



English Section

Hey everyone,



Welcome to the English Section of our new school newspaper! Get ready for an exciting mix of articles in this first edition.

Interested in travel? Check out our piece on solo versus group travel and get inspired for your next adventure! Then dive into scientific articles: Will we ever become cyborgs? Or read about the New Space Race.

Looking for recommendations? We've got you covered with some captivating reviews!

Enjoy the read!

From the writers' team

In this edition			
Lifestyle 	Science 	Book Review 	Games 
Solo travel or group travel which is a better experience	Will we ever become cyborgs? & New Space Race	"Spin the Dawn" by Elizabeth Lim	Modern Renaissance
3	6	10	11

Dear Readers,

As the editor of our school newsletter, I must take a moment to reflect on this year's issues. I realize they may not have consistently met the high standards we aim for, and for that, I sincerely apologize. Your patience and understanding have been greatly appreciated during this learning process. I just want to inform you that I have nothing to do with the previous version of the English section as well as the version of the Polish section. Formatting is sometimes beyond some people...

Looking forward, I am committed to making significant improvements for the upcoming school year. I promise to deliver a newsletter that not only keeps you informed but also inspires and reflects the vibrant spirit of our school community.

Additionally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mrs. mgr. Huczek for her outstanding dedication to teaching English this school year. Her guidance has been crucial in enhancing my language skills and deepening my appreciation for the richness of the English language.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding. I am excited about the opportunity to bring you a more engaging and polished newspaper next year.

Warm regards,

Jan Jakubowski,

Editor & Columnist

Solo travel or group travel - which is a better experience?

In this day and age, travelling is something that almost everybody does.

In the past, only the wealthy could indulge in this luxury, as train and boat tickets weren't exactly affordable, and planes were much less popular. Innovative marketing techniques and social media have played a crucial role in popularising travelling. They showcase trips as something available to anybody, even you're an average Joe. It is something enjoyable, colourful and exciting. Many people, younger generations in particular, have started indulging in those fantasies. More often than not, we see them spending free time globetrotting and visiting various places and cultures. We also seem to find ourselves in an age of self-care and self-improvement, and vacations appear to be incredibly important in one's journey to discovering their true self. Friendships are also a lot more cared for and valued nowadays. All of this makes us wonder - should we, when planning a trip, decide to travel alone as a form of self-care? Or should we perhaps set off with our favourite group of friends? Which option would generate the most satisfaction and joy? These mind-boggling questions are what I'll attempt to give you an answer to.

Let's talk about self-care, baby!

Social media platforms are used to promote many different things, such as healthy lifestyles, diets, and journeys into your inner self. It is said that taking care of yourself is best done alone when you are essentially forced to spend time with yourself and nobody else. Influencers romanticize these self-care activities, and traveling is no exception. We see colorful pictures and videos of beautiful places and people, which make us want to experience it all as well. So, we start planning these solo trips, which are meant to help us, right? Let's say we arrive in Florence, Tuscany - it's summer, the weather is beautiful! It's 30 degrees Celsius, and there are people in linen clothing everywhere, tanned people eating gelato and living their best lives! You are all alone in this country, free from the annoyances of your daily life. It all sounds so charming and amazing. Being alone gives you the freedom to do whatever you want. You can eat where and what you like and visit places you want to see. You are alone, which means you don't have to make compromises or waste time on things that just aren't of any interest to you.



Door Moyan Brenn from Italy - Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Second of all, by being on your own, you learn to rely on yourself. Being alone, since you are forced to trust your intuition and make crucial decisions that you might not have to make when traveling in a group. Being decisive is incredibly important in life, and a solo trip might just be the thing that helps you acquire this quality!

All of that being said, is traveling alone really as incredible as we may think? When planning such a trip, we have to think about the danger of being on your own in a foreign place. By traveling alone, you are incredibly vulnerable. You are more likely to find yourself in unfavorable situations, such as being robbed, attacked, or even kidnapped! Embarking on solo trips can be very dangerous, which means that we really need to stay more alert and aware of our surroundings.

