

PHOENIX

Issue 4, June 2014

How Simon Takes His Tea
And yes, he knows...

SUDS in Search Of
Six Characters

A Farewell to the Board

Eat, sleep, rave, repeat

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Robben over Cumberbatch

The World Cup is well underway and after 'our' victory over those damned Spaniards, the orange fever has firmly taken hold of our little country. We are all treated to seas of orange, extremely tacky decorations, drunk, loud people, and the same five too long commercials over and over again.

The drunkest, loudest, and most orange people among us are usually the ones who do not really care about football. They would not recognize an offside trap, sweeper or Panenka if either one of those hit them in the face, but are eager to participate in what they experience as a prolonged form of Queen's Day; lots of orange, lots of beer, lots of fun. The football part of the football World Cup is secondary.

Similarly, I do not think that, as a group, English students are particularly interested in the football part of the World Cup either. We are just not the correct demography. I think it is safe to say that the vast majority would prefer to watch an interview with Benedict Cumberbatch over one with Arjen Robben, even now.

While I do like a little Cumberbatch myself from time to time, I would personally pick the Robben interview without a moment of hesitation. You see, the World Cup has taken over my life and has put most non-football matters on hold. I have been counting down to the tournament since the end of last year and now that it is happening, I find myself watching every single match, checking football news every five minutes, and jotting down fantasy formations in a notebook. I even had a dream about van Persie's 1-1 header earlier this week. I just love the beautiful game.

Still, as life goes on, I cannot totally shut out all non-football elements of life. I would still like to graduate, for example.

To please all conflicting parties in my own head, I will be working on my thesis during the day, watch football by night, and somewhere in between, I will be reading through this Phoenix. All things considered, that seems like a pretty sweet deal to me.

I am already loving this summer and, try as they might, there is not a singing hamster in the world that can take that joy away from me.

Lars

Word from the Board

Dear readers,

Time has passed so quickly and it is almost time for the 23rd Albion board to say goodbye. We are very happy with the candidate board and hope you will put as much trust, or more for those distrustful, in them as you did in us.

That being said, it is time for something a little more fun: summer is almost here! Although I am still in over my head concerning essays and exams, I can feel the Summer Jam time is coming up, and I must confess I spend a lot of time jamming (even when should be cramming).

As summer is drawing near, I find myself wondering what I should do during the vacation. My first instinct was to just do nothing for seven weeks, and spend one week in a far away country (France). However, my dreams were quickly shattered when I looked at my financial situation.

In order to actually afford anything next academic year, it is probably best for me to get a job. This is, however, easier said than done. I applied for a job at a museum, but they never e-mailed me back. I applied for a baby-sitting job but I just did not have the right qualifications. Even the Albert Heijn would not have me. All these rejections even made me consider going back to the butcher I worked at in Landgraaf, and leaving lovely Utrecht behind for over two months.

Anyway, I am sure I am not the only student to experience stress over deciding whether to get a job or just chilling forever. It is a hard life when you have eight weeks to spend however you want to...

Maroucha

Tea Time With Simon

By Kiki Drost and Stanzy Kersten

One last Phoenix before the summer break means one last tea time interview, and what better way to end the school year than with one of the best known teachers at the faculty: Simon Cook. We asked him if we could come over to have a cup of tea, and he said he was happy to help.

“I’ve read the interviews you have done with the others, and you didn’t seem to have damaged their characters too much. You have a habit of describing how you get to the front door.” That we do. Simon’s house wasn’t difficult to find, so at the appointed time we rang the bell of his nice house, in his nice street, with some nice rose bushes in front of the windows. “I’m not really into gardening, that’s all my wife. I love it when she scatters plants around the house.” We sit ourselves around the table to start our interview and our host offers us some tea. For an Englishman he has surprisingly few different kinds, but that is of no matter, because the tea is delicious and so is the lemon cake he got us, so we start our interview.

How did you end up in the Netherlands?

“That was a woman, a former girlfriend. I never really decided to move here, it just kind of happened. I came over for a little while, I liked it, and I never went back. I go to England about three or four times a year, to try and see my mom and my sister. And I go to see some friends in London.”

What do you like about the Netherlands?

“Let me think. Oh! Cycling. I do quite a lot of cycling in summer. I don’t have a drivers license and I love the fact that you can get anywhere in the city on your bicycle.”

Do you miss the UK?

“Yeah, I guess so. I just have to work out what. It’s not something you can buy, because you can get everything everywhere. I suppose it’s the energy that London has, the density and intensity of things you can do.”

Do you have any other interests beside English and Literature?

