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RESOURCE ^[NL]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

nr. 19 – 24 May 2012 – 6th Volume



Integration?

The spirit is willing... | p.12

>> JAN TJALLING + KAYAKING

Jan Tjalling van der Wal, Ecotoxicology researcher at Imares in Den Helder

'You get to go places'

In the summer Jan Tjalling van der Wal spends an average of almost one working day on the water. Pedalling away, enjoying the movement, the peace and the natural surroundings. 'You get a different view of the environment from the water'. He kayaks for the fun of it. 'I'm not competitive.' He is adventurous though. And sea-kayaking and wild water kayaking are 'not for wimps'. They take some practice. Like here, at home on the slalom course on the Maarsseveense Plassen. **RK / photo: Guy Ackermans**



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THE SPIRIT IS WILLING...

As a journalist at Resource, you speak English. Well, even. You work with lots of English texts, discussions and interviews and of course it's important that you get the finer points. No problem.

Until you find yourself having to speak English in a more informal context. As we did last week when we invited our international staff members to our monthly meeting with our student reporters. Suddenly it was hard to keep up. Seems that humour, linguistic subtleties and emotions are all rooted in your mother tongue. This is one of the reasons why Dutch and international students in Wageningen do not mix as well as you might expect. That is what our cover story tells us. In theory everyone wants to integrate. In reality it is harder. Cultural differences don't help. Eating together is a good way to get to know each other but Dutch students eat so early. This week's Typical Dutch provides another nice example. A Ghanaian student got all dressed up in anticipation of a lunch appointment, only to find he was supposed to bring his own sandwich.

Gaby van Caulil



>> Zeppelin Pegasus drifted over Wageningen for half an hour. For climate research.

A BIG IDEA IN 18 MINUTES

- **First Wageningen TEDx on 30 May.**
- **Editor's choice of three interesting lectures.**

The TEDx Wageningen lecture fest will take place on 30 May. Led by ecologist Louise Vet, 17 speakers will present their ideas for a more sustainable world. The Junushoff theatre is already sold out but videos of the lectures will be screened live at the university, the town council and the event's sponsor, Wing.

The idea behind TED is to give people 18 minutes to explain an interesting idea. Videos of all the TEDs delivered around the world can be seen online. The 1200 talks available so far cover a vast range of topics: from someone's personal experience of a stroke to moral behaviour in animals. Quite a vari-

ety of subjects will be addressed at TEDx Wageningen too. Our pick of the lectures:

George Kowalchuck, professor of Molecular Ecology at the NIOO

The earth, microbiologists are fond of telling us, is a planet inhabited by micro-organisms plus a couple of funny multicellular experiments. This does not stop us overlooking our microscopic fellow earth-dwellers. Kowalchuck will talk about everything bacterial communities do for the planet and how they are responding to such events as climate change.

John Liu, film maker and environmental campaigner

Since it embraced the market economy, China has embarked on a dizzying economic ascent. This has brought benefits but also all kinds of costs, both social and ecological. The environment suffers

damage that costs tens of billions of dollars every year. Concern about these costs led Liu to set up the Environmental Education Media Project for China. Now he makes educational films about ecology and the environment.

Andy van den Dobbelsteen, professor of Climate design and Sustainability at the Technical University of Delft.

Van den Dobbelsteen researches sustainable construction methods. Ways of creating cities and regions that make good use of their location to minimize waste of resources and generate their own energy. He also looks at how we can adapt building methods to the warmer world that is coming. His ideas are not just on paper: he is trying them out in new buildings in Rotterdam. **RR**

BIG GROWTH IN STUDENT NUMBERS FORECAST

- **University heading for 12 percent growth.**
- **VHL numbers stable.**

Based on the number of provisional registrations, Wageningen University can expect to grow considerably next year. Figures from Studielink show that by 21 May, 917 high school students had signed up for a Wageningen BSc programme. Almost 100 more than this time last year. A growth percentage of 12 percent would suggest that the university is back on track. From 2008 the student population grew by an average of 11 percent per year, but the growth tailed off last year to around 4 percent.

Van Hall Larenstein currently has 752 registrations for next year. This is in line with last year's figures. The Wageningen-based programmes are particularly booming. This time last year, 113 school students had signed up for these programmes. Now the counter is at 134. Leeuwarden and Velp seem to be heading for a slight decline in numbers. In Leeuwarden Animal Management remains the most popular programme.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

At Wageningen University, the fastest growing programmes are Health and Society, and Business and Consumer Studies. Registrations for both these programmes have gone up by more than 60 percent. Nutrition and Health is the biggest draw: 106 students have already registered for this degree programme.

Compared with other Dutch universities, Wageningen is only outdone by Maastricht and Leiden, with growth rates of 18 and 15 percent respectively. **LN**



Segwaying around Wageningen was one of the new activities available on WE day on 22 May. Participants in the workshop toured the sights of Wageningen: the edge of the woods, the Rhine and the steepest road, the Hesselink van Suchtelenweg. The annual staff sports day drew as many participants as previous years: 2366, including 318 spectators. The hexathlon was more popular than ever, with 56 teams, compared with 40 last year. Organizer Henri ten Klooster says there were more participants from VHL in Leeuwarden and Velp too. **NM** / photo Bart de Gouw

UNWIELDY PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DUMPED AFTER FIVE YEARS

- **Adapting Kameleon to DLO turned out to be too difficult.**
- **Switch to Altiplano 'opting for security'.**

After five years, Wageningen is saying goodbye to Kameleon. The idea was that the much-debated project management system would simplify the administration of the

DLO institutes and improve management information. But it never really lived up to that promise. For it turned out that despite its name (Dutch for chameleon), the system could not be adapted properly to suit the WUR environment. There was a series of 'teething problems', not all of which could be solved, says Hans Bothe of Wageningen Imares, the first institute to adopt Kameleon, in 2009.

Kameleon has become too complex, argues Gerard Nieuwenhuis, the Kameleon project manager. IT staff at Wageningen UR have spent years trying to adapt the application to the needs of the WUR organization. But last year Microsoft, the vendor, released a new version, which meant IT staff were back to square one. Then the penny dropped: every update was going to cost a lot of time getting the complex

administrative system back in a stable situation.

Therefore two weeks ago the Executive Board decided to pull the plug on Kameleon. The five institutes using the system will finish the financial year with it, after which they will switch to Altiplano, the management system Alterra has been using for ten years. 'This switch is about opting for security', says Nieuwenhuis. **AS**

kort

>> FUTURE OF VHL

VHL working groups report

Two of the working groups at Van Hall Larenstein currently pondering the problems between the institution and Wageningen University are going to tour the VHL sites in June to discuss their interim report. After discussions at the staff day in January, five working groups set to work on the biggest issues for VHL staff. The groups focusing on finance and on autonomy will report to their colleagues on 4, 5 and 12 June. On 20 June, a VHL-wide meeting will be held. The executive board will use this as a basis for its decision as to whether Wageningen and VHL should part company. **LvdN**

>> PLANT DAY

Green fingers

About 1000 visitors, including many young families, came along to Wageningen UR's first Plant Day. About 40 researchers gave presentations about the research going on in the greenhouses behind the Radix building. Children could paint plants, earning packets of seeds to sow at home later. 'We are very pleased

with the turnout', says co-organizer Erik Toussant. The Plant Day was an initiative by the European Organization for Plant Sciences (EPSO) and was spread over venues around the Netherlands. In Wageningen particular attention was paid to the centenary this year of the Plant Breeding chair group. **AS**

>> 'IN CONSULTATION'

Goodbye to programme director Hardus

Hans Hardus, director of the Animal Management and Coast and Sea programmes in Leeuwarden, is leaving Van Hall Larenstein. His contract ends on 1 August 'at his own request' and 'in consultation'. Hardus declines to explain his departure. Two years ago, it was rumoured that general director Ellen Marks had placed a gag order on the programme director, who had been outspoken in his criticism of the educational reform programme *VHL Vooruit*. Lecturers of Animal Management regret his departure, but 'it has not provoked a rebellion', says one lecturer. **AS**



SCHAMINÉE <<

The Sower

Slowly but surely the Wageningen campus is taking shape. Building after building is rising out of the ground on the large flat terrain on the city's north side. Now it is the turn of Orion, its companions Lumen, Gaia and Atlas, among others, having already appeared. As these names suggest, modesty is not the first word that springs to mind when you consider this colossal building project. Colossal was the word that came to mind when I first entered the Forum too. Colossal with overtones of bombastic. I know nothing of the motives of the architect but the foyer of this temple of learning always reminds me of the megalomaniac structures of the Stalinist Eastern Bloc. The barricade-like stone object in front of the entrance, intended to create the impression of a tree but seemingly plucked straight from Tolkien's Mordor reinforces the sense of 'pride comes before a fall'.

But things can be done so differently, as the beautiful and optimistic sculpture of The Sower (De Zaaier) makes evident. Situated at the start of the long rising walkway (who conceived this?) to Atlas, the sculpture was created by the famous Dutch sculptor August Falise. His work includes the statue of Hieronymus Bosch in the Market Square in 's-Hertogenbosch and that of Thomas Aquinas in Nijmegen. The Sower was unveiled in 1926 and seems now, after a couple of changes of address, to have reached its final destination.

The sculpture is full of movement. Over his left shoulder, the man carries a seed pouch from which he has just taken a handful with his right hand. What will he sow? I, for one, hope it is a great deal of greenery and flowers, to contrast with all that stone and concrete. **Joop Schaminée**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

STILL HARD TO CONCENTRATE IN ACTIO

- Staff see the positive side of the Open Office.
- But the flexible workplace system makes it harder to concentrate.

Staff at Facilities and Services (FS) have been working without desks of their own since last September.

A survey by the Delft firm *Center for People and Buildings* reveals that they are generally positive about the new approach. 64 percent of the respondents say they have found the new system to have a favourable effect, 27 percent are neutral and 9 percent think it has a negative effect.

The experiences with the Open Office in the new Actio building are interesting because this is a pilot for Wageningen UR as a whole. If successful, the flexible workplace system will be introduced in other departments.

The attractively laid out new Actio building, with a lot of open spaces, is the new home of Facilities and Services. Every day, staff are expected to choose a workplace suitable for what they will be doing that day. The survey results show that this Open Office encourages



FOTO: FB

Staff at Facilities and Services choose their own work-place.

the sharing of knowledge and promotes creativity. The building's architecture and ambience also get high scores. The old building consisted partly of emergency accommodation.

DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE

But respondents also have criticisms. The baseline measurement in the old building showed that 82 percent of the FS staff were satisfied with the opportunities for concentration. That rate has now fallen to 58 percent.

In the old building, FS staff had a room to themselves or shared with one other person. Anyone wanting to concentrate in Actio first has to move from an open-plan office to an individual working area. Annet de Haas, head of Location Facilities and responsible for ordering the new system, suspects the concentration areas are not yet being used properly. 'We have not yet reached the stage where everyone looks for the right workplace for each task. People still find that difficult. We will be

discussing this and I hope they will get better at finding the right place.'

Satisfaction with workplace privacy also fell but FS staff don't consider privacy as important as concentration. Other companies that have introduced the Open Office concept have also found a drop in scores for privacy and concentration.

A second poll will take place in the autumn. The final assessment of the Open Office system in Wageningen is expected at the end of 2012. **GvC**

ANALYSIS

NO CHOICE

It never used to be sexy to be on the student council. The various parties often had difficulty finding even one more candidate than there were places, so there was no need to hold elections. In the last few years the council seemed to become more popular and there were a few candidates to choose from. Both student parties had high hopes for this year too.

But it all went pear-shaped. Pulse (a merger of the PSF party and student union WSO) could not drum up any candidates at all. The council is now filled with VeSte candidates plus one independent member. No elections once again then. A pity. But does it mean that the council's sex appeal has dwindled again? Or are students more interested in serving a

year on a board?

