

In This Edition...



Source: <https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/zahranicni-komentar-velky-a-krasny-proc-trumpovi-nevadi-ze-americe-snizili-rating-277259>

ANO's Shifting Stance on Donald Trump

By Matěj Diviš

Ahead of last year's U.S. presidential elections, the Czech political scene divided, with the government supporting Kamala Harris and the opposition endorsing Donald Trump. Particularly the main opposition party ANO, under the leadership of Czech billionaire Andrej Babiš, was very loud about their stance towards the controversial candidate.

Both before and after the elections, several politicians from ANO demonstrated their support of Trump, most visibly on social media. For instance, former Minister of Finance, Alena Schillerová, made a viral TikTok video, in which she parodies Trump's specific dance to the 'YMCA' song, simultaneously wearing a red cap bearing the slogan "Silné Česko" ("Strong Czechia"). This cap was made by ANO ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections, taking direct inspiration from Trump's famous MAGA hat.

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India's Escalatory Trap with Pakistan

By Oliver Erben

In the aftermath of Pahalgam, New Delhi's instinctive recourse to the roar of missiles has obscured more than it has been brightened. By unleashing a wave of strikes across both Pakistan-administered and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir within days of the April 22 attack, India sent an unmistakable message: conventional force will be the first, not the last, word in its counterterror toolkit. Yet this "reflexive" militarization has neither extinguished the threat of terrorism nor assured the safety of Indian citizens; instead, it has enshrined a dangerous calculus of power, in which every act of violence demands an ever-more spectacular response.

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Editor's Note

Our third and final Edition for this school year is full of various articles: here are some that you can look forward to.

In our World News & Current Affairs section, you can read more closely about the political changes occurring in ANO, the tense events of the Indian-Pakistani conflict, and a commentary on the law of unjust enrichment.

Next, in our Science & Technology section, you can read up on AI, or the possibility of curing death.

Our Social Commentary section can offer you beautiful pieces on cultural artefacts, the meaning of death, and the rise of F1.

Lastly there's our Culture section, which features an interview with our beloved teacher Mr. Witt, a piece on how to write an article, a movie review, and some poetry to end things off.

Happy reading!

Calista Marikova

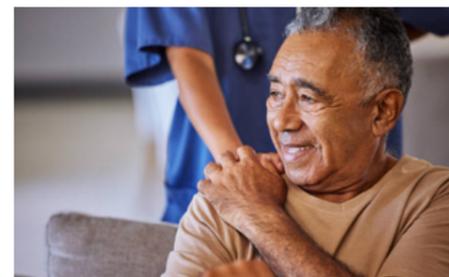
The Law of Unjust Enrichment in Investment Banking



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Stopping Death: Ethical or Dangerous?



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What If My Cat Dies?



When Hype Overshadows Heritage: F1's Global Boom



Source: <https://warontherocks.com/2025/05/operation-sindoor-and-the-evolution-of-indias-strategy-against-pakistan/>

From Support to Silence: ANO's Shifting Stance on Donald Trump

Ahead of last year's U.S. presidential elections, the Czech political scene divided, with the government supporting Kamala Harris and the opposition endorsing Donald Trump. Particularly the main opposition party ANO, under the leadership of Czech billionaire Andrej Babiš, was very loud about their stance towards the controversial candidate.

Both before and after the elections, several politicians from ANO demonstrated their support of Trump, most visibly on social media. For instance, former Minister of Finance, Alena Schillerová, made a viral TikTok video, in which she parodies Trump's specific dance to the 'YMCA' song, simultaneously wearing a red cap bearing the slogan "Silné Česko" ("Strong Czechia"). This cap was made by ANO ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections, taking direct inspiration from Trump's famous MAGA hat.

The party's leader, Andrej Babiš, also openly endorsed Trump, expressing confidence that his victory would bring prosperity to the United States and peace to the world. He also said that his party has an identical program to Trump's, highlighting their stance towards illegal immigration and tax cuts. ANO's deputy leader, Karel Havlíček, further emphasized the party's pro-American stance and confirmed his support of Trump.

An extreme moment of this topic was when Trump met the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in the Oval office at the White House, which resulted in a heated argument between the two, as well as the U.S. Vice President, JD Vance.



Source: https://www.denik.cz/ze_svetu/babise-ceka-schuzka-s-trumpem-chce-hovorit-o-clech-na-auta-i-bezpecnosti-20190307.html

However, after Trump's inauguration, he started making several controversial decisions. One of the most noticeable actions was his position towards the Russia-Ukraine war, which he promised to solve in one day, but later extended that 'deadline' to a hundred.

After this global affair took place in Washington, ANO's politicians were repeatedly asked to react, to which they responded that they will not comment on anything yet. To a question from his supporter, who requested Babiš to comment on Trump calling Zelenskyy a dictator, he sharply responded: "Don't ask about Trump anymore. I don't know why I should comment on all his statements."

Another crucial moment in this electoral term of Trump's was the imposing of reciprocal tariffs on several countries around the globe. According to the global economic model of Oxford Economics and the National Bank of Slovakia, Czechia's cumulative GDP will decline by 2.75%, due to the trade war the United States have started.

From that moment, ANO's most visible politicians suddenly stopped expressing any opinions, regarding the 47th U.S. President. It took Andrej Babiš five days to react to Trump's reciprocal tariffs, until he described them as "completely insane" and expressed concern over their potential to destabilize markets. This marked his first significant shift from his otherwise supportive stance toward Donald Trump.

As a possible result of this indecision and delays of commenting, ANO is polling slightly lower in the upcoming parliamentary election polls. While in January and February, ANO reached 34.4% on average, with the highest number being 36.7%, the latest poll from monitoring agency NMS Market Research assigns the party just 28%, a significant decline from previous months. However, the party still leads by approximately 18% over second place coalition SPOLU, which includes ODS, KDU-ČSL and TOP 09 parties.

The ANO party's endorsement of Donald Trump illustrates a strategic maneuver to appeal to a specific voter base. However, the delayed response to serious issues like the reciprocal tariffs or the peace deals over the Russia-Ukraine war further supports the claim that ANO is a populist party. Balancing domestic interests and international affiliations will be an important test for Babiš and his party, which may even result in a surprise outcome of the Czech parliamentary elections.

Matěj Diviš

India's Escalatory Trap with Pakistan: A Strategic Dead End

In the aftermath of Pahalgam, New Delhi's instinctive recourse to the roar of missiles has obscured more than it has been brightened. By unleashing a wave of strikes across both Pakistan-administered and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir within days of the April 22 attack, India sent an unmistakable message: conventional force will be the first, not the last, word in its counterterror toolkit. Yet this "reflexive" militarization has neither extinguished the threat of terrorism nor assured the safety of Indian citizens; instead, it has enshrined a dangerous calculus of power, in which every act of violence demands an ever-more spectacular response.

