

# CGYM MAGAZINE



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2021

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**I take immense pleasure in introducing to you our school News Paper Církevní Gymnázium Gazette.**

**Firstly, on behalf of everyone I would like to welcome our new Director Mgr. Zuzana Šimůnková to Církevní Gymnázium, we hope you will find our school to be as great as we know it to be.**

**Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from Septima for all your creative news reports, editors Adéla Škramovská, Tomáš Kašpar, Matěj Novák, Matěj Suchánek and Jiří Svoboda for developing our publication.**

**Nigel Foster**

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# Horoscope



## Aries

21.3. – 20.4.

Lucky you! There is an excellent likelihood of finding the love of your life this week! However, be careful since as you find your soulmate, one of your friends may betray you. Also, you should be avoiding sports activities as there is a chance of getting seriously injured.



## Cancer

22.6. – 22.7.

After a busy weekend, all you want to do is just lay in bed all day and watch Netflix but don't do that! You are a hard worker, so try to make the most of this week, and it will pay off. Keep working and doing what you like because you are amazing.



## Taurus

21.4. – 21.5.

The beginning of the new school year and all the stress that comes with it may unexpectedly tire you, so make sure you get enough sleep. But do not push yourself too hard. It is impossible to complete all the tasks on your long to-do list. So sometimes the best decision is just to relax and slow down a bit.



## Leo

23.7. – 22.8.

Being inside is becoming boring, and it isn't even beneficial for your health, is it? So go outside and get some fresh air! Nature and a bit of sun will help you clear your mind and forget about everything for a little while. You are also encouraged to stand up every hour and get some movement (just walking is fine) as it will distract you and help you focus afterwards.



## Gemini

22.5. – 21.6.

Try to notice how your close one's act and treat you because someone is about to conflict with you. You should also check the weather forecast every morning before you get dressed because it gets colder. There is a likelihood of getting a cold if you don't dress appropriately.



## Virgo

23.8. – 22.9.

You have saved some money. Try not to spend it all on something useless (because you are an expert on that!) and buy something nice for your friend or family. They will like it, and you will feel good about yourself as well.



## Libra

23.9 – 23.10

One of your family members has been pissed lately, and your indecisiveness is not helping it, so you might get in trouble. Sometimes you and your family argue because of stupid things which are not helpful for anyone. Try to make things clear with everyone, and you will see how it relieves you.



## Capricorn

22.12. – 20.1.

This week is an excellent opportunity for you to try some new activities and possibly find a new hobby. You definitely should not say no to any events or offers. Try to be more open to other people since you must have lots to share, so do not be shy! However, be careful because some people will not keep your personal information a secret, so make sure you confide in someone you trust.



## Scorpio

24.10 – 22.11.

Honesty is one of your personality traits but is not always a strength. It can also be a weakness. Be aware of the fact that telling the truth in every situation is not always the solution. There is a chance of hurting a close person by telling them the truth so bite your tongue!



## Aquarius

21.1. – 20.2.

You may be expecting bad news from school or work and you have been right. Some bad news is going to come to you this week, and it may make you sad. But your family is very supportive and is going to help you to get through this. Howsoever, bad things happen to everyone, and you are powerful, so there is no doubt you will move on quickly. This week may not be the best in your life, but you have learned a lesson!



## Sagittarius

22.5. – 21.6.

A person you love likes you back, but they are shy and do not know how to tell you that, so it is up to you to make the first move. It is hard, but you will not regret it. But, first, you should be quick because the loved person may lose interest in you if you act like you have no interest in them.



## Pisces

21.2. – 20.3.

Taking a cold shower every morning sounds unpleasant, doesn't it? But, it is worth trying for you, especially if you have not been feeling yourself lately and need to clear your mind. Also, be prepared for the unexpected! One of your close friends is going to expose the feelings they have been having for you!

**Barbora Sigmundová**

# News

## MY STUDIES IN THE UK

Some people might know I spent last school year in the UK and I would like to share my experience with you.

Our English teacher in kvinta told us about the opportunity to study abroad in the UK, specifically at Alcester Grammar School (around 50km away from the third largest city in England – Birmingham). So I went there for a few days with our teacher and a couple of my classmates. They were also interested in studies in England for a Subject sampling evening where we had an option to try different subjects we were interested in because, in the end, you only choose four subjects to study. The next day we met our possible host families and talked to them about living at their place. When we returned, we only had a few days to decide whether to go or not, and I wasn't sure if I wanted to go, but as I said earlier, it would be a shame not to go, so I decided to take the opportunity.