“I play cricket. I’ve been doing that for 18 years. Some weekends you would find me wearing white clothing on a cricket field. I also like wine, certainly, and cooking; the two go together. I mostly cook Italian, French and Spanish. Also some Asian, but mostly European. I like music too, just to listen to, I’m completely tone deaf. A student once tried to

teach me to sing two notes. The first went fine, but the second... Oh, and I like art, abstract art, pictures of nothing.”

Favourite book: Infinite Jest, by David Foster Wallace, and Against the Day, by Thomas Pynchon

Favourite film: Solaris, the George Clooney version

Favourite music: from Punk to Industrial, and from Techno and Ambient to some Goth stuff. Some Pop and Rock as well, but preferably things dark and threatening

Favourite series: The Wire, but I’ll tell you which series I hate: Game of Thrones. It’s an abomination. The sheer, nasty violence. And it has a lot of bad hair.

Favourite animal: I refuse to answer this.

Favourite city: I’ve only lived in three: London, Sheffield and Utrecht. I’m quite fond of Utrecht, it’s a sweet cuddly little village.

What did you study?

“I studied English Literature in Sheffield, and then later in Utrecht, where I finished my doctoral. This is when I met my wife, she studied English. We have a bilingual relationship. I think it’s about 60/40 English/Dutch, preferably not in the same sentence. Her English is better than my Dutch, although I’m probably better at Dutch than most students think. I try not to speak it in front of them, because it tends to entertain them too much. When you live in the Netherlands for so long you have to be careful not to get contaminated, not to mix the two languages together.”

Where did your interest in literature begin?

“At a very young age. I was a voracious reader by the time I was 8. I read Tolkien in junior school, by the age of 12. I don’t think I could read it again now. I’m more interested in recent literary fiction.”



Can you tell us something about your time in England?

“In the ancient past you mean? Well, when I was a teenager I was obsessed with concerts. I went to so many in the late 70s and the start of the 80s. By the time I was 18 I’d been to 115 concerts. I used to keep track of it in a book. I no longer have the energy to do so; I still go and see things, but not as often anymore. I also really enjoyed my time at Sheffield University.”

Did you always want to become a teacher?

“No, it just all sort of happened to me. I worked as a journalist and in translation, and then in my 30’s I made the decision to work for the University and give up journalism and translation. I’ve worked here since 1992. It’s tricky to pick a favourite subject to teach. I’m very fortunate; I get to teach Literature, Creative Writing and Journalism. It’s difficult to pick one.”

Do you have any plans for the summer holiday?

“We’re going to Italy for a couple of weeks, and I’ll be playing cricket of course. But I desperately need to write some chapters of my PHD, so I’m hoping I can make some time to do that.”

Of course we could not leave without asking the one thing everybody wants to know: does he know about the fan fiction?