This latest campaign bears all the emblems of a long in motion. In 2016, surgical strikes claimed to have penetrated militant encampments across the "Line of Control"; in 2019, air raids on Balakot followed the deadliest suicide bombing in Kashmir in decades. What is novel about the Pahalgam response is not its intent but its intensity, more drones, more missiles, more territory overflowed. Yet, if the definition of insanity is repeating the same action and expecting a different result, India's political leadership now risks that label. Every successive diversion of military power to settle scores only primes militants to provoke new confrontations.

The human and strategic costs of this cycle are stark. Border villages in Baramulla and Kupwara districts found themselves once again in the crosshairs, as shells and rockets shattered windows, uprooted families and left fields littered with unexploded ordnance. Meanwhile, in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, social media buzzed with triumphalist memes that veered into communal vitriol. Kashmiris, already subject to checkpoints, curfews and surveillance, now face an additional burden, the unchecked rise of hate crimes against Muslims in mainland India, stoked by sensationalist coverage and inflammatory speeches. If the goal was to rally public support, it has come at the expense of national cohesion and the personal security of minority communities.

India's willingness to deploy military force as a first resort has also sidelined the diplomatic and financial levers that once yielded substantive concessions from Islamabad. After the 2001 attack on Parliament, the threat of war pushed then-President Pervez Musharraf to dismantle extremist madrassas and ban terror outfit, or so he claimed. In 2008, New Delhi successfully marshalled the Financial Action Task Force to pressure Pakistan's banks to choke off funding for Lashkar-e-Taiba.



Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/world/asia/india-pakistan-diplomacy-kashmir.html>

In contrast, this spring's punitive measures have been limited to visa suspensions, trade curbs and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, both gestures that have drawn international criticism for their humanitarian fallout but done little to compel Islamabad to dismantle terror networks.

For Pakistan, the mirror image of this dilemma plays out in Afghanistan, where efforts to strike back at the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan have only invited reciprocal attacks and frayed Islamabad's relations with Kabul. Yet when it comes to India, the stakes are exponentially higher. Both countries possess nuclear arsenals and rapidly modernizing conventional forces; their forces now patrol sensitive border sectors with the firepower to raze entire villages.

Above all, it requires political courage, the willingness to absorb criticism at home and risk appearing restrained in the face of public outrage. Without such a shift, New Delhi and Islamabad will continue to play out a zero-sum drama in which terrorists hold the script, and the rest of the region watches with ever-deepening anxiety. The path to durable security lies not in the next missile, but in breaking the cycle that makes every new outrage the justification for another conflagration. Only then can both nations escape the trap of perpetual escalation and reclaim the initiative in their own quest for stability.

Oliver Erben

The Law of Unjust Enrichment in Investment Banking

In its recent judgment in the case of *H&P Advisory Ltd. v Barrick Gold (Holdings) Ltd.* (formerly Randgold Resources Ltd.), the High Court of Justice ordered Barrick Gold, a prominent mining company, to pay \$2 million plus expenses to H&P Advisory Ltd., a boutique mining advisory firm. H&P Advisory claimed to have been an advisor on the merger between Randgold and Barrick, which the now-merged firm vehemently disputed.

The judgement is highly relevant in the context of the widespread praxis of advisory firms undertaking unpaid work for prospective clients and the informal nature of the appointment process for a transaction mandate. This lack of clarity may give rise, as in this case, to a situation wherein an advisor believes that he has been appointed while the client believes that he has not.

The court recapitulates the factual background of the case. In 2018, official negotiations about a potential merger between Barrick and Randgold began. During these negotiations, Mr. Hannam, from H&P, sent multiple emails to Barrick regarding potential actions. After Barrick decided to appoint Mr. Klein from a rival firm to its transaction mandate, Mr. Hannam tried to secure an appointment by Randgold. To achieve this objective, he participated in merger meetings at Jackson Hole.

Mr Hannam claimed that during the meetings at Jackson Hole, Mr Humphries, from Randgold, asked about how H&P Advisory would be paid for the deal. Mr Hannam then allegedly proposed to Dr. Bristow, from Randgold, to engage them as advisers in the subsequent Barrick transaction and to pay them a minimum of \$10 million with upside, but not less than Barrick paid to Mr Klein. Mr Hannam claims that Dr. Bristow said that the offer seemed reasonable, but that he needed to get Mr. Shuttleworth, from Randgold, comfortable with it. To this end, he set up a meeting between them. Dr Bristow claims not to remember the conversation with Mr. Hannam in any detail, but he certainly would have remembered a conversation about a transaction mandate this size, especially if he agreed to pay for it. While Dr Bristow recalls setting up a meeting between Mr. Hannam and Mr. Shuttleworth, he claims that it did not concern compensation.

After Jackson Hole, H&P signed an NDA with Randgold, but while the NDA had the stated purpose of “considering and evaluating the Confidential Information for the purpose of providing investment banking advice”, this did not indicate an appointment. Nevertheless, in an email from Mr. Shuttleworth to Dr. Bristow, the appointment of H&P as a secondary advisor was discussed. The meeting between Mr. Hannam and Mr. Shuttleworth was held, though the question of whether a transaction mandate was discussed remained unclear to the Court. In a board meeting of Randgold, the firm appointed CIBC and intended to appoint Barclays as joint financial advisors for the transaction, though the board minutes noted the provision of strategic advice from H&P. After the transaction was announced, Dr. Bristow sent a message to Mr. Hannam thanking him for his role early in the deal. H&P then sent Randgold an invoice for \$18,129,148.

The Court then moves on to evaluate the role of Mr. Hannam in the transaction. At the earliest stage, Mr. Hannam was seen by both parties as useful in starting the negotiations. Furthermore, by serving as a “go-between” the two sides, Mr. Hannam realized value for Randgold. Another point is that Mr Hannam prepared multiple analyses for Barrick and later Randgold, which could have led to an expectation of being given a transaction mandate in the future. The Court posits that the meeting between Mr. Hannam and Mr. Shuttleworth may have discussed fees, but that the supposed polite non-committal response of Mr. Shuttleworth to Mr. Hannam’s demands may have been misunderstood for an acceptance in principle of the fees posited by Mr. Hannam.

The Court turns to textual evidence. Two internal H&P documents refer to a minimum fee of \$10 million, which could indicate the presence of a contract, though with different terms than those proposed by Mr. Hannam. The Court is then perplexed by the lack of a suitable reason for why Mr. Hannam did not send Randgold an engagement letter after Mr. Hannam claimed that he believed that he was appointed to advise on the transaction, given the fact that sending such a letter is the standard course of action in such cases.