When I arrived in September, the biggest shock for me was how British people eat – small breakfast, usually no lunches and then after the whole day with no food opulent dinners (which generally weren't that good – everyone knows British cuisine is BAD). Another surprise was when I came to school and found out that the lessons were 15 minutes longer than lessons in Czechia. But I don't want to talk just rubbish about it because there were mostly good things like having free/study periods during the day, the first lesson starting at 9:10, and most importantly, you could study your chosen subjects in-depth as there were only four of them. Also, we only had exams in special exam weeks, which were every few months, and we were tested on everything since the start of the school year, which I didn't enjoy, because once you screw up at one exam, it's tough to get a good mark at your finals in June. Considering there were no exams except the big ones, we had A LOT of homework (I'm talking about 1-2 hours of homework every day).



In the end, I'm grateful for this opportunity, and I would recommend it to everyone who is not scared of "living on their own" and having quite a lot of responsibilities.

If you have any questions, just email me: [vavricka.vojtech@cigykh.cz](mailto:vavricka.vojtech@cigykh.cz)

**Vojtěch Vavříčka**

## MOVIE PREMIERES 2021

Because of COVID, we haven't had many experiences of cinemas since last year. Fortunately, we can look forward to something new now. New movies are coming to cinemas. The long-awaited films will premiere in October. Specifically, Dune, No time to die, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings and much more. If you are a movie buff like me, you must know about these.



The famous Timothée Chalamet appears in Dune. For example, we could see him in films like Tell me by your name or Lady bird. The model for the film Dune was the book of the same name Dune, which was simply breathtaking. So, we hope the movie will be as good as the book.

The new James Bond film from the famous films about agent 007, especially the 25th. The new one is called No time to die. It stars Daniel Craig in his fifth performance as the fictional British MI6 agent James Bond. It should be the last one with him, so we must enjoy every minute. The theme song had been written by the famous Billie Eilish. The premiere was even postponed five times, mainly due to casting and due to COVID, so fingers crossed! Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings is a 2021 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics featuring the character Shang-Chi. Shang-Chi must confront the past he thought he left behind when he was drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organization.

It is the first Marvel Studios film with an Asian director and a predominantly Asian cast. It received generally positive reviews from critics, praising the choreography of the action sequences, exploration and representation of Asian culture, and the performances from Liu, Leung and Zhang.

We definitely have something to look forward to this year. Most of us have high expectations, so I'll be looking forward to seeing you in cinemas!

**Eliška Musilová**



## **CZECH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2021**

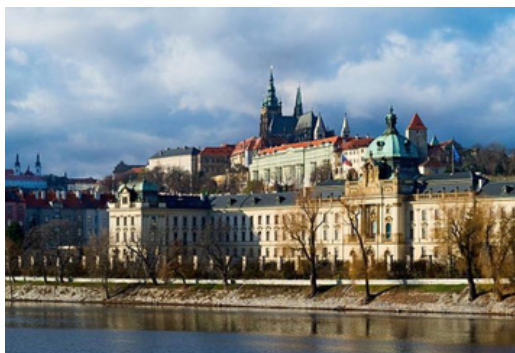
The next parliamentary elections will be held on October 8 - 9 2021. President of the Czech Republic Miloš Zeman announced his decision on December 29 2020, nearly 10 months before the elections. Andrej Babiš, leader of ANO 2011, has been prime minister of the Czech Republic since 2017 when his party won with 29,6% of the vote.

The latest opinion polls say that the leader's party would receive 28% of the votes. Coalitions SPOLU and PirSTAN would be next with 23%. The main topics of the campaigns are pensioners, taxes, refugees and European Union.

The current government has been affected by many scandals and problems like Čapí hnízdo, Andrej Babiš jr., plagiarism and coronavirus. There have already been three attempts to overthrow the government, but the opposition has never received enough votes.

Experts expect higher voter turnout, which should be, however, affected by coronavirus measures. In 2017, the voter turnout was 60,87%, and for 2021 is expected 67%. Nevertheless, it will not be easy to form a majority government with more than a half in the Chamber of Deputies.

