

PHOENIX

2014-2015 | issue 3

American Studies in Hipster Capital | Down
the Slopes of Valfrejus | Nynke on building
her life: “Why be mediocre at something if
you can be really good at something else?” |
On a Wave: Phoenix Serves Mug Food



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LIFE IN LONDON: 12-13

letter from the editor

Dear readers,

If you’re reading this, two blocks have already passed in this academic year. Time is like a slug when you’re in the middle of the weeks of those blocks, but afterwards they seem to have flown by like an F-16. For me, the last block featured three courses that took a lot of time. To be fair, if I had planned them like I was supposed to do, it might have been easier. But of course, I let things be until the very end. So though our Phoenix Serves feature on cake in a mug was planned, it could not have come at a better time. With just a few ingredients, you get a full meal in seconds. This comes especially in handy during those stressful hours before a deadline or exam.

We now present you our third issue of Phoenix. This is most exciting, for Phoenix is also on its way to its latter half of the year. With only three issues left, our commission gets more and more creative with thinking up content and writing articles. Though this is a thin issue, we promise fuller editions in the future. For now, read our interview with Nynke de Haas. Kiki and Judith visited her for tea, and talked about how ambitions can change and how syntax is not really a hobby. Or delve into PJ’s bookshelves, to see what a prominent Albion-member might be reading.

But of course, the highlight of this issue is the report on the Albion ski trip. Ten Albion-members went to the slopes of Valfrejus to either dust off their skis or gain some new snow skills. Chair of the ski committee Samuel gives a hilarious account of how the week went down. He was especially skilled in vividly illustrating some of my friends’ actions on the slopes, with makes his report appear to happen right in front of your eyes. I hope you enjoy yourselves just as much with this and the rest of the issue as we did.

A very hearty “good luck!” to you all this next block!

Marijn Brok
Chief Editor



Tea Time with

NYNKE DE HAAS

Nynke de Haas has quickly become a familiar face to many students, but what do we know about her? On a rather cold Friday morning, two of our reporters ventured out to answer this question. We rang her bell, and she invited them into her warm home to share a cup of tea.

by Kiki Drost & Judith Brinksma

What did you study?

“Originally I wanted to be an architect, so I studied architecture in Ghent for a year, but that didn’t really work out. I remember I was really good at languages in school, so I figured I’d do something with that. Why be mediocre at something if you can be really good at something else? I moved back to Groningen, and after a process

of elimination I chose to study English. I found out I was really interested in linguistics, so I also studied general linguistics. It took me about 6 years to finish both, and I travelled all over the Netherlands to take particular courses.”

How did you end up in Utrecht?

“My boyfriend already lived here, and when he wanted to buy a house I asked him: “If you do, can I move in with you?” And so we moved in together. I really like Utrecht; It’s large, but not too large. It’s a bit like Groningen, where I’m from, only a lot closer to a lot of people. I started working for the university in September 2013. I never really planned to teach; it just sort of happened. I wanted to be a researcher, but once you’re in a university environment,

"I CAN HOWEVER MOVE MY HIPS"

you start teaching. I like it, however, and want to keep doing it. I like the students. In general, it’s very nice to work with them; they really want to learn, even if it’s something like syntax. I also have really nice colleagues; we go for drinks sometimes. My favourite course to teach would be Form, Meaning, and Use, but I also liked Theoretical Foundations.”

What are your hobbies – apart from syntax?

“Well, I wouldn’t call syntax a hobby! I like learning new languages. I’m currently learning Norwegian. It’s quite similar to other languages I already know, but some of the sounds are hard to produce, and I’m not so good with the genders of words, but I’m making progress. My boyfriend is half Norwegian. I like hiking and taking pictures as well, which was great when we were in Norway recently, because it was very pretty with all the snow. Since 2007 or 2008 I have also been belly dancing. I have always liked dancing, but I’m not good with my feet, so ballroom is not for me. I can, however, move my hips, and it’s an excellent workout!”

After a cup of tea, some interesting chocolate (a not-so-successful birthday present), pictures of all of Nynke’s cuddly toys, and enough answers to write this piece, it was time to go. We leave Nynke’s warm and cosy house, and return to our cold reality of deadlines. Nynke, thank you once again for your hospitality!

FAVOURITES

Favourite music: Basically music that has good groove and melody, so stuff like Rammstein or 1970’s disco classics. I’d like to think I have an eclectic taste.

Favourite films: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Fight Club*, *Being John Malkovich*

Favourite series: I’ve been watching *Game of Thrones*, but I also really love *Firefly*. I got it as a birthday present from a friend of mine, and I was completely hooked. I’ve watched it several times.

Favourite animal: There’s not really a specific animal, but I’m definitely a cat person, not a dog person. I also like guinea pigs.

