

The graduating class is after prom. Here are some facts about this event in the USA and somewhere else:

- Proms were first introduced into high schools in the late 1890s to early 1900s and were modeled after galas and debutante balls
- The term "prom" comes from the word "promenade"
- A typical parent logs 400 miles in the car and spends six weeks gathering the dresses, tuxedos, fancy updos, nails, stretch limousines, professional photographers, and after-prom activities necessary for the occasion. for the occasion.
- There are over 20 prom-themed movies
- You have a prom in North Korea
- As well as you cannot leave North Korea

WORD OF THE MONTH

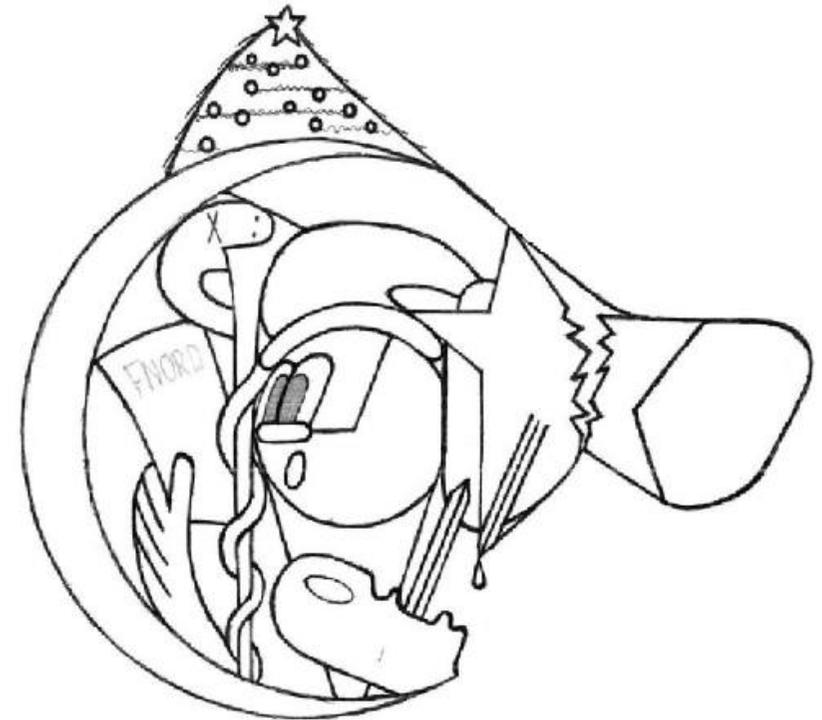
Jaroslav Macnar

Gray— a color or a perverted guy. Also a method of introducing some inane BDSM porn to the movie theaters. Without an appropriate reason loved by females in the age group of 13-16 and 40-50.

BOARDER



A letter to all of the letters / eWord / Heels can kill!



Welcome

To the Brand New year. It is actually quite like the previous one, but it has five instead of four at the end. And yeah, we know we are late. It is mostly up to me so flagellate me if you want (I just beg you not to do it in “50 Shades of Gray” way)

We also have some brand new authors. One actually. Karolina joined us and provided first part of her story on the page 7. Brace yourself as none of us in the team has the slightest idea how many episodes it may get. Still, check whether it is worth following.

We have some thoughts on social media by Gabriela Hartleb. You may find them on page 4. After you find them, do us a favor and read them. Carefully, if you mind. Because then you will see a quote by Lech Walesa, which is quite unlike his other sentences - it does not have any grammar error, as well as it says something important. Unexpected, isn't it?

When you are ill, to cure you have to options—call your local shaman or go to a doctor. In Poland, more commonsensical will definitely be finding a good healer. Why is it so? Mikołaj Rejterowski tells you why on page 2. Precisely discussed.

Then, some impressions by Mateusz Drozd on letters. Like literally, impressions. It may inspire you to do something similar to what he had done.

