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EDITORIAL

George Orwell's 1984 and Vladimir Putin

George Orwell wrote 1984 as a warning. Vladimir Putin has been reading it as a manual.

In Orwell's Oceania, the Party rules through Newspeak. War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. The goal is not just to lie, but to make truth itself unthinkable.

Putin's Russia has adopted the same method.

War is not war. It is a "special military operation." A full-scale invasion of a sovereign neighbor is rebranded as "defense" against NATO. When Russia bombs apartment blocks, it is "denazification." When Ukraine defends its own cities, that, according to the Kremlin, is an "attack" and "terrorism."

An election is not an election. An election where no real opposition is allowed to run, because they are jailed, exiled, poisoned or dead, is called "democracy." 88 percent for Putin is not a result, it is a slogan.

Defeat is victory. The loss of the Black Sea Fleet's flagship was a "planned

regrouping." The retreat from Kyiv was a "gesture of goodwill." Sanctions that cripple the economy are proof that Russia is "stronger than ever."

Just as in 1984, there are phenomena in today's Russia that must not be named. Ordinary people are not allowed to talk about the gasoline crisis that followed Ukrainian drone strikes on refineries. They are not allowed to film the expanded cemeteries outside every Russian town, where new quarters of flags grow every week. They are forbidden to count the dead.

Orwell had the Thought Police. Putin has Article 207.3, up to 15 years in prison for "fakes about the army." It is enough to call the war a war. It is enough to lay flowers at a war memorial. It is enough to hold up a blank sheet of paper in public.

Orwell's point was that when language is destroyed, the ability to resist is destroyed. If war is peace, you never have to demand peace. If a lie is truth, you never have to apologize.

That is why this is not about semantics. The fight over words is the fight over reality itself.

Photo Supplement

Wasaan Päivälehti
WASA DAILY
Wasa Dagblad
Photo Supplement



1870-luvun koneet
Maskiner på 1870-talet
Machines in the 1870s

NEWS

WÄRTSILÄ

Finnish technology heads Down Under – Wärtsilä engines to power Australia's biggest engine plant



Image caption: Wärtsilä has been selected to supply its flexible and highly efficient Wärtsilä 46TS engines for Australia's largest-ever reciprocating engine power plant. © Wärtsilä

Finnish technology company Wärtsilä is taking part in a major Australian energy project. The company has been selected to supply the engines for what is set to become Australia's largest reciprocating engine power plant.

The new facility will have a capacity of 300 megawatts and is designed to strengthen the country's electricity system as Australia increases its reliance on renewable energy.

The plant will use 13 Wärtsilä 46TS-SG gas engines. Their major advantage is flexibility. They can start quickly and provide electricity when wind or solar generation drops, helping maintain stability across the grid.

That role is becoming increasingly important as electricity systems incorporate larger amounts of variable renewable generation. Rather than replacing wind and solar power, the engine plant is intended to support and enable their further expansion.

The Wärtsilä 46TS engine is also designed with future fuel options in mind. According to Wärtsilä, it can currently operate with a fuel mix containing up to 25% hydrogen by volume. The plant's modular design also allows it to be expanded as the energy system develops.

Equipment deliveries are scheduled to begin in early 2029, with the plant expected to become fully operational in 2030.

Wärtsilä says the order was booked during the third quarter of 2026. The project adds another major international reference for the Finnish company's flexible power-generation technology.

Wärtsilä says it has delivered 81 GW of power-plant capacity in 180 countries, illustrating the global scale of its energy business. Source: Wärtsilä, 30 September 2026.

VAASA

Vaasa asks residents: How is the city really doing?



How are the residents of Vaasa and what is needed to make everyday life better? The city now wants to find out about this through a comprehensive welfare survey. The results will form the basis for a new welfare plan that will come into force in 2028 and affect both services, development and municipal investments.

Residents can answer anonymously online or on paper forms available at several service points and libraries. The survey is open until 30 November and takes about ten minutes to complete. As a small carrot, theatre and swimming pool tickets are raffled off among the participants.

At the same time, the city's welfare staff will go on a tour of various events to collect views directly from residents.

Source: City of Vaasa



MALAX

New cycle path raises questions – residents are invited to open discussion

The plans for a pedestrian and bicycle path between the center of Yttermalax and Söderfjärdsbacken are moving forward. Now Malax municipality invites both residents and decision-makers to an information and discussion meeting where the project is in focus.

The event will be held on Monday 19 October 2026 at 17:00 at Söderfjärdsbacken's daycare centre. The aim is to create an open dialogue about the planned connection, which has long been a recurring topic of conversation in the area.

The municipality hopes that the meeting will provide space for both questions, ideas and local experiences before the work continues. For those who usually cycle, walk or just like to have their say on roads, this is a golden opportunity.

Time: 19 October 2026 at 17:00 Location: Söderfjärdsbacken daycare centre, Malax

WELLBEING AREAS

OSTROBOTHNIA WELFARE AREA

Vaccination appointments are open – here is the number for Vaasa



Autumn vaccination bookings opened in Ostrobothnia on Monday 28 September. Influenza vaccinations will begin to be given from the end of October, with a special focus on people belonging to risk groups.

Free influenza vaccines are offered to people aged 65 or over, pregnant women, children aged six months to six years and people who belong to a risk group due to illness or treatment. Certain close relatives of people at particularly high risk are also covered. Coronavirus vaccinations can also be given at the same visit for groups that are recommended a booster dose.

In Vaasa, vaccination appointments can be booked by calling 06 218 1616 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments can also be booked electronically through the wellbeing services county's health services. The wellbeing services county reminds you that influenza protection will be developed over a period of about two weeks.

Reference and photo: Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia

OSTROBOTHNIA WELFARE AREA

THE PILL MACHINE THAT CAN SEE YOU BREATHE - Finland Tests Game-Changing Home Care Tech

Your medicine dispenser just became a life-saver.

In Ostrobothnia, Finland, the welfare area is launching a six-month trial this autumn that could change home care forever. They will test remote monitoring of vital signs built directly into the familiar medicine dispenser.

The tech is Finnish Evondos' medicine robot combined with computer vision. Through a video connection, the add-on function can measure breathing rate, pulse, pulse interval and changes in oxygen saturation - without touching the client at all.

The idea is pure preventive care. Instead of routine rounds, nurses can allocate resources to the clients who need the most support, right when their health starts to slip.

Medicine dispensers already help thousands live safely at home, reminding them to take the right dose at the right time.

It is good to have many different functions in one and the same package. That way you don't need to bring several different devices to the client and handling the devices doesn't become too cumbersome for the workers, says Paula Olin, head of home care and in charge of the pilot. Evondos is a Finnish success story, used in over 300 municipalities across the Nordics to keep elderly at home longer.

