



Scriptus

## Foreword

by Emma Goodman

Welcome to the first issue of Scriptus for 2015! It's in colour to celebrate the colourful possibilities for the new year (the year to embrace cheesy and under-appreciated phrases). 2015 is not yet a month old, and it's already a year to remember. In this issue, Scriptus tackles discussions concerning the attack on Charlie Hebdo, the ongoing UvA humanities crisis, and – as always – showcases several critical perspectives of our wondrous college; how else are we to keep the management on its toes? In addition, we welcome back several Scriptus veterans who have returned from their exchange adventures, all the more diverse and excellent of course! Enjoy the issue, and writers remember: we want YOU.

### About the Cover

by Joosje Kist

Like the humanities, a dragon can take on every shape and size. Mysterious as she is, she does not need to adhere to the rules of a certain appearance. Understanding simply requires creativity, insight and open-mindedness. She is a colourful creature, winged or clawed, just or ferocious, depending on how you interpret her. In any case, she's fierce, she's powerful and she does not give in to pressure from above. Caught in the limitations and reorganizations of the X, U, X & X of the UVA, she rallies, fights and blazes fire. Trapped between the legs of the X, due to the inevitable budget cuts. Still, she is no easy victim.

### Changes & Updates

We have added an 'External Relations' board member (fashionista Cristina), making our board the biggest at AUC (we like BIG BOARDS and we cannot lie...)

We have a new secretary! Our last was overwhelmed by contributions and decided to become the Chair of AUCafe (may the force be with you).

We have introduced a comics section. There is no reason to justify this.

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FIND US ON

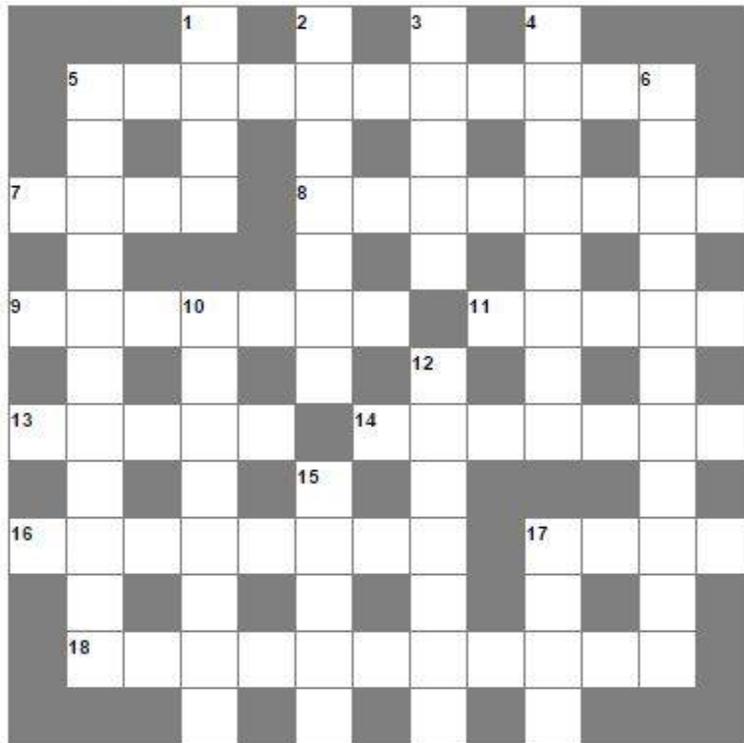


Disclaimer: Scriptus is written, edited and designed entirely by the students of Amsterdam University College. The news magazine does not reflect or express the official views of AUC. Comments, questions and criticisms welcome at [scriptus@aucsa.nl](mailto:scriptus@aucsa.nl).

### This issue in numbers

This issue in numbers: 300  
Cups of tea: 14  
Headaches: 9





**Across**

- 5 Very different (6,5)
- 7 Quantity of paper (4)
- 8 "A" is at sea (anag) — geographical region (4,4)
- 9 Ordained (7)
- 11 Wash off surface dirt (5)
- 13 Young mare (5)
- 14 Open grassland of North America (7)
- 16 Gossip (8)
- 17 Opposite of wax (4)
- 18 Calm and sensible (5-6)

**Down**

- 1 Metric unit of weight (4)
- 2 Stuck — redhead (anag) (7)
- 3 Sham (5)
- 4 Ritual suicide (4-4)
- 5 Means (11)
- 6 Easily offended (4-7)
- 10 Not absolute (8)
- 12 Inscribed (7)
- 15 Edible marine snail (5)
- 17 Walk through shallow water

	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>6</b>				<b>7</b>
			<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>			<b>8</b>			<b>9</b>
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				<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
			<b>7</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>				

**Fun Fact**

There's a rare neurological condition called Witzelsucht that causes a person to make puns, sexual comments, dirty jokes, or tell pointless stories at inappropriate times without knowing that it's socially unacceptable.

### AUC to Hire Facebook Moderator

Sources have revealed that the ongoing discussions about the potential hiring of a facebook moderator have finally come to a close. The position of official AUC student Facebook discussions moderator will be filled as of next academic year. The new position was deemed necessary by the auc officials due to the "Constant division and lowered morale" amongst students due to unsupervised discussions which take place on Facebook, the go-to social media platform for auc students and their concerns. The unproductive discussions have also been said to create unfortunate and unnecessary awkward situations. Jacob, a second year pre-med student, had one such experience: "I suddenly found myself in the elevator with a student I had a Facebook fight with once...I have never actually met the guy face-to-face, and had no idea if I should continue the argument or wait until I was behind my laptop again.... it was a traumatic experience for both of us". "Arguments concerning sexism, racism, anti-semitism, fascism, colonialism and many others arise from seemingly nowhere and blow up to a point where we simply have to intervene" says one auc official. Below is one such discussion.



Lotjie Smidt

1 hr Amsterdam

Hey guys! I know this is a LONG shot but....does anyone have a burqua I can borrow? Hugs in return!



The new position will require the appointed person to moderate the facebook arguments and, where necessary, organise off-facebook debates. The decision to take an argument off facebook and into a real-life environment will be based on the levels of hostility and offense displayed in the comments. "Although we like to keep an eye on things, this new position will mostly benefit the student's well-being", says one advocator of the position, "Opinions can often be swayed by the amount of likes a certain comment has – and the amount of likes is often based on the popularity of the person. Having it off facebook will ensure that it is an equal playing field. Each student will be given the chance to pitch their opinion to an audience. Then the audience will vote for whose opinion they find to be the best. The opinion with the most votes will be the one that is correct. Oh, and we have selected an opinions committee – an ex-auc student, a member of a Facebook council, and a random auc student – to dictate to the audience which opinion they should vote for."