Wageningen students continue to be very involved in their university and student life is flourishing. Student recruitment has risen spectacularly over recent years, so the pool of potential board members is large. A quick tour of the larger societies suggests that they are not having any problems getting board members. VeSte is doing fine too and managed to recruit all 11 members in spite of the looming slow students fine.

It is Pulse that has a problem then, but it would not be fair to come down too hard on the party, which has a tough year behind it. It inherited a mess from PSF when the current board took over. And the merger with the co-

matose WSO did not make things any easier. The newly formed Pulse chose to focus first on breathing new life into the union. Then it hopes its good name and organization will lead to more enthusiasm among potential candidates next year.

For the student council's sake, let us hope this works. Elections are the big moment when parties can make a name for themselves, so that chance has gone by. Hiding your light under a bushel won't get you anywhere. And it wouldn't be a bad thing to have a range of views represented in the student council. So it is high time Pulse put its house in order. Otherwise there will be no choice for years. **G**

Linda van der Nat and Rob Ramaker

FARMER KOEKOEK: GEERT WILDERS' POLITICAL FOREFATHER

- **LEI researcher wrote a book about the leader of the Netherlands' 'most successful protest party'.**

Hendrik Koekoek was born exactly a century ago. He would go on to make his name as Farmer Koekoek, leader of the Farmers' Party. Ida Terluin, researcher at the Agricultural Economics Institute, spent her sabbatical at the University of Groningen and wrote a book called *100 years of farmer Koekoek*, which she launched on 19 May. Her conclusion: the Farmers' Party was part of the tradition of right-wing protest parties that include the Nazi NSB (1931-1945), the LPF (2002-2008) and the PVV that succeeded it.

Koekoek set up the Farmers' Party in 1958, uniting small far-

mers in protest against compulsory levies by the agricultural board and government interference by minister Mansholt. In 1963, three farms whose owners refused to pay up were confiscated. The ensuing battle was good publicity for Koekoek, who then gained three seats in the lower house of parliament. By 1967, his party had seven seats. It only disappeared from the house in 1981, after internal conflicts, a bad press and a series of scandals in which Wageningen students played a role.

PARALLELS

Terluin sees many parallels between the Farmers' Party and the PVV. The chief similarity is their opposition to the elite and the big ruling parties. The Far-



mers' Party was also a populist movement with a charismatic lea-

der, and it talked of the country in idealized terms as a 'heartland'. In Koekoek's case, the ideal was a small-scale farming society, while for Wilders it is a country in which everyone shares Dutch norms and values.

DIFFERENCES

There are differences too. Koekoek's party had members and was democratically run, unlike the PVV, and Wilders' xenophobia was foreign to Koekoek. 'The Farmers' Party was in fact the most successful right-wing protest party of the past hundred years', says Terluin. 'The party was in parliament for 18 years. The LPF didn't manage that and it remains to

be seen whether the PVV will do so.' **BJT**

HOW HYPOCRITICAL!



What exactly are we talking about?

'Six panels measuring 1 by 1.50 metres on the front of the roof of my semi-detached house. They are pretty high up, above two small dormer windows. If you want to see them, you really have to crane your neck.'

Do you have sympathy with the prohibition?

'None at all. Actually, it is unbelievable. The aesthetic requirements permit high chimneys, which are expressions of a reprehensible fuel regime, but not solar panels. How hypocritical!'

Shouldn't you have gathered more information at the outset?

'Yes, perhaps. But I was reassured by the installers. They said it wouldn't be a problem. But I am definitely going to appeal. I don't accept this. On the contrary, I feel energized by it all.'

What's your take on this as a philosopher?

'The application of new techniques is something that, as a government, you have to take into account. You must adapt to the dynamics of the society, not halt all progress. From the perspective of environmental philosophy, of course, this puts a damper on citizens taking any initiative.' **BRK**

Who? Michiel Korthals, Professor of Applied Philosophy

What? Must remove solar panels from his roof

Why? The panels are not in keeping with the protected village status of Het Spiegel, a neighbourhood in Bussum

QUOTE

'Sampled the MSc in Development & Rural Innovation: lots of sociological blah blah with a global perspective. Secretly, very interesting.'

Landscape Architecture student Thomas van den Berg might opt for a social studies Master's (twitter, 15 May)

KITO



Cheat's Guide / 'Tattoo the answers on your... examiner!'

CITIES CAN BE SELF-SUSTAINING

- **More urban harvesting reduces ecological footprint.**
- **Cities can generate all their own electricity.**

Cities can make more efficient use of energy, water and other resources. Cities are like 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', swallowing up resources and dumping their waste outside their boundaries as fast as they can. A pity, as attending to sustainability can significantly reduce a city's ecological footprint.

So says PhD researcher Claudia Agudelo-Vera (Environmental Technology) in her contribution to the journal *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*. Her article forms the basis of the thesis for which the Colombian researcher is due to receive her PhD on 20 June from professor and co-author Huub Rijnaarts.

SPECTACULAR RESULTS

Traditionally, cities are big users of resources brought in from elsewhere. Hardly any thought has been given to 'urban harvesting', says Agudelo-Vera. But cities certainly have a lot to harvest, such as rain water or energy via solar cells or boilers, and also recycled waste flows. For example, slightly polluted water can be used for flushing toilets, and excess heat from a supermarket can be used to



The new Freedom Tower in New York: an example of urban harvesting. The building collects rainwater for the cooling system and generates energy with solar panels.

heat up swimming pools.

All in all, these measures can have spectacular results. A typical

Dutch city, according to calculations by Environmental Technology, can provide its own electricity re-

quirements and generally half the piped water it needs. 'This is just one of many examples. Our methodology works just as well in Manhattan as in Mexico City. We design simple tools with which city designers and architects can work with. An integrated planning process would bring about many benefits. You won't get there with one green roof or a few solar panels, though. You need to re-use waste flows as well.'

CHANGES TAKE TIME

In spite of the study's promising results, it will take decades before such sustainable principles are implemented on a large scale, thinks Agudelo-Vera. 'Although cities are constantly reinventing themselves and neighbourhoods get renovated, such changes take time.' Co-author Rijnaarts adds: 'On the other hand, in new residential areas, or if a new city is to be built in China within several years, urban harvesting principles can be applied immediately.'

In some houses and districts in the Netherlands, very promising results have already been achieved. However, the ideas from Wageningen are still not commonly accepted. 'For the time being, the main thing is to propose good ideas and techniques,' says Rijnaarts. 'Many people still think that sustainability leads to inconvenience, but we can get many benefits without having to sacrifice any comfort.' **RN**

WILD PLANTS ARE WELCOME FOOD SOURCE

- **Edible plants give Thai farmers food security and variety.**

Researchers have not paid enough attention to the role of wild plants as a supplementary food source for rural populations, says PhD researcher Gisela Cruz in the research with which she graduated on 16 May. Thai farmers harvest many

edible wild plants, which add variety to their diet and increase their food security.

The people of the Kalasin region make use of more than 50 different plants whose fruits or leaves are edible. Such plants are often found in rice fields or the forests surrounding them. So rice cultivation provides farmers with more than just rice. Wild plants are found around the rice fields in the

dry season, making for a multifunctional ecosystem, says Cruz.

Villagers with low incomes gathered more wild plants than those with higher incomes. Like this they create a rural safety net against food scarcity, says Cruz. She feels that the wild plants for human consumption should be included in agro-ecological research models, so that these edible plants are taken into account in agricul-

tural programmes and food policy-making.

In 2007, Cruz received the Unesco-I'Oreal Fellowship for Young Women in Sciences, financed by the cosmetic firm I'Oreal. The Peruvian born researcher was the first Dutch recipient of this grant. **AS**

TACKLING VARROA IN TIME GETS BEES THROUGH WINTER

- **Most effective time for varroa pest control is July.**
- **Bee monitor supports Wageningen advice.**

These days, many swarms of bees go to the wall during the winter. Winter fatalities affect one in five swarms on average. This is probably due to a number of factors but one major culprit is undoubtedly the varroa mite. Wageningen bee research shows that timely pest control to deal with varroa will substantially increase a swarm's chance of survival. Researcher Coby van Dooremalen looked at the effect of pest control for varroa mites in July, August and September. July turned out to be the best month in which to tackle the mites.

The end of the summer sees a switch from summer bees to winter bees. These winter bees have less to do and therefore remain fitter and live longer. Their task is to get through the winter and start the colony the following spring. But that does mean they need to live long enough to survive the winter. Infection by the varroa mite prevents that.

14 PERCENT FATALITIES

In an article in online journal PLoS ONE, Van Dooremalen shows that winter bees have shorter lives if you start pest control for varroa mites too late. Pest control in July leads to winter bees that live longer.



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Varroa mite makes it difficult for bees to survive the winter.

These swarms are therefore more likely to survive the winter.

The Wageningen bee group has been recommending an early start on tackling varroa for some time. Van Dooremalen's results underpin this advice. Furthermore, the results are supported by findings in the 2011 Bee Monitor published last week by the Dutch Centre for Bee Research. Beekeepers who tackle varroa mites in July and August have winter fatalities of 14 percent only, one third less than beekeepers who apply pest control at other times. **RK**

RIVERS MORE POLLUTED

- **More waste products in rivers than they can cope with.**

The world's major rivers are becoming increasingly polluted with nitrogen and phosphorus. This is revealed by the grey water footprint indicator used to evaluate the world's 1000 largest rivers by the Environmental Systems Analysis chair group.

Environmental scientists in Twente, the Netherlands, developed the indicator for water pollution, and Cheng Liu and Carolien Kroeze of Environmental Systems Analysis used it to determine how

much pollution ends up in the large rivers and what their assimilation and discharge capacity is. They established that two thirds of the world's 1000 largest rivers get more nitrogen and phosphorus dumped in them than they can process. This leads to eutrophication or saturation with waste products.

The Ganges is the world's most polluted river. Other severely polluted rivers flow mainly through China, India and Europe. The Rhine, too, gets more nitrogen than it can deal with. Pollution in almost all the rivers increased between 1970 and 2000, say the researchers. They predict a further increase by 2030. **AS**

VISION <<

'There is no clear story behind the meat tax idea'

Dutch political parties D66 and the Green Left argue for raising the VAT rate on meat from 6 percent to 19 percent. This meat tax, intended to reduce the environmentally polluting consumption of meat, is not (yet) a good idea, says LEI researcher Hans Dagevos.

'The difficult thing is that red meat is much worse for the environment than white meat. So should you tax chicken differently to beef? I also wonder whether animal welfare is going to be brought into it. Should you tax organic chicken, which is already much more expensive, as well? And then there are composite products: how are you going to tax a 310 gram pizza containing 40 grams of ham? In practical terms, I don't see how you can organize it in a good, clear way.

There is no clear story behind the meat tax idea. An overall tax on meat will soon be seen as a moneymaking venture to solve the budget deficit. That is a pretty weak position for a politician. You could also say that we must include the environmental costs in the price of meat. Then you could consider a VAT increase of which the revenue is used to support environmental measures. That way you can show the consumer what is done with the money.

It is too early to introduce a meat tax: a step like that has to be prepared for gradually with publicity and awareness-raising. First you have to tell people more about how polluting meat is – many people don't know this – and explain that you can do perfectly well on 50 to 60 grams of meat per day – people have no idea how much meat is good for you. Without this message there won't be any support for a meat tax. You see that taxing meat or protein is a recurring theme in some political parties. In Denmark they have introduced a fat tax so that unhealthy fats are more heavily taxed. This is one of the few ways in which politicians can get a grip on the food market. A tax of that kind is symbolic to some extent: a way of imposing some norms on our food economy.' **AS**

PROPOSITION

The existence of low fare airline companies increase the survival rate of long distance relationships in Europe.

