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and much more...

ISSUE #5 | April 2020
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Banned Books – Great Reads?

Books have been banned for many different reasons for many years. But banning books is the last thing you would expect in our time, right?

The most justifiable or best reason that would pop up in your mind for banning books, would be that the book is too spooky or that the content is disturbing. Actually, in most cases of book banning it’s not that. Adults are worried about the “bad” influence that some books could have on their children and so they try to ban them from schools and libraries. But what do some adults think of as “bad”? Maybe the books do not support their religious or political ideas and they don’t want young people to read about different viewpoints. Maybe they don’t want young people to “get ideas” that are different to the “ideas” they have. Many great stories have been banned for involving magic or because they offend different religions. But by banning books, adults just encourage us to read those books even more.

Did you know that some really popular books have been banned in various places more than a hundred times? I think every single one of us knows Harry Potter and his great fight against the Dark Lord, or has at least heard of it. This book series has been translated into 68 different languages and has been sold in over 200 countries worldwide. It has even been filmed. Well, only a few people know that by the year 2000 it had been threatened with a ban and challenged about 650 different times around the world!

Similar to “The Chronicles of Narnia”, it included magic and a lot of fantasy. Mysticism was a point that was very often criticized by people wanting to ban “Narnia” and that wasn’t the only subject of debate. In 1990 some adults were worried about graphic violence and later in 2005, a group which focused on the separation of church and state tried to ban the book from Florida’s public schools. In “Narnia” many things were criticised, not just the magic but also the focus on religion and violence.

Another famous book is “The Diary of Anne Frank”. This book has been threatened with a ban because of the concern about sexual context – or at least that was the reason they named. Once, in 1983, Alabama State tried to ban it because it was “a real downer”.

At the moment the American Libraries Association has a list of approximately 130 children’s books that various people or organisations want to ban or remove from school libraries. Books on this list include Roald Dahl’s “The Witches” and “James and the Giant Peach”, Madeleine L’Engle’s “A Wrinkle in Time” and even Martin Hanford’s “Where’s Waldo?” This list shows how important it is for people to challenge censorship in libraries and schools.

Banning books is not only devastating, it’s also a shame to prohibit such important reading material, because such books – Harry Potter, Narnia, The Diary of Anne Frank – all of them teach us very significant lessons in life. If people try to “hide” them from us, that will have great consequences on children’s education, behavior and way they think of books.

So, if you’re a bookworm and would like to immerse yourself in some funny forbidden story, then have a look at our list!

Sources:

The ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) receives reports from libraries, schools, and the media on attempts to ban books in communities across the country. They compile lists of challenged books in order to inform the public about censorship efforts that affect libraries and schools.
**Good Reads**

Do you have more time on your hands? Looking to escape your four walls, at least mentally? We have asked our science teacher Lukas Hutter to recommend some books – so if you like comic strips, are Simpsons fans, or want to arm yourself for scientific arguments with your nearest and dearest then these are the books to go for.

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Lukas Hutter MSc, DPhil (Oxon) is also co-founder of Biotop. Biotop is an open collective of scientists engaging in the curiosity-driven, cross-disciplinary and collaborative translation of ideas; it is an experiment trying to reinvent the way we do science.

To find out more visit their website: www.biotop.co

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**Hardcover, 368 pages**
Published October 17th 2017 by Penguin Press

Original Title
Soonish: Ten Emerging Technologies That’ll Improve and/or Ruin Everything

ISBN
0399563822
(ISBN13: 9780399563829)

„Soonish - Ten emerging technologies that will improve or ruin everything“ by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith

Starting with the question of which technologies are going to shape our future, this book infuses serious science reporting with hilarious comic strips and illustrative visual metaphors. A fun and truly interesting read.

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**Hardcover, 253 pages**
Published October 29th 2013 by Bloomsbury USA (first published 2013)

ISBN
1620402777
(ISBN13: 9781620402771)

„The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets“ by Simon Singh

We are so used to our decimal number system that we rarely ask ourselves why we use it over any other. Curiously, the producers of the Simpsons have done just that. It turns out that many of the writers of the popular cartoon series have a background in maths, science or engineering, and it shows, if you know what to look for. This light-hearted read by acclaimed science writer Simon Singh points out subtle clues to the deep mathematical secrets hidden in this classic cartoon series.

