

END OF  
OCTOBER ISSUE

# THE ISB<sup>ERNE</sup> MAG

What do STUDENTS  
do at HOME?

VIRGIL ABLOH and the  
collapse of FASHION

Help the Mar Elias  
refugee camp children  
and make an impact!

*"Thanks for tuning in to the first issue of the ISB magazine. We truly hope you will enjoy it as much as we enjoyed putting it together."*

-The editorial board

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# The Beirut explosion and the never ending Lebanese crisis

By Elie BEUTLER

**O**n August 4th, in the heart of the city, the port of Beirut exploded. The explosion was caused by the detonation of 2,750 tons of aluminum nitrate which had been stored unsafely in the port. 220 people lost their lives, an estimated 300,000 left homeless, and \$10-15 billion in property damage. Though, sadly, after a couple of touching Instagram stories, it seems the world has forgotten about Beirut. However, the explosion was only the tip of the iceberg in Lebanese struggle. The country has been in a never ending fight with their neighbors, and has had heated civil conflicts among different sects and religious groups. In this article, the civil war, years of a ruling corrupt government, Israel, and the Lebanese revolution will be discussed, as it all connects to the Beirut explosion.

To understand the Lebanese civil war, one must go back to the end of the first world war. Lebanon, which was formerly under Ottoman rule, was now under the French mandate, as there was a remarkable Maronite Christian population, which was why France was interested in Lebanon. By 1943, the French created the Lebanese parliament, which seated 6 christian to every 5 muslims. The French also implemented confessionalism, also known as sectarianism. Confessionalism is a system of government, in which political power is distributed among different religious groups. The Lebanese president had to be a Christian Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies a Shia Muslim. This system was bound to cause unrest, as the Muslim population grew, and the political representation became unproportionally in favor of Maronite Christians.

In 1948 to 1967, where many Palestinians fled to Lebanon due to the Israeli occupation, the majority shifted in favor of Muslims. It also resulted in Palestinian militias fighting Israel from Lebanon, which angered the South Lebanese, who were Christians. This led to the Maronite Christians

forming the Kataeb party, also known as the Phalangists, and allying with Israel in order to kick the Palestinians out. Different Muslim militias, such as the Lebanese National Movement, allied with the Palestinians. The civil war thus broke out, resulting in 15 and a half years of conflict, being occupied by both Israel and Syria, and a death toll of 120,000 to 150,000. After the civil war, former militia leaders took on governmental jobs. These were people who committed massacres, and unspeakable crimes. It is to no surprise that they then used their political power to profit themselves and their families through corruption. It also resulted in a generation of war to still have loyalty to their militia leaders who were now ministers, leading to the leaders having unconditional support, no matter what they do.

For about 40 years now, Lebanon has been a battleground for foreign countries and 18 different and opposing sects. Lebanon has been ruled by corrupt mafia-style sects for years. If you were a specific religion, from a specific region, you have to follow this specific sect. This has led to an extremely weak state, allowing leaders to divide the country and profit off of it. However, by October 17, the Lebanese took to the streets to protest.



Protest in downtown Beirut, in front of the Parliament.



# The Beirut explosion and the never ending Lebanese crisis

The beginning of the Revolution in mid- October, was called the 'Thawra'. It was triggered by an increase in tax on gasoline, tobacco, and whatsapp calls. However, that was just the tipping point, and the protests were fueled by years and years of corrupt leadership. Unemployment in 2018 had reached 46%, but prime minister Saad Hariri had the money to pay 16 million dollars to a South African model. The public sector could not provide 24/7 electricity, could not provide water or sanitation, but the ruling class was swimming in money. In downtown Beirut, thousands of people took to the streets to demand the resignation of the regime.

They demanded a secular state, meaning the separation of state and church, in order to have a government that works for everyone and favors nobody. Slogans like "Everyone means everyone, and ----- is one of them"(Denouncing the legitimacy of any of the old political parties, still ruled by former militia leaders), "The people demand the fall of the regime"(A slogan taken from the 2011 Arab uprisings), "Christians and Muslims for a civil state", and many more were heard sung by thousands. After tensions started to rise, prime minister Saad Hariri resigned, yet all the other politicians stayed in power. They protested by closing

streets, with the hope of stopping commerce in the country, so that the ruling class would be forced to listen to the revolution's demands. Schools were closed for weeks, and when they would open, students would organize walk outs, where they protested in front of the ministry of education. The protests were not organized, as it was the first secular protest in Lebanon, where every person from every religion was together. However, other than some resignations, nothing changed, and no demands of the revolution have been met yet.