The name of the moderator is yet to be announced and, as always, Scriptus will keep you posted.

by Ernest Wright

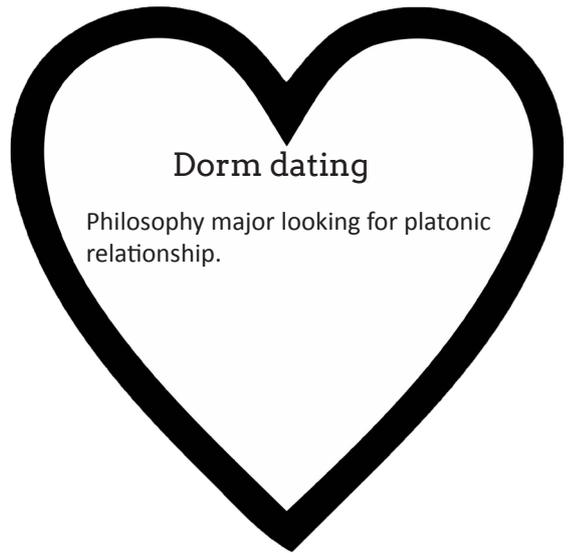
illustration by Yin-Chen Hsieh



## Faces of AUC: OnStage

by OnStage

The last OpenStage was a sweet success! We enjoyed a great evening full of interesting acts! During this evening we experienced the epic premiere of our Improv Group 'Prophetic or Pathetic', an actual rap by M-Dawg and L-C, lovely songs by many talented singers and musicians, an interesting "Dutch-class" by James accompanied by great songs with Martin, and an epic jam session to end the night. Everyone surprised us with their epic talents on stage! Thank you all for coming, Murphy would be proud!  
Love, OnStage



## Dorm dating

Philosophy major looking for platonic relationship.

## Yearbook: Last Photosession!

The final yearbook photo session will take place from the 23rd till the 27th of February! To all the people who haven't gotten their picture taken yet (students and staff), we hope to see your pretty faces this time around! The location is TBA.



## 5 things more intense than the intensive period

1. Dorm parties
2. The trek through the Carolina MacGillavrylaan wind tunnel
3. Vladimir Putin's poker face
4. The Budget General Assembly
5. Camping



WISDOM TEA QUOTE

To be old and wise,  
you must first be  
young and stupid.

## AWKWARD CORNER

PAINFULLY AWKWARD

The morning after a one-night stand, I farted so hard I woke myself up...and the guy sleeping next to me. FML.

# AUC LIFE: NEWS FROM ABROAD

## A 'Gaijin' Experience

by Sarah Rome Chovanec

There were a few aspects of daily life on the streets of Tokyo that never ceased to amaze me. These include the vast popularity of surgical masks, the constant beeping and dinging in convenience stores and train stations, and the 40-year-old women who dress in frilly skirts and kawaii (cute) sweaters, carrying around Hello Kitty luggage with stuffed animal key chains. During my 5-month study abroad experience in Tokyo, Japan, I have forgotten the meaning of boredom. Below are just a few highlights of my stay:



### Biggest challenge:

The biggest challenge would certainly be interacting with more Japanese locals. Despite the language courses that I've been taking, the language barrier has naturally been one of the greatest obstacles. It is also easy to fall into the trap of hanging out with only fellow exchange students. My student dorm has not made this situation better – it is physically split between the home and international students, without giving us access to each other's side of the building. I have learned that besides learning the basics and making friends who speak the language fluently, couch surfing is a great way to meet and interact with both residents and travelers. Using [www.couchsurfing.org](http://www.couchsurfing.org), I met very friendly and fun people in Kyoto that I am still in touch with today.

### Most bizarre encounter:

As many people are aware, Japan can be a strange country. What I found myself most shocked by is the law against dancing in clubs. That's right: No dancing allowed in nightclubs. It is only legal with a few rare exceptions, such as in clubs that are larger than 66 square meters (which practically don't exist) and if it is before midnight or 1AM. The simplest explanation for this is that the Japanese government generally frowns upon the party night scene, as it is associated with illicit behaviour like drugs. Nonetheless, this doesn't stop young adults from being rebels and moving their body to the music. Japan is like a treasure hidden in plain sight. The general lack of interest in Japan among my American and European friends surprises me because there are so many interesting people to meet, delicious food to eat, and a rich culture to endlessly explore. Then again, I believe that the way in which Japan does not export its culture experience so readily is part of its charm.

### Favourite experience:

The 2-day trip I made with 8 others to a ryokan (a traditional Japanese inn) in the mountains was by far the most serene experience. The Yumoto Itaya Ryokan is located in a small, yet touristically attractive area called Nikkō. Being bare-naked at the top of a snowy mountain and soaking in a natural hot spring while taking in slow, deep breaths of the fresh air was an experience I would highly recommend to anyone.

### Favourite food:

I always thought it would have been sushi, but then I discovered ramen. Never had I thought that a rich bowl of ramen could be so glorious, especially when the cold winter air has already seeped into your bones. I also love the concept of a ramen shop: Pay for the ramen of your choice at a vending machine, hand your ticket from the machine to the chef, wait no more than a few minutes for your meal, and enjoy! Itadakimasu!



If you are interested in learning more about Japan, please visit my YouTube channel at "Sarah Rome" or follow the link below for my first vlog. My vlog is only just getting started, so if you like this first video, look forward to my future posts! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYoOJkgmfo0>.

# AUC LIFE: LECTURER INTERVIEW

## Working Towards Interdisciplinarity at AUC

by Martin J. Hoffman

Shannon McBriar, along with Francesca Scott and Rebecca Lindner, research ways to integrate science and the humanities with a practical focus on teaching applications at AUC. They currently teach “Literature and Science.”

Scriptus: At AUC it sometimes seems that the sciences are given a dominant role, and the humanities seem to be in a bit of a crisis; financially and epistemologically. What is the future role of the humanities at AUC?

Shannon: Science is certainly an important part of AUC’s identity: not only are we located in Science Park, but technically we are an institute that ‘belongs’ to the Science Faculties of the VU and the UvA. Given this strong scientific context, it can at times feel as though the Humanities are ‘crowded out’ by the sciences – that we are a Liberal Arts and Sciences Institute, where the accent falls on ‘Science’ rather than the ‘and’. However, misconceptions (and suspicions!) proliferate on either side of the disciplinary fence and these, unfortunately, tend to be played out in reductive terms (e.g. that science students aren’t creative, or that humanities students can earn a degree without having to ‘work’ for it).

In devising the Literature and Science course, we were motivated to address these concerns directly through situating them within the “Two Cultures Debate”, a historical debate that emerged in the 19th century and is still played out in the media today. Currently, this debate centers on ‘saving’ the Humanities, and how Science may be best equipped to do this. However, rather than succumb to fears that Science is out to ‘demystify’ the Humanities, or that Humanities is at best capable of only a superficial engagement with scientific concepts, it may be more productive to think about how we can use our unique position at AUC to encourage meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration. In short, the future role of the Humanities here is not merely to ‘soften’ or ‘round out’ science students, but to act as a full-fledged partner with the Sciences in interrogating the effects of technological development, understanding the cultural impact of scientific discovery and pursuing answers to difficult and persistent problems in culture and society.

Scriptus: How can we facilitate this dialogue more at AUC?

