



I don't want a **BlackBerry!** ... Thanks!

By Viviana Tamayo Sandoval (undergraduate Economics student)

Meeting a friend face to face is unusual but talking on the BlackBerry is normal. Goodbye friends, welcome BlackBerry!

Communication is a useful process for the development of each individual. Currently, there are many forms of communication over short distances, such as cell phones, or the BlackBerry today, but now young people are not looking for short distances.

It is a fact that having many options for communication and entertainment in a single instrument makes students have lower levels of care, to the point of disconnecting from their current environment to enjoy it. A common feeling of BlackBerry users is that when they forget their cell phone, they feel cut off and even "naked" causing great anxiety, not knowing who is calling them or sending messages.

In addition, "BlackBerries and other PDAs can cause tendonitis from using thumbs in a confined space," explained Kristen Crowe, a certified massage therapist at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. "The problem is that people do the same activity for long periods of time, something that the body is not designed to do"

Finally, the use of the BlackBerry is a threat to many people, because in the classroom we're losing the care and friendly relations that previously required a process, now we just click. We must be aware of the problems with this device and how important conversations are in the corridors of the university, how wonderful it is to talk about gossip, plans, vacations, by having a coffee with friends not by an emoticons window full of dumb questions.



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

Once again, it's a pleasure to present you with the new version of **Ink**. As always, we've tried to collect together the greatest possible range of articles, and we hope that you enjoy the contents of this magazine. Please remember that contributions for the next **Ink** are 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.

Am I an Alien?

by Luz Ángela Salcedo Gutiérrez (undergraduate FIGRI student)



Never forget it.

Some people treat me differently because I am not like them. They are just getting used to looking at me in a different way. I can feel it in their eyes.

I think they should consider knowing me a little bit better.

I have a family like them.

I have a job like them.

I have feelings like them.

Haven't I a life like anyone else?

Who am I?

I represent a lot of people in the world, any person you like.

I am a homosexual.

I am homeless.

I am a Latin in the U.S

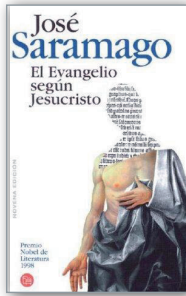
I am an African in Europe.

I am a Colombian

Keep going with the examples. You can be in this list if you want.

Not because you are different, do they have to treat you like an alien.

To be different is to be unique.



Book Review:

“El Evangelio según Jesucristo”

by Juan Manuel Nieto (undergraduate FIGRI student)

This is one of my favorite books written by Jose Saramago. One of the most criticized books by the Church when it was published, “El Evangelio según Jesucristo” shows a ‘realer’ Jesus, with passions and earthly desires, but at the same time, with the conviction and the desire to accomplish what God asks of him. I couldn’t put it down because I always got more involved within the story.

I liked it a lot because of the ways Saramago describes Jesus, with the same events that occur in traditional gospels, but with his point of view. Also, what made me like it the most is the fact that Saramago is an atheist, like I am, but he took the risk of writing about Jesus without taking away the merit of the miracles in his life.

This book was written by one of the most famous and awarded writers of the new narrative movement.

Halloween



Costume Ideas

by Angélica Figueroa (undergraduate Tourism and Hotel Administration student)

If you don’t know what costume you will wear on Halloween, here are some ideas.

An interesting costume that you can wear if you go with a big group to a party is Pacman. For that you only need the cookies, ghosts and Pacman costumes. This idea is good for 5 or more people.

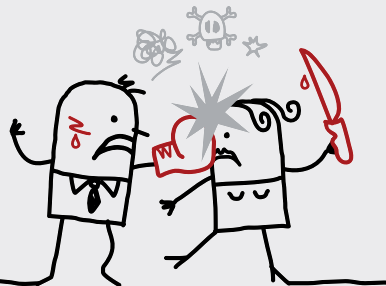
But if you want a costume for a couple you should be a taxi car and the other person a traffic light.

