



UN Special

A group of six diverse children of various ages are smiling and holding a large white rectangular sign. They are positioned around the sign, with some on the left and some on the right. The children are dressed in casual clothing like sweaters and headbands.

Jeune
génération

Young
generation

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LAURENCE VERCAMMEN
Rédactrice en chef / Editor-in-chief



ÉDITORIAL

3

ENTRETIEN/INTERVIEW

- Fairphone. How fair? 14
Granada: Ciudad Amiga de la Infancia 16
29^e Salon du livre de Genève 42

OMS&ONU/UNOG&WHO

- FerMUN 2015 5
Child Soldiers 12
Geraldine fights Ebola 22
Empowered children, health ambassadors 24
Portraits croisés 38
Peace Column 39
WHO heritage: Portals to "health" 40
UN heritage: The blue planet of human life 41

SOCIÉTÉ/SOCIETY

- Les surdoués: drôles de zèbres? 8
Le droit des femmes:
Combattre un apartheid 18
Ever thought about freezing your eggs? 21
Le burn-out: maladie du siècle? 30
Quel sens donner au travail? 36

NOUVELLE GÉNÉRATION/NEXT GENERATION

- Ready... Set... Write! 6
Young Coders 10
Recycling at school 32
Hospital for Hope 34

LOISIRS/LEISURE

- An amazing journey 26
The world is your stage 28
Salon de l'automobile de Genève 44
The International Tennis Club 46

- Message de la rédactrice en chef 47
Message from the editor-in-chief 47

La jeune génération L'effet boomerang

Récemment on m'a demandé si j'avais à formuler un seul message à la jeune génération, quel serait-il?

Les défis auxquels la jeunesse doit faire face sont changeants et multiples. En fonction de la localisation, ils varient en taille et en nature mais une certitude demeure: ils sont inhérents à notre société. Lorsque les défis actuels seront résolus, d'autres surgiront.

Alors quel message lui délivrer? De croire en ses talents pour se dépasser et réaliser ses rêves et ses projets. De défendre ses idées et ses convictions malgré l'adversité.

Sur ce parcours, la société a le rôle d'accompagner les jeunes pour les aider à s'épanouir, développer leur personnalité, et l'estime d'eux-mêmes. Elle a la responsabilité de leur donner accès à l'enseignement afin de leur permettre d'apprendre le métier dont ils rêvent pour qu'ils puissent s'investir pleinement dans la société.

En retour, les valeurs transmises à la jeune génération nous reviennent sous une autre forme. La jeunesse apporte un regard neuf sur la vie qui peut parfois nous amener à remettre en question nos propres convictions, nous dépasser à notre tour pour réaliser de nouveaux rêves et découvrir des endroits insoupçonnés.

C'est l'effet boomerang. On ne sait cependant jamais prévoir le moment auquel il retournera à l'expéditeur.

«Les plus grandes joies sont celles qui viennent à l'improviste.» Naoual Younsi

The Young generation The boomerang effect

Recently I was asked: if I had a single message to give the young generation, what would it be?

The challenges faced by youth are changing and multiple. Depending on location, challenges vary in size and nature, but one thing is certain: they are an integral element of every society. When current challenges are resolved, others arise.

So what is the message? To believe in themselves, and to excel in order to achieve their dreams and projects. To defend their ideas and their beliefs in the face of adversity.

On this journey, society's role is to accompany them, to help them grow, to develop their personalities and their self-esteem. It is also society's responsibility to provide access to education to enable the young generation to learn the skills and trades they dream of, in order to invest fully of themselves in their world.

In return, values that pass to the young generation come back in another form. Youth brings a new outlook on life that can sometimes change beliefs and make us strive to achieve in our turn, realize other dreams and discover unexpected places.

This is the boomerang effect. One can never predict, however, when it will return to the sender.

"The greatest joys are those that come unexpectedly." Naoual Younsi



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"Delegates" of FerMUN 2015

How Youth engages with International Issues

This year's FerMUN conference gathered 600 students from 35 schools in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and North America to debate about the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

MONICA LISACEK AND CELINE TIFFAY

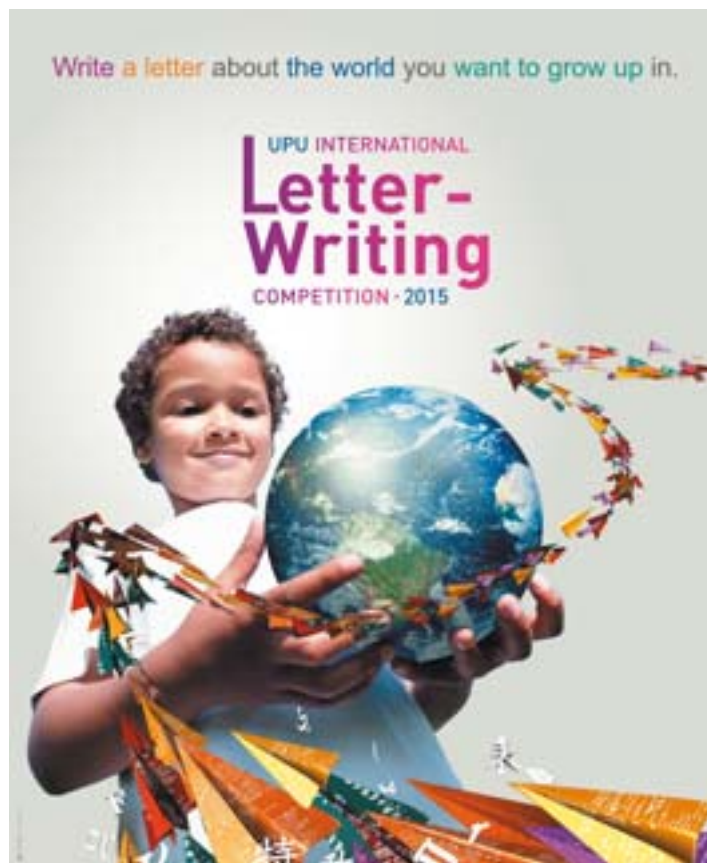
Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation of UN debates on geopolitical topics that aims to motivate student involvement in international issues and to build skills in debating, research, and writing. FerMUN is the Lycée International de Ferney-Voltaire's own Model United Nations. This French school welcomes approximately 1700 students from over 80 different countries, and is therefore known for its cultural and ethnic diversity. Its proximity to Geneva allows it to benefit from multiple international organizations, generating wonderful opportunities. For the third year in a row, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva hosted FerMUN's international conference in the beginning of 2015, and for the second time, the FerMUN opening ceremony took place in the prestigious room of the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations at the United Nations' headquarters. This year, more than 600 students from 35 schools in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and North America came together to debate about current global challenges: those of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Created in 2006, FerMUN became the very first MUN club to hold bilingual conferences, accessible to any French or English speaking student. It enabled participants to overcome the language barrier that has long been one of the challenges to effective international discussion and policy-making. Student interpreters used the modern ITU facilities to translate simultaneously from one language to the other. Resolutions and articles were also written in both languages, with the help of the many student translators. Thanks to the teams of interpreters and translators, FerMUN conferences have had an additional educational benefit as they are an opportunity for students to develop their understanding and communication skills in a language other than their own. Most participants decide to take on the role of "delegates", each of whom represents a country's point of view and interests, to then debate on global issues within a specific committee such as human rights, environment, or the security council. They do their research independently

continued on page 7

Ready... Set... Write!

Universal Postal Union annual letter-writing competition urges youth to describe the world they want to grow up in.



SARAH JORDAN, SDLS, UNOG

When was the last time you wrote a personal letter on a piece of paper with a pen, slipped it into an envelope onto which you stuck a stamp and then walked to a letterbox and posted it? If your answer to this question is “Well, let me think...”, then imagine what the answer from our children would be...

The era when the pop songs youngsters danced to included lyrics such as “There must be some word today/From my boyfriend so far away/Please Mister Postman, look and see/If there’s a letter, a letter for me/” are long gone with electronic mail dominating today’s communications. When I was at school in England in the 1970s, my first contacts

with “the continent” were through “pen-pals” – young people I never met but with whom I exchanged letters. Class teachers made projects around this with maps and identity photos on the wall representing this network of distant friends. It was a simple but effective way of broadening our horizons and improving our written expression.

If you are a parent who thinks that letter-writing is a useful skill and that it would be a shame to see it die out, here’s an idea to get your 9 to 15-year olds to write a good old-fashioned letter and maybe even win a prize for it – a gold, silver or bronze medal. The Universal Postal Union (UPU), created 140 years ago, runs an annual international writing competition

for Young People, of which this year is the 44th edition. In the words of this international intergovernmental organization: the competition is an excellent way of making young people aware of the important role postal services play in our societies, develops their skills in composition and the ability to express their thoughts clearly, fosters their enjoyment of letter writing, and helps strengthen the bonds of international friendship.

The theme for 2015 is: “Write a letter about the world you want to grow up in”. This theme links to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, successors to the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals, and young people’s involvement will be crucial in the adoption and implementation of these new goals. In the words of UPU Director General Bishar A. Hussein: “This year’s theme will surely inspire many young people, but their letters will inspire us, too, as we all work together on building a better-connected, inclusive and modern society.”

About 60 countries and more than 1.5 million school children are expected to take part in the UPU’s annual competition. Countries have launched the competition nationally and entrants have until 30 April to send the UPU of their country of origin the letter that will represent them at the international level. (Switzerland is not participating in the competition). Entries are accepted in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and should be no more than 800 words in length. Winners will

be announced in August, just before the UN’s special summit on sustainable development in September 2015. Prize-giving ceremonies are usually held on 9 October, the anniversary of the foundation of the UPU, to form part of the activities connected with World Post Day.

For inspiration, look no further than the entry from last year’s gold medal winner 13-year-old Nataša Milošević from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the theme of “how music can influence lives”. It is quite something!¹

Here are some figures to encourage your children to compete: in 2013, 5.4 million employees worldwide processed and delivered 340 billion domestic and international letter-post items and 6.7 billion parcels. Some 663,000 postal establishments make the postal network the largest physical distribution network in the world. So maybe “snail mail” is here to stay for a little longer than we might have imagined... ■

For full details of the competition and entry forms, follow this link: <http://www.upu.int/en/the-upu/international-letter-writing-competition-for-young-people/2015-competition.html>

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuAWC6eHAuE&feature=youtu.be>

continued from page 5

and are expected to present their findings and ideas professionally throughout the conference, as any real UN delegate would. Other students decide to become members of the press – behind the scenes positions essential to the documentation of the conference and the topics discussed. The club's directors, most of them teachers at the school, help with the organization and coordination of the events.

What is particularly important about FerMUN is that students are immersed in many different cultures, ideas, and opinions. Indeed, the 2015 conference alone congregated students from 15 countries, each with differing religions, languages, and ways of life. The multicultural dimension of FerMUN enables students to better understand other cultures and ideologies, and to grasp the complexity of the world and the difficulties associated with agreement on and coordination of effective global actions.

The role-play of delegates is also a way to consider and experience the myriad and diverse approaches to tackling an issue.

Indeed, delegates have to adopt the view of their country or organization without being influenced by their personal view, which is a way for them to discover the beliefs and theory behind opposing opinions. Both the multicultural and bilingual dimensions of FerMUN promote a deeper understanding of the world's diversity; this understanding is essential for the creation of efficient solutions to urgent global challenges.

Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the United Nations once said: "Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace." This is precisely what FerMUN's goal is: to engage and empower youth. Indeed, it enables students to gain high-level understanding of political, economic, and social issues; to become involved in seeking potential solutions; and to expand their knowledge of the international dynamics that influence global decision-making.

This year the theme of the FerMUN conference was the post-2015 sustainable development agenda for the Millennium

Development Goals, presenting an opportunity for relevant and timely discussions related to a current policy process. The breadth of the issues meant that students could attempt to find innovative solutions to problems that have plagued the world for decades. The topics discussed were wide-ranging and emphasized the diversity and complexity of challenges facing the younger generation. Among the issues debated were the question of the preservation of biodiversity in the world, the challenge of eradication of gender discrimination in education, and the ongoing urgent concern of extreme poverty. Further background and information was provided to participants by the active press team, who published three newsletters and a comprehensive final meeting report, all distributed during the three-day conference. The press articles covered various issues related to the Millennium Development Goals, the Post-2015 Agenda, and current events such as journalists' rights, whaling, and the evolution of the security situation in the Ukraine. ■

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Les surdoués: drôles de zèbres?



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Think out of the box!

«Il n'y a pas de normes.
Tous les hommes sont
des exceptions à une
règle qui n'existe pas»
Fernando Pessoa

CLARISSE MEES

Les «smart people» font-ils leur coming out? Depuis quelques années, nous avons pu découvrir sur nos écrans de télévision des personnages tels que *Dr House* ou Walter White, génie de la chimie, dans la série *Breaking Bad*. Et plus récemment au cinéma, les Oscars ont récompensé le biopic de Stephen Hawking. Ces personnalités constituent une toile de fond propice pour brosser un portrait succinct des enfants et adolescents surdoués.

Différents termes sont utilisés pour désigner les surdoués: enfants précoces, en douance, HQI pour haut quotient intellectuel ou HP pour haut potentiel. Mais qu'est-ce qu'un surdoué? Ils sont souvent «détectés» sur base d'un test d'évaluation du quotient intellectuel (QI). Le QI d'une population se répartit suivant une courbe de Gauss, autour d'une moyenne fixée à 100. A l'une des extrémités de cette courbe, se trouvent les personnes possédant un QI supérieur de 2 écarts-types par rapport à la moyenne, soit 130 sur l'échelle de Wechsler. Sur base de ce critère, les HP forment 2% à 2,5% de la population.

Mais les identifier à ce nombre serait excessivement réducteur. L'intelligence est multiple, complexe et elle ne peut se limiter à un seul nombre. De plus, certains traits de personnalité se retrouvent chez nombre de surdoués et se révèlent plus déterminants

que leur intelligence. Voici quelques illustrations de ces caractéristiques qui nous montrent que les surdoués peuvent être très éloignés du cliché de l'intello à lunettes et qu'un brillant parcours scolaire ne leur est pas nécessairement assuré.

