

TRAFFIC

Do you recognize the new traffic sign?



cyclists crossing pedestrian crossings. "The arrangements have significantly increased safety. There are many children and young people on the routes to school at these intersections, so it is especially important that there are clear arrangements to avoid them," says Project Engineer Samuli Huusko.

Street lighting has also been improved: now the lighting illuminates when a pedestrian or cyclist approaches a pedestrian crossing, increasing visibility in low light conditions. The City of Vaasa reminds that it is still extremely important to be attentive in traffic. The new traffic signs clarify the rules, but it is still the driver's responsibility to ensure that the car reacts correctly at the intersection.

This autumn, it is still worth stopping for a moment and checking if you recognise the new B7 sign – as it can save lives and make Vaasa's cycle paths safer for everyone.

IMAGE: Traffic sign indicating the right of way for cyclists.

Photo: Veera Rönttö / City of Vaasa

The obligation to give way has been changed at several intersections in Vaasa.

New traffic signs and giving way arrangements have been introduced

in Vaasa, which may surprise both motorists and cyclists. The city invests in the safety of pedestrians and cyclists along school routes and the main cycle routes. At several busy intersections B7 traffic signs have now been erected to inform motorists that cyclists have the right of way. The new regulations emphasise

that the obligation to give way has changed – cars must give way to

THL

THL: Should you dare to have a second child?



Once the family has its first child, dreams of expanding your family begin to blossom. A recent study by the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) shows that a strong belief in the future increases the desire to have children – but at the same time, one in four parents of first-born children are uncertain about having more children.

According to the study, families with a high level of confidence in the future also seem to be planning to have more children. This raises hopes in Finnish society – but at the same time, the situation reveals a dichotomy: even though there is a desire to have more children, uncertainty about the economy, working life, and the environment is already evident after the first child.

"Confidence in the future drives the desire to have children, but uncertainties

remain. Especially when a second child is still being planned, many people wonder: can I really provide for them?"

The study highlights an important message for decision-makers and society: the desire to have children is not based on desire alone. When children are born and families grow, security for the future – work, finances, society – has a decisive impact.

THL emphasizes that support measures—whether in the form of family leave, early childhood education, or work-life balance—are becoming increasingly important right now. If uncertainty does not decrease, hopes for the growth of a new generation may remain unfulfilled.

The joy of having a first child and plans for the future may therefore be overshadowed – but with the right solutions, hopes can be brightened and become reality.

Image of the Week:



A year ago, Lumi and Pyry moved to China, where we hope they are doing well! And now the entire zoo has gone bankrupt. So sad!

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Financial knowledge is crucial today

The University of Vaasa has appointed economist Olli Pekka Ruuskanen as its latest professorship – and his arrival at the university brings a strong message: economics is no longer an unfortunate side issue – it is the foundation of society's resilience.



Ruuskanen started as Professor of Economics at the University of Vaasa in September, and his position focuses on current challenges, such as risk management in the digital economic environment, the development of financial literacy and the green transition as a primary economic issue. University of Vaasa

"As digital services become more common and social safety nets shrink, it is becoming increasingly important that people understand financial risks and know how to protect themselves against them," Ruuskanen emphasises. University of Vaasa

Financial literacy applies to all of us: the family, the company and society. Economic crises, indebtedness and new threats as a result of digitalisation show that financial literacy is not just an advantage – but a necessity. Ruuskanen highlights in particular the vulnerable groups in the digital economy. University of Vaasa

Ruuskanen brings the experience

WASA DAILY
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Vaasa Science Carnival
Northern Light on Jupiter
Vaasa carbon neutral
Vaasa Littfest
Inha in Replot 1895
Joakim Strand



UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

University of Vaasa: A competitor can become a partner

In the international market, competitors are not always the enemy. Shuwei Jiang's doctoral dissertation at the University of Vaasa reveals that competition and cooperation can go hand in hand – and at best, turn a competitor

into a valuable partner.

The research focuses on the strategic relationships between European and Chinese companies, where both parties seek to benefit from each other's resources, expertise and networks. According to Jiang, cooperation – a collaboration between competing



companies – can provide Europeans with access to Chinese markets and distribution channels, while Chinese companies benefit from technology and global experience. But trust is a delicate issue. Companies have to balance between transparency and the protection of their own competitive advantage. Jiang introduces solutions such as cross-ownership arrangements that reduce opportunistic behavior and encourage long-term commitment. "The key to success is to see cooperation as a long-term strategic choice, not as a temporary

alliance. When a balance is found between trust and protection, both sides become stronger in an uncertain world," Jiang emphasises. The dissertation shows that although cooperation with a competitor is complex and sometimes tense, its benefits can outweigh the risks: new innovations, resources and business opportunities only open up through cooperation. This study crystallizes a new paradigm in international business: sometimes a competitor can be the partner that takes the company to the next level.

EU

Minister Strand challenged Hungary: "The rule of law must not become an empty word in the EU"



It was a charged meeting in Luxembourg when Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering Joakim Strand represented Finland at the EU General Council meeting on Tuesday. On the agenda were the Union's upcoming long-term budget, the state of the rule of law in Hungary – and Finland's demand that the EU defend its core values vigorously.