We all have friends. Even the loners of this world have people to whom they are close. So what better way to spend your holiday than with your favorite people? Picture this - you and your best friends in the whole wide world on a trip to remember! Traveling in a group helps you cement your relationship with fellow travelers. You get closer to one another. By, let's say, sharing a room with someone, you start to get to know each other better. You familiarize yourself with their daily routine and habits, which brings you closer. Group trips are filled with laughs and the pure joy of merely spending time with your friends.



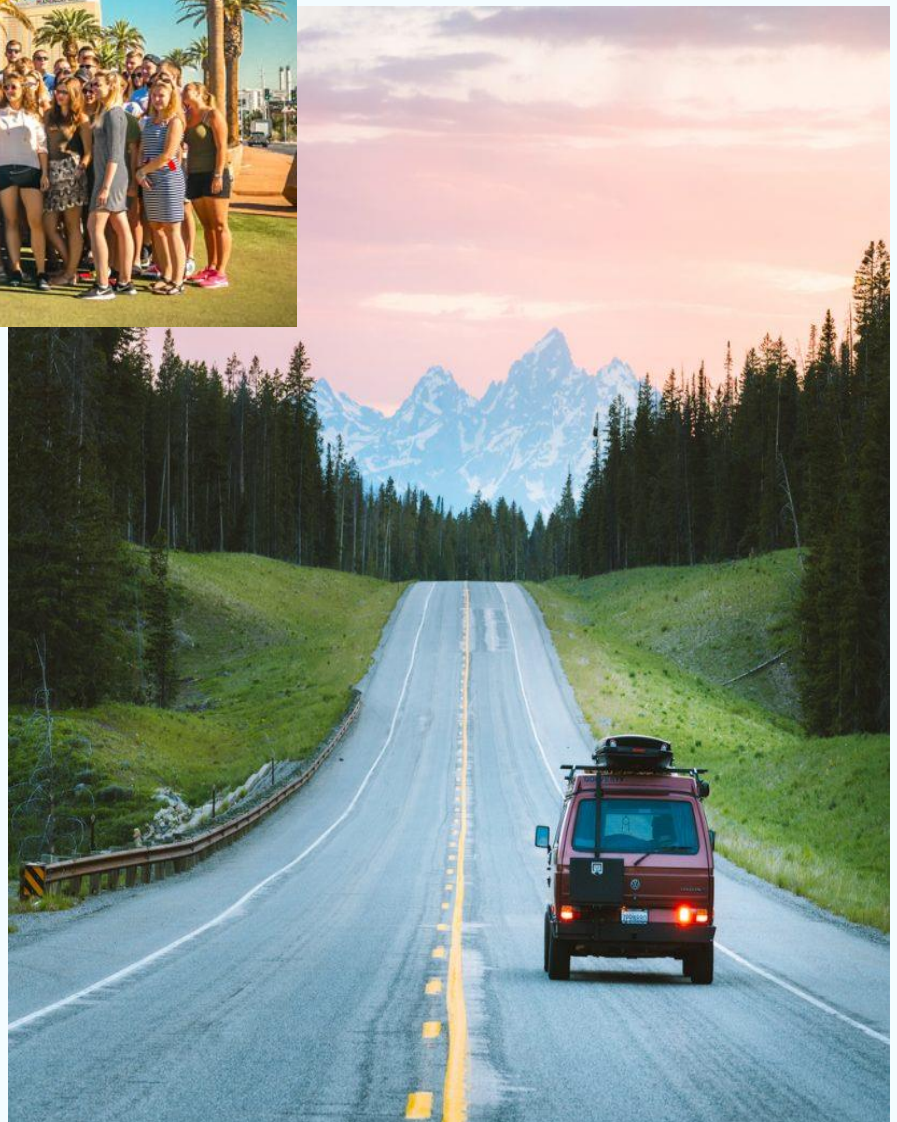
Door Sunkid - Eigen werk, CC BY-SA 4.0

Another advantage of traveling with a group is the cost-effectiveness of the entire trip. The more people go, the less each person has to pay. You can split the cost of pretty much anything on the trip, which you can't really do if you are alone. In today's economy, saving money is crucial. We never know what might hit us, so it's always better to save as much as we can.