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**Paperback, 368 pages**
Published June 19th 2018 by Scribner (first published October 3rd 2017)

Original Title
Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams

ISBN
1501144324
(ISBN13: 9781501144325)

„Why We Sleep“ by Matthew Walker

If you want to base your next argument about your habit of having a lie-in on recent scientific insights; or if you want to start a campaign aimed at pushing the start of the school day to a more reasonable time, this should definitely go on your reading list right now.

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**Hardcover, 416 pages**
Published May 3rd 2016 by Bloomsbury USA (first published April 7th 2016)

Original Title
The Bricks that Built the Houses

ISBN
1620409011
(ISBN13: 9781620409015)

„the bricks that built the houses“ by Kate Tempest

With bold and lyrical language and a keen sense for its characters humanity, this debut novel by rapper and poet Kate Tempest explores the intersecting lives of young Londoners, as they attempt to take their fates into their own hands.

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**Paperback, 256 pages**
Published October 13th 1992 by Ballantine Books (first published February 1st 1990)

Original Title
Last Chance to See

ISBN
0345371984
(ISBN13: 9780345371980)

„Last Chance to See“ by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine

In part funny travelogue, partly moving story about endangered species, this book by sci-fi author Douglas Adams (author of the Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy) and zoologist Mark Carwardine takes you places (a definite plus in the current lock-down) and illustrates the fascinating biology of some of the rarest animals on Earth en-route.

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Lukas Hutter MSc, DPhil

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To find out more visit their website: www.biotop.co
Thanks for being interviewed by The Point. So what exactly do you and your team at the University do?

I am also grateful for the opportunity to talk about computer science and current trends.

We are very involved developing the teaching and learning of IT in schools. We are looking for methods to improve teaching and investigate the possibilities offered by new technologies (e.g. VR or AR systems). We also study the use of games in the educational domain and are leading the research in ‘personality-optimized teaching’. There are always new developments, and honestly, it is a lot of fun to be among the first to try out new gadgets and ideas.

Personality-optimized teaching might also involve adapting to gender, especially since Information science is still considered a masculine domain today. Why is that and what can be done to improve that?

That is indeed a really interesting topic! Studies from around the world show that girls, age between 10-14, are better at computer science and maths than boys, but boys tend to belittle girls, resulting in masculine dominance.

The good news? The good news is that this is changing now as computer science offers so many interesting fields that there is room for both boys and girls. At our university we do have “Game Studies” and already half of our students are women.

Many companies also rely on mixed male-female teams and the best scientists, for example in cryptography are women.

Information science – many people associate that with endless streams of zeros and ones, shady figures in the internet and dismantling computers. How would you define information science?

In Austria we use the term “Informatik” (from information science) which is not quite correct in our context. From all the definitions around, „computing science“ (as „Informatik“ is called in the U.K.) would be the most appropriate one. Essentially it is about creating solutions for the problems in our lives, using “information processing agents”. By working together in teams and with people, new and exciting ideas and products are created.

We are digitalising everything, from our gadgets in the home to cars. But do we actually need this digitalisation?

Did we need the letterpress printing? Stories and knowledge could also be passed on at the campfire. It is digitalization that enables language-processing machines (we call them computer) to support us in our lives – it is their way to „understand“ the analogue world and to communicate with us. So, digitalization is nothing special, it is just the basis for dealing with data and information.

So what about AI? Artificial Intelligence is really being developed now. What can it do, what are its limits and are there risks?

One should always remember that behind an AI system there are simply algorithms, and “intelligence” just means that these systems are equipped with basic rules and functions and the ability to add (=learn) new rules. These systems can (sometimes only by chance) learn the “right” rules and are able to solve specific problems and tasks faster than human beings. But the developers (humans) are not always able to control the context (the setting) in which these “rules” are learnt by the computer and then the results might be surprising or wrong. In the worst case (as happened in a social media experiment with bots some years ago) these algorithms also start to behave in a very rude way.

Can you tell us more about virtual reality? What is so fascinating about VR and what do developers want to achieve with it?