Ruud Timmers, promoveerde op 15 mei 2012

SELECTIVE LOGGING HARDLY DAMAGES TROPICAL FORESTS

- **Between 85 and 100 percent of biodiversity maintained.**
- **'Don't dismiss it as lost acreage.'**

Sustainable logging in tropical forests is not such a bad option. If logging is selective, much of the value of the nature in forests is retained. This is the message of a review article published by a group of scientists in *Conservation Letters*. The authors include Pieter Zuidema and Marielos Peña Claros of the Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group in Wageningen.

Logging in tropical forests raises images of huge bulldozers decimating forests, but that is misleading. 'Ninety percent of tropical hardwood comes from forests with selective logging', explains Zuidema. 'This means the trees are felled in such a way that the forest structure and natural regeneration are kept intact. What they do is fell somewhere between a couple of



Forest's value largely untouched by selective logging.

trees and twenty per hectare.'

Such forests are labelled 'degraded', but a study of more than one hundred papers on the effects of logging on local nature shows there is no reason for this, says Zuidema. Selectively logged forests retain about eighty percent of their carbon storage function and con-

sequently their value in combating climate change. Furthermore, there is hardly any reduction in biodiversity: 85 to 100 percent of the initial biodiversity is maintained.

CORRIDORS

But there is a proviso to the limited impact on biodiversity. Biodiversi-

ty is about more than just counting species. Zuidema: 'That's right, you need to take a nuanced view. For instance, we don't know exactly what we are losing. It is also possible that we are losing far more species but that they are being compensated for by the arrival of new species.'

'But our initial impression is that these forests still have immense value', continues Zuidema. 'So we mustn't dismiss them as lost acreage.' That is the positive message the group is sending out, says Zuidema. 'This is a strong statement aimed at those nature conservationists who persist in seeing full protection as the only way of conserving forests.'

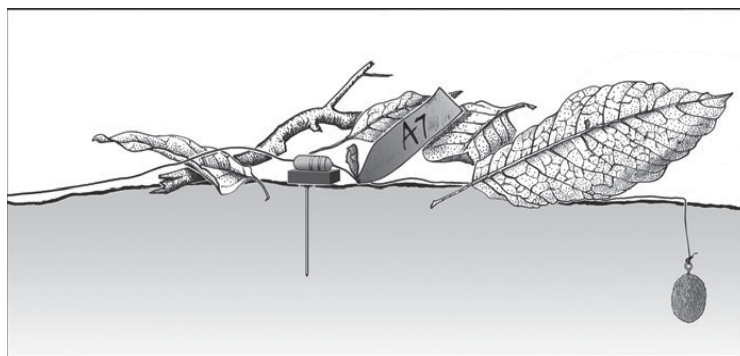
However, this does not mean that strict conservation of nature in reserves is unnecessary. 'Of course you should do that too. But spend some of the money and effort on forests with sustainable logging as well. For example, you could use those forests as corridors between the nature reserves.' **Ⓜ RK**

SMART TRANSMITTERS TRACK TROPICAL SEEDS

- **New method clarifies the distribution of palm seeds.**

It is a huge challenge for ecologists to find out how tropical seeds spread. After all, the tiny seeds can remain motionless for weeks, only to be suddenly transported by an animal. Using minute transmitters, Patrick Jansen, assistant professor of Resource Ecology, was able to track the movements of seeds for the first time. He published an article about this in the journal *Plant Ecology* early in May.

For a year, Jansen and his colleagues followed the path travelled by palm seeds from the mother



The transmitters are only switched on when rodents pull on the seed.

plant to their final destination. They are repeatedly carried off by small rodents called agoutis, who bury their loot in shallow pits. The seeds are then moved and reburied several times. The transmitters

make it possible to track the process step by step.

The tracking system uses miniature transmitters attached to the seeds with a guitar string. To save batteries, the transmitters are

equipped with a magnetic switch. Whenever the agouti moves the seed, it activates the transmitter itself.

The method is a tremendous advance on older methods in which a seed was attached by a thread to a flag that stayed above the ground when the seed was buried. But finding all the flags is a devil of a job, says Jansen. 'In the tropical forest of French Guyana, at one point I couldn't see any more threads.' The biggest disadvantage is the price tag, as the transmitters cost about 150 euros each. **Ⓜ RR**

>> RESOURCE.WUR.NL

Is it so terrible that the **WUR** pass is easy to hack?
Is it sexist to only talk about **student mothers**?
The last edition of **Resource** generated lots of
argument and we hope to stir things up just as
much this time.

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

HACKING AWAY

A student with the pseudonym **Przewalski Horse** revealed how easy it is to hack the **WUR** pass. The result: free coffee, unlimited copying facilities and a pat on the back from the IT department. The online response is mainly light-hearted.

'Good work! Now ask the IT group if you can get a few study credits for your efforts', says **Morris**. A technophile contributor remarks that this hack is very easy but simply not worth the hassle. **Coen** knows a more straightforward way of getting a free caffeine fix: 'No prizes for guessing what happens to all those **WUR** passes staff lose. Most are definitely not returned by the finder.' Despite the humorous reactions to the hack, we are pleased to say one person found it A Disgrace. Come on in, **JH**: 'In short, IT botch number 1989032 by the Government (or some institute under its auspices).' In the meanwhile, **HJ** is wondering whether the hacker's skills are up to maintaining his anonymity: 'Przewalski Horse, I hope you've got a thousand proxies...'

BORN TO BE A STUDENT

Every year, about 30 Wageningen students give birth to a baby. The authorities can be rather unhelpful, which is why the students have started a platform for mothers. The main worry for our contributors was: Isn't the article a bit sexist?

'What about the student fathers? Why didn't you interview them? I can imagine it must affect their lives and studies as well,' starts **Arianne**. She immediately gets support from **Lena**: 'Is there a dramatic change for the fathers as well?' She feels the article endorses outdated roles for mothers and fathers. The

author, **Linda van der Nat**, counters that the article describes the current situation, not an ideal. The current practice is that student mothers have to stop their studies and **Idealis** evicts them from their room. But **Matthijs** sees through the excuses to discern our real reasons: 'I think they just want to save that for the Father's Day issue.'

ONE COALITION AGREEMENT DOESN'T MAKE A SUMMER

Jillis and Marlies crossed swords about the brand-new coalition agreement. Jillis criticized the patchwork of half-measures that leave the real problems festering while Marlies was pleased the Left had shown it was willing to implement reforms. They continue where they left off in the comments section.

'JH, I'm curious. Do you really think things are as big a mess in Holland as you make out here? Or do you just like to exaggerate?' starts **Marlies**. The response is not long in coming. **JH** doesn't think he is exaggerating at all. He immediately lists a series of problems, such as a collapsing housing market, unstable banks and poor education. 'OK, your points are clear,' says **Marlies**. And even: 'I basically agree with you on the points you mention.' But she then wonders whether things are so much better elsewhere. **JH** admits there are not many countries where things are going well but that doesn't give him confidence in Dutch politicians. 'At any rate I think the Dutch situation (and the completely paralyzed political system that ought to be tackling the problem) is a good enough reason to be considering emigration.' That really got the discussion going. Did they get closer to an agreement? Read all about it at resource.wur.nl.

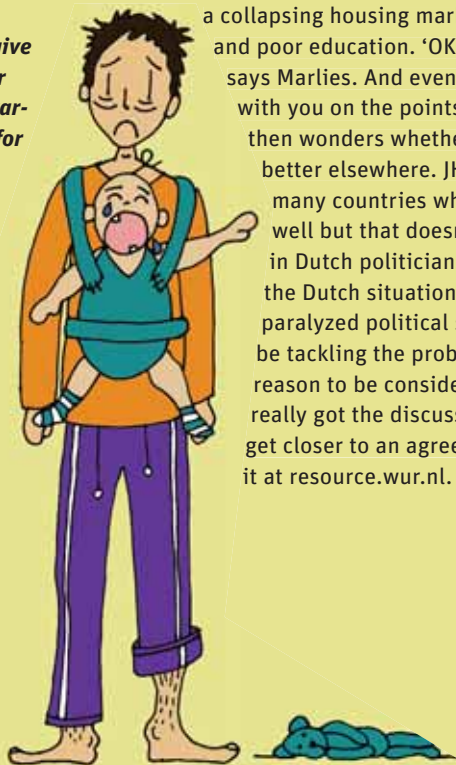


ILLUSTRATION: ESTHER BROUWER

colophon

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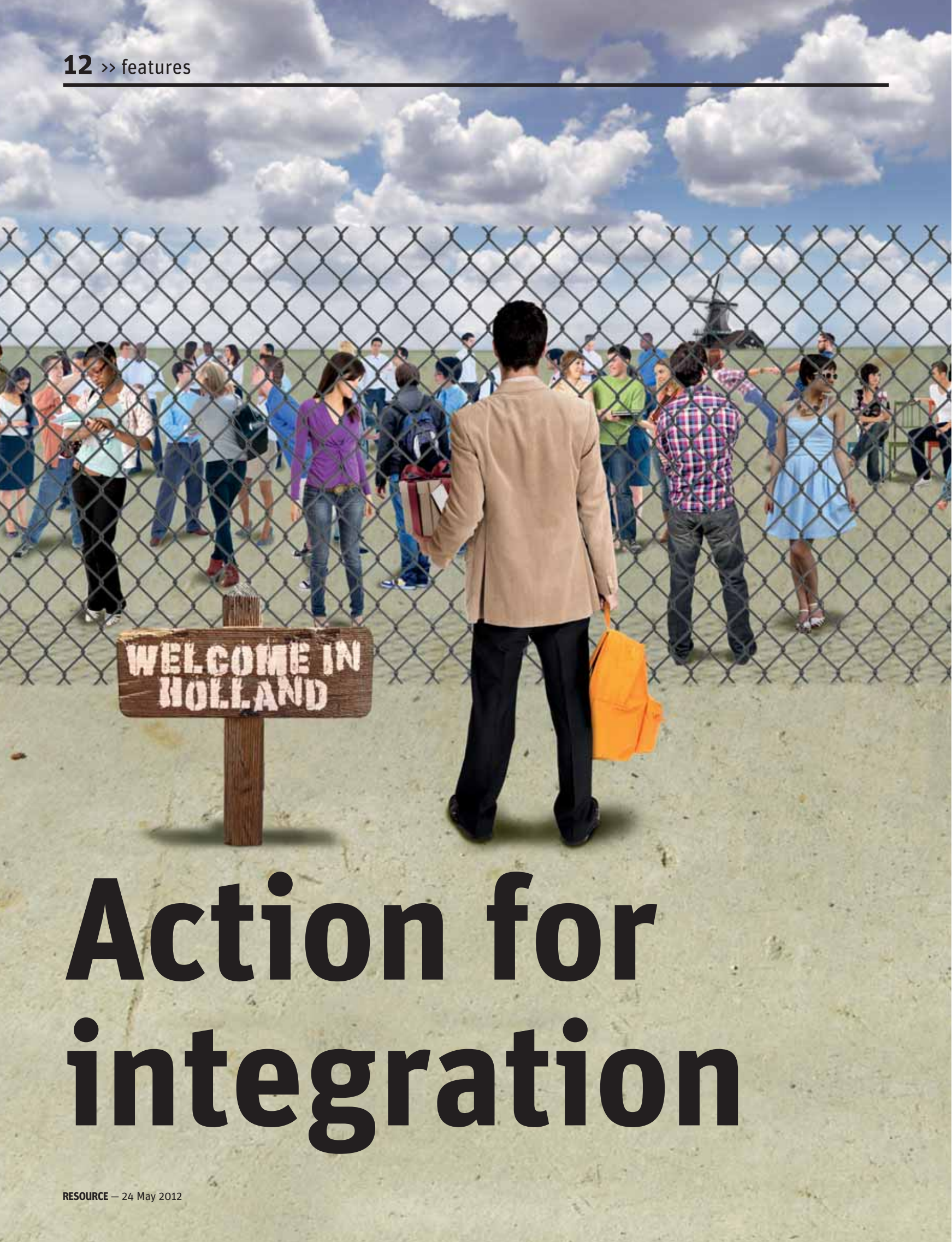
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Action for integration

Wageningen is one of the most international universities in the Netherlands with nearly a quarter of its students coming from other countries. But does that make it an international community? It does not always seem that way to foreign students. Cultural differences and practical obstacles leave them leading separate lives.

text: Nicolette Meerstadt and Ines Muñoz Sanchez / **Illustration:** Pascal Tieman

International students? I never really see them', says Bachelor's student Lucia Luijben. 'Not at lectures, not in my student society and not at the sports club either. Apparently they don't find these other activities so important.' Lucia's story is representative for most Dutch Bachelor's students. There are loads of international students in Wageningen but the average Dutch student scarcely sees them in the course of their Bachelor's degree. Hardly surprising given that most international students only come to Wageningen at the Master's stage.