L'hyperstimulabilité

Le surdoué présente souvent une grande sensibilité à l'environnement; certains sens peuvent être particulièrement aiguisés. Il est très observateur et tout peut être source de stimulation (et/ou de distraction!). Le fonctionnement incessant de son cerveau, ses capacités intellectuelles et sa vitesse de traitement font qu'il analyse constamment tous ses stimuli, la plupart du temps sans s'en rendre compte. Ainsi, il est capable de procéder à des déductions, à la manière du célèbre Sherlock Holmes, parfois sans savoir exactement comment il y est parvenu! Les raisonnements sous-jacents sont rendus inaccessibles. Il existe de nombreux exemples dans la littérature spécialisée: des enfants ont la réponse à un problème donné par l'instituteur mais sont incapables de restituer le raisonnement, pouvant encore eux-mêmes douter de la véracité de leur réponse. Les enfants ou adolescents HP peuvent aussi éprouver des difficultés à traiter cette quantité abondante d'informations et à distinguer ce qui est important de ce qui est secondaire ou se sentir agressé par leur environnement à cause de cette hyperstimulabilité.

Favoriser leur concentration est donc important, en limitant les distractions, pendant les devoirs par exemple, en découpant le travail ou encore tout simplement en veillant à ce que l'enfant soit bien reposé.

La créativité

Le surdoué pense vite mais aussi différemment. Jeanne Siaud-Facchin exprime cette idée en adoptant le terme «zèbre¹» pour désigner les surdoués. En effet, au sein d'une population de chevaux, les surdoués ressembleraient plus à des zèbres qu'à des pur-sang de course! Leurs approches des problèmes sont surprenantes, ils peuvent donner l'impression de passer du coq à l'âne, ils empruntent volontiers les chemins de traverse et tout cela pourrait passer pour de la mutinerie. Mais ça ne l'est pas. Ils ont leur propre logique qui s'inscrit souvent dans une vision plus globale. Là encore, on peut y voir une explication de l'échec scolaire rencontré par certains jeunes surdoués s'ils ne parviennent pas à s'adapter aux types d'apprentissages plus séquentiels et conformistes de l'école. Certains établissements d'enseignement proposent des pédagogies par projet. Elles leur conviennent souvent mieux mais il est important de préserver une structure claire. Cette dernière est en effet nécessaire à rassurer les enfants surdoués et limiter les angoisses auxquelles ils sont particulièrement vulnérables.

Il est souvent utile de leur expliquer le fonctionnement de l'école pour les inciter à s'en accommoder tout en encourageant l'expression de leur créativité dans les autres domaines de leur vie.

L'autonomie

Pour un surdoué, tout est susceptible d'être remis en question. Y compris les consignes! Ils ont besoin de comprendre les raisons de chaque règle pour la respecter et l'appliquer. Une fois adulte, leurs choix de vie peuvent se révéler atypiques ou marginaux. Une explication peut se fonder en partie sur une théorie du développement de la personnalité décrite par le psychologue, psychiatre, physicien, écrivain et poète polonais Kazimierz Dabrowski. Celle-ci se base sur trois facteurs; les facteurs héréditaires, les facteurs environnementaux (famille, culture, éducation, etc.) et le «troisième facteur»! Ce dernier exprime une volonté, voire une nécessité, fortement ancrée chez l'individu de se développer sans cesse et de tirer le meilleur de lui-même. Selon Dabrowski, ce troisième facteur est présent chez certaines personnes et est à l'origine d'une remise en question profonde des valeurs et structures apprises (par l'environnement) pour faire émerger un nouveau système de valeurs basé sur des idéaux personnels. De ce fait, les décisions seront prises sur base de cette nouvelle structuration. L'expérience tend à montrer que nombre de surdoués possèdent ce «troisième facteur» et passent par ces étapes. Ils s'affranchissent des éléments appris, se rendent autonome quant à leurs pensées et leurs valeurs et se forgent ainsi leur propre idée de la réussite.

L'humilité

Le doute et la remise en question sont des façons de penser, des automatismes du surdoué. Cette remise en question est éprouvante et ne s'exerce pas uniquement sur son environnement mais aussi sur sa propre personne. Le regard lucide qu'il pose sur lui rend pratiquement impossible tout sentiment de supériorité. Bien au contraire, l'estime de soi est un des enjeux principaux dans l'éducation de l'enfant surdoué.

«L'enfant surdoué a besoin d'être très souvent "arrosé", d'amour j'entends, de paroles rassurantes, car sa lucidité sur le monde va de pair avec une permanente et parfois douloureuse critique de soi. Le surdoué, de par sa perception de ses propres

failles et limites, ne peut prendre la grosse tête. Jamais.»².

Surdoué: un cadeau... tragique?

Les sources de souffrance sont potentiellement nombreuses. Incompréhension des autres, inadaptation sociale, échecs scolaires et professionnels, hypersensibilité encombrante, crainte de l'intensité de ses propres émotions, manque d'estime de soi, construction d'un faux-self pour se protéger d'un environnement perçu comme instable et hostile,...

Le parcours d'une personne surdouée est rarement simple et confortable. L'estime de soi est capitale; elle passe souvent par la compréhension et l'acceptation de son

propre fonctionnement. Pour ce faire, la compréhension et l'acceptation des parents est une aide inestimable! (Tout en rappelant qu'acceptation n'est pas résignation.) Alors, les surdoués sont capables d'expérimenter des sommets, de trouver en eux des ressources insoupçonnées. Et ils nous offrent à leur tour un merveilleux cadeau: une étonnante mise en perspective de la normalité. ■

¹ *L'enfant surdoué. L'aider à grandir, l'aider à réussir*, Jeanne Siaud-Facchin, Ed. Odile Jacob

² *Trop intelligent pour être heureux*, Jeanne Siaud-Facchin, Ed. Odile Jacob

Autres sources: *Le livre de l'enfant doué*, Arielle Adda, Ed. Solar et *Comment je suis devenu stupide*, Martin Page, Ed. J'ai lu (Roman)





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At the Young Coders Festival, 2014

Key to a better tomorrow young coders

*Young coders are
the next big thing, and
it is important that
women make up a fair
half of them.*

RAYANIKA DUTTA¹

PROPOSED BY OMAR BAWA, CMO OF GOODWALL

The first mechanical computer with the concept of automatic computing engine was introduced in 1822 by Charles Babbage. It took over a century since then for the release of the first graphical web browser, NCSA Mosaic, that popularized the World Wide Web in 1993.

The pace of technological advancements in the past century had not been as rapid as it is today. According to a report by the United Nations, “by the end of 2014, there will be almost 3 billion internet users.” That is about 40% of the planet’s entire population. Billions of people around the globe have access to the internet: the magical tool that has made the world more efficient, smaller, and connected. Technology is everywhere and in everything. It serves a significant purpose in healthcare, education, communication, business, and transportation. Social media has made global connectivity a matter of seconds.

However, it is often argued that social media and cell phones are nuisances that are controlling people’s lives, especially young adults’. For teenagers, it is usual

to hear that they are always clinging onto their cell phones, computers, tablets or other devices and are burning time unproductively. Well, if technology is controlling a teen’s life, why isn’t he or she taught to control technology instead? After all, man created it, and not otherwise.

The hot topic for young adults in the world of technology right now is coding. There are initiatives worldwide that are trying to involve young girls and boys into the developing world with the help of coding. Java, C Language, C++, and Ruby may not be a kid’s first or second language, but they can be the most important and useful third, fourth, or fifth language that he or she learns. These are only some of the languages that are primarily used in web and mobile app development. Not only will learning programming pave the way for future employment prospects for young kids, but also accelerate the global economy when they are professionals.

Being a teen who is fascinated by all that can be done by simply writing commands, I can say that coding allows you to be creative, analytical, and most importantly, in control. It empowers you to do many

things: understand the technology that is shaping your world, hand-craft your own websites, and even become a career coder.

The benefits of learning coding for young minds are countless, but the resources, not so much. That is why several initiatives like Google's Made With Code, Khan Academy, Codecademy, Code.org, Girls Who Code, and many more have chosen to accentuate the importance of teaching people, particularly young people to code. Those are few of the many online resources that anybody with internet access can use to learn coding, but it is necessary that starting from early ages, kids are offered computer programming, computer science, or basic coding courses in schools. Computer science plays just as important a role in the real world as mathematics and living sciences. An even bigger issue than not having enough young potential programmers is that there is a huge gender gap between males and females in the STEM careers. Do you know what subjects are included in the STEM courses? The term refers to a wide range of subjects in the fields of chemistry, computer and information technology science, engineering, geosciences, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy and social sciences. According to a study by American Educational Research Journal, "Women do **not** choose STEM careers despite skills." The problem begins early on.

"In middle school, 74% of girls express interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), but when choosing a college major, just 0.3% of high school girls select computer science" (Girls Who Code). Gender stereotypes and conservative cultures block women from pursuing their interest in STEM careers and give them discouragement. Women often choose not to believe that they have the calibre for excelling in computing, mathematics or science. These choices can be due to lifelong, pervasive social structures that shape their perspectives and ideas about what women can and cannot do.

I grew up in India and currently live in the United States, and my experience in both cultures regarding this issue has been similar, though it is a more male-dominant society in India. A simple example: in all schools that I have attended for grades 1-12 in both countries, majority of my math, science, and computer teachers were males

whereas social studies, languages, and arts courses were usually taught by women. Growing up as a girl, the environment and culture you are in plays a huge role in shaping your perspective of a potential career for yourself. That is where somebody has to develop an understanding that it is necessary to challenge the norms, do so, and lead others towards the change.

I currently attend an all-girls school that has a century old legacy. As I transferred in, I was impressed to see so many girls excelling in various academic and athletic departments, but what I did not find, was a technology club dedicated solely to teaching the girls computer programming

and science. I had the desire and drive to pursue my interest but also engage my peers alongside, so I founded my very own Technology Club that I will be leaving behind for my underclassmen. For me, it is an important achievement because I was able to create a setting for all of us 9th-12th grade girls who want to pursue a career in technology. With the help of online resources, twenty of us wrote about 20+ lines of code each in the very first meeting of our club. Young coders are the next big thing, and it is important that women make up a fair half of them. ■

¹ Rayanika Dutta is a 17 year old student from St. Agnes Academic High School, New York, USA



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A drawing from the comic book developed by UNITAR and RDCSI to raise awareness in conflict-affected areas about the use of children as soldiers

Ending the use of children as soldiers, a mission (im)possible?

2014 has been a year marked by waves of violence against children. At this moment child soldiers – boys and girls under the age of 18 – are taking part in armed conflicts in fourteen countries worldwide. What does the international community do to combat the use of children as soldiers?

SVENJA VOLLMER,

UNITAR PEACEKEEPING TRAINING PROGRAMME

Children are viewed as cheap and expendable labor and easy to manipulate and control by warlords. They are used as combatants, messengers, porters and cooks and for forced sexual services. Some are abducted or forcibly recruited, while others are driven to join by poverty, abuse or discrimination, or to seek revenge for violence enacted against them or their families.

According to a report recently submitted to the Human Rights Council by Leila Zerrougi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC), the recruitment and

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use of children became endemic in the conflicts in South Sudan and the Central African Republic. As conflicts go on in countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Libya, Nigeria and the Palestinian territories, we are witnessing continuous violence against children.

In view of these developments, the goal formulated for the “Children, Not Soldiers” campaign, – initiated by UNICEF and the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict – “to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by national security forces by 2016” may seem a mission impossible. However, despite all the negative developments, considerable progress is being made. In early 2015, UNICEF and partners managed to successfully negotiate the release of 600 child soldiers in South Sudan. Countries such as Chad have fully implemented action plans and their national army has thus been delisted from the SRSG’s list of parties who recruit child soldiers.

However, the child soldier phenomenon is too complex to be only addressed at the country levels and in spite of all efforts undertaken by the aforementioned actors, it takes a broader approach to reach the target of “making child soldiers history”. To complement the existing activities, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) joined efforts with the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative (RDCSI). General Roméo Dallaire, founder of the initiative, has himself experienced the devastating effects of encountering child soldiers in the field – at that time unable to find an answer to a child pointing a gun at him. After resigning from his position as Force Commander of the UN Mission in Rwanda, he decided to commit the rest of his life to ending the use of children as soldiers in armed conflict.

It is often blue helmets and other security sector actors involved in peace operations in conflict zones that are the first point of contact for child soldiers in the field. However, just as in the case of Dallaire, they are mostly placed on the front lines dealing with child soldiers, with little, if any, training or preparation on what to expect or how to deal with children being abusively used as soldiers. With the aim to bridge this capacity gap, UNITAR and RDCSI developed a scenario-based e-learning course on “Child Soldiers and Security Forces”. The course that was officially launched in December 2014 in New

York and consists of five modules which take participants through possible interactions with child soldiers. Being equipped for the different types of interactions, security sector actors can become actors that are able to actively contribute to prevent children’s recruitment and re-recruitment.

In addition to the e-learning course, UNITAR and RDCSI are currently developing a comic book series that aims at raising awareness of local population in conflict-affected areas about the risk of children being recruited as soldiers. Building on stories of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Colombia, the comics are designed to build the self-protection

capacities of local communities in areas where children and youth are at risk of recruitment into armed groups.

Although the fight against the use of children as soldiers might appear to be an impossible mission, little by little progress has been made to build a better future for children that are associated with or at risk of being recruited by armed groups. It will take, however, the joint commitment of all actors to finally set an end to the use of children as soldiers. ■

To learn more about the e-learning course on “Child Soldiers and Security Forces” and to see options for taking it, visit www.unitar.org/ptp

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Fairphone project partners "Closing the Loop" and "ReCell Ghana limited" examine a batch of scrap phones collected for safe recycling in Accra, Ghana, Feb. 2014.

Fairphone. How fair?

An entrepreneurial approach from the young generation

Have you ever wondered how a phone impacts the economy and the environment throughout its life cycle? Is it possible to identify potential improvements in the supply chain? Is there space for a more sustainable and smart phone? According to "Fairphone" the answer is definitely "Yes".

GIOVANNA DE MARCO

Social values have a central role in the creation of new sustainable products, where manufacturing and worker's conditions are taken into consideration to determine success. Tessa Wernink, Co-founder and Communications Director of the Fairphone team, explains to us how great ideas can turn into reality and generate sustainable business models.

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How did you develop the idea of creating a “fair” phone?

Fairphone began three years ago as a campaign to raise awareness around the issues surrounding conflict minerals (minerals mined in conditions of armed conflict and human rights abuses, notably in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and grew into a social enterprise that addresses the whole supply chain of consumer electronics. As Creative Director of “Waag Society”, a non-profit institute for creative technology for social innovation, Bas van Abel started the campaign in 2010, because he believed that we need to change the relationship between people and their products. In 2013, we established Fairphone as a social enterprise: a for-profit company aiming at creating systemic change, social impact through a commercial model and work towards a fairer economy.

