

# VOICE

The International School of Amsterdam's Newspaper

## *The Short Story Edition*

### EDITORS NOTE

Evie Portier, Editor in Chief

I would like to start off this issue on congratulating seniors on their recent graduation from ISA:



Good luck and good riddance!

I'm only joking, as a Junior this year I have been watching in awe as many of my friends in the 12th grade jump through hurdles like the extended essay, completing CAS, and somehow presenting excellent T.O.K. presentations. I could not be more impressed. The seniors this year have really set the bar, and I am thankful for being able to witness their journey over the past two years.

Secondly I would like to address a recent loss our community suffered, our beloved PE teacher and friend, Simon Schilp, recently passed away as a result of a biking accident. His passing has shaken our community and as such the Voice would like to pay tribute to his life, along with the song which was played at his memorial. Simon was a valued member of our community, and he will be missed.

We have worked very hard over the past few months on improving the quality of the Voice, and I hope you can enjoy reading this issue as

### Change

A story by Ana McCawley

I looked straight into his pale green eyes, and I could see the type of lovable person he was. His name was Zachary. He wouldn't respond to Zach, Zac, Zachy, but only to Zachary. This was over 10 years ago. We had instantly become best friends on the first day of preschool. He gave me his juice box, when little miss Allie Thompson had refused to share her famous Apple Cider. At a small school somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Alabama, the juice boxes you brought and the people you hung out with defined you. They didn't sell the special juice that Allie had at any store. You see, Allie Thompson was from Italy. My dad told me that Italy was over 3,000 miles away. I've never even gone 30 miles away! When school started Allie paraded into school with a backpack filled with juice, yet refused to share. She bragged that she was from a place where ciders and wines were produced in Europe's so called capital containing some darn good stuff. Since that day Zachary and I spent all our time together, we became best friends. It seemed that Zachary and I were always together, whether he was showing up at my house to say a quick hello, or I was at his house eating his mom's famous yet vomit-worthy meatloaf. We were all forced to eat it, of course, even if I would sometimes feed it to Humphrey the dog... that woman needed to start searching up some other recipes, or better yet, stop cooking in general! Back to the point, Zachary and I were the best of friends and I remember one glistening midnight where all the stars were out. That night, I looked straight into his pale green eyes and I told him "Zachary, we will always be there for each other, right?" Zachary just replied with a nod, and that was it. It was

an unspoken agreement that would end up being broken in the future. Then came the first day of High School, I was a nervous wreck! I wasn't sure of what to expect, anything could happen. I had no idea that things would change, and I never could have expected that 'Zachary and I' would stop being 'Zachary and I'. But Zachary did change. He became a guy different than the one that I grew up with. He became part of the "popular" clique. The group of guys that wore their pants too low, with bling around their necks and would brag about all the things their parents bought for them, just so they can just show it off. Then there were the girls. These girls were nothing like the girls I had known before High School and nothing like any girl I thought Zachary would want to associate with. These girls wore skirts that showed half their butts, and spent what felt like hours in the bathroom reapplying their makeup and whatever else they needed to be "perfect". Yes, these were the people that Zachary had become friends with. He had changed. He was not the person I had known and love. I sometimes pass by his house, and I still get invited to some of their family dinners. Jessica, Zachary's mother has started to serve another meal. This time it wasn't meatloaf. I guess she changed as well. Although, one thing is for sure, as much as Zachary had become a totally different person, whether I liked it or not,

Continuation from front page...

much as I have enjoyed learning about the new formatting for this new chapter of issues in the Voice. Have an outstanding summer, and farewell to those leaving the great pink castle. And above all ISA, I urge you to smile, something I always saw Simon doing.

## Tribute to Simon:



# Who We Are...

*VOICE is the International School of Amsterdam's upper school student publication. We are grade 6-12 students who meet each week at lunch on Thursdays for publication planning and development – there is no journalism class that supports the project. We commit our time and energy to support our school, our community, and our own growth as thinkers and writers.*

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# Diggy Dex - Treur Niet (Ode Aan Het Leven)

En als de klok luidt, het tijd is, ik zing voor de laatste keer  
en als ik daar lig, in vrede, zing deze dan nog een keer

heb je ooit wel eens bedacht wat je zou zeggen  
als je straks daar ligt voor hen die jou kennen  
wat zijn de woorden die je mee zou willen geven  
hier, dus bij deze, mijn ode aan het leven  
en ik heb alles hier gedaan wat ik wou  
ik heb dingen voor mezelf en gemaakt voor jou  
ik heb het zilver al gezien en gegaan voor goud  
ik had het soms fucking heet en soms dagen koud  
maar ik heb altijd geprobeerd om te gaan voor liefde,  
te staan voor naasten, te gaan voor vrienden  
te gaan voor familie en de dag en de nacht  
ik heb zo veel gekregen, niet altijd verwacht, yeah  
en dat is mijn filosofie, dus doe me één lol  
als ik weg ben, denk aan dat  
want voor je het weet is je show voorbij  
dus draai deze, nog één keer, één voor mij

En als de klok luidt, het tijd is, ik zing voor de laatste keer  
en als ik daar lig, in vrede, zing deze dan nog een keer  
En als de klok luidt, bouw dan, een mooi feest voor mij  
zo eentje, die door gaat, door gaat voor altijd  
mocht ik heen gaan, ergens, treur dan niet om mij  
maar proost op het leven, en treur niet om mij

ik ben geboren in de liefde, gevormd te diep  
maar ging mijn eigen weg, koos voor de muziek  
soms Koos Werkeloos, geen geld op de bank  
soms overal shows en was de held van de stad  
maar ik heb altijd geprobeerd om te gaan voor echt  
dat lukte vaak wel, maar soms niet echt  
ik heb mijn zinnen af gemaakt en het woord gezegd  
en ik ben overal geweest, zuid, oost, noord, west  
en ik ben broke geweest en ik heb buit gemaakt  
ik heb liefde gekend en ook weer uitgemaakt  
en ontzettend veel gehouden van haar of van hem  
en ze weet, want ik heb het zo vaak gezegd  
en dat is mijn filosofie, dus doe me één lol  
als ik weg ben, zeg het nog één keer  
maar voor je het weet is je show voorbij  
dus draai deze, nog één keer, één voor mij

En als de klok luidt, het tijd is, ik zing voor de laatste keer  
en als ik daar lig, in vrede, zing deze dan nog een keer  
En als de klok luidt, bouw dan, een mooi feest voor mij  
zo eentje, die door gaat, door gaat voor altijd  
mocht ik heen gaan, ergens, treur dan niet om mij  
maar proost op het leven, en treur niet om mij  
maar proost op het leven, en treur niet om mij  
maar proost op het leven, en treur niet om mij  
En als de klok luidt, het tijd is, ik zing voor de laatste keer



# TRUMP VS 1984

By Lindsay Budin

An issue that seems to have an ongoing appearance in daily news around the world, is the president of the United States, Donald Trump. Even before his inauguration he managed to cause both damage and extreme controversy. An aspect that has been introduced by Trump is the idea of fake news. Fake news are articles found on social media. These articles contain information that is made up. Trump has even taken this to the next level by calling articles that are true, fake news. These fake news articles usually revolve around things he doesn't like. The opposite of this often occurs as well, as Trump calls real events and information, fake news.

A book, that just about any high school student has read, is 1984 written by George Orwell. In 1984, the government follows main character Winston Smith around Oceania, a place that is completely controlled by the government. Winston works in the Ministry of Truth, where he changes historical records as commanded by the government. 1984 is a dystopic society where everything is the opposite. The Ministry of Truth lies, the Ministry of Love is responsible for infliction of misery, the Ministry of Plenty rations supplies food and goods and the Ministry of Peace promotes war.

This dystopic novel has an environment that seems insane for just about anyone to live in, yet this fictional story is becoming a reality. The news is a way to bind and connect all of the countries around the world and keep everyone updated on current events. It also allows us to be intact with our world and environment. Altering news and changing truth and lies affects everyone and changes how people see the world around them. President Trump has begun to do this by introducing fake news and "alternative facts".

Much like in 1984, Donald Trump is altering information to his benefit. The government in Much like in 1984, Donald

is altering information to his benefit. The government in 1984 decides to change historic documents, consider love misery and take things away from people, while telling them that it is plenty. Since Trump's election on November 8th, there has been over 15 news stories that have been confirmed as fake news. Early in November, an article came out claiming that there was a spike in the suicide rates of transgenders. On January 20th, the day of Trump's inauguration, four fake news stories were published. These articles came from CNN, the New York Times, Time and NBC News. These four sites are commonly used as an effective way for our world to stay updated, yet false claims can be found.

Furthermore, there has already been over 15 high profile news articles confirmed as fake news. One can say, there are surely many more false claims since Trump's election and there are many more to come in the future. Trump first took the concept of fake news into his own hands when his opponent Hillary Clinton was ahead in the presidential race. It has been almost three months since Trump's astonishing win and this idea of fake news is still alive in the media.

The idea of fake news is both astonishing and a crisis. Today, it is crucial to comprehend that when one turns on the TV to watch the news, searches online or goes on Facebook and Twitter, one can find that the majority of the information and news is not true. The concept of fake news is quickly growing and becoming an accepted part of how the media in America is run. Similar to 1984, the government is trying to control what people are exposed to.



There doesn't seem to be a feasible solution to getting out of this problem, there is a high chance we aren't going to be able to stop this problem so long as Trump is president of the United States. There is also a considerable chance that for the next four years, we will be exposed and will see fake news on a daily basis. A way of preventing fake news from having an affect on you is to check whether the source the information comes from is reliable or not. Reliable sources often include endings such as .org, and .edu.

In conclusion, it seems ludicrous that a fictional story could be compared to similar events occurring in our world, yet the connection between Trump's impact on society and the novel 1984 have a lot in common. The 45th president of the United States of America, Donald Trump is taking truthful articles and claiming them to be fake news, and visa versa. The novel 1984 was written in the year 1949. It has been 68 years since the publication of the novel. Although many years have passed after the release of 1984, one can say it is a "timeless" novel and showcases "timeless" ideas that can be demonstrated by social media and the president of the United States.

