



Photo: Lucie Ferlin/ CC

JANUARY 2019

young people
and politics
government!?

LIBERTAS

wish you a new year of wondrous possibilities

Digital Youth Magazine/published by Youth Association creACTIVE



Editorial



Dear readers,

From time to time I completely forget which year we are living in. Since many people think I have a memory problem, I would like to use this editorial to justify myself: it is definitely not an easy task to keep track on counting the years!

You probably know that it is 1932 now. Ok, that was easy, but I bet some of you don't remember that it's 4708 in the same time. As it is 1431, 5770, 167, 2010 and 2553. Some of you probably live in another year, but this is how far my memory goes. You see, I am definitely unable to follow all world calendars; as I am unable to comprehend the creativity and great variety of ideas - not in the whole world, but even in my closest neighborhood. I am only able to help a bit for presenting the diversity and amazing richness of our world, by being part of LIBERTAS.

So despite my great desire to wish you happy New Year, I can't do it - because of two obvious reasons. Firstly, I can't decide which year I should take; and secondly, because not all New Years arrive in the same time. But since everyone around me is making wishes, I will also join this wishing mood.

Thus, dear readers of LIBERTAS, I wish you many new issues of our magazine, filled with fresh thoughts and brave ideas from around the world. May LIBERTAS bring you the voices of young people, may it also liberate your thoughts and spread your message to everyone else!

Enjoy LIBERTAS number 5!

by **Dragan Atanasov**



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Photo: Lucie Ferlin/ CC

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YOUTH AND (POLITICAL) A - THE CASE OF CROATIA

by **Lea Perinic**

“society never seems to change radically”



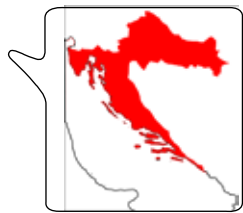
Photo: Brainchildvn / CC-by / Flickr

The idea of dealing with this topic emerged during my participation in one seminar for youth which had the following objectives: building capacities of young leaders in political parties, trade unions and non-governmental organizations; empowering youth in political participation; and increasing their influence on decision-making at both EU and national level. Also, the organizers wanted to connect youth leaders from all over the country and encourage them to collaborate on joint projects related to youth. Interaction with young people, especially representatives of political parties was very instructive, although not very practical. I wouldn't like to generalize, but I must say that young politicians have demonstrated their ability to use a lot of strong words, but were weak on the field of taking some real actions. What bugged me the most was the impression that (even when those two differed) in most of the discussions they weren't defending their personal opinions, but rather the ones of their political parties. In other words, in their formative years they were not developing their personal way of thinking, they were just following the rhetoric of their older political colleagues.

The so called sociological theory of cultural lag argues that people remain committed to those values that were dominant in their formative years, regardless of future knowledge and changes in the society. To get to some concrete social changes, we must therefore first witness the change of few generations. That is, social change is possible only after the youth who conceptually conceive the need for it comes to adulthood, which is why society never seems to change radically. If that's indeed the case (proved by looking at the young Croatian politicians) positive changes in the national political sphere aren't about to come so soon.

However, the situation can be analyzed from different angles and we can accordingly try to answer to various questions, like: (1) What is the actual percentage of politically active young people in Croatia and what real effect do their actions have? If any. (2) Is the public aware that political activity is not the only type of socially responsible activism? (by „political“ I mean the traditional concept of politics) (3) What is the role of non-governmental sector in the development of a democratic society? (4) How much is the current creators of youth policies responsible for the behavior and attitudes of young people? Further on I'll try and address some of these issues.

CITIZENSHIP



Education for the democratic citizenship

Concerns about the increasing political and civic indifference, distrust in democratic institutions, increased number of cases of corruption, racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, discrimination, etc. – it all leads to intense reflection about the importance of education for democratic citizenship. In year 2002 Council of Europe stressed that civic education contributes to the development of civil values and principles of freedom, tolerance and human rights, all form the very basis of democracy.

According to one of the definitions a “citizen is a person who has rights and duties in a democratic society.” His fundamental right is to establish a law, and the duty to obey it, as well as to develop its own initiatives and organize relationships with other people within the framework defined by law. However, the individual, if he/she desires, can be politically active only episodically, during the national elections. The majority is in fact politically passive most of the time and doesn't want to have impact on community issues.

Aristotle said that a “real” citizen is someone who undertakes some political action (governs, sits in court, attends the local and national assemblies and so on). In this case, freedom doesn't consist only in the enjoyment of certain rights, but according to the famous German political theorist Hannah Arendt, it consists of active participation in the decision making processes. But how can we achieve the necessary competences for active participation in politics? Most of the authors consider school to be the institution that “gives birth” to active citizenship. According to the Council of Europe's recommendations, education for democratic citizenship includes any formal or informal educational activity, even the education within the family, which enables the individual to act throughout his life as a responsible citizen. The same body advises that education for democratic citizenship should be set as a priority within every modern educational reform.

Active vs. Naive

There's no need to emphasize that young people today (at least in Croatia) are passive, disinterested, apathetic. If there's not some apparent problem that directly concerns them, it is difficult to encourage them to take any form of action. For example the percentage of young people who do volunteer work in their spare time is

events



London International Boat Show

From the latest dream yachts and cutting-edge powerboats to dinghies, narrow boats and surfboards, all nautical vehicles are displayed at the London International Boat Show at ExCel. Find accessories and the latest in sailing and boating holidays at hundreds of stalls.

London International Boat Show

When : 8 - 17 January 2010

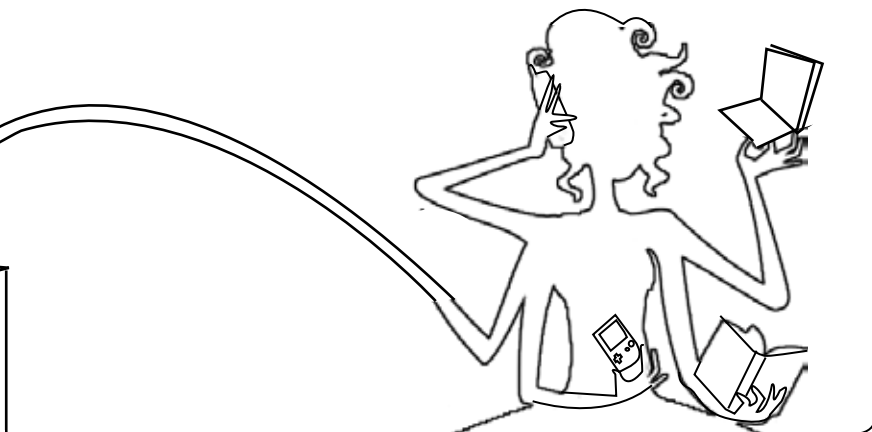
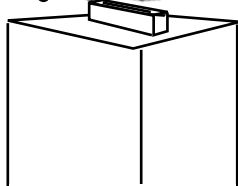
Where : ExCeL London, **United Kingdom**

Website: www.londonboatshow.com.