Shannon: We can begin this dialogue not by questioning the relevance and value of either discipline, but by looking for ways in which to develop a true foundation for interdisciplinary engagement. For example, in Literature and Science, we attempt to analyze not only how scientific discourses have been constructed, but also the cultural impact that these

discourses have exerted over time. Examples abound of the ways in which the development of scientific language and methodologies have been impacted by literature and how literature has consistently absorbed and negotiated the impact of scientific discovery. But this is just a start. There are some real barriers that need to be negotiated, both in terms of language and methodology. We hope to be able to negotiate these difficulties not by overstepping the boundaries between disciplines, but by relying on collaboration in the classroom, where teachers from both disciplines can bring their expertise to bear on addressing specific problems. For example, in teaching Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49*, I was researching “entropy” (a dominant metaphor in the text) and asked Forrest for a quick session in which he could explain this concept from his disciplinary perspective. It is this kind of engagement that can offer new opportunities, if not for actual interdisciplinary research, at least for increased awareness of possible connection points that can enrich our experience and understanding of our own disciplinary perspectives.

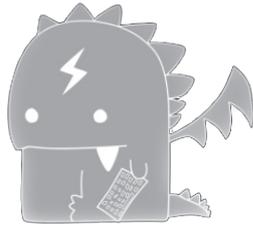


Scriptus: What are areas that overlap?

Shannon: Whether it is reaching a fuller understanding of emotion, affect, consciousness, and perception, or exploring new fields such as narrative medicine, the sciences and humanities can certainly benefit from each other. At the same time, collaborative models are important so that neither discipline is ‘short-changed’ when they are brought together.

Scriptus: At the moment, it seems like the humanities are generally under pressure, how do you think about this?

Shannon: The pressure within Humanities departments is something that we all feel. With faculties pressed and funding bodies (understandably) searching for ways in which to ensure a ‘return’ on their investment, it has become increasingly difficult to justify Humanities research in the terms that have currently been made available to us. Part of the problem is the assumption that all ‘good’ research can and should be ‘measured’. But how can we ‘measure’ the impact of humanities research? What is actually quantifiable about it? Questions like these suggest that, in terms of locating ‘value’, we may be looking in the wrong place. The impact of Humanities research on “big questions” is, as in science, cumulative: it isn’t a single paper on Proust just as it isn’t a single paper on vaccine development. Rather, its value is located in the collective power of this research to exercise cultural critique – to interrogate the way we see, the assumptions that shape that vision, and, importantly, to register the impact of developments in the world around us.



## SPARC Pitch Contest

by Sophia Eijkman

SPARC is AUC's youngest committee; it is a committee dedicated to all things related to programming and computing. On the 11th of December, SPARC organized a pitch contest. The winner of the pitch contest would get his or her original programming-based concept coded by SPARC's very own programmers! Many people participated with innovating ideas. A jury of three picked Sophia as the winner of the contest. She pitched on behalf of Taste Before You Waste, introducing the idea of creating a platform to share food ingredients and more. We look forward to finding out more about the new platform!

## Means Art Festival: 14th of February

The First Annual Means Art Festival will be held on Saturday February 14th 2015, in the Academic Building of Amsterdam University College. Within the building's unique architectural possibilities, Identity (it's meanings and discontents) will be explored, through performance, exhibitions and sound. The festival will be open for you to explore from 3pm to 6pm. Means looks forward to welcoming you to an afternoon of introspection and expression.

Find out more: [facebook.com/aucmeans](https://facebook.com/aucmeans)

# BOOKS

## California Mournin'

by Willem Pijpe

Sometimes you watch a movie, you are impressed, and only then you find out that it was based on a book. Afterwards you rush to your local library/bookshop and read the book in one sitting, concluding that you are even more impressed and confirmed in your belief that one always should read the book first.

This issue I want to talk about *A Single Man* by Christopher Isherwood. It is a book with many different layers; on the surface it is about a British college professor, George, living in Los Angeles who is still mourning the death of his lover Jim. Although Jim is dead now, the long-term relationship between him and George is depicted multidimensional. Intense feelings of happiness and anger both play their part. Before this time, gay men were mostly portrayed as tragic, incorrigible promiscuous characters if they were portrayed at all.

Although I believe the homosexual romance serves a purpose, this is not the main theme of the novel. It is about ageing, how to deal with loss, consumerism, and hate among other things. If you consider that the book is only 155 pages long, it is surprising how rich the content is, without ever feeling too ambitious or stuffy. George's take on American vs. European materialism was particularly striking. When a colleague at the university starts talking about her holiday in Mexico and how the people and the local hotels are still so "real" compared to American hotels, George starts a train of thought that challenged my usual European smugness about the seeming obsession with materialism in the US. He argues that the universality of every motel room in America isn't simply a room, it is *The Room*, nothing more than

a symbol for the American way of life. To quote him: "We've reduced the things of the material plane to mere symbolic conveniences" and he describes the European model as the "dead old cult of cathedrals and first editions and Paris models and vintage wines." He concludes with saying that when "the material plane is defined and relegated, then only the mind can truly be free". Although this is only a snippet of the wide variety of topics discussed, I hope it made you curious to read the rest of this beautiful little book.

P.S.: in the unimaginable case you don't like reading, Tom Ford (yes, the fashion designer) made the book into a great movie starring Colin Firth and Julianne Moore.

