



NOSTRADAMUS TRUE OF FALSE?

By: Laura Rodríguez Ojeda (undergraduate FIGRI student)

Since society began, people have searched for the best way to guess the future and prepare for these events. For this reason, when people think that the end of the world is near they find prophecies and make decisions based on these. One example is Nostradamus' prophecies.

Nostradamus was born in France in 1503 and died in 1566. He was a very important doctor, astrologer, philosopher, perfumer and mathematician; some people thought that this was inherited from his grandparents. Four of his prophecies were published in 1555, the other six in 1558, describing social events in the world until 3797 with the end of the world. These books had been written many years before but hadn't been published out of fear, but the success was immediate. He predicted his own death and this gave him more fame than his other prophecies.

These books are a collection of 10 volumes, each one with 100 quatrains. These are very mysterious because they weren't written in chronological order and the language used is confusing and ambiguous. They have been criticized by some people because they think that they are interpreted depending on the necessities of the world and a way to find new answers for the future. Also, some people said that a pupil of Nostradamus changed some prophecies with the objective of giving them more credibility. Actually, this is one of the reasons that scientists doubt them.

Nostradamus was right about different kinds of events that have marked history. Standing out amongst these incidents are the existence of Adolf Hitler and the damage he did to Jewish society with the second war, and the fall of the World Trade Center twin towers on September 11 of 2001 – a journalist found in one of Nostradamus' books the text and a picture of a tower in fire.

In conclusion, people believed in Nostradamus' prophecies initially but throughout time there have been other people that have had these talents, and sometimes they become opportunistic people who we can't trust.

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

Once again, it's a pleasure to present you with the new version of **Ink**. This issue has an even greater range of topics than ever before, from culture to politics and everywhere in between; there's even a recipe for you to try out and a selection of photos for you to enjoy! As always, contributions for the next **Ink** are welcome.

Enjoy!
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The idea of Ink is to display pieces of writing, in English, by members of the Externado community. As the idea is to maintain authors' originality as far as possible, you may find some minor mistakes in the articles.

I Would Like...

By Edna Cante
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

everything to be perfect
to discover why, when I finally find a shoe, the other has disappeared
to be closer to El Alcazar
to help more people in Haiti
The Simpsons to have their own channel
to turn back the clock
to not wake up when I'm in the best part of a dream
the government to not spend a lot of money on unnecessary things and more on education
to travel around the world
to be educated, beautiful and rich
to go out more with my friends
to have another plan
nobody to be hungry one day
to stop joining all facebook groups
to think that people talking behind my back is a sign that I'm ahead
to laugh a lot without worrying that the next day I'll be sad (it always happens to me)
people not to change like the climate changes in Bogota

Coldplay Live: An Incredible experiencia

By: Melissa Jaimes Trujillo
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

The expectations of the audience were completed by the incredible performance of the band. Despite the long wait, the endless queues and the insatiable thirst, the idea of being in front of the best concert ever seen in Colombia gave me enough strength to face it.

The tension of getting a good place increased more and more, the normal anxiety ahead of such a special event. When the previous band before Coldplay performed, our excitement was increasing at outstanding levels, because we knew that soon we would be watching that group, the same that we had paid a lot of money to see and the same that we had been waiting for such a long time. Well! The waiting was reaching its end.

Bat for Lashes was the group that opened the concerts of Coldplay's "Viva la Vida" tour around the world. Although that show was very different from the other one, it was a good start for the waiting people.

And then the moment had arrived!!! And Coldplay, especially Chris Martin, was on the stage!! I couldn't believe it; it was like a dream when I was jumping, listening and singing songs like "Clocks", "Yellow", "In my place", "Viva la Vida", among others, and that place and I will never forget that night in Colombia because it was like no other.



Corsets, A Changing Symbol

By: M^a Fernanda Acevedo
(undergraduate Economics student)

Think for one minute that you are a 16th century French woman and you are also a lady of the court. It doesn't matter if you don't like it, but you have to use something that makes it difficult to breathe, makes you swoon and is probably going to kill you before you are 30 years old. All to have your waist with a size no bigger than thirteen inches around (33.2 cms).

Maybe "dead body" is the best definition for this garment, the corset. Women's sense of using it has changed as the time has passed but maybe we're still fashion slaves.

The Symbol

It hasn't always been the symbol of oppression; quite the opposite, it used to be the way to cry out who you were. Roman women wore it like a form of superiority over slaves to show their high status. In the 16th century it was a symbol of position, rank and wealth, and in the 1600s detailed corsets were just used by rich people (including girls and boys).

