THE 2015 RUGBY WORLD CUP
THOMAS HOULSTON

LONDON: THE WORLD’S BIGGEST PROPERTY BUBBLE
CONSTANCE PAEFGEN

DOES GUN OWNERSHIP MEAN FREEDOM FROM FEAR?
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ALUMNI SPECIAL: AN INTERVIEW WITH MARIA BERGAMASCO
CARLOTTA CALTAGIRONE AND RAPHAELA WASCHNIG

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Team Says Thank You!

Our last edition counted the greatest circulation The Eye has ever achieved! We regard this an amazing success and hope to continue to satisfy our readers in the future.

In order to meet the demands of our growing reader base, we decided to add a new Sports section, which will deliver the latest news in the world of victory, defeat and ambition.

We have also streamlined our editing and layout processes, thereby offering you the most up-to-date information possible. We believe that, in a globalising world, we need to be aware of current affairs and understand their implications.

Even though we are committed to becoming more internationally-minded, we also understand the importance of holding together as a school community. We have extended our distribution to all sectors of the school, including the Early Years, Primary School, Middle School and Administration. We are actively collaborating with the Alumni Association to publish an Alumni Special, featuring International School of Monaco graduates in the student newspaper.

As the academic year is gradually intensifying, we would like to take the opportunity to wish all students a productive and enjoyable year!

Raphaëla Waschnig
ALUMNI SPECIAL:
AN INTERVIEW WITH
MARIA BERGAMASCO

As part of a series of interviews conducted in collaboration with ISM’s Alumni network, The Eye interviewed Maria Bergamasco, an extraordinary alumnus who left ISM in June 2012, read Law at Cambridge University and is currently studying for a Master of Law (LLM) in International Law at New York University. Maria Bergamasco described the importance of open-mindedness and curiosity, as well as some of the challenges she faced when transitioning from school to university life.

The Eye: When did you leave ISM?
M.B.: In June 2012.

The Eye: Could you tell us about what you did after ISM?
M.B.: I started reading Law at Cambridge University, Pembroke College, in September 2012. I graduated from Cambridge last June (2015) and am now in my first semester at New York University, where I am studying for a one-year Master of Law (LLM) in International Law. I will graduate in May 2016 and start studying for the New York Bar thereafter.

The Eye: How did you experience the transition from school to university?
M.B.: I found it incredibly fun though incredibly demanding. My workload increased exponentially. University professors expect a lot from you, and mine would challenge every other statement my course-mates and I made. The learning curve is steep, but extremely rewarding, and you make some truly wonderful memories and friends along the way.

The Eye: How did you benefit from your education at ISM?
M.B.: Undoubtedly, the most enduring benefit was studying four languages. Languages give you a real competitive edge in applying for internships in International Law, where proficiency in French and/or Spanish alongside English is often mandatory. They also help you engage and make friends with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

The Eye: Are you still in contact with other alumni?
M.B.: Yes! In fact, a former classmate of mine (Jenny Kozena) is also currently studying at NYU.

The Eye: Many students in secondary school are deciding their career choices. Is there any advice you would like to give them?
M.B.: Studying law is very different from practicing law. Generally, the study of a subject is completely different from the realities of it. Making a career choice before even starting university is, for this reason, not something I would recommend. My advice is to focus on choosing a subject you’re passionate enough about to spend 8 or more hours a day studying, and commit to it. How well you do at university is probably the biggest determining factor in subsequent job applications. But experiment as much as you can with extracurriculars and work experience: they will give you the practical knowledge that you need to see if you’re right for a career, and the career’s right for you.

The Eye: Looking back at all those years at ISM, what was the most important thing you learnt?
M.B.: I learnt the importance of being open-minded and never dismissing people, or judging them too quickly. It’s by being curious about others, who they are and where they come from, that you learn the most, and make the most unexpected, and often best, friendships.

Source: ISM alumni association
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: SYRIA

The Syrian Civil War is an ongoing international armed conflict. The unrest started in the spring of 2011 as a result of Arab Spring protests. This subsequently escalated into a full-scale civil war.

In the four-and-a-half years of conflict, more than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives and more than 11 million others have been forced from their homes. Around 4 million people have fled to neighboring countries including Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. This mass migration has primarily been due to extreme violence and terror. The lack of economic growth and opportunities have also played a key role in pushing Syrians towards leaving their country.

In Jordan, many Syrian refugees have gone to urban areas rather than staying in camps. This makes direct assistance from the UN and other donors impossible. 70% of refugees in Jordan are hosted in local communities, resulting in an enormous strain on public resources (health services, education, waste management, etc.)