Colour toothbrush: Wait, let me just check. White with blue and bits of orange.





A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAWKING

by Kiki Drost

We all know who Stephen Hawking is, whether we understand his theories, are completely lost in his work or haven't even tried. *The Theory of Everything* is not about Hawking's work, but rather focuses on the man himself, and on his wife; Jane Hawking.

The film starts in Cambridge in the 60's, with a young Stephen Hawking who is unaware of his disease and falls in love with Jane Wilde, and follows his life from there. Of course, we know Hawking will end up in a wheelchair and will lose his ability to speak, but this does not spoil the film. It is very special to get a glimpse of the life we all heard of but don't know. Eddie Redmayne's performance is astonishing and allows you to forget it is not the real Stephen Hawking on screen, and Felicity Jones' portrayal of Jane gives us an idea of the brave woman who stood by his side for so many years.

Even if you're not into science and your copy of *A Brief History of Time* would likelier be used as a step ladder than be read, this film is still worth seeing, even if it was just to see Hawking/Redmayne riding around in his wheelchair, yelling "Exterminate".



FATHER OF THE FUTURE

by Marijn Brok

The premise of Morten Tyldum's film *The Imitation Game* is that it was Alan Turing who helped Great Britain defeat Germany in the Second World War. It is the personal life of the man himself that seems to be at the heart of the story. Turing, portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch, was never allowed to talk post-war about his achievements on breaking the Enigma code, an undecipherable code used by the Nazis to convey messages concerning their prospective attacks. This makes it hard to bear that he was criminally convicted for his homosexuality, and that he later committed suicide. It is clear that his services were of the greatest importance when Queen Elizabeth II granted a royal pardon for the scientist in 2013.

These two aspects of Turing's life are brought together in the motion picture, which also features Keira Knightley and Charles Dance. The story follows the scientist when he starts to develop a machine that might break the unbreakable code. The main hurdle is Turing's apparent anti-social behaviour against his colleagues. With the assistance of Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley), he is able to gain their confidence and develop what would be the forefather of the future: the computer.

Cumberbatch and Knightley give nuanced performances, which awarded both of them several nominations already. The strongest aspects of the film are Turing's love for his work, and the relationship between him and Clarke. There is a moment where he confesses his feelings for men to her. She responds she is still willing to marry him, because she thinks it is more exciting to be wedded to someone of the same mind than to serve as a housewife. Though it might not give Cumberbatch his first Oscar, he certainly shows he is up to the task of receiving one eventually.

EAT SLEEP STUDY REPEAT

We can't make it any more fun, but we can make it easier.

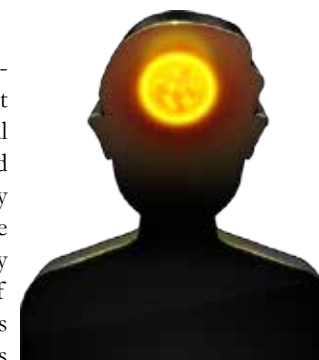
Block three has only just started and I have never been more determined to do well. Actually, that is a lie. I am this determined each block but then life happens and studying is not always top priority on my list, even though I know it probably should be - it should at least outrank the new *Grey's Anatomy* episode. Being a person of very little self-discipline is however nothing unusual. All over the world people struggle with focusing on the less enjoyable aspects of life that (hopefully someday will) pay the bills. Luckily for us losers these days there are apps and computer programmes for virtually anything. Allow me to share with you some of my favourites that have helped me in my years of studying and have gotten me to actually get shit done.

by Astrid Nieuwets

Step 2: Focusbar

Of course, just your most common distractor aren't all that is out there in the wonderful world of The Internet. I found that Wikipedia gets increasingly more interesting as time to the deadline diminishes. That is why Focusbar is your second app of choice. What it essentially does is provide you with a reminder. It is a bit like your mum nagging you about your homework. Focusbar messages you with a task you enter at the start of a session. It will then repeat this message in the corner of your screen while the app is active. There are different levels of "annoying" and the least -mildly annoying- is effective enough for me. In this setting Focusbar just reminds you every now and then that you should be, for example, writing your essay. However, it also pops up every time you switch from Word to your browser and vice versa. So again, if you are opening Chrome for a quick distraction Focusbar is there with that all-knowing look on its virtual face, making you think twice about that game of Tetris.

Another handy feature is that the makers of Focusbar have added the to-do list you can enter at their website. This personalises your Focusbar experience as your to-do list will be digital and even emailed to you at the start of every day. When quitting Focusbar it automatically asks if you have completed the task you entered and prompts you to scrap it off your digital to-do list. Although I haven't tried this feature myself it looks quite promising.