Why a phone?

The entire global supply chain is too complex and overwhelming to be addressed as a whole, which is why we started with a single product: a high-performance smartphone made as fairly as possible with a transparent supply chain. It's an everyday object that nearly everyone owns. It's both a tangible device and a great symbol of our connected, social world. As such, our smartphone is a practical starting point for telling the story of how our economy functions.

What is the philosophy behind Fairphone?

The phone is a vehicle for change. We're revealing its story, understanding how it's made and producing an alternative. By buying this phone, you are supporting a community that has the power to fuel change. Fairphone facilitates partnerships

between stakeholders to bring best practices together – with working groups on social issues in manufacturing, sourcing minerals through the “Conflict-free Tin initiatives” (CFTI) and “Solutions for hope” and working with foundations to take back e-waste from dumps in Ghana. These are all first steps in a long journey towards fairer electronics. That's why Fairphone is more than a phone. It is an opportunity for people to support ethically produced products that are made differently.

Fairphone has participated in the “Amsterdam Design Week”. How important is the design for your company?

Our motto is: “If you can't open it, you don't own it.” This means that “smart, responsible design” is one of our guiding principles. We create our phone by focusing on a design that considers the whole life cycle of the product. This should enable users to have complete control over how to use and configure it. With our first Fairphone, which was a licensed design, we added design features such as dual SIM capability which reduces the need for two phones, while gaining value in second-hand markets in emerging economies. We made batteries removable and replaceable, and sell spare parts and repair manuals to prolong the life of the phone. For Fairphone's second generation, we are taking more ownership and control in designing the product for longevity, gaining more oversight in the supply chain transparency, focusing on traceability of materials as well as social and environmental issues with all suppliers.

What is the added value offered to your customers?

We believe in consuming as a political act. By buying products, you contribute

to certain business models and can start a movement for positive change. We are not just a bunch of do-gooders; we are making a cool, high-performance smartphone and working on a great customer experience. The first Fairphone has super durable dragontail glass, a quad core CPU for faster processing, 16GB internal memory, a 4.3 QHD display and a dual front/rear camera. In addition and thanks to replaceable parts, customers can open up and fix their phones themselves.

Is it possible to recycle the phones after use?

We are committed to addressing the phone's full lifespan, from use and reuse to recycling. For every Fairphone sold, €3 goes to “Closing the loop”, a foundation that sets up projects in countries where safe e-waste recycling is not yet facilitated. Fairphone users can send in old phones through our EU-wide recycling program. Our ultimate aim is to make new phones entirely from recycled materials. ■

For more details about Fairphone, please visit our website: fairphones.com.

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Granada

Ciudad Amiga de la Infancia

Granada, una ciudad, histórica cultural y turística demuestra que se puede hacer más y que la inversión en la infancia rompe el círculo de la pobreza y la desigualdad social.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative was set up by Unicef in response to several current trends: the rapid rate of urbanization (in the year 2020, 56% of the world population will live in urban areas and 50% of the urban population of developing countries will be under the age of 24); the growth of municipal responsibilities in the context of decentralisation; and consequently, the increasing importance of cities and towns within national political and economic systems.

The aim of the Initiative is to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the level where it has the greatest direct impact on children's lives, the local level – the city. A Child Friendly City (CFC) is committed to the fullest implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that children's rights are reflected in policies, laws, programs and budgets. In a child friendly city, children are active agents; their voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence decision making processes.

UNICEF National Committees in industrialized countries and UNICEF country offices in programme countries are promoting the

CFC approach, in a variety of ways. The CFC initiative in Spain ("Ciudades Amigas de la Infancia") is promoted by the Spanish Committee for UNICEF. To obtain the CFC recognition, the city/town needs to meet the following requirements: existence of a city-wide children's strategy, action plan or coordinated action; the creation of a council for children and youths or similar mechanisms; and an official adhesion of the full city/town council meeting, expressing acceptance of bearing the costs of processing the application. The CFC designation is awarded for four years by an intersectoral jury.

The city of Granada in Southern Spain has been awarded "Ciudad Amiga de la Infancia" in 2014 for the third consecutive time. ■

For more information, please visit www.childfriendlycities.org

Read the interview in Spanish on the next page to discover the impact of the programme on the city of Granada.

CIELO DUQUE ARANGO

Granada, ciudad histórica y cultural de España. Único municipio de lengua castellana nombrado por la Unesco, *Ciudad Mundial de la Literatura* en 2014, por su trayectoria poética y literaria. Sede de tres monumentos *Patrimonio de la Humanidad* y galardonada en noviembre de 2014, por tercera vez consecutiva, como *Ciudad Amiga de la Infancia*, en esta oportunidad con mención de calidad.

Podemos definir una Ciudad Amiga de la Infancia a aquella localidad que se compromete a respetar y desarrollar los derechos de los niños. En la que las necesidades y prioridades de la infancia y la opinión de los menores, forman parte integral de la política y decisiones locales.

El programa de Ciudades Amigas de la Infancia fue lanzado en 1996 en la II Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Asentamientos Humanos (Hábitat II) y busca desarrollar el principio de Unicef, *Para los Niños Primero*. Parte de la idea de que, el bienestar de la infancia es un indicador de un hábitat sano y de una ciudad bien gobernada.

Para entender el impacto de este programa en Granada hemos entrevistado al Concejal de Familia, Bienestar social e Igualdad de oportunidades, Don Fernando Egea.

¿Cómo se implementa este programa en la ciudad?

Contamos con un plan específico de Infancia y Adolescencia, que contribuye a la promoción de los derechos de la infancia y la adolescencia, y a la actuación en la prevención y la intervención con los menores y sus familias, que se encuentren en riesgo social. Busca, además garantizar la igualdad de oportunidades y luchar contra cualquier tipo de discriminación.

¿Y cómo se benefician los menores de Granada con este plan?

Las medidas y recursos puestos en marcha para intervenir con menores en riesgo de exclusión social, se concretan en procedimientos de intervención en casos de maltrato y de absentismo escolar. Se han creado 4 centros de día, donde los menores reciben, fuera del horario escolar, formación y participan en actividades socio-educativas.

Tenemos un programa para familias con menores con problemas. Garantizamos actividades en los periodos de vacaciones y tenemos una amplia oferta educativa y lúdica para todos los niños de la ciudad.

Tenemos programas de formación de padres, atención a hijos e hijas de mujeres, víctimas de malos tratos y educación para la igualdad.” ■



Concejal de Familia, Bienestar social e Igualdad de oportunidades, Don Fernando Egea

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Frédérique Bedos, Founder of the Humble Heroes and Producer and Director of the film "Women and Men" and participants of the 5th Edition of Ciné ONU, Palais des Nations. Friday 6 March 2015.

Le droit des femmes

Combattre un apartheid

L'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. Une idée qui semble progresser, lentement mais sûrement. Mais loin des idées préconçues et des impressions, la réalité du terrain le démontre clairement: la condition des femmes se détériore jour après jour. Pour comprendre ce phénomène, la journaliste Frédérique Bedos, à la tête du Projet Imagine a décidé de s'emparer de la question.

BENOIT DESCHODT

Le 8 mars... une date symbolique. Une date qui consacre un jour à la moitié de l'humanité, les femmes. Pourtant, derrière ce jour se cachent des réalités disparates: un regard trop occidental pourrait le faire apparaître comme une bizarrerie – l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes n'est-elle pas ancrée dans le marbre de nos démocraties? Et le risque d'étendre cette réflexion au monde entier couperait d'une réalité crue: non seulement

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l'égalité femme-homme n'est pas un principe universel mais les droits des femmes reculent. Partout. Inexorablement, dans le silence, loin des caméras, loin de la conscience humaine. Y compris dans nos vieilles démocraties où une femme sur trois est victime de violences physiques.

En 2013, le Secrétaire des Nations Unies Ban Ki-moon exprimait son inquiétude sur ce recul historique. Dès lors, Frédérique Bedos, a décidé de porter le regard vers cette moitié de l'humanité avec ces questions: «pourquoi assiste-t-on à une telle régression du droit des femmes? Et quelles répercussions cela a-t-il sur notre monde?». Après un an de tournage, et la mobilisation bénévole de plusieurs équipes de techniciens, de professionnels de l'image et du son, et même la participation exceptionnelle du groupe Coldplay,

la réponse prend la forme d'un film *des femmes et des hommes* qui sera diffusé aux Nations Unies à Genève et à New York à partir du mois de mars.

Cependant, l'ambition du Projet Imagine n'est pas de dresser un simple constat, sombre et au final contre-productif de la situation mais d'apporter un début de réponse, de donner la parole à des femmes qui ont des propositions, qui posent des actes pour bâtir cette égalité. Derrière chaque reportage, portrait ou enquête, Frédérique Bedos ambitionne de faire vivre un autre journalisme, ce qu'elle appelle le «journalisme d'espoir». Plutôt que mettre en scène la part d'ombre de l'humanité, la plus visible et la plus montrée par les médias de masse, le Projet Imagine prend le parti de révéler la lumière que portent de nombreux acteurs, le plus souvent

anonymes, du monde contemporain. Car le Projet Imagine est avant tout philanthropique, une fondation qui aide ceux qui aident, y compris financièrement via un fond de dotation.

La jeunesse: un investissement

A la vue des chiffres sur la place des femmes dans le monde, le constat est accablant: si en 2007, selon l'Unicef, les femmes effectuaient 66% du travail mondial, produisaient 50% de la nourriture, elles ne percevaient que 10% du revenu global et 1% des revenus de la propriété. Or cette situation empire. Et cette problématique est autant partagée par les pays riches que les pays pauvres. A compétence et travail égal, une femme a dans la majorité des cas un salaire significativement inférieur à celui d'un homme. Selon Marcela Villarreal, directrice des partenariats à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour

l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO), «un traitement salarial égalitaire entre hommes et femmes réduirait la pauvreté d'un pays d'1 à 2%».

Mais, les impacts ne se limitent pas à la seule sphère économique. La précarisation financière de millions de femmes a de nombreux effets délétères sur les structures sociales. Ainsi en France, selon Marie Derain, la défenseuse des Droits des enfants et adjointe au défenseur des droits, «de plus en plus de femmes doivent faire face à une précarisation de leur situation», ce qui conduit à des situations parfois extrêmes. N'étant plus en mesure d'offrir des conditions de vie dignes et salubres à leurs enfants, elles sont parfois forcées de les laisser à des familles d'accueil. Autre phénomène qui s'est aggravé avec la crise: de plus en plus de mères seules se retrouvent

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à vivre dans la rue avec leurs enfants.

Un signal d'alarme fort dans la mesure où les femmes sont au cœur du processus de réduction de la pauvreté: les études de la FAO montrent que la part des revenus qu'une femme consacre à nourrir ses enfants est supérieure à la part qu'y consacre un homme. Effacer les inégalités de salaires en fonction du sexe permettrait donc une meilleure santé générale de la jeunesse, un mieux-être qui représente selon M^e Villarreal, un investissement pour l'avenir de la société. Par ailleurs, les femmes doivent pouvoir parvenir à l'autonomie: économique, certes, mais aussi dans le domaine de l'éducation, car l'éducation, des jeunes filles notamment, est l'un des piliers du droit. Il est en effet impossible de dépouiller un individu de son savoir. C'est la première marche indispensable à l'acquisition des autres droits fondamentaux.

Prendre le pouvoir (politique)

La conquête des droits civiques par les femmes est une affaire récente et, pour une large part, encore balbutiante. Récente car ce n'est qu'en 1945 à la conférence de San Francisco qu'il est pour la première fois fait mention de l'égalité femme-homme comme un enjeu mondial. Balbutiante, car malgré la constitution du CEDAW (Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women) en 1979 et de ONU Femmes en 2010, une législation et un cadre juridique permettant la concrétisation d'une égalité femme-homme est loin d'être une réalité. Et l'histoire du féminisme illustre à sa manière la fragilité du combat des femmes pour leurs droits: tantôt forts dans les années soixante, tantôt affaiblis comme aujourd'hui, les mouvements féministes ont toujours échoué aux portes du pouvoir. Et si, pour Nicole

Ameline, présidente du CEDAW, les femmes doivent absolument pousser les portes du pouvoir, l'urgence sociétale reste de comprendre que «le droit des femmes est un enjeu de démocratie et de paix. Ce n'est pas juste une question de rééquilibrage social».

Un enjeu de paix. Voilà l'une des problématiques fondamentales, et pourtant bien souvent oubliée, du droit des femmes. Pour Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, d'origine Sud-Africaine, Sous-Secrétaire générale des Nations Unies, directeur exécutif de ONU Femmes, le féminisme est un combat contre une forme d'Apartheid. De la même manière que la politique menée par l'Afrique du Sud déterminait la place des Noirs dans la société, l'absence d'un corpus juridique adéquat conditionne les vies de millions de femmes dans leurs pays, les reléguant à des fonctions subalternes. Dans le registre plus global des conflits armés qui sont dans une large majorité le fait des hommes, les femmes sont écartées. Mais pas de tout... Le XX^e siècle a mis en lumière des conflits où le viol et les mutilations des femmes sont érigés en stratégies de guerre. Mais une fois que les armes se sont tues, à la table des négociations de paix, seuls les hommes se retrouvent. Sont exclues des discussions les premières victimes: les femmes et leurs enfants. Et la moitié des accords de paix conclus entre belligérants échouent cinq ans après leur signature. Ce taux d'échec est selon la fondatrice du «Oxford Research Group» et de «Peace Direct», le D^r Scilla Elworthy, dû à l'absence des femmes dans le processus de paix. «La souffrance des victimes ne fait pas partie de la discussion, tranche-t-elle, seulement 7% des négociateurs et 3% des médiateurs de paix sont des femmes». Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka va plus loin



© Flickr: Violaine Martin

et se demande pourquoi, les seuls partis à ne pas avoir pris les armes ne sont pas entendus pour bâtir la paix alors «qu'être un tueur, vous rend légitime pour la faire».