In case you want to wear an individual costume, you can try something like an iPod, m&m or a troll.

Whatever you wear on Halloween the most important thing is that you have a good time.

Domestic Violence: Violence in our Society

by Adriana Reyes (undergraduate FIGRI student)



Colombian history has shown different situations of violence, namely bipartisan violence between conservatives and liberals in 1950 and the emergence of liberal groups like ELN, FARC and M19 in 1960.

However, nowadays people use new techniques to make easy and fast money like drug trafficking and kidnapping. Other people face domestic violence. This is a huge problem that happens in private life and a lot of victims prefer not to talk about it. For this reason, I have a question: why do some children and women face this terrible situation in our country?

A recent survey carried out by the Externado University in 2007 said that every 10 minutes a woman or child is threatened physically, verbally or sexually. However, only five people per day talk with the police about this. This happens because they are scared of being rejected by society or that their aggressors will get revenge. For this reason, a lot of children and women live in silence and suffering.

On the other hand, another reason why a lot of children and women face domestic violence is because Colombia has a chauvinistic culture and a lot of men think that women are inferior to them. For example, they say "women are only good for washing dishes and having babies". Because of that, women can't study.

Finally, it's necessary that society doesn't forget this terrible social problem because you could be a victim. Domestic violence doesn't see if you are rich or poor, tall or small. It just happens.

THE PODCAST



The Externado University now has its own English language podcast. You can download it in mp3 format from the English Area website:

www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

And if you'd like to take part – telling a joke, interviewing someone, or anything else you can think of - please send us an email:

figri.idiomas@uexternado.edu.co

Advice about how **students** can be good at University

By Lizeth Paola Murcia González
(undergraduate Travel and Tourism Management student)

Many students have problems at University and if you want to be a good student you should bear in mind the following topics:



You have to know how to manage your time.

Always ask the teacher if you do not understand something. Do not be afraid of this, maybe another person will have the same question.

It is important that you go to all the classes because it is different to check the notes of another person than your own notes.

It is a good idea to spend more time studying. Class time is not enough, you need extra time.

Do not do things at the last minute. Prepare your homework many days before you have to hand it in.

You have many books to study. You can go to the library and you may find a lot of information in addition to the teacher's information.

It is good to take notes because if you only listen to what the teacher says, maybe you won't remember on exam day. It is good to study with the notes.

SUBMISSIONS

We always welcome submissions for Ink; please keep sending your ideas for articles!

Next issue will have a special theme. To find out what it is, solve the riddle to the right:

I can flow through any space I occupy
I can neither float nor can I fly.
I can enter your body, maybe make you choke and die.
I am made of a total of three atoms
I don't come from a stick
But if I'm not pure enough you can get really sick.



The Wayüü Culture

by Yosmery Mejía Sánchez
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

When vacations are near, many people start to think about where they are going to travel. Most of the time, people who live in cold weather decide to travel to the coast of Colombia. When they arrive there, they don't know how people live there or their traditions.

The Wayüü are an Indian tribe on the coast of the Caribbean Region. They have been living there for many years and today they have started to be recognized in many parts of Colombia for their traditional “Mochilas” (Bags that are made with twine of different colours).

The Wayüü live in places called “Rancherías” (traditional straw houses). These Rancherías are in the “Alta Guajira” (west of la Guajira). This zone is like a desert and really hot. Arriving there is not easy because there are few built highways and it's full of sand. When tourists go there usually they have to go in big cars.

They have a strange tradition, but at the same time an interesting culture. For example, women aren't allowed to leave their homes when they stop being girls, they cannot talk with men until their mom, aunts and cousins consider that they can do it. They are between 2 or 3 years in their houses without going out and in this time they learn things that will help them in the future.

Their clothes have particular characteristics, for example, women tend to wear light dresses that are called “mantas” and men tend to wear underwear that is called “Guayuco”. Both women and men use “Guaireñas” (that are like sandals).

Knowing about the Wayüü culture is interesting because they are part of our country and we should identify with them, despite their culture having unusual things. They are Colombian like us and like in every region of Colombia, cultures are not the same.

