



VIRTUS  HERALD



Valentine's Day at Virtus



Bad Bunny's Dtmf: Using Music to Fight Gentrification and Protect Culture

Media and creative industries have long addressed social challenges, with roots in early mass media. While social issues were initially explored through literature, theatre and visual art, technological advancements like radio, film and television provided new ways social issues could reach broader audiences. These mediums allowed the amplification of social issues to shape public discourse and influence cultural shifts. Bad Bunny's new album 'Dtmf' offers a striking example of the way media and creative industries contribute to tackling contemporary social challenges.



Only a few weeks into 2025 and Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny has already had a powerful worldwide effect. After its release, Bad Bunny's salsa album 'Dtmf' quickly topped global charts, gaining widespread global recognition. At first glance, 'Dtmf' appears to be an entertaining salsa album, however, beneath its vibrant rhythms that characterise Latin American songs, lies a deeper narrative that resonates with the singer's cultural roots, highlighting the pressing issues of gentrification in Puerto Rico.



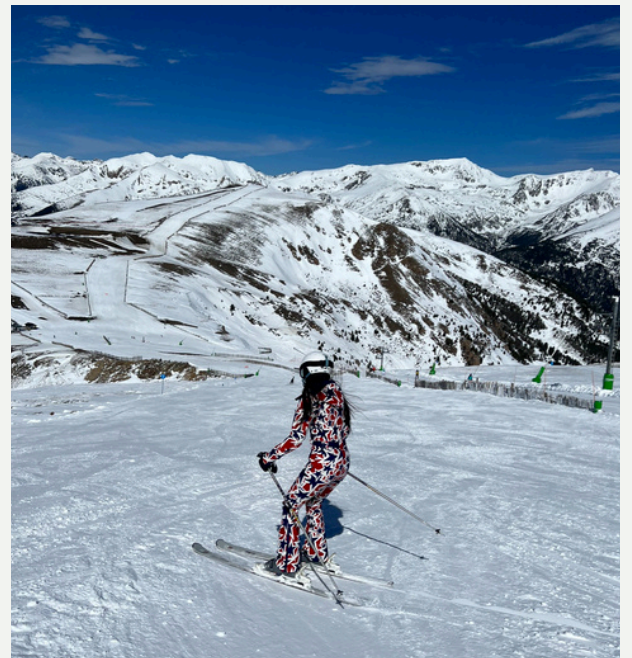
Through his album, Bad Bunny raises awareness about the destructive forces of economic inequality and the loss of local culture, weaving themes of identity and the struggle to preserve cultural heritage amid urban transformation. Bad Bunny's 14th track, 'LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAII', powerfully compares Puerto Rico and Hawaii; two islands that have endured colonisation and the loss of native land and identity. He critiques the privatisation of natural resources and the gentrification driven by mass tourism, highlighting how this process has displaced local communities. One of the song's most striking details is the use of pauses in the melody which could critique censorship imposed by authorities attempting to silence talk around gentrification, while alluding to traditional Puerto Rican "música jíbara", where pauses mark a return to the melody, hinting a potential cultural resurgence.

The line which translates to English as "*No, don't let go of the flag nor forget the lelolai, because I don't want them to do to you what happened to Hawaii*", serves as a message to preserve Puerto Rican culture from external forces threatening to erase it, warning against the consequences of losing one's cultural roots, as it happened in Hawaii. By referencing the historical context of Hawaii's annexation by the United States and Puerto Rico's colonial status, Bad Bunny denounces the exploitation of these territories while invoking the traditional Puerto Rican "lelolai" melody as a symbol of resistance, encouraging his people to preserve their cultural heritage in the face of these forces.

Media and creative industries also have the unique ability to provoke global reflection on social issues, encouraging audiences to consider how social challenges manifest in their own country. As gentrification is a global phenomenon, Bad Bunny's album 'Dtmf' reaching number 1 on global billboards encouraged listeners from cities like Canarias and Sao Paulo, who suffer from displacement, to think critically about the impact of gentrification in their own neighbourhoods. By incorporating these themes into popular music, Bad Bunny sparks conversations that transcend borders and invites a more international dialogue on cultural preservation and social inequality.

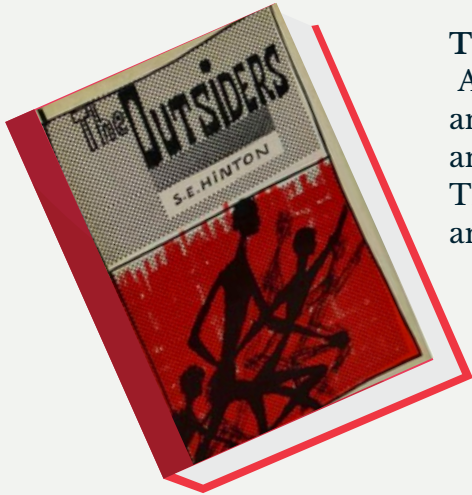
By: Camille Deschanel

Virtus Students take the skii slopes



World Book Day

World Book Day is a celebration of literature and the power of storytelling. It is a time to appreciate books which have the ability to shape us and transport us to different worlds. Books have the incredible ability to teach us lessons, create emotions and help us understand the world from new and different perspectives. They provide comfort but can also challenge our way of thinking as well as offer an escape from everyday life.