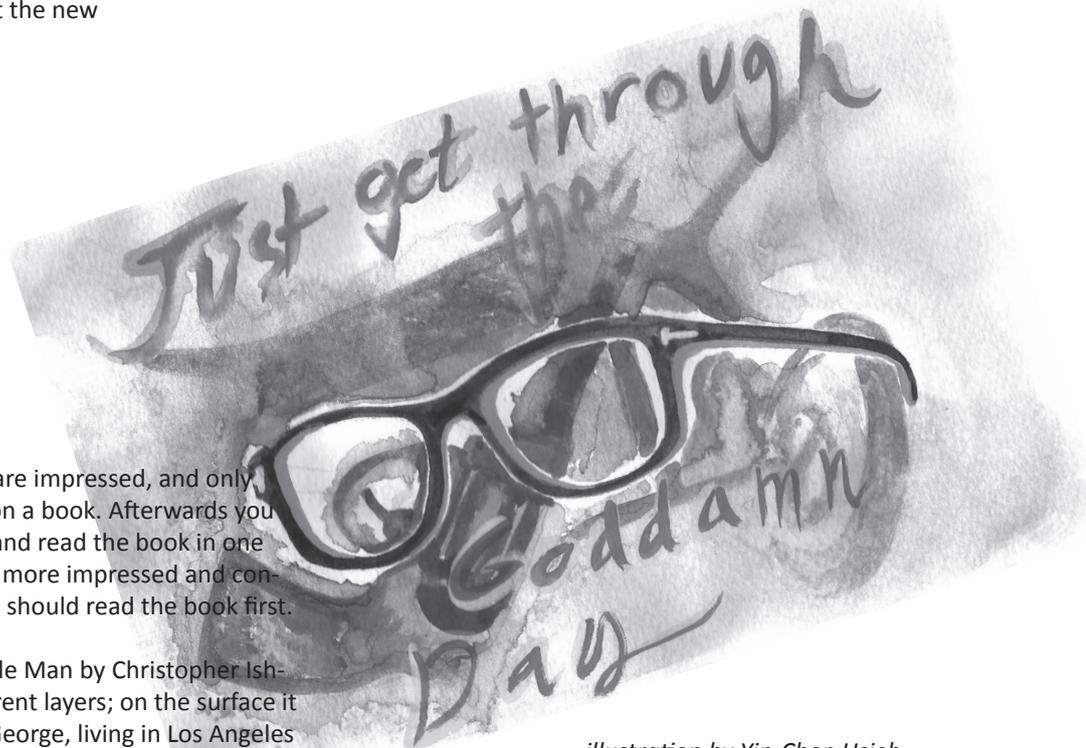


illustration by Yin-Chen Hsieh

## What it really means to be Charlie

by Isabel Frey

illustration by Yin-Chen Hsieh

In times of war, there is no such thing as “pure” solidarity. Whether it is about grieving the deaths of three Israeli boys last summer, or declaring a national day of mourning in the Netherlands after a plane was shot down in Eastern Ukraine. What might seem to be a human reaction full of empathy and understanding too often carries an underlying message legitimizing the continuation of war. In the aftermath of the horrifying terror attacks on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, in which eleven people were killed, solidarity is as political as it possibly could be. With the slogan “Je suis Charlie” (“I am Charlie”), civilians, public figures and even institutions are claiming a side in the war against radical Islam. And yet all these Charlies fail to realize that they are actively creating the war they are waging.

“Je suis Charlie” is not just supposed to be a symbol of solidarity, but also a deep commitment to values that “define Western civilization”, such as freedom of speech and expression. But “Being Charlie” does not make you a warrior of freedom of speech. Instead, it makes you take part in hypocrisy: you fail to acknowledge how many Western allies reject freedom of speech and persecute journalists and oppositional groups. This shouldn’t be news to us, since in the process of de-colonization, most leaders of newly-independent Arab countries were pro-Western, secular, authoritarian dictators. Freedom of speech’s biggest enemy is not Sharia law, but autocratic regimes receiving economic and military support from Western countries.

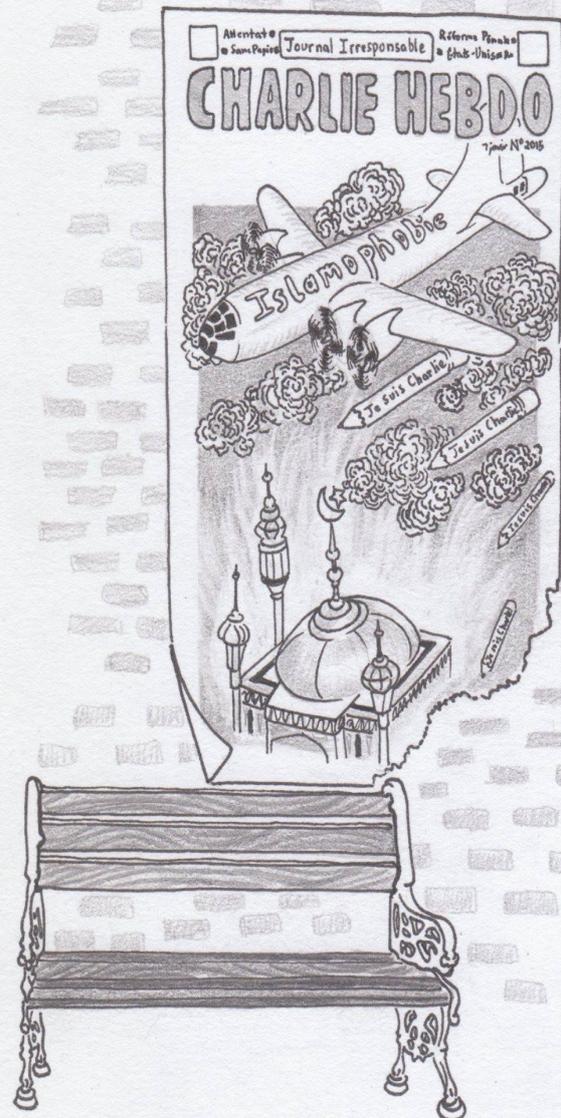
Furthermore, “being Charlie” is a way of refraining from criticizing the racist nature of the cartoons published in a country whose Muslim community is largely marginalized, both economically and socially. The argument “They made fun of all religions, but only Muslims reacted with violence” has neo-colonial and racist undertones, implying that there is something “inherently” violent about Islam. Racist imagery is always context-dependent: white, French atheists making fun of the pope is not the same as depicting the religious leader of a marginalized ethno-religious community by using orientalist imagery.

So if “being Charlie” is neither an act of solidarity, nor a commitment to free speech, what is it? It is the construction of a binary between the orient and the occident - a power relation between everything that is Western vs. non-Western. The phenomenon that some Muslims feel the need to apologize for crimes they did not commit is a result of generalizing and Othering 1.8 billion Muslims. On the other side of the binary we create the image of a unified West. A West that views itself as liberal, democratic and enlightened, but also a West that colonized the majority of people in the world and is now waging one war after another in the Middle-East. This Janus-faced depiction comes in one package – you cannot be “Western” in terms of your values but oppose middle-east policies or criticize US hegemony. This is also a reason why there are so many contradictions in the anti-imperialist logic of jihadists: they oppose a supposedly unified West, and therefore conform to the other end of the binary – a unified jihad, no matter if in reality ISIS or Al-Qaida are enemies. For many radical Muslims active in the Arab Spring, for example in Egypt,

their revolution had to be anti-Western, if it should overthrow pro-Western dictators.

This is not in any way a justification of terrorism or a self-hating “it’s all our fault anyways”-argument, but it is an analysis of how the “clash of civilizations” binary plays into international politics and everyday racism. Instead of overcoming this binary and trying to approach such a complex situation with constructive dialogue, such as reframing the debate about “jihadists” in terms of economic marginalization of Arab-Muslims in Europe, we are stamping each other with one of the most generalizing and hostile hash-tag to circle the Web ever since “Kony 2012”. And by doing this, we are creating and enforcing a war that almost everyone in the world would want to end once and for all.

This article has been modified, and first appeared on [www.class-guilt.wordpress.com](http://www.class-guilt.wordpress.com)





## When the Endangered Species Rally

*Juan de Miguel*

When an animal species comes to the edge of extinction, it is never the species itself which saves itself from dying out. Animals cannot react and adapt to rapid threatening changes in their environment, and thus need the help of external actors (what we commonly know as ‘humans’) to assure their survival.

A rare exception to this rule would be the humanities students and professors of the UvA who are struggling to protect their seriously threatened environment by themselves, without the help of any conservationist group (the World Wildlife Fund hasn’t pronounced itself on the issue yet). The peril isn’t small: the Faculty of Humanities at the Universiteit van Amsterdam is facing a deficit so huge that the consequent cuts seem to offer no choice but a whole restructuring of the study plan.

