

Hype-oriented, opportunistic and too commercial

Thea Hilhorst wipes the floor with the aid sector. | **p.8** |

Do gays feel safe in Wageningen?

Recent attack on Rooseveltweg seems isolated incident. | **p.18** |

'A scientist doesn't have to be a nerd'

Tanya Radoeva hopes to win student contest with her beauty and brains. | **p.24** |

RESOURCE [ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 17 – 19 April 2012 – 6th Volume



Looking back ten years on

Volkert, the murder and the media storm


p.12

>> HENK + SOUNDS OF NATURE

Henk Meeuwsen, researcher at Geo-information systems, Alterra

‘It is so beautiful and so moving’

The minute he heard his first nightingale, he was sold. ‘Sounds man’ Henk Meeuwsen records the sounds of nature. Mainly birds but also anything from running water to buzzing bees.

This is a job for an early bird: birdlife is most active before dawn, when the surroundings are relatively quiet as well. CDs full of sounds with titles such as *Blackbirds and More*, *Birds Top 100*, or *The Heath*. Nice source of ringtones too, See: www.natuurgeluiden.nl.  RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans

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'You can see the royal family from so close by'

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SENSITIVE

It seemed such a good idea to us at Resource. A feature looking back on the weeks following the murder of Pim Fortuyn, when Wageningen came under close scrutiny from the Dutch media. Camera crews swarmed through the town and a note was displayed at Droevendaal: 'Dear press, please stop pestering us.' According to a *Telegraaf* journalist, prominent Wageningers such as Arthur Mol, Simon Vink and Patrick Jansen were all part of Volkert's network. So let's look back on that turbulent period, we thought. Not ourselves, but through the eyes of those who were hounded by journalists or portrayed as wrongheaded friends of Volkert. But most of the relevant people were loath to be cited. I approached one of them in a busy pub. He stood up at once: 'Wait a minute, let's go and sit at a separate table.' He then patiently explained why he was only willing to talk off record (to protect an old acquaintance). Sensitive stuff. Perhaps ten years on is still too soon.

Gaby van Caulil



>> 'Farmers don't want reports': successful innovation in practice at the pig innovation centre in Sterksel. | p20 |

BREEDING COMPANIES WANT TO CONCENTRATE R&D ON CAMPUS

- Companies join forces.
- Genetic research to be concentrated in Wageningen.

Four major breeding companies want to bring their R&D activities together in a new centre on Wageningen campus, states the innovation contract of the Agrifood top sector. The companies are CRV (cattle), Hendrix Genetics (poultry and pigs), Topigs (pigs) and Cobb Europe (poultry). With a total annual expenditure of 40 million euros in research & development, these companies have decided to

join forces in R&D activities. They will participate in the new innovation programme Breed4Food, a public-private joint venture with the university's Animal Breeding and Genomics Centre. Because of this close cooperation, the companies seek to concentrate their R&D activities on the Wageningen UR Campus.

GENOMIC SELECTION

Between them, the breeding companies will invest 10 million euros per year on pre-competitive and high-risk research. An example is genomic selection, from which the companies can obtain useful infor-

mation from big and complex databases for their breeding programmes.

Whether the government will match this investment with public research funds is still uncertain. The private sector has submitted innovation plans totalling 184 million euros to the Agrifood top sector, but Minister Verhagen has only 72 million euros of government co-financing funds available. The top sector and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation have yet to decide which projects are eligible for co-finance. **AS**

ISRIC NOMADS UNPACK AGAIN



Stephan Mantel has been working for Isric for 18 years, during which he has moved four times. That is not a bad average but those four moves were all in the past two years! The trek began at the end of 2010 when they suddenly had to vacate their home at Duivendaal. Then the Wisselgebouw building on campus turned out to be a stopover for the final destination in Gaia. Hardly had they unpacked their boxes when they had to move again to the Wisselgebouw. Now the refurbishing work at Gaia and Lumen is drawing to a close. Isric was one of the first to move into the new premises last week.

Mantel has mixed feelings about all these moves. 'Duivendaal might have been old but it was well suited to our needs. As far as buildings go I would rather be in Duivendaal.' Mantel thinks there is less room in Gaia. But there are compensations. 'At least we are now on campus. Here, we are part of the whole complex of research and teaching. Isric will become better known once the new building with the museum is finished. That can be the institute's calling card, the Isric magnet.'

RK, foto Guy Ackermans

BEE REVIEW STILL HOLDS WATER

- The doses used in the Science studies 'were not realistic'.

The recent headline-grabbing bee studies published in *Science* do not change the conclusions reached in Tjeerd Blacquière's bee review, says the Wageningen researcher. In the two studies, neonicotinoids are expressly named as the main suspect in relation to the global epidemic of mysterious bee deaths. Blacquière and his colleagues concluded that there was no evidence for this.

Both the new publications are about field studies. In one study, bumble bees showed clear signs of slowed growth after being fed a menu of pollen containing imidacloprid. What is more, they almost stopped producing queen bees. A 'worst case scenario', says Blacquière. Such a study gives a measurable effect, but is not realistic enough. Blacquière: 'Out in the natural world, they would also be able to land on unpolluted flowers outside the field.'

In another experiment, bees exposed to nectar containing thiamethoxam (another neonicotinoid) could no longer find their way back to the hive. Blacquière says the doses involved were not realistic. 'The amount of thiamethoxam the bees got at one go was 18 times as much as they would absorb with nectar. That is very close to a fatal dose.' Only if you observe these kinds of negative effects at doses 10 or 20 times lower than this do you really have a point. Then there would be implications for our review.' Blacquière did the review for the ministry of EL&I. The board that authorizes plant protection products has already indicated that it does not consider the *Science* publications to have serious implications. **RK**

UNIVERSITY WANTS OUTPOST IN XIAMEN

- **Collaboration with American university.**
- **Lecturers will soon be flown in.**

Educating the Chinese in China: this is the principle behind the idea of founding a university campus in the Chinese province of Fujian. The plan is for a collaboration between Wageningen, UC Davis in

California and Xiamen University. Rector Martin Kropff, board member Tijs Breukink and education director Tiny van Boekel will be visiting Xiamen in June for exploratory talks.

Initially an agrifood programme will be set up at Xiamen University, and this will need accreditation and funding. The province seems to be willing to fund the degree programme and companies will

offer bursaries. The next stage will be to develop a joint degree in which students can choose whether to study in Xiamen, California or Wageningen. If they choose Wageningen, they will get a Wageningen degree, which will make it easier to obtain a PhD position or a job in Europe or the US. The lecturers will be drawn from all three institutions. Some of the teaching will be done on the inter-

net but lecturers will also be flown in from Wageningen.

Xiamen lies on the south coast of China, opposite Taiwan. Wageningen UR is already involved on the campus of Xiamen University, where a horticultural development centre was opened in April 2011. The access road to the centre is called Wageningen Road. **GvC**

kort

>> SPORT

Batavieren race

The fortieth Batavieren race starts at midnight on 28 April. The biggest Dutch student relay race starts in Nijmegen, passes through Germany and the Achterhoek region, and ends at the university campus in Enschede. The 340 teams include several from Wageningen. The university team actually thinks it has a good chance of winning as its main rival, Groningen, is not in such good form as in previous years. Last year the Wageningen team came sixth. **LvdN**



>>CHINA

Michael Müller visiting professor in Nanjing

Nanjing agricultural university has appointed Michael Müller as visiting professor. The professor of Nutrition, Metabolism and Genomics was in China last week where he was ceremonially installed. He also gave students a crash course in nutrigenomics. What else the position will involve should become clear in due course, says Müller. He will certainly be teaching and there will probably be an exchange of PhD students. Any joint research will focus on the effect of nutrition on the intestines. The appointment is for a period of at least five years and is not linked directly to a research budget. **RR**

>>PETER KWIKKERS

Academic freedom at risk

Politicians and policymakers interfere far too much in education and research, putting academic freedom at risk, says lawyer and education expert Peter Kwijkers in his new book (*Academische kwartiertjes – sporen door het hoger onderwijs*). Yet academic freedom is enshrined in the law, says Kwijkers. 'Institutions have an obligation to respect academic freedom', says the law. But now students are required to get a move on, teachers are required to justify all their decisions and researchers are required to focus on top sectors. More and more measures aim at increasing government control over universities and achieving minor savings. A dangerous development, says Kwijkers. **HOP**



SCHAMINÉE <<

Development Aid

In a comment on the current negotiations in the Dutch cabinet, I read in the *Volkscrant* that there is broad support among the Dutch population for a further cut of one billion to the development aid budget. Further, because this amount was cut once when the cabinet took office. The paper warns that this could do a lot of damage to the Netherlands' international reputation. I have to read the sentence twice. The words of Bill Gates have apparently made little impression. The issue is not whether we alleviate suffering in the world and reduce child deaths, for example. No, the important thing is to prevent damage to our reputation.

My thoughts go back 25 years to the death of Dick Thalen, who had not long been appointed professor of Tropical Nature Management at our university. Twenty-five years ago but I have not forgotten the double dismay of a number of African students. Not only had they lost their source of inspiration, but they had also lost someone who quietly supported them from his own pocket. It was much more recently that former prime minister Balkenende opened the academic year in Wageningen with an appeal to students to take our (equally former) 'Dutch East India Company' mentality as an example.

Something else that sticks in the mind is a question my youngest daughter once asked me: 'Daddy, why are people in poor countries so poor while we are so rich?' Should I have said, because we plundered those countries for centuries, sold and abused the people as slaves, and imposed our western values and norms? I wonder with increasing regularity who actually needs help with development. **Joop Schaminée**

FIRST DUTCH INSECT COOKBOOK

- Idea is to win the Dutch over with dishes such as *Bug Mac*.
- Princess Maxima is handed first copy.

The presentation of the first Dutch insect cookbook, aptly named 'The insect cookbook', on Tuesday 17 April led to a media storm. The authors, WUR scientists Marcel Dicke and Arnold van Huis and lecturer Henk van Gorp, have been trying for some time to persuade the Dutch that eating insects is healthy, tasty and environmentally friendly. You can now buy three kinds of insects from Dutch wholesalers but there has not yet been a real breakthrough. The idea is that this book will win over enthusiastic amateur cooks. One such cook might be Princess Maxima, who was handed the first copy on her estate in Wassenaar.

It looks at first glance like any other cookbook, with glossy photos of attractively displayed dishes. But all the dishes (with names like bug macs and buglava) contain locusts or mealworms. Sometimes they are visible on petit fours or in



Like bees to honey: insect cookbook attracts wide media interest.

a salad and sometimes hidden in a pancake mix or ravioli. The book also contains enthusiastic interviews with food designers, scientists and cooks. Henk van Gorp, one of the three authors and a lecturer at Wageningen's Rijn-IJssel vocational college, was responsible for the culinary side.