Do not miss Natalia's grumblings about wearing high heels. I do not feel like the person to say anything more on wearing heels so once again: don't miss. Page 8.

We are partially journalists, therefore the case of *Charlie Hebdo* could not be left without a phrase. I leave some phrases on page 5. I hope I will still be alive the whole 2015 after publication. If I would not, please do not post any hashtags.

I wish you at least decent 2015,

Jarosław Macnar, Editor-in-Chief

Surely it is, but this is what makes it worth doing.

Gratification. I felt it after sending my first, the real, handwritten letter. It was around May, so not so far ago. 4 full pages of text. It seems a lot but, once you start it, it's hard to stop. For response I had to wait 3 or 4 months but then after She (yes, I didn't send it to myself) sent back her own piece. She felt it, and it clicked.

This small thing, for 6 pln every 2 weeks, leveled up our friendship. We see each other few times a year. And this tangible proof of her existence makes me feel like she's here. However it wouldn't be us if we hadn't gone a bit further. Apart from the text, we like to add soul to this writings. So we do... I think I don't mind leftovers of brownie... Or she didn't mind paperclip taped to center of page, or upside-down text or chewing gum... As well as I'm not mad at receiving leafs. But Dude, we have leafs in Poland, but still, thanks.

Today I dispatched a new one, with our first edition of *Border* and few other attached things.

When Christmas is just around a corner. This is a time when millions of postcards are being send. But, to me, they are peaky. I'd prefer every small part of letter to every postcard. Especially with holiday wishes.

Keep it in mind and don't forget about letters. With every action comes reaction. And it is just matter of few hours to start a loop of joy and to rise the quality of contact with your friend.

This is an open letter to all of the letters.

*'I've been wandering round
But I still come back to you
In rain or shine'*

Queen, from "You're my best friend"

Mateusz Drozd ■

It goes without saying, heels are ultra-uncomfortable and affect on ours health. Blah, blah. It can kill you expectations. A lot of girls wear at least 10cm heels with conviction of above statements. And then meet the letdown. Why? Your skills failed! I can compare it with C30PO walk. Just like T Rex ;__; It's hilarious to see this concentration on your faces when you try make another step. I just can't wait the prom girl, their shaky ankles doing Latina moves. BUT I don't care that you make me laugh or heels "go with your outfit!" I don't care! If you shuffle and whine on painful feet! With this you kill your cute, fabulous outfit you've dreamed about. You better go home and have a cuppa.

So take you heels and practice for month (just in case) before you go out in it. Be PHAT, not a baby horse!

PS. Please take another pair of flat shoes on prom! Nobody wants to see your sweaty bare feet

FIN.

Letter.

No, not an email.

Letter.

Have you ever received one? Or, have you ever written one? And I'm not talking about those you did during the Matura preparation. The real ones, with envelope and post stamps. Where, when you make a mistake you have to erase or cross out the word, not simply backspace it. You're probably going to say that there is so much effort and time to put to in to send a letter.



Sick Healthcare

| *Mikołaj Rejterowski*

For a few days there has been a harsh conflict between medical doctors and the government here in Poland. Doctors have their demands, the government don't want to consent; patients are suffering because of all this farce. People in media debate which side is right. I'd say neither. Stefan Kisielewski once said: "Socialism is a system, where people heroically overcome problems not known in any other system". I find this quotation exceptionally applicable in this dispute. This problem arises from the fact that we have "free" healthcare system, which cannot be efficient.

Many people claim everybody has a right to healthcare; it's simply not true. Healthcare is a good, not a right. A right is something that derives from our humanity, like right to life, right to think and say what we wish, right to defend ourselves – these are natural and in-born. Goods, on the contrary, are things we want. We have the right to seek healthcare for ourselves, but we don't have a right to receive healthcare from others. The fundamental human right is freedom. When people are forced to cover healthcare for other people (through taxation), they are divested of freedom. The money is violently stolen from them. You may say it's charity, but charity comes from one's heart and in this situation no one asks these people if they want to be charitable; their money is just taken away from them. Healthcare is a good, not a right; like clothing, food, shelter etc.