Source: <https://www.czechuniversities.com/article/study-law-in-czechia-at-the-anglo-american-university>



Source: <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/supreme-court-institute/the-georgetown-supreme-court-institute-moot-courtroom/>

The Court then considers whether the Parties behaved as if a contract had been entered between them, which did not happen according to the court. The Court then considers whether there was a contract. To enter into a contract, an objective test must be followed, wherein a hypothetical neutral observer would say that “an offer has been made and was unequivocally accepted”, regardless of the state of the mind of the Parties. As Mr. Shuttleworth’s response was noncommittal, this test cannot be satisfied.

After concluding that no contract was actually entered into, the Court considers whether unjust enrichment was achieved by Randgold. First, the Court considers whether enrichment even occurred. While H&P claims that enrichment was self-evident, Randgold argues that only the services provided after Jackson Hole should be considered and, given their unimportance, no enrichment occurred. The Court rejects this argument as the services, in its view, clearly had at least some value even in the extremely narrow framework of Randgold.

After that, the Court considers whether the enrichment was achieved at the expense of H&P. The Court argues that even if the bulk of the services was provided by two workers not employed by H&P, the fact that their services were used, as assumed by the Court for reward or in expectation thereof, indicated that an expense was incurred by H&P.

The presence of an unjust factor is then considered by the Court. First, the Court considers whether a “free acceptance” occurred. Free acceptance occurs whenever a Defendant benefits from the services provided by a Claimant, who expects to be paid, but does not take the opportunity to reject the provision of such services. In such cases, the burden of proof is on the Claimant to establish the expectation to the Defendant. Nevertheless, the Court rejects the validity of this concept per se in a purely receipt-based form in line with the argumentation of Lord Burrows. Second, the Court considers whether a failure of basis occurred. Failure of basis means that the state of affairs contemplated as the basis for payment has either failed to materialize or to sustain itself. In the specific context of investment banking, the Court argues that the de facto retrospective payment after a mandate gives rise to a retrospective payment in the case of a failure of basis. The Court then moves on to consider whether the meeting of Mr. Hannam and Mr. Shuttleworth could constitute an indication of future mandate, a basis. In such a case, the failure to pay H&P would constitute a failure of basis and therefore unjust enrichment. According to the Court, the non-committal response of Mr. Shuttleworth constituted such an indication.

Finally, the Court considers whether there is a legitimate defense. The Defendant argues that H&P operated as “disappointed risk-takers”, giving rise to a legitimate defense to the payment. While the Court agrees that H&P operated for most of the duration of the merger as “disappointed risk-takers”, they became “gratified risk-takers” when the failure of basis occurred, eliminating the defense. The Defendant also uses the illegality defense in two counts, but the Court rejects both. As for the valuation of H&P’s services, the Court accepts Barrick’s estimate of \$2 million, which it then awards to H&P along with expenses incurred during their provision.

Overall, the judgement illustrates the importance of legal clarity in the area of provision of appointment mandates and the fact that even if no formal contract is entered, a payment might be necessary.

Daniel Middleton

Has AI Made Us Dumber?

Imagine this: You have procrastinated reading your book for school, so you ask ChatGPT to summarise it and do your homework for that book. Suddenly, this becomes a habit, and a question emerges: Are we getting smarter and more efficient or simply lazier? Using ChatGPT and incorporating it into your everyday life is extremely convenient. However, its growing influence raises a larger concern: How much do we rely on ChatGPT to think for us? So, are we becoming more intelligent with ChatGPT or dependent on it?

ChatGPT, released in November 2022, is an artificial intelligence chatbot which uses natural language processing to create a human-like dialogue. In a matter of days, it has integrated itself into schools, workplaces and changed our concept of decision-making. This has left people in shock, which led many schools in the USA to block access to ChatGPT on the school's network by just a few months later. Teachers and students in schools saw it as an opportunity to cheat and write their essays for them; however, since then, many people have explored what GPT is truly capable of doing and how it can positively affect their lives. "Does ChatGPT bring more harm than good in schools?" has become a controversial and heavily talked about question.

The truth is that the usage of AI has a huge impact on our cognitive health. As humans, our brains keep developing, especially when we struggle. But how can we develop when we keep on "making our lives easier" and letting AI think critically, analyse problems, and not allowing ourselves to come up with solutions after struggling for them?



Source: <https://urbeuniversity.edu/blog/the-future-benefits-of-artificial-intelligence-for-students>

This issue is specifically called cognitive offloading, and the National Institute of Health defines it as: "The reliance on the external environment in order to reduce cognitive demand." At first, it sounds like something amazing. Letting AI do the "easy and unnecessary" work for us. However, the more you use AI for things that you would normally use your cognition for, the harder it makes it for you to problem-solve, memorise things, and have the motivation to research things. You have probably experienced your math teacher advising you to try to come up with a solution to a harder math problem on your own first. Your teacher had a point. When you struggle with a problem and then solve it, it gives you a much better understanding of the problem in the future. This step is now eliminated due to AI. If we keep on using ChatGPT to cognitive offload, we will struggle immensely in everyday tasks.

However, even though ChatGPT can have detrimental impacts, many advantages are not talked about enough, especially by older generations. It can be an amazing tool, if used right, and it does not need to replace anything. AI is reshaping education, having a major impact on the way we learn, study, and interact with information. But this does not necessarily need to be a negative thing. This is the first time that such personalised tutoring is so accessible. ChatGPT can offer students something that common classrooms cannot. They can ask endless questions about whatever topic they do not understand without the fear of being judged and slowing down the class. Students can now study far more effectively and efficiently while focusing on an in-depth understanding of a topic. The world is changing and modernising each day. You can either observe it or become a part of it and use it to your advantage.

The most important thing to realise is that the everyday usage of AI can have both positive and negative impacts, however, the amazing thing about it is that you choose which of those two it will be. You can either cheat in school on a test, or you can choose to study with AI and let it help you before a test. You can either let AI write the essay for you or you can brainstorm with the help of AI and then build on that. You can either use AI to avoid hard work, or you can use AI to challenge yourself and push your limits. The decision is entirely up to you. AI is not here to replace our minds, but is rather here to test whether we will still choose to use it.

Andrea Grossová

Stopping Death: Ethical or Dangerous?

Endless life has been the dream of humanity for centuries, but it could become a nightmare if it were really achieved. Most of the structures within our society would undergo a drastic change and would leave room for grave misuses of power. Whilst it is generally believed that human development should not be limited in any way, does this also apply to stopping death? And if yes, what consequences would we be bound to face?