For that reason, it ceased to be used during the French revolution because of its meaning and association with the aristocracy: if you wore one, you ran the risk of being murdered. Napoleon said that corsets were "the murderer of the human race", and that's the reason why corsets almost disappeared in 1790.

Nowadays, corsets are the best symbol of another culture: gothic metal. It uses Victorian lingerie or the sobriety of the latex of the 30s.

Here's the dichotomy between luxury and sacrifice, and now our perception of comfort and seduction. The corset has changed as before it was an exclusive garment, and now it is exotic and erotic.

Changing Within Fashion

Regardless of how time is changing, basic corset design has survived but it hasn't happened too with girls' curves. Throughout the years, girls have only been fashion dolls and their bodies have been changed at the whim of men.

Revealed

In the early 20th century women's emancipation started. Thanks to androgynous fashion and designers like Poiret and Chanel, women were released. Indeed, Poiret thought it was ridiculous that a woman had a prominent bust and a curved rear.

Maybe wearing corsets today is like masochism, it's the capacity to see the pleasure among the pain and the cost for a beautiful figure. Corsets are only one way to oppression; maybe we are bound with fashion's ropes, and we are slaves on earth. It's in our hands: we can decide if we want to still be submissive within our suffering.

Brazil: "Latin American Leader"

By Ángela María Lozano Gamboa
(undergraduate Figri student)

Nowadays, Brazil is considered as an emerging power. Lula has worked a lot to get this position for Brazil in the world with positive consequences: economic growth and influence in Latin America. For this reason, it's important to know how Brazil has gained recognition in a short time and become an important business centre in the world.

Since Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva became Brazil's president in 2003, this country has experienced big changes because it has implemented different kinds of programs, like social programs, scholarships and education, poverty reduction and others. With these kinds of programs, Lula has achieved economic growth –commodities- and improved the quality of life for Brazilian people. During his term, Lula has occupied a fundamental role in the world; for this reason, he's considered by El País (Spain) and Le Monde as the "Personality of the Year 2009". This is recognition for his excellent work.

Brazil is a country with regional leadership, as is evident in Mercosur. Mercosur is led by Brazil with the objective of having an important role in the world like the European Union, and was created to assist economic and political aspects between countries of this continent. One example is that recently Brazil increased tariffs on some products (gum and fruits, amongst others) because the United States hadn't removed cotton subsidies – this action was accepted by the World Trade Organisation.

In conclusion, Brazil has had big changes in economic and social aspects in recent years. However, this country as an emerging power needs reforms in its infrastructure (transport, for example), education, taxes and social differences, which are indispensable for its long-term development.

CHALLENGING PERSPECTIVES

We are very proud to be able to feature a selection of photographs taken by Externado students. These images were captured during 2009, in the Basic Photography Workshop which is an obligatory part of the Social Communication / Journalism curriculum, presided over by Margarita Mejia. The final presentation of photos marked the end of an involved process and a rewarding culmination for students who had never taken photos before.



(Text and photo by Javier Hidalgo)

Walks of Life

The body can show an incredible beauty, without being shown in full display. The lines in our bodies allow us to be as we really are. And with the inclement time becomes more marked and we may be participants of facts that are important in our lives. With artistic figures, we can see how the roads of our bodies lead us to the destination town.

Two completely different worlds - fashion and the countryside - combine to create a narrow path that allows us to admire the beauty of nature with a touch of innovation and fantasy. The idea is to try to make us aware of the elements which surround us each day.



(Text and photo by Juliana Blanco)



(Text and photo by Guillermo Murillo)

Corabastos is the largest marketplace in the country and one of the largest in Latin America, where tonnes of foods and many millions of pesos circulate every day amongst the humble working people. The day starts various hours before the sun rises and ends at midday; the morning is quite cold and full of the aromas of fresh vegetables and the countryside. Those who lift and unload the trucks and buy and sell move vigorously and quickly, working hard in the great stores and streets of the marketplace and breathing the joy of simplicity.

Urban Perspective

Turning my head up and admiring a tall building in front of me represents an indescribable feeling. Unfortunately, a large majority of people see a huge amount of steel and glass full of working and busy people. However, a small group, including me, sees the creativity of the person who designed that fantastic structure, and the daily effort of a group of people raising that heavy and majestic creation and how it makes the city look prettier. I invite you to enjoy admiring the details in the great variety of architecture that your city offers you.