Artexperience 2010

VOTE



“young people do show willingness to actively engage in order to resolve certain problems in society.”

extremely low compared to the numbers in western societies (only 5% of young people). On the other hand, I wouldn't say that youth from western countries are more altruistic than Croatian youth, but the society expectations and attitude towards volunteering and other forms of social engagement are completely different. For example, hours of volunteer work listed in the resume usually help young Americans in the employment process. A person who does not practice any form of socially useful activity is negatively “labeled”.

On the other hand, in Croatia, volunteering is still seen as a waste of time and as an activity of naive individuals who decide to spend their time that way, instead of doing something which is profitable. So, although we are eager to automatically blame the youth for their passiveness (political and any other), a large part of the responsibility lies within the society, media, and governmental structures that have the power to change things but aren't using it because for them it's better to have a quiet, non-thinking mass than a group of free-thinking individuals. Since this seems to be the reality, more and more attention is put on the non-governmental sector which should take greater responsibility in educating young people, and developing awareness about the importance of socially responsible behavior.

According to some relevant statistics, two thirds of young people in Croatia aren't active in any kind of social or political organizations (this also includes sports, cultural or artistic groups, youth associations, etc.). However, young people do show willingness to actively engage in order to resolve certain problems in society. Between one and two fifths of young people are ready to get involved in different civil actions. Nevertheless, I would say that the emphasis is on the word “ready” and that everything remains on the readiness, not the real action. Thus, young people in Croatia are still characterized or the most part as passive, apathetic and uninterested when it comes to socio-political actions. I would say that Croatian youth appreciates the financial capital more than the social one which is why they are sometimes more eager to join the political parties, than non-profit organizations. Still, a relatively small percentage of young people are members of political parties, and those who are, cannot easily get to an important position. This is the result of the stigmatization on the basis of their age and lack of experience, which is why politics generally remains the field of middle aged men, and rarely women (even though we currently have a female prime minister).



Photo: urn / lebeaupinagnes / CC-by-nc-nd / Flickr

(A kind of) conclusion

To put it in a nutshell, what the Western societies have recognized a long time ago, has yet to sink in here: young people need to be educated in the field of civic education, which includes different topics - socially responsible behavior, democracy, volunteering, social entrepreneurship, various forms of active social participation, etc. The non-governmental sector could and should play an important role in this area. Before this should occur it must perform a self-analysis and reform itself which would restore the lost trust of the citizens, primarily caused by non-transparent work and low visibility.

Youth, defined by the age from 15 to 30, is classified as a marginalized social group. The European Union has defined the guidelines for youth policy in this period, some of which are: the development of informal education and lifelong learning, youth employment, and active participation of youth in democratic societies. Policy guidelines for youth are developed and transferred to the national level of each state. Different strategies and international documents (such as the Commission's White Paper on "A new impetus for European Youth", the European Youth Pact, or the recent Commission's strategy for youth entitled "Youth - Investing and Empowering") stress the importance of active youth participation in socio-political life.

In Croatia, youth policies began to develop seriously in 2002 by the establishment of a national network of young people (Croatian Youth Network). Nowadays we have the national and local programmes of action for youth as well as the national Association of Youth Info-Centres (members of ERYICA – European Youth Information and Counseling Agency). Nevertheless, most of the people are still skeptical and not inclined to believe that these documents, actions and measures written in black & white will lead to any real change, nor that the mentioned organizations have the power to implement them without the help of formal political structures which often have different priorities.

In the context of such social climate, it is hypocritical to expect from young people to think differently and be proactive. However, we all know that revolutions do not come suddenly by the quick change of paradigm, but rather come on stage slowly, parallel to the accumulation of many small changes. All of the previously mentioned activities (the reforms of educational system, strengthening the civil sector, influencing the mass-media, encouraging the concepts of affirmative action, etc.) would eventually lead to significant and measurable changes, such as reducing the passivity of Croatian youth and increasing the level of their active participation in all fields, political and non-political. If today we can say that something is non-political, which I strongly doubt. We just have to adapt to the fact that politics is all around us, it's not just present in the National Parliament, but in our everyday life and our most simple and private decisions.

ArtExperience 2010

The Domus Academy presents ArtExperience, a five-day event featuring meetings and seminars on contemporary art in Milan. Key figures from the international art scene debate the relationship between art, sound, poetry, architecture and technology.

The event features poets, writers, musicians and composers pondering over the relationship between music and poetry. The first three days stimulate debate in a series of seminars at the Domus Academy. The last two days put theory into practice through two concerts at the Spazio Oberdan, by both some of the participants and organizers of the previous day's seminars.

ArtExperience 2010

When : January 2010

Where : Domus Academy, Milan, Italy

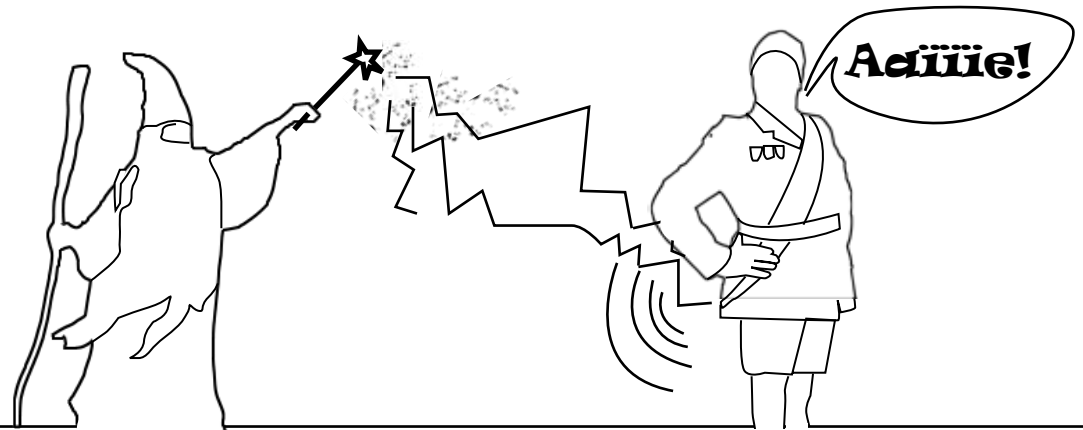
Website: www.novurgia.it



A King Celebration

THE LATIN AMERICAN 'BOOM'