Une conquête sociale, religieuse et culturelle

De manière générale, les traditions, qu'elles soient culturelles, sociales ou religieuses ont positionné et maintenu les femmes dans un rôle de figuration. Quel que soit le culte pratiqué, le fondamentalisme et le radicalisme sont des freins à l'émancipation des femmes. Des freins que de nombreuses femmes tentent de desserrer, autant dans le monde musulman, que dans les pays chrétiens ou dans le judaïsme. Si en Afrique le sort des femmes est lié à une société patriarcale et à la recherche d'un héritier mâle, la Chine est confrontée à la vision confucéenne de la place de la femme dans la société. Mais en Inde, le phénomène prend une ampleur inédite: un nouveau mot a été inventé pour décrire ce qui se déroule dans la plus grande démocratie du monde depuis le début des années 80: l'Evacide, l'élimination quasi systématique des fœtus et bébés de sexe féminin, quelle que soit la classe sociale. Ainsi, en 10 ans, plus de 10 millions d'avortements de fœtus de sexe féminin ont été réalisés. Le

résultat est un déséquilibre de la structure sociale: aujourd'hui les hommes sont de 37 millions plus nombreux que les femmes.

Pourtant, les raisons d'espérer sont là. Le vent de liberté qui a soufflé sur le Printemps de Jasmin en Tunisie est peut-être l'un de ces préludes à un plus large mouvement de libération de la femme et si le ressac comme l'écume sont visibles, la vague de fond est en mouvement. Si le film *des femmes et des hommes* dresse un bilan sans concession, il donne aussi à espérer que l'avenir se bâtira non pas avec une seule moitié de l'espèce humaine, mais bien dans une humanité unie, femmes et hommes, main dans la main. Alors, enfin, nous pourrions imaginer un monde en paix. ■



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GEMMA VESTAL¹

Last month we celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, which represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. Although much progress has been made in improving the status of women in society, atrocious human rights abuses against women continue to persist in some parts of the world. Common forms of violence against women include female genital mutilation, crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour", forced and child marriage, and polygamy. In 2014, UN human rights experts have publicly denounced other harmful practices such as virginity testing, widowhood, infanticide, and body modifications including fattening, neck elongation and breast ironing. Furthermore, many women and girls in both developed and developing countries undergo plastic surgery to conform to social norms of beauty. In many parts of the world, women still have not been afforded the right to vote.

In developed countries, even with greater equality, there

are still glaring obstacles and glass ceilings. For example, pay is not equitable. Based on "Equal-Salary", a Swiss certification of equal compensation for women and men, women in Switzerland are paid 18.4% less than their male counterparts. According to a UN Women 2014 report, the proportion of women working within the UN system decreases as the job category increases. At WHO, of the seven Assistant Director-General positions, five are occupied by men. Only a handful of women hold director-level positions.

Although we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go in order to achieve gender equality. In the area of reproductive rights, a woman's peak fertility years often overlap with the period of her life when she focuses intently on her career track and a pregnancy could derail her career goals. Women are often made to choose between focussing on progressing their careers and building a family. On the other hand, men do not need

continued on page 23

Have you thought about freezing your eggs?

Fellow women, have we come a long way?

For women on a career track, egg freezing is one of the tools that may lead to the achievement of greater gender equality.

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Geraldine fights Ebola

Geraldine is simply a remarkable young lady. You would never imagine what she has been through when you meet her.



© Stephane Saporito

Geraldine Sia Lamin, a 17 year old Sierra Leonean Ebola survivor working with the WHO

WINNIE ROMERIL¹

One minute she acts silly and bubbly like any teenager, and then you hear her describe what she has been through with such grace and maturity,” states Benon Tumwebaze, a fatherly Zimbabwean professor who has worked with survivors for the WHO in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

“I want to tell girls my age not to do what I did. If I had called for help sooner, maybe my mother would still be alive,” said Geraldine Sia Lamin, a poised 17 year-old Sierra Leonean Ebola survivor working with the World Health Organization. Geraldine went on the radio at the height of the outbreak in December 2014 to tell her story with the hopes that people in a similar situation might call the Ebola hotline early and, in doing so, save lives.

Geraldine works 5 days a week with other survivors in a unique Ebola Training Academy. Up to a dozen classes run concurrently with 15 to 30 participants in each. The Training Academy educates nurses and doctors on how to stay safe while providing the best evidence-based care for patients suffering from Ebola. Initiated by WHO

with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation at the National Stadium in Freetown, it is currently administered by the International Organization on Migration (IOM). As part of the clinical management classes, where WHO clinicians teach proven medical strategies to health workers, Geraldine and members of her new survivor family share their experiences from a patient’s perspective.

“My mom was a nurse. When she got sick, she told us it was just malaria. She started an intravenous line on herself and gave herself medicine,” Geraldine recalls. Even though her mother became sicker by the day, she wouldn’t let Geraldine or any other member of the family call the emergency hotline to summon help. “She kept insisting it was just malaria, but it wasn’t. It was Ebola, and we all got infected while we took care of her.” Geraldine was the only one to survive; her parents, elder sister and uncle have succumbed to this deadly disease.

Benon gently coaxed, coached and trained these survivors to be “expert patients.” In this role, they recount their dramatic, painful stories each week during the Survivors Panel, part of

the clinical management class. Hardened military doctors and seasoned public health nurses often weep openly as they listen to how Geraldine and her companions watched helplessly as family members and other patients died, or describe the agony they felt in their joints from the virus for which they didn’t receive enough pain medication.

After the Survivors Panel, training participants must enter the “Mock Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU),” a replica of a real Ebola centre built in the Stadium for training purposes. Geraldine and company re-enact common patient scenarios, while the nurses and doctors, wearing all their layers of protective medical garb in the sweltering Sierra Leonean heat must correctly diagnose and treat their “patients.”

In one scenario, Mohamed Turay a young man who survived Ebola with three of his brothers and his uncle, while his wife, brother and father did not, plays a confused and combative Ebola patient who is ripping out his intravenous line, stumbling out of bed, and kicking over a bucket of infectious vomit and diarrhoea.

Geraldine recounts what happened next, on one occasion in the Mock ETU.

“Mohamed actually took a swing at the doctor. He slapped him right across the face!” she exclaimed with glee like any teenager seeing an authority figure challenged, even though in this case it was in a role-play situation about a disoriented patient. “The doctor was going to rip off his protective mask and goggles and fight with Mohamed for doing that. But we all jumped in and yelled, ‘No, you can’t, you’re in the Ebola ward now. You have to keep yourself safe and treat him humanely!’ That was so great! It’s exactly the lesson these doctors have to learn when their emotions and the stakes are so high.”

Geraldine lives with her brother and younger sister, who have never been infected. At the present time, her future is unsure but she will once again attend school when they reopen. However, she remains ambitious and has plans for a career. “I want to be a lawyer and defend my people and the nation as a whole.” ■

¹ former WHO Communications Officer deployed to Freetown, Sierra Leone

continued from page 21

to consider their fertility as much and are able to have children until their 6th or even 7th decade.

Providing women with choices empowers them. In recent years, there have been technological advances that could provide women more options. Egg freezing could lengthen a woman's childbearing years by freezing her eggs in liquid nitrogen until she is ready to use them. There are several stages to the process. First, the woman is prescribed with hormones that stimulate the ovaries to produce as many eggs as possible, instead of just one every month. At a health facility, a needle is inserted through the vaginal wall and into her ovaries to retrieve the mature yet highly fragile eggs. The eggs are then flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. When the time is right for her pregnancy, the eggs are thawed out, fertilized with sperm from her partner or donor, and then implanted into her uterus.

However, egg freezing is beyond the financial reach of most women. The procedure is expensive and most employers don't cover it in their health insurance policies. In the United States of America, Apple and Facebook are the rare exceptions. Both companies have recently announced that they will pay for their female employees who decide to have their eggs frozen. Some of those who work in the UN System also have this very special benefit. The WHO Staff Health Insurance (SHI) Rules, for instance, stipulate that fertility treatments are reimbursed at 80% up to a maximum of 30,000 USD lifetime entitlement. This includes medical examinations, laboratory tests, scans, medical treatments, hospitalization, artificial insemination, IVF drugs, donor eggs, donor sperm and freezing of embryos. WHO SHI covers egg harvesting and freezing and does not impose limits to age or number of attempts, with the only restrictions of a maximum cumulative cost within the set limit and the treatment being performed by a licensed clinic and doctor.

In Switzerland, egg harvesting and freezing are allowed under the Swiss Law on reproductive medicine. The Clinique Générale Beaulieu in Geneva offers egg freezing through the vitrification technique. According to Dr. Anna-Maria Stalberg (info@amsfertilite.ch), who is a practicing Obstetric/Gynaecologist at the Clinique Générale

Beaulieu, although there is no written age limit for egg vitrification, she would recommend egg harvesting and freezing to women in their 20's or 30's as these are the best years of healthy ovarian reserve, and for the eggs to be thawed, fertilized, and implanted between ages 37 to 44.

Women who are able to overcome the financial obstacles still need to consider ethical issues and medical risks involved in egg harvesting and freezing as well as in vitro fertilization. Nonetheless, the author of *Motherhood Rescheduled* stressed that egg freezing is an insurance policy for women who haven't met Mr. Right and/or need to focus first on their careers before making the decision to have children.

The decision of egg freezing might relieve some stress for many women who are trying to balance career, dating, motherhood, and family. This option could be a tool to be considered in the achievement of greater gender equality. ■

¹ With research assistance from Aurélie Abrial, Moira Sy and Angeli Vigo

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World Health Day on Food Safety

Empowered children are the best health ambassadors

*Children are tomorrow's consumers
– They need to know their food*



**PAUL DAVID GARWOOD,
WHO COMMUNICATIONS**

One of the first things we teach our children is to know their environment in order to avoid risks and make good choices for their lives and health. We start by explaining basic things like not to put fingers in electrical ports early on. As they get older, we teach them how to cross a road when the light is green, or the importance of sun block cream to avoid sun burn.

But how often do we teach them that food can be risky, and that it needs to be selected and handled with care to avoid serious diseases?

This year, food safety has been chosen as the theme of World Health Day (WHD), which is celebrated every year on WHO's birthday, 7 April. WHD is an opportunity to alert governments and each single person to the importance of food safety, especially in an increasingly globalised world.

We all eat every day and so the food we eat must be safe. Everybody along the food chain, from farm to plate, has a role to play to ensure that the food will not cause diseases. Food can become contaminated with harmful microorganisms, toxins or chemicals at any point during production (at the farm or slaughterhouse), processing, transportation, storage and preparation.

Aside from the normal curriculum, kids should be taught about food safety at school as well.

Consumers play major role in food safety

Even though food producers have the primary responsibility to keep the food we buy safe, consumers have an important part to play. Knowing our food, and the associated benefits of being an empowered consumer, should be taught from the youngest possible age.

“All children start to handle food at certain points in their lives, whether eating food prepared by others, or preparing it for themselves,” according to Dr. Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director of WHO’s Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses. “They need to learn about the risks associated with unsafe practices to become informed consumers who are able to make safe choices. Then once these children become adults, they can transmit their knowledge and good practices to the next generation.”

Kitchen food safety does not just end at the refrigerator. Hand washing before preparing food or eating, cleaning cutting boards, cooking food thoroughly, selecting safe raw or pre-cooked products at the market, and reading food labels should all be part of the basic education at home and at school.

Children, and parents, need to be aware that ingestion of unsafe food can cause not only food poisoning, often associated with vomiting, stomach ache, diarrhoea and fever. It can also lead to malnutrition, serious diseases such as cancer and even death.

Also, everybody should be aware that children face higher risks when exposed to foodborne pathogens as they have lower body weights, less developed immune systems and are, therefore, weaker to fight infections.

Involving kids in cooking and preparing meals is a great way to teach them about healthy behaviours both in food safety and nutrition. Several countries have included food safety education in their school curricula with the ministry of health and the ministry of education working together. Several countries in Central America have integrated food safety education into the whole school community (not only children, but also the parents, and the personnel in canteens).

Activities can include hands-on experiments that make micro-organisms visible to students, or games to match pathogens with diseases. Be it at home or at school, learning about food safety can definitely be fun!

The 5 Keys to Safer Food

As part of its global strategy to decrease the burden of foodborne diseases, WHO has

developed a simple message based on science that each individual all over the world should know to prevent food-borne diseases.

The Five Keys to Safer Food (1. Keep clean – 2. Separate raw and cooked food – 3. Cook thoroughly – 4. Keep food at safe temperatures – 5. Use safe water and raw materials) teach the basic food hygiene principles.

Adopted by over 100 countries and translated into 87 languages, mainly on initiatives from countries, the WHO Five Keys to Safer Food have become an international reference source. The Five Keys to Safer Food are now available as an animated video for the general public. Watching the video as a family or at school can be the start of passionate discussions! You can watch it in English, French and Spanish at [http://www.who.int/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/)

[foodsafety/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/), comment on the WHO Facebook page and share.

Children are tomorrow’s consumers, and explaining the importance of food safety, and how to ensure it at home, school and elsewhere, is essential to building a healthier future, and central to the 2015 World Health Day campaign. ■





© Freddy Beelen

Riding on the last leg to Belgium



© Ron Fellowes

Tyre blowout in Iran

An amazing journey

One Adventurous man, one Ancient Motorcycle and an Audacious Dream: proving nothing is impossible

LYNNE FELLOWES

While others his age were enjoying quiet retirement, Ron Fellowes set off on the challenge of a lifetime. His dream to ride a 102 year-old FN motorcycle across the world – to the Belgian factory where the bike originated – had all the hallmarks of an epic adventure: one that was never going to be easy.

For eight months Ron rode 14,606 kilometres through 15 countries under grueling conditions, into some of the world's most hostile territory. He faced desert sandstorms, mountains too steep for the motorcycle's capability, the threat of rockslides and bombings when he took a detour, and pressure from armed police through conflict zones. On one occasion Ron was robbed, and on another, when held at gunpoint, he faced his own mortality.

The motorcycle's limited capacity – no gears, inadequate brakes and pedal assisted – made the journey a struggle. Breakdowns were common, and only Ron's ingenuity and single-mindedness; his wife Lynne's logistical support, and the generosity of others kept him going. If you were to ask this unassuming septuagenarian why

he undertook such a difficult journey, he'd probably smile and say, "Why not?"

When he acquired the bones of a rare four-cylinder FN, Ron made a promise to the previous owner that one day he would ride the bike back to Belgium. Little did he know then that it would be more than forty years before this would become a reality.

With the restoration finally complete in 2010, Ron's aim was to ride to Belgium, to join in the FN Herstal's centenary celebrations. Packing tools, spare parts, extra tyres and fuel was essential, but with space at a premium, finding room for a tent, sleeping bag and clothing proved challenging. Extra weight would make the little bike unstable, and also add to the burden of pushing when it became necessary. Flying himself and the motorcycle to Kathmandu to begin the journey made sense to Ron – "It would be all downhill from here," he laughed.

