



Photo: Lucie Ferlin/ CC

DECEMBER 2009

1. 2. 3.

Learning

LIBERTAS

Digital Youth Magazine/published by Youth Association creACTIVE



Editorial



Dear Readers,

Month after month, Libertas is bringing you the echo of young people's voices from around the planet. For the 4th time, day number 5 of the month is richer with another issue of the magazine that is prepared and published by a unique international team of young people. For the last time this year - welcome to the Online Magazine Libertas - this time on Learning.

As the end of the year is usually reserved for evaluating the work done during the whole year and for making plans for the next one, our team is currently trying to summarize what was done until now and what could be done in a better way next year. And as you are the most competent ones to evaluate our work, we would like to ask you for help. Can you please take few minutes and think about what you liked or disliked in Libertas until now? What would you do differently for the next editions? What would you change, add or take out next time? If it is up to you, how would Libertas look like?

And actually, it is up to you, completely. We are eager to read your impressions and recommendations; and to adapt the magazine as much as possible to your wishes and interests. Thus, please send us your comments at libertas@cre-act-ive.org - as well as your texts or photos or whatever you want to see published in our next issue.

So enjoy Libertas, stay healthy and happy, and see you in 2010!

by **Dragan Atanasov**



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Photo: Lucie Ferlin/ CC

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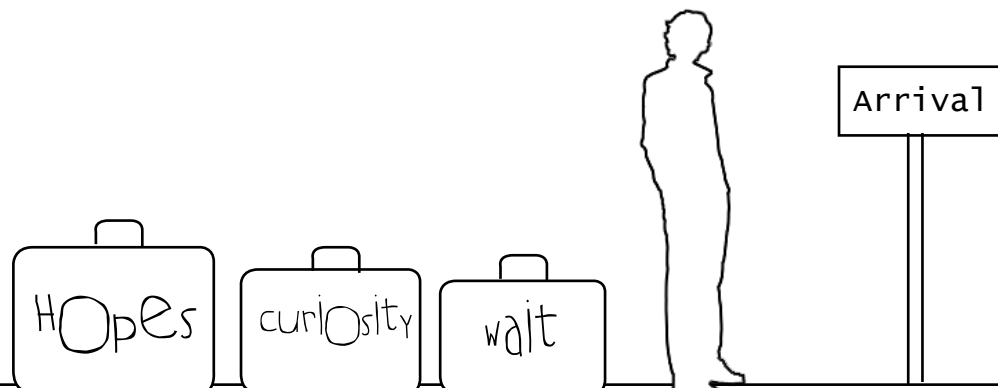
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LIFE IN BALKANS AS AN UN

by Simona Kocourkova

“Balkane
Balkane moj
budi mi silan
i dobro mi stoj”



When I was 15 years old, at that time still at elementary school, I saw one movie which influenced me a lot - Welcome to Sarajevo. This movie told the story of western journalists who worked during the siege of Sarajevo. Cynicism, dying, atrocities, hypocritical politicians, journalists chasing sensations, try to help orphans children, dehumanisation, money as value number one, black humour, faith, tears.... I saw it hundred times, always crying during the last scene. Something happened with me - somehow throughout the story from the movie - I began to be connected with Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Years were passing. I was at university studying politics. My main interest was ethnic conflicts, cultural and religious diversity and well many others. But everything was affected by my main struggle, by my internal conflict, by my illness, by manic depression. Two years of not professional healing culminated during the last year at university. Darkness, no sense, no future, horrible present. Just one thing what I wanted was to die.

I forgot my dreams and started to live life which I never wanted - like an “office rat”. “Happily” my health situation went even worse what was a reason for my hospitalisation which survived me. Slowly after I started to realize what I really want, I started to remember my dreams again and I knew that just one possible way for my next step is to move to Bosnia and Hercegovina.

As a volunteer of the programme European voluntary service (EVS) financing by European Commission, everyday I learn something new and everyday I rethink what I learnt the day before....

WORK:

My main work is connected with the European programme Youth in Action. We organise educational seminars for youngsters from the European Union as well as from Balkan countries. We learn about

“everyday
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learnt the day
before.....”



Photo: Creative Skopje Macedonia

IVERSITY DEGREE



different topics e.g. human rights, gender equality, ecology, new media, European Union. As well as getting new knowledge about these subjects you have a chance to make your own authentic opinions thanks to interesting methodology of non-formal education (it's motto: tell me - I will forget, show me- I will remember, involve me - I will understand) and also confrontation with others in the international environment.

LANGUAGE:

Although I learnt 5 languages I was able to speak just one. Why? For sure because I had many opportunities to use this language in reality - during traveling, during speaking with foreigners. After 3,5 months I am able to speak new language. I call it Balkan esperanto - Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, with ability to understand Macedonian. I passed just few lessons but because almost no-one speaks English in my small town I was forced to listen and (try) to speak from the beginning of my stay. Because there was no other way to communicate with local people, there was also no time for to be shy (as is so usual when you learn to speak a new language).

FRIENDSHIP:

So difficult for me. I realised that after many bad experiences during my "illness time" I had begun to be a really proud person, simply that if no-one invited me to a party I would not tell him/her if I can come. I feel somehow lonely. I feel also sometimes that some people ask me how I am just because it is polite...

What does friendship mean?

How does friendship start?

What is the difference between being friends and drinking together several times?

POLITICS:

After a long time I am back to the subject which I studied. First step was to begin to read local newspapers. Political system in BiH is

events



Art Basel Miami Beach

This international art show in Miami Beach is the American sister event of Art Basel in Switzerland, the most important annual art show worldwide. A new type of cultural event, it combines an international art show with an exciting programme of special exhibitions, parties and crossover events including music, film, architecture and design. Exhibition sites are in the city's beautiful Art Deco District, within walking distance of the beach and most hotels and restaurants.

Art Basel Miami Beach

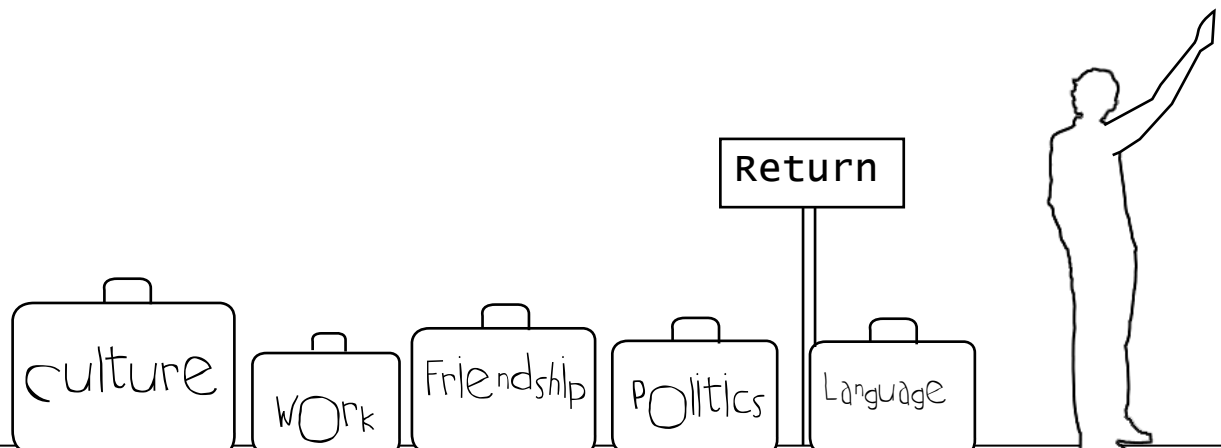
When : 03 - 06 Dec 2009

Where : Miami Beach Convention Center and other venues, USA

Website: www.artbaselmiami-beach.com

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“After **3,5**
months
I am able
to **speak**
new,”
language”

unique and to understand it takes time. But the first tool you need if you want to research local politics is knowledge of the language. This is what I learnt soon. Politics is not just political discussions among political leaders. Here in Bosnia you can see how politics influences all society, all individuals, for example among young people. In the Czech Republic youngsters have a lot of dreams, goals, they want to discover the world, they want to build their careers as well as have fun. Bosnian youngsters are influenced by the bad economic situation, facing huge unemployment, they have problems with visas which don't allow them to travel and with many other things which make them feel unsatisfied by their lives in Bosnia. On the other hand they live in some kind of agony which keeps them stuck not doing something to change their unsatisfactory situation.

