



Dubai,

a Paradise in the Desert

Diego Julián Hernández Camargo
(Undergraduate Finances student)

Dubai is maybe not too famous, but in recent years the city has experienced several changes that will make it a famous city and it seems that it will also be one of the most important cities in the world.

The city has changed in the last five years, it has built many buildings, but one of those is special; the Burs Dubai building, which is the tallest building in the world at 889 metres high.

The world's most expensive hotel is also located in Dubai. Its name is Burj Al Arab, and it is unlike any other; it is the tallest hotel in the world. It was built on an artificial island and best of all, it has a seven star rating classification.

Another amazing thing about Dubai is the ski centre; although there are ski centres all over the world, the special thing about this one is that all the snow there is made by machines – the ski centre is inside of a building, and the building is in the middle of the desert.

There is no doubt that Dubai is one of the best cities in which to spend a holiday, or maybe to have a romantic honeymoon in the Burj Al Arab. If you like the sea, the sun, beautiful beaches and an amazing city, you should go to Dubai.



Welcome to the fourth issue of **Ink**, the Externado University's English magazine.

As always, it's been a pleasure to put this issue together, and we hope you enjoy the variety of articles that have been selected for you. We'd like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed, and for the rest of you, please remember that your contributions for future issues are always welcome.

Enjoy!

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The idea of Ink is to display pieces of writing, in English, by members of the Externado community. As the idea is to maintain authors' originality as far as possible, you may find some minor mistakes in the articles.

Beauty Tips for

Sexy Men!

Luisa Fernanda Forero (Undergraduate Tourism student)

If you want to be good looking for women, in this article you can find some tips to be a sexy man!

First, if you don't have a good skin tone, or don't have soft skin, you should apply an oil-free moisturizer to keep the skin smooth and be attractive to girls.

The next tip is for men who are going bald; the best suggestion is to get a very short haircut.

Finally, you can use peanut butter to shave yourself if you don't have shaving cream in your home. This could be so useful for a special date with that special someone!



NO WATER, NO SEX

Talking About the Referendum for the Water in Colombia

Camilo Pabón Almanza (Undergraduate Law Student)

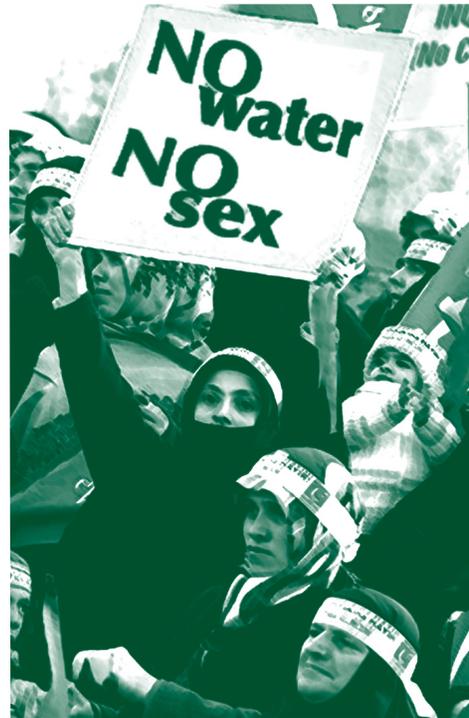
It has become now a cliché to say that the Third World War is going to be for water. That could make us think that today there is no such war because everyone has a certain amount of water suitable for human consumption. However, reality shows that in almost every country of the world there is someone (if not a lot of people) that isn't able to have a constant provision of this necessary liquid.

By definition, water supply is a Public Service; ergo, the State has an obligation (pursuant to the Constitutional mandate to care for everybody's life and health) to make sure that every person inside the country's boundaries can have enough water for their necessities at a reasonable price. It's amazing how one of the essential objects for human life has a lower penetration in society in comparison to other services such as television or even the telephone.

In Colombia, the proposal for a 'Fundamental Right of Water' is going to be taken to the Congress by Referendum. This is a regular way to make Constitutional reforms, searching to make changes not only in writing but to make sure that the actions of the State are directed towards the completion of this specific obligation.