The road conditions through Nepal were rough. On the narrow, broken surface, buses and trucks overtook on blind corners, swerving at the last minutes and forcing Ron to take evasive action. Passing twelve

crashed vehicles in one day did little to ease his mind. And India too had challenges: wandering cows, daily processions and the inevitable crowds who gathered whenever the bike stopped. Everyone wanted to squeeze the bike's horn and they would always ask the same questions: "Where are you from?" "Where are you going?" "Where is your wife?"

Maps were awkward to follow while riding, so Ron wrote instructions on scraps of paper. He called these his GPS – Going Places Slowly. And when the GPS blew away, Ron asked directions from locals, many of whom spoke no English. But even if they didn't know where he was heading, they were only too willing to show the way – with everyone waving their arms in different directions. Camping was out of the question in India. Dhabas (truck stops), where long-haul drivers eat and sleep on their two-week shifts, were a good alternative. For only a few rupees Ron could enjoy a hot meal and a cold shower, then stretch out on a charpoy: a bed made from strips of old tyres. Despite the incessant flashing lights, blaring horns and radios, Ron had no trouble falling asleep after a long day's ride.



Ron resting at an Indian dhabba

Broken spokes were an almost daily occurrence, and local repairers helped by bending new spokes to suit. When the beaded edge back tyre blew out – not once but three times – the motorcycle careered across the road on the rim, sparks flying. Once a suitable rock was located, on which to jack up the bike, it could take several hours to remove the back wheel and change the tyre, much to the interest of passersby.

Through south-west Pakistan, where the road bordered Afghanistan, it was mandatory to have an armed police escort. The police were courteous, but had no understanding of the limitations of a 100-year-old motorcycle. They constantly urged Ron to ride faster over the 600 km broken, potholed desert road. His main concern was not an attack from insurgents, but that, unless the engine was allowed to cool down, it would seize.

Once well across the border of Iran, the police escorts were no longer necessary and Ron had the freedom to travel at his own pace. With stunning scenery to enjoy,

and the ancient cities of Bam, Kashan, Isfahan and Shiraz to visit, he began to relax. Persian hospitality was second-to-none, and Ron was loaded down with gifts, especially fruit.

“I lost count of the number of watermelons I was given,” he laughed, “Despite having no spare room to carry them.”

But no journey of this magnitude is without incident. Ron returned to his campsite after breakfast one morning to find his tent slashed and all his belongings stolen. “I’d grown comfortable among strangers,” he said. “Everyone I met was friendly, so it was easy to become complacent.”

Some weeks later, Ron ignored the warnings about crossing Eastern Turkey, and that was to be his undoing. He was already well into the country when he learnt there had been a kidnapping in the region. His choice not to follow the northern route resulted in a situation that could have had grave consequences. Yet, despite the psychological effect of having a shotgun put to his head, Ron found the courage to

continue, though it would be many months before he was able to face his demons and lay the matter to rest. The further west Ron travelled, the steeper the mountains became. With dogged determination he pressed on, seemingly pushing the bike almost as much as he rode, in order to achieve his goal.

Although he lost 10kgs during the ride, the seventy-year-old remained in remarkably good health. Apart from the occasional stomach upset, the only medical treatment he required throughout the journey was as a result of pressing his boots into the ground to help stop the bike. This wore the skin on his toes raw and blackened the nails.

A young boy, seeing the condition of Ron’s feet, escorted him to a local doctor for treatment and for days afterwards, phoned to check Ron was applying the ointment the doctor had prescribed. The doctor, who refused payment, insisted Ron was a guest in his country and wished him a safe journey. This was typical of the care and concern shown by people everywhere. Finally, after eight grueling months, and with the little motorcycle close to collapse, Ron reached his goal and rode through the FN factory gates at Herstal, Belgium. There, waiting to greet him was a large crowd of supporters: many of who had been following his journey since its inception. One wonders why a man his age would test himself in this way? His answer is simple: Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. And, it’s not the places, but the people who are special. Ron believes that if he learnt anything from the experience, it’s that we have more in common with one another than we have differences, and that it’s the journey, not the destination that counts. ■

Discover the full encounter of this exciting journey in “No Room for Watermelons”. For details on how to order a copy, visit the website: www.oldblokeonabike.com

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Simply Theatre Academy students on stage

The world is your stage!

Taking drama classes at a young age can be extremely helpful in preparing young people for their future career. The capability to influence others through the art of personal communication will be an essential skill for tomorrow's international leaders.

VERONICA RIEMER¹

Kids in Geneva are spoilt for choice when it comes to extracurricular pursuits, with a range of opportunities from cheerleading to chess and everything in-between. With so many choices in sport, music, arts and crafts, it can seem overwhelming, but getting involved in new activities with new people is a fun way for young people to challenge themselves.

Taking up a new hobby promotes a balance with studies, helps to build social relations

outside school, develops problem-solving and time management skills and cultivates a creative mind. And for those who have their eye on a university education, participating in a variety of extracurricular activities, while maintaining good grades certainly places any student at an advantage in front of an admissions board.

Participating in activities such as acting have huge benefits for developing a child's confidence, language and communication skills, teamwork and concentration at school. Learning new songs, playing new games and participating in pretend play (when children must take on the language of the role they are playing) all contribute to a child's vocabulary. As they express themselves both verbally and through facial expressions and body language, they are on a path to become better and more effective communicators.

Husband and wife Tom Grafton and Jenna Melling are the founders and Company Directors of Simply Theatre, an English speaking theatre Academy in Geneva &

Zurich. “The skills developed in acting and performing arts classes take children further than just the stage and screen” said Jenna, whose initiative to open the Academy 10 years ago has been well received in Switzerland. “Children who attend courses in acting are skilled at working in groups and cooperative learning activities. They use self-discipline, accept feedback easily, and think creatively”.

So how will all this help your child? “When your child is in school and has to complete a group project, they will be better at listening to the other group members and completing the assignment through a consensus-based approach” explained Tom. “When the next presentation is assigned, your child will have the self-confidence and vocal control to deliver a speech that will engage the audience”.

This is particularly relevant in an environment such as Geneva, where students are frequently studying in a language which is not their own mother tongue. “Children can become very introverted, shy and lose confidence when communication is challenging”

explained Tom. “We have one lovely memory of a student who did not speak for 5 weeks in the Simply Theatre class, who by year end was learning lines, and projecting clearly their learned parts in their end-of-year production. Needless to say, she and her family were very happy with her progress”.

With kids ages 8 to 18 spending on average 44.5 hours per week in front of screens, it is clear that our children will become expert users of technology. But tomorrow’s international leaders, diplomats and CEOs will be the ones who stand apart from all the computer experts and make things happen, because they are able to influence others through the art of personal communication.

Taking drama classes at a young age can be extremely helpful in preparing young people for their future career. So many of us are intimidated by the thought of giving presentations at work, or get nervous when they have a job interview. This is where drama comes in – learning techniques that help to build confidence when appearing in front of an audience. The high pressure situations that come along with performing

in front of an audience can be excellent in helping even naturally shy people overcome self-consciousness.

Seventeen-year old Lisanne Hopkin, an enthusiastic Simply Theatre student for the last eight years, says that her drama training has brought her a sense of self-belief. “I have learned to not constantly put myself down for doing things wrong, but to pick myself up, understand that this environment is competitive and everyone is talented but we all have our own unique gifts that make us stand out. And that’s what people should focus on, their uniqueness”.

And these skills and beliefs can be incredibly beneficial in all aspects of life, from interpersonal relationships to business negotiations to conflict resolution of any sort. So whether or not your child is destined for centre stage and the focus of all cameras, the drama experience can translate into success in countless other aspects in addition to a life in the world of theatre.

¹ Communications Officer, WHO Staff Association

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«Le Burn-out est la maladie de la solitude» (C. Dejours)

Le burn-out: maladie du siècle?

En 2014, une enquête en Suisse révèle qu'une personne au travail sur 4 serait «assez» ou «très» épuisée (soit 1 million de personnes). Qu'est-ce que le burn-out et comment peut-on le prévenir?

PATRICK MESTERS¹

Dans nos entreprises, administrations ou organisations, une nouvelle maladie insidieuse et dangereuse est en train de faire son nid: le burn-out!

Le burn-out (BO) ou épuisement professionnel est une expérience négative, personnelle, psychologique et physique en réponse à des stress professionnels devenus ingérables. Contrairement aux idées reçues, il affecte des personnes motivées, enthousiastes, expertes en leur métier.

Le burn-out se caractérise par trois groupes de symptômes. Les victimes souffrent d'un épuisement physique et intellectuel, de l'impression d'être éreinté, «vidé» de toute capacité de réaction et de ressources physiques. Troubles du langage, de la mémoire et de la concentration, hésitations, fluctuation de l'humeur, troubles de l'appétit et du

poids, insomnies, douleurs, s'enchaînent. Alors que la «victime» a l'habitude de déplacer des montagnes, à ne jamais se plaindre, elle se sent terrassée et paniquée par ce constat d'impuissance.

Une déshumanisation dans les relations humaines s'installe par une hypersensibilité émotionnelle, le cynisme, l'agressivité, une perte d'empathie vis-à-vis de l'entourage. «Le sujet ne se reconnaît plus».

Le BO s'accompagne d'une démotivation, d'une perte de sens, d'un désengagement professionnel. Paradoxe: les victimes adorent leur métier et enragent de ne pas pouvoir y retourner du fait de leur épuisement! Par ailleurs, le personnel des organisations humanitaires qui œuvre sur le terrain court le risque de voir un burn-out s'accompagner d'un «stress post traumatique» (PTSD). Cette affection surgit

chez les personnes qui ont été témoins ou cibles d'exactions mettant la vie en danger (guerre, accidents, viol, tortures, kidnapping, ...). Flashbacks des scènes de violence, cauchemars, évitement des conversations et des situations en rapport avec le drame, hyperréactivité de l'organisme (troubles du sommeil, irritabilité, troubles de mémoire, dépression, suicide) en sont les symptômes.

Contrairement à la dépression, les personnes en BO gardent un certain appétit de vivre. Elles entretiennent des projets en dehors de la sphère professionnelle. Cependant, fatigue et épuisement les empêchent de concrétiser leurs désirs. Le diagnostic entre dépression et BO est parfois subtil: il requiert un avis médical. Mais ne perdons jamais de vue que l'épuisement est un phénomène neurobiologique qui met la santé en danger. Nos systèmes hormonaux et immunitaires «perdent la

tête». Le patient ne simule pas. Même si aucune lésion n'est apparente, la biologie intérieure subit une tempête dévastatrice.

Les ingrédients qui font le lit du BO conjuguent à la fois des facteurs liés à la personnalité et à l'organisation du travail. Les victimes sont des personnes motivées, perfectionnistes, habitées d'un idéal indéniable et du souci de bien faire, d'un sens des valeurs et des responsabilités. Leur niveau d'exigence est tel qu'il risque de les affaiblir et de faire exploser l'équilibre général. Une petite étincelle mettra le feu aux poudres et déclenchera la déflagration. Quelles sont les étapes qui pavent le chemin des victimes du BO? Le déni (je m'en sortirai tout seul), la victimisation (la recherche de coupable dans l'entourage), la négociation (je m'en sors après 3 jours de congés), le doute et la déprime (rien ne marche plus), l'acceptation et, grâce au repos et à l'accompagnement thérapeutique, la prise de distance et l'élaboration de nouvelles stratégies sont les étapes classiques dans la résolution d'un BO. Se rétablir d'un burn-out demande parfois plusieurs mois d'arrêt de travail.

L'épuisement peut se compliquer de problèmes de santé physique et psychologique (troubles cardiaques, dépression, abus de substances comme l'alcool, etc), d'où l'importance d'être accompagné psychologiquement. Les impacts socio-affectifs peuvent s'avérer importants sur le couple et la famille, et se solder par l'incompréhension de l'entourage. La «victime» doit se défendre sur plusieurs fronts à la fois: sur le plan personnel (sentiments de culpabilité, son impuissance, sa fatigue),

administratif (lenteurs des démarches, contrôles médicaux trop fréquents), social (insécurité financière et professionnelle), familial, existentiel (tout ceci a-t-il encore du sens?).

Mais alors que faire? Nous sommes responsables de la prévention de notre propre BO et nous sommes collectivement coresponsables du BO des uns et des autres. Au niveau personnel, sortir du déni et reconnaître sa propre souffrance est une étape capitale. Il faut accepter l'aide de professionnels de la santé (médecin, psychologue cognitivo-comportementaliste, psychiatre,...). Il convient d'apprendre à se respecter, à dire «Non» (pour pouvoir dire «Oui»).

Les organisations qui réussissent à prévenir le BO sont celles qui s'engagent activement dans la voie du «management durable» qui allie respect des personnes et efficacité professionnelle et qui déploient une vision claire concernant l'avenir de l'activité et de l'organisation. L'exemplarité de toute la chaîne hiérarchique est un élément incontournable de la réussite. Une politique de la reconnaissance (dire merci), la solidarité et l'entraide, un soutien indéfectible des collègues et de la hiérarchie en cas de coup dur, la bienveillance, l'empathie, le courage de défendre les valeurs éthiques, la préservation de l'équilibre entre vie privée et professionnelle, une tolérance «zéro» pour toute forme de violence psychologique (harcèlement moral et sexuel), la répartition de la charge de travail, l'équité et le respect en constituent les ingrédients. En d'autres mots, «Se conduire envers l'autre comme on aimerait que l'on se conduise envers soi».

Dans l'aide humanitaire, la hiérarchie et le personnel administratif travaillant au siège des organisations doivent se soucier de leurs collègues sur le terrain et être conscients du risque important qu'ils courent de contracter un BO, éventuellement accompagné d'un PTSD. Il faut éviter qu'ils se sentent livrés à eux-mêmes face à la complexité des situations qu'ils affrontent. Il convient que le siège de l'organisation leur apporte un soutien effectif sans faille, tant matériel que psychologique.

L'épuisement professionnel renvoie à une réflexion qui porte sur des questions humaines, organisationnelles, sociales, philosophiques. Signe des temps et d'une mutation en cours, la responsabilité de chacun en tant que «citoyen du monde» est interpellée.

Valeurs personnelles et collectives, engagements et priorités privées et professionnelles, la relation que nous entretenons avec nous-mêmes, avec le travail et autrui sont interpellées.

