

NOVA Times

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8th Edition

Natasha Asghar, the First Woman of Colour Legislator in the Welsh Parliament: ““Shoot for the Moon. Even if You Miss, You’ll Land Among the Stars.” That Has Stood Me Well in Life’

Interviewer: Luka Pavikjevikj

Wales, being part of the UK, aside from the national Westminster government, has its own devolved administration. The First Minister heads the Welsh Government, while the Welsh Parliament, or Senedd Cymru, makes laws for Wales and scrutinises the Welsh Government. In early May this year, the sixth elections for the devolved legislature were held. Four main parties won seats – the governing Labour Party, the Welsh Conservatives, the pro-Welsh independence Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats. The people of Wales made history by electing the first woman of colour as Member of the Senedd – Natasha Asghar. Our Luka Pavikjevikj interviewed her. Afterwards, she was appointed Shadow Minister for Transport and Technology.



Courtesy of Her Office

A Disturbing Tik Tok Trend: April 24 as National Rape Day?

By Jovana Krstevska

The social media app Tik Tok has brought us many trends during the past few years. Many of them have been positively affecting the younger generations. There have also been many negative ones. Although, not one has been quite as disturbing as this one. Reportedly, a group of six men on Tik Tok established National Rape Day; ‘national’ in this sense refers to the United States. They claimed that it was on April 24, a day when it was allegedly legal to assault anybody sexually. They specifically targeted women and children. The identities of the men and their reasoning are still unclear.

K-Dramas Recommendations

By Teona Antova

We all have those moments where we lie in front of our laptops, ready to watch Netflix, but there is nothing to watch. Correction, we feel like there is nothing to watch. We have seen every good show already. Well, if you’ve felt this way, keep reading this article because I am going to recommend some really good shows based on my personal experience. Most of these belong to the romance genre. They are all Korean dramas.

News from NOVA

European Identity Project: Interview With Adora Limani

By Jovana Vasilisa Jovanovikj

NOVA Times interviewed Adora Limani, a sophomore that is taking part in a project on the various aspects of European identity and culture as part of a more extensive initiative of our school with three other schools from the region.

Miss Limani, you represent NOVA in the multinational project about the building blocks of European identity. Can you briefly explain the goal of the project?

It is an international project on the topic of European identity, covering the concepts of democratic and European values. The project aims to bring together students with different backgrounds to analyze and investigate the intellectual culture in Europe, such as art and science.

How many schools are involved in this project? Also, how many countries participate?

Anatolia College, the Experimental School of Thessaloniki, Crnjanski School in Belgrade, and NOVA are involved in this project. The schools are in Greece, Serbia, and North Macedonia. However, the students involved hail from various cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, and nationalities, which allows us to incorporate a multitude of perspectives in the project.

The project is divided into many different categories on contemporary scientific and cultural production in Europe. Which are the groups that NOVA students can join?

The categories are social sciences, sciences, literature, economy/business, arts, technology, and politics. Currently, there is at least one NOVA student taking part in each and every category.

You lead the Languages and Literature group. Have you already identified the writers and literary works which will be the focus of your group project?

Since storytelling is a universal language, my team is planning on creating a poem that showcases the periods and characteristics of European literature. Furthermore, we will be investigating the ways literature has so often encompassed struggles and experiences during different philosophical and ethical modes of thought, art movements, various political environments, economic stagnation, and war. For example, Voltaire's Candide and Machiavelli's The Art of War are examples of works that showcase the societies of France and Italy during the Enlightenment and Renaissance periods, respectively.

Given the fact that the students come from contrasting cultural backgrounds, how was the workflow of your group? Was it easy to overcome the cultural differences?

My team is currently made up of students from NOVA and only one student from Anatolia, meaning that the cultural clash is far from prominent. We all bring ideas to the table based on our cultural experiences, but I find that it helps us work better as a team instead of polarizing us. It is safe to say that our differences make the project all the more fascinating and the work all the more productive.

In your opinion, are the new generations already living in united Europe? Is there one European youth culture, or is the beauty of the European project the interaction between the specific national European cultures?

I believe that we should highlight our differences, especially when we share culture in the European identity project. Our cultures may

clash, and we are far from a monolith, but that is what makes working together so imperative. In a world that shuns differences, embracing these differences and working past them is almost a rebellion of sorts.

I suppose that due to the pandemic restrictions, your group has never met in person. Did the online work slow down the progress of the project?

Online work will always come with barriers, but I believe my team has managed to tackle these barriers quite well. There are times when not everyone is able to participate in an online meeting due to scheduling issues, but this has not presented itself as an enormous problem. We are all busy high school students with responsibilities, yet we make sure that our meetings are as productive as possible. Overall, I would say that online work has made it easier to connect with students (even those who are miles away from you) in order to maximize productivity and participation.

How can other NOVA students join and participate in the project?

NOVA students can join the project by contacting our CS coordinator Ms Zorica Stamenkovska. If they are interested in participating in the literature group specifically, they should feel free to contact me via email.

NOVA Math Club Participates in an International CEESA Tournament

In April, the CEESA Mathematics tournament, which lasted for three days covering three different components, concluded. The competition had two leagues - the Junior (grades 9 and 10) and Senior division (grades 11 and 12).

Ten schools participated in the tournament, including International School of Belgrade, Anglo-American School of Moscow, Anglo-American School of Sofia, International School of Helsinki, Istanbul International Community School, QSI International School of Kyiv, QSI International School of Tbilisi, Pechersk School International - Kyiv and American School of Warsaw.

The senior team, composed of Marko Tanevski, Elena Karchicka, and Jana Joksimovska (all grade 11), won the bronze medal in the tournament. The following freshmen and sophomores were members of the junior team that won fourth place: Teona Kostovska, Dimitri Dimovski, Filip Stojkovski, Kalin Kacarski, Luka Pavikjevikj, Nora Shaipi, Lana Mladenovikj, and Eva Petrovska.

News from NOVA

CEESA HS Knowledge Bowl: Interview With Alessandro Bogo

By Ana Stevanovska

We are proud to say that Alessandro Bogo, a senior student at NOVA International Schools, won the gold medal in this year's CEESA High School Knowledge Bowl. For this reason, NOVA Times decided to interview him and let him introduce us to what knowledge bowl is all about and what it really means to him. Alessandro was kind enough to contribute to this interview by answering the following questions.

What is the Knowledge Bowl? Can you tell us something more about the tournament?

Knowledge Bowl is a quiz-show-like competition where two teams compete to answer questions on a large variety of topics such as history, science, art, and maths. A reader asks questions, and the different team members can buzz in to answer. Usually, one answer is allowed per team, and if they get it correct, they get bonus questions where they can confer with teammates to get the answer. The competition that we took part in happens once a year between many different CEESA schools. We practice several times a week for a few months before the tournament, where we play with two teams or individually, depending on how many people attend the practices.

