



PHOENIX

Issue 2 - 2016-2017

Save the Planet:
Phoenix on the
Environment

Tea Time with
Rias van den Doel

Phoenix Serves: Vegan

Valerie's Bookshelf

And much more!

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WORD OF THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

The word green has undergone a huge shift from simply referring to a colour to encompassing a broad range of environment-related subjects. (Isn't that a great thing about semiotics?) Some people wished it'd simply stuck to its original meaning – I like to think it's cool that there is something so large and impressive and hard-to-understand as nature and the environment.

Too bad it is so involved with industry, politics, money, and strong, conflicting emotions. Our idea here at Phoenix is not to tap into these emotions (although Jense and Vincent did write some essential political pieces), but to offer a fresh, green approach to the subject – with fun tips and tricks that are just as much about having a good time as they are about contributing to a 'green' world. Who doesn't love shopping (charity shops - ethical!), food (vegan - animal-friendly!) and recycling (this may not actually be true - but it isn't really that much of an effort either).

If you do wish not to get involved with all this, there are plenty of other interesting reads in here. Suzanne Hoogstraten talks about what it's like studying abroad, our own Job provided a recap of Albion's trip to Prague, the Master Market is provided by Kiki and former Phoenix editor-in-chief and now up-and-coming journalist Jos de Groot, and space has been reserved to introduce you to all of Albion's lovely committees – just in case you hadn't met all of their members before. The highlight of our issue, I dare say, the long-awaited, number one dream Tea Time... Rias van den Doel! We also met up with alumna Nadine van Kerkhoven, a success story as rarely ever happens to us English students, we did plenty of cultural activities for you to read about in our Culture Corner, and visited Valerie Palmen for a closer look at her Bookshelf. Last but not least, Iris Bergevoet wrote a lovely story for our Showcase, which I highly recommend reading.

Hopefully you'll enjoy this issue of Phoenix and all it has to offer!

Inge van Nimwegen
Editor in chief

Meet the committees



HOW TO LIVE CRUELTY FREE

5 TIPS ON HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ANIMALS

By Minthe Woudstra

When asking about the environment and the way in which people could decrease their hand in global warming, tips along the lines of saving electricity and water are what you hear most. This article will give you some alternative tips which not only benefit the environment, but which increase the quality of the lives of animals as well. Killing two birds with one stone, metaphorically of course.

1. Eating a more vegetarian and vegan diet

The benefits of eating a more vegetarian or vegan diet are not limited to animal welfare alone. Eating less meat has proven to have numerous benefits to your own health, including better quality of sleep, which us students are in desperate need of. Next to this, a little known fact is that the meat industry is responsible for the largest percentage of our ecological footprint. The cutting down of trees and water use cause the carbon footprint of the meat industry to be much greater than that of all cars, trains, airplanes, boats and motorcycles across the world combined. Which you know, are kind of a lot of cars. Eating a little less meat can therefore already have a big impact.

2. Buy organic if you don't want to let it go

If you are really a die-hard meat lover, and there is no way you'll give it up, (even though reindeer are better than people,) there is always the option of buying organic. As consumers are growing more aware of the issues in the bio-industry, the products in the supermarket are becoming more and more environment- and animal-friendly. By buying organic, you can still help to make a difference. There are organic meats, free range eggs and organic milks for you to choose from



3. Cosmetics

Many people already know about animal testing with regard to make-up. However, what many people don't know is that animal testing doesn't only happen on make-up and that it occurs far more often than people think. Cleaning supplies, toothpaste, medicine and even foods are tested on animals. In the Netherlands alone there are 621.000 occurrences of animal testing a year, even though the law officially prohibits this. There are a lot of useful

websites that help you choose brands which don't test on animals, the one I use most is www.naoki.nl. The site is run by a girl who updates it regularly and keeps in contact with the different companies. Often this is tricky as well-known companies test on animals in China, as animal testing is permitted and even obligated there. With a little research it is not hard to only use products which were not tested on animals, ranging from shampoo to tattoo ink.

4. Clothing

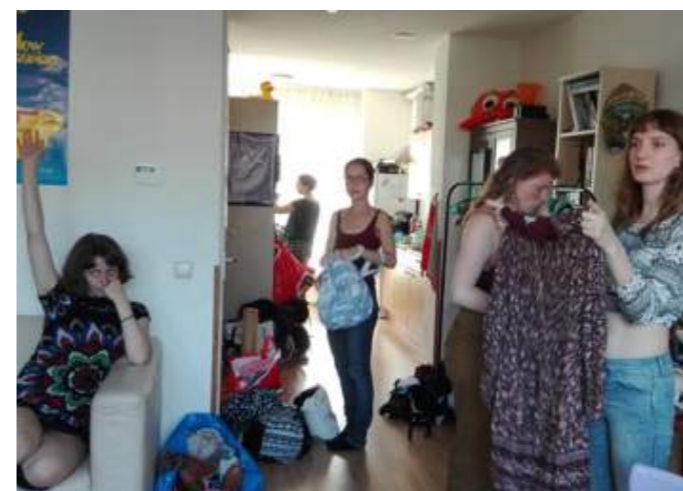
Something which is often overlooked is the clothing we wear. While it is obvious that fur and leather are not cruelty free, consumers tend to forget that the big companies we so thoughtlessly shop at are the cause of a lot of toxins being distributed, air pollution and other harm done to nature and animals. Luckily, there are a lot of alternatives these days to fur and leather, making the real deal obsolete. A good tip is to buy clothes more locally, from little shops which sell handmade items, or from a second-hand shop, reducing production.

5. Recycling & plastics

The last tip I would want to give you on your journey to a cleaner planet is the same tip or lesson that school and your parents have likely pressed on your heart before: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Although this is something widely known and often discussed, people tend to forget the effect our use of plastic has on the planet and the animals on it, unless they've just seen a very sad documentary or a "really clever BuzzFeed Video". Mountains of plastic still keep piling up in the oceans and on land, encroaching on many

animals' habitats and destroying nature. Although reusing that one plastic bag might feel like a shout in the wind, doing more to combat this problem is actually pretty easy, for example, you could bring your own water bottle instead of buying one every day.

These tips will hopefully inspire and remind your guilty conscious to live a more cruelty free existence, keeping in mind the animals, the environment and the effect you can have on them. So go forth and multiply... this knowledge.



HOW TO ORGANISE A CLOTHING SWAP PARTY

By Charlotte van Ruiten

Fast fashion is contributing to an ethical and environmental crisis but thankfully, there are plenty of alternatives to get your fashion fix without feeling guilty. One of the most fun and certainly the cheapest ways to give your wardrobe a boost is through swapping clothes.

Step 1: Set a date and invite people

Between 10 and 15 people is ideal to get a good mix of styles and sizes, and still be able to get through everything. If you are hosting a small swap, it might be a good idea to make sure you are all roughly the same size. If you invite a very large group, think of a good system to prevent chaos.

Step 2: Think of some rules

There are different ways in which you can swap. I prefer to let people bring and take as much as they want, because people are usually very happy to give their unloved items a new home and don't mind if some people take home more than others. You can also devise a system, so everyone takes home as much as they brought. It's good to think of what you will do with items that multiple people want; do you let them fight to death, draw straws, or something else?

Step 3: Clear out your wardrobe

Go through all your clothes and sort them into three categories: keep, swap and donate. Be strict with yourself, only keep items that you wear regularly and make you happy. Bring things someone else might like to the swap party. If it's completely worn out, put it in a clothing container.

Step 4: Host the party

Make sure your space is set up so there is a place where the clothes can be displayed, a mirror, and a little changing area if people want privacy. You can sort the clothes and let people browse, or let everyone show all the things they brought one by one. Designate a place for unwanted items and make sure people keep an eye on their belongings so they don't end up swapped.

Step 5: Donate the excess

At the end of the party, there is bound to be some things no one went for. Do some research and determine if you want to donate these items to a certain charity or thrift store.

Step 6: Enjoy your new wardrobe and start planning the next party!

GREEN OFFICE UTRECHT

By Charlotte van Ruiten

Since 2013, Utrecht University has its very own office concerned with making the UU more sustainable: Green Office Utrecht (GOU). Their aim is to connect students and staff, and support projects that make the university a little greener. They also organise activities like lectures, drinks and workshops on the topic of sustainability. During the summer they organise SusTasty, a food festival at the Uithof.