CULTURE:

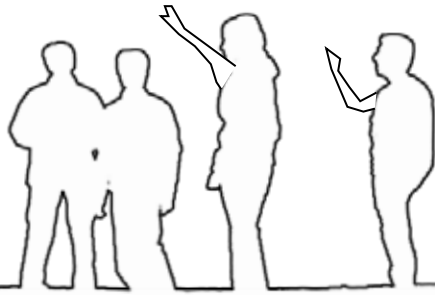
Culture is food (no more cevapi and burek), drinks (how I dislike rakija), cigarettes (Drina - strong one - cheap one -good one), religion (first celebrating of Bajram), names (how many Azra, Alija, Admir, Aldin, Almin live here?), specific music (horrible turbofolk, undiscovering sevdalinka), movies (I fell in love with local cinematography), folklore dances (I learnt how to dance kolo), literature (it is not just Nobel prize winner Ivo Andric), humour (Do you know what happened when a bear fucks a tree? Bosnian!) ... and many other things....

But as one trainer said if you want to have a clear picture of a country you have to stay there 5 days or 5 years. Otherwise it is just a big confusion.

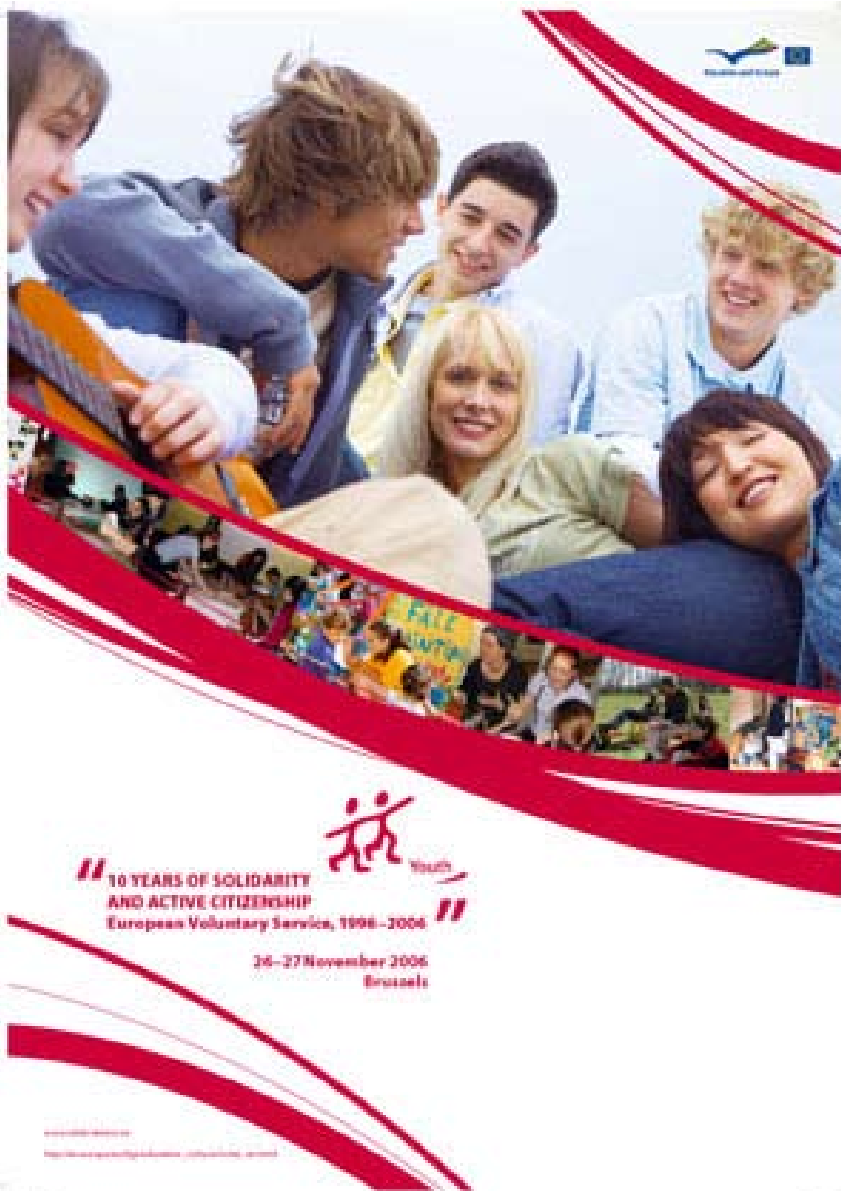
Well, I am in the time of big confusion but what I know is this learning process I really enjoy... and it is not like The Doors are singing, this not the end, this is the beginning of discovering Bosnia, of discovering the Balkans. And who knows maybe one day I will really get a “ university degree” of balkanism if the confusion will disappear and I will know how the Balkans really is :-)



Photo: Creative Skopje Macedonia



events



Farolitos and Christmas Celebrations

A reflection of the city's multicultural influences, Santa Fe Christmas celebrations, known as 'farolitos', include a mix of Western, European, Native American and Hispanic traditions. The city is decorated with Christmas candles in small bags of sand, with the biggest and best-known of the displays located along Canyon Road in the heart of the city. Other festive attractions and entertainment includes carol singing, a winter Spanish Market, church services and nativity scenes.

Farolitos and Christmas Celebrations

When : 01 - 31 Dec 2009

Where : Various locations in Santa Fe, **New Mexico**

Website: www.newmexico.org

TO SIT AT ANOTHER DESK

by Sophie Yeoman



Recently I spent a year in Austria, as part of a high school exchange program, AFS. In Austria, as part of an agreement with the government, exchange students are considered “Gastschüler”, attending classes with the austrian students, receiving grades for 7 subjects (only about half of the compulsory ones) and generally encouraged to integrate into school life.



Photo: LexnGer / CC.by.nc / Flickr

My disclaimer is this. I was a Gastschulerin in the most direct sense of the word: although I stayed a year in that class, I remained a guest. I was an observer to the regular school life, rather than living it. Now learning as part of an exchange program could fill up pages, so I won't talk about the impact of this observing role in school on my exchange. But what I want to do here is contrast some aspects of the education systems of my home country, New Zealand, and my home-away-from-home, Austria. I think all I experienced in that year gives me enough for comparison.