The book shows that there are a lot of cuisines around the world that use insects. Is that where the recipes come from?

'No, I looked for interesting combinations. So I did look at traditional recipes but then I would use insects instead of chicken, for example. The book also aims to encourage cooks to experiment. One

of the illustrators was immediately inspired to make her favourite recipe with insects.'

Does the use of insects mean new options or is it merely a meat substitute?

'Anything new adds to the available flavours, like the reintroduction of traditional vegetables. However, it is best not to add anything if you want to taste the distinctive nutty flavour. So no herbs and spices, not too much preparation and only fry them briefly.'

People find the idea of eating insects repellent. Will it take long to break through that 'yuk' reaction?

'A quick breakthrough is possible if certain conditions are met. The food industry and catering sector need to pick up on it and it needs to be easier to get hold of insects, for instance in Albert Heijn. That could lead to a rapid change in attitudes. Wageningen at any rate seems ready. We have already had people calling to ask if they could eat insects here.' **R RR**

PARTICIPANT NUMBER 100,000

Resource previously reported on the 10,000th and the 50,000th high school student to take part in the mobile DNA lab. The counter now stands at 100,000. To celebrate this, 200 high school students from several towns in the west of Holland gathered in a big marquee on campus on Tuesday to watch BNN TV presenters Dennis Storm and Valerio Zeno (in the safety goggles!) isolating some DNA. The mobile DNA labs consist of experiments carried out at schools, with which six universities hope to generate interest in the molecular sciences. The mobile experiments started in Wageningen in 1997 in a desperate effort to recruit students. **GvC, foto Guy Ackermans**



WHAT'S IN A NAME? ASK FRIESLAND CAMPINA

- Friesland Campina considers 'De Goor' an inappropriate name.
- The street name will be changed.

De Goor is the name of the street on campus where Wageningen UR-related companies are to be located. But 'goor' means filthy and dairy company Friesland Campina, the first company to move in, thought this 'not very appropriate for the activities' they will be carrying out in the new premises. The dairy concern most definitely does not want its new desserts associated with the various connotations of 'goor': grubby, filthy, repulsive, disgusting, grotty, dirty, unwashed, unhygienic, rotten, mouldy and unseemly... And so, after consulting with Wageningen UR, it

submitted a request for a name change.

That change has now been made. De Goor will change to Bronland. Apparently this is a compromise as Friesland Campina would have preferred Valleiweg (valley road) as an address. The campus is located on the edge of the Vallei area and the name is also a canny reference to Food valley, of which the campus is one of the core sites.

'But Valleiweg did not win the day', says archivist Kernkamp, who also has a seat on Wageningen's unofficial road-naming committee. Kernkamp admits that opinions among committee members were divided. The committee did finally 'more or less reach agreement', in the words of the advisory document for Wageningen's mayor and aldermen. In other words, they had a bit of a tussle. If no De Goor, then no



Still De Goor for now.

Valleiweg either. The compromise solution, suggested by Wageningen UR, was Bronland. The name

refers to De Born, as Born and Bron mean the same according to Kernkamp. **© RK**

THE DUTCH ARE NOT EATING LESS MEAT OVERALL

We are eating less and less meat, according to various media sources. But that is not what comes out of your research.

'True. There is a paradox in the research. The number of people who no longer eat meat every day has increased from 69 to 77 percent. But we are still eating the same overall amount of meat, figures from the meat marketing board show. An average of 43 kilos of meat per person per year, which has stayed the same for about 15 years.'

How is that possible?

'We don't know exactly. Do people make up for a day without meat by eating more meat the next day? Apparently not. In the study we see signs of a division between people who are cutting down on meat and hedonists who eat a lot of meat. But that still doesn't explain the paradox.'

What motivates the people who are cutting down on meat?

'Lofty motives such as health and environment play a role, albeit a small one. There is also a group of people who eat less meat for practical reasons, such as to save money. Funnily enough, the people cutting down on meat are not especially likely to be animal-lovers – that is another paradox thrown up by our research. The trend to cut down on meat is not a marginal one. The study shows that 42 percent of the Dutch do not eat meat for half the week.' **© AS**

Who? Hans Dagevos, researcher at LEI
What? Was in the media a lot this week
Why? His research showed that growing numbers of people eat meat less often



QUOTE

'They don't have that almost grim idealism that previous generations had.'

The students of today are more businesslike, thinks Aalt Dijkhuizen (FD, 7 April)



Tolerance of heteros / 'Hey, dickhead! That's easy! Bit of snogging with a woman!' / 'Just walk on, Hans'

'AID ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN OPERATING TOO COMMERCIALY'



PHOTO: LINEAIR

Refugee camp near the Congolese town of Goma.

- Congo flooded with aid after rape tragedy.
- 'This is what happens if government withdraws.'

Aid delivered by aid organizations is not always effective. There is a strong focus on fundraising, which leads organizations to choose projects with popular appeal, even if it means a duplication of efforts. This is the view of professor of Disaster Studies Thea Hilhorst. Together with colleagues, Hilhorst

Turning sexual violence into a business is likely to impede efforts to tackle it

studied the aid offered to the victims of rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During the war there were reports of mass rapes which appalled the international community. The result was that

aid organizations poured into the region. In the provinces of North and South Kivu, where Hilhorst's study was conducted, there are now about 400 organizations providing help for victims to the tune of almost 90 million dollars since 2010.

ONE-SIDED

The focus on rape has led to a neglect of other needs such as maternity services, says the report on the study, published yesterday. Moreover, the aid was one-sided: most of it was short-term medical support. There was no attention to the underlying causes, namely the powerless position of women in the Congo. Too often, the aid was orchestrated from distant head offices of international aid organizations without proper research on the needs on the ground or an integrated approach to them.

Many international organizations are 'opportunistic', says the report. 'They have no concrete expertise and are primarily inter-

ested in securing funding.' Organizations prioritize reaching large numbers of victims and therefore opt for easily accessible locations. It also seems that poor women sometimes pretend to have been raped in order to qualify for aid.

BUSINESS

Aid for victims of sexual violence has become a business, concludes the report. And this turns sexual violence into a business, both for international organizations and for individuals in the Congo. This is more likely to impede efforts to tackle the problem than to assist them. 'Development organizations play on the emotions too much and pursue hypes in order to get money out of donors', said Hilhorst on a recent radio programme. 'Actually, this shows what could happen to development cooperation if it gets less government funding. I appeal for government-funded development cooperation.' **RT JT**

PHD STUDENT GROWS BELL PEPPER WITH A HINT OF CHILI

- Panel tastes 35 types of bell pepper.
- Martijn Eggink develops new bell pepper variety with exotic flavour.

Martijn Eggink, PhD researcher at Plant Breeding cultivated 35 different types of bell pepper from various countries. Among these were eleven types of chili pepper, which is closely related to the bell pepper. He presented the hot chili peppers to a test panel that assessed them for crunchiness, fruitiness, sweetness, sourness and aroma. Eggink used these results to select a delicious chili pepper with a distinct flavour and crossed this with the bell peppers produced by his employer, breeding company Rijk Zwaan. This produced a new bell pepper variety with an 'exotic flavour', says Eggink.

The aim of Eggink's PhD research is to understand the underlying link between the bell pepper genome and its flavour. Besides the chili peppers he also offered 24 different bell peppers to a taste panel. Meanwhile, he used a gas chromatograph to determine the substances present in each of the bell peppers. He discovered that the sweetness of the bell pepper is due mainly to sugars, especially glucose and fructose. The fruity taste and the aroma are determined largely by certain volatile substances derived from fatty acids. What still remains a mystery is the sourness of the bell pepper. 'It appears that the sourness is camouflaged by other substances, especially sugars. We still don't know which chemical component determines sourness.' Eggink will publish these results soon in *Food Chemistry*.

The next step is to find the genes responsible for the substances that create the flavour. This is what Eggink is doing now. His task is complicated by the fact that no less than 224 flavour substances are involved. **RT AS**

WARMER CLIMATE CAUSES GENETIC EROSION

- **Animals look for new habitats.**
- **Rich genetic variety dwindles.**

The consequences of climate change for plants and animals may be more far-reaching than has been thought.

Unnoticed by the casual observer, genetic erosion can creep up on species, reducing the genetic variety of plants and animals. This conclusion was drawn by Marleen Cobben, who received her PhD on Tuesday 17 April for her thesis, *Adapt, move or perish*.

Average global temperatures are going up. This causes climate zones to shift north at a rate of eight kilometres per year, based on an assumed rise in temperature of four degrees by the end of this century. Species either move north

together with their habitats or adapt to new conditions. Evolution in practice. Or so it seems.

SPOTTED WOODPECKER

But invisibly to the naked eye, there is something else going on: genetic erosion and delayed adaptation due to the colonist effect. Colonists are often individuals that are particularly good at getting around. They are therefore not genetically typical of the population as a whole. In the short term, that is good, explains Cobben. Colonists have no competition and their offspring are quick to colonize a new area too. 'But in the long term you don't want to have only these pioneering types. That is bad for the population because dispersal uses up a lot of energy. In the new habitats there is a need in the longer term for less adventurous individuals. But they are not present.'

The colonist effect is fatal for the genetic basis of plants and animals. Cobben calculated the effect in a model study on the impact of climate change on the middle spotted woodpecker. What came out was that the rich genetic variety in the populations in the middle of the bird's range could not keep up with the rising temperature. As the birds that stay behind die out, valuable genetic variety is lost.

WAKE-UP CALL

Genetic erosion through climate change is difficult to stop, says Cobben, as long as the temperature goes on rising. The only option left is to play for time. One way of doing this is to make habitats as large as possible and connect them with each other. This gives the genetically rich populations in the middle of the range the biggest chance of survival. Cobben's study has consequences for the way biodiversity is analysed as well. Just counting is not enough. It tells you nothing, says Cobben, about the genetic variety, and therefore the vitality, of a species. So for ecologists the study is something of a wake-up call. Cobben: 'With this model I have shown for the first time that adaptation can be far more complex and slower than we thought.' **RG RK**



Global warming is reducing the genetic variety of the spotted woodpecker.

VISION <<

'G500 lacks unifying message'

The youth of the Netherlands are taking action. The 'G500' headed by Sywert van Linden has drawn up a manifesto of political changes young people want implemented. Public policy specialist Gerard Breeman finds it a good initiative but too limited.

'Fantastic, of course, in one respect. Good that the younger generation is taking action and defending its interests. You sense that everywhere: the media are giving a lot of sympathetic attention to the points made by the G500 and Van Linden. But what are those points? Restrict the tax-deductibility of mortgage interest, a fair allocation of pension provisions. It is all very pragmatic and opportunistic. You might be able to discern a call for solidarity with the young, but that's about it. The G500 concludes that there is no proper representation of the interests of young people but does not explain why or provide an alternative. There is no unifying message. That is a shame, a missed opportunity.