# Plastic in the Ocean



By Trinabh Banerjee

It's not often that I get angry. Mostly, I'm mildly annoyed. Sometimes, somewhat irritated. But angry? Not so often. In spite of my usual placid temperament, as I sit here writing this, I am angry. Furious better describes my feelings. Why, you ask? Let me explain...

Humans are notoriously bad at taking care of this world. We're quite bad at it. Some poach animals, others cut down rainforests. But this isn't an angry piece about how bad humankind is. It's the discarding of plastic is what I'm furious about. It's estimated that every minute, 1 garbage truck of plastic is just dumped into the ocean. Just dumped. How is this even possible? What type of people are we, to dump plastic into the ocean, and kill off entire eco-systems?

Plastics are not biodegradable. They can take thousands of years to decompose. Way before that, many sea creatures, including sea birds eat that plastic. Since these animals' digestive systems cannot digest plastic, it remains in there. The plastic gives a feeling of "fullness" to the animal that has ingested it. Obviously, there are no nutrients in plastic. The animal will eventually die of starvation, even though its stomach was "full". Thousands of birds and

fish are killed like this. And it's all because of us. Every single part of it. The dependence on plastic is our fault. And unsurprisingly, plastic in the ocean is also causing issues for humans.

As plastics are broken down, they become smaller and smaller pieces, eventually becoming microplastics. They remain in the water, or on the shoreline, when they wash up. Fish often eat microplastic. We humans then catch these fish. We then proceed to eat this fish, and as a result, we eat the small pieces of plastic that the fish originally ingested. The Circle of Life, for you. We dump plastic in the ocean. Said plastic breaks up into micro-plastic. Fish eats plastic. Humans catch fish. Humans eat fish. Humans ingest plastic: up to 11,000 pieces of microplastic, plus all the chemicals and toxins that came from those 11,000 pieces of microplastic. If you still don't understand why I'm furious, let me go into further detail.

Fish, seabirds, and all sea creatures, do not deserve this sort of fate. Our dependence on plastic has exploded, so much so, that we just throw it into the ocean. Why? Because our landfills have no space. Humans produce

a ridiculous amount of garbage. Experts estimate that by 2050 (merely 33 years from the publishing of this article), there will be more plastic in the ocean than there are fish. A conservative estimate places the amount of plastic in the ocean at around 5 trillion pieces. FIVE TRILLION pieces. It's ridiculous. All this plastic dumped into the ocean is entirely our fault! We depend on it so much, that when we throw it away after it's been used, we never give it a second thought. Sea creatures, from the smallest plankton to the largest whale and everything in between, all ingest these plastics. They either die or get caught (then die), after which they are eaten by us. It is completely unacceptable that we are doing this. It's not ethical, and it definitely isn't morally right. We are killing a lot of Earth, and you, dear reader, have contributed to it. Stop using so much plastic, people!

There is something we can do. It's not much, but if WE ALL pitch in, it's going to make a big difference. Step 1: stop buying bottled water, and bring your own reusable water bottle. I've seen many an ISA student buy bottled water from George's Place. Do you know how much you could save you just bought a reusable water bottle? Step 2: stop using plastic products, such as plastic spoons, and forks. Opt for reusable forks and spoons, such as those made of metal. Step 3: recycle plastic as much as you possibly can. When things are recycled, they are sorted and repurposed. For example, 10 plastic bottles can be recycled to make a new t-shirt. This often prevents the dumping of plastic into the ocean. Step 4: if you see plastic (or any other piece of trash for that matter) on the ground, pick it up, and throw it in a bin or recycle it. We cannot have birds eating plastic (or trash) that should be in the bin or in recycling. This is especially important if you see trash on the beach. If the tide comes in, most often, the trash will go back out to sea with it. Do a good deed, and save an animal's life. Throw the plastic in a bin!

If, just if we all pitch in, we can truly make the world (and our oceans) a much, much better place. Raise awareness of the issue. Ask your friends to stop buying bottled water, and to invest in a reusable water bottle. Tell your family. Spread the message. If we all work together, fish will be saved, oceans can be revived, and no human will ever have to eat 11,000 pieces of microplastic.

P.S. I'm going to do this for all the people who chew gum. You're chewing plastic! Cue the history lesson on chewing gum: Back in the day, humans made gum out of a natural tree sap called chicle (natural rubber). But, when scientists discovered how to make synthetic rubber from polyethylene (many kitchen containers are made from this) and polyvinyl acetate (plastic that has been found to give tumors to rats), we stopped using chicle. Please remember this next time you want to chew a piece of gum: You're chewing a material that is used to make many kitchen containers (for example those large bottles that hold cleaning liquid)! Chewing plastic doesn't sound very appetizing, and it certainly is not very good for the environment. Stop chewing gum, please!



# Bernie Sanders Announces 2020 Campaign!

By Robert Brighton

Thursday the 30th of May, 2017 was a shocking day in the realm of US Politics. 2016 Democratic Party runner-up Bernie Sanders announced early in the morning a renewed campaign for the presidency, aiming for the White House in 2020. Justifying his decision, he denounced the current administration for their failing to introduce a healthcare policy that was more effective than the Affordable Care Act, the continued scandals linking President Trump's aides with Russia, and conflicts of interest such as property ownership abroad that continue to plague the President himself and his family. He also noted the failures of Hillary Clinton's campaign and criticised her inability to connect with rust belt America and secure the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania and the surrounding states. Clinton as of yet has not endorsed his campaign.

President Trump tweeted after the events, commenting "Despite the constant negative press covfefe [sic]". It's not entirely clear what the President meant, but we can be sure that the shock of another populist frontrunner returning to the political fray will have disrupted his plans to run again in 2020 and the already disorganised administration will just have one more issue on their plate.

According to CNN News Anchor Anthem Clevises, Sanders has already been endorsed by several popular online personalities, such as Jimmy Fallon and Michael "Vsauce" Stevens. With his young and politically active base being the key to success in 2020, Sanders will be hoping to mobilise more young people to vote than the paltry 24 million (~50%) that voted in 2016. After three more years of the Trump administration, the political landscape could look radically different - only time will tell.

**Author's Note:** This declaration hasn't actually happened. This is an example of fake news. Anthem Clevises doesn't exist (and is in fact an anagram of Michael Stevens), and neither Jimmy Fallon nor Michael Stevens endorsed a potential Bernie Sanders run. Although it's true that Sanders criticised Clinton's campaign, he hasn't stated any intent to run again.





# BREXIT

By Pranjal Ray

Ay fam! How's it going? By now you are bound to have heard about the so called "Europe's Most Messy Divorce". Our editors told us to reconnect with youngsters to compensate for our readers. Apparently our moms are not enough.

The UK has been going through some stuff... Some call it UK independence, while we have seen the likeness to a Netflix political drama. Brexit has been majorly influential on the UK, the EU, and the world. The election would be enough for two articles, with the remain campaign calling 1.) a vote for leave, a vote for the next world war, and 2.) of course Boris Johnson with his squad, driving around in a red bus with a large number on it that is basically as controversial and divisive as the golden-white dress. For some reason, it feels like Boris Johnson in a bus with his mates is basically a school trip with the cool kids sitting in the back seat listening to Mask Off and busting hip hop moves.

On the night of the election, people called the odds 1 to 10 for Brexit prevailing. The results were extremely close, with the brexit camp not even winning by 2%. Afterwards, David Cameron, the prime minister, stepped down and the successor became a drama of its own.

You, politically aware reader, know that Theresa May has taken the reigns, but you will also of course know Boris Johnson was the expected crown-prince. Boris Johnson was one of the only and by far the largest and most publicised member of the conservative party that supported Brexit (at least openly).

After some behind-the-scenes fighting within the conservative party, the people of the UK and the world saw that Theresa May triumphed and became leader of the Tories, the conservative party. Boris Johnson did try to run for PM, but was forced to step down by his party, either due to his image as a puppet to America, his extreme opinion on

immigrants, or the party thought a female leader would boost its image. While we are unsure when the tabloids were let loose, a range of stories appeared from blackmail to murder to describe the peculiar occurrence.

After this surprise, another downfall rocked the Brexiteers, as their leader and spokesperson, Nigel Farage stepped down as leader of UKIP, a vocal anti-Europe party. He stepped down after a massive victory, which have made people put him down as a quitter or afraid of actual power. Think of it like this. It's like unlocking Legendary Chests in Clashes Royale, and then when finally you have enough to support your fragile ego, deleting the application. Nigel Farage is still a UK representative in the EU though, so if you, dear reader, want to see an old British man shout at an older Luxemburger, who heads the largest international trade organisation, you know who to Google.

Upon news of UK leaving the EU, there was a prediction of a major economic upheaval. Thankfully, an economic crisis did not occur, which means the dams holding the apocalyptic river of Earl Grey remain intact, and anarchy did not reign supreme. On the contrary, in fact, the economy grew 1.8% in 2016, which is basically Britain low-key dabbing after breaking up with its partner of nearly half a century. However, the pound did grow 15% lower against the dollar, and 10% lower against the euro.

Some might ask, why is leaving one huge organization which connects most of the countries within Europe so time consuming? Well, it is unpicking 43 years worth of treaties, agreements and meetings. All of which make international trade amongst other things possible. And what will all those British people do without goods imported all the way from Europe (and vice versa).

Now, the most important subject, and what you, dear listener, have been waiting for. Will England stay in Eurovision? Short answer: yes. While the anti-England sentiment might be building in Europe due to Brexit, England probably won't be kicked out of Eurovision just yet. Don't expect them to beat their curse of scoring zero points though, a hate for England amongst Eurovision voters will not help.





# FILM HL REVIEW

By Ryan Collins

There's a common stereotype at schools the world over: When we watch a film in class, it's a day off. So when applying for a class labeled "Film", most assume it's a write off. In reality, "Film" is a demanding class, but one with rewards if the effort is put in.