(Text and photo by Juan Acuña)



(Text and photo by Daniela Lindarte and Nicolas Valentino Umaña)

In the valley of death

There will never be a feeling of solitude – you can tell it in the atmosphere. That shadow which follows you won't leave you in peace; it is a past, a memory, a history that will always live in our interior; a profound dream from which you cannot escape. This ending is nothing more than a new story for both of you.

If you'd like to see more of these photos, go to the English Area website:

www.uexternado.edu.co/englishlink

where you'll be able to find a range of photos from the workshop, as well as many other things that may interest you!



(photo by Manuel Castro)

Catalunya vs. Bullfighting

By Camilo Pabón Almanza (undergraduate Law student)

Talking about the importance of tauromachy as a traditional spectacle and animal rights

How far can we take cultural feasts and traditional spectacles into the 21st century? That is the real question here. Far beyond the political speeches of tolerance and respect for other cultures, one must always have a limit point between cultural rejoicing and sadism.

In Portugal, this topic has been somewhat resolved by excluding the implied sadism of joyfully watching others dying. In fact, after the whole bullfighting spectacle is over, the bull is sent to the cowshed to die alone, not in public. Well, this is a beginning.

In Catalunya, the people have presented various kinds of demands to the authorities to stop this anachronistic event on several occasions. Even through “popular legislative proposals” (ILP) filed in the Parliament, have people intended to modify the Animal Protection Law. The prohibition of these types of feasts has various consequences: not only is the “conservation of cultural and traditional events” implied, but also all the economic interests within this activity. For example, Spain’s national government (and some Autonomous Communities governments – but not Catalunya) has specific public funds destined for these events. The breeders receive a lot of money from the bulls they provide. A whole career (bullfighting) and its income are intrinsically involved with the spectacle itself. So, *is it really only the interest to preserve this “millenary tradition” that’s in dispute?*

Nevertheless, if we ought to talk about the culture, we must remember that indeed, Rome once had a tradition maintained throughout various centuries, of recreating battle scenes, killing slaves, foreigners and Christians. It was a public spectacle, that would horrify the whole world today, but at that time most of the people saw that as normal. Is the majority’s acceptance, or at least tolerance, enough to back up these “traditional” events?

Well, the answer is NO. Despite the economic interests involved, people must think that there must be a *minimum* of respect for animals, and that the fact that a “tradition” says it’s within the boundaries of what is ‘normal’, doesn’t mean that humanity’s contemporary conscience is okay with that. Otherwise, why not begin to recreate each nation’s battles as the Romans did? Let’s call that a “tradition” and support the mistreatment of human beings. As ridiculous as it may sound, it’s not far from the point in debate right now. Recalling all these details one must consider if it’s okay to back up torture and public sadism (to anyone) in the XXI century.

THE UNTIED STATES OF LATIN AMERICA (Los Estados Desunidos de Latinoamérica)

By Eduardo Llaña Sánchez
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

Book review. Author: Andres Oppenheimer. Argentinean. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Ortega Gasset prize, and for this publication has won the Algaba prize.

How difficult is it to fix the relations between the American nations? This is the main question which readers need to ask themselves before they start reading this book, because in this collection of different articles the important idea is to create awareness about the critical situation that this continuous political war represents for the future of the continent.

The book is divided in four sections, and each one has some of the articles that the author wrote in the past four years, so the first section has articles published in 2006, and so on ending in the year of 2009. The topics which are analyzed are diverse, but the most common are about conflicts, changes, political influence and economic powers in this region. Also, the book describes the importance represented by the huge differences of ideologies which are seen and experienced in all the countries, for example Colombia and Venezuela during the last 3 years.

Particularly the topic about the different situations that have existed in the last few years between Colombia and Venezuela, with the respective analysis, is one of the multiple situations and changes to which the writer refers. He writes about the presidential phenomenon in these two nations, and how this constant dispute to gain popularity has become one of the biggest problems in the process to create a united continent.

This book has the intention of making readers think about the current situation in the continent, added to the purpose of the author to defend and protect democracy and its institutions. Hopefully readers will think about the way and course which politics and economics in Latin America are going to take in the near future.



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!

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How I Became a ...

By Lisbeth Andrea Oviedo Prada
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

She had been running for almost an hour and she had already started to sweat through her black t-shirt. Even though she was a great runner, she was losing her breath, she wanted to lie down and close her eyes as if she was dead. Suddenly that noise which she had been avoiding turned clearer and louder, and she heard a yell behind her. She heard her name, she heard: "You can't run forever Marie, I'm coming for you."