In Germany, refugees have to wait for considerable amounts of time before being allowed to register for the official asylum process. Charities and volunteers help refugees by running shelters, organizing food collections and providing schooling. After registration, the refugees are housed in one of Germany’s states in simple living quarters with rooms, bunk beds and washing facilities. The refugees often experience problems with discrimination, particularly in the job market. Amongst some of the Germans, on the other hand, there is a fear of crime, high birth rates, religious extremists and pressure on the social system.

Constance Paefgen

30% of Lebanon’s population are currently Syrian Refugees.”

Hungary closing their borders. Germany has pledged to take 800,000 refugees.

The effects of the international migration from Syria have been widespread. In Jordan, many Syrian refugees have gone to urban areas rather than staying in camps. This makes direct assistance from the UN and other donors impossible. 70% of refugees in Jordan are hosted in local communities, resulting in an enormous strain on public resources (health services, education, waste management, etc.)

In total, 30% of Lebanon’s population are currently Syrian refugees. This has affected nearly every sector of Lebanon: the economy, health, education, safety, the labor market, infrastructure, traffic and waste management. The social balance is also in danger. Nonetheless, the Lebanese government and citizens have been welcoming to the Syrians. This is not sustainable, as, for example, only 100,000 of the 300,000 Syrian children will eventually receive a place in school.

In Germany, refugees have to wait for considerable amounts of time before being allowed to register for the official asylum process. Charities and volunteers help refugees by running shelters, organizing food collections and providing schooling. After registration, the refugees are housed in one of Germany’s states in simple living quarters with rooms, bunk beds and washing facilities. The refugees often experience problems with discrimination, particularly in the job market. Amongst some of the Germans, on the other hand, there is a fear of crime, high birth rates, religious extremists and pressure on the social system.
n the U.S., approximately 89 out of 100 residents own a gun. That is an estimate of 286 million in total. Guns were constitutionalized in order to provide protection to citizens. They were supposed to reduce crime rate and defend the good from the bad, but do they cause more problems than they solve?

Human instinct is to defend and survive. Allowing guns has shown to cause many people to believe that they are safer, but are they truly safer or is that belief due to false perception? Many argue that killers will kill, if not with a gun, then with another tool, which may be true, but what is easier to kill with, a gun or a hammer? Then there’s the argument that if guns were not legal in the U.S., then one could simply obtain one illegally. It is argued that guns are not the problem, but people who choose to use them are. However, mass killings are mostly carried out not by criminals but by those who have severe personal problems or mental illnesses. They are often able to acquire guns completely legally.

Mass killings have increased in the U.S. The shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon on the 2nd October marked the 45th school shooting in the US this year. Nine victims ranging from 18 to 67 years of age were shot by a man whose motive is still unclear. The gunman, Christopher Harper-Mercer, left a note before the shooting claiming that he suffered from depression and would be “welcomed in Hell and embraced by the Devil”. He burst into the college wearing body armour and carrying three pistols and a rifle. 7 more firearms were found at his home. Anastasia Boylan, a wounded student recounted that the gunman specifically targeted Christians. He would ask them to stand up and told them that they were “going to see God in just about one second”. The gunman held admiration for Nazis and wrote in his note that he felt that the entire world was against him. Christopher Harper-Mercer committed suicide on the day of the shooting.

The current US president Barack Obama is concerned with this situation. He said, “This is happening every single day in forgotten neighborhoods around the country… kids are just running for their lives just trying to get to school.”

People like Harper-Mercer across the U.S. are allowed to have guns. Proponents of gun law believe that the solution to this is more guns rather than tighter gun control. Yet Oregon, the location of the shooting, received a D+ grade for its gun laws from the ‘Law Center To Prevent Gun Violence’ and does not have a limit on the number of guns that its citizens can purchase. It is hard to find documented evidence proving how many lives are saved due to the constitutionalization of guns. However, there are statistics available showing the gun crime rates in the U.S. are much higher than in other developed countries. According to Wikipedia, the firearm related homicide rate in the United States is 16 times higher than of France.

Gun ownership may indeed instill a feeling of safety. Proponents have argued that numerous crimes were prevented; however, does that justify the rapidly augmenting numbers of school shootings and the ever increasing gun crime rates?

Anna Nikitina
According to UBS, a Swiss bank, the property market of London has grown into the world’s worst house price bubble. This inflated price bubble is in danger of bursting and new investors will most likely not be able to make medium or long-term profits.

