From The Producer

In the grim wake of the US election, we are somehow aware that the course of world events has taken a precipitous turn, that we have slipped measurably deeper into a waking dystopian fever dream from which little respite, from Kiev to Khartoum to Scranton, Pennsylvania, has been on offer. But what, exactly, has changed?

To look at the tortured state of American democracy is to behold the culmination of a slow-motion process of decay and discombobulation, a massive organ failure spreading within the body politic. Sure, access to the ballot box was guaranteed, though not without a certain measure of subliminal terror at the prospect of the "wrong" candidate winning and roving paramilitary goon squads avenging "another stolen" election. But, as Aristotle noted, true democracy must mean the rule of the poor, who will always outnumber the rich. And by this measure, America, a country in which half of the population would face financial ruin in the face of a single, unexpected 400$ expense, a country in which to be poor is a crime in all but name, falls hopelessly short.

The brutality has been there all along, hidden, externalized, seeping and seething beneath the surface. And now a majority of Americans has opted to make it explicit, to openly revel in violence and depravity in word, spirit, and deed. Inevitably, such mass rituals of violence and humiliation necessitate an outlet, a category of others that will be excluded from consideration as political participants and bearers of rights. Trump has told America, a historical tapestry of immigration, that their target will be immigrants. (Immigrants, who have fled violence, despair and persecution in countries destabilized by decades of US foreign policy; Immigrants, who toil in America's logistics centers and meat-packing plants, even as children, without safety, insurance, or medical leave, and who will now be exploited politically as well as economically.) The horrific folly, telling the weft that it ought make do without the warp, and watching it all unravel.

As we walk these streets, let us remember our neighbors in Berlin who were deprived of their rights, their homes, families, possessions and work, by the German government nine decades ago. Their stories are precious and unique, but they have the power to open our hearts in universal compassion and solidarity.

Mr. Holmes, Producer

In Loving Memory

Tom W. Fanore

***19.11.1968 † 4.11.2024**

Tom Fanore, a dear colleague, friend, mentor, and inspiration to countless members of the BCS community, passed away on November 4 after a long illness. On behalf of all students and faculty, we wish to express our deepest condolences to his family and to those who had the privilege of working alongside him for his many years at BCS.

Tom brought wonderful energy and positivity to our school community since he joined the team over 15 years ago. Tom was an awesome musician who brought down innumerable houses, inspiring students to rock at lunchtime concerts and anywhere else they could. He encouraged young people to be risk-takers and guided them towards meaningful projects and new skills as their CAS leader and extracurricular coordinator. As a result, he had a deeply positive impact on shaping their futures. Tom was genuine, kind, big-hearted, and had an irreplaceable sense of humour. He is survived by a beautiful family, friends all over the world, and a legacy of service and generosity.

The Cosmopolitan

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HE'S BACK

How Donald Trump Won And What This Means For The US And The Rest Of The World

From The Editor

The US elections are always an event that the whole world looks upon, each with their own expectations and hopes. When it became clear that Donald Trump would return to the White House as 47th president of the United States, the fate of the US and the whole world suddenly seemed unpredictable to me.

What will it mean for the world when a convicted criminal, a man that said, "In four years, it'll be fixed, you won't have to vote anymore", suddenly becomes the president of one of the most influential countries of the world? What will happen now that the Republican Party controls the Senate, the White House, and the House of Representatives? What will Trump do now that the president has absolute criminal immunity, cannot be persecuted for any official act they pass? We do not know, and we cannot know. Situations like these are scary, especially when they coincide with a general trend away from global cooperation and towards nationalism and segregation.

A large part of this newspaper issue is dedicated to politics, with the lead article aiming to answer the questions I posed at the beginning, and another article discussing the collapse of the current German coalition government.

At times of political insecurity and change, it is important not to lose faith in our values, to keep fighting and engaging ourselves to maintain a fair, just, democratic system. Many political aspects are out of our control, but we must preserve the influence that we do have.

Stella Krückeberg, Editor-in-Chief

CREDITS

CONCEPTION STELLA KRÜCKEBERG, AENEAS TOSCHEK

LAYOUT AND DESIGN (COVER AND INSIDE) AENEAS TOSCHEK

PRODUCTION MR. HOLMES

Although it has been eight years, I remember the day Donald Trump was elected president in 2016 as if it were yesterday. I remember being woken up by my mother who was in a state of composed panic. I remember her holding a tablet to my face, I remember the picture it showed, an old man in a suit, grinning broadly. His thin hair and the orange tint of his face with the notorious light rings around his eyes gave him an almost cartoonish look. "This man is now in charge in America!", my mother then said, before rushing to share the news with my sisters.

This year was different. I had barely slept the night before Wednesday. Not just due to the election, but also because of a physics class test the next day. It felt surreal. As always, my radio clock woke me at seven. This morning to the following sentence: „Donald Trump is expected to announce his victory in the early hours of the morning." I was in shock, suddenly wide awake, looking incredulous. At school, a friend said: "The physics exam doesn't matter to me anymore; the day is a disaster anyway."