by Mauro Giordano



Between 1960 and 1970, Latin American literature experimented with a huge and profound transformation which derived into the period called 'Boom' (in allusion to the vigor and importance of the decade). From a peripheral standpoint, Hispanic writers (mainly those specialized in novelistic narrative) were able to grant Central and South American literature the fame and reputation that ultimately reached the European and North American one.



Photo: image from the movie "Latin american boom"

“this literary experience constituted the new vanguard of the 60s and 70s.”

There were many reasons that led these writers to build and conceive their literature in such new ways. Among them we find the accelerated progress and expansion of cities, the strengthening of the middle class, the unity and brotherhood of Latin American countries and the fresh innovations in the means of communication. The historical context was also of utter importance: the Cuban Revolution in 1959 is the epitome of the political turmoil that existed in the region. It is the great event that marked the beginning of the Boom, given that from then on, people from around the world would look at Latin America with different eyes. Moreover, it is the source of the radical and revolutionary tone that surfaces in the texts from that period. During the sixties, Central and South America were regarded as a whole, and a shared literature was born. Authors from the different countries constantly exchanged ideas and experiences with each other, even became friends. The geographical boundaries were lost and the international recognition pertained to the entire portion of the continent.

The writers were deeply concerned about the society that surrounded them, therefore the novel triumphed over the other literature genres. This commitment to people and history led to the characterization of the Latin American intellectual, who felt naturally obliged to reflect on paper the main situations that preoccupied people in the region: the exile, dictatorships, civil wars, political revolutions, social fragmentation and even anachronism.

OM' - A QUICK INSIGHT



events

9

All of these themes were mainly developed in two different styles: on one hand we find the 'historical novel', which is about the historical progression of a character's life (esp. the 'dictator novel' type). In this sub-genre, the figure of the dictator is explored more abstractly, uncovering the nature of the person in relation to the essence of its regime. On the other hand, we have the novel worked through 'magical realism':

'[It] stretches the boundaries of realism in order to stretch the definition of reality. Magic becomes ordinary, "admitted, accepted, and integrated into the rationality and materiality of literary realism."

The artistic innovation brought along the use of vernacular language and the layering of different vantage points, while time and linear progress were strongly doubted and challenged. Literature and its message were deeply and intimately connected to the political atmosphere of the time, and the promotion of a new era, completely breaking with past standards, made it clear that in certain ways this literary experience constituted the new vanguard of the 60s and 70s.

Recommended Authors and Books:

Mario Vargas Llosa, *La fiesta del Chivo (The Feast of the Goat)*

Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Paramo*

Carlos Fuentes, *La muerte de Artemio Cruz (The Death of Artemio Cruz)*

Julio Cortázar, *Rayuela (Hopscotch)*

Gabriel García Márquez, *Cien Años de Soledad (100 Years of Solitude)*

Miguel Ángel Asturias, Jorge Luis Borges, João Guimarães Rosa, Alejo Carpentier, and Juan Carlos Onetti.

Other Sources:

Pope, Randolph D., *La novela hispanoamericana desde 1950 a 1975*



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A King Celebration

A King Celebration is an annual celebration honouring America's greatest civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr. Held during the week of his birthday, it sees Atlanta Symphony Orchestra perform a concert at the Martin Luther King Jr International Chapel.

Dr. King was born on 15 January 1929 in Atlanta. An American Baptist minister, he opposed discrimination against blacks by organising non-violent resistance and peaceful mass demonstrations. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was assassinated in Memphis four years later.

Martin Luther King Jr Day has been a national holiday in the US since 1986.

A King celebration

When : 14 January 2010

Where : Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Atlanta, USA

Website: www.king-raleigh.org/welcome.cfm

COMMUNISM, REVOLUTION

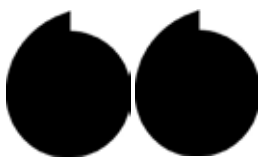
by *Simona Kocourkova*

DON QUICHOTTE



Photo: Don Quichotte/BasileLeConquerant/CC-by-nc/Flickr

“The **revolution** in **1989** was **full** of **expectation, excitement, and probably massive happiness**”



This year, in the Czech Republic, we celebrated 20 years after the fall of communism. 17 of November (the official beginning of the revolution)

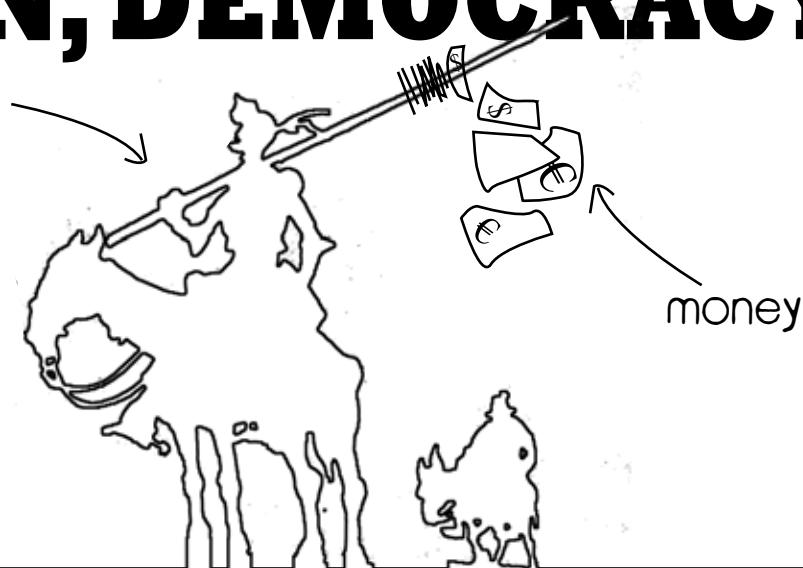
people went again to streets. It's an important day in our history, people don't celebrate it. They demonstrated against government, and against our politicians.

