two factors that affect the degree of scattering. This process is probably most observable in our atmosphere and is the reason why the sky appears blue.

Nitrogen and oxygen atoms, which make up the majority of our atmosphere, are the ideal size to scatter light with shorter wavelengths like blue and violet. While blue light is scattered less than violet, it is more visible to the human eyes. During sunsets and sunrises, however, the sun is located at the horizon and light waves have to travel further to reach us. So while blue and violet light is promptly scattered, the longer wavelengths can travel further and cause the sky to appear red and orange instead.

Now that you have an underlying understanding of the fundamental behavior of light, take a moment to look around you. As soon as your eyes catch sight of an object, you are able to identify its color, shape and size. Diffraction, scattering and reflection are all effects that can be observed in different lights.

The light that is visible to our eye is only a fraction of the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths which range between a millimeter and hundred of kilometers. The shorter radio waves with higher frequencies are called microwaves. These waves are present in appliances such as cell phones, televisions, radios, satellites and, as you might have already guessed, AM/FM radios and microwave ovens.

Further down the spectrum, radio waves are followed by infrared, visible and ultraviolet light. Infrared wavelengths are longer than those of visible light, around 1000 to 700 nanometers in length whereas ultraviolet wavelengths are shorter, approximately 400 to 100 nanometers in length.

While the human eye is just short of seeing this radiation, there are exceptions throughout the animal kingdom. For instance, mosquitoes use infrared light to locate the areas of your skin with the most blood at the surface and bees use their ability to see ultraviolet light for detecting pollen and nectar in plants. Finally, there are the x-ray and gamma waves, which travel at such incredible short wavelengths with the highest frequencies and energy. In fact, they have enough energy to remove electrons from atoms (a process known as ionization), and can heavily damage our cell and DNA structures.

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

As soon as your eyes catch sight of an object, you are able to identify its color, shape and the approximate distance it is from you. Our brain receives all of this information from light. Each color travels at a different speed and has its own wavelength and frequency, which is how the photoreceptors are able to separate them. Out of the colors we can see, red has the longest wavelength of approximately 700 nanometers and violet has the shortest with around 400 nanometers.

The difference in visible light wavelengths of visible light is observable in the dispersion of light through a prism, which most of us will recognize as the famous Pink Floyd album cover. In this experiment, the light refracts and disperses in separate different angles. Since red light has the longest wavelength, it is not slowed as much and is refracted at by the smallest angle.

On the contrary, violet light has the shortest wavelength, is slowed the most and experiences the greatest angle of refraction. The light that is visible to our eye, however, is only a fraction of the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths which range between a millimeter and hundreds of kilometers. The shorter radio waves with higher frequencies are called microwaves. These waves are present in appliances such as cell phones, televisions, radios, satellites and, as you might have already guessed, AM/FM radios and microwave ovens.

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There is undoubtedly still much to be discovered about the nature of light. There is even still much more to be written about it, but that would be enough information would make enough to write an entire book about. Hopefully, this article has shed some light on what electromagnetic radiation is and how it affects us in our everyday lives. It has definitely proved to be a topic more complex and extensive than I first thought when the lightbath went off in my head. And who knows, maybe that book is in the process of being published, in a couple of light years.
THE 2023 CDE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

LOUISE MILlich

As the school year kicks into full gear, one of the most crucial events for EEB3 is the election of the Comité des Élèves (the school’s pupil’s committee, abbreviated to CDE) and the election of EEB3’s new president. As expected, there was no shortage of amazing candidates vying for the position.

The journey to becoming the president of EEB3 starts with the CDE election, a moment when all the elected class reps of secondary (90 in total!) unite to listen to representatives voice their ideas in a speech lasting no longer than four minutes. For a candidate to be elected, they must receive over 50% support from the class reps.

An agonizing 45-minute period followed the speeches, as the votes for the CdE were counted by our diligent ballot counters: Alexandra Bartovic, Sofia Siroka, and our beloved S7 conseillère, Célia Sanchez. The Pythagoras room was not short of agitated faces and whispers questioning their chance of getting in. As a member of the CDE, I’m pleased to affirm that most people who applied scrambled enough votes to be able to join and voice their ideas!

