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All the unmissable parties from now till the summer at a glance. | p.16 |

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Ik spreek geen Nederlands

'A Dutch course should be compulsory for internationale students.' | p.22 |

RESOURCE ^[ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 10 – 15 January 2015 – 9th Volume

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**



Marrying on a shoestring


Student weddings | p.12

>> BEN + CLOCKS

Ben van der Swaluw, Facilities and Services, Radix



'I love everything that is handmade'

Ben van der Swaluw devotes his Fridays to his first love: clock making. He disappears into his small, full workshop and time stands still. The fiddling with 'real craftsmanship' brings him peace. His house is full of beautiful clocks. And of course, they go like clockwork. Not many are wound up though, because of the noise.  RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans

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HENK VAN RUTENBEEK

LAST CHANCE FOR COMMUNICATION SCIENCE BSc

- Degree programme never attracts enough first years.
- 'It has nothing to do with the quality.'

The Communication Science Bachelor's degree (BCW) needs a serious overhaul, recommends the programme committee headed by Communication professor Peter Feindt in its improvement plan (see box). The student intake was so small that there was a threat of the degree programme having to close last summer. BCW now has three years to turn things around.

The Bachelor's programme has struggled from the start to attract enough first years. Only once did it manage to get more than 20 first years, the number Wageningen

University considers to be the critical lower limit. The current academic year was a low point with only eight new students. Ironically, the lack of interest has nothing to do with the quality as the Wageningen degree actually heads the list in the higher education guide.

NEW NAME

The programme committee thinks more students will come if they put more emphasis in the course on the link with the life sciences. 'We are different to other communication degrees,' says Feindt. 'In addition to teaching communication science, we also offer in-depth training in one life science discipline.' The idea is that the Bachelor's degree should have a new name (yet to be decided) that reflects its unique identity.

Strangely enough, the name 'Communication Science' is itself only three years old; the degree started out as Applied Communication Science. In practice the change of name only pushed student numbers down further. Feindt had not yet moved to Wageningen back then. 'The consensus opinion was that the programme should be brought more in line with degrees elsewhere. But we're not the same – we are different.'

The programme committee's improvement plan will be discussed this week within the Education Institute. Then it will be sent along with a recommendation to the Executive Board, who are expected to reach a decision quickly. School leavers have to submit their choice of degree by 1 May. **AS**

THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- BCW should get a new name.
- BCW should have six focus areas. The initial topics will be health, nutrition, urbanization, climate change, nature management and sustainability.
- A new introductory module will acquaint students with the focus areas, after which they will choose one topic. A life sciences minor worth 24 ECTS credits will be compulsory.
- More focus on the individual student, especially in modules with lots of minor students from other degree courses.
- There will be coordinated PR and recruitment activities.

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES FIRST MOOC

On Friday 9 January Wageningen University launched its first free online course. Rector Martin Kropff pressed the button to put the first teaching material online.

And so the university took its first steps into the world of Massive Online Open Courses, or MOOCs. These online courses, consisting of short films and assignments, are free to participants all around the world. For the university, they are an online calling card, as well as a laboratory for educational innovation. Already about 34,000 students from 196 different countries have signed up for Introduction to Nutrition. Because MOOCs require no commitments, usually only a fraction of the participants finish the course. The coming months will show how Wageningen scores on that point. 'I would consider 10 percent fantastic,' says Ulrike Wild, programme director of Online Learning. 'As far as I'm concerned, it's up to them whether they do the assignments and get a certificate, but I really

hope they watch the films and participate actively.'

The MOOC should provide Wild with a wealth of data. 'Which behaviour in the early stages of the course is a predictor of success, for instance?' The data will also help with improving the teaching materials. 'This is about such basic things as: this film was 6 minutes long and everyone clicked it away after 3 minutes. So what happens after 3 minutes?'

A second MOOC will follow later this month and in the autumn another two courses will be announced for 2016. **RR**

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

- 1 USA
- 2 India
- 3 Canada
- 4 UK
- 5 Netherlands
- 6 Australia
- 7 Spain
- 8 Germany
- 9 Mexico
- 10 Brazil



BACK TO THE BINNENVELD OF OLD

• Biologists want to restore meadows.

A group of Wageningen scientists want to buy 55 hectares of land in the Binnenveld area from the Province and restore it to its original state. The aim is to re-establish the rare meadows of

Sesleria albicans grass, says ecologist Patrick Jansen (Resource Ecology) of the Mooi Wageningen society. Professor Frank Berendse and biologist Arnold van Vliet are involved in the plan as well. Combining the plot with State Forest Service land, a nature area of 120 hectares would be created. The new nature area borders the Veenkampen, land owned by

Wageningen UR, to the south. Wageningen UR has had a weather station there for a few years now. Since the nineteen seventies, Wageningen UR has done a lot of research here on the restoration of grasslands. Jansen: 'It is so close to the campus. It is a pity not to make use of a location like that. The project is an excellent fit with Wageningen UR's themes: how do

you combine biodiversity conservation with agrarian production in one landscape?'

Whether the plan will get off the ground is not clear yet. LTO Ede has its eye on the same patch of land and has submitted a competing plan. The province has asked the two bidders to come up with a joint plan. **✉ RK**

in brief

>> ART

Beelden op de Berg comes to campus

Beelden op de Berg, a sculpture exhibition held in the Belmonte arboretum, is coming to campus. The eleventh edition of the art exhibition, scheduled for 2018, will have a 'branch' on the campus at De Born, the exhibition board and that of Wageningen UR have agreed. The university celebrates its centenary in 2018. A nice occasion for collaboration, thinks BodB chair Herman Eijssackers. 'It's an obvious combination: the arboretum, a distinctive feature of the old agricultural college, and the campus, which symbolizes the university now.' **✉ RK**

>> FOUNDERS DAY

Nature filmmaker to speak at Founders Day

Photographer and filmmaker Ruben Smit will speak at the next Founders Day at Wageningen University on 9 March. He

gained national fame last year with his film *De Nieuwe Wildernis*. The film was a portrait of the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. Smit studied in Wageningen and got his PhD in 2002. He then went on to teach at the university for six years. During this period he won prizes for his nature photography. Since then, his hobby has been his fulltime job.

✉ RR

>> FINANCIAL

Simplified claims

The directors of operations in the various science groups want to simplify the system for claiming expenses on foreign travel. So says Annemieke Beers, director of operations at the AFSG, which has been asked by the executive board to cut down on bureaucracy. The time-consuming claims system, which causes a lot of irritation, needs simplification, thinks Beers. She does not question the checking of expenses on foreign trips in itself. 'That is just part of the current requirements for financial accountability.' Beers asked science group staff last year which rules and administrative tasks they found most irksome. More information about bureaucracy on campus can be found on page 18. **✉ AS**



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Fraudulent

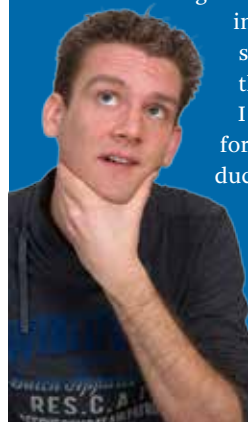
My lip trembles when I read the headline. Now the Sharia triangle doesn't exist either. Trouw journalist Perdiep Ramesar invented his sources and his quotes, apparently. 'The Ramesar affair doesn't just say something about Trouw,' says Hans Laroes, chair of the Journalism Council. Such major articles should never have been written by just one person, he declares.

At parties people regularly like to rub it in that academic fraud is not a matter of isolated cases. 'Don't be so naïve, this is the tip of the iceberg. And that Wageningen of yours? Nothing but commercial interests.' I can only sigh. I have no idea what is going on everywhere.

But sometimes I talk to scientists about matters of the heart and then I am struck by how human they are. 'He doesn't accept that it's over.' 'He never wants to see her again.' Objectivity is nowhere to be found. And I am no better myself. Brain scans show that we decide first and come up with arguments afterwards. That is how our brains work. Objectivity is nonsense, objectively speaking. Scientific research is an individual process in which people test their own hypotheses. Of course, there is plenty of discussion about carefully distilled presentations and comprehensive articles. Sometimes there is even a dataset online. But no one knows as much as the researchers themselves. And that is the idea, as you hear at every PhD graduation ceremony: universities train

individual, objective, independent researchers. The thesis is evidence of that. 'A great achievement.'

I don't get it at all. That it is allowed for such important work to be the product of just one person. **✉**



Stijn van Gils (27) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.

UNIVERSITY GETS NEW CAO

- Three percent increase in salary plus one-off payment.
- Limit set to the number of flexible contracts.



Universities now have a new collective labour agreement. It was announced on 9 January that trade union members had voted to accept the agreement reached in December.

University staff salaries will increase by two percent in 2015, followed by one percent in 2016. And all employees (except for student assistants) will get a one-off payment of 350 euros on 1 June 2016. Representatives of both the Association of Universities (VSNU) and the unions say they are pleased with the result.

In addition to the pay increase, the negotiators also agreed to set a limit to the number of temporary and flexible contracts. The basic principle is that 'jobs and employment contracts will be permanent if the work is structural and the candidate suitable.'

Only one specific target is mentioned in the agreement: the aim is to reduce the share of temporary

contracts shorter than four years for professors, assistant and associate professors and lecturers to less than 22 percent. Statistics from February 2014 show that Wageningen University largely meets that target already. The exception is staff who have recently become assistant professors (scale UD2), where about 62 percent are on temporary contracts.

NOT JUST FOR SHOW

It varies from university to university how much they have to do to meet these goals, says Association of Universities spokesperson Babak Mohammadzadeh. 'But all universities will have to make some changes. This agreement is not just for show.' The trade unions

see the result mainly as a first step. 'We think this is a good start to curbing the increasing use of flexible contracts in universities,' says Jan Boersma, negotiator on behalf of the Abvakabo union.

There is no prospect of more permanent contracts for PhD candidates and postdocs, who form the majority of flexible employees. But they will be entitled to 'time and training'. In addition, universities will 'actively help PhD candidates find jobs'.

DLO staff at Wageningen UR have their own collective labour agreement. The negotiations for that agreement broke down last month and the unions are now considering industrial action. **RR**

'MODEST' OPTARE NOT AFFECTED BY NEW POLICY

- Wageningen fringe benefits are within limits.
- No risk of losing tax-free bike

There is no reason for workers at Wageningen UR to be afraid that the new national regulations on work-related costs will affect their fringe benefits. So says Erik van der Wilk of Corporate Human Resources. Since 1 January, staff outings, Christmas boxes and other fringe benefits for employees must not come to more than 1.2 percent of their total gross income, the ministry of Finance has laid down. For staff in some sectors that represents quite a loss, but not for Wageningen UR. 'Unlike other employees, Wageningen UR did not have extravagant provision for things like staff outings,' says Van der Wilk. Fringe benefits for Wageningen staff do not come to more than the stipulated 1.2 percent. He therefore sees no reason to change the Optare package of flexible fringe benefits. **AS**

CONSTRUCTION OF INCUBATOR GOES AHEAD

- Businesses at ABP withdraw objections.