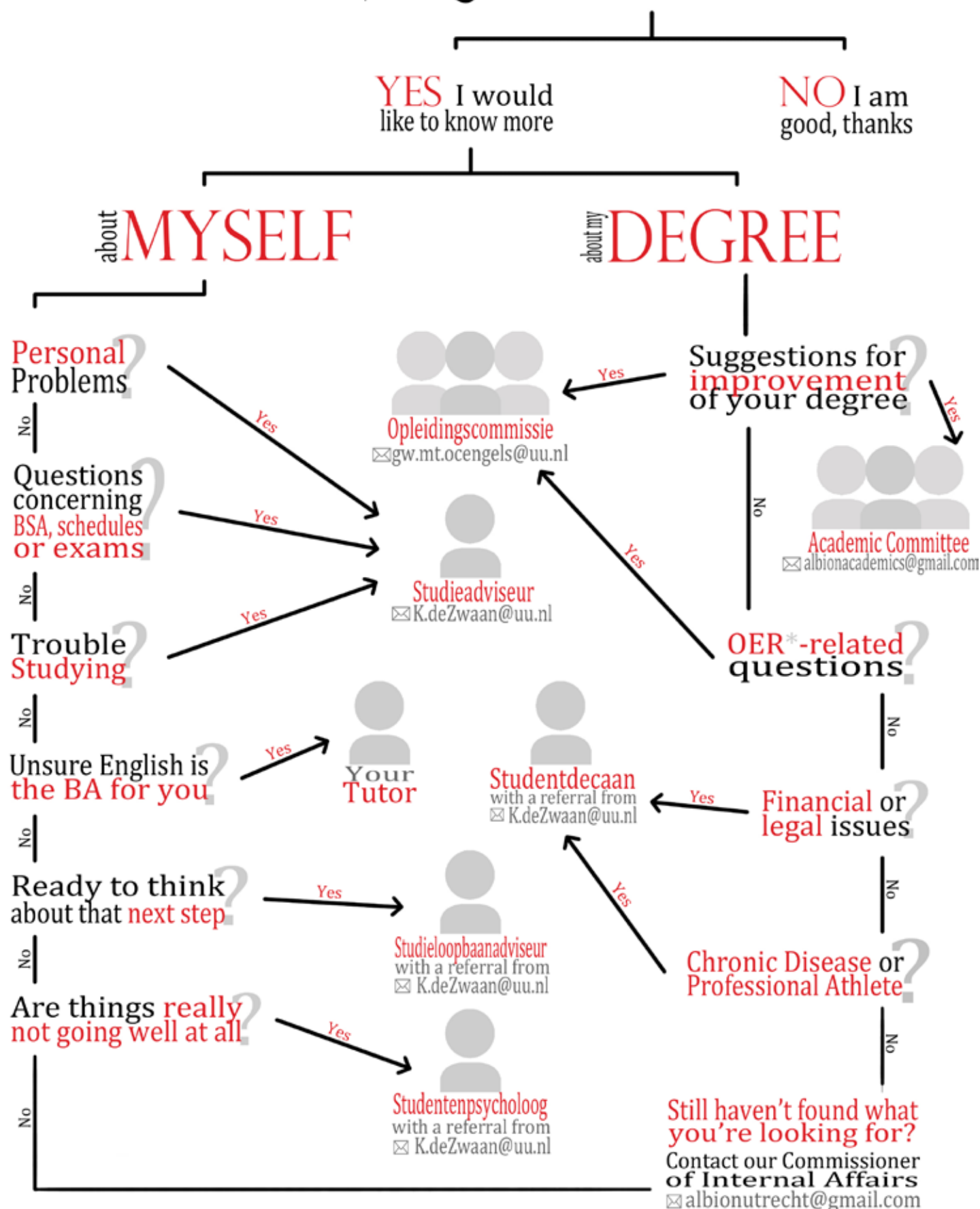
“I’m glad you used the word fiction there. You know, I’ve never even been to Prague. No, I know it exists, and I know some of the content, but I’ve never read it. I doubt whether I would find it entertaining. It’s quite old, about 10 years, or more even? But it does come back every year. When I teach new first years there’s usually a group of girls that bursts out into a manic prattle of giggles. It’s just a bit of silliness; it has nothing to do with me really.”

After tea and a small tour of the living room, kitchen and his study, we leave Simon’s place and go home. Simon, thank you once again, and we wish you, and everyone else, a very happy holiday.





Albion answers YOUR QUESTIONS



Little Red Patch

By Pascal Smit

In 2005 the Canadian government decided to cut 103 million dollars in their grants and loans programme and students throughout Québec took to the streets. During the protests students adopted a little red square, usually worn on the breast of one's clothing, as a mark against these plans. In 2012, when the Canadian government proposed raising tuition, another wave of protests emerged and the red square re-emerged. By now the red square has crossed the Atlantic and was worn by the Titanic group in Amsterdam during their successful occupation earlier this year and even though the occupation has long since ended members of this group generally still wear the little red square.

So what does this little red square really mean? I think it's a symbol not just against rising tuitions, and we have plenty of that in the Netherlands. It's not just against cutting student grants which has been an ongoing process for at least half a decade by now. I think it's also an important mark of solidarity with all student movements in the world. To me, it's also a symbol against austerity politics and in favour of social welfare and equality. Something that the current plans of the Dutch government are designed to destroy.



The government have already admitted that about 7500 people will decide against going to college or university every year based on these plans. And which group will be hit most? The group that are already impoverished. Instead of empowering the poorest echelons of society by providing affordable and accessible education it further entrenches people in their class. The government states that students can get additional incomes elsewhere, such as: parents or a job. The former is clearly not possible for the poorest and the latter is getting harder with unemployment still rising.

Fortunately, there are still students in the Netherlands ready to stand up and have their voices heard. Over the past week I have met plenty of students and spent roughly twelve hours in various meetings in order to set up actions such as the 24 June demonstration in Utrecht because it is ridiculous that the Dutch government have money for bombs but not for students. No war but the class war!

Happy Cynicism!

