



No. 13

Sipha

Foreword

Dearest readers

The day has finally come to pass on my duties as editor-in-chief of Scriptus. Having collected every issue since its establishment, and having served on the board since the third issue, I have seen Scriptus grow from an ever-so-slightly clumsy, coy publication to one that is confident, critical and ever-so-slightly crazy at times. Even more so, I have seen streams of ordinary students who put in the long hours of hard work that goes into every issue, whether it be writing, designing, editing, illustrating, photographing, treasury, promoting, or simply hardcore brainstorming. A lot goes on behind the scenes in order for this magazine to find its way to your hands, dear reader. As always, the succeeding board will try to improve with every issue, even in the face of criticism and limited financial and temporal resources. We will always encourage fellow committees (and any ordinary student) to use Scriptus as a platform for their voice. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the amazing Scriptus board, and to all the awesome contributors (regular or one-off). It's been an absolute pleasure.

by Emma Goodman

Changes/Updates/Statements

Coming soon: several awesome new board members

Parallel to this issue, we have proudly produced our first-ever committee edition! Woooo!

IT'S FINALLY IN COLOUR! (unless the print company fucked up again...)

Scriptus
the student magazine

This Issue in Numbers

- Copies: 300
- Cigarettes: 61 (Mostly smoked by our contemplative head editor)
- Bottles of red wine: 3

FIND US ON



Cover Artist's Statement

In a strange way, even though I am the artist, I feel the least qualified to write about this cover – simply because during the creation process, I honestly had no clue what I was doing. I can tell you about how I painted it, but as for what it represents, I don't know any better than you do, and any analysis I give will just be the equivalent of me spouting nonsense, artistically.

I started with a few half-dried tubes of watercolors, and instead of carefully mixing and separating color gradients I blended everything together in one massive puddle on my palette. The first layer of green looked remarkably like algae...so I tossed the entire sheet of the paper into the sink to wash out the color - and ended up more or less trying to paint a towel.

Sounds terrifically unplanned and idiotically impulsive, right? Actually, it was just loads of fun!

The original color cover of this year wasn't printed correctly, so my goal for this one was to cram as much color as I could on one page without forgetting the title and issue number. It's chaotic but not enough to cause headaches, so...SUCCESS! I guess?

by Yin Chen Hsieh

Scriptus Board

Christina Roca (External Relations)
Martin Hoffmann (Head Editor)
Nicole Brusa (Secretary)
Sara Hoeksma (Treasurer)
Emma Goodman (Editor in Chief)
Sonya Langman (Designer)
Nick Handfield-Jones (PR)
Yin Hsieh (Head Illustrator)

List of Contributors

Leonie van der Kolk
Irena Cirkovic
Joosje Kist
Nikki Omes
Luca Lomonaco
Ernest Wright
Anouk van Ekeren
Judith Kadee
Bianca Pick
Willem Pije
Alexander Luke
Yannesh Meijman
Ruby de Hart
Zahia Siab
Molly Fitz
Phoebe Dobbs
Olivier Maas
Diana Ghidinac
Elias von Hildebrand
James Anderson
Laura Galante

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.

PLACES OF AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam: the Wild & the Weird

The new semester is not so new anymore, so the first assignments are already stressing us out. But fear not, lovely AUCers, because Scriptus knows exactly how you feel and is here to help you out with some of the wildest and weirdest things to do in our lovely city (we all need a break every now and then). Whether you want to be enlightened by a visit to a very special museum or want to find a place with like-minded cat lovers... We know just where to go. Enjoy!

by Anouk van Eekeren

Museum Vrolik
AMC
Meibergdreef 9

This museum started as the private collection of the family Vrolik and was later sold to rich Amsterdamers. Since 1984 it can be found in the AMC; a dark, slightly spooky yet super exciting place, open to everyone interested in human embryology and the anatomy of different animals! The curator is currently working on a detailed description of every specimen, so very soon you will be able to get to know every detail about the Cyclops baby, Siamese twins and the lion's heart. This place is definitely a must see for all of you excellent AUCers, as the collection brings the arts and sciences together!

photo from Parool.nl

Electric Ladyland
Museum of Fluorescent Art
Tweede Leliedwarsstraat 5

In 1999, Nick Padalino, a New Yorker with the heart of a hippie, opened the world's first museum of fluorescent art. The museum puts great emphasis on 'participatory art'; visitors are invited to contribute to a particular part of the museum. As for the other rooms, Padalino happily provides all kinds of tours, including a very detailed description of fluorescent minerals – eat your heart out, geologists!

photo from electric-lady-land.com

Kattenkabinet
Herengracht 497 – 1017

All cat lovers should visit the Kattenkabinet, a small place located in a historic building on one of the most beautiful grachten of Amsterdam. Founded in memory of a cat named Tom, this museum honours cats with countless posters, paintings, drawings, and photographs. William Meijer, Tom's owner and the founder of the place, tried to capture the cultural importance of cats throughout history. If you somehow don't have enough time to visit the museum or want to prepare your visit, you should definitely visit the recently updated website of the Kattenkabinet where you can take a virtual tour through the building, but you will not be able to pet one of the five super cute real-life cats living in the museum.