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A coming-of-age novel that explores themes of class, belonging, and identity. It follows the story of Ponyboy (our protagonist) and his struggles growing up as part of a working-class gang. The novel shows the intensity of teenage emotions, friendships, and conflicts in a world that feels unfair.



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby explores themes of wealth, ambition, and the pursuit of the American Dream. It follows Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire, and his obsessive love for Daisy Buchanan through the eyes of our narrator Nick Carraway.

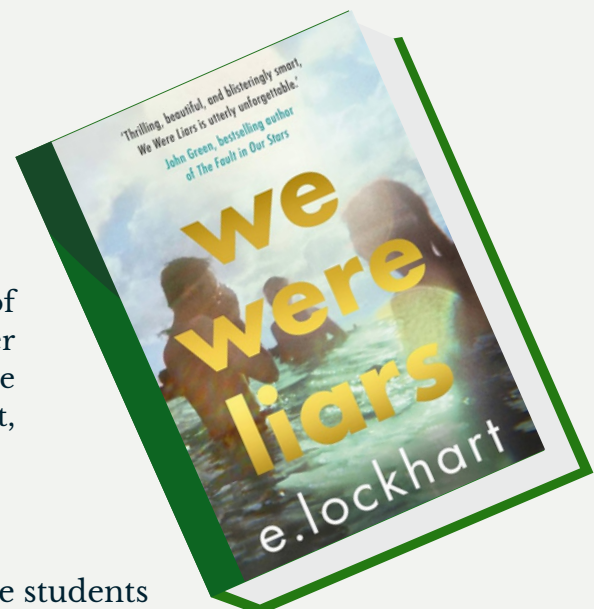


It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover

A deeply emotional novel that shows themes of love, resilience, and difficult choices. It narrates the story of Lily Bloom, who falls in love with Ryle Kincaid. However, as their relationship unfolds, Lily is forced to confront painful truths from her past and make decisions that will define her future.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

A gripping psychological thriller which follows the story of Cadence Sinclair, a privileged teenager who spends her summers on a private island with her family. However, as she tries to piece together fragmented memories of a tragic event, shocking secrets are revealed.



Biology and Chemistry students take over Valencia

A group of students traveled to Valencia, Spain, to attend biomedical conferences at the University of Valencia. The trip focused on key topics such as rare diseases, AI in medical research, and antibiotic resistance—critical issues in the field of biomedical sciences.

The students attended informative sessions on rare diseases, exploring advancements in diagnosis and treatment, as well as the growing role of AI in accelerating medical research. They were particularly inspired by how AI is shaping precision medicine and personalized treatments. In workshops on antibiotic resistance, they discussed the causes and strategies for combating this global health threat.

The students also participated in sessions about the Trabajo Fin de Grado (TFG) and Trabajo Fin de Máster (TFM), where they shared their own research projects and gained valuable feedback from peers and experts.

Outside the conference, they explored the city's famous landmarks, balancing academic growth with cultural exploration. By the end of the trip, the students left with fresh insights, inspiration, and a deeper passion for their biomedical studies.



International Women's Day



History

International Women's Day started in the early 1900s, the industrialization period which came with lots of social change. The first National Women's Day took place in the U.S. on February 28 1909 as a strike by female garment workers in New York who were protesting poor working conditions.

The first globally recognized International Women's Day occurred in 1911, with over one million people participating in rallies in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. These rallies advocated for women's right to work, vote, receive training, hold public office and end discrimination.

Noble women through history

Some you might have not heard of



Hypatia

She was a pioneering figure in ancient philosophy and science whose contributions to mathematics, astronomy, and education. She helped shape the views of her time, making her a symbol of intellectual freedom and resilience.



Mary Wollstonecraft

She was a groundbreaking advocate for women's rights whose work like the A Vindication of the Rights of Woman laid the foundation for modern feminist thought by advocating for gender equality and the importance of education for women.



Susan B Anthony

She was a leader in the women's suffrage movement, who advocated for women's right to vote and secured the 19th Amendment, allowing women to vote. This marked a significant milestone in the fight for equality in the United States.



Taranta Burke

Tarana Burke is an activist who created the "Me Too" movement which brought global attention to the issue of sexual harassment and assault. It aims to empower survivors to speak out.



Why does equality matter?

- **Diverse Perspectives**

Embracing equity allows diverse perspectives which leads to better decision-making.

