

Tribute to Jane Goodall (1934–2025)

Why You Shouldn't Be Afraid To Go Your Own Way

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." — British primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall passed away on October 1st, 2025, at the age of 91. She was known for her research on the social and family life of chimpanzees, which spanned over six decades.

by Luise Lichtenstein

Few people have changed the way we see the world like Jane Goodall. From a young woman who set out to change the way chimpanzees were observed, to a global advocate for the environment, she became a role model to aspiring primatologists, environmental activists, and young girls alike.

As a child, instead of a teddy bear, Jane Goodall was given a chimpanzee stuffed animal named Jubilee by her father, sparking her early love of animals. This childhood fascination grew into a lifelong passion for studying wildlife and understanding animal behavior. Like many young women, she was told that her efforts were unnecessary and that her research would not be beneficial. She proved the opposite. Through more than six decades of fieldwork studying wild chimpanzees in Tanzania, she became one of the world's leading primatologists and a pioneer in primate ethology. In a field that was almost entirely male-dominated just seventy years ago, but is now made up of men and women in nearly equal numbers, Goodall's groundbreaking work and encouragement of young women opened the door for a new generation of researchers.

In 1960, without any formal academic background in the field where she was about to begin her research, Goodall was invited to observe chimpanzees in Tanzania. She was the first researcher to give them names, a practice previously discouraged to prevent emotional attachment and maintain the supposed boundary between humans and animals. Her observations revealed that chimpanzees have distinct personalities and complex social relationships, fundamentally changing the basics of primatology.

Her findings didn't just challenge

scientific conventions, but also our understanding of what it means to be human. By recognizing individuality and emotion in chimpanzees, Goodall blurred the line between humans and animals, showing that empathy, curiosity, and intelligence are shared across species. Her courage to see what others overlooked reshaped modern primatology and the way we think about life itself.

Jane Goodall's legacy extends far beyond her discoveries. Through the Jane Goodall Institute, she inspired people around the world to take action in their own communities, reminding us that meaningful change often begins with small, hopeful steps. She especially inspired women and girls to follow their curiosity, trust their instincts, and refuse to let barriers, whether social, academic, or cultural, define their potential. Her life was proof that you don't need permission or credentials to make history. All you need is courage, persistence, and the belief that your voice matters.

Jane Goodall showed generations of girls that intelligence has no gender, that compassion is a form of strength, and that determination can change the world. In a world obsessed with speed and perfection, her life stands as a reminder that the most lasting change comes from patience, empathy, and authenticity. She didn't just go her own way: she carved a new path entirely, one that continues to guide and empower those who dare to dream differently. Her life teaches us that anything is possible when you lead with purpose. Curiosity, compassion, and courage can take you further than any doubt that tries to slow you down. In times where you feel down or lack empowerment, carry that spirit forward, observe with empathy, act with intention, and never be afraid to go your own way.



The Cosmopolitan

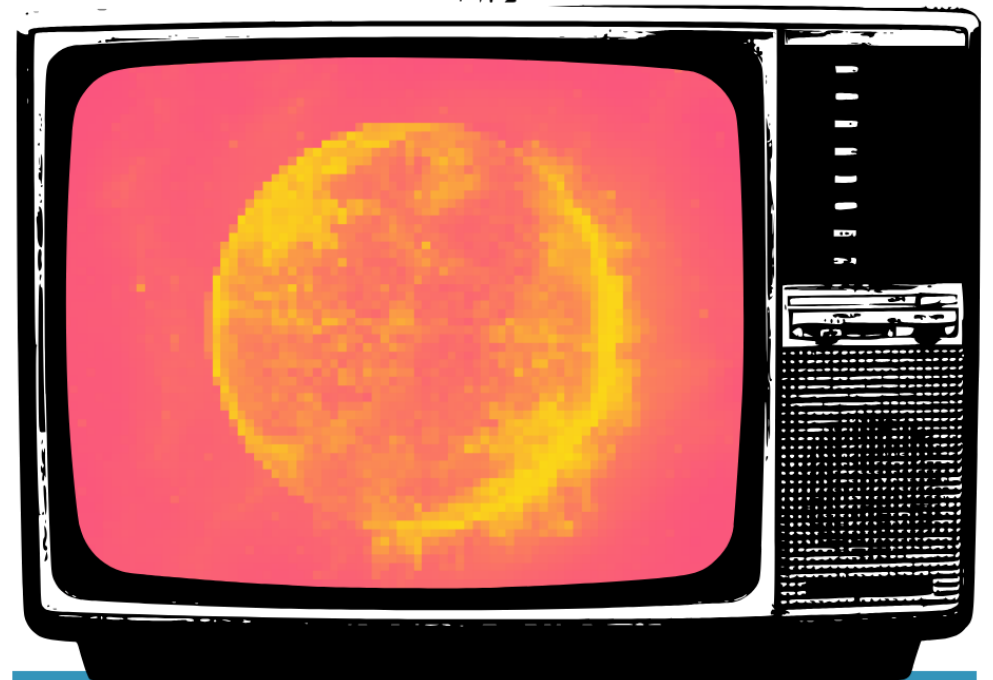
Friday

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BAD NEWS

THE AGE OF
ENDINGS
EXHAUSTION
ACTIVISM
AND EVERY-
THING IN
BETWEEN





NEO-FASCISM 2.0

THE NEW FAR RIGHT

HOW TECHNOLOGY IS POWERING

By Luise Lichtenstein and Alexander Zain Ellahi v.d. Schulenburg

In recent years, countries throughout Europe have shifted to the right amidst crises like the pandemic, the Russian war in Ukraine, and increasing inflation. This trend has been primarily observed among young people below the age of thirty, and democratic parties are struggling to find a functioning method to win back those lost to extremist parties. Notably, the United States under President Donald Trump have openly introduced fascist ideas in everyday political life.

