

BILLIONAIRE PAYS DEBT OF 400 STUDENTS

Access to free education ends in many countries at the level of high school. If you want to go to university, you need to pay and pay a lot. In the USA it is not uncommon for college graduates to start their adult life with a debt of \$200,000. When you have to give it back your **flexibility** of what you can do in your life are considerably limited. In this light imagine how much Robert F Smith, a billionaire, a technology investor and one of most black **philanthropists** in the USA shocked a group of nearly 400 students at Morehouse College, Atlanta (historically all-male black college). At the **graduation ceremony** Smith said that he and his family "are going to put a little fuel in your bus" and made a grant to pay students loans of the entire class. Exactly how generous Mr Smith was is not known yet because the college is yet to calculate the total debt, but his donation is going to be around \$10m. The students were in total shock and great relief at the same time, since they enter new stage in their life without a great burden.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ON MOTHER'S DAY

The weekend of May 25-26 is the time of elections to the European Parliament. Elections themselves are a great organizational effort for they will take place in 28 member countries and concern some 512 million people who live there. Voters will choose a total of 751 MEPs, that is Members of the European Parliament. The 2019 election is the ninth direct one in the history of the European Parliament. Especially for Britain it will be a **peculiar** vote. The country wanted to leave EU but negotiations which went on forever did not finish on time and British candidates for the EP had to quickly organize their campaigns. Although this election is also very important and has direct influence on the life of citizens of particular member states the turnover has traditionally been lower than in parliamentary elections in each country. This year the spot which encourages people to visit their **polling stations** shows concentrates around newly born children who want their parents to go choose a better future for them. Authors say they wanted to concentrate on emotions rather than common sense or referring to citizen's duty. Effect will be seen on Monday at the earliest.

FANS UNHAPPY WITH GAME OF THRONES ENDING

The great journey which started on April 17, 2011 has come to an end on May 19, 2019. After 8 seasons featuring 73 episodes fans of Game of Thrones, an HBO-produced fantasy drama, have to say goodbye to their beloved series. The strong sides were obviously the dragons, but also great acting, storyline, shots, complicated characters. Downsides (not in everyone's opinion) were frequent violence or nudity scenes. Parting with the show would probably be easier if everybody was happy with the ending, which is not the case. A group of fans is so angry with it that they actually wrote a petition signed by over 1.2 million people to film the ending again. They say there are gaps in the scenario, events are illogical and favourite characters die. Some parents say they now regret naming their children after the show's characters. The petition raises many controversies, among other among the cast. Isaac Hempstead Wright (Bran Stark) said it was ridiculous that people want a different ending just because they did not like the one chosen by producers.

NIKI LAUDA DIES AT 70

It wouldn't be an **exaggeration** to say that Niki Lauda was to Austrians what Adam Małysz is to Poles – one of the country's greatest athletes, beloved by virtually everyone. The 70-year-old 3-time Formula 1 Champion died in his sleep in Zurich on May 20th. He owed part of his international fame to a 1976 German Grand Prix accident where he suffered **severe** burns, also to his face, which resulted in his very distinctive appearance. Apart from being an international icon of car racing, a pilot and aviation entrepreneur (he founded three airlines!), he was a brilliantly entertaining guy. For decades journalists loved to interview him on the site of his accident in hope of getting increased emotion and drama for their interview. Lauda knew it and had a trick he loved to play, particularly on some of the young journalists. "In the morning I would take a small croissant from the breakfast buffet in my hotel and place it in grass just next to the place I was going to be interviewed later that day. As the interviewer starts with "Mr. Lauda, how does it feel to be standing right where your terrible accident took place?", I would say "Would you excuse me for a moment?" and start searching for something in the grass. Of course, the filming crew have no clue what's going on. I then pick up the croissant and say: "Ah, there it is. Part of my ear from 1976." Long live Niki Lauda.



FOR&AGAINST

1

Every country should offer free access to universities.

2

European Parliament has big influence on a country's quality of life.

3

Producers should change the ending if fans of a series do not like it.

4

Formula one is one the most dangerous sports.

VOCABULARY:

flexibility - elastyczność

philanthropist - filantrop

graduation ceremony - ceremonia ukończenia szkoły

peculiar - osobliwy, dziwny

polling station - lokal wyborczy

exaggeration - przesada

severe - dotkliwy

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. How did Robert F Smith help a group of students from Morehouse College?
2. Are universities free in America?
3. How many member states does European Union have?
4. How many members does the European Parliament have?
5. Why did a group of fans write a petition to the producers of Game of Thrones?
6. How many times was Liki Lauda F1 World Champion.

SOURCES BOX

bbc.com, an article from May 19, 2019 about donation made by Robert F Smith
sueddeutschezeitung.de, a May 20 2019 article on life and career of Niki Lauda.