The revolution in 1989 was full of expectation, excitement, and probably massive happiness. Freedom – after 41 years. We began to live in democracy with a liberal economic system. Privatization and first corruption scandals occurred. People were losing their money in addition they were losing their trust in our new politicians. Ideals of democratization were changed in disgust by the new political reality.

Twenty years after the fall of communism, once again we don't trust politicians. The two biggest parties are always struggling against one another without getting any constructive work done, and unable to make compromises. Even election campaigns don't provide new goals for the coming years, they just focus on making their political competitor dirty as much as possible. Political culture of swear words. As a bonus, corruption and scandal has become part of the Czech political folklore.

Is this democracy? It probably doesn't look like people imagined it in the time of revolution. Nothing is as beautiful as you see it from the first sight. The best parts of politics are created by people. If someone goes into politics with ideals and strong moral values they have a chance to do something good but to do it in an environment of dirty political games is the same work which Don Quixote had with windmills.

N, DEMOCRACY



Politics and I? I'll be honest I don't care. My life and politics is separate. I really feel that I live in a democracy. Compared to communism I can study, work and travel where I want. I can say my opinion publicly without any restriction. In my country there's no war, no big nationalism and there's free media. So I am satisfied with the political system in which I live because it doesn't restrict me in things that I want.

Sometimes I become nervous because in my passivism I think that in the communism time one thing was easier. You know against who you struggle. Communist were enemies. People were forbidden to attend certain concerts, read forbidden books and had a strong alternative community because the struggle against regime connected them. Nowadays you can be active in many ways. You can go to a demonstration, sign petitions, and support something financially or even associate with a non-governmental organization. You can choose local or global topics such as global warming, killing whales or rights of immigrants. You have many sources of information. After reading some, your initial motivation may change fall to doubt. Is climate change really affected by human beings? Who has more rights the whale or Inuit to keep their century long traditions? Is it ok to let immigrants keep their traditions or should they adapt to their new environment? (e.g. Muslim scarf at French schools)?

If someone has a different opinion or wants to take up a different initiative they're free to do so. Although sometimes it can remind us that Don Quixote's struggle with windmills is very real.... but on the other hand what's wrong with that? :)



events



Science Festival

High-profile scientists, physicians, astronomers and even Nobel Prize winners flock to Rome's Auditorium Parco della Musica for the annual Science Festival. There are stimulating exhibitions, displays, talks and parties for anyone fascinated by great discoveries and the unknown.

In 2010 don't miss *Le noir de l'Etoile*, a collaboration between musician Gérard Grisey and astrophysicist Margherita Hack which makes use of real sounds from space to create an unforgettable show.

Science Festival

When : 13 - 17 Jan 2010

Where : Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome, Italy

Website: www.auditorium.com

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

by Stevica Levajkovski



Education is taking place throughout life in many forms and in many places. The importance of the education is evident in those places. People achieve new worldviews, better understanding of the environment around them, and build skills and attitudes that help them adapt to and take part in the society as active and responsible citizens.



Photo: advertising campaign EDC



One of the most important tasks of education is to transform the existing mutual dependency into voluntary solidarity. With this in mind, it is the job of education to help people to understand themselves and others better by giving them a better understanding of the world. Acquiring knowledge represents the first step towards a better understanding of the increasing complexity of global events and towards dismantling the uncertainty that it creates. The next step is learning how to put facts into the right context and learning to cast a critical eye on the information flow in order to reach one's own independent opinion. It's here that education is more irreplaceable than ever before. Education serves in promoting a real understanding of the events, which goes beyond the simplified and sometimes biased views given by the media. A turbulent and changing world is developing before our very eyes. Education has to help everyone to become world citizen.

WHAT IS EDC?

Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) is a set of practices and activities aimed at making young people and adults better equipped to participate actively in democratic life by assuming and exercising their rights and responsibilities in society. In other words, EDC means learning how to become a citizen and how to live in a democratic society.

The EDC project was launched by the Education Committee of the Council of Europe in 1997, having clearly assumed, from the first moment that it would follow a global and lifelong perspective, covering both school and adult education, formal and informal strategies, and aiming at analyzing how such different dimensions can help young people and adults to get the motivation, knowledge and skills to deal with democratic institutions and to share a set of values and attitudes including tolerance, solidarity, compassion, respect for others and civil courage. Education for democratic citizenship aims to give people the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that will help them play an effective role in their community - be it on the local, national or international level. It shows people how to become informed about their rights, responsibilities and duties and it helps them realize that they can have influence and make a difference.

“EDC means learning how to become a citizen and how to live in a democratic society.”

EDC CITIZENSHIP (EDC)



WHY EDC?

EDC has the following advantages:

1. it has its own identity and an operational content, resulting from the integration of the three generic terms (education + citizenship + democracy);
2. it is a multi-dimensional term in the sense that involves political and civic rights as well as social and cultural rights;
3. it is a common denominator for all educational activities, regardless of age, institutions or learning environments;
4. it implies certain key competencies;
5. it designates particular forms of social learning (experiential, collaborative, intercultural, contextual and action learning);
6. guides the entire educational system towards a set of common values.

Democracy lives of the involvement of the citizens.

Education for democratic citizenship should be taught in schools in a way that will empower young people to take active role in the democratic processes and making decisions in the society. So they have to have active say in a way they are educated, their voices have to be heard inside and outside of the classroom. And is not only about the knowledge they might get in school but also the skills and attitudes they can get through the programs that are taking part outside of the schools in non-formal education setting and this is where the youth NGOs can contribute a lot. Schools need to become more democratic and to promote participation also for parents together with their children, teachers as crucial factor, local government and NGOs.

EDC skills and competencies give equal importance to knowledge, values and attitudes and the capacity for action and participation in a democratic and multicultural society. EDC crosses over the borders between school and community and challenges the divisions between formal, non-formal and informal education, between curricular and extra-curricular activities as well as between schooling and socialization, it strengthens a dynamic and sustainable democratic culture based on awareness and commitment to shared fundamental values: human rights and freedoms, equality and the rule of law.