Ctaste - Dining in the dark
Amsteldijk 55

Ever wondered what it is like to not be able to see anything at all? At Ctaste you get the chance to experience what blind or visually impaired individuals go through every day; eating without seeing it. Don't worry about having to read the menu in braille though; you will be able to pick your meal in a lighted lounge area before being brought to the darkened dining area where blind people will wait you. If this has not been enough to convince you that a visit to Ctaste is definitely worth your while, then the Tripadvisor certificate of excellence should probably appeal to us diverse AUC students.

photo from ctaste.nl

Officials fear students will "Occupy Everything"

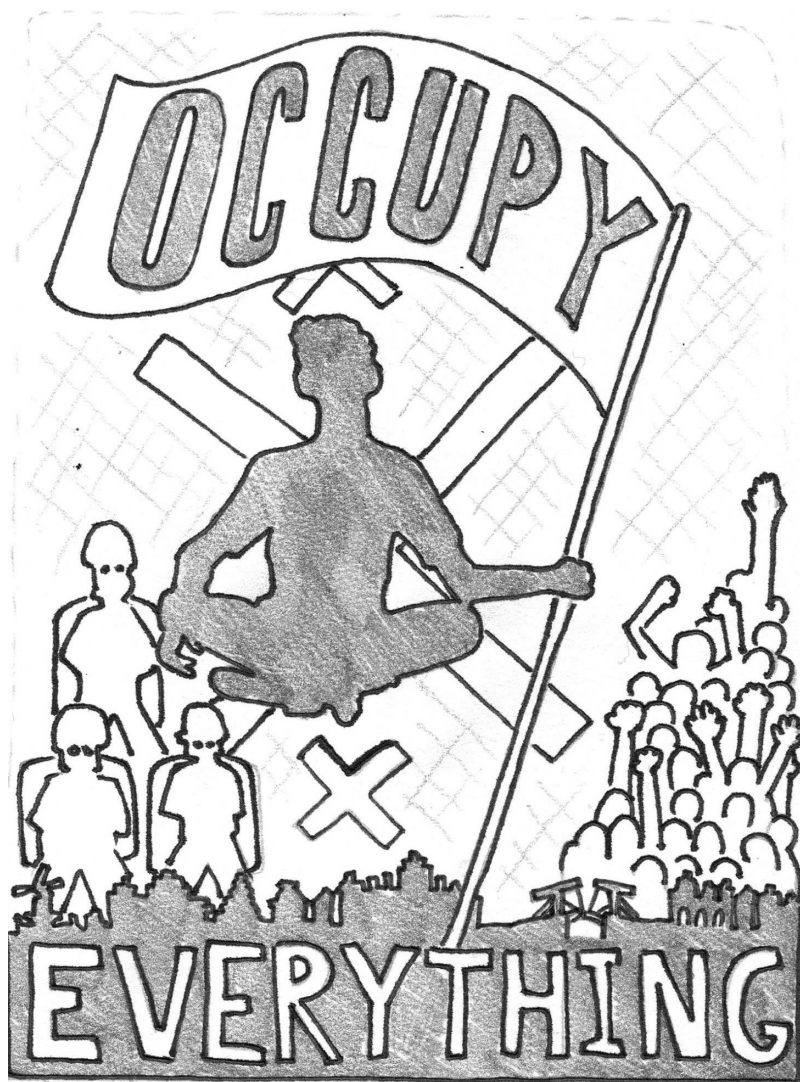
It started out with a small group of pissed off students. It grew and became a movement, punctuated by a protest here and there, still nothing to worry about. And suddenly, without warning, it escalated to new, terrifying heights. Suddenly, the small, impassioned group of students became social media wizards, and were recruiting from all sides – from the humanities, from the social sciences, from the sciences dear God! So many students, so little resistance offered to their brutal propaganda about freedom, transparency, democracy for Pete's sake! It has spread, from the UvA to other universities in the Netherlands, and even internationally in some cases. Most disturbingly, it will not cease until their demands are met.

Such is the horrifying situation that we find ourselves in, students knocking on the doors of organisations, tormenting them with their threats of righteous occupation. One UvA authority experienced this when he innocently tried to go to his job late last month. He has chosen to remain anonymous for this interview "to save face". Like any regular day, he cycled from his home in the west – making sure to kiss his wife and child upon departure (he is a noble family man) – to his place of employment, the Bungehuis on Spuistraat. Upon arrival, however, he found it to be occupied by raving students, strewn with propagandist imagery and surrounded by similar such chaos. "It was utterly terrifying", he says with a shiver, "and what's even more terrifying is that they have sympathisers! People who are actually funding these nuts!"