In retrospect, the entire election felt like a train wreck in slow-motion, with President Joe Biden stepping down as democratic candidate last second, Vice President Kamala Harris stepping in and beginning her campaign only four months before the election, Donald Trump surviving two assassination attempts, presenting his survival as a sign of God. Slowly but surely, the fate of the US was sealed, there being nothing we could do. We could have reassured ourselves all we wanted that Harris would prevail, not losing hope. Deep down however, we all feared that Trump's return was inevitable.

And now, president-elect Trump has won all seven battleground states. The Republicans have also obtained majority in not only the Senate, but also the House of Representatives, while the supreme court is two-thirds Republican. Additionally, due to the criminal immunity he possesses thanks to a new ruling, Trump could enact his worst impulses without being tried. Trump is now one of the most powerful presidents in US history. How did this happen? How was a convicted criminal elected president of one of the most influential countries in the world? What will he do with his power? If Trump's past political career has taught us anything, it's that he seeks to eliminate all constraints. Therefore, what will his victory mean for the US and the rest of the world?

How Trump Won

One thing is clear: Trump is unpredictable – like wandering through dense fog, unknowing of what the future holds. Most times it's his rhetoric and his statements that are worrisome, other times his chaotic approach. This year, Trump campaigned on the biggest wave of immigrant deportations in American history, extensive tariffs on foreign goods, tax changes to benefit the wealthy, the disentangling from global conflicts and the possibility of deploying military domestically. Trump seeks to concentrate power in the White House, to use the justice department to prosecute his rivals, and signaled that he will undermine democratic institutions to achieve his goals. He has called climate change "one of the great scams", promising to extract more fossil fuels and remove financial aid for renewable energy. Things are not looking good – and not just for the US.

US ELECTIONS HOW DONALD TRUMP WON AND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE US AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. BY AENEAS TOSCHEK

In a poll published by ABC/Ipsos on November 3rd, 74 percent of Americans stated the country is heading in the wrong direction. Such polls have been a certain predictor since 1980 that the party in power would lose the election for president. Why, then, is the solution for most to vote for Donald Trump? What makes his appeal so potent?

In 1984, George Orwell reminds us that we, as human beings, will never fully grasp the Why of a situation – which gives rise to theories.

For example, Trump's win may suggest that many voters are still unable to imagine a woman as president, shown also by Trump's win in 2016, when he defeated Hillary Clinton, albeit lost the popular vote. This year, in the final New York Times/Siena College poll from the end of October, Trump led Harris among male voters by 55 percent, Harris securing only 41 percent.

However, Trump's appeal goes beyond gender dynamics. The president-elect has long appealed to the grievances, unease and anger of voters, playing on and conjuring voter's fears and frustrations to his advantage, talking darkly about the state of the nation, often distorting the truth concerning issues immigration, inflation and crime. And while things could be better, the rates of these have finally started decreasing in recent years – "they already have been fixed, more or less", Peter Baker from the New York Times argues. Yet by taking things out of context, potentially even lying, Trump is able to convince voters that only he can "save" America. Trump voters themselves have described Trump as the "stronger" candidate, while expressing that he seems to care more about the problems of working-class citizens, including rising prices for grocery and housing, Harris seeming focused on those more privileged. "He gets us", they have stated.

Nonetheless, perhaps the biggest advantage Trump enjoyed was the intense and affectionate loyalty of his supporters, a large number of voters that seem more like a cult or movement. Through their devotion, he has survived setbacks that no other candidate would have been able to return from, including two impeachment trials, four criminal indictments, a criminal conviction, and scandals that would have ended most political careers. Whatever happened, his base remained steadfast and enabled him to be not only the first convicted criminal to be elected president, but also the first candidate since the late 1800s to successfully return to the White House after first losing re-election. In any case, the setbacks only deepened the base's loyalty to Trump, who is framed as a "martyr" persecuted by the political establishment.

However, as Bruce Stokes told us while visiting BCS: "It's not how, but where you win." Trump's victory highlighted strategic shifts, flipping Miami-Dade County in Florida with strong Latino support, securing South Texas border counties with increased Republican margins, achieving a historic gain in Starr County, shifting parts of New York City significantly rightward, and capturing frustration in Dearborn, Michigan, where Arab-American discontent over the Gaza conflict played a role.

Nevertheless, despite his victory, the exit poll by CNN shows that only 44 percent of voters shared a favorable view on Trump, while 54 percent were unfavorable, suggesting that he was voted mostly over frustration with the status quo and current administration. "Mr. Trump's victory may say more about the Democrats and the public's desire for change than it does about the president-elect himself", the New York Times writes.

How Harris Lost

The question is not only how Trump won. It's also how Harris lost. Harris entered the race with baggage. She had little time for her campaign and

most voters expressed the concern that they knew little about her as a candidate. Harris also faced the challenge of inheriting the unpopularity of the incumbent: Biden, who only holds a 40 percent approval rating among Americans. Her campaign did not differ greatly from Biden's, which may have alienated voters. In addition, tied to the current administration, Harris could not distance herself from its perceived failures, which Trump also effectively chained her to, throwing around insults and conspiracies, essentially portraying her as part of a broken status quo.