It may seem brutal and without compassion to many people, because majority of us have lived in this system since their birth. But let's face it – who is satisfied with the current healthcare system in Poland? It's bankrupt. Patients have to wait horrible amount of time for medical services and are often treated very badly. Waiting periods can be as long as a year for such urgent instances as a heart valve replancement or hip replacement. During these periods the patient's condition often declines. If you think you have a sick ear you have to go to a family doctor and ask for a referral to a specialist. It takes time of course and you cannot be sure you get it, as it is in family doctor's business not to give you referral. Many of us are sick and tired of public healthcare and choose private one despite paying high taxes for the former. Let's take the services of destists. For public treatment one has to wait very long time and receives bad service so most people turn to private dental treatment. Another flaw of socialised healthcare system is that people in charge of placing the money are not always thoughtful. They are spending not their money not on themselves, which is the least effective way of spending money.



Common objection to the free-market healthcare system is a claim that healthcare is an emergency. Leaving aside the fact that it's not always an emergency, I say that eating, drinking or shelter are also emergencies. A healthy economy doesn't collect money to later ration out the food; so why do we do it with healthcare?

Without government healthcare, there would emerge private insurance programmes – cheaper and of better quality. Consumers on the free market seek the best service for the best price. This simple fact carries big benefits. Bad doctors would go out of business, too expensive doctors would be forced (by the market) to lower the prices for their services. Free-market competition would either bring a better service for the same price or the same service for the lower price. If someone wouldn't want to get a healthcare insurance it would be risky, but he or she would have more money available for possible treatment and it would be his or her choice; most likely they would care for their health more. The possibility to make independent choices is a right of a free man. Someone may argue with that, claiming that if a non-insured person came to a hospital, they would treat him or her anyway; but let's consider the fact that shops don't let poor people steal products just because they are poor. Maybe an individual is careful with his health and loses money paying healthcare fees, that could be spent in other way or saved for their children. Another objection: what about poor people? How are they supposed to pay for healthcare? I wrote about insurance programmes. Citizens would also have more money, because the government would no longer take it from them to provide healthcare. Another very likely result is that people would become more charitable and help the less fortunate. Why? Because in current situation people don't feel obliged to help others in big extent, because they think it's government's duty. People should be given a chance to truly open their hearts, not be compelled to do so. People are good if you let them be good. Someone may say charity divests the given ones of their dignity. I think that it's better for human's dignity to receive help from other people's good heart than from people that were robbed by the government's taxation.

The current healthcare system is simply inefficient and very costly. Something certainly should be done with it. My solution is free-market. Unfortunately, the socialised system has been there for such long time that the transitional system would have to be introduced; after all, people have been paying their premiums for years. But anyway, the sooner we cut this cancer off, the better. ■

We landed near the Baltic Sea in Gdańsk. Me and my colleagues were fortunately able to spend ordinary Christmas Eve in normal conditions with our workers in luxurious restaurant. I could eat a lot of carp I have been dreaming of for last 2 weeks. Who would have thought that job on spaceship can be so unpredictable? Maybe someone could. From this time I started to like Christmas and respect the laws of gravity and appreciated living on the Earth.

Our idea seemed to be necessary and relaxing. After maybe 40 minutes we heard an alarm. We nervously ran into machinery and looked ahead. Huge meteorite was coming towards us. We needed to hurry, so I steered the spaceship and luckily managed to turn left, however the meteorite made a huge hole. Pierre succeeded in contacting with the director, that's why we were evacuated to the Earth after we had almost died in this accident. We turned on our special tubes where we entered and went home.

High Heels Can Kill

|Natalia Szymuś

WE LOVE HEELS! Stilettos, wedges, platforms – all of them are women's obsession. They makes us more confident as a woman. But why? If they're so perfect and loved why "can they kill"?