Planning a group trip can be very enjoyable and exciting. Choosing a place to go, booking hotels, making lists of things to visit, etc. However, even when planning a trip with friends, we often find ourselves in situations where we just have to make compromises. It is incredibly difficult to find a solution that will satisfy everybody. People are different; they have different preferences, habits, and amounts they can spend on certain things. Being forced to compromise may leave some unsatisfied and unhappy with the entire excursion.

Traveling is portrayed as something so carefree and easy in ads and on social media. Booking a trip seems effortless and can be done in a matter of minutes. Or at least that's what all of those marketing executives want you to think. However, the reality is that going on a trip requires lots of planning and taking many things into account, such as whether we should travel on our own or with a group. Both of these options have their advantages and disadvantages. At the end of the day, we really need to carefully choose the option that would better satisfy our needs and preferences.

Sofija Vlajsević

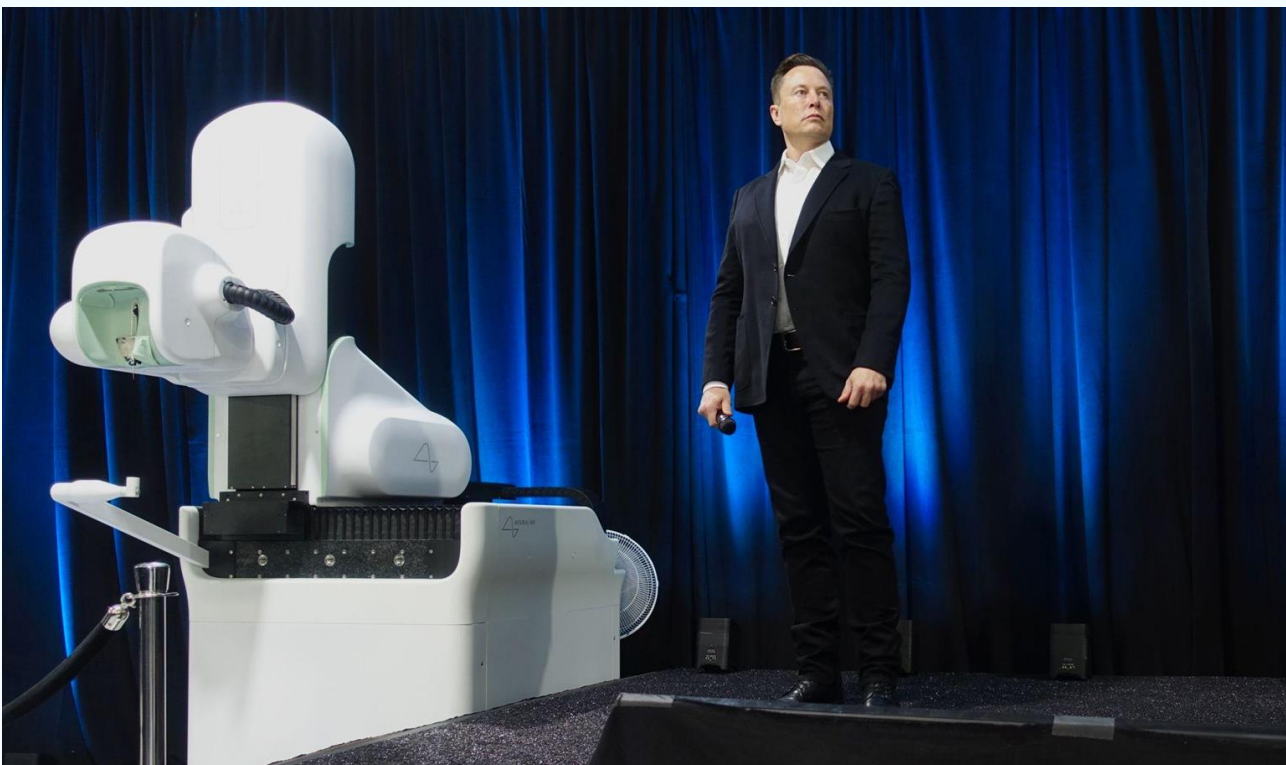


Will we ever become cyborgs? – Elon Musk’s plot to creating computer enhanced human beings.

