

THE MESSENGER

McDaniel College Budapest

Safety first?

By João Salviano

After news of an alleged attempt by someone in Yemen to send explosive cartridges via cargo freight planes to Synagogues in the US, the security measures in the airports (mainly in the US) have been heightened to new screening methods including full x-ray body scans and pat-downs that include touching passenger's genitalia. The controversy about these new screening methods has caused controversy and outcry against what some call invasion of privacy and denial of human rights. The Messenger takes a look at these new methods and brings you two perspectives on them so you can see the pros and cons and make up your mind about what is more important: Safety at all costs or individual rights trumping security concerns?

Why people question the new screening methods? Since 9/11 we have been witnessing increasing security measures surrounding air travel.

In the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack in the US, and one of the most horrific and mediatised attacks ever, it seemed that everybody was willing to sacrifice a few of their freedoms to secure safer flights in the hope of preventing a similar attack from happening again. However, nine years on, we are confronted with the harshest measures yet for what seems no good reason whatsoever.

On a lot of people's minds is the question of how is it possible that potential explosive devices in cargo planes led to increased security messengers on passengers. If you have been following the news recently, among these new measures, you will encounter full body scans with X-ray machines. To picture it just remember "Total Recall", the movie with Arnold Schwarzenegger. Hollywood glamour aside, the problem is that nobody knows exactly what dangers these machines pose, from their radiation levels to privacy issues. What is more, if you choose to opt-out and refuse to go through these machines you are forced to take an "enhanced" pat-down that includes being searched in your groin area and your genitalia.

Terrorism is terrible, and it must be addressed as a serious concern and danger, but since when did giving up our liberties and privacy lead to any improvements in safety? It appears that if any lesson can be learnt from the post 9/11 security measures is that those inclined to commit terrorist actions are not exactly (Continued on page 03.)

- * Geo-Engineering – a Scary Global Experiment
- * Safety first?—Page3
- * Fear and Flying: The Importance of Airport Security Measures Regardless.—Page4
- * *Egészségedre*: a devious distraction for a dull class?—Page5
- * Hustlin 4 Credits — Page5
- * Born to be Wilde – Page6
- * It is all in the future—Page6
- * List of Career Evening Guests—Page7
- * Christmas Action in the Center of Budapest—Page8
- * The Hunt for Good Hummus Ends Here—Page9
- * A Tree-Hugging Book-Lover—Page10
- * Smart Economical Grocery Shopping—Page11
- * Christmas Magyar Style—Page11
- * Christmas and December Celebrations in the Netherlands—Page12
- * The Pope's New Stance on the Use of Condoms.—Page13
- * The Social Network—Page13
- * Christmas in Albania—Page15
- * Christmas in Nigeria—Page15
- * Cultural Diversity Celebrated at McDaniel Christmas Bash—Page16
- * A Harsh Reality— Page17
- * Cinnamon, the True Scent of Christmas and *Rabanas!*—Page18
- * Exploring Eastern Slopes—Page18

Editorial

By João Salviano

We have now come to the end of yet another semester.

Over the last few months we have travelled through many stories and places, heard about traditions and cultures, looked into the news and given our angle on them.

In this final issue of the fall semester of 2010 we look into the new security measures being introduced into airports in the US and Europe, we take a look at Christmas traditions of McDaniel Budapest students, we discuss the future for our graduates, among many other things.

We hope you enjoyed the Messenger this semester and we are looking forward to next semester already!

Meanwhile, Happy Holidays for all of you and a Happy New Year!

Geo-Engineering – a Scary Global Experiment

By Verena Zyla

Geo-engineering, the engineering of our precious climate, has become a major scientific field in the last few decades. One development in particular in the field, over the last decade, which is adversely affecting every citizen on the planet is atmospheric aerosol injection, a.k.a. chemtrails.

These “fake clouds” are sprayed into the atmosphere from planes. Their characteristics are different to contrails that are produced by normal planes since chemtrails stay in the air for several hours and spread across the sky turning it from blue to white, whereas contrails are formed because of low temperatures at higher altitudes and disappear rather quickly once the plane is out of sight.

The official explanation for this spraying is that it's necessary to fight global warming. At any cost it seems, since chemtrails contain high amounts of aluminum and barium, which are heavy metals that have severely detrimental effects on human health, water and our eco-systems. It is believed that the reduction in honey bees over the last few years is due to the spraying of chemtrails. You will generally find that there is more spraying in the countryside than in cities, probably, so less people will notice.

This spraying is being carried out all over the world and is endangering your health every day. Inform yourself on the issue and educate others. The documentary entitled “What in the world are they spraying?” by G. Edward Griffin, available online for free, is one way to do so. It shows scientific evidence of chemtrails, and gives a voice to those that are spraying and those affected by it. As for politicians, the reactions of congressmen and senators in the United States is scarily surprising as most claim to know nothing about it, even though geo-engineering had already been discussed in front of Congress. It is also important to inform local governments since many are not aware of chemtrails, which are sprayed “nonpolitically” as a scientific experiment according to the idea of “taking one for the team”.

Geoengineer David Keith stated at the 2010 meeting of the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS) when asked about the health effects of aluminum sprayed into the air that “Aluminum we have only begun to research, and published nothing... We haven't done anything serious on aluminum and so there could be something terrible that we will find tomorrow that we haven't looked at.” He also explained that the aerosol project was so cheap that they were ready to take risks and added that “by the way, it is not really a moral hazard, it's more like free-riding on our grandkids.”

Those who do not believe that it is happening yet will soon have it officially served up on their tables since Obama has stated his support for geo-engineering.



Internet Censorship Bill

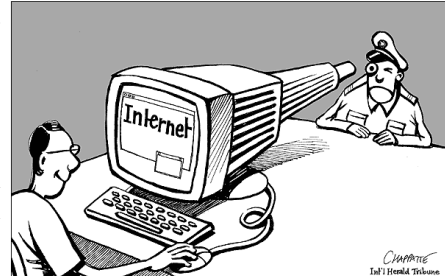
By Adela Kuci

Looking at the title of this article one would tend to think this law will most severely affect countries like Iran, North Korea or China, but this is actually happening in the USA. The country of freedom, which even strictly condemned countries that censor the internet, is doing it to itself. Is Congress really trying to take away free speech on the internet?