There are 4 aspects to Film: Analysis, Production, Film History, and one's Film Book. Analysis entails an astute attention to detail, a knowledge on Film History, and an acquired understanding of cinematic elements. Film Analysis also entails aspects of writing in English, and English demands certain writing aspects from Film, thus the two become symbiotic in nature. Personally, Film Analysis is my favorite part of the class. It gives me, and the class, a real opportunity to delve deeper into some of our favorite films, as with any art, nothing is on accident. We pick up on things that we might have otherwise never noticed or were just thinking subconsciously. It's a fascinating process. Analysis is not just independent work however. Often, we watch a film, or the beginning of a film in class and discuss it in depth. I'll provide two examples. The first is when we watched *Misery* (1990). The analytical process of that film was to see the perfect marriage between script and screenplay, and how they influence one another. It's one of the most memorable experiences in the class. A second example would be when had a symposium, analysis, and watching of *Blade Runner* (1982). We really got into the characters, the world and the directorial intent. We also got to discuss the philosophical nature of the film, a memorable discussion to be sure.

Production calls upon one's visual eye. To have a successful production, one must have a great sense of framing and composition, time management, how to organize acquiring equipment, editing skills, and the genre of which your film will be a part of. If your film

doesn't belong to a genre, it has no personality. What I admire about this part of the course is the freedom and creativity. There is little to no hand holding after your first production, and so the class really forces you to adapt, but adapt your way. Who, what, when, where, why is all up to you, but it has to fall within the parameters of the class. It really feels like you're making your film, your vision.

Film history is the lecture based part of the course. We have explored German Expressionism, the Italian and French wave of cinema, New Hollywood. These things are key to having a greater understanding of film in general, but it also increases the quality of your work in analysis if you link what you are discussing to an aspect of film history. It also benefits your production if some of your shots are influenced by this period in film. Socio-Cultural context is a big part of film history. You must look to see how the world around a film influenced it at the time of release. It provides greater context and understanding for key scenes in a given film.

Lastly, the Film Books. This is the accumulation of your work in all 3 areas. It's also a place to express your film lens, why you may be enraptured with film, and your own creative side. The Film Books are more evidence that Film is a class about you, and what's special about you. The Film Books are the best example of this, and they are also a place to explore things in class that we don't. It's your creative space.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the efforts of Ms. Jennifer Motre and Mr. Adriel Van Drimmelen. They are supportive, enthusiastic and caring. They will be tough on any work you produce, no matter how good it is, but it comes from a place of love and belief. They believe in each and every student they teach, and will always push you to do the best you can. And then push you some more. It's nearly impossible to have a great class

without a great teacher. Luckily, Film has two.

Each aspect of Film HL has its own unique flavour to it, and with two supportive teachers, it's a class I implore you to join. It's fun, challenging, and a great experience. The IB is a stressful time, Film is still a class, and a hard one at that, but it's one that gives you a release.

## Gram Vikas 5-A-Side Football Tournament

By Robert Brighton

In an exciting turn of events, the Gram Vikas 5-A-Side Football Tournament came down to a thrilling finale between Hakuna Juan Mata (12th Grade) and Teamwork, Passion, Desire (10th Grade). TPD finished first in the Group Stage, winning two of their three games and tying the other, but their prowess meant nothing in the final. Hakuna JM, led by Matthew Anderson, destroyed Mitchell Sherrard's TPD in a 4-1 rout, and the 10th Grade crowd dispersed quietly as their team were taught who was boss.

Position	Team	Played
1	TPD	3
2	Hakuna JM	3
3	Gram Vikas	3
4	NFC	3
Pts		GD
7	5	
5	3	
4	1	
0	-9	

Hakuna Juan Mata graciously refused the prize of 30 Euros, and donated that to Gram Vikas. The tournament made 60 Euros for the charity which aims to develop villages in rural India.

# What Happens before Track and Field Necis?

By Anna Economon

As with many other ISA sports, the Track and Field Season concludes with NECIS. Many athletes who partake, could argue that this is the most stressful sport tournament of the year, with the loong (we're talking 13 hours) bus ride, preceding two days of intense sprinting. The athletes are cramped in a sweaty and hot environment, which attributes to team building and getting the real "experience" of NECIS. While the coaches tear their throats out, in an attempt to calm down the music, the athletes snack on junk food, thus preparing to do their best the next day.

Everyone reaches Copenhagen, and leaves the bus to stretch out their legs (it must be said that those same legs will be expected to perform better than ever, despite the aforementioned bus ride). Now, the coaches take all the competitors to the river side, for the famous "river talk". This conversation is a culmination of the bus nerves and an official introduction the most crucial aspects of the following two days; the stress, the competition and where to find the food. Post this salient event, the competitors make their way to their rooms, in order to (hopefully) get enough sleep to function without a bucket of coffee the next morning (sadly, buckets of coffee are not a part of the breakfast packet in this hostel). Rooms consist of six athletes, who are usually so nervous, that sleep is a rare luxury.

After a restless night, breakfast awaits. But it is not the tasty and quiet breakfast that former basketball players might be accustomed to at NECIS. As all the schools stay in the same building, it is full of teams, desperately trying to make it to the banana bowl before it's empty. By the time ISA descends (from our 16th floor rooms), the bananas are, of course, all gone. The nerves are setting in place and the athletes are getting mentally, and physically ready to submerge themselves in the bus (yet again) in order to make it to the track before the 8:30am hurdles begin. And then the competition starts...

# NECIS UPDATE - BASKETBALL

Over the past month ISA's athletic teams have traveled over Europe competing in the Northern European Council of International Schools (NECIS) Championships. The basketball teams traveled to two different venues; middle schoolers went to The Hague, while the high schoolers were able to travel to Antwerp, Belgium.

The basketball teams were successful, winning multiple games, and some even emerged as NECIS champions.

**U12 Girls - 3rd Place:** Always encompassing ISA's positivity, our youngest girls cheered each other towards a two point win over Copenhagen, in their final game.

**U12 Boys - 1st Place:** Our youngest boys were most successful, winning in an epic overtime final against the Dusseldorf Lions

**U14 Girls - 4th Place:** After a heart-breaking 1 point loss to Hamburg, the girls felt defeated, yet were able to keep pushing themselves, and closed their season 4th place in the Cup.

**U14 Boys - 2nd Place:** With a star studied line up, these boys were hoping to become champions, however they lost in tough final against Dusseldorf.

**JV Girls - 3rd Place:** In an emotional 2 point semifinal loss to The Hague, they picked themselves up and ended their season with a win against Luxembourg.

**JV Boys - 6th Place:** With a roaring start to their season, enthusiasm ran out, and the boys were left Runners Up to the Plate.

**Varsity Girls - 3rd Place:** In senior, Allison Schwartz's, last game, the girls were able to defeat Hamburg by a whopping 21 points.

**Varsity Boys - 4th Place:** Although their result was less than expected, the eight seniors on the team will leave pleased with a favorable season.

Congratulations to all basketball players, and Go Bears!



# NECIS UPDATE

## SWIMMING

By Anna Economon

For the fourth year in a row, ISA's swim team packed their bags, and traveled to the Luxembourg, to compete in the Northern European Council of International Schools (NECIS) Championships. Fortunate enough to have an abundant group of young swimmers, the Bears had an exciting finish to great season.

An extra congratulations to Seniors, Luca Mustert and Elin Jones, who ended their careers by accumulating a total of 10 medals for ISA.

The Swim Team yet again had a highly successful NECIS Championship, bringing home numerous medals, in each age division. Medal Count - 64

Gold: 23  
Silver: 17  
Bronze: 24

In addition to becoming NECIS Champions, some swimmers also set new NECIS Records. Athina Economon: 25m Butterfly, 50m Freestyle

Francesca Coppo: 100m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke

Maya Harriford-Mclaren: 50m Butterfly

U12 Girls 4x25 Medley Relay:

Athina Economon, Francesca Coppo, Maya Harriford-Mclaren, Madison Portier

O16 Girls 4x50 Freestyle Relay:

Kaela Bien, Megan Fan, Elin Jones, Anna Economon



# NECIS UPDATE

## GOLF

Stockholm - The ISA golf team is one of the school's newest sports teams, having only been established in 2013. Despite only having existed for four years, the team has excelled in competition, building a reputation for itself. This year the team was composed of a younger group of students, with five middle schoolers and one high schooler. Although only one player, Anna Economon, was a returning player, new-blood proved essential in succeeding. For the final championship of the year, NECIS, the competition was held in Sigtuna, Sweden. The team flew into Stockholm on Wednesday morning, where they were hosted at Sigtunaskolan Humanistiska Läroverket, the royal Swedish boarding school. Here, players were lodged in the school's dorms, and fed local delicacies. With picturesque accommodations, all felt at ease.

The competition started early on Thursday morning, with golfers playing a round of 18 holes for four hours. Everyone was in a flight of three, and were introduced to the high level play, constantly present at championship tournaments. The course was difficult for most competitors, but ISA prevailed, with a majority of the team playing to, or below, their handicap, thus improving. In the afternoon, another 9 holes were played. This time in teams of two, with partners from their own school. Amsterdam was able to prevail in this part of the competition, as they embraced their school spirit, and worked together to shoot ever decreasing scores. By the end of the afternoon, the team was ranked first, just ahead of Luxembourg and Hamburg, respectively.

On Friday morning, all teams were awoken to an early 6:00 am wake up call, and the final day of competition begun. The Bears would face the Luxembourg Eagles in the final of the NECIS golf championships. The format for the final round would be "match play", a one-on-one contest between individuals. Upon starting, adrenaline was flowing and participants were prepared to claim

the much appraised title, all while demonstrating fine sportsmanship. On the first half of the holes, our athletes performed impeccably, with three of the four pairs being led by ISA. However, fatigue soon set in, and mistakes were made. Luxembourg began to surpass the Amsterdam players with magnificent shots. By this point it was too late to rally back, and the trophy was eventually conceded to the Eagles. Nonetheless, the team was proud of how far they had come; placing second with a group of the youngest students there, was a notable achievement.