The Democrats had long hoped that voters found Trump so extreme that they could secure a majority just by being in his opposition, explaining why both Biden and Harris centered their campaigns around the urge to resist Trump, and the threat he poses to American democracy, instead of specifics on how they plan to fix the system that many see as broken. But it turns out that voters worry more about being able to pay rent or groceries than an endangered democracy, as post-election interviews suggest.

In addition, most of Harris' campaign slogans were vague and lacked concrete policy commitments, for example the message that "when we fight, we win" or the urge to "turn the page." Had she, for example, picked a specific issue as her no. 1 priority, just like Barack Obama had done with health care, and created a bold, thematic message around it, her chances might have looked differently.

Implications Of Trump's Victory

During a town hall on Fox News in December last year, Trump was asked by Sean Hannity: "Do you in any way have any plans whatsoever, if re-elected president, to abuse power? To break the law? To use the government to go after people?" Trump agreed, "except for day 1". Shock and silence. Later he added: "We're closing the border. And we're drilling, drilling, drilling. After that, I'm not a dictator."

Trump's win raises fears of authoritarianism. Surrounded by loyalists and few restrictions, Trump's presidency during his second term could further erode democratic institutions. He has spent his four years out of office crushing opposition in the Republican party and is currently replacing federal employees with loyalists.

Trump will have fewer non-MAGA (Make America Great Again) voices in his cabinet critical of his approach. There will be few political norms to restrict him. If he can't be prosecuted, what else is left to stop him? "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate", the president-elect has said in a speech at his Mar-a-Lago victory party on the sixth of November.

Trump has not only suggested that he may use his regulatory powers to cause networks like NBC, MSNBC, and CBS to lose their license to broadcast due to their critical coverage of Trump, but he will also use his ability to issue orders to the Justice Department to prosecute and silence critics and political opponents with "long-term prison sentences".

When Trump's victory was first announced, America's traditional allies in Europe posted congratulating, polite, and recognizably but understandably anxious statements. In the future, the US will become more isolationist and less predictable for other countries. In other words: the result will have significant effects on the rest of the world.

It will challenge the ability of America's European allies to maintain solidarity. The US will act more as a competitor, not a friend, as was already proven by Trump's first term, and the countries of Europe will have to unite and work closer together in order to be stronger.

Similarly, Trump is expected to have a big impact on the war in Ukraine. He has previously promised to end it "in 24 hours". How is unclear, though it is feared that Trump could force Ukraine into accepting a bad deal by stopping military support. Vice president-elect J.D. Vance's "peaceful settlement" includes an agreement that Russia will retain the captured territory, and that Ukraine will never join NATO, but the Kremlin is skeptical of Trump actually enforcing this.

Mexico is now the largest source of imports into the US, after recently surpassing China, but Trump's promised policies could be very disruptive for the country: Border enforcement, tariffs, and the deportation of illegal immigrants could have enormous social and economic consequences.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the members of his right-wing government celebrated Trump's win, hoping he will back the return of Jewish settlers to Gaza, provide tougher military support and agree to Israel's annexation of the occupied West Bank. "Congratulations on history's greatest comeback!", Netanyahu stated. Trump's actual stance on the issue remains unclear.

Meanwhile, China is preparing for a trade war as Trump plans to impose tariffs on Chinese exports, adding to the already strained relations marked by his confrontational first term. Chinese officials expect difficult negotiations with Trump, whom they see as deceitful, and fear tensions over Taiwan could escalate with militant advisers. While, for China, there is some hope that an isolationist US could allow China to expand its global influence, the concern is that another Trump term could destabilize the global economy at a time when China is already struggling.

For Trump, the fight against climate change can wait. He has announced his intention to remove federal efforts to reduce pollution. In addition, he is expected to reverse many climate regulations in the US, to increase drilling for oil and gas and to pull out of the Paris climate agreement. This will have enormous consequences, as the US is already the world's greatest polluter, as well as the world's biggest producer of crude oil.

What We Can Do Now

Of course, this is only a broad overview of the reasons for Trump's obvious victory as well as what this can mean not only for the US, but also for the rest of the world. I encourage you to read more into this – it is important to keep informed.

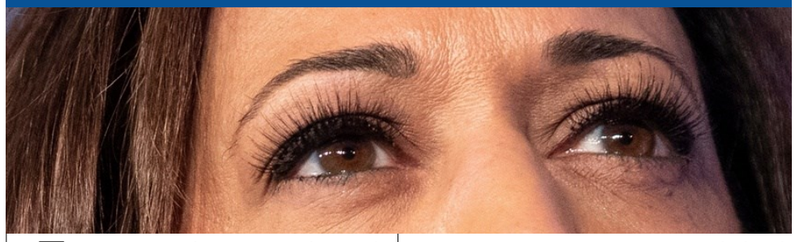
The only thing we can and must do, now that Trump will be assuming office again in January, is face the truth.