In contrast, some people make their manifestations in less orthodox ways. In September 2008, Ankara (the capital of Turkey) was told that in the south part of the country women had taken the decision to stop having sexual relations with their husbands as a protest until water structures were sufficient to make sure that water supply for their towns would be constant. This "sex strike" was announced by women who think men in those villages were doing nothing to solve the water supply problem, so in fact it is a decision to force men to take a position for making this problem one that is strong enough for the Government to take care of.

Whichever the method is to protest for the water problem in some parts of our countries, we must all take conscience of the importance for human health of this particular, and not as abundant as some think, liquid (although it seems pretty obvious). Therefore, it must be a priority, and we must take care of the water supply problem for all the population before thinking of new buildings, massive-transportation, or any other topic, when we have to solve the essential first.



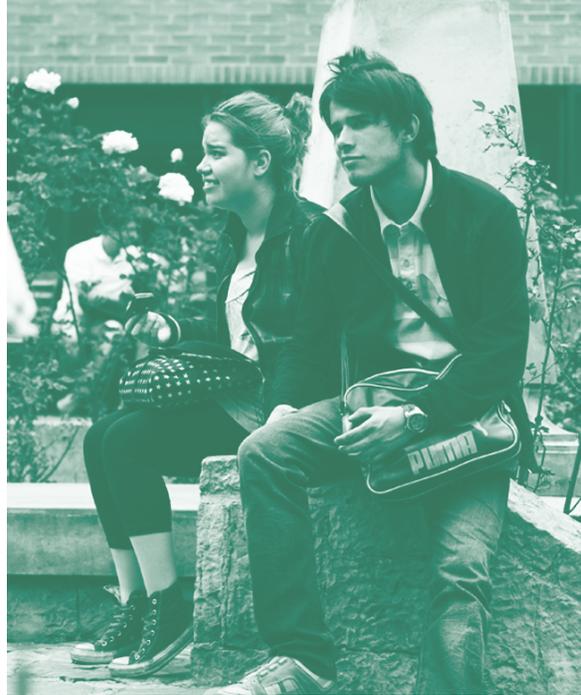
TO ATTEND OR NOT TO ATTEND? That is the question...

Jenny Alejandra Velandia
(Undergraduate FIGRI student)

College is recognized by most societies as an opportunity for a child to become an adult, and spread his or her wings outside of the sheltered environment that schools and their families provide. However, in some colleges, some rules have limited the amount of growth certain students can reach throughout this stage of their life, by imposing rules that prevent them from making their own decisions, i.e. mandatory attendance. Attendance in college should not be required because this should be up to the students' responsibility level and their specific learning needs.

In some colleges attendance is graded because the faculty and administration believe this ensures the student will learn what they have to. For these institutions, attendance is required because for them, it measures a student's interest in the class. It is only by being in a classroom that they will absorb whatever knowledge the teacher is trying to pass on to them. It is also a way by which the college makes sure it is doing its job of broadening the horizon of its students through the learning experience.

However, this is not entirely true. Even though it is the college's job to teach the students, it should be up to them to attend class because they decide to do so, not because their grade depends on it. College is supposed to be the place where people grow and become more autonomous. Nevertheless, if they are obligated to do something, they will be deprived of the opportunity of making that decision on their own. At the same time, if it is up to them, they will learn important lessons in time management and prioritizing.

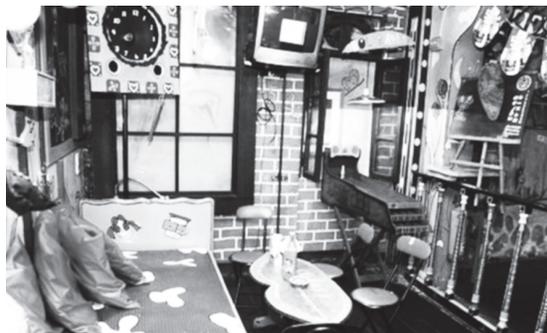


Another reason why attendance shouldn't be a requirement is that not all students have to go to class in order to learn, on the contrary, they do it better on their own and in a different environment. For some people going to a lecture and listening to someone is not as profitable as reading or doing research on their own. This depends on each student and how they grasp information. It is also important to consider that there are some people that have attention problems. For them, it may be better to study on their own instead of going to classes where they might be distracted. They should have the opportunity of knowing the curriculum of the class and have the choice of approaching it in a way that is best for them.