It was only in October 2014 when the Dean of the humanities faculty noticed that they were facing a deficit of 13 million euros, about 17% of their budget. Soon after, the fearsome Profile 2016 came to light –not that it was made public. It was leaked through the students, who understood that they weren’t facing merely financial cuts, but also that the very nature of their studies was in danger. Such drastic measures as the ones the Profile 2016 was suggesting required a drastic response, and so the humanities undergraduates united. And the Humanities Rally was born.

What was it that made the students so angry? Well, one of Profile 2016’s proposals was to merge all the studies together into one single Liberal Arts programme. Such a strong rejection towards this measure might come as a shock for an AUC student, but be reminded: the UvA is not a university college. The proposal “seemed like a crazy idea”, says Jarmo Berkhout, who

graduated in Philosophy at the UvA last year and is now one of the organizers of the Humanities Rally, “because it meant that literally everybody who studies at the Faculty of Humanities would have the same first year. Possibly even the same second year, too”. The second option was not much better. It implied that five Bachelor Schools would be introduced instead of the 28 different fields currently available. Both measures meant, essentially, that the Faculty of Humanities would no longer offer the possibility to follow a particular academic path. As for the teachers, between 80 and 120 of them would lose their jobs. The UvA was about to wipe out the humanities. It would have happened had the Humanities Rally not reacted promptly. After a huge awareness-raising campaign (their Facebook page had more than two thousand likes in just a couple of days) about five hundred protesters, including professors, occupied a lecture room at the Odemanhuispoort on a ‘night of protest’, while a couple of TV and radio stations were covering the events.

Soon came their first victory: the Executive Board withdrew its first proposal, and is now willing to elaborate a new Profile 2016 together with members of the Student Council of the Humanities. “We’re still very far from the safe zone yet”, reminds Jarmo, “but some things are changing, and at the very least there’s a big discussion going on about what we should do in the faculty”. The ‘safe zone’ would be a change in the UvA’s financial regime. As he explains, the root of the problem lies in the university’s policy regarding the distribution of funds, for every faculty is obliged to spend the exact amount of money they receive annually. Even if there is a surplus (which there

currently is in other faculties), they can't save it, nor can they share it with other faculties. The lack of transparency in regards to the financial system doesn't make things easier, either. Protests have thus continued, and they have done so in quite different forms. Several demonstrations have taken place, but (perhaps more importantly) the organizers (a group of twenty to thirty students) are putting great emphasis on the question of why it is important to protect the humanities. Films like *Waking Life* or *1984* are being screened at Kriterion, and professors in different areas of the field are giving weekly lectures as part of the series 'Think! Humanities – Perspectives for an Endangered Species'.

The crisis at the faculty has (re)opened a debate concerning what it means to study the humanities, and has made it obvious that the continuous marginalization of the field is not an isolated case at the UvA but rather a global trend. In fact, the Erasmus University Rotterdam is facing very similar problems, as are the University of Copenhagen and the Aarhus University in Denmark, whose students are working together with the Humanities Rally in order to sign an international manifesto that will allow for cooperation and mutual support between endangered humanities students around the globe.

It is still too soon to talk about what lessons the humanities crisis has taught us, basically because the fight is definitely not over: "we're still very much prepared to do what it takes to save the faculty", assures Jarmo. However, we might want to stop for a second and think about what it would mean to lose the humanities. When an animal species becomes extinct, the ecosystem it inhabited can suffer irreversible changes; its whole harmony might collapse. But we have seen that the students of the geesteswetenschappen (literally, 'studies of the spirit') are an exception. Probably because they are not mere animals. 'I'm human, I'm humanities' is one of their mottos. The humanities is not the discipline that sustains our societal harmony, but rather that which challenges it. Jean-Jacques Rousseau said that human nature is plastic, and thus subject to change when social and political institutions do so. And when they do—and we know they do, we know our world is changing with great speed—, scientists will be there to investigate what that means for the planet, and sociologists will be there to analyze what that means for society. We better ensure that someone will be there as well to make us think about, and perhaps even to understand, what it means for our Humanity.

**SLACHTING  
VAN DE  
GEESTES-  
WETENSCHAPPEN**

Ingrijpende hervormingen zijn aangekondigd voor de Faculteit Geesteswetenschappen. Binnen slechts twee maanden moet er een grote slachting plaatsvinden. Tijd om hier iets van te zeggen is er niet; studenten en docenten worden zowel monddood als hersendood gemaakt.

► [HUMANITIESRALLY.COM](http://HUMANITIESRALLY.COM)  
#FGWSLACHTING

Fotografie: Vera Duivenvoorden

Humanities Rally! + ASVA

## Millennium Development Goals: Mission Impossible?

Bonnie Welch

At the dawn of the 21st century, 189 United Nations member states sat down to outline a list of targets, aimed at removing global structural inequalities - ranging from issues such as poverty, health and hunger to education and the environment. Despite grand and far-reaching aspirations the Millennium Development Goals have been only partially successful. Although UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon referred to them as "ambitious but feasible", in hindsight the Goals were perhaps void of the latter.

So what were the targets and have they been met?

According to the United Nations Development Program, global poverty was effectively halved five years ahead of schedule, whilst the likelihood of a child dying before age five has been nearly cut in half over the last two decades, resulting in approximately 17,000 fewer deaths every day. However, specific figures show that whilst rates of poverty were halved, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty worldwide, and that despite progress in achieving universal primary education, of the 58 million children out of school globally, the majority of those continue to be girls. Perhaps the least successful MDG has been 'Ensuring Environmental Sustainability'. Whilst the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water has been halved, global greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase, and millions of hectares of forest are destroyed each year. In spite of apparent efforts by national governments, civil societies and the private sector, results are not uniform across the world, and large disparities exist within countries. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the epicentre of crisis, with a rise in extreme poverty, high child and maternal mortality rates and increased food insecurity. Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, largely defined as 'transition economies', appear to have made headway on some of the Goals; however persistent inequality remains, often undermining actual progress.

What next?

There is a broad agreement that whilst the MDGs provided a

focal point for governments to centre their efforts, the policies failed to consider some of the root causes of poverty, gender inequality, and environmental degradation. Establishing a post-2015 agenda was the outcome of the Rio+20 summit in 2012, which resulted in the draft of a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators to be implemented over the coming 15 years.

Some critics argue that these additional targets do little more than buy more time. The 17 goals and 169 targets seem to largely echo, or simply re-phrase the MDGs, and include eliminating poverty, cutting child deaths, encouraging the universal provision of education and ensuring climate stability, whilst additional and seemingly vague aspirations such as 'ensuring the proper functioning of commodity markets', leave room for interpretation and debate. One feels the need to ask what will be different this time. Are we not simply postponing action? In any case these targets, if agreed upon in September, will not be adopted until January 2016 and are ultimately, like the MDGs, nothing more than goals established by world leaders and subsequently reaffirmed on multiple occasions.

Perhaps the reality is much more complex that it appears at first glance; no one individual, government or organization is entirely responsible, and successes thus far should not go unnoticed. Under the umbrella of an 'international development community', support from countless public, private, and non-profit organisations has mobilized and brought together disparate actors that may otherwise find it difficult to cooperate effectively. 2015 marks an endpoint for the Millennium Development Goals, yet simultaneously a springboard for the next generation. Let us hope that the momentum gained so far will continue and increase. Roll on 2030.