The business centre Plus Ultra is on its way. Preparatory groundwork is expected to start this week, says campus manager Petra Caessens. The realization of Plus Ultra has been on the back burner for a while because of objections lodged by businesses at the Agro Business Park (ABP). Wageningen town council approved the plan at the end of October, along with a plan to smarten up the ABP. The question then was whether the

businesses which lodged the objection would go to court about it. They didn't. For Caessens this is a happy ending. She says the objections were mainly to do with dissatisfaction about the deterioration of the ABP. Businesses there have been complaining for years about the lack of parking and poor accessibility at the park. There are also quite a lot of empty premises at the ABP. The action plans should provide a solution. The first step will be an informative meeting with all parties planned by the council in February. One of the topics will be the relationship between the ABP and other busi-

ness centres in Wageningen, including the campus. **RK**



SUBSIDY ON BIODIESEL DOES NOT WORK

- Rabbinge and Vet launch attack.

Burning wood as well as coal in power stations and running cars on bio-ethanol and biodiesel does not help reduce CO₂ emissions. Subsidies for these things should therefore be scrapped. These are the views expressed by Wageningen professors Louise Vet and Rudy Rabbinge and ex-Wageningen academic Martijn Katan in a vision paper for the Dutch academy of sciences KNAW. They base their argument on a literature study. According to these scientists, waste and biomass can be put to better use as the raw material for livestock feed and high-grade chemicals than as fuel. The climate, they say, stands to benefit more from taxes on greenhouse gas emissions and from the use of solar energy. Fuel saving measures and more efficient energy use help too. **RK**

BEE VERSUS DOG: THE JURY'S OUT

- Bees smell at least as well as dogs.

The brain of your average honey-bee weighs 0.64 milligrams. Yet the brain of an insect works much better than our one and a half kilos of grey matter, reckons entomologist Hans Smid. Human brains contain an average of 86 billion cells. 'But if we had a bee brain of one and a half kilos, we would have 2345 billion brain cells.'

This is one of many interesting facts at the first of the Insects and Society lecture series, last Wednesday in a packed Forum classroom. Insects have very good noses. And Smid should know: his group studies the smelling and learning behaviour of ichneumon wasps. But do insects have a better sense of



smell than dogs?

Dogs such as Cliff, Hotsche Luik's beagle. Luik trains dogs to carry out particular tasks. And Cliff is the only dog in the world that can track down the hospital bacterium *Clostridium difficile* (C-dif). Cliff rarely gets it wrong: his success rate is 97 percent. Dogs such as Cliff are used for the craziest things.

Identifying various forms of cancer, for instance.

But which has the best sense of smell, then? Dogs or insects? The answer is not decisive. It depends what your aim is. The second lecture took place yesterday, and there are six more to come. The topics can be found on Entomology's website. **RK**

'FORTUNATELY I DON'T SAY ANYTHING WEIRD'



Who? Lennart Suselbeek
What? Education contact person for PE&RC Graduate School

Why? Appears for one second in an ad for Aegon

Is it really you?

'Yes, it is. The ad was filmed more than two years ago and was broadcast on the TV back at around this time of year then too. It seems they've dusted it off and are showing it again. Various people have already seen me. Though I haven't as I don't watch much TV.'

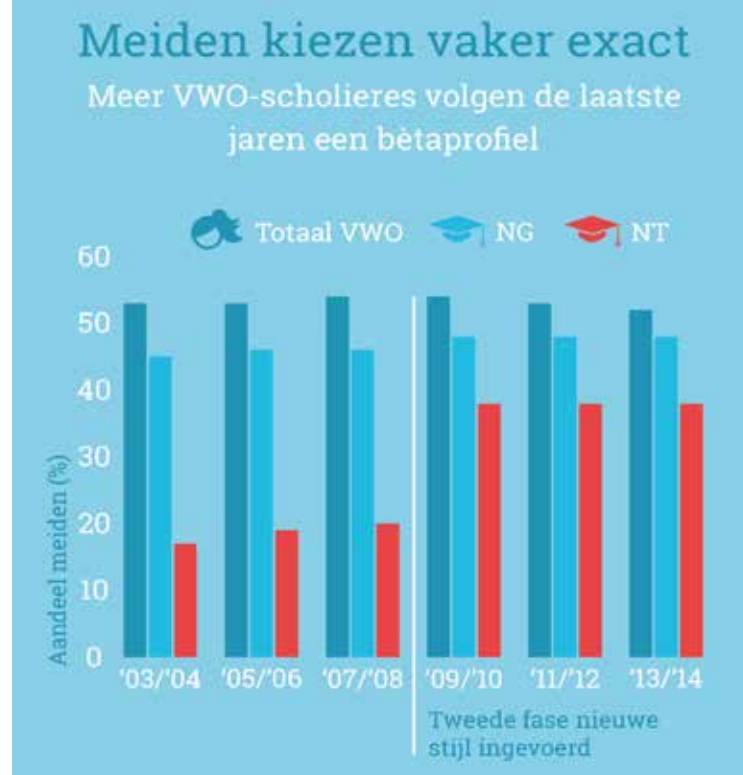
How did you get involved in the world of advertising?

'It was random chance. I was walking the dog in my neighbourhood when a van stopped and I was called over. I thought they wanted directions but it turned out they were looking for extras for that TV ad. All I had to do was stand in front of my house, say a couple of sentences and answer a couple of questions.'

And what did you get for that?

'I was paid a small fee, 100 euros I believe. All rather amusing, of course. Of course I didn't realize they would still be using the clip two years later. But I don't mind. Fortunately I don't say anything weird. Incidentally, there are other Wageningen people in that clip too. One of the ads was filmed in the De Bongerd swimming pool.' **RK**

FIGURE IT OUT



More girls opting for science / In recent years more girls in Dutch high schools have opted for science packages, with more taking 'science and health' than 'science and technology'

Source: Emancipatiemonitor, Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau

Illustration Studio

SMARTEST PACKAGING RUNS AWAY WITH COVER PRIZE

The result of the Cover Prize has never been so clear. Jenneke Heising's thesis on smart packaging got almost half the votes.

Eight covers were nominated by *Resource* just before Christmas for the Cover Prize of 2014. Jenneke Heising's cover went into the lead from the start, and stayed there. Of the 1274 votes cast, Heising got 609, a full 48 percent. Trailing behind her came Xiangdan Meng (Female Farmers in China, 17 percent) and Bob Mulder (Chronic illness, 13 percent) in second and third place.

What is smart packaging, actually?

'Smart packaging provides information about the quality of the product in the packet. In this case, about how long fish stays fresh. I developed a method of predicting the freshness of fish using measurements made by a sensor in the packaging.'

Your cover shows a packaged piece of fish. But I can't see a sensor?

'No, there isn't one. I worked with a lab setup, a bell jar with electrodes for taking measurements in a basin of water. The cod lay next to the basin of water. The elec-

trodes measure the conductance of the water. Gasses such as ammonia and trimethylamine which are released from the fish dissolve in the water and change its conductance. The sensor will look like a kind of minichip in the end, one which you could scan with your smartphone, for instance.'

Cod? But isn't the fish on the cover...?

'Salmon, yes. The picture looked better with salmon.'

How did the cover come about?

'Through the printer I got in contact with graphic designers Inzicht Grafisch Ontwerp. I talked to the designer about my thesis. I wanted something to do with packaging on the cover. But how do you show that the packaging is smart? It's not that easy. It's the label that shows it. I chose the colours myself. The design was right first time, actually.'

Did you do a lot of lobbying?

'Yes. We sent it around the department and put it on LinkedIn and Facebook. I even made a Twitter account for it. Apparently it worked. Even my thesis has already been downloaded from the Forum library 800 times.'



Jenneke Heising with her thesis.

Will there be a follow-up to the study?

'At Food Quality and Design we want to do more research on the interactions between packaging and food. For example, I am now setting up a study on so-called ac-

tive packaging which can influence the food's shelf life. Packaging that can capture gases given off inside it, for instance. Or antimicrobial packaging in which substances released from the packaging extend the product's shelf life.' **© RK**

PEELING AWAY THE LAYERS OF THE ONION GENOME

- **Eleven billion genetic letters analysed.**
- **Onion genome is five times bigger than human genome.**

Plant scientists at Wageningen have deciphered the genetic material of the onion, as became clear from a presentation of provisional results at a conference in San Diego in early January. The onion is

not the first crop to have its genome mapped: the bulb crop was preceded by the tomato and the potato. Even so, mapping such a large genome is still quite a feat, for the onion genome contains about 16 billion 'genetic letters', five times as many as the human genome.

Now almost 11 billion of those 16 billion 'genetic letters' have been decoded, says Richard Finkers, a DLO researcher at Plant Research International. He hopes to

be able to add many more before the final version is published. 'The more information you have, the more questions you can answer about the evolution of the onion.'

Plant breeding companies can use genetic information to develop new onion varieties more quickly onion plants that are disease resistant, for example, or that produce better quality onions. The new genetic information could also solve the problem of daylight require-

ments. Because onions grow all over the world, their ideal day length ranges from 11 to 16 hours of light. Cross-breeding often unintentionally changes the daylight requirement, says Finkers. Researchers now hope to find out which genes determine daylight preferences. That is why part of the funding for the Plant Breeding department's top-sector project comes from the plant breeding company Bejo seeds. **© RR**

SCINTILLOMETER CAN MEASURE SIDE WINDS ON RUNWAYS

- Old technique put to new uses
- Apparatus measures side wind all along runway

Side winds on airport runways can be disastrous. Wind meters and weathervanes are therefore used to provide continuous information about the wind at particular points along the runway. Daniëlle van Dinther developed a method using scintillometers to measure the side wind along the entire length of the runway at the same time. This is a new application for an existing meteorological instrument.

Scintillometers measure fluctuations in the degree to which light is broken up by scintillations in it. Scintillations are vortices in the air with a slightly different humidity and temperature. A scintillometer measures fluctuations in the signal caused by scintillations.

These meters can also be used to measure side winds. What they actually measure then is the movement of vortices. According to Van Dinther, the principle has been known since the nineteen fifties. Two scintillometers next to each other measure the same scintillations one after the other. That time gap is a way of meas-

uring the speed of the side wind. Until now, these signals had to be calibrated using measurements at ground level. Van Dinther developed a way of doing without that calibration.

CONSERVATIVE

The main advantage of this new method of measuring wind, says Van Dinther, is that it is measured along the whole length of the runway. 'Standard wind meters or vanes only measure it at one fixed spot. So theoretically, scintillometers provide more information. And it works, as measurements Van Dinther took at Schiphol show. But the apparatus can do a lot more than this.

The scintillometer also detects the air turbulence caused by the aeroplanes themselves, the 'wake vortex' which is created near the wings especially. Van Dinther: 'These vortices are dangerous for other planes. There are fixed norms for them, but with scintillometry you can just measure it. The air travel industry is conservative,' thinks Van Dinther. 'And all sorts of safety protocols have been developed. You don't change those just like that. But there is certainly potential. We have proven that scintillometry can measure side winds.' **RK**



Measuring side winds is important for air traffic safety.



VISION <<

'Pig of tomorrow' may take longer

The development of the 'Pig of Tomorrow', which is farmed to new welfare and environmental standards, has reached an impasse. Pig farmers, abattoirs and supermarkets cannot agree on the added value of this meat, sector magazine Boerderij reported last month. But LEI researcher Robert Hoste is optimistic: he says the pork will be on the shelves by the end of this year.

'A few years ago the supermarkets agreed to include sustainable meat in their assortment,' says Hoste, pig production economist at the LEI. 'NGOs such as animal rights organization Wakker Dier are now putting pressure on the supermarkets to keep their promises.'

