

THE

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COLLEGIAN

An independent magazine for Sieradz students



**Sieradz Students Turn Heads In
Chełm**

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Dear Readers,

Another June is reached and finally the never-ending semester is actually about to end. The Collegian has lain dormant for a while, much to the delight of all its readers and is now back in its current form for the last time. As you will have noticed from the cover, The Collegian has gone green and the executive board have decided to give up their private jet, recycle their stockpile of empty champagne jeroboams and stop printing their magazine on dead trees. In future, if the editorial staff can find time in their increasingly busy social lives to write anything at all, it will be available only in electronic form. It will be free. It will, however, remain totally pointless. Tradition and modernity are of equal importance to us. We may change our mode of publication but we shall continue to bring you the very best out-of-date news, random comment and humourous nonsense designed only to massage the ego of the writers.

Moving on, I'd like to extend a hearty well done to the winner of the competition in the last issue. A young gentlemen from Łask named, somewhat bizarrely, Ban Ki-moon

took first prize and duly became Secretary-General of the United Nations. All the members of the Security Council agreed that this was much the best way to choose someone for the post and the Chinese in particular expressed regret that second-placed Wiktor Elas could not be found a role within the organization. Apparently he has decided to concentrate on his studies - much to the surprise of friends and teachers.

For anyone still wondering, Vladimir Putin killed Alexander Litvinienko, Tony Blair will finally do something useful for his country on 27th June, Iran will be bombed before it obtains nukes, Bin Laden runs a small general store in northern Pakistan and the entire population of the U.S is mad.

The Editor
thecollegian@tlen.pl

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Editor-in-Chief,
Martin Hinton M.A.

Poetry In Motion

The winter festival of poetry proved to be an enormous success. The recitation evening was attended by a staggering number of literature lovers and brilliantly hosted by the ever-lovable Mr Hinton. It has been alleged that the judges actually came to blows during their deliberations but this has been denied by several people who were nowhere near the room at the time.

One thing's for sure, it must have been a tough decision, so high was the quality. It's not easy after six months to remember all the winners but didn't Kasia Kubalak do quite well?

And who could forget the performance during the interval of the winning poem in the writing competition? Well, I could because I didn't see it, having an important meeting in the bar at the time but I'm told it was very good indeed and you can read the full text later in this issue.

A Drama Out Of A Crisis

Not just a clever headline, the endlessly fertile imagination of resident playwright and jester M.D.Hinton actually summoned up (brief) moments of dramatic comedy out of the crisis which engulfs modern day Afghanistan. His play, which he calls The Sands of Time (for obscure reasons connected with the presence of sand in the desert) toured the globe in an astonishing first for the college.

Four brave young actresses from the second year day-group agreed to travel with the notoriously tetchy writer to the most distant outposts of civilisation and beyond.

They stormed the world famous festival of drama in the cultural capital of eastern Poland, Chełm, and walked off with best Political Comedy and a best actress award for Monika Dzieweczynska. No mean feat for a play with very little politics and not much more comedy. The professionalism of the ladies was praised by all, however, and much is expected of them in the future. Magdusia Smolinska, (front cover) has already been signed up for several films and a series of M jak Miłość and the others are expected to appear in a revival of The Rocky Horror show to be staged in Tibet later this year.

The Play's the thing

Our own Festival of drama saw a record five productions including a triumphant directorial debut for Miss Tomczyk and a stunning on stage performance from regular director Mrs Kurzejamska.

The all round excellence of the acting drew warm praise from the college Director and other V.I.P.s Indeed, a plan has been hatched to introduce a best actor/actress prize for next year's shows. First years, you have been warned, dig out those tights, brush up that accent, your chance of fame and fortune awaits!