In conclusion, attending classes in college should not be an obligation, but rather an opportunity for the student to express their new found freedom and to reflect on what is best for them in order to learn. Although attending classes is important in order for the student to live the whole college experience, it should be one of the lessons the student has to learn, rather than being something imposed. College is the middle ground or tunnel through which teenagers become adults, and as such it should reinforce and promote student autonomy.

A Place to Visit this Semester

Wilber Jiménez (Undergraduate Economics student)



The place to visit this semester is "Treffen", which is located on the cra.7 with 56th street.

It is a good place to go and try all the kinds of cocktails that it has. Also, you can't miss the opportunity to eat its Mediterranean food.

The style of its decoration is similar to "Andrés Carne de Res", but, obviously, Treffen is much cheaper. Its most expensive cocktail costs \$15.500, so you have to go.

GLOBAL Warming

Nowadays it's difficult to avoid the topic of Global Warming. But what are the facts, and what can we do?

Sebastian Saenz (Masters of International Affairs student)

Global Warming is a major problem that is affecting us today and will definitely affect the future generations if we don't act accordingly today. This terrible problem consists of changes in temperature occurring all over the world due to the high amount of gases from fossil fuels being released to the atmosphere. This alters its composition, trapping the heat waves coming from the sun inside the atmosphere and not letting them out to space. From Siberia to the snowy peaks of the Andes, the world is heating up fast; and, if greenhouse gases continue to increase, the planet's temperature at the surface will go up significantly, altering life for every living organism.

Ice is melting, making the sea level climb to a level never seen before, jeopardizing the lives of many coastal communities. According to many scientists, the sea level has increased more than 6 inches in the past century. But, not only the glaciers are melting; the snow peaks around the world are also decreasing their size significantly. In Colombia, the life expectancy of the Nevado del Ruiz does not go beyond 20 years according to the IDEAM (Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies). Due to the effects of global warming, this snowy peak, which provides water to more than 35 municipalities in the coffee-growing region of Colombia, is condemned to disappear, followed by the Nevado del Tolima and the Nevado de Santa Isabel. Moreover, snowy peaks in Colombia are the water supplies to many farmers, and, when the water is short, food prices increase, affecting everyone economically.

Global Warming also affects several ecosystems around the world, worrying ecologists worldwide. Migration patterns for animals are being altered by the weather changes, and some animals that did not migrate, have expanded their range northward, searching for cooler environments. Some plants in various regions of the world are flowering a week later than usual, and their leaves start to fall five days later than usual. The worst part is that if these changes continue, they might happen too fast for some species to adapt to and may become extinct. For now, those species are fighting off by moving to higher altitudes or latitudes, however, such escape is only temporary.



This phenomenon is also a matter that concerns our public health system. Diseases that are sensitive to the climate like Malaria are spreading, and in many countries, including Colombia, precipitation is causing devastating and catastrophic results. Rainfall has increased in many regions of our territory, and according to the IDEAM, this year's rain season will first affect the Andean region, expanding to the Caribbean coastal areas, which were deeply affected by last year's rains. Additionally, the months of June and July will be very difficult for the north of Chocó, Córdoba and Sucre. The government has made a series of announcements alerting the population, also urging city mayors to have their teams for disaster prevention ready for any difficulty. This initiative intends to prevent disasters from happening, just like the ones observed in many regions during the 2008 rain season, which caused many deaths.

