



“WOMEN, LIFE, FREEDOM”: MAHSA AMINI WAS THE LAST STRAW FOR IRANIAN WOMEN

For last four decades the Islamist Republic of Iran has been ruled by a repressive sectarian regime which has promoted draconian restrictions such as the hijab mandate. On September 16, 2022, a young Kurdish woman named Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the so-called morality police for not wearing her head scarf properly. Her death sparked a wave of protests all over Iran and spotlighted a deeply enrooted sexist agenda within the state.

Since the supposedly rigged elections of 2021, Ebrahim Raisi has been the president and even though he promised numerous social reforms, he did not really focus on fulfilling his campaign promises. Instead, he allocated additional funds to the security forces, including the morality police, to ensure a strict enforcement of the mandatory hijab law. This is a highly unpopular policy, but the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei believes that if the government gives in to this “anti-hijab” movement, then the movement will only have more demands on the state to change. Because of that, Iran stays in strong opposition to any changes in the hijab policy, and instead focuses on repressing any counter-ideas.

Looking at the core of the protests, they are against the government rather than against Islam as a religion. This is very important as most of the protestors wish for “death of the dictator” and much less people wish for Islam to disappear.



Source: <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2022/10/03/iran-is-no-stranger-to-protests-heres-why-the-current-demonstrations-are-different-and-pose-a-serious-threat-to-the-regime.html>

This to a certain extent explains the fast and extensive response of the authorities as the protests are threatening the legitimacy of the government. President Raisi condemned the death of Mahsa Amini, but still, he only sends more and more soldiers to take a violent role in retaliation. The strategy of the government is to

fight fire with fire, which currently only leads to escalation of the issue rather than any resolution. Due to that, the protests quickly gained foreign media attention. This made the government even more concerned about the situation and as they knew they were not handling it well, they restricted internet access in order to slow down the spreading of information and make it harder for protestors to communicate. This violation of basic human rights was indeed an efficient form of repression for a short period of time but as the protestors are persevering, they found loopholes and established other means of communication. Furthermore, they created an app called Gershad, which is used to report and find, where morality police currently are.

The state's violent crackdown has already lead to the deaths of 130 people and the numbers are still growing. This shows that current protests are more violent and deadly than those in 2009 or 2018.

Since being marginalized is a uniting factor for all women, protestors come from all socio-economic backgrounds, and are supported by the more progressive men. Further on, especially people in their teens and 20s, known as the Gen Z,

are stepping in and showing their power and rage. The protests are shifting to school grounds as university students are becoming involved. Currently protests are taking place in more than 100 cities all across Iran. But because of the Internet shutdowns and restrictions on NGOs, the full extent of the revolt is still hard to estimate.

It may seem strange why a singular incident has sparked such a huge wave of rebellion if the regime has been in power for many decades. The situation in Iran was already tight and this was only the last straw for the oppressed women. The tragic story of Mahsa became a symbol - it united all the women together and now they are feeling stronger than ever. It is hard to predict how the protests will end, but we do know that Iran won't stay the same even if the protests do not succeed in overthrowing the government or repealing the hijab mandate. There is still going to be civil disobedience and if the country won't move on, the people could rise again. Because as girls get a taste of freedom, they will fight to keep it.

BARBORA VOITLUČKOVÁ

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## MACRON'S PLAN FOR A UNITED EUROPE

In reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier this year, 'western countries' including most member states of the European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia. This has sunk the Russian economy into all-time lows. Russia, being one of the largest providers of energy commodities for the EU, accounting for 23% of total energy imports into the EU, lost a large client, however they were not the only ones affected by this. With the incoming winter European people and governments have been worried about the sky-high energy prices, resulting in

protests with the goal of lifting sanctions, further emphasizing the decreasing levels of trust in the national governments and the European Union.

National governments have made efforts to solve the issue, but we have now realized that this energy crisis will require cooperation on a larger scale. A plan proposed by the French government, led by their president Emanuel Macron and minister for Europe Catherine Colonn, is promising a solution. Emanuel Macron has presented a move towards strengthening the dialogue between the EU 27

and non-EU countries as the main goal of the newly established European Political Community.

The first summit of the European Political Community took place on the 6th of October in Prague, during their EU presidency. The goal of the summit was to discuss the security and stability of Europe and extend dialogue concerning common interests including the energy crisis. The invited participants, other than the EU 27 members states, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the UK.

The main result of the negotiations that took place on the 6th of October in Prague, was a newly imposed eighth sanctions package against Russia, in response to Russia's illegal annexations of Ukraine based on biased referenda. The sanctions include an oil-price cap, an import and export ban on steel and machinery, additional restrictions on trade with and provisions of services to Russia and sanctions on an additional 30 individuals and 7 entities. The new package should weaken Russia even more and deprive its leaders of

key technologies. Leaders of the political community also decided to strengthen their support for Ukraine by providing military training missions and continued financial support.

Leaders of invited countries also created a plan to solve the energy crisis in Europe. They stressed three key areas: reducing electricity demand, enhancing security of supply, and guaranteeing affordable prices for households and businesses. They agreed to strengthen gas stock and unite their purchases of energy to ensure fair prices even for poor countries. The European political community also agreed that limiting Russia's influence on developing countries should be the next step towards solving the impacts of the invasion.

The leaders of the invited countries have agreed to continue the cooperation of the ECP and are planning to host a new meeting of the community in Moldova, Spain and the United Kingdom. The meetings should be held every 6 months to ensure frequent and lasting cooperation within the European continent.

FILIP GROSS



Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-10-05/European-Political-Community-New-geopolitical-game-for-Europe-1dSuCr3PJHG/img/ab1a019927ab41eeb2f51efed1d938af/ab1a019927ab41eeb2f51efed1d938af.png>

## FÉLICIEN KABUGA ON TRIAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RWANDA?

Almost thirty years after the genocide in Rwanda, one of the most prominent figures and perpetrators of the genocide, Félicien Kabuga is facing justice. The now 87-year-old was detained in Paris in 2020 after evading arrest for more than two decades.

To explain why Félicien Kabuga is facing prison, it is vital to understand the context of the Rwandan genocide. Back in Rwanda, the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups lived together intertwined and almost indistinguishably until the times of colonization when the position of the predominantly cattle-raising Tutsis was bolstered and the one of the farming Hutus enfeebled. The colonizing powers (Germany and Belgium) further enlarged this categorization and social hierarchy during their rule, creating a rigid discriminatory social structure. During the period of decolonization, the struggle with a now polarized and divided society demonstrated itself through the creation of two major ethnic-based political parties. After wide social discontent with the new social hierarchy and the eruption of violence during times of economic hardships, the infuriated Hutus took their arms and displayed their anger

through a killing spree which turned out to be one of the deadliest and the most "efficient" genocide in history. Almost 800.000 people were killed in just three months and as many as two million refugees fled the country during the start of the genocide.