Immediately thereafter, the results of the newest CdE were confirmed, and the new CdE got straight to work with the much-awaited discussion of who would run for president. Following the example of other European schools, the CdE decided to change the election system. This year, the students voted for the president and the vice president instead of voting for one presidential candidate.

Two possible presidencies were issued that day, featuring Ani Adjieman (S6EN) accompanied by her vice president Marlene Wehrheim (S6DE), against Miranda Forbes (S7FRC) and Dimitri Tzitopoulos (S7DE). The next week involved the publicity of both parties with posters around our school showcasing different ideas to implement as school presidents. Two videos were also published to the EEB3 school Instagram account where each pair of candidates explained their ideas and goals for our school. Miranda and Dimitris talked about their ideas concerning possible chess and sports tournaments for S1-S4, thus improving our current school gym, along with many more improvements for water fountains, bathroom facilities, guidance concerning scholarly choices or career choices, and the beloved yearly tradition of fingerprinting!

While the candidates had to focus on their campaigns, the creation of this year’s CDE was still in the working, with a meeting being held about the distribution of roles among the other fifteen members. The school president is far from being the only role, with obligatory positions such as treasurer, 2 CoSup reps, PR head, events head, IT rep, Green rep, and secretary. These roles are obligatory for a reason as they all have vital parts to play in making our school a coherent place. The CoSup roles were filled by Maria Esquerra (S6ENA) and Oliver Todd (S7EN). “After doing MEC (Model European Council) last year, I was inspired to join CoSup,” explains Oliver. “Many people told me about it, and I’m excited to represent EEB3 while meeting new people.”

The roles of event heads were filled by Valentina Škalčkova (S7FRA) and Ness Debaixou (S7FRC), two motivated S7s who hope to take events to the next level, making them more fun and contributing to EEB3 in their final year of school. Louise Millich (S7EN) became part of the PR heads, along with Claudia Parete Pelta (S6BSB), working alongside Lily Valdenbalck (S4ENA). The role of working in the PR sector consists of managing the EEB3 social media accounts. Our new IT reps are none other than the motivated Adrianna Brembeu and Ani Adjieman, who have already begun work on a new CDE website!

Ness Debaixou, Marlene Wehrheim, Leonie Goodchild, and Dimitri Tzitopoulos were put in the position of well-being reps. This role is essential, especially when taking into account the fact that mental health was a recurring theme in the CDE speeches. When it comes to keeping track of the plethora of topics discussed throughout the meetings, the role of secretary comes in handy, which in this year’s case is Louise Millich, whose responsibilities are note-taking at all kinds of meetings, along with helping the presidency. Last but not least, the Green rep Leonie Goodchild and Georgina Konstantakopoulos who’s also Treasurer head with the vice treasurer Adrian Brembeu, they focus on the management of the financial assets of the CDE.

Only a few days after the distribution of roles throughout the CdE came the most publicly known one, the presidential elections. The 22nd of September was a day filled with votes, counting, and presumably nervous presidential candidates. This all swiftly came to an end, however, as while P9 was nearing its end, the last votes were counted, and the results came through. The new presidents of the school were Miranda Forbes and Dimitri Tzitopoulos with a 57% vote, denoting a win for these two S7s. When asked about the turnout, Miranda had numerous thoughts to share concerning her win: “At the beginning, I misread and thought we lost until Ness told me to take a second look.”

“At the beginning, I misread and thought we lost until Ness told me to take a second look.” - Miranda

As a member of the CdE, I’m happy with the new election system. The realization that I am the first-ever female president of EEB3 has made me very proud, and I’m happy that I will be able to give back to the school. My opponents shared many goals in common, and I’m happy to be still working with them in the CDE to do the best for our school.”
Do you want to start the new school year motivated? Here are some tips!

Create routines and continuous and regular learning times, and plan and procrastinate less - this is how you will make the best progress in the long term. To continue to get good grades or stay motivated, you must have goals, so try setting some goals. When should you study? The best times to study are between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If you have a lot to learn, then you should start as early as possible and spread out the studying, so you don’t have to cram everything last minute. Once you’ve done all of this, you can reward yourself (e.g., look at your phone, meet friends, go to the cinema).

If you can’t concentrate while studying, then here is a helpful tip: try making learning more interesting (e.g., light a candle, listen to music, or watch a series). Do you already know your timetable? If not, then here’s a little tip: stick your timetable somewhere where you look often, e.g., in your locker.

