

ISSUE 22

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THE
AKADEMIEIA
POST

EDITOR'S NOTE

Another year of writing the last editor's note before the summer break. This one always feels like a send-off. Send-off into rest, into play, into adventures, into putting all you've learned into practice, all you've become into action. Send-off beyond the walls of our school – an encounter which often confronts our mundane rhythms with the larger currents of life itself.

In the AP newsroom we have been discussing the fact that less and less people read newspapers. Yet, we still research, interview, write, and publish. Perhaps the act itself is our radical statement of hope. If you are reading this, thank you for participating in our community in this intentional way. We do think that these slow acts of engagement matter and more so, prepare us for the aforementioned currents of life beyond our community. The way you offer yourself in the immediate reality shapes the way you offer yourself in general. And by the same token, how the world will reveal itself to you. Enjoy all its layers.

Read and Belong,
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MEET THE TEAM!

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Front Cover: A. Zeszuta

Back Cover: A. Zeszuta

AHS GRADUATION 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!!



PIZZA, PASTA & DIPLOMACY

AHS TAKES OVER THE YALE UNIVERSITY MUN

Kesaria Nakani

In March, Akademeia's Model United Nations (MUN) team travelled to Rome, Italy for the prestigious Yale Model United Nations Europe XV Conference – marking one of the biggest academic milestones for our school this year.

Our journey to Rome started all the way back in October 2025 when several Akademeia students, including myself, tried our luck for the heavily competitive position of Assistant Director for YMUNE. Six students, from both 5th and 6th form, were given a chance to serve as ADs in several committees at the conference.

Apart from becoming the official team members for the Yale MUN organization all the way back in New Haven, Connecticut, several other Akademeia students managed to secure delegate positions in various committees across the conference, ranging all the way from United Nations Environmental Program to Specialization Crisis committees of fictional worlds, such as the Hunger games and Star wars.

AKADEMEIA'S DELEGATION

Assistant Directors: Kesaria, Zuza, Lena, Nadia, Wiktorja, Zofia

Delegates: Lena, Maksimilian, Jesús, Natalia, Nina, Pola, Misha.



DAY 1 – 'ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME'

Our 5-day diplomatic adventure started off at the Chopin airport from where we flew to Rome and began our unforgettable adventure.

Despite being greeted by the torrential rain and ignored by Italian bus drivers in the middle of the street, we still made the most of our first day exploring the city. We visited the iconic Colosseum and the ancient Roman Forum, basking in history before the conference duties began.

On the same day we had a chance to briefly meet with other Assistant Directors as well as the students from Yale in person for the first time ever, allowing us to get to know one another, discovering what life is like at Yale and what are our expectations from this conference, marking a start to the one of the most memorable AHS trips yet.

DAY 2 - CONFERENCE BEGINS

The first official conference day opened with a ceremony and an introduction to the Yale team. Walking into our first committee sessions was genuinely exciting; we were meeting delegates, ADs, participants from all over the world and Chairs from Yale, while being surrounded by many international schools. Delegations had come from all over Europe (France, Italy, Poland and more), Latin America (Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia) and North America. The scale of the competition was immediately clear, and it set the tone for what we knew would have to be our best effort.



Formal debating began, with delegates working on drafting resolutions and building relationships with peers from other schools. The day also included a packed programme of side events: networking sessions with various companies, workshops, and a Q&A with Yale students that gave us a fascinating glimpse into life at the university. The day was wrapped up with a social and a formal dance. It was an active context to connect with fellow delegates outside the committee room.

**DAY 3 - THE FINAL RESOLUTION**

The last day of YMUNE opened with a General Assembly, where committees presented their resolutions on a range of pressing global issues. Delegates debated and voted on a larger stage, with resolutions subjected to further scrutiny and discussion. Then came the awards ceremony, and this is where Akademeia truly exceeded all expectations. We knew our team was strong, but the results went beyond what any of us had predicted.

OUR WINNERS:

Lena Szlaga (Y11) – Honorable Mention, EU Committee

Maksymilian Rosiński (Y11) — Outstanding Delegate, Star Wars Crisis Committee

Jesús Álvarez Ruiz (Y11)— Best Delegate, UN Environment Programme

After dominating the closing ceremony, we decided to wrap up the trip with a dinner together and a visit to the di Trevi fountain, ending our ‘roman holidays’ with Italian pasta and gelato.

INTERVIEW WITH THE BEST DELEGATE

As a top winner of the conference, here are some thoughts and advice Jesús shared with us:

Kesaria: How did you find working in such a competing environment? With over 60 people in your committee?

Jesús: While other shied away, I did my best to give the best arguments and participated a lot.



K: What do you think helped you stand out?

J: What do I think helped me stand out? Well, I was the best out of 52, so I think that I gave pretty good arguments. I was really political in my explanations and I feel like that's one of the best things. And then... Yeah, I was just Spanish. I'm just Spanish. It's the thing, you know, we're open, we're like that. And no one else was open, so...

K: What are some of the things that you learned from Yale MUN? Because you had a Yale student as your director. Did Chris [Johnson] tell you anything interesting about Yale University?



J: I learned that it's a really good university. And that there is a bird-watching club. That's the only thing that stayed in my mind. Quite literally. But I learned that it's really good institution, and that the campus is really nice.

K: As someone who doesn't want to go into politics, why are you doing MUN?

J: It just opens up my CV, it makes it wider and plus it's something I enjoy. It's not something just related to politics, in my opinion. It's just more debate than political, if you ask me. So, it's that I just I like it, I enjoy it, so why not continue?

K: Why would you recommend others to MUN?

J: Because it's fun. I mean, you have to have the guts to speak in public. Everyone's listening to you and making notes about what you're saying, so you have to have the guts. So, it's not for everyone. But you should still consider it because it's really fun and it's really engaging, and universities take that

really seriously.

K: What was your favorite memory from the trip?

J: The Colosseum.

K: In the draining rain?

J: Yeah, it was really fun. Or when I won the Best Delegate and I screamed '¡Vamos!'.

From Assistant Directors helping run the conference behind the scenes to delegates competing fiercely in highly competitive committees, Akademeia made its mark at one of Europe's most prestigious student diplomatic gatherings.

We all can agree that this trip was not only a success academically, filled with interesting discoveries and new professional environments but rather also filled with many memorable moments with our old or new friends, classmates and teachers.

Rome 2026 was, without a doubt, a trip to remember.



LEMOMATES' GREEK VICTORY

LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Jan Janczar & Leon Karpenko

The FIRST Lego League is an annual robotics competition, taking place all over the world. Each year, the FIRST Lego League selects a new theme to base the competition around. This season's theme was "Unearthed", focusing on archaeology. This year the Lemomates team made it all the way to the international championships in Greece and secured third place in the Innovation Project category.

The First Lego League is based on four main categories of ranking, each contributing to 25% of your team's score. These sections are the Innovation Project, Robot Games, Robot Design, and Core Values.

To do the innovation project your team is tasked with creating something new and original that could help the given theme/field, such as helping archaeologists in the given theme Unearthed.

Our Innovation project was a drill that could detect phosphorus underground through electric conductivity. This could help forensic archaeologists and police departments in locating human remains which they need as evidence for a court case. Currently, this is challenging for them, as the authorities don't really have the right tools at their disposal to do this efficiently.