La prévention passe par un renforcement des liens entre les Hommes et les Femmes. A chacun de nous, directions et employés, d'engager une culture d'humanisme responsable tout en participant à la finalité de l'organisation. ■

¹ Le docteur P. Mesters est psychiatre et co-auteur de *Vaincre l'épuisement professionnel: Toutes les clefs pour comprendre le burn-out* paru chez Laffont (2007). Il est directeur du "European Institute for Intervention & Research on Burn-out" (www.burnout-institute.org). Il est enfin cofondateur du "Réseau de Consultations Pluridisciplinaires du Suivi et de la Prévention de la Souffrance au travail" (RPSPS) à Bruxelles.

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Recycling at School

Recycling in schools is losing momentum at a time where it is become increasingly vital that we do so.

EMILY REITER

PROPOSED BY OMAR BAWA,
CMO OF GOODWALL

The fact is recycling helps the environment and this would be beneficial for our habitat. The students of today are the adults of tomorrow; someday youth including myself, receiving the benefits of the school will be the adults at the head of government. "We are living

on this planet as if we had another one," remarked Terri Swearingen, Golden Environmental Prize Winner. This has never been more true. If we teach the youth within our community to recycle they will be better equipped to run the world of tomorrow. Recycling in schools should become more widespread, not less, as the need for it is growing.

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If we were to increase recycling in public schools our environment would be greatly improved. More recycling results in a better planet for future generations. This improved environment means more plants which means more oxygen. Human's kind of need that stuff. This is all pretty basic, right? Then the issue to be addressed is why isn't this happening? It's not a lack of demand. According to the Santa Barbara County's Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division school waste is up to 80% recyclable. For every ton of recycled paper as many as 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil and 7000 gallons of water are saved. Considering the average American goes through 31,350 gallons of gasoline in their lifetime and produces about 64 tons of garbage, the potential for simply running out of resources seems all too likely.

Schools and society as a whole should work to create better balanced adults for a better


balanced future. Establishing recycling programs would create a youth more ready to take on the world. My school has an Environmental Club responsible for all of the schools' recycling needs. Not even all of the classrooms have recycling bins. Only a few classes actually contain appropriate recycling retainers but only paper is allowed in these bins. This is only reducing our output of trash by a fraction of what we have the potential to do. Just think of the massive amount of trash produced by a bunch of sloppy teenagers. Last year only 7 students were on the Environmental Club. Out of some 2,200 students 7 were in charge of the whole school recycling. The ratio on this is somewhat ridiculous; one student taking care of all the recycling needs of about every 314 students.

One could say, albeit slightly narcissistically, "I won't be alive in the future, so how does this affect me?" Forget the fact that all your potential future

offspring will have to live in this polluted future; the near future will be affected as well. Recycling has a direct impact on your retirement and the stability of your government, keep in mind this government will be run by the youth of today. Recycling programs would create well-balanced youth who will be better prepared to run the government and pay your social security in the future. I know for a fact that participating in recycling, both at home and through schools, has given me a sense of appreciation for my counterparts in society and has made me more aware of my own effect on our world, (my 'carbon footprint' per say). A major concern is the monetary cost of recycling. Recycling would not directly affect the school's budget it would be paid for by the government. This is when everyone gasps in horror, taxes! The big, bad government coming to swipe away my income. According to Ecocycle, an organization active in worldwide recycling,

the costs of a recycling program could actually be offset by reduced trash disposal fees. That's a pretty nice idea, and is totally legitimate.

Recycling in public schools needs to increase if we hope to improve our world for tomorrow and empower the youth of today. Too many schools have weak recycling programs that have so much energy-saving, money-saving, quality-of-life improving potential. We must harness this potential by improving recycling in our schools if we hope to live in a better world tomorrow. ■



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Hospital for Hope

By creating a global movement, Hospital for Hope has shown how change can start from anywhere, even a group of students.



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TIMOTHY LIPP

PROPOSED BY OMAR BAWA, CMO OF GOODWALL

When 80% of children in an area suffer from the same, curable medical condition, it should be a prime opportunity for the wonder of modern medicine to provide a solution. But in the Jharkhand district of India, there had been little hope that medical care would ever become a reality. With 70% of the population living below the poverty line, the community was used to being ignored as an incurable challenge. Over the past 15 years however, hope has made an exciting comeback. A local visionary started an organization dedicated

to bettering the community, and a team of Stanford students provided the impetus for explosive growth. The result is an expanding network of schools and a hospital that serves an average 1,000 patients per month. This is their story.

The difficulties Amit Garg encountered when he first went to Jharkhand in 2000 seemed insurmountable. He was a Stanford freshman in the district, teaching at a local school. Amit had experienced the importance of medical care himself several years before when his car went flying off

a 500 feet cliff. It was the medical help of complete strangers that saved his life. Now he saw an environment where there wasn't even the possibility of help, even if strangers wanted to assist.

On that trip he met Jaya S. Upadhyay, the founder of Jagriti Vitara and an advocate for social change. When Amit returned to Stanford his passion for the people of Jharkhand inspired a close group of friends to act. They formed a team that would become the western catalyst of Hospital for Hope. Each year members of the team would spend time in

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Jharkhand, strengthening relationships with Jagriti Vitara and demonstrating a consistent presence in the community. Their trips were funded from their own pockets, and were often combined with research for their graduate level studies.

Each trip strengthened a partnership that would continue long into the future. When Jagriti Vitara expressed the desire to build a school lab, the team sprang into action. They had by this point graduated and spread across the USA pursuing their varied careers: an actress, two lawyers, a venture capitalist and a businessman. With the innovations of email, Skype and mobile phones they could remain connected and committed to impacting Jharkhand.

Their key focus was to raise the capital necessary to fund the expansion of Jagriti Vitara's impact. Small gifts from peers and interested friends eventually gained the attraction of larger donors. Since they were volunteering their time there was no overhead and all the funds went directly to

where it was needed. Sustainable education was increasingly becoming a possibility through Jagriti Vitara's work, but children still fought the fight of their lives to stay healthy and attend class.

Amit hadn't forgotten about the medical help he had experienced from strangers and wondered how it could become a reality in the Jharkhand district. With Jagriti Vitara the team developed a hospital plan and set to work fundraise for it. Using their experience from fundraising for the school, and with their growing network of professional contacts, the team was able to raise the necessary capital for the project. The land was also donated, materials and labour were provided at a discount and professional architects volunteered a year of their time to live in Jharkhand during construction. It was community involvement like this and partnerships with organizations like the One World Children's fund that enabled the hospital to become operational in 2013. Since then it has had a continually-expanding circle of care. Poverty is not a barrier to care,

as it is provided by locally-trained staff for an affordable fee. Jagriti Vitara continues to oversee the hospital and is spearheading charge to make it a self-sustaining project.

The people behind Hospital for Hope believe everyone can become a catalyst for change, not because they have phenomenal abilities but because they are willing to join hands with others around a common vision. Margaret Mead said, "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." ■

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Quel sens donner au travail?

Selon une étude Gallup portant sur 230 000 employés dans 142 pays, sur la période 2011-2012, 13% des employés se sentent engagés dans leur travail. Et pourtant, toutes les études le confirment: la performance, tout autant que le confort de vie au travail, sont corrélés positivement à l'engagement.

PASCAL PONTY¹

La question du sens pose moins de difficultés dans les entreprises privées où les résultats économiques symbolisent la qualité et l'utilité au travail que dans les organisations qui servent la collectivité, comme les associations, organismes sociaux ou médico-sociaux, administrations publiques, les organisations internationales. Dans ces organisations les objectifs sont moins facilement quantifiables, et chaque salarié peut être porteur de sa propre vision, de ses propres valeurs professionnelles.

Les trois registres de la perception du sens

Un travail qui a du sens, c'est quoi? J'ai posé cette question à environ 60 cadres dirigeants de la fonction publique et du secteur privé, ainsi qu'à des professionnels de l'accompagnement,

tous exerçant en France. Leurs réponses font ressortir trois dimensions essentielles:

- **Servir** est le premier thème cité, il se décline en: apporter une valeur ajoutée, contribuer, être utile à la collectivité, créer de la valeur, définir et mettre en œuvre une vision.
- **Etre en relation** vient ensuite: il s'agit de travailler en confiance; de partager, de co-construire; de prendre soin de l'humain, de favoriser le bien-être de tous.
- **S'épanouir** fédère les idées du plaisir mais aussi du développement personnel, de la créativité, de l'actualisation de soi.

Il y a bien sûr d'autres éléments de motivation au travail. Mais si l'on cherche à engager véritablement ses collaborateurs, les thèmes à développer sont bel et bien ceux-ci.

Ces trois éléments sont-ils présents, vivants dans les grandes structures? Trop souvent les missions disparaissent derrière les processus, les indicateurs, les projets plus ou moins pertinents et un sentiment de doute peut émerger face à l'ampleur des missions: la pauvreté, la violence, le malheur n'ont pas de fin, à quoi s'ajoute la lourdeur et la rigidité de l'administration auxquelles chacun doit s'adapter.

C'est dans ces cas qu'un dialogue incluant toute l'équipe peut être initié par la direction afin de redéfinir un sens commun, se réinvestir ensemble sur les missions.

Une retraite organisée par le département en dehors du lieu de travail peut être un excellent moyen de se réunir autour de questions telles que:

- Que cherchons-nous à réaliser, pour qui et pourquoi? En quoi notre travail est-il utile?
- Qu'est-ce pour nous qu'un

travail bien fait? Quelles sont nos valeurs professionnelles?

- Comment souhaitons-nous fonctionner ensemble, partager, co-construire?
- Comment chacun vit-il la situation, quelles sources d'épanouissement y trouve-t-il?
- Quels éclairages tout cela apporte-t-il sur la décision à prendre, le projet en cours d'élaboration, la situation?

La clé est ici d'affirmer que toutes les valeurs, tous les points de vue sont recevables, pourvu qu'ils n'excluent pas les autres. Je suis convaincu d'avoir raison, mais l'autre qui voit le contraire, a aussi raison; ses raisons.

Ces échanges sont souvent passionnés. La condition de leur succès est une véritable sécurité dans l'expression: nul ne doit se sentir menacé en exprimant ce qu'il ressent. Assurer cette sécurité, et conduire des échanges fructueux sur le sens, est un savoir-faire collectif que l'équipe elle-même développera et approfondira dans le temps.

L'expérience d'apprécier sans jugement les points de vue et les valeurs des autres, est toujours une ouverture vers de nouvelles idées, de nouvelles coopérations.

Assumer des décisions porteuses de sens

Oui, le dirigeant doit prendre et assumer les décisions en cohérence avec les orientations, les valeurs, le cadre propre à son organisation. Il emportera d'autant plus l'adhésion que ces décisions seront nourries de ces échanges, inscrites dans une narration porteuse de sens.

La posture managériale dans ces échanges est subtile: si décider est une responsabilité du manager, il ne portera pas de jugement sur les valeurs exprimées par chacun.

Dans un service social d'accompagnement, les valeurs des professionnels de terrain s'opposaient à celles de la direction. Soutien de la personne, valeurs de l'engagement social semblaient irréconciliables avec les exigences de rendre compte à travers des indicateurs et tableaux de bord, de prioriser les actions, d'appliquer les processus et procédures standard. L'issue est venue de l'appréciation des points de vue de chacun comme valides, utiles, enrichissants. Elle a permis de moduler, d'assouplir, d'enrichir une approche qui aurait pu se dérouler comme tant de démarches d'économies aveugles, en mode rouleau-compresseur.

Vers un management humaniste

Source de vitalité pour les personnes et les équipes, la pratique de l'échange sur le sens au travail renforce l'adhésion, l'engagement, et in fine la performance.

Elle s'inscrit dans une tradition humaniste ancienne. On pourra y voir des échos du dialogue socratique de Platon, ou de l'élaboration du «sens commun» suivant Hannah Arendt, pour qui la capacité humaine de juger est indissociable de la capacité de penser avec plusieurs points de vue.

En un temps de remise en cause de l'autorité sous toutes

ses formes, de brassage des cultures à des niveaux jamais atteints, mais aussi d'affirmations identitaires agressives, promouvoir l'échange sur le sens dans la vie au travail constituera une contribution, à l'échelle de chacun d'entre nous, à un monde plus solidaire et plus humain. ■

¹ Pascal Ponty accompagne les managers, les dirigeants et les organisations, en particulier dans les secteurs public, parapublic et associatif. Il développe dans ses interventions une approche de «Leadership Humaniste», recherchant l'équilibre entre impératifs de performance et dimensions humaines.

Pour en savoir plus, veuillez visiter www.news.leadership-humaniste.fr ou encore www.ponty.fr.

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Portraits croisés

A la rencontre de Pierre Fogli (ONU) et de Tomas Allen (OMS)

Ce mois-ci «Portraits croisés» part avec vous à la rencontre de Tomas Allen, bibliothécaire à l'OMS, et Pierre Fogli du Book Shop au Palais des Nations: deux parcours différents liés par la passion des livres.



Pierre Fogli, ONU



Tomas Allen, OMS

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY

«Ma vie, c'est les livres et la musique»

Né à Saint Julien, libraire depuis 25 ans, Pierre Fogli a découvert très tôt sa passion pour les livres. Il travaille depuis dix ans au book shop du Palais des Nations (Bâtiment E, porte 40), lieu où l'on trouve des livres sur divers sujets internationaux, mais aussi des souvenirs comme des t-shirts, casquettes, stylos... Lui, c'est plutôt le côté «book» qui le passionne.

«L'autre jour j'ai vendu *Solal*» dit-il en évoquant un classique d'Albert Cohen. En général, ceux qui ont lu *Solal* ont également acheté *Belle du Seigneur*. «C'était une autre époque, Cohen venait lui-même au Palais à cheval».

C'est un bonheur de parler avec Pierre parce qu'il aime ce qu'il fait. Pour lui, il faut avoir une bonne mémoire et réagir rapidement pour réussir comme libraire, car l'intérêt des gens est éphémère. Ils veulent le dernier livre de Naomi Klein et un ou deux mois plus tard, ils l'ont déjà oublié. «C'est comme Charlie, il y a un mois tout le monde était Charlie».

Pierre fait comme beaucoup d'entre nous, il a sur sa table de chevet une pile de livres et ces

derniers temps, des journaux aussi. Cela vient peut-être de l'envie de s'informer et d'essayer de comprendre pourquoi Charlie.