**Matěj Novák**





## THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS JUST STARTED! SO, WE HAVE GOT SOME NEW BOOKS YOU HAVE TO READ

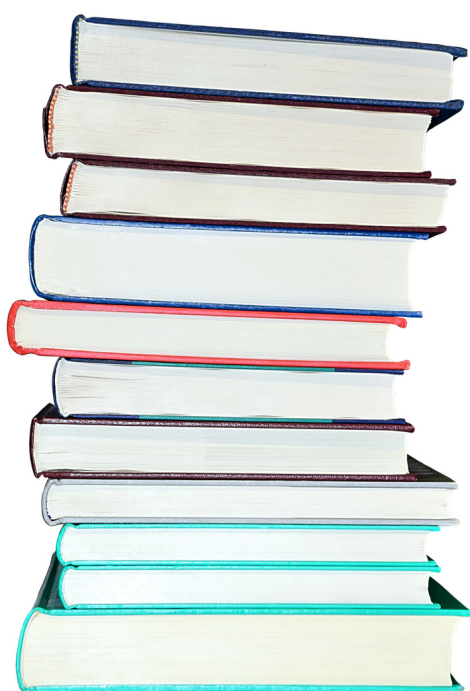
Older students usually don't have time to read because of their jobs, but some of them still find books interesting. They like, for example, historical novels and detectives. Some younger students read too. Mostly girls, but not just them. The most favourite topic is fantasy! But we also like sci-fi.

And do we read in English? Yes! The reason is quite simple, we can improve our skills. Of course, not just complicated texts, but even comics or English subtitles can help you with your English! And do we know some English authors? Of course! We like J. Austen, J. K. Rowling and C. S. Lewis.

I was not too fond of books when I was younger, but then I found out that not every book is so dull, especially when there is no essay to write about it. I have completely changed my mind and I realised that the required books can be also great! And I'm not the only one in our school. I found students who also like it.

So, let's give books a chance this year! It doesn't have to be compulsory reading. There is always a book for everyone! So, let's everyone find at least one book this year!

**Michaela Filipová**



## 17 QUESTIONS WITH MAREK KRÁLÍK

Hey Beautiful people!

You all know Vogue's "73 Questions", right? The most famous celebs from all around the world answer questions about their personal life.

We are coming up with the special limited series of our OWN "73 Questions"! So get ready, folks, because "17 Questions: Církevák Edition" is HERE!

Let's start with the first interview ever right away! Today's guest is the one and only Marek Králík, well known as "klubák", who appreciates a cup of good coffee, likes to draw naked women and is an absolute sweetheart.

1. What's your biggest weakness?

- *I would say slowness. I am a typical Taurus. (laughs because the host is a Taurus too)*

2. When did you have your first kiss?

- *Yeah, I remember. I was twelve.*

3. What's your secret guilty pleasure?

- *Well, I usually apologize for that because I know I do it a lot. It's like a professional deformation as I paint and sculpt. I tend to stare at people. But, on the other hand, I low-key find it enjoyable, especially if the "victim" doesn't know.*

4. Who is your favourite teacher and student (or a class)?

- *I have got about 240 favourite students! Some of them I like for their attitude, some of them I find interesting, for instance, the host I am talking to right now (laughs). And my favourite teacher/colleague, others forgive please, would be Karel, for sure. "*

5. Chocolate or vanilla?

- *Chocolate for life!*

6. What is the craziest decision you have ever made?

- *My dumbest decision was to jump off the driving train with my friend on our way from Germany. In the end, we didn't do that, it was just a spontaneous idea. And what was the most fun decision? When I was on a toilet on the plane, and the plane began to land. It tilted, and I just had to try staying on the toilet. It was just crazy! \*laughs\**

7. What makes you to jump out of the window?

- *I have never got to this point yet, but I get triggered pretty easily by human's stupidity!*

8. Who is your celebrity crush?

- *It's hard to say. I like to get to know people first. However, if I have to say a name based just on appearance, I will go for Monica Bellucci.*

9. What's the most irritating thing women do?

- *Time delay! But as time went by, I got used to it.*

10. What is the most overrated thing about love?

- *That it is forever. It pulls people away unnecessarily.*

11. How much would you spend on a dinner with your dream date?

- *I don't have to think about it. I have done that. The dinner cost 4500 Kč, it was worth it, though. Her name was Kateřina, by the way.*

12. Are you more into looks or brains?

- *Both are important. However, it's easier to paint the appearance.*

13. Have you ever been on a dating app or website?

- *No, I would never! However, I would appreciate a non-chaser much more.*

14. What superpower would you like to have?

- *Invisibility, so people would not talk if I stared at them.*

15. What is a genre of films you just can't stand?

- *Fighting movies are just garbage!*

16. Have you ever cheated while being in a relationship?

- *Yes, I have. Of course, I am not proud of that, but there is always a story behind all of it. I am not defending myself at all. However, people tend to blame the cheater, and I think it's a way of self-defence. But I am not happy about it. I have never been.*

17. What comes to your mind hearing the word "anaconda"?

- *A snake! \*coughing\**

And finally, what is your ultimate advice for the upcoming generations?

