

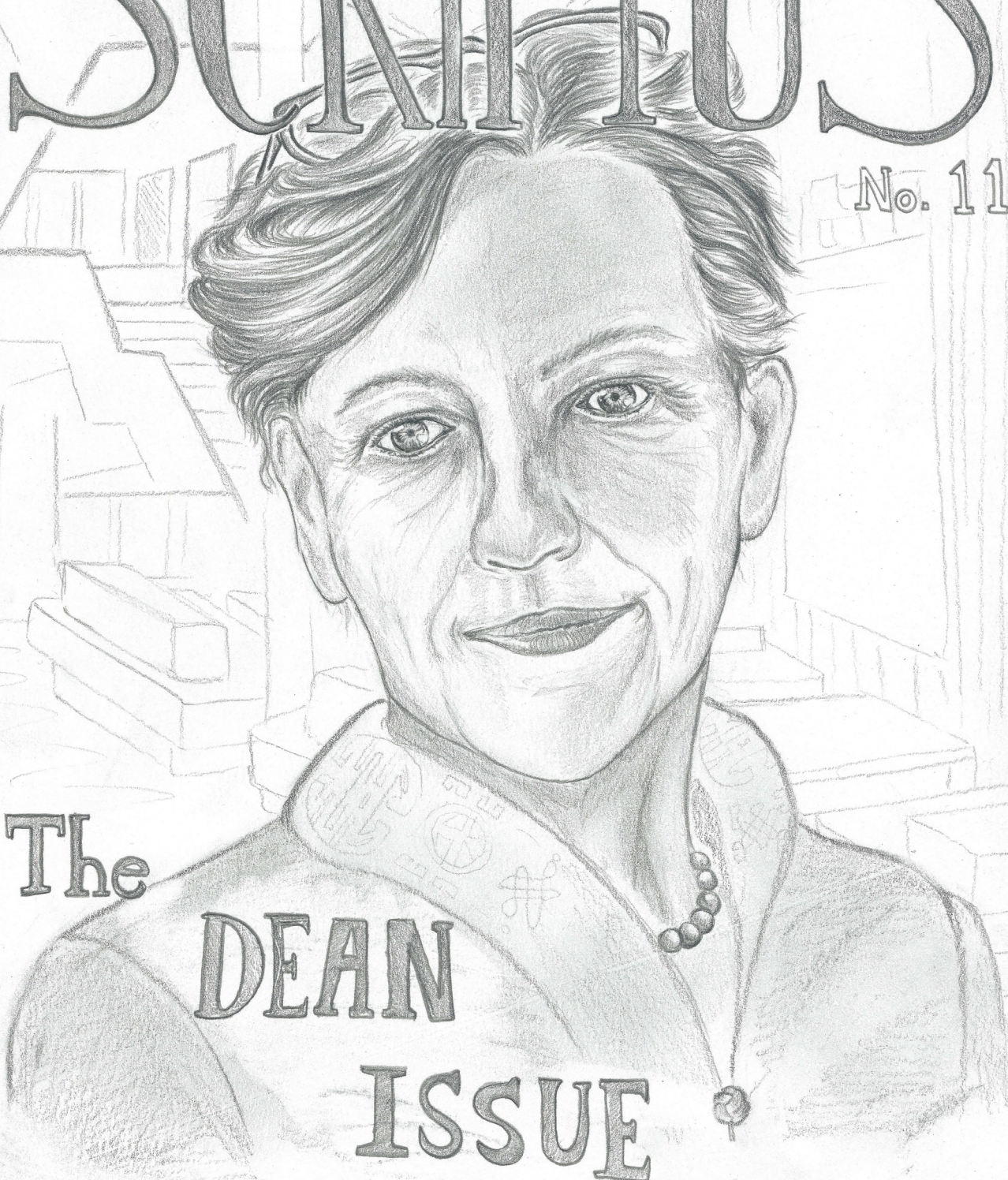
SCRIPTUS

No. 11

The

DEAN

ISSUE



Foreword

THE DEAN ISSUE. Such was the title of this issue on our super-exclusive, super-secret online platform, where the creation of each Scriptus issue occurs in all its splendour and colour. No, there is not some fundamental issue with the dean herself, as a friend of mine misguidedly believed when he happened to be looking over my shoulder at my laptop (super-exclusive, super-secret). This is THE DEAN ISSUE simply because it is the issue where you will get to know the dean in a new way, a way in which she is far more relatable, far more humble, than the distant, authoritative, somewhat intimidating figure that we sometimes see giving speeches loaded with ambition and expectation. In addition, we tackle important issues concerning student leadership and innovation, including the controversial case against the Spinhuis students. The dreaded finals period is approaching, but so is the Christmas holidays; just grit your teeth, indulge yourself in Gluhwein, and you will get through it! We also hope a little light reading will grant a greatly needed study break. Thus, we present the eleventh issue of Scriptus, THE DEAN ISSUE. Enjoy!

Emma Goodman

This issue in Numbers

300 copies
2 Writers' workshops
3 bottles of wine

Changes / Updates

We apologise for a few editing oversights in the last issue, including the omission of Anouk van Eekeren's name under her article, one or two grammatical mistakes, and naming Emma as the 'Editor-and-chief' (Oh, the irony!). However, as an all-new board, we think we did a half-decent job.

In this issue, we see the return of the 'Faces of AUC' section. Hoorah!

A new type of paper for the front cover...the last was a little sickly-looking.

About The Cover

Drawing the dean is, frankly, a bit intimidating. Part of the reason is obvious – she is the dean, after all, and that immediately entails a more formal drawing style than my usual caricature-like illustrations. Also, whenever I create a portrait of someone, I realise how little attention I've actually paid to his or her appearance. What eye colour? Hair? Smiling, frowning, or completely unreadable? The worst of it is – I've never actually looked the dean in the face for more than a minute.

Thus, I took some liberties. The main impressions I wanted to convey were strength, beauty, and a hint of solemnity. She thus takes on a more angular, unintentionally masculine appearance, and in many ways is unrecognisable. But in the end, what is an artist's portrait but how the creator sees another person? This is the dean, in my eyes.

by Yin Hsieh

*Yin requested us to take close-up pictures of the Dean for the purpose of this cover. However, the Dean refused, and rushed out of the room to attend a meeting, stating, "I'm not a cover girl!"



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PLACES OF AMSTERDAM

Christmas break day trip special

To all you lovely AUCers: Hang in there, we're almost done and Christmas break is just around the corner! After yet another busy semester, it is finally time to unwind and forget about all the hard work for two lovely weeks off. Whether you are going home to your family and friends, travelling the world, or just chilling and doing nothing, you will probably have some time left. What to do with it?

Go out and discover other cities in this beautiful country! (Contrary to popular belief, there is more to the Netherlands than Amsterdam alone!).

Scriptus brings you the best student hangouts in four different cities. Enjoy!

Cafe Cordes
Parade 4
's-Hertogenbosch

In the South of the Netherlands, all the way in Brabant, you will find the beautiful city 's-Hertogenbosch. With its cute and picturesque centre, this is the perfect place to go for a fun day trip. Afterwards you should definitely go to one of the many cafes on the Parade; we would recommend Cafe Cordes. During daytime, you can have a drink (or several drinks), and at night this cafe is transformed into a mini-club with all kinds of music. Probably being one of the very few places where people still go to dance in Den Bosch, this is the place to be if you are looking to have a fun night out!