On election day, Boris Vitvitskiy, a Trump supporter, had parked a Tesla Cybertruck just outside Trump Tower on fifth avenue in New York City, inviting people to mark it with graffiti. He told reporters that he had driven it across the entire country, initially motivating people to cover it in pro-Trump messages only. Eventually, though, he decided to let people paint whatever they felt like, "a four-wheeled monument of free speech", as the New York Times writes. In the end, the front and back bumpers of the car read "TRUMP" in bold, white letters, while the back window urged to "Vote for Harris." One could also find smaller messages, written in marker, and among the absurd like "I Wanna Meet Kid Rock" or "Elon 4 President", one of these simply read:

It Is What It Is. ■

Who It Could Have Been Instead

Who Is Kamala Harris? By Levin Haver



As you may know, Kamala Harris was the democratic party's presidential canditate for the presidential Election this year. Her life wasn't always easy and it took a long way of adventures and experiences to get her to where she is now.

Let me start by telling you a story about her as a child, a story she also told at her speech in the democratic national convention. At a young age, her childhood best friend came to school unusually sad. Harris often asked her what was wrong, and one day her friend told Harris that her father was sexualy abusing her. Harris immediately told her parents and told her best friend she must sleep over at their house. After her best friend's father went to jail, she could happily live with her mother. This story demonstrates that Kamala Harris tried to protect and help other people from an early age, and she wanted to promote this empathetic talent by having a career dedicated to helping others. This dedication and drive is what made her vice president and later on, presidential candidate.

Kamala Harris was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California. Her mom was from India, and her dad was Jamaican, so she grew up learning about her different cultures. When Kamala was young, she was always curious and wanted to help people, so she went on to decide to study law. After finishing law school at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1989, she started her career as a deputy district attorney in Alameda, and would later become the District Attorney of San Francisco. In this job, she worked on serious cases like gang violence and drug crimes.

Her success as a prosecutor helped her get elected as California's Attorney General in 2010. In this job she was focusing on protecting and fighting for people's rights. As a prosecutor, Kamala Harris's job was to accuse someone of committing a crime, which was not always easy. She had to argue with people and convince the judges. She had to develop her debating and persuasion skills and was responsible for the court reaching the right and just decision.
These skills helped her in the presidential campaign especially in the debates, where presentation and persistence are essential.

Kamala Harris's previous work as a lawyer facilitated a big career in politics. Now, as a presidential candidate of the United States, she used her legal experience to help solve important problems in the country.

Kamala Harris became the first black woman to be a presidential candidate of the United States.
Harris believes that everyone should be treated fairly, and she fights for equal rights for all people, no matter where they come from or what they look like. She also cares a lot about helping the lower class and improving the education system so that there is a vast range of opportunities for children.
As a presidential candidate, she wanted to inspire other children to dream big. Harris believes that when people work together, they can make the world a better place. She's also proud of her family and always talks about how her mom taught her to be strong and brave. She wants everyone to believe that they can achieve anything if they work hard.

Crash Course Coalition Collapse

By Sarin Armreiter

Following the 2021 Bundestag elections, Germany's first three-party coalition government was formed to secure a majority in parliament. This coalition united the Social Democrats (SPD), the Free Democrats (FDP), and the Greens, bridging diverse political ideologies to tackle Germany's pressing issues.

Recently, however, this government has experienced turbulence, with months of escalating disputes threatening its stability. On Wednesday, November 6th, Chancellor Olaf Scholz (SPD) took the significant step of removing Finance Minister Christian Lindner (FDP) from his position, effectively dissolving the coalition.

The coalition's breakdown underscores the challenges facing both Germany and Europe. "Especially in times like these, when uncertainty is growing," Scholz remarked, highlighting the economic and security pressures heightened by Donald Trump's reelection in the United States, which was announced the same day.

The final straw that led to the coalition's collapse was the stark divide over fiscal policy– fiscal referring to the expenditure of governement funds, most often taxes. Finance Minister Lindner pushed for cuts in social spending and reductions in climate funding, positions that met fierce resistance from both the Greens and the SPD. However, his primary goal was to prevent the German government from incurring additional debt. To this end, a cap on government debt, known as the Schuldenbremse (debt brake) was included in the constitution and enacted in 2009. This rule limits the federal government's structural new debt to a maximum of 0.35 percent of the nominal gross domestic product (GDP). Germany's GDP, 2023 was around 4200 billion Euro. 0,35% of this becomes an astonishing 14,2 billion Euro, which is the ideal maximum for new dept. In 2024, the new debt amounted to €16.6 billion. This figure is significantly lower than the €45.6 billion in new debt recorded in 2023, representing a reduction of €31 billion. The various disagreements thoughout the past year regarding multiple aspects accounted for the breaking point of the coalition to be reached.

The collapse of the coalition leaves Germany with an interim minority government, requiring Scholz and the Greens to secure support from opposition parties to pass legislation and deepening political divisions and signaling a period of uncertainty, with potential long-term consequences for both national governance and Europe's stability.

Bruce Stokes' Visit At BCS

By Stella Krückeberg

Through the help of the Aspen Institute, our school had organized for Bruce Stokes to come to our school and talk about the US election.