Science does not have the duty to respect any traditional limiting factors known to humanity, on the contrary, it tries to break these. It goes beyond nature itself and achieves seemingly impossible feats. It is the means humanity uses to gain knowledge, but often also to enforce change. By providing cures for diseases, it intrinsically opposes any 'natural' element, or concept of destiny, that could counter the idea of a cure against death. Therefore, if old age and death were seen as another kind of disease, the scientific community would have no moral obligation to limit the creation of a cure against it.

Curing a person from a disease and granting them an indefinite life are, however, two different things. Of course, everybody should have the right to life. This right, however, would not necessarily be taken away if the cure for death were forbidden. All rights are created in a certain context and can lose their weight if they are torn away from it. In this case, the right to life is intrinsically tied to the concept of death, as if there were no death, the incentive to create the concept of the right to life would cease to exist. Therefore, it can never be a duty of the State to promote the creation and usage of a cure against death. It has no obligation to ensure the right to life to the extent when it not only postpones, but fully stops death. Furthermore, if death as a whole were to be stopped, presuming that the cure was made available to all citizens of a State, the need for many new regulations would arise. The birthrates would inevitably have to plummet in order for society to be able to sustain itself in the future. This would lead to many human rights, such as the right to have children, being withdrawn from individuals. The effects of such a change would be vast and are challenging to predict, but laws and policies would certainly have to undergo a re-evaluation. As the State should aim to ensure stability, it would be right in not allowing a cure against death in order to protect many other freedoms that are relevant in our society.

The change proposed could also pose a significant threat to lower social classes and their freedoms and equality. Assuming that a cure for death were created, it would probably fall into private ownership. This would give the rich members of society a new extent of power, as it would only be beneficial for them not to share the cure with the whole of society. If there were a group of powerful people to evade death, the social hierarchy would be consolidated, or even frozen. Due to their financial background, they would inevitably always remain at the elite levels within society and could have significant power over it. Their position of leadership and influence could not be stopped, as the only element that would allow for a shift in social status would be the death of higher ranking members, something impossible in this case. This would be problematic for society as a whole, as social inequality would be deepened to a dangerous extent and could not be changed in any way.

In conclusion, even if science could provide a cure for death, it should abstain from doing so. Despite the fact that it does not go against the morality of science to impose change, a change such as this one would, counter intuitively, pose a greater danger to society than death itself. There would be a risk of serious human rights violations by the group in power and society as a whole could be abused by the individuals with endless lives.

Jessica Holan



Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com/cs/fotky/old-people>

Stolen Beauty: Cultural Artifacts & Illusion of Preservation

In a quiet museum hall in Cairo, behind polished glass, rests the Rosetta stone – once housed in London, now finally returned to its homeland. For the majority of people it's just another ancient tablet of writing, but for Egypt, it's a voice in ruins, an echo of its cultural soul. Across the world, thousands of objects like this share a similar story. They were taken from their homelands, currently existing far from the people who once used, honored, or created them. Returning them is not about blame, it's about fairness, respect, and restoring what was wrongfully taken. So, what happens when history travels too far from home?

Artifacts end up in foreign museums for various reasons. Some were taken during times of war or colonialism, while others were sold under pressure. Many were looted by individuals, and some were simply discovered by archaeologists who moved them to safety, often driven by curiosity or misunderstanding. In many cases there were no clear rules for it, often it was a simple desire to preserve something in danger of being forgotten or the desire for possession. Thus, it is hard to say what was right and what was wrong. Despite that, one thing is clear – the objects weren't just a piece of metal, cloth or stone - they held meaning and for many their absence still hurts. They represent pride and ancestry, losing them feels like losing a piece of yourself, like having a family photo album stolen. Their absence leaves emotional wounds and a sense of disconnection from one's history and culture.



Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/2024/01/11/queen-nefertiti-bust-should-be-treated-as-nazi-loot-and-returned-to-egypt/>

Artifacts are more than beautiful objects to admire. They carry memory, identity, and ancestral meaning. For many communities they serve as the connection to their ancestors and cultural pride. These artifacts weren't created in isolation, but by skilled artists, workers, craftspeople who poured their time, knowledge and soul into each piece. To separate the objects from their descendants and makers is to erase the human story behind it, the talent, work, and emotion that gave the artifact's true value. Take the Edo people of Nigeria, for instance. Theophilus Umogbai, director and curator of Benin City National Museum, said when speaking about the Benin Bronzes stolen by the British in 1897: "Each of the objects taken away represented an ancestor in captivity, not just an artwork but an ancestor in captivity. That will tell you how important the objects are." For Edo people, these aren't just art. They represent ancestors, spiritual beliefs, royal power and historical identity and something that was passed from generation to generation. Therefore, their removal isn't solely about the physical loss but the cultural disconnect and grief. Or the Moai statues of Easter Island. One was stolen in the 19th century and now stands in the British Museum. The Rapa Nui people have long asked for its return, saying it is like a "living spirit" not just a statue. In these cases, the issue isn't ownership, but connection. Thus, it's essential to recognize that these objects mean more than just art or academic interest, they are parts of people's lives and symbols of memory and being close to them means healing and reclaiming what was lost, because taking them meant robbing people of identity. To steal cultural artifacts is to steal identity itself.

Cultural artifacts are more than relics. They are soul-fragments of entire civilizations and keeping them locked in foreign institutions is a form of continued colonial violence. Another famous example from today's time which illustrates this issue is the bust of Nefertiti. Discovered in 1912 by a German archaeological team in Amarna, Egypt, the bust was taken to Germany under unclear and debatable circumstances. The bust has been described as "the best-known work of art from ancient Egypt." Some 500,000 to 1.2 million visitors see the bust each year in Berlin. But Nefertiti wasn't just a queen, she represented beauty, power, and spirituality in ancient Egypt. Today, for many Egyptians her bust is more than a masterpiece - it's a missing piece of their cultural soul and sense of pride. Since then, over the years, Egypt has repeatedly requested its return, calling the bust part of their national heritage, highlighting its painful absence, presenting clear evidence that it was stolen, and justifying its rightful place in Egypt. Despite all of that Nefertiti became a symbol of Berlin instead.