Senate bill S.3804 or the "Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act" (COICA) was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy on September 20, 2010. The bill was approved by 19-0 votes on the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 18, 2010 and if it passes through the Senate the bill will allow the Attorney General to censor and block any website on the internet. This controversial bill will allow the US government to impose its power over the Internet and shut down any website in which the contents are believed to contravene copyrighting. The country's most salient lawyers, Internet engineers and organizations like the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), the Human Rights Watch observe that this will be ineffective, unconstitutional and bad for the tech economy and will damage the internet as we know it.

The Department of Justice will have the ability to block out whatever sites they want because on close examination of the bill it is all too loosely defined on how websites violate the new bill. Free speech proponents fear that some cryptic wording of the bill could be managed to be used against sites like YouTube and Media's blogs, websites like those that allow users to control content. "Deploying this statute to combat online copyright infringement seems almost like using a bunker-busting cluster bomb, when what you need is a precision-guided missile," said Senator Ron Wyden during a hearing on digital trade issues. "If you don't think this thing through carefully, the collateral damage would be American innovation, American jobs, and a secure Internet."

On the other hand, those who are applauding this bill and who are no doubt to thank for it are Hollywood executives and the (RIAA) Recording Industry Association of America. Aren't these people already earning billions and are unlikely to be bothered by the Internet? What we're dealing with here is nothing short of greed and hypocrisy at its very worst. (Picture: <http://redlaws.com>)



Safety First?

By João Salviano

(continued from page one) stupid and tend to adapt to whatever circumstances exist and circumvent them. How many terrorists have been caught in airport security lines since 9/11 for instance? And if this, as some claim, proves that this means precisely that these measures are working then why is it that we had several terrorist attacks since then, such as those in Madrid, London or Mumbai for instance?.

Our democracies work on simple premises, among which is a very important one that everybody is innocent until proven guilty, so why is it that air travellers all of a sudden have to prove they are innocent before boarding planes? Or is this a scam to make money out of people's fears?

One of the main advocates of full-body X-ray scans in airports is the former Homeland Security Chief (US) Michael Chertoff. Mr. Chertoff wrote an extensive article in the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/31/AR2009123101746.html>) on the matter, in which he explains why he advocates for such measures in airports. However, what is relevant about this article is that Mr. Chertoff is now working for the Chertoff Group, a company he created and that works on security and risk-management and which has among its many clients the company that produces the full-body X-ray machines that are being implemented in airports across the US and Europe. So, is there a clear and present need for such extreme measures or is this just business as usual?

Many more questions can be raised against these new security measures, such as who are the people who screen you at the airport, that get to see your naked picture or touch you in your intimate areas? And why are children supposed to go through the same measures as well? Even if the regulations say it is only for children of 12 years old or older, the truth is that even younger children are being submitted to the same methods: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN6pJ7nPlYA>)? Is this not harassment? Overall, what is important to understand is that these measures are wrong, abusive and intrusive of your rights and well being, and in no way will they prevent any mishaps from occurring.

Fear and Flying: The Importance of Airport Security Measures Regardless

By Okuagu Tom Opute

Some people say that the main reason why they are not happy with the post September 11, 2001 airport security measures in the aviation industry is due to the violation of travelers' individual rights to their privacy, in the form of pat downs. Then there's the consequences resulting from extraordinary delays that are impacting air travel efficiency and air cargo shipments.

Governments have spent large sums of money and have put considerable efforts in the recent past to avert further attacks, but the foil rate of terrorist hijacking plots is still minimal compared to what the industry would like to see.

The United States Congress and the governments of other countries are now developing legislation that will support the increased effectiveness of airport security measures all over the world. Some measures that have been already in place include: stringent passenger screening; baggage matching and X-ray scrutiny; secure cockpits; and presence of trained sky marshals. However, we cannot say for sure which measures are the most effective until the latest studies are complete, of which many are in progress.

Iris recognition and retinal scanning are the most effective among the airports that have implemented them, such as London's Heathrow Airport and Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. Fingerprinting, biometric information of travelers and many more methods are the results of the question we all as members of the human race ask ourselves, even if some people still believe that others don't belong to this group, which is: will I become a victim of a terrorist attack if the current trend of global terrorism continues? And if you haven't asked yourself this question before, you either can't afford air travel for ever, or you are one of those kinds of people mentioned above.

I love to use the excuse nowadays that "I am from Africa," Nigeria to be more specific, and I speak for all my African brothers when I say "search me from inside out before I get on that plane, but you MUST guarantee my safe arrival in one piece."

I don't like flying, in fact I'm waiting for the next Orville and Wilbur Wright to come out with the new "seaplane", but am nevertheless a frequent flyer.

I find it difficult enough as it is to sit through minor turbulence on commercial flights and now they want to scare the air out of me with the possibility that a terrorist – who is ready to go to Heaven or Hell, whatever their preference – MAY attempt to board and blow up the flight. NO way!

If it means no more food on commercial flights, or even excluding the complementary movies on long distance flights as security measures by the aviation industry to avoid terrorist attacks, and turbulence, then sign me up. Talk less of a meager pat-down that will not take more than a few moments out of my life and will assure me that every one on that plane wants to get to their destinations just like me.

Three cheers for airport security measures. HIP, HIP, HIP HURRAY.

1) http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa5467/is_200401/ai_n21358046/?tag=content:coll (December, 2010); Cartoon, Patrick Corrigan, The Toronto Star.)



Egészségedre: a devious distraction for a dull class?

By KC Bosco

With all due respect to the mighty Magyar people, *Egészségedre* is too long a word to be used if you're giving a toast, or wishing someone well when the person sneezes. It may sound so smooth in my ear but I could easily finish my glass of wine before you're done with the pronunciation. Put me in touch with the AA if you want.

But then, there is one place where the sheer duration of *Egészségedre* is quite useful and that's in a boring lecture room. Some of the lecturers and students have given the students the inventive impulse that came out of the necessity of trying to stay awake in a boring class – again no offence meant.