This genocide was mostly orchestrated via the newly established Hutu militia (Interahamwe) and propagated through the radio, which was one of the very few accessible and widespread methods of mass communication in Rwanda. Behind this stood among others, one man, Félicien Kabuga, a millionaire businessman who supplied hundreds of thousands of weapons, uniforms, and vehicles to the murderous Hutu militia. He was also the main sponsor and co-owner of the genocide's radio station which called the members of the Tutsi minority "cockroaches" and called for their removal or for the removal of all those who employ, marry, or do business with a Tutsi. This all was extremely effective, as the people coming from poor socio-economic backgrounds with the struggle for national identity found the blameful violent rhetoric together with the emergence of local militia and the fear of per-

secution from not taking part in the killings immensely persuasive.

After the genocide, The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was established. This tribunal was notorious for its inefficiency, costing \$1.3B and convicting just some dozen people excluding the biggest perpetrators like Kabuga. It is a show of the limitations of international justice that Rwanda, like most major countries, is not a member state of the International Criminal Court, thus disallowing the court to exercise its jurisdiction in their territory. The duty was left to individual governments and the tribunal, which dissolved itself quicker than it could capture Kabuga. Kabuga went for an unparalleled run from justice. Unlike other terrorists and genocide perpetrators including Osama bin Laden and Radovan Karadžić who changed their appearance and lifestyle and hid from the world, Kabuga continued to travel and live in multiple cities and countries. Even though he was proclaimed the "most-wanted African man", he found himself living undercover for more than two decades in a plethora of countries including Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, DR Congo, Kenya, and France, where he was finally ar-

rested. His houses were raided on multiple occasions, but he always managed to escape just in time. Once, when the FBI invaded his house in Kenya, they didn't find Kabuga, but Kabuga, informed of their arrival, staged the house so that they would find blood-spattered walls and an acid-dissolved dead body of an FBI associate.

It is only in his late 80s when the police, after tracking and wiretapping his entire family, was able to find Kabuga and bring him in front of the tribunal in Hague. It is also a testament to the speed of international justice and its ineffectiveness that it lasted more than two years after his arrest to start the trial and that he couldn't, due to his deteriorating health, attend the opening arguments. His trial is watched by many, as it is set to establish a precedent for how inciting violence through the media and its offensive speech is judged. It is now also a question, if the punishment he could serve will be long enough to portray a perception of justice served due to his old age and declining health.

NICOLAS IVANOV

## AFTER MORE THAN SEVEN DECADES, THE FAR-RIGHT RETURNS TO ITALY

On 25th of September 2022, a snap election was held in Italy. That means that the election was held earlier than it should have been. That is because the previous, Mario Draghi's, government fell and so in July 2022 Italian president Sergio Mattarella dissolved the parliament and called for new elections.

From the very beginning, the polls were calling the elections in favour of the Brothers of Italy, a far-right nationalist movement often considered to be a neo-fascist party. The most controversial however is Georgia Meloni, the leader of the party herself.

Meloni was born in 1977 in Rome, where she spent most of her childhood. Shortly after graduating from university she entered politics with many controversial opinions including a statement praising Mussolini. She was a member of many political parties, but in 2012 she co-founded a new party, which now stole the show.

As expected, Meloni's political party won an absolute majority in the Italian parliament and Meloni herself is soon to be appointed the first female prime minister of Italy. This may seem like a huge step forward. Unfortunately accompa-

nied by many steps back. She is strongly anti-abortion and anti-gay marriage. She considers herself a defender of the "traditional family". She is also a Christian and is expected to threaten secularism in the country, opposes immigration and perpetuates the rhetoric of Europe being invaded from the South. She summarises it well in her famous pre-election speech where she said: "I am Georgia, I am a woman, a mother, an Italian and a Christian."

She uses a similar rhetoric as many other European politicians. Far-right parties have been gaining popularity in Europe in the past decade and Meloni is another cogwheel in the machine. Her triumphant victory in the elections provoked various reactions in Europe and abroad. Many countries are frightened since Italy is a founding member of the EU and the continent's third biggest economy. Leaders are afraid that Italy



Source: [https://www.economist.com/img/b/834/469/90/media-assets/image/20221029\\_EUP002.jpg](https://www.economist.com/img/b/834/469/90/media-assets/image/20221029_EUP002.jpg)

will join the EU's far right coalition that has until now only consisted of Poland and Hungary. Masses are scared of that because Italy is a powerful country within the EU and could possibly help skew the EU into a conservative fraction.

Meloni will take Italy back in time in terms of civil rights. She is expected to try to ban safe abortions nationwide and gay people will probably have to wait a long time for the right to marry in Italy. In ad-

dition, her party stands for the traditional gender roles in society which is a direction that does not give people choices in their lives and this rhetoric tolerates domestic and sexual violence. Since Italy does not have a good experience with charismatic speakers from the right wing in politics, we can just hope it will go better this time around.

ADAM CHRISTL

## DEMOCRACY SECURES A MAJOR WIN IN LATIN AMERICA

At the beginning of October, Brazil saw a landmark election take place. There are two aspects to its international importance. One of them is the two candidates at hand. One was Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a left-leaning politician with corruption scandals for which he was briefly incarcerated was challenging the incumbent right to far-right Jair Bolsonaro, whose voter base consists almost exclusively of rural and/or uneducated workers, and who has made numerous scandalous claims about women, minorities, and the LGBTQ. But this article will not be analyzing the showdown of Brazilian Babiš and Trump, rather it will look at the second, arguably more important aspect to the election, the tremendous threat to one of the world's biggest democracies.

Ahead of the elections, Bolsonaro rallied his supporters, claiming that the election would surely be rigged and fraudulent, without any evidence to back up his claims. A story that unfortunately rings a familiar bell on the American continent, however Bolsonaro went even further than Trump and enlisted the military in his support, having top generals question the legitimacy of the vote before it was

even cast, and reminding everyone that "the supreme chief of the armed forces is named Jair Messias Bolsonaro". As if all of this wasn't enough, he said on numerous occasions to his supporters that "If necessary, we will go to war."

On election day, when it became increasingly clear that Lula da Silva would win, everything was set in place for Bolsonaro to launch a coup to overturn the legitimate results. Fortunately, due to Bolsonaro's openness about his plans in the buildup to the election, many had anticipated an attempted takeover, and top election officials had implemented measures to stop the incumbent president in his tracks.

