
Campus in China

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Go-ahead for sports hall

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RESOURCE [ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 16 – 16 April 2015 – 9th Volume



Will the business world save Sterksel?

p.12


**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

>> DOROTHEE + SHEEP

Dorothee Becu, internet manager, Communication Services



'A touching scene in every pen'

She has been a midwife, really, for the past few weeks. Dorothee Becu, parttime sheep farmer in the Betuwe region between the Rhine and the Waal, has helped about 200 lambs into the world. Living in her little caravan in between the sheep in the barn. 'Two hours on, two hours off.' And then keeping up the day job, maintaining Wageningen UR's websites. And to think she is actually a plant breeder. 'I'm a jill of all trades.'  RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans

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THE NEW UNIVERSITY

The riot police may have rid the Maagdenhuis of demonstrators but the University of Amsterdam is not out of the woods yet. The capital's university faces budget shortfalls set to rise after this year to 83 million euros. So the UvA is going to have to cut back drastically. The faculties of Humanities and Law are particularly big spenders. It just so happens that most of the champions of the New University are in those faculties. So here, the call for more democracy and transparency goes hand in hand with the wish to avoid budget cuts.

The UvA wants to build a new campus in Amsterdam and has borrowed tens of millions of euros for new buildings. This is one of the reasons the rent for the various research groups is being put up now. It sounds familiar. In Wageningen, too, the development of the campus went hand in hand with a big hike in the price per m2. The UvA is one of the few universities without a campus. Meanwhile in China a couple of campuses are going unused and have been offered to western universities. The University of Groningen was offered a campus in the Chinese port of Yantai – one which Wageningen had previously turned down. Maagdenhuis, wake up. The new university is in China.

Albert Sikkema

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GRONINGEN GETS CHINESE CAMPUS WAGENINGEN TURNED DOWN

- Groningen academics will be flown in.
- Wageningen received offer of campus this month too.

The University of Groningen (RUG) is going to move into a vast unoccupied campus in the Chinese city of Yantai. Four years ago, this campus was offered to Wageningen by the Chinese Agricultural University (CAU), but our university turned it down.

Groningen announced at the end of March that it would be starting a campus in China with programmes for about 10,000 students. The RUG will collaborate on this with the CAU, which built a campus in the city of Yantai 10 years ago but never got to use it. Groningen will now make use of the 110-hectare readymade campus. The programmes offered in Yantai will mainly be technical ones, but 'we are no strangers to agriculture and agribusiness either,' says spokesperson Gernant Deekens.

Wageningen University is looking at the Groningen campus in China with interest. Four years ago, the CAU approached Wageningen UR too about taking over the Yantai campus, says Xiaoyong Zhang, Wageningen UR's business developer



in China. Wageningen UR decided against it at that time. There were two reasons for that, says director of Wageningen International Huub Loffler. Firstly, the board doubted whether they could keep up educational standards on a campus like that in China. Secondly, the campus did not fit into Wageningen UR's strategy, in which the board opts for an emphasis on distance education and MOOCs rather than a physical presence in emerging economies.

Eventually, Groningen aims at 7000 Bachelor's students, 2500 Master's students and 500 PhD students in China. Per programme, one of two academics from Gronin-

gen will have to go to China to run the programmes together with international staff. A big advantage is that all Bachelor's programmes at Groningen University are already run in English.

The administrative process of reaching a deal on the campus only took six weeks, says Deekens. 'The campus fell into our lap.' At an earlier stage, the University of Dublin had decided to run the campus together with the CAU, but after a change of governing body in Dublin the Irish university changed its mind at the end of 2014.

This month Wageningen UR received another offer from a Chinese university to open a campus there.

It does not seem likely that the executive board will take up the offer, though. According to 'our woman in China' Xiaoyong Zhang, there are more opportunities for DLO than for the university in China. 'DLO can make deals with Chinese companies and organizations on interesting contract research in the fields of horticulture, animal breeding and food safety. To obtain more contracts with Chinese clients, it is useful to have a presence on the ground there.' But you do not have to start a campus to do that, is the conclusion in Wageningen. **AS**

Links: www.ukrant.nl/magazine/yantai-nederlands

CERTIFICATE WILL STILL HAVE INDIVIDUAL MINOR

- Value of minor label was underestimated.

In response to pressure from the Student Council, the Educational Institute has decided that a minor put together by the individual student will still be listed as an official minor on the degree certificate.

Last year, the university said it wanted to curb the uncontrolled growth in individual minors. Apparently they were confusing for employers and it was not clear whether the chosen set of subjects met the quality requirements. So only the standard minors were allowed the 'minor' label. The Student Council objected because the free-choice minors are a way for students to stand out from the

rest in the job market later on. What is more, not all the approved minors fit the needs of students.

'We underestimated how important that minor label is for students,' said the Educational Institute director, Tiny van Boekel. 'We are confident that the examining boards make a proper assessment as to whether the chosen courses have enough depth and cohesion.'

Incidentally, ten standard minors will be taken off the list as they do not attract enough students. But it is not possible at the moment to add popular individual minors to the list of standard minors as the Educational Institute does not have that information. Van Boekel: 'That proposal would have to come from the chair groups and/or programme committees.'

LvdN

SPORTS CARD MAY COST 20 EUROS MORE

• **The university is building a second sports hall despite financially challenging times.**

The Executive Board has decided that the construction of the second sports hall is to go ahead. But the university's annual budget cannot accommodate the running

costs so it is looking into alternative ways of financing the centre, such as crowdfunding.

The board is also considering raising the price of the sports card. That would involve an increase of ten euros for the following academic year as the second sports hall will only be finished at the end of 2015 so students will only be able to use it for half of the year.

Another tenner would be added on for the 2016-2017 academic year. Given the prices at other universities, 'an increase to 94 euros a year still offers very good value for money,' says the university.

The Student Council has a right of consent on this subject, which means that the university cannot implement its plans without the approval of the council's mem-

bers. Spokesman Sander Schalkx says the council does not object in principle to an increase in the price of sports rights but they do have questions. 'We want to know what exactly the money will be spent on and whether employees will be contributing too.' **LvdN**

See too page 22

in brief

> RUNNING

Emancipation in Veluweloop

This year, there will be five legs for women in the Veluweloop relay race instead of four. The men will run one leg less. In making this change, the relay race organizers are responding to the wishes of many of the participating teams. Now women will be running the 11th leg from Oostereng to Nieuwland, with the climb to the top of Wageningse Berg at the end, for the first time. The final leg to De Bongerd sports park is also a women's leg this year. These changes to the Veluweloop reflect the trend that more and more women are jogging. The 35th edition of the Veluweloop will be on Saturday 12 September. Registration has already started. **RK**

>> CUTBACKS

VIC Sterksel is downsizing

The Swine Innovation Centre (VIC) in Sterksel has to make major cutbacks. The Wageningen UR innovation centre is facing a fall in assignments from the pig industry now that the marketing board has gone. Almost half of the 18-strong workforce have to go. In most cases this will involve temporary contracts not being renewed. The main reason for the dismissals is the loss of funding from the pig-farming sector. Fewer private research contracts also means less public money through the Agri&Food top sector. See also pages 12 and 13. **AS**

>> DLO CAO

700 signatures for a better CAO

More than 700 employees have signed a call for a better collective labour agreement (CAO) for DLO staff. On Thursday 16 April, the trade unions will hand over all the cards with signatures to Tijds Breukink, the responsible member of the Executive Board. Handing out these cards was the first action by the trade unions since the CAO negotiations broke down in December 2014. The unions hope to force Wageningen UR to come up with a better pay offer than the current proposal of a 1.9 percent salary increase. DLO and the unions have been negotiating for a new CAO for about two years now and have currently reached an impasse. **RR**



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Cage experiment

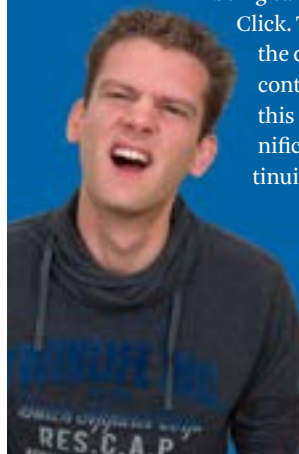
Smiling, she looks at her audience. I smile back. Her voice sounds both strict and friendly. 'And here we have the provisional results of the cage experiment.' I notice the Power-Point's remote control, she is rolling the little device gently across the palm of her hand. My heart rate rises, I fall into a daydream.

Once again I see myself in that plot of wheat. A pale sun tempers the wind's chill. Shivering, I look at the sodden form. The protocol permits no alternatives: another five days. 'I'll get started on the cage,' I call. 'Would you just count the aphids over there?' Jorge, a towering Spanish student, looks at me blankly. Another rain shower clatters to the ground. 'C-c-can I sit in the c-c-car for a minute?' he stutters, trembling.

A little while later he is sitting shivering in the baking hot van that I am driving to Wageningen as fast as possible. I am deeply embarrassed. He told me this morning that he didn't feel well and I actually told him to stop being such a baby. How awful. At the same time I check my watch. Another half hour to Wageningen, then back. Then I'll complete one more plot on my own. Yes, that should be doable. Just.

A little before 10 p.m. I finish my last plot. It's twilight. I laugh and sigh. Just another couple of weeks, working long hours every day, then the most gruelling part of this experiment will be done. Ah, thank heavens I'm not the only one. This test is being carried out in six other countries.

Click. The postdoc who has analyzed the data from our joint experiment continues her presentation. 'Look, this shows these results are not significant. So as of today we're discontinuing the cage experiment.' **B**



Stijn van Gils (28) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.

VAN ARENDONK TO GO TO HENDRIX GENETICS

- He wanted to stay involved in his field.
- Applying for the job of rector was not an option.

Johan van Arendonk seemed to be the front-runner for Martin Kropff's job but the Animal Breeding and Genetics professor is going to the breeding company Hendrix Genetics instead.

On 1 January 2016, Van Arendonk (56) will become head of R&D and a member of the management team at Hendrix Genetics, one of the world's leading animal breeding companies. 'A fantastic challenge,' says Van Arendonk. 'I remain fascinated by the field of breeding and genetics. This is the perfect opportunity to continue working in my field, not as a professor inspiring new ideas but through the application of scientific knowledge.' Van Arendonk already knew Hendrix Genetics well as one of the companies behind Breed4Food, the joint research venture between his group and four breeding companies.

Were you done as a professor?

'You're never done as a professor, but I've always had another task as well ever since I became professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics in 2001. Early on, I was the director of the WIAS graduate school and I spent the last five years as Dean of Science. I reviewed my situation last year and decided that a link with my field of study is crucial for me. I then asked for the appointment as Dean of Science to be renewed for only one year rather than four.'