Are the supermarkets doing nothing then?

'The market leader Albert Heijn is already buying 'Better Life' meat from VION. That is pork for which there are extra welfare standards but not really any environmental criteria. The suppliers could quite easily upgrade the 'Better Life' meat to 'Pig of Tomorrow' meat, but the added value seems to be the bottleneck.'

Why isn't the added value fixed centrally?

'Because that is not allowed; it would count as cartel formation. The Central Bureau for the Food Trade, the supermarkets' branch organization, has negotiated with campaigners, abattoirs and the farming sector organization LTO about the Pig of Tomorrow, but is not allowed to make price agreements – the supermarkets have to do that unilaterally with their suppliers. The sticking point is that the supermarkets are not yet very eager to buy sustainable meat. Nobody seems to want to be the first to buy sustainable meat, because you might lose customers that way. Meat is and will remain a big draw for supermarket customers.'

Is the project a failure now?

'I don't think so. I expect campaigning groups such as Wakker Dier and Varkens in Nood will carry on putting pressure on the supermarkets. It wouldn't surprise me if the 'Pig of Tomorrow' is sorted in six months' time, so that the meat is on the shelves by the end of 2015.' **AS**

PROPOSITIONS

'The goal of social science is to create controversy and debate, not only to clarify and explain.'

Jan-Willem Liebrand, who graduated with a PhD on 10 December in Wageningen

YET ANOTHER SUPERFLUOUS GM STUDY?

- **'Genetic modification has not been shown to have any consequences for lab animals.'**
- **Conclusion of umpteenth study comes as no surprise.**

Is GM maize harmful to our health? The latest in a long line of studies has shown no untoward effects on rats after consuming this maize. We would be better off saving money, time and lab animals, says Rikilt researcher Esther Kok.

Monsanto's maize varieties MON810 and NK603 are among the most scrutinized in the world. They are genetically modified. One of them has extra genes which protect the plant against destructive

insects, and the other has bacterial genes which provide herbicide tolerance, or protection against the weedkiller Roundup. The first is permitted on the European market, the second is not (yet). Both varieties have been through an extensive admission procedure but the EU is very wary of admitting GM crops. The Netherlands is not against them, but other countries such as France and Austria oppose them. In order to break the deadlock, Brussels is having an additional study done on the evaluation criteria for GM crops in general and MON810 in particular. This is being implemented by a four-year EU project called GRACE: GMO Risk Assessment and Communication of Evidence.

NEW STUDIES

In this context, Rikilt researcher Esther Kok and European partners is looking at whether the risk assessment of GM crops is in line with the latest scientific findings. In the test, groups of rats were fed on a diet including various different doses of GM maize. The rats were then compared on various points with other rats fed on non-modified maize. The conclusion, published last month in Archives of Toxicology, was that MON810 caused no abnormalities in the rats.

Esther Kok was not surprised by the conclusion. 'There have been several rat studies on MON810 in the past and nothing came out of any of them. We in the Netherlands are not in favour of these

kinds of 90-day rat studies, because we do not think they are sensitive enough. But the European Union made these studies compulsory last year.'

New rat studies are now planned under the auspices of GRACE. Partly instigated by the claim made by the French scientist Seralini in 2012, that he had found swellings in rats that had eaten GM maize. This publication was withdrawn after attracting a lot of criticism. Kok would be amazed if this latest study came up with any evidence of damaging effects. The GRACE project, a collaboration between European toxicologists and risk-assessors, is coordinated by the German Julius Kuhn Institute.

AS

INSECTS MAKE ANIMAL FEED SUSTAINABLE

- **Insects can be bred on brewers' spent grain and leftover bread.**
- **Cockroaches and soldier flies are suitable livestock feed.**

We've got used to the idea of crickets and mealworms on the menu. Now we hear that insects can also make good animal feed. Dennis Oonincx studied how you can breed them on waste products from the food industry.

His choice doesn't sound too appetizing: soldier flies and cockroaches. 'They taste bad, yes,' says Oonincx. But both insect species are very efficient at turning plant-based feed into animal protein, whereas they are not fussy eaters. What is more, they produce little CO₂ per kilo of protein and can be produced in a small space. This makes them strong candidates for addressing the projected future shortage of animal protein.

Oonincx offered the insects a range of industrial byproducts: a mixture of brewer's yeast, brewer's spent grain, leftover bread, cookie waste and potato peel. These byproducts from the food industry are normally processed into livestock feed. A control group was given standard feed used in breeding insects, such as chickenfeed.

MANURE

The feed conversion efficiency of crickets and mealworms is similar to that of pigs and chickens. That they are more sustainable is down to the fact that they produce smaller amounts of greenhouse gases. The feed conversion efficiency of cockroaches and soldier flies is even greater, Oonincx concluded. 'The pig uses about 20 percent of the plant protein in the feed, the soldier fly about 60 percent. That efficient protein storage makes them an interesting potential link in the chain for livestock feed.'

Oonincx also investigated



Cockroaches produce a lot of protein and not much CO₂.

whether he could breed soldier flies and cockroaches on manure. That could be extremely interesting, because manure has a negative economic value in the Netherlands. But much more research is needed on this. What is more, it is currently illegal in Europe to use insects bred on manure in live-

stock feeds. Outside Europe, however, Oonincx sees opportunities for breeding insects on manure.

AS

Dennis Oonincx graduated with a PhD on 6 January; his supervisors were professors of Entomology Arnold Huis and Joop van Loon.

We wish all our readers a prosperous 2015. In recent weeks the discussion about the campus traffic situation continued. A hunter came under verbal fire and people had different views on working beyond retirement age. Come and join the discussion!

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

UNDER FIRE

It's not every day that an ecologist 'comes out of the closet' as a hunter. Nonetheless, Geert Groot Bruinderink received mainly positive reactions, he told Resource.

Online **Moniek**, by contrast, voices criticism of what the ecologist has to say about hunting. 'Mr Groot Bruinderink contradicts himself fairly comprehensively: first admitting that the benefit of hunting is unproven, only to then claim that hunting is necessary.' Personally, she thinks that hunting is pointless and that there are other ways to maintain a balanced population and to make the roads safe. 'Why won't hunters simply admit that they get a kick out of murdering living beings?' If it were up to her, hunting, 'a sport for sick minds,' would be banned. Respondent S expresses annoyance at this harsh judgement. 'Are people who work in abattoirs also "sick minds"?' In his opinion, hunting – and slaughtering – are simply ways people use to come by a tasty bit of meat. He also thinks it's remarkable that **Moniek** knows everything about the effects of hunting, given that Groot Bruinderink says that that is still a matter of some uncertainty. 'It's amazing you can make all those assertions'.



TURNING CIRCLES

A new road round the campus – the campus ring road – is the most efficient solution for the traffic problems, says a provincial report. That hits a nerve with the many critics.

'Good and cheap? Don't make me laugh,' writes **Goeie buur**. What he sees is a plan that '[sacrifices] nature, landscape and liveability to car accessibility'. Other respondents think it ironic that a green knowledge institution no less is taking the lead. That prompts **Jan** to assert that the article paints a one-sided picture of the report. The ring road may be more effective but 'Resource doesn't say [...] a word about other effects, also assessed in the provincial study'. Councillor **Roel van Cauwenberghe** (GL) is also enraged. 'Not a word's been said about which is the best scheme.' The councillor can't help but notice the list of disadvantages. Moreover, there is supposedly no support base at all in Wageningen, not among residents and not in political circles. Politicians will indeed make the final choice, responds **Roelof Kleis**, author of the article. 'But a good listener needs little explanation.' After all, the report shows that the 'campus ring road' is cheaper and more effective. He expects that this hasn't escaped the province's attention.

ENDLESS PLEASURE IN WORK

In December Resource interviewed enthusiastic scientists who have continued to work beyond retirement age. This drew widely differing views from readers.

'It's all very well having these golden oldies,' writes **Hans Böhmer**, 'but how many young graduates have no prospects because of them, making their study a wasted investment?' If it were up to **Böhmer**, seniors would continue to work only to prepare young talent for their job. Ikbal Agah Ince sees it very differently. Under the portrait of Dick Peters, the 82-year-old virologist who is still working, he writes: 'He is [a] great mentor and scientist!'

CORRECTIONS

In the article *Out of the box* (Resource 9, p. 24) it was reported that Thymos, umbrella body for the student sports clubs, is organizing a winter sports week. However, this is being done by a national committee for which Thymos is doing only the promotional work in Wageningen.

The grand student ball is not being held on 19 February, as stated in Resource 9, p. 27, but on 27 February.

Taking the plunge: Student weddings

Getting married? Nothing could be further from the minds of most students. They are more concerned with their studies and having a good time. But every year a few Wageningen students tie the knot. So what are their motives for committing themselves to a lifelong partnership? And how do you organize a fabulous wedding on a student budget?

text: Carina Nieuwenweg and Romy Appelman



Lennert and Gabriëlle

Lennert (25) and Gabriëlle (22) had only been together a couple of months when Gabriëlle got pregnant. Things suddenly moved fast then. Although Lennert was still a student, they decided to move in together to create a good basis for the baby's arrival. After the birth of their daughter Lotus, however, they wanted to go a step further and be a real family. 'And also, I really wanted to have the same name as my daughter,' says Gabriëlle. In no time the decision had been taken to get married. 'An unusual step for people of our age,' admits Gabriëlle. 'But luckily, all the reactions we got were positive.'

But getting married is an expensive business and money is in short supply for the couple, as fulltime mother and student. So it had to be a low budget wedding. 'Of course that was a challenge,' says Lennert. Thanks to a part-time job, they managed to save a bit.



‘The bar was run by fraternity mates’

‘And for the rest, you just have to be creative.’ Party venues are very expensive. But Lennert and Gabriëlle were lucky: an aunt and uncle of Lennert’s offered them their beautiful farmhouse in Putten for the occasion. The party was held in the barn, with the workbench serving as a bar. ‘We kept the snacks simple, just sausages, cheese and barbecue. And beer from Germany of course – it’s cheaper.’

They didn’t have to hire bartenders. ‘Friends from my SSR fraternity did all that,’ says Lennert. One of his year group mates took care of the lighting and sound. The

group even camped out on the farm to help with the cleaning up the next day. ‘Really incredibly nice.’

Family and other friends did their bit as well. Gabriëlle’s mother put her heart and soul into the décor of the barn. One girlfriend took the photographs and another made the wedding cake. ‘I got the dress from my brother and sister.’ Lennert and Gabriëlle look back on a ‘fantastic day’. Even if they’d had a bigger budget, they wouldn’t have done it very differently. ‘At the most, we would have invited more people to the barbecue.’

**'If you're sure,
you're sure'**



Tanja and Imko

Tanja and Imko met on New Year's Eve 2012. 'We got on really well right from the start,' says Tanja, a BSc student at Wageningen. They had been together a year, giving their relationship a chance to develop, when Imko popped the question on New Year's Eve 2013, exactly a year after they first clapped eyes on each other. The answer was a wholehearted 'Yes'.

The great day came eight months later, on 27 August 2014. Pretty quickly by today's standards, Tanja admits. But she never had any doubts. 'If you're sure, you're sure.' Another factor played a role in it for both of them. 'Marriage is important to me as a Christian, and the same goes for Imko. We are both members of the Dutch Reformed church.'