This contemporary rise of neo-fascism reflects a deep crisis of trust in liberal democracy. Economic instability, rapid globalization, and social media echo chambers have amplified fears about national identity and economic security. Right-wing populist movements across Europe—ranging from Italy's Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia) to France's National Rally (Rassemblement National) and the Alternative for Germany (Alternative für Deutschland)—capitalize on these fears, presenting themselves as defenders of "traditional values" and "national sovereignty."

In the United States, the "America First" movement carries similar rhetoric: distrust of internationalism, glorification of strong leadership, and disdain for perceived internal "enemies." Although it may differ in form from classical fascism of the 20th century, neo-fascism in today's democracies uses democratic institutions themselves to gain legitimacy, then systematically erodes them from within.

Technofascism

Technofascism is a type of fascism where traditional fascism and a new approach focused on technology are merged. The people supporting these opinions are technocrats, meaning technological experts, engineers and the like. These people then seize political power and use technology as the main support for their agenda and opinion.

An example from the past are technocratic reformers in pre-war Japan. They believed technological solutions were a necessity to solve societal problems and to achieve long standing national goals, like the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, the prosp-

ect of a Japanese-led agglomeration of nations or another goal which was resource acquisition and was to get more natural resources from regions they wanted to conquer to support their industrial and military expansion.

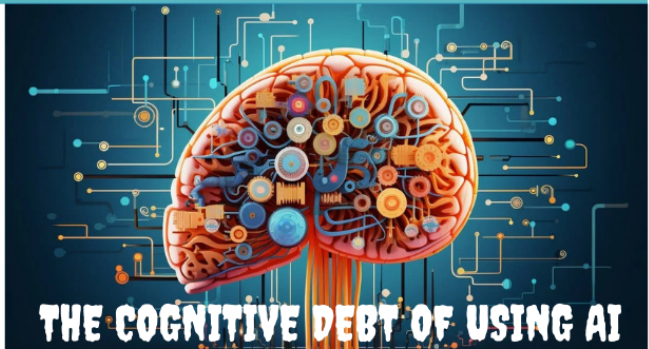
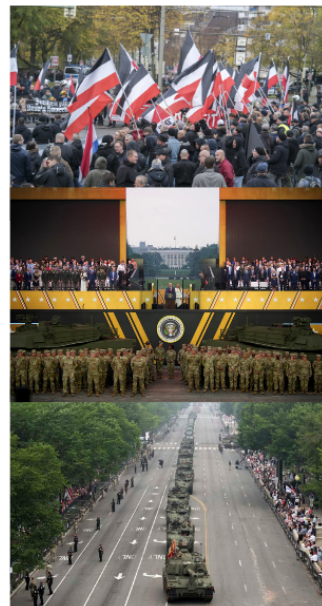
But technofascism is not chained to the past, in today's world, Silicon Valley leaders in politics incorporate their technological professions into the government. For example, the government body DOGE has gotten access to private data of American people and has managed to create a tool to send emails to the complete federal government of the USA, which is an insane amount of emails that DOGE sent with AI softwares like Grok, that are linked to Musk's AI companies. A historian called Janis Mimura put it this way "You try to apply technical concepts and rationality to human beings and human society, and then you're getting into something almost totalitarian."

While neo-fascism relies on nationalist myths and authoritarian politics, technofascism introduces a subtler, data-driven form of domination. Surveillance capitalism, algorithmic manipulation, and the monopolisation of information by a few global corporations create conditions where individual freedoms can erode without open violence.

Governments and private companies increasingly use technology to influence public opinion—through data analytics, targeted propaganda, and behavioural prediction. When combined with authoritarian ideologies, this technological control forms a powerful weapon against democracy.

The fusion of populist politics and technological power presents a new and dangerous evolution of fascist tendencies. Far-right movements use online platforms to spread disinformation, recruit followers, and cultivate a sense of belonging that mirrors fascist community-building. Meanwhile, technology experts with political ambitions can reinforce undemocratic tendencies through control of digital infrastructure, surveillance systems, or artificial intelligence governance.

In both Europe and the United States, the challenge lies in preserving democratic accountability while confronting both ideological and technological forms of authoritarianism. Education, media literacy, and strict regulation of tech monopolies are essential to prevent the gradual normalisation of fascist values in digital and political spheres alike.