Relations between Dutch and international students (and staff) were the theme of the first One World Week, held from 14 to 16 May on the Wageningen campus. The aim was to bring the two groups closer together. Currently Dutch and foreign students often mix like oil and water - i.e. not at all.

'Many first-years don't realize how many foreign students there actually are', says Soline de Jong of the international student society IxESN, which was also involved in the event. 'They certainly don't meet them at lectures.' As a result, says De Jong, students acquire a circle of exclusively Dutch friends in the Bachelor's phase. Their social life revolves around Dutch clubs and societies. By the time they start to meet international students in the Master's phase, they often have little room for new friends. That is how international students see things too: the Dutch are affable and obliging but it is much more difficult to become real friends with them. Carmen Vazquez Martin from Spain has also noticed this: 'Dutch students often form cliques. Usually they all did their Bachelor's together in Wageningen and that makes it difficult for an outsider to join them.'

The other international student society, ISOW, is also aware that it is much more difficult to foster a sense of

QUALITY NEEDS DIVERSITY

As of January, Wageningen UR has had official 'Guidelines for intercultural collaboration', stating that all students and staff are expected to have an international orientation. The document contains four guiding principles for effective intercultural collaboration.

Empathy: Being open to the points of view and feelings of others. Making sure that other people

soon feel welcome.

Respect: Speaking a shared language, providing room for forming opinions and meeting the needs of other people. For example, explain about your own background, talk Dutch slowly and ask questions if something is unclear.

Authenticity: 'Inclusion' is the norm. Everyone is welcome, regardless of their origin, religion or political

views. Talk to others about who they are and what they have to offer. Then everyone will feel included. Give consideration to everyone's talents and then they will grow.

Listen: Behaviour can have different meanings in different cultures. Be open to new perspectives ('be mindful'). Your product will be of a higher quality if you allow for cultural differences from the start.

community than you might expect at an international university like Wageningen. Committee member Christine says that it is difficult to get Dutch students to join in with the various activities even though international students would actually like more contact with the Dutch. 'The only exception is the salsa lessons - they are popular with the Dutch.'

LANGUAGE BARRIER

The rigid social structure is not the only thing preventing more contact; another problem is language. English became the official working language of Wageningen UR in 2008, but however much effort the university puts into producing policy documents and teaching materials in

English, there is still a language barrier in everyday life.

Soline says the Dutch can be quite rude, for instance, when it comes to talking in Dutch: 'If a foreign flatmate comes into the kitchen, they will just carry on talking in Dutch. Often they don't even realize, but it can make foreign students feel excluded.'

Of course, conversing in your native language is a lot easier: if Dutch is your mother tongue it is not easy to use English to have a natter in the pub, crack jokes based on wordplay or discuss Dutch political developments. And foreign students are not exactly eager to learn Dutch either. That does not help matters, says Master's student Perrine from Belgium. 'I can understand that foreign students are not keen on mastering Dutch completely but they ought at least to learn how to pronounce certain words correctly. Haarweg, Hoogvliet or straat for instance.'

Initially, Marta (from Spain) did not particularly feel a need to integrate, but now she has decided to stay in the Netherlands and is learning Dutch. 'I notice that Dutch people really appreciate this, even if you just know a few simple expressions in Dutch.'

KEUKENHOF

The language is a barrier in the major student societies as well. The working language for them is Dutch and that is not going to change. 'Our traditions go back 135 years and they are closely intertwined with our language', says Coen Teeuw of Ceres, explaining his position. 'It would be pretty radical if we were to overturn all that.' Foreign students

are allowed to join Ceres but the use of Dutch is not up for discussion. 'We enjoy doing things with international students but we don't want this to mean Ceres loses its identity. We do organize open activities where everyone is welcome. For example, we have a salsa workshop and a talk during One World Week.'

Like Ceres, SSR-W also wants to keep the Dutch language. 'It would be a barrier for Dutch students if they couldn't join in conversations at the table or in the pub', says Auke Loonen. And she does not think foreign students are really interested in joining the society. 'Many international students just come for a Master's degree or an Erasmus exchange; they aren't potential long-term members.'

It seems foreign students attach less importance to student societies. Their priority is to graduate in good time, in part because it is very expensive for them to study abroad. But the will is there, notes Christine from the international student society ISOW. 'African and Asian students join in our activities at first but drop off after a couple of months, when they feel the pressure of their degree work.'

However, foreign students are curious to learn more about Dutch culture. They register en masse for tourist trips in the weekend. Students from outside Europe enjoy excursions to cities and sights like the Keukenhof tulips, says Soline. 'This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and they would really like to see all of Europe.' But these excursions are not at all what Dutch students want. They prefer to relax at the weekend or visit their parents.

RUDE AND DIRECT

A good way of getting to know students from other countries is to share a house or corridor. Then you will see them every day, which is a good basis for close friendships. But there are not many international corridors or houses. Many Dutch students find it difficult to have to talk in English at the dinner table and they prefer to watch Dutch TV programmes. Or they do not know any suitable candidates. 'I live in Dutch accommodation on the Haarweg and we are allowed to choose our own housemates', says Bachelor's student Lucia. 'We don't exclude foreign students but we usually get candidates by word of mouth, and that means we end up with Dutch acquaintances.'

Even if students do share a house or corridor, that does not necessarily mean they will develop close relationships. Cultural differences can easily throw a spanner in the works. For instance, the Spanish habit of eating later in the evening does not always combine well with the Dutch tradition of sitting down to dinner at the end of the afternoon, as Marta Agujetas from Spain discovered. 'I would have a much closer bond with my Haarweg housemates if we ate together', she thinks. 'But I find eating between six and seven too early. I do my best occasionally but I prefer to eat between eight and nine so that I can get everything done before then. That's just the way I am.'

And finally, foreigners sometimes find it hard to appreciate Dutch ways, which can seem rude and direct. Ba-





achelor's student Mette Kienhorst often hears that foreign students are critical of the Dutch way of life. 'They prefer to keep their distance. Personally, I like having international friends. I am keen to learn from their different world views and the way they respond to situations.'

FEWER PREJUDICE

So is it all bad news? No. There are definitely signs of improvement in places, signs of increasing harmony between Dutch and foreign students. Idealis is one organization that has seen this. 'Fifteen years ago there was a lot of discussion about the maximum number of foreign students on Dutch corridors', recalls spokesman Jan Harkema. 'Now we get the reverse discussion: students wondering why foreign students have to be housed separately.' That is why Idealis plans offering Dutch and foreign students the same choices in a couple of years' time. 'The students are ready for this, they complain much less and there are fewer prejudices.'

IxESN also has good news. The society links up new foreign students with Dutch students via a so-called buddy programme. That has been functioning perfectly as of this

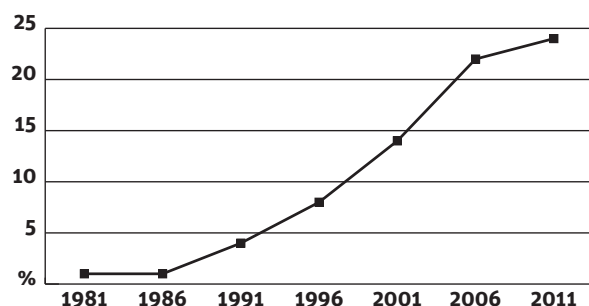
year, says Soline. During the winter AID, Dutch buddy couples looked after groups of new Master's students. 'That introductory period is important for getting to know people; it's when you make your first friends. We are currently keeping these groups together by organizing an activity

'We don't exclude foreign students but we usually get candidates by word of mouth'

every month. And that works. The groups are much closer than in previous years.'


So students do want to integrate and they are curious about each other. Which means you need to find ways of breaking down those everyday barriers. That conclusion is shared by Astrid van den Heuvel, responsible for internationalization within the university. 'Students increasingly choose intercultural modules. They have the will and the interest but sometimes lack the opportunity.' Van den Heuvel was one of the people behind the One World Week, a week full of activities and talks aimed at bringing together staff and students of different nationalities. 'Integration is about taking action', says Van den Heuvel. 'That is why we put effort and money in One World Week, so that people could actually meet each other.' She is not bothered by the fact that some activities attracted less interest. 'It is a question of trial and error; we will simply learn from these results.' ^⑧

Proportion of international students still rising



International students as percentage of total WU student numbers

FLYING HORSE

Many Wageningen residents got a surprise when they looked up at the sky on Monday 21 May. What was a zeppelin doing there, floating about the town for half an hour? It's all part of the Pan-European Gas-AeroSOls climate-interaction Study. With a nod in the direction of the flying horse of Greek mythology: Pegasus. Wageningen climate scientists play a leading role in this monitoring study, intended to lead to a fuller understanding of the link between air quality and climate change.  RK, Photo Bart de Gouw





Rewarding forest conservation

At last: some serious funding for combatting deforestation in tropical regions, saving the climate in the process. This is the promise made by REDD. But if you fail to take biodiversity and the local population into account, things can go very wrong and it all gets a lot more complicated. Wageningen researchers are working on a solution.

text: Joris Tielens

REDD@WUR

Foresters, climate scientists, remote sensing specialists, political scientists and management scientists join forces in the REDD@WUR network instigated by Visseren-Hamakers and Gupta, and financed by INREF. Martin Herold believes Wageningen UR could become a major international player in the development of REDD. 'We have all the relevant disciplines at hand here.' Many projects are already up and running and a remote sensing project run by the European Space Agency (ESA) was recently added to the mix. More info at www.redd.wur.nl

The idea of REDD, *Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation*, is simple: western countries that need to reduce their CO₂ emissions can buy emission rights from countries with large tracts of tropical forest. These countries can sell their rights as long as they leave the forests alone, so that CO₂ is not released into the atmosphere but stays captured in the trees. The system ensures that densely forested countries are rewarded for their forest management, while western industrialized countries can achieve their climate targets without having to impose restrictions on their own industry.

Negotiations about integrating REDD into the new climate treaty that will soon be superseding the Kyoto one have been going on for a year already. Reducing deforestation, which is to blame for 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, is seen as a relatively cheap way of combatting climate change. There is also talk of planting new forests in a programme dubbed REDD+. This could generate about 30 million dollars in emission rights, a prospect relished by nature and forest managers. But before that is possible there are a number of practical objections to be cleared up.

INDIANS

One of the places where the practical difficulties are being studied is Wageningen, where 80 researchers form a network known as REDD@wur. Among them is Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers, assistant professor in the Forest and Nature Policy chair group. She is researching the implications of the planting programme for biodiversity and for the local population. 'Reforestation must not be done at the expense of either', she asserts. The danger is, in her view, that before long everything will revolve around CO₂. It

might soon be possible to earn emission rights and money by felling rainforest and planting young trees, at the expense of biodiversity.

Visseren-Hamakers is also concerned about the forest users. If the rights of the local population are not respected, the ambitious programme could degenerate into blatant land-grabbing. An Irish company called Celestial Green Ventures, for instance, made unclear and dubious contracts with Brazilian Indians whereby the Indians signed away their right to use the forest. The Brazilian public prosecutor is investigating the affair.