If you have a look around at the university you can see some of the influence the GOU has for yourself. One campaign the GOU is currently working on is making the university canteens more sustainable and promoting sustainable food choices. Another campaign is focussed on reducing the amount of energy used by IT, by doing things like simply reducing screen brightness on library computers. In the past they have focussed on discouraging the use of single-use cups from vending machines and placing new recycle bins.

The GOU also supports several student-run projects. One of these is Groentetas, which makes it easy for students to buy a bag of local (mostly) organic vegetables. Another is Duko, a sustainable discount card for students in Utrecht. If you have a great idea for a project yourself, you can go to the GOU and ask for financial support or advice.

The GOU is very active on social media so be sure to follow them if you're interested. Their physical address is Heidelberglaan 8 at the Uithof. During business hours you can drop by at their lovely office space and have a chat with a Green Office employee or sit there to study or work. If you have a specific question it's a good idea to shoot them a message before you go, to check if the person you need is in.



THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE

By Jense van Kammen

To me, it has always been hard to see the issue of climate change as a conflict between political parties. Whether you hold the “progressive” view that only your side has the answers to the world’s big problems or the “conservative” one where you take an intellectually lazy stance denying facts, we are obligated to leave the world a better place for the next generation. Even if you think there is nothing wrong in the present, there is nothing wrong with caring about the future.

We all care about nature and the climate, but at the same time we want to make money, have a good place to live and not be stuck in traffic. For the Netherlands, climate change is particularly relevant. Our country was shaped by our ongoing relationship with the water surrounding us and we are constantly struggling to keep our feet dry.

We as Dutch citizens are going to vote on the 15th of March. Fortunately, most of the big political parties here don't deny the fact that climate change is a problem. The only big exception here is the PVV, which seems to be “the exception” in a lot of cases. Whereas the PvdA strives to be completely independent from fossil fuels by 2050, the VVD only wants the government to interfere when they are sure the posed solution is going to help. The VVD doesn't want people to stop eating meat or travel by bike more often. Instead, they want to make clear deals with other countries, starting at the source of the problem.

Most parties on the right seem to prefer combining economic growth with fighting climate change, whereas those on the left want to take more extreme measures directly involving government interference. Both views have their flaws and merits. Since I'm not here to tell you who to vote for, you'll have to make up your mind. I don't think that someone should base their vote solely on one issue, but I do think that a party's view on this issue should have a big influence. That's why I urge you to educate yourself and look closely at what things you find important before making your decision.

HOTTER AND HOTTER: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE TRUMP ERA

By Vincent Potman

Climate change has over the past decade or so become more and more undeniable, one just has to look at the large hole in our ozone layer or the melting ice caps for that, and yet people still raise their voices and say it isn't true. The more tolerable of them argue that “the earth naturally gets hotter” which, fair enough, is true; global temperatures always would have been on the rise, regardless of greenhouse gasses and aerosols, just not as this rate. The less tolerable say it is a fabrication, a hoax, and one of them is now the President of the United States. Neither are stances I've ever understood. Even if there wasn't overwhelming scientific evidence that supported it – the dying coral reefs, the ever more imminent extinction of all bees, acid rain, and the heavy smog in Beijing – the mere threat of such a thing happening should be taken seriously. Better safe than sorry and all that jazz? Apparently not, what with all the plans for coal and oil (both with pipes and fracking) the new President has in mind. It's dangerous, mostly because if America starts, some might follow.

Look at Flint, Michigan, or India as a whole for the water conditions that would produce, and think of the way increased temperatures would skew the already dire situation of drinkable water on a global scale. That is ignoring the rising seas, the increased power of storms, and more frequent droughts. Not a pretty picture is it? However, as dire as it looks, the one good thing that is coming out of the initiation of the Trump era is that temperature isn't the only thing being raised – so are hackles and outrage. Protests, polls, rallies – for women, for rights, for science and the environment. As divisive and dangerous as the Trump administration is, it is also uniting people. Actions are being taken, and you don't even need to go to one of these rallies to contribute. Outright stopping global warming is, at this point, impossible. Curtailing it, however, is still possible. Every small contribution helps, whether that's recycling or boycotting a certain company. Don't work at it with the world in mind – that's often too big – but try and keep your neighborhood, your city clean, and if everyone does that, maybe we'll take off a degree here or there. After all, that hot future isn't here yet! Yes, killing with kindness, that way we'll sweat these deniers right out, and hang them to dry afterwards.

HUMANS OF ALBION

By Minthe Woudstra

Desirée Mastellone - 19 - First year



“One of the greater things in life, in my opinion, is really getting to know people. I've always been pretty bad at seeing things from someone else's perspective, so when I do get to the point where I feel like I understand someone it just makes me really happy. It's the tiny things, like when someone notices little quirks about you which you weren't even aware you had, or when you know how someone will react to something because you just know them that well. Also, it can be hard to understand yourself sometimes, so the idea of there being people who do, to a certain degree, understand you is quite comforting.”

PHOENIX RANKS

Charity Shops

Utrecht, according to sources, is home to a grand total of 16 charity shops. These are widespread throughout the city, but even within walking distance of the city-centre many are to be found. What's better than scoring second-hand anything, knowing you're not doing any damage to the environment and supporting a variety of charities in the process? I can imagine you asking, 'Hey Macklemore, can we go thrift shopping?' The answer is: yes, you can. We selected the best spots* for you to browse on your search for cheap books and unique items to enrich your wardrobe with.

* ratings based on uniqueness of finds, browsability & atmosphere

By Inge van Nimwegen
Photos by Lola van Scharrenburg

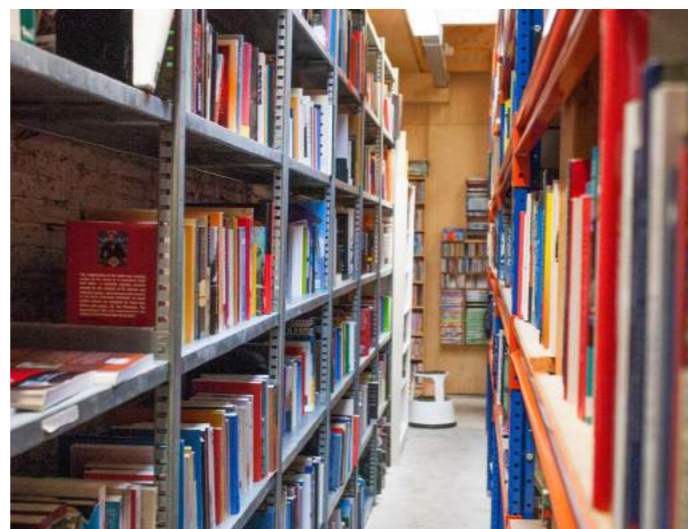
1 Stichting De Arm Oudegracht 247 / 253 / 266 / 270 / 272 / 274

Should you find yourself near the former Tivoli Oudegracht, De Arm is practically impossible to miss. It is hard to compete with De Arm, at various locations along de Oudegracht, both ground and canal level. Each location has its own speciality: living, books & small furniture, bicycles, design and clothing. Stichting De Arm has been around for over 30 years and is one of the largest charity organisations in the Netherlands.

Each shop really has its own unique atmosphere and finds. Where the first greets us with lots of cups, mugs, glassware, pans, and any kitchen supply you can possibly think of, this one also stores an 'audio-video basement' and towering bookcases of at least 3 meters in height. It would've been a good idea to have a couple more stools around, considering the amount of books and CDs

left out of reach this way. The collection itself, however, is rather interesting indeed and the staff exceptionally knowledgeable – asking for a specific book is no problem, the book lady will tell you exactly where it's at (if it is present, of course).

As for the other shops: the clothing shop is very much browsable, with cute vintage bags and shoes, the occasional ugly blouse and Christmas sweater, and sunglasses on the racks – a classy balance between new discarded H&M and authentic vintage from grandma's closet. There are plenty of fitting rooms around to try on your new outfit. The furniture department houses a playable piano (not for sale) – with, unfortunately, no one playing at the time. Bonus points for the option to rent a cargo bike ('bakfiets') to take your newly acquired show pieces home! Have your feet gotten tired from all that browsing? You can stay a while to let them rest with a well-earned cup of coffee downstairs.



2 Books 4 Life KNG 46

It's all in the name. Books 4 Life specialises in second hand books, films and music. You've probably walked or cycled past it numerous times – on your way from the Kromme Nieuwegracht to the Drift, you'll find the store in a beautiful old canal side house. Fun fact: the building is actually owned by the Utrecht University.