Source: Press release from Ostrobothnia Welfare Area

OSTROBOTHNIA WELFARE AREA

MIRACLE IN OSTROBOTHNIA: Dental Queues Wiped Out – 800,000 Euro Fine Cancelled!

From threatened mega-fine to model region in eight months.

The Ostrobothnia Welfare Area in Finland has fixed access to non-urgent oral health care – and avoided a massive penalty. The Finnish Licensing and Supervision Authority confirms that the conditional fine of 800,000 euros will not be imposed.

On 10 December 2025, the Regional State Administrative Agency for Western and Inner Finland ordered Ostrobothnia to bring primary oral health care in line with the Health Care Act. The deadline was 10 August 2026, eight months later, with an 800,000-euro fine attached. The welfare area also had to report its corrective actions to the Licensing and Supervision Authority by 31 August 2026.

It worked. According to the report received by the authority, on 10 August 2026 there was not a single patient in the entire welfare area who had waited more than six months for non-urgent oral health care. The queues have been completely dismantled. Since May 2026, the care guarantee – access within six months from needs assessment – has been met everywhere.

The authority will continue to monitor the situation using THL follow-up data.

In Finland, the oral health care guarantee is six months, one of the longest in primary care, but it is legally binding.

BOWEL CANCER

New cancer treatment could help patients avoid surgery and a permanent stoma

A powerful dose of radiation delivered directly to a tumour could offer a new option for people with rectal cancer. Tampere University Hospital Tays has become the first hospital in Finland to introduce the new treatment method. The goal is ambitious: to help more patients avoid major surgery – and potentially a permanent stoma.

WASA DAILY

Nearly everything You need to know on 12 pages

vpress.fi

NEWS

Source: Malax municipality

MALAX

Reading with a chance of prizes – Malax invests in the joy of reading this autumn

In Malax, October will be a month filled with books, magazines and audiobooks when the „Joy of Reading“ campaign kicks off. The goal is simple: get more people to discover the pleasure of reading, regardless of age.

The campaign runs from 1 to 31 October and is divided into three age groups. Children, young people and adults collect reading hours on special reading sessions that are collected from the libraries. Among the participants, games, cinema tickets, bowling tickets and bookstore gift cards are raffled off.

The completed reading passes must be handed in by 6 November. Perhaps the autumn's greatest adventure will not be a trip abroad, but a trip between the book covers.

Time: 1-31 October 2026 Location: Libraries in Malax municipality

Source: Malax municipality



KORSHOLM

Arne Alligator is coming to Mustasaari – free family party awaits

One of the Nordic region's most popular children's favourites will soon make its entrance in Mustasaari. Arne Alligator & The Jungle Drum offers a free Swedish-language concert during the Swedish Week.

The concert will take place on Tuesday 3 November in Mustasaari Hall in Smedsby and is aimed at families with younger children. The event is free of charge, but interest is expected to be high and therefore advance registration is required.

In recent years, Arne Alligator has attracted large audiences both in Finland and Sweden through his colorful songs and playful stage language. For many children, it will be the highlight of autumn – and for parents, a chance to get an alligator on their brain for the rest of the week.

Time: 3 November 2026 at 18.00-18.40 Location:

Mustasaari Hall, Skolvägen 1, Smedsby

Source: Mustasaari Municipality

KORSHOLM

Microsoft's datacenter plans go on tour – residents can have their say

Microsoft wants to inform and listen to the plans

NEWS

TIKANOJA

When Åland became an artists' paradise – historic colony comes to Vaasa



Elin Danielson-Gambogi
3.9.1861, Noormarkku
31.12.1919, Antignano, Italia
A Girl on the Field, 1885
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum, Yrjö
and Nanny Kaunisto Collection
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Pakarinen

A summer retreat, the spectacular Åland landscape and a circle of artists from Finland and Sweden. More than 140 years later, the Önningeby artists' colony is returning to the spotlight in Vaasa.

The story began in 1886, when artist Victor Westerholm invited fellow artists to his summer home, Villa Tomtebo, in Åland. The gathering developed into the Önningeby Artists' Colony, regarded as Finland's first artists' colony.

The artists came to paint, but also to spend time to-

gether. During the very first summer, the group included Fredrik and Nina Ahlstedt, Elin Danielson-Gambogi, Alexander Federley, Hanna Rönnerberg and J.A.G. Acke. Outdoor painting was becoming increasingly popular, and Åland offered an abundance of inspiration.

The artists painted the archipelago, countryside and local people, while the colony itself became an important meeting place for artists from Finland and Sweden. Friendships were formed and artistic ideas crossed the Baltic Sea.

Now the story comes to Vaasa in the exhibition mÅland – Önningeby Artists' Colony at Tikanoja Art Museum. The exhibition opens on 10 October 2026 and continues until 20 February 2027.

One particularly interesting feature is its focus on the women artists of Önningeby. They actually formed the majority of the colony's artists. Works by Nina Ahlstedt, Elin Danielson-Gambogi, Ida Gisiko-Spärck, Hanna Rönnerberg and Anna Wengberg are highlighted. Special attention is also given to Eva Topelius-Acke and Elin Alfild Nordlund, both of whom had connections to Ostrobothnia.

Opening: Friday, 9 October, 18:00–20:00. A Swedish-language guided tour will follow on Saturday, 10 October, at 13:00.

Tikanoja Art Museum, Hovioikeudenpuistikko 4, Vaasa. Admission €15/€9; free for under-18s. Museum Card accepted.

Source: City of Vaasa/Vaasa Museums.

THE SEASONS

Autumn is inevitably on its way, bringing with it the lovely colors of the season.



NEWS

for the large data center project in Vaasa and Mustasaari moving forward. Therefore, several open information and village meetings will be organized during the autumn.

A general information meeting will be held on 29 October at the University of Vaasa, where current project plans will be presented. This will be followed by smaller meetings in Höstves and Toby/Helsingby, where neighbours of the planned area will have the opportunity to discuss local impacts with experts.

The data centre project is one of the most high-profile investments in the region. Issues such as jobs, land use, traffic and environmental impact are expected to be high on the agenda.

Byaträff Höstves: 21 October 2026 at 17.00-19.00, Höstves Byagård

Byaträff Toby/Helsingby: 22 October 2026 at 17.00-19.00, Toby Byagård

Source: Mustasaari Municipality / Microsoft

MUSEUMS

MUSEUMS

Money to apply for museums – new support opens up for creative ideas

The Finnish Heritage Agency is now opening applications for government grants for museum projects in 2027. The money is directed to both professional museums and local museum activities that want to develop new ideas or strengthen their cultural heritage work.

The support will be used, among other things, to make cultural heritage more accessible, develop public activities and create new ways of cooperating with the local community. Local museums can also apply for funding to maintain collections and historic buildings.