If you don’t understand a subject, you should discuss it with someone (e.g., friends, teachers, or parents) so they can help you. If you like some subjects more than others, then you should learn to alternate studying for your other subjects; that way you don’t get demotivated studying for the subjects you don’t particularly enjoy.

THE VAQUITA — you can only find these sea animals in the Northern Gulf of California, Mexico. There are only 10 left!!!! That is not a lot. Why aren’t there a lot left? That’s because of the gillnet threat... the gillnet threat includes illegal fishing practises, and people use gillnets which are a giant threat to the vaquitas. Vaquitas are the smallest cetacean species (a species which includes whales, tortoises and dolphins) in the world. And with only 10 vaquitas left in the whole world, the World Wide Fund is trying hard a lot to save them from leaving our world forever. One big reason is that vaquitas are extremely important for the marine eco system. Save the vaquitas!

The North Atlantic Right Whale (also known as the Right whale) is also another very endangered animal with fewer than 350 remaining. In the past, hunters thought that these whales were the “right” whales to hunt (that’s why they’re called “right whales”). Now these sea animals are threatened by ship collisions, entanglement in fishnets and separation from calving areas because of shipping traffic. Right whales can live up to 70 years old, and researchers use their earwax to determine how old they are (but only after they have died). Right whales grow up to 15.8 meters, and weigh up to about 66.5 tons. I mean it! Right whales are known for their unique v-shaped blowhole.

These whales are very important to the world because they help regulate and maintain ocean food. Please save these whales too!

How can you help... Instead of throwing away plastic in the waste bin, buy a plastic bag from the supermarket and use those for throwing away plastic so that they can be recycled. You can also symbolically adopt a sea animal at a shelter so that the shelter can fund the sea animal’s care.

ENCORE UN AUTRE CLASSIQUE DE LA LITTÉRATURE ANGLAISE. Le Hobbit est une œuvre fantastique qui précède la trilogie du Seigneur des Anneaux. Mais ne vous inquiétez pas, nul besoin de lire les premiers livres pour pouvoir découvrir les incroyables aventures de Bilbo le hobbit ! Peureux, casanier et très têtu, Bilbo ne semble pas être le compagnon de voyage idéal. Pourtant, c’est bien lui que Gandalf, le sage et vieux magicien, choisit pour accompagner 13 nains vers la Montagne Solitaire où règne le dragon Smaug. Roman épique et saupoudré d’une pincée d’humour, Le Hobbit est une œuvre qui nous ouvre les portes d’un monde magique dans lequel Bilbo apprend à naviguer. C’est un livre parfait à lire pendant l’automne !
“In the U.S., approximately 40 percent of pregnancies are unplanned. This is partly because society dictates that unfairly. Women are primarily responsible for pregnancy prevention and family planning. Historically, contraception options for men have not been optimal” - NIH: National Institutes of Health des artistes.

MAXIMILIAN MONTGOMERY

In the realm of reproductive health and family planning, contraception plays a pivotal role. Traditionally, the burden of contraception has fallen upon women, with numerous options like contraceptive pills, intrauterine devices (IUDs), and patches available for them. However, the landscape of contraception is gradually changing, with increasing research and development in male contraceptive methods.

The concept of male contraceptive pills has been a topic of interest for many decades. The choices for male contraception are extremely limited, with the choice currently only being either condoms or vasectomies. Although these options are highly effective, they are not always optimal; a vasectomy is not guaranteed to be reversible, and condoms are not always used correctly, if used at all. However, it was not until recently that considerable progress was made in this field by multiple teams of researchers such as Md Abdullah Al Noman’s team from Minnesota and an NIH-funded team of researchers, led by Drs. Jochen Buck and Lonny Levin at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The development of male contraceptive pills involves manipulating the production of sperm without affecting the production of male sex hormones. This is achieved by targeting specific proteins that play a crucial role in sperm production. The introduction of male contraceptive pills would allow men to take an active role in family planning, sharing the responsibility traditionally shouldered by women. The pills would expand the range of contraceptive options available, providing more choices for couples. However, there are also potential drawbacks to consider. The effectiveness of male contraceptive pills is yet to be determined and compared with existing methods as most tests have been only tested on male mice and not humans. Additionally, as with any medication, potential side effects may be a concern. Most compounds currently undergoing clinical trials specifically target testosterone which could lead to depression, weight gain, increased cholesterol levels, and many more possible side effects.