Knowledge is a Problem

By Ana María Ardila Delgadillo (undergraduate FIGRI student)

Welcome to university, a place where your future will be better, where you're going to receive all the tools to succeed. But is this what society expects from students? Is this what students want from the education system? Well, at least it's not what I'm looking for.

Having the opportunity to attend a higher level education institution, even though it's a necessity, is becoming, for me, a frustrating experience. All that I hear in class is people explaining how the democratic model is the "best of the worst", how the free market policy has increased poverty, how everything is wrong. I stay there waiting for them to also propose something to fix it, but instead, they give a motivational speech about my responsibility to find the solution.

I ask myself, how am I going to do that if I'm being prepared to survive in this system, not to change it? After a lot of thinking I've decided that I'm going to assume the challenge. The education system is not going to be transformed in an instant, but I could help.

Ink Online!

All seven issues of Ink are available on the English Area website in pdf format and have a variety of interesting articles. Just go to:

www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

You can also find some extra articles that we unfortunately didn't have space for in the magazine; this time, you can find an article by Camilo Suárez on Andy Warhol and the Frankfurt School.

In addition, Ink now has a Facebook group! Just search for "Ink magazine at the Externado University" and join the fun!



Sports and Life

By Miguél Andrés Ramírez Montenegro (undergraduate xxxxxxxxxxxx student)



Some people do exercise because they want to be fit or have good health, but I would like to talk about how sports make people have an excellent personal and social life. I will explain some arguments and experiences that I had when I was younger.

The first argument is that when people play sports they are learning many things or techniques without even realizing it. They are learning how to be organized, how to be respectful to other people, etc. These features are good for improving your personal life. In my own case, I learned how to be organized with my homework, housework, and other things.

The second argument is that people learn to see life from another point of view. This is very easy to explain and I would like to do it by using my own experience. When I played basketball, I realized that it was not an easy game because I made lots of mistakes and sometimes I fell and I was emotionally and physically hurt, but I always got up and kept on going. The same thing happens in life, so people that play any sport learn how to lift themselves up and keep on with their life without thinking about the problem.

The last argument is that people that play sports meet a lot of people and grow up with friends and this makes them very happy with their lives. Problems don't matter because they didn't grow up alone.

To sum up, if you want to have a good life and I refer to your personal and social life, you should play or do any kind of sport because this opens up many opportunities and you can learn how to face daily problems.

America is a continent, not a country!

by Laura Herrera (undergraduate FIGRI student)

When I arrived to the U.S.A my host family said “welcome to America” and I thought “I’ve been living in America all my life: in the south, but it’s still America”. This made me realize that there are a lot of parts of the world where the United States is considered as America. They don’t even think about the rest of the continent; they don’t think about the rest of North America, Central America and South America, just the U.S.A.

Some people in the U.S.A think they are a continent by themselves and for this reason, they try to discriminate against the rest of Americans which is in most cases Latinos. They make them feel inferior and sometimes in the U.S. people are very mean to Latinos, just because Latinos are different (from them). They think that Latinos don’t know anything about technology, movies, etc. Or they think that Latinos just do their laundry, and they make jokes about it.

It concerns all Latin Americans to try to stop this and we should start by saying the United States instead of America and being proud to be Latin American.



Do you want help to improve your English?

Remember that there are various options available to you.

The English Area has workshops that can be booked in the English office or through the website:

www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

And you can also make an appointment with our student monitors – just send an email to:

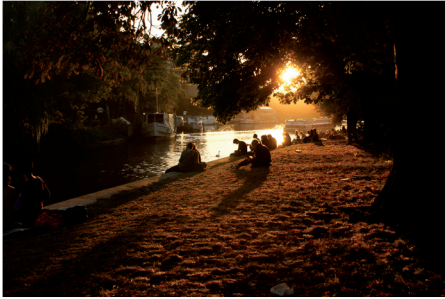
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Around the World in Photos

By Federico Rendón (undergraduate FIGRI student)



Budapest is the capital of Hungary. Originally there were two cities, Buda and Pest; this picture corresponds to the old Buda. This city is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. The largest building in the picture is Buda Castle.