"Nemo dat quod non habet" - No one can give what they do not have. This legal principle explains the core of this issue. Museums cannot truly claim ownership or share them meaningfully. The true cultural spirit, ancestral memory, artists and rightful ownership reside within the communities from which they were taken and not the institutions that displayed them. Until then what museums offer is not preservation but possession without legitimacy. Museums do important work, they protect, restore, and educate. Without them, many artifacts might have been destroyed or forgotten. Museums claim to educate us about the past. But if that's true, then they should teach one of the most important lessons from history and that is to learn from the past and not repeat the same injustices. Acknowledging the colonial wrongs, for example, including the thefts of cultural objects is part of that. Hence, if museums are truly committed to educating the public about history it's highly hypocritical to hold onto stolen artifacts. How can you teach history while you refuse to face your own role in it? The same applies to profiting from stolen artifacts. For instance, replicas of the Nefertiti bust are sold for €48 each in the museum's online store. There is no reason for those people whose ancestors made these significant pieces to travel abroad to meet with them.

Furthermore, many postcolonial countries still face serious socioeconomic challenges. Returning these artifacts would not only benefit them materially, but also help address the past by acknowledging historical mistakes and injustices of us as humans. There are many wounds the past has caused as a result of colonialism, forced assimilation and cultural erasure. Healing people from the past doesn't just mean rebuilding cities - it also means restoring identities and respect and when something taken is returned, it's more than a box being shipped across the world. It's a moment of peace. A chance to close an old wound. If you're mesmerized by the artifact's beauty while standing in the British Museum, pause for a moment. Think about the motives, the people behind it, and what it truly meant to them. This is where real historical education begins, not just by looking at objects, but by understanding the stories, the pain, and the legacy behind them. When you see it not just as art, but as memory, identity, and history taken without consent, you'll start to see the justice it truly deserves.

We cannot change the past, but we can stop imprisoning it in glass. This isn't about blame. It's about asking the right questions. Who should tell the story of an object? Who should get to touch it, study it, or celebrate it? The past cannot be undone, but returning what was taken may be the first step toward true cultural reconciliation and proving that humanity can learn from its past. Returning cultural objects taken without consent is not just about redressing the past. It's about dignity. In many ways, it's a quiet form of justice, but not the loud, courtroom type, only the one that listens, respects, and offers space for healing. In this case justice also means acknowledging that history belongs to the people it shaped. Because history does not belong in glass cases alone, it lives in the people who shaped it. Giving communities the right to reclaim their stories is not just fair, it's necessary. When an artifact is returned, it is not just history coming home, it is a small, powerful act of balance. In the end, perhaps the best we can do is listen - to the people, to the past, to the silent things that still speak.

Denisa Kotalová



Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2109143/napoleons-mideast-campaign-still-contentious-two-centuries-on>

What If My Cat Dies?

A question that lingers through my mind every now and then. The answer to it? Blank. I don't want to face the truth - the inevitability of death. I don't want to think about it, but I do. The fragility of life scares me. I don't want to imagine a life where I cannot look into my cat's wise orange eyes and see the connection we created. But still, the thought always comes back. My mind will not stop bothering me as it knows deep down that this question is important. Because loss is part of the deal we make when we love. It is just an animal, but his mark in life is just as important as any other mortal being. His heartbeat, his breath, his purrs are the great inventions of life – but one day, they will all stop.

When death touches something so close to us, something that is a part of our everyday life, it becomes hard to ignore. It is no longer a distant ghost in the stories of wars, plagues and other cruelties of the world; it becomes our personal reality. It creeps up our windows and stares from the abyss into our eyes. And even if it didn't cross the threshold yet, we cannot avoid it. What if my cat dies? What if everyone does?

There is no scientific proof of another life. Some people believe in the afterlife, others in reincarnation and some in eternal darkness. But what we all know, is that death is real. It waits for all of us, and the ending of something is inescapable. That is the root of our fear. We always know it's coming; the question is when. How many meals do I have left? How many new people will I meet? How many of my closest friends will still be around? How many times will I brush my cat's fur?



Source: <https://www.hphhfoundation.org/blog/origin-of-cats>

Death is one of the most fundamental fears of life, yet we tend to disregard it. The uncertainty leads to discomfort; the thought of mortality seems to undermine the value of life. But when we look at it from a different perspective, death is what makes life valuable. It is not the final chapter; it is the author of the book. Yes, it writes the ending, but also initiates the story, shapes the plot and gives it the beauty of urgency driven by meaning. It is the one thing that urges us to love, to learn, to enjoy. It is the ultimate end, but it also marks the path of life that it took to reach it.

The question of the purpose of life is explored throughout the history of humanity by many authors, philosophers, scientists and others. Even though we haven't reached a conclusion (and we never may), these attempts expand this topic and help us understand more and more. One of these great minds was Shakespeare, he dived into this question in his tragedy *Macbeth* - "Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage. And then is heard no more." (William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*). We could argue that *Macbeth* was right, his actions, driven by ambition and fear, led to suffering and meaningless power, while sacrificing himself and his integrity. But what if this madman is not entirely correct? Do all actions truly lead to nothing? Isn't life meaningful because of our choices, our mistakes, and the emotions we feel – not in spite of them? *Macbeth's* fate was tragical, but the choices he made resulted in a life full of impact, maybe not exactly the one he wanted, but definitely one that will be remembered. These thoughts rise to the surface when we are facing the loss of something significant. Grief forces us to question the utilization of our time and energy and why endings scare us so deeply. In those situations, we don't just mourn, we contemplate the state of our current life.

To explore the meaning in death is one thing; to accept it as an inevitable part of all life is another challenge we face every day. The illusion of permanence sometimes hides the fragility of everything we hold dear. But once again the truth may emerge at any time and strip away the comforting embellishments of our magic-hungry minds. That is where the ultimate dilemma lies: how do we live with our self-deception and the quiet, irrational fear of death beneath ordinary life? It's a question each person faces on their own. My advice is simple: be present, compassionate, create connection and seek meaning. It is not the ultimate solution. But it amplifies the presence of life. And in doing so, it may be one of the closest things we have to immortality.

Julie Hoffmanová

When Hype Overshadows Heritage: F1's Global Boom

Once regarded as elite, today Formula One is flashier, louder, and more viral than ever, with celebrity appearances, social media days and the influence of Netflix turning the sport into an American drama. However, beneath all this glam, many wonder, has the sport traded its soul for followers?

Since 1950, the FIA Formula One World Championship has been the pinnacle of motorsport, bringing fans of fast cars joy from all over the world. Every season, 20 drivers compete across 10 teams for the title of the World Champion. Despite its global reach in 21 countries across 5 continents, it is still deeply recognized as European, with races at iconic circuits like Silverstone, Monaco, or Monza.

There have been many changes from the inaugural running days. Whether they were technical, strategic, or purely public relations related, the fans always had great opinions about every decision made. However, in recent years, Formula 1 has undergone a transformation unlike anything in its long history. The sport, admired for its rich heritage, expert commentary, and sophisticated style has exploded into a global phenomenon. And as Formula 1 expands into new territories, many are left wondering if the hype began to overshadow the heritage that made the sport special in the first place.