After a grueling couple of days, the 2nd place finish in the team competition was thrilling for all. Yet, to conclude, there was also an individual contest. ISA's top male finisher was Julian Jonngen, who finished 9th, and played remarkably well against experienced athletes, more than 5 years his elder. For the women's competition, Amsterdam's Anna Economon was able to defend her NECIS title, and won the female portion of the tournament, shooting an all time best; 82. Returning with hardware, and smiles on their faces, the ISA golf team can't wait to compete again next year.



# Global Village Day or Global Village Nay?

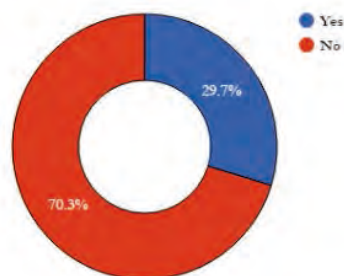


By Anna Economon

As yet another Global Village Day rolls around, our school gathers for a morning to celebrate the cultures within our community. Personally, I love the celebrations. The parade and the performances are the highlights. Getting to march and represent my homeland, Greece, always puts a smile on my face. While a cheerful atmosphere is created by ISA's youngest students, who are dressed in their national apparel.

However, the same question seems to prevail within our upper school students every year: Is Global Village Day even worthwhile? Many high schoolers often complain, 'why do we have to waste two hours sitting in the gym', and 'the speeches are so boring'. Yet other ISA students seem to love participating in the annual tradition. With the intent to find out if Global Village Day actually is appreciated within the Upper School, I set out to ask students two simple questions. "Do you think Global Village Day is fun?" and "If you could, would you cancel Global Village Day." For those of you thinking these questions are slightly pessimistic, do not worry. I did so in order to get truly honest responses, and to provoke heart-

felt insight into this long debated topic.



Would you cancel Global Village Day?

After four days of thorough investigation, I came across some interesting answers. Luckily for the future of our school's cultural celebrations, most believe that Global Village is worth their time. Of the 87 interviewed, 62.5% believed that Global Village Day was fun. This demonstrates that students are still enthused by the international festivities. However, interest may be diminishing, with 37.5% of the student body thinking it is not fun. On the other hand, 70.3% of Upper School Students do not wish for Global Village Day to be canceled. This is good news for ISA's mission, as Global Village Day is one of our main outlets in "uniting through

diversity". Not only does it celebrate the various cultures within our school, but it brings us together as a community. In a time, when much of the world is being divided, it is important for us to maintain positive relations, and celebrate what makes each one of us unique

Nonetheless, many of the additional comments that were collected displayed students with a need for more time devoted to GVD. As you may know, lower school students spend the entire Wednesday encompassed by GVD festivities. However, the high school students only participate for 2 hours, during the parade of nations. This lends itself to many complaints, because older students feel that they are not receiving "the full experience". Many comments mentioned that they wanted activities for 9th through 12th graders, as opposed to only middle and lower schoolers. This was mainly fueled by a desire to spend the day outside of classes, however it does make sense. Why should younger children get to celebrate the international aspect of their school more than older students? Perhaps the future will need to hold more engagement for those of us in high school, or maybe GVD will only be celebrated in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Nevertheless, the results of the interviews I held call for change. Hopefully, ISA will be able to think of something before our long revered tradition disappears.

# Duke of Edinburgh: Bronze Award

By Sophia Lee and KC

Several weeks ago, from the 4th to the 7th of May, many ninth graders got ready and set foot into the wilderness for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

The three days were tightly packed with many exciting events. Whilst most ninth graders participated on this expedition, several were sent back home. All from the explosion of a can of deodorant.

The journey to Belgium, Houffalize, where the camping and hiking took place started off well. Music in the bus, chatter and laughter. On Thursday the 4th, after the groups had been dropped off at their first camp site, they set up their tents and most had even gone out and walked a kilometer of their route to make it easier for the first day of walking, which took place the next day (Friday).

Friday morning, the groups woke up early and headed out to walk their paths to reach their next camp site where they rested. However, not everyone made it. One of the groups, had gotten so terribly lost that they had to switch to another camp ground after coming to the realisation that it was 9.00pm and soon going to become dark (ahem... that was our group). And another group had to be collected home after being disqualified! The incident of the disqualified group spread around the campgrounds quickly, as the teachers told most of the participating groups. Rumor has it that one of the group members threw a can of axe body spray into a fire which blew up and may have ruined the camp territory. Moreover, it was not safe and caused the members to leave immediately, followed by additional consequences. Who said that it would be boring without our electronic device? Well, DofE had begged to differ. Luckily, the other group which had gotten lost, made it to their reassigned camp

ground and had been offered help by their peers to set up their tents etc. But, although being exhausted, they carried through setting up their tents alone and went straight to sleep after a rapid dinner. Way to make a grand first impression on DofE!

Saturday, the 6th of May was the final day. Just as the day before, we all woke up early and began the journey to the campground which they rest at for the night and then be picked up from in the morning on the 7th and driven back to ISA on a school bus.

Compared to the 5th, this day was definitely more mellow for the the one previously. All being motivated to reach the camp ground and rest, soon to be able to be reunited with their families and sleep in a comfortable bed. As much fun as dofe was. A sleeping mat and bag isn't exactly your five star experience. The journeys weren't as long and painful as the ones experienced the day before. The team that got lost the first day was rerouted to a different campsite and eventually reached their destination. All other groups managed to arrive at their campsites safely as well.

The night at the campsite was a time for relaxing, and resisting the temptation to throw axe cans into the fire. All we had to do now was behave and no one would get kicked from DofE. It had been raining for a while and poured through the night, but the rain wasn't annoying, it was refreshing. In the morning, all groups were rounded up by different vehicles and taken to the original drop-off point, to then be taken back to home sweet home. On the bus ride back, everyone was pretty much exhausted, and just wanted to be home. But the bus driver needed a break. Her pulled over in a parking lot near McDonalds and the students dispersed angrily into the "restaurant" for 45 minutes. After being told not to bring money, you can imagine how grumpy us 9th graders were

when they sent us in there. But eventually, we left and were back on the road again.

After returning home, we had lots of stories to tell and lots of time to sleep on that Sunday evening. We deserved it.

# SPOTLIGHT: RETURNING TEACHERS

By Evie Portier, Zosia Bulhak and Robert Brighton

The following is a series of three interviews which were conducted by Zosia and myself. The premise was that we would take the time to interview teachers who have been at ISA for a long time, considering that at the beginning of the year it is tradition that the VOICE does profiles on new teachers. We asked them a series of questions similar to the ones we ask new teachers with some deviation. We would like to formally thank the teachers who participated in the interviews for their time and their engaging stories; we both found that we learned a lot about teachers who we've spent time with in classes that we would otherwise have not known. We hope you enjoy these interviews! Please note- interviews have been edited and shortened for conciseness and clarity.

## Interview with Mr. Griffiths



Interview conducted and transcribed by Evie Portier

Mr. Griffiths is from Oxford in the UK, and has taught Humanities and English at ISA before becoming the the MYP Coordinator. He is married to a Dutch woman and has two young children who attend a Dutch "basisschool" (Lower school). Mr Griffiths has taught at ISA for 14 years. While I originally

wanted to incorporate and condense the interview into paragraph structure, when I was listening to the recording I found a few gems which I thought would be best presented in question and answer formatting.

E: What is your favorite hobby, and if you have multiple hobbies what are they?

G: Over the last few years I've started marathon running, although I'm sure that is my favorite!

E: Oh, cool!

G: Well, it is cool for the first three hundred meters and then it gets extremely warm after that.

G: I realized that I wasn't doing enough physical exercise, I was becoming too busy at work and becoming busy with two little kids at home, so I decided to set myself a couple of personal fitness goals, because without these challenges I wouldn't have been able to convince myself to exercise so I decided to throw myself off the deep end and signed up on January 1, 2016 to run the Amsterdam 2016 marathon.

Mr. Griffiths then went on to describe an intense five month training schedule which consisted of going for runs four to five times per week. He ended up completing the marathon in 3 hours and 45 minutes, which was below the goal he had set for himself...

E: Did you do this on your own or did you sign up with someone else?

G: Initially I signed up with my brother in law, we both had the same desire there, unfortunately he stopped after three training sessions complaining of aching muscles- and

from then on I did it on my own.

\*At this point in time, a student who was sitting in on the interview because he had not yet submitted work due to Mr. Griffiths began laughing, and Mr. Griffiths told him "this isn't a laughing matter" and that he should "be focusing only on what you are working on"

G: The good thing about it was that I managed to get my own kids out and about on their bikes, so we turned it into a bit of a family excursion on the weekend runs.

E: How old are your kids?

G: Stijn is 10 and Amy is 8, they go to a little dutch school just around the corner from where we live.

E: What is something about you that others may not know?

G: Hmmmm.... I did two big challenges while I was at school, one of them I did when I was 15 when I did when I was 16 or 17. The first one was that I went to Uganda for two months during the summer with a group of 12 other people, we organized it ourselves, which were school friends. There I worked on a project which was to build the school, teach the children, and help improve some of the technology there on the Sese Islands (You can google them, they're quite nice) It was my first individual excursion from the UK.

The summer after that I decided that I wanted to go away for a year so I embarked on a journey to Kuala Lumpur, and I worked there volunteering- well, they paid me for accommodation and food- and I worked in a centre for physically and mentally handicapped people. Then I came back, obviously, and went to university, but those two challenges



are probably things that not everyone knows!

E: What did you study at University?

G: Geography, was my initial subject and then I went on to do my teacher training at Oxford Brookes University.

E: How did you know you wanted to become a teacher?

G: I guess it was made easier for me because my parents were both teachers. My mom for her whole career, and my dad was a teacher initially. But I think growing up in that teaching environment gave me exposure to that other side of teaching that not many other students have access to at such a young age, and as I got to university years I suddenly realized that I really liked working with people, so one of my criteria for the future became that I needed to be communicating with people and that every day needed to be different, and I felt that I had the skill set to offer teaching that others could benefit from.

E: Do you have a favorite teaching moment?

G: I have lots of them. Generally when you're with a class and you see a lot of students have a lot of 'aha' moments where suddenly the concept that you have been teaching has been realized, the penny's dropped, and they are empowered to be learning at a totally different level. That is my key to teaching, to have as many students as possible have that 'aha' moment in the one hour I have with them every other way.