Stokes had previously worked for several newspapers on topics like economics and global relations, as well as conducting and evaluating pubic opinion polls. Especially the latter factor would shown in his talk as he explained the different nuances of the US election in the form of several polls. Since the election is already over, I have shortly summarized a few key aspects of his talk.

America is growing more and more divided, by social class, by region (urban vs. rural), race, education and age. As polls conducted on this election have shown, these groups are more divided than ever. Urban regions were 63% democratic, rural regions 63% republican. 56% of white voters supported Harris, only 16% of black voters did. The divide is large. And yet election participation is slim. Overall turnout is still at 64% - that's a third of the population not participating in choosing who will run their country for the next four years.

We were also shown an interesting statistic: over the last elections, the democratic vote was mostly predicted to be more than it actually turned out to be. Again this year: originally Harris and Trump were predicted to be very close, however, Trump ended up winning rather decisively. What exactly causes this overestimation is unsure.

Stokes reminded us that people are not rational. They are emotional, and their vote will be based on who they felt connected with them better. They lack a sense of broader reality and tend to focus on what they experience, and they will believe what they are told about the world because they only really know their immediate surroundings.

Politicians must keep this in mind, but so must we as voters in general: If we do not take responsibility for our democracy, we may lose it.

Political Assassinations

And Why They Happen

US ELECTIONS 2024 Kennedy, Herrhausen, Trump: Each of them were victims of political assassinations. But why? ***By Livia Kordges***

John F. Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States. He was popular but as every successful politician he also had haters and stalkers. On the 22nd of November 1963 Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline came to Dallas (Texas) in an open car. The trip to Texas was just a part of Kennedys Election campaign but he didn't know that his short excursion with his wife to Texas would end in his death. Around 12.30 pm, the Kennedys reached the "Dealey Plaza" and suddenly everyone heard shots. Kennedy was hit twice, one time in his back and one time in his head. Very soon, John F. Kennedy was admitted to the hospital but around 1 p.m. it was clear, Kennedy was dead. Shortly afterwards, the police secured a rifle and bullet cases at the Texas School Book Depository. It was clear that this was the murder weapon. The 24-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald, who had recently been an employee at the Texas School Book Depository, was declared suspicious after witnesses said they saw him at the window directly faced to the place where JFK was murdered. Only 45 minutes after the assassination attempt, Oswald shot a policeman who had tried to stop him. But after a short time, the police captured him at a cinema in Dallas. Although he was arrested, he could never be taken to court, as two days after the assassination attempt, Oswald was first to be taken to the district prison, where he never arrived because the nightclub owner Jack Ruby shot him in the stomach. Jack Ruby said that he had ambushed Oswald in the parking garage in front of the police station because he wanted to avenge Jacqueline.

Alfred Herrhausen is not quite as well-known as John F. Kennedy or Donald Trump, but the assassination attempt that was carried out on him is very interesting as it is reminiscent of the RAF. But first, what is the RAF? The RAF (Rote Armee Fraktion) was a group of people who carried out assassinations on powerful people. The RAF is responsible for over 33 murders with a total of over 200 injuries. The founders of the RAF are Ulrike Meinhof, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Horst Mahler. But who was Alfred Herrhausen and how did they assassinate him?
Alfred Herrhausen was probably the most powerful banker of his time but — just like John F. Kennedy — he also had many haters, one of them being the RAF. And on the 30th of November, Herrhausen's worst nightmare came true. An assassination attempt: It happened when Herrhausen drove his car to his house. There were seven kilos of explosives that were detonated when Herrhausen's car drove through a light barrier. Herrhausen died a few minutes later and his driver was seriously injured.
To date, the attack has not been fully solved, but there are many indications that the RAF was behind this terrible attack.

Almost everyone knows **Donald Trump**, and the assassinations that were carried out on him are still very current.
Donald Trump was the 45th president of the United States. During his campaign for 47th president, there were some people who sought to prevent this and who prefered his death. Let's take a look at the first assassination attempt on Donald Trump in Pennsylvania (United States).

The first assassination attempt on Trump was carried out on the 13th of July during a speech in Pennsylvania: A gun attack. During his speech everyone heard gun shots. Trump didn't really get hurt, but the viewer Corey Comperatore didn't survive the attack when trying to protect his daughters. The secret service shared that the shooter was Thomas Matthew Crooks, aged 20, who actually supported the Republican party but, when he was seventeen, had once donated fifteen US Dollars to the Democratic Party. He was able to shoot six times until the secret service shot him.

Two months after the first assassination, a second person tried to shoot Trump in his private golf club. When Trump played with his supporter Steve Witkoff. The secret service shared that one agent saw a gun on the edge of the Golfclub. The agent immediately started to shoot 4-6 times, and the suspect dropped his weapon and fled. Around 70 kilometres away from the golf club a suspected man was arrested. US media reports that the name of the suspect is Ryan R. R., an independet building constructor who got arrested a few times before.

But have all those assassinations really changed democracy?

The answer is: No. No militant groups, like the RAF who tried to use violence to achieve their goals, are very important for the world today. Since the Middle Ages there were attacks on political, social or powerful people, and there will be assassinations in the future. But will they change our democracy? What do you think?