One of the methods they used to prevent fraud allegations and subsequent unrest was to increase the testing for voting machines. Another arguably more important mechanism was the swiftness of the counting. While in America, Republicans had over a week of counting to slowly sow distrust in the minds of Trump supporters who saw their world slowly collapse before their eyes, in Brazil, the election was officially called after just three hours of counting, which was made possible by electronic voting ma-

chines. The last important distinction between the American and the Brazilian election has been who reports the results. While in the USA, results are reported by private news agencies, in Brazil, the election outcome was announced jointly by the Senate President, the Attorney-General, the Supreme Court Justices, and the election agency heads, which gave the result much more credibility.

Doing as much as possible to support the legitimacy of the election was not the only deterrent that the supporters of democracy prepared for Jair Bolsonaro, they also went after his people. A Supreme Court Justice relentlessly pursued tech companies to take down any fake news about the election, and more than that he ordered the raid of the houses of prominent businessman who in private conceded that they would support a Bolsonaro coup.

Although Bolsonaro probably would have still liked to try to overthrow the government, his powerful supporters from politics and the business sector were more mindful of the real situation facing them, and so they cut their losses, and decided not to incite unrest. As for Bolsonaro himself, he did not make any public

appearance for two days after the elections, and after he came out of his cave, he asked his voters, who already took to the streets, as per his previous instructions, to go home and allow for a transition. It is not clear whether it was the public's trust in the result or the Supreme Court's effective intimidation or some behind the scenes work that have changed Bolsonaro's mind, but Brazil's statesmen have made it clear that they will do anything they have to to keep their democracy, unlike the nine times richer United States of America, which in the face of very evident incitement of a violent takeover did absolutely nothing.

Many are hopeful about Lula da Silva's plans for Brazil, but he had already been president from 2003 to 2010, and did not bring any fundamental reform, therefore we cannot tell with certainty that he will save the country, as many hope he will. What we can say with certainty is that Brazil's democracy held out in the face of a threat to its democracy, and it did so much better than many far more economically developed states.

MATĚJ MAREK

## ■ CAN SCIENCE SAVE THE AMAZON?

**S**urely, we are all aware of the severity of deforestation taking place in the Amazon in recent years. In fact, according to the Climate and Land Use Alliance, scientists consider decreasing the extent of this major contributor to climate change just as urgent as halting the use of fossil fuels. Scientists around the world have worked diligently on researching possible ways to offset the environmental damage caused by deforestation as well as designing strategies to prevent it from happening in the first place. However, reaching the ultimate goal requires confronting not just one but two “final bosses.”

Firstly, this means beating the political representatives who care more about pre-election surveys than about the terrible suffering our descendants will go through because of their decisions. *I am looking at you, Bolsonaro. Fortunately, more and more Brazilians have become active observers of you while you sidelined credible scientists at the National Indian Foundation of Brazil, thus aiming to break up the long-standing laws protecting the rainforest as well as the human rights of its indigenous communities. They are the voices of these people who determine how far our society is in beating this one.* This October, the second round of the presidential elections in Brazil marked a hope-

ful change as we witnessed the narrow victory of Bolsonaro's opponent, former ex-president Lula da Silva. In his speech after the results were announced, he stated battling deforestation was one of the main goals during his time in office, but it's naïve to celebrate too soon.

Secondly, we must confront one of our natural instincts: human greed. The rapid increase in the number of drug runners, gold miners, and loggers illegally using the Amazon as a means for wealth delivers a big blow to the lives of its indigenous people and its one-of-a-kind level of biodiversity, neither of which have any weapons to respond with.

In the meantime, the use of surveillance technology could offer a helping hand to the dying ecosystem by serving as a form of security alarm. A network of interconnected devices could relay alerts to the local authorities upon detecting any intruders based on certain sounds such as chainsaws, motors, or gunshots, making it much easier to catch the criminals illegally deforesting the Amazon and hold them accountable. The relatively recent advancements in the field of AI mean that devices such as a simple combination of a microphone and a camera recorder are able to differentiate animal

and nature sounds from criminals making noise. Still, as with all technology, there are certain limitations as well as ethical questions to consider here.

Primarily, the rough tropical conditions characterized by dense vegetation make it challenging to even set up these systems, let alone change their batteries on a regular basis. The extremely high humidity and temperature of the Amazon must also be taken into consideration in regard to the potential longevity of such devices and the cost-effectivity of this strategy.

In addition, one should also think about the ethical side of the decision to monitor such a vast area. Thankfully, some indigenous people have been included in the discussion, but there are still many risks they could face. For one, a large part of the indigenous population could potentially be harmed or even decimated upon contact with (for us) common respiratory diseases because of their lack of specific immunity against them. This would therefore make the process of setting up the devices and regularly revisiting the sites of surveillance a threat to the well-being of the many isolated populations that live there. On top of that, the many new variations of COVID-19 make this aspect more important to consider than ever.

Although we are getting closer to solving most of the technological limitations (with the use of solar-powered prototypes, for instance), the same ethical questions remain. At the same time, the increasingly serious manifestations of climate change all around the world tell us we're virtually at one minute to midnight to start fighting it. Therefore, surveillance technology, however imperfect, may be our best shot at the moment.

It is truly startling to realize that a rainforest ecosystem that is millions of years old and serves a vital role in the global carbon cycle processes could fall victim to the greediness of human nature in a process that has begun less than a century ago. Yet, we find ourselves stuck in the era of willful ignorance coming from the political elite which leaves our fate dependent on the efforts of individuals and non-governmental organizations. It is precisely this fact that highlights the importance of innovative solutions in such endeavors, showing that even technology as controversial as (bio)mass surveillance can, when in good hands, have positive benefits on our long-term well-being on this planet.

VOJTECH PAVROVSKY

## ■ THE RIGHT TO DIE AND THE CANADIAN DISASTER

**I** used to be very supportive of the legalization of euthanasia. It seems logical that a person should be allowed to die with dignity on their own accord if they wish to do so. After all, there is no reason we should put animals to death on the grounds of alleviating them from a never-ending pain but not allow the same courtesy to consenting humans.

However, as we can see in the case of Canada, it is also possible to have euthanasia laws so liberalized that it starts getting out of hand. According to Health Canada Report, In 2021, over 10 000 people were reported to die by euthanasia, reporting an annual growth rate of 32.4% and accounting for 3.3% of all deaths in Canada. This is including 219 Canadians “whose natural deaths were not reasonably foreseeable.” Experts are particularly worried about the number of disabled people living in poverty among those euthanized.