Perhaps you may not have noticed but if the lecturer and the topic were interesting, a fast and whispered “bless you” is the response for a sneeze in a class – given by the few students who were distracted by the sneeze. But if the class happens to be a boring one the response to a sneeze would be a long and loud *Egészségedre* chorused by the whole class. Even the lecturers sometimes join in this chorus response of care and boredom. The unbelievable part of this unfortunate situation is that some students, in the attempt to stay awake or to cause distraction, do a fake sneeze and the

long response of *Egészségedre*. This often happens when there is a boring Power Point Presentation by a student – very unfortunate and discouraging... Pictures (<http://natiJapanban.blog.hu/> - http://napipille.blog.hu/2010/05/08/egeszsegedre_16)



Hustlin 4 Credits

By Okaugu Tom Opute

For some reason, at the beginning of this fall semester, I thought I was going to be graduating in December of 2010. My mistake was thinking I only needed 124 credits, instead of 128 credits, to graduate as I finished the previous semester with 97 credits in the bag. However, the fact still remains that I will need six credits, of which completion of the Jan term will supply two. That leaves four credits to go. A normal four-credit course ought to do, right? But there's a problem: if I must be here at the beginning of the semester, fixed to the schedule the course requires, I will not be able to go home to Nigeria to assist my high school mate, Omaghomi Omatseye, who is running for a seat in the Delta State House of Representatives, and to gain experience as a Campaign Advisor during the elections of February 11, 2011.

So I came up with a plan to *hustle* for credits (hustling is one of my informal skills) by attending the Career/Internship evening on November 4 at the campus to see if I could talk to one of the companies present into hiring me for a position, so I can get credits for work there—and do so with a schedule flexible enough to give me to get back to Nigeria. Among the companies that were present was the BBJ (Budapest Business Journal), the English language newspaper and news service. They needed individuals that can help out with their editorial content and translation. When I explained to them what I was trying to do, they pointed me back in the direction of the College as essential in arranging such cases for me. I jumped to the next NGO, the UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency) and told them my story. Their representative I spoke to said to work for them, I would need a master's degree, but to intern, I would best talk to my adviser or counselor in my institution. Damn. I did not know the procedure for acquiring internship work. I thought I could just run into the career evening event, and without prior arrangements (continued on the next page)

jack the NGOS for credits, like a fully-armed robber entering a bank, but I was wrong. I had to speak to the Director of Academic affairs, or to a faculty member who might serve as a faculty sponsor for an internship, before I could start one in the academic sense.

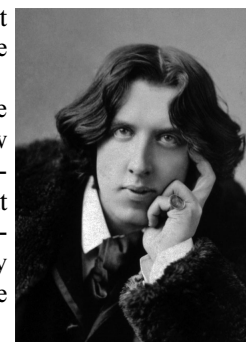
Lesson learnt from all this: McDaniel College's faculty and staff are here to help students. So no matter the kind of issues we may have as students with the staff or faculty, it is best to maintain friendly relationships, let bygones be bygones, and consult them even when venturing into a for-credit endeavor off-campus.

Movie Review: Born to be Wilde, the McDaniel Screening

By Verena Zyla

There are at least two reasons why one might choose to watch the *Oscar Wilde*: one is out of pure curiosity for the story behind the famous writer Oscar Wilde, the other is Jude Law's naked bum which one gets to admire in the movie. Though the latter might rather be something for the female audience, people watching it primarily for the story won't be disappointed.

Shocking and surprising, touching and down-to-earth are only some of the words to describe this brilliantly done movie. One might expect the movie to show Oscar Wilde, marvellously played by born-to-be-Wilde Stephen Fry for his similarity in both appearance and witty intelligence, mostly in relation to his work, but the story is not a surface-scratch but rather looks at what's deeper. It mainly focuses on Wilde's private love life and his struggles between his marriage, society and his homosexuality. As for myself, I didn't even know Wilde was gay before seeing this movie.



Jude Law, in one of his first roles, does an outstanding job as glamorous Bosie and it is obvious why this movie came as the big break for Jude. Full of passion, this movie might not be first choice for the children but it makes a perfect movie for adults, being straightforward and exciting, after one gets past the first few minutes. Yet alone it is an exceptional depiction of homosexuality in general, as many gay men seem to struggle the same then as now, making it a timeless movie that one can learn something from. (Picture <http://sexualityinart.wordpress.com>)

It is all in the future

By Tom Fried

All students beware, future jobs are about being able to reach the present. If you are afraid that you won't find the career you wished for, you should find out which jobs are going to be hot in the classified section 10 years from now.

According to www.macro-management.co.il, future bosses will be on the look out more for designers than engineers. In a world where computers can make calculations, and can plan buildings, objects and more, there is only one thing left that computers cannot do and only the human mind is capable of, and that's design. Dr. Asher Idan, futurist from Tel-Aviv University, believes that in 2020-2030 there will be more demand for content designers than engineers, "the demand for content designers will grow rapidly and will put aside the traditional engineering which was hot until two years ago".

And it's not a coincidence either, "for now programing has reached its limit, and now it will be important how the design is marketing the product and how the graphics are influencing the target groups of the products" says Orit Ziv, chief executive of a Human resource company in the Middle East.

DR David Pesig, an Israeli Futurist who also wrote a book predicting the future by analyzing data from history and other areas of study was cited by saying that in 2020-2030, people who studied physics and

history are going to have an easy life finding jobs, although today these fields of studies receive a bad reputation.

In the future, the basic wage will shrink to a minimum, and employees will have competition within the company, their salaries will be based on bonuses and commissions, it will make the employees take more risks and they will be more involved in the decision making within the organizations. However, it will create great tension within organizations, and employees who make bad decisions can have bad effects on their organizations.

And there is one more future profession, which in the future will have a big weight on organizational decision making. And this of course is the futurist. Every prestige organization will wish to analyze their fields and to scientifically predict their and other organization's future.

So if you are about to graduate soon, you might think about your future and you might search a job in the fields where there will be high demand, or maybe study how to predict the future as an M.A. Good luck!

List of Career Evening Guests

By Vlada Sahovic

UNHCR:

UNHCR is a United Nations organization that deals with the problem of refugees (people fleeing from wars or hostile situations in their living environments/asylum seekers) and internally displaced persons, by helping them find a new and peaceful environment and making sure all rights of the displaced persons are protected.

They are looking for students from all areas of study, a lot of work to be done so all help is appreciated. Internships open for all.
For more information go to UNHCR.org.

Miklos Marosvary, Career-coach :

Mr. Marosvary is a traditional head hunter and a coach as well. He offers the following services to students:

- Life-coaching;
 - Career-coaching (the emphasis being on this);
 - Business-coaching;
- info: www.coachmarosvary.com
contact: miklos@coachmarosvary.com; +36 30 269 11 19

Budapest Business Journal

The Budapest Business Journal covers news on current economic situations in Hungary and in the world.

