



Story of a freshman at the “Exterminio”

By **Luis Arévalo**

When I enrolled at this University, the first thing I thought was “DAMN!! What is going to happen in my first day of class?”

That day finally arrived and I was afraid of everything and everybody that passed me by. I was scared of becoming ‘the chosen one’, the one to be humiliated in front of everybody. The hours were passing by, but nothing had happened. I did not know if everyone was part of a conspiracy or if they were waiting for us, the freshmen, to be distracted in order for them to go through with their plans.

At the end of the day I realized that nobody cared about welcoming the freshmen. Students at the University were so stressed and so focused on their studies that they didn’t have time to make jokes or humiliate the newcomers.

I was a fool; later I went home and thought about how I’d wasted numerous neurons on thinking about the welcoming treatment we were going to get and never did.



As always, welcome to the new issue of Ink. We're all very happy with the way that the magazine is growing with each issue, and hope you enjoy the articles which have been chosen for your interest. As ever, remember that future submissions are very much welcome; would you like to do your part to make your university's English language magazine something to be really proud of?

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 isn't to create a fully "professional" magazine, you may find some mistakes in the articles

The Art of Writing

By **Andrea Pérez Useche**

Whatever you write, however you express your own ideas, you can describe yourself through writing.

One of my favorite teachers (Oscar Alfonso) told me one day that, "How you write is how you are," and I believe it is a very true idea.

When you try to express your ideas, you show the way you think and the things that are important to you. An example of this may be your dreams, your goals, and the way you understand your own world.

When you write, you leave a lasting effect and future generations will and can get to know what your life was like and the context you lived in.

What you gave to **me**

By Irene Cadavid

You gave me peace
You gave me calm

But honey you are a rock
On which I once stood

Who will ever love you more?
The coin flipped into loneliness again

You gave me peace
You gave me calm

But honey you are a rock
That I couldn't move

**In the shadows I feel your breath
In the shadows I feel your touch**

With you I learned new and better emotions
A world full of colors
That the week lasts more than seven days

But honey you are a rock
On which I once stood
And was never able to move

Have you done anything to take care of our world?

By **Lizeth Leonor González Ríos**
Level VI English student

The Externado is well known for its academic excellence in Colombia. But is it well known for its leadership on environmental issues? One could argue that it is not. In spite of all the beautiful, natural scenery that surrounds its campus, it does not have anything as basic as recycling bins on campus. Having recycling bins on campus would emphasize the responsibility of caring for the environment in order to preserve our natural resources.

Nowadays, almost every day, we watch on the news the dramatic weather changes that are occurring all over the world. These include bigger and more destructive hurricanes, hotter summers and colder winters, just as a few examples. However, the weather is not the only thing that is changing. Landscapes have also changed, deserts are getting bigger, and the world's water reserves are dropping to critically low levels. These changes are on the whole the result of the damage we as humans have done to the environment. We need to be more aware of the importance of taking care of the environment and a good place to start is right here at the Externado.

Therefore, we have to be aware of what is happening around us, and what we can do to make the world a better place for us to live in. If we continue damaging our world and if pollution continues to increase we will have serious problems because we will run out of our natural resources, which are essential for human life. That is why we have to do something about it now. That is why having recycling bins at the Externado would be a good first step in helping the environment and raising people's awareness of how important it has become to take care of it.



Modern life of an unhappy English student

By David Castellanos

Last Tuesday I went to the supermarket to buy some ingredients to cook the dinner. When I looked on the shelves, I felt really disappointed; the Fruccho “tomato sauce”, the national vintage sauce that most Colombians usually eat with rice, potatoes, and even eggs, wasn’t there anymore. Instead, there was a bottle with a pretty similar sauce called “ketchup”. I took it home, where I realized it tasted the same. But I was still mad; I’m in Bogotá, Colombia right? So why is this North American product replacing my beloved tomato sauce?

I forgot about my pseudo-North American dinner and turn on the TV, but I was disappointed once again; 50 channels out of 60 were spoken in English, 3 in a different language and only 7 in Spanish. I turned off the TV and turned on the radio; with the dial set at 99.1, I heard a British radio program called the Selector and guess what?? It was in English! I gave up, and decided to do my homework. I googled ‘globalización’, in Spanish, and the results showed only 4120 articles. Then I googled it in English and there were over seven million links more than before.

I figured out that I, fortunately, know English, but then I asked myself if I could forget English without forgetting the world as I know it. I mean, misunderstanding most of the TV, the radio and the net. I couldn’t answer the question because my level six English teacher was asking me something I couldn’t answer. I thought, “I don’t care at all” but then she said to me “you were supposed to learn that grammatical rule in level three”.



I never went through the third level. Actually, I started in fourth because the jury thought I knew enough English, but I never learned even one grammatical rule, ever. I learned English by listening, reading and then speaking, just like every kid does, the same way I learned Spanish.

A language won't ever be absolutely mastered but the Student Book, with its primary rules, its random vocabulary and its twelve-year-old-kid stories is not helping. Whereas in the higher levels, students have been learning the language for a considerable time, and have been in touch with global culture, eating their ketchup, watching their TV and reading their websites since they were born.

What is Fair Trade?

By Aldo Leal Frieri

According to some theories in economics, poor countries will never become rich because of the way in which trade among countries operates.