Step 1: Self Control

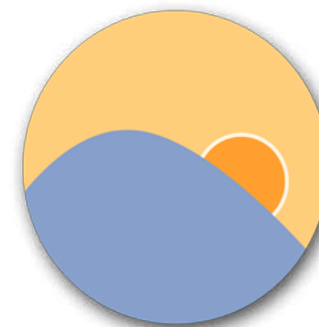
The first thing you want to do is make sure there are no distractions around you. And Self Control (Cold Turkey for Windows users) does exactly that. You install the app and fill out your blacklist. In my case, blacklist regulars include Facebook, Tumblr and YouTube. Be careful with that last one though because you might need YouTube as a source for an essay. I have been in this situation. Because, the thing about Self Control is that once you activate it (you can set a timer) the app will block all the websites on your blacklist for the set time. You will have literally no way to access these from the device with Self Control on it: it includes all browsers and even restarting your computer won't shut Self Control down. For me it mostly serves as a reminder because opening Facebook has become such an act of habit that I often find myself staring at a 'server can't connect' message when I try to open Facebook during a Self Control session. However, this is why the app works so well: for those, in my case 90, minutes you cannot access your most common distractors and even if you try you are reminded that you should be studying. All in all, Self Control is great



for people who have trouble refraining from habitually opening Facebook or other websites while studying. It is also a great way to time your studying, I try to keep to a 90 minutes studying, 30 minutes break schedule and with Self Control it is quite easy to stick to these times.

Step 3: Flux

Crucial to you memorising everything about the different varieties of English, or to be sharp for a critical last-minute morning editing session on that essay is sleep. However, I have often found myself wide awake after a nightly essay writing session. Flux is going to change that. With the outside world serving as a cue for when



to be awake and alert and when to sleep for millions of years, our brains have now been conditioned to associate blue light, like the sky on a clear day, with wakefulness and red light, like the setting sun or candle light, with sleep. This is why electronic devices very much screw with our sense of time and our sleep-wake cycle. Computer and phone screen almost always emit blue light thus keeping you awake. What Flux does is that it asks for your (approximate) location and then calculates daytime hours. Then it adjusts your screen to the time of day making it emit more red light as the day turns into evening and the evening turns into night. I don't think I have ever been this enthusiastic about anything because it really works. I have far less trouble sleeping after using my computer for most of the evening now. There is also an app for your phone, however, what that does is open a browser with a red hue. It doesn't actually take over all of your phone screen as the computer equivalent does.

Flux is great to get that much needed rest after a long day of intense studying or essay producing, but it is also worth a shot if you have trouble sleeping after spending your evenings with gifs of dancing kittens.

Phoenix serves...



MUG FOOD

After last issue's fancy Christmas dinner, we decided to keep this edition of Phoenix Serves simple and cheap by making mug-dishes. There is an enormous variety of mug food recipes on the internet, from which we've chosen five different ones for you to try out, with great pleasure... because let's face it: everything tastes better coming from a mug and eaten with a spoon.

by Stanzy Kersten

QUICHE IN A MUG

Rating:



Reproducibility:



We started off with the only savoury recipe on our list: a veggie quiche which, according to the recipe, should only take three minutes to prepare and cook. This might be true if you have the mincing skills of Gordon Ramsay, but for us mere amateur cooks, the slicing of the vegetables and cheese took a little longer than that. The recipe calls for cheddar, which you can buy 'fresh' at the cheese counter in your local supermarket if you have extra money to spend. We, however, bought the yellow, plasticky cheese you also find on your €1.50 cheeseburger.

[Get the recipe here](#)



It's a
QUICHE



PHOENIX TIPS

Keep in mind that every microwave is different, so don't walk away while your mug is in there!

Get creative with the fillings for your quiche; we used tomatoes, radish, and green onions. Small pieces of meat would probably work as well.

The quiche would make for a lovely breakfast, but if you're planning to use it to tackle your hangover, we would recommend cutting up your veggies the day before so you can just throw everything in your mug and get back to your bed as fast as possible.

When a recipe calls for buttermilk and you can't find it, you can use yogurt (in an equal amount).

Some recipes require only an egg white or only an egg yolk, so save the other half of your egg for another recipe (this gives you a great excuse to make another cake as well).

Don't forget to rock some music during your cooking adventures. Check out our playlist of choice [here](#).

CINNAMON ROLL MUG CAKE

Rating:



Reproducibility:



We were very excited about this one, since we love ourselves a cinnamon roll. We made the required cream cheese icing with Mon Chou cheese, but you can use Philadelphia cheese if you like your icing a little more on the runny side. The recipe was incredibly easy, and it tasted insanely good. There is apple sauce in it, which, combined with the cinnamon and nutmeg, gives it kind of a wintery vibe, so it's the perfect little pick-me-up for cold days filled with studying!