Audience in Search of a Play

By Iris Nieuwenhuizen

It's a quarter to eight as I walk into the Gerrit Rietveld College. The actors stand in the corner, holding hands with closed eyes. The directors are nervously eyeing those who have come to watch the play. Parents and fellow students are starting to take their seats. It's the night of the premiere of "Six Characters in Search of an Author" performed by SUDS. Directors Erik van Dijk and Faidra Faitaki were inspired by Luigi Pirandello and adjusted his play for this year's big play. Yes, the six characters who appear during a rehearsal of "The Canterville Ghost" carry with them a sensational story, indeed. They have come in search for an author who can finish their story. The director agrees and lets them tell their dramatic story. The actors, who were practicing their play, now try to re-enact what's being told, in a ridiculous manner.

The character of the father was absolutely frightening. With soothing words he tried to justify his actions, but now and again he showed his other side, roaring and snarling at any of the characters who dared to prove him wrong with a face showing pure anger. The daughter's character switches between a scorning temptress to a vulnerable young woman. The intense story that played between them was alternated by the cast of the original play that was being practiced. These chain-smoking attention addicts desecrated the original story by making the scene between the meeting of the father and daughter seem like an obscene and laughable happening. As degrading as it was to their story, it was a good interval for the audience to take a breath and let it all soak in. Throughout the play the son remains on the side and the mother remains the quiet grieving widow. The son wants nothing to do with their story, until he is forced to tell his part by the other characters. His mother stands by him but he does not want her help. However, by reliving this terrible moment, not only he, but all the characters remember their part. Emotions are running higher and higher as the play progresses. Once they have finished their drama, panting under the startled eyes of the Canterville Ghost-actors the director laconically remarks that he isn't too sure if this has truly happened and notes that he thinks that the six characters have wasted his day.



When the curtain fell the audience is left dumbfounded. The play has left its impact the silence is broken by some 'wow's and sighs around me. The cast has done an incredible job, especially since, apparently, the second night was an even larger success. We're already looking forward to next year's surprise.

Another Hamlet

By Margit Wilke

To say that Shakespeare's Hamlet is a classic is sort of understating it. It has been adapted so many times by now, it's practically a given: everybody knows Hamlet, or at least his lines "To be or not to be". But as students of English and the critics of the future, we need that little extra to make us not hate the one who adapted it. Nobody touches the Bard without doing him justice! Whether it is adapted for screen or for theater, it either needs to diverge from the original piece or not diverge at all: loyalty or no loyalty, that is the question. Tom Lanoye (pronounced /lanwa/), a famous Belgian playwright, took this by heart and has taken up the challenge with the Toneelhuis and Toneelgroep Amsterdam. The result is astonishing. Not only has he completely ripped Hamlet from his original context, he has modernised it in a way we won't want to puke watching it. It's so easy to use the original lines and put your actors in modern costumes, or use old Victorian costumes and modernise the language. The characters turn out unnatural and untrue to their personalities, and the core of the play is braided into conformist and cowardice themes or morals. There's no question here: it takes balls to adapt, and it takes an even bigger set of balls to adapt Hamlet.



"In Lanoye's adaptation Hamlet is on the verge of becoming an adult. As an adolescent, he is old enough to recognise the misuse of power in his surroundings, yet is simultaneously crushed by the world of the adults."

Without Hamlet, no Hamlet. Sounds logical, yet finding someone who can be the embodiment of so many dilemmas, is almost impossible. This time, they found Abke Haring. By casting a woman as Hamlet, Lanoye puts his vision of adolescence on the stage: male and female at the same time. Haring's versatility makes Hamlet spring from Lanoye's mere, but beautiful, words. She's morose as Hamlet, confused to the point of paranoia, and a little childish. At times she strides across the stage in three vigorous steps, other times Hamlet toddles around the adults around him when he's getting worked up in one of his tantrums. Haring gives Hamlet the face he's so often cheated out of in adaptations. There are a thousand things different about this play compared to Willie's written word, which are, honestly, a thousand reasons to go see it. Lanoye's attention to detail and his team's decor efforts somehow result in the play being not an adaptation, but a fresh new work. One worth seeing.

Hamlet vs Hamlet by Guy Cassiers & Tom Lanoye

Toneelgroep Amsterdam & Toneelhuis

Why should you see it?

The language, the acting, the brilliant decor. And if that isn't enough, Ophelia is super hot!

Where can you see it?

They're reprising it in Amsterdam after the summer, but seeing as it's popular as shit, get your tickets now at tga.nl

Together As One

By Marijn Brok, Photography by Pauline Salet

There comes a time when we need to say goodbye. When we look at some people and say: "Thank you for all the work you've done." So, it is with pain in our hearts that we have to let go of this academic year's board. In this last interview with Fleur, Aster, Syme, Maroucha and Astrid, we talk about their time at the board, how they feel about each other, and those five missing sombreros.