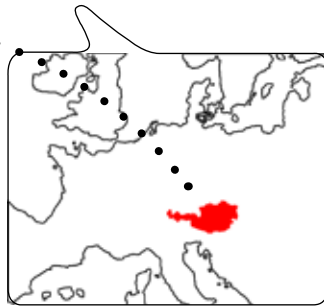
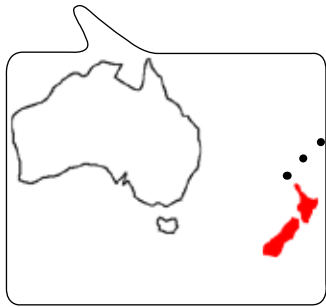
In Austria students mostly stay in the same room with the same class while the teachers move around. There's about 14 subjects, which are almost all compulsory, except for example a choice between French and Latin. But there are different types of secondary school, or different streams in one school, specialised in different things like music, or sciences. Which school or stream students choose will affect the subjects they take. At the end of secondary school at the age of 18 there is a final exam, the Matura, divided into an oral and a written part. The Matura for each subject is set by the students' teacher, although for some subjects at least it is slowly changing to a national standard.

In New Zealand students change rooms, classes and teachers with every subject. There is one type of secondary school, but it offers a wide range of subjects. Students choose five or six of these freely, the only compulsory subject being English. Assessment is divided between internal, tests taken during school time by the class teacher (though to a set of national standards), and external, national exams at the end of the year. Students are assessed both internally and externally for each of their three last years of high school, at the ages of 16, 17 and 18.

It's easy enough to state these differences on paper. But the real differences are the ones you see in the classroom. In Austria, it's im-

“the experience of a different education system is the most important part of the learning”

SCHOOL BUS



events

portant to behave respectfully towards the teachers, and so they are addressed with the formal version of “you” (Sie) and called “Herr/ Frau Professor”. As everywhere, there are popular and unpopular teachers, and while some become feared and hated, others become confidantes of their students, although still treated politely and with deference. In the liberal school I went to in my home country, the Head of the Social Sciences was called “Papa H” by students in his classes. We were more likely to address him in gangsta speech than to call him “Sir” or “Professor”. He was a teacher though who still commanded huge amounts of respect from students. One thing that seemed very different to me though was how students felt when they thought they were disliked by a teacher. In New Zealand, the teacher isn’t able to affect your grade. They do mark your internal tests, but these are then checked by another teacher, and a random sample is sent to be marked by national moderators (people who ensure all tests are being marked the same). Students are never scared that they will fail a subject because the teacher doesn’t like them. In Austria, where there’s relatively little checking of marks, I heard of people changing schools because of their teachers. It’s also possible to repeat a year if you fail a subject, although this is rare.

I wanted to give the big picture of both education systems, and I see that I won’t possibly have the space- there’s far too much I could say. But maybe the experience of a different education system is the most important part of the learning anyway. It’s a great way to appreciate the system in your own country more, and also to challenge some ideas you may have about the ‘best way’ or ‘most effective way’ to learn. You can experience a lot of a country’s culture in the classroom- even if you, like me, don’t participate in every Maths test, you will still learn a huge amount. The information I’ve given here about austrian schools comes from talking with classmates, with people I knew from other schools, from reading the newspaper- all in German, a language I barely spoke before I arrived. By the end of the year it was normal for me to stand when a teacher entered the classroom, and to without thinking address them in the formal way. Being in an austrian class, even as the outsider, helped me to understand the culture and learn the language, and taught me at the same time that often how we think the world is, is only a perception passed on to us by our culture. Maybe it’s not to walk in someone else’s shoes, but to sit at their desk, that truly teaches us to see another person’s point of view.



Holidazzle

The Minneapolis Holidazzle has grown over the years and is now one of the biggest and best-loved Christmas events in the city. Featuring an incredible parade, Holidazzle is a fun, family-friendly event that features many costumed characters from favourite children’s stories including ‘Hansel and Gretel’, ‘The Wizard of Oz’ and ‘Captain Hook’. Including glowing floats adorned with thousands of lights and inflatable decorations, this is a wonderful spectacle for all the family.

Holidazzle

When : 29 - 21 Dec 2009

Where : Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, **United State**

Website: www.holidazzle.com

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Phuket krá Cup Regatta

LEARNING BY LIVING

by Rodrigo Silva



W

hen you first hear the word LEARNING, what do you picture in your brain? Be honest! Don't you picture a school, college, or whichever other institution used to educate people? That's what most people do, so you don't need to be ashamed or think that you are the strange one... That's perfectly normal... However, I invite you today to start changing this picture.

According to the dictionary, learning is "The act, process, or experience of gaining knowledge or skill"... Then what is knowledge for you? Consulting the dictionary once again, knowledge is "Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study."... See, that is what I was referring to. If we connect the two together, learning is the act of gaining familiarity, awareness and understanding through experience or study. Now, let's reflect, when we first mentioned LEARNING, you thought of an institution used to educate people, and you were not wrong: however, you were not completely correct either. Learning can be based on study or experience. Our focus here today is the process of learning through experience, especially through the experience of living abroad.



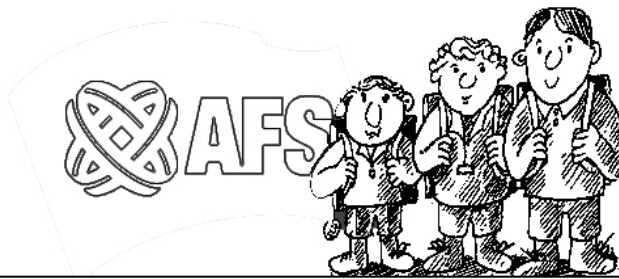
Photo: Peter Schnitzler - volontaire AFS

“The best way to understand a foreign culture is to be immersed in it”

First of all, let's consider the word, WAR. It's a simple word, but which brings many emotions and thoughts with it. Now, let's link war with culture... Then, as we would do in a mathematical problem, let's add WAR + CULTURE, as a result, we get the expression CULTURAL WAR. That's exactly what it is. A war is the extreme point of a disagreement between nations due to their incapability to understand and respect the other culture. I'm sure you are wondering at home where I'm trying to get with this. To make a long story short, if war is a problem that comes from the lack of understanding of another culture, then to solve the war, we just need to solve this lack of comprehension and respect of each other's culture.

How to understand and respect a foreign culture? Notice, that the expression adopting other culture hasn't been mentioned at any point. To understand and respect a foreign culture, you do not need to adopt it and start following it as a religion. The best way to understand a foreign culture is to be immersed in it. That's what a cultural exchange year is about. These programs aim at teaching teenagers that their culture is not the only one in the world, and that their country is not the only one on earth. By living abroad, these teenagers learn that there is so much more going on than only their ordinary problems.

It has been scientifically proven that the comprehension of a different culture is essential to the success of a nation. In order to make



events

things clearer, let's relate today's problems with everything that has been said before. How did the Iraqi war start? It's due to a misunderstanding between cultures that was worsened by the lack of comprehension. Now, we've been talking about cultural comprehension, but we haven't mentioned these "schools" of cultural learning.

Among several NGOs, there is one that deserves to be highlighted. American Field Service, currently known as AFS, started its work on behalf of peace nearly 100 years ago. It was during the First World War that a group of Americans was sent to France to help those who had been injured by the war. Years later, another group went for the Second World War. Aiming to end war in the world, Stephen Gallati founded AFS, whose main goal was to promote peace through the exchange of cultures. AFS has been running exchange programs around the world since 1952...

Whatever age you are, it's always worth being an exchange student. There is so much involved in an exchange year... Growth, new friendships, the learning of a new language, and above all, the comprehension of a new culture. There are several different programs which are offered by these NGOs... Let's highlight the most popular one; the High School Program.