The G1000 movement in Belgium goes deeper in that regard. It identifies problems and then advocates a change to the system to prevent a repeat of such problems in the future. But it might be because here in the Netherlands we think we have got good basic arrangements. We don't see any great need for major changes as long as we are happy. Another thing I miss is the international aspect. These days young people travel around the globe, study abroad through Erasmus and chat with their peers all over the world. But look at the G500: Dutch problems with Dutch solutions. When recent experiences have shown us just how much the Netherlands depends on the EU and the rest of the world.

The way the G500 adopts a position outside of the political spectrum and really addresses all the parties is not new either. We live in a time when cross-party 'movements' and one-issue parties are becoming increasingly important as a vehicle for achieving goals. I don't object to that, it's a fact of life. Governance is a dynamic process with a continuous search for new paths. The G500 is an appealing but modest new player in this process.' **RG**

PROPOSITION

'Left unaddressed, the problems of the poor today will become problems for the rich tomorrow.'

Birhanu Biazin Temesgen. PhD graduation on 16 april

EXCESS WEIGHT LESS PROBLEMATIC FOR THE ELDERLY

- **Elderly with high BMI do not have higher mortality risk.**
- **'Guidelines incorrect for this age category.'**

Standard guidelines for a healthy weight and waist size are incorrect for older people. New limits will give a more accurate estimate of health risks for the elderly. These are the conclusions of Wagenin-gen epidemiologists after analysing an enormous dataset. Their study appeared in *The International Journal of Epidemiology* on 31 March.

The researchers looked at the link between waist size and Body Mass Index (BMI) among the elderly and their mortality risk. The conclusion was that this risk was barely affected by an increased BMI, which is a risk factor in middle-age. Even exceeding the upper limit for what is considered a healthy waist size, 102 centimetres for men and 88 centimetres for women, was not a big problem for the



The elderly can afford to be a bit fatter than the young.

elderly. That is why it is time to think about specific guidelines for senior citizens, says Ellen de Hollander, researcher at Human Nutrition and RIVM.

One notable finding of the study is the big risk for the elderly associated with being underweight with a BMI of less than twenty. That doubles the mortality risk for

both men and women. De Hollander says the underlying mechanism is still not understood and further research is required. 'Possible causes are malnourishment, loss of muscle mass or infections.'

OLD PEOPLE SHRINK

For their analysis, the researchers persuaded 28 international colleagues to have another look at old data, only this time just for people aged between 65 and 74. They calculated the effect of waist size, BMI or a combination of the two on the risk of dying within five years for more than 58,000 subjects.

The researchers have an idea why older people are less affected by a high BMI. As people age, their body composition changes and one of the consequences is that they shrink. This causes the BMI to increase even if their weight remains the same. A BMI guideline for the elderly would need to allow for this different correlation between weight and height. **RR**

BETTER CONDITIONS FOR CHICKENS BAD FOR ENVIRONMENT

- **Organic poultry farming damaging for environment.**
- **Poultry farmers should process manure.**

The ban on battery poultry farming leads to higher emissions of ammonia and greenhouse gases and more extensive land use, claims Sanne Dekker in her PhD thesis.

Dekker conducted a life cycle analysis, identifying the effect of a range of farming systems on greenhouse gas emissions, acidification, soil exhaustion, eutrophication, energy and land use. This gave her an overview of the environmental impact of eggs from free-range hens in barns, eggs from free-range hens with access to the outdoors, and organic eggs.

Organic chicken feed mainly comes from Italy (maize) and the Ukraine (wheat), while standard feeds come from France and Germany. Because the wheat farmers in the Ukraine use very little fertilizer or soil additives, they get low harvests and so organic eggs do not 'produce' much in the way of greenhouse gases, take little energy and waste little nitrogen or phosphate. Unlike standard eggs. On balance, the environmental impact of organic eggs is comparable to that of standard eggs.

INVEST IN MANURE PROCESSING

A second significant environmental factor is the amount of feed a chicken needs to make an egg. It is standard practice for poultry farmers to add amino acids to the feed to improve the conversion of feed



An organic egg causes more CO2 emissions.

into egg. Organic farmers do not do that because the amino acids are made by genetically modified micro-organisms. So it takes more

feed to produce an organic egg.

A third factor is the ammonia emissions that go with the different housing systems for hens. On this point battery hens score by far the highest because in this system the hens' manure is continuously dried and removed. Aviary housing systems (a floor with bunk beds for the chickens) score moderately well on emissions, as the manure is removed every three days. Barns in which all the chickens are together on the floor score the lowest, as the manure is left lying for months. In practice it is mainly organic farmers who use this kind of housing. Dekker believes the environmental impact could be reduced by changing the feed of free-range chickens and investing in manure processing. She receives her PhD on 20 April. **AS**

>> RESOURCE.WUR.NL

A huge discussion on development studies and a couple of nice postings dealing with internet etiquette. There hasn't been that much online discussion these past weeks but I can say this guys, it was all memorable.



Got something to say too? Email your views to resource@wur.nl.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION UNDER ATTACK

Development organizations are hypersensitive, opportunistic, only consider the short term and ... et cetera. A report on development aid in Congo does not paint a pretty picture of the industry. And likely cutbacks will only make these problems worse, says Professor Thea Hilhorst.

'So, what's new?' opens JH, whose personal hobby-horse this topic is. **Is it the Market, you stupid?** thinks this is not the whole story and points out the harmful role played by European agricultural subsidies and IMF interventions in the third world. JH agrees with these nuances but the fact remains: the aid tap must be turned off. 'In the West and now in Asia, too, you can see that by working hard and being inventive you can achieve things yourself.' **Market** reacts by saying that JH should not imply that Africans work less hard. Moreover Africa is a great big patchwork of different countries and conditions. To which JH responds by putting the cat among the pigeons: 'I think the work ethic of Africans is undeniably less strong than that of Europeans and Asians. Actually this is more fact than opinion.' A couple of respondents find this shocking, but JH stands by his words and voices the opinion that political correctness is blurring his opponents' vision.. Feelings become heated and commentators start accusing one another of unfair discussion and racism. And then the inevitable happens, inevitable that is according to Godwin's Law: the Nazis are dragged into the discussion, by **Market**. Have a look online at how this discussion develops from here.

GE*LEGIETER456 THINKS IT'S STUPID

Anonymity is still the norm online, and the Resource site is no exception. But some people cannot get used to this. Resource freelancer Joris Tielens raises the issue for discussion under one of his own articles. But his call for open discussion does not fall on fertile soil.

'I do understand people who want to stay anonymous,' says **Marlies**. 'I can imagine that privacy plays a role. Once something is on the

internet, it never goes away. A quick Google and 30 years from now people may well be able to see what you did during your student years and what you thought of something or other.' JH supposes that people know who is hiding behind his or her initials and then they have to decide for themselves how to respond: 'The editors should only intervene if people start being offensive under the cover of anonymity.' **Market** thinks that a discussion should address the arguments and nothing else. 'It is about arguments,' admits **Joris Tielens**. 'But it is relevant who raises those arguments. Black/white, man/woman, student/professor, chair of the Executive Board /cleaner, it can make quite a difference.' In addition, Joris thinks it is an advantage that statements can be traced back to individuals. You can hold them to what they have said and besides it forces people to think carefully about what they say. If you have a view on the matter, join the discussion (anonymously).

A PEPPERED BELL PEPPER

Martijn Eggink is using genomics to develop a new species of bell pepper with exotic flavours. Considering that the Netherlands is a huge trader in the field of bell peppers, some commercial interest underpins this work. For this reason, the article raised some eyebrows.

'A PhD student who cannot say much about his work "to protect the interests of his company"... That does not sound good for a university,' says **Patrick Jansen**. And surprisingly enough no one has anything to say on the matter, not even anonymously. We are not sure what to think.



Additions/Corrections

The article In the deep end (Resource 16, p. 12) attributes a donation to the Wageningen Alumni Fund; this should be Wageningen University Fund.

Not Livestock Research but the university's Department of Animal Sciences built new sheds on the Wageningen campus (Resource 16, p. 6). The Ossekampen experimental farm, now sold off, was also university property.

colophon

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Wageningen under fire in May 2002



Just after 6 o'clock in the evening on 6 May 2002, five shots ended the life of populist right-wing Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn. His killer was Volkert van der Graaf, one-time student of Environmental Hygiene at Wageningen University. Wageningen was suddenly in the media limelight. Ten years down the line, Resource looks back.

text: Roelof Kleis & Nicolette Meerstadt

Impossible. That's impossible', was the then PhD student Patrick Jansen's reaction to the news that Volkert van der Graaf may have been the killer. The Volkert who had lived at Droevendaal. Jansen's own Droevendaal, the enclave of which he was mayor for years. 'Droevendalers are all the idealistic, pacifist types. I simply could not imagine that one of those people would have resorted to arms. Droevendaal was the last place where you would expect to find someone like that.' Jansen did know him. Not personally, but just as a fellow resident of Droevendaal. 'Volkert was the sort of idealist that Droevendaal was full of. There were lots of students of Biology and Environmental Hygiene, like Volkert. He worked for the 'Environment Offensive' association, which fitted that image perfectly.'

The murder of Fortuyn is one of those events where you always remember exactly where you were when you first heard about it. Such events leave deep scars on the soul. 'I was in the car on my way home when I heard it on the radio', recalls Willem Koert. At the time he was a reporter for the WB, Resource's predecessor. 'At home I turned on the TV and the first thing I saw was the shot of Fortuyn lying bleeding on the tarmac. It broke me up.'

Koert makes no bones about it: 'Fortuyn was a hero to me. He put his finger on the issue. Many academics in Wageningen did not understand Fortuyn's popularity at all. They seriously thought Fortuyn's supporters came exclusively from the sorts of neighbourhoods that get painted orange during the World Cup. When they heard

der, Fortuyn was the subject of heated discussion during breaks. Fortuyn was not popular. I can remember discussions just a couple of days before his murder, when people said they could understand it if there was an attempt on Fortuyn's life. The odd one even hoped it would happen.'

THE WAGENINGEN CONNECTION

'We were in the process of buying a house. We heard what had happened from the estate agent', says professor of Environmental Policy Arthur Mol. 'I didn't think anything like that would ever happen in the Netherlands. In retrospect, that was naïve, as it had already happened in Sweden.' Mol did not know at that point that one of his ex-students had carried out the murder. But even without knowing that, he was deeply shocked. 'In the first few hours after it happened there was some rioting at the Binnenhof. I was confronted with the fragility of our democracy. As a social scientist I study systems in which changes come very slowly. Then suddenly there were people wanting to storm the lower house of parliament. That shocked me.'