What is a ‘property price bubble’? The UBS defines this term as “a substantial and sustained mispricing of an asset”. Today, the ratios of property prices to incomes and property prices to rents are higher than ever before. Compared to other areas of the world, the gap between house prices in the capital of the UK and household earnings has widened most significantly. UBS has stated that within the Global Real Estate Bubble Index London is ranked first with a score of 1.88. It is closely followed by Hong Kong at 1.67. As a result, experts believe that an important price correction may set in very soon in London.

Since the start of 2013, real estate property prices have increased by 40%, making London a highly expensive place to live. Overall, real estate prices are currently 6% higher than during the peak in 2007. The major problem is that whilst house prices have increased, wages have dropped and the average household earnings have decreased by 7%. Hence, London has become less affordable for locals. As the UBS report mentioned, nowadays “it takes a skilled service-sector worker approximately 14 years of average earnings to be able to buy a 60 sq m dwelling; the expense of buying a flat is comparable to renting it for 30 years”. Today, the average price of a house in London is £500,000, which is a 10% increase from last year.

Largely, the London property price bubble has been caused by foreign investors, but domestic buyers have also contributed to increasing the prices to this extent. It is believed that around $200 billion have been invested into the London real estate market by foreign investors. Overall population growth has also played a key role in propelling the property prices into the extremes. Interestingly, dubious funds may also have been important in causing the bubble. A London house located next to 221B Baker Street (the address of Sherlock Holmes) was recently utilized to launder over $200 million in cash that had been illegally acquired. It is believed that more than 75% of the new apartment blocks constructed are unoccupied and solely serve for money launderers, tax dodgers, etc., creating a lack of proper housing in the city. The boom in luxury properties is extremely high, with 7% of all new constructions taking place in Chelsea and Kensington. As the years pass, the contrast between the ever increasing high numbers of luxury houses and apartments and the lack of affordable housing for locals will cause many problems.

Politicians are largely remaining silent regarding the property price bubble in London. New construction and higher property prices are frequently key positive contributors to the economy. Numerous families, particularly those receiving welfare payments, have been forced to leave the capital of the United Kingdom. The lack of counteraction to the shortage of affordable dwellings has caused price increases in surrounding villages and cities as well as an increasing number of commuters.

Nonetheless, London is not the only city with a property price bubble and an imminent risk of falling prices. Other megacities, such as New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong, are also experiencing disproportionate prices. For example, in Hong Kong, the annual income of a worker with a high level of skills can buy only 3 square metres of living space. House prices are now 60% higher than in 2007 and approximately 200% higher than in 2003. In total, the UBS looked into 15 different cities, 12 of which were in danger of having a property price bubble. Sydney, meanwhile, was deemed the most over-valued city.
In conclusion, there is no way to forecast or to prove the existence of a property price bubble until it bursts. However, the housing markets in most large cities studied by UBS worldwide continue to be overvalued, with the exception of Chicago, which remains undervalued. The UBS report maintains that generally, price corrections of 30% occur after the index becomes greater than 1 and that “investors in overvalued markets should not expect real price appreciation in the medium to long run”. London investors should be very cautious in the future. As long as the foreign investment continues, the real estate market will continue booming.

Constance Paefgen

PROCESSED MEAT, RED MEAT = CANCER?

The latest report, concerning cancer research published by the World Health Organisation on Monday the 26th of October shocked all meat-lovers, and not only them. The International Agency on Cancer established that there was a positive correlation between the consumption of red meat and colorectal, prostate and pancreatic cancer, as well as a positive correlation between processed meat and colorectal and stomach cancer. Processed meat (meat which was altered in order to improve preservation, or intensify taste) was allocated into Group 1, “carcinogenic to humans”. The Group currently holds other substances such as tobacco or asbestos (silicate minerals in form of thin fibrous crystals).

Red meat (all types of mammalian muscle meat) was classified as “probably carcinogenic to humans”, as there was only limited evidence.

Unfortunately, the information from the report was vastly misinterpreted, not only by individuals, but also by the media, and especially by vegetarian/ vegan lifestyle-supporting organisations. Such organisations quickly grabbed the opportunity and used the news to their advantage, persuading people to become vegetarian/vegan.

For example, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) responded to the report with an enthusiastic post:

“Since the World Health Organization confirms that eating bacon, hot dogs, ham, and other processed meats causes cancer, PETA is offering a free vegan starter kit and a personal vegan mentor to anyone ready to ward off cancer as well as a slew of other health issues by going vegan.”