How do you feel about leaving your posts?

AD: Sad!

S: Lots of tears.

AN: It will be a very sad relief.

M: I'm okay. I know it's in the hands of some very good people, so that helps.

F: You've been working for something an entire year. Next year you have nothing to do anymore except for being a member and an old board member. That's going to a bit of an adjustment.

What are you going to miss the most?

M: It's something that's very hard to let go off. You've worked so hard for something and done so many things. It's part of your life.

AN: Also, just knowing the first years, and the first years knowing you. Next year, those people are not going to know who we are. They're not going to care who we are.

AD: It's fun being so much involved, being on the inside of the things and knowing about the department and the courses.

AD: This! Us being at the shack.

Why did you run for the board?

AD: Boredom.

AN: I knew I was not able to do a full double degree this year because of my current internship. So I really did not want to not be involved this year. So it came from a fear of missing out.

M: Valerie asked me if the board might be a fit for me. So I signed up!

F: I was already involved as chairwoman of Suds and the Introduction Committee. But I never ever wanted





to be part of the Albion board. Then Aisha asked me if I wanted to be part of it, and I started thinking. I thought that if they ask me to do it, It means I have the qualities to do it.

S: I saw what the last board was doing, and I wanted to do that as well: being at the centre and being involved.

What post did you have in mind when you applied?

F: I loved being chair for my committee, so I applied for that post as well because I felt good.

M: I did apply for this one, and if not it would have been secretary. But Aster stole that from me.

AD: For me it was secretary or nothing.

S: My current post, treasurer.

AN: I applied for External Affairs and treasurer, but I did not really mind.

If you could apply for another post, which one would it be?

AN: I would have chosen Internal Affairs. With our department being as lovely as it is, just being around those people and try to help them, make stuff work, I would very much like that.

S: Chair.

M: I want to be chair! It matches my personality.

AN: You want to overthrow Fleur!

F: I think Maroucha would make a good chair. I would go for either secretary or Internal Affairs.

What is this board's greatest achievement?

S: The Alumni Program. It is really professional to have one.

AN: The committee has set up an entire alumni network in a couple of months. And there has been an event already.

S: The University really appreciates it.

M: Or our amazing contact with the staff!

F: We receive quite a lot of compliments of the staff that they're happy with the work we've done.



Is there something that you wish had gone different?

AN: I would have dumped GoPasta earlier. They seemed very nice, but I wasted pretty much three quarters of an academic year trying to get a new contract that wasn't worth anything in the end.

M: I would have loved to have a symposium, but it didn't work out unfortunately.

AD: I would have made a cleaning schedule earlier. It's up now though.

Do you hate each other's guts now?

In unison: YES!

AN: Nooo!!! I'm still very happy with you guys in the board.

AD: I couldn't have done it with other people, I think.

F: It has been a very intense experience.

M: At times I want to throw people against windmills or walls. But I love these four people very much. And myself



S: There haven't been any serious fights or anything. Disagreements more, really. Nothing big.

F: We're actually going on holiday this summer to give this summer a good ending.

M: If I don't speak to these guys for one day I start to think: "what did I do wrong?"

How much naked did you have to get for that naked calendar?

AD: Full monty!

What are your prospects for the new board?

F: They have a lot of energy that they can put to very good use.

AN: I'm very curious as to how it's going to work. We all came from the same year, and they don't, at all. I'm very excited about that, and I've got faith in them.

AD: They represent the degree better in that aspect.

M: They have some good ideas, and I hope that's going to work out.





Could you tell us a special memory of your time as the board?

AD: Albion and the five sombreros! We had a constitution drink of UCSA, the student association of University College, before the PiñatA6 party. They had open bar the whole evening.

AN: Just shots everywhere. It was really fun.

AD: Then we got really drunk. Astrid fell off her bike on the way to the party.

S: I left earlier to sell tickets at PiñatA6. I was quite drunk. And then they entered.

AN: The best part of this story is that we walked in with five sombreros. At the end of the night I was the only one who got her hat left.

M: A great skill that I've learned is that I can now drink three beers without falling over.

What makes Albion special?

AN: *whispers* Us.

AD: Our love for the English language.

AN: Most people study it because they like it. That makes for a nicer ambiance in the association as well.

M: With most studies, you have one group. With English it is like: who knows?

Do you have any advice for the next board?

AD: Sleep.

AN: Sleep.

AD: No, you can't sleep as a board. Sleep when you're done!

S: Enjoy.

M: Enjoy as many things as you can, and don't worry about the stress because it'll all be worth it!