Take Five
Bredestraat 14
Maastricht

If you decide to make a day trip to Maastricht, you will already notice that this city is completely different from Amsterdam, with a lot of influences from its neighbouring countries in the South. Going out in Maastricht is also different from nightlife in Amsterdam; there are not a lot of clubs, but mainly charming, old cafes. Maastricht is the perfect city to have a pub-crawl, with its many pubs and cafes, especially around the Vrijthof. Take five is one of the cafes that should definitely be on your pub crawl list, as it is the perfect hangout for students plus there is live jazz music... What more could you wish for?

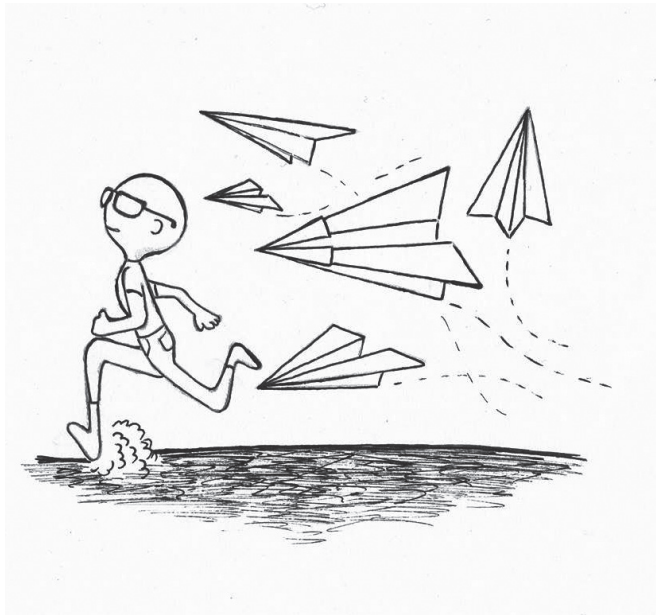
Odessa
Hogewoerd 18
Leiden

Odessa in Leiden is a real student cafe, so you really want to make sure you have been there if you are trying to experience the real atmosphere of student city Leiden. With a different party every night of the week, there is always something fun to do, ranging from special themed parties to girls night every Friday, to international student party with happy hour on Mondays!

Jopenkerk
Gedempte Voldersgracht 2
Haarlem

What Brouwerij 't IJ is for Amsterdam, Jopenkerk is for Haarlem: homemade beer and a cool yet relaxed atmosphere. This brewery (but also grand cafe and restaurant) is open every day from 10am to 1 am. Unlike the other three cafes, this one is a bit more laidback and relaxed. It is a perfect hangout to have a beer with friends or enjoy one of the many delicious dishes after a day in Haarlem. Definitely don't miss out on this one!

By Anouk van Eekeren
Photo by Sanne Frankin
Illustration by Yin-Chen Hsieh



UI story

SCRIPTUS SECRETARY OVERWHELMED BY CONTRIBUTORS. BEGS "NOT ALL AT ONCE!"

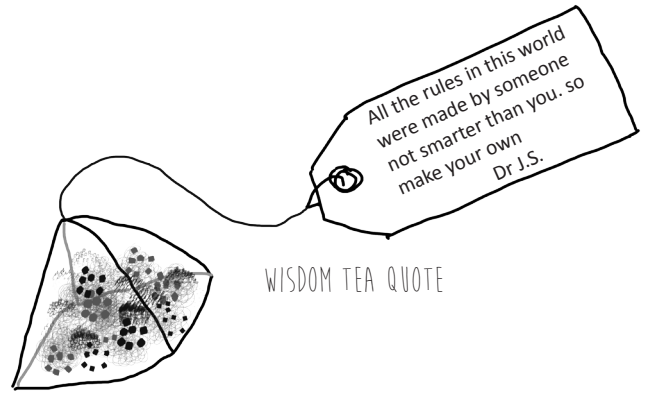
by Ernest Wright

illustration by Yin Hsieh

Scriptus' secretary, Willem Pijie, has announced his formal resignation from his position as of next issue. In a statement released last Thursday, at an exclusive press conference attended by prominent publications such as Folia, he said the following:

"After the release of each issue of Scriptus, I am simply inundated with contributions. As the secretary of Scriptus, I am in charge of communications, and thus I am the one who suffers. The workload is simply too much to bear."

He became emotional soon after, as he relayed to the parties present the traumatic experience of having to beat back contributors from his door with a broom that happened to be at hand. Willem has visited the UvA psychologist in an attempt to deal with the trauma of having article proposals screamed at him from across the street, and from the windows of cars driving by. Several other Scriptus board members have had similar experiences, although not as severely as Willem. Although roughly 92.6% of contributions are sent in the conventional way (via email or Facebook messages), contributions have also arrived by postcard, pigeon mail, and strategically launched paper planes. Scriptus would like to emphasise that attempts to seduce, bribe, or manipulate board members into vaulting contributions to the top of the very, very, very long list of potential contributions will not be tolerated.



Each issue is created online on an exclusive online platform especially engineered by specially selected programmers, and the password of this is changed twice a day at random hours. Every contribution is critically analysed by a carefully selected team of peer reviewers. Those which feature a single grammar or spelling mistake are immediately incinerated. Contributors whose articles pass the selection process are then interviewed, occasionally via a Skype call of questionable quality. Considering this gruelling selection process, one would imagine that potential contributors would be scared off. However, it is most unfortunately not the case.

Researchers have been puzzling over this phenomenon from the very first release of Scriptus magazine, its *The Beginnings* issue. Possible explanations could be Scriptus' state-of-the-art printing press, which is always 100% punctual, 100% reliable, and whose attendants deliver the issues in an Armaguard truck 100% of the time. It could also be Scriptus' vast network of dedicated sources, all of which have confirmed that the information and statistics they provide are 100% reliable, and that they themselves are 100% legit. Scriptus would like to emphasise that information is not obtained through the tapping of phones, email accounts, or from anonymous scrawls on dorm doors, the validity of which cannot be verified.

Off the back of Willem's resignation, also very partially due to his new position as chair of AUCafe, Scriptus is on the hunt for a new secretary. Extra benefits will be given to the new secretary to compensate for the larger-than-average workload, and to attract successors. The new board member will be announced in the next issue.

The Five Steps to Scriptus Contribution!

1. Come up with a great idea (or don't...just want to contribute)
2. Send your proposed idea to scriptus@auca.nl (or inform us of your rampant desire to write)
3. In the email tell us a) Do you want to write it, or do you want a general Scriptus writer to do so?
4. ...and b) Are you a writer, an illustrator, or a photographer?
5. Watch in amazement as your article magically appears in the next issue (after the whole process...)