Humanities or Business majors needed to assist with news reporting and feature articles (and all similar things that go along).

info: www.bbj.hu
contact: Melinda Tunde Dora - editor-in-chief: dmt@bbj.hu;
+36 1 398 03 44; +36 1 398 45; +36 30 464 38 58

The Eleven Team (NGO)

A non-governmental organization that deals with ADD/ADHD children, communicating with them through after-school programs and activities so as to help the children establish good social skills

Students from the field of communication needed (predominantly; media communication) although any assistance is of help.

contact/info: info@eleventeam.hu

Hudson Legal - Emerging Europe (A branch of Hudson Global)

They are in the business of legal consulting, working directly with lawyers and law-firms; their office consists of 21 employees 8 of which are interns themselves.

They need interns from any area of studies, but preferably humanities and human resource padawans. Interns are to deal with human resources, meaning that they will be going through CV's, assisting the firm in finding ideal candidates.

contact: legal.cee@hudson.com

CEU (Central European University)

CEU is an institution that offers higher education to undergraduate students, by which they mean masters degree programs and doctorate programs. A little commercial: 95% of all their students get some sort of financial relief (scholarships based on merit). They offer a variety of different courses, all of which you can see on: www.ceu.hu

Other candidates interested in interns are: [The Hungarian Youth Democratic Movement](#), [eCommerce Business Assistant](#), [CCUSA Summer Camps](#), [NESsT \(Non-profit Enterprise and Self-sustainability Team\)](#); [FX Software \(Le Hoang Giang, McDaniel College Budapest Class of 2006\)](#)

If job opportunities are not that great in the current global market at least there seems to be a fair share of internship offers; so if anybody wants to earn some credits and acquire some job-experience and practical education this is what is on offer at the time being. Don't be shy or inert though; if this does not satisfy your needs just google around a bit and in no time you will find many more openings.

Budapest Life**Full on Christmas Action in the Center of Budapest**

By Felix Timmers

Let's suppose you start walking from Deák metro station and you decide to walk down Deák Ferenc utca. Here you will see beautiful Christmas decorations starting from the beginning of street. This is where the Christmas market starts and leads right to Vörösmarty tér. At the Christmas market you can find dozens of festive kiosks selling different seasonal items. Whether you just want to have a look or use it as the backdrop for a romantic evening, it is absolute worth visiting festive kiosks selling different seasonal items.

At Vörösmarty tér the kiosks are colorfully decorated, all having green decoration plants with small lights on the roof top. But there's more than only kiosks, you can also catch live music at the Christmas market and enjoy the sight of several large Christmas trees. There certainly is a special atmosphere in this area that does equate to authentic Christmas celebrations. It also serves up traditional Hungarian food and products. Things like axes and bows are on show and are even for sale. This gives you some sort of cultural insight. The food is rustic and straightforward, sold at tourist prices, but it's certainly not without good flavor.

You can easily spend a long time checking out what more this Christmas market has got to offer. It has an absolutely wide variation of goodies; there are a lot of sweets like marzipan, cookies, and pieces of pie. For a nice drink there is mulled wine, soups but also a complete choice of grilled dishes. Also available are souvenirs, jewelry, home Christmas decorations and many more festive treats.



The Hunt for Good Hummus Ends Here

By Tom Fried

Foreigners who have lived in Hungary for a while can testify that grabbing a quick bit might result in having anything but Hungarian food, but rather American fast food. The Hummus bar is one of the delectable alternatives that Budapest can provide.

Today when the vegetarian wave has been sweeping through our society, *hummus* can be a gratifying experience for followers of the wave, but also for those simply in search of tasty, authentic and quick eating experience.

Hummus is essentially mashed chickpeas mixed with tahini, olive oil, lemon and garlic. It is an Arabic dish which has become popular in Europe in the last decade. However, since the Arabic restaurants in Budapest prefer to sell Kebabs or Gyros, the Hummus Bar keeps to the specialty of the Israelis.

The Hummus Bar, at Október 6. u. 19, is an Israeli mini chain which until two years ago had only two small shops where customers could eat hummus with various extras, such as hot mushrooms, eggs, hummus beans or tahini. Hummus is served with laffa, a special type of enormous pita bread made in the place and served hot. It is eaten by scooping it with the laffa. On the restaurant's website you can find several ideas offered by the owner on how to eat hummus. Two years ago, the founders of the chain decided to open a restaurant where clientele could sit around a table and order not from the reception desk but through waiters. Since the opening of the restaurant in October 6 utca, it has been a great success, and to have a lunch there can result in sitting with other diners at the same table.

The Hummus Bar has also started to sell various meat dishes for the first time, including Israeli style Kebab with special spices from Israel such as cumin, and Jerusalem Mix which is a huge mix of chicken liver and chicken heart with onions and spices.

The prices are average; a hummus plate without meat sets you back between 800-1300 HUF. For hummus with meat or only meat, expect to part with between 1500-2000 HUF. Reserving a table in the restaurant is not necessary, but during sunny weekends – albeit not a worry at this time of year – you might be asked to wait for a table outside.

1051 Budapest Október 6. u. 19

Tel: 354-01-08



Interview with Daniel Swartz: a Tree-Hugging Book-Lover

By Peter Beite with Daniel Hamori

Daniel Swartz the environmental activist cum owner of **Treehugger Dan's Bookstore & Cafe** was also the founder of a computer company at the age of 13. He had a dream of being a diplomat focusing on US-China foreign policy, thus he studied international relations, history, and Chinese Language at Bates College. However his dreams were shattered after the Tian'an men square massacre in 1989. One year before he settled in Budapest, he started working with Central and Eastern European environmental NGOs, local and national governments, and businesses on various environmental issues in Hungary. He opened his first Treehugger Dan's book store in March 2006 at Csengery u. 48. As the collection of books increased Daniel opened new book stores at Lázár u. 16 in District VI and at Csevi u. 7/b, in District II. The regular opening hours are from 10am-6pm on weekdays and 10am-5pm on Saturdays. The bookstore delivers you a feeling of doing something good for the environment and also saving a fair amount of money on quality foreign books.



The idea of opening a second-hand shop started when he was dating a woman who wanted four kids, and he felt he needed to invest in something. He buys books from the previous owners and resells them to other book lovers – which is both eco-friendly and cheap for all English book lovers. Most of the books are in English but there are also books in German, Chinese, French, Italian, Spanish, among others. The wide range of books covers all genres and goes from classics to adventure and to romance; long novels to graphic books and adult books to children books.