A carpenter has the advantage that he or she has something in his or her hands to touch during all the work steps. The written code has nothing to touch/feel/smell. Well, human beings are equipped with a lot of different senses, and with VR (or AR) you not only can see the code that you write, you can also enter the world that you created. In the best case, the new world is immersive, and this experience can be used to foster motivation, learning effects and, surprise, surprise, it is also a lot of fun.

Finally, what would you give as advice for people who are really interested in information science?

Be curious and open for new things and learn to work in a team as early as possible. Also, try to learn how to communicate with information processing agents (be prepared to learn new languages and deal with systems) and live your creativity.
Sharing Cultural Experiences

We love sharing experiences with each other, there is so much we can learn from other people’s adventures that helps to inform the way we see the world. Even if we don’t get the chance to travel to places ourselves, speaking to people who have, enriches our world view. So, in the spirit of sharing cultures and experiences Edna talked to Leonie Hohensasser about her trip to Morocco.

What did you enjoy most?

The camel ride through the desert with a picnic, where a guide served homemade food. We ate biscuits, flatbread and of course drank mint tea, that his wife gave us. I also really enjoyed the traditional hammam massage in Essaouira.

What do you think of Morocco's culture? Can you describe it a bit?

First of all, I would describe it as totally different to Europe’s. The country is not as developed and most of the people are very relaxed and spend nearly the whole day outside. They also socialize and go out in the evening and at night.

What's the difference between Morocco and Austria, if you look at the people, landscape and the culture?

The people in Morocco seem very happy, although they live in a poor country, whereas in Austria it seems difficult to meet satisfied people. Also, the landscape is different. It’s very beautiful with the Atlas Mountains, the Sahara and the coast, but some places are totally dried out because of the hot sun and are not cared for. For example, outside the public parts of the cities, it’s very dirty and a lot of garbage is lying around. Handmade things such as ceramics are deeply rooted in Morocco’s culture and the markets are very special, just like the Riads. Riads are traditional houses built with an inner courtyard.

What was the most exciting thing on your journey and why did you like it best?

I really liked the traditional markets in the city centers, also called Souks. They are very lively and exciting and you can buy everything from food, spices and drinks to clothes and even wild animals, like monkeys, snakes or birds there.

Can you tell us something about the food?

The food has many different spices that we don’t use in Austria, argan oil for example. The dishes tasted very good and were also seasoned a lot with different spices, we did not know the names of. We tried tajine with couscous and ras el hanout chicken with raisins or with lamb and vegetables. Often they only ate flatbread and dipped it in argan oil, which tastes very nice. The drinks we got to go with the meals were most of the time mint tea and fresh fruit juices.

Could you imagine, living there?

Despite the fact that we enjoyed our journey, we were glad to come home to Austria again as it is so much cleaner and the infrastructure is a lot better – not comparable to Morocco. The only other thing I found a bit annoying is the traffic and that you had to haggle about the prices everywhere and you never knew what something cost as there are no price tags at all.
Being polite: Moroccan style!
by Sophia Hudelist

These are some etiquette guidelines if you visit Morocco. How many of these rules do you recognize from at home and how many are different?

When you meet a new person, ask about their family or friends and try to remember all the details.

It is a Muslim country, women should remember to cover their skin and hair.

Greet each other with a handshake (right hand only).

Kissing each other’s cheeks is normal if the two are clothed and of the same gender. You are not allowed to kiss the opposite gender in public.

Don’t wear shoes in the houses.

Say “Bismillah” before eating or drinking.

If you are not Muslim and are not fasting during Ramadan, do have the courtesy to not eat or drink in public.

It is normal to tip 10%.

Bring a gift when you’re invited to a meal.

It is ok to be a bit late, around 30 minutes seems to be acceptable.

Blowing your nose is considered rude.

Women aren’t allowed to be seen alone in public.

You should do everything with your right hand.

Fact or Fiction?
by Sophia Hudelist

There are some truly wild conspiracy theories out there. So, in this age of ‘fake news’ and ‘alternative facts’ we will test you – fact or fiction?

Check out these crazy statements below, which ones are fiction and which ones are actually true? Can you tell truth from fiction?