In the world of rapid technological advancements, there's a fascinating concept taking shape: merging human bodies with computers. Elon Musk, the visionary entrepreneur behind Tesla and SpaceX, is also at the helm of a company called Neuralink. Their ambition is to implant a micro-sized chip directly into the human brain to expand its capabilities in unprecedented ways. Although it might sound like the plot of a science fiction movie, Musk is deeply committed to this endeavor.

At its core, the Neuralink device is a sophisticated interface between the brain's neurons and an external computer. The tiny chip, comparable in size to a coin, is equipped with an array of electrodes that can both read and stimulate neural activity. These electrodes, akin to microscopic wires, penetrate the brain's surface to connect with individual neurons. The device functions by interpreting the brain's electrical signals. Since our brains communicate via electrical impulses, the Neuralink chip captures and decodes these signals, effectively translating the brain's language. This decoded information is then transmitted to an external computer, where advanced algorithms process the acquired data.

This data holds the potential for use in various scenarios. In the initial phases of the project, the device is primarily aimed at those who need it most—individuals with severe movement disabilities such as paralysis, and vision-impaired persons. The possibility of restoring mobility and vision is certainly a laudable goal. However, the scope of Neuralink extends beyond these initial applications. The device is also engineered to enhance the human brain with instant access to the internet and artificial intelligence, enabling individuals to access the world's knowledge directly in their minds. Elon Musk also emphasizes that uncontrolled AI poses an existential threat to humanity, and proposes integrating Neuralink as a means of establishing a controlled interface. If all goes as planned and Neuralink is proven safe in tests, it could truly revolutionize the way we access information and, thus, enhance our lives.



