



FAREWELL 2011

January Estonia adopts the Euro becoming the 17th Eurozone country-Southern Sudan votes independence-Flooding and mudslides in Rio de Janeiro kill 903- Tunisian government falls after violent protests-37 killed in airport bombing in Moscow **February** Hosni Mubarak resigns after widespread protests -Uncertainty over Libyan oil output causes 2011 energy crisis **March** Japan's earthquake and tsunami kills 15,840 causing emergencies at 4 nuclear power plants -Bahrein declares state of emergency to quell civil unrest-Libyan civil war- **April** Home arrest of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo ends 2010-2011 Ivorian crisis and civil war- two billion people watch Prince William's wedding **May** Bin Laden assassinated in Pakistan- €78 billion "rescue" deal for Portugal- Bosnian Serb Mladić, wanted for crimes against humanity, arrested in Serbia **June** Chile's Puyehue volcano erupts, with 3,000 evacuees-Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh travels to Saudi Arabia and Protesters celebrate his transfer of power to his Vice-President- Thousands of Syrians flee to Turkey as Syrian troops lay siege to Jisr ash-Shugur **July** world's 1st artificial organ transplant aided with stem cells- South Sudan proclaimed- the last of the indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, detained- famine in Somalia- twin terrorist attacks in Norway-flooding affects over 12.8 million in Thailand- estimated 3,000 dead in Siria **August** NASA evidence of possible water on Mars-

-Juno, 1st solar-powered spacecraft on a mission to Jupiter, launched-Libian rebels overthrow Gaddafi in Battle of Tripoli- **September** India and Bangladesh end 40-year border dispute- About 100 Kenyans perish after petrol pipeline explodes in Nairobi- UN appeal for victims of the 2011 Sindh floods in Pakistan- **October** Mogadishu car bombing takes 100 lives- Cambodia's Mekong River flood death toll reaches 207- Israeli Army soldier Gilad Shalit exchange for 1,027 Palestinian and Israeli-Arab prisoners- Gaddafi's execution in Sirte ends war - ETA ends its 800-dead 43-year campaign -earthquake in Turkey leaves 604 dead- European sovereign debt crisis - global population "reaches" 7 billion- UNESCO admits Palestine - **December** official end of Iraq War-Tropical Storm Washi causes 1,257 flash flood fatalities in the Philippines- Samoa and Tokelau move west of the International Date .line, skipping December 30 to keep business as usual. (Adapted from Wikipedia)

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS: *New Year's Day*(1/1), *Twelfth Night*(The 12 night after Christmas) people go out to sing and drink, 6 - *Epiphany*(the 3 wise men arrived in Bethlehem to worship Jesus)**OTHER:** 20/1 -Dr. *Martin Luther King* day in USA (since 1986), 25/1 - *Robert Burns*, Scotland's national poet's anniversary celebrated eating Haggis and having bonfires and 26/1 - *Australia* commemorates the first European settlement in 1788.

VLC DLS CULTURE ZERO BUDGET

The new year starts like an aborted baby. Deserted by the world leaders after the Durban summit crushed all hopes, the Earth cries tears of acid rain, black petrol and blood-curdling chemicals. Europe, strangled by the IMF, the ECB and the rating agencies (with such good friends, who needs enemies?)spits its working and middle classes from their jobs and homes constantly increasing the numbers of the destitute homeless. No money is destined to new research, grants for language students or substitute teachers, so VLC DLS(EOI) is floating in this landscape of savage desolation. How many more victims before the reaction starts? When will the cocoon break and release the butterfly?

WHAT'S ON IN VLC

1-English speaking cafes (see last issue)
2-English Culture facebook page (see school website, English Department) and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish>
3-Films in English
FILMOTECA VALENCIANA (CHEAPEST): The American Way of Death series is on till 31 January
BABEL (ALWAYS ORIGINAL VERSION) **Premieres:** *The Iron Lady and Route Irish*. **Others:** *Melancholia, Carnage, Jane Eyre, & A Dangerous Method*.
YELMO (near the DLS) **Premieres:** *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (Sherlock Holmes 2)*
Others: *We Bought a Zoo, Drive* and *The Help*.

MEMORY, MEMORISING, MEMORIES

I have a good memory. I usually remember appointments or birthdays and I do not forget where I have left things. Fortunately I am not a forgetful person, I am even able to remember small details, in fact, I adore observing carefully like a detective.

The oldest memory that I have is the garden of my nursery, I was only 3 years old and I remember a big garden with red roses and a big stone fountain. I've grown up and now the garden and the stone fountain appear smaller than I remember them.

I have special memories from my childhood. Above all, I remember my grandmother telling me about the time when she was young, the Civil War years in Spain and other real stories from the last century.

On the other hand, I think I have had a good memory since I was a child probably because at my school memory was an important study skill and the teachers increased the children's memory

making us repeat aloud all the time historic dates or verb tenses, for example; and today I still remember them. Scientists say that this is because children learn new things easily and permanently.

Later, when I was at university, I used mnemonics, strategies to remember things like recalling a definition with capital letters. In fact I studied History and remembering dates and events was easy for me.

