

STUDENT

TIMES

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Photo by Vasile Manca

Transferring

is this the way out?

The academic year is not yet completed, but some freshmen are already thinking about transferring to other universities. Why are these thoughts filling up their heads? What are the reasons for transferring from the nice and respectable LCC International University to any other place on the Earth? Let's find out.

It's been a while since the little talks about transferring started among my friends. Until now, I really thought that it was something not worth talking or writing about. But then, more and more freshmen appeared to be unsatisfied with something, related to LCC and because of that, I decided to write this article. I've interviewed a few students and to follow up on some privacy

rules, I left out their names.

The first person I interviewed was my close friend, he is studying Psychology and he's really concerned about the knowledge he's getting at LCC, "While LCC is considered to be a very good university in Lithuania, in other European countries it's overshadowed by universities which are both less expensive and offer better future opportunities. My main gripe is with the Liberal Arts way of teaching their students. While not a complete scam, most students that decide

to choose the Liberal Arts major are usually young and are "dreamers" who don't have a certain goal in their mind. The university may offer studying classes, such as History and Literature, but, in the end, thousands of students are going to end up in a situation where their degree will end up being worthless. I, personally, would prefer spending a whole day studying for a Psychology exam, which is the major that I chose, rather than History. This is mainly because I'd rather have deep knowledge in the major that I chose rather than in a subject that, despite being interesting, will



be utterly worthless when I decide to pursue a career in Psychology.”

Another freshman is studying Business and he’s not that pleased with his being here either, “My mind is wandering. I feel like my heart and ambition is way too big for Lithuania. I won’t deny the importance of LCC in my life; I have met some truly wonderful people. I want to spread my horizons since I have spent so much time here in the Baltic countries. I guess I just wish for it to be different than what it has been for my whole life.” His main point is also lack of classes, related to his major, “The business administration program itself, especially the first years, offers a program to spread out, it still feels like high school. One or two business classes a semester is too little for a truly business minded person. Foundational/liberal arts classes like rhetoric and literature should be alongside business instead of it being vice versa. Sometimes it feels like students studying for the BA don’t really fancy business whatsoever, don’t have any love for it, don’t have any interest for it outside of studies. That’s also what I dislike.”

As far as I understand this issue, there is a problem with students accepting the rules established in the university, or with the university itself fulfilling the expectations of the students. I’m not sure if just because of a few students wanting to transfer from the university LCC would change the whole system established a long time ago, and I guess all we can do is to leave it up to the students whether to stay or leave the university.

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Dear readers,

with the first winds of spring comes the fresh news from Student Times team. We are inspired by the busy LCC event calendar and are happy to be with you and provide you with the most current information, thoughts and ideas that surround us in LCC COMMUNITY

Thank you for reading us,
and remember, that we will survive this semester altogether!

Have a comment or a question? We’d love to hear it.

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Coffee and Bologna

Freezing coldness of the streets of Klaipėda could not stop students from LCC and outside universities from participation in the European Student Forum that took place on Friday and Saturday, February 18, 19, and was organized by the Student Council. The event turned out to be a great opportunity to discuss important issues in working out resolutions and propositions in the context of Bologna Process on Education, Employment and Mobility.



Photo by Natasha Burganova

The participants of the event were divided into six different committees each with a given task to come up with resolutions and changes to the current issues with the context of Bologna process. The event started off on Friday, with the introductory speeches from Marlene Wall, Lina Zėnkienė and a mini-lecture on workers' skills held by Eric Hinderliter. Excited and energized, participants were taken for a free coffee to a cozy local café where they could fully enjoy acoustic performances by LCC students and simply "chillax" in a pleasant atmosphere.

The next day required moral and physical preparedness, as teams

lead by chair members had to work extremely hard on their resolutions and defense speeches for most of the event. The intensity of the steam-generating coming from the hard-working students' brains was cooled down by intermissions filled with hot coffee, tea, highly demanded delicious sesame cookies and occasional anti-vegetarian meals. By the end of the day's activities, the Committees had to present their resolutions including the operative clauses and creative defense speeches lead by a blast of creativity from Elsi Hametaj. In his persuasive speech, he pointed at the gap in the audience between businesses and educational institutions and called for a shift of

focus in the modern society. Other representatives shined too, including an infamous visiting student Tsimafei who called European democratic values to be "full of romantics" and Moldova's current political situation a non-democratic one.