Elon Musk presenting Neuralink, Steve Jurvetson, CC BY 2.0

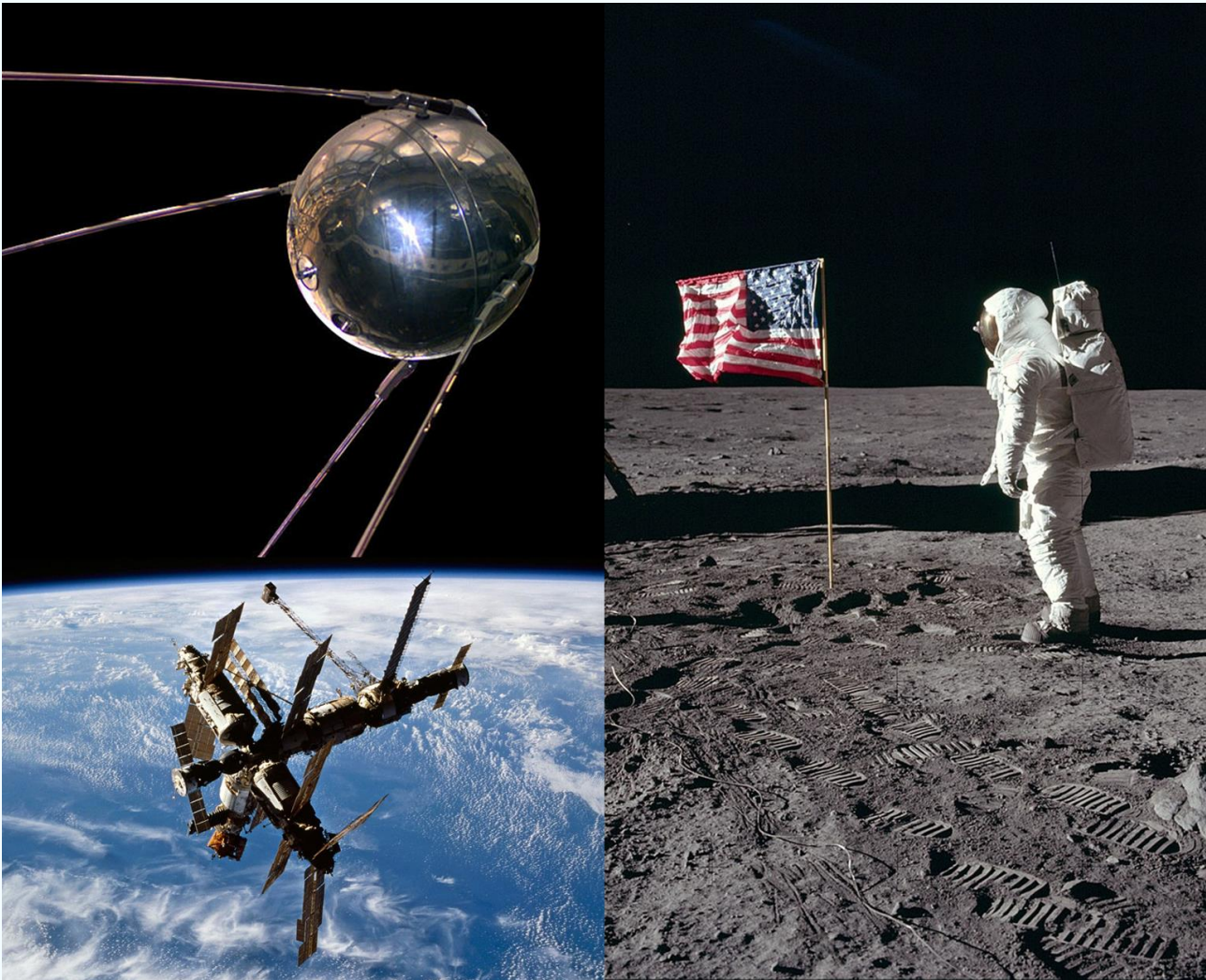
Despite the promising potential of Neuralink, recent tests have not progressed as smoothly as Elon Musk and his team had hoped. Reports indicate significant challenges in ensuring the safety of animals with chips implanted in their brains. Notably, there have been issues with questionable medical procedures causing animal suffering, the use of unsafe substances during skull operations, and incidents of the chips overheating in monkeys' brains, causing harm to the animals. Despite the controversy, the plan for further development of the project, including experiments on humans, was approved by the American FDA (Food and Drug Administration). Surprisingly, a notable number of individuals have eagerly volunteered for testing, despite the uncertainties surrounding the current version of the chip and the potential risks of the implantation procedure.

In conclusion, Elon Musk's ambitious venture with Neuralink marks a significant leap toward a future where humans and computers are closely integrated. Despite the challenges faced in recent tests, the potential applications of this neural interface technology are vast. The willingness of individuals to volunteer for human trials, despite uncertainties, displays the fascination and anticipation surrounding this technology. The outcomes of Neuralink's experiments will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of human-computer integration, raising questions about the future of our species. Only time will unveil whether we are on the brink of an era where humans evolve into cyborgs.

Mateusz Śliwa

New Space Race

On July 29, 1955, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty announced that the United States would launch its first satellite by the end of 1958. This declaration was the culmination of public sentiment, which had long looked to the stars with anticipation and hope. Naturally, the Soviets were quick to respond. On October 7, 1957, they launched the first artificial Earth satellite, "Sputnik I". This event caused the so-called "Sputnik shock" and informally initiated the "space race," arguably the most thrilling aspect of the Cold War.



Sputnik (top left), Mir (bottom left), USA on the Moon (right), Various authors: NSSDC, NASA, Neil A. Armstrong, CC BY-SA 4.0

Undoubtedly, the initial successes in the field of space travel belonged to the Russians. The first animal to orbit the Earth was Laika, the dog that flew into space aboard Sputnik 2. The world could hardly believe its eyes when Yuri Gagarin emerged as the first man in space on April 12, 1961. Completing his spaceflight aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, Gagarin orbited the Earth once, marking a monumental moment in human history.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." With this famous sentence, the tide of the "space race" turned. From then on, everyone, including the Soviets, recognized the Americans as the favorites in this cosmic contest. Over time, the conflict also abated. In 1972, there was even a joint rendezvous in Earth orbit. Especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, space became a territory for research open to all, which the Russians

confirmed in 1993 by committing to build the International Space Station with the Americans and other nations. That moment marked the beginning of a new era.