If you took all of your veins and arteries out of your body they could wrap around the earth 2.5 times (who tried this?)

The moon is fake but there’s an alien space station orbiting our planet

A snail can have 25,000 teeth

The moon might turn green

A snail has no teeth

Chemicals in the water are affecting people’s sexual orientation

A donkey will sink in quicksand but a mule won’t

Drinking ultra-pure water could kill you

Butterflies taste with their hind feet

Australia doesn’t exist

Butterflies eat flesh

Throughout history the government has been working alongside alien lizard people

Good luck! And yes, some really are true and yes, some really are fiction. Just in case you were wondering...

Records indicate that many geniuses did not enjoy or even do well in school, and even Einstein once said that “It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of education have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wreck and ruin without fail. It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty.” It is safe to assume that most did not feel positively impacted by their means of education.

But now we’ll return to the original question- were they good in school? The answer is no, not always. Of course, some were star students and got amazing grades but others, like Thomas Edison, were not at an advantage. Edison was kicked out of school at the age of 12 because he was considered to be poor at math and was unable to concentrate (he was diagnosed with a learning disability).

A reason as to why these geniuses might have had (or still have) difficulties in school could be that the school curriculum isn’t made for these people, since it’s set up for the 68% of students that fall within the first standard deviation. This means school systems have been created for people that do not deviate far from what is considered the ‘norm’.

Frequently, schools don’t encourage creative learning. This results in many “smart” or “gifted” children being bored and trying to find ways to amuse themselves. Strict and uncreative teaching methods often dull the class and remove any enthusiasm students might have felt about the subject at hand.

So the answer to the question ‘how do we not strangle genius’ can be found in teaching methods and the school curriculum. Schools have improved over the years but they still don’t have an optimal way of educating students. Some say this stems from a lack of creative teaching methods and teachers who haven’t had the motivation to delve deeper into innovative education.

Sources:
Links for creative learning:
https://www.brainpop.com
https://www.billnye.com
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUNYSwNA-RexFwXp30PAvgt

We all know of at least a couple of famous geniuses. Albert Einstein being one of the most well known. Many people expect that these people were top students and outshine their peers, but is this really true?
The janitor in heartbreak hotel
mental health in teenagers

Especially teenagers tend to suffer from depression or stress a lot in our society, negatively affecting both their personality as well as their brain. But how can you live and deal with these kinds of problems effectively? In an interview with Oxford graduate and founder of “It Gets Brighter”, Emma Lawrance, we have found some interesting answers - read on if you want to know.

It’s (almost) all about perspective. Your teenage years. The supposedly most exhilarating time of your life is always subject to unforeseen changes packed with a lot of things that have not been figured out. It’s no surprise that this can draw even the most intelligent and organised people into states of anxiety and depression. However, according to Lawrance 75% of these problems can mostly be expected to be resolved before the age of 24. Managing these problems is a key component in high achievement and being happy throughout puberty.

But how can a little change in perspective or a small depression even impact our brain in the first place?

How it works

In a study conducted by Emma Lawrance it was discovered that missing information, which is common in puberty, is processed differently by the brain; depending on whether you are more anxious, causing confusion in your rational thinking. Anxiety also leads to having a worse top-down control in your prefrontal cortex, the part of your brain that does rational thinking. The stress generated by being anxious or even hysterical about mental problems can, in the long run, be worse than the most demanding job, leading to commonly known problems of memory loss, heart diseases and poor sleep.

Putting it into practice

Those are the facts, but how do you put them into practice? There are many methods of doing this, we will however focus on three facts that Dr. Lawrance shared with us, which might help a lot:

A huge issue is that people often think that if something is wrong with their mind, they are damaged as a personality. Nobody is ashamed of going to a doctor because of influenza or a broken arm. Depression or mental disorder should be viewed and accepted in the same way, as something that just went wrong and needs a little attention.

Sadly, we teenagers are biologically extremely vulnerable when it comes to mental disorders. The constant rewiring in our brains leaves the door wide open, and the yet unfinished prefrontal cortex, the region of inhibition control and complex decision-making, leaves us defenceless. Try to see this from different perspectives and by remembering these facts it might provide a little help in getting a grip on the situation.