[Get the recipe here](#)

PASSION FRUIT SOUFFLÉ IN A MUG

Rating:



Reproducibility:



We didn't actually have any passion fruit, so we decided to convert this recipe to a cherry soufflé by using the juice of some cherries. When the mugs came out of the oven (this is the only recipe on this list that requires an oven instead of a microwave), we quickly discovered that this had not been the best of ideas. It turns out that cherry juice is way more watery than the insides of a passion fruit, so what we created was essentially a cloud of cherry fluff floating in a sea of hot cherry juice. Our advice for this dish would be to stick to the recipe, because soufflés are tricky things. On the more positive side, the cherry cloud tasted miles better than it looked.

[Get the recipe here](#)

"THE PERFECT LITTLE

PICK-ME-UP

FOR COLD DAYS
FILLED WITH STUDYING!"

IT SEEMS *IMPOSSIBLE* TO
GET *ACTUAL* CHOCOLATE
CHIPS *ANYWHERE* IN
THE NETHERLANDS

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE IN A MUG

Rating:



Reproducibility:



Quite a classic, this recipe. Since it seems impossible to get actual chocolate chips anywhere in the Netherlands, we bought a dark chocolate bar and chopped it up until we thought we had enough to dump into our cookie mixture. Unfortunately, by this time, we were starting to feel a little bit iffy from all the sweet things we'd been eating all evening, so we couldn't really enjoy this mug-cookie to the fullest. However, even with a stomach filled with butter and sugar, this cookie still tasted amazing.

[Get the recipe here](#)

EGGLESS CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

Rating:



Reproducibility:



We didn't choose this particular recipe because it has no eggs in it (although, if you're vegan, this one would be perfect, because the recipe says you can use almond milk instead of regular milk), but because the pictures looked very, very appetising. The recipe calls for almond butter, which we couldn't find, so we used this caramel paste by well known brand "De Ruijter" that looked a little like smooth peanut butter and tasted delicious. If you're a chocoholic, this is the ultimate recipe for you, because we had never tasted anything that had such an intense chocolate flavour before.

[Get the recipe here](#)



LIFE IN LONDON



Lovely London is a holiday favourite of many Albioners. It's close, relatively cheap travel-wise and there is always something going on. But what if you live in this gorgeous city. You can only visit Buckingham Palace so many times, and weekly trips down Oxford and Regent street will send the costs of your trip through the roof. Our very own Rozemarijn studied and lived in London for a semester and she has agreed to tell us all about London life.

by Rozemarijn Brus

HOME

Sloane Square
This is where I lived, near King's Road, which is known for its incredibly expensive shops and clubs. Maybe you have seen it on Made in Chelsea. Living in Chelsea is amazing, although it's really expensive. Living here made my stay even better. Every day I had to use the tube; it took me 30-40 minutes every day to get into the city, but you get used to it. Although the tube comes once every minute, you still have people shouting when they have to wait for 3 long minutes.



UCL

University College London

This is a photo of the Wilkins building from the main quad. The building for Linguistics was a 15 minute walk from the main campus. The way of teaching at UCL is great; it is very scientific, and it's similar to graduate education in Utrecht. The teachers were skilled, and the courses interesting. I'm so grateful for all the things UCL has brought me and for the opportunity to go to this great university.



1

Primrose Hill

My utmost favourite place in London. Its breathtaking view was perfect for Guy Fawkes night, and to catch the last few rays of sun.



Camden Town
Chalk Farm



2

Camden Town

My favourite place in Camden Town was the stables market with its cheap and tasty food. Walking from Camden Lock to Little Venice is definitely worth it.



Camden Town

King's Cross

No way you can leave London without visiting platform 9 ¾. I've been there 5 times, and this one was the best.



King's Cross St Pancras
Euston

3



4

The Hems

In the middle of Chinatown you can find the Dutch pub "The Hems."



Piccadilly Circus

fabric

5

fabric

Super expensive, but if you like techno, Fabric is the place to be.



Barbican



6

East London

East London has really nice coffee places, such as Look mum no hands: a café and a bike-shop in one! Make sure you check out Brick Lane market on Sunday morning for amazing foods.



Liverpool Street
Aldgate East



8

Belgravia

Belgravia is a beautiful part of London. It is where most of the embassies are and where you can walk into actual sheiks.



Hyde Park Corner
Sloan Square
Victoria

7



Hyde Park

Beautiful to walk around in or to go for a run.



Hyde Park Corner

9



Columbia Road Flower Market



Bethnal Green

The Lion King

Make sure you see a musical when you're in London. When you go on the night itself, you can get major discounts on tickets (if they're still available). *The Lion King* was my utmost favourite :).