Interlingual Sarcasm: Prosodic Production of Sarcasm by Dutch Learners of English

Diantha de Jong

I wrote my BA thesis in the field of linguistics and focused on the use of intonation of sarcasm by Dutch learners of English as a second language with different proficiency levels. For this purpose I conducted an experiment in which third year students of English Language and Culture and students from Dutch courses were invited to reply to pre-recorded sentences in a sarcastic manner, in English. These replies were recorded in the language lab and put in random order. I then asked three native British speakers and three native Dutch speakers to rate these sentences on how sarcastic they thought the speakers were. After the statistical analysis I found that Dutch learners of English were not able to adapt their sarcastic intonation fully to English standards, because the British raters thought the speakers sounded less sarcastic than the Dutch raters did.

What I liked about my thesis was that very little research on sarcastic intonation had been done yet, so I was able to shape my own research method with the help of my supervisor Aoju Chen. She introduced me to research assistants and PhD-researchers, who were all very interested in the topic of my thesis and helped me with their feedback.

English Spelling Capacities of Typically Developing and Dyslexic Dutch Secondary School Pupils

Manon van Beelen

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether Dutch secondary school pupils in a first-year havo/vwo class are sensitive to the English spelling system. Various tests were administered for this study to test the pupils' spelling capacities; a Dutch and an English (productive) dictation task, a Dutch and an English (receptive) spelling selection task, and lastly, a Dutch and an English reading task. The aim of this study was to assess whether dyslexic pupils consistently underperform in relation to their typically developing (TD) peers.

The results of this study have shown that typically developing pupils generally outperform their dyslexic peers. First of all, during the Dutch and the English dictation tasks, the TD pupils made significantly fewer spelling errors than the dyslexic pupils. Furthermore, TD pupils outperformed the dyslexics on the Dutch spelling selection task as well. Remarkably, TD pupils did not perform better than the dyslexic pupils on the English spelling selection task, but it remains true that all pupils performed surprisingly high on this task. Lastly, the TD pupils read faster and made fewer errors than the dyslexic pupils during both the Dutch and the English reading tasks as well. In addition, all pupils performed better on the Dutch tasks than on the English tasks, except for the spelling selection tasks. The results of this study underscore the expected difficulties dyslexic pupils could encounter during spelling and reading tasks, and were subsequently used to identify implications for the English foreign language classroom with regard to dyslexic pupils.

The One With the BA Thesis

Anneke Pons

My BA thesis focuses on the translation and subtitling of the first episodes of the television series Friends. These episodes came out 20 years ago; and as society has evolved since then, the original subtitles could use an update. There are many constraints to subtitling television programmes. You have to make sure the audience has enough time to take in the translation, and the text should not distract the viewer from the image, so the translation has to remain close to a literal one. However, Friends is a series with a lot of comedy. When these jokes would be translated literally, the joke would not be transferred to the Dutch audience. In this thesis I have reviewed these and other constraints.

I have also analysed the original subtitles and the characters, and how their characteristics can be represented in the translation. Lastly, this thesis contains my full translation of the first two episodes, accompanied with footnotes, explaining several choices I made during the process.

Because I wanted to do two episodes and there is a lot of dialogue in the series, my thesis ended up with double the required word count. Luckily this was no problem to Onno Kusters, who was to me, by the way, the best supervisor of all time. This thesis has eventually been rewarded with an 8.

JOIN AN *Albion* COMMITTEE

applications are open
all summer at:

albionutrecht.nl/committee



ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The AlumCie maintains and expands the Albion alumni database. They also organise alumni events to prepare current students for the years after graduation as well as help them network. And you might even think of new ways to utilise this new medium of communication with graduates. There is a newsletter that comes out regularly to keep Alumni up to date on what's going on with Albion and the University.

Academic Committee

The symposium committee makes sure that were not being confined to be taught solely what is in the course descriptions of our education. They organise interesting lectures and one symposium each year on a variety of subjects. You'll be responsible to maintain contact with speakers, take care of location and promotion. If you want to join a committee that gives you a diverse insight into the wonderful world of the English language: this is it!

Symposium Committee

Whether it's the course material, the room that the seminars were in, or the limited amount of spots available in the library, the AC is on it. As a member you help organise the student assembly for each block of the year. Furthermore, you make sure all the appropriate information reaches the 'Onderwijs Commissie' and keep a keen ear among your peers for issues that might need addressing.



SUDS annually searches the ranks for budding talent to shine on their stage during their performances. Rehearsal, stage make-up, and a really fun time are waiting for you.

SUDS

Or maybe you would like to shine off-stage as a director? Or be on the board next year? If you are interested in being chair, secretary, treasures or maybe want to do promo rather than being on stage: this is your chance!