As members of the international community, it is important that we do not forget these happen-



ings. Our privilege to not be affected by their suffering, due to living in a developed country, should not discourage us from showing solidarity towards their cause. If we only paid attention to it when it was on the front pages, and then forgot about

it the next day, did we ever really care? The IB encourages us to have an international perspective of the world, and to include all people in our thinking. If interested, there are many ways of helping. Whether online activism, or donations, we can use our privilege to better the world, and to better ourselves with it.



# Virgil Abloh and the collapse of fashion

By Axel BRUNETTA

Plagiarism has always been ubiquitous in the fashion industry despite the urge to create new things. Virgil Abloh, while having introduced his now infamous “quoted” style to the fashion industry a few years ago, is currently following this dark path that designers get onto when a lack of inspiration kicks in. Despite successful collabs with Nike, Ikea, and his new status of Creative Director at Louis Vuitton, Abloh’s reputation is plummeting and he is taking the fashion industry with him.



A recent report from renowned Instagram page DietPrada highlighted the blatant plagiarism performed by Mr Abloh. After Virgil’s latest menswear show for Louis Vuitton, people started bringing up how various outfits and accessories had similarities with Walter Van Beirendonck’s A/W 2016 collection. In spite of Abloh’s poor justification claiming he was inspired by a Louis Vuitton collection from 2005, it is obvious that it is not his first time copying another’s work and probably not the last either. But Virgil is not the only one stealing others’ creations. In fact, over the years brands such as Michael Kors or even Chanel have been accused of plagiarism. Furthermore, the fast fashion industry (businesses like H&M, Zara and Forever21) makes it even harder to stand out. These brands take advantage of the weak copyright laws for fashion designs that exist in countries like the United States. But how can such an industry stay afloat when virtually everything that comes out of it is just repro-

cessed ideas and concepts? Why try to stand out when unique ideas get lost in the crowd? The paradox in fashion is that copying is sadly seen as an inevitability and the majority of people even acknowledge the positive aspects of it.



Walter Van Beirendonck’s Autumn Winter 2016 collection (left) and Virgil’s 2021 collection for Louis Vuitton (right)

# How you can make an impact on the lives of the Mar Elias refugee camp children

By Elie BEUTLER



The Mar Elias refugee camp in Lebanon, has suffered immensely in the Covid crisis. Since the end of March, it has been in complete lockdown; nobody is allowed to enter or leave. The Inaash organization, with its origins in the ACS school of Beirut, used to enter the camp every Saturday, helping the children of the camp with their homework, teaching them English, and playing group games with them. Due to Covid, this organization is not allowed to enter the camp anymore, and the conditions in the camp could not be worse. Due to this, they need donations, in order to provide the children with school supplies, masks, hand sanitizer, and life necessities such as food or clothing. Therefore, we would like to organize a raffle to raise some money to donate to the Inaash organization, so that the children get some of the help that they desperately need.

To make this more interactive we've decided to involve some prizes (see next page) and make this a tombola. We will have a small bag with winning and losing pieces of paper and you will be able to pick one small paper for 2 CHF or 3 for 6 CHF. All interested students (or teachers) will be able to come see us (Jack, Malin, Elie or Axel) to participate and hopefully win a prize but we will also try to come to some tables at lunch to see if people want to participate (while respecting COVID regulations and distances). When all the prizes will have been won we will put some more into play so that we can help these children in need as much as we can.





# How you can make an impact on the lives of the Mar Elias refugee camp children



## Prize 1

Button up shirt from one of our writer's clothing brand (see page 8 for more info on the shirt), donated for the tombola

Size M-L

Value: 60 CHF

## Prize 2

25 CHF coupon for the school cafeteria

Value: 25 CHF

**25CHF**



## Prize 3

Brand new Nike T shirt donated by one of our writers.

Size S or L

Value: 30 CHF

# What do students do at home?

By Malin MAKAMU

Interviewee: Nicolo LORENDAN (Grade 11)

*-What exactly do you do at home?*

So at home I practice a lot of instruments and produce songs. I have equipment that helps me record, edit and everything so when I have ideas I try to put them down hoping to make something good.

*-What inspired you?*

I've just always had a passion for music. I listen to all sorts of music: modern, jazz, r&b, rock, but for the most part it's old music (rock and roll, blues, soul, etc). Listening to artists from this genre has made me admire them and I am hopeful that I will one day level up to them.