Strand highlighted Finland's clear line: EU money should never go to states that violate the rule of law. He warned that the budget for 2028–2034 must not grow in a way that increases the burden on Finland, which is both a net contributor and an external border state. At the same time, he stressed that funding for agriculture, competitiveness and defence must be secured.

"We have to find a balance. Finland should not pay an unreasonable amount, but the EU must still be able to defend its borders and its agriculture," Strand said after the meeting.

But it was the Hungary issue that aroused the strongest emotions. During the ninth Article 7 hearing, Strand asked the Hungarian Government sharp questions about the status of civil society and the new laws restricting the rights of LGBTQ+ people.

"It is worrying that after six years we still do not see real improvements. We must show political will to defend the rule of law – otherwise we will lose the credibility of the EU," Strand said emphatically.

Finland received strong support from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which together demand that the EU's values be protected as strictly as its borders.

In addition to the debate on Hungary, Strand also participated in a working lunch on the Commission's upcoming 'European Shield of Democracy' initiative, which aims to fight disinformation and strengthen the Union's resilience to external manipulation.

The meeting in Luxembourg clearly showed that Finland wants an EU that protects both its citizens – and its principles.

Source: SFP



TODAY

EDITORIAL

Carbon dioxide levels increase by record amount. Point of no return?



In a dramatic new report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) soared by a historic amount in 2024, reaching 423.9 ppm, a new all-time high. This surge has locked in long-term warming and soundly rings alarm bells across the global climate community.

While the world watches unusual wildfires and extreme weather patterns, the hidden engine behind them is the unabated rise in greenhouse gases. WMO's analysis pinpoints both human activity and shrinking natural "sinks" as culprits: the solar-driven emissions of CO₂ combined with vast wildfires and a faltering capacity of oceans and forests to absorb it.

Crucially, scientists noted the annual rate of increase jumped from an average of 0.8 ppm per year in the 1960s to 2.4 ppm between 2011-2020, culminating in a staggering 3.5 ppm increase between 2023-2024—the largest ever recorded.

"The heat trapped by CO₂ and other greenhouse gases is turbo-charging our climate and leading to more extreme weather," warnings from WMO's Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett make no understatement. "Reducing emissions is essential not just for our climate but for our economic security and community well-being."

Beyond CO₂, the situation deepens: methane and nitrous oxide have also climbed to historic levels, further fuelling the warming machine.

Perhaps most chilling of all: about half of all CO₂ emitted today stays in the atmosphere, with the rest requiring absorption by earth systems that are now weakening as temperatures rise. That means the climate consequences of today's emissions will echo for centuries.

WMO urges governments and industries to ramp up monitoring and emissions tracking, calling this a critical moment in the fight for climate stability. If unaddressed, the record CO₂ levels of 2024 may mark a point of no return.

ADMINISTRATION

New mega-agency to change our lives from January 1, 2026

At the beginning of 2026, Finnish public administration will undergo one of the most significant changes in its history: on January 1, 2026, the Licensing and Supervisory Agency, a new national agency, will be launched, combining the tasks of Valvira, several regional state administrative agencies, and some of the ELY centers.

In practice, this means that the current Valvira, various Regional State Administrative Agencies, and the environmental and natural resource tasks of the ELY Centers will cease to exist at the end of the year, and a new mega-agency will take their place.

The agency's headquarters will be in Tampere, and its network of offices will cover 18 locations across Finland – in every province.

The reform raises expectations – but also questions. The agency's field of activity is exceptionally broad: social and health care, early childhood education, education, culture, the environment, occupational safety, rescue services, preparedness, business supervision, and legal protection – all of these will be combined into a single administrative unit.

Customer experience, permit processing, and supervision will improve as the enforcement of regulations is harmonized across Finland.

On the other hand, the change means a major shake-up: around 2,000 experts will be transferred from the current agencies to the new agency.

From an administrative perspective, this is one of the most significant reforms in regional state administration – the aim of the reform is to harmonize permit and supervision practices, improve efficiency, and better safeguard citizens' rights.

From an everyday perspective, this means that if you apply for a business license, an environmental permit for a water area, or a place in early childhood education, you will only have to deal with one agency instead of several different ones.

On the other hand, the reform may bring challenges for citizens and entrepreneurs during the transition period, as old organizations disappear and are replaced by a new entity.

The year 2026 will therefore mark the dawn of a new era. The Licensing and Supervisory Agency will take responsibility, and the Finnish administration will take a step towards a more unified, but also profoundly reformed, world of supervision and licensing.

SCIENCECARNIVAL

Vaasa Science Carnival 7–8 November 2025



Science will play a prominent role in Vaasa when the Vaasa Science Carnival is held in the city centre on 7–8 November 2025. The event offers a unique opportunity to explore the world of science and research easily and up close – and to top it all off, it is open to anyone interested.

The programme of the carnival is diverse and lasts for two days: there will be lectures, panel discussions and interviews in three key locations – the Rewell Shopping Centre, the Drama Hall of the Vaasa Main Library and the Hall of Mirrors of the City Hall. The schedule states that the program will start at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 7 and end at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 8.

This year's Science Carnival focuses on topical themes: the programme discusses artificial intelligence and robots, the current state and future of electricity grids, financial investment, Russia's hybrid wars and the effects of drone attacks, as well as the history of

Ostrobothnian cities. In addition, a cultural nuance can be seen in the programme, when, for example, the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland organises sections on folk songs and music.