A “good school” is the place where the necessary skills and competencies for a “good life” can be acquired; it must therefore provide a space in which many opportunities exist for social learning, political debate, democratic co-determination and responsibility, as well as the acquisition of social and democratic competencies, qualifications and skills which young people need for their future role as informed, responsible and participative citizens.



events



Wakakusa Yamayaki

The ritual Wakakusa Yamayaki burning of the grass on Wakakusa Hill, Nara, when the whole 342-metre hill is set ablaze, is a stunning sight. The mountain is engulfed in flames, dramatically lighting up the winter sky. Wakakusa Yamayaki starts around 5.30pm with purification rituals and prayers for safety during the event, followed by a fireworks display. Then monks sound blasts on conch shells and the dead winter grass at the base of Wakakusa Hill is ignited. This dangerous work is done by priests dressed as warriors, using torches lit with the sacred flame of Kasuga Shrine.

The fires spread quickly and by 6.30pm the whole hill is engulfed in flame. The best view is from the foot of the hill in Nara Park, but the flames and accompanying fireworks can be seen from all over Nara. Be prepared for crowds - more than 100,000 people turn out to watch.

YOUNG PEOPLE x POLITICS - YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

by **Rodrigo Silvo**



Politics and youth are two words that are barely thought as linked. In fact, most of the times when we think of politics and politicians, we automatically exclude young people. Now, why? Is the youth nowadays so isolated from the rest of the world that they just don't care about anything that is going on? If we look back in history, we will be able to see that this is not true. Indeed, there are many episodes in which young people have taken the lead, and changed the path of people's lives.



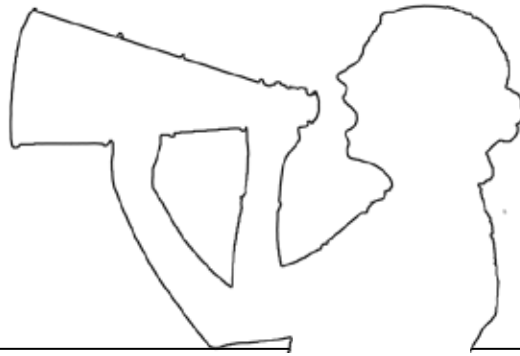
Photo: Alain Bachelier / CC-by-nc-nd / Flickr

The reason why young people are not remembered as an active group is because most of the times, we, the youth from around the world, like to tag ourselves as an alienated group. Therefore, our country and world see us as a non-political class. However, we know, some of us do care about political contents, and want to make the difference and there are many ways of doing this. Here there are just some few examples:

**“Let's get
together,
let's
work
towards a
better
world”**

- Enroll at a debate club. Most of the time debate clubs form leaders, well-prepared to give speeches and convey their thoughts. It's always important to know how to convey your ideas.
- Be engaged with organizations which help your local communities. You don't need to be a politician to help people who don't have money, education or are in need of any kind of help. All you need is willingness to do anything.
- There are many political organizations led by young people and focused on forming leaders in our world. If you like to lead, and think you're able to control a neighborhood/city/state/region/country and so on, why not give it a chance? I'm sure that by taking this chance is how most of our world leaders have become what they are nowadays.
- Last but not least, actually, the most important one; Believe in yourself! As it has been said many times throughout this year; **YES WE CAN!** We can change the world, it only depends on us.

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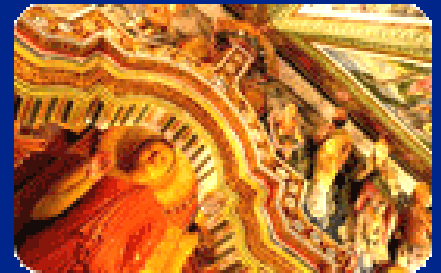
events

Now that we've been introduced to some ways that we can make a difference, let's time travel, and see what history can teach us.

- Nelson Mandela, former South Africa president, entered the political field in his 30's. Since then, Mandela has been working hard on the behalf of world peace. Mandela has been truly involved in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Even though, Mandela took office only after reaching an older age, he's started his political career very early.
- Another important young politician was Robert Kennedy, John's Kennedy brother. He's started his career in his early 30's. Soon, Robert Kennedy had a seat in the senate and years later he was running for president. Unfortunately, Robert was murdered just a few years after his brother's murder.
- In Venezuela, students have also been out on the streets in opposition to the regime. Yon Goicoechea at the age of 23, in 2007, organized more than 40 marches, gathering around 80,000 people each march, to oppose the current government. Yon was one of the main organizers of the Venezuelan student movement. In 2008, Goicoechea was awarded with a prize of U\$500,000 for Advancing Liberty.
- In Brazil, youth has been an active class throughout history. During our military repressive government, we've created important organizations, such as UNE(national students union), in order to combat our own government. It was during Fernando Collor's term that we went out to the streets, and started a movement known as coloredfaces. The movement resulted in Collor's impeachment.

As we've seen so far, there have been many episodes in history in which young people went out to the streets, protested, exposed their ideas and made the difference. It's not time to stop, let's keep on moving on, because even though it can sound as cliché, it is one of the most correct popular sayings; WE ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD. Let's get together, let's work towards a better world.

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- **Wakakusa Yamayaki**
When : 10 January 2010
Where : Nara Park, Nara, **Japan**
Website: www.mapsofworld.com/cities/japan/tokyo/wakakusa-yamayaki.html
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Duruthu Perahera (full moon Poya day in January)

The Duruthu Perahera has taken place since 1927 and celebrates the Buddha's first visit to Sri Lanka more than 2500 years ago, attracting hundreds of thousands of people to the sacred Kelaniya Temple in Colombo. It comprises three perahera (processions) featuring costumed actors, dancers, musicians, devotees dressed in white and elephants.

The first procession, Udamalawa Perahera, starts on the upper terrace of the temple with the ritual handing over of a secret casket. Cannon fire marks the beginning of the parade and the casket is carefully placed on a colourful cushion.

[PRINCELY MOMENTS] LI

by Stevica Levajkovski

Just the right size and open to

Liechtenstein, the jewel at the pulse of Europe, is like a book. Once you've started reading, you can't put it down. Liechtenstein is traditional and modern. Just the right size and open to the world, athletic and sensual. Liechtenstein exudes atmosphere.