The application period runs until 11 November 2026. For many smaller museums, the grants can be the difference between an idea in a desk drawer and a real venture that attracts new visitors.

Application deadline: until 11 November 2026 at 23:59 Online information meeting: 7 October 2026

Source: Finnish Heritage Agency

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Copernicus Marine: The sea is changing faster than expected – new report sounds the alarm

The world's oceans are warming, sea levels are rising and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. This is the main message of the tenth edition of the Copernicus major report on the state of the oceans.

According to the researchers, the oceans have absorbed record amounts of heat in recent years. The report also shows that global sea levels are rising faster and faster while acidification is increasing. The effects are already being felt in coastal communities around the world.

FINLAND

ALFONS HÅKANS

A new giant has arrived in the Baltic Sea – Poseidon is the most efficient harbour tug in Finland



TURKU. On Wednesday, a spectacular maritime novelty was seen at the mouth of the Aura River, when the new Poseidon harbour tugboat of Finnish Alfons Håkans was named. According to the company, it is the most powerful harbour tug ever built in Finland and the Baltic countries. The vessel's engine power is over 10,000 horsepower and the pile haulage is as much as 73 tonnes. Poseidon has the highest Finnish-Swedish ice class, 1A Super, and it is designed for year-round use in demanding Arctic conditions. The strength of the tugboat is particularly evident in winter. Its ice properties also enable it to be used in demanding icebreaking tasks. Alfons Håkans has experience in port icebreaking and state icebreaking tasks in Finland, Estonia and Sweden. Poseidon is the company's fifth new building in eight years. The Finnish family business, which is more than a hundred years old, is already in its sixth generation. The vessel was built by the Dutch company Damen Shipyards. Its two CRP azimuth thrusters are manufactured in Rauma by the Finnish company Steerprop. Propellers rotating in opposite directions are an important part of the vessel's performance, especially in ice conditions. The name Poseidon is also no coincidence. It is already the fourth ship of Alfons Håkans to bear the name of the ancient god of the seas. According to the company, the new tugboat will strengthen the towing and icebreaking capacity operating under the Finnish flag throughout the Baltic Sea region. Source: Alfons Håkans Marine Oy Ab, 2.10.2026.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

A new gear for the wellbeing services counties? The ministry wants the reform to continue

Finland's wellbeing services counties are here to stay, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in their operations. An article published by the Ministry of Finance on 24 September estimates that

the health and social services reform now needs a new phase.

According to the Ministry, the ageing of Finland's population, the concentration of the working-age population in urban areas and the increasing availability of health care personnel pose challenges to the organisation of services. These problems would not have disappeared even if the responsibility remained with the municipalities. In the next phase, the aim is to pay particular attention to how services can be organised efficiently and how the increase in costs can be controlled without jeopardising statutory services. However, a lot of money is moving into the system. In the 2026 budget proposal, it was proposed that the universal central government funding of the wellbeing services counties be approximately EUR 27.1 billion. The funding increased by approximately EUR 0.9 billion compared to the previous year's budget.

However, the economic picture is uneven. According to preliminary data for 2025, the combined result of the regions turned into a surplus, but there were still significant differences between the regions.

The next phase of the health and social services reform is therefore not a small fine-tuning. It is a question of how to organise social and health care services in Finland in a situation where the population is ageing and resources are limited. Sources: Ministry of Finance 24.9.2026

TRADE

Turnover in trade soaring – sales grew by nearly eight per cent

There is a surprising sign of recovery in Finnish trade. According to Statistics Finland, working day adjusted turnover in trade grew by 7.9 per cent in August 2026 compared to the previous year. The volume of sales, from which the impact of prices has been removed, also increased by 4.6 per cent. The figures show that it is not just a matter of product prices rising. There is also more goods in trade.

The growth was visible in all major industries of trade. Turnover in wholesale trade grew by as much as 11.1 per cent and sales volume by 5.6 per cent. In motor vehicle trade, turnover went up by 6.7 per cent and sales volume by 5.5 per cent.

The trend in retail trade was also upwards: turnover grew by 4.6 per cent and sales volume by 3.7 per cent year-on-year.

A slight pick-up was also seen in the monthly comparison. Seasonally adjusted turnover in total trade grew by 0.5 per cent in August from July, even though sales volume remained unchanged.

One month does not yet make an economic upturn, but the figures offer reason for cautious optimism for the Finnish trade. The cash registers have been ringing a little more diligently, at least for a while. Source: Statistics Finland, Turnover in trade, 30.9.2026.

DEBT BURDEN

The debt burden of Finns eased – savings and investments increased



The financial situation of Finnish households seems to have calmed down to some extent. According to Statistics Finland, households' indebtedness ratio fell by 2.0 percentage points in 2025 and stood at 119.3 per cent at the end of the year.

At the end of 2025, households' debts totalled EUR 212.5 billion. The amount of debt decreased by EUR 0.9 billion during the year.

At the same time, households' financial assets grew by as much as EUR 35 billion and rose to EUR 436.9 billion. Net financial assets grew by EUR 35.9 billion.

Money ended up in bank deposits, for example. Households increased their net deposits by EUR five billion during the year. The value of quoted shares also grew.

According to statistics, households' net investments in financial assets totalled EUR 8.9 billion in 2025.

However, the figures do not mean that the finances of all Finns have strengthened in the same way.

These are national accounts figures describing the entire household sector, which do not indicate, for example, how assets and liabilities are distributed between different income groups.

However, the overall picture contains one positive message: during the year, Finnish households reduced their debts while their financial assets increased.

Source: Statistics Finland, Financial Accounts 2025, 30.9.2026.rahoitustilinpito 2025, 30.9.2026.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

RUSSIA

Russian state news agency threatened Lithuania with nuclear attack – article deleted but memories remain



An article published by the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti provoked international consternation and diplomatic reactions – before it suddenly disappeared from the agency's website. But the content lives on, and the message is ice-cold: Russia is threatening an EU and NATO country with nuclear attacks.

"Not if, but how to fight"

The article, which was published by RIA Novosti in connection with the Lithuanian parliament's vote on a constitutional amendment lifting the ban on the deployment of nuclear weapons on the country's territory, contains wording that would be unthinkable in peacetime in official state communications from a permanent member state of the UN Security Council.

The text openly describes Lithuania as a "useful idiot" and a nation of "farm stupidity." It compares Lithuania's situation to Ukraine's, and suggests that the country is on its way to becoming the next campaign target for Russian military aggression.

The most explosive passage reads:

"It's not about whether it will take a long time or quickly. It's clear that it's going fast... We're talking about what means can be used. And since our opponents are the first to turn the call into a nuclear threat, Russia may even advise refusing to bring in a ground force. Only missiles with the right charge. The decision is not only quick, but lightning fast. Don't think about seconds from above."