- *Don't worry about failure. It is a part of a journey. You have to learn a lot of this during life, so don't feel depressed if you fail first. Everything happens for a reason!*

Soo, we hope you enjoyed reading the interview as much as we enjoyed making it!

Brought to you with love by

**Kateřina Jandejsková**



# Sport

## NEW REINFORCEMENTS OF MANCHESTER UNITED OF THIS SUMMER

The new football season is at its beginning and one of the most traditional teams of the Premier League, Manchester United, wants to win as many matches as possible and maybe even the title.

Manchester United is one of the best football teams in the world and the greatest demands and expectations are put on the team every year but this year especially. This year's great expectations are connected to the transfer policy of Manchester United. There are a lot of players who joined Manchester United this summer. Three names are extraordinarily well-known, Cristiano Ronaldo, Raphaël Varane and a young talented English attacker Jadon Sancho.

The premier league is full of the best football teams and the best footballers on our planet and hopefully, we will see really good matches. At the end of the season, we are going to know the name of the team who will win this season. It is possible that it will indeed be Manchester United.

**Tomáš Kašpar**

## TRANSFER WINDOW 2021

The transfer window has been without a doubt the most surprising in many years. What does a transfer window mean? A transfer window is a period during the year in which a football club can transfer players from other playing staff into their playing staff. I suppose that nearly every single club has signed at least one superstar.

### The most expensive British transfer in football history

Jack Grealish moved from Aston Villa to Manchester City and became the most expensive British football player. Citizens decided to sign the midfielder for £100



million. Jack announced that he was so proud: "I like the feeling of being the most expensive British player, and I am ready for next challenges".

### Paris Saint-Germain - the Complete Superteam

Paris Saint-Germain has been moving intensely in the transfer window, and they might set up one of the best teams in the game's history. After emotional farewell to Barcelona, Leo Messi signed a contract with Paris, because Barcelona didn't have enough money to pay his salary. PSG during this transfer window has signed Sergio Ramos, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Georginio Wijnaldum and Hakimi for only €60 million.

### Ronaldo is coming home

Cristiano Ronaldo returned to Manchester United. He left this team as the best player in the world. Now he is back. He said: "Manchester United is a club that has always had a special place in my heart, and I have been overwhelmed by all the messages I have received since the announcement on Friday". He also said that he could not wait to play at Old Trafford in front of a full stadium and see all fans again.

**Matěj Němec**

# Art

## RED SPECIAL

The Red special is not just an ordinary guitar. It is probably the most famous and recognizable guitar in the world. This masterpiece is an inseparable part of Brian May, best known as the guitarist of the legendary band Queen.

I think the most exciting thing about this guitar is its history and construction of the guitar. It was designed and built by Brian and his father in the early 1960s when Brian was a teenager. The guitar is entirely homemade, using materials that were available at the time. Brian, for example, used wood from an old fireplace to make the neck of the guitar or motorbike valve springs for the tremolo system. The Red Special has a unique sound and many unusual features you won't find on any other guitar. These include, for example, pickup wiring, on/off switches, phase switches or the unique tremolo system.

The Red Special has been used on most of Queen's studio albums and live performances and during Brian May's solo career. The guitar has already undergone several restorations. But it's been almost 60 years, and Brian is still using the original one.

**Jiří Svoboda**

Unfortunately, we don't own the rights to any of the images showing the Red Special. But you can scan or click this QR code to see it.



## DOLLAR PRYNC, THE MAN FROM THE STREET

The popularity of rap has been growing in the Czech Republic as more and more artists are getting famous.

One of them is a young rapper called Dollar Prync, who represents Smíchov, Prague. His style is unique and easily recognizable. Prync comes from poor conditions and is one of a few rappers who have really experienced life full of struggles. He gave Czech rap new face of dirty street rap. Prove is his latest album "Jeb System 3" which came out on the 23rd of June. We could listen to some exciting colabs, such as Smack\_one or Sergei Barracuda.