The event is organised in cooperation with several higher education institutions and research institutes, such as the University of Vaasa, Vaasa University of Applied Sciences (VAMK), Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics and the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland.

– Science and research belong to everyone, and the Vaasa Science Carnival offers an excellent opportunity to take a peek into the world of universities and colleges, says the event's producer Christer Kuvaja.

The event has been carried out in Finnish, Swedish and partly also in English, and part of the program will be streamed online.

Whether you are a student, a company representative or just a science enthusiast, these days offer food for thought, new perspectives and encounters. Mark your calendar – Vaasa will become the scene of research in November.

For more information, please visit: <https://tiedekarnevaalit.fi>

VAASA

We want to become carbon neutral in Vaasa

Vaasa has launched the Nordic Energy Capital project, which aims to make the city a pioneer in carbon-neutral energy solutions.

Vaasa has taken a step into the future – with full focus on the climate and energy. The city has set a drastic goal: to become carbon neutral by the end of the 2020s and to set an example throughout Finland. Vaasa+2Vaasa+2

It's not just words. Vaasa has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by an impressive 54 percent since 1990. And as the city fights for the title of Finland's most energy-efficient and greenest city, it is doing so with full force – together with residents, businesses and the research community.

– "Climate work is part of our everyday lives. We are changing the world, and that makes us happy," says Mayor Tomas Häyry. Vaasa

The strategy is clear: Transport and district heating are the biggest emitters – and this is where the priorities are set. Expansion of cycle paths, improved winter maintenance of pedestrian and cycle paths and investments in renewable heat are some of the tools. Vaasa+1



But it's not just about technical solutions – attitudes also need to change. Vaasa wants to involve every resident in the fight against climate change: from early childhood education and care on energy and sustainability to the concrete choice to take the bike instead of the car. Vaasa

The challenge is enormous – climate-neutral cities are still few and the road is rocky. But Vaasa emphasizes that the will is there and that the experience gained from the region's energy cluster means that they not only think big, but also act.

To achieve this goal, a digital twin is being built in Vaskiluoto,

i.e. an exact virtual model that makes it possible to test and optimise the interaction between electricity and heating systems. In parallel, an energy efficiency model based on satellite data and measurements is being developed.

"We are also developing tools that promote citizen participation, such as an interactive energy portal, and deepen the unique energy education path in Vaasa," Aho says.

European cities follow Vaasa's solutions

The solutions of the Nordic Energy Capital project are also being tested and applied in other European cities as part of the EU's learning network. Umeå (Sweden), Al-

calá de Guadaira (Spain) and Fyli (Greece) are involved in the work, representing different types of urban areas: a climate-neutral city in the north, an industrial concentration in the south and a suburb on the Mediterranean.

When other cities are still calculating emission targets – Vaasa is ready to show the way. In this fight, every bike ride, every renewable kilowatt hour and every conscious choice is one step closer to the goal: a climate-neutral future that becomes our everyday lives.

PHOTO: City of Vaasa / Christoffer Björklund

VAASA LITTFEST

Vaasa LittFest 13–15 November 2025 – the celebration of literature arrives in the city

Vaasa's own literary festival LittFest returns to the spotlight on 13–15 November, bringing three days full of author interviews, panels, workshops and evening programme. This year's theme is **Border(s) – the border between people, society and art.**

The printed programme can now be picked up from Vaasa's libraries and cultural services – you can already find your own highlights and plan your festival programme in advance.

The festival guests include both Finnish and international names: Pajtim Statovci, storyteller Mikael

Niemi, philosopher Frank Martela, Heli Laaksonen with her poems, and versatile performer Laura Malmivaara with vibraphonist Arttu Takalo.

Thursday 13 November will start with an opening performance in the Main Library's Drama Hall at 3 p.m., when author Mikko Kamula and critic Aleksis Salusjärvi open the festival with mythical Nordic themes.

Friday evening will culminate at Vaasa City Hall, when Malmivaara and Takalo will perform excerpts from the work *Iltatähti* and its compositions – as music and text merge.

On Saturday, the festival will conclude the Rajatila evenings in the Drama Hall from 6 pm

to 8 pm. In the discussions, the boundaries of literature, religious studies and mysticism collide, including Annika Perkiö, Tuomas Äystö, Jenna Kostet, Riina Peltonen and the contemporary witch Kuparikettu. The atmosphere is created by the Maanvaivat choir and Perkiö's mystical puppet photographs. The hosts are local cultural influencers Tiina and Marko Hautala.

LittFest welcomes literature lovers to experience crossing boundaries, new encounters and deep conversations. This autumn, Vaasa will become a stage for words. The full program can be found here: vaasa.fi/littfest.

TRAFFIC

Now let's slow down



Winter and night speed limits are back in force on roads in Ostrobothnia, South Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia

On the Vaasa motorway, the speed limit of 120 kilometres per hour is reduced to 100 kilometres per hour over a distance of about nine kilometres. However, the speed limit of 100 km/h on motorways will not be lowered for the winter season.