Unlike in other countries where euthanasia is legal, Canadian doctors are instructed to not indicate on death certificates if people died from euthanasia. It doesn't have monthly commissions to review troubling and controversial cases. Doctors are allowed to inform patients that they qualify to be killed as one of the



Source: <https://bnblegal.com/article/right-to-die-with-dignity-euthanasia/>

possible “clinical care options”, even if the patient does not voice their desire to die themselves. To Canada's credit, euthanasia is only available to people insured under the Canadian Health Care system which prevents a phenomenon called “suicide tourism” we can see in countries like Switzerland, but it offers a little comfort in the face of the mounting controversial deaths of Canadians.

The personal stories of relatives of people who died by euthanasia in Canadian hospitals are downright dystopic. Global News brought to attention a case of a veteran seeking help for PTSD advised euthanasia as a “medical treatment” and a 51-year-old Ontario woman who chose to die because she was unable to find affordable housing that didn't worsen her severe chemical sensitivities. Associated Press News then wrote a detailed report

on the case of a man euthanized over a hearing loss just a month after being hospitalized and begging his brother to “bust him out as soon as possible”.

Various non-governmental bodies from the United Nations, multiple Human Rights groups, and the Pope have condemned Canada's euthanasia laws. To no avail. Instead of being prompted to re-examine the policies in place, the Canadian Liberal government is seeking to enhance access to euthanasia further. In 2023, it will become legal to euthanize consenting patients on the grounds of mental illness. What's more terrifying yet, euthanasia will be made available to “mature minors”. Not only that “mature minor” is an extremely ambivalent term, but it is also an oxymoron by itself.

While I am not fully opposed to the idea of euthanasia, I believe it should be

only ever possible if the patient brings it up themselves. Under no circumstances should a doctor ever bring up euthanasia and offer it as one of the possible medical treatments. Under no circumstances, should literal children whose brains are not fully developed yet be able to consent to euthanasia. Under no circumstances, should death be more bearable than living in poverty in one of the most developed and richest countries in the world. In a society where we grant people the right to die with dignity, we must grant them the right to live with dignity as well.

According to The Public Opinion Research Centre (CVVM), 66% of Czechs support the legalization of euthanasia. If we indeed move towards legalizing it in the Czech Republic, we must draft policy and any legal definitions carefully in order to avoid the Canadian situation. We also have to make sure that such sensitive issues never become a matter of pure ideology and party politics. Re-examining policy after it turns out to not work as intended should not be regarded as giving in to the opposition, but as reflecting shortcomings and governing with expertise and reason.

ŠÁRKA NEUMANNOVÁ

## THE DEATH OF OUR QUEEN

Queen Elizabeth II, the United Kingdom's longest-serving sovereign has passed away. As the nation concluded its mourning for her late majesty the Queen, she will be remembered as the "stalwart of our times" as she had provided dignified leadership, not only for the United Kingdom but also for Commonwealth realms all around the world.

Her legacy will forever live on as a symbol of stability, as a rock, upon which modern Britain has been built on. A dignified, dependable figure, who helped to steer the institution into the modern world, as she had promised all these years ago. Her life defined modern Britain, as she reigned over a nation, which sometimes struggled to find its place in a new world order.

The Queen's life spanned the entire history of modern Britain. She was born and raised in an empire, which ruled over 600 million people and died in a European country with an uncertain future in the new world order, where nations all over the world urge independence from the colonizing nations. Born as a daughter of the Duke of York, she lived a relatively normal life until her 10th birthday, as her family tree, associated with the Bowes-Lyons, was 2nd in line to the thro-

ne. This unprecedentedly all changed with the abdication of King Edward, her uncle, which directly made Elizabeth the Heir apparent.



At age 14 she witnessed the existential threat to her nation when London was bombed by Nazi Germany. In the early years of her reign, the nation was skeptical about entering the new Elizabethan age as the power the British Empire once had was fading. In spite of this, the nation thrived under an adapted, cautious, and pragmatic lead. In this, Elizabeth provided an undeniable source of stability as the country and the world underwent epochal changes.

The monarchy built on the system of hereditary privilege is a living anachronism in the modern age. However, throughout the reign of the Queen, the national poll indicated that the population was always, by slimmer or wider margins, in favor of the constitutional monarchy, which has been in place for decades. Nevertheless, in light of the Queen's pas-

ing, it may be the right time for contentious reflection on the place of the monarchy. With the changing nation that Britain is, it is indeed necessary for the monarchy to move with time and represent the needs of the population in order for the Crown to survive.

It is certain that the future success of the monarchy could rely on how much the people of the nation admire the next person on the throne. In other words, Monarchy can only be just as good as people running the shop (doing the job). Now, the new King Charles III ascends the throne at age 73. He is the first divorcee and university graduate to reign as a sovereign in modern times. His character is well known amongst the nation and he might prove himself to be quite transitional and progressive.

The late Queen leaves a space that is unlikely to be filled, and it is certain that the monarchy will not be the same in the future. It would be oblique to not acknowledge that the late Queen diligently served for so long with dedication and affection to not only the United Kingdom but to the family of nations as a whole.

OLIVER ERBEN

## SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance, the act of watching or monitoring one's activities or location, can be used in many good ways like identifying criminals or as a deterrent. In this regard, it would make sense to have cameras on every street corner. However, it can become a problem quickly as it interferes with our understanding of privacy. How would it feel to have your every step, every move, watched? Would that make you feel comfortable to have your sense of privacy destroyed by the cameras that promise to keep you safe?

Surveillance is not limited to cameras but comes in many forms, ranging from the tracking of online activity to data mining or aerial monitoring. Surveillance is used to establish control, especially by governments that use technology to control the country's crime rate. For example, following the 9/11 attacks, the USA created stringent terrorism prevention bans and started monitoring its whole population. Instead of focusing solely on the criminals, they concentrate on everybody they deem suspicious without any concrete proof. The accusations are based on the data the government acquired through Google which gave them your personal private information such as text messages, relationships, family, and passwords. Now, doesn't that seem like a massive breach of privacy? Would you be okay with the government knowing everything about you? It may not be that big of a problem if you live in a democratic state with a transparent justice system. However, it becomes a significant problem in authoritarian regimes where the government can arbitrarily misuse your data.

Personally, I wouldn't be comfortable with that. Everybody has the right to privacy and to protect their confidential information without letting the government see and know all about them. I understand that excessive surveillance is meant to protect us from any possible dangers being plotted. However, is it worth sacrificing all of our privacy? You are not suspicious for simply wanting some privacy. Not everybody wants to have their personal matters out there, and it is wrong to be forced to do so. I admire companies like Apple, who rejected the government's request to hack into a terrorist's iPhone, as a developed program like that would cause more harm than good if spread to the general public. I believe we should all be cautious of what information we put out because we never know who has access to it and how they will interpret it.