How was the competition structured? How many teams, rounds and questions were there?

Since I finished school this year and I only arrived two years ago, I got to participate twice. The two tournaments I attended had different structures. Last year, the tournament had short questions of one or two sentences at most. There were 10 questions all on one topic at the start and 15 questions on random topics after that. Both teams got to answer once, but if the first team buzzed in and got it wrong, the second team were allowed to confer with each other to come up with the answer. There was a group stage on the first day for placements and a double elimination on the second day.

This year's tournament was a bit different. Obviously, it took place online instead of in person, which was unfortunate. The actual knowledge bowl was not affected too much, however, a great part about the competition is travelling and meeting new people, which we missed out on this year. The questions also switched to much longer questions. The questions for this year were a few sentences long, each sentence revealing more about the answer than the last. The games were overall longer since the questions themselves were longer and due to the addition of a half time speed round, where teams answer as many questions as they can in one minute. The entire tournament took place in one day, which ended up being quite cramped, as the finals took place quite late. This year, the



Courtesy photo

second day involved an 'Individual Bee', where individuals compete instead of teams. By answering questions in the preliminary rounds, you can qualify for the final, which involves around 10 individual contestants, if I remember correctly.

How do you prepare for it? What's your strategy?

As I wrote earlier, we had several practices a week with our team where we just played the game. This year, it was especially important because we had to adapt to the new type of questions and the online format. The practices are a lot of fun, and they are also useful because you learn about topics that might appear in the tournament and you can practice communicating with the team. The majority of the information that you actually use in the Knowledge Bowl is stuff you learn in your spare time and school. I like learning about history and geography in my spare time, but I also used a lot of the information I learned in biology and history in school. In terms of strategy, I think that it is important that you know your team's strengths and weaknesses, so you can buzz on questions accordingly. Making educated guesses is very important, so

if you have someone who is good at physics, you let them buzz in if you are not sure about the answer. I think you also have to go with your gut. When I have a feeling that I know the answer, I just go for it. The best way to learn when to buzz during a question is by practising and learning when it's a good time to go for it and when it's a good time to wait, especially now that our questions are quite long.

How did the tournament go?

I was happy with how the tournament went this year. Although we only came to the quarter-finals in the team competition, I think we did great. We were one of the best teams in the earlier rounds, and the quarter-final that we lost came down to a matter of a couple of points. We got unlucky with a couple of the questions, and the other team deserved it just as much as we did. Many of our best players either graduated or did not participate this year, so the fact that we did so well despite that makes me happy with the result. In the individual round on the second day, we did really well. NOVA had the most players in the final out of any school, and I even ended up winning, so I guess I cannot really ask for anything more than that.

News from NOVA

How did you feel when you won the gold medal?

It was pretty crazy. Everything came down to a tiebreaker question between another contestant and me, and I remember the massive relief when I got the answer. Winning finally allowed me to get rid of some of the frustration and regret that I had from coming second last year and from the quarter-final we had lost the day before. I remember waking up on the second day of the tournament feeling demoralized and tired, so it was amazing to finally win.

What are your other academic interests besides Knowledge Bowl?

Academically speaking, I enjoy humanities

subjects like history, politics and geography. I have never been a massive science or maths guy, I guess I am just not really interested in those topics. I think the fact that I am not good at everything was a positive thing for our team. I knew the answers to questions about topics I'm interested in, and others on the team who are good at maths and science got those questions. I am ending school this year, and if all goes to plan, I'm going to go on and study Law at university.

What advice would you give to other students about competing in the CEESA HS Knowledge Bowl?

Firstly, if you have not tried it before, I really suggest you give it a go. The practices are

open to everyone, so if you think this interests you in the slightest, you should really try it. It is a lot of fun, and I honestly think you'll love it. If things get better in terms of the pandemic, you might also be able to travel to the competition, which is a great experience on its own. Although the competition is usually seen as something that only really smart people can play, it is simply not true. For those who are participating or plan on doing so, the best advice I can give is to just learn. When you see something interesting, read about it on Wikipedia. Watch videos and movies about the topics you enjoy, whether it be art, science, or history. You don't have to read whole textbooks.

The interview has been lightly condensed for clarity.

Advice

Advice Column: Online Chats, Friendships and Fear of Public Shame

By NOVA Cyber Buddies

My best friend joined another group of friends and left me out. Now I think that they are making fun of me.

Agony aunt replies. If your friends moved onto a different group and left you out, that goes to show that they don't have your best interest at heart. They are not your true friends and most likely have not ever been. If you wish to confront them about talking behind your back, do so, but you should not force any relationships.

The best advice I could give is to move on. Maybe one day - with time and distance - you will be able to understand what went wrong. In the meantime, you can approach someone who has common interests with you. Slowly but surely, you will form new connections, and it will blossom into a new friendship.

What if I was in a group chat, and then they removed me. Afterward, one of my friends showed me that they said I am stupid and should not be in the group chat.

Agony aunt replies. If they removed you and then they talked behind your back, it says a lot about them. Your thoughts and feelings are valid. However, think of it this way, they are not as strong and brave as you, so they say stuff behind your back because they are scared to confront you. That only shows how much of a better person you are.

What others think of us or say about us is not a reflection of who we really are. Therefore, you should not take it to heart. My advice to you would be to walk away from the situation and keep your true friends close. Be the bigger person, and, from personal experience, I can assure you that you will have the best outcome.

I cannot play football because I cannot kick the ball properly.

Agony aunt replies. Football's biggest goal is to spread respect, as we can see from the campaigns of UEFA. Football is a team-friendly sport, and you shouldn't feel bad if you can't kick the ball as you want to do so. As long as you have a passion for football and love to do it, you should keep on playing, and with time you'll get better and better. Even at some point, the professional players from the best football clubs couldn't kick the ball well, but with lots of practice and love towards the sport, they succeeded. So, keep on kicking the ball, and with hard work and patience, you'll see the results.

The advice column in NOVA Times is part of a joint school-student initiative against bullying in general and cyber-bullying in specific. Students may share their problems with the NOVA Cyber Buddies, who respond both to them individually and to the whole school via this column.

What Goes Through the Mind of a 16-Year-Old Freshman in High School?

By Aleksandar Atanasovski

Life is a beautiful thing filled with moments of joy, pleasure, success and comfort appointed with misery, defeat, failures and problems. There is no such thing as a human that has not felt defeated. However, because of the environment we live in, feelings such as doubt, comparison, and defeat are inevitable. We, humans, like to create an unrealistic persona of a forever happy individual, and even though we know this is impossible, we still fall into the trap of today's society.

I got together with some of my closest friends; we had a very long conversation about our best advice to live a happy and fulfilled life. That was a huge bonding experience for my friends and me because we got to exchange advice that would have otherwise been suppressed. At the end of the almost two-hour conversation, we all felt a sense of relief. Today, I am going to hopefully enlighten you with the best advice on how to live a happy and joyful life.