Robot Design is essentially a presentation on how you created and refined your robot in order to prepare it for the Robot game. Our robot had 2 technic wheels in the back for power and precision, two steel balls in the front for reduced weight, and 2 color sensors which we didn't end up needing to use - our robot was precise enough.

The Robot game is a series of 15 missions on a table which your team's robot has to complete for points.

Each mission gives different amounts of points depending on difficulty and time to complete it. Our robot was also built to have attachments connected to it to complete the missions in the robot game, we had 7 of these attachments that each had their own run.

Here you can see our attachment for run 4: Core values are just a measure of how faithful you were to the competition's principles. These are teamwork, inclusion, innovation, and fun. We assume we did well in this section as we were kind, friendly and tried to provide inspiration to other teams, even doing a small mentoring project for a school in Krakow to teach them more about the FLL and to embolden their desire to be engineers.



MEET THE LEMOMATES

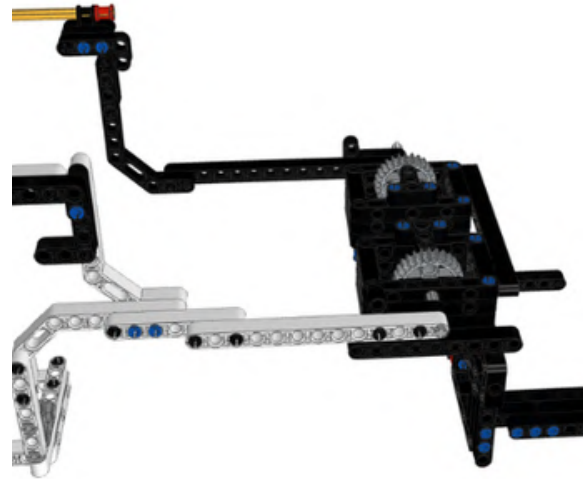
Team Captain: Zosia Rutkowska
Lead Programmer: Maks Rosinski
Lead Robot Builder: Maks Oskroba
Lead of Innovation project: Wiktoria Yu
Robot Builder: Jan Janczar
Programmer: Leon Karpenko



Before we drove over to the competition venue, our team took a few days to immerse ourselves in the Greek capital, Athens. We spent half of a very sunny day enjoying one of the many beaches in the Glyfada district of the city.

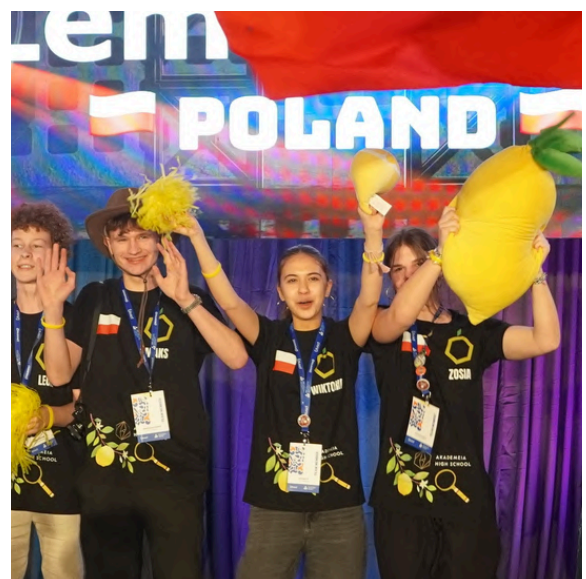
Another thing we did was go to the Acropolis and walk around the old Plaka district, which was an absolute must-visit for us.

The school team (the Lemomates) has attended international competitions for the past 4 years, the first of which was held in Morocco. This year, the team traveled to Greece for the FLL Open International Championship Greece



We were joined by 55 other teams from all over the world including ones from countries like Iceland, Brazil, New Zealand and even another Polish team. This time, we walked away with 3rd place in the Innovation Project category, which is the team's second ever international prize.

This marks a big milestone, as the team begins to gain more international experience and recognition. In the robot games we were able to attain 470 points, enough for 18th place to finish in that classification. With all this experience we are ready for next year and are happy to extend an invitation to join our team. (year 11 – year 9 next year only).



NUCLEAR PHYSICS

AHS & EA

Ahrin Kim

THE NUCLEUS OF THE PROGRAM

Science often feels like a solitary pursuit of equations and lab reports, but for four days this past April, it served as a bridge between cultures. In April, Akademeia hosted a nuclear physics program that brought together students from Poland and Greece. Between the 14th and 17th, our campus transformed into an international physics hub, as we welcomed a cohort of around 20 visiting students from the Ellinogermaniki Agogi (EA) School in Athens for an intensive extracurricular activity focused on nuclear physics.

The nuclear physics program, specially designed for Year 10 and 11 students, aimed to take physics outside the classroom and into a collaborative hands-on experience. Participants spent Thursday and Friday diving deep into the concepts of nuclear physics in the library and labs of Akademeia. Students had the opportunity to learn about radioactive emissions, medical imaging, related equipment and technology, and several practical works conducted under the professional supervision of Mr. Dariusz Aksamit.

Members stated that the program was a scaffolded learning approach that made it accessible to all levels of understanding. As a participant said, “In the beginning, the group started with simpler experiments, and later conducting more complex experiments,” such as constructing a radioactivity detector, measuring the change in radioactivity detected depending on the number of lead sheets between the detector and radioactivity, and calculating cosmic and terrestrial radiation.



OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Beyond the laboratory and lectures, in the beginning of the program, students had integrational activities where they could break the ice and share stories about each other's cultures, language, and schools, whilst touring Warsaw. The group visited the Maria Skłodowska-Curie museum and Centrum. This early connection set up a comfortable atmosphere for the remainder of the program, making it easier for the students to mingle and spend the school day together.

Participants strongly recommended this experience to other students; it was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of physics while developing international connections. By the time the workshop came to an end, the students were no longer ‘hosts’ or ‘visitors’, but rather a single team of passionate physicists.

DR. BAYNES' WATCHING

A CONVERSATION WITH THE SCHOOL'S BELOVED BIOLOGIST

Klara Bakić Pawlak

Last month, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr Baynes, a well-known and adored teacher in our school, in part because of his love for birdwatching. Through this insightful interview, I learnt about his passion, why he pursues it, some of the experiences he has enjoyed about practicing his hobby, its impact on his teaching, as well as a few words about his dream research project. In the following paragraphs you will find direct quotes from Dr Baynes, as well as my own reflections from the interaction.

**How did your love for birdwatching start?
What sparked your passion?**

Dr Baynes explained his passion came to him naturally and he doesn't have a clear answer as it wasn't as if there was one day in which he fell in love with birdwatching. "I've always been interested in creatures, in organisms, in the natural world. So, I started with dinosaurs and frogs and lizards, which I still adore, interchangeable almost with birds, as competing passions. I love these things."

It is common for people to be in love with reptiles and dinosaurs at first and gradually grow to liking birds, said Dr Baynes. He learned the same from his research supervisor who went through a similar experience. For Dr Baynes, it's strange that some people don't like birds.



"Why do I like birds? It's really hard to nail down that one. It's so hardwired. I can't get behind it. I can't, it's not like it was a decision that was taken. It just is; it almost seems innate. I know, it sounds a bit pretentious, but it ... seems innate. You know, I look at other people and I think, why aren't you interested in birds?" Dr Baynes says birds are "fabulous." His enthusiasm is both curious and infectious.