Dollar Prync is one of the biggest talents in the Czech Republic and he is admired by vast majority of our scene. We can only look forward to his upcoming work.

**Antonín Hájek**

## ANALOGUE ISN'T DEAD YET

Back in the 2000s, everybody thought that the digital era would crush the old, ordinary ways. I am not only talking about film photography but also vinyl records, etc. However, as these days show, analogue is not just alive, it is growing stronger and stronger. There are at least three examples. The Czech film producing factory Foma from Hradec Králové predicted back in 2009 a slow decline in film selling, but now, their sales are growing and they are the second biggest company producing stuff for traditional photographers. Do you know what Polaroid is? It was once a factory producing instant cameras for self-developing photos. It went bankrupt in 2001 and now it has risen back from the ashes. What about music collectors? No one wants CDs anymore in such quantities as LP vinyl records.

You might ask me why? People are simply fed up with everything being untouchable online in a digital form. When you buy music just like a record for a PC or mobile phone, it never has the same feeling as unpacking a large LP disc and putting it on a gramophone. It is also said that LPs have the best sound, which is inimitable. There is even one more advantage. Imagine buying your music just online and then someone hacks your account and steals everything just by turning his computer on. Have you ever used a full roll of a camera film and then developed the photos? The feeling when you finally see the images after all the work it took. I know when you mess it up, it is worse than in the digital world, because there you can simply take thousands of pictures. However, in my own experience, digital cameras do not force you to think about your photos or print them at all. It is a shame. Shooting with a film-based camera that does not do everything for you, is more challenging because you have to learn at least the simple basics of photography which helps you even in the digital world.

In the end, even if the analogue Renaissance happens just out of curiosity, it is nice that people in this consumer world have not thrown everything away, just because it is not cool or modern. As an enthusiastic amateur film photographer, I am glad to see that those simple old well-made cameras of pure steel and glass are not just catching dust on somebody's shelf or are not just thrown away, but are being used more and more. Imagine the stories behind those ordinary things of daily life. They have stories behind them because people lived them out. Not online. It is great that more people want to live in the real world and not just in the illusion of social media. If the film camera is the thing that invites you to go out and enjoy the moment in your special way, then do it, what are you waiting for? Outside, there is the whole world to explore. Long live the Analogue!

**Pavel Kluh**



## CHIME

My initial plan was to write a short book review that would definitely satisfy the need of the school magazine. However, it would not be anything challenging nor enjoyable, so I chose perhaps (or at least in my opinion) the most demanding work to do in a non-native language, that is writing poetry. Even reading poetry in foreign languages can be pretty hard, but writing it is something different. Nevertheless, I do recommend doing this "challenge" to everyone since it makes you think about the language you are using.

Anyway, here is my not very well-done attempt:

### CHIME

how unwonted  
some night-walks are  
just dark roads lit by crescent moon  
and here and there a fading star

how mystical  
can dark road be  
it is all there  
for you to see

nowhere else  
you feel the thrill  
and peace at the same time  
nowhere else  
when you stand still  
your own soul plays a chime

**Jan Švarz**

# Strange Stories

## THE AMITYVILLE HAUNTING

Horror movies are mostly fictional, sometimes based on some spooky tales and myths. But this time, there's a real story that inspired the director of *The Conjuring*. At the beginning of the movie, there's a scene, where a man kills his whole family. It points to the real story of the Amityville haunting.

In the Long Island town of Amityville, on November 13, 1974, 23-year-old Ronald DeFeo murdered his entire family while they were asleep. This included his parents and 4 siblings. In court, he reported that he was under the influence of something demonic that guided him to kill his family, but no one paid attention to it.

Thirteen months later, the Lutz family moved in for a drastically reduced price due to the murders. Here are some stories about paranormal activities in their

house. The first one is about waking up every day at 3.15 am. That is about the time that Ronald killed the whole family. There are also reports of sons Daniel and Christopher waking up and levitating off their beds. They say that the house ruined their lives, Daniel has nightmares every night. When a priest came to bless the house, he heard a voice scream "Get out!". The Lutz family also claimed to smell strange odours and feel cold spots in certain parts of the house. People don't believe this story much because of the financial situation of the family. They say that the family just wanted money.

What do you think about this story? Is it real or not? Do you believe in ghosts?