The end of the Cold War was one of the main reasons why space exploration temporarily stagnated. If there was no longer any need for an arms race, the two sides would not wish to inconvenience themselves. Recently, however, there has been a shift in this dynamic. A new player has arrived—China has taken over from Russia. This situation has renewed the race, and the actions from the beginning have driven it forward.

As China's economic power has steadily grown, so have its cosmic ambitions. In 2011, China built its first space station, Tiangong 1 ("Heavenly Palace 1"). The trade dispute between China and the US has gradually transformed into a technological rivalry. Both sides believe that dominance in space will determine economic dominance in the world. The bitter contest has intensified alongside China's chain of remarkable achievements. The fear in the White House was so great that a new field command, namely the United States Space Force, was established on December 20, 2019.

By describing the conflict as the rivalry between the two main players (USA and China), it is not implied that other players remain inactive: India's overall development must not be overlooked. In August 2023, an Indian-made "Vikram" lander touched down next to the south pole of the moon. Its task was to deploy the rover "Pragyan", which, among other things, investigated the temperature and content of regolith and measured moonquakes. Thus, India became the fourth country to land on the moon and the first nation to reach the lunar pole.

At that point, the whole world rubbed their eyes in disbelief, as it turned out that what was once the first nation in space was now even unable to land on the moon. Luna-25, the first Russian lunar mission in 47 years, crashed on the celestial body. Roscosmos did not determine the reasons for the failure, so we can only guess what happened. However, we do know that Russia had problems with its propulsion systems in the past.

Consequently, while some have dropped out of the race, others have entered it. Private companies, such as SpaceX or Blue Origin, have begun a new era of space exploration—the era of private space travel. SpaceX, the company founded by Elon Musk in 2002, led a real revolution in space travel. On December 22, 2015, the company achieved a historic result: its first landing of a rocket stage upright on Earth. While managing another project, Falcon Heavy, SpaceX was able to reduce the launch costs to low earth orbit (LEO) for one kilogram to as little as \$1,000. Nevertheless, Elon Musk has even more ambitious plans—the billionaire wants to send the first humans to Mars in 2024.

The projects that have just been described may sound incredible, perhaps even confusing, especially to laymen. One thing is certain though—the future of space exploration is bright and promising. Obviously, there are many new undertakings waiting to be invented or carried out, and many old projects that need revitalizing; for example, the International Space Station will probably have to be replaced by 2030, as it no longer meets safety standards. Unfortunately, a substitute is not available yet. The Chinese seem to be ahead of the USA having recently built a completely new station and planning to land a man on the Moon by 2030. NASA, however, has a much more ambitious plan, namely to send the first astronauts to the Moon as early as 2024. Still, the reality of this program is highly dubious. All that being said, we can only hope that the rivalry between the two superpowers in space will only bring good to humankind.

Mikołaj Kurowski

Book review

Spin the Dawn by Elizabeth Lim

Gripping poetry about a young girl who adopts a masculine guise to fight for imperial sewer rights.



Elizabeth Lim began writing in her early teens, captivated by "Sorceresses from the Moon" and "Star Wars." Despite pursuing filmmaking and earning a doctorate in music composition, her true passion lay in writing. Whenever she needed a break from her other endeavors, she found solace in crafting stories. Her debut novel, penned purely for pleasure, reveals this deep-seated love for storytelling.

"Spin the Dawn" tells the story of Maia Tamarin, a determined seamstress in the fantastical realm of A'landi. When a royal summons demands her ailing father's presence at a prestigious competition, Maia seizes his place, driven by both her dreams and the necessity to rescue her family from impoverishment. Disguising herself as a man, she risks her life for a chance at success, with her identity's exposure posing a lethal threat.