He also offers the clever thought that in fact "it could be birds, it could be frogs, and I think what they all have in common is that they're very enigmatic. You have no, real, like, control over them. They're not an extension of you. They're their own living life forces, so to speak, out there. They do their own thing, they evolve their own

way, and they hide in different habitats, and they have all these crazy forms and functions which you find completely unpredictable. I think it's that. I think it's the fact that it is something that is incredibly originally beautiful. I know you can have beautiful man-made things too, but [birds] are extra special to me.”

Dr Baynes makes the profound observation that birds are something you have to be interested in to understand the world as it is, because we truly won't ever understand those species or be able to put ourselves in their shoes.

Do you have a specific encounter with birds that you still cherish?

Dr Baynes found his passion for birds at a very young age. As a kid, he would go around his local lake reservoir. As he recalls, “It's very blessed to have this thing nearby, and I used to go nearly every night, and I used to walk around it. You know, very often I saw nothing, but occasionally I did see something special, and I think it was the feeling that I'd seen all the seasons and all the elements. And I was learning all about birds as well; It is wonderful this idea of movement and migration. And to see the movement of the birds and things and the change in species and sometimes in the unusual species, out of context.”

Two or three experiences of his birding experiences are particularly memorable and significant for him:

As a graduate researcher, Dr Baynes recalls his brief time in Borneo, in one of the world's oldest rainforests, where he enjoyed the spectacular nature.

He also describes one of his favourite birds to watch in Poland; namely, the Collared Flycatcher. He describes his watching this bird every year as “therapy” and goes out of his way for the opportunity. Breeding males are striking black and white with a complete white collar, large white wing patches, and a white forehead spot. Females and younger birds are grey, brown with pale underparts, distinguishable by a prominent white wing patch.

He finds these specific “black and white things in nature, especially with birds, work extremely well. The contrast between them, it's in the right proportions. And collared flycatcher, really ticks that box. It's a beautiful summer visitor to just the oldest forests. Of course, you have some really old forests here. It's just very special. So that's a really cool bird. I've got loads.” The enthusiasm, interest, and insight that Dr Baynes conveys in describing these creatures really shows his love for them and his passion hobby.

If you did not live in Poland, do you think you would have missed some key birding experiences that you have had?

“I've had a sort of like a renaissance bit. I fell back in love with birds. I had to period out when I was in education, where I was kind of estranged from it all. I'll be honest with you. I wasn't the keynote, the nerd that I used to be, but since being in Poland, I've fallen back in love with it, purely because I've seen birds in Poland.” Pointing to climate change and issues with habitat digression, he laments that you just

won't see as many birds nowadays in the UK.

How do you think that your passions such as bird watching affect your way of teaching?

Dr Baynes's passion for animals and birds does affect his teaching, although he does not always see this as something positive. He describes that he tries to show his wonder and use examples whenever he possibly can, no matter if the example is a frog or bird. Quoting the Nobel Prize winner who came to speak at our school, "As the gentleman said, it's about the wonder and I think it's very important to have the wonder. So, I see the wonder in these subjects, and of course, I think of these examples when I'm teaching."

In your daily work with students, have you ever had a student surprise you about his or her knowledge of birds?

Dr Baynes reveals a measure of disappointment with the youth's level of interest in natural history. He loves seeing students succeed with all the A*s, and the success in pursuing places at elite universities, but he also yearns for his student to find their love for evolution and ecology as he has done.



Your doctoral research was about mating behaviours among birds. How does your academic work effect your way of thinking about animal (and human) behaviour the perceived division of animals and humans? What is your view as a biologist?

"I always think humans are animals." From a scientific perspective, Dr Baynes views evolution as an explanation of the humbling reality of how connected humans are to everything. Humans are humbled by this because many humans in a way think they are superior to others but, in reality humans are a part of everything else in the world.

"We comply with all sorts of situations. Moreover, what I find lovely about biology. It reminds you of your insignificance, which is great in these days of ego. The shared ancestry of DNA between us and coconuts and slime moulds and cloud fish and everything in between; you know that shows where we belong as we're part of nature. I'm not going to go into sort of a hippie holistic thing, but I mean, that is really cool. We have this very, tangible, demonstrable link to all these different organisms. We're looking at the DNA heritage."



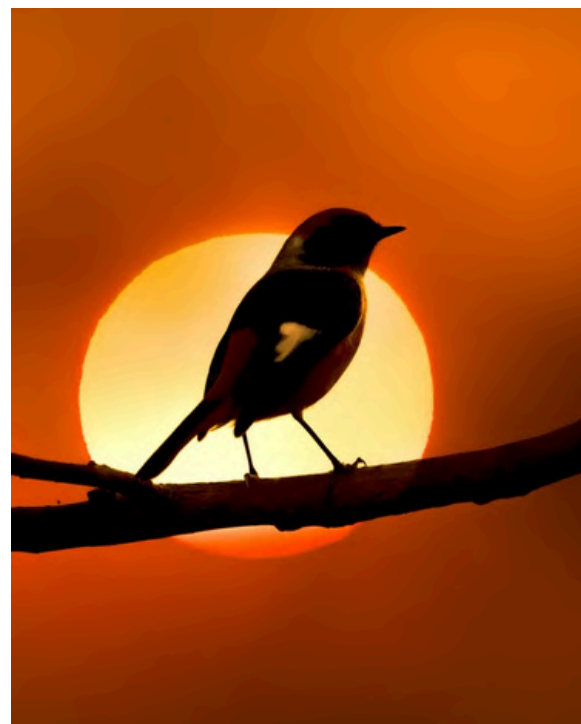
If you could design your dream research project with unlimited funding, what would it be?

“I would undertake research on community ecology and how species coexist. Creating the wallets, mixing it up, making it incredibly challenging. And the community structure. So, I wanted to see how each of these species respond to the frequency of use if you see what I mean. Because such a dynamic environment, I wanted to see how it can change community structure. I still think it would be a cool system to look into, and it could lead to many other questions, it is very fertile area, and I'd love to do that. But there are questions all the time.”

“If I were a different version of myself or had another lifetime, without getting too much into detail, my research would be on frogs, and it would focus on something called community ecology, and trying to explain how species coexist. I had this idea to carried out probably in Borneo or Sumatra, looking at a species of frog called Wallace's flying frog, which is wonderfully charismatic, um, an era and then frog species is beautiful.

And it lays its eggs in the most disgusting, little, turbid, wretched bodies of water called wallows, animal wallows, because stunning water is really rare in the rainforest.

They don't have big lakes. Contrary to what you might think, being very wet, don't have these standing pools of water. So, lots of these frogs gather and lay their eggs in these animal wallows. You've seen these wallows with mud, and they urinate in it, and they roll around, there's ticks in it. It's a pretty challenging environment. And this is the nursery for these frogs. I became extremely interested in this because I wanted to see the link between the usage of the megafauna and creating the wallows, mixing it up, making it very challenging, and the community structure. Wanting to see how the species respond to this environment.”



TO LEAVE OR TO CHANGE

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN HUNGARY

Helena Bruździak

A COUNTRY THAT'S HAD THE SAME GOVERNMENT FOR 15 YEARS

Viktor Orbán and the Fidesz party have held a strong grasp on the rule of Hungary since 2010. Orbán clawed on making him the longest-serving leader in the European Union. This type of government can be described as “illiberal democracies”, meaning they still hold elections, but over time they change the system in their favour. Independent courts are weakened, media outlets are brought under control, and electoral boundaries are redrawn in ways that make it harder for the ruling party to lose power.