Leister Square
Covent Garden

10



SYME IN SCHOTLAND

As I'm writing this, the second semester is about to start after a six-week long Christmas holiday. That means I'll be stuck in St Andrews for the next couple of months, but I don't mind because I've refreshed myself in the Highlands. I can die peacefully now. Today, I ran on a mountain, knee-deep in the snow with mountain goats staring at me as if I were crazy. Yesterday, I had a deep fried Mars bar (which is a reason in itself to visit Scotland).

Of course, you've got snowy mountains everywhere, but here they are different. They are rough, they carry history, and it wouldn't surprise me if they were haunted – everything in Scotland is, it seems. Every house and family has its own ghost story, which is great if you're into serial killers and psychopathic little girls. The mountain I ran on today was the location of the Glencoe massacre – 38 MacDonald clansmen, including women and children, were killed there by government forces because they didn't sign some loyalty oath. I bet those peaceful Swiss Alps don't have such a history, huh? Also, just imagine Willem Alexander ordering the massacre of some rebellious villages.

My family is with me now, and we're staying in a little cottage in the middle of nowhere. On the one side there's a castle that houses about eight ghosts or so. Across the road lives a 90 year old woman who thought a nice way of introducing herself would be by knocking on my window at 11 pm when my family hadn't arrived yet and I was still alone in the house. I jumped when this white-haired old lady suddenly appeared in front of the window, staring at me while I was watching the brilliant British version of Take Me Out on the TV. And why did she bother me? Because she heard noises in her house and was scared. Yes, ghosts really are everywhere. There's a reason Bill Murray likes Scotland so much.

St Andrews of course is in the boring lowlands, but these spectacular sights are only about an hour and a half of driving away. You do need a car, but renting one is pretty cheap here. Driving on the left side of the road and in the right side of the car is really weird and embarrassing at times, **but that's not stopping me from visiting the Highlands again – they're worth it.**

by Syme van der Lelij

How to survive

HIPSTER CAPITAL

studying in **BERLIN**



David (right) with a friend in Berlin

First things first: I am 21, graduated from Utrecht University with a BA in English last year, and moved to Berlin to continue my studies in late September. The Freie Universität offers the possibility of studying American Studies at the John F. Kennedy-Center (for American Studies). Rumors claim that it is the largest center for studying American Studies outside the US. Besides, studying in Germany is practically free; the only thing a student has to pay is a public transportation fee, equaling around €300,- per semester. That means that annually, studying in Germany saves you up to more than €1300,- compared to studying in the Netherlands. And lastly, on top of these two benefits, **you also study in one of the coolest cities in the world: Berlin.**

by David Slings

Cool, why? Well, I would not necessarily agree completely with that adjective, but the citizens are staunch believers in a free, tolerant and socialist world dominated by vintage clothing stores, hamburger joints with playable Nintendo-systems, and clubs with a door policy as frustrating as passing an English exam made by Rias. The upside is, and this is what makes it so surreptitiously cool, once you're inside one of these clubs, you practically feel like one of the chosen ones (bluntly exaggerated).

How does one manage, then, to create a life here? Germans are, unsurprisingly, not as enthusiastic and spontaneous as Dutch people. They tend to come across as somewhat closed off, cool people, although if you're able to form a real friendship with them, you'll notice that they're actually really nice, warm and loving people. Also, in trying to establish friendship, try to make them laugh. Suffice to say, Germans can often go without humor for more than a month, and making them laugh will considerably improve your chances of gaining their goodwill.

But Berlin is not just full of Germans. 15% of the pop-

ulation hail from 190 different countries. This count excludes the number of 2nd or 3rd (or later) generation immigrants with German passports. It makes the city a wonderful melting pot, as international as New York, as hip as London and as trendy as Tokyo. Also, compared to cozy Utrecht, the city is completely different. Berlin has a population of 3.5 million, more than 10 times that of Utrecht. This means that it is not as much designed for students compared to Utrecht, with its many student discounts and clubs with free student admission. Berlin, however, makes up for that by being incredibly cheap: in my bar adventures, I discovered one bar serving you a pint for €1,50, which is less than in some Spätis. Oh, almost forgot, Späti is short for Spätkauf, which is some kind of night shop where you can buy your alcohol and cigarettes before heading out into the city's bristling nightlife.

“[H]amburger joints with playable Nintendo-systems, and clubs with

A DOOR POLICY AS FRUSTRATING AS PASSING AN ENGLISH EXAM MADE BY RIAS.”

Study program

It has come to my attention that, sadly, the American Studies master in Utrecht will disappear. I know that American Studies used to be a very viable option after you finished the bachelor in English, and its disappearance will be felt by the students that had set their eyes on that particular program. However, Berlin has two universities offering the same program. The Humboldt-Universität in the center of the city, and the Freie Universität, which is where I'm studying. Both of them compete with Utrecht University in international rankings, and from at least one I can say the level of education is pretty high.