Was there a bit of pressure from the church community then? Tanja laughs. 'People often think that, don't they? But no, not a single elder came knocking to urge us to get married. It was our own decision and came from a deep-seated desire to ask for God's blessing on this marriage. That's what Imko and I are like.'

But the couple didn't have much money so it was a real student wedding. 'It didn't matter much to us what



the day looked like,' says Tanja. 'As long as everyone could just be themselves and the atmosphere was relaxed.' In view of the tight budget, they appealed for help from friends and family. 'They baked a cake, for instance. My sister-in-law helped with the decorations. We had my dress made by a seamstress we already knew,' says Tanja.

The couple found it easy enough to make other savings too. Tanja: 'Getting married in Apeldoorn was much cheaper than in Wageningen, so that decision was quickly made.' Purely by chance, the couple came across a beautiful vintage car which the owner was willing to lend them, as a big favour. But that didn't go so smoothly. 'On our wedding day the car broke down. Once that was solved, we had to take the traffic-calming bumps very carefully. So carefully that we were stopped by a couple of very grumpy police.'

But that was the only blot on an otherwise perfect day. The church service was held in Wageningen in their 'own' church and followed by a party on a farm campsite in Otterlo. 'Our guests could dance indoors and sit around the campfire outside. Altogether, we had a very relaxed and happy day.'

It was only possible to keep the costs so low (about 4500 euros) thanks to the help of family and friends. But that made it all the nicer, says Tanja. 'It meant they were much more involved in the event. It was a party not for but with the guests. Truly, even if we had more money, I wouldn't do anything differently. Sometimes I think these sorts of ceremonies have become too luxurious.'

Maarten and Umair

Maarten, a PhD candidate in Physical Chemistry, was looking for the love of his life on a dating site. And he found him, but not exactly close to home. His eye fell on Umair from Pakistan, a faraway country where homosexuality is far from being accepted. It looked like a hopeless match. Instead, events unfolded like a modern fairy tale in which a prince chooses love over wealth and power.

Well, Umair is not exactly an eastern prince, but he does come close. He belongs to an influential family in Pakistan. His father has a top government job and many of his family are doctors or scientists. 'At home I only had to snap my fingers and I got what I wanted,' says Umair. But after spending a year in the UK getting his Master's, he realized his homeland could not give him what he really wanted. 'Nobody is openly gay in Pakistan. It's as simple as that.'

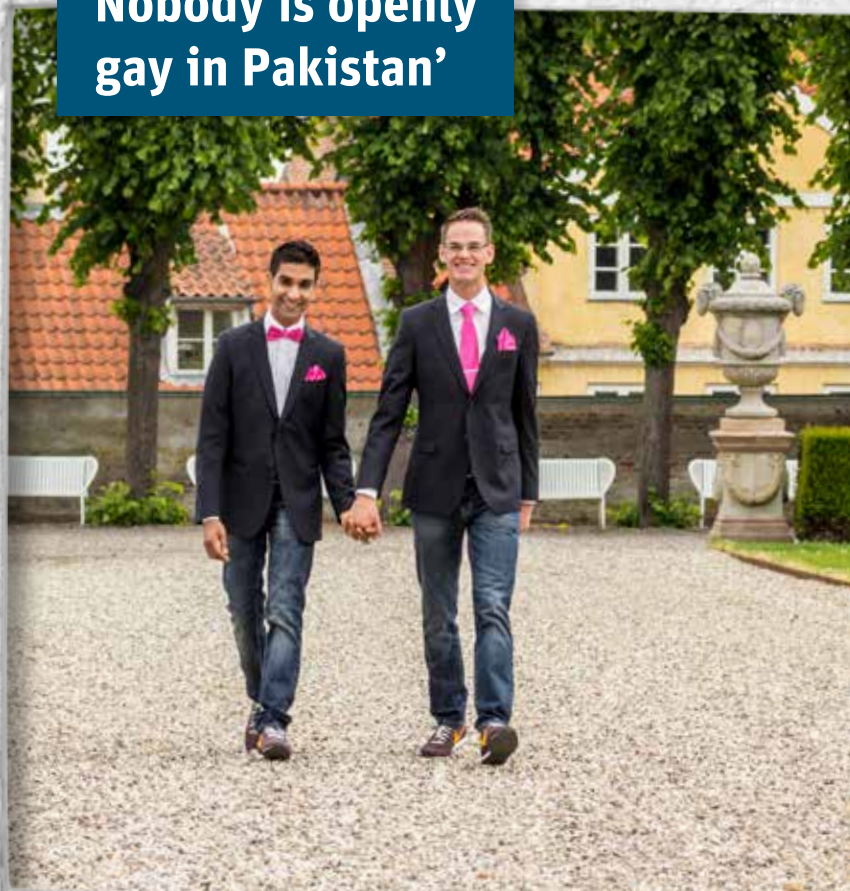
After his studies he had to go back to Pakistan, but he went with the wish to return to Europe as soon as possible. During this period he got to know Maarten on the internet. For five months, the lads shared their ups and downs on WhatsApp, Facebook and Skype. 'Umair was sure: this was Mr Right. So sure that he turned down several jobs he was offered thanks to family connections. One of them was in Dubai. A great career opportunity, he is sure. 'It was very tempting but I knew that in Dubai I could never stand up for who I really am. I could no longer imagine life without Maarten.'

Maarten was very excited too. But he wanted to wait and see what happened when they met 'for real'. 'To see whether I would fall in love with the guy I liked so much.' They got the chance when Umair had to go to Denmark for a business consultancy project. That's when they first, and it clicked face to face as well. A marriage proposal followed on New Year's Eve 2013. The wedding, seven months later, was deliberately low profile. To get married in the Netherlands, Umair would have needed a 'not married' certificate from his parents, a step he preferred to avoid. So they decided to get married in Denmark. It was a quiet wedding. 'Denmark is not exactly next door and the wedding was planned at short notice.'

Umair's parents were in the dark. He kept quiet out of fear that the Pakistan media would spread the news that the son of a prominent figure is gay. 'My parents always took good care of me and brought me up lovingly. I keep my orientation secret out of respect for them. I don't want to cause any trouble for my parents.'

Maarten's parents were not at the wedding either. 'My family are convinced members of the reformed church. They know I am gay and I can see that they do their best. But it is still difficult for them to accept it.' Maarten himself is still a member of the reformed church. But there is no question of a church ceremony. It was a typical Danish ceremony. 'In the Netherlands it is customary for the presiding official to make a long speech. In Denmark they are just efficient: it took five minutes to get married.'

'Nobody is openly gay in Pakistan'



RESOURCE PARTY CALENDAR 2015

JANUARY

- 15 Open party Moulin Rouge @ Ceres, 23.00
- 15 Los in het sprookjesbos @ Annie's kroeg (Asserpark)
- 16 Open party IxESN @ Het gat, 2 euros for non-members
- 17 Blues pub crawl in the town centre, 20.30
- 17 Party @ International Club, 23.45
- 22 Quiet is the new loud @ BBLTHK, 21.00
- 22 Open party, Unitas Youth Club
- 24 Jubilee concert student orchestra De Ontzetting @ Junushoff, 20.15, 7,50 euros, studenten 5 euros
- 30 Dead Cat Stimpy + The Naked Sweat Drips @ Café Daniels, Popcult Wageningen, 22.00

FEBRUARY

- 7 Benefit party 'Crossing Borders' @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00, 3 euros
- 12 Open party @ SSR-W, 3 euros
- 13 Winter AID party, ISOW and IxESN, 22.00
- 17 Open party Mercurius,
- 19 T3-party @ Ceres, 23.00
- 20 Open party IxESN with VeSte @ Het Gat.
- 25 Quiet is the new loud @ BBLTHK, Popcult Wageningen, 21.00
- 26 - Open jubilee party, Unitas Youth Club

MARCH

- 5 Open party @ SSR-W, 3 euros
- 7 Open party @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00
- 13 PhD-party @ Junushoff
- 17 Birdland @ Junushoff, 9 euros
- 19 Open party @ KSV, 23.00
- 19 Gay for 1 day @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00
- 25 Quiet is the new loud
@ BBLTHK, Popcult Wageningen, 21.00
- 26 Fingerlickin' at Unitas Youth Club

APRIL

- 1 WUR surprise party on campus for staff and students.
- 1 Open party @ Woeste Hoeve, 21.30
- 2 Open party @ SSR-W, 3 euros
- 2 Pre-Varsity open party @ Argo
- 4 Open party @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00
- 9 Open party Stupéfête @ Ceres, 23.00
- 15 Quiet is the new loud
@ BBLTHK, popcult Wageningen, 21.00
- 15 Open party @ Woeste Hoeve, 21.30
- 16 Sport Gala, Thymos
- 16 Open party 7Sins @ KSV, 23.00
- 25 Batavierenparty @ Campus UT Twente
- 28 Oranjebal @ SSR-W, 3 Euros

MAY

- 2 Open party @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00
- 4/5 Liberation Day party, Unitas youth club
(book your tickets in time).
- 5 Bevrijdingsfestival @ centrum Wageningen
- 12 Spring party: Lenteparty @ Argo
- 12 Open party @ VGSW, 2 euros
- 14 Open party @ Woeste Hoeve, 21.30
- 20 Birdland @ Junushoff, 9 Euros
- 20 Open lustrum party @ Woeste Hoeve, 21.30
- 21 Open party @ SSR-W, 3 Euros
- 28 Open party @ Ceres 23.00
- 30 WKSOF performance of Carmina Burana
@ De Aula, Generaal Foulkesweg 1.
Deuren open: 19.30. Aanvang 20.00

JUNE

- 4 Final party with live music, De Heeren XVII lustrum
@ Radix Agros (Unifarm), 4.50 euros
- 5 Concert by WSKOV with the Hanze Orkest
@ Johannes de Doperkerk, Bergstraat 17.
Doors open: 19.30. Starts 20.00
- 6 Homo top 50 party @ de Wilde Wereld, SHOUT, 22.00
- 6 Concert by student orchestra De Ontzetting, with the
marinierskapel @ Junushoff 20.15
- 11 Open party 7Sins @ KSV, 23.00
- 18 Open party Unitas youth club

JULY

- 4 Bergpop @ Conventplein, 15.00
- 4 Open party @ de Wilde Wereld, 22.00

For the latest information see the back pages of Resource magazine in print, where WageningenUP provides a fortnightly update on the parties.

Rules, rules and more rules

The bureaucracy at Wageningen UR irritates staff. The university is sensitive to that and plans have been made to drastically reduce its procedures and protocols in 2015. But where's the best place to start? Resource did the rounds and noted the biggest headaches.

text: Albert Sikkema

Many employees of Wageningen UR find the organization's bureaucracy annoying. This was clear from the findings of the Staff Survey of 2014. This prompted Resource to ask a handful of employees to name their biggest bureaucratic headache. It didn't take many of them long: submitting a claim for a foreign trip. All expense claims for the trip, including the taxi ride in Accra and the meal out with foreign colleagues, must be supported with receipts, while many taxi drivers and restaurants in such distant countries never write a receipt on their own letterhead. What's more, all receipts must be scanned and initialled, otherwise the system won't accept them. It is a complex and time-consuming activity.

Irritation

Older employees fondly recall the simple system of fixed daily expenses. But we'll never return to those days, knows Annemieke Beers, director of Operations for the Agrotechnology and Food Sciences Group. 'That system can't satisfy the current requirements for financial accountability,' says Beers. And that pressure to be accountable is ever growing and ever more complex, she says with regret.