Last but not least: Sharing is caring. Hearing other people talk about their problems and talking about your own will provide you with some emotional relief, maybe even some crucial insights. An online platform for this could be “It Gets Brighter”, a website founded by our interviewee, Emma Lawrance. In case you want to check it out, the link is www.itgetsbrighter.org.

I cannot claim to be able to help you, solve your problems or even provide all the missing information, I do however hope that this information is of some use to you. This article is a sign-post to professional advice and encouragement. If you find yourself with serious problems please seek professional advice (medical professionals, not unreliable school magazine reporters). Sincerest thanks go to Emma Lawrance, of course, for providing great information in a most friendly and accessible way. Check out her website www.itgetsbrighter.org for more information about her work. Feel free to contact me via the email address thepoint@it-gymnasium.at - good luck with your mental health!

Sources: Dr. Emma Lawrance

Author: Max Mühlberg

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#2: STAY FIT
Another way to make yourself feel better is to exercise! While doing sports is always an healthy decision, in these times it is even more effective. Whether it's a sport or not, we are all constantly stressed by the situation, not to mention the restrictions from home-offices. You've probably already felt angry or frustrated at this point and exercise is a great way to get rid of these negative emotions. Remember: take care of yourself! Dump sports, even if it's only a little, will make you stronger and more confident, which is why we all need right now!

#3: GIVE YOUR DAY SOME STRUCTURE
Below, all of this should probably sound familiar: daily routines, right? Try to remember it into notation - E.A! You don't have to get up as early as before, but keep up with it. From 9am to 5pm is the best schedule, either. Following a loosely regular (or more regular) daily routine will raise your productivity and motivation. The best method is to work down what you want to get done for a day and cross out the tasks as the day advances. Also include small breaks, just like you automatically would have done before. Remember not to plan too much for one day though: "life doesn't stop!"

#4: LEARN NEW STUFF AND GET INSPIRED
We all know the streaming services Netflix and Prime. They feature some of our favorite series and movies. But aside from breathtaking romances and thrilling detective stories, there is also more to watch! Numerous documentaries and biographies are ready to be watched and blow your mind. There is something for every interest you could imagine, from cooking to exercising or home improvement. While there are surely many that can entice you in your leisure, don't be afraid to learn new things. Take advantage of the access to know how and step into things that interest you. You'll be surprised in how many ways you can be inspired.

#5: CREATE SOMETHING
Just like working out, being creative will help you cope with the stressful situation. Whether it's painting, drawing, crafting or writing, any form of art will help you get your mind off of things. The most important thing is, that you don't have to be "good" at painting or writing. Again, do it for yourself, nobody is there to judge your work to satisfy your artistic needs. Focus on the social distancing: it is important to somehow express your emotions. Instead of being alone, share your feelings with others personally, we're in this all together, so take care of each other. Everyone has the potential to create something.

#6: GO FOR A WALK
Another way to ease your mind and clear your head is to take a walk. It doesn't have to be long; even a 20 minute walk is the perfect break. Some scientists even recommend a walk outside during COVID-19. When walking outside makes you feel better, and you're feeling good, your mood will improve. On the contrary, don't be afraid to move. It is important to stay active and healthy.

#7: SOCIALISE VIA VIDEO CHAT
If you're feeling lonely, it's important to keep in touch with friends and family. Video chats can help you keep up with your loved ones. Whether it's Facebook, Zoom or Skype, they offer a convenient way to keep in touch.

#8: BONUS FOR DANCERS: KEEP IT GOING!
Sadly, dancing in front of the mirror at home is not the same as in the studio... but there's a reason to stop! Keep practicing your routines and take the opportunity to improve your technique and facial expressions while nobody is watching. When practicing, make it like a mini dance class - put on the suitable shoes and a cute outfit, and you'll automatically feel more comfortable. When you feel like you haven't mastered your routine, try to learn new moves. This way, you keep your memory fit and add to your repertoire. Again, YouTube is a great place to find free instruction videos.