Faces of AUC: Aaron

by Nicholas Handfield-Jones

Name: Aaron Altaras
Age: 20
Country of Origin: Germany
Major: Social Science
Track: International Relations and Environmental Economics

On first appearance, one might assume that first year Aaron Altaras is like any other AUC student, but in addition to taking courses in AUC's International Relations and Environmental Economics, he is also quite the accomplished actor. Aaron comes from quite an artistic family—his parents directing, acting, writing, and composing—and at the age of 9, he landed his first major role in television's *Mogelpackung Mann*. Since then, he has performed in several other television and film projects, including *Wenn der Vater mit dem Sohne* (2004), *Tatort: Berlin* (2008), *Hoellenritt* (2007), and most notably, *Nicht alle waren Moerder* (2006), for which he won the Grimme Preis, one of Germany's most prestigious acting awards. Despite this knack for acting, Aaron says that he does not plan to pursue it professionally as a career. He says that his parents were partly behind this, as they knew what sort of environment acting could be. Although he has enjoying this "movie circus," acting was never really for him. After taking a few gap years after high school, Aaron came to AUC to pursue directing and movie production in addition to his courses. On this new pursuit, Aaron says that it can be hard to shoot movies in the "full-time occupation" that is AUC, but he is going to make films in January and the summer, including a series about corruption and criminality on a small German Island.



Aaron's favourite films:
Mr Nobody
Once Upon a Time in the West
La Strada

Cool Fact: you can learn more about Aaron on his very own IMDB page!

AUC AD **Sushi Time**

Sushi Time is a student-run enterprise that makes delicious, fresh sushi, available for pick-up right at the dorms! Check Facebook for our upcoming events, as well as our menu. Happy eating!

PAINFULLY AWKWARD



AUSCA Chair, Lia Sinnige, resigns. Time of elections to be determined.

The annual Amsterdam Light Festival has begun again! Witnessing it is a simple matter of getting your ass out of Science Park; the lighting spectacles can be seen on all the main waterways. Make sure you check it out!

AWKWARD CORNER

I was at the beach with my friend's family, and at the time I had a huge crush on her brother. The wind was pretty strong that day so the waves were rolling. My friend's brother and I were swimming in the ocean when a wave came and hit me on my back. I was laughing hysterically as I got up, and so was he, until his expression changed. My entire bikini top had fallen off somewhere into the water, showing him everything. I desperately looked in the water for my bikini top but it was nowhere to be found. I had to come out of the sea, boobs in hand. I died of embarrassment.

AUC LIFE: NEWS FROM ABROAD



"Bonjour, hi!" from Montréal

by *Nina de Boer*

As someone who has never lived outside of the Netherlands, coming to Montréal is one of the scariest – though exciting – things I have ever done. Montréal is a colourful mix of European and North American culture, with Francophones and Anglophones living right next to each other. Montréal is located in Québec, the only province in Canada whose population is predominantly Francophone. The Québécois population is very proud of its French cultural heritage, and tries to protect it as much as possible. Even though Montréal is a lot less French than other cities in Québec, there are still people around who do not speak English, and you are always greeted in stores with "Bonjour, hi!". Even more extreme, there is a language police force that fines restaurants if their menus are not written in French. Still, Amsterdam and Montréal have a similar, laid-back vibe with lots of students, bikes, weed and hipsters. In fact, I would argue that Montréal is more alternative than Amsterdam. Being here in the fall semester let me experience the city in all its different seasons. The humid and hot summer, with outdoor venues and festivals every day; fall with its vibrantly coloured maple trees, amazing sunsets and Indian Summer; and winter, which is starting now and will continue until April with temperatures reaching -35 °C.

McGill is great: high-quality professors and lectures, a beautiful campus, and lots of university pride. You can buy everything ranging from McGill underwear to "McGill Mum" hoodies, and life-size pictures of McGill's varsity athletes can be found all over the sport centers. Although students often complain about the high workload and competitive atmosphere, being a McGill student seems to be an important part of their identity – at lot more so than at AUC or other Dutch universities. McGill is a big university, and if you don't put yourself out there it can be difficult to make friends – especially in higher level classes. Fortunately, all exchange students want to meet new people, which makes it very easy to establish friendships. As an exchange student, you are never bored: weekends are filled with parties, city trips and outdoor activities (and some studying too, unfortunately). Although coming back to Amsterdam will be exciting, I wish that I didn't have to leave this city and all the amazing people I have met behind.

AUC LIFE: SUBMISSION

GLOBAL FIRST AID: THE HEALING OF NATIONS

by Maria Gayed

After coming back from AUC's first Kosovo trip organised by Anne de Graaf, however cheesy it may sound, my eyes were opened and my horizon broadened. Thanks to this experience, I felt a need to discover the Balkans, and its history and present more. So, with a lot of luck, I was able to attend more non-formal learning programmes during the summer. By chance I applied for Young European Leaders for Change (YELC), with its first edition taking place in Kosovo. Through my friends in Kosovo, I also heard about the Our Future Europe (OFE) programme in Serbia this summer, and decided to apply for that programme as well. YELC is a training course for young leaders, to bring together ambitious young people and help them in their development of leadership skills. One of their missions towards obtaining this goal is to overcome religious, ethnic and cultural tensions by focusing on the relationship between participants from all these different European countries and stimulating dialogue between these diverse backgrounds, including Kosovo and Serbia. OFE is very special in the sense that it explicitly focuses on post-conflict reconciliation and only had participants coming from the Netherlands, Serbia and Kosovo. The goal of OFE was to explore how conflict is perceived within these three groups, and again, to stimulate dialogue between these groups about conflict. Both programmes, like many others that focus on these issues, are long-term projects, aimed at not only overcoming conflict, but creating something positive out of the difficult times that these societies experienced.

Both programmes filled our schedules with talks or workshops given by journalists, politicians, youth workers, activists, you name it. Although we all have learned a lot from the programme components, of course the most we have learnt from is the bonding between all participants. Our nights were full of staying up late and teaching each other games, or simply talking and discussing. In both programmes I've had the pleasure to see Albanians learning Serbian, and Serbs learning Albanian, practising each day and using the newly-learned words for when the time came to say things such as "goodnight."

Even though there were many beautiful moments, I've also experienced the tensions that come along with putting youth

from conflicting backgrounds together in an intense programme. I've seen Serb participants drawing a map of Serbia, in which Kosovo was outlined still as part of Serbia. I've seen the conflict when people stood up against that and when others defended these actions. I've seen participants deny parts of one another's history because they hadn't learnt it that way, or hadn't seen any proof for that specific part of history. People have left the table mid-conversation, because of the nature of the discussion at the table and the thick atmosphere. Because I was the outsider, all I could do was hold my heart and trust that they would resolve it on their own. And they did. In the end, everyone was able to set aside their differences and swallowed their pride.

From honest conversations with organisers of such programs I have come to a sad conclusion: investors are moving on. These conflicts are now more than a decade ago, and there is some sort of peace in most of the region, or so it seems. However, in reality there is a difference between there being peace and there not being conflict. With more and more conflicts erupting in the world, there seems to be an urge to start up new programmes in other parts of Europe or the world. As a result, "old" programmes are finding it harder to receive funding and to continue their much needed work. We all know that there are still very tense relationships between Serbia and Kosovo, and that much still needs to be resolved. The Serbian and Kosovar government are not always capable of handling these issues, and programmes coming from NGOs can take up this responsibility by increasing understanding and contact between groups. This does not just go for conflicts between Kosovo and Serbia, but any other type of conflict that needs long-term conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Taking away the funding prematurely is like stopping the healing process of nations and their peoples, ultimately hurting them much more. This has been demonstrated in the case of Albanians and Serbs; a soccer match last September was interrupted by violence and hate speech throughout the match. These eruptions of violence are a result of conflict residue, and they will become more frequent and larger if we don't keep investing in the healing of nations.