We thought you were going to be the new rector...

'I'm pleased to see my name mentioned as a potential successor to Martin Kropff; I see that as a sign of appreciation. It's a great job at a wonderful institution but it would mean me having to abandon my discipline. You can't be the rector and still be actively involved in your field so that was not an option.'

How did you get your new job?

'I knew Hendrix Genetics was looking for someone to take over the job of R&D director. When I was talking

to them last autumn, I let drop that I might be an option. Then I heard nothing for ages, but in the new year we started discussing the job and on Good Friday we reached an agreement. I've got a really good feeling about it. Hendrix Genetics is a global player in the field of animal breeding with a lot of foreign branches and a lot of knowledge. In my new job, I will spend one week a month abroad talking to the R&D people and customers there. Dutch companies have an incredibly strong position in the global breeding business. I hope to help consolidate that position and also make livestock farming around the world more sustainable.'

Johan van Arendonk graduated in Animal Sciences at Wageningen in 1982. Three years later, he received his doctorate from the university with distinction. He then joined the Animal Breeding department, and in 2001 he became professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics. He has published more than 300 scientific papers in international peer-reviewed journals, has been cited almost 7000 times and has supervised 74 PhD candidates. AS

HARBOUR PORPOISES STAY AWAY

- Top predator suddenly disappears.

Harbour porpoises are hardly being spotted off the Dutch coast these days. Remarkable, says IMARES researcher Mardik Leopold. But he has no idea what is going on.

'Usually we get reports every day from people who have seen harbour porpoises, especially in the spring. This year it is quiet. And hardly any of the porpoises are being washed up on the shore. They are just not there,' says Leopold.

It could be a temporary dip, but it could also indicate a change in the sea. 'If this top predator stays away, something is going on. But what? That is very difficult to identify.' It would help if Leopold, who studies the stomach contents of washed up harbour porpoises, were to discover a drastic change in the marine mammal's diet. 'That makes it possible to identify the problem,' says Leopold. If, for example, there is suddenly hardly any whiting in their stomachs, that would explain their absence: too little to eat. But the harbour porpoise's failure to appear in these waters may be attributable to a host of minor factors. It is hard to pinpoint what they might be. For now, Leopold cannot say much about it, because there just aren't any porpoises being washed up so he cannot analyse their stomach contents. KG



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMAN

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GMO DEBATE DRAWS BIG CROWD

- **Monsanto joins in.**
- **Interest in more discussion.**

In a jam-packed classroom in the Forum, Greenpeace and Monsanto talked with students about genetically modified crops, sustainability, monocultures and the market economy. Is the time ripe for climate-friendly GMOs?

Wageningen economist Justus Wesseler launched the debate about 'GMOs for sustainable development' in the Forum on 8 April by declaring that the distinction between genetically modified crops (GMOs) and conventionally bred crops is artificial. 'A far more extensive risk analysis has now been done for GMOs than for conventional crops. You'd be better off basing the risk assessment on the effects of the characteristics introduced than on the tech-

nique itself.' An hour and a half later, an organic plant breeder drew exactly the same conclusion. 'Shouldn't we start assessing GMOs on the basis of the aim and the need, using sustainability criteria?'

In the meantime, Herman van Bekkem of Greenpeace had explained that the environmental organization is against all GMOs regardless of their purpose and use, and Peter Metz of Monsanto had explained that GMOs are one of the means of feeding more people with less land and water. This was the first time Monsanto has taken part in a discussion about GMOs.

Shouldn't we make a distinction, asked some members of the audience, between 'bad' GMOs, such as Monsanto's herbicide-intolerant maize, and 'good' GMOs which reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and artificial fertilizer? Wesseler could list a few of these 'cli-



PHOTO: MELISSA DE RAAIJ

mate-friendly GMOs' such as grain varieties which are drought-resistant and GMOs which promote organic nitrogen fixation. Metz cited a Monsanto project on adapted rice in the Sahel. But Van Bekkem countered this by pointing out the socio-economic impact of current GMOs, such as the way Brazilian companies sow their vast GM monocultures from small planes, at the expense of

both biodiversity and small farmers.

The organizers of the debate, the RUW foundation and the youth branch of the green left party Groenlinks, saw it as an important step that both Monsanto and Greenpeace wanted to engage in a debate on sustainable GMOs. The big turnout – about 180 students – and the loud applause suggested a hunger for more. **AS**

NEONICOTINOIDS



What were the responses like?

'Fellow scientists thought it was an excellent and objective report. The industry, predictably, thought it was prejudiced and subjective. Neonicotinoids represent billions in turnover. They will do everything they can to refute our arguments. Importantly, state secretary Sharon Dijksma has now said she will get the CTGB (the Board for the Authorization of Plant Protection Products and Biocides) to take a crucial look at the authorization of these products.'

Surely there is only one conclusion possible for this report: a ban?

'We don't say neonicotinoids should be banned. That is not our role. But the CTGB would have to come up with good arguments to carry on authorizing these substances. I don't think that is possible.'

And in Europe?

'The report was written by the joint Academies of Science at the behest of the EU. I was on the committee on behalf of the Netherlands. The EFSA, the European Food Safety Authority, is now drawing up recommendations for the European Commission on the basis of our report and (secret) data provided by the industry.' **RK**

Who? Professor of Nature Management Frank Berendse

Why? Co-author of critical report on the use of neonicotinoids

What? Berendse was on Radio 1 and the NOS news, in full-page articles in the Volkskrant, Trouw, NRC and NRC Next, and told his story on nature radio programme Vroege Vogels.

Science Cafe Wageningen
www.sciencecafe.wageningen.nl

Thursday, April 30th
19:45 - live music
20:15 - Science
Café Loburg
FREE ENTRANCE

Musicality: wired for music?
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Prof. Marc Naguib (WUR)

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HOW MUCH HEAT CAN A NEIGHBOURHOOD COPE WITH?

- **New method measures heat sensitivity of the area.**
- **Risk of death lends weight to heat problem.**

The average Dutch person thrives best at 16.5 degrees Celsius. At that temperature the death rate is lowest. The heat wave of 2006 caused an extra 1000 deaths in the Netherlands. That qualifies it for fourth place on the list of natural disasters causing the most deaths in that year. The daily death rate during heat waves in Europe is 30 percent higher than during other periods. And yet the issue of heat is not taken terribly seriously. Many of us enjoy a bit of heat. Heat has an image problem, partly because up to now it was not possible to establish objectively at what point heat becomes problematic. Together with the Dutch meteorological institute KNMI and consultancy bureau Witteveen + Bos, the Meteorology and Air Quality chair group has come up with a solution to that.

A new method expresses the heat sensitivity of a neighbour-



hood or suburb in a figure called the Urban Climate Index. This makes it possible to see at a glance whether the neighbourhood is in the danger zone and what steps could be taken to make it more heat-proof. By planting more vegetation, for instance. The method is based on the only truly objective and readily available yardstick for

wellbeing: the death rate. Death is at the top of a pyramid of ailments and discomforts caused by heat and air pollution. All these discomforts are hard to measure, but death is not. The scientists also found a link between heat and the physical infrastructure of a neighbourhood: the height of the buildings, the width of the streets and

the amount of green space and water.

Between them all these factors determine how hot it gets on a warm day in the city. Gert-Jan Steeneveld (WU) and project leader Ronald Groen (Witteveen + Bos) made a model for this. Correlated with the national death rate figures, it becomes possible to calculate a relative risk of dying as a result of exposure to a heat wave per neighbourhood. That risk is substantial. Heat waves in highly built-up neighbourhoods double the chance of dying.

Is a risk like that acceptable? The researchers address that question by linking the combined effect of heat and air pollution to the European norm for risk of death from ozone. 'You can now say: this neighbourhood is this far above the limit of what is acceptable,' explains project leader Groen. 'That question is now being answered for the first time. You can quantify heat sensitivity, which makes it easier for decision-makers to deal with. We can indicate objectively whether and how many measures are needed.'

BRK

MORE CHOICE DOESN'T GET TODDLERS EATING VEGETABLES

- **More choice has little impact on a toddler's motivation.**
- **Familiarization remains best strategy.**

Toddlers who get to choose between two kinds of vegetable eat slightly more vegetables than toddlers who don't get the choice. This came out of a mealtime experiment in 70 households done by Victoire de Wild, PhD candidate at Human Nutrition. The results will come out soon in the journal *Appetite*.

Two- to three-year-olds eat an average of 34-38 grams of vegetable per day, while the recommended

daily amount is 50-100 grams. One in five toddlers achieves this target amount. It is difficult for parents to get their offspring to eat more sprouts and beans. The preference for bitter vegetable flavours is not inborn but learned. On the basis of earlier studies, De Wild guessed that freedom of choice might help. 'More choice boosts motivation. And a motivated person behaves better.'

For the experiment, 70 children between 2 and 5 years of age were observed. Over 12 meals they ate peas, green beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli and runner beans. 'Insofar as toddlers tolerate any vegetables, they tend to tolerate these

ones.' Half of the group could choose between two vegetables at every meal, while the other half couldn't. After the meal, the parents weighed how much the children had eaten.

In spite of the disappointing result, De Wild sees prospects. Toddlers who got to choose ate slightly more vegetables (58 grams) than children with no choice (49 grams). A difference too small to rule out coincidence. But De Wild expects a bigger effect among older children. They are further in their development, have less difficulty choosing and therefore benefit more from freedom of choice. **RR**

EAT YOUR GREENS

Adults are no different to children in not eating enough vegetables. According to the recommendations, everyone 'should' eat 200 grams of vegetables per day. Yet according to the public health institute RIVM's food consumption survey, the Dutch average is well below that. Young adults between 19 and 30 eat on average no more than 107 grams (men) and 95 grams (women) per day. Senior citizens do a little better, but even 50- to 70-year-olds only eat 126 grams (men) and 138 grams (women) per day.



SCIENCE CAFÉ: DO BIRDS SING FOR PLEASURE?

- **No one knows whether birds sing for the joy of it.**
- **Study using MRI scanner could shed light.**

Do birds enjoy singing? This simple question is extremely difficult to answer, says Marc Naguib, professor of Behavioural Ecology at Wageningen University. He will be talking about this at the next Science Café Wageningen.

In his research Naguib studied how birds communicate over long distances. Male birds sing in order to demarcate their territory and to attract females. 'With their complex songs birds demonstrate: I am smart enough for this, I am fit.' The beauty of the melody contributes to a form of sexual selection.

Birdsong researchers look at things like the repertoire – how many tunes a bird can sing. 'It is rather as though you were to evaluate a Beatles number by counting the number of notes,' says Naguib. But even this simple method leads to insights. Birds with an extensive repertoire get listened to longer by females and father more young.