Interview with Mr. Chenault



Interview conducted and transcribed by Zosia Bulhak

Many ISA Humanities students will see this American "history geek" (direct quotation) walking through the hallways and joking around. Although he studied in the USA, the Netherlands has been his home for more than 22 years. Everyone knows that history is Mr. C's life. He loves reading about it, watching movies about it, even playing historical board games is high on the list (the Settlers of Catan and Diplomacy are the best, but apparently Rummikub doesn't make the cut!).

However, not many know that during his time in High School, he was bored to death by the very same subject he now teaches (also to High School). According to him, how teachers interact with their students makes all the difference. This is why many of you could have experienced him passionately yelling "foreign troops are rolling into your country, your army isn't big enough, what do you do?!" at poor unsuspecting students. He is completely fascinated by "how we got to where we are". According to him, it's amazing that each decision made by a leader in the past has shaped the way our current world looks like. Mr. C. is also a great source of timeless quotes (he came up with three during the fifteen minutes of our interview), for example "by knowing about what happened in the past, we can try to improve the future". He definitely tries to improve the future of all his students, by inspiring them with his favorite subject.

For all of his current or future students, beware. His is driven insane by teenagers who approach him in a "cocky or arrogant way". As long as they are respectful, there are a lot of possibilities and everything is negotiable. Additionally, Mr. C. deeply believes in "catching flies with honey rather than vinegar" and follows this philosophy till the end.

Something which many of you might be oblivious to is that Mr. C has... double jointed thumbs! Really! He is also the owner of a breathtaking female falsetto voice (I heard

it in action and so did anyone within a one kilometer radius- it's fabulous). Another fun fact, he used to work for the US government (no other facts were obtainable, because he could tell us but then he'd have to kill us, obviously).

In conclusion, Mr. C. is one of those people that is "unabashedly geeky about his subject". He loves history and everything to do with it, so if you have any questions concerning the events of World War One or how to develop a female falsetto voice, he is your go-to! Thank you for donating your time for the interview Mr. C. It was a pleasure!

Interview with Mr. Harris



Interview conducted by Evie Portier and transcribed by Robert Brighton

E: My first question for you is this: What are your favourite hobbies?

H: I really enjoy hiking, and being in nature and outdoors, particularly hiking, although at the moment I've got two young children, so it's difficult to get a lot of time to do that.

E: Where was the last place you went hiking?

H: The last really good hike I did was in, in Borneo, I did a few hikes, I climbed Mt. Kinabalu (editor's note: 4095m high) in one day, that's about a 4000m mountain, but after that I then did about a week's hike just with a school friend of mine through the rainforest. I think the most impressive thing there, when you're hiking, is if something

happens to you there or you get lost, no way you can get in contact with anybody, no mobile phone reception, no radio reception, and it's very difficult to know where you are because it's not like you can see very far in the rainforest.

E: Is there anything you particularly enjoy about hiking, or is it the exercise component, or seeing nature?

H: I think it's being self sufficient, of course I love being in nature, as a biologist it's just something I love, and it's a combination of exercise, being self sufficient and being in nature.

E: That's really interesting. What is a memorable teaching moment that you may have had?

H: OK, memorable, I would say, was the Group 4 Project. The whole point of that was for people to be working collaboratively, and, I was really impressed with how well people did work collaboratively on it. We focus so much on individual learning, and this was very much about learning how to work as a group, and I thought that in many cases, I could really see that happening - and it's nice to do something I really enjoyed - that was not being assessed, and it was something that people could all really contribute to and find their own little niche of how they could help.

E: For those who are reading the paper and don't know what the Group 4 Project entails, could you give a little bit of a summary?

H: So it's a set of 12 challenges that all Grade 11 students have to do, and it's not necessarily about intellectual skills, it's more about communication and collaboration in order to solve the challenges.

E: Did you ever do anything like that when you were in school?

H: No. No.

E: So it's something that you would say - that you think helps students with their peers?

H: Yeah. I mean, when I was at school learning was very much entirely individual, you never really worked with other people.

E: OK, and you like that kind of atmosphere?

H: Well it's very real life. I did my PhD and I've done research myself as part of a research group, and I've also supervised researchers, and that's kind of more like real life work.

E: And where did you receive your PhD?

H: It was at Oxford University.

E: Wow! My uncle went to Oxford, and he was at one of the colleges, so I've been there a bunch of times, I went to his graduation, it's beautiful-

H: Do you know what college he was in?  
\*Everyone struggles to work it out\*

H: Magdalen?

E: Yes, Magdalen, he went to Magdalen, which one-

H: I was at St. John's.

E: And what did you like, particularly, about that?

H: Just being around people who are absolutely passionate about the subject that they are studying.

E: Do you have any tips for people who could be applying for Oxford, say, this is something that I did that made me particularly interesting?

H: I think the main thing is that, the lecturers and tutors there are going to be working with you for a couple of hours every week. They want somebody that they feel has the potential to learn, not necessarily the person that knows the most right now, and they are looking for somebody for whom that subject is their life and it always has been their life.

E: What was it, specifically, that you got your PhD in?

H: It was in Evolutionary Ecology, the inter-connection between ecology and evolution.

E: How interesting! I love these interviews, learning so much about people I see every day. Tell me something other people might not know about you.

H: When I was 18, I got my pilot's licence. At the time, I was considering becoming a pilot for the Royal Air Force. I got a scholarship from the RAF, they basically paid for my whole private pilot's licence. Actually, I think I got my pilot's licence before my driver's licence!

E: And what shifted you towards teaching? Or biology?

H: I did my undergraduate degree in Biology, which I was going to do anyway, whether I was interested in flying or not. Then I got so interested in Biology, that I went on to do research; and then when I was doing research, the one thing I really realised I enjoyed was the teaching of Biology, even more than the research in it.

E: Do you know why, if there is anything about teaching particularly that fits with you?

H: I think the main thing I felt, was, a lot of the time, people who do research are very bad at explaining things to students or non-technical people. I found it very interesting to explain quite complex concepts in a way that either young students or other people can understand. That's what I enjoyed most about it. I did 4 years of research which I really enjoyed, but a lot of the time I did think, I would like to be researching that or I would like to be researching that, there were so many aspects of science that I enjoyed that I always felt I wanted to be doing something else. With teaching, you can very much get involved in all those different aspects. I did lecture at Oxford, that was nice, but the thing I enjoy so much about teaching at a high school level compared to a university level is the interaction with students. At university, it is very much a lecture, you stand at the front, you lecture, and you can give the same lecture you have given each

year; whereas at a high school level it is much more interactive.

E: So why the Netherlands specifically, why Amsterdam?

H: My partner, my girlfriend, is from here; we have been together a long time now, we have 2 kids, we have been together nearly 12 years. We moved here from the UK.



# A Scene on the Nevada Plains

A story by Laurens Borst

It was twenty-one days since I left my life behind. My hometown, Chicago, was many horizons away, another existence. I had travelled miles across the great Nevada plains when at a turnout I pulled over, stepped out of my pickup, and at once became guest of this inhospitable landscape.

I would have kept driving if I had not that irresistible urge, the echo, perhaps of some primal desire, that invited me to breathe Mother Nature's air and bathe in its hot brew. I smelled the gritty odor of naked nature and felt myself reborn. In awe I watched over the rock-strewn sandy desert under the lifeless oven air, thinking of bandits and cowboy myths, of travelers such as I, of lonesome spirits and my love spiriting away. I sensed myself starting away at the fractal crests of faraway mountains layered in geology.

My truck stood out like a virus in this land of scar tissue, from which it seemed the earthly covering had been discarded. I felt myself shrinking ever so much in these vast fields of rocky sand.

The sheer stretch of desert chilled horizon was the thin air in which I could truly disappear. An aqua sky hung starkly over the blood-stained desert; "the water must have gone airborne", I chuckled quietly. I was not in turn as the land shared with me its own narrative. After a lifetime of predicament, this brought me away from the glare of city lights and that pandemic of working men. The listless, half-hearted force pressing down on my every organ dissipated, and the blood, now flowing freely, transfused into bliss. But this land also kept me away from my family and my secret lovers, and the good times that now felt like memories. I closed my eyes, opened my palms, and absorbed the radiance of the sun.

My admiration for the landscape ceased as in the far distance came the bright shimmer of a solo traveller... One that stood out like a sore thumb. Maybe it was time for me to return home. I looked around one last time. Indeed, the sun was going down from where I came, casting a shadow around my waist coming from the mountains. There I stood, cut in half by day and by night.

The shimmer approached. A tiny star. I realized upon inspection that that tiny star in the distance was caused by the reflection of the sun on the motorcycle. Upon approach the bright spark faded into a pale, rusty paint, covered in stickers peeled away by hot weather. The motor was pinging, approach expiration much like its old driver. By now he was meters from where I stood.

"What are you doing in the open? You heading anywhere?" asked the driver with warm, soft-spoken resonance. He parked, stepped off his motorcycle and joined me. I could at this length discern the details in his expression. Worn and wizened. The wrinkles on his face made his appearance stand out rather comically, as if he was constantly chewing on a lemon whilst trying to keep a straight face. Beside his frail age, the delicacy of his crumpled smile and raspy voice, and his slight country twang, made of him an instant source of trust, so it seemed.

"Just... Watching", I responded.

"I see... So what are you doing out here on the road?"

"Just a desire to travel".

"Then what are you doing standing here? Most travel requires moving forward". He laughed.

"Yes. But I'm waiting for someone". I slipped melancholically and gave a skimpy smile worn by many introverts; the kind that reads 'piss off'.

"I desire to be alone", I said at last.

"Oh the irony". He chuckled. "Look, I know you as the next guy, but clearly you've pulled your car on this turnout because you're considering going back from where you came from. Everybody who comes to this land goes somewhere, chasing... I don't know, a dream, a lover, a life".