A further danger is that REDD+ will mean that forest conservation in one area leads to deforestation in another. Or that the revenues from the programme get swallowed up by a corrupt government instead of being used to benefit forest management. 'So it is essential that policy is well organized and fine-tuned', says Aarti Gupta, assistant professor in the Environmental Policy chair group. 'From local government in developing countries to the United Nations.' Gupta is primarily interested in the politics of the trade in emission rights from forest management. 'The organization of the project will determine whether REDD+ succeeds. If industrial countries just use it to reduce their emissions, it won't work. But if developing countries and forest dwellers get a say in the implementation, it could work as a way of rewarding good forest management.'

MONITORING

But how is that forest management to be measured? How do you establish whether a forest is growing or shrinking, improving in quality or deteriorating? This monitoring is the field of professor Martin Herold, professor of Remote Sensing at the Laboratory for Geo-information Science



Tropical rainforest in Guyana preserved with help from Norway.

and Remote Sensing. He is doing research on the measuring, reporting and verification of the CO₂-related implications of deforestation. One way of doing this is to use satellite images that show changes in the forest cover. But this data needs to be supplemented with measurements on the ground to clarify the size and type of trees concerned, since old forest captures less carbon dioxide than young forest. And this is expensive. 'The more conditions are set for REDD, the harder and the more expensive the monitoring becomes', says Herold.

Many countries still lack the capacity to carry out these measurements to the standards of the IPCC. Yet this is a requirement for participating in REDD+ projects. 'It is precisely the countries with a lot of deforestation that lack this capacity', says Herold. He is involved in several projects providing training on this point for researchers from


'Investing in capacity really does pay'

developing countries. From Wageningen, Herold coordinates an international team of researchers who are putting together a guide to monitoring methods, the GOFCC-GOLD sourcebook. The guide was used at the Durban climate conference. Herold drew up a strategy for capacity

building in Guyana and helped set up a monitoring system there. Guyana is now the furthest of all the countries and has already signed an agreement with Norway which will finance forest conservation in Guyana. 'So investing in capacity really does pay', concludes Herold.

PHANTOM EMISSIONS

But not all countries have reached this stage. Alterra researcher Eric Arets did research in Surinam, where there is a lot of forest and relatively little deforestation, but little reliable data. Arets: 'The IPCC demands conservative estimates of the emissions from a forest for which the data are unreliable. That could mean that Surinam is going to have to report emissions from forests that do not actually exist.' Arets does support the inclusion of biodiversity considerations in the monitoring of REDD+ but wants to see it kept as simple as possible. 'Now developing countries will be expected to produce more complex reports than the Kyoto treaty required the Netherlands to produce on its national emissions.'

REDD is sometimes described as a fast and cheap way of saving the climate. But this promise will only be fulfilled if numerous conditions are met without making the implementation so expensive that it is of no use to developing countries. 'High time for more Wageningen research to come up with solutions', concludes Ingrid Visseren-Hakkers. 

IS CORMET FOOD TASTIER?

From mid-July, Cormet will succeed Albron as the Wageningen UR caterer. The question is of course, will we be better off? Is a Cormet lunch tastier? Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating of course. Resource put the caterers to the test.

text: Roelof Kleis / photos: Guy Ackermans

Perhaps this story should start with a disclaimer. We are not talking about an objective scientific test here. The adopted method is dubious, the tasting panel is totally subjective and the test is very small-scale. But you can't argue about taste. So off to lunch went students Eva van Cleef (Biology) and Derek Deli Pan (Environmental Science), accompanied by Resource editor Linda van der Nat. On Tuesday they lunched at the Arnhem-Nijmegen University of Applied Sciences, where Cormet is the caterer, and the next day they headed for the Forum for an Albron lunch.

The system was simple. Between them, the panel members evaluated a basic lunch, a standard lunch and a deluxe lunch at both venues. The HAN was chosen because Cormet said the menu there was closest to what we can expect next year in Wageningen.

So should we be jumping for joy? In tasting



Derek (left), Linda and Eva out to lunch for Resource.

tests by staff and students during the tender process, Cormet clearly came out top. The Resource tasting panel is not as categorical about its lead over Albron. It rather depends what you are looking for. 'Taste-wise, the differences are not very big', says Linda. 'If you want salad, Albron is much better. But if you want a cheap

lunch of soup and a bread roll, Cormet scores higher.' The soup could well be the decisive factor, says the panel. For 40 cents, Cormet serves a simple but tasty soup. Albron cannot compete with that. In fact, for Derek, 'That soup is a good excuse for kicking Albron out'.

Prices are very important, says Cormet co-di-

'A FUNNY LOOKING PINK BALL'

BASIC LUNCH



Basic Cormet lunch		
Item	price	grade
Basic soup (mushroom)	0.40	8
Brown ham roll	0.75	5
Beef salad	1.25	6
Total	2.40	6.5

Cormet wins on the strength of their soup, says Linda. 'Nice and creamy, not too salty and with big chunks of mushroom in it. Surprisingly tasty for a basic soup'. Albron's basic soup cannot compete with this. 'It tastes like cornflour with a hint of mustard. Very tasteless. Amazing that it is twice the price of Cormet's soup.' On the other hand, the Cormet salad is nothing to write home about. 'It doesn't look attractive. With a limp, pink egg. A funny looking pink ball.' The bread rolls served by both caterers are mediocre. 'A sticky roll', is Linda's verdict on the Cormet one. And the ham is discoloured around the edges. 'Brrr. And it was still in the packet.' Albron does not score much better though. 'It tastes almost identical, but you pay nearly 40 cents more for it at Albron.'



Basic Albron lunch		
Item	price	grade
Basic soup (mustard/ bacon)		0.83
4		
Brown ham roll	1.09	6
Russian salad	1.08	6.5
Total	3.00	5.5

'I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT KIWI'



Standard Cormet lunch

Item	price	grade
Gourmet soup (clear beef)	0.80	6
Salmon Wrap	2.50	6.5
Meatball	1.80	6
Kiwi	0.50	3
Total	5.60	7

The Cormet meatball looks good, says Eva, 'but when you bite on it, it goes pffff. Practically fluid. I wouldn't have that again.' But the wrap is good. 'It looks good, it has plenty of taste and it is well filled. Nice and fresh too. I'm not always so keen on that creamy stuff they put in it. It's probably to compensate for the small quantity of salmon in it.' But the Cormet kiwi is the biggest let-down. 'Soft and tasteless. Just like agar. I was so looking forward to that kiwi. I ask you, what can go wrong with a kiwi?' Albron's kiwi fares better. 'I get the impression that Albron's ingredients are fresher', says Eva. 'The food looks fresher. But maybe it's because you can put your meal together yourself more with the Albron food. The Cormet food all comes readymade.'

STANDARD LUNCH



Standard Albron lunch

Item	price	grade
Gourmet soup (cream of tomato with extra veg)	1.54	6
Tuna sandwich	1.50	6
Minced meat sausage	1.53	6.5
Kiwi	0.59	7.5
Total	5.16	7

rector Frank van Zomerén. 'Most caterers offer a cheap basic package and the rest is expensive. There is a huge gap between the two extremes, where we have what we call 'middle way products'.

The latest survey results show that Albron generally receives a grade of 5.1 (out of 10) from customers. Wageningen UR expects Cormet to

achieve at least a 6.1. That may not sound much, but it is not bad, says Van Zomerén. 'The national average score at universities is 6.2. University students are a very critical target group. Much more critical than applied sciences students.' Besides price and choice, Cormet aims to score well on sustainability. But they are not doing well on sustainability at the HAN, where almost

everything on offer is pre-wrapped. That is going to be different in Wageningen, Van Zomerén assures us. 'Universities, especially Wageningen, are much more sustainability-minded. That is why we are so happy about Wageningen. For us it is a great project to become the most sustainable caterer in the Netherlands.' 

'BELOW THE SURFACE THERE IS NOTHING BUT LETTUCE'



Deluxe Cormet lunch

Item	price	grade
Large baguette (omelette and bacon)	3.75	6
Salad shaker with dressing	2.50	5
Fruit salad	1.95	7
Brownie	1.50	8
Total	9.70	7

A photo finish, this one. Albron wins by a hair's breadth, thanks to its average and its salad, says Derek. His Cormet lunch is ruined by the salad. 'Seen from above it looks good but below the surface there is nothing but lettuce. And Albron has much more choice of salads. You can choose from eight different bowls and you can serve yourself. Besides, it is a whole euro cheaper.' On the other hand, Cormet's brownies and fruit salad are OK. In fact, the brownies save the day for the Cormet lunch, the whole panel agrees. 'But the bread is too dry and hard for my tastes', says Derek. 'I need a cup of soup to wash it down. Overall, the Cormet lunch looks good though. But as a student I wouldn't spend ten euros on it. Perhaps a professor would.'

DELUXE LUNCH



Deluxe lunch Albron

Item	price	grade
Turkish bread with egg, bacon and tomato	3.50	6
Salad	1.64	8.5
Fresh fruit juice (kiwi/orange)	1.55	6
Muffin	1.43	8
Total	8.12	7.5

EXPULSION AS SANCTION

Bachelor's students will have to complete their degrees more quickly, according to an agreement Wageningen has made with the Ministry of Education. Anyone with insufficient credits will first be offered extra assistance and if that does not improve their results, the University may give them a binding recommendation to leave. Expulsion as the ultimate sanction. A good idea?

text: Yvonne de Hilster / **drawing:** Henk van Ruitenbeek

Alet Leemans



Study adviser for Soil, Water and Atmosphere

'For a long time I was not keen on the idea of a binding recommendation to leave but students who just muddle along cost lecturers and supervisors too much time. If there is a binding recommendation, students who really do not want to be sent packing will start working harder. Only you shouldn't set the bar too high. My feeling is that the limit should be 24 or 30 credits. The drop-out rate will also fall if there is a study skills course in the first year, provided it is linked to a subject. The course should also focus on what is required for the degree. Our students have to learn how to deal with a lot of difficult maths whereas others have to tackle vast amounts of text.'

Xavier Maurer



Seventh year, Urban Environmental Management Master

'The binding recommendation can help motivate people to study for their degree and stop them getting so behind. Now it is very easy to resit exams with no penalties. But I think it is a bit harsh to have to get all your credits in the first year. And some people need to learn how to study. I also think people would get through the Bachelor's more quickly if the first year was more interesting. At the moment it is just an extension of secondary school as they try to get you to toe the line. The purpose of your degree only becomes clearer much later on so they should bring that forward. The reason why it has taken me seven years to

graduate is partly because I was on the KSV St. Francis committee for a year, and I also changed direction within my degree.'

Hanna Dickers



First year, International Development Studies Bachelor, from Germany

'I have got all my credits so far. But a binding recommendation to leave might have put me off coming here to study. After all, you have to get used to another country, another language, living away from home. There is no binding recommendation like this in Germany. But they do have the rule that you can only sit an exam three times. If you have still not passed that subject, you have to leave the university even if you are already in the third year. Perhaps something like that here would encourage students to make more of an effort.'