Of course, counting tunes does not tell you much about their beauty, says Naguib. But that does not mean scientists are

not interested in that. 'They have been thinking about this ever since Darwin.' But it has proven difficult to pin down beauty in scientific terms. Modern technology can help with this. For example, Naguib recorded the song of the thrush nightingale for an hour and got computers to look for patterns. In a follow-up study he hopes to identify differences between the song of birds which are successful in mating and those which are not.

The result that female birds choose mates which sing 'better' is not of course evidence that the female audience enjoys the music. But it may be possible to find that out by putting birds in an MRI scanner, says Naguib. When they listen to birdsong during the scan, you can see which areas of the brain are activated. If the 'reward centre' lights up, that constitutes strong evidence for enjoyment of music. 'We know that animals can experience positive emotions,' says Naguib. 'It would be interesting to find out whether this can be linked with their vocalizations.' **RR**

Science Café, 30 April at 19.45 in Café Loburg

*Fancy studying birdsong yourself?
<http://thuisinhetveld.sovon.nl/>*



VISION <<

Patents elbow out plant variety rights

The European Patent Office accepts patents on classically bred food crops. This is a major setback for plant variety rights, believes the chair of plant breeding Richard Visser.

The European Patent Treaty prohibits the patenting of essential biological processes, such as the crossing of plants in classical plant breeding. But on the products these processes give rise to, such as seeds and plants, a patent can indeed be granted, according to the patent office. Visser is astounded by this judgement. 'I had expected the patent court to say that newly identified biological processes in plants are not inventions for which you can apply for a patent, they are discoveries of something that already exists. But in the opinion of the lawyers at the patent office, biological processes can indeed be an invention. The judgement of the European Patent Office is bad news for plant variety rights and the exchange of material and knowledge between breeders.'

Bad news. Why?

'If a plant breeding company develops a new variety of tomato, under the plant variety rights system competitors can further breed the tomato in order to develop a better variety, and do so free of charge. But if the new variety involves patented knowledge, you first have to reach agreement with the patent holder. This creates scope for the patent holder to refuse to grant a licence or to ask an exorbitant price for it. Plant variety rights are entirely at odds with patent law.'

Why do patents take precedence over plant variety rights?

'It used to take five to fifteen years before competitors could develop a better variety; now this can be done much more quickly. These days a competitor can take your variety and within two years he can have changed the taste or colour to such an extent that he can register a new variety. Naturally, that leaves a sour taste if the new variety is based on a technique in which you have invested a great deal of time and money.' **AS**

PROPOSITION

'When modern initiatives seek to rediscover traditions, the pureness of the original tradition is forgone since its spontaneity is lost for ever.'

Simona D'Amico, due to graduate with a PhD on 28 April in Wageningen

PUT THE DOG ON A WOLF'S DIET

• **Dogs are carnivores and can go a long time without food.**

The dog is descended from the wolf, a hunter who sometimes had to fast for days but also experienced periods of plenty. Pet food manufacturers should bear in mind this 'ancient diet' of the wolf, proposes animal nutrition researcher Guido Bosch.

For many years it was assumed that our faithful four-legged friend was an omnivore. Researchers based this assumption on a comparison with the metabolism of the cat, a true carnivore. Guido Bosch, a researcher in the Animal Nutrition chair group, now provides an alternative explanation of this difference between the dog and the cat in the *British Journal of Nutrition*.

He conducted a literature study on the diet and habits of wolves and concluded that they were carnivores too. An important difference from wild cats is that wolves live on large prey. That means an alternation between a plentiful and a scarce supply of food. They therefore

have a flexible metabolism which is adjusted to this. These adjustments to 'all or nothing' are still present in the contemporary dog, says Bosch. Slowing the breakdown of amino acids is functional for surviving periods of scarcity. Dogs can then manage very well without food. A study was published in 1912 in which a dog survived for 117 days without food, and there are stories about dogs that survived being locked up in a car for 30 days.

Bosch does not advise just depriving the dog of food for days on end: that would be animal abuse. He does state that nearly half our dogs are overweight. They should be put on a diet. 'Overweight is one of the biggest health problems for our dogs and cats.' Dogs' preference for fatty foods may stem from the 'all or nothing' way of life of their ancestors.

When the wolf was domesticated between 17,000 and 13,000 years ago, wolves started eating from the waste left behind by human settlements. They adapted their menu and got better at digesting starch. They changed from hunters to a species of scav-



enger wolf, says Bosch. The strange habit dogs have of eating excrement may stem from that time. 'In prehistoric times human excrement may have been an important source of protein for the wolf.'

Manufacturers of dog food could usefully bear in mind the wolf's former diet. At present, dog food often contains plant fi-

bres which stimulate the growth of certain gut microbes. An alternative is to give the dog animal 'fibres' (bones, cartilage, ligaments and hair). By doing that you imitate part of a wolf's diet. Whether a wolf's dinner is good for a dog's health should be studied, says Bosch. He argues for a longitudinal nutritional study of dogs. **AS**

FEW BEE DEATHS IN THE WINTER AGAIN

• **Third winter in succession.**
• **Average death rate almost 10 percent.**

Dutch beekeepers lost only one in ten bee colonies last winter, according to a phone survey among beekeepers. The 'quick scan' was carried out by bee experts and students at Wageningen UR along with the beekeepers' society NBV. This is the third year in a row with such a low mortality rate. 'We are back to normal levels,' comments

researcher Tjeerd Blacquiere. 'Ten percent is OK but I think five percent is attainable too. I personally achieve zero percent.' Blacquiere thinks and hopes that the recovery is the result of beekeepers adopting the method recommended by Wageningen for tackling the varroa mite. According to Blacquiere, bee deaths started to be a problem in around 2002/2003 due to increasing resistance among varroa mites to the standard pest control treatment. In 2010/2011, the Wageningen bee group started recommended a new, clear-cut method

of pest control, since which bee deaths have decreased. Blacquiere says that the reduction has nothing to do with the ban on a number of applications of van neonicotinoids in the Netherlands. 'There are almost no such applications of neonicotinoids in farming in Dutch rural areas anyway so you can't expect it to have any effect. Certainly not now. The ban came into force last year whereas the fall in bee deaths started before that.'

The phone survey of beekeepers is held annually in order to get an early indication of the level of

winter deaths. A random sample of 500 beekeepers was selected from the NBV list of members (6000 beekeepers). About 200 of them took part in the survey. The average mortality rate was 9.9 percent; six in ten beekeepers had no deaths at all. **RK**



The discussion on genetic modification has blown up again. On 8 April Greenpeace and Monsanto debated climate-friendly GMOs in the Forum. There was so much interest the room was bursting at the seams. You can read what happened on resource-online.nl

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

STUDENT CALLS FOR COUNTER-PROTEST 'MARCH AGAINST MONSANTO' NEEDS A BIOLOGY LESSON

The protest movement March Against Monsanto campaigns worldwide against genetic modification. Student Tom van den Hove is irritated by the pseudoscience and nonsense the movement spreads around the world. When the marches take place again on 23 May, he wants to speak up for another point of view.

'The first time I heard about March Against Monsanto was after the Wageningen protest march in 2013. It all quickly died down again in Wageningen but in at least five cities there will be another protest march this year against GMOs and the use of pesticide, among other things.



In 2013 about 1000 campaigners marched through Wageningen to protest against the activities of agribusiness Monsanto.

Although science is quite clear about the claims made by the protest movement, it is repeatedly obvious that March Against Monsanto skipped biology classes. Not a serious matter in itself – after all, biology is not for everyone – except that the movement has supporters who blindly follow its advice. And so its pseudoscientific claims spread fear and confusion among non-scientists. But above all, March Against Monsanto does not seem to know what it is talking about and could do with an extra biology lesson.

For example, GMOs are no more dangerous than conventional crops. Yet, although the scientific consensus shows that GMOs are safe, March Against Monsanto goes on insisting that they cause cancer, infertility and congenital defects. And this when the technique has drastically reduced the number of allergic reactions among diabetics and has the potential to combat blindness and death due to vitamin A deficiency.

But the most damaging aspect of March Against Monsanto is its attitude to illness. People get ill sometimes and there is nothing they can do about it. According to the activists, however,

every illness can be combatted with a healthy diet and medicines are not the solution. This attitude gives people who are already suffering guilt feelings about their illness. If it is a case of the flu, it is no big deal. But the movement does not hold back when it comes to serious diseases such as cancer. And this is causing people to turn down chemotherapy and lose faith in modern medicine.

Meanwhile, March Against Monsanto claims that all its standpoints are based on research, but in practice the movement makes errors on all sorts of fundamental points. When they discuss research they make no distinction between in vitro (outside the body, in a petri dish for example) and in vivo (within an organism). March Against Monsanto also sows fear by citing badly implemented individual studies such as that of Seralini and Carman, while ignoring the scientific consensus.

March Against Monsanto is a stubborn junior high school pupil with a lot to learn. To provide this biology lesson I am looking for people prepared to help on a counter-protest on 23 May. Support me if you think science deserves a voice.'

Tom van den Hove, Master's student of Biology
Facebook/MAMyths-NL
tom_achternaam@hotmail.com

For the article with references, see <https://tomachternaam.wordpress.com/>

‘Our gateway to Wageningen’ is in trouble

Swingeing cuts are necessary at Wageningen UR’s Swine Innovation Centre in Sterksel. There is longer work for eight of the centre’s eighteen employees; this became clear last week. Since the abolition of the product board, trade and industry has been funding far fewer innovation projects. The newly established Pig Farmers’ Cooperative (POV) is intended to save the centre’s field-based research.

text: Albert Sikkema

‘It’s our gateway to Wageningen; it makes the translation from fundamental research to commercial practice.’ This is how research manager Victor van Wagenberg of MS Schippers, a Brabant-based company, characterizes the Swine Innovation Centre (VIC) run by Wageningen UR in Sterksel. He is responding to the news that the innovation centre is having to lay off almost half its staff due to a decline in its work orders from the pig farming sector. Van Wagenberg is worried.

‘Sterksel was good at that translation step. Pig farming must continue to innovate. We can’t afford to lose this innovation centre.’

MS Schippers in Bladel is a medium-sized company supplying equipment and services to the agricultural sector. Together with another 60 SMEs, MS Schippers is partnering VIC Sterksel. For 500 euros a year, these companies get a series of networking meetings at which Wageningen researchers and colleague companies impart their knowledge. While this is nice pocket money for the innovation centre, in no way does it compare with the research budget of the Product Board for Live-

stock and Meat. But that product board was abolished last year and as yet there is no successor in the pig sector to finance field-based research. This is why last week VIC Sterksel decided to reduce its staff.

