



# THE CULTURE OF CULTURE

By: **Pabla Fuertes**  
(undergraduate Social Communication student)



In a society, arts are a really important factor. They are a demonstration of our culture, how we are, and the way we perceive the world.

Theatre, music and dance are an amazing group of human skills: through voice, body and interpretation we can face physical and mental challenges. We can also study history and general culture to know about the world in order to live our lives in the best way.

This is an invitation to change some of the prejudices that the average Colombian has about art. Maybe you are not one of those, but how can you contribute to cultural thought? Start now, and embrace the arts as an alternative in your life.

You can visit:

[www.culturarecreacionydeporte.gov.co](http://www.culturarecreacionydeporte.gov.co)

To have an idea about what's going on in the cultural universe.

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

This issue, we'd like to say a particularly special "thank you" to everyone involved with **Ink**, now that we've reached our fifth issue! With each issue we're receiving more and more submissions on a wider range of topics, which we are very happy to see, just as we are also very happy to receive contributions from new writers.

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.

# "Unga-Unga Teacher"

By Alexander Córdoba  
(undergraduate Finance student)

I can't forget my first English class in second semester, the teacher looked so angry. But he surprised us because in the next class he started to make jokes and scream.

The funniest moment in class is when some student tries to say something in English and he can't; the teacher always says: "ok, very good, unga-unga," trying to say that he is wrong.

I can't stop laughing, it's so much fun, but there is something even funnier: when the teacher speaks in Spanish and he can't talk correctly, a student says: "unga-unga!"

Obviously he never says anything about it because he always says the same thing to us.

So if sometime your foreign language teacher tries to say some word in Spanish and he can't, try to say "unga-unga" and I bet you are going to laugh out loud so much. However, don't say it in front of the teacher; he could hear you and you'll be in big trouble!

# How do I remember?

By Mario Andrés Oliveros Villarreal  
(undergraduate Hotel Administration student)

This is my memory of the best critical comedian and a source of common sense in politics in Colombia. His name was Jaime Eduardo Garzon. He was born in Sumapaz (Cundinamarca) on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 1960.

This article aims to show how he stays alive in the hearts and minds of many people, because in Colombia many difficult and serious things have happened, like corruption and assassinations.

Jaime did many programs on TV about real life and national personalities, like: Godofredo Cínico Caspa, Nestor Eli, Dioselina Tibena, Maria Lesos Santodomingo, Emerson de Francisco and Heliberto de la calle. He taught us how we can learn to laugh with substance (mood) and criticism about national reality.

But someone didn't think so. They decided to kill the laughter. I remember this terrible day. Perhaps with his death we'll think about the future of Colombia.

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# How has the MP3 format changed the music industry?



By Carolina Buitrago Hernández  
(undergraduate Business Administration student)

60 years ago people started listening to music on record players, but this option needed a place to enjoy the music. However, with the necessities of people, technology has developed new ways to listen to music, like the walkman that you could carry wherever you wanted to, but humans always want something better.

So, 15 years ago the Discman appeared as a better option to listen to the developed formats too; in this case CDs. This new option started to be frustrating since you needed to carry a lot of CDs everywhere you wanted to listen to them. The technology industry discovered that people needed a new kind of player to listen to the music they liked in a better and more comfortable way, meaning that they needed to find a new format to carry all the music without carrying CDs.

The MP3 format is an excellent advance of technology, but it has also brought a lot of disadvantages for certain sectors of society, such as artists, whose creativity and effort delight us. Due to this new technology and Internet and the peer to peer (P2P) programs, they have been losing income, like many employees who have lost their jobs, and everything has happened because there's a lack of social thought.

This is an invitation to improve this social thought because it's better for the artist to have legal music. But I know that it's annoying to buy a CD and then convert it for the computer and then to the player; as a result people have been making online families like "Last.fm" or "Sonido Local". These communities are actually social networks, where you can buy music and you make a custom radio station where you can add, erase, add it to your iPod or your Mp3 and share music with people in every part of the world depending on the music links, and this way you'll pay for their work and this will give them some income for their creativity and effort.

# Are they really peaceful bases?

By Francisco J. Buitrago S.  
(undergraduate Finance student)

The Colombian government has recently amended a treaty with the United States for military forces to use Colombian bases. They have named them "Peaceful bases". There are two main issues to analyze with this situation. The first one is the maintenance of Colombia's sovereignty with this agreement. In addition, the region's stability is in danger; our neighbors are not pleased with the presence of foreign troops closer than ever.

Álvaro Uribe, Colombia's president, is considered United States' best allied in South America. The right that American militaries will have to use Colombian bases endangers Colombia's sovereignty because those who come will not have to follow the orders that come from Colombian military superiors; they will not be judged under Colombian Law. Furthermore, when a different government is elected and tries to stop the bases, tensions between the two countries might emerge. Additionally, the monopoly of weapons is a condition in order for a State to operate correctly; if Colombia is not able to control all of the weapons inside its territory, the State will be losing a great portion of its legitimacy.