The Board of the Assembly including Steve Metelak as the President showed satisfaction and rejoice on their happy faces after all the resolutions have been passed successfully. The Fund for American Studies representative Matthew Kwasiborski held a speech as a guest speaker at the event and has admitted that each of the committees did a "fantastic job". Overall, the event turned out to be a great experiment with a potential of becoming an annual event at LCC. In my opinion, the forum itself should have been extended over a longer period of time, in order for the committees to come up with amendments after a more constructive and intelligent debate session not limited by time.



Photo by Natasha Burganova



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On The Other Side

If I could choose only one word to effectively summarize this semester so far, it would be adventure. After all, it's my automatic response when everyone back home asks the extremely loaded question, "So, how's Lithuania?" as if it's possible for me to verbally express it in full. Although "adventure" is the typical word to use when describing a study abroad semester, mission trip, or any other international endeavor, for me, this is truly an adventure—an incredible opportunity of discovering what happens on the other side of the world.

Yes, it's true. Hawaii is literally on the other side of the world, and it just so happens to be my home. Obviously, it's not very common for a full Filipino from Hawaii to be in Lithuania; I don't even think more than 3% of the entire population of Hawaii could locate Lithuania on a map. Believe it or not, "Why would you ever come to this cold wasteland?" is a question students ask me on a weekly basis by students. Although I definitely do not agree with the harsh term they used, I could see why the place I consider home draws a bit of curiosity from others. Though it doesn't seem appealing for someone like me (affectionately called "the dude from Hawaii!" by fellow LCC students) to choose a study abroad program in a place that is freezing, 99.9% white, and somewhat random, I wanted to experience something completely unique—an essential factor in every adventure.

Within this adventure, filled with contrasting times of frustration and utter joy, I have definitely loved witnessing the uniqueness of this intercultural community on the other side of the world; living in

such an enriching environment such as LCC's is an awesome gift, which I hope students don't ever take for granted.

Several breath-taking moments throughout the semester have become milestones I will never forget. To be honest, one of those moments was during the Kazakhstan Independence Day celebration about three weeks after I departed the States. I very much enjoyed listening to the presentation and being educated by people I now consider my friends. However, when I realized the mere fact that we, in community, had the opportunity to celebrate and embrace the cultures of those different from us, it really hit me, and I fell in love with this campus, this city, this entire experience.

Without a doubt, my perspective on culture has expanded. I thought being in such a diverse place in Hawaii was sufficient enough to somewhat understand the intercultural, international, intereverything of humanity, but after having the opportunity to befriend, explore, and reflect on this entire new experience, I don't think I'll ever grasp the magnitude of differences that are represented in this world. It's actually kind of a good thing because it gives me a reason to travel forever.

From the awesome opportunities that come with living in Eastern Europe, like going to a Russia v. Sweden hockey game in Stockholm, to the fulfilling, yet subtle everyday moments, characterized by embracing the brilliance of the same sun that shines in my home, choosing to participate in this exhilarating and transformational adventure on the other side of the world was an absolutely great life-choice.

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THE GREAT DIVORCE

Photo by Vasilie Manea

A Continuation of *the Greatest Love Story Ever Told*

Many of you are familiar with the writings of C. S. Lewis. Some of you have even taken Andrew Kaethler's class where it is all about Lewis and his brilliant thoughts and writings. One of the books that I appreciate the most is called "The Great Divorce". It is a small and yet, a very profound book that speaks about our freedom of choice to either respond to God's love or reject it.

In *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis writes that "There are two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell."

The narrator suddenly finds himself in a gloomy gray town. He eventually finds a bus for those who desire to take an excursion to another place - the foothills of heaven. When the bus arrives at its destination, the passengers, including the narrator, are revealed to be ghosts. C. S. Lewis describes most of the ghosts as being 'unsubstantial' or lacking reality. The narrator of the story is observing how the majority of the ghosts refuse the offer to stay in heaven and by their own choice remain separated from God. One particular man (ghost) was dark and oily. This man was covered

by his own sin, which manifested itself in the form of a lizard: "What was on his shoulder was a little lizard, and it was twitching its tail like a whip and whispering things in his ear." The tension was that the ghost could not stay in heaven unless the lizard is destroyed.