Happiness is not good for the economy

Let's get straight into it. The word is increasingly designed to depress us. Happiness is not good for the economy. You might be wondering what I mean by that: well, let me explain. If we were happy with what we had, why would we need more?

How do you sell an anti-ageing moisturizer that promises extraordinary results overnight? You make people worry about ageing. How do you get them to buy insurance? By making them worry about everything. How do you get them to undergo cosmetic procedures? By highlighting their physical flaws. How do you get them to watch a TV show? By making them feel fear of missing out. How do you convince someone to get a certain piece of clothing? By making them fear the feeling of not being accepted by others.

To be calm becomes a kind of a revolutionary act. To be happy with your own non-upgraded existence. To be comfortable with our messy but human selves would not be good for business. In these types of situations, we need to sit back and go over why we are feeling this way and easily diminish these thoughts. That will not happen overnight. However - with time and effort - we can trick our minds into thinking the correct way.

Some teenagers nowadays think it is worth bragging about 'suffering' from mental health problems

Mental health is thankfully a topic that is now frequently discussed. Thousands of influencers try their best to educate people on different mental health challenges and this

brings awareness to the table. Especially now, given the pandemic, we are faced with being forced to overthink our thoughts and question our purpose. My friends and I collectively agreed that unfortunately nowadays things like depression, eating disorders and anxiety are glamorized.

It sounds absurd, but it's true. Some teenagers nowadays think it's worth bragging about 'suffering' from mental health problems. That is such a wrong thing to do since it takes the attention and care away from the people that genuinely struggle with these unfortunate circumstances.

Having mental health problems is not cool, it is not fun, and it certainly is not a thing for lies and jokes. Another thing I have noticed is that a big percentage of people with these disorders do not feel the need to change. They have settled for the fact that they will forever be miserable and that they will never find happiness in this 'stupid world'. To that, I say, why?

The way forward

Nobody is going to live your life for you. You have to do it yourself. And you have to do it no matter what is true. No matter what is hard. No matter what unjust, sad, sucky things have befallen you. Self-pity is a dead-end road. You make the choices to drive down it. It is up to you to decide to stay parked there or turn around and drive out. Whether that means deleting social media, unfollowing people that affect your well-being, not listening to sad music or even unfollowing people in real life. This is something that can improve your mental health immensely.

I am a huge believer in quality over quantity. I have many acquaintances, but a very small group of them are the people I consider my friends. You should always surround yourself with people that lift you up rather than the other way around. Friendships are a very important thing but especially in our teenage years since they mould us into the people we are going to be as adults. In the past year, my friends and I grew an even stronger connection to the point where I would even call them family.

However, we also came to terms that we cut off a lot of old friendships. That is one of the best things I have done for myself, and I strongly advise you to do so, too. Not everyone deserves to be in your presence and you should know that. Not everyone has good intentions, and you should know that. If that means being your own best friend, so be it. I would much rather have no friends than have 'friends' that do not treat me with the same amount of

respect I do them.

Love, love will tear us apart again

Let's now discuss a more prevalent topic - relationships and love. Never make the mistake of failing to prioritize yourself before prioritizing someone else because if you don't love yourself, how will you love them? To love yourself means to invest in your personal growth. Physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. You become a seed which you, yourself water on a daily basis in order to grow. The same principle applies when you want to love someone else. To keep the love strong, you would water it by giving them attention, care, respect, and so much more. But focus on doing all these things to yourself first. Prioritize yourself first.

There are two kinds of beauty: one is of the soul, and the other is of the body. Beauty can be seen in a soul which displays intelligence, good character, mannerisms, respect, and many qualities which may exist in what shallow people would describe as an 'ugly' person. Physical beauty is displayed by the body through someone's physical attributes such as their eyes and hair.

If you find that you are too concerned with looks, get to know someone first. After a while, when you've known someone, sometimes you forget about their physical appearance because you're so attached to the beauty of their heart and soul. The things that really matter, the things that last forever. If someone fails to understand this, then you should know that you deserve better.

Dedication

I would like to end this newspaper article by saying that one of the best pieces of life advice is to stay hard working and grounded always. Never spend a whole day just laying around and doing nothing. Of course, if you do that, you will feel unmotivated and unworthy. Always strive to be the most hardworking person you know. I manage to be an excellent student while also juggling piano competitions, swimming competitions, hiking, running, and even uphill bike riding. What my goal is by stating all of this is to make you aware that it is not impossible. No one said it would be easy. It is all about time management and the willingness to become the best version of yourself.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author. This article is a self-initiated project of his. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of NOVA Times.

International News

Traffic Jam in Space

By Jovana Vasilisa Jovanovikj

Recently, there has been a ‘traffic jam’ on our red neighbour, Mars. Currently, three rovers ramble the Martian soil. NASA’s ‘Curiosity’ is the oldest kid on the block roaming the red desert since 2012. In 2021, NASA’s ‘Perseverance’ and the China National Space Administration’s (CNSA) ‘Zhurong’ has joined ‘Curiosity’ in exploring Mars.

The ‘Earthians’ have always been puzzled by Mars. The first human-made vehicle on Mars was the Soviet’s ‘Mars 3’ rover. It landed on Mars in 1971. It began transmitting back to Earth 90 seconds after the landing, but its transmission stopped just after 20 seconds. No vehicle (from Earth at least) would come to Mars for 26 years.

NASA’s ‘Sojourner’ landed in 1997. It was the first wheeled vehicle to rove on the Red Planet. Next came NASA’s ‘Mars Exploration Rover’ in 2004. They were, in fact, two rovers, deployed in different locations, tasked to explore the Martian surface and geology.

In 2012, NASA sent out the next rover ‘Curiosity’. Our good old kid was the first rover that required a specialized landing sequence because it is much heavier than the previous rovers, about the size of a small SUV. ‘Curiosity’, just like David Bowie, is tasked to investigate if there ever was, or is, life on Mars. In 2021, ‘Perseverance’ landed on the Jezero Crater (the speakers of Slavic languages are not impressed with the originality of the name). The rover has to collect samples that will be returned to Earth for analysis by future Mars missions. ‘Perseverance’s’ mission marked another first milestone for NASA and humanity. The rover transported the first small UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) – the helicopter ‘Ingenuity,’ the first-ever extraterrestrial flights by human-made objects.

Finally, the Chinese have joined the club on 14 May by deploying the ‘Zhurong’ rover on Mars. Zhurong is attempting to find signs of life in the Utopia Planitia crater. The rover also has a magnetometer



Image by Tim Tim via Wikimedia Commons

that measures the magnetic field in its proximity, which may provide information on how Mars lost its magnetic field.

The Soviet Union and one of its successors, Russia, have not returned to Mars for a second time yet, while the European Union has safely landed the ‘Beagle 2’ probe but failed to deploy its solar panels.