Women attitude to heels is well-known thing. We can and have hundred pairs of them and it still can be not enough. But let's come back on earth – research shows that every woman should have at least four pairs. Four pairs of fancy YSL or Loubi. I'll never come back on earth HA. Well, why? They are attribute of our catchiness. JUST OOMPH!

A few things are as clear as day. Our legs looks longer, they make us taller and thinner, increase our hips movement, we walk more upright, and much more.

"The biomechanical results are also consistent with the theory that wearing high heels makes women look more attractive by making them more feminine, as the effect of heels was to exaggerate some sex-specific elements of female gait including: greater pelvic rotation, increased vertical motion at the hip, shorter strides and higher number of steps per minute."

Women, conscious or unconscious, wear high heels to increase their attractiveness. EASY! Heels are magnet for males. So what's wrong with this magnificent heels? 

You see, there is Turkey which had twelve women as Ministries of State. On the other hand you have Saudi Arabia, with less than twelve women allowed to drive a car. The United States have never had that many women in their federal government. Who is illiberal here? But Islam do have a problem with those inane dolts. Every act of terror done in the name of religion would make others look at it through the lens of violence. ■

Episode I

| *Karolina Pisarek*

18th day of research mission, International Space Station 'Mercury'

December 24, Christmas Eve, 1999

From Bryan Winston's journal

After more than 2 weeks I got used to falling asleep in weightlessness and it's hard to admit, I fell into some kind of routine. When 8 hours duty of Russian, Natalia Vasilyeva comes and wakes me up to watch over the machinery and contact with the Earth. After my 8 hour duty I wake up a French man, Pierre. He's a smart guy, although he doesn't have military experience, I think he's rather an impulsive person. However, today was going to be different. It is 24th december, Christmas Eve. Although Natalia is an orthodox follower, we decided to organise our own Christmas Eve on the spaceship.

At first, Pierre was decorating (if we could call it like that) our command center in green twigs I took from my home, then we drew dry food from special bags we kept it in. After 'preparing' we thought that we can show to each other our Christmas Carols. Natalia presented me and Pierre special Russian dance which presents jumping around yourself. It was a real challenge in space, however she made it.



eWorld

| *Gabriela Hartleb*

We are all aware, that we live in times where the technology plays a huge role. People don't often realize how much do we depend on cell phones, computers, tablets etc. Few decades before, the biggest attraction for kids was playing outside with friends. The "dilemmas" about playing hide and seek or tag. They've been interacting with the other children and learning how to team work. After they came back from school, only thing they were willing to do was going out with friends. Moms were hardly able to make their kids come back home, and eat a dinner. Computer was not the object of adoration. Times have changed. Era of having the swankiest tackle has begun. Be aware.

As we can notice from the environment, children nowadays, reach for their joysticks, instead of the football. No big surprise. Companies create better and better computer games, which every kid wants to have. Minecraft, Fifa, GTA, CS, Call of duty and many other games which me as a girl have no idea about their existence; It's obvious that everyone would want to have the best of it. When one kid gets some cool toy, he/she wants to share the information with a friend. Then that friend wants to have it too, and so on.

Thankfully, people at my age still mention the kindergarten time as a time of being out "until it gets dark". Although it can happen that, the next generation will only remember the hours spent in home within these four walls.

You may think that I'm just a random person who has some kind of a grudge to the electronic toys. Nothing more contrary. I don't know how about you, but for me, one day with no Wi-Fi can be pretty tough. I'm addicted Guilty. I guess when you have something every day and you use it, you just get used to it.

Not once, I experienced the paranoiac searching for network in restaurants, pubs or shopping malls. There is no internet connection in McDonalds? Okay, let's go to the KFC and check if we find it there. We don't notice it easily, but we depend on our cell phones 24/7. We meet with friends, we spend some time together, and we talk. Simultaneously, holding phone in other hand, checking Instagram or sending Snapchats to others.