*-Do you have a role model and if yes why?*

I have so many role models: Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, the blues brothers, Amy Winehouse amongst other good artists.

*-Has covid affected you in any way?*

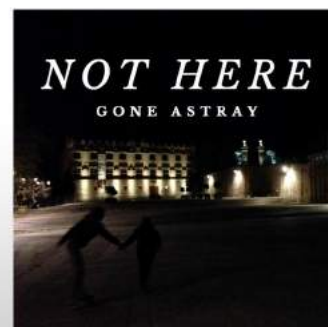
COVID has luckily not affected me, but instead it allowed my sister and I to publish our first song and really allowed me to have some time to myself to just reflect on what I wanted to do. Quarantining was quite tough for everyone, but it gave me a lot of time to be creative. Not just with music but also in my other areas of interest within art.

*-What do you plan to achieve in the near future ?*

In the near future I hope to continue making music that I find very personal and people hopefully enjoy, as it is quite a privilege that some people aren't this lucky to have. In the past there have been so many songs that I never published anywhere because I found them too personal but the latest song that I published with my sister made me realize how so many people that I knew enjoyed it which was definitely a relief.

*-Do you plan on making it a lifetime career?*

My dream job would definitely be making music. Being in the music industry is incredibly challenging, you have to be immensely lucky but at the same time very talented. I believe that even if I decide that my full time job wouldn't be music, I will 100% still have music in my life whether that's simply making music on my own or playing in a band.



To listen to Nicolo's music look up "Gone Astray" on Soundcloud or enter the following link in your browser:  
<https://soundcloud.com/gone-astray-309691128/not-here>



# What do students do at home?

Interviewee: Axel BRUNETTA (Grade 11)

*-What exactly do you do at home?*

I like to create and design all sorts of things. I also own a clothing brand name Van Nella which I've been working on for about 2 years now.

*-What inspired you for your clothing brand?*

I've always been keen on fashion and I would say I'm a pretty creative person so about 2 years ago I thought, why not combine both and make a clothing brand?

*-Do you have a role model and if yes why?*

Virgil Abloh was the first 'artist' I looked up to but I'm not really into what he does nowadays. I'd also say my other role models are Kiko Kostadinov, Heron Preston and maybe Daniel Arsham too.

*-Has covid affected you in any way?*

COVID has indeed greatly affected me and my brand. I had to take a 3 months-long break from making clothes as shipping costs went up a lot and it made getting clothes from foreign and even local manufacturers really difficult.

*-What has been your biggest achievement?*

I would say my biggest achievement is my latest clothing collection (see photo) as it took me more than 2 months to get everything right. I even made a paper mache mask that I designed myself for the editorial that represents this capsule. This capsule consists of a bowling shirt and a button-up shirt that both feature an abstract pattern that I made from photos I took over the years.

*-What do you plan to achieve in the near future ?*

I would like to be able to share my ideas and my creations with people.

*-Do you plan on making it a lifetime career?*

Probably not, while I love the clothes I design, my background in marketing is close to non-existent which makes it quite hard for me to run such a company.

*-Does our brand have a website or socials?*

Yes! My brand's Instagram is @maisonvannella and my website is 'vannella.org'.



# Recipe: Chocolate fondants

By Malin MAKAMU

Preparation and cooking time:

Prep: 15 mins

Cook: 20mins

Bake an impressive dessert for up to 6 people with minimum fuss. These chocolate fondants, also known as chocolate molten cake or lava cake have a lovely gooey centre that will make your heart melt.

Ingredients:

100g butter, plus extra to grease

100g dark chocolate, chopped

150g light brown soft sugar

3 large eggs

½ tsp vanilla extract

50g plain flour

single cream, to serve

Method:

## STEP 1

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Butter 6 dariole molds or basins well and place on a baking tray.

## STEP 2

Put 100g butter and 100g chopped dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl and set over a pan of hot water (or alternatively put in the microwave and melt in 30 second bursts on a low setting) and stir until smooth. Set aside to cool slightly for 15 mins.

## STEP 3

Using an electric hand whisk, mix in 150g light brown soft sugar, then 3 large eggs, one at a time, followed by ½ tsp vanilla extract and finally 50g plain flour. Divide the mixture among the darioles or basins.

## STEP 4

You can now either put the mixture in the fridge, or freezer until you're ready to bake them. Can be cooked straight from frozen for 16 mins, or baked now for 10-12 mins until the tops are firm to the touch but the middles still feel squidgy.