"The School Program is for one academic year, semester or trimester and begins in July/ August/ September or January/ February/ March depending on the country. AFS students live with a host family and attend a local secondary school as full-time students" (AFS website)

It's during high school that most teenagers develop their concepts and ideas about the world. Therefore living abroad at this time of life is extremely profitable regarding the construction of one's personality. As has been said before, at the end of one year abroad, the students take home a backpack filled with new knowledge, new friendships, a different vision of the world and most important of all, tolerance of a foreign culture.

I invite you, youth from all over the world, to experience a whole new world. It doesn't matter the organization you choose, I guarantee you that this experience is going to change your life. We are the future of our nations, we are the future of our planet. WE ARE THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD! Why not start understanding it as a whole, and not as different separate pieces... We are different pieces that complete a puzzle... In the end, we conclude that we are all the same, with different beliefs and cultures. Live a different year, live abroad.

Phuket krá Cup Regatta

One of the biggest and most popular sailing events in Asia, the annual Phuket King's Cup Regatta attracts boats and crews from all over the world. First held in 1987, the event was originally raced to honour the Thai King's 60th birthday. It's grown in popularity every year and now includes many harbourside events and entertainment in addition to the thrills and excitement of the race itself. Spectators can see a range of different boats on the water, including keel boats and multi-hulls as well as traditional sailing craft. This is a fun event that is one of the highlights in the world sailing calendar.

Phuket krá Cup Regatta

When : 28 - 05 Dec 2009

Where : Phuket, **Thajsko**

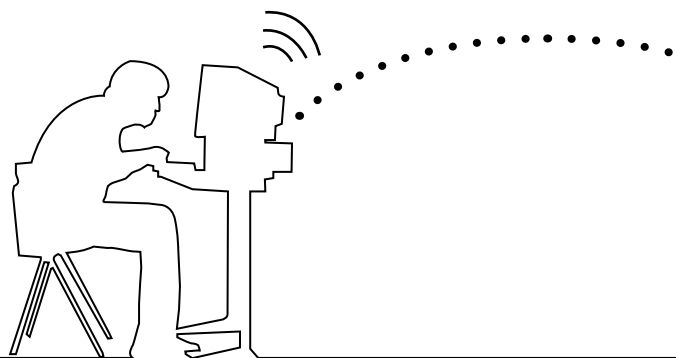
Website: www.kingscup.com



Vallarta Film Festival

HOW TO LEARN USING THE IN

by Annes Org



Participate in e-courses:

On the internet there are the millions of different e-courses. Some of them are free, some are not. Usually the free e-course is just a part of a bigger one and it's just a marketing tool for the authors. It's capitalism, baby! But there's still lots of valuable stuff in the free e-courses and if the content is good and precious for you, then why not buy the full e-course?

The e-course system is usually very easy. You pay money, they give you a username and password and you can start learning. Content is static and it's written before launching the e-course. Usually it contains videos, texts and slideshows.

Internet is everywhere and it means that you can learn whenever and wherever you want. You just need an Internet connection and a computer. Sometimes e-courses have insiders' forums also, where you can find and discuss questions that you still haven't managed to find the answers to.

I have been a participant in different e-courses and in my opinion it's a very cool, flexible and innovative way to learn. Just not like in a school!

One great free e-course:

www.creativity.trainings.ee - Free online course for young leaders - learn how to bring more inspiration into your life.

Read e-books

You don't have a great and educational book, one of those read in America? Don't panic, you can still read an e-book. Just go to Amazon.com and buy it. Usually it's much cheaper than the printed version of the book.

The e-book system is very similar to the e-course case. Usually if you want a good e-book then you need to pay. But there are still a lot of free e-books. Just google "free e-books directory" and you will see. Also some of them are such that the first 3 chapters are free and you need to pay for another 30. But if the e-book is good and valuable then I think it's a good investment.

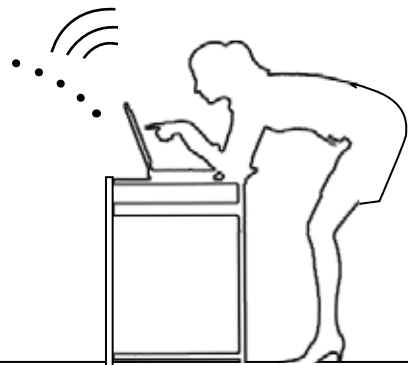
Normally you have an opportunity to read it online or download it to a computer. So if you have a Notebook then you can educate yourself even on a bus or in the bathroom if you want. Just like with a classical book.

“the free
e-course
is a part of a
bigger
one and it's
just a
marketing tool .”



Photo: misterbisson / CC-by-nc-sa / Flickr

INTERNET: The basic manual



I'm sure that the classical books are great, but if you want to read the latest and the greatest books which are published on world-scale and you don't live in a place where you can buy this classical book, then the best way is to buy an e-book.

Online chat: Skype, MSN ...

Mainly it's good for improving your language skills. If you want to learn Spanish but you don't have anybody to talk to in Spanish, and you should know that the best way to learn is with practice, just find a friend on the internet who speaks good Spanish, and ask him if he wants to talk with you via Internet to improve your Spanish skills. If you feel afraid to speak by microphone or in a video chat, then you can just chat by typing.

If you don't know how to look for an online chat companion then just google it and you will find a lot of different web pages where you can find one.

This way of learning languages is good when you have a basic knowledge of the language you wish to learn.

In case you don't have that basic knowledge of the language, then the best way is to hire a professional language teacher, someone to teach you the basics of the language. Just google the phrase "online language teacher" or something similar and you will get plenty of answers.

Of course it's also very good if you become an online chatting friend to some kind of smart guy. For example if you are studying history then it would be awesome to have a history-pro in your list with whom you can discuss about the past.

Just be brave and start talking to people and you will see that some of them really want to chat with you about history, or would like to help you improving your language skills.

Read blogs

In this case I don't mean those personal blogs. They are very cool, but for educational purposes I suggest you start following some great blogs related to your subject field. If you want to know more about fitness then search for the fitness blogs and start reading them. Or if you are a marketing student then read marketing blogs and so on. Usually the good bloggers write articles, make cool videos and slideshows.

events

Vallarta Film Festival

Featuring the very best independent films from North and Latin America, this popular festival is dedicated to fiction shorts, feature films and documentaries. As well as a packed programme of screenings, there are also plenty of other non-film events including a lavish gala dance and dinner, art expo, music concerts and culinary events.

Vallarta Film Festival

When : 02 - 06 Dec 2009

Where : Venue TBC, Puerto Vallarta, **Mexico**

Website: www.vallartafilmfestival.com



Christmas Market

LANGUAGE C

NEWSPAPERS / DAILY INFORMATION

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For example, I'm very interested of doing business in Internet and I'm reading the blogs of my subject-field rockstars. And I can promise that I have learned a lot from these blogs. So, reading blogs is a very easy and effective way to educate yourself.

Take part in Webinars

Webinars are web conferences. Usually you need to install a software and then you need to wait for a webinar. A very smart guy starts talking in live video, makes a presentation and after that you can ask additional questions. Just like in a real conference. Only difference is that you are sitting on your big soft sofa at home, not in a big conference room on hard chair. Of course sometimes you need to pay, sometimes not. Like always.

Talk in forums

Just find a forum, where you can start discussions about topics that matter to you. If it's a good forum, then you can find a lot of smart people to talk to. If you are interested in war history then go to a war historians forum and say your word. If you like to travel then go a travellers' forum and so on. I'm sure you will find yours, if you want to.