Many believed that the WHO report encouraged people to stop eating processed meat, or meat overall and that the risks of eating processed meat were actually the same as that of cigarettes. This opinion was so strongly present on the Internet, that the WHO felt it was necessary to clarify the report.

The organisation stated that: “The latest IARC review does not ask people to stop eating processed meats but indicates that reducing consumption of these products can reduce the risk of colorectal cancer. The health risks of processed meat are vastly different to those of cigarettes & asbestos.”

The misunderstanding most likely resulted from the fact that substances are classified not according by how much they increase the risk of cancer, but according to how much evidence there is that they increase the risk of cancer.

Moreover Gregory Härtl, a WHO spokesman, explained that: “We’re not saying stop eating processed meats altogether. Do not cut out meats completely as it has nutrients.”

Furthermore, some critics of the report have pointed out that “causes” is the wrong word to use in this case. The research article with the findings published in the Lancet Oncology established a positive correlation between the consumption of red and processed meat and cancer, stating that it increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18%. The article never mentioned that cancer is caused by the consumption of red meat, as a positive correlation does not prove causation.

Ekaterina Heim
The Ballet of Monte Carlo triumphantly wowed the public by opening their season with Jean-Christophe Maillot’s creations. He is known for his longer ballets with meaningful and heart touching stories, but clearly he has a huge talent for short and abstract pieces too.

From the 22nd to the 25th October, at the Salle Garnier - Opera of Monte Carlo, three performances were given. First, was ‘Entrelacs’ (Interlacing) which featured a score by Yan Maresz - a contemporary Monegasque composer. Every dancer gave a show simply through facial expression and demonstrated technical excellence. The dance consisted of both sharp, angular moves and careful curves, giving it an overall artistic ambiance.

Next, was ‘Vers un pays sage’ (Towards a wise country). This piece was created in 1995 and was dedicated to Maillot’s father, who was a painter but died young. Music was created by John Adams and the entire performance was saturated with energy. It attempted to show that a passion for work is what makes life worth living. Jean-Christophe Maillot is often seen as a ‘workaholic’; it is thought that he wanted his creation to motivate people and show them the beauty of art and life.

‘Presque rien’ (Almost Nothing) concluded the evening. Music composed for this piece was created by Maillot’s brother, Bertrand Maillot. Together, they concocted a performance which they both felt portrayed the true image of ballet. They gifted the audience an experience of wonder and awe. The dance portrayed a couple and showed the changes in their relationship over time. They both evolved from lovers to enemies; rivals to accomplices in seconds, overwhelming the audience. The piece was staged in dim light that exclusively focused on the two dancers. Intimacy was attained as space was reduced and the light’s angle was slightly changed to give sharpness or haziness depending on the current mood. A small group of dancers joined the stage towards the middle of the performance, but did not seem to draw attention away from the couple who continued to dance a struggle of love and anger. Intensity was maintained throughout and overall an incredible end to an inspiring evening was made.

More will hopefully come from Jean Christophe Maillot, whose love for ballet, it seems, will never cease.

Anna Nikitina

FROM ‘INTERLACING’ TO ‘ALMOST NOTHING’

Every single dancer gave a show simply through facial expressions and showed technical excellence.”
Europe received around one million refugees and migrants this year, sparking political tension and upheaval. Movements like PEGIDA (German: Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes; Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident) and far-right political parties like the Front National are increasingly gaining support. NGOs like the Red Cross have long predicted this mass movement of people and highlight that Europeans have a moral obligation towards refugees, especially after refugees have undertaken such a strenuous and dangerous journey.