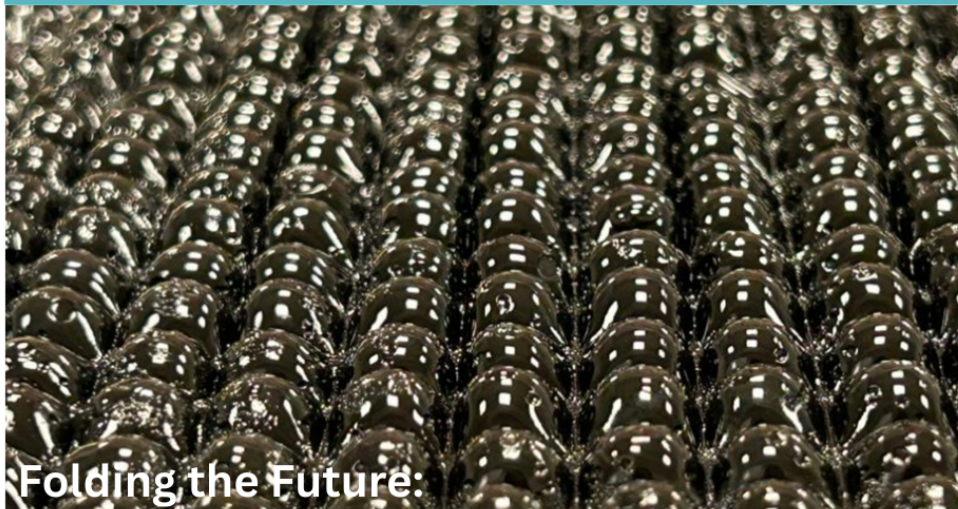


by Akkshath Chawla

Since computers and Google have come onto the scene, accessing any king of information has become easier. Google even gave birth to its own verb. You can google anything from "How does algebra work?" to your favourite music to advice on making money—just by sitting and looking at a computer screen. Fast forward to today—AI (Artificial Intelligence): It has a mind of its own. It can replace many jobs that required specialties. It can help you in your homework. It can do an endless number of things, and people use it a lot (according to accounting firm KPMG, two thirds of Germans use it in their daily lives). You can have a conversation with it. But it also has side effects, and in this article I will be talking about how AI affects your brain, mainly focusing on its effects on learning. No AI, by the way, was used in the writing of this article.

Your brain is largely affected in a negative way if you only use AI. This was the result by a recent study conducted by a team led by Nataliya Kosmyrna at MIT, which featured three groups: an AI group, a Search Engine group and a Brain only group. Each group had to write an essay. They used electroencephalography—a tool that measures brain activity. Each group's brain activity varied. The Brain only group had the most amount of activity, followed by the Search Engine group, and then lastly, the AI group. Next, they asked the AI group to use only their brains and the Brain only group to use AI. The AI group fell behind on neural connectivity (the systems in your brain that work on information and communication) and had poor memory recall from essays that they had written a few minutes before (second essay). The Brain only group was the complete opposite, displaying a significantly higher level of recall (in the second essay). This demonstrates that even if you use AI before, it will negatively affect your brain in the long term. But it wasn't just a question of plain memory. The authors of the study identified a "narrower set of ideas" that the AI-to-Brain group was able to discuss, revealing a shallow and weak understanding of the topics they had read about. They referred to this as "cognitive debt: a condition in which repeated reliance on external systems like LLMs replaces the effortful cognitive processes required for independent thinking." Further research will be needed, they emphasize, to confirm and determine the extent of this phenomenon.

In conclusion, AI can be used to help you, but it can also be used in a way which can have a negative impact. As shown in the experiment above, your memory worsens when you use AI, and if you use it too much you will become dependant on it and your brain, or at Kosmyrna at MIT, which featured three groups: an AI group, a Search Engine group and a Brain only group. Each group had to write an essay. They used electroencephalography—a tool that measures brain activity. Each group's brain activity varied. The Brain only group had the most amount of activity, followed by the Search Engine group, and then lastly, the AI group. Next, they asked the AI group to use only their brains and the Brain only group to use AI. The AI group fell behind on neural connectivity (the systems in your brain that work on information and communication) and had poor memory recall from essays that they had written a few minutes before (second essay). The Brain only group was the complete opposite, displaying a significantly higher level of recall (in the second essay). This demonstrates that even if you use AI before, it will negatively affect your brain in the long term. But it wasn't just a question of plain memory. The authors of the study identified a "narrower set of ideas" that the AI-to-Brain group was able to discuss, revealing a shallow and weak understanding of the topics they had read about. They referred to this as "cognitive debt: a condition in which repeated reliance on external systems like LLMs replaces the effortful cognitive processes required for independent thinking." Further research will be needed, they emphasize, to confirm and determine the extent of this phenomenon.



Folding the Future:

How Origami-Inspired Hydrogels Could Transform Arid Climates

By Aylin Gaziyeva

Imagine converting desert air directly into clean drinking water – no pipes, no electricity, and no active human help. This is exactly what MIT engineers were able to implement: a window-sized origami-inspired hydrogel panel that passively harvests water from air, even in extreme environments like the Death Valley, the driest area in North America.

The prototype includes a half-square-meter hydrogel, which is a soft, porous material made primarily of water and structured by a microscopic mesh of interconnected polymer fibers. Rather than keeping the hydrogel in a flat sheet, it has been formed into small dome-like shapes – comparable to black bubble wrap – to increase the gel's total surface area. Since the material naturally absorbs water vapor from the air, a larger surface area allows it to capture even more moisture from the surrounding environment.

Aside from that, the atmospheric water harvester includes a glass chamber encasing the hydrogel. The outer surface of this glass is coated with a special polymer film that passively

cools the glass.

The process of how air is turned into drinkable water is quite fascinating: It begins with the hydrogel acting like a sponge, swelling as it absorbs water vapor – even in very dry conditions. Inside the hydrogel, this vapor naturally condenses into tiny amounts of liquid water, held within the gel's microscopic structure. As sunlight heats the hydrogel, the absorbed moisture turns back into vapor and touches the cooler glass surface above. When the moisture is released, the dome-shaped structures collapse in a folding motion, similar to origami. Because the glass is covered with the special polymer film, the water vapor is able to condense into liquid water. Finally, a simple tubing system installed collects the condensed water as it flows downward.