VIC Sterksel will be reduced to a minimal staffing level of seven FTEs, says interim manager Han Swinkels. The centre will carry out fewer innovation projects, which means fewer animal handlers are needed. By contrast, VIC Sterksel will continue to act as a meeting place for companies, pig farmers, scientists, students and NGOs. Each year the centre attracts some 8000 visitors. ‘But if VIC Sterksel wants to fulfil its role as an innovation centre, industry and government are going to have to invest public-private research projects worth 2.5 million euros a year in it via Wageningen UR Livestock Research,’ says Swinkels.

Everyone agrees that Dutch pig farming must continue to innovate if it is to survive the competition from ‘pig countries’ like Germany and Denmark. Moreover, innovation is always needed, for example, in pen design and to improve environmental performance and animal welfare. The innovation centre is

researching the detection of the unpleasant meat odour called boar taint. This work needs to be followed up and the centre is also keen to continue testing electronic ear tags.

Another of Sterksel’s wishes is to run a programme on preventive healthcare in pig farming to further reduce the use of antibiotics. All highly relevant research projects with which the innovation centre in Sterksel is keen to stay one step ahead of what is happening in the field.

The big question is who is going to pay for this? MS Schippers and the other companies in pig farming spend between 200 and 500 thousand euros a year on research at VIC Sterksel. This tends to involve the testing and validation of innovative concepts whereby VIC Sterksel acts as chief inspector. But Van Wagenberg of MS Schippers foresees no growth in work of this kind. ‘It’s not that companies aren’t happy to contribute to the cost of research, but alongside them you need a government that invests. The problem is that Sterksel’s basic funding has dried up; the government is spending less on research.’ These days companies have to submit research proposals to the Agri & Food top sector. The one submitted by MS Schippers in cooperation with VIC Sterksel was recently rejected. ‘These things happen,’ says Van Wagenberg.

Similarly, Ad Kemps, director of Coppens Animal Feed in Helmond, has no ready solution to offer for the financing problem. Kemps chairs the group of companies, mainly SMEs and some large, that is partnering VIC Sterksel. This is a varied club that includes pen builders, consultancies and feed producers. ‘We have neither a common research question nor a pot of money to fund research.’ Nor do these companies have a leading figure that can



act on behalf of the chain with regard to research and innovation. Slaughterhouse VION was for years the big noise in the pig sector, but now struggling to cope with disappointing results and reorganizations, the company has ceased to be the driving force in the pig farming chain.

'COMPANIES MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE'

This lack of a leading figure is a hindrance to the pig sector when it comes to securing funds, tells Kemps. 'We set up the partnership with VIC Sterksel so that we could jointly submit research proposals to the top sector. But this is not going smoothly. The companies have to take the initiative in submitting the proposals, but only the large companies employ specialists who know how to acquire a top-sector project. The large companies snap up 90 percent of the subsidies coming from the top sector.' In short, the supply and processing industries in pig farming aren't yet managing to keep the field-based research at Sterksel going. 'I hope we soon find a way forward,' says Kemps.


For the time being the SMEs are pinning

their hopes on the newly established Pig Farmers' Cooperative (POV). This organization has been set up specially by the Dutch Union of Pig Farmers (NVV) and LTO to take over the role of the product boards in the funding of research. NVV chairperson Ingrid Jansen also chairs the POV. The idea is that the POV will ask the pig farmers for money, say a contribution per pig, that can be used to fund innovation projects at VIC Sterksel.

Jansen does not want to promise too much. 'We believe that coordinating and financing research and innovation for pig farming is a really important task for the POV, but we can't take over this role from the product boards at the drop of a hat.' The first general meeting of the cooperative was on 17 March, tells Jansen. As early as that first meeting the member pig farmers approved two research programmes at Sterksel, namely the 'electronic nose for boar taint' and 'healthy pigs'. 'At the next general meeting before the summer recess, further research programmes will be presented to the members,' says Jansen. 'So, as you can see, we

are fulfilling our responsibility.'

Since the end of the product boards was announced and the top sectors were introduced there has been a party game going on in the agricultural sectors about who wants to invest more in research and innovation. It's currently the turn of the pig farmers. 'I think that the funding via the POV creates a broader support base among pig farmers for VIC Sterksel's research,' says Jansen.

Before the end of this year it needs to be clear whether the pig sector can formulate and finance a substantial long-range research programme worth several million euros a year that will safeguard the VIC Sterksel's continued existence. Until then, Han Swinkels will be managing Sterksel. 'If that research programme materializes, the innovation centre can expand again and a successor for me will be sought.' He does not mention the alternative: the closure of VIC Sterksel. 'Fortunately, one of the POV's ambitions is to coordinate joint research in the pig sector. And that's vital – without innovation the pig sector has no future.' 

Long-haul scientist Daan Kromhout retires

Down to the last man

Daan Kromhout monitored the health and eating habits of hundreds of men in Zutphen for about 35 years. Today, on 16 April, the professor of Public Health Research says goodbye to Wageningen University. He sees 'less and less room for 'long-haul research'. 'The timespan in which you have to deliver your results is getting shorter and shorter.'

text: Rob Ramaker / **photo:** Sven Menschel

Ten seconds. That is how long Daan Kromhout had, on average, to decide on his next move in a game of draughts. As a teenager he specialized in the fast version of the game: ten minutes per round of about 60 moves. He was good at it. At 18 he was Dutch youth champion and six months later student champion. His strategy was to invest a lot of time beforehand in thinking ahead. At the start of a game, time ticked away rapidly but after that he started moving very fast, with the options already lined up in his mind. 'So I hardly ever lost on grounds of time.'

Science may exercise the brain at a slower pace, but Kromhout nevertheless used a comparable approach throughout his career. After obtaining his PhD he spent every Tuesday for two years in a dusty archive containing data and background information from the Dutch branch of the Seven Countries Study (see box),

which he had been put in charge of. This was a study of the eating habits and health of men born between 1900 and 1920 in seven countries including the US, Greece and Japan. Through this study it was discovered that high blood cholesterol levels raise the chances of cardiovascular disease. The study had been going on for 18 years before Kromhout got involved. From 1960 about 900 men were monitored in Zutphen.

Kromhout's interest in an old population study raised some eyebrows at the end of the nineteen seventies, he recalls. Why waste your time on old data that had already been looked at two decades ago? You could spend that time collecting new data of your own. 'What is more, in scientific terms it was deadly dull,' says Kromhout. 'It was just sitting in an archive going through papers and compiling data.' But he himself saw the chance to take over this long-running study as a unique opportunity to research the role of diet in cardiovascular disease.

In 1975 when Kromhout heard an 'terrific story' about the Seven Countries Study at a seminar in Mexico, he immediately grasped the advantages of long-term, or longitudinal, research. 'It's the only way to find out how things are interrelated: what is cause and what is effect,' says Kromhout. One-off research only shows that two things – saturated fat and heart attacks, for instance – are related: there is what scientists call a 'correlation'. Longitudinal studies show that one thing preceded the other – cause and effect. Moreover, Kromhout monitored 'his men' for so long that he got to see for



himself what age they reached. Researchers usually have to content themselves with figures based on deduction, on the risk of death for instance. Put crudely, not enough people die during these studies to base results on the average lifespan.

THE BUSINESS WORLD DICTATES THE RESEARCH AGENDA NOWADAYS

Kromhout's strategy of investing time in old studies bore fruit in the nineteen eighties and nineties. Using data from the Seven Countries Study, he showed that eating oily fish probably gives protection against cardiovascular disease. He also saw that flavonoids, a group of substances found in foods including in apples, cocoa and tea have a similarly positive effect. The articles came out in top journals such as the *Lancet* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

That was a trick he would not be able to repeat, thinks Kromhout, if he were to be



embarking on his career today. 'The timespan within which you have to deliver your results is getting shorter and shorter.' And the patience of financiers for longitudinal research was always limited, anyway. 'Why do you want more money? We know everything already,' was a common response he got. 'When I was in Leiden, I brought in a lot of grants for other studies and then I often fitted in the analysis for Zutphen and other countries as well,' says Kromhout. 'It was a question of smart budgeting.'

The loss of funding sources is making public health research harder too. 'I think it's a pity government funding is being cut back. When I started out, much more was invested in that than nowadays.'

In the course of his own career he was only once supported by a company.

Nutrition research is increasingly dependent on companies these days. Kromhout notes that interest in prevention and nutrition is at an all-time low, not only in government but also among funds like the heart research foundation Hartstichting. It is the business world that dictates the agenda nowadays. 'And they are oriented to instant application. Whereas you need to do years of research if, like me, you want to figure out how diet causes cardiovascular disease.'

After his official farewell, there is at least one more achievement ahead for Kromhout. August will see the publication of a revised version of the guidelines for a healthy diet which translates all the scientific findings about nutrition into practical rules such as 'eat 200 grams of vegetables and 2 pieces of fruit per day'. This would seem a bit of a pointless exercise in a country where people are getting steadily fatter and unhealthier, and where only 2 percent of the population keep to the existing guidelines. But Kromhout disagrees with this view.

Of course he cannot fail to see the increase in obesity and all the fast food. 'But it is not all gloom and doom,' says Kromhout. On several counts the Dutch are eating a lot more health-

ily now than in 1960. 'Then people ate 70 percent white bread and 30 percent brown bread, and they drank more full-cream milk than semi-skimmed. Twenty five years later, that had been reversed.' The amount of trans-fats ('the worst thing you can eat!') consumed by the Dutch plummeted as well. And we are still relatively slim compared with our neighbouring countries. 'We have a life expectancy of 82 years for women and 78 for men, which is very good. I don't go along with the idea that it's going badly.'

IN MANY WAYS THE DUTCH ARE EATING MORE HEALTHILY NOW THAN IN 1960.

Apart from the guidelines, there are still some data to be processed about the last participants in the Seven Countries Study. The project has now been going for about 55 years and he wants to finish it off properly. The last time he looked (2010) there were still 13 men alive. When he checks in July, he expects that the last will have died. Emeritus professor or not, Kromhout will get the job done, down to the last man. **B**



SEVEN COUNTRIES STUDY

In the nineteen fifties American scientist Ancel Keys was curious about the links between diet, risk factors and cardiovascular disease. Together with scientists from around the world, he decided to compare the health of men from different cultures with diverse eating habits.

Take the fish-eating Japanese, Cretans who consume a lot of olive oil, and Finns who live on large quantities of butter. People were also monitored in the US, the Netherlands, Italy and former Yugoslavia. Much of the fieldwork was done in remote areas such as inland Crete, which could only be reached along dirt tracks. In the course of this longitudinal study, eating habits changed radically. The Dutch started to eat more like the Italians and the Greeks, while the cuisine of other countries became increasingly westernized. Read more about the results and the history of this study on sevencountriesstudy.com.