Increasing Support for Far-Right Political Movements

In France, Marine Le Pen’s far-right Front National is increasingly gaining support and emerged as the largest party with 25% of votes in national polls this May. Meanwhile, President Francois Hollande’s approval ratings are gradually sinking below 20%. This increase in far-right support resonates with the intolerance of migrants and refugees, which can also be observed in Germany. Supporters of the PEGIDA movement frequently point to immigrants’ links to sexual abuse and drug-dealing; signs like “Beware Ali Baba and his 400 drug dealers” are not uncommon in demonstrations. Reports of refugees refusing to leave a bus in Sweden because the village they were brought to is “too cold” and Austrian trains being left full of dirt and destroyed donations further aggravate xenophobia in Central European countries. Austria’s stance on immigration recently dramatically shifted; Austria announced it would erect fenced areas along its border to Slovenia. Such actions were heavily condemned by German leaders, who said such behaviour was “out of order.” Tony Abbott, the former Prime Minister of Australia, has also offered his opinion: “Our moral obligation is to receive people fleeing for their lives. It’s not to provide permanent residency to anyone and everyone who would rather live in a prosperous Western country than their own.” Abbott, who frequently called the thousands of people entering Europe “economic migrants”, remarked that many borders, not one, had been crossed and that these people are “no longer fleeing in fear.” He also boasted Australia’s success in dealing with refugees, namely turning refugee boats back, and that such policies should also be implemented in Europe. However, turning boats back would increase the already very large risk of overfilled boats capsizing and passengers drowning. Incidents have become so frequent that many media outlets have discontinued reporting “minor” incidents where less than 100 people die. Infants are especially vulnerable and likely to die when falling from boats because they cannot swim.

Can Immigration be Beneficial to European Societies?

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, reiterated the importance of accepting millions of migrants to Europe to maintain the current European standard of living. Demographics point to an ageing population, especially in Germany, where life expectancies have steadily increased and the total fertility rate has dropped to 1.38 births per woman. The low total fertility rates in Europe coupled with the population momentum from the baby boomer generation of the 1960’s will soon place a demographic burden on Germany, as the number of elderly people is bound to further increase while the number of economically active will decrease. This will put a strain on the economy, as the few economically active will have to support pensions, health care and other services for the increasing number of dependents. Accepting young refugees and migrants would aid countries like Germany to increase the proportion of the economically active and thus maintain a high standard of living. Even though there is great controversy regarding the acceptance of refugees and migrants, most agree that the crisis was expected and predictable, as Elhadj As Sy, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), stated: “We saw this coming,” he said, blaming politicians’ apathy and lack of action for the crisis, “We have to stop the indifference.”
Refugee Camps in Italian Border Towns
The Eye exclusively interviewed Marine Ronzi, a representative of the Monégasque Red Cross association. Ronzi elucidated the state of the informal Ponte San Ludovico refugee ‘camp’, which was destroyed by Italian authorities last month. Several media outlets reported that the camp was bulldozed without regard to refugees’ wishes, ignoring the fact that the Italian Red Cross set up a new camp which ‘offers better conditions, such as dormitories separating men from women and children for more privacy, reinforced medical care, breakfast and 2 hot meals’. Ronzi, the Red Cross representative, continued that most refugees left for the new camp, although 50-70 refugees refused to leave because they wanted to keep the journalists’ attention after France’s decision to close the border. The Red Cross association is “completely independent, neutral and impartial”, hence it didn’t facilitate or prevent the destruction of the camp. The representative added that the Red Cross “launched a global campaign named ‘protect humanity, stop indifference’ aimed at asking governments to take full responsibility for the migrant crisis. There is a global petition one can sign and spread at: http://ifrc-media.org/interactive/protect-humanity/ This form of ‘humanitarian diplomacy’ uses our [the Red Cross’] expertise to enjoin governments to do things.”

How to Take Action
The Eye also asked about how people in Monaco can help the Red Cross. Ronzi said, “You can become a Monaco Red Cross volunteer and help in the camp. The Italian volunteers are exhausted, they really need help. By becoming a volunteer, you have legal protection to work, and you wear the emblems of the Movement; by law you are protected.

“You can donate on our website, through the following page (your donation will fully go the the migrants issue in Italy if you select “migrants Italy” in the appropriate field): http://www.croix-rouge.mc/home/i-donate/
You can donate hygiene products (sanitary pads, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, hydrating creams, etc.), blankets or sleeping bags at the Monaco RC headquarters : 27 bd de Suisse – 98 000 MONACO. Our volunteers will bring it to the Italian Red Cross camp where some 200 people are sleeping every day. Caritas Italy is also collecting warm clothes and shoes. The Italian Red Cross is collecting other goods like food, milk, bottles of water.”

Lists of required goods are regularly updated and can be followed on the “Actions internationales de la Croix-Rouge de Monaco” Facebook page and the “Refugee Aid Côte d’Azur” Facebook group.