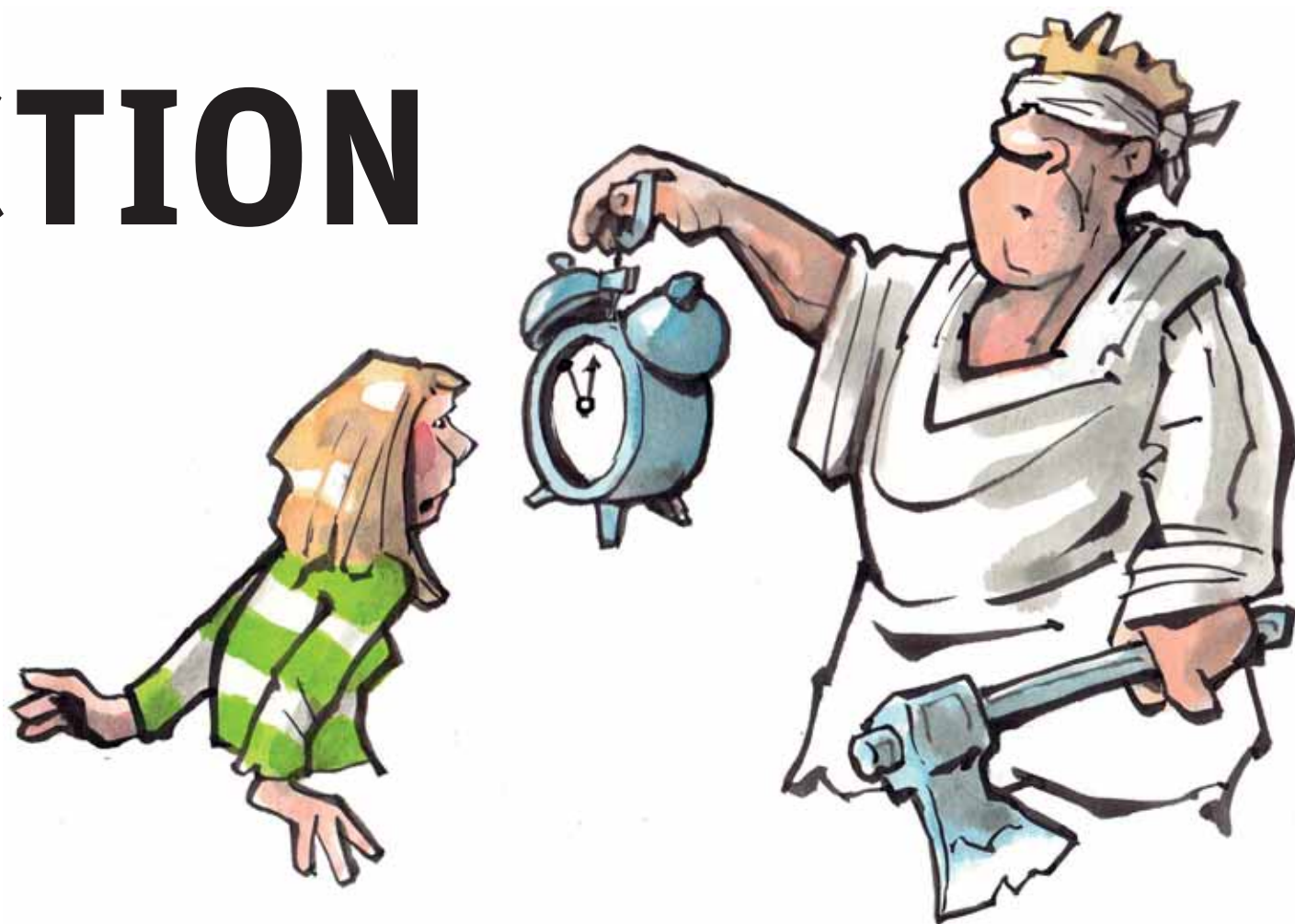
Guus Willeboordse



Third year, Biology Bachelor

'A binding recommendation would have been the end of me, although I might then have worked harder after the first period. I found my degree interesting and fun, but student life was even more appealing. Now I have found a balance; I passed everything in the second year. A binding recommendation puts you under more pressure to get your credits in the first year. But it can be a while before you realize how badly you are doing and then it might be too late. I don't think you should have to get all sixty credits. People should still be allowed a few mistakes.'

NCTION



Manouk Uijtdehaag



First year, International Development Studies Bachelor

'I think there are lots of drawbacks to a binding recommendation. The grades someone gets are not a good measure of how motivated they are. I see people on my degree course who

love the subject but get poor grades while others who are less motivated pass all their subjects. I don't know which is better. You also get a lot of courses in your first year which are not directly related to your degree subject, such as maths and statistics. And some students spend a lot of time in their first year on extra-curricular activities, or get poor grades due to exceptional circumstances. So the results in the first year are not that good an indicator of whether someone is likely to finish their Bachelor's within four years.'

Egbert Kanis

Study adviser for Animal Sciences



'I think it's a good idea. So far, most of the students sent an 'emphatic study recommendation' by the student administration office have not paid it much attention. But students who get behind in the first year generally only get even further behind in

subsequent years. It would be good to provide a compulsory study skills course for students who are a long way behind. If that doesn't improve things, you would be better off doing something else, certainly in view of the new government measures. Here within VHL's Animal Husbandry degree programme, we are now trying to arrange things so that it is easier for first-year Bachelor's students to switch subjects. Incidentally, I think you can only introduce a binding recommendation if schoolchildren attending information days have been told about this, so not before 2013.'

Remco Muijtjens



Sixth year, Nutrition and Health Master

'I think the slow student fine is already an incentive to finish your Bachelor's on time, so a binding study recommendation would be an additional threat. I know people who got

six credits in their first year, fifteen in their second and finally stopped in the third year. That is a waste of their time and the University's time. I only got thirty credits in my first year because everything was new, I was discovering student life, I was living in a big, sociable house and the subjects weren't interesting. I only started studying seriously in the second year.'

Students help design campus

‘OUR FIRST SKETCHES WERE ON BEERMATS’

The grounds of the white Atrium building, headquarters of Wageningen’s agrotechnologists and food scientists, are almost ready. Unusually, the design is the brainchild of three MSc students of Landscape Architecture: Jaap Dirk Tump, Jonas Papenborg and Tim Snippert.

How did you get this project?

Jaap Dirk: ‘Last year on Liberation Day we were in the pub together and Tim told us there was a design competition for this project. We signed up for it the next day: we thought it could be fun and we could earn some money.’

Jonas: ‘One week later we heard we were the only students to respond. After a nice chat we got the assignment.’

Were there special requirements for the assignment or were you totally free?

Tim: ‘They wanted a new entrance in combination with a social space for staff and students. The entrance of the building was hard to find, so the main thing was to make that visible. And it had to be affordable.’

Jonas: ‘It took us a couple of days to come up with our design idea. This happened in the evenings because we were all doing internships during the day in the west of the country. So we came back to Wageningen to discuss the design and make some drawings. Our first sketches are on the back of beer mats.’

What did you come up with?

Jaap Dirk: ‘A scenic entrance that fits into the whole campus, just like the entrances to other buildings, with wild grasses and flowers.’



Tim (left), Jonas and Jaap Dirk are proud of their design.

Jonas: ‘They chose the simplest of our three designs. It was our own favourite too, because a simple design is often the key to a lively environment. That’s why we kept it simple but with clear, fluid lines in the direction of the entrance. We applied the same principle to materials. We chose black bricks for the paving, to contrast with the white building. We used white concrete for the edge of the oval sitting area, just as bright as the Atrium.’

Tim: ‘For the plants we made a list of what was used at Gaia and Lumen. The university could choose from that. We also adapted our plans in order to save four trees that were on the list for fel-

ling. We thought it was important to keep the green atmosphere.’

And how does it feel now your design can be admired in real life?

Jaap Dirk: ‘It all started on a whim but once you go through the whole process from design to implementation you find out what you are capable of. It is a pity we couldn’t have done a similar project at an early stage in our degree course. That way you put into practice what you have learnt and you can earn some money!’

Tim: ‘The nice thing is that you learn to deal with all the ins and outs of designing. Some things look great on paper but are not feasible, perhaps because they are too

expensive. For example, we wanted to finish off the sitting areas with white concrete edging but the budget didn’t stretch to that. We were very disappointed about that at first. But the end result, a thin black edge, is quite acceptable.’

Jonas: ‘We have the landscape architecture degree at Wageningen University, but who designs the campus? We are the first in our chair group to get the chance. I hope in the future more places on the campus can be designed by students. It’s nice for students to have more influence over the buildings that go up on the campus.’ **® Derek Deli Pan**

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Study skills: here's how...

As the academic year draws to a close there's still one last chance to shine. So do yourself proud and start the summer without the headache of resits. Now's the time to brush up your study skills.

Scores of books have been written to help you boost the effectiveness of your study skills. But thankfully you don't have to ferret through them all: Joep van Agteren and Sasha Fayek Ramadan, students at Maastricht University, have done that for you. Below you will find five tips from their book, *Je diploma in honderd pagina's* (Your degree in 100 pages). They believe these guidelines will increase your chances of ending the year with fabulous marks, and still leave you time to kick back and enjoy the sunshine!

✓ **Go to lectures**, if you still have any. No doubt this sounds about as obvious as it gets but there's more. Be well-prepared and actively participate. So no listening with half an ear while you're using WhatsApp. Think about what the lecturer is saying. Does it make sense? Ask questions if anything is unclear.

Win 100 pages of study tips

Would you like more study tips? Resource is raffling three copies of *Je diploma in honderd pagina's*. Send a mail to resource@wur.nl and, who knows, perhaps you will soon be racing through your course. The winners will be contacted personally and announced on our website. Unfortunately for our international students the book is only available in Dutch.

And write up your notes straight away. That way you will get a thorough grasp of the topic.

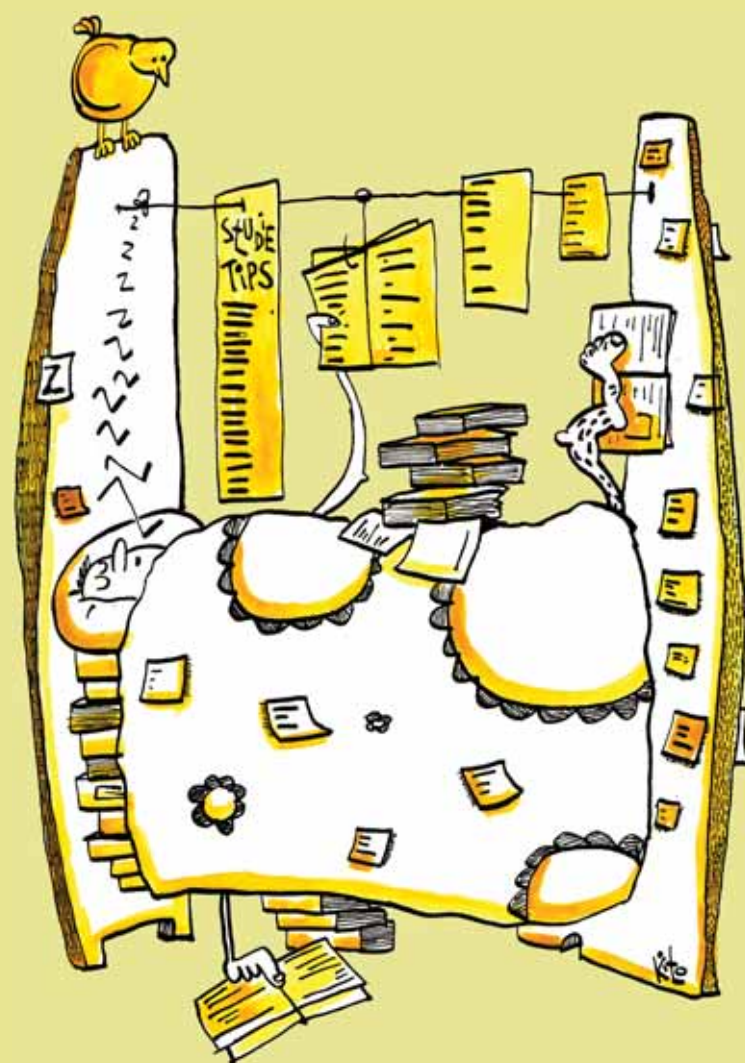
✓ You probably have textbooks you need to wade through before you take your exams. This will be a whole lot quicker if you learn **speed reading**. This requires you to adapt your eye movements but the payoff for the average reader is an increase in reading speed of about 300 per cent.

One of the skills it involves is reducing the number of points that you focus on in a sentence. The fewer the focus points, the quicker you read. If you concentrate instead on a couple of words in a sentence, in time (yes, it takes practice) you should be able to read a whole sentence at a single glance. Your speed will increase as soon as you have mastered this technique.