The most immediate advantage of studying American Studies at the Freie Universität is that you have your own building, just for the bachelor and master students of American Studies. On top of that, the professors tend to be of very high quality, as many of them have received scholarships from Harvard, Columbia, Washington University, Ann Arbor, you name it. Besides, there is an ample array of interesting guest speaker lectures every week, sometimes twice a week, at the institute. For example, in October, we had the head of the American Studies department of Harvard come by, with a very interesting talk on New Dealing in government architecture from the American 70's.

The Ma-program is divided into six different disciplines, ranging from Literature & Culture to Political Science & Sociology. Even if you don't have a background in any of the disciplines, you're still able to choose the courses you like. It might be a little tough in the beginning to start off on Sociology when you come from an English language background, but with the right mindset, I think it is possible to pass any course.

So, in general, Berlin has a lot to offer. Not only to the student who just likes to study, but also to the student who likes to do things on the side; whatever you want to do, Berlin probably has it. Hungry for some biological fast food? Go to the first bio-fast food restaurant in the world! Wanna swim in a pool located inside the Spree? Gotya! Looking for an ice-ramp to slide down? Take a tube and slide down backwards at Potsdamer Platz! 'Nuff said.

COLD PLAY & FRESH TRACKS

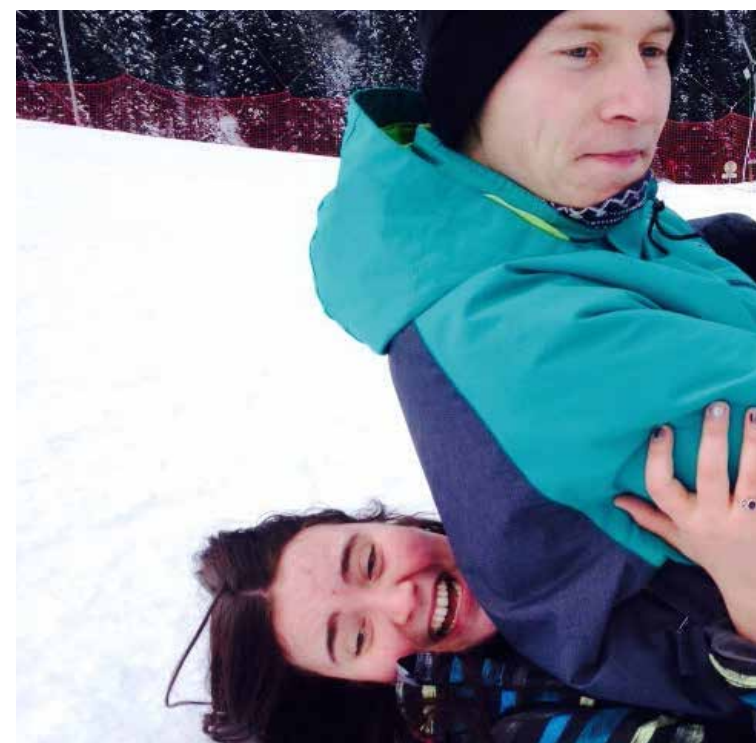
This year's skiing holiday started off with a good ol' nighty bus trip, filled with Burger King cues that stretched from Nederweert to Eindhoven, insufficient leg room, and a ferocious Mario-Kart competition. Albion: proudly annoying fellow passengers and French neighbours ever since Nick decided to join.

by Samuel Boerma

When we arrived in Valfrejus, we were greeted by sunshine, snowy forests as far as we could see, and one annoyed frenchie at the tourists' office. Nick and Wietse decided to go explore the mountains by buying a day-pass, while the rest of us made some eager first steps into the world of bum protectors and faceplants. Eva turned out to be a natural talent on skis, twisting and turning in every direction before her lessons had even properly started. Iris and Annemay decided to try snowboarding, bumping them up in the coolest-people-ever list secretly maintained by Jos and his minions. The first steps were hard, but after only a couple of hours they too rode down the slopes in their Albion hoodies. Marit and Tessa supervised all this hard work, while Meike decided that simply outstaying the rest of the gang was enough effort to fill the day.

After this first day of practicing and basking in the sunlight, the real rhythm of wintersport began. Every morning was filled with Nick's yelps of enthusiasm, rousing us just enough to press play on our iPods for a good breakfast filled with Faberayay. Baguettes were manged by all, prominently featuring Eva and Meike as they worked their way through their first, second, and third breakfast. The black slopes were magnificent during foggy as well as bluebird mornings, providing us with plenty of challenges. As Eva, Iris and Annemay became better and better, the rest of us explored the whole area, often leaving me running with my snowboard in my arms while they simply skated across the flat parts. Our own Albion ski instructor Wietse guided us through the tricky parts of off-piste adventures, while we enjoyed the view or raced through the freshly fallen snow. Meike suddenly disappeared while her phone was still in the apartment, thereby claiming her title as official "Camiel of the Week".