At the request of the Executive Board, this past autumn Beers surveyed employees of Wageningen UR to locate the most important points of bureaucratic pain. They turned out to be in the IT systems. 'Their inade-



quate quality and effectiveness cause a lot of irritation,' reports Beers.

The next step is to improve these and other bureaucratic hotspots. She wants to do that this year. It's no easy task, says Beers. 'A lot of the bureaucracy is imported into the system. Funding bodies like the ministry, the top sector, NWO and the EU keep increasing the demands they place on a project. We can't change that.' What matters, she thinks, is to deal as effectively as possible with these external rules and conditions.

In addition, Wageningen UR also creates its own bureaucracy for its staff. The detested system for claiming expenses for foreign trips, for example. That's something that will be tackled this year, if Beers has her way. Other personnel and expense claim systems are also on her to-do list. As far as she's concerned, researchers should delegate more administrative jobs to the secretary. Obviously, there's work to be done. **R**



What are the greatest bureaucratic headaches and how can we solve them? Join Resource in thinking up ideas to reduce the tyranny of rules. Go to www.resource.wageningenur.nl (menu tab 'background') and post your comments.

RESOURCE'S LIST OF WAGENINGEN RED TAPE

1 THE (FOREIGN) EXPENSE CLAIM

Claiming the foreign trip isn't the only thing that's complex, in fact any expense claim is complex at Wageningen UR. Suppose you buy a book for your work. Because you order the book through bol.com, you receive the receipt and invoice digitally. You'd think you could simply submit them to the expenses system, but no, they need to be initialled. So you have to print the receipt, initial it, scan it and send it. Isn't there a simpler way?

Purchasing department has to approve this estimate and can then give it an order number. Once the sole trader has supplied his service, his immediate client has to visit the financial department. There, the supplier is first entered in the system then a check is made to see whether the claim matches the estimate. If the amounts do not match, the invoice is rejected and must be resubmitted to get the payment made. On balance, processing the invoice sometimes costs more than the job itself.

2 THE PROJECT CONDITIONS

Even a novice Wageningen researcher regularly submits quotes for new projects to a top sector or the EU. That means filling in a whole slew of forms. Each application has its own format and has a host of requirements that often have nothing to do with your proposal. A presentation error in the application usually means instant rejection. What's more, over time the accountants of the funding bodies have become stricter. You have to justify your meal claims and account for everything down to the last five euros. This keeps adding to the complexity of Wageningen UR's project accounting. Obviously some bureaucracy is imported.

5 TOILET DOCKET

Suppose the toilet is backing up. You used to call the reception and the problem was resolved in ten minutes. Now you have to send an email to the Facilities Company (FB). They make up (1) a docket stating all the details of the department and the toilet. The FB then emails (2) the reception to report that the toilet doesn't flush properly. The reception then calls (3) the building manager to ask whether it can be dealt with. If not, then (4) a plumber is called. This procedure also applies when writing paper or toilet rolls run out or the printer jams. There used to be direct contact with suppliers and manufacturers, and now dockets are made up.

3 GOOD INTENTIONS

Good intentions are great. In recent years, for example, the university has decided to improve the studyability of its programmes, to better organize the study choice system and to improve its care of foreign students. That's why there are now performance agreements with government, a code of conduct designed to assist foreign students and a scheme for checking study choices. Codes of conduct come with rules that have to be drawn up, enforced, assessed and evaluated.

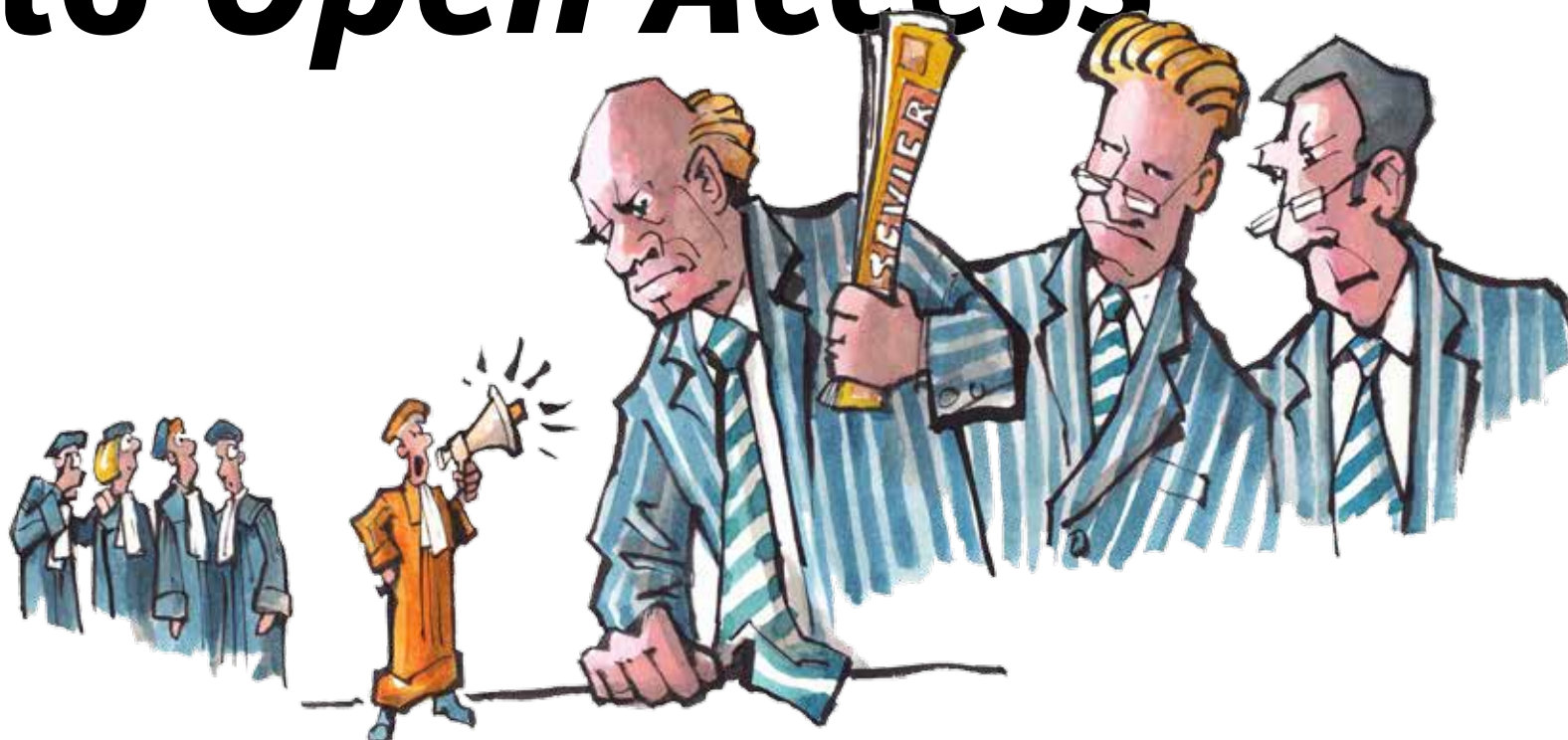
6 BILLABLE HOURS

Like DLO employees, university researcher have to 'book their hours', which means keeping track of how many hours they spend on research, supervising PhD candidates and teaching. In practice, their activities are often too complex and fragmented to account for accurately. That's why researchers record, for example, that they supervise their PhD candidates on Monday and Tuesday, spend Wednesday teaching, and so forth. Problems arise when their leave days, which are coupled to the billable hours system, don't match this information. Then the accountant comes down on them like a tonne of bricks. That makes booking hours a tricky business.

4 THE SOLE TRADER'S INVOICE

A freelancer or sole trader who wants to supply text, a photo or a piece of furniture has to deal with the Purchasing and Finance departments. His first step is to submit a quote. The

The hard road to *Open Access*



Dutch academic publications are supposed to be made freely accessible to all from 2024. But negotiations on open access between universities and publishers are not going too smoothly at the moment. ‘The crunch will come in 2015.’

text: Rob Ramaker / **illustration:** Henk van Ruitenbeek

By 2024 all articles by Dutch academics should be available free of charge online, wrote secretary of state for education Sander Dekker to the lower house of parliament in 2013. Currently, most academic journals are behind the digital tollgates of the publishers. Universities pay annual subscriptions for access to them.

As a politician, Dekker sees a lot of advantages in embracing openness. It will enable the general public, students and hard up researchers to keep up with the latest science. And that is not just a matter of principle,

but also provides a stimulus for the economy, says Dekker. ‘Free access can help companies, both large and small, in developing and applying innovations.’

BIG DEALS

The question is, however, whether universities can convince the large academic publishers to make their articles freely available, or open access (OA). Last year the Association of Dutch Universities (VSNU) started negotiating with a few large publishers with a view to realizing Dekkers’ vision. The universities are aiming high: they

want all articles to be open access without it costing any more than the current subscriptions.

Because a system of open access publications is bound to entail costs, of course. Somebody has to pay for the journal to be put together. Publishers also take care of quality control, layout and archiving. None of which is free. The idea is that in future only the author will pay and not the reader. In the Netherlands, subscription fees are jointly agreed in 'big deals' for packages of journals, to the tune of 34 million euros in total. The VSNU wants to convert these deals into – equally costly – contracts which include the right to publish open access.

The first success has already been booked: the broad lines of an agreement with Springer, one of the three largest academic publishers in the world. For a 'minimal rise in costs', all corresponding authors at Dutch universities will be allowed to publish open access in 'almost all' Springer's 1500 journals. Negotiations of the details are still going on. It is not surprising that it is Springer that is the first to bite. The publisher has already taken over an open access publisher and is eagerly embracing the concept.

PIONEER

As long as the age-old system of subscriptions and open access are running side by side, the Netherlands runs the risk of paying more for the privilege of being a pioneer. A danger Marcel Dicke, professor of Entomology, is afraid of. In order to make an article open access, academics are now paying an average of 1100 to 1500 euros. Until the universities succeed in bringing down the subscription costs, this will come on top of the old bill of 34 million, Dicke fears. 'Academics in the Netherlands publish a total of about 40,000 articles a year. That brings you to about 50 million euros extra.'

But that is a worst case scenario. Koen Becking, chair of the board of Tilburg University and VSNU negotiator, thinks this kind of 'double dipping' can be prevented. He points to the agreement with Springer. 'This deal shows that it can be done differently. No double dipping and no excessive rise in costs.'

But Dicke is not optimistic about the chances of more deals. 'I don't think the publishers are going to give up their large profit margins without a fight.' This seemed to be confirmed last October, when negotiations broke down with another publisher, the Amsterdam-based Elsevier. The VSNU wrote in a press release that Elsevier's proposal 'in no way caters for the change to open access that is being asked for and is needed.'

According to Becking it is not surprising that some negotiations are more difficult than others. 'Of course the transition to OA has implications for the publisher's business model,' he says. 'It is quite a job to think up a new business model. One publisher takes bigger steps towards it than another does.' Elsevier prefers not to comment while the negotiations are still ongoing.

GOLDEN ROAD

At first sight, the VSNU does not have a very strong hand for persuading or forcing companies to collaborate. The 'big three' publishers, Elsevier, Springer and Wiley, have a huge market share. What is more, they are not working in a normal market. Each journal has its own niche and publishes unique articles. Financially, too, the publishers have a lot to lose, says Hubert Krekels, director of the WUR library. 'Their profit margins are around 35 to 40 percent. Absurd amounts. The gap between the operational costs and the profits cannot be justified in an era when electronic publishing is getting cheaper.'