Movember Guest Lecture Dr. Wilbert Zwart of the Dutch Cancer Institute

The recent guest lecture, organised by Hands On as part of the Movember month, focused on breast and prostate cancer research and treatment. Dr. Wilbert Zwart of the Dutch Cancer Institute gave an insightful breakdown of the cancer cell, reminding us of the importance of clinical research. He also explained the transition from traditional, clinical treatment styles (that adopt a “from bench to bedside approach”) towards personalised cancer treatments that use modern genome sequencing to find appropriate and successful treatment for the individual. “Every person is unique and every tumour is too” – hence new approaches to tackling cancer are important for the future of its treatment.

BOOKS

Book smart, not street smart

by Willem Pije

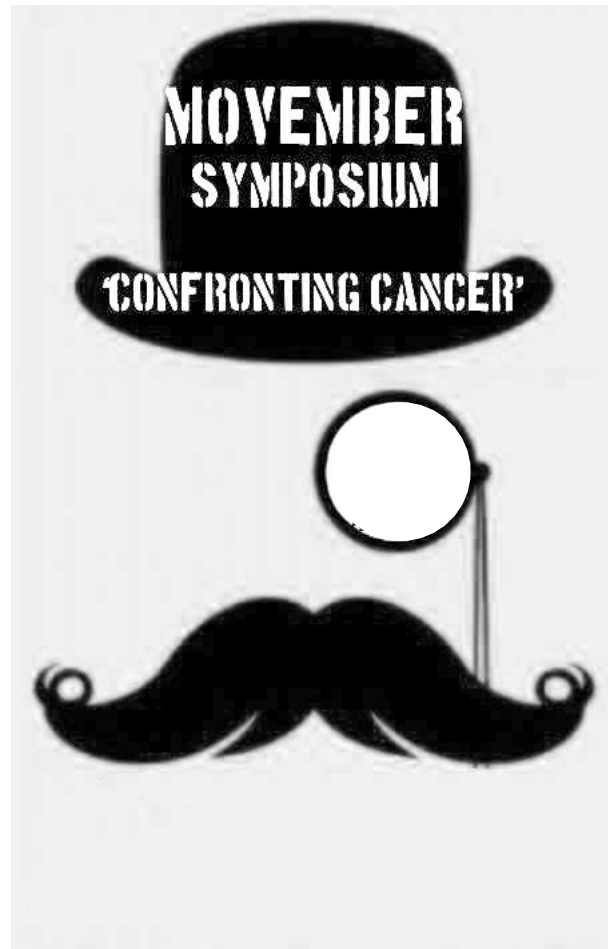
“There is no justice in love, no proportion in it, and there need not be, because in any specific instance it is only a glimpse or parable of an embracing, incomprehensible reality.”

Reverend John Ames, *Gilead* – Marilynne Robinson.

One thing I enormously appreciate in a book is empathy. I associate this term with an understanding of the internal life of someone else and the acceptance that you might not always understand each other’s motivations, but try to refrain from judgement as much as possible. One of the big advantages of literature is that it gives the reader an insight into the psyche of an otherwise closed-off person, even if it is only in the fictional world.

One of the ways to achieve this is to treat your character right. This does not mean nothing bad can happen to your character, but the author should refrain from judging the actions of the characters and provide the reader with an insight about his/her decision-making.

Gilead, written by Marilynne Robinson, is a great example of a book that possesses this characteristic. It contains very little plot, focussing on the life of a pastor, by the name of John Ames, in a little town in the Mid-West. The book is structured as a long letter directed at his young son, which he got at a late age with his younger wife. The story is a combination of theological reflections, stories of his youth and recent development in his life like his nearing death and some minor personal troubles. The insightful description of his inner thoughts and struggles makes him a character with a lot of depth and constructs a bridge between a reader and the writer. This connection can lead to a better understanding of the “other”, providing the empathy that I like in a book. Besides this, Pastor John Ames is by all means a virtuous character: kind, a loving father and husband, and re-



fraining from judgement even though he is a religious authority. His inner monologues on religion, family and violence have a religious quality that will even appeal to the starkest atheist under us. This makes the book not will-he-escape-from-the-axe-murderer exciting, but exciting in a way that resembles a long conversation with a dear friend on life, death, mourning and other such things. That is also the most redeeming quality of *Gilead*, it provides the reader with lessons on the aforementioned topics by poignant observations, almost sermon-like, without sounding too preachy and it is one of those books which will actually make you a better person.





Hands Off: A Hands On Exposé

by Hands On

Hands On is AUC's Philanthropy and Voluntary Services Committee, seeking to raise awareness and facilitate local volunteer opportunities. Rather than plague you all with uninteresting and mildly sickening philanthropic words of wisdom, we think it's time to let you in on a few of our naughty secrets and dirty deets. The following article is thus a well-intended, but nevertheless desperate attempt to encourage participation (and donation) to some of our worthy causes this coming year. Instead of the who, what, where, when and why we each joined Hands On, the following self-conducted, totally subjective interview will focus rather on our most prized possessions and humiliating moments. For the Brits out there, or for those who simply enjoy a bit of old school English radio aimed at the over 50s, this exposé takes the form of a Desert Island Discs interview (check it out if you haven't already, it's shamelessly good Sunday morning listening).

- In a tenuous attempt to link back to the title of the article, what one item do you hate sharing?

Lena: That last piece of chocolate cake that everybody wants, but nobody dares to eat.

Bonnie: My toothbrush.

Vivian: The food on MY plate...

Storm: My underwear.

- If you could choose only one item to take with you to a remote, uninhabited island, what would it be?

Lisa: A solar powered Kindle with an infinite number of books.

Storm: A lot of sun tan lotion, due to my pale Irish skin.

Julia: Diving mask for looking at pretty tropical fish. I assume it's tropical?

Lena: I would take my stuffed penguin Grolschi, because he goes wherever I go.

- What's the most embarrassing outfit you've ever worn?

Lisa: Everything I wore when I was finally able to choose my own clothes at age 10.

Storm: I once dressed up as a tree for a forest themed party...

Victorine: When I was about 9 years old I really wanted to look like Christina Aguilera in the music video Dirty. Let's just say I tried a bit too hard....

- Would you rather wake up hung over, naked and nauseous on a) the first floor common room or b) on a train to Antwerp?

Lisa: On a train to Antwerp. At least it would be cleaner, right?

Julia: First floor common room and immediately use my roomie-rescue wildcard.

Lena: Antwerp, definitely! I have never been there and I heard it has a lot of great graffiti work around the city.

- Having just won a million euros, would you rather lose a quarter of it, or be forced to donate half of it to a charity of your choice?

Bonnie: I would be more likely to lose a quarter of it, but I don't think I could live with the guilt, so I think I'd rather give half away and at least look good.

Vivian: Donate half to charity, no need to force!

If you knew nothing of Hands On before, you are probably no better informed now given the rather irrelevant information we have just provided. However we at least hope this was mildly entertaining.

We hope you have enjoyed our events so far this year! Keep an eye on Scriptus for info on our exciting future projects!