One of Daniel's biggest book donors was an old window cleaner:

“He always passes by my store everyday, but one day he finally gathers up all his courage and asks me if I am interested in buying 1,000 English books and I was thinking to myself ‘yeah right where could he possibly get 1,000 English books from.’ So I said ‘ I’ll have to see them first.’ So I followed him to his house and found out that he had been washing windows for these three old people in the house. They all died within a short space of each other and none had any children. They left the house and the 1,000 books to the window cleaner who did not speak English,” recalls Daniel.

But Daniel doesn't just get books from Budapest. He also gets books from other countries,

“We got a bunch of books from a small library in America which closed down and we also got some comics straight from England. I knew a guy in England who owns a comic store so I asked him to ship some comics in but it did not work out as I had hoped.”

Daniel has also competed in the Balaton Swim competition for charity to support Fair Trade. He also stocks Fair Trade coffee, which you can enjoy in store. Daniel's bookstore also holds a number of events each week. The events cover diverse categories, from book evenings to cultural concerts, and it is open to all those interested.

After concluding the interview with Daniel Swartz, I looked around the bookstore and noticed all the different genres of books and I thought to myself, “This might be a small book store but it has lots of interesting books at a very good price.”



Smart Economical Grocery Shopping

By Tom Fried

As busy students we usually look for two things: saving both time and money. Searching for a cheap supermarket is a serious challenge in Hungary and whenever we find one we soon realize that due to its distant location it will cost us just the same amount of money in the end and steal most of our precious free time. That's the reason why you should try to a spot of food shopping from home, through some tool called the Internet.

www.pagonykozert.hu is a new service that enables you to fill your shopping cart, and later discover that you saved money and time. The first of Pagony Közért shops was opened in December 2009 in Budapest 12th district, Tamási Áron u. 62-64. "Due to the high demand by our clients for a high quality free home delivery service, we launched our website to enable people living in other parts of Budapest to enjoy our products and prices," says the founder of Pagonykozert.hu, Shlomi Shlomovich. "Our approach is defined by our commitment ensuring low prices from day-to-day while providing our clients with a large variety, featuring more than 8,000 products."



In the web shop you can find everything which you would look for in every supermarket or any grocery store in your neighborhood: fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat, dairy products, bakery products, non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks, cleaning products and even specially ordered international food.

The differences in prices between web shop and product prices in a grocery shop are between 5-15% cheaper. For example, frozen pizza by Dr. Oetker Ristorante costs no less than 650 HUF in any grocery shop, while in the web shop it costs 580 HUF, for Kaiser Salami you will pay 280 HUF in Pagonykozert.hu when this fine Hungarian salami normally costs 350 HUF. Half a liter of milk costs 100 HUF and nearly all the goods are cheaper.

It is also important to note that Pagonykozert.hu provides the delivery free of charge and within 24 hours in weekdays and they do accept bank cards.

For more information check out www.pagonykozert.hu

Christmas Magyar Style

By Tom Opute

Christmas in Hungary is still celebrated according to the Catholic traditions, with elements like Saint Nicholas (Mikulás), and the Advent.

Saint Nicholas is the helper of children and poor people. He was a rich man, who put small presents in the shoes of poor kids. According to the legend, Hungarian children (just like the Germans, etc.) have to clean their shoes on the evening of December 5, and put them out in the window, so by next morning (December 6) Saint Nicholas leaves something in their shoes. Good children will get presents – usually chocolates, orange and peanuts – while bad children get a birch, or a few generations ago even charcoal. But all children, good or bad, usually get some presents regardless.

Some people usually count the weeks until Jesus comes, by lighting a candle every Sunday. Advent comes from Latin Adventus (coming). Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas (counting the Sundays). This tradition itself originates from Germany from the time when they considered Christmas the celebration of light. Originally every candle was of a different color, each symbolizing a different state of Jesus. White means Jesus appears in human form; red signifies he appears at the door of the people's hearts; violet/dark blue that he appears at our funeral bed; while yellow/gold denotes that he comes to judge us. During communism, this tradition disappeared, with many other religious practices, and it has experienced a revival in the last 20 years.

While shopping you can also hear that it's brass, silver, or gold Sunday – which has also originated from Advent. Christmas is celebrated as the birth of Jesus. So he brings the presents on the evening of 24th December, and when the angels ring the bell you can go to see the presents, after singing a Christmas song (in Hungary one traditional Christmas song is “Mennyből az angyal”).

After the presents are distributed, they have the Christmas meal. The meal consists of traditional Hungarian fish soup (halászlé), fried fish (carp) with potato salad. In the villages they might eat “töltött káposzta” which is also stuffed cabbage cum sauerkraut. After the meal, comes the dessert, the beigli – which originates from the Germans. It's a typical Christmas sweet – and it is eaten only at Christmas time. It's a roll of pasta stuffed with either ground walnuts, or poppy seeds. After celebrating with the family, people who are really religious go to the church for midnight mass.



Society, Arts & Culture

Christmas and December Celebrations in the Netherlands

By Felix Timmers

December is often a cold month and with some luck there is snow around Christmas time. Streets, shopping centers and many of the houses are decorated with a whole lot of lights to deliver the right atmosphere in the neighborhood. In general people will look oddly at you if you don't have a Christmas tree inside your house at the end of December.

Generally, Dutch kids are not likely to believe in Santa Claus but more in Sinterklaas, also known as Sint Nicolaas i.e. Saint Nicholas, who is celebrated at the beginning of December. Incidentally, St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Amsterdam. Sinterklaas is a bishop figure who hands out presents to the kids. This happens on December 5 when Sinterklaas arrives, on the eve of Saint Nicholas, with the party ensuing on December 6, and for children it's one of the most exciting times of the year. It remains very special until you discover you have been fooled by your parents. Sinterklaas and his assistant.

Normally people are granted days off from work during Christmas. Those willing to work get paid around double, which is especially attractive for non-western immigrants.

Both of the Christmas days (25th and 26th) are celebrated and often people have an extended dinner on these two days. Families come together mainly to spend some time between 4pm and 8pm to have drinks and of course dinner. Usually presents are exchanged between family members and close relatives these days.

Christmas is always seen as a time of giving and showing kindness and a time for people to come together. New Year's is celebrated in a classic way: with champagne and fireworks. Christmas together with New Year's Eve these days are known as the celebration days.



The Pope's New Stance on the Use of Condoms.