In the evenings, we, the "bierteam", thrashed the others in games and trivia, always resulting in drunken dancing to the golden oldies. Although our French neighbour didn't agree with this behaviour, Nick didn't give a hoot, further establishing his reputation of dauntless leader of the group (apart from your very own Praeses, of course). More slopes were destroyed, trees were crashed, and storms were conquered the following days, making it an amazing trip for members of the group. Annemay practically drove us home herself during the bus ride, safely bantering us back to Utrecht. We had a blast, the French still have a headache, and the group became close in no time at all. The Skicie still exists, and boy, was that a great decision.



*"slopes were destroyed,
trees were crashed,
and storms were conquered"*

5 & 6 FEBRUARY
A SUDS PRODUCTION

one act festival 2015

TUB TALK, GEORGY PORGY AND MODERN LIFE

SUDS One Act Festival 2015

SUDS is to most students of English a household name. Our Students of Utrecht Drama Society presented their annual One Act Festival last Thursday and Friday, with the same concept as previous years, but this time at a new location. Parnassos Cultural Centre has been exchanged for Moira, a cosy venue offering a platform for beginning artists in Utrecht. It needs saying that Moira has been a great choice, offering an atmospheric spot which fits the overall feel of the one acts. It is Thursday the fifth of February and although a smaller amount of one acts is scheduled to be performed than last year, the place is adequately filled with visitors.

Three wonderful, funny and unique one acts are to be seen, the first of which, 'Tub Talk', is waiting to begin from the minute the first members of the audience start entering the venue. Situated in a single bath tub are two roommates, with no water and only each other and a ringing phone for company. Beautifully elaborated conversations and monologues characterise this one act, which was written and directed by Ester Rudhart. It gives subtle insights into the lives of the two characters, their relationships, their phobias and fears of the outside world. Ending with an amusing plot twist, this one act is a sight to behold, continually making you wonder what will be said next.

The second one act, a play by Erik de Vries Lentsch, may have a familiar ring to it for some. This is quite right, giving that it had been inspired by a short story by Roald Dahl which also lends its name to this play: 'Georgy Porgy'. Telling the story of Vicar George, who views himself as an accomplished individual, but who hides a past he tries hard to forget about. With three spinsters in his parish chasing after him like prey, he is lured into their alcoholic trap and the audience finds out what changed his view about women: his own loving mother and a murdering mother rabbit... A thrilling story and wonderfully acted.

The third one act 'Modern Life', written and directed by Pim Bastian and Elizabeth Verwey, is a contemporary view on our present-day reality. With three contestants competing at Modern Life Incorporated, they have to complete varying tasks to prove how 'modern' they are: ranging from ordering coffee to clubbing, while dealing with their nerves and troublesome ex-boyfriends (or the lack thereof). With interesting yet humorous characters and a beautifully surprising ending filled with attraction, a wonderful play to end a successfully creative night with. All there is left to do now is wait for what SUDS will bring us next.

by Inge van Nimwegen



Tub Talk



Modern Life



Georgy Porgy

"IT'S A BIT LIKE A WHAT'S SCHELD- KANNONADE IN ENGLISH?"

Anyone who has ever been to any Albion related event has probably seen Pieter-Jan - PJ even to some teachers and professors - or at least heard his infectious, roaring laugh. Whether it is the Albion trip, SUDS or Monthly Drinks, Pieter-Jan is almost always there. Our reporters visited him to ask him about the reading he squeezes in when he is not occupying himself with his BA's in English Language and Culture or History.

by Simone Schoonwater

1. What was your favourite book growing up?
Lord of the Rings, I guess? When I think of youth I think of that.

2. What is your favourite book now?
I'd give a different answer every day, but if I had to choose I would say *Animal Farm*. I was sixteen or seventeen when I read it for the first time, and the lines really stuck in my head. "Four legs good, two legs bad" for example, or "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others".

3. What is the last book you read for 'fun'?
The Fry Chronicles by Stephen Fry. I'm now reading the second volume of this autobiography, and I'll be probably done by tonight!

4. Which book are you most ashamed of reading?

I haven't read any guilty pleasure books, more controversial ones – *Mein Kampf* for example, which was very badly written. I've also read *Das Kapital*, the communist manifest. I had a communist phase in my teens, around fourteen or fifteen. Recently I read it again. It was still rather enjoyable, although it's a bit like a... what's "scheldkannonade" in English?