#9: LET'S JUST MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
All art & concepts are results of my own imagination.
Since the dawn of mankind, we have asked ourselves questions about things we can't fully comprehend. A safe haven for most people in the past was to state God as the creator of everything. But since then science has come a long way trying to solve our universe’s most complex riddles. Many things can now be explained by the discoveries of people like Einstein, Hawking, Tesla and so many more. Still, there is something we could not yet wrap our head around: Is there a God?

The last thing we need now is the embodiment of the laws of nature. But most people think of God as a human-like being you could potentially interact and have a relationship with. Keeping in mind how accidental and small we are in the universe, this seems highly implausible. A quote by the great Stephen Hawking from his latest book “Brief Answers to the Big Questions” perfectly correlates with the thought of God embodying the laws of nature:

I use the word ‘God’ in an impersonal sense, like Einstein did, for the laws of nature, so knowing the mind of God is knowing the laws of nature. My prediction is that we will know the mind of God by the end of this century – Stephen Hawking

He follows that up with a good remark, that now God not only has one remaining area to back up his existence: the creation of the universe. This is the big one. The one question everyone for sure has asked themselves at some point in time. The “simple” and scientific answer to this problem is that the universe was created out of nothing, literally nothing. But let me explain. What if you decided to create a universe? You would need three or two – I’ll come to that later – ingredients to do this. Firstly, you require mass. Everything around us, be it your desk, the device you’re reading this from, the air that surrounds us is mass. Now, what do you need to power that mass to do something?

It’s the second ingredient to our makeshift universe: energy. Energy is essential for anything to work. The thing is, and that is why I said “two ingredients” at the start, is that according to Albert Einstein and his famous equation E=mc², mass can be interpreted as energy, and vice versa. The last thing we need now is a place to store all the energy and mass. Space is vital. Look at a picture of the universe, what do you see? Planets, stars, asteroids and a massive amount of space. It is everywhere. Our universe isn’t crammed, it has a whole lot of nothing between the masses. But where did the aforementioned energy come from?

After many decades of research scientists believe to have found the answer: The Big Bang. This was an event where space and energy were spontaneously created out of nothing. Here we come to a point where many people decide to turn to God again. He created everything out of nothing, but I believe science has a better answer for this. Stephen Hawking once said you could get an entire universe for free. That seems ridiculous, I know, but it makes sense. So, let me tell you about a very strange fact of our cosmos. When we follow the laws of physics, we which all do, they demand the existence of ‘negative energy’. Now, before you stop reading this article and think to yourself that I’m for sure crazy, let me elaborate on my claim with yet another quote by Stephen Hawking:

Imagine a man wants to build a hill on a flat piece of land. The hill will represent the universe. To make this hill he digs a hole in the ground and uses that soil to dig his hill. But of course, he’s not just making a hill he’s also making a mole, in effect a negative version of the hill. The stuff that was in the hole has now become the hill, so it absolutely perfectly balances out. This is the principle behind what happened at the beginning of the universe. – Stephen Hawking

For some this may just have turned on a lightbulb in their head. In principle, when the Big Bang created massive amounts of positive energy it also created an equal amount of negative energy. This negative energy is stored in the third ingredient of our universe, space. There must be an equal amount of space and mass, so that everythng adds up to zero. Here is why this has nothing to do with God: If the universe essentially adds up to nothing, there is no need for a god to create it. Like Stephen Hawking said, it’s the ultimate free lunch.

There is only one remaining question now. What created the universe? Of course, things don’t just come from nothing, like rain, a cup of coffee or anything else for that matter. The thing is, if you look past the atomic level and go even smaller to the sub-atomic level, something truly marvelous can occur. On this scale, particles behave according to quantum mechanics. Things like protons can just randomly appear and disappear again. Since the universe was once extremely small, the possibility of it just popping into existence is not just mind-boggling, but also very real. Finally, we have to ask ourselves: Did God create laws that made the creation of the universe possible?

There we come back to the question I stated at the beginning of this article, if there is even a need for a God.