Love Hands On

The Beginning: An interview with Marijk van der Wende

*Scriptus has simplified the answers for the sake of practicality. Questions regarding the excellence list, religious diversity, and more can be seen in the full interview. For the full interview, visit www.aucsa.nl/committees/scriptus.

December, 2004. Marijk van der Wende, our current and founding Dean, receives a call from the Dean of the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. He wants her to establish a university college, the very one in which we find ourselves today. From that point in 2004, there occurred a series of events, plans, negotiations, trials, errors, and returns to the drawing board. The birth of AUC was certainly not all fun and games, as we found out when we caught up with Marijk for this issue, but there was certainly a great deal of it.

Although we asked several considerably heavy questions, including the issue of the excellence list, what struck us the most was the far more light-hearted issue of the origins of AUC, something that was both unexpected and inspiring. Of course, 'inspiring' is always a word that tends to alarm people more than anything else within the context of establishing institutions; it conjures up images of grand schemes, elaborate expeditions, and unattainable access to complex power structures. However, it was not the case in this instance. What was inspiring about the interview was how very humble AUC's beginnings were. For the entire first year after a university college was first proposed to her, our Dean simply worked on creating an honours program for both the Hogeschool Windesheim in Zwolle and the VU. These two institutions were by then in a merger process, and the initial idea of VU was to establish the university college at the Zwolle campus. "Not a good idea, I thought". It was only after turning that plan to Amsterdam that AUC really started to take shape, as "something grassroots", Marijk described. When asked about the set-up of AUC, she responded:

Marijk: The university college in Amsterdam should not have been just a copy of the other university colleges. It should have its unique features. In my view... that was certainly one of my inputs and strong beliefs (and still is). It should have a stronger science focus...Amsterdam had a lack of people studying in the sciences. The discussion with the Dean of science was an interesting one. He's the guy who said 'One: you are absolutely right'. And second, 'we should do it together with the UvA.' This was a shocking idea; how complicated! I was there with my colleague, and we walked out of his office...and we walked down the stairs, and we looked at each other and we said, 'But he is right'.

Scriptus: Why did you think he was right?

Marijk: It was already clear by then... that the science faculties of VU and UvA had to cooperate. In 2002, even the (VU and UvA) students brought it up. So... join forces in an excellence initiative. It just makes sense.

Scriptus: I suppose it is also better to have something united than two rivals?

Marijk: Ja! then the whole project became far more interesting. And that was when I decided actually to become the first dean, the founding dean, when it was clear that it would be a joint thing, etc. Otherwise it would have been a project for me, but - I wouldn't have joined it as a dean. This joint effort made it far more challenging, and interesting.

Marijk went on to explain that 2007-2009 were years of preparation. The AUC project team worked together over a shared digital space from their various homes and offices, until they were finally granted something they could call their own...and it left much to be desired.

Marijk: In early 2008, we finally got our own workspace in the old offices of Folia Magazine. And it was so filthy, and so dark, and so horrible, that Folia didn't want to work there anymore! (Laughs). It was incredible. In winter we were sitting like this (pulls jumper up around face) because of strong gusts of wind, and

leaves that would fly in. It was amazing. But we had lots of fun there. We were very happy that we had an office. We walked in with a bottle of champagne!

Scriptus: Humble beginnings!

Marijk: Humble! Ja, we had to clean the kitchen closets, etc...but, that was fun! I'm also telling this because that is really what innovation is. People often think it's very sexy and creative and "passionate"...No, it's fixing your own printers.

Apparently, the office featured a questionable one-way mirror. Upon further investigation, it was discovered to be an old hospital observation room in which subjects were placed for study (perhaps this had a strong influence on the pan-optic design of our building?). What did they do with this room exactly? "We had the horrendous habit of having the staff interviews in there!"

Well, there you have it. Amsterdam University College, with all its grand ambitions, prestigious professors, award-winning architecture, brilliant student initiatives, and its very carefully selected student body, began in a crappy reject office-come-observatory. The Dean and her team sat on crappy furniture, used crappy computers and devices, and had crappy heating. Furthermore, the Dean had some final "crappy" advice for young people (as she described it when we suddenly put her on the spot...we think it is simple but effective).

Scriptus: What advice would you give to people our age? How should we live?

Marijk: To the full. There are 24 hours in a day, and see what you can do in that. Don't be afraid. Don't be afraid also to take responsibility. Also beyond yourself, to serve others. I think that you guys are very able. Every example proves it. I mean, the work that AUC students do, as students but also next to that (as you mentioned): organisations they pull up, initiatives they take outside AUC, in the city, internationally...I mean, it's just amazing. I mean, ja...often life leads you to things...I mean this is crappy advice. But to the full.

Top 5 bizarre facts about AUC's origins:

- 1) AUC was initially going to be in Zwolle! (ZUC?)
- 2) We were initially going to be on the campus of a Hogeschool, merged with the VU
- 3) The only reason why a course manual is called a 'course manual' is because Marijk and various other professors happened to be in Spain at the time, and one of them shouted 'Course E- MAN-U-ELL!' (Marijk claims they hadn't had anything to drink yet...we will believe her)
- 4) The construction of the curriculum took place in various modes of public transportation, across various geographical stretches. This includes a plane trip to Barcelona and a train trip to Berlin
- 5) 'AUC' could have been 'UCA' (University College Amsterdam). If this had been the case, many of us may have never even known about AUC, since a lot of students (especially international) found AUC through googling 'Amsterdam University'. Also because it launched us to the top of the alphabetic lists of universities.

by Emma Goodman

Interview by Emma Goodman and Sophia Eijkman

CAMPUS LIFE

A Rainy Day at Jeugdlab

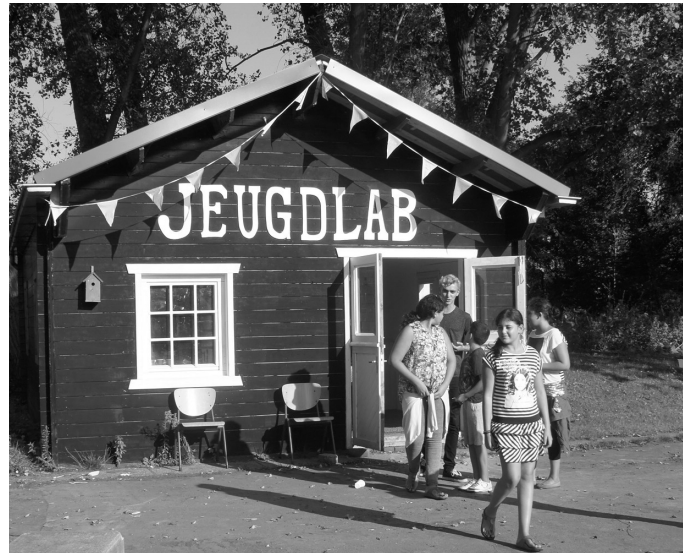
by Martin J Hoffman

It's a cloudy Wednesday afternoon, and I find myself in the cozy facilities of Jeugdlab, a small, warmly refurbished wooden house on the premises of Jeugdland (where AUCafé is). The board members are adding posters over tea, and kids are playing in the playground outside, ready with wood to be cut and huts to be built. Even though it's raining, a handful of kids and a couple of parents are out with tools, running around the place that's full with homemade huts. Beside the playground, Jeugdlab offers workshops and science experiments for the kids. All the activities are completely free of charge, and are committed to teaching a basic understanding of science. It doesn't get boring since themes change every week. Also, Jeugdland features animals, and the "edible island," where veggies are grown for the kids to prepare and eat.