The store is the perfect bookstore for anyone who, like me, loves order. It is extremely neatly organised – books are grouped by language, topic and genre, CDs and vinyl by genre, and even music books are divided up amongst themselves by musical genre. Pricing is neatly done as well: coloured stickers tell you exactly how much money you'll be counting down at the till later.

The shelves with special discounts are right next to door you enter through – and who doesn't love 3 CDs or books for €1? Many of the products are in great condition as well, and the staff is very friendly. Buying just a book and a CD even allowed me to pick a free present from the basket!



3 Stichting Emmaus Monseigneur van de Weteringstraat 1

Rather than focussing specifically on the environment, Emmaus' proceeds go to people in difficult situations, such as the homeless. Located at de Monseigneur van de Weteringstraat, it is a slightly longer walk than the others. It is, however, a nice route that takes you past de Schouwburg and through the Nachtegaalstraat.

No sweat – Emmaus is a good browse. Many items from its clothing collection could've been bought right from H&M's or C&A's latest sale, but a lot cheaper. There's a general atmosphere of nice and cosy browsing, together with the other customers present.

It takes plenty of browsing skills to get through, however, as the clothing isn't organised very neatly and there's little space to stand and search. Men's, women's and children's, sweaters, jeans and dresses, they are all a bit all over the place. Imagine there to be plenty of 'sorry's and 'excuse me's trying to make your way through the shop. It is however worth it – decent second hand clothing at great prices – and a couple of rows of Dutch literature, which do not fit in with the rest of the shop but nevertheless feature plenty of classics.





Tea Time

with

Rias van den Doel

By Kiki Drost
Photos by Minthe Woudstra

A new year offers many new chances and experiences, but for us at Phoenix it offers something more: many more Tea Time interviews. We thought it would be an excellent way to start of 2017 by sharing a cup of tea with Rias van den Doel, and luckily for us, he agreed. So, as many times before, we found ourselves ringing the doorbell of one of our beloved teachers. After Rias poured us some tea and served some delicious cakes, we end our small talk and start our interview.

What did you study yourself?

"I studied English at Utrecht University. I decided to go to Utrecht rather than anywhere else, because there was also a Celtic department here; the only one in the country. So I ended up doing a bit of Middle Welsh as well. As part of my degree I went to Dublin for a year, to Trinity College, with the Harting Programme. That's also the reason why I'm Chair of

Rias' Favourites

"I've outgrown the idea of a favourite something or other, but I'll give it a try."

Favourite film

"The Wedding Banquet could be considered a favourite. I like Ang Lee's films."

Favourite music

"Tough one. There are some musicians I feel inspired by; Bowie, The Smiths, and some other artists from the 80's, I suppose. But I also listen to soundtracks, like Whalerider and Himalaya, and some trance and classical music."

Favourite Food

"I love Indian food. We eat that a lot. When you asked me about favourite books I was almost going to mention my favourite curry cookbook: Vegetarian India, by Madhur Jaffrey."

Favourite book

"I don't really have a favourite book. In different times in your life you focus on different things. There's one writer whose work I think is still very relevant: Ursula Le Guin. Take, for instance, her gender-questioning science fiction novel The Left Hand of Darkness. But if you want me to mention the book I've read most often, I'd almost be honour-bound to say Sounding Better. Or alternatively, The Lord of the Rings, which I read a lot when I was younger. At the same time, the sort of books I'm reading at the moment are totally different, like Barry's Days without End."

Favourite TV-series

"There are a couple of series that I'm into: what I've watched most often is Star Trek. Part of the appeal is that it's an idealised work environment; all those people working together harmoniously. And if you're interested, my favourite captain is Janeway."

the Harting Programme, because I have such fond memories of my own stay and I'd like that pleasure to be extended to new generations of students. So I went to Trinity for a year, returned to Utrecht and then went back for another year in Ireland. In both years I focussed on literature, and this was also my specialisation in Utrecht. When I came back from Ireland I had some kind of reverse culture shock. I didn't want to be back in the Netherlands, so I found a scholarship to Iceland. I thought 'how different can it be from Ireland? After all, it's also a wet island in the Atlantic, so how different can it be?' It was very different, obviously, but one attraction was to learn Icelandic: it's the Latin of the Scandinavian languages."

And how did you end up teaching at Utrecht University?

"At some point when I came back, I was offered a position at both the University of Leiden and the University of Utrecht, and I took both, because they were part-time positions. I ended up doing that for about 14 years. It's interesting, because you get to compare different institutional styles, and ways in which students identify with their universities. And I spent a lot of time on the train between Utrecht and Leiden. I still have fond memories of Leiden, but I wanted to write my PhD, and it made more sense to have one place of work. One thing I particularly enjoyed doing in Leiden, though, was directing student plays. I was involved in a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, in the botanical gardens: one of the highlights of my time in Leiden. I've always been interested in student theatre. I'm a founding member of SUDS; I helped come up with the name. Originally the name we came up with was STUDS: Students of Utrecht Drama Society, but then some of us thought that that sounded a bit sexist, so we ended up with SUDS instead."

Do you have any hobbies?

"No. None whatsoever. No, I think everybody has hobbies, don't they? It's nothing very exciting, but one thing I do like is cooking, especially food from around the world. In the same way that you can have World Englishes, you can also have world dishes."



"I am a founding member of SUDS"



Cooking is a way of exploring diversity. What else? Oh, hiking, especially anything involving mountains or cliffs. When I went on the Albion trips with students, I always asked for a hiking trip to be included. Something like Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh, or the cliff walk around Howth in Dublin. But since there are no mountains or cliffs anywhere near Utrecht, we often go to the Arboretum near Doorn. That has quite a bit of scenery from around the world, at least in terms of trees."

After the interview is done, the pictures are taken and our bellies are full of tea and cake, it is time for us to leave. Rias, thank you once again for your hospitality!

Master Market



Literature Today

*Universit Utrecht
By Kiki Drost*

You are almost done with your BA and the time has come to think of the next step. Due to the courses you took you have an extensive knowledge of detective fiction, Trainspotting adaptations, and anything Shakespeare. And you've become really good at always looking at texts with an ulterior motive: how can I write a feminist/LGBT+ related/post-colonial essay about this? But where are you going to develop these skills even further?

Fret not! Literature Today is the master for you. Before it got this flashy, modern, hip and meaningless name, the master was named Literature and Cultural Criticism, which might tell you more about what to expect. You will be reading a lot of articles about all sorts of criticism: things criticising literature, or practises, things you are familiar with, and new things, such as ecocriticism. Furthermore, you will be trained to become a critical thinker yourself, and you will of course be engaged with a lot of literature.

The Master offers several tracks: English, Dutch, Spanish, French and German. As an English student, you are expected to do the English track, but if you prefer to take a course from a different track instead of your own, this is probably possible. No matter what track you are in, there will be courses you all

take together, so you will get to see each other. You'll take three courses per block; two more theoretical and one more practical and focussed on the job market. In the first block this is Critical Writing, in the second this is Publishing. Although these are still quite theory-based, you will at least become familiar with the fields.

In the third and fourth block you are recommended to do an internship. There are courses you could take, but they just really prefer you to do that internship. You can squeeze it into one block and write your thesis in the other, or spread both out over the two blocks. There is a Thesis Lab, which is a bit like a support group and sharing circle, so you won't drown in a pit of misery and solitude while writing your thesis.

If you took many literature courses during your BA and you can handle a lot of work and stress (because masters are really, really, really a lot more work than your BA), Literature Today is definitely a good option for you!



Journalistiek en Media

*University of Amsterdam
By Jos de Groot*

How to become a journalist? It's a question I have pondered over for years. Bachelors in journalism do exist, but only at hbo-level. Going to university was a bit of a dream for me, so I decided choose an academic bachelor and go from there. The University of Amsterdam (UvA) offers the best-regarded journalism MA programme in the Netherlands, and, after applying twice, allowed me in. Maybe – or hopefully – someday, I'll be a correspondent in London or the U.S.

First things first: this MA programme will only appeal to you if you're very confident about

becoming a journalist. The selection at the gate is tough, and only 32 students are accepted yearly. A strong motivational letter will probably get you through the first round, but you'll benefit from some experience in the field of journalism as well. I'd highly advise anyone considering this master to take Simon Cook's course in journalism and to write for Phoenix. It will familiarise you with the journalistic way of working which – believe me – differs enormously from the academic one. Another tip: Hogeschool Utrecht offers a minor in journalism, specifically designed for university students.