The newspaper now has its own dedicated email address: **THECOSMOPOLITAN@COSMOPOLITANSCHOOL.DE**

FOR STUDENTS We hope this makes it more convenient for you to share your thoughts on editions/articles, provide feedback, and suggest topics.

FOR TEACHERS You're welcome to use this email to send us student work for publication — a great way to motivate and showcase students' achievements. Also, feel free to provide feedback on the newspaper or suggest topics for us to explore.

Celebrating 35 Years Since Mauerfall

By Stella Krückeberg

Poster by Guadaloupe from Grade 10.

On the 9th of November 1989, the lives of all of Germany were changed forever. Peaceful protests had increased all throughout the GDR in the last years, all protesting against the government and the Wall, calling for freedom and fair elections. On the night from the 9th to the 10th of November, the government called a press conference at which, through a series of miscommunications, instead of introducing a new policy for the exiting and re-entering of the GDR to be implemented soon, the speaker announced that the Wall was open, with immediate effect. It was not, but it didn't matter – news services from all around the world echoed the message, millions of people streamed towards the checkpoints and the wall was opened.

That night marked the beginning of the reunification of a divided country, it was the start of the Germany we now know and live in. It was the success of the population of a country to achieve their dream of freedom peacefully, without violence. All this happened 35 years ago, and to mark this anniversary, Berlin organized a day full of activities. In addition to open-air concerts with 700 musicians and speeches by the Chancellor and the Mayor of Berlin, there was a four kilometer long art installation, composed of posters crafted by children and adults to the slogan "Hold Freedom Up High" (Haltet die Freiheit hoch). The tenth grade participated in this exhibition, creating their posters during history class. The posters of Guadaloupe, Lizzy, and Anna W were displayed. The exhibition united sentiments of freedom, peace and democracy from 1989 with modern wishes of the same values and offered a space to emphasize the importance of these values through art. Many of the posters are now on the Campus der Demokratie, where the centre of the Stasi intelligence used to be.

Days like the 9th of November commemorate historic moments in which freedom triumphed over oppression, peace proved stronger than fear. They remind us that, while we live in a world that provides most of us with incredible freedoms and privileges, none of these should ever be taken for granted. Especially considering the outcomes of recent elections, our democracy and our freedoms have to be defended and supported, and we will have to fight for them over and over again. ■

Wunschgarten's Upgrade?

By Nike Krückeberg

I know that many students in primary classes loathed going to break at Wunshgarten due to its lack of entertainment and activity. There was never much to do there - no balls, no being too loud or the things that you COULD do there didn't last long. I remember there being a plank over the sandpit, but that has vanished. In my first-grader days I think there used to be a sort of carussel? I reckon the swing was probably the best activity in Wunshgarten recently. Even if you weren't allowed to climb on it. But as some of you may know, the swing is also gone, but the wooden columns remain. But do you know what's new?!

A slide! YES! In the first time in Wunshgarten history, there is a slide available in the park, placed right in the middle. I think the slide has been usable since the 14th October. A few days ago, I also spotted some workers and their vehicles trying to unleash new wood pieces that were a shiny yellow colour. A student tells me that "they are building random stuff there". I talked to more students to see what they know and think about the matter. I asked a 6th Grader about their opinion — Swing vs. Slide:

"I think I still like the swing more than the slide even if I haven't been on it yet.", Zoe from 6a told me.

Lia from 5a tells me even more: "I wasn't on it yet – they're still building there, we haven't been in Wunschgarten since the slide has been built."

An extracuricular teacher also tells me that he hasn't taken his class to Wunschgarten since the slide was built. ■

Below: Wunschgarten playground.

Great Bustards
Can We Save Europe's Most Picky Bird?

By Alma Schnitger

Have you ever seen one of those videos on the internet of some rare bird from a warm country doing some kind of dance or puffing up its feathers for a mating ritual?
Did you ever imagine that those kinds of birds could exist in Europe too?
Generally, when people think of European birds they think of woodpeckers, swans and pigeons, flying birds with white, grey, black and brown feathers.
They never knew that great bustards existed!

Great bustards are an amazing whiskered and very complicated species of birds which are sadly going extinct because they are losing their habitats. The thing is that great bustards are very picky about where they live. They need to have diverse flora which are low to the ground, lots of bugs along with sunny spots where they can lay their eggs. Moreover, they do not tolerate humans, lots of trees, bushes, planes or anything that disturbs their free roaming. Finding that kind of environment is tricky nowadays since most places where things grow are just high concentrations of one kind of plant. For example: corn fields, wheat fields and parks which most consist of grass.
Great bustards used to be a very common species found on farms but ever since airplanes, lawn mowers and other devices for managing ecosystems were invented, their habitats have been disappearing and taking the population with them.

Now, great bustards are not just a very picky bird species which has been dying out.
They are so much more! They are the heaviest kind of bird which can fly but prefer to stay on land. They are fast runners, which helps them get away from predators and their babies are just the cutest little chicks ever! Unlike other birds which build nests, these birds just dig into the ground a little and lay their eggs right there.
Because they don't build nests, they often loose or forget their eggs, so they lay a ton of different batches and hope they survive and don't get squished or eaten.