For young Hungarians, this is simply the reality they have grown up with. If you are 20 years old today, you have no real memory of politics working any other way. That sense of normality matters more than any single policy decision.

THOSE WHO LEAVE

Since 2010, Hungary has seen the emigration of approximately 500,000–600,000 citizens, a remarkable outflow for a country whose population numbers fewer than 10 million.



Most of those leaving are the young and educated. Doctors, engineers, teachers, and graduates often move to cities like Vienna, Berlin, and London.

When asked why they leave, people rarely point only to money. They talk about atmosphere, future, and freedom alongside economic concerns. For many, leaving is not just practical. It feels like the only decision that has real impact.

There is a difficult paradox here. The young people most likely to want change are also the ones most likely to leave. That makes change harder, which in turn pushes more people to go. Countries like Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia show similar patterns. Over time, this kind of brain drain quietly weakens the groups most capable of challenging the system.

THOSE WHO ZONE OUT

Not everyone leaves, but many who stay are not actively engaged either. Youth political participation in Hungary, and across much of Central Europe, is often low. It can look like apathy, but it is usually more deliberate than that.

If you grow up in a system where elections feel predictable, where outcomes seem decided before votes are counted, stepping back can feel like a logical choice.



Research on dominant-party systems shows that the strongest reason people do not vote is a lack of belief that their vote will make a difference. It is not that young Hungarians do not care. It is that caring can start to feel pointless.

Social media add another layer. Many young people are informed and frustrated, but constant exposure to political content does not always lead to action. If anything, it can reinforce the feeling that nothing will change.

THOSE WHO PUSH BACK

It would be easy to frame this as a story of resistance, but reality is more complicated. Some young Hungarians have stayed and tried to organise. There are student movements, independent media platforms like Telex and 444.hu, and local activism that operates where space still exists.

In 2022, opposition parties united behind a single candidate to challenge Orbán. Youth turnout increased, and it was the strongest challenge Fidesz had faced in years. Orbán still won by a wide margin.

That kind of result shapes how a generation thinks about what is possible.

Activism continues, but it does so with the awareness that even the most coordinated effort may not be enough. Some people respond by becoming more active. Others see it as confirmation that the system was never truly fair.

WHY THIS IS NOT JUST HUNGARY'S PROBLEM

Brain drain does not happen all at once. It builds gradually. One doctor leaves, then a teacher, then a graduate who decides to try life in Berlin. Over time, the country that remains becomes older, less flexible, and more dependent on the structures that pushed people away in the first place. By the time it is recognised as a crisis, it is already difficult to reverse.

The bigger issue is not limited to Hungary. Anywhere young people feel that politics is closed off, that decisions are made without them, similar patterns appear. People leave, disengage, or try to challenge the system despite long odds. The balance between those responses changes depending on the country and the moment. Hungary just happens to be a particularly clear example of a problem that is still spreading.



IDENTITY IN POLITICS

THE STRUGGLES OF U.S. AND IRAN

PEACE TALKS

HOW DO U.S. AND IRAN SELF-IMAGES AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE

Lena Szlaga

EFFECT ON STATE'S IDENTITY ON INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

International negotiations are not driven by interests alone but also by how states understand themselves and their place in the world. According to Richard K. Herrmann, professor of political psychology at The Ohio State University, the self-images of each state shape what their leaders see as acceptable or unacceptable. Thus, compromise can be harder than imagined from purely strategic approaches, turning it into a question of identity rather than strategy.

The background of the crisis is key. The relations between US and Iran have been tense since 1979 when the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis occurred. Both states have not maintained diplomatic relations since 1980. The central recurring issues of the crises have been Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions and security fears – and even though there have been attempts at cooperation such as JCPOA, the US withdrew in 2018, leading to heightened escalation.

U.S. SELF-IMAGE

The US self-image can deeply limit their negotiation approach. The country seems to be defined by former and present candidates as defenders of the liberal international order and their allies, such as Israel, for example guiding the Camp David



Accords in 1978, where US President Jimmy Carter led peace talks between Egypt and Israel. US has also helped Poland - when President Woodrow Wilson laid out his diplomatic 14 points for ending World War II, point 13 was dedicated to the creation of an independent, sovereign Polish state. Their identity is largely tied to credibility and identity consistency – yet recent government actions weakened the identity as ‘US becomes unreliable in the eyes of allies,’ as said by Kamala Harris, last election's runner-up. The JCPOA withdrawal alongside withdrawals from other treaties, such as the Paris Agreement, international treaty on climate change, brings a sense of lack of cooperation and undermining global authority. As a result, US ‘hard line’ positions framed as moral

responsibility reduce the flexibility in negotiations, while previously shown attitudes towards cooperation might be discouraging.

IRAN'S IDENTITY

Iran's identity largely emerged from the historically revolutionary state post 1979. Sovereignty and anti-Western interference narrative creates an identity of resistance – which can be both a curse and a blessing. Iran's framing of nuclear programme as scientific progress and symbol of independence are defined differently in other states, which fear the vision of nuclear weapons. Iran might have had difficulties negotiating as compromise means submission to the Western pressure, synonymous with identity loss of the state. In result, nuclear concessions would be costly internally, despite strengthening international relations.



MAIN REASON FOR THE FAILURE OF PEACE TALKS

Due to both states viewing each other negatively – US framing Iran as a proliferation threat and Iran seeing US as an unreliable actor, each side feels that peace talks might threaten national identity – in that way, negotiation becomes more of a symbolic struggle over legitimacy rather than only agreement between states.

The talks keep failing because identity conflicts and historical narratives shape the interpretation of both negotiation outcomes and the other countries' actions. Due to the lack of mutual recognition, the escalation cycle continues sanctions lead to resistance, strikes, and further mistrust.

Both the US and Iran believe they can rule through the peace talks. United States of America imposes extensive sanctions on the Iran blockade, making it cost around 500 million dollars a day, while Iran can hold 20% of the world's energy hostage. Thus, even when material incentives align, identity blocks the compromise.

UNDERSTANDING PEACE TALK FAILURES

All in all, failure in peace talks can seem the more attractive choice over losing the state's identity. Through purely realist explanations of the situations, the actions of each state might not make as much sense – that is why it is crucial to understand negotiations between states as more than a formality, but also as a discussion of status, legitimacy, and recognition – and how much of it can be sacrificed to achieve peace.

Without identity transformations or mutual recognition, technical agreements between US and Iran will remain unstable and temporary.

BLURRING REALITIES

THE MYSTERY OF ALTERNATE REALITY GAMES

Violeta Pehlivanova

Puzzles are currently a part of the daily life of millions, whether they come in the form of New York Times games such as Wordle, Strands, or Connections or simple jigsaw puzzles. Completing one with a cup of coffee is arguably a brilliant way to engage memory retention and keep up a person's problem-solving skills. However, the desire for puzzles does not simply come down to a wish to strengthen your brain but also to the human curiosity people experience, although on different levels.

CURIOUS ORIGINS

Curiosity is a natural but integral part of the human experience which encourages us to explore mysteries and to attempt solving puzzles, whether they are complex mathematical problems or books involving murder mysteries. Inquiry into different fields creates opportunities for further research and produces questions that end up motivating individuals to dig deeper and thus come up with original questions they can then try and answer. This cycle of study and exploration directly reflects our need for knowledge and can even explain our fascination with puzzles and mysteries. Applying our knowledge to situations (or narratives) is a wonderfully engaging way to develop



our skills and understanding of topics and fields. A surprisingly effective method of expanding our horizons when it comes to using our comprehension of a subject to develop practical skills is games—of any type.