DOS CULTURAS

Dawid Choinsky takes us through the minefield of American Spanglish

When you land in the USA and get off a plane at an American airport, no matter which city it's in, you are bound to find signs saying '*llegadas internacionales*', '*pago de derechos de aduana*' or '*entrega de equipajes*'. Naturally, unless you are Spanish or Hispanic, a student of Spanish, a linguist or simply inquisitiveness is an innate and organic part of your personality, you don't pay too much attention to them. Even less do you pay when you land in that superb, terrific, fantastic, world-famous and universally admired United States of America for the first time, and find plenty of other interesting, astonishing and amazing things catching your eye. Needless to say, that if at the same time, you are aware of the fact that signs in such a place as an airport are usually bi-lingual, then all those '*entradas, retrasos, aduanas, vuelos, puertas, salidas ...*' don't bother you at all; they are there simply because they gotta be there. Then, still at the terminal, you buy a phone card to call home to say everything's fine, and you find that it is not only 'phone card' but also lo! '*tarjeta prepagada*' and '*Ud. puede marcar dos para Castellano, o tres para Espanol de America Latina*'. You stay calm and explain it to yourself 'Ok, fine. It's a free country, and Spanish is a beautiful language so no problem.' Upon leaving the terminal you overhear a person saying '*Tengo que ir al bus stop para pick up mi hija*' and start thinking 'What, the heck, is going on here?!' Later on, in one of the means of public transport, you hear conversations going like : '*Hola, good morning, como estas ?*' '*Good, y tu ?*' '*Todo bien. Pero tuve problemas parqueando mi carro this morning*' '*Si, I know. Siempre hay problemas parqueando in el area at this time*'

At this point you may panic a little bit and start asking yourself 'If this is the USA, by all accounts an English-speaking country, why that Spanish all the time ? And is it really Spanish ? If not, what is it ? What kind of language is that ? Why don't they speak regular English, let alone that unquestionable pride of all the highly-enlightened subjects of Her Majesty, that world-famous, highly prestigious, college-taught-and-drilled, extremely dignified R.P.?!?'

Yea, you can ask yourself 'What, why, *porque?*'. Unsurprisingly enough, the answers to such questions lie both in the history of 'The Land of the Free', and its present-day situation. Indeed, the idea of a successful attempt to understand America without knowing the history of *la Conquista*, the adventures and achievements of the famous *Conquistadores*, people like Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro, Vasco Nunez de Balboa and Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, should be considered rather ignorant an aberration

The Spanish explorers and conquerors established the first settlements on the U.S. mainland at the beginning of the 16th century. They explored America actively, and by 1820 had established colonies and missions in many present-day states of the USA. Some of these places bear nowadays proud names of Spanish origin, e.g. Florida named so by Juan Ponce de Leon, who landed there during *Pascua Florida* 'Flowery Easter' of 1513. Other examples are the state of Colorado 'colored red' and the 'covered in snow' state of Nevada with the most famous 'grasslands' or 'meadows' in the world, i.e. Las Vegas. And these names are just 'the tip of the iceberg' since plenty of other geographical names have their origins in Spanish. Suffice it to mention all those

Sans: Francisco, Jose, Antonio, Diego;
Santas: Barbara, Catalina, Monica; Loses:
Angeles, Alamos; Rios: Grande, Colorado,
Bravo and others.

The huge influence of Spanish on America can be more clearly perceived and acknowledged if one realizes that the Spanish Empire ruled almost the whole area (except Brazil) south of the Rio Grande River and today there are some 35 million Hispanics in the United States. Most of them come from Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba and it's calculated that by the year 2020 Hispanics will pass Afroamericans as the most numerous minority in the United States. Many of those people don't speak English at all, the majority (of that minority) speak the language which is sometimes difficult to understand, yet a curious and fascinating mixture of English and Spanish. The name used to refer to their language is Spanglish, a portmanteau of the words Spanish and English.

Spanglish refer to a range of language-contact phenomena, primarily in the speech of the Hispanic population of the USA. The term can also refer to the typical errors made by native speakers of either Spanish or English learning the other language. Generally, there are two basic approaches to Spanglish, with countless variations: code-switching and borrowing.