By KC Bosco

On November 20, the world woke up to the news that the Vatican has made some exceptions on its strict and unquestionable stand as regards the use of contraceptives, or on condoms to be more precise. This sparked many debates and discussions as to what would come next in the line of the Catholic Church's "adjustments", "considerations" and "exceptions". Some people think that this is a significant change in the church's view on the use of condoms and contraceptives, while others believe it is too small a step to be taken seriously.

We have to understand that the Vatican is not alienating itself from the plight of people as regards STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections). The Pope's statement during an interview with the German Catholic journalist Peter Seewald, was a suggestion that the use of condoms could be justified in some exceptional circumstances, for example, in the case of HIV infection and transmission in Africa. Although this may trigger questions and deliberations on where to draw the line between the use of condoms as a contraceptive or as prevention of infection, we have to understand that the Vatican still believes that changing attitudes to sexuality is the proper way to combat HIV/Aids, not the distribution of condoms to the third world countries – for free or not.

Well, for the progressives or liberalists who think that this is enough "crack" on the walls of Vatican, think again and try and study the personality of Pope Benedict XVI. The conservatives who frown at such "welcomed" development, should know that the church really does "look before it leaps" and has viewed this case from every possible perspective – even from the "impossible" angle. Anyone interested in finding out more about this subject is recommended to buy the book, *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times*. It is based on interviews that the Pope gave to Peter Seewald, earlier this year and makes an enthralling read. (Satirical picture: <http://www.blogut.ca/2009/03/29/condoms-what-the-pope-said-and-what-you-may-not-know/>)



Movie Review: The Social Network

By Daniel Stickle

Even those who don't have a profile on Facebook have probably heard about it. Facebook is the worldwide biggest social network and recently has even been made into a film.

The movie "The Social Network" by David Fincher deals not only with the origins of Facebook but also with issues like friendship and trust. It emphasizes how such an innovative idea might change people and therefore their attitude towards each other. It represents the type of release we barely see nowadays. Furthermore, the movie is written in a brilliant way telling a story people can easily identify with, as Facebook is concerning almost all of us.

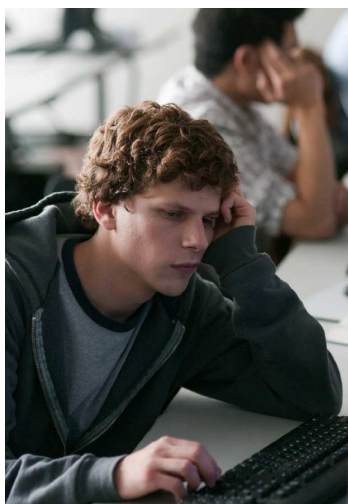
The focus of the story is on Mark Zuckerberg and Eduardo Severin, two friends studying in Harvard who try to develop a social network which later on becomes the worldwide famous Facebook. While Mark is the creative brain of the cooperation his friend provides the funding. The two of them, who might be considered as outsiders,

especially Mark who shows only little in the way of social competence, have success immediately. The rise is rapid and enormous causing other students to envy them. They soon have to face a lawsuit over the copyrights on Facebook and their friendship is also being tested as the former Napster founder Sean Parker shows up. The movie is not only a fascinating and beautiful portrait about Zuckerberg's life but also a portrait about how friendship can change due to greed and selfishness. And it is that friendship which symbolizes the movie's core.

Furthermore it is worth mentioning that the movie itself plays in different time levels. On the one side we trace the development and growth of Facebook to become a worldwide concern whereas on the other side we have Marc Zuckerberg facing lawsuits. As already mentioned it is of great importance to show how striving for power and success can change people and friendships. Mark Zuckerberg and Eduardo Severin play that significant part in a great way.

The film is surrounded by a tenuous and sinister vibe as the both sides become bigger and stronger, both wanting a piece of the project called "the facebook". You feel like you're in the middle of the movie and are even taking part in it.

Even though we somehow get to know how things will turn out, the movie itself never gets boring so that suspense is guaranteed until the end. That is a fantastic feature of the movie.



The actors make a major contribution to the success of the movie. In the first place are of course the lead actors like Jesse Eisenberg (Mark Zuckerberg) and Andrew Garfield (Eduardo Severin) but Justin Timberlake (Sean Parker), who plays his part also very well should not go without mention.

Jesse Eisenberg himself seems to have been created for the role of Zuckerberg. He is amazingly good. He acts in an awkward way committing social errors throughout the whole plot but still you somehow can understand him and empathize with him. He represents the typical human being: neither all good nor all bad. So even when he betrays his friend you somehow feel pity for him.

All in all the film is a unique drama about friendship between two young people who have to face the consequences of their success. The staging of the movie is great and the film benefits from the actors good performances that put themselves forward for big careers in Hollywood.

(Pictures : <http://www.flickr.com/>)

Christmas in Albania

By Adela Kuci

Places with religious conflicts can see how dialogue and tolerance create harmony and peace in the religious communities. Albania used to be a totally Christian community, but after the Ottoman invasion Albanians were forced to change religion to Islam in order to survive.

After many wars came monarchy and communism. They both wanted an atheist state and the communist leader Enver Hoxha took the country onto a new path and made Albania the first totally atheist state in the world. Religion was banned, religious sites were destroyed and religious believers were imprisoned or executed and the people were forced to stop practicing and claimed to forget about their religion, and the symbol of the Christmas tree was changed to the symbol of the changing of the year. This lasted for more than 40 years and during these years it was called the Tree of New Year.

After transition to democracy in 1990 religion started to blossom again in Albania. The country is divided into 70% Sunni and Shiite Muslims and 30% Christian Orthodox and Roman Catholic. They live together in harmony, respecting and celebrating in a festive way every celebration no matter to which- religion it belongs to.

Even nowadays the Christmas tree is still regarded by all families and all religions as a symbol of the changing of the year, in no small part due to Albanian families being very religiously mixed. Nevertheless, Christmas is the biggest celebration in the country after New Year's.

I am an Albanian of the Shiia faith and I have been always celebrating Christmas which is one of my favorite celebrations, especially when I was kid, just as for all kids who celebrate this beautiful day .

The majority of Albanian families celebrate Christmas but in a slightly different way. Families with a Muslim background have lunch, or more usually dinner. Families come together during the celebration, after which comes the time to open the presents. Every family sets it own rules about presents, dinner or lunch, as peace and happiness spreads all over the country.

The vast majority of Albanian families have a Christmas tree (Albanian New Year tree). Christian believers go to church at midnight where they light a candle and carry out their religious rituals. Orthodox Christians go to Mass in the early morning of December 25 at sunrise. Most of the youth, after all religious rituals are finished, meet together, and party all night, and most of them like to wear something red to signify Christmas Eve.