Two flavours of study are up for choice at the UvA: 'journalistiek' and 'research en redactie'. The first variant focusses on written journalism and prepares students for a job in the world of newspapers. But most importantly, it teaches you how to write well. You'll receive interview training from respected (ex-)journalists and you'll learn the ins and outs of news hunting, writing reports and manoeuvring within an ever-changing media landscape.

The second option is most interesting to those aspiring a career in visual media. Although some courses overlap, 'research en redactie' is about making videos and other multimedia

productions. Don't mistake it for an education to become the next Matthijs van Nieuwkerk; it prepares you for behind-the-scenes labour: researching topics, composing items for television shows, and shooting and editing video.

There are more journalism masters in the Netherlands – Leiden, Rotterdam, Groningen, Nijmegen: they all offer one. The UvA master distinguishes itself by highly focussing on the journalistic practice, and not necessarily on academic media studies. You will, for instance, without question go on a three months-internship at a Dutch quality medium. I myself will work for Trouw, starting March 1st.

The focus on practice forms part of the answer to the inevitable question: does this master get you a job? Although I'm not even halfway, I tend to say yes. Most of the alumni of the UvA journalism master end up at a Dutch quality medium. When paging through Volkskrant or NRC, you will come across many names who started their careers at the UvA. Hopefully mine will be among them in good time.

Caught your interest? You can apply until March 1st: <http://student.uva.nl/mjem/mededelingen/content2/2016/01/deadlines-aanmelding-masters.html>

SENIORITIS

By Berfin Berçem Kaya

Ever felt like you can't get yourself to do the one thing you have to do? You have a deadline due midnight, but honestly, who cares? It's the last block of the year, but your GPA can suck dick? Imagine having that feeling for a whole year.

You look at the important form that had to be handed in three weeks ago and sigh. Whatever. You're practically done with your degree that you loved in the first two years, but right now, you can't

be arsed to go to the one lecture you have; you don't read any of the assigned books; you feel like just dropping out right when you're about to graduate. You keep thinking about the life you would have had if you had studied something entirely different, like computer science.

Joggers? Check. Old tee showing stains from last week's menu? Check. Unfinished paper? Check. Netflix? Check. Lack of ambition? Check. Drunk? More often than you should be. Stoned? Less often than you want to be. (Please note that symptoms may vary among individuals.)

Honestly, this is a serious issue. Doctors and shrinks call it senioritis. It appears suddenly and naturally, like diarrhoea. You are in your last year and about half the time, you don't have any motivation and you feel like dropping out.

Is there any cure to this? I'm still looking for one. I'm a senior myself, so if anyone has a cure, please call me. I thought Ibuprofen would work, or reading newspapers about shitty politicians. O my god, I have to work hard so I can change the world... Or nah. But the senioritis can be so severe, that even things that feel like they have to matter, don't really.

The only cure might be going on until you graduate. Believing in yourself. Blabla. The usual.

Meh. Cba tbh.



ALBIONEERS ABROAD



Canterbury, UK

By Suzanne Hoogstraten

I have been back in our “koude kikkerlandje” for a few weeks now, after having spent three months in Canterbury, England. Ever since I was little and became obsessed with Harry Potter, I wanted to go to the magical place where my favourite wizard was from, and it sure didn’t disappoint. Although the University of Kent is no Hogwarts (hello concrete buildings from the sixties instead of enchanting castle), Canterbury is lovely and picturesque, with one of the oldest cathedrals in Europe at its centre. The cathedral is absolutely massive and the oldest part dates back to the eleventh century, which made up for the fact that the university itself is much less pleasant to look at. Despite its appearance, the atmosphere at the university is wonderful. UKC has a big international community and even call themselves ‘The UK’s European university’. This has been one of my favourite things about studying abroad, as there were many events for

internationals and I have met people from all over the world.

However, being from the Netherlands does bring some prejudices with it. For example, I had to explain to some people (or quite a lot of people) that legislation around weed is actually quite strict, as some people seemed under the impression that you can buy it at the supermarket or something. Still, it was very nice to share each other’s traditions and learn about other cultures. My flat mates were American and German, so we celebrated Thanksgiving (food!) and Oktoberfest (beer!) together. I myself made sure we celebrated Sinterklaas, complete with “chocoladeletters” and “pepernoten”, which proved to be very popular, and made them a nice “hutspot” once.

We also made some trips to different places in Kent, such as the seaside town of Whitstable, with its cute coloured summer sheds along the coastline. I’ve stood on the white cliffs of Dover, where the name of our lovely study association hails from. And some trips to London were of course also very necessary, as it only takes an hour by train from Canterbury to get there. The university arranged a

Charles Dickens tour for literature students, so I’ve seen the streets through the eyes of Pip, Oliver Twist and more, and visited the house where Dickens lived.

Even though my time in England has been wonderful and I wouldn’t have missed it for the world, it also makes you realise the nice things about your own country. I have missed cheese dearly, as the “Dutch” cheese from Tesco’s is quite tasteless. And for all its faults, the NS is actually quite competent in comparison to the public transport in the UK, where you have multiple different websites and you have to pay about half your monthly income to get anywhere and which is just generally very confusing. I would definitely go back if I ever get the chance, but for now I am really looking forward to finishing my degree and enjoying my time as a student here again!



Small Trip to Prague

By Job Petersen

At last it arrived: my first trip abroad with Albion! This year Albion’s short trip went to Prague. And a short trip it was: we spent roughly one and a half days in the beautiful capital of the Czech Republic.

At the airport we arrived in a very white winter wonderland. Behind the plane was a seemingly endless stretch of land entirely covered in snow. Since back home snow had left us a couple of weeks ago, this was quite a shocking but stunning surprise. After landing we were picked up by a cosy bus that brought us to our hostel in the city centre. We passed snowy mountains, deserted buildings and neglected suburbs, which had an air of the past communist time. With the hostel approaching, the ultimate question raised to our minds: what will it be like? It was like ... cats. My room, which I



shared with four amazing people, was huge and its walls were decorated with lovely drawings of cats. This became even more lovely when we found out that we were the only room that had them.

After having inspected the hostel, we set off to Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world. We had about an hour there due to our lazy walking, but okay, there was a gigantic hill between us and the castle, I have to admit that. I haven’t seen the actual palace, but the church was impressive, and there was an amazing weapon collection. What was most striking about this collection was that they were all recently crafted by a group of Czechian blacksmiths. They had used all of their creativity on them and invented weapons in all shapes and sizes. A similar eye for detail was also visible throughout the city: all buildings had amazing tiny ornaments. Even though they created a Disneyland effect, I must admit I got a little bored of them after some time. In the evening we went to an Irish pub, as we remain students of English of course. And this was also an easy option to ‘re-English’ the trip, as unfortunately the Shakespeare theatre had cancelled their shows.

The second and already final day in Prague began with a refreshing boat trip on the Vltava. After that, we visited the Franz Kafka Museum, which had some of the original manuscripts of his work! In the evening we took a ghost tour, which left many among us with bated breath. After this the group separated: some went to discover the gay bars of Prague, others, including me, went to one of the largest clubs in Europe. The club has five floors with a different type of music on each floor. It was fun, but then came the morning. After a quick breakfast, it was time to pack and hit the plane again. Looking back, I certainly enjoyed the trip and hope many more will follow!



SHOWCASE

For this environmentally themed edition of Phoenix, I have created a short story about a young and frisky guy's first encounter with the magical forces of nature.

By Iris Bergevoet

Oh, Nature

I look at the piece of rubber in my hands and swallow. It looks really tight, I'm honestly not sure if it will fit properly. Or what if it actually is too big, that would be quite embarrassing.

"Are you ready?" I hear Nora's husky voice from the other side of the door. We met in a bar today, and from there things went really fast. Now I find myself in a bathroom, getting equipped for the action to come.

"Almost!" I try to shout back confidently, but I fail miserably and my voice flutters a bit, like a butterfly that has recently hatched and flies around a bit wonky.

She noticed it too. "This is not your first time, right?" I can almost hear her frowning at the bathroom door.

I laugh nervously. "No, of course not!"

She buys it, apparently. "Well alright, big boy. I'm going to get started already, come find me when you're all set."

I'm beginning to sweat, which does not help with putting on the sturdy rubber. I try to stretch the material a bit, so I can shove it on in small steps, instead of dragging it across my skin and perhaps causing a rash. That must be the most unsexy thing she's ever seen.