Take a bit of time and get to know the 160-square-kilometers (62-square-mile) gem – down in the valley along the Rhine, up in the mountains near the skies. You'll be astonished: The small size has nothing to do with numbers. Everything is there: impressive mountains and a vibrant culture, charming villages and excellent gourmet temples. Discover what it means to be small in all its diversity and familiarity. The qualities lie in the details. Whoever discovers Liechtenstein, experienced great things in a small place.

There are 35,000 people living together in Liechtenstein. Vaduz is the capital residence of the Princely Family and seat of Government. The system of the state is organized as Constitutional hereditary monarchy on democratic and parliamentary basis. Head of state: Reigning Prince Hans – Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein. In the Parliament participate only 25 members as people's representatives. The Government is constituted of five-person collegial government, appointed by the Reigning Prince on recommendation of Parliament for 4 years.

In Liechtenstein official language is the Standard German and the Alemanic dialect is the colloquial language. What about religion? 79% are Roman Catholic, 8% Protestant, 13% other religions. The currency is Swiss Franc (CHF).

The Reigning Prince and the Princely Family

The Princely House of Liechtenstein is one of the oldest noble families in Europe and very successful entrepreneurial family. The Princely Art Collections are among the most important private art collections in the world and include major works of the European art covering over four centuries. In 1938, Reigning Prince Franz Josef moved his residence to Vaduz, and his son, Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II, is the first Reigning Prince to have been born in Liechtenstein.

Succession to the throne is governed by the law of the Princely House. On 15 August 2004, Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II transferred his sovereign rights to his eldest son, Hereditary Prince Alois, and appointed him his Representative. In 1993, Hereditary Prince Alois married Duchess Sophie of Bavaria, who is direct descendent of the last Bavarian king. The Hereditary Prince and his wife have three boys and one girl.

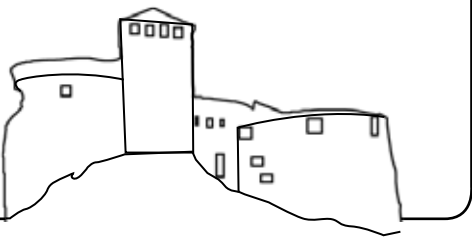
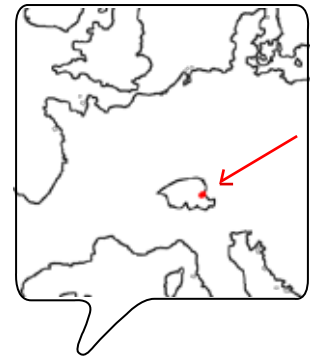


Photo: Libar / CC-by-nc-sa / Flickr



Photo: Malbun / Rainer Ebert / CC-by-sa / Flickr

LIECHTENSTEIN



the world, athletic and sensual — events

Vaduz Castle

Vaduz Castle is the residence of the princely Family. Visible from far away and yet close enough to touch, the famous landmark is perched on a rocky terrace above Vaduz, accessible by a romantic footpath. If the blue-red flag with the golden crown flies above the Castle, which was enlarged during the Middle Age, the Prince is at home. The privacy of the Princely Family is respected, which is why the Castle cannot be visited. But you may be lucky and encounter a member of the Princely Family on your voyage of discovery through the country.

Enjoy Multifaceted Entertainment

The vacation and recreation country of Liechtenstein has many faces and offers a great variety of outstanding attractions: an entertaining ride on the Citytrain through Vaduz or by bus through the entire country, pure thrills watching birds of prey in action, courses in archery and much more. Liechtenstein offers everything needed for an entertaining vacation full of pleasure and fun.

Malbun – The Fun Family Oasis

Malbun, at a healthy 1600 meters (5250 feet) above sea level, is the ideal spot for a vacation in Liechtenstein. You can enjoy and dream at this healthy elevation as well. The air is clean, the sun is warm and the pastures are lush green. Mountain streams murmur peacefully and softly. The mighty larch trees reflect against the naked rock face in the evening sun. Malbun is small and manageable, a true paradise. Adventure, encounters with nature, fun and recreation – it's all on hand.

Malbun is just around the corner, the locals say. It's true! Only half an hour away from the valley, the lifestyle changes. In the snow, the region beyond the Steg tunnel turns into a magnificent winter landscape. Malbun offers young and old exactly what it takes for a carefree winter holiday. The air is healthy and breathing comes easy. The Malbun Valley is small and precious, the offerings are numerous and multifaceted. Leave your tracks behind in the snow like a Liechtenstein pro-skier.

Wherever you go, art and culture are everywhere in Liechtenstein. You'll find a broad cultural spectrum with surprising traces of age-old customs and the past as well as unique signs of modernity. Liechtenstein is a land full of highlights that sparkle in pictures, words and sounds. The program is always fascinating, and somewhere between the prologue and the end, you'll also find your favorites. Come in and take your seats for a cultural weekend, every once in a while or as often as you like: The stage is yours!

The second procession, Pa-hathamaluwa Perahera, is more colourful but continues with the elephants carrying the casket and divine insignia.

The festival reaches its climax with the Randoli Perahera, the most magnificent of the processions, held on the day prior to the January full moon.

Duruthu Perahera (full moon Poya day in January)

When : January 2010

Where : Kelaniya Temple, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Website: www.auditorium.com



Ka Molokai Makahiki Festival

Held after the harvest, the Ka Molokai Makahiki Festival is a Hawaiian tradition. Legend has it that Captain Cook owes his reception in this part of the

“SIDDHARTHA” by Her

by Jasna Atanasova



Photo: cgnetwork2006 / CC-by/ Flickr



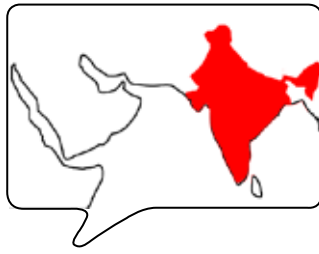
Indian religion and faith are more and more popular. Through the process of globalization the world is introduced to Buddhism, Hinduism and all other eastern religions. This helped people find faith and religion suitable to them.

Wisdom cannot be said, one of many lessons in the book by Herman Hesse – Siddhartha (A book that examines India's quest for faith and peace). Siddhartha, raised by brahmas, will go on a journey to find peace. On this trip he will be handed over to another secondary road, but later he will understand that it was part of his entire journey, that otherwise would not be full and complete.