## STEP 5

Carefully run a knife around the edge of each pudding, then turn out onto serving plates and serve with single cream.





# 8 Games to play at lunch

By Jack WILLIAMS

**W**ith COVID kicking in, lunch times are at the pinnacle of boredom. Indeed, this school year has been different from previous years. Due to COVID 19 students are expected to practice social distancing and to wear masks. At lunch and break it is limited to only 5 per table. Sports of any kind are prohibited. One of the things that is allowed this year is going on phones and computers during break and lunch. The problem is that most students spend their breaks and lunches staring at a phone instead of socializing and having fun. A lot of students have complained about being bored. We came up with some ideas on how to make breaks and lunches more enjoyable.

Card games are one activity that is great. The 11th graders can assure you since we have spent most of our breaks and lunches just playing cards. One plus side of cards opposed to board games is that they are more portable. When you have a lot of things in your school bag cards are very easy to bring. Another advantage of card games is that you can usually keep your distance while playing. Board games are another activity that is worth trying. They are a great way to have fun and socialize during lunch.

Here is a list of some fun activities to do during lunch:

## 1 ♠ BS (Card game):

This is a card game that is about getting rid of your cards first. You are allowed to lie in order to get rid of your cards faster but if someone suspects you are lying then you are done for. To begin the game the deck is split evenly between the different players. Everyone has random cards. Whoever has the ace of spades starts the game by placing it down. Everyone places a card in order going around each person. You can place as many cards as you want and you can lie about it, but if someone calls BS and they are right that you were lying then you have to take all the cards that are in the middle. The game ends when someone has gotten rid of all of their cards.

## 2 ♠ Old Maid (Card game):

This is a card game that you can either buy or you can play with regular playing cards. There are no winners but there is one loser. To begin the game one of the kings is removed from the deck and the deck is split evenly between the different players. The point of the game is to get rid of your cards by getting rid of pairs. Before starting the actual game, everyone gets rid of the pairs they can make with their initial hand. Then, the game starts. One of the players takes a card from the person on their right, looks if it matches one of theirs and if so throws the pair. Then the player on their left takes a card from their hand and so on. Once you have no more cards you are out of the game, which is good since you can't lose. When the only card you have left is the old maid (in this case one of the Kings) and everyone else has gotten rid of their cards, you have lost. It is therefore recommended to get rid of your Kings as soon as possible.

## 8 Games to play at lunch

### 3 ♠ Uno (Card game):

UNO is a classic card game that's easy to pick up but hard to put down. In order to play the game you have to have the uno cards. Each player places a card in the middle when it is their turn. Players take turns matching a card in their hand with the current card shown on top of the deck either by color or number. There are special action cards that deliver game-changing moments as they help you beat the other players.

### 4 ♠ Go Fish(Card game):

The object is to get the most sets of four cards. Everyone is given cards that have been shuffled. You start out by putting down any sets of 4 that you have already. It then goes in a circle of players asking for a certain card that will help them get a set of 4. Each player must have at least one card of the rank that was asked for in their hand. The player who is addressed must hand over all the cards requested. If the player has none, they say, "Go fish!" and the player who made the request draws the top card of the stock and places it in their hand.

### 5 ♠ Chess:

Chess is a board game for two players. The goal of the game is for each player to try and checkmate the king of the opponent. It is played on a board that is checked. There are many different pieces that can do different things. Each time you move into the place that is occupied by a piece from your opponent, you get to take that piece. Checkmate is a threat to the opposing king which no move can stop. This is when the game ends.

### 6 ♠ Checkers:

Checkers is a game played on a board checkered with squares of two colors. Two players compete in checkers to have the last piece on the board. Players move diagonally on the board, trying to reach the opposite side where their pieces can be "kinged," or doubled.

### 7 ♠ Pictionary:

Pictionary is a game where one person draws and other players try to guess what is being drawn. Pictionary works with as few as four people or can be played with teams consisting of two or more papers. Pictionary is basically charades with drawing.



## 8 Games to play at lunch

### 8 ♣ Werewolf (Card game):

Werewolf or Werewolf And Villagers is a very fun game to play with your friends. This game is quite similar to the now infamous Among Us game. Indeed, in this game everyone gets a role, be it werewolf, villager, or a special card, and then has to defend the people who possess the same card as them without knowing what the others have. For more rules we recommend looking at the [playwerewolf.co](http://playwerewolf.co) website which explains the game quite well. Finally, you can either buy the game or use the cut out version we made that is below this article.





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