WILDERNESS MEETS SCIENCE


The otter is thriving in this country. That is, as long as it stays in the water and does not try to cross the road. Alterra is keeping tabs on the otter population. Photographer Wendy Bos of the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague followed the research at close quarters and her photo reportage on it is currently on view in Impulse. This grim picture was taken during a dissection at Alterra.

© RK / Photo: Wendy Bos



Sterrin Smalbrugge wants to give snakes a new image

‘Wageningen could use a bit of excitement’



Since her sellout evening talk on snakes in mid-March, Sterrin Smalbrugge is a well-known face at the university. The second-year student of Forest and Nature Management shared her fascination with snakes with an audience of 225 from around the country. She had brought several snakes along, including a King Cobra, the longest poisonous snake in the world.

text: Linda van der Nat / photo: Sven Menschel

The lecture made an impression. Sterrin: 'People often just say "Cool, a little girl with a big snake", but luckily I have also heard that people were really inspired by my lecture. At a meeting recently a girl came and sat down next to me, and said: 'I am still enjoying the memory of it". I didn't know her at all, but it was so nice to hear that.'

Giving snakes a more positive image: that is what this 21-year-old student has made her life's work. In her view, the widespread hatred of the scaly creatures is unjustified. 'The fear of snakes is ancient, but it is mainly based on misinformation. Not all snakes are poisonous, slippery or dangerous. They are fascinating animals and very useful for the ecosystem but people don't see that. I'd give anything to be able to change that negative image, and to really change the way someone feels about snakes in their heart.'

On the door of her room in Rijnveste student residence hangs a yellowing newspaper cutting with Steve Irwin on it. A Discovery Channel advert placed one day after the Australian 'crocodile hunter' was stung by a poisonous stingray and died. 'I was a huge fan of Steve Irwin,' says Sterrin. 'I always watched his TV show with my dad. Even as a child I didn't understand why people loved puppies and even tigers, but not reptiles. Steve Irwin could get people enthusiastic about snakes and crocodiles like nobody else. I thought that was really great. The day after his death that poster went up on my door and I cried. I remember that well. I vowed I would carry on his work. I was 12 at the time.'

FLEURTJE

Ever since she left home, she has had a snake of her own: Fleurtje, a 2.5 metre Madagascar boa. 'My parents would never let me have a snake. They thought it was too dangerous. So almost as soon as I left home, I chose one. It's much nicer to have one, because then you can really study their behaviour and your whole world expands. Although the best thing is of course to see these creatures in their natural habitat. My housemates gulped a bit at first. But once they saw her, their eyes lit up with amazement. Now they think it's totally great and it's fine for me to take Fleurtje downstairs. It sounds really crazy, but I think she's really very sweet. When I look at their little heads, I get real motherly feelings. They just look so sweet.'

It bothers Sterrin that so little research is done on snakes. 'Snakes are the poor relation in science, and yet a lot of research is needed. Snakes play a crucial role in an awful lot of ecosystems, but their habitat is getting smaller and smaller. They just get overlooked, whereas they are extremely important. I hope I can inspire people to start doing research. If you change public opinion, there will be more attention to conservation of the species which are so crucial.'

In order to achieve that goal, Sterrin is putting her social life on the back burner: she has stopped her membership of student society SSR-W and she can-


not remember the last time she went out in the evening. She uses her weekends to learn from big names in the snake world such as Richard Mastenbroek and Romilly van den Bergh. 'There's no problem with taking a constrictor such as Fleurtje on your lap, but poisonous snakes are another matter. There is an art to dealing with them, and everything is more difficult. You can't just throw some prey into the cage or remove a scale. Those are all things you have to learn, so you need several mentors.'

FREEK VONK

One of her mentors was TV biologist Freek Vonk's right-hand man Romilly van den Bergh. A friendship which blossomed into romance. 'Boys often see me as "that little girl with the big snake". I get such feeble jokes about girls and snakes, it really isn't original anymore. So I really wanted someone from the snake world. The first time I went into Ro's house, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. The whole house was full of animals. His collection of poisonous animals is unmatched. You won't find a better one in Europe, so big and extensive.'

Sterrin often goes along when Romilly helps Vonk on a TV show. She is full of admiration for the Leiden alumnus. 'People like him and Steve Irwin have a tremendous influence on young people and that is really how it starts. One of Steve's mottos is 'Conservation through Education'. That is something Freek does too, and which I stand for as well. By educating people you can change the image they carry and that in turn has an effect on conservation. If you look at how many people Freek has found that way, and how many people Steve reached: that's what I want. I want to be the new Freek Vonk. I'm not out to become famous, but in the end I do think that helps you to really reach people. I want to be a researcher and I also think it would be fantastic to be the face of something. To have your own TV programme must be very nice, I think.'

It would be a great advert for the university as well, she thinks. 'I would very much like to do my PhD in Wageningen: that is my dream. Wageningen could use a bit of excitement too, something that really attracts attention; the university still has a bit of a hippy-dippy agriculture image.' She realizes she could probably learn more about snakes at another university, but 'my heart is in Wageningen. So I hope the university will be open to the idea.'

She is not afraid of snakes, Gila monsters or crocodiles. Never has been. 'They make me feel happy in fact. I think in me, fear gets turned into alertness. I am very focussed and always calm. My heartbeat may go up, but I don't feel afraid. Of course it sometimes crosses my mind that it could go wrong. But this is my mission, it's as simple as that. I know I could be paralyzed or die, but I'm willing to take that risk. If I die of snakebite, that is OK. I might even prefer that to fading away somewhere.' She glances at the poster of Steve Irwin on her door. 'But I hope that doesn't happen any time soon.' 





Cracking the glass ceiling with coaching

Wageningen UR is trying to boost the number of women at the top. To help matters, a mentoring programme for talented women started at the end of October. Looking back, how do the mentors and mentees view the initiative? ‘Coaching was just the ticket.’

text: Rob Ramaker / **photo:** Sven Menschel

Wageningen UR has an abundance of female students, PhD candidates and researchers. But emancipation falters in the top echelons, we learned in the autumn of 2012. A survey showed that women account for less than 10 percent of professors. Like-

wise, men predominate in DLO’s management. Following protests, an action plan was produced at the end of 2013, intended to steer the gender balance in the right direction.

This plan includes a mentoring programme in which talented women are coached individually by established scientists, either men or women but in practice mostly women. The aim is to see fewer women drop out on the way to the top. In October a pilot was launched with some twenty couples, including mentor Birgit Dauwe, interim business unit manager at Rikilt, and mentee Anne van Doorn, DLO researcher at Alterra. While they did not know each other beforehand, they have been meeting regularly these past months at a cafe in Wageningen.

Why did you decide to take part?

Anne: ‘I’d been wanting to get some coaching for a while.’

Just to have a chance to reflect on my work, which I'd never done before. I read about this programme on Twitter and as it happened, I fit into the target group perfectly. For me, it wasn't so much about emancipation, I'm in it for the coaching.'

Birgit: 'I'm increasingly realizing the impact of "strength in numbers". An organization needs a broad base of female potential, otherwise you're always different and an exception. Only when you pass the 30 percent mark do you help define the culture. I want to do my bit towards reaching that goal.'

What did you design the coaching to include?

Anne: 'Initially, we wrote a coaching requirement. I wanted to know how to best use my strengths and skills in my work, and how to best balance work and home.'

Birgit: 'And being noticed, yes?'

Anne: 'Certainly. I'd been doing project work for a while, but I was keen to step it up. I wondered how I could achieve that.'

Birgit: 'We have talked about ambition. What your dream future looks like and what your ideal working day involves. It was immediately clear that Anne had a strong drive to take a step forward.'

Anne: 'But it wasn't easy getting used to having a mentor, because I never talk about myself. On the first occasion, I found it really strange to talk about myself for an hour.'

'There is no room to think freely about your development.'

How did you benefit from your discussions?

Birgit: 'I enjoyed seeing Anne apply what she was learning straight away. We talked about possible actions and by the next time we met she had already tried out three things.'

Anne: 'Since January, I've had the opportunity to coordinate a new research programme. I had the feeling that this was a lucky break, that it just happened to come my way, but Birgit told me that it isn't about luck.'

Birgit: 'On the contrary, it has a lot to do with your own actions. The point is that you take charge and that things no longer simply happen to you. You are aware of what you want and don't follow the herd every day.'

Ambition, being noticed and future dreams, that all sounds very abstract. What lessons did you learn for solving day-to-day problems?

Anne: 'When you transfer to a new job, you need to draw on your other qualities. That's something we've talked about. Take conflict management, I am someone who prefers to avoid conflict, but sometimes things come to a head and then you can use certain tactics for handling the situation.'

Have you already applied these tactics in your new role as a coordinator?

Anne: 'Yes, but I haven't yet applied all of Birgit's tips.'
Birgit: 'We're still working on that.'

Anne: 'A very good tip was that you need to give yourself some room to experiment. Everything doesn't have to be right from day one in a new situation. You can try doing things first one way, then another; you learn and develop. It's a useful lesson because it enables you to be much more relaxed in dealing with a new situation.'

Before the interview, you described yourself as a scientist, and explicitly as a mother. Did motherhood play a large role in your discussions?

Anne: 'Not very explicitly, although sometimes after a stressful period of time, I'd need to get things off my chest. I do agree with Sheryl Sandberg [Ed: top woman at Facebook, wrote a book about having a career as a woman] that emancipation starts at the kitchen table. You can talk until the cows come home about the glass ceiling, but at the end of the day it's about two partners who sit down at the kitchen table and make good agreements about how to share their domestic tasks.'

Birgit: 'In your case, all that's fine. Of course there are issues, with children's parties and sleepless nights, but it isn't at the heart of your coaching requirement because there's a hand-on father involved who has a similar background.'

Anne: 'I must say I've never had any problem at Wagenin-gen UR. In fact, I was hired while I was pregnant.'

How do you hope the coaching will influence your further career?

Anne: 'It has already helped me enormously. Of course, we're only talking about a four-month period, but it has already helped me set my own course and become more self-assured. What's more, you become aware that you really do have something to say. Coaching was just the ticket.'

Birgit: 'I've also learned a lot. I thought that being a manager meant I was already a coach, but in that hierarchical relationship you are never completely free of expectations. Neither party is completely free to be open. It was an eye-opener to hear from someone unconnected to me at work how managers are viewed.'

Would you recommend this to others?

Anne: 'I have already recommended it to the person I share an office with. Really, every employee should be coached. Not very intensively, but three or four times a year in addition to the R&O interview.'