HEALTH

Finnish Medical Journal: You will live longer if your cholesterol is low

A new Finnish study reveals that low cholesterol measured in middle age may be the secret to longevity. According to an extensive follow-up study published in *Lääkärelehti*, those with cholesterol levels below 5 mmol/l lived on average years longer than those with higher levels.

The study followed more than 3,200 men born between 1919 and 1934, whose cholesterol levels were first measured in the 1960s. The follow-up lasted more than half a century, until 2025.

The results were striking. Men in the lowest cholesterol group lived on average more than three years longer than those with cholesterol



levels above 7 mmol/l. More than a third of them reached the age of 90, while in the other groups only about a fifth lived that long.

Even in healthy middle age, low cholesterol predicts the longest life span. This connection remained almost until the end of life.

The researchers note that even though cholesterol levels declined with age and statin use increased, the early differences remained clear. In other words, good cholesterol is not a coincidence – it is the sum of lifestyle and genetic factors that can determine the length of life.

Low cholesterol is not just a number on a lab report; it can be the gateway to a long and healthy life.

This study provides a compelling reason to reevaluate cholesterol levels and take heart health seriously.

ASTRONOMY

Northern lights on Jupiter

If you think the Northern Lights in Lapland are breathtaking, prepare to have your mind blown: Jupiter hosts auroras hundreds of times more powerful than anything on Earth.

While we can marvel at shimmering greens, reds, and purples at the Arctic Circle, Jupiter's polar skies blaze in ultraviolet and infrared, invisible to the naked eye but vividly captured by Hubble, Webb, and the Juno spacecraft.

Just like Earth, Jupiter's auroras are born when high-energy charged particles collide with atoms in its upper atmosphere near the poles. But here, the spectacle is amplified by the gas giant's im-

mense magnetic field and a dramatic cast of particle sources. The solar wind contributes, as on Earth, but Jupiter's volcanic moon Io adds an astonishing twist: it spews tons of material into space, which the planet's magnetic field captures and funnels into its poles. The result is a continuous, chaotic, and blindingly energetic light show that dwarfs Earth's intermittent auroras.

Jupiter's auroras are not only hundreds of times brighter and more energetic, they also form concentrated polar caps rather than the ring-like patterns we see at home. Unlike our auroras, which flare with solar storms, Jupiter's dance of light is persistent and relentless, a constant cosmic performance in a world of giant storms and swirling clouds.

Recent observations reveal



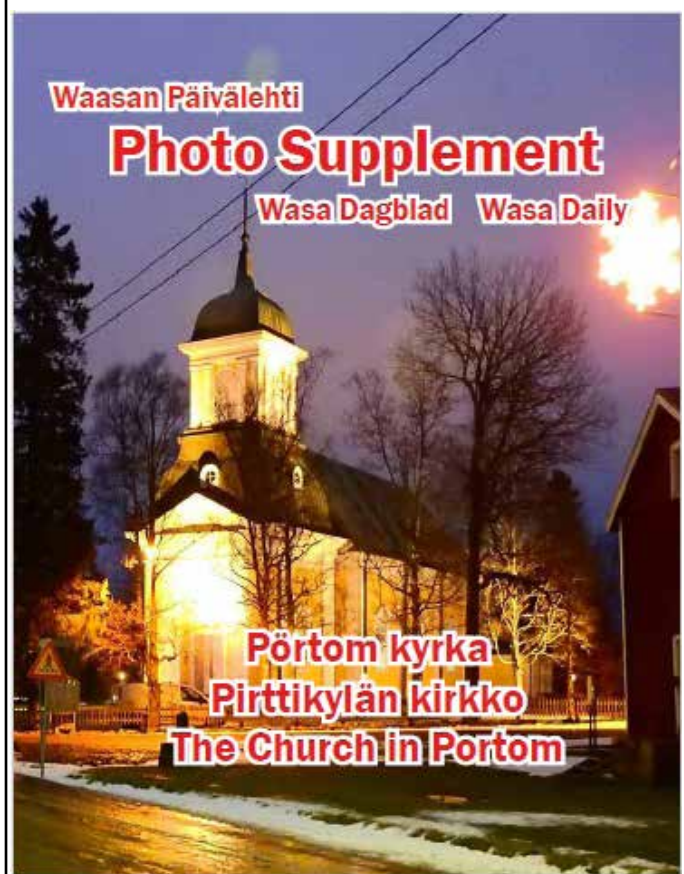
ever more detail. The James Webb Space Telescope captured unprecedented infrared images in 2023, revealing the auroras' dynamic structure at high time resolution. NASA's Juno mission has swooped close to the poles, exposing new features of Jupiter's magnetosphere and the way particles crash into the atmosphere. Hubble's ultraviolet snapshots provide a complete view of both northern and southern auroras, painting a picture of a planetary light show

beyond imagination.

So if you want to see a real auroral spectacle, you'll have to leave Earth behind: on Jupiter, the Northern and Southern Lights rage with unimaginable intensity, a cosmic masterpiece that makes Lapland's display look like a candle flicker in comparison.