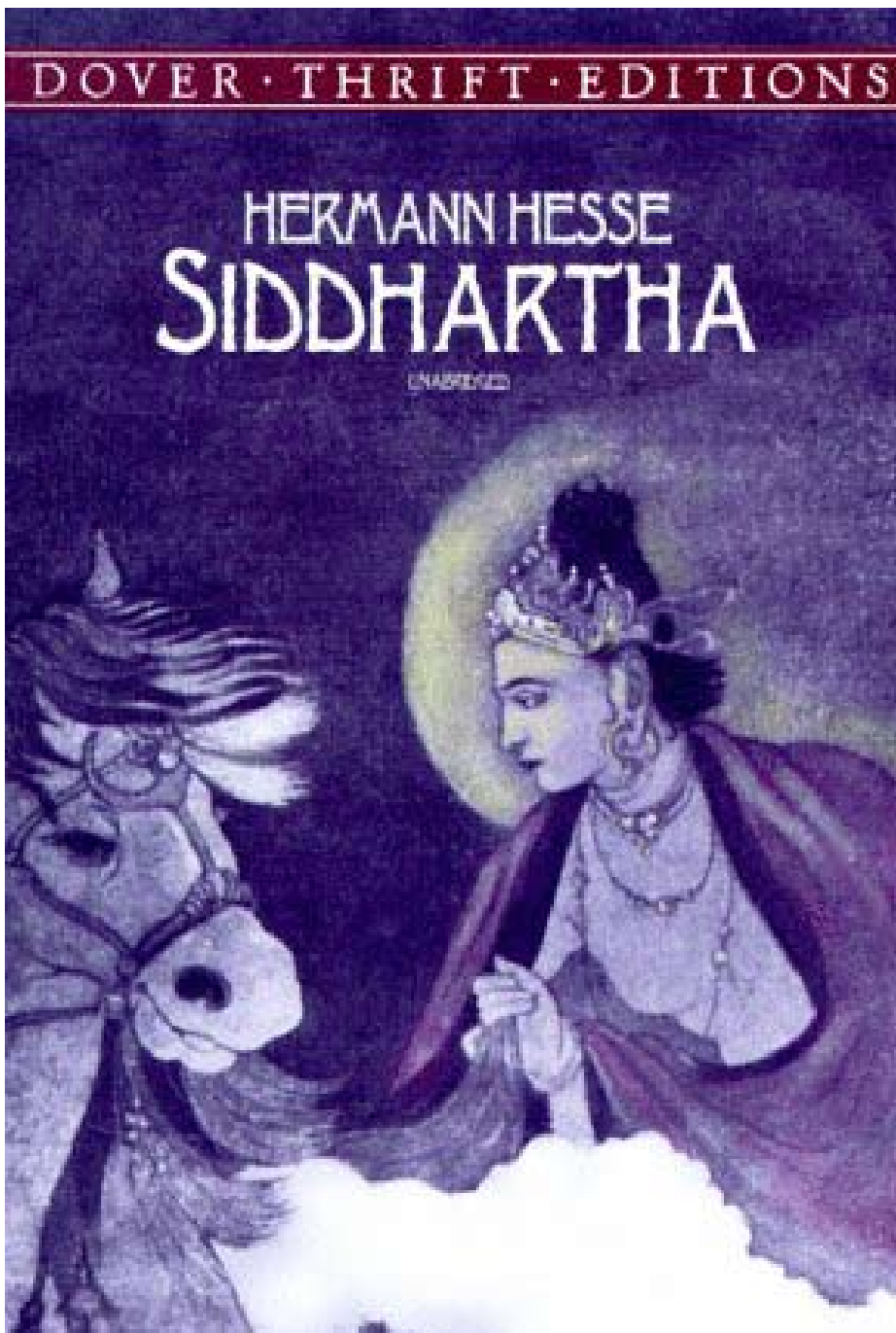
This story, although it can't be achieved such as it is, shows the consistency of a man who has one goal and that does not need anything else. And this is something that modern man does not have. Today is complex. Due to hyper-production and hyper co modification, man these days are unable to remain focused on one goal.



“Wisdom
can not
be said”



events



world to his lucky arrival during Makahiki season. The island of Moloka'i celebrates with hula, Hawaiian arts and crafts, games and food.

The harsh kapu, or laws ruling the tribe, are cast aside in favour of sporting competitions and thanksgiving. Usual deities are replaced by the effigy of Lomo, represented by a staff which bears an uncanny resemblance to the sails of a ship - hence Cook's warm reception, since he was mistaken for a visiting god.

Festivities during the day include ancient Hawaiian games like huki huki (tug-of-war), Ulu- maika (lawn bowling) and Uma (arm wrestling), to name just a few.

Ka Molokai Makahiki Festival

When : January 2010

Where : Moloka'i, USA

Website: www.molokai-hawaii.com



Lerwick Up Helly Aa

“LET’S GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY”

Camera Obscura

by Dragan Atanasov

Acoustic guitars, soft vocals, sentimental verses, piano music and pleasant rhythms, all put together with some organ, mandolin and harmonica sounds. We are presenting you a Scottish band that brings together sophisticated music and bittersweet love lyrics to create the most gentle indie-pop melodies you can imagine. Melancholic songs that make you feel good; music for mornings and late nights; romantic stories and exciting duets – Camera Obscura have created a whole treasure of music that has to be explored.

“ Camera Obscura have created a whole treasure of music that has to be explored

Camera Obscura were born in 1996, and since then they have given the world 4 albums, more singles and non-album tracks. Three years after the release that made a real breakthrough in their career (the album “Let’s Get Out of This Country”), Camera Obscura published 11 new songs under the name “My Maudlin Career”, immediately reaching number 32 on the UK Album Chart.

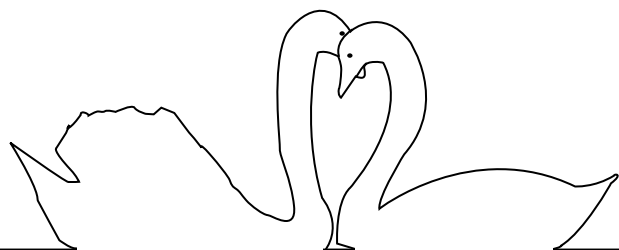
My personal recommendation is to check band’s previous works before buying the new album. The ascending success of their career couldn’t bring to anything but excitement and great interest for their new release. You surely have to try “The Sweetest Thing” and hear about the “French Navy”, but before doing so make sure to meet the “Eighties Fun” “Before You Cry”; then give some “Tears for Affairs”, check out what would happen “If Looks Could Kill” and at least once get “Suspended from Class”.