The project is run entirely by AUC students, and their commitment is acknowledged as a community project. Here's how it works: The city of Amsterdam funds Jeugdlab, and in exchange for providing volunteers, AUCafé gets to use their space free of charge. So, basically, Jeugdlab is funding AUCafé for everyone.

The board comes together twice a week at Jeugdlab and does the activities they prepared with the kids. The kids are free to roam around the place, to take apart wood, and to put it together again, and can participate in activities as they please, making Jeugdland the ultimate playground for kids. Today is a rather quiet day, but it can get busy with around 100 children bringing the place to life (catching water bugs is really popular).

Of course, AUC students are welcome to join the board, and to do their community project here. Right now, Jeugdlab is looking for a PR manager. You'll get to work with kids in a very relaxed atmosphere, come up with your own activities, and you can support the AUC community by making possible our very own AUCafé. The team is small and it's always fun. Even when it rains.



CAMPUS LIFE: SUBMISSION

Daring the Impossible; the Spinhuis case.

Students' acting courageously for what they believe in has resulted in a legal court case against one of the biggest universities of the Netherlands. UVA sues their own for daring to be critical.

On the 10th of November the students occupying the Spinhuis won the first round against the UVA. The Spinhuis is a historical building in the city centre of Amsterdam that is the property of the University of Amsterdam. Recently, the building has been emptied due to the relocation of various departments to a more modern building. However, since the 7th of September, a group of students from the UVA, VU and AUC have given life to the common room of the building, against the will of the university. The students have several reasons for doing so.

The first reason that the Spinhuis was squatted is so that students could have an autonomous space run by the students, for the students, and that is open to anyone. They want to have a space outside the control of the university, where one can gather with friends, to study, or to organize meetings and events whilst enjoying free coffee or tea and cheap food. One of the interviewees stated that the Spinhuis could also be a place to break the individualism present in a society. It is possible to create welcoming spaces, based on dedicated volunteers, where money does not reign.

The second reason for squatting is a political one; it is a protest against the corporatisation, marketization, and commodification of the university, and a demand for a voice. The marketization, managerialization and commodification of university refers to the process by which universities are transformed more into business and corporation arenas rather than an educational institution. This occurs when sectors of the management of universities shift to the hands of 'external agents' such as bankers, accountants, and real estate managers, who are detached from the internal values and logic that govern a public educational institution. Furthermore, through this process, professors, researchers, students and other members of staff are pushed aside having little influence in the decision-making process of the university.

According to a study conducted by former teachers of the UVA (Ewald Engelen, Rodrigo Fernandez, and Reijer Hendrikse), from 1995 the UVA has been undergoing these changes, and this is what is being protested.

The Spinhuisers felt that the UVA was increasingly turning into a "corporate machine", and was disregarding "the intrinsic value of education, knowledge and learning" by attempting to put a price tag on education, and by being primarily concerned with the economic value of education. However, it is important to note that students are not the only ones who are protesting but also professors, researchers, and other members of the university and the general public.

Through their protest, they are demanding for a greater voice in the decision-making process of the universities as these policies directly impact their lives and their studies. They are demanding their ideas to be heard, for more transparency, and

for democracy. Furthermore, they want to raise public awareness of the issues, dangers, and concerns of the corporatisation of universities, so that there can be public discussion and changes can be made.

This is relevant to AUC students for several reasons. First, some AUC students are part of the Spinhuis. Second, movie nights, lectures and events are organized at Spinhuis, allowing AUC students to get away from the bubble and have a unique and pleasant experience. Third, AUC is an educational institution, just as the UVA is, and thus is under the same risks of changing into a corporate machine. Fourth, the budget cuts that are motivated by what external agents view as efficient are being made at the UVA and the VU. This has led to less master programmes being offered, ones that might have been relevant to you, your interests, your passions, or your future career.

The motivations and the actions of the Spinhuisers are inspiring and should serve as a role model. Their actions are a beautiful and necessary reminder that we are not powerless individuals, unable to speak out against the flaws we see in the world, but rather, we are individuals with a voice, and we are all agents of change. Or more simply put;

"By doing the impossible, you discover what is possible"-mystery squatter.



by Nicole Brusa

picture taken from <http://hetspinhuis.wordpress.com/>

PRO aka Government

by Irena 'Iz' Cirkovic

Testing on animals should be considered immoral. Animals used in testing are caged up most of their lives and then experimented on. These animals are subjected to live most of their lives in fear, wondering when is the next time they'll be taken out to be injected with a new serum or experimental substance. Keep in mind that these experiments are also not always painless, if ever. In animal testing against disease, for example, animals have certain diseases induced in them such as cancer by bioengineering. They also induce cerebral strokes by inserting a thread into a cerebral artery. These are only 2 examples of diseases they induce on animals, just for experiments. These animals did not have a choice in the matter whether some were captured and others were born in these cages. Imagine how immoral this would be if we did experiments on a human being. While humans have a free choice in the matter, a voice to speak out, these animals do not. We turn a blind eye to

the fact that these animals suffer through no fault of their own, and remain unknowing to the cause of their suffering. However, if this was a human in their place it would be unethical. So why would it be a different case for another living creature? One reason why people may say animal testing is necessary is to improve knowledge of disease and treatment. However, these results are barely ever trustworthy: despite some passing the animal testing stage, almost none of them pass the clinical testing stage. This is due to the fact that humans, mice, birds, rabbits and so on have different biological build-ups. In conclusion, animal testing should be banned because this treatment of living creatures is inhumane and abusive. Not to mention the fact that the results barely aid in any medical advancement, and are usually useless.



This house would ban animal testing for scientific research

photo by Anne Haitjema

CON aka Opposition

by Anonymous

The issue of animal testing is a controversial one: on the one hand, no one denies that the circumstances these animals are put in are horrific, but on the other hand, it is undeniable that animal testing plays a crucial role in medicine and more general scientific research.

Consider some of the basics of modern human medicine: penicillin and insulin. Both of these substances save millions of lives on a regular basis, but both required animal testing. The truth is that animal testing is used for more than just testing cosmetics; animal testing leads to scientific breakthroughs that have saved many lives and is necessary for more such breakthroughs.

Now, some will argue that there are viable alternatives to animal testing, but this is incorrect in most cases. Living organisms work in ways we do not completely understand, meaning that computer models could never accurately predict how a living organism might react to a certain drug or medical

technique. Another alternative would be artificial tissues and organs. Of course these substitutes suffice for things such as cosmetics testing, but medical research often requires complete organisms because we simply do not completely understand how different parts of organisms might interact under abnormal circumstances.

Even if we wanted to use alternative techniques, further animal testing would be needed to improve said techniques before they could actually be used. Nobody claims animal testing is ideal, but it is simply a necessary evil that leads to innovations that not only save human lives, but also animal lives. Therefore, we believe that animal testing should not, and cannot, be banned for the sake of scientific progress. However, we do believe restrictions on animal testing should be put in place to ensure it will be used only when strictly necessary, and cause the least possible suffering.