Neighbors have widely expressed their dissatisfaction with the bases. Hugo Chávez has not only spoken against the United States but he has also affirmed that Uribe is carrying out acts of war against his country. Rafael Correa, representing Ecuador, has tried to convince the world that Colombia is a potential danger and a factor of instability in the region. Brazil, Argentina and other moderated countries have expressed their concern and asked Colombia for explanations in the next meeting of UNASUR.

## CONCLUSIONS

Foreign military bases may have many possible explanations to exist. This does not mean that the effects should not be taken into account. Colombia is taking an enormous risk by not only betting its own legitimacy but also by risking the traditional good relations the nation has had with the neighbor countries and the region.

# How to be veg and not fail in the attempt: **myths** and reality

By Edgar Moreno  
(undergraduate Economics student)

For ethics, ecology, health or just for taking a different way of life, vegetarianism can be a useful way to make a change. Here, you will find the most important things that you must know about this life philosophy, myths and some tips for becoming veggie.

First, you must know that in the veggie world there are a lot of tendencies, but there is a great difference between:

**Vegetarian:** The person who doesn't eat animals, but uses other animal products, like eggs, milk, or leather.

**Vegan:** The person who doesn't eat any animal product, and doesn't use animal products like leather, animal tested medicines, colorings, etc. either.

This is a beginner veggie guide, without any distinction.

## Myth 1:

Being veggie consists of eating only salads and you can't choose anymore.

**False!** A veggie can eat everything he wants except, of course, animal products. It's boring when you just eat salads and stuff like that every day, and that's the first thing that you should have in mind if you want to become a veggie; we don't just eat salads! Of course, you need to have a balanced diet, and replacing meat protein is very important, but easier than you imagine; beans, chick-peas, lentils, almonds, artichokes, and a lot of soy products in the form of meat, like burgers, sausages and ham can be a delicious experience.

## Myth 2:

Becoming veggie reduces my energy and my study performance.

**False!** That depends more on your habits at university or work, and the times that you eat during the day. A healthy diet (for a veggie or meat eater) consists of eating 5 times a day with the principal food groups (proteins, carbohydrates, mineral sources etc.).



Nowadays, you can find replacements for everything that you can imagine like eggs or milk, and a lot of products with all the things that you need for a healthy diet.

One of the most important problems for a veggie at the Externado is the lack of restaurants in the area, but in La Candelaria you can find Mexican, Arab, and Italian restaurants, which provide a large selection of meat-free dishes. However, if you are not convinced about these restaurants, you can visit [www.happycow.net](http://www.happycow.net) where you can find the largest selection of veggie restaurants around the world, and of course here in Bogotá, you can find one in your neighborhood.

And about your studies... Did you know that Einstein, Da Vinci, Socrates, Darwin, Tesla and a large group of scientists, philosophers and important personalities were vegetarian?

Of course you have the Internet, and there are many good pages about vegetarianism, like [www.mundovegetariano.com](http://www.mundovegetariano.com). You can also ask in any veggie restaurant, here in Bogotá. These restaurants have the most personal service that I have ever seen; almost all these places are very friendly, and their owners are really good people, so again, just talk and make your experience fun.

And a last tip; do everything from your heart. This is the basis of great things, as 50% of being vegetarian is doing things from your heart, that allows you to grow as a person, and this is the best part of being veggie; you become aware of every action in your life, and realize that they have repercussions in the world, you become more human, and that allows you to see the other people, animals and yourself, with new eyes. I hope that this little guide will become very useful for you, so Go Veggie!





# Cosplay

By Karen Linares  
(undergraduate Business Administration student)

Dressing up as an anime character is what we call cosplaying. You can't just cosplay any time you want, because people would think you were crazy. There's a time and a place for everything, and for cosplaying: in the US, it's usually done during an anime convention, while in Japan, there are pockets of people that do this regularly in various cities or special cosplay cafés.

As you have probably noticed, anime characters are usually clothed with very weird outfits. They sometimes wear clothes that are virtually impossible to make in real life; after all, they can afford this since they're simply ink on paper. This poses a primary challenge for all cosplayers; however, even the most complex of costumes can be duplicated by the means of some cardboard and some fabrics. Some cosplayers are so good that they've even managed to dress up as a realistic robot from "Transformers" and are able to transform from a robot into a car. That must have taken a lot of time, effort and brains.

Some of the more popular subjects for cosplay are the Naruto as well as the Naruto Shippuden characters. In every cosplay convention, there are always people dressing up as the Naruto characters, even the minor ones. There's an especially large number of Akatsuki cosplayers, because those black cloaks with red clouds are incredibly easy to make and to wear.

During cosplays, those who are able to emulate a character as accurately as possible are usually lauded with awards and praise. There are several people who go to cosplays just to have their picture taken with other cosplayers. That's the world of cosplaying.

