

Four kilos of gum and a rowing machine : how the most popular mountains became a mess,
Oli Reed, Tue 3 Sep 2019, The Guardian

Have you heard about the rowing machine dumped on Mont Blanc? The dead octopus on Scafell Pike? Or the Vauxhall 4x4 parked on top of Snowdon? Not jokes, sadly. These are all true stories related to the endless piles of junk appearing on and around the summits of the world's mountains.

Local authorities in France rightly reacted with fury last week when a British charity climber – due to adverse weather conditions – abandoned the rowing machine he was attempting to carry to the summit of western Europe's highest mountain. Faced with the decision of compromising his own safety or leaving behind a large and heavy piece of gym equipment, Matthew Paul Disney made the only sensible choice at that point, which was to get down the mountain safely.

But should he and his rowing machine have been there in the first place? Mont Blanc is a dangerous mountain, only to be attempted by people with serious mountaineering experience and in-depth knowledge of how to avoid hidden dangers such as avalanches and crevasses. Fifteen climbers died on the mountain last year. It is not a place for publicity stunts, but this is becoming a depressingly common occurrence on the busiest peaks.

Mount Everest has famously become an overcrowded mess in recent years, with hundreds of climbers each year stepping over oxygen bottles, broken tents, piles of human waste and even dead bodies . Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon – Britain's famous Three Peaks – have their own fair share of problems: 4kg of chewing gum was retrieved from the Scottish peak last year, along with the wrapper of a pack of peanuts from the 1980s.

Banana skins and orange peel can take two years to biodegrade, crisp packets last 30 years and discarded plastic is killing our wildlife and entering our food chain. Mountains are wondrous places, offering an unrivalled sense of adventure and true wilderness, and it is our responsibility to keep them that way. So if you carry something up, make sure you carry it down, too. 336 words

Questions préparées :

Mountains provide '*an unrivalled sense of adventure*' ? Can you explain what the reporter means ?

'Mountains are wondrous places, it is our responsibility to keep them that way '. What can be done to preserve the mountains ?

Exemples de questions posées au cours de l'entretien :

Should certain natural sites be closed to visitors ?

Is there such a thing as 'ethical' tourism ?

Climbing Mount Everest : why do people take the risk ?

What is your idea of a wonderful holiday ?

Trump jabs at Parasite's Oscar win because film is 'from South Korea'

Vivian Ho in San Francisco *The Guardian* Fri 21 Feb 2020

Donald Trump has taken a jab at the Oscars for awarding this year's best picture honor to Parasite, because the film is South Korean.

"How bad were the Academy Awards this year?" Trump asked a rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The crowd responded with loud boos. "The winner is a movie from South Korea, what the hell was that all about?" Trump asked. "We got enough problems with South Korea with trade and on top of it, they give them the best movie of the year."

Parasite made Oscars history as the first film not in English to win best picture. The capitalist satire also won awards for best director, best original screenplay and best international film.

"Was it good? I don't know. I'm looking for, like – can we get like Gone With The Wind back, please?" Trump said, to loud cheers.

Gone With the Wind, which tells the story of the daughter of a Georgia plantation owner during and after the Civil War, has long been criticized for its depiction of relationships between black slaves and their white masters. The novel from which the film is adapted described the Ku Klux Klan as a "tragic necessity" and made such free use of derogatory slurs for black people that the NAACP got involved with the production of the movie. The producers deleted the racial epithets after the black actors in the film – Hattie McDaniel made history as the first black person to win an Oscar for her role – complained.

When Parasite won the Golden Globe for best foreign-language film, its director, Bong Joon-ho, said: "Once you overcome the one-inch tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films. "I think we use only one language: the cinema," he added.

Neon, the studio that produced Parasite, responded to Trump's dig on Twitter with a dig of its own: "Understandable, he can't read." 316 Words

Questions préparées :

Why does Trump prefer Gone with the wind ? What message does he want to deliver ?

How do you explain the reactions of Trump's supporters to his remarks?

Exemples de questions posées au cours de l'entretien :

What is the benefit of watching movies ?

Would you rather watch a foreign film with subtitles or a dubbed film ?

What do you expect from a movie ?

Elon Musk says college is 'basically for fun and not for learning'

[Lauren Aratani](#) **The Guardian** Tue 10 Mar 2020

At the Satellite 2020 conference in Washington DC, an audience member told Elon Musk, the Tesla billionaire, she noticed that many job postings at his company SpaceX require a bachelor's degree and say a master's degree is preferred – despite Musk having been vocal about not requiring a college degree for jobs at his companies. “With more jobs asking for higher levels of degrees,” the audience member said, “scholarships are not changing amounts and it's getting harder and harder every year to pay tuition, even with using scholarships.”