Simon Vink, spokesman for the executive board, cannot remember where he heard the news of the murder. 'I don't think in milestones', he replies brusquely. He prefers not to talk about that period. After the murder Vink received daily phonecalls about the Wageningen link with the murder of Fortuyn. He realized straightaway that he would have to deal with this issue. 'I realized that a lot of questions would be asked.' So he spent two weeks establishing exactly what the link was between Van der Graaf and the university, and he patiently explained this to the press. It is a short story. 'The link is very flimsy. Van der Graaf was a totally irrelevant figure to the university. He hardly even passed through. He studied here for barely a year. He played no role at all within the university. In that sense, Van der Graaf is not an alumnus and not a "Wageningen".'

But as soon as it became clear that the killer could be traced back to Wageningen, the town was flooded with journalists from the Netherlands and from abroad. 'Con-



Droevendaal was flooded with journalists looking for information about Volkert van der G.

'Wageningen really did show some signs of becoming a sectarian left-wing stronghold'

that some of their colleagues intended to vote for Fortuyn, they were shocked. All the more so if the prospective voters were professors.' Among the editors of the WB there was bafflement too, says Koert. 'Just before the mur-



EconoNostra, the only book that was published about the murder.

versations in Wageningen are about almost nothing else', wrote the WB ten days after the event (there was no website yet) in an article headed, Wageningen shocked and tense. 'In pubs and on the street people are wondering out loud how this could happen.' You could cut the tension with a knife, said the reporter. 'The national media have picked on Wageningen. Camera crews are combing the town. Every fart is news.'

FACT-FREE POLITICS

'There was a tremendous hunger for information', recalls Jansen. 'I was inundated with phonecalls. At the time I was a provincial councillor for the Green Left so the journalists had my number. Suddenly Droevendaal was seen in a completely different light. Who was Van der Graaf and why hadn't we seen this coming?' Vink does not make much effort to hide his disdain for the media attention: 'In the first instance, you get the simple questions about who, what and where. Then the journalists go for in-depth probing. For example, did Van der Graaf have a girlfriend? Or they ask whether there isn't another angle on the story. That hype, with all that investigative journalism on Van der Graaf's background, lasted about two weeks.' The university managed to stay largely out of the line of fire. 'The media focused much more on the link between Van der Graaf and extreme animal welfare activism than on his link with the university', notes Vink. 'In general, the reporting was reasonably measured, in terms of our institution. Our message got across pretty well.'

Green Left Wageningen did not come out of it so well. Van der Graaf was not a member of the party, but that didn't matter for the image generated by the media, says Jan-

sen. 'He stood up for nature and the environment, so he was left-wing. The bullet came from the left. That was the level of discussion, without any factual basis. Suddenly people are pointing at you as the source of evil. Suddenly your name is linked with something as appalling as murder; suddenly you are an accomplice. That is really scary. Left-wing Wageningen was a scapegoat. We really resented that.' 'Lots of suspicions were aired', adds professor Mol. 'In an article in *HP De Tijd* a tree depicted the network around Van der Graaf. I was in it and so was Simon Vink. That diagram was total nonsense, and so was the story, but I felt very uneasy about it. In that period a whole new kind of media, journalism and politics was growing up. Branding was becoming more important than the content. Fact-free politics started around that time.'

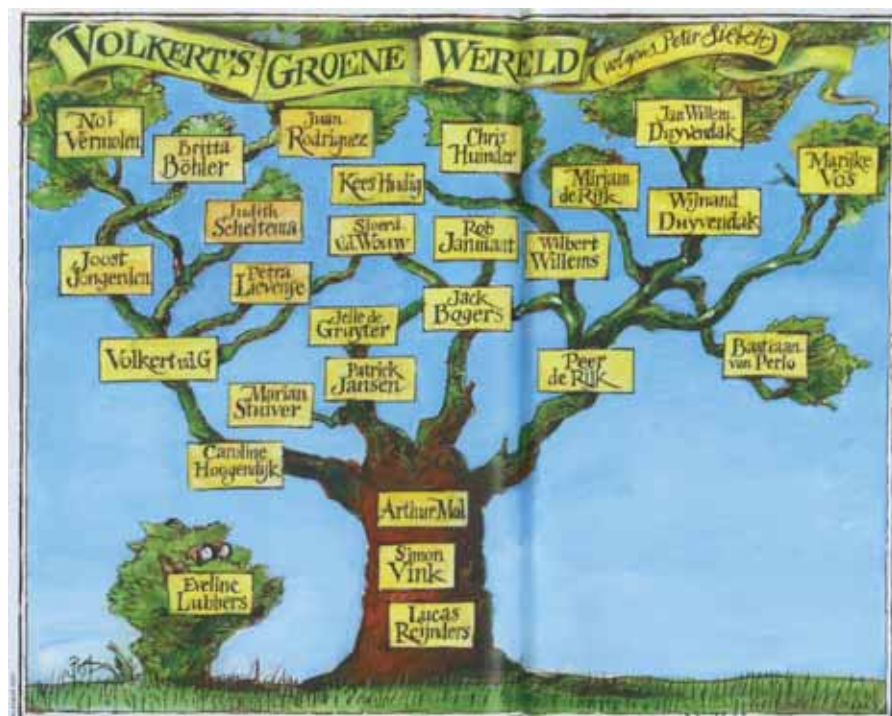
The article (The Green-Left Connection) to which Mol refers was actually published more than a year after Fortuyn's murder. It was an interview with investigative journalist Peter Siebelt about his book *Eco Nostra*, in which he 'exposes' the 'network behind Volkert van der Graaf'. It is an attack on the university, professors such as Arthur Mol and everything left-wing, progressive or otherwise suspect. According to Vink, all nonsense. 'He makes all kinds of fanciful links. Wishful thinking. Of course Van der Graaf had his own social circle and activities. And no doubt there was a network around it. But that had nothing to do with the university. Van der Graaf lived here for a while, but that could have been anywhere in the Netherlands.'

WAGENINGEN'S CHURCH OF THE LEFT

The attention Wageningen came in for was intense but short-lived. Yet this period in the limelight did Wageningen some good, thinks Willem Koert. 'Wageningen really did show some signs of becoming a sectarian left-wing stronghold. In the nineteen eighties students could only really take certain courses if they dreamed of the Netherlands becoming a socialist utopia. If you had other ideas you would be told you had better go elsewhere. The media held a mirror up to Wageningen after Fortuyn's death, and that did it good. The death of Fortuyn showed that some of the ideas in Wageningen's church of the left really were very extreme.'

Patrick Jansen is quite open about the fact that he considered the rise of Pim Fortuyn dangerous at the time. 'Populism entered into Dutch politics with Fortuyn. You either thought that was exciting or you saw it as scary and dangerous. I thought it was dangerous.' But in retrospect he takes a less one-sided view of Fortuyn. 'Fortuyn gave voice to the underbelly of Dutch society. In itself it is good for that voice to be heard. But it did lead to fact-free politics, to short-term politics. And to me, that's deplorable. If Fortuyn had been able to shape Dutch politics we would surely have been better off than we are now. Wilders just tweets away off the top of his head. Fortuyn was a populist, but at least he was someone who engaged in the debate.'

Much has changed since the death of Fortuyn. Look at



Volkert's green world: an illustration in *HP de Tijd*.



FOTO: BART DE GOUW

The barracks at Droevendaal where Volkert lived around 1990.

the tone of the debate, says Willem Koert. 'The tendency towards polarization in informal discussions has gone. Before his murder, if you announced in left-wing circles that you thought development aid should be stopped, you would be told that your standpoint excluded you from the discussion, that it made you a bad person. Since his death, discussions of that kind are based on argument. That used to be fairly rare in Wageningen.'

Professor Mol agrees that the tone on public debate is more cautious these days. 'Certainly in progressive green circles. Discussions are far less ideological and much more practically oriented. That makes it easier for 'Henk and Ingrid' [the archetypal common Dutchman and woman, ed] to follow. It has become more important to create a popular support base and public understanding.'

NEW GENERATION

Wageningen University has also become a lot more businesslike, notes Mol. 'Nowadays it is all about rankings, image and funding. That has penetrated to the roots of the organization. For my chair group that has worked out well: we have more leeway and agreements are clearer. As long as you keep to them, you can decide what you do. You used to always have to go through the head office.'


As far as Willem Koert is concerned, Wageningen has taken that businesslike approach too far. 'The left-wing church of the nineteen eighties and nineties has now

been exchanged for the church of management', he thinks. 'And that is every bit as intolerant and extreme as the old church of the left. There is not a single Dutch knowledge institution in which the management is as rigid and centralized as it is here. Wageningen seems to have a blind spot for its own extremism.'

The university has completely changed character, agrees Patrick Jansen. But that is not because of the death

**'The bullet came from the left.
That was the level of discussion,
without any factual basis'**

of Pim Fortuyn. 'Ten years ago, Wageningen was still a town full of yoghurt-eating tree-huggers. Now it is a mini-metropolis characterized by a mix of very many different nationalities. My guess is that this has come about because there is a new generation that does things differently.'

'You still get a certain kind of socially committed student here', says Mol. 'But they are more business-savvy and pragmatic than the old guard. More and more people are coming who want to change the world. People with a social vision. Not the Van der Graaf kind, but people who care about the common good and their fellow human beings.' 



VICTORY

The Argonauts of the beginners' four are totally spent as they reach the finish line at the Varsity. The first-year ladies surprised friends and foes alike by coming first in their class at the biggest student rowing event of the year. Argo acquitted itself well in the main event too: the Old Four reached the final for the first time since 2004. But the gods were against them in the final sprint: an oar from the Gya boat struck the rudder of the Golden Fleece. The boat went out of control and had to drop out of the race. © NM / photo Merijn Soeters



Through rose-coloured

Tolerance towards homosexuals is in decline in the Netherlands, reported the Dutch government's Institute for Social Research recently. At about the same time, two international students were roughed up in Wageningen because they did not hide their homosexuality. How tolerant is Wageningen these days? 'We are quite spoiled in Wageningen, really.'

text: Christoph Janzig / **photo:** Guy Ackermans

Ik was shocked to the core when I heard about it', says student Carel Fijen indignantly. His friend Niko Holstege nods in agreement. They are referring to the Italian student who was roughed up on the Rooseveltweg recently because he was horsing around with his partner. Carel and Niko had never thought something like that could happen in Wageningen. They have been together for a year and a half and, luckily, have never experienced anything of the sort. Niko: 'We often walk down the road hand in hand. You sometimes get little boys calling "dirty homo" after you, but luckily that is as far as it goes.'

Nevertheless, more than a quarter of the homosexuals in the Netherlands have faced negative responses to their sexual orientation, says the Institute for Social Research. Although the Netherlands remains one of the world's most tolerant countries when it comes to homosexuality, that is not the whole story. Things do go wrong sometimes, even in Wageningen.