The Introduction Committee is responsible for the introduction period at the start of the academic year. They organise all kind of events to make sure new firstyears feel as welcome as possible. Being part of this committee means being responsible for all different types of events and parties. You are also very involved with our department as you work together with teachers to not only make the introduction fun, but also useful.

Introduction Committee



Brand new, the LusCie is the committee responsible for the lustrum in 2015. Albion is well on her way to her 25th birthday and is ready to celebrate it in a most epic way.

We'll start preparing academic year 2014-15 and you'll be able to organise a whole bunch of parties and fun activities for our beloved members. If you are ready to take birthday parties to the next level, this is the committee for you.



Albion's exciting skiing trip is one of the actual highlights of the year. It's a wonderful and epic week where "people break razor winds and sharp ice particles rent our bare cheeks [and] toes freeze over in the relentless frost winds

Sounds like your cup of hot chocolate? The Skiing Committee might be just the thing for you then. You'll plan the trip, do the promotion and, above all, be there to enjoy every last minute of it!

SKICIE

Activities & Parties Committee

The best parties and the most challenging pub quizzes are organised by Albion's APC. The Parties sub makes sure you can dance in style 'till the world ends several times a year. While the Activities sub organises fun activities: lovely pick nicks on sunny afternoons, wild pub-crawls, exciting games of IKEA hide-and-seek, and the annual pub quiz competition. So do you love organising events, come up with brain frying questions, or have THE BEST IDEA EVER for a party? This is the committee for you.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE

The ReisCie organises two annual trips. As a member of the Travel Committee you will be busy thinking of a travel destination, creating and planning an exciting, cultural, educational and above all fun programme, and searching for a suitable and – hopefully – cheap hostel and flight. You'll experience travelling with a group of people to a foreign destination while responsible for all the activities and everyone's well-being and that's truly unforgettable.



The 'introductie kamp' takes place just before the intro week and is a way for firstyears to get to know each other outside uni. Would you like to organise a (long) weekend filled with fun, competitions and teambuilding?

KAMPSUB

Members of this committee are responsible for everything during the camp, the location, the food, the activities and keeping the everyone in check. You'll be responsible for some of the fondest memories students might make.



Writers, editors, graphic design: anything to keep our magazine running. Phoenix is our digital magazine. Members can be just writers or take a seat within the committee, also known as the editorial. Making things (appear) to run smoothly will be your biggest task within the committee, as you help build a magazine from scratch. We're welcoming enthusiastic creatives as well as new ideas.

Books

By Margit Wilke

Solange Manche is one of those first-year students who stands out among the crowd. She is multi-lingual, well versed in Dutch, English and French. So it is no wonder she has an obsession with Voltaire. She was very eager to tell us about her vast collection of books and that one book she tried to read but felt was “really shit”.

What was your favourite book growing up?

I didn't start reading until a little later in my childhood (around eleven), and so I sort of skipped most people's children's books. I read some Dolfje Weerwolfje and Griezeldoort, but my mother mostly read me little horror stories before bed. Reading is my favourite activity now, but before I usually drew and wrote little stories myself.

What is your favourite book now?

When I was in high school in Bordeaux (called lycée there), I followed an American programme in which we got to read a lot of French literature. That really rubbed off on me, though my all time favourite writing has to be Hamlet. My copy of it, even though it was already a secondhand book, is now completely demolished since I've read it so many times, wrote in the margins, etc. That's the only way you can really tell if I like a book: if it's completely ruined, I probably do.

What is the last book you read for 'fun'?

As in.. Not for the course? That has to be *Of Mice and Men* by Steinbeck. They've made it into a play on Broadway (with Leighton Meester and James Franco), but won't really have the opportunity to hop off to New York anytime soon anyway, ha.

Which book are you most ashamed of reading?

Well, since I started reading quite late, I haven't read most of the 'shameful', childish books you usually hear about. However, when we were on holiday in France one summer, my sister had read some book and I thought I'd try it too. *Alleen Maar Nette Mensen*. Worst decision ever. I hated it. Cannot believe they actually made it into a film.

Which book are you most ashamed of for not reading (yet)?

I have a gigantic “summer reading list” I'm currently putting together and the books are piling up. There's so much I still want to read! But ashamed? Uhm.

Probably the Bible. Some books you just have to have read in your lifetime I guess. I've actually tried to start reading Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, but contrary to 1930s Nazi belief, it's actually really shit. Poorly written and repetitive as shit. Genuinely cannot believe he got so many people to do what he wanted and believe in him when the book instigating it all was actually this pathetic.