CALISTA MAŘÍKOVÁ

## FEAR: FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

In the modern world, it is important to know how fear arises, the influence of other people's emotions on our fear, and how we can deal with fear. With each passing year, the subject of human psychology is gaining popularity, and more and more people ask questions such as: "How to read people", "How to get rid of depression", or even "How to manipulate people". But today, I want to pay attention to something more incomprehensible: fear.

When we talk about something, it is important to understand how it arises. The first thing to note is how our body perceives fear. Our "thinking" brain gives feedback to our "emotional" brain and, depending on where we are and what we know about the situation, we decide what the next action will be. From a scientific point of view, the center of the onset of fear is located in a region of the brain called the amygdala. This part of the brain is responsible for detecting how much something strikes us. Then the amygdala activates the preparation for motor functions, releases stress hormones, and activates the sympathetic nervous system. The next stage includes body changes such as the brain becoming hypera-

lert, pupils and bronchi dilating, and respiration accelerating. Consequently, heart rate and blood pressure increase. Blood flow and glucose flow to skeletal muscle increase. Non-survival organs such as the gastrointestinal system slow down. One part of the brain, the hippocampus, is closely connected to the amygdala. The hippocampus and prefrontal cortex help the brain interpret perceived threats. They are involved in higher-level context processing that helps a person determine whether a perceived threat is real.

Moreover, the main source of our fears is other people's emotions. When we see someone's emotions, we automatically adopt them. For example, when we see a crowd of people unexpectedly start screaming, it causes our brain to react and awakens fear in us as well. We have this reaction because of our previous experiences, other people's stories, or the information we have read. All these things directly influence our following actions. That is why it is important to be aware of this to have more control of the situation.

Likewise, we can train our brains and body to respond to fears. Firstly, be ho-

nest with your feelings, explore them, and trust yourself. Admitting your feelings and fears to yourself is not a sign of weakness or timidity: it is a challenge that helps us acquire knowledge about ourselves. Secondly, if you cannot control the situation, do not let fear take over. It will only make the situation worse. For example, if you do not understand the source of others' fear and start being afraid along with them, you are only wasting your strength and limiting your chances of resolving the situation. Furthermore, there are chronic fears - phobias - which are more difficult to cope with. In that case, try to imagine or remember something pleasant that evokes the opposite emotion of fear. This can be anything from a memory of playing with your dog, an outing with your parents, or a walk with your friends. Of course, there is also a harder way, which is to face your fears face to face.

Traditionally, a man had, has, and always will have fears. But "forewarned is forearmed"; meaning that the knowledge of the source of fear can prepare us for it or even help us overcome it.

OLEKSANDRA SUPYLNYK

## FACTS AND MYTHS: THE WORLDS MOST HATED AIRLINE

If you asked passengers onboard a plane what is its type and manufacturer, it would soon become evident that most of them do not know and do not care. A lot of people can list the various kinds of aircraft, using terms such as “Jumbo Jet,” private jet, helicopter, or military plane. Some can even name the two main companies producing commercial (passenger) aircraft: Airbus and Boeing. Maybe, some of them will even be able to differentiate between these two. And unbelievably, there are also individuals who know what a Dash-8 Q400 looks like.

With airlines, though, the situation is obviously different – people usually know, where they got their tickets from, and observant ones will even manage to read the letters painted on the side of each aircraft. The airline they choose is a key factor and a real difference-maker, so it is only natural that even non-frequent flyers and people uninterested into aviation often know airlines well. Airlines have become brands. And as with any other business, they are striving for a respectable reputation and a good image, here specifically based on comfort and safety. Everyone has their favourites and no-goes, or perhaps airlines they find stylish or classy. But one thing unites both aviation experts, occasional travelers, and the public: We simply love to poke fun at Ryanair.

Irish low-cost operator Ryanair was founded in 1984, but the peak of its success first came during the 2010s, and up until now it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. With it, though, also came the wave of criticism, pointing out Ryanair's outrageous strict money-saving methods, on many occasions leaving passengers of classical airlines in sheer disbelief. Examples include but are not limited to: Surcharges such as paying 2€ extra when booking two seats next to each other, other hidden fees raising the

advertised price by 10s of Euros, misleading advertising, horrendous customer service, safety cards printed and glued to seats, dirty cabins, paying 1€ for using the toilet on a flight, or promoting the use of vertical seats on airplanes to cram even more people into their planes (thankfully, the last two proposals didn't go through in the end... yet). This led to the spread of a massive number of jokes, which do not even seem that ridiculous compared to Ryanair's real operations: Want a working oxygen mask and life jacket? Pay up! And probably the most iconic and widely known Ryanair “specialty” – hard landings.

In that case, though, as a pilot myself, I must defend Ryanair's crews – there is no such thing as a bad landing, if it is safe. “Bumpy” and “bouncy” landings are common and do not say anything about the quality of pilots; sometimes, it is even required to land the plane harder, to activate its braking mechanisms. On the other hand, the underpayment of pilots and their treatment is a real issue that should not be dismissed by low-cost airlines. That brings me to the next fact – Ryanair's strict policies have made it an extremely profitable company, but it is not only cuts in customer care that make the airline successful – they use a very smart strategy when it comes to acquiring aircraft. Have you ever seen two different looking Ryanair planes? Of course not. Ryanair does not need a versatile fleet for its European flights. Every single one of their whooping 475 planes is a Boeing 737, which means they do not need to pay one Euro for the re-training of pilots. What is more, the airline's success in Europe is unapparelled – they serve more than 200 destinations, leaving their fiercest competitor and year-long rival EasyJet (you could say: the sensible low-cost airline) far behind. Another clever move is the utilization of smaller and less central air ports, which still pro-

## EDITOR'S DILEMMA

Dear readers,

Only few of you have insight into the background functioning of the OG Chronicle team. Even fewer understand how difficult it is to keep the team motivated, productive, and pleased during each edition we produce. And what almost no one knows what a great dilemma it is to choose who to pass your work onto when you are the Editor and have to leave the school in 6 months to move on with a completely new and different life. Precisely this is the dilemma I am now combating, or more exactly what my left and right hemisphere are discussing. So please, I invite you to witness this ongoing inner interview.