Jeroen and Natasja are members of Shout, Wageningen's association for homosexuals. Jeroen came out

tolerant, just like the students.' According to Jeroen, the incident on the Rooseveltweg was definitely an exception. Natasja is bisexual. 'It is not that everyone in Wageningen goes around shouting 'hoorah for gays', she says, 'But most people in Wageningen are open-minded about it.' She thinks homosexual women are more readily accepted than homosexual men. 'People sometimes think two men kissing is dirty, whereas they find kissing women arousing.'

One of the most negative reactions Carel and Niko have ever had in Wageningen was at a party at the International Club. They were kissing on the dance floor when the bouncer came up to them. He didn't want 'that sort of behaviour' inside and asked the lads to go outside. Carel: 'Heterosexual couples often kiss. We did eventually go outside but in protest we stood kissing at length right in front of the door. I don't mind adapting my behaviour, but only if the same thing is expected of heteros.'

INTERNATIONAL AMBIANCE

Niko and Carel notice that Wageningen's international ambiance does have an effect on the level of tolerance, but not a terribly big one. Carel: 'Niko and I do get some funny looks from international students if we walk around hand in hand. But I have never been threatened or verbally abused.' What is more, it sometimes works the other way round: some foreigners feel Dutch tolerance is something positive, or at least they start talking about it. Dutch tolerance as an export product. For instance: Niko was once manning Shout's stall at an information market. 'At some

'Lesbianism I don't understand. 'There are so many men looking for a nice woman, and then the women go off with each other...'

recently, he says. 'I am not a student myself but have lived all my life in Wageningen. It's a good place to be gay. I know a lot of Wageningen youth and most of them are very

glasses?

point an African man came up to me and said that homosexuality is forbidden by God. I chatted with him for a while and he was reasonably open to discussion.'

A quick survey on campus confirms that there is a 'live and let live' culture among international students. In the Forum we meet a Muslim African student. 'In West Africa, gays are not tolerated', he says. 'If you are gay there, you are likely to be verbally abused or even beaten up.' He is astonished to hear that a homosexual was beaten up in Wageningen. 'I thought Wageningen was very tolerant; there are lots of gays here and there are gay parties...' This student thinks everyone should be free to decide for themselves. Lesbianism is something he doesn't understand. 'There are so many men looking for a nice woman, and then the women go off with each other...'

Three Chinese students say they have never seen a homosexual in Wageningen. 'Sometimes you see two very well-dressed boys out together.' But whether they are gay, the students are not sure. One of the girls expresses disappointment: 'I would really like to meet one, but I can't spot them.' The girls respect gays and wouldn't think it was strange if two men or two girls started kissing in front of them. But they do think it's a bit odd when a same-sex couple brings up a child together.

CHRISTIAN STUDENTS

The Christian church is not generally known for its tolerance of homosexuality. But Carel and Niko hardly ever get negative reactions from Christian students. Carel even has two good friends who are members of Ichthus and the Navigators. 'They don't judge me. They can see I love Niko. In the end, love is what it's all about.'

Klaas Wieringa is one of these Christian students. It can make him cross when Christians say, 'It is forbidden by God'. Klaas: 'If you say that you shut down all discussion.' Jurjen de Bruijne nods and adds, 'I don't think that as a human being you can say for sure what God thinks of homosexuality.' Klaas is on the board of the Christian student society VGSW. Jurjen is an ex-member. Are they accepted in the society as a gay couple? Klaas thinks individual members all have their own varying attitudes to it. 'I reckon the average member doesn't really know. A small minority will be against. But most members are probably fine with it.' Both lads are convinced that most members



Carel and Niko: 'There are always times when you adapt, but that's the same if you are hetero.'

do not condemn homosexuality. What are their own views on it? Klaas: 'I think it's important that people are faithful and kind to each other. Sexual orientation is not so important to me.' Jurjen agrees. He adds, 'I don't think you can judge the love one person feels for another person.' Klaas wonders whether gays are really free to do as they like in Wageningen. 'In Wageningen you see a great many hetero couple walking around but I never see anyone showing openly that they are gay.'

So do Carel and Niko sometimes adapt their behaviour to forestall negative reactions? Niko: 'If we are walking down the road past a bunch of youths hanging out, of course we don't start kissing in front of them. There are always times when you adapt to fit in, but that's the same if you are hetero.' The couple see Wageningen as fairly tolerant towards gays. 'There are a lot of highly educated people here and there is a climate of tolerance. As gays we are quite spoiled in Wageningen really.' ⑧

‘We build barns based on PhDs’

Under manager Mart Smolders, VIC (the pig innovation centre) in Sterksel, Brabant, has evolved over the past ten years to become the leading location for giving form to innovations in farming practices. Smolders is leaving but the views on innovation he takes with him are firmly anchored in Sterksel. ‘Farmers don’t want reports, they want practical implementation.’

text: Albert Sikkema / **photo:** Guy Ackermans

Three hairy pigs that have dug up the entire garden are what catch your attention when you arrive at VIC in Sterksel, part of Wageningen Livestock Research. They are ‘half Hungarian’, says manager Mart Smolders. The father is a Hungarian curly-haired hog, a pig in sheep’s clothing, that VIC employees found in Hungary. ‘They have an excellent meat flavour and an interesting fatty acid composition’, says Smolders. ‘The meat is for a niche market that is appealing to a lot of people, such as people wanting to sell pork to customers at home. This has provided some inspiration.’ And that means the three curly-haired hogs fit well in the Sterksel philosophy: inspiration through implementation.

The innovation centre develops new business concepts for pig farms such as a new nursery for sows, new feed systems and a pig toilet. Sterksel led the way with the development of group housing and the reduction in antibiotics use, and it has a number of welfare projects. This is appreciated by pig farmers, the government and civil society organizations. Last year, more than ten thousand people visited Sterksel during its innovation days.

The latest innovation is the Starplus barn, currently under construction - a barn with a covered free-range area, manure separation plus manure fermentation and lots of light. The aim is for the new barn to get three welfare stars from the Society for the Protection of Animals (also a frequent visitor). Smolders explains how Starplus was conceived by three companies that jointly developed the know-how. ‘They were on a visit and we brought them together to see if they could integrate their systems for manure separation, mini-fermentation and a new barn design. They invested their own money and got support from the government. We are now going to develop the concept further.’ That fits with VIC’s strategy, says Smol-

ders. Innovation often leads initially to a loss in effectiveness, which is why business people are reluctant to take the plunge. VIC develops innovations further until they really do deliver the expected increase in efficiency and the concept is ripe for implementation. ‘We solve the teething problems.’

ENCOUNTERS LEAD TO IDEAS

Smolders emphasizes that the innovation centre does not produce reports. ‘You write reports for your fellow researchers, not for farmers. They don’t want reports, they want practical implementation.’ The centre puts the application of science on show, which leads to encounters and discussions between visitors, which in turn lead to new ideas. ‘That is how the Prodrumi barn originated. Fourteen sow farmers wanted a better design for the sows’ nursery so that they would have more room. Then we brought in barn construction firms to develop a new concept together.’

Wageningen University is also part of Sterksel’s network. ‘We work a lot with Bas Kemp’s science group, Adaptation Physiology. We are currently developing new concepts on the basis of three PhD theses.’ One is already being applied in the Prodrumi barn, where a nest has been created for the sow so that she does not lie on the piglets. Sterksel is also implementing a method whereby piglets learn from their mother how to eat solids, and a more gentle weaning process whereby the piglets remain in the nest while the mother is able to walk about. Last year Sterksel received Wageningen UR’s Innovation Prize for the application of Wageningen research.

ANTIBIOTICS

The high levels of antibiotics use in pig farming have attracted much attention in recent years. This is a problem

‘You write reports for your fellow researchers, not for farmers’



Mart Smolders : 'I am not a pig farmer. I see the pigs as a tool for developing knowledge.'

where Smolders had already made considerable progress four years ago. 'The key to our approach is preventing disease from spreading through the farm. We keep pig families together after weaning so we don't have diseases spreading from family to family. That reduces the consumption of antibiotics by 80 percent. The solution is not to be found in a jar; pig farmers will have to change their working methods.'

Sterksel is not putting all its eggs in one basket when it comes to the environment either. Instead it is testing several systems. There is a big co-fermentation plant on the premises that produces enough energy to power 1,500 homes. That is fine but Smolders has to mix in maize to achieve those energy production levels and that is not the best option in view of the 'food, feed or fuel' debate. There is also a mini-fermentation plant that extracts energy from manure without the addition of other materials. This mini-fermentation plant makes the innovation centre energy-neutral.

The centre's third and newest energy producer is a micro-fermentation plant. It comes from a company that supplies such plants to African villages. Smolders came across them and wondered whether they would work in the Netherlands too. The small tank fits in the garage and will heat a pig shed. Visitors can decide for themselves which of the three systems would suit them. Or another system altogether, as Smolders would like more projects for processing the manure and turning its minerals into

commercially valuable products. He realizes this diversity is necessary as pig farmers are going to be specializing in a certain segment and will choose the system appropriate for that segment.

STRONG GROWTH

'I am not a pig farmer. I see the pigs as a tool for developing knowledge.' Even so, he has to run a farm with 330 sows and 2,400 pigs bred for meat. This has a turnover of 1 million euros a year. He also earns 0.6 million euros from the production of biogas and 0.1 million from excursions. But that is not the innovation centre's main business. Over the past few years Sterksel has been getting 1.5 million euros in project revenue, compared with 0.6 million ten years ago. That growth has led to an increase in staff from 7 to 17.

Smolders is about to leave the centre. 'I have been running the place for ten years, I'm ready for a change', is how he sums it up. He will be the manager of the Pigs Division at MS Schippers, a company that supplies equipment and systems to livestock farms. But even his last working day will be spent signing a collaborative agreement with fifty businesses in the pork supply chain that all make use of the experimental farm. 'SME business people are innovative types. They are rather missing out in all that to-do about the top sectors so we want to increase our visibility.' Of course the signing will be taking place in Sterksel, the linchpin of the pig farming sector. 

THE IVORY CAMPUS

The student council, the head office and Isric have already moved onto campus. Studium Generale follows suit next month, next year's big AID jamboree will be held on campus year and the Food4You festival is also retreating to the confines of the campus. Is the University of Wageningen deserting the town centre?

text: Rob Ramaker & Kees van der Ark / **illustration:** Henk van Ruitenbeek

Laurens van der Zee



Wageningen's poet laureate

'In a manifesto by the artists' collective *De tafel van W*, I speculate about how we would reunite Wageningen town and Wageningen UR. I envisage, for instance, a super-link between the town and the university – for cars, bikes, pedestrians and hikers. A sort of red carpet: tasteful, safe, user-friendly and with no cross-roads. We would get more exchange going in activities and events to get rid of the gap between town and university. **We would move the Wageningen city boundary sign to the northern side of the campus.** And lastly, the university would still have to shoulder its responsibility for the architectural heritage it leaves behind in the town: it would shamefacedly return the 'cooking pots' artwork that has been moved to the campus.'