Back in 2003 Tracyanne (band’s main songwriter and lead vocals) was singing “You’re not a teenager, so don’t act like one”. As Camera Obscura just entered their teenage-hood, I can’t be more curious to see what kind of teenagers they will appear to be. The record they made after thirteen years of work brought more mature melodies and deeper lyrics, showing in practice their constant development. While some reviews claim that “My Maudlin Career” did not give us any new catchy refrains of the same class as “Lloyd I’m Ready to Be Heartbroken” and “Let’s Get Out of This Country”, the newest album is surely



Photo by Sung Kim

"THIS COUNTRY"



events

band's finest and most polished work. With this latest release, Camera Obscura presented continuity in the style and quality; and proved that over the years they have developed in a band with its own unique and recognizable musical identity, setting an example for the other indie-pop artists.

Discography:

Biggest Bluest Hi Fi (2001)

Underachievers Please Try Harder (2003)

Let's Get Out of This County (2006)

My Maudlin Career (2009)

Upcoming Gigs in January:

Australia and Japan



Photo: Album packaging 'My Maudlin Career' by Camera obscura

Lerwick Up Helly Aa

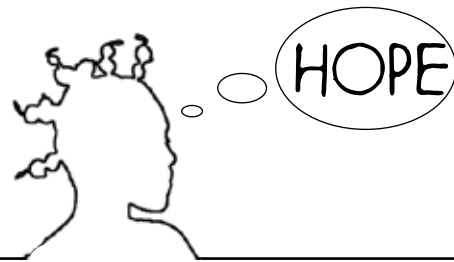
The Lerwick Up Helly Aa is a magnificent fire festival, incorporating the burning of a Viking galley and a torchlit parade. Nearly 1000 people dressed as Vikings or in other fancy dress take to the streets for this community-defining event.

The Up Helly Aa is said by some to hark back to an ancient Viking practice of burning a galley as a sacrifice to the sun; others maintain it is held to herald the beginning of spring. Whatever the reason, this extraordinary event is attended by visitors from all over Scotland.

The proceedings begin in the early evening when parade members known as "guizers" assemble in the town centre at Hillhead. The parade is led by the "jarl", dressed as a fearsome looking Viking warrior. The guizers form themselves into squads who each choose a distinct theme for their costumes. They all set off, torches aflame, dragging an enormous, specially constructed Viking galley. When they reach the burning site, all the paraders fling their flaming torches into the boat, which goes up in a tremendous blaze.

INTERVIEW WITH WASHINGTON KATEMA

by Dragan Atanasov



“ **Who is Washington Katema, in few words?**

Born 27 years ago, Washington Katema is a frontline human rights defender in Zimbabwe. My roots as a human rights defender (HRD) are located in my past experiences as a student leader in an authoritarian state of Zimbabwe.

You declare yourself as a human rights defender (HRD). What does this practically mean? What does it mean when you act as a human rights defender in Africa?

The operation environment was driven with many landmines to the extent that as the national student leader, I had to lead for the front in our struggles in defense of our academic freedoms. As a badge of honor, I have been arrested more than 13 times, deregistered from the University of Zimbabwe on several occasions due to my leading role both as a HRD and student leader in an environment that is alien to democratic ethos, principles and practice.

Are you satisfied with what you have achieved in relation to respecting human rights in Zimbabwe/Africa? In reality, how much can young people do in this field?

Be that as it may, I am satisfied with my role as a HRD in Zimbabwe and Africa. It is our generational duty and obligation to make sure that humanity finds a common destiny in our life time by cultivating and fostering a culture of human rights in closed societies such as Zimbabwe, Sudan, Guinea, only to mention just three. We are the future and the future began yesterday. Respect for human rights separate us from anarchy or according to approximation of Thomas Hobbes characterization of a state of nature where life is ‘solitary, brute, short and nasty’.

From 2005 to 2006 you have acted as a General Councilor of All Africa Students Union. Africa is quite big and diverse continent. Is it difficult for young people



Photo: Washington Katema

“ **Aluta continua, Victoria acerta** ”

“ **Little by little freedom is coming** ”

INGTON KATEMA



from all over Africa to be organized on a continental level? Do young people from the whole continent share the same challenges in life?

Despite a historiography of brutality and violent disregard of human rights in some African countries, my experience as a General Councilor of the All Africa Student Union taught me that young Africans have the potential to liberate Africa. If we mobilize, in our respective communities, universities, villages and social circles we can change the face of Africa. And as young people, united, we can do better in the field of promoting and defending human rights in Africa. We are the key building blocks for the future Africa and Africa of the future.

Are there any international educational programs or opportunities available for the African young people, which you could share now?

I have also tried to create safety nets for the victimized student leaders and activists in Zimbabwe through the Royal Dutch Government. They availed more than 35 scholarships under the Libertas Scholarship scheme and today, we have around 34 former student leaders in Zimbabwe studying in various Universities and College Universities in the Netherlands. I did my masters in developing studies specializing in Human Rights, Development and Social Justice at the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam in 2007 and 2008.

How is the situation regarding human rights in Zimbabwe nowadays? What is the life of young people like?

Currently I am working for a policy institute in Zimbabwe, which is providing knowledge-based technical advice and evidence-based strategic advice to democratic actors and reform-minded institutions in the transitioning state of Zimbabwe. The human rights situation is still fragile, so is the inclusive government which was born-out of a negotiated political settlement amongst the three political parties with a representation in parliament. However, there is still hope after all.

events

Once the blaze has died down, all the squads file off to visit the 11 local halls where they perform their set pieces - singing special songs or performing a dance routine they have prepared. The festival ends with a big ceilidh which goes on late into the night.

Lerwick Up Helly Aa

When : 26 January 2010

Where : Lerwick, Scotland

Website: www.uphellyaa.org



Out in the square

Out in the Square is the largest annual event in Wellington's gay, lesbian and transgender calendar. Now into its second decade, the fair sees 50 stalls and plenty of entertainment take over Civic Square.

Out in the square

When : 23 January 2010

Where : Civic Square, Wellington, New Zealand

Website: www.outinthesquare.co.nz



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!

Janvier 2010
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