Fuelled mostly by social media virality and the Netflix behind-the-scenes documentary series *Drive to Survive*, F1 is reaching views an average of 1.04 million in this very season. Launched in 2019, the series turned the sport into a reality-type TV show, with the drivers being portrayed as pop culture figures. The narrative went from a complex sport to a binge-worthy drama, where suddenly the engineering or split-second pit stops were not important anymore. Now, it was about the rivalries, betrayals, and off-track dramas.

This shift in storytelling didn't just attract viewers but also transformed how Formula 1 presents itself. The series brought in thousands if not millions of new fans, especially from the U.S., where Formula 1 had struggled to infiltrate the market for decades.

With three different Grand Prix now taking place in the U.S., it seems as if the owners, Liberty Media, embraced this 'style over substance' cultural shift, with the Grand Prix weekends feeling more like festivals rather than sports events.

Long-time fans have expressed their concerns over the growing emphasis on showbusiness. While many argue that this expansion is vital for any global sport, Formula One risks losing its core audience. Ticket prices have soared to eye-watering levels, making attending races an increasingly exclusive affair. At the 2023 Las Vegas Grand Prix, general admission alone cost hundreds of dollars, with premium experiences stretching into the tens of thousands.

Heritage circuits, some struggling with funding, have faced threats to their places on the calendar. The idea that a legendary venue could lose its slot because it doesn't offer the same "Instagrammable" moments as a glitzy street race feels like a betrayal to many who see Formula 1 as more than just a content machine.

None of this is to say that Formula 1 should not evolve. The sport expanding into new markets and showcasing the incredibly diverse talent needed to compete in F1 helped with the increase of fans. Especially young people, who might have never considered it otherwise, are now deeply passionate about motorsport. However, there is a delicate balance to strike.

So, what does the future hold? F1's magic has always been tied to its history – the stories of Prost and Senna, the highs and lows of Ferrari's triumphs or the raw danger of old circuits like the Autodromo Nazionale Monza. These moments remind us that Formula One is more than just a business or a brand. It's a living story with decades of tradition. If the sport forgets where it came from in pursuit of where it wants to go, it risks losing the very soul that drew fans in the first place. So, as Formula 1 approaches its next race weekends, the challenge will be clear: build the future, but honour the past. Because in the end, no amount of hype can replace true heritage and no amount of heritage can save a sport unwilling to adapt.

The best version of Formula 1 will find a way to embrace both.

Rozálie Slámová

OG Chronicle Interview: Mr. Witt

He says he's a Head, but not always ahead. Mr. Troy Witt is the man in charge of the *OG Chronicle* and the English department. How was his FLOG season? Why do people dream of being a teacher? And will the Toronto Maple Leafs finally win the NHL? You shall find out in this year's third *Chronicle* teacher interview.

Let's start with FLOG because the season ended few weeks ago. Tell me about your career; how many years have you played for?

I've been playing since I first got here to OG. I think I got recruited because someone heard that I played ice hockey and they expected that there would be some carry over in terms of the skills, but unfortunately there are not, as I soon learned and everyone else did too. I guess I have been playing for almost ten years, this might have been my tenth season, and I have yet to win a title, which I am hoping to do so I can retire.

My next question was if this was the last season, but you are still waiting for the title then...

I'll probably still keep playing because Mr. Klauz won't let me quit.

You are one of the last teachers who takes part in FLOG. How do you enjoy it overall?

I love it, it is a great thing for the school. I understand that there used to be more teachers but that kind of goes in cycles, depending on the other commitments people have. It would be great if we would have more staff involved in the league as well, because I know it is a lot of work for Mr. Klauz and he does a great job so I am happy to support him when I can.

We will move from floorball to ice hockey. Since when are you the biggest fan of Toronto Maple Leafs?

That's been pretty much my whole life. I come from the area, Toronto is the team, the city loves the team, it's just always been that way.

What is your prediction for this year's Stanley Cup playoff?

It was certainly blindly optimistic but of course I was hoping that Toronto will finally win the Cup and end the longest drought in professional sport. However, they've broken our hearts yet again. So, now I'd love to see the Edmonton Oilers take it home. I think that group deserves it.



Source: Mr. Witt's Teammate



Source: IB Lang & Lit, Septima cohort

The World Hockey Championship has just wrapped up as this interview gets published. Do Canadians care about it or is it not that important?

Most Canadians, or North Americans generally, are still focused on the NHL playoffs and to be honest we regard this tournament as an interesting one, but we think that the best of the best are still in the playoffs. For example, thinking of Canada they would want to have Connor McDavid on their team, but he didn't go of course because he is playing in the play-offs. It is the best in the world, I mean it is some of the greatest in the world, but it is not best of the best.

And the World Juniors are maybe even more popular?

Yes, we watch the World Juniors every Christmas because that is truly the best juniors in the world, there is no league going on at that time which is different than the World Championships.

You teach IB English Lang. & Lit. at OG. Don't you ever want to leave the IB content and teach the younger students at the lower gym?

Yeah, like every day... No, I'm joking. Sort of. I love the IB programme, and I am happy to teach that course, but sometimes, you're right, it would be absolutely nice to teach a Tercie group or something for a while because you get a very different type of experience and everything is done in a completely different way and it would be nice to shake it up sometimes.

You have been teaching IB for quite a while now. Isn't it boring to do the same thing year after year?

It changes, we have flexibility with the content, but I like to say that the books I teach become your family, you love them or hate them depending on the day, but you are stuck with them in some senses. The biggest thing that makes it interesting is that every year we get a new group, a new cohort with different ideas and views. You can teach a text ten times and the experience will always be different, and that's what makes it refreshing.

The *OG Chronicle*, that's why we're here. When did it start and were you part of it from the beginning?

No, it's older than I am, it was already happening when I got here, and to be honest I'm not exactly sure how it started or who did it. I inherited it when I became the Head of English and since then it's evolved, because every year you get a new group of students and they have a different idea on what they want it to be.

You touched on that but what has changed after all those years?

The format changed. We went from concrete sections to more of a free form, we're trying to move it away from a newspaper to a magazine. But the biggest change is what the students want to write about. I think that reflects the world that we live in and that world changes very quickly.

How often do you go back home to Canada?

I'm fortunate that I get to go usually three times a year which isn't bad, the greatest thing about being a teacher is the holidays... But we do get the opportunity to travel quite a lot, so it's great to be able to go home for a month in the summer and during the Christmas break, so I still have quite a lot of contact with my family and friends there.