The pill’s impact on men’s health and long-term effects needs thorough investigation. While male contraceptive pills are not yet a reality, significant strides are being made in this field. As of 2022, human clinical trials have started on some hormonal male contraceptive methods. Researchers are exploring other avenues such as hormonal and non-hormonal pills, gels, and injections. The development of male contraceptive pills represents a significant advancement in the field of reproductive health. While there are many challenges to overcome, including ensuring effectiveness and managing potential side effects, the progress made so far is promising. The advent of male contraceptive pills could lead to a more balanced approach to family planning, where responsibilities are shared equally. As research continues in this exciting area, we look forward to seeing what the future holds.
THE DARK SIDE OF MUSIC

RITA SZALAI

Music is part of our everyday lives. We listen to different songs based on our emotions, whether we need to dance or cry when we feel happy or heartbroken.

This is because one of the main qualities of music is that it is expressive; it can convey a particular thought or feeling through the melody or the lyrics, often through both. However, this expressiveness, though often harmless, is what enables music to take a much darker turn in the wrong hands. Certain governments and people throughout history have chosen to exploit this quality to promote their values, and it is precisely music’s mundanity that makes it such a powerful propaganda tool.

Musical propaganda can be traced back to the Antiquity, to the time of the Greek and Roman Empires. One of the earliest recorded instances of music used to promote a political cause or point of view is by Tyrtaeus, a poet who lived in the mid-7th century B.C. in Sparta. His poems date back to a time when the Roman Empire was newly found and had to defend its borders against its enemies.

In medieval times, music was used as propaganda mainly through troubadours, who wrote songs about the Crusades, motivating soldiers to fight for what they believed in and evoking biblical figures. The songs were also made to eulogize their patrons and rulers, thus spreading their power. It is especially in times of war that governments rely on music for propaganda, either to push a specific ideology or to boost morale. This is prominent in both far left and far right political parties, with extreme fascism but also in communist regimes.

For example, Americans became united during World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbour. Many songs made at this time called on American citizens to fight for their country, or to contribute to the war effort in any other way they could. Songs from this time include “Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition” by Frank Loesser, from which different versions reached top scores on the Billboard chart in 1942. Songs were particularly effective during the Cold War, the ideological battle between East and West was directly reflected by the popular music of this time. Music from the United States and Western European countries fit into genres like jazz and rock and spread liberal ideology, while types of music were censored in countries under Soviet influence. The Soviet Union heavily controlled the music industry, only employing certain artists and making sure that each song conformed to communist ideals.

However, it is important to note that music has also been used in the Anti-war movement, especially during the 1970s in opposition to the Vietnam War. Well-known artists who promoted peace and social justice during this time were Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and John Lennon, and are closely associated with the hippie movement.

Nowadays, how music can be used as propaganda has evolved, due to the emergence of modern technology and the use of social media and online platforms. Just last year, the Russian government promoted a song made by a propaganda arm of the Russian Ministry of Defense, in which they celebrated their nuclear weapons and fantasized about wiping out the United States and NATO.

Throughout history, music has played a significant role in promoting certain political or social ideologies. From Ancient Greece to today, governments have benefited from the fact that music is everywhere and have used it as a tool of propaganda. However, music also has the power to bring people together to inspire them to fight for positive change, human rights, and social justice.
THE INVISIBLE SCIENCE

LOUKAS PHILIPPOS XENAKIS

Ever wondered what happens when a star dies? Is gravity more powerful than anything, even light? What lies in the center of our galaxy? In short, do you know what black holes, the biggest mystery of our universe, are?

In this article I will explain what black holes are, how they form and how they function. A black hole is created when a giant star (so stars that are 100 to 1000 stars bigger than our Sun) reaches the end of its lifecycle. When this star runs out of energy and dies, it creates an explosion called supernova. Because of this supernova, all the star’s mass is concentrated into one, singular, small point - like a grain of sand. Since there is such an enormous mass concentrated on such a small point, the center collapses under its own weight, creating a gravitational singularity. This singularity is what we call a black hole.