I remember the story my dad told me about his first time, many years ago. Apparently he was scared shitless, and passed out halfway through. They even had to call an ambulance, which was pretty damn embarrassing for him. Took him years before he mustered enough courage to try it again. I wonder if Nora would call an ambulance for me, or if she would just laugh and proceed on her own. Best if not to find out the answer to that question.

Finally, I've managed to gear up. I'm glad the whole thing didn't rip during all the pulling and stretching. At least now I know it probably won't break during the act, which is pretty reassuring.

I hope Nora won't notice I've never done this before in my life. When she came up to me at the bar I tried to impress her, and under the influence of a few beers I threw in all my charm, and wooed her by saying I actually did this multiple times a day. She laughed, and said she thought I was sweet, so I'm guessing it worked. She told me she wasn't exactly inexperienced herself, and suggested we'd team up for the afternoon. Push came to shove, and we wound up at her place, where I was currently anxiously getting ready.

I walk up towards the little mirror, and look at my reflection. "You've got this, ok? You're the man." I fist bump against the mirror and put a fifty pound note in my imaginative douchebag jar before I walk away.

I take a deep breath, and push open the bathroom door. God, I hope she doesn't think I look silly. Do I have enough chest hair? I brush my modest patch of grass while I look for Nora, and find her outside. She's so beautiful. Her hair flows around in the wind, and when I walk up to her I discover more and more freckles to count on her nose.

When I stand in front of her, she smiles confidently. "You know what to do, right? We've talked about this."

I nod, and she seems satisfied. She takes my hand, and I take a deep breath. I've dreamed about doing this many times, but the real deal is already so much more intense. Another deep inhale, and I'm going in.

The first thing that hits me is how beautiful it is down under. So many textures, some a bit bumpy, others rather squishy. And so many colours; pink, red, yellow. I even spot some blue and green. I wish

I could stay here forever. My breath is caught in my throat, but I imagine that if I dared take a breath, it would smell rather fishy down here. Like a high-class salmon, of course, not some tacky sardine.

When I meet Nora's eyes, she winks, and beckons me with her finger before she turns around. I follow her eagerly, and move until I am above her.

Then, out of the blue, a fish swims against my ear. It bumps back a few inches, and then swiftly takes another path, apparently unaffected by the collision. I let out a short laugh and nearly choke in my oxygen mask. God, I love nature.

I look at Nora's ass while we walk back across the beach. I wonder what it would be like to bang her.



Q & Alumni

With Nadine van Kerkhoven

Many of our readers will recognise a familiar face in Nadine. She was part of Albion's 24th board and graduated only last year. Just this month, she found herself working a full time job at publishing company Prometheus in Amsterdam. What happened within these short few months?

By Inge van Nimwegen

Q: Let's start at the beginning - why did you choose to study English in the first place?

A: I chose English because it was my best subject in high school and because I thought literature was fun and interesting. I had little idea, at that time, what I'd want to do with it later on.

Q: After graduating last year, what did you do?

A: I used to be convinced a Bachelor in English in itself wasn't enough - that you needed a Master's degree in order to be able to participate on the job market.

Therefore, after my Bachelor, I applied for the Master redacteur / editor at the University of Amsterdam. Only 20 people are admitted each year and so it involves an intense admission procedure. Eventually, towards the end of the summer, word got to me that I wasn't admitted.

I'd considered the possibility of a gap year previously, should I not be admitted; I had no idea what else to do. The idea of working at a publishing house spoke to me, and so to better my chances of being admitted into the Master next year I started looking for an internship.

Q: How did you get your internship?

A: I looked through publishers' websites in search of internship advertisements. Eventually I ended up at the publicity department of Prometheus in Amsterdam, where I was supposed to be doing a 6-month internship.



Our work space is just a room with 4 computers, but the **marble stairs** are wonderful.



Q: How did you go from internship to job?

A: About 3 months into the internship I was offered a job at the sales department, for which there was a vacancy. They couldn't find anyone for it so they looked internally and asked me whether I'd be interested. I've been working there officially since 1 February!

Q: What does your job entail on a day-to-day basis?

A: It's very versatile. I take on orders from book stores, keep track of when re-presses are needed, keep track of promotional data, and I do mailings and advertising. My activities are basically everything involved with placing a book on the market and promoting it. I do this for books from all Prometheus' departments. Prometheus specialises mostly in literature and fiction, and then there is a non-fiction department,

called Bert Bakker. It does involve a lot of reading, as you really have to be able to sell a book. You must know what it is about and what its selling points are. Generally, we do read all the manuscripts, or at least the first 50 pages or so.

Q: Do you feel English Language & Culture is a sufficient preparation for the job market?

A: Practical experience is essential for getting a job and an internship can be very useful, also to see whether the field of work you're interested in is really something for you. In the end it's all about practical experience and the Bachelor lacks that for the most part. I do think I've been very lucky in finding a job like this. I'd definitely recommend doing a Master, but I do think my case proves that a year between Bachelor and Master can make a big difference if you're not exactly sure what you want.

"The **coffee** is just as horrible as you're used to at **University**."

This white building at the **Herengracht** is where I work.

P



Culture Corner

DOCUMENTARY

Happy People A Year in the Taiga

By Charlotte van Ruiten

When thinking about a couple of trappers who live under extremely harsh conditions in the Siberian Taiga, “happy people” may not be the first phrase that comes to mind. Yet, this is the title directors Werner Herzog and Dmitry Vasyukov went for to describe these people. Their documentary shows a glimpse into the lives of the villagers of Bakhtia, a place where everything seems frozen, even time. It can only be reached by helicopter or boat, during the times of year that the river is not completely frozen over that is. The village is largely self-reliant and untouched by modern technologies.

The main story of this documentary follows a few trappers throughout the year. During the winter, these men live completely isolated deep in the forest. While their circumstances seem bleak - in winter -30oC qualifies as nice and toasty, in summer they get no respite and are plagued by mosquitoes - the viewer gets to see the beauty in their way of living. These people still live in harmony with nature, living of what the forest provides, moving with the seasons. Shots of the breath-taking landscapes are alternated with interviews with villagers and scenes that show how ingeniously they use traditional craftsmanship to build ski's, boats and traps from nothing but the trees around them.

This documentary manages to instil a sense of awe and admiration. It shows a completely different outlook on life than what we are used to. Some things are truly tragic, like alcoholism destroying the native Ket population. Others are heart-warming, like the relationship between a gruff man and his dog, his only companion in the months he spends away from home in the forest. I never thought I would identify with a Russian trapper, but I too think there is nothing like warming yourself and having a nice cup of tea to make you happy.



CONCERT

The Pretty Reckless

By Lola van Scharrenburg

On January 27th, The Pretty Reckless played a sold out Ronda at TivoliVredenburg. The room was packed with fans, many of them discussing frontwoman Taylor Momsen's perfection and all of them super excited. And boy, were they not disappointed.

Right before the start of the opening act, the Ronda was pretty full already. The Cruel Knives played a 30-minute set that, although fitting perfectly into the slightly boring and standard “rock band” picture, seemed to please the crowd well enough. After another 30 minutes, The Pretty Reckless entered the stage. Having released their new album *Who You Selling For* last October, the show was loosely centered around this release, but the golden oldies were certainly not forgotten. The band opened with two songs from their previous two albums before playing one of their new singles, *Oh My God*. The crowd totally went for it and the tracks from the new album were received just as well as hit songs like *Make Me Wanna Die* and *Going To Hell*.

“For some reason, I expected that, having started out as an actress and having such amazing looks, Taylor Momsen couldn't be that good. I was wrong.”

Although I am a big fan of The Pretty Reckless and I was sure it was going to be a good show, the performance was much better than I had expected it to be. For some reason, I expected that, having started out as an actress and having such amazing looks, Taylor Momsen couldn't be that good. I was wrong. Throughout the show, I was continually impressed by her vocal qualities: everything sounded just as on-key as on the albums. The fear I had of the show being too centered around Taylor appeared to be unjustified. She knew when to take a step back to let the rest of the band shine, and the audience really seemed to appreciate that. After a full 90 minutes, including an elaborate encore, a 10-minute drum solo that somehow involved techno(?) and lots of screaming and chanting along, the show came to an end and The Pretty Reckless left Ronda pleased and impressed.

SERIES

Sherlock Season 4

By Jense van Kammen

It's finally here, the long awaited fourth season of the British series *Sherlock*. To put it simply: I absolutely love this series. The writing is absolutely amazing. Known for its insane twists and crazy mysteries, *Sherlock* rarely gets boring and there hasn't been a single episode I didn't at least enjoy. The only problem I have is that we only get about 3 episodes each year. But since the wait is over (for now), it is time to review the new episodes.