Avant de devenir libraire Pierre était dessinateur technique au CERN, mais il garde la surprise pour la fin: après les livres, sa passion, c'est la musique. La première fois que sa guitare a résonné à la radio, il jouait avec le frère de Violeta Parra. Il est l'auteur d'un album de quatre titres, qu'il qualifie de «Punk rock», voire de «New age». «Je suis encore très Rock 'n' Roll», dit-il et il ne cache pas son plaisir quand il avoue ne jamais se lasser des Beatles.

Libre cours

Pierre recommande la lecture de *Si c'est un homme* de Primo Levi. Un livre amer qui parle de la Shoah, une des abominations du XX^e siècle. ■

GARRY ASLANYAN

Librarian of the 21st Century

Tomas Allen, a Canadian from the prairie province of Manitoba, refers to his current job at the WHO Library as a dream come true. "I derive a great deal of pleasure from my professional work which allows me to combine my language skills with my love for knowledge dissemination and international development", says Tomas. "And the icing on the cake is living in the Geneva area, where I can practice skating and skiing!" he adds.

For many, Tomas is an unofficial "ambassador" and the face of the organization. New staff, interns and visitors to the WHO all want to know how the world's premier public health agency collects, keeps and disseminates health knowledge. He is particularly proud to have been able to engage with many future public health leaders from around the globe. Tomas believes that the role of a librarian is to anticipate what is to come, think about what kind of information the practitioners need access to and what is the best way to ensure that access. "I very much think that a librarian of the 21st century needs to engage with colleagues and others to ensure he understands what information is needed and to help providing

access to relevant and high quality information and evidence", emphasizes Tomas.

At a workshop in Zambia, where Tomas worked with local public health officials, he was pleasantly surprised when he was approached by a participant who remembered him from a visit he had made to the WHO library while studying at the Swiss Tropical Institute. He remembered that it was Tomas who introduced him to the HINARI Programme which is set up by the WHO together with major publishers to enable low- and middle- income countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. The access to HINARI helped him in his work in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and now in Zambia; he even kept the hand-outs Tomas provided at the time of the library orientation session. At the end of our exchange, Tomas reflected: "The WHO library is changing. The library is about much more than books and journals, and is more than information and knowledge dissemination. It has become a place where small groups meet, exchange ideas, look for sources of information, discuss options and come up with public health solutions". A true statement from a librarian of the 21st century! ■



© Mr. Markus Jerger

Discovery of the "Peace Column" in 2013



© Mr. Markus Jerger

"Peace Column" in the Château d'Allaman

"Peace Column" Extraordinary Discovery in the Château d'Allaman

Lost engraved stone column found commemorating "La Société de la Paix", the World's First Peace Society, later succeeded by the League of Nations and the United Nations.

EVELINA RIOUKHINA

A commemorative column was discovered in 2013 in one of the castles on the shores of lake Geneva – Château d'Allaman. The stone column is engraved and highlights Count Jean-Jacques de Sellaon's peace ideas, achievements and initiatives which marked the beginning of the XIX century, and which were all destined to create peace among nations, religions and cultures. Count Jean-Jacques de Sellaon (1782-1839) is the founder of the first continental European peace society. He devoted his efforts to promote peace and arbitration between nations, and was also known as an ardent opponent of the death penalty.

Château d'Allaman, sometimes called "Peace Castle", was one of the Count de Sellaon's properties associated with his peace activities, and was one of the birthplaces of the peace actions in Geneva. In this castle the 1st Congrès of the "Société de la Paix" took place in 1830. Today, the Château d'Allaman is one of Switzerland's most important private properties of national interest.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the commemorative column vanished. It is only 74 years later, during the complete restoration of the Château d'Allaman that it was recovered, randomly, by pure chance! The column was literally hidden inside a wall (see photo). It was probably hidden at the outbreak of the Second World War, to ensure its preservation in the event of potential danger. If it had not been discovered during the renovation, who knows for how long this historical and architectural marvel would have remained hidden and unrevealed to us.

The peace column is not the only witness of Count de Sellaon's peace activities. Read the May and June issues of UN Special and join us for a fascinating historical journey on the discovery of the Black Marble Obelisk and the Temple of Peace! ■

The author expresses her gratitude to Mr. Markus Jerger for generously making available the rarest documents and archives.

International cultural heritage at WHO

Portals to ‘health’

“Monsieur Fischer’s bronze reliefs sparkle like the spring... it is one of his most remarkable works that deserves admiration”, says a communiqué from the Swiss federal authorities in Bern.



The hallowed bronze portals of the WHO Executive Board Room

GAUTAM BASU, WHO

Like the United Nations Office in Geneva, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) headquarters, inaugurated in 1966, is also a repository of a kaleidoscope of artefacts and art treasures gifted by Member States. These gifts are a testimony of WHO’s enduring collaboration on health with all nations.

The diverse array of artwork – sculptures, paintings and items of cultural value – reposed in the WHO’s main building covers a wide gamut of artistic genres and is representative of most of its 194 Member States. This collective trove includes not only pieces of art such as paintings, canvases, statuettes and murals but also gardens, landscapes and even a glacial rock formed two millennia ago that bears commemorative plaques of priceless value!

We shall bring this repertoire of art forming the ‘cultural heritage’ of the iconic WHO headquarters to our readers through this new column.

In this episode we feature a gift from the host Member State, Switzerland: a set of bronze-panelled doors to the WHO Executive Board (EB) Room sculpted by well-known Swiss artist Franz Fischer. Significantly, it is in the EB Room that important decisions on the health and well-being of the people of the world are made by States’ delegates

at key WHO meetings. The bronze doors, therefore, can perhaps be called ‘portals to well-being and health’.

In the early years of WHO headquarters, a Standing Committee decided on matters of refurbishment and decor. This committee approved of all gifts proposed by Member States. While many Member States donated cash for the construction of the new WHO headquarters, many helped in kind through gifts of artworks for an aesthetic interior or of building components. “Switzerland chose to contribute through an ornamental door to beautify an organization that it is happy to have on its territory,” said a 1965 letter from the Swiss federal authorities to then Director-General Dr. M.G. Candau.

The bronze doors measure 3.6 × 4.2 metres. The two panels feature about 100 embedded figures of men, women and children in different postures, depicting the inexorable triumph of hope and health in the enlightening aura of spring. The austere shine of the embedded bronze figurines on the door’s surface is accentuated by the dull allure of the zinc frame on which they are mounted.

Franz Fischer (1900-1980) was born in Prague and spent most of his creative years in Zurich. He was one of Switzerland’s foremost bronze work artists of the last century,

known for the serene subtlety of his creations of both human and animal forms. Fischer was for many years a member of the Swiss Federal Commission of Beautiful Arts. Fischer’s notable works include a 630 cm tall plaster sculpture ‘Gaea’ for the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich in 1939, and a gold medal-winning life-size bronze sculpture called ‘Walkers’ presented to the World’s Fair in New York the same year.

Bern officially announced the decision of the Swiss government to gift the doors on 14 February 1966. The cost of creating and installing them was about 50,000 Swiss francs (1966 prices). On 22 January 1968 the gift of the doors by the Swiss Federal Council was officially accepted by WHO and acknowledged, along with many other gifts of the time, through the Executive Board resolution EB41.R41.

The choice of the doors had come after careful consideration. In fact, Switzerland had initially voted to gift a tapestry for the walls of the EB Room. The decision was changed later, and the result is for all to admire. ■

With grateful acknowledgements to the WHO archives team (Donna Kynaston, Katherin Ruzena Szepeszy and Reynald Erard) for opening up the archives to research this article.

International cultural heritage at UNOG

The Blue Planet of Human Life

“Praying for peace and environmental preservation, I conceived this earth without any boundaries as if looked at from space. Our duty is to understand that the earth is the only “Planet of Life” and not to forget its priceless value”.
(Yasuhiko Shirakata,
Ceramic Artist)



© Oleksandr Svichewsky

The Blue Planet of Human Life

EVELINA RIOUKHINA

This exquisite vase was created by the artist Yasuhiko Shirakata for the 50th anniversary of the UN in 1995. The anniversary was an historic opportunity to encourage international debate about the role of the UN, as well as to celebrate its accomplishments. It was a time to rekindle the ideals of the UN Charter and to spread the spirit of cooperation among the peoples of the world. The overall theme of the celebration, “We, the Peoples of the United Nations... United for a Better World,” was the inspiration for the creation of this work of art. It was subsequently donated to the UN and is exhibited in the Palais des Nations on the first floor. Since its donation, every five years a special ceremony has been organized to reinforce the artist’s message.

The sculpture was made in the artist’s home town of Tobe, which is well known for this traditional craftwork. Tobe-yaki pottery has a history of over 230 years and is recognised for its durability. This exquisite work of art stands 210 cm, is 105 cm at its widest point, and weighs 300 kg.

The artist had previously spent time in the Philippines as a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and had been responsible for teaching pottery-making techniques to local people. “During my

two-year stay, I shared their food, spoke their language, worked with them, and learned much in return” he explained. “However, I realized that the biggest lesson I had learned was worth more than anything I could have ever taught them. I learned that the essence of international exchange is mutual understanding and overcoming differences of race, religion, and culture with warm-hearted deeds. I understood the pursuit of combating prejudice and learning the value of peace”.

The vase brings together these memories of his experience, his talents as an artist and the prayers for world peace and environmental conservation from active volunteers on duty around the world. This gift from Japan to the world symbolizes the contribution of its people to the efforts of the United Nations. This unique representation of our planet is also the convincing proof that the message of art, regardless of its ethnic or cultural origin, can be understood and appreciated by people all over the world. ■

With thanks to Ms. Clara Gouy for providing precious archives documents.



© Palexpo Pierre Albouy

29^e Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève Un événement multiple aux couleurs de festival

Aujourd'hui, le Salon de Genève est un vrai festival littéraire avec, en 2014, 800 maisons d'édition présentes, 850 auteurs et 2223 animations au programme. Il est aussi l'un des plus grands dans le monde francophone et accueille environ 95 000 visiteurs par an.

PROPOS RECUEILLIS PAR MICHEL CHEVALLIER

UN Special a rencontré Adeline Beaux, directrice du Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève. Cette licenciée en anglais et en sciences de la communication a repris voici cinq ans la responsabilité de ce salon, dont la 29^e édition aura lieu à Palexpo du mercredi 29 avril au dimanche 3 mai. En tandem avec sa présidente, Isabelle Falconnier, Adeline Beaux conduit la mue de cette manifestation qui, depuis trois ans, a multiplié les scènes et les librairies thématiques, les rencontres avec les auteurs et les événements en général.

Parmi les innovations introduites, mentionnons aussi la création du Prix littéraire Montblanc du salon du livre, dont le jury prestigieux unit notamment Metin Arditi à Laure Adler, le lancement de projets de soutien à la création tel Parrain&Poulains qui permet le coaching d'écrivains en herbe

par des auteurs confirmés ou l'encouragement à la diffusion de la littérature d'expression française avec le lancement cette année des Assises de l'édition francophone et des Tandems réunissant des auteurs marocains et suisses.

L'ONU, notamment à travers l'UNESCO, cherche à « construire la paix dans l'esprit des hommes et des femmes ». Est-ce que la littérature et plus généralement la culture ont un rôle à jouer dans une coexistence pacifique des peuples ?

Dans *Le nom de la rose*, Umberto Eco fait dire à son personnage principal, Guillaume de Baskerville, que « Le livre pourrait enseigner que se libérer de la peur du diable est sagesse ». L'éducation augmente notre compréhension du monde et contribue largement à la coexistence pacifique des peuples. La littérature et les arts sont à cet égard des compléments essentiels à la formation professionnelle, par exemple ; ils ajoutent ces petites touches indispensables que sont le recul, les perspectives différentes, voire l'autodérision. D'ailleurs, la connaissance est diabolisée par ceux qui veulent contraindre une opinion et faire naître la peur de l'autre.

Quel est l'avenir de l'écrit ?

Les jeunes lisent-ils autant qu'avant ?

Que lisent-ils et comment ?

Les jeunes lisent de plus en plus, mais pas forcément sur du papier. Ils écrivent aussi beaucoup. Internet, les médias en ligne et les réseaux sociaux expliquent en grande partie cette tendance.

En littérature, une lame de fond est arrivée avec la saga des Harry Potter, des Twilight, etc. Ce courant fantastique a permis aux jeunes adultes de garder un lien avec la lecture, voire de se mettre à l'écriture eux-mêmes. On critique souvent cette littérature, pourtant elle aborde des questions essentielles d'ordre philosophique comme l'importance de la communauté et de ses liens avec d'autres communautés, la question de la différence et de son acceptation, le passage à l'âge adulte et ses rites renouvelés.

Quels seront les moments forts du Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève en 2015 ?

Depuis quelques années le salon a amorcé une mue qui consiste à inviter des auteurs sur des scènes selon des thématiques bien précises. Aux scènes existantes (la place du Moi, la place Suisse, la scène du crime,

la place du voyage et la scène de la bande dessinée) s'ajoutent en 2015 la scène de la formation et celle de la philosophie.

Et puis nous accueillons cette année la Russie comme hôte d'honneur ainsi que le canton du Jura comme invité spécial. Des expositions, des ateliers et des centaines de séances de dedicaces complètent le programme disponible sur www.salondulivre.ch.

Le Salon organise cette année les premières assises de l'édition francophone. Pourquoi cette initiative ?

Nous sommes une plateforme de l'édition et un rendez-vous majeur pour les éditeurs suisse romands. Nous ne pouvons pas ignorer les énormes difficultés qu'ils rencontrent pour être présents dans les librairies à l'international. Et grâce notamment aux contacts noués à travers le Salon africain et au pavillon des cultures arabes, nous sommes en mesure de constater que les éditeurs francophones d'où qu'ils soient rencontrent les mêmes obstacles. Le français est parlé quasiment sur les cinq continents, mais souvent les écrits dans cette langue ne franchissent pas les frontières, y compris les frontières linguistiques à l'intérieur d'un même pays.

Notre souhait est de proposer un espace de rencontre et de discussion sur des problématiques précises liées à la diffusion, la distribution et la promotion de l'édition francophone. Pour cela, des acteurs de l'édition se rencontreront mercredi 29 et jeudi 30 avril en public. L'entrée est gratuite, mais il faut s'inscrire au préalable sur www.salondulivre.ch/francophonie.

Quelles autres littératures seront représentées au Salon ?