**Jiří Kárník**



# Travelling

## WONDERFUL PLACES YOU MUST VISIT ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO AUSTRIA

Austria is a beautiful country in the heart of Europe. There you can find historical cities, picturesque towns, high mountains and untouched nature. If you're thinking about visiting some of the nearby countries, you should consider travelling to Austria and see all the splendid places that I'm going to recommend in this article.

When it comes to visiting Austrian cities, first you should visit Vienna. This wonderful city is the capital of Austria and it offers you to see many sights like Schönbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's cathedral and Hofburg Imperial Palace. From my personal experience, I recommend going to Prater Vienna, a huge fun park with many attractions. The next city you should explore is Salzburg, a historical city and the birthplace of Mozart. It is interesting to walk through the old town and enjoy the atmosphere of baroque buildings. Innsbruck is another gorgeous city worth visiting in Austria. This town is surrounded by high mountains called the Alps and a clean river Inn. It is best to go there in winter because of skiing in big ski resorts and the atmosphere of the town. The historic city Wachau will impress you with its history and delicious wine. This town is also a place with picturesque vineyards and many high hills and cliffs.

Austrian nature is really breathtaking and I will recommend some of the best spots in this article. My favourite place is the Zell am See Lake. It is also a great place for skiing in the beautiful Kitzbühel Alps. The Zillertal Alps are also worth visiting, you can go on a hike in pure nature or do winter sports on the snowy hills. Another interesting spot is Krimml Waterfall, the highest waterfall in Austria. You need to hike 4 kilometres to see this natural monument. There are also many impressive national parks in Austria, for example, Karwendel Nature Park and Hohe



Tauern National Park. Karwendel Nature Park is the largest nature reserve in Austria. Karwendel mountains surrounded by idyllic green pastures create an unbelievable view. You should definitely cycle along the Isar river there! The second national park, Hohe Tauern Park, is a beautiful natural area in East Tyrol. You can explore the beauty of the Alps in this national park. There are also many hiking trails in this area, so it is a great idea to go on a long hike and see many nature sanctuaries.

To sum up, I really recommend visiting this gorgeous country and all the interesting places I mentioned above. Austrian culture and nature are definitely worth exploring, it is not enough to walk through Vienna just for one afternoon. If you are thinking about spending holidays or just one weekend on a trip, you should definitely visit Austria.

**Anna Ptáčková**



# Nature

## ANIMALS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT

### Dumbo octopus (*Grimphoteuthis*)

I decided to write an article about some really weird animals you might not know about.

After some research, I found a really strange animal called the dumbo octopus. It is the deepest-living genus of all octopuses! It lives 4 000 meters below the surface. Its' life is from 3 to 5 years long. What is really interesting is that this octopus is named after Disney's character elephant Dumbo because its fins look like his ears. There are at least 15 species of this octopus.

Even though this animal looks really weird I find it kind of cute. Well, I put a picture here so you can judge it on your own. What do you think? Is it cute or just weird?

**Adéla Škramovská**

Unfortunately, we don't own the rights to any of the images showing a Dumbo octopus. But you can scan this QR code or click the link below to see it.



[DUMBO OCTOPUS](#)



## PLASTIC POLLUTION

### PREFACE

The environmental outlook for the future is unpredictable. Problems such as acid deposition, global warming, chlorofluorocarbons, ozone depletion and more importantly plastic pollution urgently require solutions and concerted action is needed to deal with these. In this essay, I intend to acquaint the reader with the term plastic pollution. In addition, I also want to shed more light on some of the problems which are interwoven with this long-term issue.

### WHAT IS PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Plastic pollution is a term that is used when some plastic particles such as plastic bags and microbeads pile up to such an extent that it has an adverse effect on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The threat of plastic debris was overlooked for many years. Only recently did a few highly esteemed scientists and experts on marine life come to the conclusion that plastics pose a great environmental threat to our planet. Since plastics are inexpensive and durable, they can be found in every single part of the planet.

There are approximately two pivotal factors that gave rise to the increase of plastics in general. Firstly, the durability of these materials has had a direct impact on how long they are present in oceans and



soil before they degrade. Secondly, plastics are synthetic organic polymers and their chemical structure is undoubtedly less susceptible to many natural processes of degradation.

#### CAUSES

While it might not be possible to obtain some accurate and reliable estimates of the entire extent of plastic debris in the marine environment, marine biologists already know that the quantities are substantial as merchant ships dispose of 639 000 plastic containers every day across the world. Hence, ships are one of the major causes of plastic pollution. Nevertheless, it is also known that countries which do not show any willingness to tackle the problem of plastic waste in an efficient and eco-friendly way prefer transporting them to other countries where there is a high risk of plastics winding up in the oceans sooner or later.