Considering the quality of the first three seasons, the creators of *Sherlock* put the bar insanely high for themselves. That turned out to be a mistake, at least in regards to the first episode, “The Six Thatchers”. Going into it with very high expectations, I was kind of disappointed at the end. Sure, it wasn't bad, but I'd call it mediocre at best. The best thing about this episode was the character development, especially between *Sherlock* and Dr Watson. But since this is the case in basically all episodes, it didn't make this one special. The plot was kind of all over the place and convoluted, and it asked for a big suspension of disbelief. Still, the acting and the synergy between Holmes and Watson was amazing as always and still made the episode entertaining.

The second episode, “The Lying Detective”, completely made up for the first episode. It answered most of the questions that were left unanswered and even gave my favourite character of the show, Mrs Hudson, her time to shine. It had a great plot twist that actually made sense, and was easy to follow while at the same time being complex and genius. The third and last episode, “The Final Problem”, did a great job at wrapping things up. It was quite different from most other *Sherlock* episodes. To me, it had a prominent “*Silence of the Lambs*” vibe in its typical British way. It is more of a psychological thriller than a mystery/detective but maintains the typical *Sherlock*-surprise factor. All things considered, this was by far my favourite episode of the season and maybe even of the whole series, for that matter.

The new season of *Sherlock* has a rough start, but the other two episodes completely make up for the flaws in the first one and I'd recommend it to everyone who enjoyed the previous seasons.



CONCERT

Green Day

By Noa Tims

“Holy shit, I'm having so much fun right now”, Billy Joe Armstrong screamed at his crazed mass of fans, “this might just be the best show we've done this tour so far”. That one, I've heard before. If I'd gotten a euro for every time a singer used that one to rile up the crowd... But he did seem sincere, hopping about on stage hysterically in that well-known Green Day-fashion. Not that I could see that - I was too busy fighting for my life. I think I would like a Green Day concert better if I were surrounded by a people less freakishly tall than the Dutchies. As near to the stage as I was, the myth is true: jump with the crowd or die (if you're as tiny as I am, at least: my boyfriend, who I used as an anchor, seemed fine).

And the crowd jumped, all right. This show was exactly what I expected from a Green Day show. Predictable, yes, boring, hell no. The supporting act was a little ska-punk band, having the time of their lives playing for crowds this huge. They were the right choice for a band like Green Day, a short act with upbeat protest songs. Then the band came up on stage to the ominous tones of the *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* theme song. From that moment on, the only quiet moment of the show was the ending, with Billy Joe characteristically performing some acoustic songs. They hit all their notes, fulfilled all high expectations, and did all the big hits, calling people up on the stage to sing and play - and take home as a gift - Billy's guitar, mixed with some really great new songs. They skipped everything from their second-to-last album, funnily enough. Unexpected twist: several saxophone solos.

As I said, I couldn't really see much. Or anything. But the theme of the show was very clear even to me. Green Day, and punk, thrives when there is something to protest, so that's what they did: they protested the living hell out of our big friend Donald

Trump. Many people think this band in particular is a bit too vocal in their dislike, but I disagree. If you have something to fight for and this huge, seemingly never-ending popularity, you should use it. And the whole crowd agreed when Billy Joe told us that enjoying music and smoking pot like the crowd did that night, that was freedom.



FILM COMPARISON

Movies are art, and art is just as often a form of escapism as well as a form of criticism on society. These two animated movies show what could happen if we don't treat our environment with respect.

By Jense van Kammen

Princess Mononoke (Mononoke-Hime)

In this movie, a young warrior called Ashitaka is stricken by a deadly curse when defending his town. On his journey to find a cure, he finds himself in the middle of a conflict between humans and nature, who both see him as a supporter of the enemy. On this journey he makes a lot of friends, as well as enemies.

This movie was directed by Hayao Miyazaki, known for a lot of great animation movies, among which the classic Spirited Away. Most of his movies seem to carry a message of criticism on society in one way or the other, as does this one. Princess Mononoke looks at the way we humans treat the nature surrounding us and exploit it for our own goods. These self-centred ways can't go on forever and at one point nature will have its revenge, one way or another.

When watching this movie, you'll fall in love with the story and the characters every time you watch it (yes, I've watched this one multiple times). The visuals and art are stunning, from the humans and the animals to the amazing landscapes. Though a story featuring forest gods might seem ridiculous at first, this was actually an amazing watch. If you decide to watch this movie and like it (you will, trust me), I'd absolutely recommend checking out some of Miyazaki's other movies like the aforementioned Spirited Away or Castle in the Sky.



WALL-E



I know, I know, you probably have already seen this movie or at least heard of it. But that won't make me refrain from bringing this gem back into the spotlights and possibly making you watch it again. Besides, there are few movies more relevant to the issue

of environment and global warming than this one.

In WALL-E, a cute little waste-collecting robot in a dystopian but not entirely unrealistic future has been left to clean up the mess after mankind has completely abandoned planet Earth, which has been covered with trash from products sold by the multinational "Buy N Large" corporation. When he meets a recon robot sent by humans to look for signs of life, WALL-E falls in love and eventually follows her when a ship comes to collect her and return her to the humans, who are now living on a huge space cruise ship. The humans living here move around on hovering chairs, drinking all their meals through a straw out of laziness or bone loss (as a result of laziness).

WALL-E is a great example of how Pixar and Disney movies are entertaining for both children and adults. Whereas children see a cute little robot going on a great adventure, the "adults" see what might happen to our precious planet when we don't treat it well and take all the luxuries we have for granted. The fact that such a message is put into an accessible and touching story combined with intriguing sci-fi and great animation is what makes this one of my favourite Disney movies. If you've somehow not seen this movie yet, go watch it as soon as possible. And even if you have, I strongly recommend you to watch it again.

DOCUMENTARY

City 40

By Lucinia Philip

In 2015, a woman named Nadezhda Kutepova fled from a beautiful, rich paradise where the citizens were being taken care of by the authorities. In the Russian American documentary City 40, Samira Goetschel takes us inside this paradise that many citizens look so fondly upon. It's the first time someone from outside got to (secretly) film here as this paradise is actually not a paradise, but a closed town where nuclear weapons are created and thousands of people have died.

The Russian town Ozersk, or City 40, is a closed town with a population of around 80.000 people. It was built in 1947 around the Mayak plant as a response to Hiroshima. The Soviet Union turned the town into a paradise to attract the intellectual and to make sure that they never left. For years, the town was kept a secret from the world by not showing it on the map and stripping the citizens of their identity. Decades later, nuclear testing and radioactive waste still have a great and devastating impact on the citizens and the environment.

In City 40, the horrifying secrets of this town are revealed by human rights lawyer Kutepova, who was born and raised in Ozersk. She has spent her adulthood fighting for the rights of those who have been exposed to radiation, including her own son who was born sick, and is considered an enemy by authorities. Kutepova and other citizens take us through the history of this closed town and the many covered-up incidents that have taken place. After the fall of the SU, Russia stopped paying attention to the problems in the city and the citizens of Ozersk have now been left to die.

"Let state secrets stay secret"

City 40 has been highly praised and for good reasons. It's a very fascinating and important documentary, but it is also a dangerous one. After filming, Goetschel lost contact with the citizens that appeared in the documentary. One can only suspect what has happened to them, but as Kutepova had to flee her country it doesn't sound very promising. Still, I admire these people for coming forward, risking their lives and bringing attention to closed cities like Ozersk. I strongly recommend everyone to watch this documentary as nuclear weapons still pose a threat to our society, environment and the health of thousands of people living in closed cities like Ozersk.

City 40 is available on Netflix

FILM

The Arrival of a Sci-Fi Masterpiece

By Vincent Potman

Arrival (2016) is one of those movies which is just fantastic because it uses a well-known idea or cliché, and approaches it from a completely new and unique angle. Expert linguist Louise Banks is called to help investigate one of the twelve alien ships that have touched down on Earth, her task to crack the alien language. The focus is not on a hostile take-over, or the horror of being hunted by an apex predator, but on connection and exchange of ideas and language. The question that she and the government want answered is: Why are you here? To what purpose? As such the violence and the chaos aren't forgotten, but have become flavor text, background scenery and context for the most part – the tension that drives them forward - which is nice change of pace. It's the search for answers, the solving of the mystery, that stands central, and because of this communication, words, ideas, and memories all play a huge role.