A sunset in Berlin



A sunset in Bogotá



The 2010 Bogotá Half Marathon:

The 11th version of this event was celebrated on the 1st of August. A half marathon is a race of 21 km, but in the picture are the people who ran the recreational route (10 km). In this picture they were on the 26th street (in maintenance).

Living an Endless Passion

by Daniela Leguizamón Gaviria (undergraduate FIGRI student)

When I went to my first drama class at school, I couldn't believe that this was the place that would give me so much passion during the time I spent there. I was eleven years old when theater appeared in my mind like something I really loved and something I wanted to discover. It was new for me and I was amazed by everything about it.

Every time we rehearsed a play, I was simply enchanted by all the characters I had to represent; it's like you are a different person and you have to feel like him or her, in my case. It is so emotional when you play someone that is the opposite to how you are, and you learn a lot performing different personalities. However, it's even more exciting when you play a character that is just like you – you learn and also you notice your own mistakes, that you hadn't noticed before.

Having this passion for so long has been hard for me because I fell in love with theater and I began to think about studying this for a living, but my family wasn't supportive and I started to look for other options. Finally, I found something I liked – Finance – but it doesn't mean that theater and drama are out of my life.

I'm a person that believes that your joy and happiness are fulfilled with all the dreams and projects you have in life, and there's nothing better in the world than feeling them come true. That's why next year I'll begin my theater classes and become an excellent actress and perform lots of plays. The last thing I'll ever do is leave my dreams and passions behind – I've got to be strong and fight for it, that's what life is about.

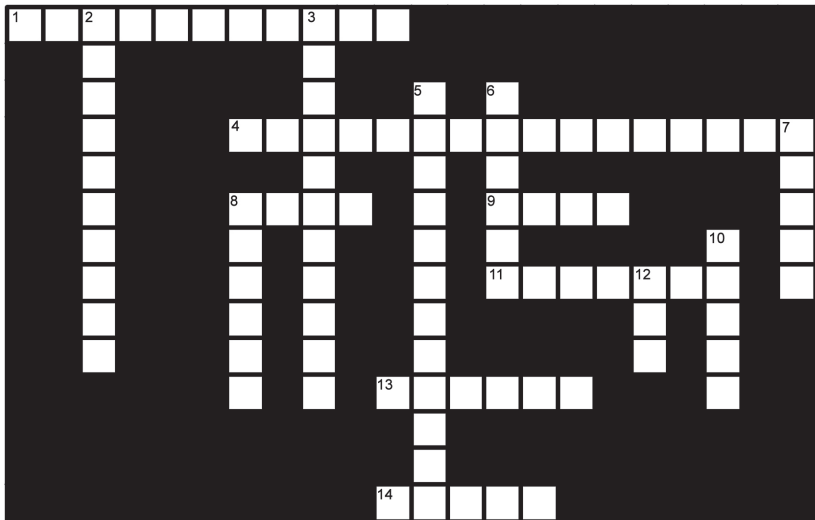


CROSSWORD

by Daniel Nuñez (undergraduate FIGRI student)

- Across:**
1. The tallest building in the U.S.
 4. Colombia's current president.
 8. You can't eat _____ in English class.
 9. The longest river on Earth.
 11. A Colombian artist who has sung in 2 world cups.
 13. The next world cup will be in _____.
 14. Gabriel Garcia Marquez won the _____ prize in 1982.

- Down:**
2. The _____ of China is about 1,300 million.
 3. Colombia's last president.
 5. The current mayor of Bogotá.
 6. He plays "Yerbatero".
 7. The current FIFA world champions.
 8. If you study Finance, you should know English and _____.
 10. Agassi and Sampras played an exhibition _____ in August.
 12. The name of this magazine.



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!