A black hole has such a strong gravitational pull that it swallows everything in its way. It can even swallow up entire stars. As they swallow more mass, they get bigger, and can even grow to giant sizes (some black holes are about the size of a hundred million times our Sun).

Nothing can escape the gravitational pull of a black hole, not even light (hence its name). This is also how we discover them. Black holes are practically invisible, but we can realize black holes exist in a certain spot by observing the objects around them. Weird things (related to quantum mechanics and space) happen around black holes because their gravity is so strong that objects around them, like stars or gas, are pulled into their orbit. Black holes are not of any danger to us because the nearest black hole is 1,560 light years away and our sun is not a big enough star to become a black hole.

But what happens when matter enters a black hole? Well, when an object is sucked into a black hole it goes through a process called spaghettification: as it becomes absorbed by the singularity the object will stretch. However, we still do not know enough about black holes and their effect on us and space: they remain one of the biggest, if not the biggest mysteries of the universe.

TO LEARN, OR NOT TO LEARN?

THOMAS VAN DEN WYNGAERT

Learning.

What is learning? We’re all expected to do it for eight hours a day, 180 days a year, but have you ever thought about what goes on inside your brain when learning?, Aand why do some people seem to be so good at it? Well, even if you haven’t spared a single thought to this, the answer may be more interesting than you realise!

The Definition of intelligence

The Oxford dictionary states that intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. Yet psychologists define it as the mental capacity to learn from experiences, adapt to new situations, understand and handle abstract concepts, and use knowledge to manipulate one’s environment. Johns Hopkins Medicine must have also wanted a finger in the pie, as they define it as the ability to solve complex problems or make decisions with outcomes benefiting the actor, and think that it has evolved in lifecycles to adapt to diverse environments for their survival and reproduction. However the definition of intelligence varies, you get the general gist. ‘Learning’ and ‘applying knowledge’ seem to be central to the notion of intelligence... So what is learning? To answer that, we’ll need to mention our brains.

The Theory Of A Thousand Brains

When we encounter ‘sensory information’, such as hearing, or feeling something, a stream of information is sent to our brains. Now, according to Jeff Hawkins ‘Theory Of A Thousand Brains’, this information is stored in ‘reference frames’ in our cortexes (the part of our brain responsible for complex thinking). These reference frames are made up of clusters of neurones that all contain similar information.

Imagine walking around a city, multiple street corners will have a pizzeria or a supermarket. Now, if you know the city well, you’ll recognise that the corner you’re standing by is one of those, but how could you determine which corner you are standing by? Well, by employing another sense!

You can tell you that you are standing by one of the corners that is close to an ice-cream van, due to its characteristic jingle. Your brain will take both senses into account, and realise that you are standing at the only corner with both a pizzeria and the jingle of an ice-cream van. This is what Hawkins is trying to say: instead of a single part of the brain being responsible for a single task, our brain functions like a democracy that constantly activates various areas for a single task.

The more we learn, the more information our “reference” frames have, and thus the better our brains can organise information. Additionally, repeated firing of neurones strengthens the connections between those of those neurones, like exercise does for a muscle. Here’s the twist: according to Jeff Hawkins, this is exactly what happens when we do complex thinking. Imagine coming across a complex problem. The better a brain is at organising its information, the better it will be able to apply it. So even while looking at an equation you have never seen before, thousands of reference systems will be taking their guess at what it could be, mean, and how to manipulate it. So learning is the forming of new and stronger connections between parts of the brain. And the forming of new connections causes your brain to be better at making connections. In simple terms: learning makes you better at learning.

Attention will help readers have noticed that this is a feedback loop. People who are slightly better at learning, get better and better at learning. This could be one factor in why primary grades vary far less than in secondary.

Students who are as slightly better at learning start to seriously improve once they hit secondary, like an exponential equation. So what determines how good we are at learning in the first place?

What role do our genes play?

Genetics seem to be the easy answer, but how does a brain, talented at learning, differ from one that is... ‘not’? Genes have an influence on how well information is processed, how well it is stored, and how quickly new connections can be formed. Certain genes can have an effect on our dopamine system (our reward system), increasing or lowering our sensitivity to dopamine. People with high dopamine sensitivity will be more inclined to learn tasks they find rewarding or that offer positive feedback. On the flip side, people with low sensitivity will often not consider learning new tasks ‘worth it’ as they need more immediate and greater rewards to feel motivated. They often have difficulty staying engaged while learning as it rarely provides immediate rewards. Dopamine is far from the only factor in determining whether people are good at learning. Disabilities and various other genetic traits can have effects similar to that of dopamine. There are
studies out there which have found that simply growing up around books can improve academic performance.