IMMERSION

A fascinating type of games that engages an individual even more than a regular video or board game are Alternate Reality Games. They create interactive narratives using transmedia—a combination between social media, real-time events, and puzzles—to immerse players in a fictional game but add a realistic element. Solving such ARG mysteries feels so intriguing and engrossing due to it tapping into our natural evolved curiosity, pattern recognition, and urge to collaborate amongst ourselves.

INTERCONNECTED

The key elements of this storytelling format build up the ultimate realistic feel of the ARG mysteries. Spreading out a narrative across platforms gives players responsibility and agency to follow along by themselves and collaborate via forums or wikis. While traditional video games usually detach the player from the story or give him another identity to play as, ARGs leak into the daily life. The main premise is to make the narrative believable, realistic, and immerse the players by giving them a sense of urgency to solve certain puzzles and mysteries to reach the ultimate conclusion.

PSYCHOLOGICAL GROUNDS

But why does solving such complex and realistic mysteries feel particularly natural for some individuals? To begin with, we experience a phenomenon referred to as the Zeigarnik effect, which claims that people remember unfinished or interrupted tasks better than completed ones.



Due to this craving for closure, the dopamine hit we receive from solving a puzzle is even more impactful. This boost of cognitive flexibility and development of memory by focusing on specific tasks is arguably amplified by putting this into the ARG format and making players work together in teams real-time. Some of the puzzles players gravitate towards involve researching ciphers, reverse-imaging and finding hidden clues, which actually mirrors detective work.

RECRUITING INTELLECTUALS THROUGH MYSTERY

One of the most popular cases of an ARG going mainstream and introducing the idea of a puzzle with the player being the main character is the Cicada 3301 mystery. With its launch in 2014, the game involved clues that led to websites, phone numbers, and even physical posters plastered on light poles around the world. Despite the lack of rationale needed for some of the solutions,



other cases make use of intellectually challenging encrypting methods such as steganography or the need to decipher codes within unpublished literature. Their aim was to recruit “highly intellectual individuals” who later can make use of their programming and pattern recognition skills to reinforce digital freedom and improve privacy on a global scale. While collaboration was not a focus for these puzzles, the experience was made times more individualistic. Thus, personal expertise made participants feel as though the recruitment was real and they needed to actually prove themselves.

DEDUCING THROUGH NARRATIVE

Although ARGs can be considered as having fictionally realistic narratives, some experiment with leaning towards horror. A prominent example of a creator deciding to shift the focus of ARGs to storytelling and conveying a message rather than mere testing of deciphering skills is Alex Kisher with his analogue horror series *The Mandela Catalogue*. It took a fascinating direction towards the exploration of religious symbolism and combined it with fictional entities that Kisher introduces as “alternates.”

Their role as the hivemind main antagonists of the series is to eradicate humanity mainly through mimicking human beings and using psychological warfare to ultimately drive people to committing suicide. This dark twist creates ties with the religious imagery and introduces the first ever Alternate as a mimic of Archangel Gabriel. This unique spin to ARGs Kisher presents shows how different interpretations of the format were not only welcomed by the audience but also found inspiring, encouraging the emergence of new ARG creators.

Overall, with the expansion of the digital realm, Alternate Reality Games act as intellectual simulation that goes beyond simply playing video games and entertainment and plays into the innate wiring humans have for puzzles. Whether it is coding specialists who participate in solving ARGs or Crossword players who merely watch the summaries, puzzles will always find a way into people’s lives.



IMITATING EDUCATION

AI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE RISE OF ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM AND WHO'S AT FAULT?

Helena Jurczak

Artificial Intelligence turned everything we had known about learning on its head. It would be foolish to say that academia stayed the same after ChatGPT entered the market in late 2022. Back then, the AI promise was to replace humans in doing mechanical tasks so one could focus on excelling more worthy pursuits. It was supposed to be an assistant, not a workhorse for studies. Old regulations for malpractice (which, honestly, could barely keep up with what the internet introduced) were not able to spot all content possibilities that chatbots brought into the scene: generated research, analysis, argumentation—you name it. That is why, almost four years later, AI became a substitute for tasks that require facing any type of challenge.

This development—or rather decline—nurtures the spread of anti-intellectual sentiments, where we actively refuse to participate in academic pursuits for the sake of temporary convenience.



He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Jesus' famous words, announcing, or rather revealing the truth that when we want to judge someone, we should be willing to first look at ourselves, are very fitting here. It would be hypocritical to list all the arguments against AI and conclude that its use should be prohibited. There is no questioning here—it will be used with or without authorization; it is very tempting, speeding up every task with very small input. It would be like banning knives because they are used for violence: why would you take away a brilliant invention which only fraction abuses? That said, the misuse of AI is common and can be observed in our daily lives.

To understand why it should not be used in some areas of our work, we need to understand how it operates.

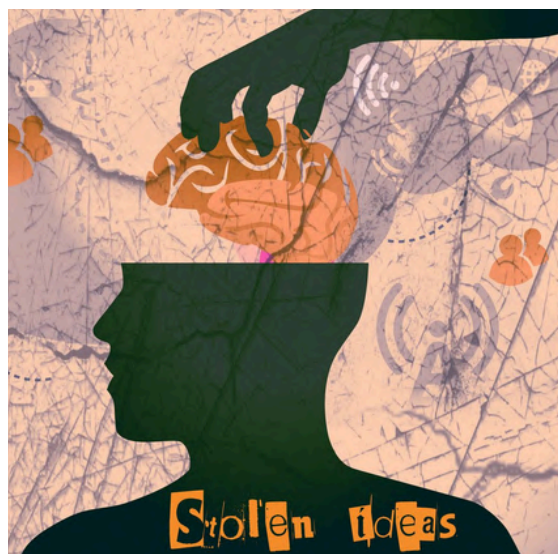
ChatGPT and alternatives are generative systems trained on human-made sources. What logically follows is that those do not create new concepts—AI does not reason.

The only thing in its reach is reforming and altering given data. Saying that, using it for finding new sources or checking grammatical errors can truly speed up scholarly work: it does the mechanical tasks, so you can focus on the contents. However, a crucial factor behind chatbots training—no one pays the authors of these sources AI is learning on; no one asks for permission to use them.



Plagiarism is an appropriation of a passage taken from the work of one person and reproduced in the work of another without attribution. Writing or conceiving an idea for a piece with a chatbot is no different—if we do not know the source of that information, it is a theft of someone’s intellectual property. But should that misuse surprise anyone? Holistically, it is nothing new: cheating existed before 2022. Coping from the internet, books: an occurrence of kids trying to make school easier should be frightening to no one. If anything, it is the most well-known deviation seen in education.

Wanting to do your job well by the least amount of toil put in is more a sign of sanity than anything else. But this does not mean such behavior should be nurtured. Rather, what should frighten in these actions is the framework which claims intellectualism in tasks which can be easily completed using a dull machine.



Because what is more anti-intellectual: a student who tries to do their job swiftly, or an exercise that is uncreative to an extent a device can do it? Education departments and exam boards have themselves to blame; they were ones behind creating courses that do not require elaborate thinking. If AI did anything to academia and schooling, it simply exposed inefficiencies of their current state that moves generations of future scholars not towards flourishing, but standardization. Seems like there will be no stones thrown.