Rich countries export machinery, cars, and computers while poor countries export fruit, vegetables and basic goods. The production systems in rich countries become more efficient as new techniques and new technology are put into use, whereas the production systems in poor countries, especially the ones used in agricultural production, don't progress much. If people think of poverty as something undesirable, not only the people who live in this condition, but everyone else in the world too, then we must find ways to end it or at least to lessen its size and consequences.

Of course there are the measures taken by governments and organizations, but sometimes it appears as if these measures don't deliver what we expect from them.

That's where Fair trade comes in

"Fair trade is an organized social movement and market-based model of international trade which promotes the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of goods. The movement focuses in particular on exports from developing countries to developed countries, most notably handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fresh fruit etc."

So, what is this about?

In the past, and still today in most cases, there are people, usually in poor countries, who produce agricultural products that are bought by business people, companies or someone else, who then stamps a name and a logo on it and sells it to people in rich countries for a lot more than what he or they paid for them.

The conclusion to which many people, in particular those who ended up creating and promoting fair trade, have arrived is the following; the buyer in the rich country is willing to pay this much and even more for products that he considers important, but the middle person is paying a lot less to the person actually producing it. Why don't we make sure the profit goes to them, the people who really deserve it? That's how fair trade was born.

How is fair trade doing today?

“Global fair trade sales have soared over the past decade. The increase has been particularly spectacular among Fairtrade labeled goods: in 2006, these sales amounted to approximately €1.6 billion worldwide, a 41 % year-to-year increase. As per December 2006, 569 producer organizations in 58 developing countries were FLO-CERT Fairtrade certified and over 150 were IFAT registered.”

Although Fair Trade is not the solution to poverty, it sure is a good way to improve the quality of life in regions where money is scarce, it also makes sure people who were never able to negotiate and make good deals, are being considered as part of the equation.



What we can see about the Beijing Olympic Games

By Tatiana Naranjo

This year the Olympic Games were in China. Generally, people said that the games were spectacular, although some things were really bad.

The first thing, for example, was the girl that sung at the opening ceremony, who was a fraud. The truth is: the government decided to use another girl, because the real singer was fat.

The second thing was that two of the gymnastic athletes were not old enough to participate. The minimum age is 16 years old but, they were both younger and the Chinese government overlooked this fact, because they were only interested in winning.

People said that during the days the Olympic Games took place, the government made people disappear and they covered the ugly buildings with advertising boards to make them look better.



Being an English Tutor at the Externado

By Jenny Velandia

For the last couple of months I have been lucky enough to be an English tutor. This opportunity has represented a chance for me to practice English, while learning different lessons I'm sure will be important for me in my life. As my first job, being a tutor has enabled me to learn about work ethic and responsibility, which I believe are important factors that many Externado students should have access to.

Even though this experience has been very important to me, as an individual, I believe it is an even greater opportunity for the English students of the university. I am sure there are lots of people that really need and appreciate the fact that there are people who are capable of helping them with all of the questions they may have. It is an important service that the department provides, and it should be used as much as possible. Personally, I think it would have been important to have this aid for me as a student, not only in the English area, but in other subjects, too.

I just hope that whoever needs help knows that we are here to assist them in any way possible, and that they really should use this to their advantage and in the best way possible. To conclude, I would just say that I'm more than happy to help!!

Remember that our English Area tutors are available to help you, and we're also looking for tutors for next year. Whether you'd like help from a tutor or to be a tutor, more information is available from the English Area office.

Wordsearch

How many words connected to personalities can you find?

C	D	U	A	A	B	Z	Z	B	Y	M	O	W	D
H	I	N	S	P	I	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
A	R	U	Z	Z	L	E	S	Z	E	N	Y	H	Z
R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E	U	W	X	G	A	X
I	D	E	A	L	I	S	T	I	C	A	R	P	F
S	Z	C	D	O	T	A	W	R	O	L	E	P	J
M	G	O	O	P	S	M	N	P	Q	R	N	Y	Y
A	P	P	R	O	A	C	H	A	B	L	E	A	B

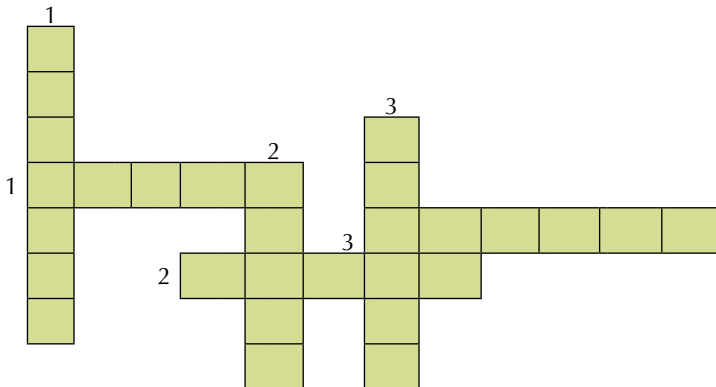
Crossword

Across

1. Not yesterday, or tomorrow
2. You can touch with your _____
3. When you ask for something strongly you _____

Down

1. Your mother's son is your _____
2. Your age is measured in _____
3. I was walking along the beach in the _____ of the night



Answers
 Across
 1. Today
 2. Hands
 3. Demand
 Down
 1. Brother
 2. Years
 3. Middle

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!