This shows how complicated the topic of intelligence is... But you might see intelligence in a different light after pondering on this. Instead of 'smart' or 'dumb', you might see 'trained' and 'untrained,' 'interested' and 'uninterested' - or simply 'sensitive to dopamine' versus 'insensitive to dopamine.'

So yes, some people are born with more potential, but only in that learning is easier for them. There is no limit to what anyone can learn or achieve. There’s a saying that puts this nicely: "Do not let the fear of being last deter you from pursuing what you love." Even insensitivity to dopamine can be overcome by making the task more enjoyable - do it with friends or give yourself a treat. We don’t get all our talents from birth. An average European lifetime lasts about 80 years. That’s slightly less than 4200 weeks. By the time we turn 19 we will have already lived a thousand of them. We have little time to learn what we yearn to, so the question remains; What do you want to learn?

¿Quién es Olivia Rodrigo?

Olivia Rodrigo nacida en Murrieta, California, Estados Unidos, es una de las cantautoras más famosas del mundo. Olivia Rodrigo empezó a tener reconocimiento sobre el 2010 con sus papeles principales en "Bizaardvark" y en High "School Musical: The Musical: The series".

Después de grabar esas series Olivia Rodrigo firmó con las discográficas, Geffen Records y Interscope Records, lanzó su debut con "Driver’s License" que rompió los récords y fue una de las canciones en más vendidas del 2021, impulsándola a la fama.

Ese año ella siguió con las canciones “Deja Vu” y “Good 4 U”. Luego sacó su álbum de debut “Sour” que fue exitó comercial, ganando varios premios. En 2022, Disney lanzó el documental "Olivia Rodrigo: Driving Home 2 U”, que narra el proceso creativo de “Sour”.

Olivia Rodrigo ha conseguido que tres de sus canciones estén en el número uno en Billboard Hot 100 y dos álbumes número uno en Billboard 200, así como cinco certificaciones multiplatino de la Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Además de otros reconocimientos, ha ganado un premio American music, siete premios Billboard music, cuatro premios MTV Video Music y tres premios Grammy. En 2021 la revista Time la nombró artista del año y Billboard en 2022 la nombró mujer del año.

El 30 de junio del 2023 sacó la balada romántica “Vampire”, que fue lanzada como canción principal de su nuevo álbum “Guts”, el 11 de agosto del 2023 estrenó la segunda canción de su álbum, “bad idea right?” Y ya por fin el 8 de septiembre del 2023 sacó su segundo disco, “Guts”. Olivia dijo que “Guts” refleja el proceso de madurez que ella experimentó al final de su adolescencia.

Gracias por leer este artículo, espero que os entre curiosidad y empecéis a escuchar las canciones de Olivia Rodrigo.
CONTROVERSY OF THE K-POP INDUSTRY

EMMA KONJEVOD

At this point, we have all heard of BTS, Blackpink or the term K-Pop in general. But what exactly is K-Pop?

To start it off, K-Pop stands short for South Korean Pop, but it is a term commonly used for South Korean music in general, The idol industry first became like the K-Pop we know today with the first-generation boy group H.O.T. debuting in fall '96 under South Korean Entertainment Company SM Ent. Then second gen followed in 2005 to 2011 with K-Pop groups still being majorly only popular in Asia. Then we come to the third generation, Third generation is a canon event in the K-Pop industry. With groups like Blackpink and BTS finally achieving global success and making K-Pop a popular thing in the western world, it is also called the biggest breakthrough in the industry. Finally, someone in the States or Europe knew who BTS or Blackpink was.

But what do I mean to tell you about this topic? Would you like to be a K-pop fan? Or would you rather not?