Musk responded by saying that college was unnecessary because “you can learn anything you want for free”. The main value of college, he said, is to be found in proving discipline by completing “annoying homework assignments” and in hanging around with people of the same age before entering the workforce. “I think college is basically for fun and to prove that you can do your chores, but they're not for learning,” Musk said.

He also said he hopes to make sure his electric car company Tesla does not have university requirements for jobs, “because that's absurd”. The main requirement for employment at his companies, he said, is “exceptional ability”. “I don't consider going to college evidence of exceptional ability,” Musk said. “In fact, ideally you dropped out.”

Musk listed some “smart guys” who dropped out of college: Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Larry Ellison. He also made his reference to Shakespeare, in fact the son of a glover who received a grammar school education but no more.

When it comes to college dropouts, the three tech moguls cited by Musk are the exception not the rule. In the US, on average, a college degree brings \$30,000 more in salary each year than a high school education.

Musk in fact has two bachelor's degrees, having attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated from the Wharton School in 1997. He did manage to drop out of his PhD program at Stanford, after two days.

Questions préparées :

What does Elon Musk mean by 'College is for fun, not for learning' ?

“I don't consider going to college evidence of exceptional ability,” Mr Musk said. Do you agree ?

Exemples de questions posées au cours de l'entretien :

What do you think of electric cars ?

Should higher education be free ?

Textes supplémentaires :

Internet 'is not working for women and girls', says Berners-Lee

Ian Sample *Science editor, The Guardian*, Thu 12 Mar 2020

Women and girls face a “growing crisis” of online harms, with sexual harassment, threatening messages and discrimination making the web an unsafe place to be, Sir [Tim Berners-Lee](#) has warned.

The inventor of the world wide web said the “dangerous trend” in online abuse was forcing women out of jobs, causing girls to skip school, damaging relationships and silencing female opinions, prompting him to conclude that “the web is not working for women and girls”. “The world has made important progress on gender equality thanks to the unceasing drive of committed champions everywhere,” Berners-Lee wrote in an open letter to mark the web’s 31st birthday. “But I am seriously concerned that online harms facing women and girls threaten that progress.”

The warning comes a year after Berners-Lee launched the Contract for the Web, a global action plan to save the web from forces that threaten to drag the world into a “digital dystopia”. Without tackling misogynistic online abuse, the aims of the contract cannot be achieved, he said. “It’s up to all of us to make the web work for everyone. That requires the attention of all those who shape technology, from CEOs and engineers to academics and public officials.”

Berners-Lee highlights three areas that need “urgent” attention. First is the digital divide that keeps more than half of the world’s women offline, largely because it is too expensive, or they do not have access to the equipment or skills to use it.

Second is online safety: according to a survey by Berners-Lee’s Web Foundation, more than half of young women have experienced violence online, including sexual harassment, threatening messages and having private images shared without consent. The vast majority believe the problem is getting worse.

The third threat comes from badly designed artificial intelligence systems that repeat and exacerbate discrimination.

301 words

'Nature is taking back Venice': wildlife returns to tourist-free city

John Brunton *in Venice, The Guardian*, Fri 20 Mar 2020

Look down into the waters of the Venice canals today and there is a surprising sight – not just a clear view of the sandy bed, but shoals of tiny fish, scuttling crabs and multicoloured plant-life. “The water is blue and clear,” said Gloria Beggiato, who owns the celebrated Metropole Hotel “It is calm like a pond, because there are no more waves caused by motorised boats transporting day-tripper tourists. And of course, the giant cruise ships have disappeared.”

Under Venice's strict rules of self-confinement to prevent the spread of the coronavirus – all journeys but a trip to walk the dog or buy food are forbidden – the ancient city has been transformed almost overnight. Hundreds of canals have been emptied of speeding motorboat taxis, transport and tourist boats. The clarity of the water has improved dramatically. Swans and cormorants have returned to dive for fish they can now see. At the Piazzale Roma vaporetto stop, ducks have even made a nest. It is a remarkable transformation for a city that until recently saw protests against overtourism under the “No more cruise ships” slogan.

Matteo Bisol runs a restaurant on the tiny lagoon island of Mazzorbo, and has been campaigning for a more eco-responsible, sustainable model of tourism in Venice for some time. “It is not surprising there are fish in the canals of Venice,” he said. “If there were not, then we should all be worried as the lagoon here is a fragile ecosystem. People need to realise that if we control and cut down boat traffic in Venice and its lagoon then we could all discover a unique biosphere.”

It is not just the cruise ships that are gone: the souvenir stalls, the Murano glass and lace shops, and the bars and restaurants are all closed. It is a brutal hit to an economy that relies on tourism, but in the meantime locals appear to be rediscovering their city.

319 words