Compromise and negotiation become the defensive weapons used against the Angel's offer to kill the 'beast' (the lizard). At first, the man agrees that he would like to quiet the lizard, but fear takes over him when the option of destruction is no longer an alternative, but a necessity: " 'It's the only way,' said the Angel, whose burning hands were now very close to the Lizard." The Ghost kept on repeating that there is no need for such drastic actions- the lizard is asleep and he can keep it under control. Also, the lizard itself claims that the man will not be able to live without it: "It's not natural. How could you live? You'd be only a sort of ghost, not a real man as you are now." The beast plagued the man's life and his very being to such an extent that it has become part of his identity. It not only controls him, but also defines him.

The Ghost fears that by destroying the animal, he will be destroyed as well and confronts the Angel

saying: "If you wanted to help me, why didn't you kill the damned thing without asking me-before I knew?" Only one thing is keeping this man away from becoming whom God has created him to be. The angel cannot kill against his will. No power of heaven can go against a man's choice. God's love is ever present and accessible; the only uncertainty is whether one will choose to step into it. Later on, the Angel asks the Ghost- what if it did kill him? The man's reply is: "You're right. It would be better to be dead than to live with this creature."

The concept of life loses its appeal when one is enslaved by sin. Only after the Ghost released a deep loud roar: "Damn and blast you! Go on, can't you? Get it over. Do what you like" the dark and oily figure turned into a 'new-made man.' He was finally whole, complete and "The Nature or Arch-Nature of that land rejoiced to have been once more ridden..."

No matter how far we choose to run away from the will of God, sooner or later everyone is going to run into the One who is the Creator of all that is living and breathing. Then, God will separate those who said to Him, "Thy will be done,' and those to whom God will say 'Thy will be done.'



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Spotted! MaxCoffee

Still have question where to get your morning coffee? Well, think of it no more. Today Klaipeda is filled with coffee shops that offer great coffee, drinks and deserts, but also delicious beverages to-go. Most cups spotted downtown are ones with brownish "MAX coffee" sticker on them. No surprise here! I usually find myself in that place sipping latte that grants super syrupy taste or enjoying freshly made orange juice with ginger. This is a place I usually pick to run away from home-studying routine in search for a pleasant change of the background. "MAX coffee" is a widely accepted hanging-

out spot, especially among LCC students and faculty.

I could not help but wonder if there is not more than coffee to that place, and the answer was a definite "yes!" One of "MAX"es is conveniently located downtown and another one is midway through the main street, H.Manto, making it very accessible for locals and tourists. International spirit pervades the atmosphere with the background soundtrack of languages from all over the world. "MAX"es staff tries to keep up with clientele and takes orders in Lithuanian, Russian, English and even German. Entering "MAX" coffee feels like stepping in a room of a country house. Beige color palette, decorative brick walls, dark wooden furniture, and comfy sofas make you feel right at home.

Some can say that coffee and desserts are somewhat overpriced, however paying those 6 Lt guarantees yummy treat, quick service, warm greeting, and a friendly ambiance. Believe me, it is worth it!

If you like trying new things then make sure to stop by and grab a drink of the day or an occasion. «MAX» coffee has a great assortment of syrups, coffee supplements, and any possible adding to make your drink special. «MAX» stands out the rest of the coffee shops by thematic decorations and menus for each holiday season: in December there was glintwein, Christmas spices, and candy canes, and on Valentine's Day overwhelmed with red hearts it teased with new «Love» coffee added on the black board. «MAX» is also perfect for weekday breakfasts/lunches or weekend brunch. There is a great variety of sandwiches, pancakes or salads to snack with.

Next time when you think of a place to crash for a bite or a drink in a well-known spot downtown where you could meet up with friends or just write a paper, have «MAX» coffee in mind.



Photo by Tomila Akhmadieva



✦ Parade of Stars ✦

For most people Parade of Stars is a rare astronomic event when some number of the planets of the Solar system stands in a line. For LCC community Parade of Stars is an outstanding opportunity to get to know a variety of cultures presented in LCC in the most interactive and entertaining way.

Last year LCC fair judges announced Belarus to be the winner. The team surprised LCC audience with introducing Belarus through Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe's perspective, showing brave knights, deep swamps and a fairy fern flower. This year the leader of Belarus's team, Maryia Nevar, will be a judge. Students from Moldova shared a tradition of celebrating a wedding with a real bride and a bridegroom, multiple relatives, feast and dances. Winners of the Parade of Stars of 2009, Ukrainians, told us about their national treasures through singing, dancing, tree-headed Bohdana-Ulyana-Roman monster and an amazing Ukranian love story. Lithuanians showed their passion and achievements in sports; Latvians are still remembered for a passionate tango performed by Richards. Team of students from Middle Asia had

unbelievably funny performance, showing sharp Asian men's humor and conquering the heart of LCC girls. Students from Russia showed their interpretation of the Pushkin's poem. The whole show left incredible impression and a lot of memories for both audience and participants.