"Missiles with the right charge" is not an ambiguous formulation. It is an explicit threat of nuclear weapons use against a NATO country – formulated in a Russian state news channel that never publishes politically sensitive material without the approval of the Kremlin.

RIA Novosti – not an independent actor

It is crucial to understand what RIA Novosti is. It is not an independent newspaper. Since 2013, the bureau has been merged with the state propaganda apparatus Rossiya Segodnya, which is led by Dmitry Kiselyov – one of the Kremlin's most prominent propagandists. Kiselyov is known to have said on Russian television that Russia is the only country in the world with the ability to

To turn the United States into "radioactive ashes". Nothing is published in RIA Novosti that could harm the Kremlin's interests. The fact that the article was subsequently taken down does not indicate that it was a mistake – it indicates that it fulfilled its function and that it was judged that the international reaction was too sharp. Lithuania's constitutional amendment – background The Lithuanian parliament, the Seimas, recently voted through an amendment to the country's constitution that removes a previous ban on the deployment of nuclear weapons on Lithuanian territory. The country's President Gitanas Nausėda emphasized that Lithuania has no immediate plans to receive nuclear weapons, but that the amendment creates legal room for manoeuvre in case security policy circumstances change.

The decision should be seen in the light of the dramatically changed security situation in the Baltic Sea region since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Estonia, Finland and Lithuania have all expressed interest in discussing the deployment of Western nuclear weapons. NATO's increased presence in the Baltic states has increased sharply, and several alliance members have strengthened their contingents.

International reactions

The article was commented on in the international media as a clear example of how the Kremlin's rhetoric since the start of the war in Ukraine has been systematically normalized to include nuclear threats against sovereign states. Analysts at London-based think tank Chatham House noted that since 2022, Russia has consistently used nuclear threats as

a political tool to deter Western support for Ukraine and NATO countries' defense build-up.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry called the article a "reckless and unacceptable threat" and called on the EU and NATO to react. The foreign ministers of Estonia and Latvia joined in the condemnations.

The pattern repeats

What makes the article particularly serious is not only its content – it is that it fits into a pattern. RIA Novosti and other state channels have previously published similar formulations about Finland ahead of its NATO application, about Poland and about the Baltic states in general.

The text uses well-known propaganda techniques: it dehumanizes the opponent, constructs a narrative about Russian coercion ("we are forced to act"), and presents military aggression as a rational and almost inevitable consequence of the other's actions.

As British historian Timothy Snyder pointed out in a comment on similar Russian rhetoric: "The Russian way of communicating nuclear threats is not aimed at starting a war. It is aimed at frightening Europe into inaction."

Conclusion: The words that were written and deleted

The article disappeared from the RIA Novosti website. But screenshots were immediately spread on social media and archived by researchers and media organizations worldwide. In the digital age, nothing real is erased – it just leaves a clearer mark. The fact that a Russian state news agency – in peacetime, against an EU and NATO country – publishes text about responding to constitutional amendments with "missiles with the right charge" is a historic document. It is a document that Europe's governments, defense planners and citizens should take advantage of and take very seriously. Sources: RIA Novosti (archived version), Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament), Chatham House, Reuters, The Baltic Times, Politico Europe

UNIVERSITIES

VAASA UNIVERSITY

University of Vaasa makes the global top 500 – research shines



The University of Vaasa has once again secured a place among the world's 500 leading universities. In the new Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027, Vaasa is placed in the 451–500 band.

The ranking covers 2,297 universities in 118 countries, giving the result considerable international reach.

The university's strongest performance comes in research quality. Vaasa ranks number one in Finland in this category and is among the top 50 universities in Europe. Globally, it shares 102nd place, with a score of 90.1.

Internationalisation has also advanced significantly. The university's score increased from 67.4 to 77.3, placing Vaasa second in Finland in this area and among the world's top 350 universities.

Times Higher Education assesses universities across five broad areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, international outlook and industry engagement.

For Vaasa, the latest result is another strong international signal from a university based in a relatively small Finnish city. Its research performance, in particular, is giving the university visibility far beyond Finland.

Source and photo: University of Vaasa, 1 October 2026.,,

VAASA UNIVERSITY

AI boost for small businesses – new model aims to make adoption easier

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the way companies work. But for many small businesses, adopting new technology can be difficult because of limited expertise, time and investment capacity. A new model developed at the University of Vaasa aims to make that transition easier.

The model was created by Heli Kortessalmi, whose doctoral research in accounting is being examined at the University of Vaasa on 2 October. Her Intelligent Accounting Digital Maturity Model (IADMM) helps companies assess their current level of digital maturity and identify practical next steps.

According to the research, lack of expertise is the biggest obstacle preventing some Finnish accounting firms from making fuller use of new digital solutions. Concerns about costs, time and compatibility with existing systems can also slow adoption.

Kortessalmi argues that AI and robotics can be particularly valuable for small accounting firms. Automating routine tasks could free accountants to spend more time advising customers and acting as professional partners rather than concentrating mainly on data entry.

Finland has more than 6,000 accounting firms, many of them small. That makes the challenge significant – but also gives AI adoption considerable potential.

The research also suggests that accounting services could become an area of Finnish expertise with international potential. The new maturity model is already being considered for testing outside Finland.

CLIMATE CHANGE

EL NIÑO

Global Warning: Super El Niño Threatens Over 451,000 Lives in Scorching Crisis



The planet is facing an unprecedented thermal reckoning. A startling new report from the Climate Impact Lab warns that the ongoing "Super El Niño" weather pattern could drive more than 451,000 excess heat-related deaths worldwide through February 2027.

Triggering a staggering 44 percent surge in extremely hot days compared to a normal year, the phenomenon is pushing global land temperatures into dangerous territory.

Researchers describe this historic heatwave as a grim "postcard from the future"—a chilling glimpse of

what the Earth's standard climate will look like in just two decades if proactive adaptations are ignored. The hardest-hit regions are concentrated heavily across the Global South.

In Africa's Sahel region, tens of thousands of lives hang in the balance, with Nigeria alone projected to face roughly 31,400 additional fatalities. Severe impacts are also forecasted for Indonesia, Sudan, India, and Brazil as vulnerable communities grapple with soaring temperatures.