*(\*All data has been sourced from the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2014)*

Hands On is organising two major events in the coming semester, focused upon two of the most important MDGs. The first will be held on March 11th, and concerns MDG #1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger. The second will take place on May 6th and will focus upon MDG #7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Both events aim to provide students with an insight into the successes, failures and future of the Goals and will take place in the form of interactive debates and lectures led by experts in the field.



Nicklas Fukcs

## Amsterdam's Hidden Gem: Skek

*Diana Ghidanac*

In the heart of Amsterdam near the Oude-Kerk, there is Skek; a student run bar and restaurant. From the comfortable seating to the quaint décor on the dining tables, this place is perfect for a satisfying dinner at a student-friendly price. The menu is filled with variety that's suitable for meat-lovers, vegetarian and vegans, or for the radicals that may enjoy the Rock & Roll Breakfast: coffee, vodka, and a cigarette. The burgers are always top-notch, accompanied with a side salad and fries. Unlike your typical greens, the salad options such as the chicory salad with apple parmesan and truffle honey, have a gourmet touch. During one of my visits, I selected a pumpkin and whiskey soup that had Turkish bread on the side. It was freshly pureed with just the right touch of spice from the whiskey. For dessert, the forbidden fruit with calrados sauce and vanilla ice cream, which may be the sweetest finisher you could ever get without feeling too heavy at the end. Last but not least, the best part about Skek is the 25% student discount provided you show a student card. With open-mics, jazz nights, friendly service, and savory food fit for our taste buds, this is a must-see the next time you get the chance to venture in the city.



# DEBATE

The absence policy at AUC is ambiguous and conflicts with much of AUC's ideology. How often have you been told during your time at AUC that you are the future leaders of the world? Or that we are the generation to make a difference? I've only been here a semester and I've heard this more in the past four months than I have throughout life. Often when we think of leaders, we think of disciplined, courageous, and strong individuals whose work ethic is impeccable – attributes I'm sure we all strive for. Yet the first, and perhaps most important, the ability to be self-disciplined, is crippled by the AUC absence policy. How can we learn to discipline ourselves if we are simply instructed by authoritative figures? Yes, the absence policy means we attend most classes but I fear the reasoning is detrimental. I have often gone to class for the sake of not getting an absence, not because I am motivated to learn or achieve. Combined with this is the ambiguity found within the different and varied approaches to the policy: perhaps, if there

was a clean-cut strict rule followed by all lecturers it would be more successful; but in my experience, the way it is carried out completely depends on the lecturer. Some give half absences for being 3 minutes late, others 10 minutes, some none at all. Thus I have learned not to respect the absence policy but instead, to manipulate it. I know that I can be 20 minutes late for a certain lecture, yet only 3 minutes late for another, I can miss the first half of one class, but must be ten minutes early for another etc. Maybe the lack of an official reading week heightens the stress this absence rule can cause. Not to mention, five absences for a non-stop 16 week period provides very little leeway for illnesses or breaks which can and do create resentment within the student population. This resentment also creates a lack of genuine agreement with the absence policy and replaces it with a passive-aggressive acceptance, something society does not associate with its ideal leaders of tomorrow, but rather its "realistic" ones of today.

## PRO

Molly Fitz



## Should AUC Scrap Its 5-Absence-And-Fail Policy?

## CON

Phoebe Dodds

Numerous studies have proven that teenagers and students are naturally wired to wake up late, and frankly, if AUC were to abolish the five-absences-and-fail policy, the 8.30 and 9am classes would be pretty empty. One of the things that makes AUC different from other universities is the fact that we have small classes, and these rely on us as students to contribute to debates. Thanks to the absences policy, you're always guaranteed an almost-full, and therefore more stimulating class. Even though our semesters are pretty long, five absences per course – when we only have two classes of each subject per week – is enough to take a long weekend when you need it. After all, in later life when we're all in proper careers, we will have to plan vacations carefully with only a few weeks off a year, so we might as well get used to it now. Even though some may argue that the absences policy takes away our individual

freedom to choose whether or not we want to attend class, we become more responsible because we know we have to get up in the morning. If attending class were optional, it would be too tempting to stay late at a party/ stay up watching "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" until 4am and then sleeping into the next morning. The fact that certain courses at AUC are mandatory means that some people really do not enjoy them, and in some cases (such as with Logic), the absences policy is the only incentive to actually get up and attend the class, as the threat of failing the exams because you don't understand anything is often not enough. While of course it would be nice to have more time off during the year, the five-absences-and-fail policy is sadly a necessary one and therefore should not be abolished.

# CREATIVE WRITING

## The Uncertain Fate of the Famous Person Udo J

Poetry: Martin Hoffman

Illustrations: Yin Hsieh  
Nikki Omes

Beggars they do speak  
and guts of trains they do still smoke

Who are the princes and knights  
who are kings of the night?

Glamorously sparkling  
down the dizzy night  
riding shiny dignity and  
wielding fists inside their pockets

it ain't Udo J  
(that's for sure)

Pathetically smoking on a tram  
ever dimming, waving in  
they're the thinned out and the stripped  
residue of Sunday's merry buying