The findings from these three rovers will form the basis of planning the future human missions to Mars, the possible establishment of human bases on the planet and ultimately, the human colonization of Mars in the distant future.

Mars and the Moon are not the only extraterrestrial bodies visited by human-made probes and rovers. Humans have already landed probes on Venus, Mercury, many asteroids and even on Titan, the largest of Saturn’s moon. One day, in the not-so-distant future, humanity will celebrate these rovers, by then very primitive robots, as the first pioneers who set foot to make humankind an interplanetary species.

A Disturbing Tik Tok Trend: April 24 as National Rape Day?

By Jovana Krstevska

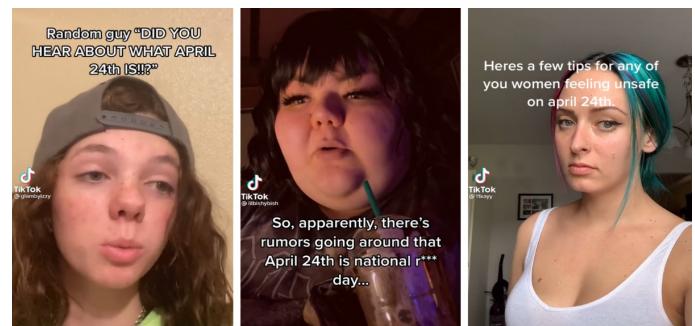
The social media app Tik Tok has brought us many trends during the past few years. Among them, there are dance challenges, political activism and new ways of social media influencing. Many of them have been positively affecting the younger generations.

There have also been many negative ones. Although, not one has been quite as disturbing as this one. Reportedly, a group of six men on Tik Tok established National Rape Day; ‘national’ in this sense refers to the United States.

They claimed that it was on April 24, a day when it was allegedly legal to assault anybody sexually. They specifically targeted women and children. The identities of the men and their reasoning are still unclear. Many Tik Tok users interpreted National Rape Day as a joke.

Still, others were very concerned, and videos of ‘warnings’ for that specific trend started circling the social media platform. Using the hashtag ‘#24,’ there were hundreds of videos with more than 181 million views posted as ‘warnings’ for women to not go out on that specific day.

Tik Tok said that they still have not found any evidence of the original video starting this ‘trend.’ “Keeping our community safe is our priority, and we do not tolerate content that promotes or glorifies non-consensual sexual acts including rape and sexual assault,” wrote a TikTok spokesperson in an email to USA Today. “While we have not



Courtesy photo

found evidence on our platform of any videos related to this subject, our safety team is remaining vigilant, and we will remove content that violates our policies,” the spokesperson added.

Even though the origin of this disturbing trend is still unknown, people were very revolted that some considered it funny. Over a thousand Facebook posts and nearly fifty Instagram posts shared this trend.

A lot of the time, the information may not be correct. People could also spread it falsely. In the end, National Rape Day did not actually happen. However, it did disturb many.

International News

Is It Fundra in the Tundra? - The Effects of Climate Change on Arctic Tundras

By Lina Nikolovska

The tundra is one of the harshest biomes on Earth. It is characterized by its frosty landscapes, extremely low temperatures, low precipitation levels, poor nutrients, and short growing seasons. Dead organic material functions as a nutrient pool. The two major nutrients are nitrogen and phosphorus. Nitrogen is created by biological fixation, while precipitation gives rise to phosphorus. Location defines the three types of tundra: Arctic tundra, Antarctic tundra, and Alpine tundra. The climate and temperature vary depending on the geographic location of the tundra.

For instance, Ivvavik National Park, which encompasses a portion of The Canadian Arctic Tundra, is known for its diverse vegetation. The vegetation is a treeless tundra that comprises sedges and shrubs like willow, dwarf birch, and cranberry. Up in the mountains - at a higher altitude - there is an alpine tundra of lichens, which replaces the Arctic tundra. Scattered patches of wildflowers like avens and saxifrage are also prevalent. An open strand of stunning spruce and polar grows in the southern end of the park.

The rising danger

Another potent issue is the melting of the permafrost layer due to climate change, which will exert a dangerous and life-threatening fate to humankind if the global temperatures continue to rise. Because of the low temperatures, the soil forms more slowly. Therefore, a layer of permanently frozen subsoil called permafrost came to be made mostly of gravel. When water saturates the upper surface, bogs and ponds form and provide moisture for plants. Various features such as hummocks, tussocks, frost boils, sorted and unsorted circles are distinctive to the permafrost terrain.

The tundra and taiga together comprise approximately one-third of global carbon storage in soil. A large portion of this carbon is located in the permafrost in the shape of dead organic matter. For thousands of years, a substantial amount of this organic matter has been preserved. Not necessarily because it was inherently difficult to break down, but because there are no human records of the land not remaining frozen. The organic material will be exposed to microbial decomposition if the thawing of the permafrost accelerates.



Image by Michael Kirsh via Wikimedia Commons

That would release carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) into the atmosphere.

Could it be replaced?

Evidence suggests that the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere has caused climate warming over the past few decades to increase the frequency and intensity of tundra burning in the Arctic. Conversely, larger plant productivity resulting from a longer, warmer and fertile season could compensate and equalize the amount of carbon dioxide in the air caused by the carbon emissions from

presents the probability to exacerbate changes in Earth's climate using a positive feedback spiral, in which even the slightest elevation of air temperature at the surface has the potential to set off a chain of events that can lead to further climate warming.

Nevertheless, one of the most lengthy and thorough studies of vegetation in the Arctic tundra provides substantial evidence that climate warming causes dramatic fluctuations in the region. Led by the University of Edinburgh, an international team of scientists

at 37 sites in nine countries, shrub growth was explored and collected for a time span of 60 years by analyzing annual growth rings in the plant stems.

"Arctic shrub growth in the tundra is one of the most significant examples (...) of the effect that climate change is having on ecosystems. Our findings show there is a lot of variation across this landscape. Understanding this should help improve predictions of climate change impacts across the tundra," said Dr. Isla Myers-Smith, the coordinator for the study.

The wildlife

The situation at the Arctic Tundra also raises concerns about the wildlife. The northern Yukon has been called the richest area of Canada's Arctic in terms of the number of species, as the diverse vegetation can support a wide range of animal life. It is a habitat for



Image by Francesco Veronesi via Flickr

permafrost melting and tundra fires. Indeed, some ecologists and climate scientists point to a great deal of uncertainty and skepticism about the future of the Arctic's carbon cycle in the 21st century. On the other hand, scientists worry that a net transfer of greenhouse gases from tundra ecosystems to the atmosphere

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barren-ground caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, wolverines, and the red and the arctic fox. Furthermore, the polar bear abandons its seal hunt to come ashore mainly in winter. The Porcupine caribou herd - one of the world's largest at over 129,000 animals - is the park's most prominent feature. Several birds of prey live in the park, including golden eagles, gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, and rough-legged hawks. The coastal plain is a key waterfowl nesting area for snow geese and tundra swans. Vole, squirrels, and lemmings all nest underground.