**My beloved left half of the brain, as you are my logical and more structured partner, what steps would you take in selecting the future best Editor-in-Chief?**

Well first of all, we have to think about what qualities a person in such a role should have. When we have a list like that, we can observe our team members and their past work, to understand their abilities and how do they possibly match our created profile. Next, the traditional step that was taken historically is to directly ask the most ideal person whether he or she would be interested in a such role with certain responsibilities. Nevertheless, I believe that we shall change this selection process and announce an official recruitment of possible Editor-in-Chief, where anyone can apply and this way we would reach people who are truly interested in the position and hopefully have a plan in their minds on how to proceed or improve our Journalism Club.

**But if you are so smart, what qualities do you want such a candidate to possess?**

They have to be organised, responsible, confident, and creative. So, their right hemispheres have to be overflowing with ideas. I believe it is necessary for them to be innovative and bring new life into our club!

**And now seriously, what will you do if there is no one like that? And additionally, you could have spiced up the club yourself, no?**

Than we are damned and I will probably bribe someone to do it, as OG Chronicle does not deserve to fall apart! And I will not answer the second question, too personal... You should know that I was not the best Editor-in-Chief, so now just help me find someone better and I do already have someone in mind!

MICHAELA RENDLOVÁ



Source: <https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-news/stand-up-seating-for-planes>

vide a decent localization and are much cheaper to operate from.

I must admit that Ryanair will not cease to surprise me with groundbreaking ideas which appear outright stupid, but to be fair, in one thing they are always right – their prices are unmatched. Flying across Europe has never been more accessible, and I hope that Ryanair's ticket prices generate even more pressure on expensive classical airlines, which think that their glamorous visage is enough to lure travellers. But enough of that – I just found a 200 CZK banknote on the ground! Well, time to pack my bags and fly to Portugal!

PAVEL GALYÁŠ



Source: <https://upgradedpoints.com/travel/airlines/ryanair-review/>

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD CUP

Welcome to Qatar. A country known for its ambitious standards of living, its culture and modern look. And this year, this beautiful country hosts the World Cup.



Source: [https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/iTwjib\\_world-cup-png-fifa-world-cup-png-transparent/](https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/iTwjib_world-cup-png-fifa-world-cup-png-transparent/)

For those who do not know what the World Cup is or how it works, the World Cup is a historically renowned event in football, where the top national football teams go face to face for the title of World Cup champions. It is played every four years, and every-time it is played at a different location. Before the World Cup even starts, there are many qualification rounds played to determine which 32 countries will take part in the prestigious event. The nations that manage to qualify will then be divided into 8 groups (labelled A–H) of 4 teams. The winners of the group and the runner-up then enter the round of 16 (second round) where the winners of each group play the runner-up of another group, and this is called the round of 16. The winners continue to the quarterfinals, the semi-finals, and the final, that eventually crowns the Champions of the World. Also, for the losers of the semi-finals, a third-place match is held to crown the bronze medallists of the tournament.

If you can recall, the last World Cup was played in Russia in the year of 2018, in the summer. Yet this year, it is played... during the Winter? While it is a

bit unconventional, it is done due to the extreme heat of Qatar. If it were played during the summer such as the one in 2018, the players would have to play in extreme heat (41°C/105°F) which would, no doubt, ruin both the player's performances and the quality of the matches. That is why this year's World Cup will be held during the Winter, as in Qatar the temperature during Winter is about 16°C/60.8°F. Now though, let us introduce some of the groups' participants.

Group E will be interesting to watch, as it features two of Europe's giants, Spain, and Germany. Both sides have talented players, but both sides have a noticeably young team that could turn out to be inexperienced. Yet it is expected that both sides will make it through to the Round of 16, and that pressure alone will make for an exciting watch. The underdogs (teams that are not expected to win or qualify) of the group are Japan and Costa Rica.

One of the more popular nations makes an appearance in Group B. England is one of the football's biggest nations despite not winning a trophy for over 56 years. They, however, have a much younger squad that looked dominant in their Euro 2020 campaign where they lost in the fi-

nal. Wales also looks to make the most of this group, as Gareth Bale's goal allowed them to enter a World Cup after a long 64-year absence. The teams they must beat to achieve this are USA and Iran.

The next group (D) features France, the former World Champions, and one of the strongest teams in the tournament. Yet we could quarrel about their performances, as they crashed out of the Euro's Round of 16, with the Swiss team beating them in a penalty shootout. Still their attacking side alone is extremely strong, featuring Karim Benzema, O. Giroud and, of course, K. Mbappé. They will have to defeat Denmark, the dark horse of the tournament that looked brilliant in the 2020 Euros, and Tunisia and Australia.

This year's World Cup looks to be an event worth waiting for, as we have dominant nations, dark horses, and plenty of marquee matchups. So, enjoy, sit back, and relish in the entertainment that the World Cup will, with no doubt, provide.

MIKULÁŠ BOLCEK

## HALF ROBOT, NOT HUMAN: ERLING HAALAND

It has been only a few weeks into the new Premier League season, and we have had some incredible moments and surprises. Whether it is the resurrection of Arsenal or the early troubles of Liverpool and Manchester United, one stands miles above anything else. Even the people that awaited it enthusiastically could not have presumed it would be such an extraordi-

nary accomplishment.

When it was announced that he will be joining Manchester City for the next season, a lot of people were still sceptical about Erling Haaland's ability to perform in the most important games and if he can maintain the level he had been playing at for Dortmund, where he scored 86 goals along with 23 assists. This

was an absurd continuation of dominance from Red Bull Salzburg and considering he has battled with some injuries, not bad. The hype and pressure on the 22-year-old were immense and they caught him. In his first game for City in the Community Shield (winner of the Premier League against Liverpool he was unable to score, missing

a few outright goal chances in a 3-1 loss to City's biggest competition in the last few years. The fans were quick to call Haaland a not bothered by these comments, scoring two goals past West Ham in his first Premier League start. He has not looked back since.

As of the 25th of November, he has scored 18 goals in 13 matches for the Citizens. He is the first player to score three hatricks at the home stadium in three consecutive matches, scoring three past the cross-town rivals United in a 6-3 victory. He and his team have been on a mission demolishing everyone in the league and the Champions league and Haaland has been the centrepiece of this success. Even his teammates and former Premier League legends find it mind-blowing. He reached the mark of 3 hatricks fastest in the history of Premier league, by 40 games!

The only thing left to do is just sit back and enjoy the show because we may never see something like this ever again. The sky is the limit for Haaland and if he keeps up his effort, he may break all the Premier league records. He has been doing it for his entire life and he surely does not look like he wants to stop now.