Another thing the engineers paid close attention to in their design was the salt content in the collected water. Other research groups have developed water harvesters using micro- or nano- porous hydrogels, which can absorb large amounts of water vapor thanks to embedded

salts—like lithium chloride—in the hydrogel. However, this design comes with a downside: during the water collection process, some of the salt can leak out, making the collected water too salty to drink without further filtration. To limit the amount of salt leaking out into the drinkable water the MIT team included glycerol within the hydrogel, a liquid substance that helps hold the salt in place within the gel, preventing it from crystallizing and eventually leaking out. In addition, the researchers designed the hydrogel with a carefully controlled internal structure that does not contain nanoscale pores—tiny openings through which salt particles could escape. As a result, the water collected from their system contained salt levels well within safe drinking standards, and was comparably purer than the water produced by the team's fellow groups.

Tests showed that even in low-humidity environments, the origami-shaped device could generate up to 160 milliliters of clean water per day. This may seem like a small amount; however, it is estimated that by installing several of these panels side by side in a compact vertical arrangement, it would be possible to provide enough drinking

water for an entire household.

All in all, what struck me the most about this invention is how it turns to something we often don't think of as a water source at all — the air around us. The Earth's atmosphere holds trillions of gallons of water vapor, and this water harvester proved to us that it is possible to turn water vapor from the air into drinkable water even in very dry climates like the desert.

INVITATION

Guest Contributions

Aylin's article is a guest contribution. Additionally to our standard newspaper team, we always welcome students who want to contribute to our newspaper for just one or two issues on a topic that they are passionate about. If you have a topic that really interests you, don't hesitate to reach out to us or stop by during our weekly meetings on Mondays and Tuesday at 4:15 pm. in 301!

Monday & Tuesday—4:15 pm., 301
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In recent years, both rural and urban areas all around the world have been affected by a multitude of dangerous changes resulting from global warming, including devastating floods, more frequent heat waves and a gradually increasing but nonetheless alarming loss of biodiversity. Natural disasters related to climate change lead to the displacement of up to 250 million people annually, and in many places, the number of heat-related deaths is rapidly increasing. At the same time, as news across all topics is becoming increasingly pessimistic, people isolate themselves from the outside world, turning to social media and the digital world in an attempt to escape the world's problems. Cities, once seen as places with unlimited opportunities, have become empty concrete jungles where people live side by side, yet all alone.

Yes, the problems of previous generations that we are now left to deal with are a huge burden for today's youth—but we must not forget that they are also unique opportunities

How Green Cities Can Save Our Planet



By Luise Lichtenstein

As COP30, the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, comes to an end with no new approaches or agreements, we are left to wonder what will become of the future of our planet. The simple and yet underestimated (and often forgotten) act of planting a tree might be just the solution we need to get global climate action started.

that allow us to shape our own future and create a world just like we always imagined it. If I told you that there is a solution for many of today's problems at hand already, would you agree?

Amidst the endless flow of devastating news, we often fail to see the small positive changes that have been implemented around the world to combat climate change. We forget about the impact that every single one of us can make—simply by planting a tree or two. That is the magic solution I hinted at earlier. Of course, it is not magic, and it will still require a lot of effort, but it has proven to be a simple and promising solution.

Take a look at China, for example. When I visited its capital, Beijing, for the first time this summer, I expected to arrive in a city with significant air pollution, one skyscraper next to the other, not a single tree to be found anywhere. However, I encountered a city built for the people instead, with trees lining nearly every street and parks available to all inhabitants for recreation or simply relaxing. It seemed like the trees were inviting me to take a stroll around the neighborhood. I later learned that the Chinese government

introduced a five-year plan in 2021 calling on the cities to provide citizens with more trees and parks, not only to improve the nation's carbon footprint, but also to encourage physical activity. One might say this is a 2-for-1 solution.

When I returned to Germany, I suddenly realised that Berlin was nowhere near Beijing in terms of urban green spaces, and that many public spaces seemed like concrete jungles rather than welcoming people to spend time outside. Not to mention the almost unbearable heat between asphalt and brick walls in the streets, which was lower than in Beijing, but felt like when you open a pre-heated oven to prepare dinner.

While the Global South will be most affected by climate change in the coming years and decades; it currently is Europe where average temperatures are rising the fastest, according to the European Union's Copernicus program. So, how are things going in Europe?

Paris has been one of the most important cities in Europe and throughout the world for centuries. It is home to an impressive collection of

networks, arguably the city where the modern parliamentary system originates from, and a city with many inventions and impressive architecture. It is therefore unsurprising that it has taken on a leading role in Europe's fight to combat climate change. The Paris Agreement of 2015, in which the countries of the world agreed to prevent global warming of above 1.5°C, was just the beginning. The same year, the people of Paris elected Anne Hidalgo as mayor and within a decade, car traffic and pollution decreased by 40% and emissions dropped by 25%. What is Mayor Hidalgo's secret recipe? Well, where do you even start? Some of the changes made by Hidalgo were rather expensive, such as the renovation of over 300 buildings or the construction of 550 km of new bike lanes. Many others, however, such as planting over 150,000 trees and opening new parks and gardens, required less money and time.

The benefits are plenty. More than any climate statistics are able to measure: people cycle to work, children walk to school in streets that are not accessible to cars; teenagers meet up with their friends in parks instead of scrolling through social media or alone; the city feels like a city made for its people and not one focused on cars or profit. Paris' environmental transition is the best example of how climate change resistance is never just a policy for the planet, but also for its people and their wellbeing, both mental and physical. A 3-for-1 solution, you might say.