He took off his leather bike gloves and searched his pockets. "Look here". He handed me a time-worn picture. On the picture he stood next to an old brown coupe, same clothes, on a turnout. Next to him a woman, pretty and full of life, kissing him with one hand on his cheek.

"That's my wife", he said. "Thirty years ago. That turnout is different from the one we're standing on... But the idea holds. I met her because I kept driving... Driving till my engine broke down. She stopped, and the moment I knew her to be my wife, seconds after she said "hi", I decided to leave my car on a road much like this one... We drove off in her car".

"Okay".

"You're young, so you may not comprehend it, but sometimes destiny finds us in odd ways. Serendipity, they call it, and I'll bet you know that word. But you don't know what it means to meet your lover for a broken engine, because all you do is stop, turn, and get that thing fixed. That's not your fate. It could be. Fate is as unavoidable as the future, but at least make it your own fate. That's what makes it a destiny. That's why it's called a "destination", because your destiny should be heading for a destination. Keep driving."

He pocketed the picture, and was on his way again without goodbye. I stood speechless, and entered my car promptly. I turned on the radio and drove on to Johnny Cash's "For the Good Times".

# TIMELESS

A story by Gabriel Cepperulo

It was about time. Yea, it had been way too long since I had last seen Billy. He was my best mate back in the fun days of high school. I personally believe that the word "friend" is often misused, people don't give the right weight to this word. Most people will call "friend" any person that they usually talk to in school, which by the way is a place we are forced to attend. I see these people as "one serving friends" or simply as shallow acquaintances based on utility. True friendship is something very similar to brotherly love, almost beyond explanation, where one admires and appreciates the other's virtues, as well as having common interests.

Honestly, the closest friendship that I have ever seen to this description was that between Billy and me. Something rare to witness, it happens mostly once in our lives- twice if we are extremely fortunate. This is because true friendship does not end, it is made to last and if it does not stand the test of time, well then it never was real, it was merely an illusion. I can still remember every single moment me and Billy spent together, though the memories are slowly collapsing onto one another as time lays a veil of mystery over them. We were both from the French part of Belgium, and in fact we were the only Belgians in our grade. In a way we also had a similar appearance, although not exactly the same, and since we were always together, at first, people would even mistake us for one another. We had so many adventures together, I recall that one time when we had both left the English reading tasks until the last day, so we stayed up all night annotating a book and we skyped during the whole time. We managed to finish, however the next day we fell asleep in class and got a detention. It was definitely worth it. This other time we filled some other guy's locker with glitter. I am not sure why we did it, if I recall correctly it was because he was French and he and his friends made fun of us. I really despised them, they were so dumb. We always went

to the cinema, to eat fast food, to concerts and comic fairs together. We had almost everything in common; even taste in movies, songs and subjects; we both loved physics.

Then one day he met this girl, they started dating and so we spent less time together. I completely understood that there were certain priorities, nevertheless this did not prevent me from being extremely jealous. He was my friend. Anyways, I knew that relationships in high school would not last for ever, and besides we planned to apply to the same universities to remain together, I was positive. However life never goes as planned, we were accepted in different universities and acknowledged that we would still see each other.

We agreed to meet after the first few months at university, which would have been tough due to getting used to the new environment. We stayed in contact via social media, it is totally the same as real life interaction. Apart from being trapped in a screen which filters away and flattens all the emotions. After a few months we tried finding a day to meet up, however we could never find a mutually available day. Finally after more months we managed to find a slot, we planned to meet at a train station halfway away from our towns. I was really excited to see my best friend, even though almost a year had passed: even though people change, friendships last. The other day I walked past by that very station. I remember the text he sent me: "People change..."

## Entertaining

A poem by Laurens Borst

I jest, I fool, I fall inside the arms of you,  
The joke is fun, and shapes into another one  
One last, one last one,  
And the curtain falls, the mask undoes,

A crowd hastily and tiredly,  
Heads off to the next attraction,

Whilst, in a shaded corner,  
The echo of a broken heart,  
Echoes in my core,  
All the sorrow in the art,  
Oh more, all the more

I jest, I fool, I fall inside the arms of you,  
And want to never let you go

## Gifted

A poem by Laurens Borst

I call to all noisy loners,  
And troubled troublemakers,  
And sorrowed comics, and,  
Hidden in among all crowds,  
The hopeless wearing no masks  
But heavily themselves, theirs alone,  
Their mind, their flesh and bone

I call to mute tellers of tales of worlds too great,  
To be bottled up, locked up as it's mental  
To dream. This call to arms, to lives  
To whom this world alone is all too sparse,  
This world obsessed with practical; with itself  
With shallow, and with capital,  
Must be parti pris, this world is

# SCOUNDREL!

A story by Alex Pena and Lukas Joosten

"Scoundrel!", the words echoed in the hall. The un-dyed carpets hung on the wall drying. There, a speck of contrast on the endless white surface of the walls in the room. "You, come back here!" Another rewardless sprint followed. Panting, and breathless, I hear a loud bang, the sound of metal smacking against metal. I ignore the burning pain in my lungs, and try to catch her before she manages to run away.

Clang. Clang. Tap. Tap. The alternating sounds of the rusty dagger at my side and my footsteps on the freezing stone floor. These sounds were the only company I had in this darkness. How long had I been running? Minutes? Hours? It seemed like days had gone by. My body and mind were in a constant struggle, deciding whether to quit running or not. Until...

Another powerful bang, this time the screeching sound of a bolt falling on cement. I could see her now, she sat on the floor crying, I approached the girl slowly, not to scare her away. When she was finally in arms reach of me, I picked her up and tried to console her. My anger towards her treachery melted away for a second as she quieted down from all the crying and sobbing. It was far too late to get upset now, and I brought her to bed.

I opened my eyes as soon as he left the room. "Why did this have to happen to me?" I pondered. "How long have I been here?". Waiting, thinking, watching. I thought this would have finally been the day I escaped from this wretched place. I couldn't understand why I hadn't already. I had done so much planning. I thought I knew the way. What went wrong?

Leaving her room, I approached my bathroom. After taking my pills, I set upon trying to solve my conundrum. I didn't know how to act when she misbehaved. I didn't want to punish her, but I knew if she ever did manage to escape, she wouldn't survive a day. She

needed to learn, but her only goal in life seemed to be to irritate me. I wish she was like other children, they never attempt to run away or try to break the rules. I mean, she was an excellent worker, but the only thing I really kept her or any of them for, she failed at miserably. Staying safe.

My room wasn't very big but my favourite part about it was my carpet, I slept on it every night. I had made it myself and was incredibly proud and happy that I got to keep it. My hands hurt so much after making it though and I had so many marks on them. I can barely touch anywhere without a sharp pain. Poppa took my dagger away, he had no idea I had stolen it. He was viciously mad about it, and it was frightening. I don't know if I have the strength to keep rebelling at this point.

The next day I woke up and decided to treat the kids, I woke up early and made an especially extensive breakfast. Maybe I could feed her into staying. As I put the plates in front of the kids, one-by-one their faces lit up as if they hadn't had, nor seen food in days. After they finished their meal, and I felt sufficiently like a good father, I sent them back to work, high-fiving each of them as they left the kitchen.

I can't give up though, if I give up all the suffering I've gone through will be for naught. Everyone here works hard and suffers daily, especially me. We don't have much and what little we do is taken away from us if we misbehave, I only have my carpet left. Poppa threatened to take the carpet if I try to leave again. He says it's to keep me safe. Some days I believe him, but not today. As I get lost in a working trance, with the sewing machines buzzing around me, I lose my precision and my finger slips under the machine "ouch!". As another mark joins the collection on my finger I feel the loom of poppa's stare, and quickly get

back to work. After I finish another carpet, Poppa nods at me with approval. I felt rather nauseous from the huge amount of food I had this morning, but I knew to eat it all. I couldn't pass on an opportunity to fill my stomach. As I heard the crackle of the whip I knew I had to promptly leave the sewing room, Poppa had finished his "nice" period and was fully prepared for me to feel it.



# ABRAHAM

A story by Laurens Borst

Abram sat in his seat. So did many others. Any other time of the year, these seats were not as desired as now. Dolby Theatre, Hollywood Boulevard. The auditorium was alive with buzz; buzz that (only) came once a year. Buzz that either disappointed, or lent a golden statue to a fateful person.

It seemed as if although the themes for this award event were changed annually, a resounding theme underlied every one of them; that of gold. Of the good life. Of the life lived lavishly, and at a breakneck pace. Of the life in which one inherited a pedigree from equally famous parents.

Everybody in the hall knew that this golden luxurious, opulent life did not come easily. No-one, however, would admit the hardship that it took them to get where they were; it was the easiest way to hide their earned silver spoons in front of the cameras and the paparazzi. Ignorance of this hardship, and displaying their lives as having been perfect from the beginning convinced the gullible members of the audience that no effort was required to get a luxurious lifestyle; a lack of effort meant a lack of competition in this industry, and an easier win during awards season.

Abram found himself going back to the beginning of his career, a time when he was not a director. Not a producer. Not an actor. Not a scriptwriter. When even the indie magazines ignored him. When he was underpaid, but felt good at being less broke than his friends. His days as a mic operator. His days with burning arms. Days with a slim wallet. Days in a single room apartment. Days when he had to face ridicule from his close ones, for not having a conventional job.

There were times when faith was low. Then there were times when things looked up; he worked his way up to a gaffer, a person in charge of the lighting department. His wallet

seemed to get a bit heavier, his job satisfaction seemed to increase. Eventually he got employed as a location scout, unrelated but satisfying as a job the same.

Scouting for different environments to make his movie more realistic, he fell down more times than he could possibly count, got pricked by more scratchy plants than he thought possible, but also saw more beautiful sunsets than he could have ever had the foresight to. His involvement with nature eventually evoked a desire in him. A desire to make. One that would eventually lead to him trying to create a script.

His first draft got rejected. So did his second. All drafts up to the sixth were thrown away; but he was not to be deterred. He wanted his name up there. He wanted his name written in a larger font up on the screen rather than the size it had been all this time. And he did.

After that it seemed as if it all were a blur. Hard work had its results.