ADAM CHÁRA



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/towering-presence-rapid-pace-freakish-power-how-manchester-citys-erling-haaland-terrorises-defences-8140459/>

## (NOT) GETTING EMBARRASSED BY YOUR MUSICAL TASTE

So, it has finally come again. That impenetrable fear, climbing up and down the walls in a cerebral fashion, taunting you with its presence every year. The screen in the palm of your hand beckons to you, hoping that the mere mention of it will make your chest tighten up in a way that only a fight or flight situation can. You must acknowledge it to yourself, and do so as soon as you see it: "Oh god, is it time for the Spotify Wrapped already?" I know, I know, it is an awful fear most of us have, but we also must deal with it in some way. Here are a few tips on how not to embarrass yourself in front of your friends.

First off, we all know that you are instantly cooler if you listen to artists who have very few listeners. You are going against society's expectations; you are anti-establishment on the incredibly small platforms that are Spotify and Apple Music. The best way to find new obscure artists is to simply look up nouns, like "fire", "string" or even "window". Afterwards, scroll through 10 artists until you find one that has less than a thousand listeners and listen to their music on repeat, and on mute. Alternatively, you can use online communities of music makers to find small artists, like Reddit's r/indiemusicfeedback, where musicians of all kinds use the platform as it was meant to be used. They definitely do not use it to advertise their music while leaving half-baked feedback on other submissions.

If you are an even more pretentious music listener, you might try to find the most "objectively good" music to listen to by using public consensus. This can be easily done with the help of websites

such as Rate Your Music and Album of the Year, both of which offer the public a chance to incessantly argue about music, even though none of them have the correct opinion, except for me. However, you must be careful with this approach. You might think that an album is considered to be good, when you suddenly feel the grotesque touch of an audiophile,

who owns grossly overpriced vinyl and has 3000 album reviews, followed by the all-too familiar saying: "That album is SO overrated, bro!"

So far, I have given out some great tips, but the real piece of advice you need to hear is this: Do not be embarrassed about what you listen to. There is a lot of great music out there in the world, and your choice of sounds is as valid as anyone else's. People who listen to a lot of music can be as close-minded about other peoples' music taste as people who barely listen to any music. So, if you see an artist you dislike on someone else's Spotify Wrapped, do not waste too



Source: <https://www.apple.com/th-en/shop/product/MX432PA/A/beats-solo3-wireless-headphones-black>

much energy being angry at them. Similarly, if you ever get a chance to expand your horizons, take it! You do not need to like it but being open to diverse types of sound that you might not be used to is always good in any music listener.

And most importantly... oh, wait. I just realized that by the time you read this article, Spotify will have already stopped tracking users for this year's Spotify Wrapped. Welp, I hope you enjoy others making fun of your top tracks, which sound like any song from an "Indie Pop/Rock Vibes" playlist!

IVAN PAVLOVEC

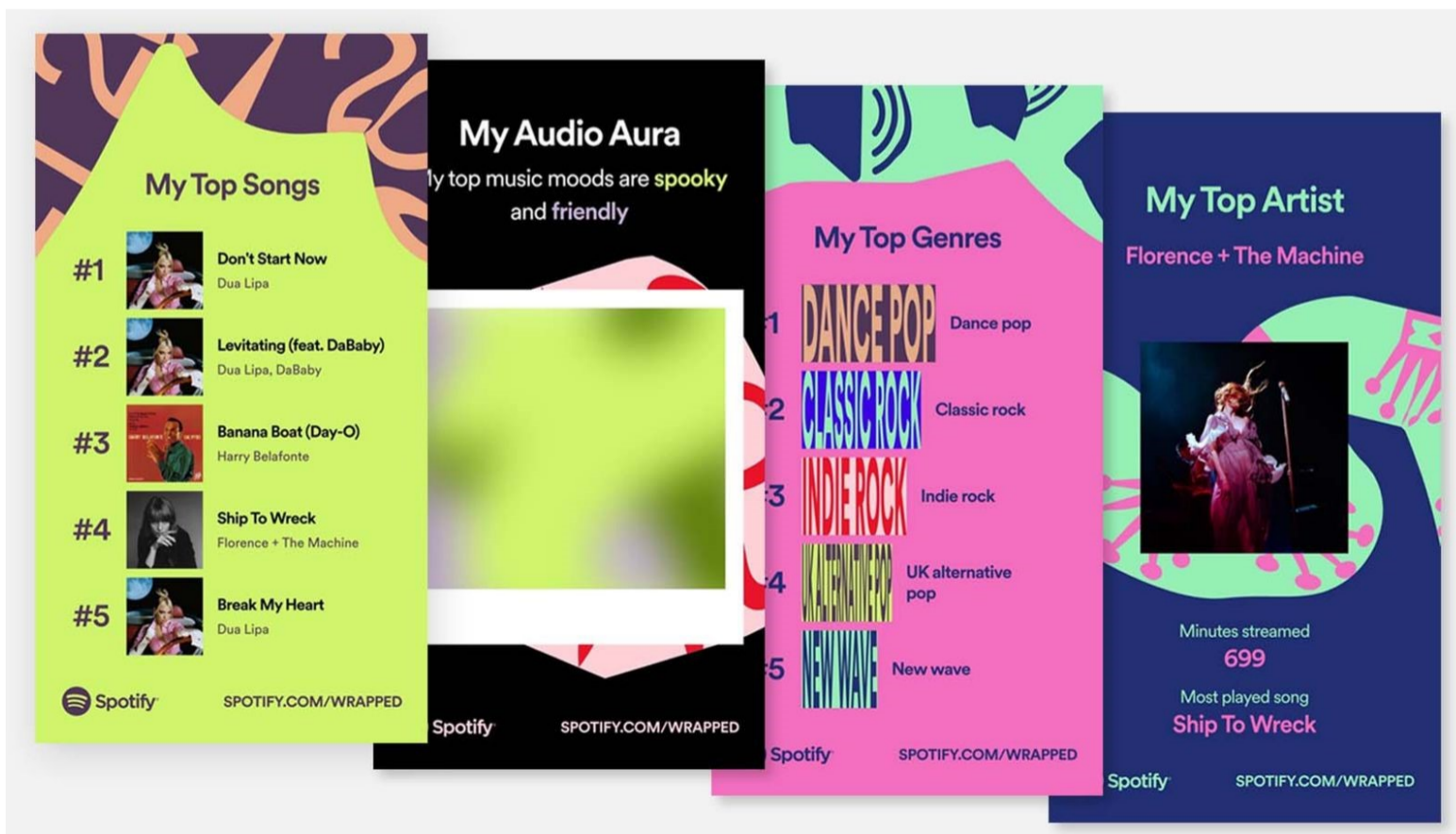
## REVIEW: *MEDIEVAL*

In terms of world film production, we can humbly say that Czech Republic is not a great rival to western Hollywood production. Yet it does not mean that Czech producers cannot strive to make a breakthrough with their big budget movies starring famous actors. Director Petr Jákł decided to bring more attention to the domestic movie production, which frankly was degrading and living mainly on the nostalgia from the past, as he decided to produce a movie called *Medieval* about the greatest Bohemian military commander Jan Žižka, which would cost over 20 million dollars and as such would become the most expensive Czech film ever made.