Birgit: 'To be honest, I was shocked that Anne is 38, in this position and had never been coached before. I think external reflection really is an integral element of the process of developing greater professionalism. Even among the knowledge professionals who you are dealing with here, it is evidently not a foregone conclusion that they would have come across it. Sometimes the idea of coaching is even interpreted negatively.'

Anne: 'In our organization courses are always about improving in a certain role, such as leading a project. There is no room to think freely about your development.'
Birgit: 'So if anyone is advised to get a coach, they think there's something wrong with them.'

Anne: 'Like when you offer someone a mint. But in fact it's a good thing.'

Birgit: 'Coaching really is a present you give yourself.' **3**

A MORE EXPENSIVE SPORTS CARD. GOOD IDEA?

The second sports hall is going ahead. The need for it is acute because the current sports hall is overcrowded. But a new sports hall is expensive so who will pay for it? The university will bear most of the cost but we'll probably also see a rise in the price of the sports card. The fee for sports rights on the WUR Card is now 74 euros a year, but this may go up by 20 euros. What do people in the Bongerd think of that?

text: Romy Appelman / illustration: Henk van Ruitenbeek

Merijn Moerland



Chair of SWU Thymos

'We really need the second sports hall and to pay for it we aren't principally opposed to raising the price of the sports rights. **Here in Wageningen we have the cheapest sports card in the Netherlands.** It will still be cheap even if the price goes up. We'll be getting considerably better sports facilities in return, so to us a price rise seems only logical.'

Stefanie Simon and Sharon van den Akker



both MSc Management, Economics and Consumer Studies

'Raising the price of the sports card doesn't seem like a bad idea to us. It doesn't cost much now, but it does give you access to lots of sports. We've previously studied in Utrecht and Nijmegen and the sports cards there were much more expensive, while you didn't necessarily get any more for your money. **We'd find any price up to a hundred euros acceptable.** Hopefully it will mean we can take more courses; they currently fill up really quickly. And Stefanie plays volleyball for WaHo. She gets exactly 90 minutes a week to train, which includes time for setting things out and put-

ting them away. That's really tight. If the new sports hall meant WaHo got more space, we'd be happy.'

Ward Nijland



1st year BSc Biology

'No, I don't think it's a good idea. I always come here to work out and very occasionally I use the swimming pool, but I'm never in the sports hall. **So I am not happy with the plans to hike up the price of the sports card.**

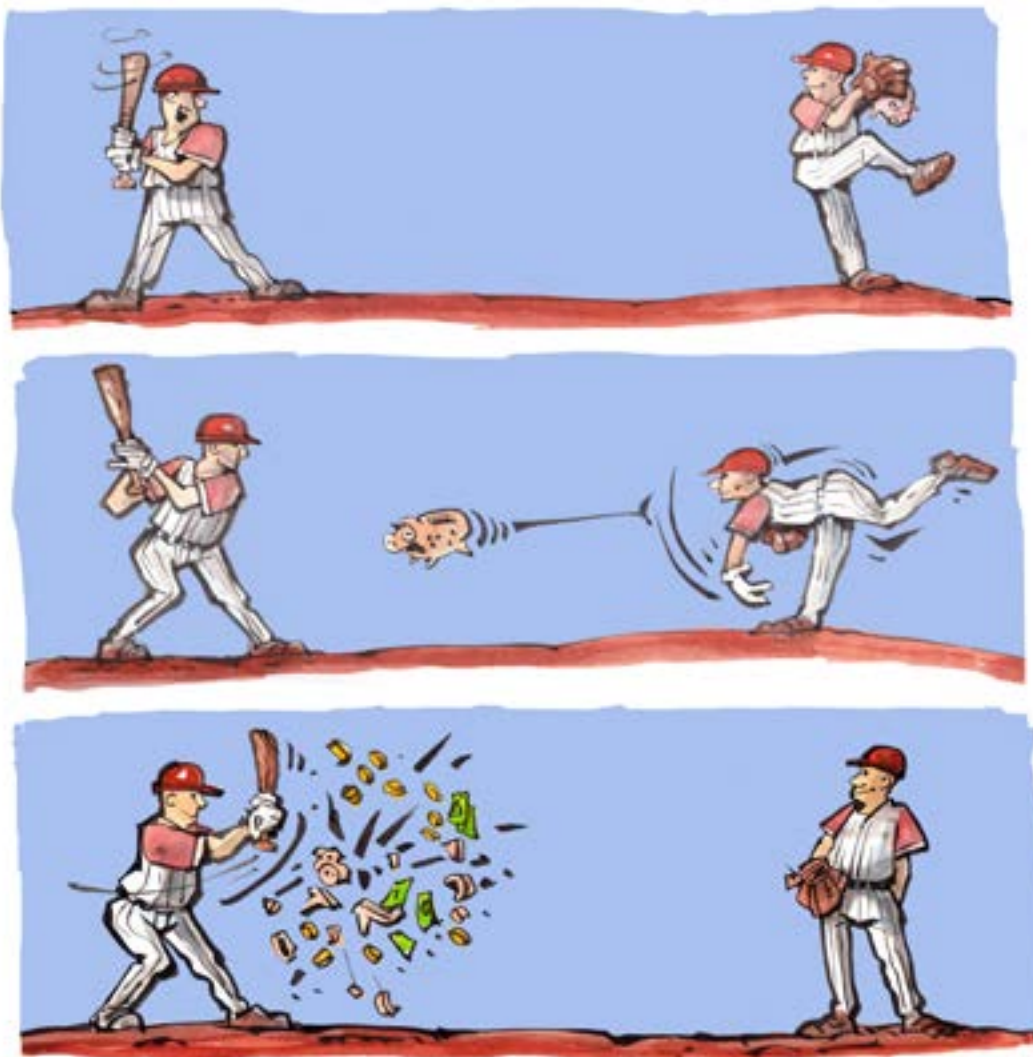
Personally, I'm pretty fanatical about sport, so I'll be buying the sports card next year whatever happens. But since I won't be using the new sports hall, but will have to pay extra for those facilities, I will be pretty annoyed if this arrangement is chosen any time soon.'

Karlijn Luiken



1st year BSc Plant Sciences

'I wouldn't have any problem with a rise in the price of the sports card, because after all we'd be getting a brand new sports centre in return. **Hopefully with more favourable time slots so I don't have bounce hockey matches that are still waiting to start at 11 p.m.** But everything must stay affordable. If the price of the sports card suddenly shot up, I would certainly think twice about buy-



ing a new sports card. Perhaps it would then be smarter to go running outdoors on your own instead. In Wageningen the sports card is cheap compared to other cities. This mustn't change because sporting activity provides a healthy distraction between periods of study. It would be a pity if students were to stop doing sport because the price of the sports card was too high.'

Sivan van Leerzem



MSc International Development Studies

'I'm a member of Argo, so I have to buy a sports card. I also go to the gym now and then, so it's not entirely for nothing, but really I see it as being a standard part of my Argo membership fee.

I think many people buy a sports card for this reason: because they belong to a sports association and that makes the sports card mandatory. At the moment the sports card isn't at all expensive. Once a year it makes a small dent of seventy euros in your study funds, that's not a huge

amount. I think an increase of twenty euros in the price isn't bad at all; I don't think it'll mean the Bongerd sells fewer sports cards. For students it isn't really worth kicking up a fuss about.'

Lavinia Plataroti



MSc International Development Studies

'At the moment courses in the Bongerd are overcrowded. They are all fully booked 30 minutes after registration starts. **I don't know if a new sports hall is going to solve that problem too, an-**

other course room seems like a much better idea to me. The sports card is currently very cheap, so I wouldn't mind paying more for it. About ninety or a hundred euros seems reasonable to me, but only if the courses also benefit from it. If only the student sports associations benefit from a new sports hall, I'd say that the membership fees of the associations should be raised. The people who use the sports hall would then be paying for it themselves.'

‘New University Wageningen’ wants own *Resource*

The student movement New University Wageningen is thinking of setting up its own ‘independent mouthpiece’. This wish was expressed at the first meeting of the new movement on Wednesday 1 April.

Participants in the meeting thought *Resource* could never be independent because the magazine and website are funded by the university. Ideas were put forward for launching an independent mouthpiece to be run by and for students.

This was just one of the ideas that came out of the first meeting of New University Wageningen, a movement which follows in the footsteps of New Universities in other university towns. The same group of Wageningen students was involved earlier in protests related to the occupation of the Magdenuis in Amsterdam and the dialogue with the rector which fol-



PHOTO: AARTJAN VAN DE GLIND

lowed it. About 40 students held an open and constructive discussion last Wednesday related to five ‘concerns’: besides the issue of *Resource*’s independence, these were conflicts of interest caused by the business world’s role in research, the degree of democracy at the university, its results-focussed ap-

proach and the need for more multidisciplinary in teaching and in research. The ‘Droef’ factor was high, judging by the dreadlocks and baggy trousers present, but there were also student council members, teachers and other interested parties present.

A few striking things came out

of the meeting. There appeared to be some dissatisfaction with the dialogue with the rector. Although the fact that he entered into talks with students was appreciated, many of those who attended felt it was not really a dialogue because many of their points were smoothly parried by the rector and there was not much space for diverging views.

It was also noted that many of the participants were ill-informed about how the university is run, so that it is not clear to them how democratic it really is and what you can do if you have criticisms. That information gap should be filled as soon as possible, it was agreed, probably with the help of the student council members. Such ideas are now being developed further by the group. **RA**

Stay up-to-date on the developments through the Facebook page. Look for: De Nieuwe Universiteit Wageningen.

Argo rowers victorious at Varsity

The W.S.R. Argo rowers put on a good performance at the annual Varsity competition, one of the most important events in the rowing calendar.

The ‘Lightweight Women’s Four’ with cox managed to finish first in their class, the first-year oarswomen Mylène, Marissa, Floor, Deanne and Kim thereby living up to their promise as the favourites. The first-year ‘Heavyweight Men’ also won their final, the first victory for the men.

The female Argonauts finished several boat-lengths ahead of their rivals from Amsterdam and Groningen on the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal.

‘There was quite a lot of expectation that we would win,’ says Deanne Verkroost. ‘Both among ourselves and at Argo. We knew we could do it but we still needed to prove it. It was a real relief when we heard the gun and realized we had the trophy.’ The women are now ranked first in the first-years’ league table.

It was a particularly special victory for the men. Not only was it their first trophy, it was also the first time in 36 years that Argo’s Young Eight had managed to win at the Varsity. That battle between first-year oarsmen is the most important match at the Varsity after the Old Four, the blue ribbon event.

LvdN



PHOTO: LARS VELLING

Residents move into Bellostraat

'It feels like living in a holiday house,' says a new resident of the brand-new Bellostraat student residence. Clean and fresh-smelling, it looks a bit like a campsite at the moment, with lots of boxes still unpacked.