"Denis Villeneuve created a sci-fi masterpiece which transcends the monotony of battle sequences and interstellar travel"

The soft-spoken and evocative soundtrack composed by Jóhann Jóhannsson thus fits it perfectly: calm, melancholy and mysterious. Not to even speak of the beautiful shots, for which the America Cinema Editors awarded it the best Edited Feature Film – Dramatic. Fantastic acting too, which is to be expected with the likes of Amy Adams, Jeremy Richter, and Forrest Whittaker. Largely, though, the movie rests on the shoulders of Amy Adams and she delivers, solidly. Yes, the story of Arrival is perhaps one of the most beautiful and touching to come onto the silver screen in 2016, the twist spectacularly handled. It is a twist that doesn't change the tone or the theme of the movie, but enhances it. It is a movie that will make you think and feel, because that is what it sets out to do. Indeed, with Arrival, Denis Villeneuve created a sci-fi masterpiece which transcends the monotony of battle sequences and interstellar travel; seeing it is a must.

MUSICAL

De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig Presents: ‘Watskeburt?! De Musical’

By Inge van Nimwegen

Watskeburt?! takes you places you couldn't have thought up yourself, yet it encompasses exactly what you'd expect from a theatre production featuring the members of the Netherlands' most loved hip hop group, De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig, as puppets. Watskeburt?! is an absurd fairytale, a jukebox musical with a feel-good ending.

The theatres fill with a youthful audience, but no wonder - it's mostly the twenty-somethings that are attracted to De Jeugd's vulgar banter and creative outlook on lyricism in the Dutch language. No one should've really been surprised to hear Frans Bauer be played before the show.

Add to this mix of De Jeugd's absurd sense of humour and catchy music: puppets inspired by American hit musical Avenue Q, a Monty Python-esque stage setting, a classic theatre-convention death and foreshadowing, and Dutch opera baritone greatness Henk Poort. This musical won't see him singing from Mozart's Zauberflöte, but rather doing his take on 'Een Barkie'.

**“an absurd fairytale, a jukebox musical
with a feel-good ending”**

The plot isn't this musical's strong point: Poort as AuSchurk – classic villain-looking-for-revenge in the form of a number 1 hit – kidnaps producer Bas Bron. Faberyayo, DINGETJE en DINGETJE are forced on a quest to get him back, that takes them from a coffee shop, to Spain, and to the moon. On the way they meet characters such as Manon, a talking penguin and Oom Denneboom, a drug-doing pine tree that was 'born in the wrong bark' and now identifies as palm tree – who is said to give out magical powers. If this isn't a toe-curling take on classic clichéd popular culture conventions, what is?

The musical's strong points lie in the puppet play. Without you even noticing the actors continuously swap around puppets, doing the voices and movements for different characters, paying no attention to colour or gender.

Watskeburt?! is a typical love or hate musical. If you can't appreciate a rude joke or take a swear word now and then, it's not for you. This production occupies the space between lunacy and genius, and although it is definitely not suitable for children, it brings out the child in all of us.

EXPOSITION

Harry Potter The Exhibition

by Job Petersen

Although the real hardcore fans have probably already visited this exhibition at the opening on February 11th, Harry Potter: The Exhibition is a real must-see for anyone who has the slightest interest in Harry Potter or film props in general. When you enter the building, the joyous and familiar music of the movies overwhelms you and an immediate desire of seeing the films reoccurs. Then, after having waited in the queue, you will be led into a small room with a group of people, where the sorting ceremony begins. As Harry himself said, the Sorting

**“You can sing along with the Fat Lady,
replant some Mandrakes, and try some
Quidditch for yourself.”**

Hat takes your own choice deeply into consideration! After that, you can begin your journey through Rowling's magical world at your own pace. You can sing along with the Fat Lady, replant some Mandrakes, and try some Quidditch for yourself. If you pay close attention at the beginning, you can even see a portrait of our newest hero: Newt Scamander. The exhibition shows all sorts of settings and props used in the films, but the most striking were the classrooms. By seeing them up close you can take a whole new perspective into the movies. A lot more detail is put into all the props and scenes than you can see in the movies, which you can re-watch in Cinemec Utrecht, which also hosts the exhibition, as long as the exhibition stands (until the end of July). Even though the exhibition is marvellous, a final note must be made in order to prevent wrong expectations. It really is an



exhibition, so it is not as extended as a museum. If that is what you are looking for, you could go to the Warner Bros Studios in London to see even more of this Harry Potter craftsmanship. Finally, the shop contains some expensive official exclusives, such as the amazing chocolate frogs, but it is not really interesting after the pop-up store at Utrecht Central Station.

WORD OF THE BOARD



Dear Albioneers,

To be perfectly candid, I do not care about the environment a whole lot. I do not separate my waste, I throw my cigarette buds on the ground without thinking about it and sometimes I even throw the plastic wrap of my cigarette pack on the streets. I know it is wrong and you are right to judge me. But lecturing me about the environment and climate change, will not make me change my habits. What will make me change my habits? Probably nothing. Just like society will not change their way of living.

We start off with high hopes, but then we realise that we are all going to die without finding out the big answers or making big changes. We try to convince our fellow human beings of doing the right thing. But the truth is, nobody is actually listening. Everyone ignores the big red flags. We fill up our lives with material stuff, careers and relationships to delude ourselves from the bigger problem. But what is the bigger problem? Is it climate change or the fucked up society in which we live?

In the end, we have no one else to blame for this mess but ourselves. We as a society choose to rot away. We are selfish and choose not to think about the future since life is short. We have to live until we die and we choose to make that life an enjoyable experience without thinking about the consequences. Perhaps that is what life is about: the struggle of doing what is right. I know that I am often struggling with doing the right thing.

Love,
Chrystel

DON'T GET ME STARTED ELECTIONS EDITION

By Job Petersen

I was about to write a glorious essay on the use of plastic cups at the Albion corridor, which should strongly be reduced by the way, when I thought it impossible to write about such a relatively minor topic considering what 2016 has brought us. To summarize, the year consisted of some major bad ideas that were provoked and executed by populists. With the upcoming elections here at home in mind, I feel like I can no longer remain silent.

Namely, what many of these negative outcomes have in common is that there was an intellectual elite, for instance academics and media, arrogantly claiming that it would be impossible for 'the bad guy' to win, since everybody knows voting for them is a bad idea. Exactly that is one of the first phases of bad decision making. In this situation, when people do not trust the difficult language of academics and media to explain why these ideas are bad, but rather that of populists, it begins to seem like somehow, the populist is about to win. The most striking part, however, is that people then decide not to vote since they supposedly cannot win anymore or they try to prevent the elections from reaching the required turnout. Well, believe me: that is not going to work. Because people who believe the populists are higher in number, and they will certainly vote this time.

So my advice, and I really urge you all to follow it, is to vote. Obviously, no political party might fit your ideas entirely, but choose the one that suits you the most. Otherwise it will be the exact opposite!



B O O K S H E L F

V A L E R I E

For this bookshelf I visited another one of my fellow firsties to inspect her books. She lives in a forgotten corner of Limburg, but the endlessly long trip was well worth it. Valerie possesses 433 books and she has read even more! Who could be more suitable to interview for Bookshelf than she?

By Job Petersen

What's your favourite book?

"I can easily say that I don't have a favourite book! If I take a look around my room and let my eyes scroll over a certain book, I feel a great love for that particular book. But then I see another book and I fall in love with that one. This goes on and on and on. However, I can tell you that I frequently recommend *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer to others. So if I were to make a list of my favourites, this one would most certainly be on it. But I don't only have 'normal' books. I also have a lot of poetry, for example, here next to me I have *Milk & Honey* by Rupi Kaur."

So what is your favourite piece of poetry?

"Oh, this is a question I can answer right away. I really like *Girl as Plate Grass, or a Winnerbargo with Two Flat Tires* by someone on Tumblr with the username Inkskinned. It reflects the various phases of a girl's life and is mainly about surviving. Interestingly, if you recite it, it takes you up to 10 minutes. I know it by heart. And I would like to have it printed on my wall as well, since it's somehow very personal, which might be odd considering I didn't write it myself. Another great work of poetry is *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* by Max Porter. It's a fascinating novel since it's part prose and part verse, so it has poetical features as well. There's also a third piece of poetry, which is my secret top favourite. But you don't get to read it, since a friend of mine wrote it for me. I read it at least once a week."

Do you have a book series that you're really fond of?