How To Write for the OG Chronicle

So, you want to write for the *OG Chronicle*, huh? I get it, we are a pretty cool bunch. I mean, we are so cool no one dares speak about us in fear of us writing a scathing exposé in this highly sought after institution of journalism. But if you dare to enter our premises via an email to Mr. Witt that you accidentally send to the whole school because you did not check that you were only responding to him because to be honest you are still pretty new here and nervous and do not know how everything should work, let alone the email system... you've come to the right article.

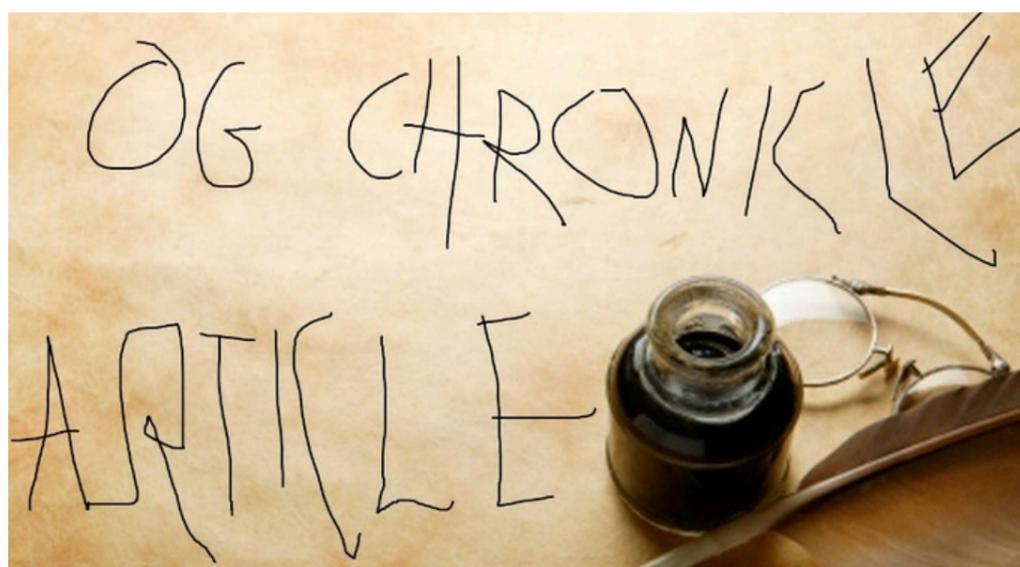
As a certified senior of our collective (I have been writing here since Kvarta) and two-time winner of the "My Article Gets to Be on The Front Cover" sweepstakes, I have all the necessary knowledge and expertise to teach you how to write a wonderful *OG Chronicle* article for the world (of this school) to see. Since I am an Oktava student, and this is my last *OG Chronicle* article ever, this may seem like a humorous love letter, but do not be mistaken. This is top secret information that you and the other five people who read this must burn immediately upon finishing reading, only leaving behind the memories of my enlightening instructions for you. Think you are ready? Alright, let us begin.

Though it is the hardest step, let us just assume that you have survived the embarrassment of joining our clique through an email to the entire school. Do not worry, it happens to the best of us, such as mys- Um, no one, it happens to no one. Anyway, once you have completed this step you will be thrust into the pits of journalistic integrity: our edition meetings in the Aqua conference room. Do not be alarmed by the intermittent laughter or joy you might hear from your new compatriots, this is serious business, and we only laugh to throw everyone else off our trails, disguising our serious intentions.

You may be nervous to speak about what you want to write, as that is part of these meetings, but here is where I reveal a major part of the ritual that is being part of this group: You must never have any idea about what you want to write before these meetings. Because when you are part of us, you must act like us, and we are not some kind of chumps that "plan ahead" and "think about what we want to write about ahead of time". We are artists that let the beauty of deadlines, and the slight frustration of our editors, speak for us. So, when asked about your article or other idea for your given edition of the *Chronicle*, stand up, assert dominance, and say the secret password to becoming a full member: "I'm not quite sure yet." That one phrase will tell everyone else that you know how everything works here and will make your editors very happy.

If everything goes according to plan, it has been a week, maybe two, since the meeting and you still have not written anything into the contribution list. You might get an email or message from your editor, but do not be alarmed, they understand that genius takes time, and you cannot just force someone who voluntarily signed up to this club to actually contribute on time. They are simply legally bound (by blood) to message you about this, and you know what? Maybe it is time to write something, seeing as you certainly do not have anything better to do, and being an Open Gate student, you must let everyone know about your very smart thoughts.

So, let us open Microsoft Word or Google Documents and ponder: What is it that I want to put on wax to my wonderful community of like-minded individuals? Seeing as this is the hardest part of the process, I can only suggest a few motivational words. Your topic or idea should be something that you are passionate about, something that you know deeply, not only through your knowledge, but through your heart and your feelings. It should speak to your core as a thinker, as an adventurer, as a person. A topic that forces words to flow through you like a river of thoughts, getting into your fingertips through the path of least resistance that only you know. To put it in simpletons' language: Just kind of rant about something that you already know about so that you only need to do like two Google searches worth of research at most.



Source: <https://wallpapercave.com/feather-pen-wallpapers>

When you have committed to your theme, make sure to always write the first thing that comes to mind and never edit your words, because, again, you are an artist that knows exactly what you are always doing, and your editors will deeply appreciate your rants from the soul. Also, never include pictures on your own, because, well, that is not part of your job! You are a writer, not a picture-er! Let your words inspire your editor to find the most perfect stock images to fit your work of art. I don't even know what images are next to this text, but I'm sure they are wonderful. And if you do want to include relevant images, make sure to never source them in the proper academic way, only include a link. This is a little way that we like to assert dominance over the copyright holders of the images that we include in our articles. You may say "well, the *Chronicle* is not sold commercially, so does it matter?" Well, I guess that is true if you do not count the teachers selling the newspaper (and some of our organs) to the goblins living inside the school's maintenance rooms for riches far greater than a teacher's salary, but in my opinion, that disrespects the trade relationship we have built up with them over the years. Anyway, to conclude, write the first thing that comes to mind and never include pictures in your article of your own accord.



Source: <https://www.artstation.com/artwork/8leKex>

However, there is one restriction to how you write that I must mention. As users and lovers of the English language, we must ask you to never use contractions (like I'm or don't) in your work. Oh, the editors will certainly remove them if you include them, perhaps unintentionally, but be warned, they will inform the head of this operation, the don himself, Mr. Witt. He will then strike your name, and if he does it for a third time? Well... let it be known that my last interaction with a three-strike student, I informed them that their uniform was handed over to Marvin, who understood what he had been asked to do with it. You might be thinking "Isn't that too harsh? Sometimes writing without contractions makes the writing more awkward, and even professional newspapers often aren't this stringent over formal language use." And my response to that is to kindly ask you to take your heretical hatred of the English language to the swamp of Czech booger-eating swine that is the *STUDENT* magazine, at your own peril.