Falling up and down

by Ewoud Labordus

illustration by Nikki Omes

Sitting here alone was a perfect allegory of my life. I could hear the rustling leaves behind me in the trees while before me joy was spread out over the faces of the thickly coated people passing by. They were simple wits, breathing the whizzing winds, watching kids playing in heaps of brown and yellow leaves on the muddy road.

Break-ups always happen during fall. The trees lost their leaves to the breeze, their old branches breaking as the wind grew ever stronger. In the end, fall took all warmth away through storms and rain. It made my mind wander through the partners I'd had: no sooner the first storm passed and I'd be alone again. Yet, I had nothing to screw up and no one to fail this time.

As I sat pondering the sadness, I saw a young woman in sports clothing jogging by. Her yellow jacket and her pony tail caught everyone's eye. For me, her look was equally intriguing: her eyes told me stories of things nobody ought to see, like dreams in the worst of times. Suddenly, her eyes met mine and she smiled back a little awkwardly. She had me busted. However, she did not continue running. She went off the path, and started stretching her muscles. I felt this was my chance to make a move. Yet she didn't hear my call, through her thick headphones.

So, while she was exercising, I rummaged in my pockets and found a pen and a slightly damp stack of post-its. 'Have you been running long?' I wrote and I held up the paper in front of me, waiting for her gaze. When she got up from reaching for her toes, she spotted my note and smiled. She came nearer, and while doing another exercise she held up two fingers. I jotted down another question: 'Got time for a talk?'

This seemed to put her out of ease, though, and for a moment she just stared right through me as if she'd seen something behind me. I turned around to look and saw nothing but the dusk falling in between the trees. When I turned back she had moved a few meters away from me, still warming up. 'Losing interest,' I thought. I quickly scribbled down 'headphones' and showed her the note with an attentive smile. The look that appeared on her face was clearly one of distress. Her cheeks blushed and she started shaking her head from left to right, her fringe trembling in front of her eyes.

I stood up from the bench and went to comfort her, but she looked up at me nervously. As I got closer she flinched and she ran away, stepping on sticks and leaves making them crack and crisp along the road. Her white sneakers were splattered with mud stains while she disappeared from sight.



Fast Fashion Fixes for the Burnt-out Student

How to get your quickie fashion fix for free. Or very cheaply.

Mini-expeditions

Fashion photography books can be expensive, but who said you had to buy them? Browse the Amsterdam Fashion Institute Library at Mauritskade 11 until you've recharged your creative batteries, or borrow some books using your UvA card. Cost: free.

If you're itching to go shopping, Ijhallen, Europe's biggest flea market, is full of hidden gems. Entrance is 4,5€, but you can find great clothes for as little as 1 or 2€ and even wool coats for 10 or 15€. Plus, the ferry to NDSM is basically a free mini-tour. Next Ijhallen weekend is December 13-14.

Style-stalk fashionable Amsterdammers in their natural habitat: Get settled in a gezellig café in the Negen Straatjes district and alternate studying with people-watching. Cost: a coffee. Extra: If you're feeling adventurous, the Centraal Museum in Utrecht and the Boijmans in Rotterdam are currently hosting some pretty cool fashion exhibitions. Free if you use a museum card and OV-card ;).

From the comfort of your bed/couch/desk

For super-short breaks, the internet is here for you, and it's completely free*. Streetstyle blogs *The Sartorialist* and *Le 21ème* will inspire you with beautiful photographs of unique, real style. For small snippets of fashion history, browse mode-muze.tumblr.com or europeanafashion.eu –it's like visiting a fashion museum from home.

*With your monthly Lijbrandt subscription.



Who Needs Mama When You've Got Momo?

Located on Hobbemastraat, right by Leidseplein, Momo is a restaurant that simply exudes class in its purest form. From its lux interiors to the impeccable plating, Momo does not mess around. I first tried their food back in August with my family in tow, and I was immediately smitten with its atmosphere. The maître d is sophisticated, the servers are dressed smartly, and the chefs look so professional that one can't help but be excited for the meal to come, and by God, the chefs at Momo do not disappoint. The Asian-inspired food prepared by these star quality men and women is sumptuous; one truly feels like they're being treated to a culinary experience. That said, all this greatness comes at a cost, literally. Momo is not a restaurant the typical student can frequent, but in many ways, the experience is worth it. So the next time Mum and Dad are in town, or you want to #treatyoself, book a table at Momo: believe me, by the end of your time there, you'll be begging for mo' Momo.



FILM

The Importance of Film

by Misha Goudsmit

Film, uniquely of all art forms, combines virtually every other art form into this one thing. Literature, the visual arts, performance arts, music...everything mixes and combines into this accessible space. Film is the most accessible of all the arts in many ways. Many people around the world will never visit some of the best museums, but nearly everyone will have seen a movie at some point in their life. Film allows us to explore the complexities of the human condition. Sometimes that exploration takes place in the dramatic but sometimes it happens to be funny. Most good films manage to combine a lot of different emotions and feelings all at the same time. And generally a good film will look at one or two important questions or themes and spend some time exploring the answers. Great films will usually not give you the answers...they will let you decide for yourself.

AUC LIFE: COMMITTEE NEWS



Catch's Olympic Stadium Run



Cuisine Cook Off



Catch Biking Weekend: Day 1



AUC MAC X AUC Café: Assorted Travellers Performance



Yearbook Board 2014 - 2015



Inprint Bribing for Submissions



PlayUC: Game of Thrones Board Game Night



PlayUC X Inprint

Kelly Streekstra, from The Up

They were denied performance rights at high school, got kicked out from their shed by the police... From a group of fifteen musically illiterate classmates to what they are now, The Up has gone through some interesting stuff.

Scriptus: How did everything start?

Kelly: It was in high school, we had to raise money with our class for a humanitarian project, so we just started a band. It didn't really work out, but we kept playing. By then we were rehearsing in a bike shed, but after a while we were kicked out by the police, and we found this scooter shop that had a stage in it; that's where we rehearse now. There's all kinds of big guys hanging around. We were 15 when we started: the drummer had never played drums before in his life, our bass player had no idea either... Our piano player is really good, though, he's now at the conservatorium in Amsterdam. So we're kind of a mixed group. It works, because we're such good friends.

S: So you had no previous experience in singing?

K: I took singing classes, and I'm kind of a singer-songwriter myself as well. I've performed at the number one radio station here, and taken part in some competitions in the Netherlands, too. That's separate from the band, but they always come to my performances.

S: What kind of places do you usually perform in?

K: We prefer smaller stages, because the audience is closer and you can really build a party with them -and that's what our music is written for. We had this one big performance in our high school -our last week there-, there was a sitting audience of about 500 people, friends mostly, and we started playing this ska tune: everyone just stood up, there was a pit. The teachers were so angry. We couldn't play there anymore. It was really good.

EP Review: Our Minor Fall – Hold on, Darlene

When, during my interview with Our Minor Fall for Scriptus' last issue, the conversation entered the territory of musical style and influences, the band was finding it hard to sum up what they sounded like. Terms like "folk", "indie-folk" and "rock" did come up, and it is in this context where their music is best understood. To be a bit more specific: I'd say that if Kings of Leon and Mumford & Sons got together to record an EP, the end result would not differ much from what we hear in 'Hold on, Darlene'. And yet there is something, these slight details -the acapella moment in Darlene, for instance, and maybe the somewhat banjo-like guitar sound at the beginning of We've Not Been Long- that do make it hard to label them. Why should we, anyway? The seventeen minutes of music rapidly pass by, and as Northern Lights starts to fade away, I have to ask myself how different the experience would have been if I had bought the vinyl version...