THE WOMAN BEHIND THE BOB AND THE SUNGLASSES

*THE MYSTERIES OF FASHION'S MOST POWERFUL AND ICONIC
WOMAN – ANNA WINTOUR*

Lena Jankowska

Anna Wintour a.k.a. the queen of fashion is best known for her pageboy bob haircut, VOGUE and The Devil Wears Prada. But that is just barely scratching the surface of who she is and what she does. Machiavelli famously asked whether it is better to be loved or feared, and Anna Wintour seems to have mastered the impossible art of being both equally inspiring and intimidating at the same time. After all it is famously known that she can make or break careers with one look.

THE EARLY YEARS

Wintour was born and raised in London in a family connected to media and influence. Her father, Charles Wintour, was the editor of one of Britains most influential newspapers, which meant Anna grew up surrounded by journalism. Today she would possibly be labelled a 'nepo baby' and dragged through cancel culture. Still, even from a young age it was obvious she had ambition and dreams. School didn't interest her much and instead of focusing on academics she became obsessed with fashion, magazines, and youth culture. As a teen, she was already rebelling against school rules, she famously shortened the hems of her skirts against the strict dress code and at fifteen she cut her hair into the bob that would later become her most



recognizable hairstyle building her own personal brand. In 1970's she moved across the ocean to New York pursuing the American Dream. She worked at well-known magazines such as Harper's Bazaar and New York Magazine. In 1985 she returned to London to take up the job of the editor of the British Vogue and just three years later she took over the American Vogue which revolutionized the fashion industry.

REDEFINING VOGUE

During the 1990's the Vogue was very traditional and slightly out of touch. Wintour immediately caused controversy with her first cover. Instead of a perfect, close up shot, the model Micaela Bercu wore stonewashed, fifty-dollar jeans paired with an expensive Christian Lacroix and natural makeup.



Before, every American Vogue cover had been taken by Richard Avedon who was known for his minimalistic style, heavy makeup, and plain background. Here the model didn't look at the camera, she was outdoors and the photo itself looked candid. It shocked many Vogue readers but charmed even more.

From then on, Vogue began to make its own trends instead of following them. Wintour changed the course of fashion. She reinvented a century old magazine. She showed that fashion was not only about luxury but also about culture, politics, and identity. She made it less stiff and more connected to real life.

Over the years she became famous for discovering new designers early before anyone else believed them. Now they are world famous stars such as Marc Jacobs or Alexander McQueen who might've been nobodies without her influence.

However, all of her success came also with controversy. Wintour has often been criticized for promoting unrealistic beauty standard and elitist fashion culture. Critics argued that magazines like Vogue focused too heavily on thinness, wealth, and exclusivity.

She was also attacked for supporting the use of fur in fashion collection especially during the early 2000's. Stories about her strict standards and icy behaviours spread throughout the fashion industry.

THE MIRANDA PRIESTLY MYTH

Her former assistant Lauren Weisberger published a novel in 2003 about a terrifying fashion magazine editor who is believed to be inspired by Anna Wintour herself. It was later adapted into a movie starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway that has recently earned a sequel. But even the film hints at a double standard surrounding powerful women.



As Andie, the main character, famously says, “Okay, she’s tough, but if Miranda were a man, no one would notice anything about her except how great she is at her job.” History is filled with demanding, ruthless male CEOs, directors, and editors who are praised as “geniuses” or “visionaries,” while women with the same ambition are far more quickly labelled cold, cruel, or impossible to work with. Wintour’s sharpness became part of her scandal, while for many powerful men it would simply be considered leadership.

Ironically, the movie only increased Wintour fame. Instead of damaging her image it turned her into a cultural phenomenon. She has become one of cinema’s most iconic characters.

MET GALA

Since 1995 Anna Wintour has overseen the Met Gala, a fundraising dinner attended by chosen actors, musicians, models, athletes, and billionaires. It is one of the biggest spectacles in the world. Every year on the first Monday in May celebrities climb the famous stairs of the Metropolitan Museum of Art dressed according to a specific theme.



It is the Super Bowl or World Cup of fashion. Over the years it became part of Hollywood red carpet and part media bait. Social media explodes with photos, rankings, and debates over outfits. To some people, the Met Gala almost feels dystopian, like a completely separate universe where billionaires parade up marble stairs in outfits worth fortunes while the rest of the world watches through phone screens.

What makes Anna Wintour so fascinating is that despite being one of the most recognizable women in the world she still remains deeply mysterious. She has built an aura of exclusivity, unattainability around herself. We constantly see photographs of her at fashion shows, interviews, and celebrity events yet somehow, we know surprisingly little about her true self. In a world where celebrities share every detail of their lives online, Wintour’s mystery is a mystery in itself.

NINE DAYS

*282 MILLION ZŁ COLLECTED:
HOW A SIMPLE STREAM TOOK OVER THE INTERNET*

Anastazja Rybakiewicz

What began as a slightly absurd TikTok challenge - listening to one song on repeat for one second longer with each like - turned into one of the most extraordinary charity events Poland has ever seen. Piotr Gargowski's (publicly known as Łatwogang) livestream for Cancer Fighters Foundation ended with 282,741,778.76 zł raised, running non-stop from 17 to 29 April, ending at 21:37 after around 222 hours online.

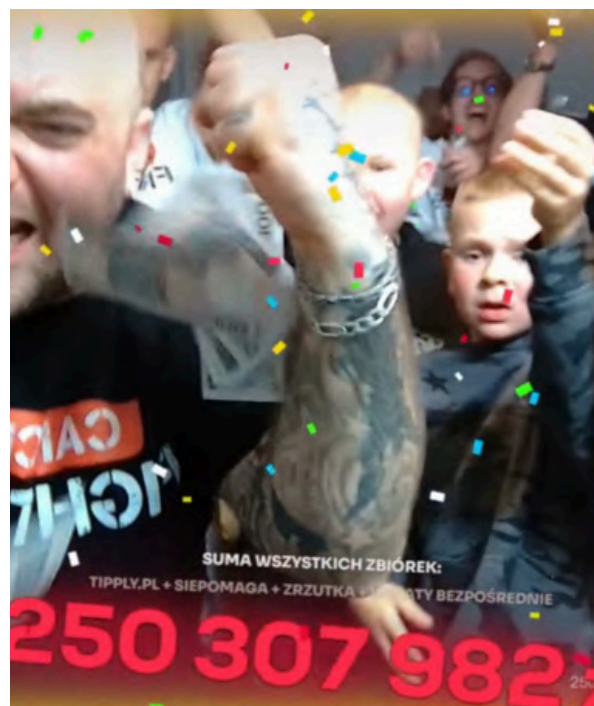
Łatwogang joined a trend that was already circulating online: creators promising to do something for longer depending on how many likes, comments or shares they received. It was almost comically simple: just Piotr, a camera, his Warsaw flat, and the song "Ciągłe tutaj jestem (diss na raka)" by Bedoes 2115 and 11-year-old Maja Mecan, a Cancer Fighters beneficiary battling leukaemia. The idea was that Łatwogang would listen to the track live for one second for every like under his stream, with every złoty raised going to Cancer Fighters.

The original expectation? Around 500,000 zł. That was already ambitious. Instead, the fundraiser broke through 250 million zł during the stream and kept growing afterwards. At its peak, the stream drew around 1.4–1.5 million live viewers, turning the cramped, plain room into the most

viewed one throughout Poland.