Overall, Albania is nowadays the ideal country – a model country – where people of all religions live and celebrate in harmony, though that certainly does not mean they do not have religious faith. The main characteristic is the respect for others' beliefs that comes from the axiom: "There is only one God."



Christmas in Nigeria

By Dorcas Michell

Christmas in Nigeria is indeed a big event of the year, in fact probably the biggest. Thus, it's always celebrated in as grand a way a possible by all which is a wonderful experience. Christmas in Nigeria is usually a family event, a time when lots of family members come together to celebrate and have fun. For instance, most families that now live in the cities travel to their home villages to be with older relatives, grandparents and friends.



Often, families throw Christmas parties that will last all night long on Christmas Eve, then on Christmas morning they go to church to give thanks to God, while others stay at home to do the Christmas cooking, which is usually called Christmas rice and Chicken. In addition to serving chicken or turkey, a traditional Christmas meal in Nigeria may include beef, goat, sheep or ram. Other dishes might include pounded yam, jollof rice, fried rice, vegetable salad and some type of stew.

Paying visits is the main activity of Christmas after the church service. People go from house to house greeting each other and eating the Christmas food being prepared in



the house they visited. Also, families take homemade food to each other's homes in a gesture of friendship between the families. Christmas cards are sent



to friends and family members, presents are exchanged amongst family members and some families may take children dressed in new outfits to see Santa Claus. For children, Christmas is the most exciting holiday because they often get new clothes, shoes and presents from parents, friends and in school. Not only children, but the entire family goes shopping for Christmas attire, which is usually referred to as Christmas clothes. In the villages, Christmas becomes more colorful, with masquerades and dance groups taking over village squares to offer free entertainment for all. On reflection, there are no other celebrations that compare to Christmas festivities in Nigeria!!!

Cultural Diversity Celebrated at McDaniel Christmas Bash

By Chaili Beite A.K.A. Peter

On the evening of December 2 at the McDaniel college building in Budapest, a party was held to celebrate some of the other cultural events that take place around Christmas like *Hanukkah*, *Hogueras*, and Lucia Day. The different students performed something that illustrated their own celebrations back home. For instance, the Israeli students sang a song for Hannukah and lit three candles on the Hanukkah Menorah. The Spanish group also sang a song for Hogueras and for the last performance the Swedish students dressed up as beautiful angels of a white Christmas. As for the main event, the raffle took place at the end of the songs marking the different holidays. For the rest of the time the students were free to go to any of the events taking place in the different class rooms or to the karaoke session in the basement. This year there was only one event (not counting karaoke) out of the three that actually was open for the students,



As a freshmen of the college I was disappointed by the lack of participation, but otherwise the party was fun and full of good spirits.

A Harsh Reality

By Danny Stickers

A reality television show is a rendezvous at which those who seek fame for all the wrong reasons and those who chose not to work for success, but feel as if they're entitled to it, meet. In the past couple of years it has steadily morphed from a showcase of talents to a freak show. A cast member will – quite literally – sell his or her self-respect for a token of undefined significance that can only come from being a part of media. On the other end of the spectrum, we must also remind ourselves that this cannot continue without an audience. The public watches these shows religiously, hardly pausing to ask themselves why. Is the truth that it taps into a twisted part of the human brain, that wants to see what is out there, that is worse than them like critics suggest? Who's to blame, the capitalistic machine reality television has become, or the audience that fuels it?

First, it's important to note that viewers never seem to catch onto the structure and traps set up from the entertainment industry, for its contestants to fall in. From the time a reality star sits down for their first interview by the show's producers, to two years of shows, reunion specials, and guest appearances before they're cold product and forgotten, they are at the will of the producers from the show they're in.

According to sources that were previous reality contestants, it begins with the cast members being conned by casting directors by being flattered, then being assured that the Producers “really like them”, and that they are going to be the “likeable one” on the show. They are then placed in a hostile environment that has been deliberately set up to break the cast down for our viewing pleasure. It's reported that sometimes they even hire what's called a ‘sit in,’ someone who is on the show as a contestant like the rest of the cast, but is an actor hired by the production company to stir up trouble on the set. Sometimes this even involves being physically aggressive. The reality contestants don't know this person is an actor, and neither does the audience. Thanks to the internet, these actors have been revealed by fans that hope to keep reality television ‘real.’ That hope, however, seems to be unanswered as the practice has continued to this day. To think



that they have succeeded in having audiences unknowingly watching and supporting (with our ratings) a show that would hire someone to assault its contestants and humiliate them for profit should bring a question of ethics to the viewer. If a show is ‘real,’ then all is fair, but if a show had been misleading about its realism to both its audience, and its contestants, then its flat out lying, and creates more consequences than one would first consider. As a former frequent viewer of reality television, I can attest to some episodes at which contestants had been so burned on air by the producers, that one couldn't even imagine how that split second of airtime could have changed their life. These events could have altered someone's entire life, in exchange for a couple chuckles from the audience.

So is the audience to blame? Is it a snapshot into our culture? No. Why? Most of us don't know, or don't consider the involvement of the crew and its sabotage to the show. We think what we are watching is real, and we form our own opinions based on that assumption. The production companies want you to think that in the long run there is no harm to this, that it's all in good fun, and that it's simply for entertainment purposes. However, this has been proven to not be the case. It's time for the media to stop taking advantage of dumb people but even that aside, let us remember that these contestants have a life outside the show. Think about how the deception has affected their lives, and what it's like for them to go out in public. Yes, this is a result of human nature, and that's why these show's receive the high ratings they do, but there should be a responsibility that should be given to those who provide us our entertainment. They can tell by their paychecks how much of an impact their programs have on the public. They should be grateful, and keep the wellbeing of their supporters, in mind.

Cinnamon, the True Scent of Christmas and *Rabanadas*!

By João Salviano

I don't know about you, but where I come from when you smell cinnamon it conjures up Christmas. From the end of November the air around you starts filling up with this exquisite spice and you begin your count-down to that long awaited day where you and your family have the longest meals of the year, discuss everything there is to discuss and exchange gifts in the hope of repeating it all over again the following year. For me Christmas is a time of reunion and sharing. Furthermore, and to top things off, no Christmas is ever complete without my favorite sweet of the season: *rabanadas*. *Rabanadas* is one of the easiest Portuguese Christmas sweets to make. You need a baguette style three-day-old loaf of bread, which you slice quite thickly. Then you need some eggs and sugar, a frying pan and lots of oil, and, of course, the "piece de résistance"...cinnamon!