One polish politician once said, “Today, a person who cannot attend the computer is called an analphabet” (Lech Walesa)

Technology has developed. It’s amazing how much can we do through the internet now. Amazing that we don’t need out notebook but smartphones are definitely enough. We shop online, we pay bills online, we are acquainted with Facebook, Twitter, MSN and thousands other apps. A large positive is probably possibility of finding everything with a little help of “our uncle”- Google. This lets us get much more materials to work with. In the past, we needed a thick encyclopedias or help from library. Now, we turn on the PC, we search for the keywords and we find all we need and more. We have access to interviews, historical videos, definitions and biographies in brief. When we will be able to control ourselves and being capable of not falling into the addiction, we will be open to many other things that are around us. If you will raise your head above the phone in restaurant, you can meet someone new, if you will go out, you may have some fun with your friends. Online world is great as long as you know when to stop. ■

Nouvelle année est Charlie *|Jaroslaw Macnar*

It was suppsed to be, however it may sound contradictionary, the New Year like every one before –with all better things and humanity quitting smoking, and with all those postanowie- nia we say on New Year’s Eve. It quite qucikly turned out the 2015 is not going to be even close to what we were wishing for.

But New Year seems to be Charlie. Or at least two Charlies.

Firstly, it is Charlie Hebdo. You can write on your Twitter you are Charlie in any language you wish (I bet you wish French) and then go back to being yourself, not Charlie, not knowing a word in French. Not to sermonize since “Border” is not a “Preachers’ Weekly” – if it were, we would tell you – just not be a hypocrite, please. If you do not care, jut do not pretend you give a thing; it’s not that hard, I presume.



This year is also Charlie Sheen. It was really great until some point of his life. It came rather rapidly -7 January, 2014 is not that far from the New Year. But it started earlier, years ago. Year 2001 as Sheen did some serious drugs. WTC was so insanely horrifying, I cannot imag- ine it could be done sober. Year 2003 was like a rehab, where you are given more drugs – the USA decided it is a good time to invade a country in the Middle East. Then we have Madrid train bombs in 2004. Not many remember that in 2004 something seemingly as pivotal as Hebdo shooting occurred. Theo van Gogh (yes, from this Van Gogh family -he was the great-grandson of Theodorus van Gogh, the brother of Vincent) was shot eight times with HS2000 handgun, because He criticized fundamental Islam, especially female genital mutilation and other similar practices. It was not that big echo, at least in Poland. So once allowed, always allowed. Then our Charlie had a short romance with Lindsay Lo- han – in this case it was Arab Spring. Charlie Sheen is actually in a sense better than the year, since he does not have any offspring with Lindsay. Arab Spring gave a birth to a bas- tard called the Islam State.

It is not coincidental that the amendment concerned about freedom of speech is the first one. Not to cite it here – it just states some obvious (for us) rights to exercise religious worship and to speak and publish freely. It is the first one because we lay foundations firstly. Everything after is based on it. As much as you do not like to have any pests in your basement, you do not like anyone to do anything with your fundamental rights.

Some may say the most important value the Whites brought is the brie cheese. Or Michael Jackson. I, however, believe that at the first place: Jackson was white only superficially; at the second: there is something more noteworthy – the freedom. It is arguable the Whites brought it to the masses – yet, it for sure had existed long before European wigs came to the New World. Yet no one can doubt that the colonizers were the first to show it may really work. Actually work pretty well leading to the most powerful country for centuries.

Judging Islam for this entire situation is like judging a hammer. Hammer is very useful, it serves a very important purpose for many people of different backgrounds. Yet, it is just statistically impossible to not have some loony throwing hammers at random people. Obvi- ously, the maniacs do not see their derangement, and even read the hammer’s manual the way it states it is necessary to throw hammers at other people.