Only about 20 species can call the tundra home! Mammal diversity in the tundra is low as inhabitants that live in these cold landscapes must adapt to cold temperatures and snow cover. The majority of the species in the Arctic migrate to warmer locations, as hibernation is not an option because very few can survive being inactive in the winter at such low temperatures. Tundra mammals require a multilayer fur coat, a stocky body, broad and hairy feet or hooves that act as snowshoes, a thick fat layer, and small or short appendages and extremities (legs, tails, ears, etc.). These features help mammals survive in this harsh environment. Polar bears meet these requirements. Their thick fur has an underfur covered in guard hairs which prevents almost all heat loss. However, fur is not the only thing that keeps them warm. Their ears are small and round, their tails short and compact, so they conserve more heat.

The case of the polar bear

The polar bear's many adaptations to survive in the extreme cold have enabled them to inhabit and live in warm environments. They sometimes overheat even in Arctic weather when running. The double layer of insulated white fur may prevent them from surviving the hot weather. Their dependence on sea ice makes them highly vulnerable to a changing climate. In particular, they depend heavily on sea ice-



Image by Andreas Weith via Wikimedia Commons

dependent prey, such as ringed and bearded seals.

Over time global warming has also rendered much of the polar bear population redundant. The ice floes on which polar bears catch seals are slowly melting. Both the polar bears and the seals will have to adapt to these fundamental changes or face extinction if we do not prevent global warming. One sign of hope is the high genetic diversity within the species, coupled with their ability to disperse over very long distances, suggesting that they may have some capacity to adapt to the ongoing changes in the Arctic.

In summary, climate change will not only wreak havoc on the species in the tundra but also drastically worsen our current gas emissions if the permafrost melts. There is not any substantial fun going on in the tundra, but rather it might be headed for a very tumultuous period.

Student Council Elections in Kyiv International School

In May this year, the outgoing leadership of the Student Council in Kyiv International Schools, a fellow CEESA school, organized elections for the next school year's leadership. The new officers will serve during the 2021-2022 school year.

There were two candidates for the position of Secretary of the Student Council; two others chose to run for Treasurer; four people put their names up for the presidential election. In the end, only one person was contesting the vice-presidential place. Some candidates decided to run on a joint ballot, a so-called slate. Others campaigned purely individually.

An election debate took place on May 21, during which every candidate had the opportunity to present their pitch to the voters as best as they could. The ballot itself was digital, implemented via Microsoft Forms.

144 students voted in the election for President and Vice President, while 143 cast their ballots in the rounds for Secretary and Treasurer. The winning presidential candidate secured 63% of all votes cast, i.e. 91 votes.



Image by Pixabay via Pexels

Editors' comment: While elections for the Student Council of NOVA High School de jure guarantee universal suffrage for all students, experience tells us that, in practice, extremely low turnout rates plague our elections. That, in turn, results in low legitimacy and popularity for the SC leadership. I strongly recommend the setting up of new rules that will give structure to the elections. Longer campaign times, the draftings of manifestos and mandatory debates are measures that we should consider. We ought to have direct elections for the Student Council to be taken seriously.

International News

Natasha Asghar MS on Being the First, the Recent Election, Her Goals as a Legislator, Inspirational British Stateswomen and Increasing the Conservatives' Appeal To the Young and Ethnic Minorities

Interviewer: Luka Pavikjevikj

Wales, being part of the UK, aside from the national Westminster government, has its own devolved administration. The First Minister heads the Welsh Government, while the Welsh Parliament, or Senedd Cymru, makes laws for Wales and scrutinises the Welsh Government. In early May this year, the sixth elections for the devolved legislature were held. Four main parties won seats – the governing Labour Party, the Welsh Conservatives, the pro-Welsh independence Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats. The people of Wales made history by electing the first woman of colour as Member of the Senedd – Natasha Asghar. Our Luka Pavikjevikj interviewed her. Afterwards, she was appointed Shadow Minister for Transport and Technology.

Ms Asghar, you have achieved a feat never achieved before. On 6 May this year, you were elected as Member of the Senedd, and you are the first woman of colour in that role. After some time, how do you reflect on your achievement?

I am immensely proud to have been elected a Member of the Welsh Parliament. That I am also the first woman of colour to be elected is an honour and an achievement, which I hope, will inspire other young people to get involved in politics and to make a difference, irrespective of their gender or ethnicity.

Given that your late father Mohammad ‘Oscar’ – whom you name as a great influence on you – was the first person of colour MS (Assembly Member, as it was back then), are you a family of record-setting pioneers? Are you proud of this? Would your father be proud?

My father was the greatest influence on me. He instilled a desire in me to serve everyone in the community and to try to do good. It was his greatest wish that I would follow him in a life of public service, and he would be immensely proud to see his hopes fulfilled. I think of him every day and miss his advice and support.

You sit as a Conservative. Your party affiliation might seem strange to other people, considering that only 19% of those aged 18-24 and 20% of BME electors backed the Tories in the 2019 general election, according to the exit poll by Ipsos Mori. Yet, the first woman-of-colour-MS comes from that party. Does your party struggle with these demographics? In your opinion, how can the Conservative Party increase its appeal to young and minority ethnic voters, especially in Wales?

Conservative values of individual responsibility, free enterprise and support for



Courtesy of Her Office

the family are just as relevant to ethnic minority communities as they are to white communities. The Conservative Party has made huge strides forward in making the Parliamentary Party reflect more accurately the communities it serves. The current Cabinet in Westminster is the most diverse, with two of the great offices of state, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary, occupied by minority ethnic MPs, Rishi Sunak and Priti Patel.

In Wales, two Welsh Conservative Senedd Members, myself and Altaf Hussain, come from minority ethnic backgrounds. By demonstrating the Conservative Party's commitment to equality of opportunity extends to everyone irrespective of colour, creed, gender, religion and sexuality, together with our values of individual freedom and having the state as your servant and not your master, will increase the appeal of the Party to younger

voters.

After all, it is young people who have particularly suffered from Wales having lower education standards, the lack of skilled jobs and the weakest economy in the UK.

In an interview with ITV, you mentioned Kamala Harris, Benazir Bhutto and Jacinda Ardern as inspirational female leaders. You also do not see all-women shortlists or quotas as the way forward but rather utilizing the examples of previous women leaders as inspiration for more women to enter politics. Are there any British stateswomen that inspired you?

It is no accident that the only two female Prime Ministers of the UK, Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, have been Conservatives.

Margaret Thatcher is an inspiration as she was the first – the woman who broke the glass



Courtesy of Her Office

ceiling and showed that women could not only do the job but do it as well as a man and better than most.