To become an idol, young preteens and teens audition for different entertainment companies. There are commonly many people there, so even passing auditions is a remarkable success. And if you manage to pass commonly even three rounds of auditions, you get the offer to come to Seoul in hopes of debuting in a new group. But how exactly does that work? What do you do there? Children usually between 12-22 move into dorms in the companies' buildings. There they have trainings in all kinds of things, singing, dancing, rapping, Korean and English, if trainees should still be going to school, normal school subjects are well. According to the Blackpink members in the carpool karaoke interview with James Corden, an average trainer at YG Entertainment (Blackpink's company) has a timetable as follows: wake up around 9am., get ready, trainings from 1am.-2am (yes am), with very few breaks and only one day in two weeks would be free time.

Then, as stated by the BP girls in the Netflix Documentary Blackpink Light up the Sky, every month the most important people and mentors would come to grade a performance every trainee had to do. If you are not good enough, you go home. With blackpink it is believed there were nine trainees who were supposed to debut as blackpink, with only four choosing to debut and one switching companies and debuting in another group. So, you train for a few years and then in the last round of debut Hunger Games it turns out you are “not enough”? What then?

Well, a few people do debut somewhere else, but mostly, you just wasted a couple of years during the nicest period of your life, just to end up going back home. Imagine the shame you must feel.

Of course, those lucky few who do end up debuting, are not guaranteed to be popular at all, or to get wealthy.

But then in the end, you have those who are extremely popular, who do make a fortune. It is all gamble, the prize is high, but the chances are astronomically tiny. And if you do debut. What happens then? Well, you earn money, that’s sure, but in the end, depending on your popularity and company, the company can take up ninety-five percent of your group’s earnings, leaving you, for example, a group of five members with one percent each. Poor, from a hundred thousand dollars you made, you get to keep one thousand.

Many, especially big companies like YG, Hybe or JYP do not allow many of their idols to date, and if they do, it must be kept a secret. Idols have received massive hate because of dating, from their own so-called fans!

You are not to say brand names, to curse, to act in any manner that doesn’t fit the carefully constructed image of your group. And if any negative rumors about you spread, your contract can be forcefully ended (idols typically sign seven-year contracts with companies to debut). All these rules and restrictions cause idols to feel unhappy and sometimes even develop depression or other disorders. There have been cases of idols taking their life because of all the pressure put on them by their company. And if your contract ends, it is highly likely that some members might not extend it, or the group might disband.

Another major issue during the last few years is the so-called malpractice idols debuting undergo. taking NewJeans Hyein for an example, debuting at the age of fourteen - that’s sad! They often cannot handle all that fame and money and are very confused about what to do now, especially if they achieve big success, like Hyein did. All K-Fans are against idols debuting under the age of eighteen, even though it is sadly a growing trend. It is increasingly more common nowadays. Not all people are good-natured, and these are kids we’re talking about.

Knowing all this I am still convinced that there are idols who are incredibly happy with their job, in the end it is all their choice. What do you think about this topic? Would you like to be a K-idol?
 Forgiveness
CHARLOTTE WIEMANN

Forgiving. Of course you have to forgive. Forgiveness – everyone knows it. Easy, you cannot stay mad at someone forever. Forgive. Say sorry. That sounds a bit less easy.

Especially if it’s your younger brother teasing me while I’m trying to write my article. And then I’m the one who has to say sorry for lashing out at him and pushing him away (as if it hurts and starts crying) even though he started and it’s all his fault! So maybe it’s not so easy to forgive. And is it good or bad? I wanted to get to the bottom of grudges and letting go of them. I thought to myself that I might even have some benefits from saying sorry first and not only lose my dignity in front of my brother. So what exactly comes with forgiving and letting go?

When you actually have to pull through forgiving someone you realize the weight crashing down on you. Forgive them? After they’ve hurt you or caused harm to others? And what if it’s a lot worse than your sibling being their annoying self? Forgive and move on. Forget it. No, delete the “forget it.” Ok, it’s deleted. Even though you shouldn’t forget, forgive. Because - wait a minute. Where are my research notes?

Ahh. There they are. “Benefits of forgiveness and letting go of grudges” reads the title. I learned that forgiveness and letting go of grudges can have numerous physical, emotional, and psychological benefits for individuals. At the bottom of my document, I’ve picked the three main and most important ones and listed them neatly below the title. The first bullet point is “Improved Mental Health.” Quickly I skim through the scribbles I’ve noted next to it.