IMAGE: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Auroras_on_Jupiter_in_2014.jpg. ESA/Hubble images, videos and web texts are released by the ESA under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license

Photo Supplement



THEATRE

Unnecessary people



When the light dims and the curtain rises, you realize that you are part of the play, not just a spectator. Unnecessary People is not just a story – it’s a blow that can be felt in the skin and soul. With professionalism, theatrical destinies reveal how easily a person who is left on the margins of society becomes invisible – and how a spirit craving love and dignity struggles in a darkened everyday life. For this evening, the Vaasa City Theatre has conjured up powerful performances on stage that do not give the viewer any relief. This play brings to the surface what we don’t always see: the lost hope, the growth of anger, the silent outsider. If you want to experience the power of theatre that shakes and leaves a mark, this is your night. Don’t be left out – go and see.

AI

The Best Free AI to Generate Art



In recent years, artificial intelligence has dramatically changed the way we create and experience art. For those hoping to generate world-famous paintings or produce their own master-pieces, a range of free AI tools are available online, each with its own strengths and unique features. If you’re looking for the best free program to create stunning art, look no further than Craiyon (formerly known as DALL-E Mini). Craiyon is a completely free, web-based AI art generator that stands out for its ease of use and impressive results. This tool uses powerful machine learning algorithms to transform your text prompts into original images, often with a creative twist that makes each piece one-of-a-kind. All you have to do is visit the Craiyon website, enter a phrase like “Mona Lisa in the style of Van Gogh” or “Starry Night meets Futurism,” and let the AI get to work. In moments, you’ll receive a grid of AI-generated artworks inspired by your prompt. There’s no need to sign up

or pay, making it accessible to everyone, from beginners to seasoned digital artists. Another strong contender is Stable Diffusion Web Demo, an open-source AI model available through various free online platforms. While Stable Diffusion can be a bit more technical, many websites offer user-friendly interfaces that allow you to experiment with different styles, including those of legendary painters like Picasso, Monet, or Munch. This flexibility, combined with the ability to download and use the model locally, makes Stable Diffusion a favorite among creative communities. Whether you choose Craiyon for its simplicity or Stable Diffusion for its versatility, these free AI art generators make it possible for anyone to create digital versions of world-famous paintings—or even imagine new classics. The only limit is your imagination! And of course, there are many more, tens of them. The one considered to be best is Midjourney, but this is not free, not expensive though, IMAGE: A portrait in van Gogh style made by Lexica.art

HISTORICAL IMAGES

Into Konrad Inho in Replot 1895

Wrapped in a thick jacket, he squinted his eyes through the viewfinder of his large camera, towards the biting Finnish wind.

The brass shone and reflected the skeletal silhouette of Helsinki Cathedral with bruises against the winter sky. He was not just any photographer; With a fiery beard and boundless curiosity, Inho was a columnist who captured the soul of a nation on the brink of change.

In 1895, he photographed a seal shooting in Replot. These pictures have been published in the book “SUOMI KUVINA”.



UKRAINE PRESIDENT

We Are Working to Ensure Good News for Ukraine – And It Will Come – Address by the President



Dear Ukrainians! Our Foreign Intelligence fulfilled the task of locating specific, precise addresses of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia. We are providing our partners with lists – lists of children who must be returned.

This is a sensitive issue, with a great deal of quiet diplomatic work underway. And to foil any Russian attempt to claim they supposedly know nothing about these children, we are ensuring that addresses are included as well. The first such list –containing over 300 surnames, first names, and addresses of the abducted children – will be on the desks of all the leaders assisting

us in this effort. There were many military reports today – detailed updates from the front. Of course, Pokrovsk is our priority. We continue to destroy the occupier, and that is what matters most – to stop Russian strikes wherever and whenever possible. The Russians want to turn our entire country into what they are doing to Kupyansk, and other towns and communities. They must be halted where they have reached – and destroyed there. I thank each of our units, every soldier, sergeant, and officer who defends our positions and defends our state.

One more thing.

Today I held several meetings on our foreign policy activity for the week ahead – covering weapons for Ukraine, financial support, and our shared political outcomes in relations between Ukraine and the European Union. We are working to ensure good news for Ukraine – and it will come. I am confident. We thank everyone who is helping us! I thank everyone who is fighting for our state, for Ukraine, as they would for themselves.

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Gunnar Berndtson

24.10.1854, Helsingfors

9.4.1895, Helsingfors

Rast under marknadsresan Levähdys markkinamatkalla A Rest on the Way to the Fair 1886

George Orwell

1984

PART ONE

Chapter 1

5.

Winston succeeded in transferring his hatred from the face on the screen to the dark-haired girl behind him. Vivid, beautiful hallucinations flashed through his mind.

He would flog her to death with a rubber truncheon. He would tie her naked to a stake and shoot her full of arrows like Saint Sebastian. He would ravish her and cut her throat at the moment of climax. Better than before, moreover, he realized WHY it was that he hated her. He hated her because she was young and pretty and sexless, because he wanted to go to bed with her and would never do so, because round her sweet supple waist, which seemed to ask you to encircle it with your arm, there was only the odious scarlet sash, aggressive symbol of chastity.

The Hate rose to its climax. The voice of Goldstein had become an actual sheep’s bleat, and for an instant the face changed into that of a sheep. Then the sheep-face melted into the figure of a Eurasian soldier who seemed to be advancing, huge and terrible, his sub-machine gun roaring, and seeming to spring out of the surface of the screen, so that some of the people in the front row actually flinched backwards in their seats. But in the same moment, drawing a deep sigh of relief from everybody, the hostile figure melted into the face of Big Brother, black-haired, black-moustachio’d, full of power and mysterious calm, and so vast that it almost filled up the screen. Nobody heard what Big Brother was saying.