This is where the genius Albert Einstein and his theories come into play. Imagine a black hole, a star so massive that it collapsed into itself. The closer you get to the center of it, neglecting that the increasing amount of gravity would rip you in pieces, the slower time becomes. When you finally arrive in the middle, there is no time at all. When we go back in time the 14 billion years the universe has existed for, it becomes progressively smaller until it effectively is a single incredibly small and unimaginably dense black hole. Since the laws of a black hole of course still apply, we have found something astonishing. There was no cause for the universe, because there was no time for it. The same applies to God, he couldn’t have created the universe because he had no time to do it. In the end, there isn’t only no need for him, there may also be no possibility of him ever existing.

I didn’t dare to draw a full conclusion about the question ‘Is there a god?’ but I can share my thoughts and research on the matter, at least I did. I also don’t want to persuade anyone into not believing in God. I laid out what I know for you to read and just want to say this: Don’t take my opinion and make it yours, form your own opinion from it.
The story is set during WWII and revolves around a group of people who rebel against the National Socialists. One of the men in the group, Judas, is suspected of being a traitor to the group because he was caught and tortured by the police. His friends are now suspicious of him, they think that he might have told the authorities things he shouldn’t have. But he tries to comfort a young girl in the hard times they are living in. Judas takes care of her and in time, he starts to fall in love with her. She returns his feelings, but Judas suspects her of having betrayed him. What he doesn’t know is that the young girl who is still a child, is only trying to avoid the brutal truth. In the end, he must cave in to the pressure he is under and sees no way out of the situation except by committing suicide.

This play written by Ireneusz Iredyński, has a great impact, since it really focusses on how awful the times during and after WWII were. But do the issues of this play also transfer to the current world? We asked a few of the actors and the director of the play for their opinions...

Alja Ramic: The most relevant thing for me is the friendship and bond that you can develop with other people. For example, Judas had a great friendship with the girl, and then being betrayed is something that everyone has probably experienced. Betrayal and disappointed love are things that have existed forever. Sadly, those are things that everyone will experience at some point.

Jeanette Wultsch: In the modern world, there are always smaller rebellious groups who try to make a difference. In such situations, it is a given that someone will be betrayed or be a traitor themselves, and if that happens you will feel bad about it. You can see the effects of that at the end of the play when Judas kills himself because it’s all too much for him.

Patrick Schorn: We will always have secret organisations in the world. The play is a timeless work of art. You can transfer many aspects into the modern world. For example, there are still a lot of people who are quite poor. In the play, you realize that because they don’t have anything to eat at times.

Jonathan Tuttles: Building trust is the same concept today as it used to be. People can become biased very quickly and feel that they must listen to opinions other than their own. You should develop your own opinions and shouldn’t just rely on other people to judge for you who you should trust or who you should be.

Heidelinde Weis (director of the play): I have a very personal regard towards this play. I think it has the same validity today as it did then. The story speaks against violence, manipulation, betrayal and all the issues that contribute to a community not worth living in. That’s exactly why I support this play 100 percent because I think about these things the same way Ireneusz Iredynski did. When I first read the play, I was 25. It has haunted me, in a positive way, to this day. The topics discussed in “Leb wohl, Judas” are present in the modern world. What used to happen still happens today in the exact same way, in some places. Manipulation, violence and misrule exist today as much as they did yesterday and will tomorrow. This is why I feel that it’s a marvellous play for young people, to help them understand their place in society. It is only by understanding history that we can attempt to understand our modern society and learn what we can do to shape the world into a place worth living in.

Students know that our future depends on the natural environment. Environmental protests are one way to make our voices heard, but we also need to talk the talk, walk the walk and make the changes in our life that help protect nature. So here are some easy tips that everyone can do!

Zero Waste Tips

- Use reusable water bottles
- Use reusable coffee cups
- Use reusable make-up pads
- Use beeswax wraps
- Use reusable utensils
- Use reusable toothbrushes
- Use bamboo toothbrushes
**What is ThePoint?**

The Point is a magazine created by high school students for high school students around the world. We are sharing our viewpoints and our standpoints, and we are working to ensure that our ideas, articles and research are full of interesting points. As this magazine is free and freely available online, we also want to ensure that everyone gets The Point and will never be Point-less again.

So, with this in mind, we present The Point.

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**ThePoint is everywhere!**

ThePoint is a project funded and supported by the International Bilingual Classes Association of Gymnasium St. Martin.

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