"Yes. A series everyone should read, besides the *Harry Potter* series of course, is *His Dark Materials* by Philip Pulman. It's probably best known for the movie *The Golden Compass*. The Wikipedia page has a really good description of the series, so you should really look it up there. At first it's a classical fantasy story, but then slowly other elements come in and make it even more interesting. Another favourite of mine is the *Throne of Glass* series by Sarah J. Maas. You should absolutely read it. It consists of six books and I've got them all."

And which is your favourite from Harry Potter?

"Last year, just before my final exams, I thought it was extremely useful to reread all of them again. All I did for one week was reading them in chronological order. So it's really a blur right now. But I'd probably go for *Prisoner of Azkaban*, since I really enjoy the relationship between Harry and Sirius in it. My second favourite would be *Deathly Hallows*, even though it's sometimes a bit too dark. I do have to admit I haven't seen the last two movies. I'll need to read them again with a bit more time in between to make a more grounded choice. Also, I like *Fantastic Beasts*, but that's a screenplay so that doesn't count."

Do you have a favourite work by Shakespeare?

"From the ones I've read, I'd go for *Macbeth*. I like the madness in it."

Do you have a text that inspires you?

"I adore *The Little Prince*, which I now have in both English and French. My plan is to buy them in many more European languages like Spanish, Italian or German, so that I can read them in as many languages as possible. It's a tiny, tiny book which you can easily read in these languages and it's just cool to be in contact with many other languages."

Which crime novel do you like most?

"I really like the novels from James Patterson, especially *Cross*

Fire. In these books the main character on its own is already fascinating. The way crime is mixed with the main character's story is done in a great way."

You buy books simply because of their covers, don't you? So is there a reason behind this and what's your most beautiful cover?

"If I want to read a book, I can of course buy the simplest and cheapest version of the book. But I don't see why you would buy ugly books when you can have pretty ones. It truly is for the aesthetics. However, it seems like

"I like the madness in it"

there's more effort put into the pretty, mostly hardcover, editions as well. My favourite cover would be my version of *Alice in Wonderland*, which is gorgeous for its many details. Also, I

actually bought a book called *The Monstrous Child* by Francesca Simon only for its looks. Aesthetics really matter to me. For example, I also have *City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare in the pretty hardcover edition which was only available as an exclusive. I'm really proud of it."

What is your favourite English word?

"Trailblazer. It means someone who goes where no one has gone before and leads others to new paths."

Finally, if you got shipwrecked on a deserted island, which book would you like to have brought with you?

"Uhm, is a series also allowed? The logical solution would be a book that has a lot of pages."

The combined works of Shakespeare perhaps? On the other hand, a fairy tale would be great since it suits every occasion. But it doesn't really interest you all the time. Wow, this is a very difficult question, since it doesn't necessarily have to be my favourite one. I think I'd go for a science fiction novel by H.G. Wells, one of the fathers of the genre, called *War of the Worlds*. It's a narrative record with music components and you can listen to it for 1,5 hours. Not only the story and music are great, but the cover itself is amazing as well, since it represents the outline of the story."



Phoenix Serves

Vegan Mozzarella / cashew cheese

By Iris Pijning

Ingredients:

¼ cup cashews
1 cup water
3 2/3 tbs corn starch/tapioca starch
1 tbs nutritional yeast
1 tsp apple cider vinegar
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp garlic powder

Living without cheese can be hard, but probably not as hard as living in a world wrecked by greenhouse gasses, water pollution and deforestation. So here's an easy af recipe for when you feel like cheese but not like that weak ass animal exploitation. Don't let the nutritional yeast scare you off. I know it sounds gross, but it seriously tastes a bit like cheese and you can get it in any bio shop or hippie-type supermarket. Just boil a quarter cup of cashews for ten minutes and throw it in a blender with the rest of the ingredients. Blend until smooth and heat the mixture up in a pan, stirring continually. Seriously, keep stirring because that cashew mixture goes from completely liquid to stretchy melty cheese in no time and if it burns to the pan, you will be scrubbing for a good five minutes to get it off. Now your cashew cheese is in a melty state, you can transfer it into a Tupperware container for it to cool and set into a firmer consistency that most resembles mozzarella. Now you can spread it on bread to make a vegan grilled cheese sandwich, pop it onto a home made pizza with some vegan pesto and lots of veggies or make a caprese salad like in the picture. Let's be honest, it's not the real deal and I have yet to come across vegan cheese resembling the taste of a nice slice of Gouda, Brie or mozzarella. But as vegan cheeses go, this is definitely one of the easiest and cheesiest and it's pretty yummy in its own right.



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cheese can be hard,
but probably not as hard as
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greenhouse gasses,
water pollution
and deforestation.

Appetizer Vegan Spiced Lentil Soup

By Lola van Scharrenburg

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion
2 cloves of garlic
2 teaspoons turmeric
1 ½ teaspoons cumin
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon cardamom
1 can diced tomatoes (400ml)
1 can coconut milk (400ml)
750ml vegetable broth
150 grams red lentils (cooked or uncooked)
200 grams baby spinach
1 lime
Salt and pepper

Preparation:

In a large pot, sauté the diced onion and minced garlic in the oil until soft. Add the turmeric, cumin, cinnamon and cardamom and cook for one more minute. Add the diced tomatoes, coconut milk, broth, lentils and some salt and pepper. Stir until combined and bring to a boil. Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes when using cooked lentils, or when using uncooked lentils, until tender. Add the spinach and turn of the heat, and add lime juice, salt and pepper to taste.



Main Course Caramelised Brussel sprouts

By Lucinia & Kim Philip

The title might scare you off a bit if you don't like Brussel sprouts, but don't worry. My sister ensured me that this is a recipe that will make everybody fall in love with Brussel sprouts as even my nephew, who strongly dislikes them, enjoyed this dish.

Ingredients:

500 g Brussel sprouts
500 g precooked floury potatoes
Vegetarian (soup) meatballs
Extra virgin olive oil
3 tbs cane sugar
1 tbs thyme (dried)
1 tbs rosemary (dried)
Sea salt

Preparation:

Start off by cutting the heads off the Brussel sprouts, cut the sprouts in half and rinse them. Put the potatoes and Brussel sprouts in one pot of boiling water each. Boil the potatoes for about 12 minutes and the Brussel sprouts for 6 minutes while occasionally pricking them with a fork to see whether they are soft. Make sure that the sprouts aren't too soft or else they'll get mushy! Once the Brussel sprouts are done, drain them. Heat virgin olive oil in two frying pans. Cook the vegetarian meatballs in one pan over medium heat: follow the instructions on the package or let them cook for about 6 minutes, and make sure to turn them once in a while. In the other pan, cook the Brussel sprouts over medium heat and add 3 tbs cane sugar. Stir to make sure that the sugar is evenly spread and let the sprouts caramelize for 6 minutes. Your potatoes, meatballs and Brussel sprouts are now all done. Serve the sprouts, potatoes and meatballs on a plate and pour some olive oil, thyme, rosemary and sea salt on top of your potatoes.



Dessert Vegan Cheesecake

By Charlotte van Ruiten

Ingredients:

200 g cashew nuts
150 g vegan cookies (e.g. speculoos)
15 pitted dates
3 tbs coconut oil
1 tbs mixed spice or cinnamon
1 tbs syrup (optional)

Tools:

Baking tin (roughly 20x20 cm)
Food processor or (hand) blender
Baking paper (optional but recommended)

You need to prepare for this delicious recipe for some time in advance, but other than that it's very quick and easy, and it requires no baking! First prepare the cashews by letting them soak for at least 4 hours. When this is done, melt the coconut oil (in a pan or microwave). Now grab a baking tin and cover it with baking paper or lightly grease it with coconut oil. Blend the cookies of your liking with 2 tbs of coconut oil until it forms a crumbly dough. Spread this onto the baking tin and place the tin into a freezer. Now take 13 of the dates and blend them with ½ cup of water until it is a smooth mass. If you want to make this dessert even sweeter you can add some syrup. Spread this mixture onto the cookie layer and place the tin back into the freezer. Now blend the welled cashews, 2 dates, 1 tbs of coconut oil and the spices until it's nice and smooth. If it's still a little dry and grainy you can add a bit of water. Spread this mixture on top of the other layers and put your creation in the freezer for about 15 minutes. When you serve it you can crumble some cookies on top for decoration. Enjoy!

If you try this recipe you can experiment with different layers too, for example in December I made a great version with kruidnoten and marzipan.



What is the use of
a house if you haven't
got a tolerable planet
to put it on?

Henry David Thoreau



Colofon

This issue of Phoenix was made possible because of:

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