#### TYPES OF PLASTIC DEBRIS

Hitherto, three forms of plastic that are conducive to increasing the levels of pollution have been discovered: microplastics, macro-plastics as well as mega-plastics. Both micro and mega- have their highest levels of prevalence in the Northern Hemisphere. Plastic debris can be broken down into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary plastics always retain their original form and shape (e.g., cigarette butts, microbeads) when gathered whereas secondary plastics contain many smaller particles which stem from the degradation process.

#### PLASTIC PRODUCTION AND MAJOR PLASTIC POLLUTING COUNTRIES

According to a study published by Science, it is believed that in 2018 the overall number of plastics which end up in the oceans is 513 million tonnes. 83,1% of this amount hails from countries such as China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and so on., China, which is widely thought to be one of the major sources of oceanic plastic pollution, largely due to the huge quantities of waste flowing out to sea

through the Yangtze River, said that its citizens needed to learn to live in an increasingly plastic-free and eco-friendly way and that industry would have to adapt.

Plastics account for 10% of discarded waste. As a rule, it takes a few decades before plastics fully degrade. Widely used plastics do not naturally degrade to a significant degree when exposed to ceaseless rain and other natural processes in the environment. It might not come as a surprise since one of the primary reasons for its common usage is the presence of polymers which are dissolved in plastics. They are notorious for their exceptionally high stability and durability. They are able to withstand even the most extreme conditions. There are four mechanisms by which plastics degrade in the environment: hydrolytic degradation, biodegradation caused by a microorganism, thermooxidative degradation and finally photodegradation. Generally speaking, the time which plastics take to fully degrade cannot be precisely determined as it hinges on a wide range of factors including the overall quality of the particular material. What's more, it cannot be omitted that the process of degradation can be slowed down due to lower temperatures as well as oxygen availability. Thus, it can take up to an unacceptable number of years for plastics to fully degrade.

#### PLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE IMPACTS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

##### Effects on animals

The severe repercussions of plastics on the environment are unquestionable. Plastic debris poses the greatest threat to our planet. One of the main concerns is that certain species can often be found entangled in such items. Moreover, it has also been discovered that 97% of animals such as cetaceans, fur seals, sharks, marine birds and sea turtles have signs of ingestion of plastics after several of them underwent an autopsy. Marine birds are especially prone to ingestion of plastics that they mistake for food. Plastic ingested by such animals is stuck in the digestive system and can result in gastrointestinal

blockage, decreased secretion of gastric enzymes and more importantly decreased feeding stimuli.

#### Effects on humans

During the past few years, several health organizations carried out a very close examination of certain plastics such as bisphenol A (BPA), PBD and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) and have found some disconcerting things. PBD is believed to be extremely harmful to the human body as it damages thyroid hormones that are crucial to our metabolism, growth and development of the human body. One of the most endangered groups is pregnant women and children. Despite the fact that governments across the world are trying to do everything in their power to use alternative and safer materials in order to come to grips with this issue, 95% of Americans do still have detectable trace amounts of BPA in their urine. Long-term exposure to such chemicals can have a detrimental effect on the human body in terms of fertility, reproduction, sexual maturation.

#### REDUCTION EFFORTS

It goes without saying that international companies are doing everything in their power to curtail the number of plastic bags,

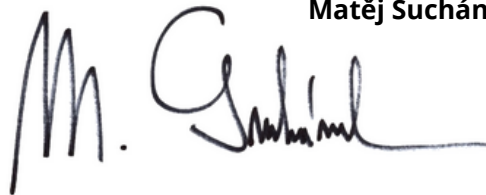
and these are charged. This has sowed the seeds towards mitigating the impact of the human footprint on the environment.

Other companies and organizations such as The Guardian have put in place the use of biodegradable plastics to deliver their newspapers. These materials do have some drawbacks but they offer many of the advantages that their poisonous predecessors possessed.

#### CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, there is no gainsaying that plastic pollution is a long-term issue which has had a detrimental impact on our society. It impacts every aspect of our lives and the only way forward is to cut down on the number of plastics. People should use products made of sustainable materials. The ubiquitous presence of plastics has also had a negative impact on submarine life and therefore, it is an important issue for those groups of people who are considerate of the environment.

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