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

Have you got a while? Shakespeare is one of the largest gaps. I never really started, I've only read *Othello* during the first course of the first year. I've seen plays, though. Before I graduate I must've read more.

6. Which are/is the book(s) you have only read halfway or even less?

I always read multiple books at once, especially when reading large classics, so sometimes I forget to finish one. Right now I'm in the middle of seven novels. David Copperfield is one of them; I've been stuck at page 600 for over a year now.

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

Fire and Ashes by Michael Ignatieff. It's an autobiography of a Canadian politician who ran for prime minister, but lost because the media set an enormous hate campaign against him. It offers an interesting insight into democracy and the role of the media.

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

None. I read the entire *A Song of Ice and Fire* series last summer and enjoyed it.

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

It would be a piece of historical literature about 19th century European politics or something. I would explain things about the state of affairs, but also include graphic descriptions of blood and violence and murder.

10. Which author have you read the most books by and why?

Probably JK Rowling, haha! I don't think I've ever read more than seven books by one author.

11. What is your favourite English word and why?

"Controfubularity". It doesn't really exist; it's from a scene in *Blackadder* featuring PR Johnson, who wrote the first English dictionary. Rowan Atkinson teases him by saying that he offers him "his sincerest controfubularity", and Johnson immediately freaks out because the word isn't in his dictionary.

12. Are you team Literature or team Linguistics?

Team Literature, definitely.

13. What is your favourite film adaptation?

The Third Man by Graham Greene, but that novel was designed to be made into a motion picture, so naturally it works out really well on screen.

14. And your least favourite?

Although it is not adapted from a book, I have to say *The Last Airbender*. Jesus, what a bad film. I just have to put it out there.

15. Which book are you really looking forward to/are you planning to buy next?

I'm also reading *War and Peace* by Tolstoy at the moment, which is unbelievably fantastic. A teacher once said to me that if you read *War and Peace*, everything else becomes unnecessary. It is everything. So after I finish this, I am going to read *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy's other masterpiece.

Calendar

February

2	Start block 3	-	11	svMT Drinks	KNG20
3	Student Assembly	Drift 23 - 010	12	Pub Quiz 3: Blast from the Past	Mick O'Connells
3	Monthly Drinks	Mick O'Connells	17	SympoCie's first lecture	Drift 15 - 102
4	Mastervoorlichting	Utrecht University	19	Lasergamen	Lasergames
4	Wingardium Leviosa6	Maggy Malou	25	The Great Gala	Janskerkhof 14
5	Careersday	Uithof			
5-6	SUDS One Act Festival	Cultureel Centrum Moira			
6	Pleuni's Birthday	Everywhere			
10	Commissievergadering	Drift 25 - 005			

March

3	Monthly Drinks	Mick O'Connells
4-11	RAGweek	Everywhere
11	SVO scriptieworkshop	to be announced
14	Open Day UU	Utrecht University



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word of the board

Dearest Albioneers,

A new block begins, and so we're officially halfway through the academic year of 2014-2015. For me, this marks the point at which I'm supposed to be halfway through my bachelor's. So that wraps twelve courses, with countless essays, a considerate amount of wine (and beer), and half a board year now behind me as well. At this point I should have a pretty good idea of what I want to do with the rest of my life, shouldn't I?

Well, I'm clueless. I think I figured out how to write a proper essay just last week. I'm considering the educational minor, but the fact that I'm always complaining that children aren't exactly my cup of tea might prove to be a slightly problematic factor. I filled in some dreadful forms and signed up for a stay abroad, but it'll be at least another two weeks I get a response from the department. Moreover, am I completely sure I want to go? These two problems basically sum up all of my problems: I just don't know what I want to do with the rest of my life. I don't know what the rest of my bachelor's will look like. I'm not even sure what I'm going to wear to Wingardium Leviosa6 next Wednesday.

While this mysterious future scares me to death, part of it I find very calming. I'll just do whatever I want and go with the flow. Of course it's important to think and plan ahead, but being able to improvise and adjust to unexpected situations is certainly a skill to master at university as well, as proven by exams and essays time and again.

Volkskrant Magazine has two items I've become particularly fond of over time. The first poses a reader's dilemma, to which others respond with advice. The second is an interview about someone's financial situation. To me it always seemed as if every single adult, a "grown-up", had every single aspect of their life under control. These items in Volkskrant Magazine made me realise that's complete nonsense. So, I've decided not to take things too seriously anymore, shake it off and just enjoy whatever blank space in my life whenever possible. After all, I've passed the threshold of adulthood and I can do what I want. I'll finish that bachelor's at some point.

Floris Bouwman
Treasurer 2014-2015

Albion

“YOU GET WHAT ANYBODY GETS:
YOU GET A LIFETIME.”

- Neil Gaiman