Our Earth is giving us signs and wants us to act today. We have become geological agents with the ability to affect the many processes that determine the planet's climate. Every person in the world releases greenhouse gases, collaborating with the problem. Simple things we do daily like throwing away garbage, using the electric appliances at home, or using our car, are permanent providers of greenhouse gases; however, there are several things we can do to help the earth. We can start by replacing our old light bulbs for energy efficient ones; this will help the environment and your pocket at the same time. When it is time to change one of your appliances like your television or washer machine, spend a little extra and buy energy efficient machines. Also, reduce the use of energy by turning off the appliances that you are not using or when leaving home. Be thoughtful when using water, not only at home, but also at school and in your office. When driving, make sure your tires are properly inflated and minimize the use of your automobile when possible. Understand the process of recycling and do it properly. Lastly, spread the word to all your friends, family, neighbors and, just like I'm doing here, with your classmates.

Superstiti

Cintha Quintero Rodriguez (Undergraduate Finances student)

Superstitions are a kind of belief that people think could change their future or also their luck. People have these beliefs for thousands of reasons; it could be a tradition, learning, by inheritance, or just to avoid bad things and attract good things to them.

There are a lot of superstitions around the world. These can be classified into good luck superstitions, bad luck superstitions, general superstitions, death superstitions, and other ones.

Bad luck superstitions are the most well-known; breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck, walking below a ladder, seeing a black cat, opening an umbrella indoors; if you do one of these things, you get bad luck.

Good luck superstitions; the number seven, if a woman catches the bouquet of the bride in the wedding party she will get married soon, a frog brings good luck to the house it enters, seeing a spider spinning in the morning brings good luck.

The strangest superstitions are those that come from animals and babies. If you see a dog eating grass it brings rain, or rats leaving a ship mean the ship will sink. If babies are born with teeth, they will become extremely selfish and if you didn't know, it's unlucky to wash a baby's head for the first twelve months.

Some people believe in all these things, that in my opinion are kind of ridiculous, because a superstition is something created by people who need something that makes them feel confident about getting good things and also to avoid having bad luck.

These ideas are not true, they are just the product of people's imagination, it is not logical. You can demonstrate or argue about the consequences of all these superstitions; it is impossible that just by breaking a mirror, for example, your life is going to be terrible or a tragedy, for exactly seven years.

ons



When something is on your mind, when you believe in something very hard, you can be sure that it exists. If you believe so much in superstitions, and think that all of them are true, your mind starts to play tricks, and everything good or bad that happens to you is going to be the consequence of a blessing or curse that you have received because of something that you had done before.

TRAVELLING

Diana Carolina Galvez Bernal (Undergraduate FIGRI student)

For me, “travelling” isn’t about visiting famous places, or magazine destinations; it’s about opening my mind to other cultures, to other smells, interests and of course the challenge of discovering the unknown.

Journeys long and short, near home and miles away, with my family and alone, have taught me the importance of finding my essence and myself. So through going down through America’s icebergs, and deep inside European art, I have discovered that

my soul and passion are located in
Colombia.

Music

between innovation and tradition

In this issue we have two music-related articles, talking about the interesting qualities of contemporary independent music and one of Colombia's most well-known bands.

Daniel Felipe Moreno Alba (Undergraduate Economics student)

Some people think that we have created a lot of music, with different rhythms and styles. In my opinion, we have to create more. Do we have a reason for this? Well, we don't need it, because music is something that you feel, it's an expression of our thoughts.

The basic theme of "indie", or independent music, is "do it yourself." This musical genre is used to describe independence from major commercial labels.

Independent labels don't influence the artist, leaving him to be himself. You don't have to follow parameters or fashion styles, just be yourself. Music is something that will exist forever, and it's not necessary to have a lot of money or to be popular, you just have to begin to write or play an instrument to be an artist. Indie music is a great example of this.

Kraken

has been for the last 25 years, one of the most important rock bands in Latin America. It was founded in Medellin by four young and enthusiastic rockers, whose leader was Elkin Ramirez.

At first they were an unknown band with many dreams, until 1985 when they opened a monumental concert in Medellin. They were supporting Santuario, a famous Brazilian band at the time.