But the universities have allies. Open access has the support not only of the minister but also of more and more academic financiers and institutions. What is more, the VSNU is in a position to increase the pressure if the negotiations come to nothing. 'If Elsevier doesn't budge before the summer, we will start a boycott,' said

'I don't think the publishers are going to give up their large profit margins without a fight.'

Gerard Meijer, board chair of the Radboud University and VSNU negotiator, in Dutch daily newspaper the NRC on Saturday 10 January. First, the Dutch editors and advisors at Elsevier will be called on to resign. This will be followed by appeals to academics to stop reviewing work, or even to stop publishing with Elsevier.

Not everybody is happy with the degree to which the negotiations emphasize publishing in academic journals. Marcel Dicke, professor of Entomology, sees other routes to making articles open access. It is already possible, he notes, to place copies of articles – without layout – on your own website or in a database. 'That is quite simply allowed by the big publishers.' Researchers could in future stick to these limited possibilities for publication – the 'green route'. Ministry regulations do not currently allow for that possibility, however. Universities are forced to take the 'golden route': publishing through the journals.

Negotiations between the VSNU and Elsevier and other publishers will continue in 2015. In an interview with the Nijmegen magazine *Vox*, Meijer recently declared that he was not to be swayed. In his view the time has come for 'rebellion' against the power of the journals. And for achieving 100 percent open access in the Netherlands, the crunch will come in 2015. 'This is a crucial moment for us. If we give in now, it will be a big loss.'

For news on the negotiations with Elsevier, follow our website Resource-online.nl. You will also find a longer interview with Marcel Dicke there, about his experiences with open access.

ELSEVIER

 **Springer**

 **WILEY**
Publishers Since 1807

Open Access publishing, a bright idea?

Read everything about the pros and cons for individual researchers on resource-online.com

Search for the term 'Open Access Publishing'.

COMPULSORY DUTCH COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

International students should be encouraged to stay in the Netherlands, and a compulsory Dutch language course could help, says conservative parliamentarian Pieter Duisenberg. Minister Bussemakers wonder whether making it compulsory wouldn't put people off. So: should a Dutch language course be compulsory for foreign students?

text: Carina Nieuwenweg

Pieter Duisenberg



Tweede Kamerlid (VVD)

'Politicians are quick to assume that a language course would put students off, but actually international students often regret not doing more to learn the language. That is a pity. I want to see as much internationalization as possible in education. But it is win-win for Dutch and foreign students, if they take an elementary course in Dutch. Now it either doesn't happen at all or it's too optional. Twelve weeks, with three hours a week, would suffice. And it would increase the chances of student staying on here after their studies. Now most students leave the Netherlands after their studies. **We badly need foreign talent.** So what would help? Excellent international degree programmes and a visa extension to look for work. And the key factor for staying on after the course: a basic command of Dutch. Make it a bit less optional than it is now. Is that too much to ask? The Netherlands invests in every student. Put them off? Nonsense. It's simply win-win.'

Hetty van der Stoep



Study advisor MSc Landscape Architecture and Planning

'The arguments for Duisenberg's proposal raise questions. On what does he base his statement that students don't stay because they are not taken on by employees for lan-

guage reasons? Has there been any research on that? The growth of the WUR is largely thanks to foreign students. Some of the foreign students on our programmes are aiming at a better job or a career in science in their own countries. They don't need Dutch for that. **The knowledge economy isn't based on the Dutch language.** I think we'd be better off investing in the standard of communication in English among international students, as well as giving them the opportunity to do a Dutch course. That strikes me as a more liberal approach that fits the VVD better than a patronizing proposal like this.'

Mohammed Mohandis



Tweede Kamerlid (PvdA)

'That kind of language course is totally irrelevant to remaining a popular destination for top international talent. In the academic world, English is the language of communication anyway, as it is of most of the teaching material on Master's courses. **Pieter's plan is outdated and ignores the globalization of the academic world in which English is the lingua franca.** Of course we want students to settle here after their courses, but making language courses compulsory will have the opposite effect. It will put students off, and few of them will choose to study in the Netherlands in the first place. Fortunately the minister responded critically to the plan, and we share her view that a language course of that kind for foreign university students is undesirable.'



Would a compulsory Dutch language course help foreign students to integrate better?

Sylvia van der Weerden



Head of Wageningen in'to Languages

'Wageningen in'to Languages fully supports the idea that all foreign students should take a Dutch course, combined with intercultural skills.

To fit in here in the Netherlands and perhaps stay here long-term, it is very

important to have a basic knowledge of the Dutch language and culture.

They will look back on their time in Wageningen more positively if they were better able to integrate. That way you feel more welcome. You can get a long way in a short time. We advise taking a minimum of two or three courses in order to reach a basic level with which you can get by pretty well. You won't get as much out of just one course, but it does cover several cultural issues. Compulsory is a big word. Wageningen UR encourages students to take a language course and does not charge much for it.'

René Hoogendam



Studieadviseur Moleculaire Levenswetenschappen

'It is useful in this context to distinguish between Bachelor's and Master's students. For Master's students I think it's simple: a compulsory Dutch course would go against Wageningen

University's international character. It would put foreign students off choosing this university for their Master's. For Bachelor's students it's a different story. Since part of the course is taught in Dutch, a command of the language is an important criterion. Some German students have to take a Dutch course in order to be admitted. **At the Bachelor's stage, a language course is in fact already compulsory at Wageningen. In my view it can stay that way.** I don't think the influx of foreign students would increase much if we started teaching BSc courses in English. And the material the first-years have to learn is hard enough already, without making it harder unnecessarily.' ®

‘WE ARE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS’

Driving thousands of kilometres in an old banger through inhospitable territory. And hoping to get lost. That’s the plan for next summer for Jeroen Baardolf, Master’s student of Molecular Life Sciences and three of his friends. ‘We quite often do shit not a lot of people do.’

Jeroen Baardolf, Bart Letitre, Stan de Weert and Wesley van Beek are fond of adventure. In July they will be taking part in the Mongol Rally, a road trip to Mongolia. The car rally is run every year in aid of charity. On the journey the lads will be pretty much on their own: there are no support teams and the car they use has to be small, old and battered. It is not for nothing that the rally’s motto is: ‘if nothing goes wrong, everything has gone wrong.’

‘We don’t have any navigation system or road maps,’ says Jeroen. ‘We just write the names of all the major cities on a piece of A4 and set off. Hopefully local people will help us find our way.’ The route the four have sort of mapped out goes through Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Jeroen jokes: ‘We count on a 75 per cent survival rate. And the car will probably break down in Germany.’

This will not be the ex-Thymos board member’s first rally. In 2013, he and two friends took part in the Put Foot Rally, a car rally through South Africa. Jeroen: ‘That was really cool. I wanted to do something like that again, but crazier. I ended up with this idea.’ Three fraternity mates from Ceres were in for the trip. ‘We quite often do shit not a lot of people do. We nicked a painting from KSV, for instance, and took it to Spain. We all love travelling and going beyond our comfort zone. We are a bunch of idiots in search of adventure.’

CANNABIS

Money is the biggest challenge. Not only do they need funding for their own survival, but the rally participants are also required to raise money for charity. The gentle wolves, as the gentlemen call themselves, are collecting money for Doctors without Borders. ‘We

think they do good work and we saw a nice similarity: we are crossing borders too.’ They are trying to attract attention to their adventure through Facebook in order to raise as much sponsorship funding as possible from friends and family. The lads are putting aside 200 euros every month for fuel, accommodation, food and unexpected expenses.

They expect to be away for six weeks. They think they will see a lot of beautiful things: mountainous landscapes, deserts, and the gorgeous palaces of former communist leaders. They hope to sleep in traditional Mongolian huts, ‘and in Kazakhstan cannabis grows everywhere, apparently’. They are not afraid, except of IS. ‘That IS shit is not chill. We’ll see on the spot what is safe and

we might change our route.’

At the moment the four are working hard on tracking down a suitable car. It has got to be as cheap as possible and must not be too powerful (‘we have a Renault 4 in mind’). They need to get visas too and they are learning a few words of Russian so they can have a drink with the Russians. Jeroen: ‘It is difficult to prepare because you don’t know what to expect. But it would be a bit strange to prepare super-seriously for a trip with the motto of this one. In any case, we are having a great time in the run-up to it. Almost as much fun as the rally itself, which will be the strangest adventure ever.’ **LvdN**



From left: Bart, Jeroen, Stan and Wesley.



The Mongol Rally is a car trip from London to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Navigation equipment is not allowed, there is no support team and the organization wants to see small, old cars on the starting line. The point is to complete the race, rather than to be the first in Ulaanbaatar. The participants are required to raise funds for charity. Hundreds of teams take part every year.

More info: www.theadventurists.com/mongol-rally
Follow these guys on www.facebook.com/volgthegentlewolves



WRITING LAB PUTS THE FUN BACK INTO WRITING

Having trouble writing your paper? No idea how to get your research down on paper? The Wageningen Writing Lab might be just the thing for you. Here, specially trained students help their fellow students improve their writing.

The Writing Lab started in October and initiator Joke Marinissen welcomed the 50th student at the start of the new year. The lab offers students struggling with their writing assignment tools for working more effectively, whether they are producing a Master's thesis or an essay.

Marinissen is happy that Wageningen has its own Writing Lab at last, following in the footsteps of other universities such as Nijmegen and Tilburg. 'The focus at this university is very much on the content. There is often too little reflection about learning to write. Writing skills tend to be a poor relation, whereas the ability to write well is key to your participation in academic life.'

According to Marinissen, a Writing Lab fits the bill in Wageningen because the university places a high value on meeting every student's individual needs. 'Writing skills are not given the same priority in every programme. But even where it is taught adequately in the curriculum, a student might feel the need for additional support. You can get that at the Writing Lab. And that fits the university's vision that students are responsible for their own learning process.' There is also the fact that Wageningen is having to cope with ever growing student numbers. 'It is getting harder and harder for teachers to provide individual feedback. The Writing Lab can help address that.'

OWN RESPONSIBILITY

One of the students who has benefitted a lot from the Writing




Writing coach Xanthe van Dierendonck talking to a student.

Lab is Thai Master's student Karatchanok Hutapaed. 'I can write simple texts, but an academic text is harder, especially as English is not my mother tongue. And on a Master's programme your main activity is writing.'

Karatchanok made an appointment with one of the writing coaches at the Writing Lab. They discussed the problems and the coach gave her a few techniques that can make writing easier. Karatchanok: 'The text is still your own responsibility. You get tips and suggestions, but the coach does not rewrite the text.' Karatchanok noticed an improvement after only three sessions. 'My writing skills did not suddenly get much better; that is something you have to work on. But I do now have an idea of how to do that.'

PROBLEMATIC

There are more success stories like this one, stressed Marinissen. 'Improving your writing skills is not necessarily difficult. But my experience is that people make a big deal out of it. Programme directors and study advisors are quick to see it as a serious problem. But it doesn't have to be. Asked the right questions, for a lot of students things suddenly fall into place.'