Which is the book you have only read halfway or less?

I loved *Metamorphosis* by Kafka, but when I started reading *The Trial* I found myself struggling through it, and eventually stopped. I've probably read any Brontë and Austen book halfway. No offence to those ladies, their books are just not really my “thing”. I usually pick my books by looking at the themes in them and the Brontës's themes are just not any that interest me much.

If you could recommend me one of your books, which one would it be?

There's this really cute little bible that is called *The Law* by Bastiat. It's a little political, but in short, it questions the ethic or moral ground of the consequences of the law. It sounds very dry and complex, but I would actually recommend it to anyone. It can be a huge asset to your reading list and will probably make you see things and politics in a different light.

What, for you, is the ultimate page limit of a book before you decide against reading it?

I usually don't pay much attention to how many pages a book is, but with Tolstoy's *War & Peace* I made an exception. It's huge! But, I guess, when you can buy it for 40 cents in a French secondhand bookstore, any book looks attractive enough to read.

If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

It's funny you ask, because I am currently attempting something that resembles writing a book. It's hard. There's not really one “golden” way to go about it and there's no one way train to becoming a writer. Politics really interest me and the pieces I've written so far are mainly about the



idea of property. What are the consequences of property? That's where it's going right now. It's only still loose pieces in a complete narrative though, so a lot can change in the process still.

Which author have you read the most books/works by and why?

When I was about 13, I had this obsession, you could say, with Voltaire. I read a lot of his works in French. I like short stories in general, but particularly liked his ones then. I started liking poetry more and more when I got older, though, and I think Allan Ginsberg is my most read poet of all.

What is your favourite English word and why?

I like words that have oo-sounds (phonetic transcription?), so "ooze" is definitely one of my top 10 words. I also like "howl" as a word (not just the Ginsberg poem!) just because it has such an open pronunciation. Say it and try to keep your mouth as closed as you can. Doesn't sound so good. The word needs proper "openness", I guess.

Are you team literature or team linguistics?

I am definitely team Lit, yet what do you expect with the Linguistics courses we've had to struggle through this year? I wouldn't even know how to make a word tree of the easiest sentence now, and it's been only three or four weeks since we had an exam on it. Total bollocks, really. I do appreciate language, and sociolinguistics interest me most, but I am glad to be rid of the trees.

What is your favourite genre?

Right now? Probably poetry. I honestly don't really care for genres. What are they anyway? Horror? Spy novels? Romantic fiction? I don't know. I like poetry and I particularly like the Beat Generation's work, but can't really pin down any sort of category I like, generally.

Scavenger Hunt

pak je camera, voltooi de meeste bizarre opdrachten en win!

start @ Janskerkhot

[illegible]

The Last Word from the Board

Dear readers

Writing a book at the age of twentysomething is not something I'm doing currently. I must say my thesis is quite enough writing for me at the moment, thank you very much. Though when a fellow intern told me her classmate had written a book, my first thought was "Fuck, I'm nowhere near writing a book." Ironically, this book was about how her generation is under huge pressure to achieve. And let's face it; we are. It's never quite enough because you (personally) know someone out there who's already done more with their life than you.

So, in order to achieve, we take on as much extracurricular activities as we possibly can. I had a grand total of one extracurricular activity this year: Albion. The association, its events, its members; all of it. Phoenix too. I had the pleasure of seeing our magazine reborn. Even at this point, I don't think the Phoenix editorial and writers quite realise that they've done something quite amazing: they've built a magazine from scratch. So if there is anything I'd like to say in this last Word of the Board it is "thank you". Not only to the amazing people at Phoenix, but to you as well, dear reader. I'm going to boldly assume you, reader, are an Albioneer. This means that you have not just contributed to my amazing Albion year by reading Phoenix, but also by being a member of this association and maybe even by attending monthly drinks, events or parties.

Reader, the only book I'll be writing in the near future is a 'witboek' to help the next Board on its way. Sure, it will only ever be available to and read by a very select group of people. It will never be published or available in bookshops. Nor am I speaking on behalf of my generation, or do I draw attention to the diminishing well-being of these brain-wrecking over-achievers. However, that 'witboek' is to my Board year what a thesis is to your degree. It is the end-all and be-all and definitely embodies a personal, as well as a group achievement. So suck it book-writing twentysomething; we don't all need to encourage deforestation in order to achieve.

Much love and enjoy this summer ('s halfnaked celebrities - I know I will),

Astrid

“ALL GREAT
ACHIEVEMENTS
REQUIRE TIME”

Maya Angelou