Code-switching is moving from one language to another in normal conversation (*'It's very important to honor your abuelitas'*) and it occurs commonly among bilinguals, often with a sense of humor. But sometimes a speaker may not be able to express himself in one language (e.g. a newly arrived immigrant) so he switches to the other to compensate for the deficiency. This code-switching may take a number of different forms, from simple word pairs like *'ninas room'* (ladies restroom), to alteration of sentences with phrases from both languages succeeding each other (*'You've got a nasty mancha on your camiseta'*).

Borrowing is the adaptation of an English word into a Spanish form (*'Quiero parquear el coche'*). This method makes new words by pronouncing an English word in a Spanish style, which means dropping final consonants, softening others, replacing Ms with Ns, and Vs with Bs, with the resulting word(s) transliterated using Spanish spelling conventions. For example, a housekeeper will plug in the *'bacuncliner'* to vacuum the rug or go to *'Sebenleben'* ('Seven-Eleven' store) and ask for *'Bibaporru'* ('Vicks VapoRub' ointment) when suffering from the common cold.

Sometimes an English word is borrowed for reasons of efficiency, since Spanish is famously multisyllabic. Hence, instead of saying *'estacionamiento'* for 'parking', Spanglish speakers opt for *'parquin'*. And instead of *'escribir a maquina'* (to type) they say *'taipear'*.

Recently, the area where Spanglish has gained strength and support is the internet, and terms like *'chatear'* (to chat), *'forwardear'* (to forward), *'dragear'* (to drag), *'printear'* (to print), *'cliquiar'* (to click) have become indispensable for many computer and internet users north and south of the Rio Grande as well as in Spain and in the Caribbean.

Moreover, there are many signals that it's not only the internet users who realize the power of Spanglish. It seems to have been gradually finding its place in mass media, literature, show business, education, economy and many other fields of social activity. With the growing number of Hispanics one could say for sure that their culture, language and traditions will have a greater influence on the United States every day. And at the same time there will be a growing number of people who - if they want to - are able to speak Spanglish.

At a remarkable pace Spanglish is gaining a continually stronger foothold in the USA. Might it even be the future language of the United States of America ?

The Olde English Kitchen

In the second of our regular series, our rural affairs correspondent, *Old Fanny Archbottom*, introduces you to more wonders of traditional English country cooking.

On today's bill of fare:

Bread Pudding

This great traditional dish works equally well as a hot pudding or as a cake with your afternoon tea. The bread mixture gives it a unique texture. Trust me, it's fantastic!

Ingredients:

8oz. bread. Brown or white, crusts removed.

½ pint of milk.

2oz. melted butter.

3oz. soft brown sugar.

2 level teaspoons mixed spice.

1 beaten egg.

6 oz. mixed fruit. (Sultanas, raisins, currants, peel)

Grated rind of half an orange.

Grated nutmeg.

Heat oven to 350 F, 180c, gas mark 4.

Break bread into small pieces in a bowl. Pour over milk and stir. Leave to soak for 30 mins.

Add melted butter, sugar, mixed spice and beaten egg. Mix well.

Add fruit and orange rind.

Spread into a buttered baking dish 1.25 – 1.5 l. Sprinkle nutmeg on top.

Bake in pre-heated oven for 1 ¼ hours.

Serve hot with custard or cold with sugar sprinkled on top. Delicious!

Marta Hombek asks:

HOW TO SAVE MY ZEAL??

“You have to study otherwise you won’t find a well-paid job in the future” repeats my dad. “You have to be educated, you have to earn a lot of money to provide yourself with an excellent future.” – I suppose many young people hear these words everyday. Therefore it’s not surprising that each of us wants to achieve something in our lives – and the first important step is TO STUDY (doesn’t matter what, where and how but *to be* a student). But being a student is not as easy as it seems e.g. things on which students spend most of their precious time are: how to gain the necessary knowledge in the fastest possible way, how to pass the exams, how to avoid stress, how to relax effectively, how to save power for the next semester and not to go bananas.