The Writing Lab is still in the pilot phase. It will be evaluated after the academic year 2015-2016. Marinissen hopes Wageningen will welcome her initiative with open arms. 'Writing does not have to be a stumbling block. The Lab is for experimenting, for putting the fun back into writing.' Karatchanok agrees with her. 'I hope the university carries on providing this service for students, because it is useful.'  LvdN

Since the Writing Lab was launched, 55 students have approached it with questions about a writing assignment. Most of them (47) were Master's students, many (28) wrestling with their Master's thesis. Most of the questions were about the writing process (26), the research question and the structure (24), and the style and formulation (24). Most of the students came from the Netherlands (21) and China (13).

Do you have a question about a writing assignment, or would you like to be a writing coach? Contact the Writing Lab: info.wageningenwritinlab@wur.nl

LOOK AT ME

Men and women who put a lot of selfies online have narcissistic and psychopathic tendencies, says a study by Ohio State University. The researchers emphasize that selfie addicts are not necessarily narcissists or psychopaths as such. It's all within the bounds of normal behaviour. Makes you think though.

FUNNY

For Dutch women who have affairs, humour is the most important trait in their secret lover. So says research by the affair dating site Victoria Milan. Brazilian women value skills in oral sex. The study doesn't say what Dutch men are looking for in an affair. At a guess, it won't be humour.

SUN

Pregnant? Stay out of the sun then. The lifespans of children born in a year with lots of solar activity (sunspots) are five years shorter on average. Meaning in this case that their chances of dying in the first two years of life are bigger. This finding comes from a study of old church archives. Scientists think UV radiation is to blame. Use plenty of sunscreen then!

HOLD 'EM

It was awaited and now it is there: a computer that plays poker better than a person. Canadian scientists at the University of Alberta have developed it for Texas Hold 'em. The rogue can even bluff. Luckily though, so far the machine only wins if it is playing one person. So always play in a group. Too many uncertain factors confuse the computer.



Student wins award for debating

Master's student Lara Minnard has won the first Cicero annual prize. According to The Dutch Debating Club, she has made an extraordinary contribution to Dutch debating.

The Cicero prize was awarded for the first time on 31 December. Minnard was praised for the role she played in forging links between generations. Many student debaters started at secondary school and went on to join student debating societies. Older debaters from the business world often haven't experienced the debating culture among students. There is little contact between the two groups and they go to different debating events. Which The Dutch Debating Club thinks is a pity.

Minnard is one of the few students who attend events with older



debaters. This enabled her to build a bridge between the groups. That is also clear from her role in setting up Wageningen Debating. 'When we organize a debating event in Wageningen, like a lecture or a tournament for example, I appeal to both networks,' says Min-

nard. 'That way we don't just form a bridge; we have actually become a meeting place.'

Wageningen Debating focuses largely on the practical applications of debating; students learn a range of skills that can be used in day-to-day life. **© CN**

COMMITTEE MARKET



Dozens of students were at the committee market last week in the Forum. Various study associations were there recruiting students for a year as a committee member. Each year, it is uncertain whether all the committees will find enough members — this year in particular now that the basic grant has been abolished. The university is preparing a transitional year for the

financial compensation of committees. Students who fall under the new system in 2015/2016 and are considering a committee position eligible for Student Financial Support will therefore have a good idea beforehand of the consequences of their decision. If everything goes according to plan, the final proposal will be discussed by the Student Council on 12 February 2015. **© LvdN / Foto: SM**

EPISODE 42 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

The story so far: Willem-Jan's lack of academic progress is a running joke in the house. He's noticed with embarrassment that the students around him these days are really very young.

Tie

Dragging his feet, Willem-Jan walked into the Lebo. He hadn't slept a wink last night and he felt wretched. Plodding towards the wing with the study advisors' offices he was overjoyed to be grabbed by someone he knew. But after drinking an espresso, he could escape no longer. He had to go and see his study advisor. Actually Willem-Jan no longer knew how long he had been working on his thesis. At any rate, it was more than two years ago that he had finally lost his way in the SPSS software, draft versions daubed with red and boring literature. 'Are you looking for someone?' asked a helpful secretary who saw him walking along the corridor. Willem-Jan started, shook his head and walked hastily to his study advisor's room. After sighing deeply, he knocked on the open door.

'Look what we have here,' said Albert, looking up. 'The lost son.' He was still wearing the same checked tie and horn-rimmed spectacles he used to wear. With an expansive arm gesture, he directed Willem-Jan to the chair. Meanwhile, he typed something on his keyboard and swivelled the screen to show a long list of emails to Willem-Jan. Unanswered. The topmost subject line read: 'EMAIL ME BACK! NOW!' Willem-Jan dropped his gaze.

'I am really very sorry, but I just didn't know what to say. I wanted to sort it out myself first.' Albert smiled and swivelled the monitor back into its regular position.

'But that's what I'm here for, isn't it? To help you do that.



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Together, we need to get you back on track.' Willem-Jan still hardly dared look at him. He stared at the Newtonian toy on the table; its metal balls hung unmoving on their wires. Willem-Jan mumbled that he really did want to resume work on his thesis.

'I'd like that too,' said Albert. 'But I want to be sure that you are committed to completing your thesis. You can't leave me in the lurch again.' For the first time, Willem-Jan felt tears stinging his eyes. He swallowed.

'There's nothing I want more, but I just don't know how anymore.' His study advisor smiled paternally. 'Of course, you'll have to grit your teeth to start with. You'll have to revisit all your old material and it won't be any fun getting back in touch with your supervisor. Who was that, by the way?' Willem-Jan mentioned a name. He saw Albert blanch and start fumbling nervously with his papers. 'Is something the matter?' asked Willem-Jan hesitantly. 'Well... he hasn't worked here for quite some time.'

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

Wageningen startup wins prize

The student entrepreneurs at BoxBites have won a prize. Thomas van den Boezem (Health and Society) and Mark Schönhage (Communication Sciences) won Wageningen city council's stimulus prize in January. The prize goes to young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and potential.

Thomas and Mark have been running BoxBites since May 2014. Their customers take a subscription on a box of healthy (and sharply priced) snacks, both local and exotic. Since September, BoxBites has been promoting itself as the perfect office snack, with the motto: 'Snack well, work better'. In four months they achieved a

turnover of 60,000 euros. It has been plain sailing so far, says Thomas, but they did not expect to win a prize. 'A Wageningen councilor invited me to a council New Year's reception. The pretext was that we should run a stall but the real reason was the prize. So nice, and a real surprise!'

The pair are now busy working

on a label of their own. 'Our own brand of products with our own label on them so that we can convey our mission more clearly: making healthy snacks tastier and easier for everyone. The 'box' principle is too limiting in that sense.' Of course the gentlemen will still be delivering to their individual fans. **LvdN**

>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.

**IXESN – THROW AWAY YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS PARTY**

Friday 16 January from 23.00 to 04.00 in Het Gat

IxesN sees in the New Year by celebrating the fact that your resolutions are in tatters by the second week of January. So be creative and come dressed as a failed resolution. What you might succeed in is having a damned good night out.

WAGENINGEN TOWN CENTRE**Blues pub crawl 2015**

Saturday 17 January from 20.30 to 24.00

The blues pub crawl is an annual event in Wageningen and this year sees the 25th edition. A musical night out, with a choice of 12 bands in 11 different cafés. Including: Double U Blues, Bas Kleine & His Harmaniacs, Jimmys Gang, Sinners Prayer, Mo's Blues, G54 Blues and Jimmy Glasmacher Bluesexperience. There is also a short afterblues programme on Sunday.

PARTY CALENDAR SPRING 2015

Like to have an overview of Wageningen parties to hand at all times? On the centre pages of this Resource you'll find a party calendar for the first half of 2015 (pages 16-17). Keep up with the nicest parties in Wageningen. Tear it out and hang it up on the notice board or in the loo in your student house. 📅

This feature is provided by the Wageningen-UP team.

>> THE WORKS

'A HOUSE LIKE AN ANTIQUE SHOP'

Who? Elizabeth Lara, MSc Leisure, Tourism and Environment

What? Four months internship at Museum van Loon

Where? Amsterdam

'Many students want to get away as far as they can for their internship. But I'm from California, and I didn't want to head off again to another country. Through Facebook I discovered the Amsterdam Open Garden Days, during which private gardens are open to the public for a weekend. It was a model that aroused my curiosity. I love gardens and they have an important function in cities. They regulate the climate, offer habitat to birds and insects and give stressed urban residents somewhere to relax. As early as the Dutch Golden Age people were interested in them. Back then, legislation was passed stipulating that certain areas between the canal houses could not be built on or developed. Thanks to this bye-law or keur, aerial photos of inner city Amsterdam still show connected strips (or blocks) of green, the so-called keurblokken.

The open garden days are organized by the Museum van Loon. No one had ever asked to do an internship related to this event but the organizer was very enthusiastic. He said that no systematic overview existed of the historical development of the open garden days. So unexpectedly there was a job waiting for me.



As well as a literature study, I had to interview various garden owners. I had the honour of speaking to the old lady who started the scheme. She had a house like an antique shop, full of old paintings, with a pheasant and a rabbit on the wall and a coach-house in the garden. It was my first experience of a professional work environment. I was amazed by the little things it involved. Such as having lunch together at a large table with all sorts of sandwich fillings that were passed back and forth.' 📅 PT



MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in France

In the news: The bloodbath at the office of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo sent shockwaves around France.

Commentary by MSc student of Geo-Information Science Simon Pesnard from Brittany:

'When I'm in France I like reading Charlie Hebdo. You can't get it in the Netherlands. Here I read Le Monde online, but sometimes I want the more light-hearted tone that you get in cartoons that tackle sensitive issues in a humorous way. I was shocked by the news that many of these cartoonists had been shot dead.

Some people feel offended if they are ridiculed. But they should realize that this magazine ridicules everyone and everything. I can laugh at their jokes about the Catholic church, even though I was brought up as a Catholic. The drawing of editor-in-chief Charb kissing Mohammed was meant to say that no harm was intended. This attack may make writers feel less safe and be more cautious, even though they have the right to freedom of expression.

But someone does not buy a gun and go out and shoot 12 people just out of indignation. Since the colonies got independence a lot of immigrants have come to Paris. The government created two new suburbs on the edge of the city. Because they live segregated from the rest of France, these communities can easily feel rejected by society. Such people can easily be brainwashed and misused by organizations like Al Quaida and IS.

It is to be hoped that politicians understand where the killers came from and will focus their policies on better education and integration. But for the time being they don't seem to see anything except an attack by Islamist extremists. And the need for more security technologies to make attacks more difficult and to detect their plans at an earlier stage.

In Brittany, immigrants and indigenous French people live side by side and there are fewer tensions. But now my friends from Morocco and Tunisia are afraid of people's anxiety and confusion. People in the supermarket and on the street might be wondering if they are terrorists.' **R PT**

in memoriam



Peet Jansen passed away at the age of 67 on 18 November 2014. Until January 2005, Peet had

worked at the former IMAG (Institute for Mechanization, Labour and Buildings) on the Mansholtlaan. Peet started as an instrument maker in 1964 but later became a janitor, making him a familiar face at IMAG for many years. Peet was very interested in his colleagues and always had time for a chat during his post rounds or at the reception. He was also responsible for all the duplicating and with the right approach (especially avoiding putting him under pressure), everyone's reports were delivered in perfect order. Peet had a mind of his own and you could not change it easily, but that might be precisely

what made him so reliable. Peet had two hobbies: cycling (both racing and mountainbiking) and photography. He could talk enthusiastically about his many bike rides (to Cleve and back on a Saturday to eat cake), or tours along classic routes such as Liege-Bastenaken-Liege. He also got a lot of colleagues out on their bikes, through the ATB trips with the staff association for instance. He took up photography later in life and took gorgeous picture of nature around his house and at one of his favourite spots: the Alterra pond (see www.leetjansen.nl).