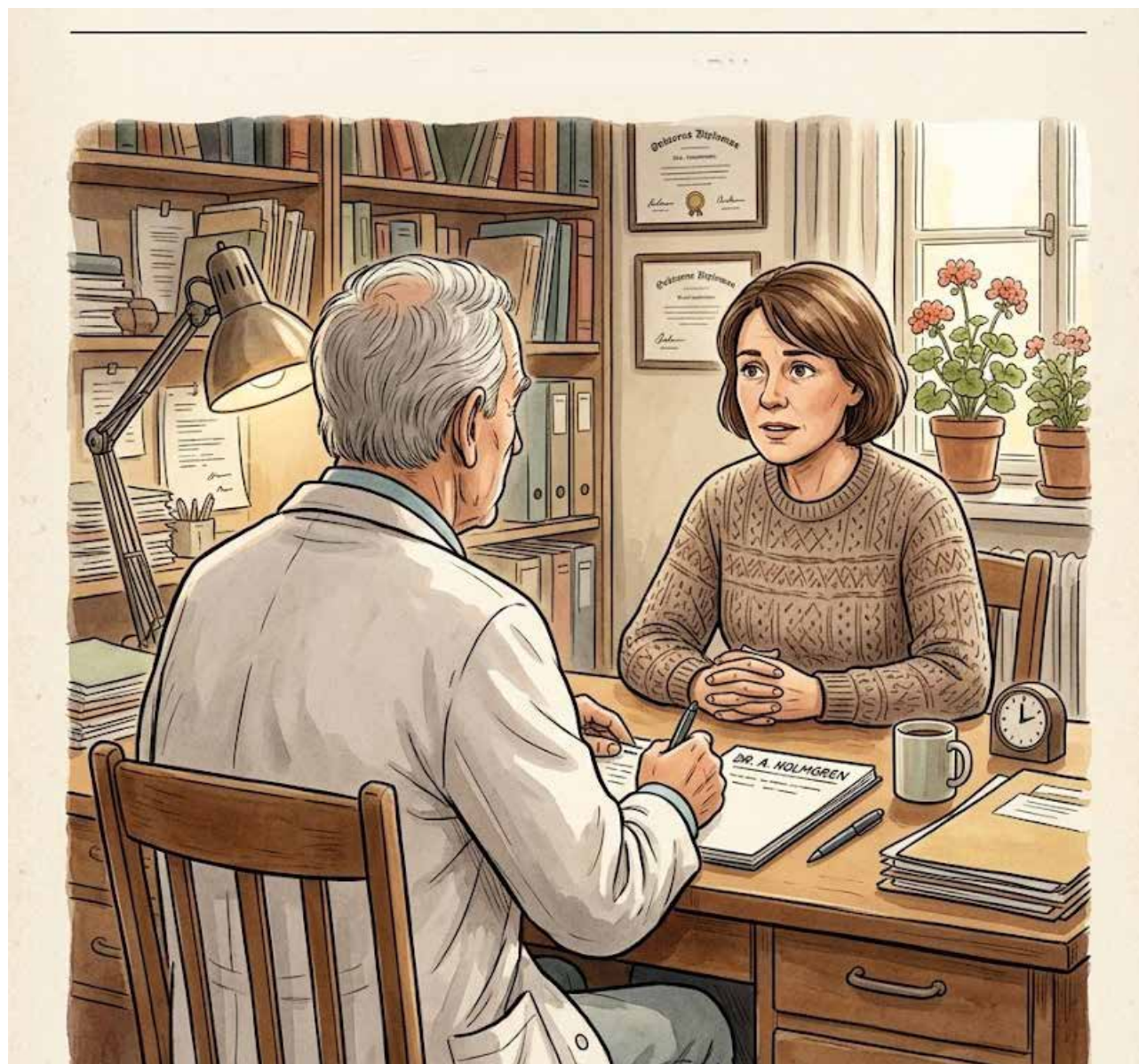
Behind these num-

bing statistics are real human lives: parents, children, and grandparents.

Yet experts emphasize that tragedy is not entirely inevitable. Targeted emergency measures—such as early warning systems, designated cooling centers, and strict protections for outdoor workers—can safeguard tens of thousands of lives if leaders mobilize immediately.

Reference: <https://impactlab.org/news-insights/more-than-451000-heat-deaths-projected-from-super-el-nino/>

The DOCTOR ANSWERS: Do we dare to eat chicken?



Kysymys: *On Monday, there was an article in Helsingin Sanomat that claimed that 50 grams of broiler increased the risk of pancreatic cancer by 72% and quadrupled the risk of life-threatening prostate cancer. The risk of blood cancer also increases. And the reason is said to be that viruses in chicken meat have started to cause cancer in humans as well. Do you dare to eat chicken meat any more?"*

Anseer: Yes, we can eat chicken just as much as before - and even more if we feel like it. In Helsingin Sanomat's interview with author Risto Isomäki, the following was claimed:

"According to EPIC, the risk of developing pancreatic cancer increases by 72 percent for every 50-gram serving of chicken consumed daily. In addition, consumption of chicken meat quadruples the risk of life-threatening prostate cancer and is strongly correlated with an increased risk of blood cancers such as lymphoma, leukemia, and myeloma." "The only explanation that I think is logical is that the viruses spread by chickens have also started to cause cancer in humans."

Let's look at the claims presented in the article.

„50 grams of chicken increases the risk of pancreatic cancer by 72 percent."

This claim has a real scientific basis, but the wording needs to be greatly nuanced. In the EPIC study, 477,202 people were followed in ten European countries. For every additional 50 grams of poultry meat per day, the relative

risk of non-endocrine pancreatic cancer was calculated to be 1.72 (95 percent confidence interval 1.04–2.84). This is where the figure of 72 percent comes from. But this is not the same as 50 grams of chicken causing cancer in 72 percent more people. This is a relative increase in risk in an observational study. The researchers themselves also emphasized that the association could be a random finding, since the results were in contrast to most previous studies.

Scientific assessment: An observed statistical relationship, but no established causal relationship. The result does not imply any reason to recommend that people avoid chicken.

„Chicken quadruples the risk of life-threatening prostate cancer."

Special caution is required here. There is research where poultry consumption has been linked to prostate cancer progression, but it is not correct to say that „chicken quadruples the risk of life-threatening prostate cancer".

A prospective study of 1,294 men who already had prostate cancer found no increased risk of recurrence or progression among men who ate total poultry or skinless chicken. However, consumption of chicken with skin was associated with approximately a doubled risk of progression in the statistical analysis. A further analysis found a fourfold increase in risk in a specific combination of high prognostic risk at diagnosis and high poultry consumption compared to low prognostic risk and low consumption, which is something completely different from chicken generally quadrupling the risk of getting fatal prostate cancer.

Scientific assessment: There are interesting observational findings, but the claim of a general quadrupling is an exaggerated simplification

3. „Chicken increases the risk of blood cancer – lymphoma,

leukemia and myeloma."

Here, too, the picture is much more complicated.

An EPIC study of about 477,000 people found no significant association between the dietary factors studied and total, lymphoid or myeloid leukemia. The researchers therefore concluded that the results did not support any association between the studied dietary factors and leukemia.