Cancer Fighters, founded in 2015 in Gorzów Wielkopolski by Marek Kopyś, had already spent years supporting cancer patients and their families through financial, organisational, and psychological help. Before the stream, the foundation operated on a completely different scale: in 2024, its total revenue was about 12.5 million zł, including over 4.1 million zł from collections, a similar amount from company donations, and around 0.5 million zł from individual donors.

Celebrities, athletes, musicians, influencers, and actors appeared or supported the fundraiser,





including Doda, Robert Lewandowski, Adam Małysz, Cezary Pazura, Roksana Węgiel, Sanah, Maciej Musiał, and even Chris Martin from Coldplay. Some guests went further: Edyta Pazura and Katarzyna Nosowska shaved their heads live in solidarity with children undergoing cancer treatment.

Among the largest company supporters that made meaningful contributions to the cause were XTB with 6.2 million zł, InPost with 6 million zł and Zen.com with 5.5 million zł. Other major contributors included Tymbark, Lidl, Apart and ING Bank Śląski.

Łatwogang himself seemed determined not to become the hero of the story. On stream, he joked about media confusion around his identity, saying that the less the story focused on him, the better, because “all of us are just collecting money in pursuit of improving children’s

health”. He was also careful not to let the stream become politically labelled or used by any side of the public debate. That neutrality became one of the stream’s strengths. By avoiding a political angle, Łatwogang made the event feel open to everyone, regardless of views or background.

As the founder of WOŚP, Poland’s most recognisable charity movement, Jerzy Owiak at first appeared visibly sceptical about the stream.

He seemed cautious about the sudden explosion of an online fundraiser built around influencers, viral trends and livestream culture. Some short clips from his comments were shared online in a way that made it look as though he was dismissive of the action, especially when he compared WOŚP’s model of buying major hospital equipment with the Cancer Fighters fundraiser.

clearly towards respect. He praised the result as extraordinary and admitted that traditional charity organisations could learn from the way younger creators mobilised people online. Instead of treating Łatwogang’s success as competition, he framed it as proof that there is room for many different forms of helping.

A nine-day stream became a national moment - a target of 500,000 zł became over 282 million zł. Although people often criticise social media and online platforms for wasting time, this example proves that they can also be used to spread awareness and create real positive change.

POP CULTURE UPDATES

THE OFFICIAL DIARY OF A FANGIRL™

Zofia Kowalska

OR3 ON THE WAY

Three years of silence from Olivia Rodrigo surely felt brutal. Now, the wait is finally over. The young star has announced her third studio album, arriving on June 12th under the unexpectedly long and poetic title you seem pretty sad for a girl so in love. So much for the four-letter theory everyone expected after *SOUR* and *GUTS*.

The title itself is a contradiction. Instead of flowery butterflies seen through rose-coloured glasses, it leans into something far more melancholic and reflective—which makes sense, considering Rodrigo has described the record as a collection of “sad love songs.” It feels like a story of a girl who once dreamed of great love, only to realise that no one in the world can kiss away her sadness. The cover, featuring Olivia on a park swing, flipped upside down, appears to be inspired by *The Swing*—a rococo painting by Jean-Honoré Fragonard.



SUMMER SEGMENT: FESTIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

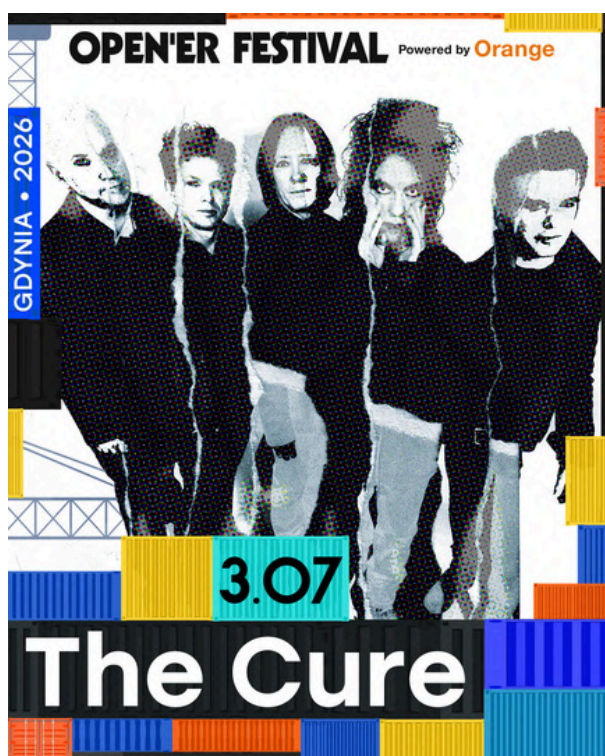
I'm very aware that we're all currently operating within the exam-season chaos, with the last traces of joy and motivation slowly disappearing. Dramatic? Maybe. Accurate? Absolutely. I won't pretend to fix your sleep schedule, but I can give you something to look forward to. And if there is one thing that makes summer worth it, it's music festivals.

Here's a selection that I stand by: Open'er, Bittersweet, and OFF. Open'er is classic, and rightfully so.

It's one of the strongest festivals in Europe, and this year's lineup does not disappoint. My personal highlights? The Cure (arguably the best band of all time), Addison Rae, Halsey, and Ethel Cain. But that's not all—Florence + The Machine, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Jennie, and Calvin Harris are also in the lineup along with many others.

Listening to *Friday I'm in Love* and *Diet Pepsi* live by the sea? That sounds like a whimsy summer experience.

In August, Poznań steps in with BitterSweet Festival, running from the 13th to the 15th. The lineup is quite impressive: Gorillaz, Twenty One Pilots, Lorde, and Tom Odell.



The festival balances mainstream tunes with artists who carry a magical, almost mystical aura, making it a safe, yet absolutely rightful choice. There is certainly something comforting about screaming sad lyrics in a crowd full of strangers during a warm August night.

The most intriguing option, and probably the most overlooked, is OFF Festival in Katowice.

It's certainly less mainstream, with a lineup that blends smaller artists with bigger favourites like Yung Lean & Bladee, Current Joys, and the grand LSD and the Search for God. It's also the most affordable option, making it perfect if you want the experience without financially ruining yourself.

Dear reader, have a wonderful, esoteric, and slightly chaotic summer. See you next academic year, xoxo.

AHS TENNIS MATCH

AGNIESZKA RADWAŃSKA AT AKADEMEIA

Jan Janczar

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

On the 16th of April, Akademeia had the great privilege of welcoming world class tennis player, Agnieszka Radwańska. Our students - Marcel, Pola, and Emilia - as winners of the tennis tournament hosted prior, had the chance to play an exhibition doubles match against her. It was inspirational and unique opportunity to see a tennis star in action up close. It is safe to say that we all look forward to other experiences like this one in the future. Following the exciting sporting segment, Ms Radwańska briefly answered questions from Coach Domoradzki about her career and the importance she sees in proper mental recovery in sports. She also signed and gave out tennis balls which are sure to be reminders of the great event. A big thank you to Coach for playing a big role in organising it.

BEHIND THE SURNAME

Agnieszka Radwańska is one of the greatest polish tennis players of all time.