While the book echoes the tale of "Mulan" with its themes of disguise and personal valor, it transcends mere retelling. Disguised as a man, Maia undertakes a perilous quest, closely watched by the royal wizard, Edan. Yet, Elizabeth Lim weaves a narrative rich with originality, set against a backdrop inspired by the grandeur of the Chinese Empire.

The narrative extends beyond Maia's immediate challenges, incorporating a theme of epic travel. In the latter part of the book, Lim shifts focus from Maia's daunting task to an extraordinary journey to the edges of the world in pursuit of the Sun, the Moon, and the stars. This quest brings readers through a tapestry of settings within A'landi, from blistering deserts and treacherous paths to enigmatic islands, enhancing the story's expansive scope.

At times, "Spin the Dawn" feels like two intertwined narratives, yet this dual storytelling enhances its appeal. Lim delivers a compelling blend of political intrigue, royal machinations, and a memorable adventure, where magic flows abundantly.

Elizabeth Lim deftly employs young adult fantasy tropes, revitalizing them with her unique twist. The dynamic interactions among characters, filled with witty banter and light-hearted teasing, enrich the narrative, making the pages turn effortlessly. Beneath its fantastical surface, "Spin the Dawn" also explores the tender nuances of teenage romance, while its open-ended conclusion sets the stage eagerly for the next installment, leaving readers yearning for more.

Roksana Kuźma

A Modern Renaissance

In today's digital age, games are not merely pastimes but cultural artifacts, shaping societal norms and pushing technological boundaries. They serve as a conduit for storytelling, social interaction, and cognitive development, appealing to a diverse audience across the globe. The gaming industry, once considered a niche for enthusiasts, has burgeoned into a cultural juggernaut, with a projected market value exceeding \$200 billion by 2023, according to Newzoo.

The panorama of gaming spans several genres, each catering to distinct tastes and engaging different faculties. Role-playing games (RPGs) like "The Witcher" and "Final Fantasy" offer expansive narratives, allowing players to immerse themselves in richly crafted worlds. Strategy games, exemplified by "Civilization" and "StarCraft," challenge the intellect and decision-making skills of players, offering a cerebral exercise in diplomacy and warfare.

Moreover, the advent of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies has revolutionized the gaming experience, offering an unprecedented level of immersion. Games such as "Beat Saber" and "Pokémon GO" utilize these technologies to blend physical and digital worlds, providing a visceral, interactive experience that was once the stuff of science fiction.

Social interaction is another cornerstone of modern gaming, with multiplayer online games creating communities transcending geographical barriers. Titles like "Fortnite" and "League of Legends" are not just games but social platforms, where players collaborate and compete, forging friendships and rivalries alike. These games also underscore the competitive spirit of gaming, with eSports tournaments drawing viewership that rivals traditional sports events.

The educational potential of games is equally significant. Educational games and simulations are increasingly used in academic and professional settings to enhance learning and training. Games like "Kerbal Space Program" teach physics and engineering through gameplay, demonstrating the potential of interactive learning.

However, the rise of gaming has not been without controversy. Issues such as gaming addiction, the representation of gender and race, and the ethical implications of in-game monetization strategies are hotly debated. These debates reflect the growing relevance of gaming in societal discourse and underscore the need for responsible development and regulation.

As we look to the future, the potential of gaming is boundless. With advances in AI and machine learning, games are set to become more adaptive and personalized, offering experiences tailored to individual preferences and learning styles. Furthermore, as cloud gaming technology matures, the accessibility of games is likely to increase, allowing even more people to partake in these digital realms.

In conclusion, gaming is a dynamic and integral element of modern culture. It encapsulates the convergence of art, technology, and social interaction, continuing to evolve and influence many aspects of our lives. As this digital renaissance unfolds, it promises to bring about profound shifts in how we play, learn, and connect with one another.

Jan Jakubowski

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Your engagement and support are greatly appreciated. As we wrap up another eventful year, we hope that the stories and updates have been both informative and enjoyable. As summer unfolds, we wish you a season filled with relaxation, joy, and sunshine. May your holidays bring you the opportunity to unwind, reconnect with loved ones, and recharge. Looking forward to reconnecting after the break with more news and insights. Have a fantastic summer vacation!

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