However, there are individual studies where higher consumption of poultry has been statistically associated with certain forms of B-cell lymphoma. An EPIC analysis found, for example, an association with B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma and B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia. At the same time, the researchers pointed out that chance was a possible explanation and that the results needed to be confirmed.

When researchers have later compiled prospective studies, the picture becomes even less dramatic: a systematic review and meta-analysis found that poultry consumption did not appear to affect the risk of leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, CLL/SLL, or multiple myeloma.

Scientific assessment: The overall evidence does not show that chicken causes blood cancer

4. „Viruses from chickens have started to cause cancer in humans."

This is by far the most far-reaching claim – and there is a lack of scientific support here.

It is true that chickens can be infected by carcinogenic viruses. Among other things, avian leukosis virus (ALV), reticuloendotheliosis virus (REV) and Marek's disease virus (MDV) can cause tumor diseases in birds.

But the question is whether these viruses can infect humans and subsequently cause cancer. An extensive scientific review found no convincing support for this. For several of the viruses, there are also biological barriers: for example, ALV uses receptors that are found on bird cells but not correspondingly on mammalian cells. For Marek's disease virus, experimental studies did not show that the virus can infect mammalian cells or animals.

There are older laboratory studies and epidemiological observations that have raised the hypothesis that bird viruses could be important for human cancer. This is scientifically interesting, but a hypothesis is not proof of cause. For example, a previous study found antibodies against bird viruses in some people, but the significance of the finding was unknown.

Scientific assessment: Bird viruses cause cancer in chickens, but there is no evidence that they cause cancer in humans.

The important conclusion

The four claims should therefore not be treated as if they had the same scientific status:

Poultry → 72% higher relative risk of pancreatic cancer per 50 g/day
Observed association in one study, no proven cause

Chicken → Quadrupled Risk of Fatal Prostate Cancer: Exaggerated Generalization of More Limited Findings

Chicken → blood cancer Mixed and in several cases negative results; no established causal relationship

Chicken Virus → Human Cancer Hypothesis, Not Established Scientific Explanation

It is also important to remember a basic principle of epidemiology: the more possible associations one examines, the greater the risk that any statistically significant associations will occur by chance. If one examines associations between 100 different foods and cancer, a statistical association between five foods and cancer will be found – even though no association exists. Therefore, surprising findings normally need to be confirmed in other large studies and preferably supported by biological mechanisms before they can be considered established knowledge.

The medical conclusion is therefore: There is no scientific basis for people today to have to stop eating chicken because of the claims referenced in the article.



BILINGUALISM

Bilingualism: The brain's secret superpower – and the excuse to avoid cleaning

WELL. The researchers have come up with something again. It is not enough that bilingualism allows us to easily order coffee in two languages or find a better price on a holiday trip. Now it's claimed that it's also the brain's antidote to everything that will ever come – dementia, stroke, and apparently even bad luck in the lottery.

Imagine: when we speak Finnish and Swedish (or any language pair), our brains don't just sit passively in an armchair with a dictionary in hand. They are engaged in a constant mental martial art. There is a little inner game going on in our prefrontal lobes: "No, Pekka, now we speak Swedish, and

don't speak Finnish then!" and "I argue, but 'reindeer herding' is a better word than 'reindeer herding'!"

This constant battle between the strings is like going to the gym – but without sweat and moving parts. And just like going to the gym, it gets stronger. Scientists call this "cognitive reserve," which sounds like something a banker would suggest, but it's actually the brain's resistance to going crazy as you get older.

The best part is that this benefit of bilingualism is like a free brain insurance. You don't have to do anything special – you don't have to solve crosswords or memorize sequences – it's enough to speak two languages. And if you com-

plain that "I don't know the other language properly," studies show that it doesn't matter that much either. The brain appreciates the attempt, even if it involves confusion and strange grammatical errors.

The conclusion is clear: bilingualism is the brain's secret superpower. That's why you can explain to your parents that you don't clean your room because your brain is busy fighting between languages – and that's much more important than taking out the garbage. And who knows, maybe it will also protect you from getting hit by a car or losing the lottery. Or well, at least it gives you an excuse to refuse to clean in two languages.

EVENTS

TODAY

ART CENTER TORNI

Colour Storm Hits Vaasa – Kimmo Laitinen Takes Over Torni! Stil today!



VArt lovers, take note! Art Center Torni at Pitkääkatu 66, Vaasa, is buzzing as Kimmo Laitinen's stunning paintings take centre stage. The exhibition runs from 15th September to 4th October 2026 and admission is free. Open Tuesday to Friday 12–18 and Sunday 12–16, it's the perfect city break. You can catch it today, Sundayb 20th September, from 12:00 to 16:00. Expect bold colours, big emotions and an atmosphere you won't forget!

SUNDAY WALK TODAY

Vaasa Walks Together – The Feel-Good Sunday Sensation Is Back!

Lace up, Vaasa! This Sunday, Oct 4th, 10:00-13:00, the beloved Sunday Walk returns at Kauppatori, by the statue. Join the 10km community stroll through the city's best autumn spots – you set the pace, no one walks alone, and a shorter route is always okay. Afterwards, enjoy a cozy coffee together, self-paid. It's free, friendly and open to all. Same time also on Oct 11, 18, 25 and Nov 1.

Source: Event Sunnuntaikävely, organizer Vaasan Kävelyklubi ry, Huovinkuja 9 D 2, Vaasa.

OCTOBER

VAASA CITY THEATRE

Näytelmä joka menee pieleen

A show that goes wrong
Directed by Sari Siikander, this physical comedy guarantees surprising situations and precise timing. If you haven't seen when a theater performance goes completely wrong, now is your chance.

Premiere Oct 8, 2026



TIKANOJA

Public opening ceremony of the exhibition mÅland – Önningeby Artists' Colony on Friday 9th October from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tikanoja Art Museum.

At the same time, the permanent exhibition Serene Moments and Vibrant Colours, high-lighting the collections of Tikanoja Art Museum, will reopen to the public.

Welcome: Salme Sulander, Director of Education and Culture, City of Vaasa
Opening Speech: Kjell Ekström, Chairperson, Önningeby hembygds-förening rf

Curator's Speech: Janna Sirén, Curator, Vaasa Museums

CELEBRATION IN THE CITY HALL

Celebration of Seniors Set to Light Up Vaasa City Hall on Oct 16



Music, laughter and community spirit will take centre stage when the Senior Celebration arrives at Vaasa City Hall on Friday, 16 October 2026, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The free event is designed for Vaasa's senior residents and will feature group singing, live music, dancing, theatre performances and a ceremonial speech. A special highlight of the afternoon will be the presentation of an award recognising outstanding work to promote the wellbeing of ol-

der people. Complimentary coffee will also be served. The event is organised by the Vaasa Council for Older People and local pensioners' associations with support from the City of Vaasa's wellbeing and cultural services.