Having reached a career high of second place in the WTA rankings, she was and still is an inspiration to young generations of sports enthusiasts in Poland, and all over the world. One of the highlights of her illustrious career, was reaching the final of the prestigious Wimbledon Grand Slam tournament in 2012, only narrowly missing out on victory after a close match against Serena Williams. Radwańska also won a total of 20 WTA titles in her career, including the WTA Finals in 2015.

E-OLYMPICS

EWC – THE OLYMPICS ON THE GAMING BOARD

Si Yun Shin

On July 2nd, the Esports World Cup (EWC) will be held in Saudi Arabia with an enormous total prize money of \$75,000,000. Yes, you read it correctly. This niche competition involves a not so niche sum of money.

WHAT ARE E-SPORTS?

Esports (electronic sports) refers to sports competitions conducted using computers and network equipment, going beyond simply 'playing games. It requires professional players to think strategically. Many top tiers teams are now sponsored by large global companies like Mercedes-Benz, Samsung, and Red Bull; In fact, esports players have a salary comparable to that of a mid-tier starting player in the England First Division football player (EPL). For example, "Faker" (stage name) the legendary icon of the E-game "League of Legends" has a similar salary as a mid-to-low tier English First Division football player. Nowadays, this event was chosen for the Asian Games.

WHY DID SAUDI ARABIA CREATE EWC?

If we want to know why Saudi Arabia created EWC we need to know about its background. EWC came from Saudi Arabia's national project "Vision2030". It is a national project which is a movement of government trying to reduce the dependency of natural resources like oil. The main goal of this project is to make a profit with Tourism, Entertainment, and the High-tech Industry. Another goal was making attractive entertainment for young people because 70% of people are younger than 35 years old. Based on Vision2030, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, established it as a future growth engine to the existing large-scale E-sports event 'Gamers8'; it was officially established by changing the name to EWC in 2024. As a result of this, the esports settled

successfully, and the Nations Cup is also set to launch. Based on Saudi Arabia's funds, the total prize became more than \$75,000,000.

THE RULES OF EWC

The EWC is not simply a collection of several game tournaments. This competition operates under the 'Club championship' system. Each team participates in various games (24 kinds of games but usually 2~5, though some wealthier clubs participate in more than 10), and the club with the highest combined standings wins the EWC. The rules are simple: each team gets points depending on the result of the game. To get the final trophy, the team needs to have the most points, if there are no wins in any event, the club can't be a champion even with the most points. This could prevent wealthy clubs from participating in and winning as many sports as possible. This "club championship" policy is really similar to the Olympics overall ranking system.

THE FEATURES OF EWC

EWC is not just flexing money based on Saudi Arabia's wealth. The whole project could create about 39,000 jobs and makes Saudi Arabia a global game hub. This event shows that E sports is not a minor thing; the players can have a chance to earn honor and valuable prizes. If this caught your interest, follow along from July 2nd, 2026 – August 23rd.



FIFA WORLD CUP

*THE WAY FIFA SQUANDERED THEIR OPPORTUNITY
TO HOST THE BEST FOOTBALL EVENT EVER*

Jan Janczar

This summer one of the most anticipated events in football history will take place. The 2026 World Cup is set to be the grandest of all tournaments hosted by the FIFA since its inception in 1930. It will begin on the 11th of June with Mexico playing against South Africa in the opening match; a repeat of 2010 inauguration. For the first time ever, the competition will function in an expanded format, where 48 national teams will compete to be crowned as the champion of the world. The excitement surrounding it, is particularly high, especially considering the success of the 2022 edition of the tournament and the inclusion of more countries.

WORLD CUP – PAST & PRESENT

The FIFA World Cup is probably the biggest sporting event in the world. The first edition of the competition was held in Uruguay in 1930 and was won by the hosts. Only 13 teams took part in the inaugural edition with 18 matches being played.



Over the span of the next 96 years and 23 tournaments, the competition grew in almost every regard, more teams became admitted and it started generating more revenue. As of this year, Brazil holds the record for most titles won (5), followed by Italy and Germany (4) as well as Argentina (3). Miroslav Klose (Germany) has the most goals scored on World Cup pitches (16), including one in the legendary 7-1 demolition of Brazil in 2014. The 2026 edition is the first one to use an expanded format of 48 teams, and as a result total of 104 matches will be played.

CORRUPTION AND CONTROVERSY

For the first time ever, the tournament will be hosted by 3 separate countries. This time Mexico, the USA and Canada will work together to organise it. These nations were awarded the right to organise the event during the 2018 FIFA congress held in Moscow. The event was extremely controversial, as it was held in Russia just a day before the 2018 World Cup kicked off in that same country.

Furthermore, this tournament was also quite polarising, with many accusations of corruption within FIFA, which lead to the event being hosted in the country. These allegations were backed up by the US department of Justice. A similar pattern of backlash was observed after the declaration that the 2026 World Cup would take place in the USA, Canada and Mexico. Giovanni Infantino (FIFA president) was seen visibly flattering Donald Trump even going so far as to lend him the trophy for a time. He also created the FIFA peace prize, which was awarded to the president of the USA, amidst heavy controversy.

TICKETS AND TRIBULATIONS

Fans are especially concerned with the ticket prices. In order to watch the final in person from the worst seats in the stadium, fans would have to pay upwards of \$12,000 for one entry. Most people can't afford this, leading to these prices being labelled as extortionate and ridiculous. To add to this, costs of public transport in the area near World Cup stadiums increased 10 times, meaning fans must dish out another \$200 to travel to the venue. They compare it to the 2024 EURO CUP, where transport in the last 36 hours before a given match



was included in the price of the ticket. Most fans argue that live football shouldn't only be available to the richest.



CONCERNS OVER VIOLENCE

Many people hold concerns about the safety of fans in the host nations, particularly in Mexico and the USA. Both countries experience widespread gun violence due to the accessibility of firearms. Another issue in Mexico is the fighting caused by the cartels and other criminal organisations where innocent civilians can still be harmed. While their government has attempted to reduce the impact of this, the reforms, raids and military actions failed. The USA experiences similar issues, with over 20 thousand deaths being caused by shootings annually.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LESSER FOOTBALLING POWERS

Despite these controversies, the 2026 World Cup still seems like it is going to be entertaining and exciting to watch. One of the reasons behind this is that, since the format was expanded more teams will be able to compete giving a chance for smaller nations to compete against the global football superpowers. Countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina or Haiti ended their absences (12 and 54 years, respectively) from the tournament. Other nations including Jordan, Uzbekistan or Curacao will appear in the competition for the first time this summer. The tournament itself will also consist of more matches than ever before, with there being 104 matches scheduled to be played over the span of a month – 40 more than 4 years ago. While this has been criticised considering players are already complaining about too many fixtures, teams will only have to play one more match. This means that the players themselves, won't be impacted greatly, but the fans will be able to watch much more football.



The 2026 World Cup is meant to be the greatest FIFA tournament up to this point in time. Canada, Mexico and the USA will host 48 teams from across the world it will be the biggest of all 23 editions held over the past 96 years. Despite the excitement of watching quality football, the competition has been surrounded by controversy. Concerns about safety for both the fans and players have been expressed as well as the prices of tickets being too steep. Only time will tell whether the 2026 FIFA World Cup goes down as a success or failure.

AHS ART STREAM



Lena Jankowska



Aniela Czerwonka



Artsiom Zaviarzenets



Aniela Czerwonka



Artsiom Zaviarzenets



Klara Bakić Pawlak



Klara Bakić Pawlak



AKADEMEIA
HIGH SCHOOL