Kraken have based their success on their unique lyrics with new ideas; they have an exotic and different ideology which young people feel good with. In addition, they have a huge talent, and the vocalist, called Elkin, has a unique voice.

In conclusion, Kraken is a unique band that has grown through the years. It's one of the oldest rock bands from Colombia that is still performing despite problems and age, and they are still very good.

Kraken forever!

Diego Fernando Blanco M. (Undergraduate Economics student)

There/They're/Their

Ever been unsure about which one to use?

We have some helpful hints...



1. If you don't want to come here, I can go there. (place)
Si no quieres venir acá, puedo ir allá.



2. Help! **There's** a lion in my bath with me! (there is)
¡Auxilio! Hay un león en la bañera conmigo.



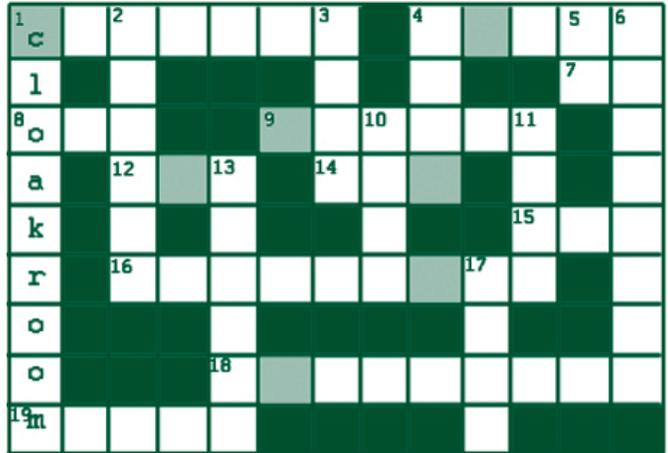
3. What happened to gender roles? My hair is short, but **their** hair is long! (possessive)
¿Qué paso con los roles de género? ¡Mi pelo es corto, pero el de ellos es largo!



4. Are they at home? No, **they're** on holiday. (the verb to be: They are)
¿Están en la casa? No, están en vacaciones.
Test yourself!

1. Susan and Gary live in a huge house; they're/there/their garden is 20m2!
2. Glen and Barry are 10 years old, and Susan is only six.
They're/there/their older than her.
3. They're/there/there are many classes in English at this university.
4. Look! The lion has moved over they're/there/their now!
Check your answers on the website!

Do you have any English-related questions? Send us an email at figri.idiomas@uexternado.edu.co and we'll try to answer them for you in a future issue of **Ink**.



This month we're proud to present a new puzzle. By completing the clues, can you fill the spaces? When you've completed it, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to find the name of a British rock band!

CROSSWORD

Across

- The audience loved the performance, and _____ for 5 minutes afterwards!
- The temperature in Sweden often falls _____ zero.
- _____, you can't have an ice cream!
- We'd like you to meet Paul. He's _____ son.
- The expedition started well, but then various problems _____ them.
- We had to come home early because we'd spent _____ our money!
- I don't listen to Shakira, or to _____ music generally.
- Excuse me _____, can I help you?
- You shouldn't walk alone at night, it's too _____.
- Spanish, Italian and French are often described as romance _____.
- The mountain was so _____, they lost their way.

Down

- The club gets really hot, so you should leave your coat in the _____.
- I'm _____ the manager is busy; please call later.
- Don't let your children play in the lake; it's very _____.
- When the food is ready, the microwave will start to _____.
- I think I left my keys _____ the table.
- Our new beauty cream will have _____ effects on your skin!
- There are _____ elements; earth, wind, air and fire.
- The more I read about the economy, the _____ optimistic I become.
- Tracy didn't know anyone in New York at first, and felt quite _____.
- Salt Lake City is the capital of _____.

Need some help? You can find the solution, and many other things, on the English Area website: www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

The FIGRI English Area now has its own website! You can find a variety of different things on the site, such as events and notices, exercises to improve your English, and even teacher profiles, so it's a really good idea to be familiar with this new tool that's been made especially for you!

Go to www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink and have a look around!