Climate change shows us the extent to which the planet, nature, the oceans, the animals and ecosystems, and we as humans are all connected. Countries in the Global North neglect the issue and claim they are waiting for future technologies to fix it, while countries in the Global South often lack the resources to combat climate change or at least mitigate its effects. Why should we wait for the technologies of tomorrow if we can redesign, retrofit and rebuild our cities today—anywhere in the world?

Any positive changes that we implement on our way to reaching net-zero emissions is inevitably a positive change for the people of our planet. Let us see change not as a challenge, but as a chance!



I know that we have recently only been hearing bad news everywhere; Trump is president, so many animal species are going extinct because of us, war is happening everywhere, climate change is melting the icebergs and tests are coming up as well!

It's important to not only focus on the shady side of the street, but on the sunny one too. So, let's just take a moment to talk about something positive that has happened to the world this year, and take a break from all those worries.

Ok, so I made all of that build up for what fact? Well, guess what, THE ATLANTIC SALMON HAVE RETURNED TO THE RIVER DON AFTER T-W-O H-U-N-D-R-E-D Y-E-A-R-S!!!! The River Don, which flows in both South Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire (England) has been a classic example of the terrible impact humans can have on the environment around them over generations. But now the Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT), which has been leading the fight to bring Atlantic Salmon back to these waters for the last 35 years, is finally finding the first fruits of their labor swimming in the Don!

Atlantic Salmon are amazing *anadromous* creatures (*meaning they migrate to spawn babies). They make trips of about 8050 km TWICE in their lives, from their birth rivers to the Atlantic Ocean, where they mature and grow, and then back to their rivers to spawn.

Until the 18th and 19th century, the River Don in England was one of

those precious cradles for Atlantic salmon to breed.

Then humans came along and ruined everything (of course) with their (well, our) pollution and dams and other man-made structures, which kept the salmon from being able to come in or live in those waters. So much so that the salmon brood had no chance of ever surviving or even being born in the first place.

There was no trace of the salmon breeding in those waters for two centuries, so, the DCRT got to work installing fish passes and digging little crevices for the smolts (*young salmon) to hide in, in the weirs (*like mini dams that allow the water to flow on top as well). The crevices were necessary to make the smolts less likely to be eaten by predators on their way to the Atlantic Ocean; it gives them little nooks to hide in.

All of these procedures (and there are definitely more) amounted to success! It started off with only yearly visits from the underwater critters and slowly improved until it got to the circumstances it is in now: not perfect but always ameliorating.

A condition apparently good enough for smolts to have been found hanging around in the River Don this September.

They detected it using electrofishing, a supposedly, "safe, non-lethal method of surveying fish populations", which stuns fish for just enough time to be able to count and make good observations on them (according to DCRT).

It was such a shock to all who worked on this great project, that a trustee and director of the DCRT said, "Its recovery is beyond my wildest expectations - and the discovery of this salmon parr is the culmination of my life's work." (-Chris Firth)

Can you imagine working on something so big it took 35 years, and then seeing that the first results of your efforts are this tiny tiny fish. I don't know if I would be proud or embarrassed. KIDDING OF COURSE

This is obviously AWSOME NEWS and I'm sooooo excited to see what will happen next in the science community. If your like me and you can't wait at all, then lucky you, you don't have to! Try heading over the internet to look up some good things that happened recently, they don't even have to be science related. It will make you feel better, I swear, and if it doesn't you can always try watching some cat videos. That could also help.

Otherwise stay safe and have a nice day!!!



by Nike Krückeberg

You, the person currently reading this article, have access to clean water and a bathroom. Everyone in this school probably does. Then it is a shock to hear that 1 out of 3 people in the whole world (at random) do NOT have that luxury. This particular problem is also in one of the many UN Sustainability Development Goals, Number 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION.

Yes, this worldwide problem is horrible and often found in countries, such as Niger, Papua New Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad.

This issue can be caused by sewage discharges, industrial waste, soil erosion, bacteria and decaying organic matter.

While Germany mainly filters out all of this, other countries cannot. This deprives them of the essential need for life - water, clean water. While all water in Germany is drinkable, not everyone has access to the sink which gives them that. Countries like Italy have solved this problem. In every city in Italy you'd visit, you will find Nasoni, free taps in the streets giving out drinkable water. Not only is this great for tourists to refill their waterbottles, but also for local families, market salesmen, pets and of course homeless people.

Italy isn't the only country who does this. Paris, New York and other contries follow the same example. Not only does the world offer these taps as a solution - currently, while you read this article governments and teams worldwide work against this problem! For example, the

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Water Sanitation & Accessibility

UN itself work against this. There is also an organisation that calls themselves Generosity.org which currently delivers clean water to Uganda, India, Haiti and Ghana. Another team would be Blood:Water. They try to end the water and HIV/AIDS crises in countries of Africa. Not did they provide clean water to a million people in eleven countries, they also try to provide toilets and bathrooms. Charity:Water is one of the largest organisations trying to solve this problem. This team has funded over 38000 water projects that affected over 9.6 million people on Earth!

While these fascinating teams continue to solve water and sanitation problems, you may wonder what WE can do (except joining water teams yourself). The truth is, even the biggest fire comes from a small spark. In other words, even small actions can result in something big. Showering instead of bathing, for example. Or remembering not to waste water and turn off the tap or finish your glass. Imagine: people in Ghana (for example) would cherish a glass of water and drink it until the end. Did you leave your water glass only half empty this morning? I know I do sometimes. Knowing of this problem makes water shift a bit in perspective, it makes it more important and valuable.