Experts recommend exercise. They say exercising the brain creates new connections between neurons. Therefore, I try to memorise phone numbers or names of drugs in my language and in others. In my opinion, learning languages is one of the best ways to train the brain.

To finish with, I think that remembering things from the past is good to learn about it. Later, time and the mind blur away the bad things. I try to remember good things

because I am a positive thinker, and this helps me, it is the best way in my view.

Amparo Aguilar, NIZ



RUFF YOGA, OR DOGA

Ruff yoga, also known as Doga, is a new activity that consists of doing yoga with your dog. This new side of yoga was founded by a coach from Florida, Suzi Teitelman. It all started when her dog Coaly, a Cocker Spaniel, stared at her when she was doing yoga at home and tried to imitate the positions that Suzi was in. This fact, what began as an anecdote, made Suzi think seriously about the advantages this activity might have for dogs and humans that practise it with their dogs. Finally, she decided to expand this new activity teaching it. Nowadays, Ruff yoga is a discipline that has been taken by dog trainers and therapists worldwide as a way to improve the relationship between dogs and humans while keeping fit. The experience

has proved that practising Ruff yoga you can get a complete relaxation of each of your dog's muscles. Apart from that, with constant practice of Doga it is possible to synchronize the dog and owner's breathing, which consolidates their relationship. Besides, it improves the circulation of the blood and the heart condition. It appears, moreover, that doing Ruff yoga you can improve your concentration, get much better obedience from your dog, and the most important thing, a higher degree of trust in the owner. If you are interested in Ruff yoga, there is a book titled "DOGA: Yoga for dogs" which gives you much more interesting information about it. This book has been written by Jennifer Brilliant, a yoga teacher in New York, and William Berloni, who is widely recognized as an expert

in animal behaviour and for his dedication to rescue work. According to this information, it seems that doing Ruff yoga is a good way to increase the joy of doing exercise with your best friend, and also, practising Doga your dog and you will be even happier spending time together.

Almudena Martínez Rodríguez, NA2



CRACKING DOWN ON CYCLISTS-TWO OPINIONS

Valencia is perfect for cycling because there aren't any slopes and the streets are wide. Besides, it has a few new cycling lanes and since 2010 we have had a very successful municipal bike hiring service. Anybody would think our town hall was promoting "cycling" as healthier, cleaner & much more ecofriendly transport, but it is not. It is promoting the persecution of cyclists. Since 28/11 our city has been in many newspapers (we are news) because of the police campaign against cyclists.

Why don't the police explain to cyclists what they are doing wrong instead of chasing them? In most cases it isn't the cyclist's fault because the lanes are so badly connected. It appears they are more interested in collecting money than having a cleaner & less polluted city. Last Friday I read in

the press they have collected, in only 3 days of campaigning, 106,000 euros in fines from 234 cyclists.

Perhaps they could use at least part of this money to improve and promote the use of bikes, which, in the end, is for the good of the whole city. Think about it Miss Rita!

Nuria Montesinos, N11

Nowadays, in Valencia, there is a municipal campaign...The local Police have been given the order to fine the cyclists that ignore the regulations; in most cases between 90 and 200 euros. The city council justifies these measures with complaints from residents about people run over on the pavement, or related to the risk posed to drivers at night by bikes without lights.

On the other hand, many cyclists criticize the lack of lanes and how

these suddenly disappear in the middle of the street forcing them to leave the pavement and join dangerous cars and buses. Another thing they complain about is the excessive fines. I think that this is true, above all, taking into account that the offences are not as important as the ones committed by the cars that, most of the times, are not fined so seriously. Sometimes, it would be cheaper for the fined cyclists to double park their cars and pay the fine directly, in that case, than exposing themselves to the dangers of the roads.

In my opinion... to prevent the high levels of pollution in Valencia city they should encourage their use with a higher level of provision of bike lanes.

Esther A. NAI



SO MUCH LAW BUT LITTLE JUSTICE

Dear Sirs:

I was interested in your advert about homeless people and I'm writing to offer my services as a helper. I have been interested in this kind of social problem for many years, but I don't have experience. However, if I have an opportunity to work to help them, I will put my best into learning more than most. I could work in the shelter helping homeless people to look for a job, teaching them to read and write if they don't know how to, or to cook, or anything else.

It's a shame that nowadays a lot of people still have to live on the streets while other people have so much money to spare. I'm worried about this situation and I'm afraid that if we do nothing, the problem will get worse. Gandhi said: the Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every

man's greed.

In my opinion, the government should do more to help homeless people because this problem comes to the big banks and to the rich people who keep this unbalanced economy in the world.

Clearly, we have a government with equal opportunities and equal rights for nothing, so much law but little justice.

That's the way I feel interested in doing something to change this world. If there is an opportunity to work with you, I would be delighted to do so.

Please get in touch with me at my e-mail address.