S: What genre would you say you play? It's a mixture of things, that's for sure...

K: It's a kind of pop-rock, with ska influences. The guitar is on the second line, and the synthesizer is really present in our songs. It adds a catchy feeling. Epic synthesizer loops, we call them.

S: How do you see the future of the band?

K: We want to continue as long as we enjoy it. I'm going to Canada on exchange next semester, so we'll have a break for about half a year, which is also why we will release a little CD in December. After that we'll probably just go on, maybe in a different style, wherever our mood is at the moment. We don't really aim for getting big. We aim for staying friends and gig as long as we can.

S: The theme for this Scriptus issue is going to be the Dean. Are we going to have a song by The Up dedicated to her?

K: (laughs). I don't know... we do write songs on very weird topics. One of them is about this teacher we had in Spanish who was really awful. Or there's this other song about the policeman who kicked us out of the shed.

S: You just improvised, and that's what came up.

K: Yeah, I sometimes don't even have the lyrics for the songs we're performing. I improvise a lot on stage, and no one ever notices -you can write that down, it's fine.



Dr. Muso's sound advice: Che Sudaka Melkweg, February 6th.

They started off as immigrants in Barcelona (yes, the bad ones: the "illegal" ones), where, while playing on the streets, their Argentine and Colombian backgrounds got inevitably mixed with the influence of politically engaged musicians like Manu Chao. It's been a while since then, and now this mestizaje they play -reggae, ska, hip-hop, punk, world music, whatever- arrives to us in the usual form: powerful lyrics, claims of political freedom, frenetic rhythm, and one main idea that explains their philosophy, summed up in a song title: "¡Que viva la gente!"

LOVE AND SEX AND MAGIC

Socks in Bed Improve your sex life with a pair of warm feet!

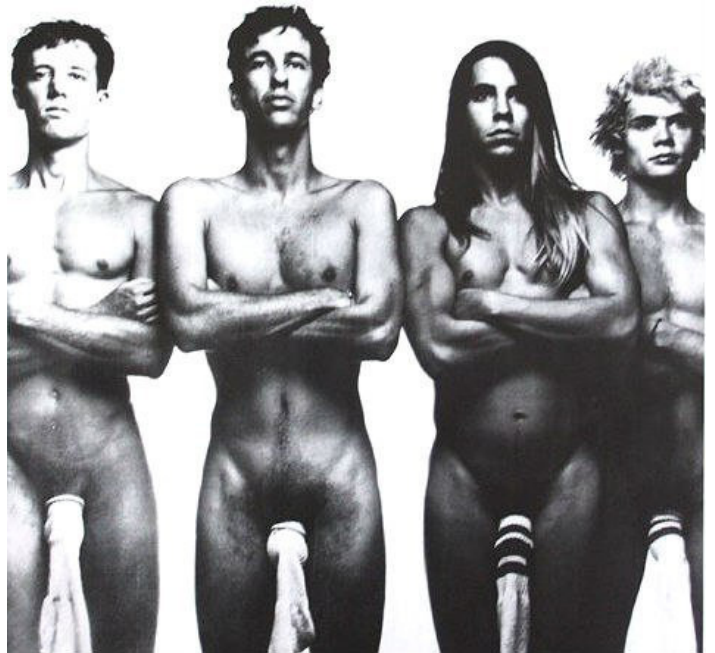
by Charlotte Verboom

Winter is coming. We know, we are all noticing it. Sweaters, hoodies and scarfs are added to our outfits again and I have already pulled my sexy woollen winter socks out of the closet. They're terrible, they have these fluffy balls and an anti-slip soles. I don't like cold feet and these socks keep my feet perfectly warm. I even fall asleep with these sweaty (but certainly not slippery) things sometimes. Unfortunately these socks don't make me look like the sexiest person on earth. My boyfriend makes fun of them by saying that my feet look like those enormous Yeti appendages. Well, sexy or not, they are super multifunctional. As it turns out wearing socks while engaging in sexual activities improves your orgasm!

A study by some dirty sock-loving Dutch people (obviously) found that women who wear socks in bed experience an orgasm more easily than barefooted women! The head researcher Gert Holstege suggests that it has something to do with the amygdala and the prefrontal cortex, and a feeling of safety. Warm feet apparently improve the feeling of safety and inhibits emotions such as fear and anxiety. When these emotional centres are off, females are able to reach an orgasmic trance state. Who doesn't want that?

Studying a man's brain on this field was harder since guys experience a shorter orgasm (poor guys). They did find something we could already guess: men are less affected by emotions than women and focus more on the physical side of sex. Therefore, warmed feet should affect a man's orgasm less than a woman's. However, the sock-lover's study did show that men climaxed more easily while wearing socks. Maybe they just enjoy wearing socks in bed during sexy time.

Whether you agree or not, the majority of women still see wearing socks in bed as a passion killer. Even the majority of our own AUC girls prefer guys without socks in bed. Well let me give you some good advice girls: Stop focusing on your butt naked man wearing socks in bed and start focusing on your orgasm. Men don't have the nicest looking feet anyway (toes with hair and stuff), so wrapping them up in a piece of fabric could help. In the end all we care about is the climax, and therefore we should consider what is more important for us: the footwear or a greater orgasm?

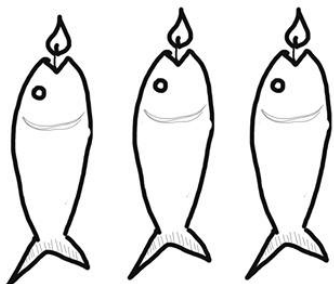


SUDOKU

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Did You Know That:

Some fish are so oily that they can be dried out and used as candles?



WE ASKED YOU

"If someone very important to you left tomorrow, how would you say goodbye?"



Tim Moolhuisjen (1st year)

A friend of mine went to Warwick for university, and the day before he went I picked him up in my car, and we went to the beach and sat there, had some drinks, some cigarettes. Then I took him home, gave him a big hug, and the next day he went off.

Carolina Sarzana (1st year)

I would do a huge lunch with all the people they care about: family, friends. And then, I don't know. That's it. Time together.



Pietro Negri (3rd year)

I don't believe in the goodbyes where you don't really say goodbye and you don't want to make it sentimental. You should have one final day together. I know some people pretend they're not saying goodbye, and just move on with their life, but it's kind of being ignorant of reality, or it's because they can't handle it. I could never live with myself if I didn't have that final moment.

Luuk van der Sterren (2nd year)

I'd say a bottle of red wine, maybe whiskey, on a rooftop of a building, and a pack of cigarettes; talk till the sun comes up, and then say goodbye. Have one final night together.



Victor van der Brug (1st year)

I'd have a nice dinner with them, and just have a chill evening. Then I'd drop them off before they leave.

Ivana Neamtu (3rd year)

I had these really close friends that were about 40, and one day they died in a car crash. That makes it good. Because if I had known they were going to die... I don't know. I don't want to know when it ends. I wouldn't want to be there, because if I'm not there, I can always pretend that it's not really over.