Hugo de Vries



Fifth-year student who lives next door to the head office

'The buildings around me were first used by the university but now most of them are empty. I never really had any contact with the people who worked there but at least there were bikes outside the building and the streets were livelier. When the university flag was lowered, it was clear that it was leaving the town centre. I am not sure if that is a bad thing. **I do think it is a pity that international students often stay around the area of the campus, the Bornsesteeg and the C1000.** That will only be made worse by the move – now they will never discover the joys of Wageningen town.'

Rob van Haarlem



Director of Studium Generale

'No, it is not a problem, given how close the town centre is. After all, Wageningen is full of people from all over the world, so what difference does one and a half kilometres make? You can be in Arnhem in eleven minutes by train, and both Utrecht and Amsterdam are very close. And here we are whinging about a short bike ride. What you will get is precisely a nice campus atmosphere. I think the Forum is a vibrant building and Impulse will make a good contribution too. It would be fine by me if Wageningen becomes like American universities where everything is open 24/7. No problem if there are more houses on campus, and even pubs and shops. No, I don't understand this proposition at all.'

Sjaak Driessen



Director of Wageningen library

'Robbert Dijkgraaf, the departing chair of the KNAW, says science should come to the public more. I think this is unexplored territory. Now that the university has left the town centre, it will have to forge new links with the town. So many nice things go on in Wageningen UR, but too few people get to see them. For that reason, the departure of *Food4You* is a real shame. We hear talk of Wageningen University's links with the whole world, but what good does that do you if you have no links with your immediate environment? Now we focus on the beautiful new buildings and there is a general sense of euphoria, but that won't last. **You need oxygen to breathe and**



a campus like that cannot provide its own oxygen. You need the outside world for creativity. In my library I see more and more students bent over their books. They would like to get away from the campus sometimes. There is something suffocating about it.'

Jo Soolsma



Socialist Party member of the municipal council and IT worker with Facilities and Services


'I am not afraid that the activities on the campus will affect the atmosphere in the town. How big is Wageningen, after all? I see the campus as simply a part of Wageningen town. What is more, many organizations are staying in the centre. Movie W, for instance, and what used to be the WSO. Wageningen has only itself to blame for the fact that some things are moving out of the centre. Thanks to the budget cuts, the town council is no longer contributing to Food4You.

I think moving all the artworks to the campus makes the town more boring. But on the other hand, the town has recently gained a gallery full of sculptures at the former Botanical Centre on the Dreijen.'

Simone Oostindie



Chair of the AID board

'This year we will be creating our festival terrain on the campus, since the head office has moved there. But we will still do all we can to make sure the new students get a good introduction to Wageningen town. Many of our activities, like the street theatre festival, will take place as usual in the town centre. **I still think it's a very nice town centre.** The student societies are not going to move and I don't see the nightlife shifting to the either. The atmosphere on campus may well improve with the arrival of catering outlets, Orion and new student housing, but I doubt whether it will be at the town's expense.' 

'A SCIENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A NERD'

It is a striking combination: taking part in a student beauty contest while studying for a PhD. The Bulgarian Tanya Radoeva, a talented PhD student at Plant Sciences, doesn't have a problem with it. She has already reached the final of the Student of the Year competition.

Of the 24 competitors, Tanya is the only candidate from Wageningen in the Student of the Year competition run by Studenten.nl, a com-

mercial site whose main judging criterion is a competitor's looks. Photos of Tanya have been posted on the organization's website: stunning portraits in black and white, as well as pictures showing her posing in underwear and a sexy outfit.

How did you get involved in this competition, Tanya?

'A friend of mine told me about it. "It's right up your street", she said. And she was right. I've been

doing modelling work for years. And I was Miss Bulgaria Tourism in 2008. That meant going to China for a month, to take part in the global final.'

Aren't you worried that you'll be taken less seriously as a scientist if you present yourself in this way?

'No, I have been getting only positive reactions, from my colleagues, and even from my supervisor. They understand that this is actually a good way to challenge

the strange preconceptions people have about scientists. There is no reason why I should be a nerd. I want to prove that you can be a scientist and good looking. And vice versa, I want to show that a model is not necessarily a dummy.'

The contest has been embroiled in scandal in the past. For instance, that time the candidates threw in the towel when it turned out they were expected to play strip poker on a TV show.

'Really? I didn't know about that. To be honest I don't know that much about the organization. Everything is done by email. I have no idea what the competition involves from this point onwards. But of course I do have clear boundaries. I would not take off my clothes. It's got to stay fun.'

Competition success depends on internet votes. Are you campaigning?

'No, I have told only my family and good friends that I am taking part. It is really not that important. I will see how far I get.'

Imagine that tomorrow you are offered a fabulous contract to be a model. Would you give up your scientific career?

'Absolutely not. Science is my career. Working as a model is something I see as just a hobby and a fun way of earning extra cash.'

I mean the cover of Vogue, travelling the world, fame and glamour ...

'Ha ha, the answer is still no.'

So what are your ambitions?

'For the next few years I will be working with the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. I will see where I end up after that. Perhaps in a company or a university, wherever.' **RG**



Tanya the scientist (top) and Tanya the model.

‘Crisis? At the petrol pump, not when I choose what to study’

Dutch higher education has been hit by one new measure after another, with a new fine being imposed on slow students and the basic grant being scrapped for Master's students. Jobs are getting harder and harder to come by too. So what does all this mean for high school students now deciding what kind of degree programme to take? Do they choose with their heads or still with their hearts? We asked them at the open day on the Wageningen campus on Saturday 14 April.

Fifth year high school student Dennis de Jong studies the brochure carefully. ‘Biotechnology appeals to me, but here that seems to be mainly biology with a little bit of technology thrown in, whereas I would rather have it the other way round.’ Up to now, Dennis likes the look of Delft better, but he’s going to carry on looking around. ‘No, I am not influenced by the slow student fine or by the credit crisis.’ His mother nods in agreement. ‘It is stupid of the government to attack students like that, because they will be paying the most in tax later on. I am not worried about Dennis. He is smart enough, he will finish in time.’

Future biotechnologist Jerome Comes actually agrees with the slow student fine. ‘A degree course is not there for you to lean back and take it easy. And that kind of push factor helps me. What if I wanted to spend a year serving on a board? Oh well, I’ll see about that when the time comes.’ Erik Lokhorst (4th year VWO, a 6-year high school course) has come up with another solution. ‘I live in Veenendaal so I can commute every day. Not moving away from home makes a big difference.’

But Annelies van Ingen is concerned. ‘I would very much like to do something on the social sciences



2500 high school students and their parents visited the Forum on Saturday.

side, such as International Development Studies, but I think the environment is important too. What if I make the wrong choice? Then I can’t transfer anymore.’ Her mother sympathizes with her. ‘She is clever but she is also very sociable and idealistic. We have already been to Twente, but the person giving the talk there came across as autistic. I don’t think that course would suit her. It is difficult.’

POTENTIAL FREELANCERS

Seventeen-year-old Anke Martens does not worry about such things yet. ‘I am still getting orientated. Landscape architecture seems interesting to me, you can apply geography with it. I don’t really take job prospects into account.’ Her mother looks shocked. ‘Well, for us poor job prospects could well be a reason to consider a different choice of subject. It is important to think about what you can do with it, after all. For parents it is quite normal to pay attention to that.’

At Van Hall Larenstein, Loes Gorseling (fifth year HAVO, a five-year high school course) is looking around. ‘I am here for Applied Animal Sciences but physiotherapy sounds very interesting too. Can I do that here as well? I don’t know whether there is much work in Animal Sciences.’ In any case, her mother doesn’t want to interfere with her daughter’s choice of degree subject. ‘My parents did that with me and I don’t want to do the same to my daughter. I don’t worry about her job prospects. If you really want to do something, it will work out alright. You see more and more freelancers. If you really love your subject you think of some way of making money with it.’

NOT WORRIED

A trio of potential agrotechnologists from the North-east polder are not letting it get to them either. ‘Slow student fine or not, I am certainly going to study’, says Wouter de Laat. ‘I am more worried about

what comes after that. The sugar beet quota is coming to an end, which could be a threat for me. At the moment I am only aware of the crisis at the petrol pump, not when choosing my degree subject.’

The Van de Meulen family are not in favour of a pragmatic choice of degree subject either. That is not what an academic training is all about, in their view. ‘You need space precisely for ‘useless’ research’, says mother Marjan with conviction. ‘At university the main thing you learn is to think in a new way’, adds father Arnout. ‘The degree course itself is a start, not the final destination; choices you make later are far more important.’ Daughter Paulien nods; the main aim for her is to do things she likes, and for now that seems to be Nutrition and Health or perhaps Biology, after all. The high costs don’t worry her. She smiles. ‘I am expecting some support from my parents.’ **© Sander de Kraker en Stijn van Gils**

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

WORM-SPEAK

Worms chat. And their language is *Ascarosides*. That's the name of the chemicals that they use to communicate. This discovery has been made by scientists at America's Caltech. It is a breakthrough in worm world. And one that opens doors to whole new methods of crop protection. We're curious to know when the first 'get out of my garden' spray will hit the market.

LIFE

It is almost inevitable that life exists somewhere else in the vastness of space. Based on the latest research, astronomers estimate that there must be billions of Earth-like planets in our own Milky Way galaxy; as many as a hundred earths within 30 light years of us, and all at a life-supporting distance from their own sun. 'It's life Jim, but not as we know it.'

'Foreign students pay too much'

Through their tuition fees, international students are helping to fund the university's internationalization policy. Not fair, says the student council, which opposed the hike in tuition fees. To no avail.

That tuition fees for non-EU students have to go up is undisputed. These students currently pay 10,500 euros in tuition, well below the cost price, which is about 17,000 euros. The university covers the difference itself. To put an end

to this, the executive board decided a few years ago to raise tuition fees in stages until they covered costs. In 2012-2013, overseas students in their first year at Wageningen will be paying 12,020 euros, a rise of 15 percent.

'We understand why the university is raising tuition fees. The funding for education has to come from somewhere', says student council member Sanne Mirck of VeSte. 'But research has shown that the university is recouping the costs of housing, recruitment and

the International Office through international students' fees too.'

'STUDENTS ALREADY PAY RENT'

The student council's main objection is to the inclusion of housing costs in the tuition fees. According to Mirck, students shouldn't have to pay towards the temporary housing such as that provided in Hoenderloo, in the Brink Residence and in containers on the Haarweg. After all, the students are already paying substantial rents for this accommodation. 'It is the

university's decision to be so international and to actively recruit students from abroad. So there is no justification for then charging them for the extra costs when there is not enough accommodation. The university should subsidize that until they have found a permanent solution to the room shortage.'