It was merely a few words of encouragement, the sort of words that are uttered in the din of battle, not distinguishable individually but restoring confidence by the fact of being spoken. Then the face of Big Brother faded away again, and instead the three slogans of the Party stood out in bold capitals:

WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

But the face of Big Brother seemed to persist for several seconds on the screen, as though the impact that it had made on everyone’s eyeballs was too vivid to wear off immediately. The little sandy-haired woman had flung herself forward over the back of the chair in front of her. With a tremulous murmur that sounded like ‘My Saviour!’ she extended her arms towards the screen. Then she buried her face in her hands. It was apparent that she was uttering a prayer.

At this moment the entire group of people broke into a deep, slow, rhythmical chant of ‘B-B!...B-B!’—over and over again, very slowly, with a long pause between the first ‘B’ and the second—a heavy, murmurous sound, somehow curiously savage, in the background of which one seemed to hear the stamp of naked feet and the throbbing of tom-toms. For perhaps as much as thirty seconds they kept it up. It was a refrain that was often heard in moments of overwhelming emotion. Partly it was a sort of hymn to the wisdom and majesty of Big Brother, but still more it was an act of self-hypnosis, a deliberate drowning of consciousness by means of rhythmic noise. Winston’s entrails seemed to grow cold. In the Two Minutes Hate he could not help sharing in the general delirium, but this sub-human chanting of ‘B-B!...B-B!’ always filled him with horror. Of course he chanted with the rest: it was impossible to do otherwise. To dissemble your feelings, to control your face, to do what everyone else was doing, was an instinctive reaction. But there was a space of a couple of seconds during which the expression of his eyes might conceivably have betrayed him. And it was exactly at this moment that the significant thing happened—if, indeed, it did happen.

Momentarily he caught O’Brien’s eye. O’Brien had stood up. He had taken off his spectacles and was in the act of resettling them on his nose with his characteristic gesture. But there was a fraction of a second when they eyes met, and for as long as it took to happen Winston knew—yes, he KNEW!—that O’Brien was thinking the same thing as himself. An unmistakable message had passed. It was as though their two minds had opened and the thoughts were flowing from one into the other through their eyes. ‘I am with you,’ O’Brien seemed to be saying to him. ‘I know precisely what you are feeling. I know all about your contempt, your hatred, your disgust.

But don’t worry, I am on your side!’ And then the flash of intelligence was gone, and O’Brien’s face was as inscrutable as everybody else’s.

That was all, and he was already uncertain whether it had happened. Such incidents never had any sequel. All that they did was to keep alive in him the belief, or hope, that others besides himself were the enemies of the Party. Perhaps the rumours of vast underground conspiracies were true after all—perhaps the Brotherhood really existed! It was impossible, in spite of the endless arrests and confessions and executions, to be sure that the Brotherhood was not simply a myth. Some days he believed in it, some days not. There was no evidence, only fleeting glimpses that might mean anything or nothing: snatches of overheard conversation, faint scribbles on lavatory walls—once, even, when two strangers met, a small movement of the hand which had looked as though it might be a signal of recognition. It was all guesswork: very likely he had imagined everything. He had gone back to his cubicle without looking at O’Brien again. The idea of following up their momentary contact hardly crossed his mind. It would have been inconceivably dangerous even if he had known how to set about doing it. For a second, two seconds, they had exchanged an equivocal glance, and that was the end of the story. But even that was a memorable event, in the locked loneliness in which one had to live.

Winston roused himself and sat up straighter. He let out a belch. The gin was rising from his stomach.

His eyes re-focused on the page. He discovered that while he sat helplessly musing he had also been writing, as though by automatic action. And it was no longer the same cramped, awkward handwriting as before. His pen had slid voluptuously over the smooth paper, printing in large neat capitals--

DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER

CLIMATE CHANGE

Urban Heat Makes Towns Uncomfortable – and Unhealthy



As our cities grow, so too does a hidden threat: urban heat. This phenomenon is more than just the usual summer discomfort; it intensifies temperatures to levels that impact health, productivity, and our environment.

From vast expanses of concrete that trap the sun's heat to air conditioning units that push warm air back into the streets, urban heat is driven by human development patterns and, ironically, our efforts to cool down. The effects are felt widely, particularly during heatwaves, when these areas can be several degrees warmer than their rural surroundings—a phenomenon known as the "urban heat island" effect. Fortunately, there are several strategies that cities can adopt to address this escalating problem. The Problem of Urban Heat

The urban heat island effect is caused primarily by materials like asphalt, concrete, and metal that absorb, trap, and radiate heat. Unlike natural landscapes that retain moisture and provide shade, these urban surfaces have limited capacity to cool down, creating a layer of hot air that lingers in cities. High-rise buildings that block air flow further intensify the heat, and as populations continue to grow in urban areas, air conditioning use has become essential. Ironically, air conditioning units also emit waste heat, further warming the outdoor environment.