Peet was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia in summer 2013, and died over a year later. We offer Wil and the children our condolences and wish them strength to bear their great loss.

On behalf of IMAG colleagues and cycling mates, Rudi de Mol

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APPZ

Apps come in all varieties. Useful, innovative, exciting, amusing and completely pointless. Hundreds of new ones come out every week. Resource picked out a few that stand out, and of course we are open to suggestions. Email your find to tip.resource@wur.nl



SPENT!

Splitting the bill is always complicated. One person paid for this, the other chipped in with that, a third has already paid back secretly. Whether you are on holiday, out for meal, giving a joint birthday present or coming to the end of a night in the pub, with Spent! you know exactly who paid for what. No need for any further calculations, just fill in what you've paid next to your name and the app does the rest. Share events with your friends and keep track from your armchair of who owes what to whom.



FREE



PHOTOMATH

No calculator on you? Too hungover for mental arithmetic? With photomath you take a photo of your sum and the app does the work for you! Only works with typed letters, though.



FREE



KNAEK

The discount app for students with 1000 discount locations in the Netherlands and Belgium. Get your second burger free at McDonalds, 10% off at the Gamma DIY shop, a free packet of crisps at Albert Heijn or a discount on your winter coat at WE.



FREE



FML

There are times when you are just sick of your life and it seems like everyone else is having a better time than you are. Nothing like a bit of schadenfreude to cheer you up. On FMY, or Fuck My Life, you can have a laugh at other people's troubles. You see all sorts of blunders, problems and other nasty surprises, and you can click as you please on 'It's your own fault' or 'I agree, your life sucks'.



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E-mail: h.deruiter@surfaplus.com
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Deadline for submissions (max. 75 words): one week before publication date. Email: resource@wur.nl

classified

The Spot board seeks new members of the board

Would you like to do something besides your studies? Would you like to contribute to student life on campus? Do you like to organise parties, events and other activities? The Spot board is looking for new members and this could be interesting for you! The job takes about five hours per week, is a lot of fun and is the perfect opportunity to gain experience and skills. Knowledge about sound systems or promotion is preferred.

INTERESTED? SEND AN EMAIL WITH YOUR MOTIVATION AND CV TO [THESPOT@WUR.NL](mailto:thespot@wur.nl)

agenda

Thursday 15 January to Wednesday 28 January

FILMS AND FESTIVAL FOR STUDENTS

Filmhuis Movie W will be screening a lot of films in the coming fortnight. Still the Water, a heartfelt story of growing up on a Japanese island; MovieWeekend, a festival with 14 films, a film concert and a party; Atlantic, about a lovelorn Moroccan fisherman who makes an epic surfing trip to Europe; Sunset Boulevard, a 1950s classic, a stirring, cynical story of a faded film diva; Melody, a gripping drama about a French surrogate mother and her relationship with the British biological mother.

INFO: WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Monday 19 January, 17.45–22.15 DEBATE ABOUT MANURE PROCESSING AT THE NZV INSPIRATION DINNER

A meeting of the Dutch Zootechnical Society (a KLV study circle) with

three speakers: Eric Smaling, Wiebren van Stralen and Peter Schepers, on the need for manure processing and new possibilities. The milk quota will be disappearing next year, and some of the cow manure will need to be disposed of. Well-targeted measures are needed in order to achieve balanced fertilization and a sustainable livestock sector. The way animal rights are being introduced is not really efficient either. Venue: Hof van Wageningen

REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://WWW.NZVNET.NL/OVER-NZV/INSPIRATION-DINNER/](https://www.nzvnet.nl/over-nzv/inspiration-dinner/)

Wednesday 21 January, 19.15 LECTURE & DEBATE SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP: MODERN-DAY HYPE OR FUTURE'S REALITY?

A new wind is blowing in entrepreneurial land and it is called sustainable entrepreneurship. Erik van Slobbe (WUR) will lead the evening and look into the question what sustainable entrepreneurship is and whether it is more than the latest catchphrase. Who better to answer this question than entrepreneurs themselves?

Venue: bblthk, Stationsstraat 2 Wageningen.

INFO: WWW.STICHTINGRUW.NL

Wednesday 21 January, 19.30-22.00 CRASH COURSE ON WU EDUCATION: GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND ORGANISATION

The course (one evening) addresses four issues. The first one is the governance and organisation of WU; the second one is the funding of courses and other financial issues; the third one is the main agenda items of Programme Committees: the annual Education Modification Cycle, the Education and Examination Regulations and the accreditation of study programmes, including the internal quality assurance system; the fourth one is tasks, responsibilities and authorities of a Programme Committee and its members. Lecturer: Jan

Steen, Consultant Quality of Education.

Venue: Forum Building, VIP rooms 031-034

SUBSCRIBE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO MARITA.KLEFKEN@WUR.NL

Wednesday 21 January, 20.00-22.00 IN THE LECTURE SERIES INSECTS AND SOCIETY: 'HUMANS ON THE MENU'

Speaker: Prof. Willem Takken (Lab. for Entomology) on: Are we going to stamp out malaria? Dr. Ir. Fedor Gassner (RIVM) talks about ticks and Lyme's disease: from piles of leaves to questions in parliament.

VENUE: FORUM, ROOM C222

Monday 26 January, 9.30-13.00 DIVERSITY & GENDER AWARENESS SESSION: MINDBUGS (IN DUTCH)

For an inspiring discovery of your 'mindbugs', join this session (aimed at DLO managers). Mindbugs are the deeply held beliefs/misconceptions. In the context of organisational leadership, mindbugs lead decision-makers to select persons who resemble themselves, thereby missing the qualities of those who are considered as the 'other'. Therefore mindbugs are a known barrier to diversity in organisations. Venue: Atlas 3

INFO: INTRANET, PEOPLE, CAREER, DIVERSITY & GENDER AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 28 January, 20.00-22.00 IN THE LECTURE SERIES INSECTS AND SOCIETY: 'INSECTS AS A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL INSPIRATION, FROM INSECT TO DRONE'

Speaker: Prof. Arnold van Huis (Lab. for Entomology) on 'Insects in health care, architecture and espionage'; Lecture on 'From honeybee to robot' by Dr. Karl Tuyls (Department of Knowledge Technology, Maastricht University)

VENUE: FORUM, ROOM C222

colophon

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH

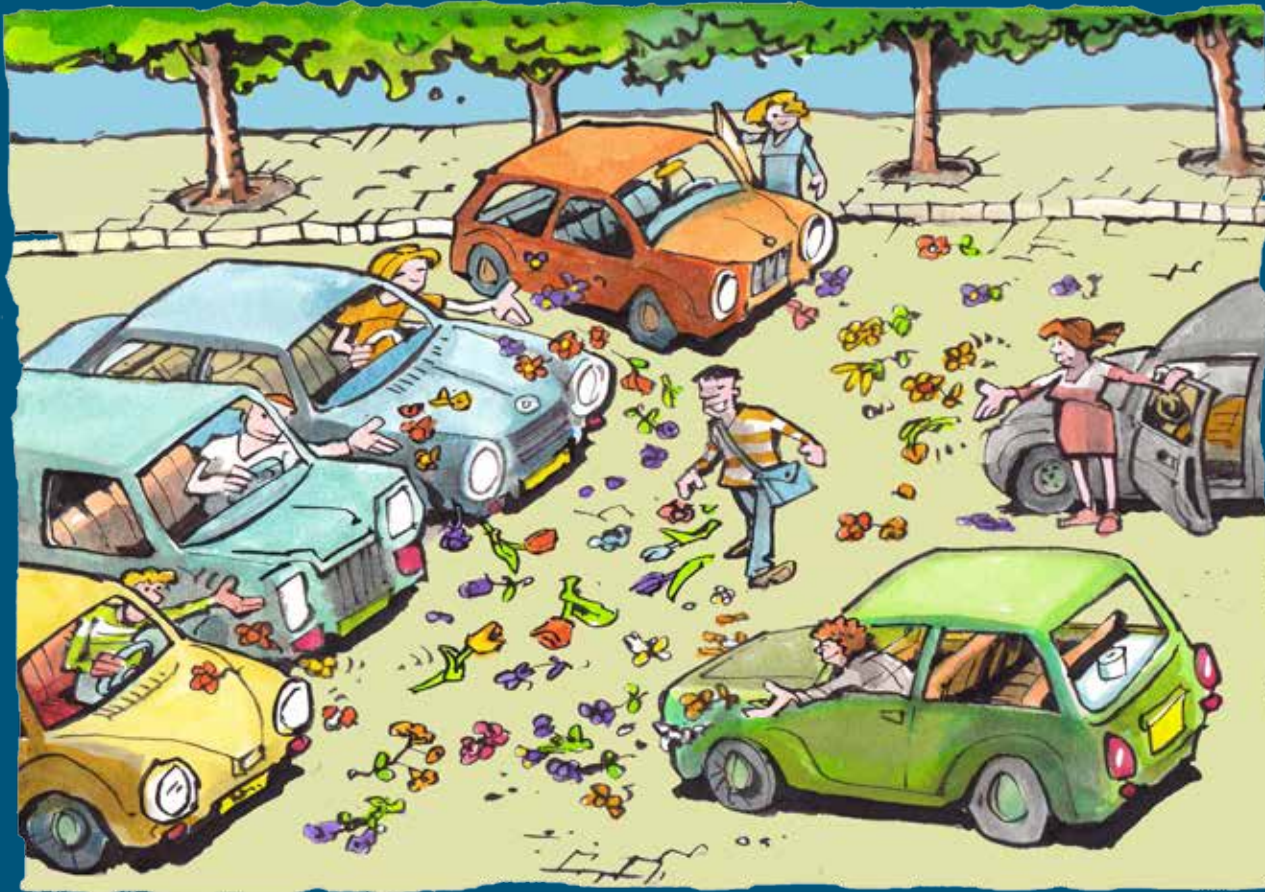


ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Walk on

I was strolling down the street, thinking about the excellent dinner I had just finished, when suddenly my heart skipped a beat as I realized a car was fast approaching. I froze. At the same time the car slowed down gently and the driver waved happily to indicate that I could cross the road safely. I still remember this moment when I was a Master's student five years ago in the Netherlands. Coming from a country where the roads are dominated by large numbers of motorbike users, I was always scared to cross the road, especially during rush hour. In Vietnam nobody wants to stop for pedestrians because stopping unexpectedly can cause a crash at any time.

The fact that the Dutch give priority to pedestrians crossing the road really caught my attention. For a while I was surprised and still nervous every time I crossed in front of a car. But the Dutch let me cross the road even when they are in a hurry to get to work! I think this behavior is just a habit. The Dutch have put a lot of effort into road planning for a safer transportation for cyclists and pedestrians. Safety is a priority and of course it makes an impression on people arriving here for the first time. In the Netherlands now, I always feel comfortable and safe cycling with friends, crossing the road and enjoying the bike transport system. 🇳🇱 **Dung Duc Tran, Vietnamese PhD candidate in Water Management**

Dutch drivers let me cross the road even when they are in a hurry to get to work

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn fifty euro and Dutch candy.