Ms Asghar, Labour won the Senedd election by getting 30 seats out of 60. Many headlines covered this. Yet, every First Minister (and Labour leader) since Rhodri Morgan has captured the same number of seats when contesting their first election (Morgan in 2003, Jones in 2011 and Drakeford in 2021). On the other hand, the Welsh Conservatives won 16 seats, the highest number ever, despite predictions by many opinion polls that showed the Tories and Plaid Cymru neck-in-neck for second place. Has your party celebrated the best result ever in Wales? Do you think this accomplishment received the media attention it deserved?

I was a little disappointed at the coverage of the result by the Welsh media. The Welsh Conservatives won 16 seats in the Welsh Parliament, our best result ever. We won

Brecon & Radnorshire and the Vale of Clwyd first-past-the-post, the first time these seats have returned Welsh Conservative members. The media coverage, however, was negative, concentrating on the “Red Wall” seats in North East Wales that fell at the General Election. A year into the pandemic, taking those seats would have been a bid-ask, and I am surprised the Welsh media didn’t recognise that Welsh elections are not the same as Westminster ones.

You are a TV presenter, a host, an anchor, a radio DJ, an author, and, most interestingly, a matchmaker. You certainly bring a lot of talent and a multitude of perspectives to the job. What do you want to achieve as an opposition MS?

I want to be the best possible representative of the people I was elected to serve. Life is hard for many people in my region, and I want to ensure they get the help they are entitled to and deserve. In some cases, it may be just removing petty bureaucratic barriers that hinder progress

and stop people from making the best of their lives. My aim is to see a Welsh Conservative Government in Cardiff Bay delivering policies that will bring a lasting and much-needed change in Wales, building a strong economy, improving public services and infrastructure, delivering a cleaner environment and making Wales a more equal country with opportunities for all.

Lastly, what is your message to the young people reading this interview?

My message to young people is to make the most of life, to grasp every opportunity that comes your way and to follow your dream, whatever it may be.

There is no limit to what you can achieve if you work hard, think positively and acquire the necessary skills. One of my father’s favourite quotes was:

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”

That has stood me well in life.

Opinion

Why Do High Schools Need a Feminist Club?

By Adora Limani

In ‘A Room of One’s Own,’ Virginia Woolf says, “A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.” The essay tackles the issue of educational inequality between men and women and the subsequent gender gap which results from it in literature

and fiction. The room that women need - according to Woolf - is a space where they are allowed to flourish intellectually.

In the last year, I took on the challenge of creating the ‘room’ Woolf illustrates - a room that is not defined by the walls surrounding

it but rather the educational promises filling its space. I started the NOVA Feminist club, a club open to both NOVA and public school students. NOVA has never had a feminist club before, and neither have any of the state schools in North Macedonia. As a result, high-school

Opinion



Courtesy photo

students were not given any opportunities to engage with feminist theory and literature in an academic environment. But, at what cost, one might ask?

The situation in our country

According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report of 2020, North Macedonia ranks 70th out of 153 countries for gender equality. It takes 87th place for educational attainment, number 100 for economic participation and opportunity, and 89 for health and survival.

Even though the country has committed to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and aligned its legislation to achieving full gender equality, there are still substantial gaps between legal structures and their implementation. According to the 2019 USAID North Macedonia Gender Analysis Report, there are significant gender differences in the labour market, with rural and ethnic minority women being the most inactive. There is a typical gender divide in the workplace, with men spending more time on paid jobs and women spending more time on domestic duties.

Occupational discrimination is influenced by gender stereotypes, as women in rural agriculture work longer hours than men, but unpaid work makes up a greater percentage of their labour. Moreover, there is a major gender divide in property and wealth ownership and control. Property is traditionally recorded in the name of the man, and women own only 28% of the land, with rural women owning even less. Thus, women's economic insecurity is exacerbated by their scarcity of assets.

In addition, women's political involvement in party management and decision-making is very low in North Macedonia. Women hold only 38% of parliamentary seats and 16% of ministerial seats, which is due to a gender quota that does not yet benefit women from the other ethnic groups (such as Roma, Serbs,

Turks), as it has only included Macedonian and Albanian women so far. Besides, Roma and Albanian women's participation in local decision-making, public-sector jobs, education, and the formal labour market is still low. For example, only 8% of women in rural areas are part of political parties. This creates a lack of understanding regarding gender disparity, making it a topic that is not prioritized at the government level.

Women's lack of financial freedom worsens gender-based violence and minority women are particularly vulnerable. School or occupational abuse are the most common types of gender-based violence in North Macedonia. However, the penal code only considers rape as a crime, while the vast majority of gender-based violence response programmes are for domestic violence survivors. Therefore, domestic violence against women is a persistent and common problem in North Macedonia that is not legally being accounted for.

What can you do?

Seeing the situation as it is, as high-school students, we should refuse to grow up in a country with such a high level of disparity, without taking any initiative to improve this situation. NOVA's Feminist club is a space where high school students can directly tackle these local prevalent issues, whether it be through sharing ideas, discussing, or building knowledge on feminist history and thinkers.

Through reading, analyzing, and participating in activities to help our community, members of the Feminist club can challenge misogyny and patriarchal ideas, while also having an environment where their opinions are heard and matter. In a way, reading feminist theory and having a 'room of our own' to tackle gender disparity in an academic environment allows students to build a passion for gender issues, and thus helps create a generation of students who can work to make their

communities a more inclusive place.

What we did

Students should be given similar opportunities to engage with feminist thought all across the country, and starting feminist clubs should not be a surprising initiative. These spaces are clearly needed and lacking. For example, since gender-based violence is an ignored issue in our community, the Feminist club decided to help domestic violence survivors by organizing a fundraiser in order to gather money for the First Family Centre for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic violence within the organization HERA.

This Centre is the first specialized counselling service in the country for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, including for children who are direct or indirect victims of violence. They provide free and confidential psychosocial support and counselling to families. In addition to individual, group and family counselling with psychotherapists, the center also provides free legal counselling.

In the two fundraising events, which we organized on the school campus and at Skopje Central Park, we managed to raise 22.050 denars, all of which will go towards funds for psychotherapists for survivors of domestic violence. It was truly inspirational to see how hard everyone worked during both of these events and how all club members came together to help this important cause. It showed that when offered a space to engage with gender-based issues, students were passionate to try to mend these disparities. That is precisely why NOVA, and all other high schools in North Macedonia, are in dire need of a feminist club.

The views expressed in this opinion article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of NOVA Times. If you want to reply to this article, write an email to lp14699@nova.edu.mk or ek14343@nova.edu.mk.

Arts Supplement

Greek Theater in General

By Lina Nikolovska

The first part of this article, titled 'It's All Greek To Me: Greek Theater, Greek Mythology and The Festival of Dionysus', was published in the previous edition.