Nous aurons de tout, bandes dessinées, livres pour enfants, ouvrages philosophiques ou historiques, etc. Et bien sûr le Salon africain du livre et de la culture revient pour la douzième année et le pavillon des cultures arabes pour la deuxième année. Cela nous offre de belles ouvertures sur une production littéraire et intellectuelle riche, mais peu connue en Europe.

Y aura-t-il des stands anglophones ou un stand des publications de l'ONU ?

Il y aura des livres en anglais, bien sûr ! Et l'ONU aussi sera présente à travers un stand original consacré au livre de cuisine que l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève



Adeline Beaux, directrice du Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève

a publié dans le cadre de sa Perception Change Campaign. Je m'en réjouis !

Par contre, les publications « officielles » de l'ONU sont absentes du salon depuis que le service de documentation a été déplacé à New York, ce que je regrette : nous avions auparavant une belle représentation de l'UNESCO et de l'UNICEF notamment.

La 30^e édition du Salon du livre et de la presse aura lieu en 2016. Comment voyez-vous son avenir ?

Bien malin celui qui peut lire l'avenir. Disons que le rôle d'un salon en plus d'être le reflet d'une branche économique est de proposer des opportunités de rencontre avec les auteurs et d'échanger autour de leurs propos. En cela, le Salon du livre de Genève a un rôle considérable dans la compréhension et la coexistence pacifique des peuples. ■

Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève, du mercredi 29 avril au dimanche 3 mai, tous les jours de 9h30 à 19h ; vendredi 1^{er} mai nocturne jusqu'à 21h30. Entrée gratuite mercredi 29 avril ainsi que tous les jours pour les moins de 26 ans.



Créé en 2014, le championnat international FIA de Formule E (monoplace électrique) connaît un vif succès.

Salon international de l'automobile de Genève Du rêve et de l'écologie

A l'occasion du 85^e Salon international de l'automobile de Genève inauguré le 5 mars en présence de la Conseillère fédérale Doris Leuthard, 220 exposants venus de 37 pays ont présenté 900 voitures à plus de 700 000 visiteurs, dont une part importante venue de l'étranger.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Toujours plus de voitures écologiques et économiques

Les organisateurs du Salon international de l'automobile de Genève, en collaboration avec l'Office fédéral de l'énergie, ont publié pour la deuxième année consécutive, un dépliant regroupant les modèles «verts» exposés à la manifestation. Ce document liste les voitures qui n'émettent pas plus de 95g de CO₂/km et ce, indépendamment de leur mode de propulsion. Dès 2009, le Salon de Genève a été le premier à promouvoir ces technologies alternatives. D'abord présentés dans un pavillon spécifique

sous forme de concepts, les modèles écologiques et économiques, toujours plus nombreux, se trouvent aujourd'hui sur les stands d'une majorité de constructeurs. Une centaine des quelques 900 voitures exposées répond aujourd'hui déjà à ces exigences. Si les artisans et ingénieurs automobiles se sont, depuis toujours, efforcés d'améliorer la voiture dans son intégralité, l'intérêt du public s'est d'abord porté sur sa performance, ensuite sur sa sécurité induite par l'augmentation du trafic et finalement sur les avancées en matière de technologie de propulsions moins gourmandes et surtout plus écologiques. La



Installé depuis 1957 à Neuchâtel, Franco Sbarro est l'unique constructeur automobile suisse international FIA de Formule E (monoplace électrique) connaît un vif succès.

crise économique de 2008 a, en effet, contraint l'industrie automobile à mettre les bouchées doubles dans ce domaine. Pour répondre aux souhaits d'une nouvelle génération d'automobilistes, un grand coup d'accélérateur a donc été donné au développement de toute une panoplie de modes d'entraînement alternatifs (électrique, hybride essence/électrique et diesel/électrique, hydrogène, gaz naturel, biocarburants) commencé dix ans plus tôt pour réduire les émissions. Toyota avait lancé son premier modèle hybride, la Prius, en 1997, suivi par Honda avec l'Insight en 1999. Ford a commercialisé le premier SUV hybride, l'Escape, dès 2004, suivi par Dodge avec son pick-up RAM et Chevrolet avec le modèle Silverado. Aujourd'hui, tous les grands constructeurs commercialisent des véhicules propres. Les marques de voitures de sport (Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, Porsche), haut de gamme (Audi, BMW, Lexus, Mercedes) et des

marques relativement récentes (Tesla) leur ont emboité le pas. La Nissan Leaf 100% électrique a été couronnée «Car of the Year» en 2011, tout comme l'Opel Ampera et la Chevrolet Volt, des hybrides électriques/essence, en 2012. Un nouveau championnat international FIA de Formule E, la monoplace 100% électrique, dispute également sa première saison en 2014-2015.

La Volkswagen Passat désignée «Car of the year» 2015

Créé en 1964, le titre international «Car of the Year» est considéré comme la distinction la plus prestigieuse et la plus désirable parmi les distinctions automobiles. Au terme d'intenses séances d'essais routiers, le jury comprenant 58 journalistes venus de 22 pays européens a élu cette année la Volkswagen Passat. Cette voiture s'est largement imposée devant six concurrentes, la BMW Série 2 Active Tourer, la Citroën C4 Cactus, la Ford Mondeo, la Mercedes-Benz Classe C, la Nissan Qashqai et la Renault Twingo. Hakan Matson, président du jury et spécialiste automobile du journal d'affaires suédois Dagens Industri, a expliqué les motivations des jurés: «Je relève d'abord que Volkswagen est parvenu à gagner ce titre pour la troisième fois en six ans, après la Polo en 2010 et la Golf en 2013. La Passat a de nombreux points forts à son actif, dont le design, sa qualité d'ensemble, sa sécurité, son espace intérieur et des innovations bien pensées tel le Trailer

Assist. La somme de ces qualités en fait un vainqueur mérité du titre». Disponible en de multiples versions, la Volkswagen Passat existe notamment en hybride rechargeable.

Un génie nommé Franco Sbarro

Cette année, Franco Sbarro fêtait sa 42^e participation au Salon de Genève, manifestation dont il est devenu l'un des incontournables. D'origine italienne, ce génie de l'automobile, dessinateur et constructeur de voitures de rêves, est installé depuis 1957 à Neuchâtel. Chef mécanicien de la célèbre Scuderia Filipinetti (team suisse qui fit courir les plus grands pilotes dont Jo Siffert, Jim Clark, Joachim Bonnier, Phil Hill, Ronnie Peterson,...) dans les années 1960, Franco Sbarro vole de ses propres ailes à partir de 1968 en créant l'ACA, Atelier de Construction Automobile. Sa première création sera une petite sportive baptisée «Dominique III», modèle unique dont il se séparera avant de s'attaquer à la reconversion des Ford GT 40 de compétition pour en faire des modèles «routiers». Par la suite, Sbarro connaîtra la notoriété en réalisant des répliques de voitures prestigieuses telles que la Lola T 70, la Ferrari P 4 ou la Bugatti Royale. La qualité de son travail d'exception à la finition irréprochable en fera un véritable artiste dans le domaine de l'automobile. Génial inventeur, non content de dessiner et de ne construire que de superbes voitures, il concevra en 1989 un nouveau type de roue sans moyeu,

élaborera un nouveau concept de châssis (le Dual Frame) et imaginera une roue intégrant le moteur en son centre.

N'ayant plus rien à prouver et voulant faire profiter de son savoir, Franco Sbarro fonde l'Espace Sbarro, une école bien particulière où les élèves, en plus des travaux de bureau (études, conception, design,), sont obligés de mettre la main à la pâte afin de construire, de A à Z, des modèles qu'ils doivent créer selon un cahier des charges précis, parfois imposé par un constructeur. Une deuxième école a ouvert à Casablanca (Maroc) en 1994, puis en France à Pontarlier et ensuite à Montbéliard (école-sbarro@utbm.fr). Le cycle d'étude est d'un an et les travaux sont traditionnellement présentés chaque année au Salon de Genève en mars. Parmi ceux-ci, la Sparta, voiture de compétition hybride animée par un moteur thermique et deux moteurs électriques, conçue et construite en 14 semaines, et qui disputa notamment le rallye de Monte-Carlo des Energies Nouvelles en 2014.

Aujourd'hui, à 76 ans, toujours aussi vif, l'esprit pétillant et l'œil malicieux, Franco Sbarro, infiniment attachant, n'est pas prêt de raccrocher et nous invite, comme d'habitude, à découvrir ses nouvelles créations au prochain Salon international de l'automobile de Genève en 2016. ■

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One of the oldest institutions of International Geneva The International Tennis Club (CIT)

Spring is officially here and it is time to get ready for the outdoor tennis season.

GOJKA ROGLIC AND XAVIER CAMPOS

Once a sport of kings in gloomy medieval courts of Europe, tennis has become a truly global and democratic sport. It is played all over the world, even in climatically very inhospitable places. After the long and dull winter months in Geneva, nothing compares to being on the court again and feeling the sun on your skin.

A possible approximation would be to say that tennis is a sort of “athletic game of chess”. However, just as chess is not only about the way “grandmasters” play, tennis is not only about the performance of the Grand Slam Kings. Everybody can learn it and it is enjoyable at all ages and levels of athletic ability.

Tennis often turns out to be a sport for a lifetime. And the ideal venue for cultivating that “healthy addiction” and developing physical qualities and mental skills is the tennis club. All over the world tennis clubs fulfil a very important role: making the game accessible – no longer only to the

elite, but to the largest segments of the population; to all those who fall in love with the game and would like to learn it.

Speaking of open and democratic tennis clubs, possibly those of you who do not yet play tennis, and even some of you who do, are not aware that the United Nations family of organizations has “its own” tennis club. The International Tennis Club (CIT), just around the corner from the UN, located next to the Chateau de Penthes, opposite the US Mission, was founded in 1937 by staff members of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office and is one of the oldest tennis clubs in Geneva. Currently located on UN land, for decades it was located on grounds donated to Geneva by the Rockefeller Foundation.

True to its unique international nature and character, the CIT “endeavours to promote tennis and closer ties between staff members from the UN and other international organizations, the diplomatic

representatives and everyone else who wishes to enjoy tennis in a friendly and international atmosphere”. With that purpose in mind, the CIT offers first-class tennis tuition for children and adults and organizes mini-tournaments, tennis clinics and workshops for current and prospective members.

Come and discover the CIT, try out the courts... or enjoy a meal on the terrace of our “Tie Break” restaurant. You will be able to debate the art and science of tennis, and many other topics, in all the UN languages... and some more. Here you can share our passion for the “sport of kings”, whether you are looking to learn the skills, to fine-tune your volley for Wimbledon, to show your boss who’s boss, or simply to maintain good health. ■

For more information call the CIT Secretariat: 022-733-1405 or the “Tie Break” Restaurant: 022-734-8386. Or, even better, stop by the CIT... bring your gear, and may the forehand be with you!

Message de la rédactrice en chef

Chères lectrices, chers lecteurs,

Ma collaboration au *UN Special* s'achève avec la publication du numéro d'avril. Ce fut un privilège de diriger ce magazine durant les 15 derniers mois et de promouvoir le personnel et les valeurs des Nations Unies. Cette publication est l'exemple d'une collaboration entre l'OMS et l'ONU depuis 65 ans.

J'espère que vous aurez apprécié son contenu et sa diversité linguistique et culturelle.

Je tiens à remercier toutes les personnes qui ont contribué de près ou de loin à cette aventure et souhaite longue vie au magazine et une grande réussite à mon successeur.

Je me réjouis déjà de lire le prochain numéro!

Nos remerciements vont également aux personnes qui ont participé activement à l'élaboration de ce numéro:

We thank the persons, who actively contributed to the preparation of this issue:

Loubna Al-Atlasi, Sarah Bencherif, Romain Benedetti, Maria Fernanda Betancourt, Susan Clements, Patricia Durand-Stimpson, David Istvan, Aimee Lace, Dimitra Makrozonari, Nicolas Plouvier, Veronica Riemer

Message from the editor-in-chief

Dear readers,

My collaboration with the *UN Special* ends with the publication of the April issue. It has been a privilege to lead this magazine during the past 15 months and promote staff and UN values. This publication is an example of a 65-year collaboration between WHO and the United Nations.

I hope you enjoyed the content and both linguistic and cultural diversity.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to this adventure and wish long life to the magazine and great success to my successor.

I am looking forward to the next issue!

Announce/Announcement

C'est avec un grand plaisir que nous vous annonçons que notre collègue **Natasha de Francisco**, membre du comité éditorial du *UN Special* a donné naissance le 17 mars 2015 à **Andrea et Fernando**. Nous adressons toutes nos félicitations à **Natasha** et son époux **Andres** et nous leur présentons nos vœux de bonheur.

It is our pleasure to announce that our colleague **Natasha de Francisco**, a member of the editorial committee of the *UN Special*, gave birth on 17 March 2015 to **Andrea and Fernando**. We extend our congratulations to **Natasha** and her husband **Andres** and we wish them a lot of happiness.



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Palais des Nations, bureau C507
1211 Genève 10 - T. 022 917 25 01
unspecial@unog.ch
unspecial@who.int
www.unspecial.org

In New York: office AB-0829

Laurence Vercammen

Rédactrice en chef/Editor-in-chief

Christine Etzenbach

Assistante à la rédaction/Assistant to the editorial team

Robert Jakob

Trésorier/Treasurer

Oleksandr Svirchevsky

Site internet/Website

Editeur / Publisher

APG | SGA Airport, Bercher S.A. Publicité Générale
route de Pré-Bois 20, C.P. 1895, CH-1215 Genève 15
T. 022 347 33 88 - F. 022 346 20 47
contact.airport@apgsa.ch

Publicité / Advertising

CEP S.A.

quai Gustave-Ador 42, 1207 Genève
T. 022 700 98 00 - F. 022 700 90 55
cepbarbara@bluewin.ch

Revue des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.
Magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization

Les opinions exprimées dans UNS sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

The opinions in UNS are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.

Impression / Printers

Victor Chevalier Imprimerie Genevoise S.A.
case postale 1352, 1211 Genève 26 - T. 022 307 26 00

Graphisme / Design

Atelier Schnegg+ - Michel Schnegg
rue du Simplon 5, CH-1207 Genève
T. 022 344 72 90 - F. 022 340 24 11
www.atelier-schnegg.ch

Composition du Comité de rédaction

Composition of the Editorial committee



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Garry Aslanyan



Gautam Basu



Omar Bawa



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Imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC. Tirage: 10 500 exemplaires

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