The car park in the middle of the just-completed complex was full of cars over Easter weekend. The prospective residents had been given their keys on 1 April and parents made use of the long weekend to help their offspring move their belongings from their old rooms to their new home.

The communal areas were delivered in finished state by landlord Idealis. So students could move in right away once the necessary tables, chairs, sofas, fridges and televisions had been installed in the living room and kitchen. The bedroom walls still needed painting and 'Not everyone realized that,' said Dayo Jansen. 'So one of my housemates didn't move yet in last weekend. He had to paint first. But the others have all moved in.' He is sharing the house with four others.

GROUP TENANCY

Students had to sign up for a five-person unit as a group. 'We are living together now, which is fun', says Sarah, who lives a few houses away. Of course she was already sharing a unit with others at the Dijkgraaf, but now she is sharing this house with four friends. The same goes for all the houses on the Bellostraat. In fact one of Sarah's housemates was on the her corridor at the Dijkgraaf. And now Sarah and Nina are still on the same corridor – on the top floor of their new house.

Next door is a group of students who had rooms in Ede till now. 'There we had a couple of super-Christian housemates



PHOTO: AART-JAN VAN DE GLIND

from the Christian college of higher education in Ede. Now it's just us, which is nice.' So how are they going to decorate the house? 'We still want to paint this wall but we don't know how yet,' says Chenny. 'Oh, we must do that before we hang up the TV on Thursday,' adds Heleen. She may be around at the moment but she is still living at her landlady's. Her new room isn't furnished yet and anyway, she is still paying rent there.

The Bellostraat was completed one month ahead of schedule. So Idealis decided students could move in already, but would only start paying rent from 1 May. That way they are not saddled with two rents to pay. Dayo: 'I gave notice as soon as I heard we could move in here. I only paid rent for my old room for the first week of April and am living rent-

free for the rest of the month. A nice windfall.' They like the new house. The only thing it lacks is hot water in the shower. 'That kind of thing happens in a new house,' says Dayo. He has reported it to Idealis and expects it will soon be solved.

Besides the 80 students

sharing houses, there are 69 single occupant units at the Bellostraat. It seemed as though not all of these were occupied yet when Resource visited on 7 April.

KG

No more waiting list at Idealis

Idealis will have a room for all the students on its waiting list by 1 May. There is little response to rooms becoming available at the moment, says spokesperson Corina van Dijk. So it is easy for students who are actively looking to find a room. Last year too, the housing provider succeeded in housing everyone by 1 May. There are now, in fact, about 100 empty rooms in Idealis complexes, says Van Dijk. These were reserved for foreign students but remained unoccupied. Idealis reserves 1200 rooms for international students at Wageningen UR. There are no plans for renting them temporarily to Dutch students, as happened in October 2014. RR

TALL STORY 1

Small may be beautiful but not so good for your health. Tall people run less risk of a heart attack, suggests a study at the University of Leicester. In figures: 6.5 cm extra height means 13.5 less chance of cardiovascular disease. The difference lies in our genes, say the researchers. So you can't do anything about it. But you do look at your shorter and taller fellow humans with new eyes.

TALL STORY 2

Tall men have more children than short men, suggests a British study among tall people from the Dutch provinces of Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe. On average, they have 0.24 more children. The researchers guess this is the work of evolution. Apparently the genes for height go together with another evolutionary advantage. Perhaps because fewer of them die of heart attacks?

POINTER

Is your ring finger (R) longer than your forefinger (D)? Then you are probably an above average long distance runner. British researchers (Cambridge) measured this R/D ration in all the runners in a half marathon in Nottingham. The 10 percent with the highest ratio was almost half an hour faster than the lowest 10 percent. In women the difference was half as much, about 12 minutes. Get measuring then.

**TESTOSTERONE**

The difference in finger length is a result of raised exposure to testosterone in the uterus. 'The more testosterone, the higher the R/D. These men are more successful in reproduction. An evolution thing. Women fell for the best hunters – and thus for the best runners. That was then. The big question now is: do women still fall for good runners? Cambridge doesn't answer that one.'

European Quidditch Cup in Oxford

Wageningen's quidditch athletes will be competing for the European Quidditch Cup in Oxford on 18 and 19 April. Quite something given that the Wageningen Werewolves, as the team is called, have only been playing competitively for half a year.

There are not that many teams in the Netherlands playing quidditch (a mix between rugby, handball and dodgeball). The game is based on the sport of the same name in the Harry Potter books. 'There are only a few Dutch teams that play at a high enough level to be able to take part in the European competition', explains Juliane Schillinger, the

captain of the Werewolves (also known as the WURwolves). Although the team has not been around that long, the Werewolves still managed to end up as the best Dutch team last February in a quidditch tournament with teams from Belgium and the Netherlands. That meant they qualified for the 2015 European Quidditch Cup.

Because the Werewolves are such a young club, they are not yet part of the student sport foundation Thymos. As a result, the team members have to pay the costs of the journey and the tournament in Oxford themselves. The team were able to cover part of the costs with some light-hearted actions, such

as a bicycle wash and a Facebook campaign. Schillinger: 'We managed to raise 350 euros and we're paying the rest ourselves. That's about 100 euros per person.'

32 teams from all over Europe are taking part in the European Quidditch Cup. The Wageningen Werewolves are not among the favourites. 'The sport is much bigger in Britain and the competition a lot more competitive,' says Schillinger. The Wageningen quidditch team mainly wants to see how well it can perform against other beginners. **📍 CN**

Follow the Wageningen Werewolves on www.eqc2015.org/



Gnome-throwing

It's time for a trial of strength again on 20 May, when the Muscle Men of Wageningen UR will compete in the annual Wageningen Strong Man Competition. A new feature this year is gnome-throwing. 'We always try to put in an element of fun,' says Ruben Cornelis-

sen of the Wageningen Beasts, the student strength training club which organizes the event. 'Last year we did something with a car. This year we wanted to do something that would not only attract the hardcore weightlifters but others as well.' A garden gnome has

duly been acquired and tested, and on the day of the event it will be filled with cement. The Strong Man Competition will be held on the sports fields at the Bongerd. You can sign up by email: wageningenbeasts@gmail.com

📍 LvdN

EPISODE 48 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Kim
Peterse en
Sander
de Kraker

The story so far: Since coming out of the closet, Derk has sometimes felt self-conscious. Some people don't know about his sexual orientation. Meanwhile sport has become his escape.

Gym

It was quiet in the men's changing room at the Bongerd. Derk didn't usually hit the gym until the evening, but Vera had asked him to come with her. On his way out, Derk passed a muscular young man with brown eyes. He caught himself waiting to catch another glimpse of him.

'So, are you ready for it?' asked Vera when she popped up next to him. Together they walked over to the gym. Derk wanted to get his gym key but Vera stopped him.

'You won't need it today.' She grinned mischievously. 'It's a group lesson.' She led Derk to the dance studio. He frowned, puzzled. The only lesson he knew was given in this space was TRX. He wouldn't mind doing a muscle work-out like that. The female instructor opened the doors and started to get the materials ready. Derk's breath caught in his throat. Instead of the TRX ropes, she was setting shiny poles in the holes in the floor. The penny dropped. 'No way! Vera, I'm not doing this lesson!'

'But you're a fitness fanatic, aren't you?' She was clearly enjoying herself. The Pole Fitness instructor made a beeline for Derk.

'What fun, a man in our midst. With muscles like those, this should be a breeze for you,' she said winking. Before Derk could protest, instructions were being given. 'You'll get more grip if you take your shirt off.' The instructor wrapped her legs around the pole and made a whirling movement.



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

'Now it's your turn.' Vera gave him a push. Derk steeled himself and strode over to the pole. He didn't want to be a spoilsport. In the first few exercises Derk was a bit wooden, but with some instruction he got better and better. The Fireman, Firewoman and the Carrousel were a piece a cake. A group of gym-users taking a break had gathered in the doorway, including the well-muscled young man. Without realizing it, Derk began to exert himself. A familiar voice called out from among those watching. 'Aha, that's a sturdy pole you've got in your hands.' It was Jack from his Argo rowing crew. Of course, they were training on the ergometer next door. Suddenly Derk's hands broke into a sweat, he lost his grip and slipped to the floor. He landed with a smack on the mats. The Argonauts were jeering. 'Maybe use a little less lubricant next time, eh?'

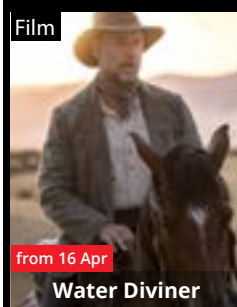
Follow the Mortierstraat 14b now on social media too



Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

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from 16 Apr

Water Diviner

THURSDAY € 3,-
STUDENT DISCOUNT



21 & 26 Apr

Girl With The Pearl Earring

EXPERIENCE ART
ON THE BIG SCREEN!



from 25 Apr

Disney Nature: Bears

BEAR FAMILY
SURVIVES ALASKA

Beastly burgers or Kickin' chicken piri piri or a tasty veggie dish or sexy chicken satay for only € 6,50. All served with crispy French fries and fresh salad. Every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 8 pm. Only in the attic of Eetcafé H41. No other main dishes upstairs. Also Take away.

SUPER DUPER ATTIC OFFER

Eetcafé H41 - Herenstraat 41 Wageningen - (0317) 42 17 15 - www.h41.nl

>> PARTIES

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

WAGENINGEN UP

KSV - 7SINS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Thursday 16 April from 22:30 to 05:00

The 7Sins parties at KSV have been hugely popular for years. This party too is bound to attract a big crowd. Make sure you arrive on time to avoid having to wait outside in the queue. Don't forget your WUR Card and proof of identity. Entrance for 18+ only. Four euros on the door.

DE WILDE WERELD - NACHTBOTER


Friday 24 April from 19:30 to 02:00

Nachtboter is a new initiative offering an open stage to anyone who makes music, dances or has another performing arts skill. On this first night you can expect acts in Dutch, English and

Spanish. Anyone wishing to perform can sign up at nachtboter@gmail.com. Diversity and good fun guaranteed.

SSR-W - ORANGE GALA

Sunday 26 April from 23:00 to 05:00

On the eve of King's Day, SSR-W is holding the traditional Orange Gala. So pull on those orange clothes and get on down in the name of the King. You can party into the wee small hours because the day after is a public holiday. Then, of course, you can always hook up with another party on King's Day itself. 

This feature is provided by Wageningen UP.

>> THE WORKS

IN LITTLE HUTS IN THE BACK GARDENS

Who? Atti Muriricho, BSc International Development Studies

What? Elective research

Where? Moma, Mozambique.