One might say that is a daring move for someone that has previously shot only two movies but let us not be hasty in our judgments. The plot takes us to the beginning of the Hussite revolt against the Church and the king Zikmund who wants to seize the Bohemian throne during the 15th century. And into this quandary young knight Žižka (Ben Foster) is thrown and is asked to kidnap a fiancée (Sophie Lowe) of landlord Rosenberg to prevent him from supporting Zikmund's claim on the throne. The overall depiction of the medieval Bohemian kingdom feels very rough and naturalistic (especially the parts where mercenaries are sacking local villages). Despite the fact that the movie tries to pull strings on its political side, with Michael Cane as Lord Boreš trying his best to show the intrigues of royal politics, this one feels a bit dull and pointless in comparison with the rest of the plot. In general, the movie stands primarily on its fight scenes, which are brutal yet intriguing and even though are less grandiose (do not expect army clashes of tens of thousands) they add to the overall realistic side as you would hardly believe a large battle could occur in the impenetrable forest of Czech's Switzerland.

Altogether, it is safe to say that although this is not a groundbreaking masterpiece some were expecting, it is still a decent movie that could certainly entertain you for its two hours. So, if you are interested a bit in history or just want some action thriller without Tom Cruise for a change, *Medieval* might be just the right thing for you.

NATAN KRATOCHVÍLA



Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/02/tech/spotify-wrapped-data/index.html>



## THE CAKE-SHAKE

I recently had my birthday and my good friend, Kuba Hošťálek, prepared for me one of the best cakes I've ever tasted in my life. However, it wasn't just an ordinary cake which you would have to bake, cut and chew, containing a ton of sugar in it and unhealthy ingredients. It was a cake which you can prepare using just your blender and then... drink it. This cake-shake is recommended for those who are bulking, however all GymBros should have the right to taste this delicious liquid at least on their birthday.

**Ingredients** (adjust amounts according to your taste and nutritional preferences):

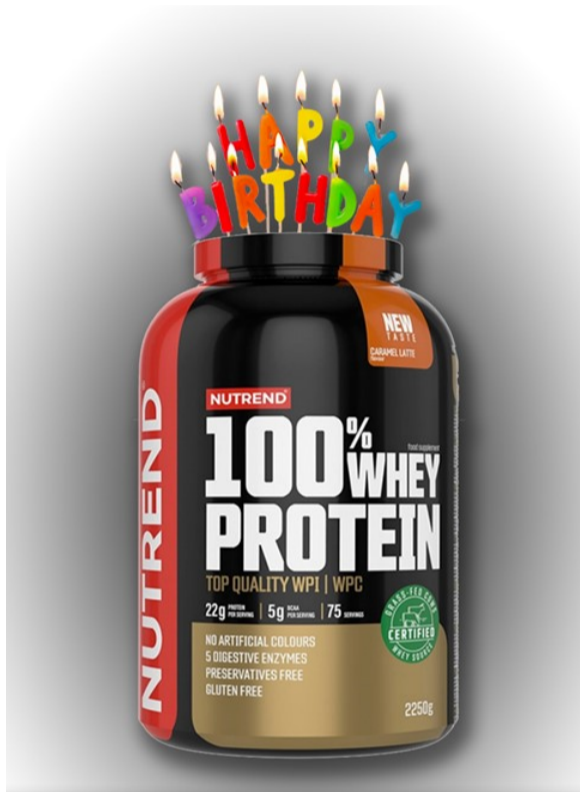
- bananas: 2
- liquid Caramel: 1 spoon
- milk: 500 ml
- sour cream: 100 g
- oat flakes: 60 g
- peanut butter: 2 spoons
- protein powder: 1 serving

**Nutritional Notes:**

1100 kcal and 60 g of protein

Just prepare all these ingredients, put them in a blender and mix. And all that is left then is to consume the delicious circa 1100 calories and 60g of protein filled liquid. To enjoy the cake-shake fully, I recommend preparing multiple portions into an empty protein powder container as a surprise for your gym bro and then share it together.

DANIEL STRNAD



Source: collage created by the author

## HALLOWE'EN AT OPEN GATE



Hallowe'en arrived at Open Gate again this year, with plenty of ghosts, ghouls and other assorted creatures attending. Among the activities that took place were a costume contest and the traditional making of jack-o-lanterns (also known as 'pumpkin carving'). In the evening, there were even greater spooks and scares as the students

took part in a 'night battle' (noční bojovka) around the OG campus. We're happy to report that nearly all students (98.3%) returned to the dorms alive, meaning that the chance of encountering a zombie at school is still quite low (but not impossible...)

MR. WITT & SERGEJ ŽUKOV (PHOTOS)

## TO FORGET IN THE MIDST OF THE MIST

In white nothing, a tree stood tall  
It's withered twigs gripping like  
hands where they could crawl  
In one such hand, another grip it  
felt  
A poor set of cards it has been  
dealt

In white nothing, there stood a  
figure  
His feet old and wretched, they  
looked transfigured  
He came in a coat, not from fabric  
nor leather  
But just like his mind, it was as  
light as a feather

In white nothing, the man sat  
down  
He watched, intrigued by the  
tree's crown  
His black eyes saw something he  
could gnaw  
A thought passed his mind as he  
opened his maw



In white nothing, where the trees  
held hands  
Who were their partners if not  
the brethren of their badlands?  
He laughed, in his scratching  
caw, raw malice was heard  
fate could kill any poor bird, it  
was so absurd  
In white nothing, he had his last  
laugh too  
For the fates are not cruel, nor  
just, nor a tool  
He was wicked and a killer, yet  
he could hold no gun  
He was indifferent to crows, boys  
or anyone

In white nothing, he hung from  
above  
His heart could not bear his old  
body and blood  
And so two now remained,  
cradled by trees  
Their feet now high, their necks  
in a tight squeeze

In white nothing, a tree  
stood tall  
The last living leaf  
holding hands began to  
fall  
Lives tortured by lives in  
an eternal war  
But now at last it was free  
from it all

SERGEJ ŽUKOV

## MEMES



DANNY SMÍŠEK



**WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD, SO WE'VE BEEN CHOOSING THEM CAREFULLY FOR 16 YEARS.**

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