Watch educational videos

Youtube is not only for stupid and funny videos. Users have also uploaded a lot of educative videos. Learn how to get a firm butt, listen to important speeches and so on. It's the 21st century! One good place for finding a lot of great and educational videos is www.TED.com. There you can find thousands of videos where remarkable people are talking about important topics. Just go there and you will discover how good it is.

Gooooooooooooogle it !

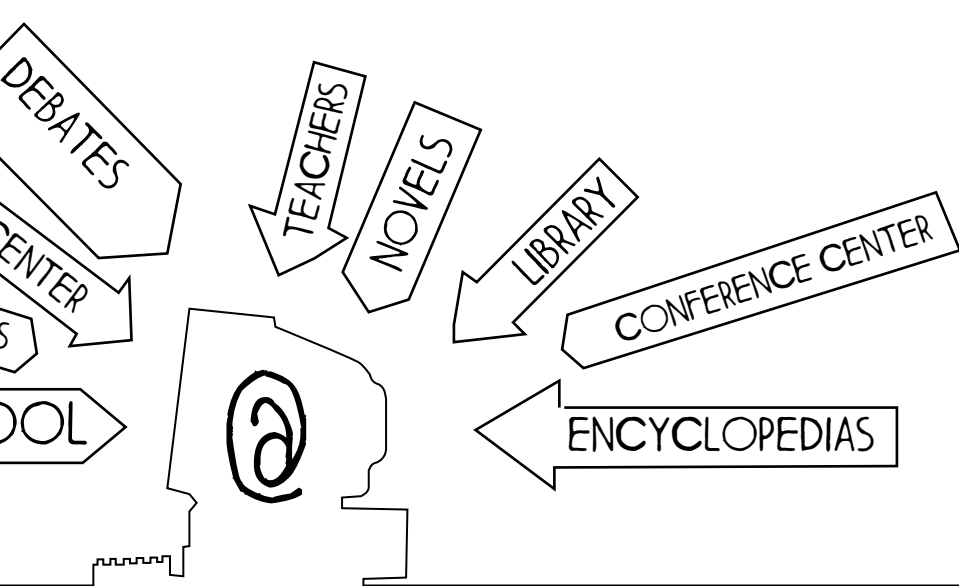
I guess that you are from the Google generation. If you don't know something then just google it. For example by googling I learned how to build web sites. If I didn't know something then I just googled it. Just google!

Conclusion: with the Internet you have a lot of different ways for learning. Just use them!



Photo: Dalbera / CC.by / Flickr

“Internet is everywhere you can learn whenever and wherever you want”



events

TUTORIALS: COOKING / COMPUTER SCIENCE / MANUAL ACTIVITIES / ...



Photo: Dot D / CC-by-nc-sa / Flickr

Christmas Market

Ulm, on the River Danube, boasts a cathedral with the tallest spire in the world. Known as the Munster, the spectacular cathedral provides the backdrop for the city's Christmas market. There are more than 100 stalls with festive decorations, a glass workshop and a sheepfold with real sheep. With the atmospheric lighting, the carol concerts and the mulled wine, the stage is set for a really traditional Christmas. Inside the cathedral, organ recitals take place each evening at 1700.

Christmas Market

When : 30 - 19 Dec 2009

Where : Munsterplatz, Ulm, Germany

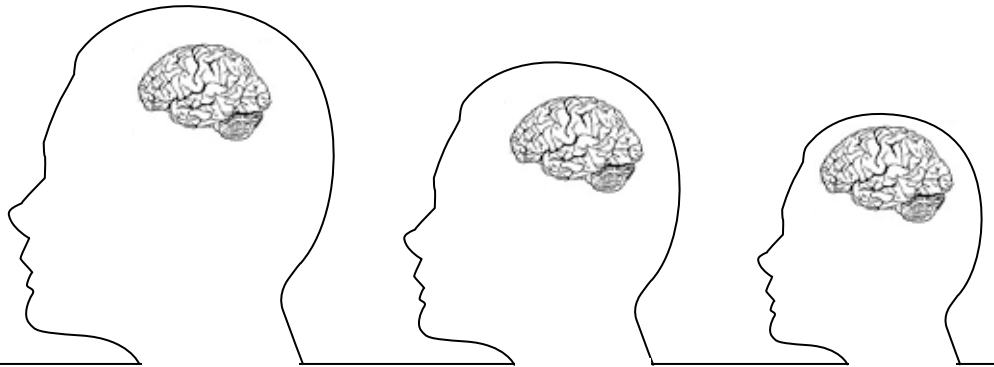
Website: www.tourismus.ulm.de



The Masters Tennis

INTELLIGENCE AND

by Irena Nastova



“**“intelligence”**
is the ability
to **learn,**
understand
and **use**
the
knowledge””



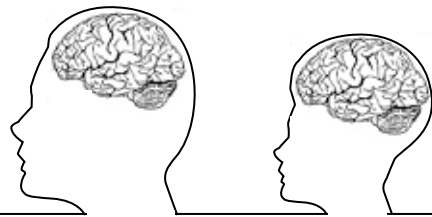
Photo: extract movie “Vitus, the child prodigy”



Many scientists have tried to discover how and at which level does intelligence have an influence in education. Can the intelligence of one person determine the direction and limits of his education? Scientists used to understand under the term “intelligence” just the ability to learn, understand and use the knowledge. They thought that one intelligent person had to have knowledge of everything and that the level of intelligence varied from one person to another, and usually people with a higher education were considered more intelligent than others. In 1983 Dr. Howard Gardner developed the theory of multiple intelligences. With his theory he proposed eight classes of intelligence:

- **Linguistic intelligence**
(“word smart”)
- **Logical-mathematical intelligence**
(“number/reasoning smart”)
- **Spatial intelligence**
(“picture smart”)
- **Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence**
(“body smart”)
- **Musical intelligence**
(“music smart”)
- **Interpersonal intelligence**
(“people smart”)
- **Intrapersonal intelligence**
(“self smart”)
- **Naturalist intelligence**
(“nature smart”)

EDUCATION



events

According to him, we give more importance to the linguistic and logical mathematical intelligence, and we don't usually give a lot of attention to the kids and adults who have some other type of intelligence. Many times the kids who are gifted in music, dance, architecture, therapy and drama are not perceived as intelligent kids, in some environments they can even be considered as "learning disabled" or as underachieving persons. Dr. Gardner proposed the use of many different approaches in teaching kids, like using music, art activities, multimedia, cooperative learning and more, and in that way to stimulate the kids who belong to all categories of intelligence.

It's accepted world wide that the more intelligent people can achieved higher levels in the scale of education. But without effort the intelligence can't be used to its maximum. Scientists believe that if somebody is less intelligent than another it shouldn't be a handicap if that person wants to succeed in some field of interest. Maybe it will be harder for that person to reach the level he wants, but that doesn't mean it is impossible. Actually more people believe that if you try hard enough you can make anything work and you will be successful. On the other hand it's thought that if you are an intelligent person and you don't use your intelligence in the best way and you don't even try to upgrade yourself, then your intelligence is more ineffective than the effort of some less intelligent person. So find your field of interest and your talent and try to be better yourself. Only in that way can your intelligence be used to its maximum.

The Masters Tennis

The Masters Tennis is the finale event of The Merrill Lynch Tour of Champions and is one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments on British soil. It pits the top 10 ranked players (as well as two wildcards) against each other in a gruelling singles competition, with a winner-takes-all prize of US\$100,000.