'To fill a bit of a gap in my studies, I was keen to do some research. Thanks to an acquaintance of my parents – who have been back in Mozambique for a few years – I was offered an internship in Moma, a small village in Mozambique. I did research on the economic impact on a mining company in the region.

The village where I did my research did not exist before the mining company started. When the company established itself in the area, they built houses around their site. They moved the residents of a nearby village, where there were about 150 houses, to the new village. The old houses no longer exist. The remarkable thing is that the people of that village do not work for the company themselves. They don't live in the newly built houses but in little huts in the back gardens. They rented the houses to people from the city who do work for the mining company.

During the day I spent a lot of time at the company talking to the employees and their supervisors. Even though I was quite familiar with Mozambique – I visit my parents there every summer holiday – I found it very interesting to talk to people in this village. When I lived in Mozambique I went to an international school and did not see much of the 'normal' population. For that reason the interviews did not always go smoothly, because I didn't speak the local language. Fortunately there was a man who helped me out.

Before I started my research I visited my parents. My father brought me





to the research location by motorbike: 330 kilometers on dirt roads. The motorbike broke down along the way and we had to walk back to the last village we had passed. There was a very kind man there who was willing to store our motorbike until we came back. When my father and I went to pick up the bike after I'd finished my research, it was still standing in the middle of the living room. As if it had been there all that time.'  



PHOTO: FREDERIC LEGRAND - COMEO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... the United States of America

In the news: Hillary Clinton announced that she will run for President in the US elections in 2016.

Comment by Blair van Pelt, recent graduate in Organic Agriculture and working in various groups such as Wortels in Onderwijs and EAT, the edible academic garden.

‘There was no element of surprise in Clinton’s candidacy, sadly. I have no personal objection to her, and I think it would be awesome if there were a woman president, but I think it’s absurd that there is only one candidate for the Democratic Party. There is already a large group that has presented themselves for the Republican Party. But it is always that way, and only a handful go forward to run for the presidency. There was a lot of hope that democrat Elizabeth Warren would also for President, but she is not going to because she can put a lot more time into the topics she is passionate about as a senator, rather than letting them get diluted by a whole campaign.

I don’t think that the feminist agenda will be at the top of Clinton’s priority list. But she has always been an outspoken woman in politics and I think that speaks for itself. However, I think she will just be a puppet like the rest of them. I don’t think that even a diehard green president could ever really, in one presidency, make the kind of changes environmentalists like me want to see, because it does not fit the corporate agenda. I’m glad she is not a republican, but there are no issues I can agree with her on. As a ‘greeny’ I don’t feel represented by anyone. I would be ashamed not to vote but it is no more than a gesture to do so. A long election campaign between the republicans, and perhaps also between democrats, will result in two presidential candidates: a republican and a democrat. In the end, those are the only two options we, Americans, have at the elections in 2016.’

© Veronika Wehner

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



OV-CHIP CHECKER

It has happened to us all. Checking in on the bus and train only to discover you haven’t got enough credit! Very annoying if you’ve got an important appointment. How handy would it be to be able to check your balance before getting on the bus? Well, here is an app with which you can easily keep track of your balance. The app’s handiest function is that it warns you if you’ve forgotten to check out, and it also tells you if your credit is too low and when it is automatically credited. One less excuse for being late.



CLEAR

: Life is what happens when you are making other plans? The least you can do then is to put those plans into a nice app. Clear is a much lauded app which turns the making of To Do lists into a fine art. By swiping and pinching, you navigate through the most elegant design and all your plans are automatically updated on your apple devices. Costs a bit, but gives you something to do.



Master of Arts in Latin American Studies

- ▶ Multi-disciplinary study of 15 months including three months fieldwork in Latin America
- ▶ Information meeting: Thursday 30 April 2015

Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation

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Orion Irregular Opening Hours April and May 2015

	2015	The Building	Bike basement	Restaurant	The Spot
Monday Kings Day	27 April	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	28 April	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 10 pm
Wednesday	29 April	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 10 pm
Thursday	30 April	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 10 pm
Friday	1 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 10 pm
Saturday	2 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	3 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday	4 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 10 pm
Tuesday Liberation Day	5 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed



Forum Irregular Opening Hours April and May 2015

	2015	The Building	The Library	Student Desk IT Service Point	WURshop	Restaurant	Grand Café	Wageningen in'to Languages
Monday Kings Day	27 April	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	Closed	9 am - 1 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	28 April	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	10 am - 2 pm 5 pm - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Wednesday	29 April	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	10 am - 2 pm 5 pm - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Thursday	30 April	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	10 am - 2 pm 5 pm - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Friday	1 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 2.30 pm	10 am - 2 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday	2 May	9 am - 7 pm	9 am - 7 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	3 May	9 am - 7 pm	9 am - 7 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday	4 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	10 am - 2 pm 5 pm - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Tuesday Liberation Day	5 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 11 pm	Closed	9 am - 12 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed

During working hours, the building is open to the public. After working hours, entrance is only possible with a WUR card.



classified

Student Council election – lists of candidates

On 23 April 2015 the Student Council Election Committee will publish the lists of candidates at <https://ssc.wur.nl/elections/>. From 23 April 2015, students will know who might represent them in the Student Council during next academic year. The lists of candidates will also be available for inspection at the office of the Secretary of the Student Council, or via <https://ssc.wur.nl/student/> under Elections (choose 'Elections' in the left menu).

Any person concerned may lodge a notice of objection to the validity of a published candidate list until 1 May 2015 inclusive, with the Secretary of the Student Council, Hermijn Speelman, Droevendaalsesteeg 4 (Room D.107), P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen.

Competition for sustainable entrepreneurs

Are you a starter with a green busi-

ness plan? Enter the Postcode Lottery Green Challenge, the biggest international competition in the field of sustainable enterprise, and win €500,000 to launch your plan.

Deadline for entry: 1 June 2015 through www.greenchallenge.info

RUW Excursion Berlin & Leipzig: Resource Revolution on 4-12 July

Many of our resources are under pressure. Due to the extraordinary economic growth, the high urbanization rate and several industrial and technological developments, many resources will be used up soon. We'll explore 1) sustainable entrepreneurship, 2) circular economy and 3) urban agriculture.

Course: RSO- 51303, Capita Select, 3 ECTS

Costs: € 225 (incl travel, accommodation, activities). Subscribe before 30 April!

WWW.STICHTINGRUW.NL

Applicatie en product Specialist

CaTeC b.v (Wageningen) is exclusief importeur voor de Benelux van een brede lijn van meetinstrumenten en sensoren. De kern van de meetinstrumentatie is gericht op het meten van klimaatparameters en het registreren en analyseren van meetsignalen.

Voor ons producten pakket dat gericht is op het meten en analyseren van broeikasgassen en onze toelijn van meteorologische- en bodemonderzoek gerelateerde meetinstrumenten zoeken wij een **applicatie specialist** die verantwoordelijk is voor de ondersteuning en verkoop van de genoemde meetinstrumenten. Bovengenoemde meetinstrumenten worden voornamelijk toegepast door: Universiteiten, onderzoeksinstituten en instanties zoals het KNMI, ECN etc.

Opleiding: Universitair, HBO in een van de volgende studierichtingen - Klimatologie, - Bodem, Water, Atmosfeer, - Plant fysiologie

- Kennis van klimatologische ontwikkelingen
- Sterke interesse in bovengenoemde vakgebieden, *technisch goed onderlegd, gecombineerd met een klantvriendelijke instelling.*
- Kennis van Engelse taal
- Enthousiaste instelling en team speler
- Commerciële instelling
- Bereidheid tot reizen



Voor contact of meer informatie kunt u zich wenden tot:
mevrouw M.J. Spaans, hoofd PZ - tilly.spaans@catec.nl - 0174 272332
Voor een compleet profiel overzicht verwijzen wij u naar onze web-site

www.catec.nl - info@catec.nl

Acquisitie m.b.t. deze advertentie wordt niet op prijs gesteld.

agenda

Thursday 16 April to Wednesday 29 April

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Four films at Movie W: Selma, a historical and biographical film about Martin Luther King's historic protest march in 1965. Gluckauf, a large-as-life Limburg social drama about an ex-mineworker living from petty crime, and his relationship with his son. Inherent Vice, a crime-comedy-drama featuring a private detective and hippies in LA. Walesa: Man of Hope, a film with a strong cast about Lech Walesa, the dock worker in communist Poland who became a resistance hero and president.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Tuesday 21 April, 20.00

DEBATE ABOUT JUSTICE (IN DUTCH)

Dr. Ronald Tinnevelt (Radboud University of Nijmegen), associate professor of legal philosophy, asks whether various developments in society, such as the student loan system, the participation society, the privatization of health care and growing inequality, are just. The evening is hosted by the Wageningen freemasons and the library.

Venue: Wageningen library, Stati-onstraat 2

Thursday 23 April, 18.45

FILM EVENING ON THE 'FOOD CHAIN' & DISCUSSION

Farmers in the US are badly paid, whereas they provide us with our basic needs. Nowadays, pay is kept low by the big supermarket chains, among others. The farmers in the US have united to demand a better income. The film will be followed by a discussion with special guests.

Venue: Forum, C222.

WWW.BOERENGROEP.NL

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)
Email: resource@wur.nl

colophon

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen UR. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

Address

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

‘Now we ain’t strangers anymore’

Travelling by bus from Utrecht to Wageningen I was reminded of a scene in the movie ‘Forrest Gump’. On his first day of school Forrest resists stepping into the bus, telling the driver: ‘Mama said not to be taking rides from strangers... I am Forrest, Forrest Gump... Well, now, we ain’t strangers anymore.’ Then he gets on the bus.

On that bus ride to Wageningen, I observed many passengers greeting the driver as they entered the bus, even if they didn’t have to buy a ticket. As a German I am not used to greeting bus drivers if I am not going to engage in a conversation with them after that. So saying ‘Hi’ to the driver is not familiar to me, for a start.

What was even more surprising was that people continued this politeness before they left the bus. I spent quite some time in that bus and noticed that people waved, said ‘thank you’ or even ‘goodbye’ when they got out of the bus. At first, I assumed that these people knew the driver or that maybe they thanked him because he gave them some time to check out with their OV-chip card. But it turns out this is a normal custom here.

I wonder if Dutch mamas even tell their children to introduce themselves to the bus driver, the way Forrest Gump did? I don’t go as far as introducing myself to the driver, but since this bus ride I also say ‘hi’ and ‘goodbye’ when I take the bus.  **Rebekka Mejda, MSc student of Applied Communication Science, from Germany**

I wonder if Dutch mamas tell their children to introduce themselves to the bus driver, the way Forrest Gump did?

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.