However all the grit that he underwent had permanent effects on him. For example, he became immune to job satisfaction. Passionate projects would kindle the fire inside him, but the flame was waning. There was not long left till it ran out.

Abram zoned back in - that was a long detour he had taken. The first few awards had been given out, and now it was his time. The suspense rose, loud and true, but Abram felt calm.

'Abram Akhtar has won his third award for "The Way We Blend"!"

He rose, beaming. Inside the fire, his fire, raged. Raged.

Walking to the podium to accept his award, he reached inside his pocket and felt his acceptance speech. With a smile to the

camera that he knew would make the public swoon, he silently crumpled the piece of paper.

For the teenager in a lonely village, for the person stuck in a mid-life crisis wanting to enter the film industry and get gold, he knew he had to break the facade of lushness. Get across the real image of what went on behind the lens. And the first step he would take to do this was one he had not done the two previous times that he was onstage.

He was sweating.

The mike was now in front of him.

The people waited.

The lights shone.

The veils were now to be lifted, and the world waited for his command.

"Do not go gentle  
into that good night."

## A Short-Lived Love

A poem by Laurens Borst

A moment an eternity,  
Eternity romance,  
In feeling the uncertainty,  
Of our twilight dance

# Summer Movie Preview

By Ryan Collins

## What You Should Have Seen:

### Guardians of the Galaxy 2



**Plot Synopsis:** The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage.

**Why it's good:** Amazing soundtrack, well-written with immensely likable characters, hilarious, jaw dropping action, emotionally poignant -Guardians of the Galaxy 2 has it all.

### Alien: Covenant



**Plot Synopsis:** The crew of a colony ship, bound for a remote planet, discover an uncharted paradise with a threat beyond their imagination, and must attempt a harrowing escape.

**Why it's good:** Scary, gory, thrilling, and philosophical, Alien: Covenant is a thinking man's sci-fi mixed with the amazing visuals and excellent tension Ridley Scott is known for. It has problems to be sure, but it's an overall great film, but highly divisive.

## What You Need To See:

### Wonder Woman



**Plot synopsis:** Before she was Wonder Woman she was Diana, princess of the Amazons, trained warrior. When a pilot crashes and tells of conflict in the outside world, she leaves home to fight a war to end all wars, discovering her full powers and true destiny.

**Why you should see it:** This is the first major female led superhero film, as well as a summer blockbuster film. Also, the reviews for Wonder Woman are currently glowing, with a 94% on Rotten Tomatoes. Not to mention that Patty Jenkins is a fantastic director, and that

each trailer for this movie promises a fast paced, exciting, and emotional story.

### It Comes At Night



**Plot Synopsis:** Secure within a desolate home as an unnatural threat terrorizes the world, a man has established a tenuous domestic order with his wife and son, but this will soon be put to test when a desperate young family arrives seeking refuge.

### Baby Driver



**Plot Synopsis:** Talented getaway driver Baby relies on the beat of his personal

soundtrack to be the best in the game. After meeting the woman of his dreams, he sees a chance to ditch his shady lifestyle and make a clean break. Coerced into working for a crime boss, he finds himself taking part in a heist doomed to fail.

Why you should see it: With his Cornetto trilogy (Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz, and The World's End), Edgar Wright penned some of the most entertaining and impressive cinematic love letters of the 20 years, and with Baby Driver, Wright looks to do it again with an ode to music and the tradition of movie car chases.

## Spider Man: Homecoming



Plot Synopsis: Under the watchful eye of mentor Tony Stark, Peter Parker starts to embrace his newfound identity as Spider-Man. He also tries to return to his normal daily routine – distracted by thoughts of proving himself to be more than just a friendly neighborhood superhero. Peter must soon put his powers to the test when the evil Vulture emerges to threaten everything that he holds dear.

Why you should see it: The newest iteration of Spider Man is at Marvel studios again. And if Captain America: Civil War is any indication, this one should be outstanding. Marvel is on a hot streak right now, Tom Holland is great, Michael Keaton is inspired casting, and it's been described as a John Hughes high school movie with superhero.

## War for the Planet of the Apes



Plot Synopsis: Caesar and his apes are forced into a deadly conflict with an army of humans led by a ruthless colonel. After the apes suffer unimaginable losses, Caesar wrestles with his darker instincts and begins his own mythic quest to avenge his kind. As the journey finally brings them face to face, Caesar and the colonel's conflict will determine the fate of both of their species.

Why you should see it: This film rounds out a fantastic rebooted trilogy that isn't a cash grab. The first two have amazing action and special effects, but they're also deep character studies. The trailers for this one looks amazing, and sets out to have a strong finish to this amazing trilogy, building up to what this one promises: War. But this one is of both violence, but also of the mind. If this one pans out, it could be one of the greatest trilogies of all time.

## Dunkirk



Plot Synopsis: In May 1940, Germany advanced into France, trapping Allied troops on the beaches of Dunkirk. Under air and ground cover from British and French forces, troops were slowly and methodically evacuated from the beach using every serviceable naval and civilian vessel that could be found.

Why you should see it: Christopher Nolan has a new movie coming out. That's enough to get most people (including me) through the door, but I love that Nolan continues to branch out and try new things. Although the film will be visually stunning and expansive, I'm curious to see how he tackles the story, especially since he's going with a triptych approach that will look at the Dunkirk rescue from air, land, and sea.

## Valerian



Plot Synopsis: In the 28th century, a dark force threatens Alpha, a vast metropolis and home to species from a thousand planets. Special operatives Valerian and Laureline must race to identify the marauding menace and safeguard not just Alpha, but the future of the universe.

Why you should see it: This promises to be one of the most bonkers films of the summer. Looking like a return to his sci-fi opera The Fifth Element, Valerian has given us a few trailers, dropped our jaws and made us scratch our heads. Besson can be hit or miss as a director, but he swings his own unique bat every time. In a summer full of factory produced tentpoles something that wholly represents a director's vision is something to get excited about.



## A Ghost Story



**Plot Synopsis:** In this singular exploration of legacy, love, loss, and the enormity of existence, a recently deceased, white-sheeted ghost returns to his suburban home to try to reconnect with his bereft wife.

**Why you should see it:** This film should prove to be an emotional and meditative experience. Despite a poor, overly artsy trailer, the director and cast are excellent, and this type of film will be great, fascinating counter programming to the summer blockbusters.

## Atomic Blonde



**Plot Synopsis:** Agent Lorraine Broughton is equal parts spycraft, sensuality and savagery, willing to deploy any of her skills to stay

alive on an impossible mission. Sent alone into Berlin to retrieve a priceless dossier from within the destabilized city, she partners with embedded station chief David Percival to navigate her way through a deadly game of spies.

**Why you should see it:** From the director of John Wick, and an academy award winning actress (Charlize Theron) as an action star on the rise. What more do you need?

## Detroit



**Plot Synopsis:** Police and the military spring into action when rioting and civil unrest rocks Detroit during the summer of 1967.

**Why you should see it:** Kathryn Bigelow is the biggest auteur to have a film coming out this year, even outside of the summer. Bigelow's last film got railroaded by the press for its depiction of torture but Zero Dark Thirty was, in my opinion, one of the best films of the past 15 years. Bigelow's ability to build tension is unmatched right now. Judging by the first trailer, Detroit makes the Detroit Riots more intimate, cutting between the large riots and a misunderstanding in a hotel room that escalates due to the escalation in the streets.

## Logan Lucky



**Plot Synopsis:** The Logans are a hardscrabble family from the hills of West Virginia, and their clan has been famous for its bad luck for nearly 90 years. But Jimmy Logan decides it's time to turn the family's luck around, and with a little help from his friends, the Redneck Robbers, he plans to steal \$14 million from the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

**Why you should see it:** Steven Soderbergh is returning to directing. His films are fun, dark, funny, and have great actors giving great performances. This looks no different with Channing Tatum and Daniel Craig looking to turn in great performances.



# VOICE Tech Column

By Trinabh Banerjee

Welcome to the VOICE Tech Column. For the first time in this technology column, I will be reviewing an anti-virus software, and giving you tips on protecting your laptop. I'll also provide you with the latest about Club Penguin (of all things)! Let's get cracking...

## Sophos Home - Review and Tips

We live in a world where many things are unacceptable. It isn't all rosy and sweet, and getting older abruptly ends that fantasy world we live in when we are young. Unfortunately, this extends to every part of life, including your daily computing. You should be aware that your devices are always at risk from being infected by malicious viruses, malware, adware, ransomware and other similar programs. But fear not. Of course there is reason to be terrified of your computer being held ransom, and all your files being deleted, or perhaps spyware on your laptop seeing everything you do, but if you use "internet" smarts, you should be okay. So, what are some ways to keep safe, and prevent being subject to these viruses?

Firstly, update your devices to the latest software patch available: This should go without saying. You should always update your software (be it Mac, Windows whatever). All tech companies are constantly releasing updates, to fix security holes in their previous software, that could be exploited. Updating software is paramount in your first defense against viruses. (Tip: wait a few days before updating. Sometimes there can be bugs on the updated software. Do some research about the update. Don't just download it because you should).

Secondly, you will want to exercise some regular internet caution. We all use email, and sometimes, we receive messages that we don't want (spam). It is important that you delete any email from someone you don't know. Do not open the email, and whatever you do (I cannot stress this enough) do not open any attachments, files, or documents that come with that email. Some of the worst viruses have infected computers through infected files. Exercise some caution when opening files from people you know. Sometimes, viruses can be present without the sender knowing (for example, spyware). And being careful about email files is what brings us to antivirus software.

So, antivirus software is great. It protects your system from the effects of viruses (duh!). There are those programs that fake being actual antivirus software, and instead ask you for bogus requests of money to clean "viruses" present on your laptop, when you download them. This is why I'm suggesting to you one program for anti-virus protection: Sophos Home (I am not sponsored nor endorsed by Sophos Group PLC).