The Masters Tennis

When : 01 - 06 Dec 2009

Where : London,
United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.aegon-masterstennis.com/>



All Stages Rally Jamaica

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL IN FRANCE

by Kelly Binault



Photo: France in New England / CC.by.nc.nd / Flickr

“The school must have the role of an institution of instruction”

Thanks to the public school, access to a school education (teaching) is within the reach of all because it accepts children free of charge. The pay and the training of the teachers are managed by the State. The day-care center, the follow-up of the homework (duties) are also free and the expenses of meals at the canteen are calculated with regard to the resources of the parents.

Private schools are on the other hand paying. Private schools are mostly under contract with the State and mainly Catholic. However, all the children are allowed to follow whatever is their religion. These schools receive a state subsidy because the teachers are holders of the same diplomas required in the public education system and they follow the same programs. They are checked by inspectors of the Department of Education. In the same way, the examinations sat by the pupils are identical to those sat in the public.

Public school

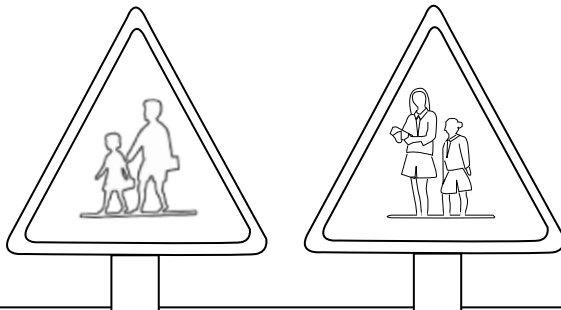
Advantages

- There are no school fees to be paid except for the particular vocational programs offered by certain establishments.
- The didactic material (equipment) is supplied free of charge.
- The specialized services are free.

Disadvantages

- Frequent rotation of teachers due to sickness, maternity leave etc.
- Teachers' use of means of pressure against the government and the strikes in the public network can damage the students and their parents
- The attention required by underachieving students can slow down the pace of the class.

BETWEEN PRIVATE AND EDUCATION



events

Private school

Advantages

- Wearing of the uniform is often compulsory.
- There are more diverse school activities
- English teaching from the first year of school has been offered for a long time (although the public network offers it too since 2006).

Disadvantages

- There are school fees to pay.
- In certain schools, parents have to buy textbooks.
- The specialized services are not free.

The school must have the role of an institution of instruction, of educational and vocational training. Its financing, access to it without discrimination, its quality, its adaptation to its community and its efficiency are permanent questions, variable from one country to another. It is a delicate sector, where professional standards are particularly important.

All Stages Rally Jamaica

The All Stages Rally Jamaica sees a field of 30-plus speedy motors tackling a wide variety of terrain across the countryside of Jamaica, finishing outside the Jamaica Tourist Board after a run through the streets of New Kingston. Home-based teams are joined by others from the Caribbean and Europe in a thrilling international lineup of custom cars presented at the scrutineering session and Parc Expose before the start of the race. Leg 1 starts at Petcom Naggo Head in the early hours and includes Lydford and Reynolds. Leg 2 blasts off from Petcom Portmore and includes Bog Walk, Wakefield and Bybrook. In challenging circuits through verdant countryside, large crowds come out to watch a thrilling contest.

All Stages Rally Jamaica

When : 04 - 06 Dec 2009

Where : Kingston, Jamaica

Website: <http://www.rallyjamaica.com/>

“YOU ARE HERE”

Mono

by Daniel Nunes



“they managed to make the first epic production since classical times.”

“Hymn to the Immortal Wind”

So I left Sweden behind and headed for something I've always wanted to do: I just went straight to Moscow and took the Transsiberian train, ending up in Japan. Japan is incredibly nice, but the thing here is not the place, I should be talking about music! So, this month's artist is Mono.

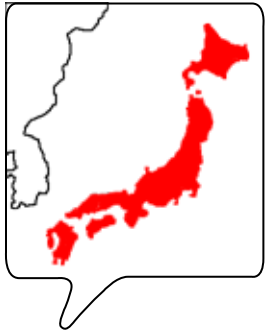
They're an instrumental rock band from Tokyo, and since 1999 have been blessing our ears with amazing music. This year, in special, Mono released the album “Hymn to the Immortal Wind” and - very personal opinion here - they managed to make the first epic production since classical times.

“Hymn to the Immortal Wind” is far beyond music: Mono's four-man-band structure has been dissolved and gave place to a whole orchestra, all solved into one great piece of music.

But Mono did not want to make simply another CD, what happens here is a storytelling, a leaflet is part of the artwork, where those who bought the CD will find a small story, each piece being named after one of the songs, each reflecting what the song is about. The band brought us the story of two lovers, and they take us by the hand from the first minute listening to the music and reading the story. It's such a complete act that doing only one of the things shouldn't be allowed. Listening to “Hymn of the Immortal Wind” will take you into another dimension, it opens a door to a yet unexplored world and guides you through it, showing all the beauty we usually ignore, making it first in our vision, leaving us speechless.



Photo: myspace.com



- Mono - Hymn to the Immortal Wind (2009)
01. Ashes in the Snow
 02. Burial at Sea
 03. Silent Fight, Sleeping Dawn
 04. Pure as Snow (Trails of the Winter Storm)
 05. Follow the Map
 06. The Battle to Heaven
 07. Everlasting Light

<http://www.mono-jpn.com/>

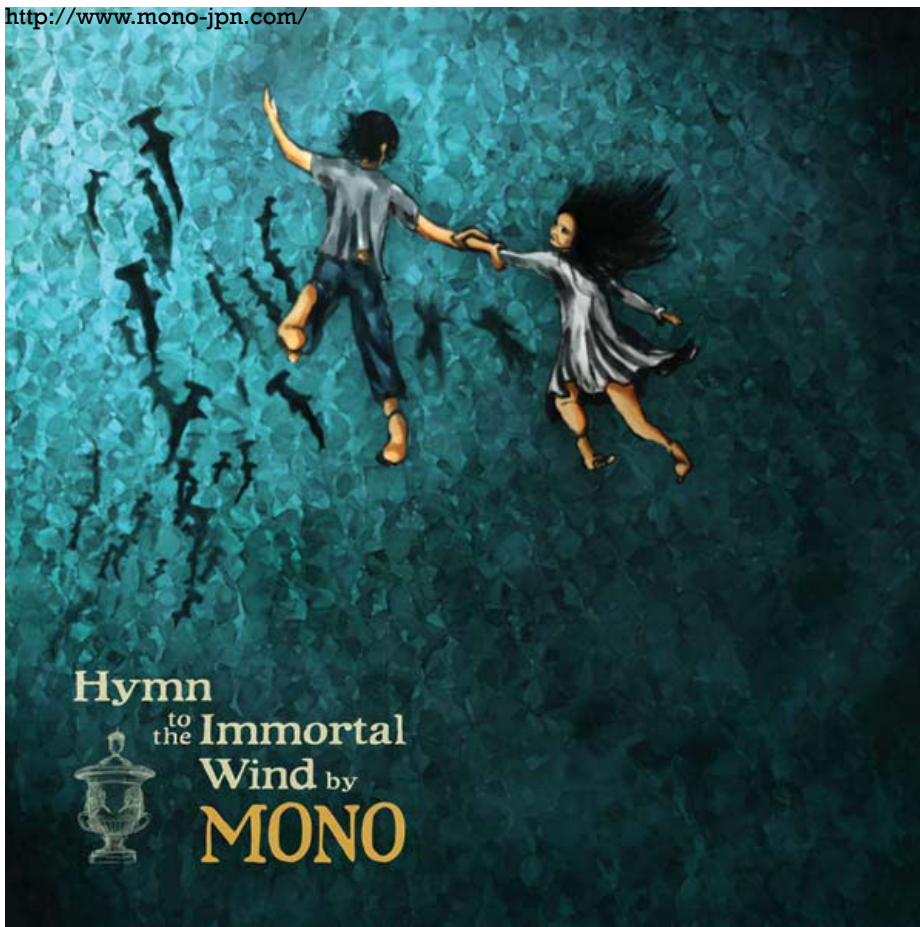


Photo: Album packaging 'Hymn to the Immortal Wind' by Mono

events



Chichibu Yo-matsuri

Six 10m- (30ft-) high brightly painted and illuminated floats are pulled out of the grounds of Chichibu Shrine and into the streets of the town. Each float represents one of the town's six protective gods. As they weigh 10 tons, they are pulled by up to 100 enthusiastic (and not entirely sober) young men and women hauling two ropes. This can create interesting navigational problems in the narrower streets. The last steep little hill at the end of the parade requires maximum effort from every hauler, drummer and flautist.