Remember what I said earlier about great bustards having an entertaining mating ritual? Well, it's true! Males fluff up their feathers, cock back their necks and puff out their chests to give off the illusion of a big fluffy ball of floof! Then they strut around all proud like that and hope that a female chooses them to mate. The older ones are usually the ones chosen but the younger ones still give it a try.
Afterwards, the females run away a couple kilometers to lay a few egg batches.
They incubate those eggs for a few weeks just like any other bird and feed them worms and stuff until they are big enough to try and get their own food and walk.
It takes females about 2-4 years to mature and males 5-6, but once they are done growing, boy are they an extremely spectacular fluffy sight!
They even have whiskers! ■

How Doritos Helped Make A Mouse Transparent

By Stella Krückeberg

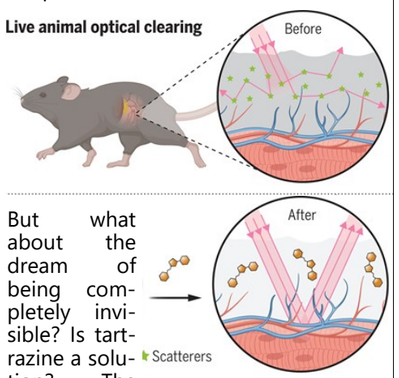
Being invisible was always something purely achieved in science fiction or fantasy. Harry Potter's invisibility cloak, Gollum's Ring, Violet from The Incredibles – it was always a nice dream. But what if it actually worked?

While invisibility is still a bit out of our reach, scientists at Stanford have made a breakthrough—they found a way to make tissue transparent. They developed a gel colored with tartrazine, a food coloring also contained in Doritos. When this gel is applied to skin, the skin becomes transparent. When the gel is washed off, the skin goes back to normal.

Although it seems incredibly simple — apply a colored gel and you're see-through — this was achieved on the basis of a couple of difficult physics principles. I will try to explain it simply. When light enters a medium, it is refracted and scattered. How much this happens depends on the refraction index. Water, for example, bends and scatters light, but not that much, we can still see through it. It has a low refraction index. Our skin is dense, has a high refraction index, and doesn't let light through. Part of the light gets absorbed, part gets refracted and thrown in all directions. Skin is made up of tissue cells and lipids, with a high refraction index, and water, with a low refraction index. This difference in refraction index is what causes our tissue to be opaque, because the light scatters. Using tartrazine, however, the dye dissolves into the aqueous parts of our tissue. The skin then turns reddish, because the tartrazine absorbed the blue wavelengths. At the same time, that means the refraction index for red light is higher (the red light is thrown back more). This new refraction index of the water matches the refraction index of the lipids. The whole tissue, therefore, has almost the same refraction index. That way, light can enter the tissue, bounces off the muscle or organs underneath and leaves again, meaning we can see

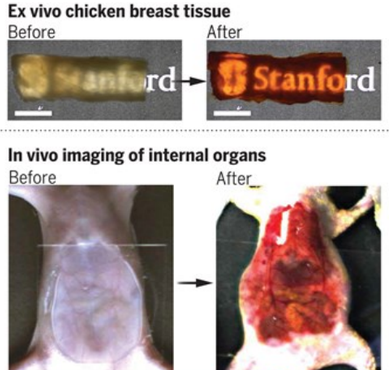
inside, although this is a simplified explanation.

So far, the gel has only been tested on mice, but with remarkable effects. Researchers were able to see the digestive tract, muscles and even neurons, all without having to use X-ray, ultrasound or operations. Especially its reversibility offers up a lot of opportunities in the scientific field, even for humans. Long-term testing would be far easier since the gel can be applied many times in a row without the patient having to undergo a significant resting phase. Looking directly inside the body would allow scientists to watch, in real time, how cells duplicate and get formed, small broken bones could be identified if close to the surface, as well as damaged muscles or veins. It could even allow scientists to spot tumors.



But what about the dream of being completely invisible? Is tartrazine a solution? The scientists stated that it is possible for the serum to be injected into tissue deeper inside the body, making organs, for example, see through. This, however, has not been tested yet and could be dangerous, since tartrazine is slightly toxic, leading to unprecedented side effects, and the process may be irreversible.

The tartrazine gel is red-colored.



SpaceX Sends Starship to Mars

A Giant Leap or Distant Dream? *By Leo Freier*

On the Sunday of the 13th October 2024 of 8:00 am EDT SpaceX launched the Starship, with a feat of technical wizardry. The Starship launched with lots of fire and flames. When it was up in space, it returned at a high speed. When it was near the landing tower, huge metal arms opened so much that the Starship could pass through and they closed again, so that it held the spaceship in its grasp. Elon Musk has the crazy idea that we can soon travel to mars and back to earth with that rocket.