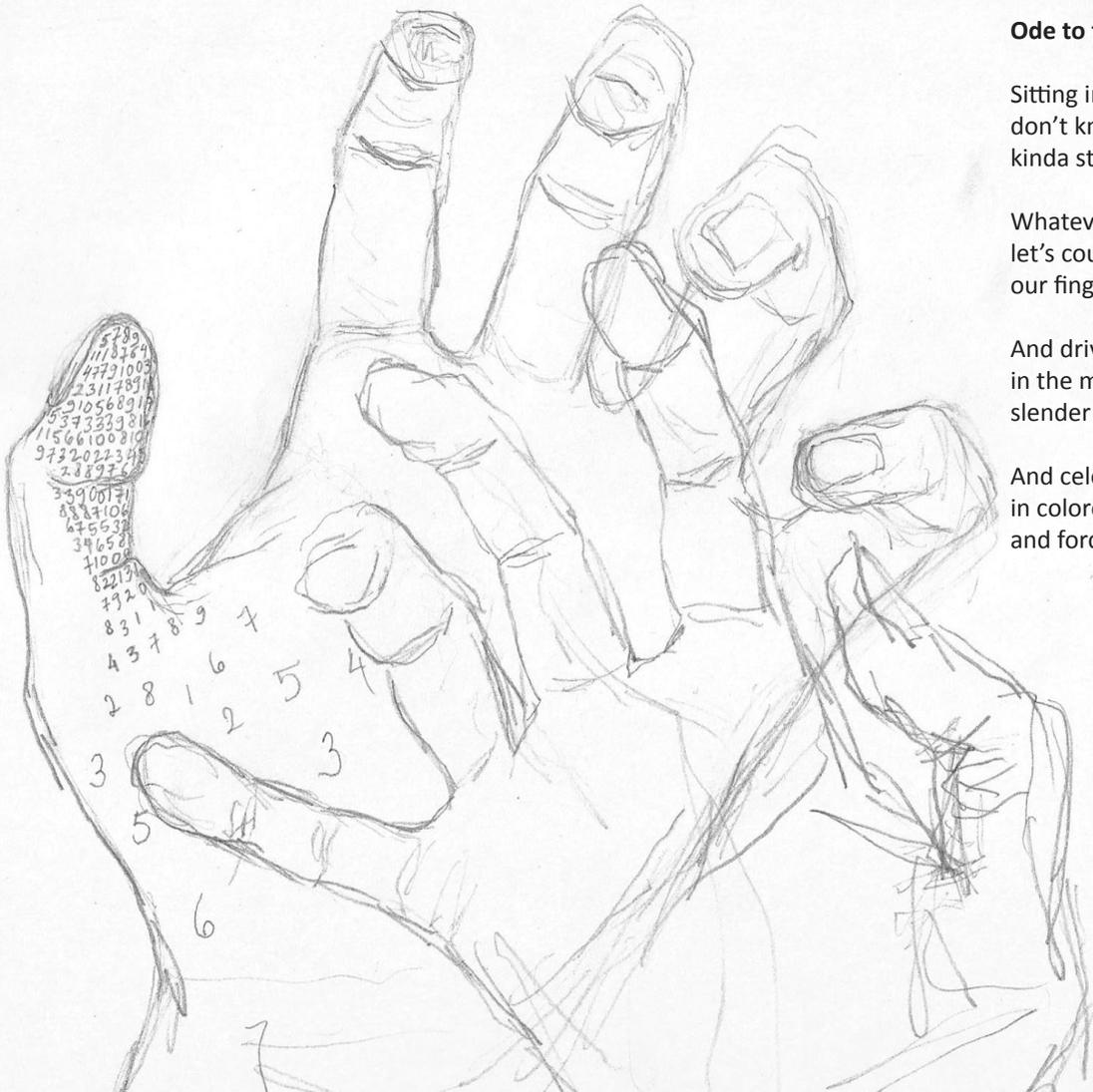
## Ode to the Internet

Sitting in a folding chair, we  
don't know what a signal is  
kinda staring at its space

Whatever power is  
let's count it on  
our fingers' fleshy sizes

And drive down friction  
in the matte wake of a  
slender profile page

And celebrate the disarray  
in colored digits  
and forceful weightless bits



## Stay warm!

*Cristina Roca*

I've returned from Canada with many valuable experiences and a renewed determination not to let the cold cramp my style. It seems like, from the beginning of November (which is when the temperature dropped to 0, by the way), everyone wore exactly the same every single day: a down parka and snow boots. Here are some lessons I drew on how you can stay warm without looking like you're going on an Arctic expedition.

- You can still wear a coat! A good coat should contain some wool (don't worry, you don't have to spend a fortune, especially if you go second hand!) and be on the thick side. Preferably with a collar so your neck and chest are protected, and preferably long so your, erm, bum doesn't get cold. I like belted coats because a) they are flattering and b) they fit snug and thus keep you warm.

- Layer. Thin sweaters under thick ones, turtlenecks under shirts under blazers, long sleeves under a sleeveless top... After the bra-over-Tshirt trend nothing you do can look weird. Check out layering expert Leandra Médine's [manrepeller.com](http://manrepeller.com) (yep) for unexpected ways to wear half the clothes you own at once (literally). On really cold days, try wearing your denim or leather jacket under your coat –you can slip them off together once you're indoors.

- A huge scarf will keep things interesting (especially if you're wearing the same black coat every day) and protects your neck and face. Thick wool ones are the best because they're warm and they hold their shape, but chunky knitted ones are also effective.

- See the cold as an opportunity to wear a cute hat! Pom poms make everything better.

- Try to wear something fitted on your legs, like thick tights or skinny jeans, so the cold wind can't creep from under your cuffs.

- The most important thing of all: keep your feet warm. Buy your (ankle) boots roomy enough to fit thick woolen socks, because if your feet are cold you'll be suffering no matter how warm the rest of your body is!



New store in Amsterdam: & Other Stories.

*Cristina Roca*

This brand may be owned by H&M, but it's, well, a whole other story. Good quality clothes, chic designs that oscillate between basic-with-a-twist and trendy-but-not-too-trendy, prices that you can afford... during the sales (enough said) and a beautiful aesthetic which translates to an artfully arranged, spacious store where the accessories function as decorations, and comfortable dressing rooms with curtains that actually close all the way shut –thank God. Forget fighting the crowds and messy piles of clothes at Zara, here you can shop the sales and leave with your dignity intact. Oh, and aside from jewelry, accessories and shoes, they also have a cool beauty line. If you're my friend and you have a birthday coming up, you know where I'll be buying your gift ;)



*Illustrations by  
Garance Dore*



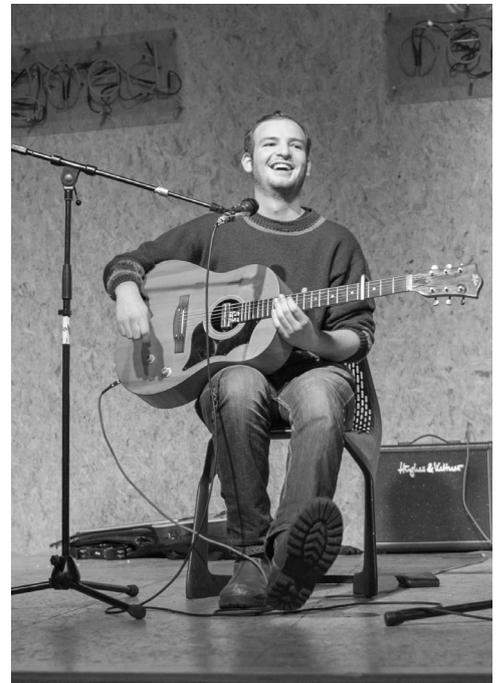
AUC Cafe: Sinterklaas Borrel



ASUSA: Down to Earth Dinner



Means Board



Open Stage

Catch Board: Practice Inter UC Match

AUC Cafe: Oktoberfest Borrel



## The Beste van Nederland - A Retrospective

James Anderson

Nederland is undoubtedly the home of the DJ. With 5 of the top 10 DJ's in the world (according to DJ magazine) hailing from the land of tulpen en klompen. But, for those of us with an interest in the more phallic side of pop music, (as opposed to the yonic practice of disc-jockeying), we're all too often moved to ask "where are the Dutch bands?" Well brethren, they are to be found in abundance in the record collections of many a Nederlander with a taste for all things rock. With this belangrijk vraag in mind, the music page for this issue of Scriptus counts down the top 5 bands to come out of this fair land. Without further a do...

## # 5: Shocking Blue

Probably the sexiest band to grace this list, Shocking Blue found fame in the late 1960's, with thanks to the sultry good looks of lead singer Mariska Veres (an object of fantasy for many a Nederlandse jochie). Forming in Den Haag, the band topped the US Billboard Hot 100 in 1970 with their seductive ditty Venus (1970) (which some readers may recognise as the soundtrack to a brand of women's shavers). Unfortunately the group disbanded in 1973 but continue to inspire, with bands ranging from Nirvana to Bananarama having covered their songs in more recent years.