Chichibu Yo-matsuri

When : 05 - 06 Dec 2009

Where : Chichibu, [Japan](#)

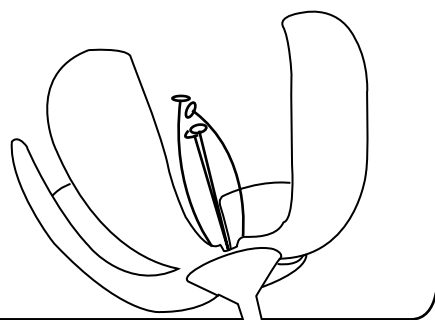
Website: www.japan-guide.com/e/e6552.html

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[BUENOS AIRES]_ARC

by Anna Valentina Ferrari



I Now let me tell you about these new things I was three months old when we first met. I can't remember anything, but I seem pretty happy on the pictures. I suppose neither of us expected, at that time, to have our lives so connected to each other. For fifteen years we met at least once a year, even if it was just for a few hours, it was a constant in my life. My family and I always came back to Buenos Aires.

It was March 2006, when my mom told me that we were going to move the next year, from São Paulo to Buenos Aires. It was a scary experience; I mean, I had to leave family and friends and go to a completely different place and start my life all over again. But there was one thing that calmed me down, I thought that with all the visiting I knew a lot about Buenos Aires.

Little did I know that there was a whole new hidden Buenos Aires waiting to unveil itself in front of my eyes. From the minute I arrived there, knowing that I was going to live there, the city already felt different. Everything started to transform. That is one of the funny things about big cities, they are constantly changing, and there is always something new to learn about them. That is what I felt when I first moved here, I was in a completely different city from the Buenos Aires I knew so well as a tourist. Now let me tell you about the new things I discovered when I came to the land of the "hermanos".

While walking around you will soon realize how chaotic the traffic is; no one uses the turning lights, they just assume you will guess what their next move is. And at least once a week a demonstration will close or stop some big avenue, collapsing Buenos Aires traffic. Apart from all that, the streets here flow well enough. Also, taking into account that Argentina was the first country to use buses as public transport, they are still a very effective means of transportation. Though they may be old, they will take you almost anywhere inside and around Buenos Aires. Just don't forget you can only use coins to pay the bus ticket. Taxis are another option for moving around the city, just be careful and always choose the ones that say "radio taxi".

Well now that you know a bit about the transportation, let's go around some places for you to visit. If you are into art, you must come here, in Buenos Aires there is an incredible variety of art styles. If you like what is new and trendy you should go to galleries in San Telmo, where most of the young artists exhibit their work. Also look at the walls, street art is all around here, and there are tours organized around the city just to show you the most beautiful murals of the city (www.graffitimundo.com). If you are still looking for some outdoors art go to the Plaza de las Naciones Unidas (United Nations Park) where you will find one of the city's icons, an enormous statue of a flower that blossoms during the day, and closes during the night.

There are some nice museums too; the Malba museum (just a few blocks away from the flower), is one of the city's most important ones. It has a



Photo: Bracani...Antonio / CC-by-nc-nd / Flickr



Photo: Struck in Customs / CC-by-nc-sa / Flickr

GENTINA



discovered when I came to the land of the “hermanos”.

permanent collection which includes important paintings from artists of all over Latin America. And the temporary exhibitions are always very interesting as well. But what I really like about this museum is the shop they have in there. All items are like a piece of art you can take home with you. And under the shop there is a mini book store, with mainly art related books, but which is really interesting to take a look at.

Going to the other side of the city, another very interesting museum that has one permanent exhibition, that is the personal collection of the museum founder, which is called Amalia Fortabat, in her honor. What is interesting about this museum is that her collection manages to combine several different art styles, in there you will find almost any painting style.

If you are a shopping fan, I don't recommend any shopping mall; instead walk around “Palermo Soho”. Ask for a cab to leave you at the corner of Malabia and El Salvador, if you walk five or more blocks in any direction from there you will find all kinds of stores. The advantage of walking around there over being inside any of the “porteños” (from Buenos Aires) shopping mall, is that apart from having all the big brands there, you can also take a look at local and new designers' work. And when you get tired of walking around there are several charming coffee places for you to take a break. Two tips: if you like “dulce de leche” (a typical Argentinean sweet), or if you want to try it, go to the Salamandra café. Another option is a place called Muma's, where you will find all kinds of cupcakes. But if you absolutely must go to a shopping mall go to the “Paseo Alcorta”.

We have already walked around, admiring the art and shopping, time to get something to eat. Argentina is famous for its meat so if you are here you should go to a parilla, and I recommend “La Cabrera” (Cabrera 5127). Still on the typical cuisine, once you are here you must try the alfajores, there are several varieties, and almost all of them are very delicious, but the best one is called “Capitán del Espacio”, it will change the way you enjoy sweet flavors. If you are more into natural and healthy food, there are two places you can't miss: Pura Vida (Uriburu 1489), a juice bar, with all natural sandwiches and wraps, and Tea Connection, a tea house with all kinds of infusions and good food too.

And last, but not least is the Buenos Aires nightlife. If you like chillin' through the night, go to Baez and Chenaut, cañitas, where you will find many bars, all kinds of them, some, for example, which after a certain time turn into a disco. When in a party mood, Crobar (www.crobar.com.ar) is the place to go. Until 4 am, there are two separate spaces with different music and all, and after that the doors open uniting the dance floors. Once you've partied hard enough it's time to go back to the hotel and get some sleep, so that you can wake up the next day and enjoy some more of what Buenos Aires has to offer.

events



Escalade Festival and Escalade Race

This two-hander comprises a traditional weekend festival and, before it, a day of races through the streets of Old Geneva in which everyone from children to fun runners to top athletes can take part. Thousands of runners leave in groups, every quarter-hour through the day, passing Saint Pierre Cathedral to finish in the Parc des Bastions. The Cooking Pot (La Marmite) Race in the evening, a torchlit event that ends with the smashing of chocolate pots, is the highlight of the day. The following weekend, to commemorate the historic victory of Geneva over its neighbour, the duc Charles-Emmanuel de Savoie in 1602, there are street parades with people dressed in 17th-century costume. The festival begins with a procession from Rue des Chaudronniers to the Temple of St-Gervais