This compounded heat exposure doesn't just make urban living uncomfortable—it makes it dangerous. Excessive heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and even deadly heatstroke, especially for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Additionally, high temperatures exacerbate air pollution, as ground-level ozone, a component of smog, forms more readily in the heat. Thus, for people with respiratory issues, hot urban environments can be particularly harmful.

Solutions for Cooling Urban Spaces

Addressing urban heat requires a combination of nature-based solutions, innovative urban planning, and community action. By creating cooler, greener, and more shaded spaces, cities can improve both the comfort and health of their residents. Some effective solutions include:

1. Increasing Green Spaces and Urban Trees

Parks, green roofs, and urban trees are among the most effective ways to mitigate urban heat. Green spaces provide shade and release moisture through a process called evapotranspiration, which cools the surrounding air. Trees in particular offer several benefits: they absorb carbon dioxide, filter pollutants, and reduce surface temperatures by providing shade. Research shows that neighborhoods with abundant greenery can be up to five degrees cooler than surrounding areas without green cover. Moreover, adding parks and green spaces offers social and recreational benefits, improving the overall quality of life.

2. Using Reflective and Permeable Materials

The materials used in urban infrastructure play a key role in managing heat. Using reflective materials in buildings, roofs, and sidewalks can help reduce the amount of heat absorbed by surfa-



ces. White or light-colored materials reflect more sunlight than dark ones, preventing the surfaces from heating up as much. Cool roofs—those covered with materials designed to reflect more sunlight—can be particularly effective. Permeable materials, such as porous pavement, can help reduce heat by allowing rainwater to filter through, cooling the surface and preventing excess runoff.

3. Green Roofs and Walls

Green roofs, covered with vegetation, not only help insulate buildings but also provide additional green space that mitigates heat. By adding layers of soil and plants to building rooftops, they reduce surface temperature and absorb rainwater, alleviating pressure on urban drainage systems. Similarly, green walls—vertical gardens on the sides of buildings—can help shade structures, cool the surrounding air, and improve air quality. These green surfaces also offer a pleasant aesthetic appeal, integrating natural beauty into urban settings.

4. Designing for Natural Ventilation

Urban planning and architectural design that prioritize airflow can greatly reduce heat retention in cities. Narrow streets and closely packed buildings limit ventilation and create "heat canyons," trapping hot air between structures. By planning open spaces, wider streets, and breezeways that facilitate airflow, cities can reduce trapped heat. Building orientation and materials can also play a role; for example, positioning windows and vents to take advantage of prevailing winds can encourage natural cooling within buildings, decreasing the need for air conditioning.

5. Community Action and Awareness

Community-driven initiatives can help raise awareness and foster collaboration in tackling urban heat. Neighborhood groups and local councils can organize tree-planting campaigns, encourage the installation of cool roofs, and provide residents with information on coping with heat during peak summer months. Public cooling centers, shaded transit stops, and hydration stations can also offer relief during

extreme heatwaves, ensuring that people, especially those who are vulnerable, have a safe space to cool down.

6. Using Technology to Monitor and Mitigate Urban Heat

Innovative technology can play a role in combating urban heat. Cities are increasingly using thermal imaging and sensors to identify "hot spots" where temperatures are highest. With this data, municipalities can prioritize high-impact areas for interventions like tree planting, reflective materials, or public cooling stations. Additionally, smart city technology, such as adaptive street lighting and energy-efficient building systems, can reduce heat emissions by decreasing overall energy demand.

The urban heat island effect is caused primarily by materials like asphalt, concrete, and metal that absorb, trap, and radiate heat.

The Future of Cooler Cities

While it's clear that urban heat poses a serious challenge, it's also an opportunity to rethink our approach to city planning and development. Integrating natural solutions, building more resilient infrastructure, and promoting climate-conscious designs can create cities that are both cooler and healthier. Cities like Singapore and Los Angeles have already taken major strides, introducing large-scale green roofing programs, expanding tree canopies, and experimenting with cool pavements. Their success serves as a model, demonstrating how urban areas can create a sustainable balance between human needs and environmental resilience.

Mitigating urban heat will not happen overnight, but by making targeted improvements, cities can make meaningful strides toward a more livable future. For residents, cooler cities mean more comfortable, enjoyable outdoor spaces. For vulnerable populations, these changes can mean the difference between safety and risk during a heatwave. Addressing urban heat may be challenging, but with a combined effort, towns and cities worldwide can rise to meet this test, creating urban areas that are not just more comfortable but ultimately more resilient and sustainable.

HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

MAIL MAN

"Where have you been, my little darling?" asked little Albert's mother, when he came home after being gone for a couple of hours. "Yes, we were out with Kalle and Olle playing postman," answered the darling. "Oh really! How did it happen then?" »Well, we went around to all the houses around here and put letters in all the boxes.» "But were they really real letters?" »Yes then!» »Where did you get them from then?» »Yes, yes, find them in mother's desk drawer. It was open, and they were so beautiful and there was a whole bunch of them tied with red silk ribbons.

Art furniture.

The understanding customer: "Yes, I'm happy to admit that these modern chairs are incredibly nice and elegant, and beautiful and artistic, and excellent in every way, and yes, I like them so much, but I don't understand how to sit in them!"

Necessary evil.