For adolescents the Red Cross offers a special programme called “Red Touch”, where young people can start initiatives with help from the Red Cross, with funding and methodology. Marine Ronzi, the Red Cross representative, continued, “For anyone, I would say check out our website and Facebook page to see how you can get involved in our activities (see the “what we do” or “join us” part.) We really want to improve this ‘first contact’ process. We need people with time, good analysis

You can become a Monaco Red Cross volunteer and help in the camp. The Italian volunteers are exhausted, they really need help.”
Marine Ronzi, the Red Cross representative, continued, “For anyone, I would say check out our website and Facebook page to see how you can get involved in our activities (see the “what we do” or “join us” part.) We really want to improve this ‘first contact’ process. We need people with time, good analysis capacity, motivation and ideas for that.”

Refugees’ Journeys and Backgrounds

When The Eye asked Marine Ronzi whether people arriving are “economic migrants” or “refugees”, she offered her personal opinion independent from the Croix-Rouge: “Whatever these people are leaving behind in their country of origin, do you really think they would suffer that much on their way to Europe, risk their lives and many times the lives of their kids, just to have a slight improvement in their living standards? As a humanitarian worker, what I can say is that not only in Syria are people’s lives threatened. I do not make any difference between a war refugee or an economic migrant. I think that once they are here, we have a moral obligation to help them, because we are human beings just like them.

“In Ventimiglia people are mostly from South Sudan and Eritrea, and if you go to the Internet and check what it is like to live in these countries, you have a moral obligation to help them out. And there are people from Pakistan, Iraq, Kurdistan, and West Africa. Why should we create a difference?”

Concerning political trends, she added, “There is a risk that more and more people radicalize if messages of fear continue to be spread through populist politics. This is a real danger. This is why the European states have to find political solutions and humanitarian responses in the countries of origin. It is their responsibility.”

The Eye also conducted an interview with Shelley Le Breton, an ISM parent and volunteer at Italian refugee camps, who underlined the unfathomable suffering of some refugees. She recounted, “The encounter which struck me the most was with a Pakistani man who had walked through Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. He couldn’t hold back his tears as he retold his story of leaving behind his pregnant wife and family. I tried to reassure him in Urdu, but he was inconsolable. He told me he was a master tailor back home and here he cut a lonely figure sitting forlorn under the shade of a tree. I asked him if he wanted me to try and get him repatriated. His response was that he’d rather die than go back.

When I went back the following day, he was gone. I don’t know his full story and I will never find out. The Red Cross and Caritas have provided a safe place for Tahir and many others like him, to get some respite from the unknown, with hope as their only companion.”

Red Cross Youth Initiatives

Marine Ronzi highlighted that the Red Cross is very active and requires help from young volunteers. “The international department is very active in the world, especially in West Africa. It has a yearly 2 million euros budget to develop a wide range of projects. We need young people to get involved in volunteering, and for that purpose we set up the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) which gives priority to welcome, recognize, encourage, and develop volunteers’ action. We need more young volunteers and we have a plan to achieve this. Volunteering has changed, because our lifestyles have changed, people are not available the same way as before, people want to get involved in short or mid-term projects, people want to see the results of what they are doing, people want their volunteering skills to be recognized on their CVs, they want international opportunities, they want to participate. So I invite all young people interested in joining the Monaco Red Cross to get in touch with us, and together we will make the move to do more, do better and reach further.”

Raphaëla Waschnig
Deutsche Bank has made an announcement stating that it will cut up to 35,000 jobs, around one quarter of its total workforce, as a result of the £4.3 billion losses it made in its third quarter of the year.

Banks in Europe are experiencing problems with slow economic growth and severe regulations. Recently, the shares of the Deutsche Bank dropped by 5.5% in the Frankfurt trade market. The CEO of Deutsche Bank stated “In the third quarter 2015 we reported a record net loss – a highly disappointing result that was largely driven by items we had already flagged earlier in October”. Cutting jobs is a strategy the German bank is using to increase profits, to overcome a “swollen” cost base and to tackle the “antiquated and inadequate technology”.

Deutsche Bank has stated it is planning to dismiss 9,000 full time workers and to cut 6,000 contractor roles in order to reduce costs and streamline operations. Various businesses with over 20,000 people will be sold over the next years. In total, between 15% and 25% of the total employees of Deutsche Bank will be cut, with most cuts occurring in the administrative and technology sectors. The employees that will remain employed will see their bonuses cut, as the bank is expected to make a full year loss. Also, the bank is now looking to sell the Postbank unit, which currently employs 14,940 people. John Cryan, the new Co-Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Bank, has announced the development of a new strategy that will boost returns by lowering 15% of expenses by 2020 and shrinking assets at the investment bank by as much as 17%.