✓ Good. You have attended lectures, skipped that drink with your fraternity and learned to scan chapters. What next? How can you make sure you commit what you read to memory? Applying structure helps you grasp the essence of a text and make connections between its parts. There are three ways of doing this: **summarizing, concept mapping and mind mapping**. Summarizing is a question of stripping down the text to its essential information.

Concept mapping builds on that principle but involves building a hierarchy with the general terms at the top and the more specific terms at the bottom. When you look for links between terms you are actively engaging with the text and that helps you remember it better.

Mind mapping works in the same way but with free association; you link all the concepts related to the key topic with lines and arrows.



DRAWING: KITO

And you can add sketches to help trigger your memory.

✓ Thinking of pulling all-nighter to cram some study hours? Not wise. Your memory relies on **sleep and attention**. You can hold your attention for 20 to 30 minutes, but over the next 90 minutes it will diminish. So study for 30 minutes, then take a couple of minutes' break, and after 90 minutes do something completely different, like the shopping or sport. And go to bed on time. Research

shows that sleep helps us remember explicit information. Even a short 'power nap' is not a bad idea.

✓ All these tips are useful only if you follow this next tip: make your study your first priority. Your date with the cute nutrition student or the dishy agrotechnologist is going to have to be put on hold, and your Facebook profile isn't going to be updated for a while. Take time to relax, but try saying 'no' to an evening spent boozing in the pub. **Linda van der Nat**

BRING BACK THE GUILDER!

The giant leaves of *Victoria Amazonica* are normally strong enough to carry a toddler. So it's a bit of a shame that the leaves of the exemplar at the botanical gardens in Leiden get smaller every year. Turned out the plant was suffering from the iron in the euro coins visitors throw into the water. It wasn't an issue with the old guilder coins. Grist to your mill, Geert.



REGULARITY

Binge on fries nonstop and not get fat? All a question of timing, says research from La Jolla Institute in California.

Researchers compared mice that were only allowed to eat at set times with mice that had nonstop access to the same amount of food. Even on a high-fat menu, the mice on breakfast, lunch and dinner hardly put on any weight. In fact, they became healthier. The test is now being repeated with human subjects.



Clarinetist Hans Kosters.

The sound of leaping dolphins

The sounds of the earth, just like in a David Attenborough documentary. This earthy music will fill the Forum on 2 June.

A large Bennekom-based orchestra will play the Planet Earth symphony by contemporary Dutch composer Johan van de Meij in the Forum on 2 June. Complete with a choir and accompanying images. 'All aspects of nature are reflected in the piece', says clarinetist Hans Kosters with a gleam in his eye.

'Leaping dolphins, falling lumps of ice, the rising sun. Some of

them peaceful, some of them stirring, and very melodious. I have never played anything like it. And with the images to go with it, the music sinks in even better.'

Kosters, who is nearing the end of his PhD research on Food Chemistry, enjoys classical music. He is a member of the OBK Bennekom musical society and plays in a wind quintet. 'The lovely thing about a brass band is the tone you get thanks to the wide variety of instruments: the clarinets with the oboe, bassoon and flute in a similar range, and on the other hand

the big brass instruments and the trumpet.' He has played the clarinet since he was 11. 'I didn't know which instrument I wanted to play, and then a clarinet was put into my hands at the village band association and I have played it ever since.'

The further he got into his PhD research, the less he practised, although he is still aware of the value of music. 'As soon as you start playing, all your everyday worries fade into the background.' **YdH**

Tickets: www.obkplanetearth.nl

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: Tuition fees for technical degree programmes must be reduced to attract more students



PHOTO'S: BART DE GOUW

MARLIES: It is absolutely essential that more people choose to do a technical degree; with today's global problems we really need these people. But lower tuition fees are not the answer – studies among school pupils have already shown this doesn't help. Besides, I have grave doubts about involving financial incentives in a choice like this. I'm worried it will create more dropouts, because some students won't be truly motivated. More attention needs to be paid to subject choice. Research shows that status, for example, is often a key factor and with that starting point you are not likely to choose natural sciences. In secondary schools, maths and science should be better promoted and students should be enthused; the 'nerdy' image of science programmes must change.

JILLIS RESPONDS: I agree with you that technical studies should be put in the spotlight at secondary school. Insofar as that 'nerd image' still exists, it must be made clear to school pupils that engineers are precisely the people who keep the country running. And financial incentive or not: there will be no lack of motivation to complete a programme, given the stricter requirements on student grants and loans, and the BSc before MSc rule.

JILLIS: I think it is important that more people in the Netherlands take a technical degree programme. Society is increasingly confronted with issues that call for technical solutions. Just think of food scarcity, lack of water, (or the opposite, rising sea levels) and energy shortages. That's why it would be reasonable to reduce the tuition fees for technical programmes. This shouldn't been seen as spending more money, but as an investment in our future. And as far as I'm concerned silly degrees can be tagged with higher fees as - marginal - compensation for the social security that will be doled out later. School pupils should be encouraged to choose a useful programme, instead of an 'I-like-it-so-it's-a-proper-course' option. For Heaven's sake let's get people learning something that they can later use to develop and apply innovative technology to tackle real problems.

MARLIES RESPONDS: I agree with you that we should take a critical look at the usefulness and standard of a degree programme. However, we should differentiate a bit: what may seem silly now may well be relevant in a number of years' time. In view of that, I think higher tuition fees for 'silly degrees' (and who is to decide which ones they are?) is a ridiculous idea. **B**

APPLY NAMED

Wageningen boasts a fertility researcher whose name includes the word 'Seed' (Zaadstra), an epidemiologist whose name translates as Old Flu (Oude Griep) and a communication scientist whose name sounds like 'hear nix' (Hornikx). Just a sample of the appropriate scientists' names collected on toepasselijkeachternamen.blogspot.com. Wageningen agriculturalist Anton Haverkort is proud of his surname (short oats): 'My forefathers introduced short-straw grain varieties.'

PIENNOLO

Beatrix will shortly be doing to a turn in many a student oven. The Dutch queen has had a pizza named after her. One of seven lucky royals honoured in this way on World Pizza Day. Appropriate enough as the queen is said to love pizza. Her variant is topped with the exclusive cherry tomato 'Piennolo del Vesuvio', known for its unusual bittersweet flavour. Yum.



PHOTO: ROBIN KRAAI

AIR AMBULANCE AT LARENSTEIN . An unusual sight at the Van Hall Larenstein university campus in Velp. On 14 May the air ambulance landed on the estate, called in after a stabbing near the school. The victim, a 47-year-old man from Duiven died of his wounds on the spot. The helicopter drew the attention of students working in the multimedia library, who saw the helicopter land on the field near the dike at around two pm. In no time the field was full of curious onlookers. The culprit, a 47-year-old man from Velp, reported to the police the next day. **RR LvdN**



Who? Hendrik Staarink, fourth-year International Land and Water Management
What? Jiu-jitsuka and chairman of the student martial arts club 'De Grondleggers'

Why? Beat seven participants and on 12 May became the Dutch Student Champion Jiu-jitsu in the under 77 kg weight class.

'IN THE FINAL I WAS UP AGAINST MY FIRST OPPONENT AGAIN.'

What it a tough battle?

'It was a tense and exciting day because I've only just got my orange belt. I lost the first match. But after that I beat people who had a green belt or even a black belt. In the final I was up against my first opponent again.'

In view of your experience, this triumph isn't entirely unexpected.

'No, it isn't. As a rule, this tournament is not super high-level, unless you are unlucky enough to get matched up with a Dutch Champion who happens to be a student. Besides, I've been training seriously for this event: three times a week and in the particular martial arts system it requires.'

How does that work then?

'At this tournament you can win points for performing particular techniques well. First standing using punches and kicks, then with throws and lastly in a fight down on the mat. The person who gets two points in each category wins. I have practised ways to score effectively in all those categories.'

Will you maintain your intense training schedule?

'No, I've set myself up as a gardener and there's more to life than Jiu-jitsu. I don't necessarily feel the need to get a black belt. It's about the training, that's what I enjoy.' **RR**

>> CULT

What? Start of the festival season **Who?** Pinkpop, then Lowlands, Rock Werchter, Sziget and countless other names. **When?** Pinkpop starts 26 May, after that there are festivals all summer long.



'You experience some kind of natural high'

Tip given by: Milena Banic, second-year Nutrition and Health at Wageningen UR

'People should go to festivals for the relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Everyone starts talking to everyone else and you can have a beer with anyone, people you know and people you don't. And the people you get to know keep on coming back year after year, even if the line-up isn't as good as it was. This year I'm going with 30 friends to Metalcamp, a festival in Slovenia. It is cheap; five days for 150 euros. The swimming is fabulous and you can paraglide and you can even get good beer. It is a totally different experience from Pinkpop. That is way too big and expensive for my liking.

At a good festival you experience some kind of natural high. You can't tell one day from the other and you find you can party on just a few hours' sleep a night. You don't have a thought in the world; you get no email and there's nothing you have to do. And everyone there has the same feeling, they have come together to make the festival into a great party. It is a pity that I can't go to more festivals this year. I'd love to go to Graspop, Wacken or Lowlands but I am really skint.' **RR**

>> THE WORKS

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

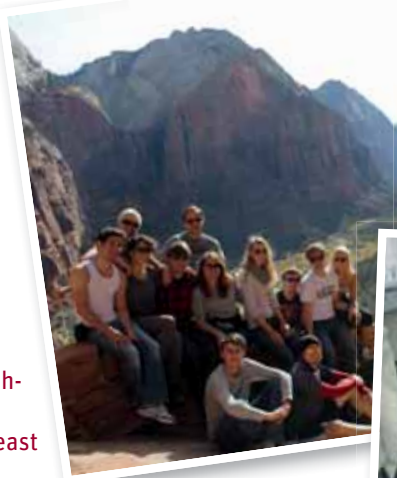
Who? Roos Nijman, Master's student of Food Technology

What? Master's thesis on oligosaccharides in breast milk and formula

Where? University of California, Davis

Davis is not big but there are lots of students, many of them international, and it is great socially. There is something going on every night: a pub quiz, a barbecue, a potluck supper, going nightclubbing downtown, a hot tub party, a fraternity party or a house party. At the parties you drink jungle juice (all the spirits you can get hold of mixed with brightly coloured, extremely sweet squash) in a red plastic cup – just like in the American Pie films. Luckily working hours at the lab were very flexible so I could sometimes have a bit of a lie-in.

My Master's thesis is about the difference between breast milk and formula, with a focus on the components that are crucial for the baby's health. At the start I worked flat out from nine to six and got a lot of results. In the last couple of months I realized that I could take it a bit easier. I have been to several National Parks and to Hawaii, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. The rock formations in the Grand Canyon, the plains of Death Valley and Joshua Tree, the valleys of Yosemite and Zion, the tall trees in the Red Woods – all these are stun-



ning natural wonders of the world. One week I went snowboarding in the mountains and the next weekend I was walking through the desert where it was 28 degrees Celsius.

Americans are very easy-going and people will just start talking to you on the street to pay you a compliment. They are cheerful and interested in you – really nice! In the shops that are open at night people walk around in pyjamas or tracksuits and it's quite normal for the chirpy cashier to have a long chat with you about your studies. If you go to America for an internship, do try to combine work with pleasure. Go on as many outings as you can and above all, enjoy all the beauty this country has to offer. **Suzanne Overbeek**



EMMA <<

Home, Sweet Home.

Even in the dark, I could feel the eyes watching me.

My eyes were tightly shut. I could not see the culprit but I knew that someone was staring at me. I felt a movement from my stalkers, they were much closer than I thought... everything was getting very scary.

Terrified, I opened one eye and almost screamed when I found a nose about 5 cm away from mine. It was my dog, Misty, a border collie. The clock flashed 07:00. Grumpily I rolled over and tried to go back to sleep.

I must say it was nice to be home; after a while you do miss your family and all the chaos that goes with it. Being a country girl, it was nice to be back in the emptiness of France, surrounded by cows and fields, and beautiful weather.