In every sense my life as a student is not an exception and that’s why I’ve decided to think about the best possible ways to revive my poor life and encourage my colleagues to do something to change this miserable situation. Yes. Because a student of English’s life is miserable - getting up early, sitting for long hours at not always interesting lectures, on not comfortable chairs, in grey and dirty rooms, coming back home or to a dorm, learning for the test, improving and developing your skills – to sum up – a vicious circle.

After all it was supposed to be the best period of my life – I chose my favourite subject of studies with great motivation, zeal and willingness to become perfect at English but the quantity of work is overwhelming! How can my zeal be still present when everything and everybody wants it to disappear?

Certainly some steps must be taken at once!

Do you have a similar situation? If your answer is YES, read further.

1. COLOURFUL LIFE

Firstly, try to think about the general appearance of your school. Is it pretty, modern, colourful? When your answer is NO (as I suppose), try to encourage your director to allow you to paint the walls and furniture in the rooms as well as the corridors in some bright, and even extravagant colours so that they won’t be boring and won’t make you feel sad at the very moment of going into the school. Let the room of each class be in vivid colours – violet, orange, green, pink – they will activate your mind sufficiently.

2. NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

Secondly, the old wooden chairs and desks should be replaced with more comfortable ones – at least they should be adjusted to our (students not children!) size and not make your limbs and other parts of your body ☹ stiffen after the first 30 minutes of sitting without any movement. What’s more, there should be enough space for everyone to sit in the corridors and to have better access to nature – flowers, pictures with landscapes – they surely help some of us. Furthermore, a small shop with the basic products – sandwiches, chocolate and beverages is a necessity for always hungry students (remember about cheap prices, please)

3. AFTER SCHOOL

A good idea would be to organize excursions at the weekends (at least from time to time).

You don’t have to go far – it can be even the nearest town and city where you would find something interesting to do – visiting monuments, strolling, taking pictures, sitting in a pub, skiing, sunbathing. Do it just to forget about the ubiquitous photocopies and books and to refresh the mind before the forthcoming week. It would be also a great opportunity to get to know the colleagues from your group – then the atmosphere in the classroom would certainly improve. If possible – organize a trip abroad – to the most interesting country. Go there with your teachers – then your absence will be justified. Sounds interesting? If not, read further.

4. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

If you are still complaining that there are no means to relax or have fun because of lack of time, please stop because it’s just a cop-out. You should start taking care of your cultural development and it really doesn’t require a lot – you commit only one or two hours a day or a week, i.e. going to the cinema, theatre, concert – take advantage of each opportunity and participate in all the occurring cultural events!

Choose at least one piece of advice but there’s one condition - do not force yourself to do things you surely don’t like – try to find a genuine willingness just to help yourself! The result is obvious – you won’t be disappointed because you will know that you have done something for your own good, meanwhile you will relax your body and mind.

And if you are happy in and outside school, your learning will turn out easier at the same time. Easy??

Poems

As promised above here is the full text of the winning poem in this years writing competition. The theme for the contest was 'Joy'. The judges were struck by the emotional maturity and depth of this particular piece.

PASSING AWAY - by Andrzej Cieślak

What do I feel
Watching the birth of new life?
What do I feel
Bringing up a new person?
What do I feel
Seeing him with his friends?
What do I feel
Giving him money to spend?
What do I feel
Seeing them together?
What do I feel
Blessing him and her?
What do I feel
Seeing their new little lives?
What do I feel
Lying on the bed
Surrounded by my dearests
Feeling my life is passing?
In my lasts seconds
I feel joy
Joy after living
And allowing to live ...