He: "A girl shouldn't encourage a man to propose if she doesn't intend to say yes." Her: "But maybe that's the easiest way to get rid of him."

A thrift friend.

Olle: "Mom, didn't dad say we needed to save?" Mom: "Yes, my boy." Ollie: "What do you think, mother, if we saved on castor oil."

Friend criticism.

"Well, what do you think of this canvas?" "Well, it's fine, I guess. I

just can't really see it with all the paint you've smeared on it."

Probably.

The bank manager and the consul general: Well, the gentleman wants to marry my daughter. But the gentleman doesn't know her." The suitor: "No, but yes, the gentleman knows the consul general."

At a party

"Good evening, Miss! May I invite you to supper?" "Nothing else?" "Yes, breakfast included, if you want!"

The reward of virtue.

She: "Have you never kissed a girl before?" He: "Never in your life!" Her: "Then you can kiss me one more time. It's nice to meet someone who can be kissed without talking about it."

REVENGE

"Can you have the gate key these days?" "No, but I've taken revenge, I've taken the piano key instead".

After November 6.

The teacher: "Well, Erik, tell me now what you know about Gustav Adolf? Erik: "Well, Gustav Adolf was a kind man, because he died in the middle of the week so we got a day off"

DANGEROUS

A.: »Is dyeing the hair as dangerous as the doctors say?" B.: »Yes, it is even more dangerous! One my old uncle once tried to dye his hair and less than in three months he was married to a widow with 7 children.

Astronomic picture of the week:

Glowing stellar nurseries



Colour composite image of RCW120. It reveals how an expanding bubble of ionised gas about ten light-years across is causing the surrounding material to collapse into dense clumps where new stars are then formed. The 870-micron submillimetre-wavelength data were taken with the LABOCA camera on the 12-m Atacama Pathfinder Experiment (APEX) telescope. Here, the submillimetre emission is shown as the blue clouds surrounding the reddish glow of the ionised gas (shown with data from the SuperCosmos H-alpha survey). The image also contains data from the Second Generation Digitized Sky Survey (I-band shown in blue, R-band shown in red).

Credit: ESO/APEX/DSS2/ SuperCosmos/ Deharveng(LAM)/ Zavagno(LAM) Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Next week:



HOROSCOPE FOR NOVEMBER 2025

November Horoscope: What's Written in the Stars?

Aries (March 21–April 19): Your enthusiasm will hit an all-time high this month, Aries! But beware: not everyone is ready for your energy before their third cup of coffee. Channel that passion into something productive, like reorganizing your sock drawer. Hey, it's the little victories!

Taurus (April 20–May 20): November brings you a cozy vibe, Taurus. You'll feel an irresistible urge to cocoon yourself in blankets and binge-watch your favorite shows. Productivity? Overrated. Comfort? Essential. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Gemini (May 21–June 20): You'll be juggling more tasks than a circus performer this month, Gemini. Multitasking is your superpower, but remember: responding to emails while doing yoga is how things get weird. Take a breath—or five.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): This November, your emotions will be as unpredictable as the weather. One moment you're ready to hibernate, the next you're planning a spontaneous road trip. The good news? Your friends already know they're in for a rollercoaster—so just enjoy the ride.

Leo (July 23–August 22): You're feeling extra fabulous this month, Leo! Strut your stuff like every sidewalk is a runway, but don't be surprised if you trip over your own feet once in a while. It's all part of the charm. Just remember, confidence can get you out of almost anything!

Virgo (August 23–September 22): November is all about organizing, Virgo. You'll get a kick out of color-coding your life down to the last detail. But don't go overboard—your friends may not appreciate it when you start alphabetizing their kitchen spices.

Libra (September 23–October 22): You'll be the diplomat of the group this month, Libra. Everyone will turn to you to settle disputes, from dinner plans to who gets the last slice of pizza. Just don't overdo it—you deserve that pizza slice, too!

Scorpio (October 23–November 21): It's your season, Scorpio, and you're feeling mysterious and magnetic. You might be tempted to brood a little, but don't forget: even you need to laugh sometimes. Embrace your inner comedian—you're funnier than you think!

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21):

Adventure calls, Sagittarius! But before you go booking a last-minute trip to a distant land, maybe start with cleaning out your fridge. That expired yogurt won't survive until your return, but your wanderlust will!

Capricorn (December 22–January 19): You're in work mode, Capricorn, but don't let the grind get you down. Remember, even superheroes take breaks (and look good doing it). So grab a cup of tea, put your feet up, and let the world handle itself for a few minutes.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18): You're brimming with ideas this month, Aquarius, and your genius will be hard to contain. Just make sure your friends are ready for your next big invention—it might involve more cardboard and glitter than they anticipated.

Pisces (February 19–March 20): Dreamy and creative as always, Pisces, you'll find yourself drifting into daydreams mid-conversation. Don't worry if you forget what someone was saying—you were probably coming up with your next masterpiece. Just nod and smile; it works every time!

Happy November!

BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer!

Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice! Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

Interested? Send us your blog pitch or a short sample, and let's get your words published! Join us in making Wasa Daily a platform for meaningful conversations and inspiring stories. Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

Wasa Daily

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobothnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts. Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future.

The magazine is available online for free. Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toineen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

From our readers

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