In 2015 and 2016, the Deutsche Bank will no longer pay dividends to shareholders. Deutsche Bank has plans to withdraw completely from high-risk countries, such as Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Peru. For example in Russia, Deutsche Bank is likely to close most or all of its investments in bank operations. This will be coupled with halving the amount of clients the bank has in its global markets and investment banking business. Within the next years, Deutsche Bank also plans on focusing on the markets, clients and products where it was destined to succeed.

The move of cutting jobs comes after a difficult few months for Germany’s biggest bank, which in April had to pay a $2.5 billion fine for its involvement in the Libor scandal. The last time that Deutsche Bank carried out job cuts was in 2012, when the elimination of around 2,000 positions was targeted, primarily within the investment bank. Since 2013, the total headcount of the company has decreased, particularly within asset, wealth management and transaction banking.
This year's Rugby World Cup was hosted by England for the first time since 1991. The 44 days of this tournament promised fantastic entertainment and a celebration of rugby with 20 teams competing. The reigning champions, New Zealand, were the favourites coming into the World Cup with Australia and South Africa as their biggest challengers. Despite South Africa's shaky start when they lost against Japan in their opening game, one of the biggest World Cup upsets in history. The passionate rugby nation went on to make it to the semi-finals. England suffered the earliest ever exit by a host nation in World Cup history, when they crashed out at the Pool Stages. Ireland, Australia, Wales, and New Zealand all cruised through their pools winning all four of their matches.

Semi Final Reviews

It was an all Southern Hemisphere last four this year, as South Africa played against New Zealand and Australia played against Argentina. These are the same four teams who play in the 'Rugby Championship', which is a competition played between these four teams in the months of July and August each year.

Semi Final 1 was played at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 24th September 2015 between South Africa and New Zealand. New Zealand edged the game 20-18. It was a tense affair as the South African defence frustrated a spirited and talented All Blacks side. New Zealand dominated possession and territory, having 57% and 67% respectively. New Zealand made over twice as many meters as South Africa, showing that South Africa's attack was not heavily present. South Africa scored no tries and won all of their points from the boots of Handre Pollard and Pat Lambie (Sub 65th minute). The points all came from penalties as the All Blacks made many mistakes in their own half. New Zealand scored two tries through Jerome Kaino and Beauden Barrett with their remaining points from the boot of Dan Carter, whose 'pick of the night' was his immense drop-goal disguised brilliantly from the All Blacks. New Zealand's win just showed how good their ability is to win tough and important games. The Man of the Match was awarded to New Zealand Full Back, Ben Smith.

Semi Final 2 was held at Twickenham Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 25th September 2015 between Argentina and Australia. Argentina have been the World Cup's surprise package as they eased past Ireland in the Quarter Final, but they couldn't overcome the versatile Australia. The match ended 15-29, which meant Australia set up a final with fierce rivals New Zealand. Despite having made more meters, and having had 54% more territory and 55% more possession than Australia, Argentina failed to take advantage. Argentina have been the World Cup's surprise package as they eased past Ireland in the Quarter Final, but they couldn't overcome the versatile Australia. David Pocock returned to the starting line-up and had a massive influence at the breakdown for Australia, winning four turnovers throughout the game. Argentina's points all came from their talented Fly-Half, Nicolás Sanchez. Adam Ashley-Cooper scored a hat-trick of tries, earning him the Man of the Match award.

Rugby World Cup Final Review

New Zealand are World Champions again after they held off a strong Australian comeback to retain the Rugby World Cup, the first team ever to do so. This win is New Zealand's third World Cup and this is the most amount of World Cups won by any team in its history. The win also means that this is New Zealand's first World Cup triumph outside of New Zealand.

Dan Carter's sublime performance on his final test match for the All Blacks helped them beat the Wallabies 34-17. Throughout the game, Carter made twelve tackles, kicked four penalties and two conversions, scored a composed long-distance drop-goal, meaning that he scored 19 points. This was enough to earn Carter the Man of the Match award. New Zealand raced into a 16-3 lead by halftime, thanks to three penalties from Dan Carter and a wonderfully worked converted try from Nehe Milner-Skudder, coming at the end of the first half. Bernard Foley put the three points on the scoreboard for Australia, coming from a penalty. As anticipated, Australia dominated the breakdown with David Pocock winning three turnovers. Conrad Smith's final test for the All Blacks ended at half time as Sonny Bill Williams replaced him at Outside Center.
Shortly afterwards, the second New Zealand try was created by some fantastic play from Sonny Bill Williams as he drew in three Australian defenders, then off-loading to Ma’a Nonu who burst through the Wallaby defence to score, despite still having a lot of work to do. Things looked bleak for Australia as the scoreline read 21-3 in the 42nd minute. Shortly afterwards, Ben Smith was yellow carded by referee Nigel Owens, for spear tackling Drew Mitchell. During the ten minutes without B. Smith, the Wallabies scored fourteen points and sparked a dramatic comeback to be within four points of the All Blacks. David Pocock touched down over the try line after a powerful driving maul in the 53rd minute. Ten minutes later, the gap left by sin binned Ben Smith was exploited by Adam Ashley-Cooper from a perfect Will Genia kick. Ashley-Cooper then offloaded beautifully to an on-rushing Tevita Kurindrani, who then eased past Dan Carter and Sam Whitlock to finish off the try. When Ben Smith returned, the score was 21-17.