Somewhat surprisingly an entry was also received from The Rt. Hon Tony Blair M.P. It was considered rather hubristic by the judges but is included here for its curiosity value.

The Joy of Blair

It's there when I lie down at night
It's there when I awake;
The joy of being always right,
Not making one mistake.

The joy of life lived perfectly,
The thrill of being divine,
The praise of those who worship me
And ask me round to dine.

It's in the looks of wonderment
From awestruck passers-by
Who tread upon the fundament
While I float in the sky.



Your Horoscope - with Loony Luna



AQUARIUS
Jan 21st - Feb 18th

The exam season is upon us which is always good news for hard working folk like you. Don't let your eagerness to show your best get in the way of doing the good things simple. Avoid nights out in Zdunska Wola - they always end in regret.
Lucky Test Cricketer: Ryan Sidebottom.



PISCES
Feb 19th - Mar 20th

The truth is out now and everybody knows. There's no need to hide in corners or cross the street when your classmates approach anymore. Take advantage of your new found liberty to rediscover your passion for Flamenco or re-paper the walls of your living-room.
Lucky Exam: Listening comprehension.



ARIES
Mar 21st - Apr 20th

Mars has turned vegetarian with all the obvious consequences for your future career. Taking plenty of sausage on board now could help but when the planets make up their minds about these things there's really not much you can do. Still, some people enjoy cleaning toilets and travel across Europe for the privilege.
Lucky Tree: Weeping Willow.



TAURUS
Apr 21st - May 21st

You've been at it again and you've only yourself to blame. If you must eat in bed you're going to have to steer clear of biscuits, and chocolate might not be worth the risk. Crumbs in the wrong places can be a real relationship ender and even your famous suavity in times of crisis might not be enough to save you this time.
Lucky WITCH character: Cedric.



GEMINI
May 22nd - Jun 21st

The news is good and so are the figs. Easy on the cherries though if you're trying to revise. Uranus is screaming out for an exotic holiday this year - never mind the cash, it's time to finally see Burkina Faso. Take mosquito repellent and plenty of shaving foam. Heavy weaponry is unnecessary but small arms are always reassuring.
Lucky Health Professional: Ophthalmologist.



CANCER

Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd

The strange movements of Neptune suggest either a trip in a submarine or a career switch into ballet dancing. On a submarine you don't need sunscreen but, strangely enough, you can't go swimming. In ballet, you're not allowed any cream but get all the exercise you need. Tough one.

Lucky Grand Slam Venue: Roland Garros.



LEO

Jul 23rd - Aug 23rd

The light at the end of the tunnel proves to be a discarded bicycle lamp. You are trapped. There is no way out. So settle down to enjoy the confines of your cave and see what you can make out of the lamp and the contents of your pockets.

Lucky English River: The Severn



VIRGO

Aug 24th - Sep 22nd

An invitation to lunch with Roman Giertych is too good to turn down but remember, real men don't eat quiche and ladies shouldn't consume more than 1L of vodka in any two hour period. When the conversation turns to your past as an erotic dancer, make your excuses and leave.

Lucky Failed Politician: Al Gore.



LIBRA

Sep 23rd - Oct 23rd

Love in an elevator sounds like fun but remember going down and up at the same time can be very confusing.

Lucky Shopping Centre: Manufaktura.



SCORPIO

Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

More than ever your god-like wisdom and poise are called for as Saturn comes crashing through the roof of your holiday villa. All is not lost if you can grab your glass in time and avoid spilling wine on the carpet.

Lucky South Atlantic Rock: Elephant Island.



SAGGITARIUS

Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

It's a long time till Christmas and even then it's all socks and knickers and too much fish. Try to relax. Plant flowers. Read books.

Lucky Ice-Cream: Toffee.