Source: Ostrobothnia Events Calendar / Vaasa Council for Older People

HELSINKI BOOK FAIR

22.-25.10.2026

Words take centre stage at Helsinki Book Fair



Language will be in the spotlight when Helsinki Book Fair returns this autumn. From 22–25 October 2026, Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre will host authors, books and discussions, with almost 1,000 programme events planned.

The 2026 theme is Kieli / Språk / Language, exploring the power and development of language, the future of Finnish, multilingual literature, translation and world literature. Language minorities will also have a stronger voice.

The Nordic region's largest literary event attracted more than 100,000 visitors in 2025, setting a new attendance record.

Time: 22–25 October 2026. Thu–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 10am–6pm.

Location: Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre.

Source: Messukeskus / Helsinki Book Fair

RITZ

Krista and Mark celebrate Finland-Swedish life at the Ritz on 29 and 30.10.26

Krista Siegfriids and Mark Levengood bring the show "How Lovely the Song Sounds" to the Ritz stage. The performances are on Thursday 29 October and Friday 30 October 2026 at 7 pm. Tickets 49,90 euros.

The show is Finlandssvensk fest on stage: Lucia crowns, crayfish parties, dialects, songs, laughter and maybe a little tear in the corner of your eye. The duo celebrates their roots, nostalgia and everything that Finland-Swedes living abroad miss. The evening will be a warm-hearted and humorous experience, where mosquitoes are not needed, but schnapps can be part of the thing. Reference information: netticket.fi.

NOVEMBER

LITTFEST

VAASA LITERATURE FESTIVAL LITTFEST 12-14.11.2026

The literature festival that will be held in November, 12–14.11.2026, will once again bring together well-known writers in Vaasa. LittFest will be attended by Monika Fagerholm, Kjell Westö, Kirsti Manninen (Enni Mustonen), Axel Åhman, Emmi Itäranta, Jessikka Aro and Tuomas Enbuske. In the autumn, book circles are also promised before the festival.

VAASA CITY THEATRE

Vierailu: Elämälle kiitos! Marion Rung 80v Juhlakiertue
Nov 13 at 19

VAASABAROQUE

BLÄNDAD AV DÖD OCH KÄRLEK 13-15.11.2026

When the Baroque dances tango – strong emotions on stage

Italian early baroque meets Argentine tango and contemporary dance in the choreographic total work Dazzled by Death and Love. Vaasa Baroque and Carl Knif Company will perform the performance in Helsinki on 13–14 November and in Vaasa on Sunday 15 November at 17:00 at the Ritz.

Choreography and direction by Carl Knif, musical design by Kajsa Dahlbäck. On stage are singers Kajsa Dahlbäck and Erica Back, musicians with violin, bandoneón, lute, viola da gamba and harpsichord, and dancers Jonna Aaltonen, Carl Knif and Terhi Vaimala. Music by Claudio Monteverdi, Barbara Strozzi and Astor Piazzolla interacts with the bodies' expressions of existence, passion and transience.

pe / Fri 13.11 klo / 19.00 Tanssin talo, Helsinki / Dance House, Helsinki (Liput / tickets: tanssintalo.fi)

Sat / Sat 14.11 klo / 15.00 Tanssin talo, Helsinki / Dance House, Helsinki (Liput / tickets: tanssintalo.fi)

Su / Sun 15.11 klo / kl. 17.00 @ Ritz, Vaasa / Vaasa

The performance lasts about 70 minutes and is followed by an artist discussion. Tickets for the Vasa performance via netticket.fi/vaasa-baroque-syksy-host-26, to Helsinki via tanssintalo.fi.

Source: vaasabaroque.com

WASA TEATER

"Snöfall"-premiere on November 14, 2026



The magic of Christmas returns to

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

States Today Must Be Strong from Within, Have Modern Armies and Defense Industries, Resilience to Challenges, and Strong Allies to Guarantee Their Security – President at the Opening of the Helsinki Security Forum



2 October 2026 - 22:12

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy took part online in the opening of the fifth annual Helsinki Security Forum. President of Finland Alexander Stubb and President of Moldova Maia Sandu are also participating in the event.

The Head of State thanked the organizers for the invitation and expressed special gratitude to the entire Finnish people, the President, the Prime Minister, and Finnish government officials for standing with Ukraine throughout

nearly five years of the full-scale war and supporting our country with various forms of assistance.

During his conversation with the moderator, Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs Hiski Haukkala, Volodymyr Zelenskyy outlined several priorities for strengthening security based on Ukraine's experience.

According to the President, the main security guarantee for Ukraine is our army, particularly its experience, morale, unity, and experienced and modern commanders.

“And we already have a new generation in our army – young people, young commanders who have grown up in this war. They rose from sergeants, soldiers, and junior officers to become colonels and generals. They were battalion commanders, they were brigade commanders, and they have become corps commanders – all during this full-scale war. So this is an experienced army. A highly technological army,” the President emphasized.

Read more:
<https://www.president.gov.ua/en>

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Johannes Takanen
8.12.1849, Ala-Urpala, Virolahti
30.9.1885, Rooma, Italia
Aino Looking out to Sea, 1876
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Antti Kuivalainen

George Orwell

1984

Part 47

‘I’m sorry,’ he said, ‘it’s nothing. I don’t like rats, that’s all.’

‘Don’t worry, dear, we’re not going to have the filthy brutes in here. I’ll stuff the hole with a bit of sacking before we go. And next time we come here I’ll bring some plaster and bung it up properly.’

Already the black instant of panic was half-forgotten. Feeling slightly ashamed of himself, he sat up against the bedhead. Julia got out of bed, pulled on her overalls, and made the coffee. The smell that rose from the saucepan was so powerful and exciting that they shut the window lest anybody outside should notice it and become inquisitive. What was even better than the taste of the coffee was the silky texture given to it by the sugar, a thing Winston had almost forgotten after years of saccharine. With one hand in her pocket and a piece of bread and jam in the other, Julia wandered about the room, glancing indifferently at the bookcase, pointing out the best way of repairing the gateleg table, plumping herself down in the ragged arm-chair to see if it was comfortable, and examining the absurd twelve-hour clock with a sort of tolerant amusement. She brought the glass paperweight over to the bed to have a look at it in a better light. He took it out of her hand, fascinated, as always, by the soft, rainwatery appearance of the glass.

‘What is it, do you think?’ said Julia.

‘I don’t think it’s anything—I mean, I don’t think it was ever put to any use. That’s what I like about it. It’s a little chunk of history that

they’ve forgotten to alter. It’s a message from a hundred years ago, if one knew how to read it.’