Water is valuable, in fact, there is only a limited amount of it. Glaciers are melting faster, and giving water. While

it rains either never or too much, this water is re-used, as you probably learned in second grade. In fact, the water you may be drinking right now may be over a million years old! That's right. An ancient animal might have been drinking the water you drink right now!

To end this article, I will end with a famous quote from Gandhi: "The earth, the air, the land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So, we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us." - Gandhi



The Story of Penguins Sphen and Magic

by Alma Schnitger

Last year in August, a Gentoo penguin called Sphen from the Sea Life Sydney Aquarium, died at the ripe age of 11 years. Sphen was the longtime partner of another male Gentoo penguin called Magic, since 2018. He was also the adoptive father of Sphengic (the penguin was renamed Lara) and Clancy Carpenter. Let's talk a little bit about why this death brought so many people to tears (including myself).

The couple first met in 2018 and were regularly seen swimming and waddling around with each other right before breeding season. When it finally came, Sphen presented Magic with a special pebble picked out by none other than himself – which is basically Penguin for, "will you marry me?" (Well, scientifically speaking it's how males usually ask females to mate and build a nest, because penguins can't marry, but you get the idea!) They built a nest bigger than all the others and were given a fake egg to take care of. The aquarium reported that, "they were absolute naturals and displayed great care for their egg." In fact, this led the aquarium to swapping the fake egg for a real one! No worries though, no eggs were stolen from parents without justification. Gentoo penguins usually lay two eggs in case the first dies, so when the egg was taken from the other penguin couple, it was barely noticed. This first chick was dubbed 'Sphengic' by the public while still unborn but officially named Lara by the aquarium once it hatched and the gender was known. A second egg, which was adopted from another penguin couple struggling to raise two eggs at the same time, followed the next breeding season. This was Clancy. They faced no issues caring for the eggs because male and female Gentoo penguins anyways take turns taking care in the wild, so there were no missing shoes to fill. When Sphen died, the penguin caretakers brought his body to Magic to tell him his partner had passed on. Magic started singing in grief and the other penguins did so too, soon after. During their time together, they had been major icons in the Australian pride movement and were featured in countless books, a few documentaries, a float at Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and in the Netflix series Atypical. Many tears were shed following Sphen's death.

Why did I just write 300 words about

gay penguins? Well, I found it interesting that homosexuality exists not just in humans, but in animals as well. Every living organism's main goal is to reproduce, in one way or another. Why is it that these penguins decided to pair up with someone of the same sex (meaning they wouldn't be able to reproduce)? Doesn't this go against what they are genetically coded to do? I have nothing against it — I'm just curious why two male penguins would pair up if it doesn't aid survival, since penguins are social but don't think or feel like humans. I am not saying they don't form bonds; science has proven that penguins can form strong lasting bonds, companionships and do feel emotions. They just do not experience or pair up because of the same feeling we humans define as 'love' – in the wild, it's reproduction, not romance, that drives survival. (AGAIN, NOTHING AGAINST GAY PEOPLE! I'M JUST REALLY CURIOUS AND LOVE BIOLOGY!)"

It can't be some genetic mutation – Sphen and Magic aren't unique. Same-sex penguin couples have been observed worldwide, like Skipper and Ping, a King penguin couple from Germany in 2019 (that's here!).

It doesn't even stop at penguins – same-sex sexual interactions have been recorded in over 1,500 species, from dragonflies to bonobo monkeys and even elephants! The scientific reasoning or theory varies for each case and animal. For example, in some cases, male toads mistook male frogs for female toads because they look very similar.

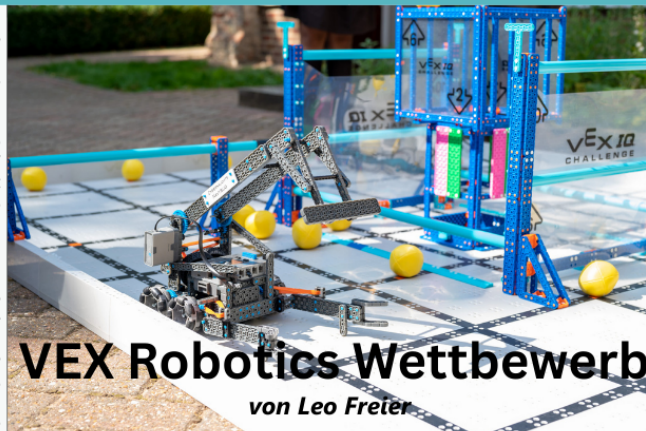
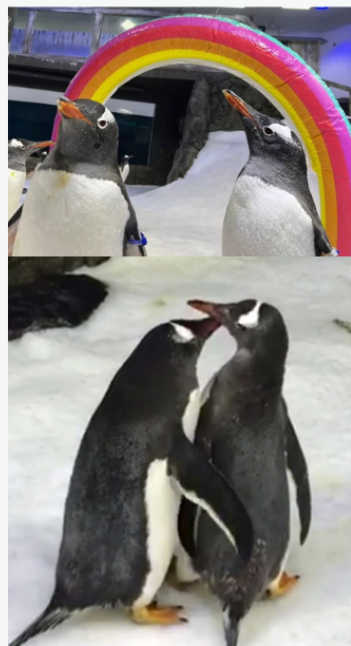
Another general theory is anthropomorphism — the idea that human influence is affecting animal behavior. There are many other theories specific to different species, but I'm not going to list them all. Many other species of animal and insects have likely shown same-sex sexual behavior (SSSB), but for a long time, researchers overlooked it because they deemed it unimportant. Now, with newer generations growing up in more accepting environments (though not in all countries), scientists are giving SSSB more attention and hope to uncover clearer, more accurate explanations. (For example the first and currently only documentation of Humpback whales mating was documented in 2022 by

Lyle Krannichfeld and Brandi Romano.) Maybe this research will one day explain why Magic and Sphen paired up. As of now, there's no clear answer – like with the frogs.