CAPRICORN

Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

Lo and behold! The stars have turned off. Or is it only cloudy. Time will tell. Lucky Fielding Position: Forward Short-Leg

New father and future teacher *Mirostaw Ilczuk* discusses:

Discipline in the classroom

In the near future most of us will become foreign language teachers. However, while graduates of our college are overall very competent in their language knowledge and skills, there is a clear deficiency in classroom management skills. One of the most difficult problems that we will face in the classroom concerns discipline and pupils behavior. As we all know, good discipline facilitates the learning process while the lack of it makes teaching virtually impossible. Therefore, it is in our own interest to find ways of dealing with this problem.

Reasons for discipline problems

The first step that we need to take is to understand what the main reasons for discipline problem in school are. Generally we can say that the problem lies in the emotional and social immaturity of pupils, their lack of self – control, over-permissivnes at home and children’s need for attention. This is a very general description – in fact the problem is more complicated. There are also some more obvious reasons for students’ misbehavior i.e. the way in which desks are arranged in a classroom - if they are too close to each other, pupils will chat with their friends more often during a lesson.

What can be done in order to keep discipline?

Pupils must understand from the very beginning that there are some rules in the classroom that they need to follow and they should know what is and what is not acceptable. Furthermore, you should make sure that the consequences for breaking your rules are also clear and known.

You need to be fair and consistent while enforcing these rules so that they know that you treat every child in the same way. Troublemakers need to know that they cannot get away with their bad behavior and that is why you need to take steps to reprimand them immediately. However, you should not spend too much time on reproving them because it creates an interruption in a lesson and as a result it wastes the time of the good students.

As I mentioned in the last paragraph, there should be very few interruptions in the lesson but it is not only since it takes time that could be spent on teaching but also because disruptions during a lesson can cause further misbehavior of students. Basically, we can say that if there are too many or too long gaps between each activity, children will naturally start talking with their classmates. What is more, the activities should be varied and interesting, since bored pupils have a greater tendency to be undisciplined. This fact is especially important when young children are concerned – their concentration span is very short and consequently tasks should be shorter and more varied in order to keep them interested.

There are some easy techniques that can help you to deal with misbehaving students without taking much time and effort. In most situations undisciplined children can be calmed down if they know that you are aware of their behavior. Sometimes they do not realize that they are doing something wrong but when they notice that they are being observed they understand that there is some reason for that and they will try to correct themselves. You can position yourself near the desk of a troublemaking pupil and suppress him/her by use of your presence.

This article is only an introduction to the topic, it describes the problem very briefly and presents a few techniques. There is a lot of information concerning this on the internet and special courses for teachers are organized. I hope that this article has highlighted for you the need to improve your skills of classroom management.

The Back Page

Fun & Games

Since everyone's moving to England here's the Collegian's top ten tips on survival in the green and pleasant land.

1. Look right when you cross the road.
2. Have all your teeth removed so you won't need to find a dentist.
3. Avoid arrest by never talking to anyone under the age of 21.
4. Avoid arrest by becoming an M.P.
5. Avoid arrest by becoming a Roman Catholic Priest.
6. Never criticize the Russian government.
7. Never praise the British government.
8. Agree that the Premier League is the greatest league in the world.
9. Pretend that England might win a major tournament one day.
10. Get fat and expose your flesh to the admiring public.

Follow this simple advice for a trouble-free stay on the sceptered-isle. If you do get into trouble with the authorities, mumble something about the abuse of your human rights and you'll be released instantly with an apology and large compensation package.

Competition time!

This week we give you another fantastic chance to win something really good! All you have to do is, as usual, answer the questions below and fill in the tie-breaker:

The best thing Tony Blair did for Britain was
in as many words as you know.

The questions

1. How many issues of the Collegian have there been?
2. How many people have bothered to read it?
3. How many of those found it incredibly dull?
4. Add the previous three answers together and divide the answer by the average I.Q. of NKJO students. Is the result more or less than 1?

COMING SOON

The all new digitally enhanced online Collegian with flashing lights and shiny bits. Collegianonline.blogspot.com .

Really.