In the 70th minute, Dan Carter produced a long range drop goal, followed by a penalty to put the All Black 10 points ahead with only five minutes remaining. Then, in the 79th minute, the ball was turned over in the New Zealand 22 and some wonderful play by Ben Smith set up Beauden Barrett with a clearing kick to score the Championship sealing try for the All Blacks and the party could begin.

Thomas Houlston

"...they lost to Japan in their opening game, one of the biggest World Cup upsets in history.”
Engineers at the University of New South Wales have, for the first time, managed to create a functioning quantum logic gate that marks the way for the possibility of working quantum computers in the future.

Most people’s initial reaction to this information is: “What is a quantum computer, and why should I care?” This new technology has a wide range of potential uses, but to understand the significance of applying the laws of quantum physics to a computer, it is necessary to first understand the basics of how data in a computer is stored. Every piece of data in computing is represented by a series of 1s and 0s; this is known as a binary bit. In original computers this was achieved using a physical tube that had a vacuum inside and either allowed current to pass between two electrodes or stopped them, this is known as a valve. On its own this valve cannot achieve much, but when it is paired with other valves, it is possible to store data by having different combinations representing other letters or numbers. This form of computing was pioneered and used extensively from the early to mid-20th century until the breakthrough of being able to store a charge onto a piece of silicon within a transistor. Transistors allowed their machines to be able to carry out the same functions as their valve counterparts, while having no moving parts or arcing electricity that could damage them and therefore not require frequent changing. Due to this innovation it was possible to make computers much smaller than previous versions.

Using a system of bits like this to store binary data is very useful, as with very few transistors or valves, it is possible to have a large number of different outputs. For example, with just two binary bits it is possible to get four different outputs: 00, 10, 01 and 11. As the number of bits increases, the number of outputs doubles: three bits can output eight different combinations and with just four bits it is possible to have sixteen completely different outputs. By the time that you have ten bits there are 1,024 different outputs possible.

The problem with this binary system is that out of all these outputs there can only be one at any given moment. Normally for people using computers everyday this is not a problem, as they are not using them for particularly taxing processes. However, for many companies it is important to have very large and fast supercomputers such as those used by pharmaceutical companies to synthesise new drugs. The advantage of bringing quantum physics into this field is the ability that some particles have to be able to have two different states simultaneously, such as light being a particle and a wave at the same time, or the spin of an electron within a magnetic field. Engineers who use these types of particles as bits refer to them as qubits and, due to their ability to exist in multiple states at once, allows a single qubit to have the outputs of both 1 and 0 at the same time. This means that with two qubits you can have four different outputs simultaneously as opposed to the regular choice of one of the four. Thanks to this it would be possible to have many different calculations occurring in parallel with the same qubits, opening the way to much quicker calculations.

To actually get these different outputs the two bits or qubits need to be connected through what is known as a logic gate, this allows the two different values to be read at the same time and therefore give the actual output instead of two disconnected values. The problem that the engineers at the University of New South Wales have been facing is that they could not get two qubits to communicate without using “exotic materials” such as superconductors that are not compatible with current silicon based computers. They managed to measure the spin of two electrons that were acting as qubits by reconfiguring existing transistor designs to be associated with only a single electron on each. After many years of research the team have managed to get a working silicon-based quantum logic gate to function successfully.

This new technology has the ability to change large scale computing forever. Thanks to the silicon design of the new transistor and the university team making a patent for a larger quantum processor incorporating many smaller quantum transistors, it is possible for there to be easier manufacturing allowing big companies to have the potential to adopt them into their systems. If this were the case we could be looking at them becoming cheaper and smaller, potentially making way for home quantum computing in the future.

Samuel Taylor