Marie remembered the day she had met him; she caught herself thinking about how much she had liked that air of mystery he had around him all the time. If only she could go back, if only... Now that she remembers, he was always pale and she had only seen him during the night. "Oh, how naive, how stupid," Marie thought. She kept running, going nowhere and the voice was louder and louder: "I am coming, I am coming, my baby, and you'll be mine, only mine."

When she thought she was lost, an idea crossed through her mind: "what if I don't give up, what if I finish with him, what if I do it for them, for my friends?" A tear slipped down her cheek, she remembered that her friends were not her friends anymore, because right now she did not have any friends. Why Laura and Frankie? They were just innocents, they were just there, like me.

She thought about that church; she had not been there since she was a girl and right now her life depended on it: how ironic life is. She ran into the church with mixed feelings: despair, anger and fury. It was her last chance, because right now her life was hanging from a thread. Then she saw the holy water and she took it with both hands and she prayed for the first time. "Marie, my love, I am coming, I am coming," was getting to the church and she was there, all by herself.

- There you are, my naughty girl. Did you think you could run away from me?
- You bastard, I trusted you. I loved you.
- Oh baby, I love you too. Why do you think I am doing this? It's not only for me, I am doing it for us both. When you drink immortality and the glory of being a god, you'll thank me.
- I loathe you! You turned my friends into nothing, and I will finish with you.
- Hahahaha! What are you going to do? Spill that weak liquid? Oh darling, I thought I had told you not to believe everything people say.

Without speaking a word, she did it: she threw the holy water onto his body with all her strength and she waited. She waited. She waited. But nothing happened.

- I told you baby, nothing can harm me. I am a god and you'll be one in a second.
- But I thought...
- What did you think? I know, you thought I was going to die. I am sorry baby, but it's your turn.

Marie saw how he came to her, and even though she decided to run, she could not move from that place. Call it fear or despair, but Marie was petrified because of the horror. Suddenly, he grabbed her with his cold hands, and sunk his head into her neck. Then as if nothing had happened, she looked at her neck and there were two red holes. She understood, and thought to herself, "hey, I am a vampire!"

The Power of Poetry

By Pavla Fuertes
(undergraduate Social Communication student)

Poetry is more than a form of literary art; it is the voice of our souls. It lets us create a parallel world, transform reality and allow us to perceive life in another way. The delicious and descriptive vocabulary allows the people who read it to feel and see the magical atmosphere that words contain, a magnificent landscape that becomes engraved in the memory while we are reading and that will be there forever.

The experience of reading poetry opens your mind to other places; places where you can dream and places that you don't want to leave.

"Un Libro Por Centavos" is an initiative from the Externado University in order to spread freely the poetry that is turned down by editors because it is considered inappropriate in order to make money. Every month, a new edition is printed in a great paperback that you can find totally free in the Cultural Extension located at 13th street, no. 1-15.

I hope you enjoy the new things that you are soon to discover.



Illustration by Pavla Fuertes

Recipe!

By María Isabel Durán A.
(undergraduate FIGRI student)

A delicious dessert with milo: who does not want to eat this dessert in the cafeteria at the university? Or prepare it on a special occasion?

Here I will tell you all the steps so that everybody can enjoy this dessert, and everybody can make it for their family, boyfriend or girlfriend, and have a big surprise on all special occasions.

A lot of people make milo with milk to drink with breakfast, and this is a delicious way to have it, but no one imagines that milo can make a dessert so out of this world. I need to warn everybody that if you try this dessert for the first time, you will be addicted!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of condensed milk
- 2 cups of cream
- 1 cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons of cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons of milo
- 1 packet of milo nuggets
- 1 packet of ducal biscuits

STEPS :



1. Mix the milk and cornstarch into a pot over a low heat, without letting lumps form.
2. Meanwhile, mix the condensed milk and cream in a bowl.
3. When the lumps have gone from the milk and cornstarch mixture, add the mixture from step 2.
4. This mixture is now beaten until thick and without lumps over a low heat.
5. Choose a container into which you will put the dessert, and put a layer of ducal biscuits on the bottom.
6. Add a tablespoon of milo to the mixture you have prepared.
7. Now pour the mixture over the biscuits.
8. Before you add the last of the mixture, add two tablespoons of milo to it, and then pour it into the container.
9. Now wait for it to cool a little, and then put it into the refrigerator for 1 hour.
10. After an hour, you have a delicious dessert to serve at the table and enjoy!

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!