The ancient Greeks are often credited with creating the art of drama. Although storytelling originates from a primal human quality, the ancient Greeks were the first to write it down and perform it in front of an audience. The three genres of drama were comedies, satyr plays, and - most importantly - tragedies.

Ancient Greek comedies were not necessarily humorous: rather, comedies meant stories that had a happy ending. The 'everyday hero' or average person was the focal point of Greek comedies. The leading author of comedies in the classical era was Aristophanes, who specialized in political satire. In contrast to the usual format of comedies, Aristophanes' plays highlighted the flaws and scandals of the rich and powerful. An example of this is one of his best-known works 'Lysistrata.' Afterward, the ancient playwright Menander wrote comedies as humorous stories about ordinary people, told in an episodic form.

Ancient Greek tragedies covered more serious topics of the human state, such as love and loss. These plays center around a tragic hero, who is the protagonist of the story and possesses heroic traits. Those traits make the audience identify with the tragic hero's fictional pain and his flaws that lead to his own downfall. Aristotle said that "tragedies cleansed the soul" and purged us from our worries and concerns; he referred to this experience as 'catharsis.' Tragedies have always had sad endings that were designed to teach the Greeks valuable lessons about life. The three most popular tragic playwrights of the classical era were Sophocles, Aeschylus, and Euripides, who created plays that survived the modern era, such as 'Oedipus Rex', 'The Orchestra' and 'The Bacchae'.

Satyr plays were perhaps one of the least popular Greek dramas, as very few of them survived. Satyr plays represented a short, comedic play performed between the acts of a tragedy. In Greek mythology, satyrs were half-human, half-goat creatures, and the actors playing



Image by Carole Raddato via Flickr

satyrs would wear silly clothing for comic effect. They would mock the characters' plight in the play and make fun of their tragic situation, which is why some authors referred to them as tragicomic or comedy-dramas. While satyr plays served as comic relief for the audience, they also swayed public opinion. Aeschylus wrote satyr plays. The word 'satire' derives from the satyr plays.

Thus, Greek mythology and Greek theater should be acknowledged for their influence on the formation of storytelling, entertainment, and theatrical or performative elements that make up today's plays and stories. Greek culture was influential in nearly all spheres of life; it was used as a tool to explain the world around us, the environment in which humankind lived, and the natural phenomena humans witnessed. Greek mythology and culture were utilized to showcase the passing of time, as well as demonstrate the development of cultures, logic, and civilization as a whole.

When Human Nature Meets Pen and Paper

By Adora Limani

Whether it's inside an English classroom or during your leisure time, the chances are that you have had your first encounter with the pessimistic portrayal of human nature through literature. But: why is it that so many novels tell tales of man's own nature working against him? And what drives authors to portray human nature as such?

Before any attempt at answering this question, we must understand that seeking to decipher 'human nature' is mostly just an expression of pre-Darwinian superstition. Before Darwin published his 'Theory of Evolution' in 1859, the scientific consensus was that nature was something humans had to resist. Saint Augustine of Hippo's doctrine of original sin illustrates that, by proclaiming

that all people were born broken and selfish, ultimately saved only through the power of divine intervention. According to Augustine, humans originally had equal freedom to choose between good or evil.

However, he claims that humans are increasingly drawn towards excessive happiness and desires for material goods and pleasures, as time progresses - forever inclined to choose evil. As he states, this stems from our inheritance of the original sin from Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Thomas Hobbes also argued that humans were savagely self-centered, but unlike Augustine, he held that salvation came not through the divine but through the social contract of civil law.

Humans are equal in the 'natural state of mankind,' according to Hobbes, despite minor variations in strength and mental acuity. Equality, in this case, refers to our equal ability to destroy or overcome one another. In the 'Leviathan,' Hobbes argues that this equality naturally leads to conflict among individuals for three reasons: rivalry, mistrust, and glory. As a result, this perilous equality must be under the subjugation of civil law since humans cannot act peacefully under their natural condition outside the authority of a political state.

Then - just over a century after Hobbes argued his case - Jean-Jacques Rousseau asserted that human nature is inherently good and that we could have lived peaceful and

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happy lives long before the development of the modern state. Political and social institutions, according to Rousseau, are what make us evil, as we are now. Nevertheless, Rousseau also believed that because human nature had already been corrupted, the chances of redemption were vanishingly small. He thought that even if Hobbes was incorrect about human nature, modern society is fundamentally Hobbesian, and there is no going back.

On the contrary, the post-Darwinian scientific consensus is that there is no inherent nature that automates man's morality. Darwin observed animal behavior for decades: he witnessed the courageous sacrifices by social insects, the tender bonds of love between female apes and their offspring, and the bravery and devotion of dogs to their owners. Animal populations, as a whole, benefited from cooperation and consideration for others, which helped them succeed in the fight for survival.

Not only were animals more likely to act cooperatively, but moral action for Darwin was not simply automatic or unconscious, despite being rooted in instinctive sympathy. In 'Descent,' he argued that many animals had memory, imagination, and thinking abilities, which enabled them to compare present and past behavior. They could remember the joy they felt when behaving in accordance with their social instincts, as well as the pain they felt when selfish motivations took precedence. Humans were similarly able to develop moral concepts and complex codes of conduct thanks to their sophisticated vocabulary and abstract thinking skills, making man's moral behavior a product of these experiences and complexities.

A common misconception exists that Darwinian literary criticism should identify universal and basic forms of human behavior. That fails to take into consideration that humans have distinct individuality. Various attributes of their temperaments, cultural conditioning, and individual experiences form their characters. Although literature largely generalizes these factors, it actually gives us the best glimpse into these individual perspectives. Those perspectives comprise being human: it shows us human nature through the lens of the author.

The idea that follows so much of popular literature is that darkness has somewhere to



Image by Suzy Hazelwood via Pexels

hide in civilization but that there is always an untouched place where our nightmarish nature begins to shine through. In Golding's 'Lord of the Flies' and Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness,' this place is the jungle. 'Heart of Darkness,' specifically, is a nightmarish novel about the darkness that exists in humanity. The protagonist, Marlow, is a sea captain. He travels upriver in the Congo in search of a mythical figure named Kurtz. It is a story about obsession, the nightmarish realities of imperialism, and traveling deeper into exploring human nature. The book was published in 1899, 30 years after Darwin published 'Theory of Evolution.' Thus, it is a story of the chaos and uncertainties of nature unraveling the human mind. A quote reads, "he struggled with himself, too. I saw it - I heard it. I saw the inconceivable mystery of a soul that knew no restraint, no faith, and no fear, yet struggling blindly with itself."

In 'Crime and Punishment,' Dostoyevsky demonstrates how people have a complex emotional system that fluctuates from one feeling to the next. The protagonist, Raskolnikov, glides between conflicting feelings such as dread, guilt, remorse, and courage. He presents human nature with numerous layers and moods. The author introduces him as a man engrossed in his selfishness. As he contemplates murdering

the old pawnbroker Alyona Ivanovna, he is consumed completely by himself and disconnected from God and man. Dostoyevsky uses his state as a powerful depiction of the depravity of the human heart distanced from God.