Yours faithfully,

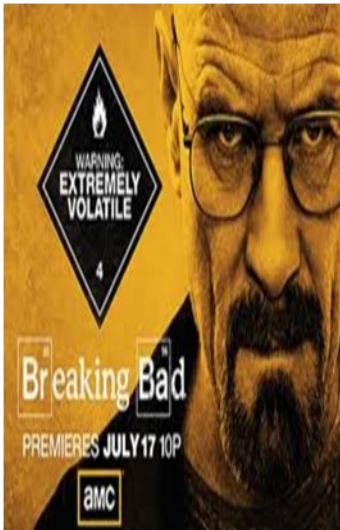
Sofia

Sofia Cano Myllymäk, N12



🌐 "It's a shame that nowadays a lot of people still have to live on the streets while other people have so much money to spare." 🌐

REVIEWS: BAD, SAD, CREEPY OR OBSCURE-TAKE YOUR PICK!



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Photos from Google Images



BREAKING BAD, A SHOCKING TV SERIAL

Would you do anything to save your life? Even cook and sell drugs? These are deep dilemmas for Walter White, a high school teacher in his forties who is suddenly affected by cancer. In order to pay for his expensive treatment, Walter decides to enter the methamphetamine business.

Breaking Bad shows you what a normal person has to do for surviving. To defend his leadership in the market of drugs, Walter will be forced to fight against the scum of society. Pushers, junkies and drug dealers are going to transform Walter's life into a living hell and during this process Walter is going to change. The shy teacher is going to become a greedy criminal anxious to earn more money with drugs.

If you want to enjoy this fascinating TV serial you can watch it on

Paramount Comedy Channel or buy the first and second DVD seasons at any shop.

Carles Pérez Narro NAI

MELANCHOLIA

I tend to go to the cinema on Friday. I usually go to Yelmo or Babel cinemas because I like watching films in original version. I am a huge fan of the eccentric Lars von Trier, so last week I watched the last Von Trier's film, called "Melancholia".

It isn't a comedy or an action or a horror film. It's an *auteur* film which is drama and science-fiction too. The stars are two sisters, Justine (Kirsten Dunst) and Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg). I like Gainsbourg's performance better than the Dunst's. The theme is nostalgia and the sense of loss. It starts with a wedding and finishes with an

image of the two sisters, who talk about being alone.

Throughout the movie there is nostalgia. It's a sad story because the actors are always thinking about the end of their lives. There are some special and strange moments which you usually find in this kind of films. Von Trier loves shooting in a real place, so this film was shot in Sweden, in a castle which has a big and fantastic garden. The special effects in the beginning and in the end of the movie have a spectacular beauty.

There are two planets: The Earth and Melancholia, which is ten times bigger. There is a head-on collision where everybody dies. The soundtrack is Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde" which is very emotional for the moment of the collision. If you like this kind of films I recommend you to watch "Melancholia".

Marisa Fresquet, NIZ

THE SKIN I LIVE IN

"The skin I live in" is the new film by Almodóvar. It tells a hard story of revenge, people without scruples, who abuse their power, and those accept what they are in order to survive. The main character is Antonio Banderas as a plastic surgeon whose wife died burned in a car crash; he has created a new skin in his laboratory, a shield against all possible damage. It also stars Elena Anaya and Marisa Paredes.

The movie is based on the novel "Mygale" by Thierry Jonquet, but Almodovar likes shooting his own scripts so he takes the main idea from the book and after that he develops an almost new fabulous story with the "Almodovar Touch". This time he leaves his typical sets full of things and colours for others more tasteful and simple, in some cases almost minimalist. The soundtrack, as usual by Alberto Iglesias, is gorgeous and sensitive, and increases the drama of the scenes. The clothes are made by famous fashion designers such as Gaultier, Dior

and Armani.

It's difficult to write about the movie without revealing the plot twists, but after watching it three times I have realized that the spectator goes out amazed and scared, without being able to say a word. *Albert Martínez Lopez, NIZ*

VINDICATING OWEN

You will probably have heard of Darwin, but what about Richard Owen? Nowadays, his figure is a ghost in the mist of time, although in the mid-Victorian age he was at least as famous as Darwin; a brilliant anatomist and palaeontologist whose name was in the mouths of all cultivated Europeans. Nicolaas Rupke, a Dutch science historian established in Germany, has tried to rescue him from the depths of oblivion in this unconventional biography: *Richard Owen. Biology without Darwin*. Why unconventional? Because this is not a narrative beginning with birth and ending with death, telling in the middle the succession of events which we call a life. It is about his work and thoughts: you will find detailed discussions of his involve-

ment in the establishment of the London Natural History Museum, the hot debates about evolution and man's place in nature, the fights between the two main schools of anatomical thought and the celebrated reconstructions of such astonishing extinct creatures as dinosaurs, giant sloths and moas.

On the whole, Rupke succeeds in bringing Owen back to life and reasserting his reputation. When you finish the book, you remain intrigued by his contradictory personality and opinions; you feel sympathy for this man, perhaps unfairly criticized by the Darwinians, and you want to find out more about him. However, the innovative character of this book may be also its main downside: nothing is said about his marriage, his son's suicide and other personal things which could shed some light on Owen's personality and ideas.

All in all, I would recommend this singular book to all those interested in knowing how modern biology was built and to those willing to discover an absolutely amazing, though forgotten, important figure in history.

José Luis Renau Mateu, NAZ

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