- **Economic Growth**

Boosts productivity and economic growth.

- **Social Justice**

At its core, equity supports social justice by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, have access to the same opportunities.

- **Education**

Promote equal access to education and training for girls and women. Ensuring they have opportunities in all fields, specially STEM.

By Cecilia Heras



House points

Seacole watch out!
You've been the only
house to lose points
this time around.

Austen



963 points

2nd Hawking- 680 points

3rd Attenborough- 477 points

4th Seacole- 321 points

The Secret Life of Teachers

Miss Garrabella!

Miss Garrabella, one of Virtus dedicated and lively teachers, was born in Barcelona but spent her childhood in a small village near Lérida, surrounded by nature. Growing up in the countryside, she enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and attended a Spanish school just steps from her home and developed a love for both learning and dance.



From a young age, Miss Garrabella had a natural passion for teaching. She would play teacher with her stuffed animals, already imagining herself in a classroom. Encouraged by her family, she was especially inspired by her aunt, with whom she shares a similar personality and her love for the French language.

During her bachillerato (Sixth Form) years, she considered studying journalism or cinema, drawn to the world of humanities. However, in the end her passion for education won, and she decided to study Modern Languages and Literature in French and Spanish at the University of Barcelona. Ironically, despite now working at a British school, English was never her favorite language.

Her studies took her to explore a range of corners of the world. She spent a year in Paris as part of the Erasmus program and later earned a double master's degree in Education and Literature at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She then lived in Paris for a year and in French Guiana for two, fully immersing herself in the language and culture. When she decided to move back to Spain, she chose Madrid due to the broad job opportunities which led her here to Virtus, where she has now been teaching for two years.

Outside the classroom, Miss Garrabella has many interests. She loves reading, listening to music, watching films, and playing board games, a hidden talent of hers. But more than anything, dance has been a big part of her life. She still dances tango and mambo and dreams of improving her skills. Back in Paris, she trained up to 12 hours a week, but in Madrid, she finds fewer opportunities and limited time, making it harder to practice as much as she would like.

If she could teach another subject, she would love to teach French Literature in addition to what she currently teaches (French and Spanish as a foreign language), focusing more on literature in addition to just the language itself. Her love for culture and expression is clear in everything she does, and she continues to inspire her students with her dedication and enthusiasm.



At Virtus, we are lucky to have Miss Garrabella, a teacher who not only brings languages to life in the classroom but also shares her passion for learning and culture with everyone around her.

Miss McKee!

Miss McKee, one of our most dedicated and inspiring teachers, grew up in the small seaside town of Carrickfergus, just 20 minutes from Belfast, Ireland. Famous for its castle and rich history, Carrickfergus was where she spent her childhood with her parents and sister.

She attended a strict but fantastic school, where she thrived under the guidance of great teachers. Her love for learning was clear in her choice of A-Level subjects. English Literature, Spanish, Biology, and Maths showing her wide-ranging interests.

University life took her to University of Belfast, where she studied English and Hispanic Literature and Linguistics. She absolutely loved it—both the learning and the friendships she made, many of whom she remains close to today. Her love for literature started young; since the age of four, she and her mother would visit the library every weekend. Over time, her focus shifted from literature to linguistics and media, especially sociolinguistics and criminal linguistics.

After earning a scholarship, she moved to England for her postgraduate studies in education. It was an intense year, juggling studies and work, but she made lifelong friendships—so much so that she was later a bridesmaid for two of them!

Despite her time in England, she didn't want to stay. She had always felt drawn to Spain, especially after her Erasmus in Salamanca. She spent a year teaching in Lugo, Galicia, in a small rural school. Later, she moved to Marbella to teach at a British school before finally settling in Madrid.

Teaching had always felt natural to her. Whether working in a state school during her Erasmus or teaching in a small school in Galicia, she loved education and knew it was the right path for her.

Outside of teaching, Miss McKee loves traveling, museums, meeting new people, and exploring different cultures through music and food. She dreams of visiting Asia, Latin America and especially Antarctica—perhaps even to see the penguins! She also hopes to write something in the future, combining her love for words with her adventurous spirit.

Miss McKee's journey is one of passion, curiosity, and a lifelong love for learning. Whether in the classroom or exploring the world, she brings enthusiasm, knowledge, and warmth to everything she does.



By Gabriela Andronis

FUN SECTION

Guess the teacher by the 3 emojis

The first row they picked themselves, the second we picked for them

1




2




3




4




Answers Vertically: Ms Zakaria, Ms Moreno, Ms Reeves, Ms Vivero, Ms Birkenhead

By Cecilia Heras with the help of Carolina Zheng

Credits

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Virtus Newspaper!

Every edition will be different and hopefully you can learn a thing or two from it.

Here is who is behind this project:

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Special

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Miss McKee - Interviewee

Miss Garrabella - Interviewee

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