In 'The Tempest,' Shakespeare writes, "hell is empty, and all the devils are here." On an island subject to both its own laws and the illusion of Prospero, the main character, Shakespeare depicts humanity's ability for both virtue and evil. Seeking revenge towards the brother who overthrew him, Prospero conjures a tempest to torment him among survivors of a ship-wreck. This tempest tosses aside the social barriers of 17th-century Europe, allowing each character to act according to their true nature. Slavery, scheming, and an examination of the human condition are therefore central to the drama.

Like Golding, Conrad, Dostoyevsky, and Shakespeare, we create our own separate understandings of 'human nature.' The traditional essentialist conception of human nature is ultimately undefendable, but we can still enjoy a glimpse into individual human experiences while flipping through the pages of our favorite novels - no matter how pessimistic they can get.

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K-Dramas Recommendations

By Teona Antova

We all have those moments where we lie in front of our laptops, ready to watch Netflix, but there is nothing to watch. Correction, we feel like there is nothing to watch. We have seen every good show already. Well, if you've felt this way, keep reading this article because I am going to recommend some really good shows based on my personal experience. Most of these belong to the romance genre. They are all Korean dramas.

The Legend of the Blue Sea

romance, comedy, fantasy

It is by far one of the most intriguing shows you would ever get the chance to experience. ‘Legends of the Blue Sea’ tells the story of a mermaid and a handsome con artist who meet most unexpectedly. The mermaid ends up coming to shore all clueless, and the con artist is the one who finds her, thinking she is a crazy, homeless woman. Upon some dangerous encounters they experience, the two end up living together. Of course, the rest is up to you to find out... This K-drama is a real rollercoaster that will carry you through laughter, intensity, and sadness. Most importantly, it will leave you fulfilled.

Crash Landing on You

romantic comedy, romance

What happens when an heiress to a conglomerate in South Korea goes missing? On a particularly windy day, which leads to her having a paragliding accident, Yoon-Se-Ri accidentally crosses the border between North Korea and South Korea. Coincidentally, as she is stuck in a tree, a North Korean army officer, Jeong Hyeok, finds her. Feeling a sense of duty, he decides to hide her in his home while looking for a way to send her back to South Korea. However, in their journey, they encounter many difficulties, excitement, suspense, but - most importantly - love. Given the tension between these two countries, will the two lovers ever build a bridge between the gap of the complexity of North and South Korea and find peace together?

The Heirs

drama, romance

‘The Heirs’ portrays the story of a poor high school girl. She lives with her mother, who has a hearing disability. Going to America to find her older sister in hopes of a better life, she has an accidental encounter with a Korean illegitimate heir, Kim Tan, who was sent to the U.S to study abroad. However, their journey did not end there, as they meet again in Korea coincidentally after her mother receives a job as a maid in Kim Tan’s prestigious mansion. This

Weightlifting Fairy Kim Bok Joo

drama, sports, romantic comedy, coming of age

‘Weightlifting Fairy Kim Bok Joo’ is the funniest show you will ever see. This show has to do with a weightlifter and a swimmer in university. However, it is not what you expect. The girl, Kim Bok Joo, is the weightlifting champion, whereas the guy, Joon Hyung, is the swimmer. As Kim Bok Joo is navigating through her weightlifting college successes and Joon Hyung is conquering his past trauma due to a swimming accident, these childhood friends end up encountering each other, unaware of their history together. This show is by far one of the most loving, sweet, and hilarious dramas you will ever get to see.

Boys Over Flower

drama, romance, comedy

‘Boys Over Flower’ is one of the OG Korean dramas. It is the start of the K-drama success that has conquered the world. ‘Boys Over Flower’ depicts the story of Geum Jan Di, a hard-working young high-school girl who deals with the real struggles of life coming from a low-class family. Upon Jan Di’s heroic act of saving a student from jumping off a building, she becomes the most noticed girl and gets a full-ride scholarship to the most elite school. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she clashes paths with Gu Jun Pyo, the leader of a famous group of four guys, known as F4. This group includes the most high-class male students, among which Gu Jun Pyo is the most arrogant, rich, and desired. Watch this show if you want to see how the two opposite worlds of rich and poor collide through hate that eventually grows into love.

W: Two Worlds Apart

thriller, suspense, romance, fantasy

‘W: Two Worlds’ is one of the most unique dramas ever made. The plotline is very different compared to what a typical K-drama would entail. The story begins with a young female doctor whose father is the most famous comic book writer in Korea. Living her day-to-day life, one day, she finds herself swooped into the comic book world created by her father, and the only way she could get back in the real world has a catch. However, when she crosses paths with the protagonist of the comic, the real question is— does she really want to leave? Watch and find out.

Scarlet Heart

time travel, romance, fantasy, drama, melodrama

‘Scarlet Heart’ is one of the most famous and greatest historical Korean dramas ever made. The story begins when a young girl, Go Ha-Jin, travels back in time to the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392) and finds herself waking up in Lady Hae Soo’s body. Once there, she gets entangled with the ruling princes of the Wang Family, especially the 4th and 8th princes. Her optimistic and justice-seeking personality intrigues and captures the attention of all the nobles among the high-class, especially the 12 princes. However, what happens when a girl of the present time goes back to a historical era knowing how the historical events will occur? More specifically, she knows who will become the king of the Goryeo Dynasty. Will things unfold as historical knowledge entails, or will she change destiny?

drama explores the problems these two lovers face due to their socioeconomic backgrounds and brings a lot of intensity.

I hope that you enjoyed this review. If you have any questions about any K-drama, feel free to contact me directly (ta12478@nova.edu.mk). The K-dramas listed above are my personal favorites, but there are many, many more I have watched.

Info Section

Anonymous Box Comments:

"Not only is the article written by Leona Simeonova utterly immature and sad, but it is also straight-up inaccurate. I wholeheartedly hope the author does not actually uphold those beliefs. Indeed, opinions ought to be respected, but not when an entire group of people is being downplayed in the name of her playing a 'social justice warrior'. As I said, Leona Simeonova's article is utterly disrespectful, immature and downright inaccurate."

We encourage every reader that wishes to respond to an article published in a previous edition of 'NOVA Times' to do so by utilizing the 'Letter to the Editor' option, which we have introduced for the first time in the fifth edition.

About Us:

NOVA Times is a student-run newspaper that allows NOVA high school students to express themselves in the field of journalism.

If you would like to write for NOVA Times or raise a technical question, please contact either lp14699@nova.edu.mk or ek14343@nova.edu.mk. If you would like to respond to a particular newspaper piece, write a letter to the editor by using the same email addresses.

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