Forgiveness and the act of letting go of grudges hold profound significance for your mental health and emotional well-being (being happy and enjoying life). The process of forgiving involves releasing negative emotions such as anger, resentment and bitterness that often come along past hurts. Grudges tend to weigh heavily on the mind and can be exhausting and can take a toll on your mental health over time. Imagine constantly thinking of something from the past that takes your mood down and makes you angry or sad again, instead of lifting you up. By letting go of that grudge and forgiving others you move away from those negative feelings and make more space for the positive ones.

When you forgive, it opens up lines of communication that were previously blocked by resentment and anger. You also learn how to resolve a conflict and to rebuild trust. These two factors also play a crucial role in keeping a close connection within a relationship.

Forgiveness is often associated with better emotional regulation as well. It involves acknowledging and processing negative emotions, which were pressed into a ball and wrapped up like a finished present before in your mind. So it can improve your ability to manage those feelings effectively. Basically, you re-open the present carefully, unfold the ball, smooth it out, wrap it up in pretty wrapping paper and send it off. Doing that leads to greater emotional resilience and mental stability. And who doesn’t want better mental health?

LEGO STOP-MOTION
ANGELOS MEIMARIDIS

Why would one write an article on a subject like “Lego Stop-Motion” in a school magazine?

Well, because it could help create an interest among students to make short films at home, with basic equipment like a smartphone and some Lego pieces. I discovered Lego stop-motion accidentally a few months ago when I was looking for Lego videos on YouTube. At the beginning I didn’t even realize that the movement made by the Lego minifigures was the result of human intervention.

Stop-motion is basically a series of pictures that make a video. Legos are toys made of plastic that you can use to build beautiful things. Combined, they make Lego stop-motion, a thing that nearly every person that plays with Lego could use. And I’ve started using it, beginning with very short videos.

To make Lego stop-motion videos, you need to get the Legos you want, a Lego baseplate, and your phone with the Stop-Motion Studio app downloaded. Then you just make a frame for the phone, and you can start taking the pictures!

Each movement of the pieces needs to be decomposed into smaller parts to have a more fluid result on screen when the individual pictures are turned into a scene. For instance, if an arm needs to go from the thigh up above the head, it will need intermediary steps to get there, or else the result will be disturbing to the eye.

If you would like some examples of what can be done with Lego in stop-motion, I recommend the following YouTube videos:
THE DARK SIDE OF TIKTOK

KLARA BILIC

TikTok telt meer dan drie miljoen gebruikers waarvan de helft dagelijks actief is. Maar waarom is er zoveel discussie rond TikTok?

TikTok is een van de meest bekendste sociale mediaplatformen. Je kunt video’s maken en bekijken van maximaal 10 minuten. Er zijn verschillende video’s die je kunt bekijken. In het begin, nadat je de app hebt geïnstalleerd, en je die opendoet, krijg je een vragenlijst. Hiermee kan je bepalen welke soorten video’s dat TikTok jou aanbeveelt, op basis van jou interesses.

Ook al zijn er veel nuttige en interessante soorten van video’s, kan TikTok soms ongepaste of gevaarlijke video’s aanbevelen. Er zijn dus talloze video’s van ‘TikTok challenges’ die levensgevaarlijk kunnen zijn voor kinderen. Meerdere mensen zijn al omgekomen bij het uitvoeren van een TikTok challenge, en daarom is er dus veel oneensheid geweest over TikTok. Voorbeelden hiervan zijn:

1. De “Shull-Breaker”
2. De “Blackout Challenge”
3. De “Fire Challenge”

Hun benaming zegt al genoeg…

Gelukkig wordt TikTok nu veel meer gecontroleerd, zodat gebruikers veiliger TikTok kunnen kijken en dat soorten ongelukken nooit meer gebeuren. Maar gebruikers moeten kritisch blijven over wat ze bekijken, zodat dit niet weer gebeurt.

TOP 10 JOKES AT THE SCHOOL BY CHARLOTTE GROSS

1. Teacher: How can we keep our school clean? Student: By staying at home
2. What is a snake’s favorite subject in school? Hisssssssssssssssssssstory
3. What do elves learn in School? The elf-a-bet
4. Which building has the most Stories? The library
6. Why do M&M’s go to school? so that they become Smartie’s
7. Why do calculators make great friends? You can always count on them
8. Why can’t pirates learn the alphabet? Beaucuse they keep getting lost at C
9. Why do music teachers need a ladder? To reach the high notes