Now comes the hardest part of the process, editing. And unfortunately, here you become a slave to the whims of the editors, the same way that you were in control of them in the writing process. To show them respect, however, is very simple. Just go to your Microsoft Teams folder of articles when they have written revisions to your draft and confirm all of them. Do not even read if their corrections accidentally make the sentences harder to read, they know what they are doing and are definitely not just tired from your late submissions. As for the graphic designers of the newspaper... oh, unfortunately I am over my character count, so I'll have to leave them out and let them figure out how to put this on the page. Whoops!

Now, the creation stage comes to a close as you finish your article, poem, or interview, and it gets placed in the newspaper design. The curtain falls and you may start reflecting on what you have written and your place within this new communion of younglings like you. You might realize that, although very few will read your work with the same effort you put into writing it, just the fact that you let a piece of your work out into the world is something to be happy about. It is a sign that you can achieve something if you put your mind to it and that you are not bound by the limitations of what you think you might be able to do. It might even help you find camaraderie with people and teachers you might not have been able to talk to otherwise and find that you share more things in common with them than you might have thought. In the end, this is not about creating the greatest journalistic works ever, it is about realizing what you enjoy writing about and finding how you can make your own voice heard in the world. And only once you understand this can you start getting some of that money from the goblin trades.

Thank you, *OG Chronicle*, and everyone who worked on you. Especially Mr. Witt, Calista Maříková, Matěj Marek, Anne-Marie Matejas, and Mr. Reardon (R.I.P.-he's not actually dead, he just works for the goblins now).

Ivan Pavlovec

Movie Review: *Conclave*

Papal conclave - "The assembly of cardinals to elect a new pope and the system of strict seclusion to which they submit for the election process" (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica) – that is the definition of a papal conclave. The selection process, which is one of the most followed 'elections' in the world is essential for both the Roman Catholic Church as well as the rest of the world – the role of pope extends beyond religious duties in many matters, and reaches great political significance. The election thus involves major discussions, influenced by political opinions and general approaches – a unique dynamic which has been captured by Harris' novel, which was later adapted to the film *Conclave*.

The film is a true masterpiece – from a visual perspective, the movie depicts the small country of Vatican and St. Peter's basilica in a most delightful way – the stark contrast between the yellows and reds reflects further the emotional state of the film's protagonist: Dean Lawrence. The use of creative lightning is further utilized to showcase the viewers the relationship between dean and his acquaintances. Warm lighting when speaking to Stanley Tucci's Aldo sharply contrasts the cold essence cardinal Tremblay's room evokes. In essence, the visuals supporting this film guide you through the complex environment of papal conclaves and suggests those who one can trust, and those who one should watch out for.

All in all, *Conclave* is a movie credit to its genre. Showcasing a world of power and politics far from our reach warps the viewer for a most pleasurable viewing experience, which has been backed by the movie winning the Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards. As the story unfolds, you get the chance to dig deeper into the conflicts and the complex relationships between major religious influences. *Conclave* is certainly a must-watch – when you are next in the mood for an incredible performance by Ralph Fiennes accompanied by humor and thrill, check out this film. You might like it.

Calista Maříková



Source: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20215234/>

The Dean of the College of Cardinals Thomas Lawrence, played by the renowned actor Ralph Fiennes, is tasked to arrange the upcoming papal conclave. Amongst the major candidates are representatives of differing interests and political groups – from conservative-backed cardinals to essentially social democrats, the pool is diverse, to say the least. The story follows the events of the conclave, especially the drama that unfolds during the voting process. From past mistakes emerging, to speculations on legitimacy of ones' cardinal role, the film explores how some decisions can have major consequences. The film, defined as a political thriller, truly lives up to its characterization – the dynamics portrayed through Berger's direction fills you with tension as the drama unfolds and you find out more about each major cardinal; findings supported through the findings of the nuns attending the conclave, which guide the entire film and, although appearing insignificant, hold power over the conclave's events.



Source: <https://www.michigandaily.com/arts/lets-have-a-conclave-i-wanna-have-a-conclave-lock-the-doors-tight/>

I'll Fly in Your Waters

The waters shift as the evening breeze hits,
upon my rock I sit, while I wait for you to swim with your flappy fins
your words turn into bubbles
and mine into empty chirps
Our species cannot play by the same rules
that is what they say, because
you will never reach the burst of colour in the rain or the starry lights under night skies,
but darling, fret not,
I would sacrifice my flight for your breath
even if it meant my feathers got wet
I would never touch the clouds and warm sunrays
to fit into your lake home, be in your scaly embrace
I would understand you a bit more each day,
before the lack of air made me never rise up again
my corpse would release the same bubbles your life did when you spoke to me
yet, even if I seem to mimic your speech,
you do not understand
perhaps they spoke the truth when they said
our species cannot play by the same rules

Nela Králová



Source: <https://imgur.com/a/FronucE>

Dear Life

The drunk lady at the bar
had her lipstick smudged
all over her face.
she despised her hair,
so she cut it right there
with the knife her dead husband
gave her when they were
still so in love,
and the sun
was not just a distant star
with no warmth to offer.
and her daughter had a birthday-
she would die on that same day
she was brought to life,
not many years before.
she ended her hopeful melody
with a scream full of sickness
and a cut across her pearly white wrists.
but who could have known
that a dove would fall from the sky
that once promised her freedom?
many people are born,
but not many of them live.
just a few die alive,
with dreams in their blood,
slowly soaking
into the ground.
most just lose their breath.
so when the waitress asked,
"do you truly want another one?"
the lady replied with a sad smile
and a knowing look-
"please, onto dear life."

Andrea Kočová



WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD,
SO WE'VE BEEN CHOOSING THEM CAREFULLY FOR 18 YEARS.

CONTRIBUTORS

Matěj Diviš	Andrea Grossová	Andrea Kočová	Calista Maříková
Oliver Erben	Julie Hoffmanová	Denisa Kotalová	Daniel Middleton
Ondřej Galyaš	Jessica Holan	Nela Králová	Ivan Pavlovec
Rozálie Slámová			

STUDENT EDITORS

Oliver Erben	Ondřej Galyaš	Jakub Kubín	Calista Maříková
--------------	---------------	-------------	------------------

DESIGN EDITOR

Jakub Kubín

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Calista Maříková

STAFF ADVISORS

Ms. Berrisford	Ms. Larsen	Ms. Naidoo	Mr. Witt	Ms. Zmolek
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