This year Parade of Stars is happening on March 24th, Thursday. So far the list of participants in-

clude: Moldova, the USA, Latvia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Kazakhstan and this is only one forth of the countries represented at LCC!!! So do not stay apart from this wonderful event. Put the Star of your country in the list and make the Parade shine in full!

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POS Steps to Keep in Mind



Create a Team



Create a Poster



Performance/Skit

Reminder:

Event: March 24 !

**...and watch
for Deadlines ;)**



by Nicu B.



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"ŽEMAITIJA" 3 floor

Fashion Doesn't Need a Title

Have you ever been interested in fashion? Have you ever caught yourself thinking about what colors go with purple or how you could wear old Levi's to look stylish? I venture to suggest that each of us have looked for the answers to these questions in more than one fashion magazine. However, times have changed and we no longer need to purchase anything. Now, all we need is the Internet and a few good tips to guide us in a huge world of shoes, jackets, and other vogueish attributes in order to be in tune with the latest changes and innovations of the fashion world.

Over the last 5 years, blogging became a new trend in the modern world. As the Internet became the major source of communication, people began searching for a new way to share their thoughts and views. Therefore, cooking blogs, various music blogs, and fashion blogs began to overflow the Internet. However, the last one became so popular that even designers started to pay respect to bloggers' opinions. It goes without saying that nowadays fashion bloggers in some way rule the front row: they are invited to fashion weeks around the world and some of them are even in close relationships with the world's most famous designers. Hence, if you want to be aware of the latest fashion innovations and trends firsthand, fashion blogs are worth to look at. In other words, blogs are the fastest and easiest ways to be "up-to-date" of the latest fashion events, particularly when you are a student and surrounded by inspirations from your peers. You have all the time in the world

to take it in and read up on the latest styles and celebrity trends.

Having said that, I would like to recommend to you a couple of widely recognized and awarded blogs about the fashion industry. The Sartorialist and Garance Dore both give you a chance to take a look behind the scenes of the high fashion world. Nevertheless, followers of these two blogs can easily find photos of the passer-bys on the streets of such à la mode capitals as Paris, Milan, New York and etc. Scott Schuman (the founder of The Sartorialist) and Garance Dore (the founder of Garance Dore) are both fond of vogue and traveling. Street fashion and haute couture are equally represented in these blogs; thus, well-know fashion figures and modern-day student can be spotted in their pictures.

P.S. I wish you a productive pas-time following fashion blogs!

<http://thesartorialist.blogspot.com/>
& <http://www.garancedore.fr/en/>



<http://thesartorialist.blogspot.com/>



Food is Good

Picture this: a crowd of people wearing traditional Russian costumes and dancing in the woods around fire. Looks like something connected to black magic to you? Hopefully not, because that is how the celebration of Maslenitsa, traditional holiday, looks like. Many people think that it rejoices the end of winter and by burning scarecrow scares

it off. However, there is much more to the meaning of Maslenitsa. It is a festive week, which is the last week of the Great lent and during that week Christians are allowed to eat fish and milk products. This is the time for believers to bring together at one table their friends and family enjoying the most famous dish of the joyful season - pancakes. For that reason Maslenitsa is usually

called a “pancake week” in English. This year LCC joined the celebration and on March 2nd Student Times cooked delicious crepes in Neumann during the pancake workshop. For those who could not attend, here is the recipe we used. It is never late to invite your friends and family, and treat them with delicious meal. Enjoy!

2.5 glasses of milk
2 eggs
1/3 teasp. Salt
1 spoon sugar
½ spoon butter
1 spoon vegetable oil
5 spoons flour

1. In a bowl mix egg yolks, salt, sugar and butter (softened).
2. Warm the milk up and gradually add it to the dough.
3. In a bowl mix egg yolks, salt, sugar and butter (softened).
4. Warm the milk up and gradually add it to the dough.
5. Fill a different bowl with flour and slowly add the mixture you got, constantly stirring.
6. Add vegetable oil.
7. Whisk 2 egg whites and add them to the dough. Mix it well.
8. Your dough is ready. Now warm the frying pan up, add some butter or vegetable oil and make sure your pancakes are thin and round ;) And do not worry if the first one does not turn out well because the first pancake is always a bit of a flop!