Anyway, moral of the story: "If you like someone, give them a pebble." JUST KIDDING! The real takeaway is that homosexuality isn't unique to humans but found in animals too. It's a normal part of nature and just how things are.

If you are interested in this topic and want to read more, I can only recommend you read the book *Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality* written by Eliot Schreier and illustrated by Jules Zuckerberg.

If you just wanna look at cute pictures of Magic and Sphen to fawn over them, (no judgements I did it too), then you can just go on the Sea Life Sydney Aquarium website and look up their names. A final recommendation I have about this topic is to take a look at an article called *The evolution of same-sex sexual behaviour in mammals* by José M. Gómez, A. González-Megías & M. Verdú.



Seit 5 Monaten läuft der neue Wettbewerb von Vex Robotics. Auch dieses Jahr machen die BCS Teams wieder mit. Bei diesem Wettbewerb müssen die Roboter immer eine Aufgabe lösen. Meistens ist es so, dass sie ein Objekt auf einem Feld wieder ablegen müssen. Am Ende müssen wir noch eine Sonderaufgabe machen, zum Beispiel Klettern oder Parken.

Für die Primary Teams (IQ) heißt der Wettbewerb „Mix and Match“. Dort war meine Idee, dass die Roboter das Feld wieder aufräumen müssen. Als dann am 14. Mai der Wettbewerb stattfand, stimmte meine Idee nur so halb. Im Wettbewerb müssen die Roboter Beans und Pins auf ein aufeinanderstapeln und dann wieder irgendwo hinglegen. Die Roboter haben 60 Sekunden um auf einem 15,24 x 20,32 Feld so viele Punkte wie möglich zumachen. Außerdem arbeiten sie hier zusammen, um die Punkte zu bekommen. An den vier Ecken gibt es Ladezonen, in die man diese Stapel hineinlegen kann. Außerdem gibt es in der Mitte das „Standoff Goal“. Wie man schon vom Namen ableiten kann, ist das ein Ziel, das sehr hoch ist. Wenn man es schafft, eine Pins und Beans Kombination noch dorthin hochzuheben, bekommt man 120 Punkte. Das heißt, der Roboter muss schnell die Pins auf sammeln und vielleicht noch mit einem Bean verbinden und dann noch irgendwo hinbringen. Das alle dürfen sie nur mit sechs Motoren machen.

Für die Secondary Teams (V5) heißt der Wettbewerb „Push Pack“. Dort hatte ich noch keine so richtige Idee, was die

was die Roboter machen müssen. Als diese dieser Wettbewerb am 8. Mai stattfand, war ich sehr verblüfft. Hier müssen die Roboter sechseckige Objekte von einer Position nehmen und dann in eine offene Tube hineinbefördern. Die vier Roboter haben zwei Minuten Zeit auf einem 4 x 4 Meter großen Feld so viele Punkte zuzubekommen wie möglich. Aber hier spielen zwei Zweier-Teams mit den Farben Rot und Blau gegeneinander, um für sich so viele Punkte ergattern und der anderen Mannschaft, wenn möglich keine Punkte mehr übrigzulassen. Das heißt hier spielt die Strategie eine noch wichtigere Rolle als bei „Mix and Match“. Diese Objekte liegen auf dem Feld oder können von einem Loader, der an den vier Ecken steht rausgenommen werden. Dann befördert man diese Objekte in die unterschiedlichen Goals: einmal die zwei Long Goals, die an den Seiten das Spielfeld stehen. Diese Goals sind auch die höchsten. Dann gibt es in der Mitte noch das Center Goal. Das sind zwei Goals in einem, einmal das Obere und das untere. Wie wird das den ausgehen, wird es Kampf oder Strategie geben?

Die BCS Teams sind auch schon fleißig am Roboter bauen. Die wichtigen Daten für die BCS Teams sind ein mal der Januar für die Berliner Meisterschaft für IQ und für V5 gibt es die Vorbereitung für die Deutschen Meisterschaften. Im Februar sind dann die Deutschen Meisterschaften für IQ und V5.



On the 29th of September, I interviewed three of my fellow 7th Graders about a very interesting project of theirs. A full BCS movie! Casted, filmed and written in the BCS hallways. Helen Rödler, Octavia Roth and Johanna Bohg let me interview them about their iconic school movie, called "Chaos at School". The following answers come from all three movie makers, who answered my questions in person.

Interview by Nike Krückeberg

First of all, what is your movie called?

Our movie is called 'Chaos at School'.

What made you think of the plot?

Well, we thought of the story, like, two years ago. No, three years ago! The three of us, plus one of our friends, were on a sleepover, and we wanted to film a movie. And then we just thought about something that we could film with four girls. And then we just... started planning and filming!

Can you explain the plot of "Chaos at School"?