To the disappointment of the student council the executive board ignored their advice. Next year the student council plans to open up the discussion again, says Mirck. **LvdN**

Marlies Bos (the left-wing fluffy type) and Jillis Herweijer (the right-wing Hooray Henry type) rarely see eye to eye on matters of politics, the environment or student life.



FOR AND AGAINST

Proposition: Queen's Day is over the top and has gone on long enough. *Vive la republique!*

MARLIES: Time and again, people turn against the royal family and the main reason they give is that it is not a democratic institution and costs too much money. To start with, it does not cost all that much in reality, since Dutch business actually benefits from it. And that is not the only advantage to it. Even just having a head of state who has no political say is an advantage, especially in this era of polarization. I think we really need a head of state who stands for unity and concord – in our foreign affairs as well as at home. And then I really don't fancy the political circus you get with presidential elections – which costs a bomb too, by the way. The queen doesn't have any political clout so I don't see a problem for democracy.

JILLIS RESPONDS: The royal family certainly does have an influence – in the Council of State, for example, which Willem-Alexander and Maxima are on (even if they do not have formal voting rights). And it is the queen who appoints someone to form a cabinet. As for the unity and concord, I don't really see that, considering the number of people there are who don't want a monarchy at all. Let's get rid of this mediaeval system please!

JILLIS: The royal family is an anachronism. An institution as undemocratic as that, with so much power, does nothing for a democracy that aims to be as transparent as possible. Of course, in Beatrix we have a reasonably effective head of state this time. But history shows that we have been less lucky often enough and have had some totally unstable characters on the throne. Another thing: it's pretty scary to see what happens to someone who throws a tea light at the royal carriage or suddenly screams during the remembrance day ceremony at the Dam. These are fairly innocent acts but as soon as the royal family is involved, the consequences are quite far-reaching. A republic may cost more money, but at least we have more control over who is in power. And a president can be dismissed. Certainly when I look at our future head of state I think we should hurry up and make the switch to a republic.

MARLIES RESPONDS: 'So much power' is nonsense: the queen has practically no political influence. It seems logical to me that even relatively harmless attacks on the queen are punished more severely (and what has that got to do with this whole discussion anyway?) It is just a fact that she runs more risks by appearing in public. Incidentally, I do think that it should be possible to dismiss a monarch who does the job badly. **L**

FRESHERS

The goings-on in TV's fictional student club H.S.C. Mercurius have already reached scandalous proportions in the series *Freshers (Feuten)*. But it gets worse. According to the *Telegraaf* newspaper, unsuspecting guests at a 'spectacular' party last week were treated to a spot of hazing. Anyone who resisted had their face painted with Nazi symbols. And in good student society tradition, the 'Mercurius senate' denied everything.

DIVERSION

The organizers of the Utrecht marathon have changed the route for the members and alumni of the Utrecht Students Association (USC). The original route took the runners under the Dom Tower, which USC members are not allowed through. Why ever not, I hear you ask. Well, a USC member died when someone landed on him having jumped off the tower. Or so the story goes.



PHOTO: BART DE GOUW

HOME MATCH. With one last mighty effort one of the competitors in the national students' gymnastics championships rounds off his routine on the bar. The championships took place on 14 April in Wageningen, for the first time for years, and the gymnasts of WSTV Split performed well: one gold medal, two silvers and three bronzes. So six of the nine Wageningen gymnasts who competed won prizes. A total of almost 100 students from fourteen gymnastics clubs took part in the championships. **Ⓡ LvdN**



Who? Baukje Nauta

What? Member of the

T.M.S.D.C.D.C. Scotia sorority

Why? Scotia is through to the finals for the 'nicest fraternity in the Netherlands'

'WE TAKE THE ELECTION VERY SERIOUSLY'

Nicest fraternity of the year, does that mean much?

'It comes with a prize worth 15,000 euros: bikes for the whole club, free food for a year and a concert with VIP treatment. When we registered we only did it for the recognition but the prizes are a nice extra, of course. We are taking it very seriously and there is a schedule for who does what and when.'

What is so nice about the Scotia sorority?

'We are quite a small sorority with just 20 members. That makes us a close-knit group. We also really cultivate our 'Scottish' image: we drink whisky, we wear kilts and we go on holiday to Scotland together. Everyone at SSR-W knows us, not least because our members are all very active in the society.'

But when it comes to the voting you won't stand a chan-

ce against fraternities from the big cities such as Amsterdam and Utrecht...

'That is certainly difficult for us. So it does help that the election is sponsored by several companies. You can get extra votes by winning assignments tendered by the sponsors. Those assignments are very important to us, so we put a lot of time into them. For example, we made a film for an online delivery site in which you see us all cooking together and it all goes pear-shaped. In the end we order a pizza online. That went down well, apparently, because we won the assignment. So we are quite hopeful about our prospects of winning. Amsterdam only had 200 more votes than us after the preliminary rounds. That is next to nothing.' **Ⓡ**

Like the sound of T.M.S.D.C.D.C. Scotia?

You can vote until 26 April at www.leukstedispuut.nl

>> CULT

Who? The Dutch royal family. **What?** Queen's day.
Where? Rhenen and Veenendaal. **When?** 30 april of course.



'You don't often get the chance to see the royal family from so close by'

Tip from; Hanna Nobels-Sahusilawane, secretary at PRI, Centre for Biosystems Genomics

'It really is a chance in a lifetime that Queen's Day is so nearby this year. A great opportunity to enjoy the fun and sense of togetherness. What is more, you don't often get the chance to see the royal family from so close by or even to shake their hands – who knows? At a time like that you feel just like a little child. My husband and I will be going to Rhenen on the 30th because I think it's such a beautiful little town. We might even drive on to Veenendaal afterwards. The children won't come with us. The 'Oranje feeling' doesn't mean so much to them, and besides they nearly die of embarrassment when I get really enthusiastic. I am not an extreme royalist though. Normally I like to watch Queen's Day on television and I watch the news if they've been somewhere. And of course I always wear orange on 30 April. When the Forum was opened I made sure I was there. We were standing just a couple of metres from the queen and Prince Willem Alexander. I was so fed up that I had forgotten my camera that day.' **RR**

>> THE WORKS

THE NEW YORK OF CHINA

Who? Bas Boterman, first year Master's Urban Environmental Management

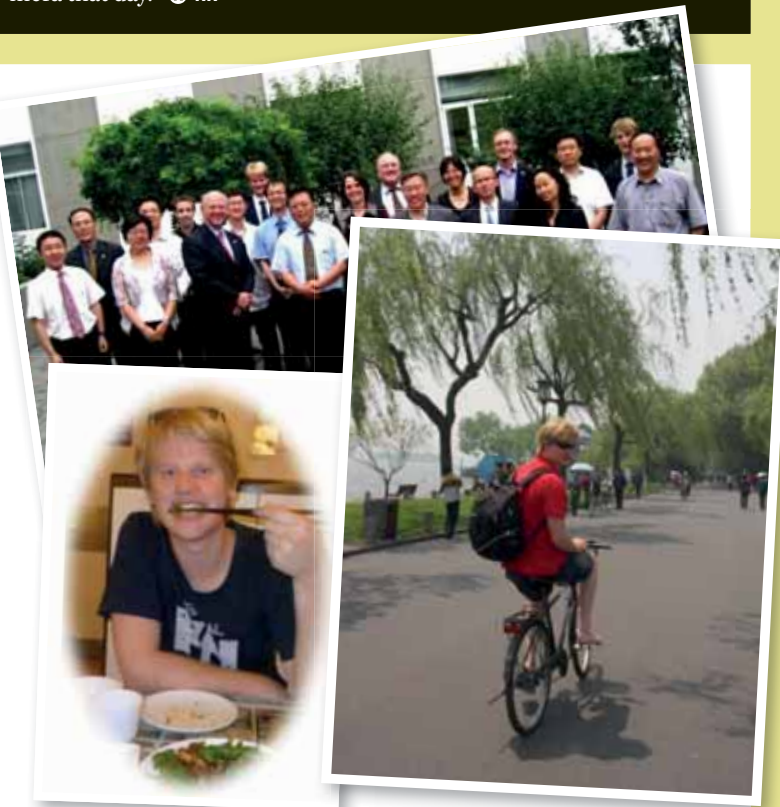
What? Inventorying the scope for Dutch companies in the Chinese biobased economy

Where? At the Dutch consulate in Shanghai

'This internship was not particularly well-timed for me but when I saw this advertisement I definitely wanted to go. I already had some overseas experience (two months in Mongolia) and they specifically wanted that. I travelled out with my supervisor, so when I arrived in Shanghai things went very smoothly for me. My supervisor is a diplomat and he let me join him at a meeting straightaway. Then we went off to sample the nightlife, but that turned out not to be the best idea when you've still got jetlag.

My working days were mainly spent at the Dutch consulate in Shanghai. Together with another Dutch student in Beijing, I organized an expert meeting. The Rathenau Institute, which offered this internship, wanted to know what the potential was for Dutch companies in the biobased industry in China. To find this out we needed to bring together scientists, policymakers and representatives of the industry. Organizing an expert meeting was difficult at times, but once we had got hold of a big name in the Chinese government, it all went fine. Then everyone wanted to be there.

Working at the consulate has its advantages – it opens quite a few doors



for you. I spent a lot of time on interviews, on the expert meeting and on attending conferences. That meant travelling all over the country. I lived with an American guy and a Chinese girl in a block of flats. Shanghai is a very modern city and the nightlife is fantastic! It really is the 'New York of China'.

I am really pleased to have done this internship. You hear lots of negative reports about China and the dictatorship in the media, but in fact the Chinese are very open. In its own way the country is moving towards a democratic culture. You have to bear in mind as well that there are ten different Chinas. The south is totally different again to a city like Shanghai.' **SdK**



EMMA <<

Shower Time in Ede


I sprinted silently, well as silently as a hippo can, towards Jonna's room. Entering without knocking I grinned at her. My Swedish friend was curled up comfortably on her bed and looked slightly worried at my unannounced entrance.

'They're singing, they're singing, they are, they are! Come, come on, now' I gasped. Practically grabbing hold of her we both ran to the shower rooms. Pressing our ears up against the shower room door we started to laugh silently, so as to not be heard.

Jonna gave me an evil grin "Come on we have to go in". We waited for the voices to hit a high note before opening the door and sliding in. As we stood in the middle of the shower room we could distinguish three strong confident Brazilian voices, one male voice, Paulo, who seemed to be able to hit the soprano notes easier than the two girls Natalia and Tati.