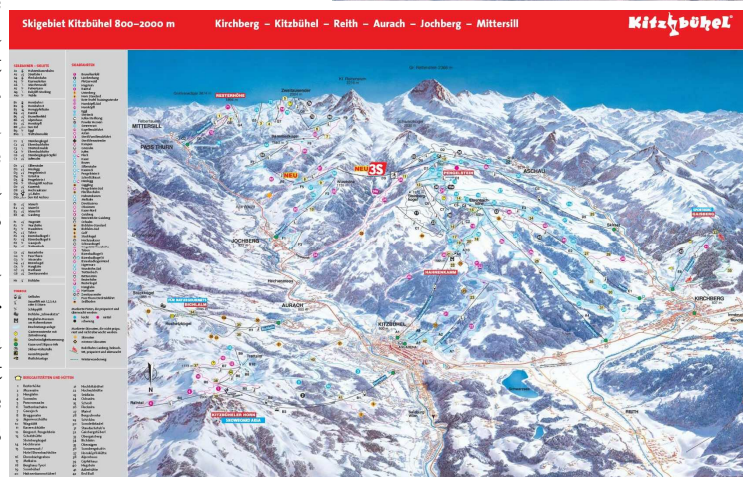
Mix the sugar into water, and then dip the bread into this water and into egg yolks, then fry it in the oil on both sides and then just as you take it out to put on the plate you powder it with some more sugar and with cinnamon to your taste, and there you go, you have the perfect Christmas treat: a crowd pleaser and it's easy to make. Enjoy! Picture (<http://cybercook.terra.com.br/rabanada.html?codigo=1245>)

Exploring Eastern Slopes

By Vlada Sahovic

If you have some time to burn before you go back to the United States or to wherever you are based, you might want to invest some time traveling around this colourful and varied region. Hungary is bordered by Romania and Ukraine in the east, Austria to the west and Slovakia in the north, Slovenia and Croatia in the southwest and Serbia in the south; and all of them are well worth a visit.

If you are accustomed to the western world then maybe you should start off with Austria. Seeing as it was the epicenter of a large empire in the past, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it has a lot of remnants from that time that are mostly manifested in the architecture and in culture. Thus, if you are interested in the history of the western secularized society, Vienna and Salzburg are the perfect places to visit. With beautiful theaters, opera houses, universities, quality leisure-time activities, they offer everything. But if you are more of a nature-loving adrenaline-junkie sort of type then you might be more interested in the seasonal offerings in the good old "Eastern Reich".



The larger Salzburg area offers countless elaborate slopes. They are all in the larger area of Salzburger Sportwelt, which is located south of Salzburg. More than 20 small villages are connected via ski-lifts so it doesn't matter much where you decide to stay; that part only depends on what kind of skiing you are looking for, because there are areas where ski-parks are more frequent and areas designated for off-slope skiing. However, if you are looking for the latter, Slovenia and Serbia might be better choices; skiing in Austria is mostly done on glaciers, so it limits the movement of all wild-spirited adrenaline seekers.



The Tyrol valley is also a good choice, for it offers, like Salzburger, a wide variety of slopes for all kinds of skiers. No matter if you are a novice skier or an expert, you are bound to find your ideal run there.

Kaprun/Zell am See is a must-see as well. Being only two hours away from Salzburg much like the villages of the Salzburger complex, it offers excellent conditions for people who are looking for laid-back skiing and family activities. But if I were to write ten pages it wouldn't be enough to cover all the fabulous skiing (and snowboarding dear friends, yes) possibilities this country has to offer; so we might as well move on to other countries in the vicinity.

Slovenia is a good, efficient and fairly cheap source for good skiing fun, but it is not on the same level as Austrian skiing. With Slovenia the situation is that there are many ski centers but all are relatively small when compared to Austrian mega-runs. What Slovenia has to offer is good fun for intermediate and beginner snowboarders and skiers and a lot of off-piste fun for experts. Ski centers like Cerklno, Lokve, Vogel, Rogla and others are worth the visit and are probably going to leave you satisfied if you are looking for a relaxed vacation, but not a proper ski-excursion.

If you want world-class slopes and undisputable quality you might want to move from this part of Europe and move further to the west, to Italy, Switzerland and France. But seeing as we are here I might as well stay in this part of the world and go on with Serbia.

Serbia has one fairly good mountain called Kopaonik, which yours truly visited on many occasions, that offers excellent, really excellent slopes for all true fans of off-piste skiing. With your days predominantly occupied with skiing, the nights are envisioned to be much more leisurely. There is a wide variety of pubs and clubs in which to have fun in and the people who work in them are going to try their hardest to get you drunk... so be careful!

Slovakia has some ski-centers as well, but seeing as McDaniel used to take people skiing there you might want to ask someone from the administration about their experiences. I personally think that Austria is the best choice for anyone who is looking for some serious skiing on some serious glaciers. Slovenia is also something I would recommend if you are looking for some variety in skiing, because as every adrenaline-junkie knows, nothing beats the good ole off-piste. This is where I would try to fit Kopaonik in.

In any case, wherever you decide to go, be it one of the places I recommended to you or not, the most important thing from my perspective is that you keep on skiing, proliferate the sport, teach others who have never been big fans of winter sports to enjoy the snow and the cold time of the year and to have some fun regardless of the bitter chill. Enjoy, the semester is over, you deserve it! Ski on and may the force be with you!

(Pictures: <http://www.stag-bratislava.com>)

<http://www.powdertravel.com>)





Happy Holidays from the Messenger Staff.

Check out The Messenger blog!
<http://mcdanielmessengeronline.blogspot.com/>

Messenger meetings

Every Wednesday
 12:00-12:25
 Room 224

The Messenger welcomes all sorts of submissions, ranging from articles, essays, and editorials, to poetry, updates, and photos.



MCDANIEL
COLLEGE
BUDAPEST

Staff Writers:

KC Bosco
 Chaili Beite
 Tom Fried
 Dániel Hámori
 Adela Kuci
 Dorcas Mitchell
 Tom Okuagu Opute
 Vlada Sahovic
 Felix Timmers

Guest Writers:

Verena Zyla

Editor:

João Salviano Carmo

Layout Editor:

Ali Dowlaty

Faculty Advisor:

Robert Smyth