What can Sophos Home do for you? Well, among other things, it provides you with live protection against malware, adware, and ransomware whenever you are using your computer. The program also has features to scan your entire hard drive, or scan individual files to check for (again) adware, malware, and ransomware. While the hard drive scan take up a lot of time, you can use the individual scan for files on your laptop that you want checked out. Sophos Home can protect up to 10 laptops with one account, and has a central dashboard that logs each laptop, and other relevant information. Sophos Home is a rather good piece of software, and it provides good protection. The program is completely free, and only requires you to sign up via the Sophos website. Finally, Sophos Home offers

various methods of "parental controls" that allow you to outright block certain categories of websites, or provide warnings when loading said categories of websites (bypassing a warning logs it on the central dashboard). So, overall, I think that Sophos Home is one of the great free anti-virus software programs out there. So, should you get it? Honestly, it's up to you. It's free, and can be de-installed quite quickly. Try it! See what you think!

## The End of an Era: Club Penguin

'Tis a sad year. The iceberg has flipped. Some of you readers may recall the game Club Penguin. It was an online game with over 200 million registered players as of 2013, and it soared in popularity becoming the 8th most popular social-networking site in the world in 2008. Of course, it's a game so take that statistic with a grain of salt. What I'm saying is that Club Penguin was a huge game in its heyday. I played it as well. And sadly, now those days are over. In early January, Disney announced that it would be shutting down Club Penguin's servers. As of March 29th 2017, the game would no longer exist online. This was in anticipation for the new mobile app called Club Penguin Island, being launched by Disney. The end of Club Penguin is the end of an era for people like me, who grew up around the internet and computers.

Club Penguin has represented so much. It represented online safety, with its notoriously stringent text filters allowing for a safe environment for kids, and fostered creativity and critical thinking with its fun games (not school based games, actual games, mind you!) Club Penguin was even host to an anti-Trump protest! There will no longer be waddling penguins, evil polar bears, or fun dance games.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to Club Penguin. The game that represented an era. Goodbye, Club Penguin.

## WannaCry: A Global Cyber Attack

On 12 May 2017, the world woke up to news that a global cyber attack had begun to infect computers in many countries. Perpetrated by The Shadow Brokers group, the attack program was known as WannaCry cryptoworm, and was a form of ransomware. Using an exploit discovered by the National Security Agency (NSA) in the US, WannaCry infected over 230,000 computers in 150 countries in under a day. Many large organisations were affected, including the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK, causing major health care disruptions. The companies FedEx, Telefonica, and Deutsche Bahn were also affected.

WannaCry targeted computers using older Microsoft Windows OS, such as Windows 7 and Windows XP. However, researchers from Kaspersky Labs calculated that around 98% of people who had their computers infected were using Windows 7. It is widely believed that the methods by which computers were infected was first developed by the NSA to take advantage of a security issue in Microsoft's Server Message Block (SMB). The NSA never informed Microsoft of the issue. During the 4-day run of the virus, Microsoft released a critical, emergency security patch to fix the issues on Windows XP and Windows Server 2003.

The Shadow Brokers used an exploit known as 'EternalBlue' to infect computers. The WannaCry cryptoworm was able to gain access and encrypt files using a backdoor tool known as DoublePulsar, that was originally released in early 2017 by The Shadow Brokers, but implemented alongside EternalBlue to infect Windows computers. A computer would become infected through EternalBlue, which would then use DoublePulsar to install and run the WannaCry cryptoworm. The DoublePulsar backdoor tool ran itself in kernel mode, giving hackers a privileged amount of control. EternalBlue was able to download and install DoublePulsar if a computer did not already have it installed.

After 4 days of havoc, a blogger by the name @MalwareTech found the kill-switch in the code of the WannaCry cryptoworm. The code for the virus had a kill-switch built in. Before the

cryptoworm! began to encrypt files on an infected laptop, the virus would check to see if the laptop was connected to a DNS website. As all the 230,000 plus computers were not connected, they all got infected. However, this tech-savvy blogger found the website that was required to be connected, and registered it. Within hours, the cyber attacks slowed down to a trickle, and by that Monday, Europol said that there were no new infections. Now, it is important to consider what just happened. Over 230,000 computers were infected, and global news covered all the developments. This is why it is important to keep updating your software when new updates are released. The greater the amount of computers we have updated, the better, as then it becomes a lot more difficult for hackers to infiltrate our laptops, phones etc. So, people, update your computers and other devices!

## Apple - WWDC 2017

Highlights of the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Jose on the 5th of June:

### Software

Apple began with software. This year, the company released watchOS 4 for Apple Watch, and with it some new watch faces, including one that was based on Siri-intelligence. Moving on to tvOS for Apple TV, Apple announced that they had brought Amazon Prime Video to the Apple TV. While the macOS section featured macOS High Sierra and some pretty important updates on Safari, including blocking autoplaying videos, this iteration of Mac software was focused on refining macOS Sierra. However, Apple announced that it would be switching to their own Apple File System (APFS), the same file change that iOS devices underwent some time back. APFS has its advantages, including native encryption and better compression of files. Since APFS is designed by Apple for Apple products, it may free up some storage space!

But, the big software news was with iOS, and this year, iOS 11. The main focus with iOS this year was with the iPad. iOS 11 will add a dock, like on the computer, a file system, and drag and drop to the iPad. Controls will also

be smoother and more sleek. For those with iPads capable of Split View, the app picker also switched completely, to look more like floating windows than tiny icons on the right of the screen. In the opinion of the author, this new update looks 'excitingly bizarre'. The author looks forward to using the new software.

iOS 11 will also, for the first time in 9 years change how the App Store looks, adding a 'Today' section, and a dedicated 'Games' section. It will also add a "Do Not Disturb While Driving" mode, and a great new ability to customize control center. Finally, Siri got to sound more human and finally gained the ability to answer questions based on context. Siri is now also able to translate things.

A big part of the keynote was also devoted to VR and AR. This year, for the first time, iMacs and Macs will be able to support the taxing requirements of Virtual Reality. This is a big step, and does show how Apple are trying to powerfully improve their laptops. Apple also got into the AR fray, releasing ARKit, for use by developers so that we can get AR apps on the iPad and iPhone. Great right?!

To conclude, software was mainly working on refinements, but iOS, it seems got great new features and functionality that was long overdue.

### Hardware

Apple announced quite a few products this year, and one that may have been particularly surprising. Last year, the company got some criticism for ignoring the many Macbook Pro users in their need for a powerful laptop. They may have accidentally forgot to remove the 'i' but this year, in true Apple fashion, the company released a beast: the iMac Pro. This 27 inch 5K Retina display desktop computer is truly epic. It can be configured to have a total of 18 Intel Xeon processors and up 16GB of VRAM, with a Radeon Vega GPU. It can have up to 128

# Genres of Gaming

By Miguel Pena

GB RAM. In space grey, the iMac does look quite epic. It is indeed a worthy reply to critics!

Apple finally slid into the speaker party with Google and Amazon, as it announced HomePod, a pill shaped speaker, apparently in the works for a significant amount of time. HomePod, with its 7 beam-forming array tweeters, and A8 chip has the ability to sense its surroundings and play music accordingly. The woofer inside is custom made, and from early, hands-on reviews, the speaker appears to be living up to its name! Siri made it onto the speaker as well, and has the ability to play music, control the house with HomeKit and answer questions as, well, Siri can.

Finally, Apple announced a new iPad Pro with a 10.5 inch display. This new iPad has reduced bezels and a 20% larger screen than the iPad Pro 9.7 inch. While it is bigger, it still weighs only 453 grams. This new iPad comes with a 120Hz refresh rate, meaning scrolling is super smooth, and comes with the 30% faster A10X chip. The iPad is large enough to have a full keyboard on the screen, perhaps to continue Apple's "war" against regular PC's.

All in all, it was an exciting WWDC 2017, with great new software and some new features to look forward to.

Video Games are a relatively new form of entertainment with so much variety and interaction. Even though there is change, they still aren't understood and accepted like TV or books. They have genres just like books, movies and even songs. This article will explore the different types of gaming and their genres.

When people think of gaming they mostly picture playing games on a console or a computer. Single player games generally focus either on a story with an interesting world and characters, or a fun game mechanic. The latter is common in platformers where the player advances through a level by defeating enemies and jumping over obstacles, such as in Super Mario World or Shovel Knight. These games are mostly divided into levels, which provide satisfaction through the accomplishment of completion due to human nature, and a desire to continue when one is completed. Games with longer stories such as RPGs are also appealing because the player grows attached to their character and world that surrounds them. This is prominent in "Life is Strange" which has rewinding time and decision making as the main gameplay, because the player's decisions impact the game and its world, which is a sensation which many seek out in real life due to the sense of importance and control that it offers them.

Multiplayer games are also split with cooperation and competition. Cooperative games generally involve puzzles, such as Portal 2, or an open world, such as Ark, in which you work with a friend or stranger to progress. This is enjoyable because you are sharing this fun experience and it is being enhanced by somebody else's contribution. Competitive games such as Hearthstone, Overwatch, League of Legends, Rocket League and many others are popular, because they allow the player to defeat another player. Many people enjoy competition and especially enjoy being victorious and being better than others, this also applies to video games. Losses in these types of games are extremely frustrating, yet are

easily forgotten after a victory due to pride and satisfaction. Some people play these games as a full time job, either by themselves or with a team, and attempt to be the best player in the world and win competitions. This also benefits the companies that make these games in a way similar to sports matches or concerts, as it boosts their audience.

Mobile gaming is yet another possibility that offers countless different games. From matching candy in Candy Crush to catching, battling and trading virtual monsters in Pokemon Go, there is a reason for why they get popular. These games work because they are quick, easily accessible and fun in a simple way. Understanding how to match multiple of a certain object isn't difficult, and because Candy Crush has levels, these provide a sense of satisfaction when you complete them, which gives the player an incentive to continue and possibly spend money to progress faster.

Not everybody understands gaming yet due to it being a new medium of entertainment, this causes many to dislike it simply for being different, but its acceptance in society is increasing and that allows communities to form. If you already play videogames, I suggest that you try out a different genre than what you normally enjoy. Even if you don't normally play video games, consider trying it. You don't know, if you don't try.

**HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER  
BREAK!**

**Sincerely,  
The Voice Team**