‘And that picture over there’—she nodded at the engraving on the opposite wall—‘would that be a hundred years old?’

‘More. Two hundred, I dare say. One can’t tell. It’s impossible to discover the age of anything nowadays.’

She went over to look at it. ‘Here’s where that brute stuck his nose out,’ she said, kicking the wainscoting immediately below the picture. ‘What is this place? I’ve seen it before somewhere.’

‘It’s a church, or at least it used to be. St Clement Danes its name was.’ The fragment of rhyme that Mr Charrington had taught him came back into his head, and he added half-nostalgically: ‘Oranges and lemons, say the bells of St Clement’s!’

To his astonishment she capped the line:

‘You owe me three farthings, say the bells of St Martin’s, When will you pay me? say the bells of Old Bailey----’

‘I can’t remember how it goes on after that. But anyway I remember it ends up. “Here comes a candle to light you to bed, here comes a chopper to chop off your head!”’

It was like the two halves of a countersign. But there must be another line after ‘the bells of Old Bailey’. Perhaps it could be dug out of Mr Charrington’s memory, if he were suitably prompted.



‘Who taught you that?’ he said.

‘My grandfather. He used to say it to me when I was a little girl. He was vaporized when I was eight—at any rate, he disappeared. I wonder what a lemon was,’ she added inconsequently. ‘I’ve seen oranges. They’re a kind of round yellow fruit with a thick skin.’

‘I can remember lemons,’ said Winston. ‘They were quite common in the fifties. They were so sour that it set your teeth on edge even to smell them.’

‘I bet that picture’s got bugs behind it,’ said Julia. ‘I’ll take it down and give it a good clean some day. I suppose it’s almost time we were leaving. I must start washing this paint off. What a bore! I’ll get the lipstick off your face afterwards.’

Winston did not get up for a few minutes more. The room was darkening. He turned over towards the light and lay gazing into the glass paperweight. The inexhaustibly interesting thing was not the fragment of coral but the interior of the glass itself. There was such a depth of it, and yet it was almost as transparent as air. It was as though the surface of the glass had been the arch of the sky, enclosing a tiny world with its atmosphere complete. He had the feeling that he could get inside it, and that in fact he was inside it, along with the mahogany bed and the gateleg table, and the clock and the steel engraving and the paperweight itself. The paperweight was the room he was in, and the coral was Julia’s life and his own, fixed in a sort of eternity at the heart of the crystal.

Chapter 5

Syme had vanished. A morning came, and he was missing from work: a few thoughtless people commented on his absence. On the next day nobody mentioned him. On the third day Winston went into the vestibule of the Records Department to look at the notice-board. One of the notices carried a printed list of the members of the Chess Committee, of whom Syme had been one. It looked almost exactly as it had looked before—nothing had been crossed out—but it was one name shorter. It was enough. Syme had ceased to exist: he had never existed.

HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO



EINSTEIN

— Has the lady read my theory of relativity?
— Well, yes, no, I'll wait until it comes out as a film.



WIDOW

The teacher asked: — can one of you explain to me what "widow" means.. — A widow, answered little Anna, is a wife who lived with her husband for so long that he died.

SLANDER.

Young Lady: They say you have debts.
Gentleman: Pure slander spread by my creditors.

IN THE OFFICE.

Office Boy: There's a gentleman outside looking for the manager. Manager: Tell him to look for me in here.

KIND HUSBAND.

— On her birthday, my wife always gets to wish for whatever she wants. — Oh really? That's very kind of you. What does she wish for? — She has been wishing for a piano for the last 15 years.

MUTUAL DEPENDEN- CE.

— I see, young man. You wish to marry my daughter. My answer depends entirely on your financial standing.
— My financial standing depends entirely on the Director's answer.

TRY THAT.

— Miss Kiulu cannot say anything without greatly exaggerating.
— Have you asked her age?

Astronomic picture of the week:



Galactic Dance

Image of the interacting galaxy pair NGC 5394/5 obtained with NSF NOIRLab's Gemini North 8-meter telescope on Hawai'i's Maunakea using the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph in imaging mode. This four-color composite image has a total exposure time of 42 minutes
Credit:

International Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA
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BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer!
Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

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Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Osthrobotnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future.

The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever!
Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

FROM OUR READERS

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail.com

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WASA DAILY

wasadagblad@gmail.com

HOROSCOPE FOR OCTOBER 2026

What's in the Stars for You This Month?

Aries (March 21 - April 19): You're feeling bold, Aries! But before you start rearranging your furniture or challenging your boss to a dance-off, remember: moderation is key. Use your energy wisely (maybe just redecorate one room).

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): This month, comfort is calling your name. Whether it's extra blankets or extra snacks, lean into your cozy instincts. Just don't let Netflix ask, "Are you still watching?" more than three times in a row.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): You'll be juggling social plans like a circus performer, but careful, Gemini—drop too many balls, and you might end up at two dinner parties on the same night. Pro tip: Bring snacks to both!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): The mood swings are strong, but so is your ability to turn a crisis into a dramatic monologue. Channel your inner soap opera star and add some flair to your daily life. Who says grocery shopping can't be theatrical?

Leo (July 23 - August 22): As the star of your own show, you're ready for the spotlight. Just make sure you let others shine too—unless, of course, it's karaoke night. Then by all means, belt it out like you're headlining Madison Square Garden.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Lists, lists, and more lists. But here's the twist: not everything needs to be planned. Surprise yourself this October by doing something spontaneous. Don't worry, you can still make a checklist about it afterward.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): October is all about balance, Libra, but you already knew that. Just remember, balance means a little bit of cake and kale. Enjoy your treats without feeling guilty—life's all about those sweet and savory moments!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): You're mysterious, Scorpio, and this month your secretive side is working overtime. Whether it's keeping Halloween costume ideas under wraps or dodging awkward conversations, your poker face is flawless.

Sagittarius (November 22 - De-

cember 21): Adventure awaits! But maybe skip the bungee jumping and stick to exploring new coffee shops. Your sense of humor will be your best compass this month, so laugh it off when you end up in a cafe with no Wi-Fi.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): You're climbing that mountain of success, but October reminds you to take a break. Celebrate the little victories—like finally organizing your sock drawer. Yes, that counts!

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your quirky ideas are in full bloom this month. Maybe it's time to finally start that weird hobby you've been thinking about—macramé plant holders, anyone? The sky's the limit for your creativity!

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Your dreamy side is on overdrive, Pisces. Just don't get too lost in your fantasies, or you might accidentally miss that important Zoom meeting. Maybe set a few extra reminders (and make sure they're not all daydreams!).

Happy October, everyone—may your stars be aligned and your socks always have matches!