The plot of chaos at school is about two girls (Anna and Elle) that have a pretty funny school life. They try complete crazy things in their school for example pushing each other around in boxes. Anna is very mean to teachers and always tries to send unfriendly messages to them on fake accounts. Her oral grades are therefore very poor. Her written grades, though, are great - she gets 100 percent on every test or quiz she writes - but because the teachers don't like her, they give her threes and fours on every exam. Elle is the complete opposite, she is really nice and engaged in school and is an angel to teachers, therefore the teachers love her and although she gets pretty poor scores on her exams they give her the best grades. She also always snitches on Anna when she pranks teachers. Halfway through the

movie a new student (Josh) joins the class, and every girl falls in love with him. Elle and Anna as well but when the teachers start to like him more than Elle and start giving her poor grades and him better grades Elle starts to hate Josh. She tries everything to ruin his life, but it always backfires for example, she burns down his quiz but Josh thanks her because it was his worst. Near the end of the movie, Elle catches Josh smoking and drinking alcohol. She tells Anna and the teachers but only Anna believes her. At the end Anna and Elle become best friends and convict Josh.

Who did you cast? Was it only your grade and what were the people judged upon?

It was just our grade, and we pretty much signed up anybody who came. We needed a headmistress, a few teachers, many students, the main students and we pretty much found a role for everyone at some point.

Who of you three or your crew is in charge of what? Who wrote the plot, who casted....
Like, we all made and wrote the plot and casted together. Octavia is in charge of filming and edits it all. All three of us are in the movie and the casting we did together.

Have you made movies before?

We made a movie called "Timecut"; we re-filmed the original version at

camp school. Timecut is an intense horror movie. We started "Mean Girls", which was also re-made. We also completed our own movie called "The Hooded Killer of Torstrasse".

What movies have inspired you?

Well, I think Timecut and Mean Girls inspired us (that's why we re-filmed them), because we were really interested and fascinated by the characters and the plot. We could really feel inside the characters and such...

Do you have a strict script you stick to, or do you improvise while filming?

We usually improvise, but we want to try to, like, write down everything and we're going to make a real script.

Do you get dressed up for filming?

Yes, sometimes. For example, the teacher has to wear a hat and a sweater that we have. And also, Josh has a cap and wig that we keep in school. We also have a second wig that we have if we want to change people's appearances.

Who do you plan on showing your movie?

We usually always show new movies to our grade and our parents. We never had the intention to publish them.

Why do you even film movies like "Chaos at School"?

We film movies because of our own interests. We love getting into new roles and characters, having new ideas for exciting stories to film. It is just very fun for us.

Thank you for sharing!



Teacher Interview

with Mr. Thach

What inspired you to become a teacher?

My grade 10 history teacher inspired me. Not only did he bring the subject alive in a way I hadn't experienced before, but he also seemed to be having an amazing time doing so. I also wanted to have that experience and can say that it was worth it!

What profession would you choose if you weren't a teacher?

I'd probably be a lawyer or a stock trader.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

A great teacher is someone who can help us see the world in ways we hadn't previously imagined, but also one who brings out the best in us.

What was your least favourite subject in school?

Art

What's the most rewarding part of being a teacher?

Watching you students change your perspective on things as you explore more of the world around you.

What advice would you give to students struggling in school?

I'd say divorce your sense of self-worth from your school. This part is hard because for many of you, your school life is almost all that you know. But doing well in school--and particularly at a gymnasium--is a skill and talent like any other. No one should define themselves by any one particular skill.

Do you have any pets, family, or siblings?

My wife is also a teacher in Berlin. My father lives back in Canada.

Which languages do you speak?

English, French, German, and a bit of Japanese.

What are your hobbies?

I love playing video games, reading, and hiking.

What's your favorite movie or series?

My favourite series I've seen recently was Interior Chinatown.

If you could teach any other subject, what would it be and why?

I think I teach enough subjects as is.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

If I didn't have to work, I'd live in London or Tokyo. If I still had to work for a living, Vienna or Strasbourg.

What's your favorite song or artist?

Nickel Creek

Do you have a favorite holiday or festival?

The summer

Who are your favorite teacher friends?

I'm quite partial to my colleagues in the SST and English department as well as Ms. Heinrich.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

'I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of use to oneself.'

What would your autobiography be titled?

A Funny Story

von Livia Korges

Connor Reeves ist 14 Jahre alt, als er seine erste Mission als Bodyguard beginnt. Seine Aufgabe: die Tochter des Präsidenten zu schützen, welche jedoch bereits mehrmals dem Secret Service entwischt ist und deshalb nicht merken darf, dass Connor Reeves kein neuer Freund von ihr, sondern ein von ihrem Vater engagierter Bodyguard ist, dessen Aufgabe es ist, sie zu beschützen, was sich als schwieriger herausstellt als gedacht.

Ich finde das Buch sehr gut, da es spannend war und leicht zu lesen. Die Figuren haben sich im Laufe der Geschichte weiterentwickelt, was das Buch noch interessanter macht. Insgesamt finde ich das Buch lesenswert, da die Geschichte noch in anderen Bänden fortgesetzt wird.

Rezension

Autor: Chris Bradford

Verlag: cbj

Seitenzahl: 480

Ich würde das Buch ab zwölf Jahren empfehlen, da es zwar, wie in fast jedem Action Buch auch, in manchen Szenen Gewalt gibt, welche aber besonders im ersten Band noch nicht so ausführlich beschrieben und dargestellt wird. Insgesamt würde ich das Buch mit 4/5 bewerten und es für Leute empfehlen, die sich für Action interessieren.