Now you may wonder: why it should be Mars? Mars is the nearest Planet to Earth where we could live on. The average travel distance to Mars is 225,308,160 Meters, which takes about 6 Months. Also, the length of a day there is about the same as here on Earth, a Mars-day is only 37 Minutes longer. Mars is 1.5 times as far from the Sun as Earth is, which is why it has still descent sunlight. The atmosphere is primarily made of CO2, some nitrogen, argon and some other elements. Due to the thin atmosphere and the lack of Sunlight, Mars is a bit cold, but we could warm it up. The gravity on Mars is 38% the gravity on Earth.

The Starship is a 121 Meter high rocket that is supposed to later carry crew and cargo to Earth's orbit, the mood and Mars. It is the most powerful rocket on earth. The Starship is divided into the part carrying the crew and the booster. The booster is called the Super Heavy and it is 71 meters tall and 9 meters in diameter. It is powered by 33 Raptor engines using sub-cooled liguid methane. The Super Heavy is the part that is reusable and can be landed on the launch site again.

There would be some difficulties living on Mars. First, we would need oxygen on Mars. On Earth, the air contains 21% oxygen, but on Mars it is less than 1%. Without Oxygen we cannot breathe. It is possible to bring oxygen from the Earth to Mars, but it would be too difficult and very expensive. The second thing we need to survive on Mars is a good food sources. Earth fruits and vegetables need the Earth's atmosphere, temperature and Sunlight to grow. Any food that we want to grow on Mars needs to grow in a greenhouse with a perfectly controlled environment. Even then we won't have the big variety that we have on Earth. The next issue is water. We as humans need water for three things: to water our plants, to produce fuel to bring the spaceships back to Earth and to drink it. There is no water on Mars and transporting it there is difficult. The next difficulty is living space: We could live in spaceships, but that would only be a short-term solution. For real houses we would need more space on Mars, and materials. Finally, communication is difficult. It takes 22 minutes to send a message to Earth due to the distance. They will need different types of communication on Mars to keep everyone informed.

I think that we should not live on Mars, because it comes with many difficulties, as I explained at the paragraph above. Also, I think that living on Mars should only be considered when we can not live on Earth due to climate change. We must still fight to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions and stop climate change, because living on Mars will be very difficult and is not a good alternative. ■

How AI Will Change Our Future

And Why It Is Important To Keep Up *By Yva Toschek*

Almost every day you hear of a new task AI has successfully learned to complete. In the future, it will have expanded its branches rapidly, as a sort of fully grown tree that can cover every task assigned. AI is expected to grow 120% year-by-year, but how significantly will this intelligence affect and change our future? Each student, in this school at least, probably has made use of AI to complete some kind of school assignment, whether their teacher allowed this or not, paying attention only to the bright side of it: Not having to do the challenging work teachers encourage you to complete so that you can learn. But what exactly are the consequences of relying on AI?

A study on the impact of AI on China and Pakistan from 2023 has shown that 68,9% of laziness in humans, as well as 27,7% in the loss of decision making are due to artificial intelligence. If these numbers continue to grow, it would be interesting to know the extent to which the daily activities and the movement of an average person will diminish.

Your AI companion would bring you breakfast before completing your work and giving you a fat reducing and nourishing injection that will make up for your failure to exercise ever (because of your laziness). Or perhaps the injection would not be mandatory, since no one would care about your looks anymore after human interaction has become something long forgotten about. Have you noticed any changes in your activity and decision-making skills lately, or that your usage of AI has increased drastically?

If you think about it, AI isn't only included in daily life through ChatGPT – the first thing that comes to most minds when AI is mentioned – but also in calculators, Siri, Alexa, social media, navigation systems, face recognition, text autocorrections, etc. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, AI is "a particular computer system or machine that has some of the qualities that the human brain has."

Then, the big question arises that many people have had on their mind lately: If AI is advancing so quickly that no one can really keep up with it, what jobs will it replace? Is the current generation working up to nothing? Extremely pessimistic and negative people have probably already thought this many years ago when AI wasn't about to take over most jobs, as, in life, after hard work, there's always death and the risk of being forgotten.

Imagine AI someday being able to replace any job, so that no one would ever have to work again. That sounds amazing, doesn't it? But then... if no one would have to work anymore, that would mean that everyone could do whatever they desired, and we've seen a lot of cases of celebrities that proved that not having anything to do, not belonging, or not being needed anywhere else can go terribly wrong.

As specified by the Job Futuromat, almost any job is automatable. While the profession of an architect is automatable by 57 percent, the interior designer is automatable by 67 percent. Fortunately, secondary teachers are only automatable by 15 percent, writers by 40 percent, and journalists also only by 40 percent. Jobs such as fashion designers or cooks are both above 50 percent automatable, while actors or scientists are not automatable at all. Artists are automatable by about 70 percent. And yes, a painting by AI was recently sold for approximately one million dollars, putting to the test just how much people would pay. However, I believe that AI is not able to add the exact amount of emotion as humans. Those emotions that makes art utterly unique and special – of course, some people don't seem to care about that part anymore.

The only way to not fall behind but succeed in life using AI is to grow and learn using it as a tool to help you. Standards will rise and simply answering questions will no longer get you far in life. But of course, no one has yet discovered how to predict the future!