Shave your legs to: Venus (1970).

## # 4: The Ex

Often regarded as the 'first' punk band or 'punk before punk' (there's nothing like a good cliché, is there?), the Ex take the no.4 spot on this (hurriedly cobbled together) list of Dutch bands. In true anarcho-punk fashion (or should I say anti-fashion?) the band have refrained from the musical spotlight throughout their career, tracing an oft-treaded path in rock mythology: inspiring countless bands whilst themselves remaining modest of their influence. The band continue to have a devoted fan base that follow the elusive DIY innovators wherever they play.

Scream along to: State of Shock (1991).

## # 3: Golden Earring

"We've got a thing, and it's called radar love". To this day, I've yet to discover what "radar love" actually is, but I wouldn't have it any other way if it means listening to Golden Earring whilst cruising at 90mph. Founded in Den Haag in 1963, the group achieved fame worldwide in the 1973 with their aforementioned hit, Radar Love (1973) - as well as enjoying continued success in the 1980's with Twilight Zone (1982) and When the Lady Smiles (1984). The band continue to play today, proving that the mileage of Dutch rock is better than the sceptics would assume.

Speed to: Radar Love (1973).

## # 2: Focus

Squealing frenetically like a weasel with its tail stuck in an electric pencil sharpener, Thijs van Leer propelled an unfathomable concoction of blood, sweat and bitterballen from the Netherlands best instrumental prog-rockers, Focus. Famous worldwide in the 1970's, Focus set the bar to which all other long haired men playing lightning-fast riffs based on classical symphonies, sought to imitate. Maintaining their musical credibility in recent years, the band's infamous tour de force, Hocus Pocus (1971), was featured on the 2010 Nike World Cup advert. Stand out tracks: Hocus Pocus (1971), Hous of the King (1974) and Sylvia (1973).

## #1: Herman Brood

Growling his way through songs of sex, drugs and rock & roll like a washed up Elvis on speed (he was actually on speed, just for the record), the Netherlands greatest rock star tops the no. 1 spot on this list - Herman Brood. Few musicians have been able to match the success and talent of Brood since he found fame with his band 'Herman Brood and his Wild Romance' in the late 1970's. Not just a talented musician, in recent years, Brood's talent for painting arguably superseded his musical past, with a new generation of Nederlanders discovering Brood's artwork even before knowing about his rock & roll talents. The legend of Brood continues to live on, in part, due to his premature death at 54 (Brood committed suicide by leaping from the roof of the Amsterdam Hilton). Listen to: Saturday night (1978), I love you like I love myself (1980) and Doin' It (1978).



## Dutch lyric of the day:

"Je bent goedkoop alsof je chilled in de bonus" from Sexy Beesten by De Jeugd van Tegenwoordig.

# LOVE, SEX, AND MAGIC

## Loving the Day of Love

Charlotte Verboom

In case you have forgotten it, or tried to forget it, I'll help you remind that the 14th of February it is the day of love and romance (yes guys romance is an actual word, you can look it up in the dictionary). For some of us this second Saturday of February will be the day that our loved ones will try to surprise us with chocolates, dinners, roses, movies, presents, or whatever loving things come to mind. Others, a big majority actually, will not be doing anything 'special' on this cold winter day. However, single or not, make this Valentine's Day a great Saturday!

### "I hate Valentine's day"

We all know this person, whining about Valentine's Day every year over and over again. We almost don't dare to share our love stories anymore with them in this period around Valentine's. In my opinion, there are 5 types of persons on Valentine's Day: you have one who always complains about almost everything that comes along with love or romance, one who pretends to not give a sh\*t, one who always brags about how great their love and love in general is, one who is sad because they just lost a loved one, and then there is someone who actually just enjoys Valentine's Day (single or not). The latter, that's me (most of the time, anyway) and you should become that person, too.

### Friend's Day!

Enjoying Valentine's sounds like something you can only do when you are in a relationship, or when you have a requited love. In Finland, however, Valentine's Day is called "Ystävänpäivä," which literally means "Friend's Day". They find it more important to celebrate friendships rather than romance. I also used to send all my friends a rose on Valentine's Day just to say how much I loved them and appreciated them, and if you ask to me this is a better way of spending your time than watching sad, dramatic, romantic movies, eating Ben&Jerry's,

and crying because your love life isn't that great at the moment. Valentine's day can also be one of those days where you realize that you actually have a lot of great people in your life. Make use of the fact that it is on a Saturday. Go out, enjoy, smack that random person's ass and have a lot of fun with the people you'll always love: your friends.

### Being super cliché is totally oké.

For those who are planning to have a special surprise, or a wow-effect date: plan in advance. Not only will a lot of restaurants and hotels be overbooked and super expensive on this day, mental preparation could also be necessary. Don't be scared to google "Valentine date tips." They will vary from really unique suggestions to really cliché ideas, but being cliché is not a bad thing. Roses, chocolate, massages, rose petals, dinners, it is definitely worth trying! Having said that, do skip the "I wrote a letter, sprayed perfume on it and put it in your mailbox" trick – that really scares people off. Writing a poem, on the other hand, can be super romantic! If you are not that creative, just let google help you find the right words.

Single or not, in love or not, loved or not, what does it all matter? Enjoying this Saturday like every other Saturday, where you like to stay in your stinky bed for hours; that is all that matters. How you do it, or with whom, that's not important. Nobody needs to know you watched Game of Thrones all day. It is about you loving yourself and doing the things you love! Still not able to enjoy a little bit of Valentine's Day? Just remember that on this day all the chocolate is going to be on sale! And if you are really hardcore, you can always celebrate the SAD (Singles Awareness/Appreciation Day) on the 15th of February.

Have a great Saturday!



Yin Hsieh

# WE ASKED YOU

“What are the characteristics of a typical AUC student?”



“Ambitious, internationally focused, probably a bit arrogant, and obsessed with GPA... Hahaha.”

*Tilly Berkhout, 2nd Year*



“Motivated, yeah I agree with Tilly on the “bit arrogant”, good at socializing.”

*Yaron Zonneveld, 2nd Year*



“Hard working, pretends to party a lot but secretly stops drinking at 11pm because they have to study, hahaha.”

*Ivan Seifert, 2nd Year*



“I think AUC people are “work hard play hard”; do it all and try to get enough sleep.”

*Sophie de Pater, 2nd Year*



“Pretty awesome and would be super willing to volunteer at Jeugdlab. Also, Lance, can you stop interviewing me for Scriptus all the time?”

*Luuk van der Sterren, 2nd Year*



“Generally intelligent, some more than others. Generally quite engaged with the world around us. Many people are unrealistically idealistic and think they can change the world. ...And most of us could probably use some more modestly. #stillblessed”

*Pam van Schie, 3rd Year*



“There isn't a typical AUC student, but we're all hardworking, motivated, and always up for drinks at AUCafé.”

*Michael Vermeer, 3rd Year*



“Sorry, I can't answer your question; I have to make a call”

*Storm Gibbons, 1st Year*