Escalade Festival and Escalade Race

When : 05 Dec 2009

“LAMB: THE GOSPEL ABOUT CHRIST’S CHILDHOOD

by Christopher Moore

by Agnieszka Tatera

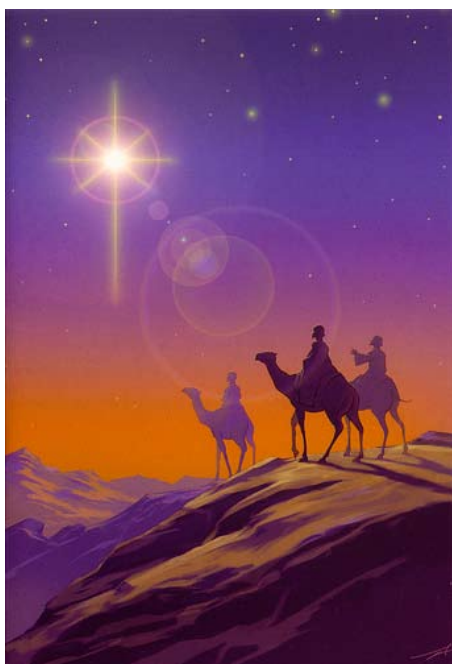
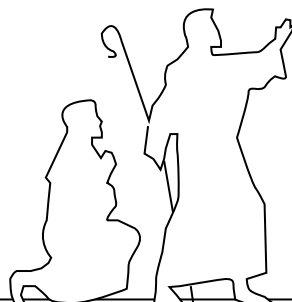
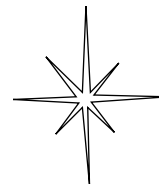


Photo: Colinjcampbell / CC-by-nc-nd/ Flickr

“It’s a nice, funny, mostly light story in a form of new Gospel”



It was one of the first books which I’ve exchanged on the Polish website similar to BookMooch. It was waiting quite long for being read ;)

It’s a nice, funny, mostly light story in a form of new Gospel, written by a friend of Jesus, who was vitalized by an angel to create it. It focus mostly on the years, where are not really well known and well described in the Bible, wonder why ;) So, we’re getting to know Jesus childhood, growing up to his teenager years and then being an adult. On the way from Jesus childhood to his last days he has incredible amount of adventures –learning how to heal people, how to kick demons from them etc. When both of them are teenagers they decide to go and find 3 wise men, who were welcoming Jesus after he was born. So, they spend years and years on finding them and learning new knowledge and skills from them (with a lot of funny and not funny adventures.

Jesus in this book is close to being an “ordinary person” – he has his doubts, fears, sins, temptations and so on. He is funny, sarcastic, with a sense of humor. You could have a pal like he :)

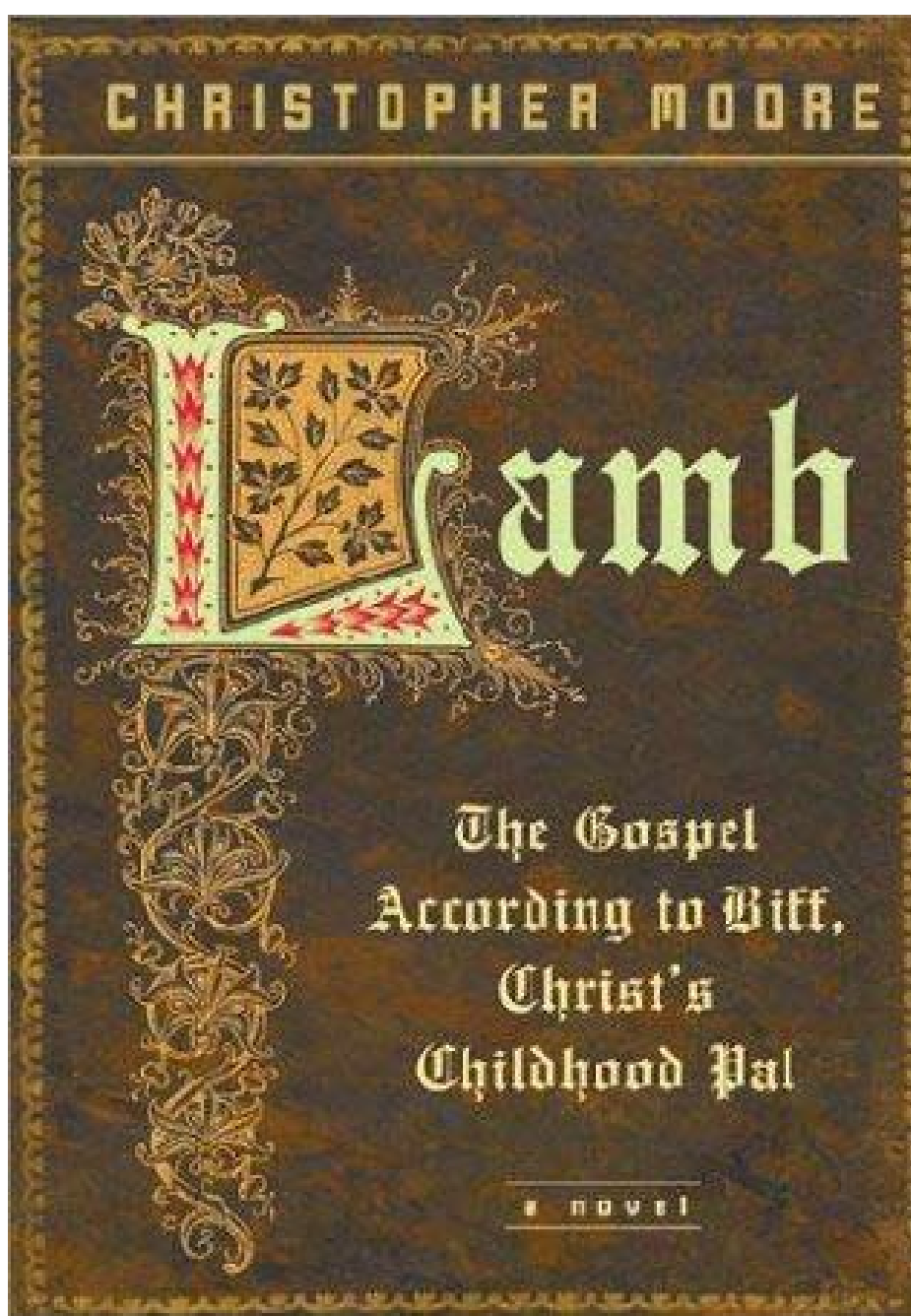
Of course, it’s just a funny fiction story, but it’s well written, keeping the attention of the reader all the time, giving a lot of fun while reading. I recommend reading it :)



ACCORDING TO BIFF, PAL”



events



Where : Geneva,
Switzerland

Website: <http://www.escalade.ch>



Bronze, Silver and Gold Sundays

A traditional count down to the last three Sundays before Christmas, Bronze, Silver and Gold Sundays mark the third, second and last Sundays before Christmas and are a chance for people to finish off their Christmas shopping. In Hungary, presents are usually exchanged on Christmas Eve.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Sundays

When : 07 - 21 Dec 2009

Where : Budapest,
Hungary

Website: <http://ww2.earthday.net/>

About libertas

LIBERTAS is a digital magazine fully prepared by a group of young people from around the world, supported by the Youth Association creACTIVE - especially by its EVS volunteers.

Published for the young people worldwide, LIBERTAS is distributed through the internet to anyone who is interested - free of charge. As for the moment there is no funding provided, the magazine is not printed. If you have any ideas on how to find finances please feel free to inform us! :)

* Have you signed up? Send an empty message to libertas@cre-act-ive.org and receive your personal copy of LIBERTAS by e-mail every 1st in the month!

* Have something to say? Contact us at libertas@cre-act-ive.org and read your article in the next edition!

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