Photo by Polina Kostyrya

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IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY

The movie is based on a 2006 young adult novel by Ned Vizzini. It covers a story of a gifted 16-year old kid from Brooklyn named Craig. He is having some complicated teenage time, studying at the special school for gifted students. He feels out of place and it is followed by a suicidal dream, which freaks Craig out. So he convinced the doctor that he has a strong necessity in some mental help. Apparently, the gift of persuasion is the part of being a gifted student, because not only the doctor believes Craig, but send him to the psychiatric ward. The fun part starts when the boy realizes that

he will stay at the adult psychiatric ward due to the youth ward renovation. People there are seriously mentally disturbed and Craig is ready to admit he is in trouble until he meets Bobby, who becomes his good friend and pseudo-mentor. First few days become a constant yearn for the outside world, but then Noelle, a 16-year-old girl, joins him at the hospital. These two find create a strong bond, teaching and learning from each other, discovering their true feelings and self. The movie makes a few valuable points about the teenage depression and self-knowledge.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNAmArBmOmw> - trailer

Directors: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck
Stars: Keir Gilchrist, Zach Galifianakis, Emma Roberts

Runtime: 101 min

Genres: Comedy /Drama

Release Date: 7 January 2011 (UK)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8PLpXvhtlc> - trailer

Director: Cary Fukunaga
Stars: Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender, Jamie Bell
Runtime: 115 min
Genres: Drama/Romance
Release Date: 11 March 2011 (USA)

JANE EYRE

A new screen version of the 1847 Charlotte Brontë's novel Jane Eyre. Mia Wasikowska (Alice in Wonderland) and Michael Fassbender (Inglorious Bastards) play the timeless couple – Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester. Poor orphan Jane has no beauty and no wealth. She is obliged to work and suffer to get even the smallest rays of love and attention. After long years of studying at the school for girls, she finally finds a place where she feels comfortable. Jane Eyre works as a governess for wealthy Edward Rochester. Soon she finds out that

the isolated residence and outer coldness of its master evoked some deep feelings in a young girl's heart. But Jane would never dare to encroach on such a wealthy and handsome man as Mr. Rochester, would she? The rest of the story continues with the tangled story line of Jane. In the place, when her life finally interweaves with Edward's, his past starts haunting young lovers... The creators assure the audience that they have made a great attempt to create something different from 24 previous adaptations of the novel. We shall see.

THE TREE OF LIFE

The audience watches a 1950's family with three boys. The story concentrates on the 11-year-old boy named Jack. He sees the world around through the pink glasses, as only a kid can see. Everything looks so wonderful and promising to him. He watches the world through the eyes of his soul. For Jack his mother embodies love and mercy by her every deed. However, his father (Brad Pitt) tries to teach his son placing himself above others to survive. It becomes a 'fight' for a pure Jack's soul between his parents, and has to deal with it

and accept it. Step after step, this situation ruins his pink glasses. At the moment when Jack deals with pain, suffer, and death for the first time, his bright world becomes a dark labyrinth.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXYA1dxP_0 – trailer

Director: Terrence Malick
Stars: Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Jessica Chastain
Genres: Drama/ Fantasy
Release Date: 27 May 2011 (USA)



HANNA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dj0zCJyTq2I&feature=fvwrel> – trailer

Director: Joe Wright
Stars: Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana
Genres: Action | Adventure | Thriller
Release Date: 8 April 2011 (USA)

Saoirse Ronan (*The Lovely Bones*) plays Hanna, a 14-year-old girl who grew up in the woods, in northern Finland. She doesn't know a thing about the Internet, make-up, and peers, but she is not scared of cold, hunger, and can easily shoot a deer with her bow and arrows. Uniquely, she has the strength and brain of a soldier – that's how her father, an ex-CIA agent, raised her, thinking of a perfect time to get revenge over his old enemies. Hanna's life and

training had one and the same purpose – making her the perfect assassin. The turning point in her adolescence becomes harsh: she is sent on a mission by her father. As she comes closer to the ultimate target, Hanna faces revelation. The girl now thinks about the mystery of her birth, overall existence, and humanity.



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