Trying not to laugh out loud, we were taken aback when Paulo's shower door flung open. He stood before us, still singing, but, oddly, not looking surprised at our presence. The two girls were still in their showers and Paulo encouraged their singing. He even got them doing some Whitney Houston impressions.

Jonna and I decided to surprise the two girls, hiding in the remaining shower until we heard them exit theirs. They were chatting with Paulo for a while. I winked at Jonna - they say great minds think alike - and we burst out of the remaining shower to serenade them all with the chorus of 'All by myself'.

Jonna and I doubled up laughing at the look of surprise and shock on their faces. We have fun in our corridor and I now intend to join the 'International Ede Shower Choir'.  **Emma Holmes**

in memoriam

Klaas Kerkstra

On Thursday 29 March 2012, emeritus professor Klaas Kerkstra passed away aged 66. He died from ALS after a short period of illness. He coped amazingly well with this debilitating disease, displaying his typical humour and down-to-earth attitude.

Klaas Kerkstra was professor of Landscape Architecture from 1989 to 2007. Before that he was assistant/associate professor within the group and director of the Foundation for Landscape Planning and Design (STILO). STILO's projects included Neeltje Jans, routing designs for high-voltage cables and palace gardens for the Sultan of Oman. From 2000 Klaas worked with great dedication on regional design projects in North and South Limburg. Klaas was busy with the implementation of 'his' redevelopment project in South Limburg up until a couple of months ago. His life revolved around his work and he gave his full attention to his teaching in particular. His passion was regional landscape design and baroque gardens, and he drew his inspiration from Vitruvius. He was one of the developers of the hull model, a landscape model with room for nature and people. He also introduced the idea of the triplex landscape, which is implemented in practice as the 'layered approach'.

Cohesive patterns lead to a 'readable', comprehensible landscape. His teaching practices built on this. One of his favourite teaching instruments was the second-year landscape and drawing excursion, first to the Ardennes and Sauerland, later to Terschelling and the Geul valley. He was also good at illustrating the abstract triplex model by referring to the structure and history of the local landscape. He did this too when analysing drawings. Despite the frugal habits of his northern roots, he did like to join in the more pleasure-seeking side of the excursions, which made many a sketching week legendary. Klaas also supervised doctoral research. In 2002 his PhD student Jack Ahern won a prize from the

American Society of Landscape Architects for the best landscape research.

He was an enthusiastic, approachable man, always ready to join in discussions with students and colleagues. The Thursday afternoon drinks and nibbles organized by study association Genius Loci were a favourite occasion. Many colleagues and graduates will remember his inspiring discussions, study counselling and lectures. Our sincerest sympathies are with Afke, Jissel, Steven and Hazel, Pier and Eve as they cope with this loss. Klaas's work lives on in our physical surroundings and in the way we think about landscapes. Klaas the man lives on in our hearts.

Klaas Kerkstra's Landscape Architecture Group colleagues: *Adri, Jusuck, Marlies, Ingrid, Rudi, Adriaan, Monique, Sanda, Paul, Sven, Adrie, Renée, Gabriëlle, Annet, Wiebke, Audrey, Maarten, Hanneke, Karlijn, René, Marjo.*

announcements

Announcements for and by students and staff. Send no more than 75 words to resource@wur.nl, with 'Announcement' as subject, on the Thursday before publication.

Election Student Council 2012/13

On 26 April 2012 the Student Council Election Committee will publish the lists of candidates at <https://ssc.wur.nl/air210/student/>, under Elections (choose 'Elections' in the left menu). From 26 April, students will know who might represent them in the Student Council during the next academic year. The candidate lists will also be available for inspection at the office of the Secretary of the Student Council.

Any person concerned may lodge a notice of objection to the validity of a published candidate list until 4 May 2012 inclusive, with the Secretary of the Student Council, Hermijn Speelman, Droevendaalsesteeg 4 (Room D.109), P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen.

More announcements on page 30

announcements (cont.)**WEES lecture: Viruses as beneficial symbionts of insects**

In the Wageningen Ecology and Evolution Seminar (WEES) series, professor Michael Strand from the University of Georgia (USA) will give a lecture entitled: 'Viruses as beneficial symbionts of insects: the evolution and function of the Polydnviridae'. Date: April 26, 16.00h. Place: C222, Forum building. Prior to the lecture there will be a master class for MSc and PhD students (check website below to subscribe).

INFO: WWW.WAGENINGEN-EVOLUTION-ECOLOGY-SEMINARS.NL/

Lectures from the field: Centre for Sustainability Philippines

The Centre for Sustainability (CS) is a non-profit organization working on sustainable development in Palawan, the Philippines. CS is operating independently as social entrepreneurs and focuses on contributing to the creation of a sustainable future for Palawan through the execution of projects that are practical, environmentally friendly and long lasting. "With

our style of developing and implementing sustainable projects, we aim to serve as a blueprint for sustainable development in other areas of the Philippines." Kyra Hoevenaars, vice chair of the CS in the Philippines, will present CS, tell about life in the Philippines and she will touch upon internship and thesis possibilities at CS!

Thursday, April 26, 19.30h in bWTC (building With The Clock), Generaal Foulkesweg 37

REGISTER IN ADVANCE: OTHERWISE@WUR.NL

I-Workshop Fishery game: stakeholder participation for sustainable fishery

Linked to the evening Lectures from the Field, the I-Workshop will focus on sustainable fishery.

You will participate in a game on fishery, where you simulate stakeholders in fishery and try to work towards working together in a sustainable manner. Workshop facilitated by UpGreenUp! Interested? Join this evening. Limited places available.

Thursday, May 3, 19.30 hrs in bWTC (building With The Clock), Generaal Foulkesweg 37.

REGISTER IN ADVANCE: OTHERWISE@WUR.NL

agenda

Monday 23 April, 20.00 hrs

NEW LINKS BETWEEN FARMING AND CITIZENS

Marjan Minnesma from Urgenda (ranked first in Trouw newspaper's sustainability top 100) and Samuel Levie from the Youth Food Movement will be speaking in the series of debates on the topic of global food in the Rode Hoed. Discussion leader: Felix Rottenberg. Free nibbles by top chef Eric van Veluwen.

WWW.RODEHOED.NL - WWW.CLM.NL

Friday 11 May

THYMOS RUN BIKE RUN 2012

The Run-Bike-Run is a duathlon held every year in Wageningen. This competition includes a parc fermé, an official jury and traffic control staff, and it meets all the conditions of the Dutch Triathlon Association.

This event starts with a 5km running leg, followed by 20km of cycling and ending with another 2.5km of running.

INSCHRIJVEN IS MOGELIJK VIA WWW.NTBINSCHRIJVINGEN.NL.

Forum Irregular Opening Hours during May 2012

	2012	The Building	The Library	Student Desk	WURshop	Restaurant	Grand Café	Language Services
Thursday Ascension Day	17 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	18 May	8 am-11 pm	8 am-10 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	19 May	10 am-5 pm	10 am-5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	20 May	10 am-5 pm	10 am-3 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	25 May	8 am-11 pm	8 am-10 pm	9 am-1 pm	9 am-2 pm	11.30 am-1.30 pm	8 am-3 pm	9 am-5 pm
Saturday	26 May	10 am-5 pm	10 am-5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Whit Sunday	27 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Whit Monday	28 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

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



WeDay

May 22, 2012

An afternoon full of sports and activities for all employees. New activities this year include Segwaying, a two-hour crash course in Chinese, drawing caricatures and making soap chains.

For more information and registration **from 3 April to 9 May**, go to: www.intranet.wur.nl/people/voorzieningen/weday
e-mail: weday@wur.nl

Location: Wageningen UR, Sports Centre de Bongerd, Bornsesteeg 2, Wageningen.



Wil jij deze zomer

 foto's maken?

 social media bijhouden?

 schrijven?

word dan pers tijdens de #AID2012

meer info? info.aid@wur.nl
of kom naar de infoborrel 8 mei 17 uur in het Grand Cafe (Forum)

opgeven via website www.aid.wur.nl



Working on the quality of life

Wageningen UR is looking for:

PhD Cater with Care

AFSG Humane Voeding, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-HNE-0030

Research assistant

AFSG Milieutechnologie, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-ETE-0014

Business Developer Biobased Chemicals

AFSG Food & Biobased Research, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-BBP-0005

Analist

AFSG Levensmiddelenmicrobiologie, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-FHM-0002

Veterinair microbioloog in opleiding

ASG CVI onderzoek, Lelystad
Vacaturenummer: ASG-CVI-ONDZ-0021

Onderzoeker paardenziekten

ASG CVI onderzoek, Lelystad
Vacaturenummer: ASG-CVI-ONDZ-0022

Full Professor Soil Chemistry and Chemical Soil Quality

BC Corporate Human Resources, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: WU-2012-HL003

Full Professor Soil Geography and Landscape

BC Corporate Human Resources, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: WU-2012-HL004

Full Professor Soil Physics and Land Management

BC Corporate Human Resources, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: WU-2012-HL005

Projectleider Binnenwateren

IMARES Afdeling Vis, IJmuiden
Vacaturenummer: 0013-2

Gedreven analist Authenticiteit en Nutriënten

RIKILT Authenticiteit & Nutrienten, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: RIKILT-AN0004

Directeur Bedrijfsvoering Social Sciences Group

SSG LEI, Wageningen/Den Haag
Vacaturenummer: SSG-LEI-DIR-0001



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ILLUSTRATE: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

The Dutch dishwasher revolution

Sixteen years ago, when I did my Master's in Wageningen, there were no dishwashers, at least not in Dutch society. I used to be invited by Dutch families for dinner and the like. It was part of Dutch culture in those days that after a meal you had to help wash up (by hand), otherwise it was very impolite!

Doing the dishes by hand used to take between 15 and 30 minutes, depending on the number of people who had enjoyed the meal. It was while doing the dishes that much of the conversation went on. Personally, I was wondering why Dutch people liked their guest to participate in this dish-washing ceremony. Was it because it's tedious? Was it because it's fun? I never got a clear response to my questions. In Tanzania, we don't let guests do the dishes. Nevertheless, I used to enjoy doing the dishes with Dutch families after a meal.

More than ten years later, in 2009, I returned to the Netherlands, and this time my network expanded. Now almost every week I get an invitation for dinner. Thanks to Dutch people for inviting me to come and enjoy their meals! I have noticed some changes in Dutch culture. In almost every house I have visited there is an automatic dishwasher. No more washing up by hand, and the guest is not even allowed to assist in clearing up or drying the utensils. So the time for conversation is also minimized! I am asking Dutch people if they can make provision for at least helping to dry the utensils, so at least we continue talking!  Annadomana Nyanga (from Tanzania), PhD Researcher at the Land Degradation and Development chair group

The conversation used to get going over the washing up. Now there is a dishwasher and the guest is not even allowed to help clear up

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.