I was greeted like some long lost hero upon arriving home. Lots of friends came to see me. To be honest, my French friends do not understand how I could possibly study in another country. They do not understand the pleasures of travelling - especially when everything anyone could possibly want is in France!

That is where my French friends and I differ greatly on opinions, about studying abroad, broadening horizons and trying to make them understand new cultures or worlds. I have not persuaded them yet.

I could still feel Misty's eyes watching me. Just as I was about to reluctantly stumble out of bed and go to see if there was any chance of a cooked breakfast, I felt a wet fish pass across my mouth and nose. Ugh! A kiss from a dog. I yelled and Misty decided it would be safer under the bed until after breakfast. Do that again and you will be breakfast! **Emma Holmes**

in memoriam



Jack Leunissen

On the morning of Monday, 14 May, Prof. Jack Leunissen passed away after a period of illness. Jack had been professor of Bioinformatics at Wageningen University since 2002. However, he had been involved in setting up national and international activities in the field of bioinformatics since the 1980s. His great passion and wide-ranging interest in bioinformatics led to the development of a vibrant research group that was Jack's pride and joy. Jack was also an inspired lecturer. He generated an enthusiasm for bioinformatics among many generations of young researchers and students all over the world. This is reflected in the large number of international courses in which Jack was involved. The EPS course Bioinformatics: A User's Approach, which he gave with Dave Judge in Wageningen, was always fully booked long in advance. As a supervisor, Jack gave his PhD students the freedom to follow their passions and ideas, showing real confidence in the capacities of his people. We got to know Jack personally as an exceptionally friendly man with a typically Limburg ability to enjoy life. He showed great affection for his family and enjoyed being with them with their pets in the countryside. We also had the privilege of experiencing his great passion for playing and listening to music. Jack remained enthusiastically involved in bioinformatics right up to the end. His passion, knowledge and expertise will continue to be a source of inspiration for many. Our sincerest thoughts are with his family as they cope with this great loss. **Harm Nijveen, Ton Bisseling, on behalf of the Bioinformatics science group.**

in memoriam



Ingrid Aerns

On Saturday 12 May, we heard the sad news that our colleague Ingrid Aerns had passed away on 11 May, less than six months after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Twelve years ago, Ingrid started work as a receptionist/telephone operator at Van Hall Larenstein in Velp, work she always enjoyed. As of 1 September 2007, Ingrid had also been working one day a week as a temp for Vraagpunt (service desk). A month ago she still expected to be able to go back to work after the summer holidays. Sadly, this was not to be the case. Ben and her children will certainly miss her. We hope that they will cherish many warm, lovely memories, as we do, of who Ingrid Aerns was (and still is in our thoughts): sociable, honest, someone who disliked injustice, and an exceptional friend and colleague. We will miss her but we will remember her with great warmth and affection. Our thoughts are with Ben and the children as they deal with this loss.

Ingrid's colleagues at Van Hall Larenstein Facility Services

Offers and requests

Offers and requests for goods, voluntary work and paid work for students and staff. Send no more than 75 words to resource@wur.nl, with 'Wanted/On Offer' as subject, on the Thursday before publication.

WSKOV

The WSKOV is looking for musicians – especially those who play wind instruments, cellists and violinists – who would like to go on

tour in August. If you are interested, have a look on the website or e-mail us at wskov@wur.nl.

WWW.WSKOV.WUR.NL

Big Band Sound of Science is looking for a trombone player

Big Band Sound of Science is looking for new musicians. This Wageningen UR big band is headed by conductor Guus Tangelder and plays swinging jazz, blues, funk and Latin. We currently have vacancies for a 1st/2nd trombone player, preferably an employee or student at Wageningen UR. We rehearse Tuesdays from 17.30h on Campus.

SEE WWW.SOUNDOFSCIENCE.NL.

RUW is looking for new committee members

The RUW Foundation is looking for new committee members!

Interested? Questions? Then mail Huib: huib.vanveen@wur.nl.

WWW.STICHTINGRUW.NL

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.

Permaculture / Seed Sovereignty

The last two evenings of Grassroots Science for this year will be in June. On June 4, Fransje de Waard and Fiona Morris will share their expertise on Permaculture: reconnecting people with soil and food. On June 11, Niels Louwaars (director of Plantum) and Edwin Nuijten (Stichting Zaadgoed) explain how farmers' organizations can protect our seed system: will multinationals with patent claims soon be suing farmers in Europe? Forum, 19.30h. Free entrance.

WWW.BOERENGROEP.NL

Members of Student Council 2012/2013

As announced in Resource #17 of 19 April 2012, the lists of the Student Council 2012/2013 candidates were published on 26 April 2012. Unfortunately there will be no election, due to the fact that only twelve eligible candidates were nominated for the twelve

seats in the SC. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Student Council Regulations, the nominated candidates shall be deemed to be elected. The twelve persons who are deemed to be elected for the Student Council 2012/2013 are: Miao Yu as an independent member; and Jasmijn Appels, Anniek Elemans, Sanne van Geel, Christianne Kerkhofs, Marit van Liere, Wouter-Jan van Roosmalen, Anneriek Simons, Esther van Vliet, Shaoyang Xu, Haoran Yang, and Yingying Zhang for VeSte.

Pulse Room Desk has moved

After years in Arion, we have now moved. The new address is Generaal Foulkesweg 37, 6703 BL Wageningen. The committee running Pulse (formerly WSO) has moved to the same address. The Room Desk is a non-profit agency for student accommodation. We provide information and advice to both landlords and tenants. That includes not just room requests and offers but also advice on rent rebates and rental agreements. You are also welcome to come and hire the barrow bike. Assistance and advice from the Room Desk are free. We are open from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00h and can be contacted by e-mail via housing-desk@pulsewageningen.nl.

WWW.PULSEWAGENINGEN.NL

2012 Eureka prize for science communications

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) invite you to nominate scientists and journalists for the 2012 Eureka prize for science communications. This is the first year NWO and KNAW are awarding this joint annual prize for both a scientist and a journalist. The prize is for the best performance in making scientific knowledge accessible and comprehensible for a wider audience. The winners will receive 12,500 euros each. The prize will be handed out in autumn 2012. Nominations must be made before 1 June 2012. The form, further information and the conditions can be found at www.knaw.nl/eurekaprijs.

INFO: PRIJZENSUBSIDIES@KNAW.BUREAU.NL

Student Summer Sports

This year, Student Summer Sports will again be visiting a surfing centre in Southern France, Brunotti Beachcamp in Vieux Bouceau, from 10 to 19 August. A mere 325 euros will give you a ten-day holiday with your friends including 10 hours of surfing lessons, equipment hire, bus journey, BBQ, accommodation and activities. We will be travelling with Mambo Reizen, who are giving us a discount of around 150 euros per person. In addition to the basic package, there is also the option of booking a meals package or an excursion to the Spanish town of San Sebastian.

WWW.STUDENTENZOMERSPORT.NL

Postcode Lottery Green Challenge

Registration for the sixth edition of the Postcode Lottery Green Challenge has started. This international competition is for sustainable, creative, innovative business plans for products or services that reduce CO2 emissions. The best plan gets 500,000 euros. There is also 200,000 euros available for at most two other promising business plans. Plans can be submitted until Tuesday 31 July via www.green-challenge.info. The winner will be announced on 23 September during the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

WWW.GREENCHALLENGE.INFO

iWeeks, 'Interactive Methods for Social Change'

Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation (CDI), the Communication Science Group and Foundation OtherWise are organizing the iWeeks in the first two weeks of June. On Monday 4 and Friday 15 June there are symposia on the state of the art of Participatory Methods and workshops on interactive tools for research and social change. During the two weeks participants can follow training courses of three or six half-days in Action Research, Video, Theatre and ICT for Development. You can follow the iweeks as Capita Selecta, as a PhD course, or as a professional. There's a 20% reduction in the fee for KLV members!

INFO: [HTTP://WWW.ST-OTHERWISE.ORG](http://WWW.ST-OTHERWISE.ORG)

agenda

Friday 25 May, 19.00h

TALK BY FRANK WESTERMAN

The writer Frank Westerman will talk about Dier, Bovendier, De Graanrepubliek and other works in Sociëteit Cantil, KSV Franciscus at the Stadsbrink in Wageningen.

TICKETS: KNIPHORST BOOKS AND ON THE DOOR

Saturday 2 June, 20.00h

PLANET EARTH CONCERT

The OBK Bennekom concert band will be giving a concert in Forum with the theme Planet Earth. The orchestra has been extended with 40 extra musicians especially for the occasion. The focal point of the concert is Johan de Meij's 3rd symphony, entitled Planet Earth, which has only been performed twice before in the Netherlands. Midden-Gelderland choir school is also taking part.

In addition to Planet Earth, OBK will also be playing another of Johan de Meij's works, the well-known Casanova, with Mariëtte Gort as solo cellist. The conductor is Ghislain Bellefroid. The programme includes a short talk by a WUR professor as well as the music.

WWW.OBKPLANETEARTH.NL

Sunday 3 June

5TH BELMONDO FESTIVAL

Rotary club Wageningen-Bergpoort is organizing the Belmondo Festival for the fifth time. There will be three stages in the Belmonte (big) arboretum with a non-stop programme of music and dance by local and international groups from 13.00 to 19.00h. Given the considerable interest, it looks set to be another bright, colourful festival for young and old. There are special activities for children. Admission is free. The proceeds from the sale of drinks and snacks will go to support the Arboretum foundation in its efforts to maintain special collections.

MORE INFO: WWW.BELMONDOFESTIVAL.NL

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 June

WSKOV SPRING CONCERTS

The Wageningen Student Choir and Orchestra Association (WSKOV) will give its annual spring concerts

on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th of June. Both concerts take place at the Aula of Wageningen University and start at 20.00h.

This summer, the WSKOV will go on a concert tour of Scandinavia. Concerts will be given in Copenhagen, Uppsala and Stockholm. Therefore, the repertoire of this season is dedicated to Scandinavian and Dutch composers. The choir will sing a cappella works by such composers as Sweelinck, Dresden, Stenham-

mar, Voormolen and Diepenbrock. The choir and orchestra together will perform Andriessen's Te Deum. Tchaikovsky's first symphony will be performed by the orchestra. Conductors: Frank Adams (orchestra) and Ger Vos (choir). Entrance (incl. programme booklet and 1 drink): 9 euros (regular), 7 euros (donors) or 4 euros (students).

INFORMATION/RESERVATIONS: 0317-484089, WSKOV@WUR.NL AND WWW.WSKOV.WUR.NL

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATE: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Luncher shock

Coming from Ghana, where hospitality is prioritized, I got the shock of my life when I came to the Netherlands last year. In fact, I am celebrating my first anniversary of the shock I had when a Dutch course-mate made an appointment with me for a lunch at the Grand cafe in the Forum.

Back in my country, when someone invites you for lunch, it is automatic that the person will pay for everything the two of you will eat and drink. With this background knowledge, I had in mind that as usual I was not going to pay for anything but I was definitely going to eat to my full. On that day, I put on one of my good shirts and shoes to match. In fact, I was counting every second until the lunch appointment – not knowing the shock that awaited me. At lunch time I went to the venue and we met. My friend opened his bag, took out a plastic container, opened it, took bread and started to eat. He did not even invite me to join him, as is done in my country. He ate everything while I sat watching him and chatting with him. I still thought that after he had eaten the bread, the ‘lunch proper’ would be requested from the waitress. But after eating his bread, he said, ‘it was nice having lunch with you’. Then I asked, where is the lunch we had? He said that was what he had just finished. Furthermore, he added, here when someone invites you for lunch, you take your own food. I was shocked to my bones. In fact for about one week I was still in a state of ‘lunch shock’. © Isaac Mbir Bryant, Ghanaian MSc student of Environmental Sciences at Wageningen University.

No such thing as a free lunch? Not in Holland, it seems.

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.