# VOLLEYBALL, A sport to take up

Ángela Prieto Aljure (undergraduate Finance student)



Volleyball is a sport which began in the United States and is played by a lot of people around the world. Some people think that volleyball is a complicated sport and the people who play it have so much ability and coordination, but this isn't true at all because this ability is obtained over time and training. If you want to learn and become a good player, you have to be disciplined and love what you are doing because without this you will never be the player that you really want to be in anything.

There are a lot of places to play this sport; one of them is the league of each department in Colombia. To get in here is complicated sometimes, but it is not impossible to achieve. Another place to play is in the university team.

The Externado University has a volleyball team that is open for you and all of the students who want to get in here and be part of this. The team has a lot of good things like its players, its coach and in general the good environment in the training. This team is already participating in several competitions and has some competitions outside Bogotá that mean the athletes have a good personal and recreational experience.

Everyone can play this; the only thing that you need is dedication and the desire to do it, so if you want to be part of this team, don't think too much and go ahead!



Are you interested in being a broadcasting star on the Externado's forthcoming English language radio station?

**If you are, we'd like to hear from you!**

[figri.idiomas@uexternado.edu.co](mailto:figri.idiomas@uexternado.edu.co)

# THE UIGHURS: A HOPELESS CAUSE?

By: Natalia Duarte Cáceres  
(undergraduate Finance student)

A teenager living in the United States, Kekenus, tries to explain what an Uighur is and how they have been deprived of the freedom to practice their customs and their own traditions. Kekenus, who is herself an original member of the Uighur nation, conveys the reader the extreme difficulties these people have to bear in their daily life. The struggle of these individuals for the respect of their rights is almost unknown around the world due to the Chinese propaganda and the implementation of repressive measures.

To begin, it is impressive to see how a complete culture is being disrespected by an important government – the Chinese government- and, nonetheless, it could be said that the majority of people have no idea of this. In fact, it is bizarre or uncommon to find an individual that can describe precisely who Uighurs are, where they come from, what their struggle is about, etc. Kekenus explains that the reason of this unawareness is the consequence of the strong media regulation the Chinese government has established. In fact, they are clearly not interested in letting the world know what is exactly happening amid their territory in order to avoid accusations. Thus, while the Uighurs' culture is being destroyed, their cause is almost unknown around the globe.

Furthermore, it is shocking to see how important the media is for the recognition of and, therefore, the possible solution to a conflict such as the Uighur one. In other words, it is relevant to understand the big role of the media in the identification and awareness of an issue in a certain territory. That is, if you do not exist for the media, you do not exist for the world. Nevertheless, the Uighurs keep fighting for their rights and they are still trying to acquire support from other people around the world. That is exactly what Kekenus exemplifies in her interview in PBS: the idealism and hope to obtain freedom to practice harmless customs.

To conclude, Kekenus and her family are one of a big number of victims that the conflict between the Uighurs and the Han Chinese has created. Even though their cause has not been forgotten but is unrecognized around the world, there are still people fighting and

hoping to obtain a change in their reality. The big concern is that they keep on struggling by themselves, but, who has helped them? It is worrying to see that there is a whole nation – the Uighur nation - without a respected territory; there is, in fact, a complete culture being destroyed. And what has the world done about it? Nothing, we have been absolutely oblivious of it.

This essay is a response to an interview on [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org). You can read about Kekenus' full story by going: [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/speakout/world/july-dec09/kekenus\\_07-17.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/speakout/world/july-dec09/kekenus_07-17.html)

## AMERICAN ENGLISH versus BRITISH ENGLISH

### If you can see my pants, will I be embarrassed?



US      ESP  
Pants / Pantalones



UK      ESP  
Pants / Calzoncillos

### If I walk on the pavement, will I get run-over?



US      ESP  
Pavement / Pavimento



UK      ESP  
Pavement / Anden

### If I eat chips, will I burn my tongue?



US      ESP  
Chips / Paquete de papas



UK      ESP  
Chips / Papas a la francesa

# How much do you know about your country?

By Luis Alberto Caroprese  
(undergraduate Finance student)

Programs by the Colombian Department of Education and some national schools try to educate Colombians about some of the geography, history and general culture facts of the country, but many times Colombians are not interested in knowing about their past or region. Are you one of them?

1. How many departments does Colombia have?
  - a) 27
  - b) 32
  - c) 30
2. What is the capital of Putumayo?
  - a) Mocoa
  - b) Cúcuta
  - c) Guapi
3. What are Colombia's main rivers?
  - a) The Nile and the Amazon
  - b) The Magdalena and the Cauca
  - c) The Bogotá and the Thames
4. What is the date of the battle of Boyacá?
  - a) 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1810
  - b) 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1814
  - c) 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1819
5. Who was the first president of Colombia?
  - a) Simón Bolívar
  - b) Alvaro Uribe Velez
  - c) Francisco de Paula Santander



The answers to this quiz, along with much, much more, are available on the FIGRI English Area website: [www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink](http://www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink)

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

Go to [www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink](http://www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink) and have a look around!