These malicious groups have indeed received much support and a significant amount of funding from supporters from all over the country. Many institutions, lecturers, and some companies have sadly fallen victim to the incessant propaganda, and have joined the utterly repulsive cause. Now UvA officials fear that the students will truly occupy everything. "Threats of 100,000 euro fines don't even seem to dissuade them!" exclaims another UvA higher-up, "if money doesn't work, then what will?"

It is this seemingly apathetic – aggressively opposed to even – attitude to money and capitalist notions that baffle the authorities the most. "It is completely incomprehensible to me", stated an authority at a press conference yesterday, "that people have motivations and goals that are not determined by money. By making these budget cuts, the UvA is merely trying to aim toward more prosperous ventures". When questioned about these 'prosperous ventures', he answered that it was "a private matter".

As paranoia continues to increase, building owners have been instructed to remain calm if they see a large group of rowdy students heading their way, to quickly and effectively bar the entrances of the building, and to cover their ears to avoid falling victim to their propagandist, horrid cries. Furthermore, they have been instructed to remove step ladders from in and around their building. Scriptus will keep you posted as the situation develops. Stay strong, comrades.



by Ernest Wright
illustration by Yin Chen Hsieh

Faces of AUC

Living in History: An Experience of an AUC Graduate

Aged 22, a former AUC student and a museum director...yes, it is possible! As a recently graduated February student, I always knew that I wanted to do an internship to bridge the gap between my bachelor and master. Even though my motivation letter for FOAM was already finished, I stumbled upon the vacancy at Villa Mondriaan, a museum in Winterswijk (read: practically Germany) on the early years of Piet Mondrian. The vacancy was for the position of junior director and would allow you to live in the museum, which is also the former home of Mr. Mondrian himself. A once in a lifetime chance, so I applied and ended up getting the job! I travelled back and forth between Amsterdam and Winterswijk during my final intensive period, and moved into the museum the day after my final exam.

Life in a small village is quite different from the hectic Amsterdam life. Everybody knows each other, everyone is very chatty, and you catch up a lot quicker with all the great bars that you need to visit, as there are about four in total. But this is also part of the fun of course! The work is challenging, as we run the museum solely with three (junior) directors. From supervising volunteers, setting up new exhibitions, making communication plans to giving tours and organizing events, everything is included in the job. A day off is never a normal day off for me, as I am living at my work where I always bump into volunteers and visitors. But this is also one of the nice things about it: even on your day off, you walk into people that are excited about the legacy of this wonderful painter. A experience to never forget!

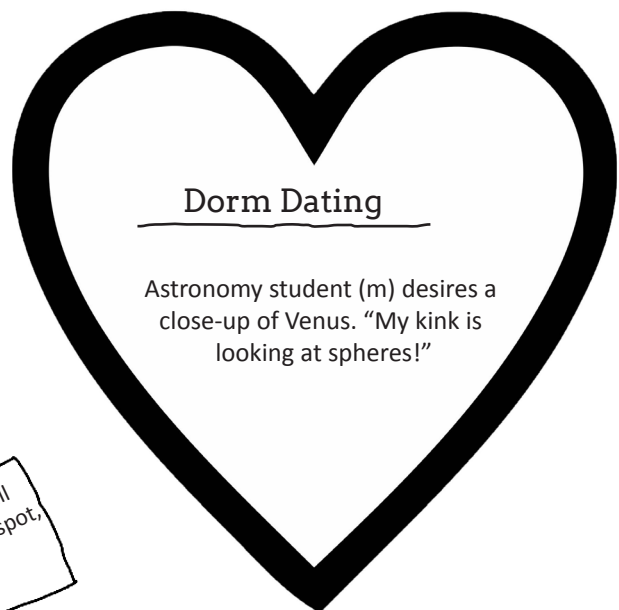
by Judith Kadee



In Other News

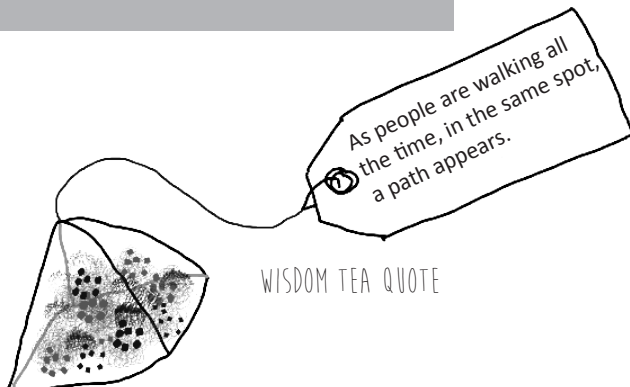
Our very own Spar across the street has been robbed. Cash and cigarettes were stolen last Friday by two men armed with a cleaver. The police has not yet found them, so watch out, kids!

OnStage presented their production of the comedy Boeing Boeing to great success. "jesus IT WAS SO GOOD," one attendee applauded.



Dorm Dating

Astronomy student (m) desires a close-up of Venus. "My kink is looking at spheres!"



CAMPUS LIFE: SUBMISSION

Coffeeshops: East to West Best

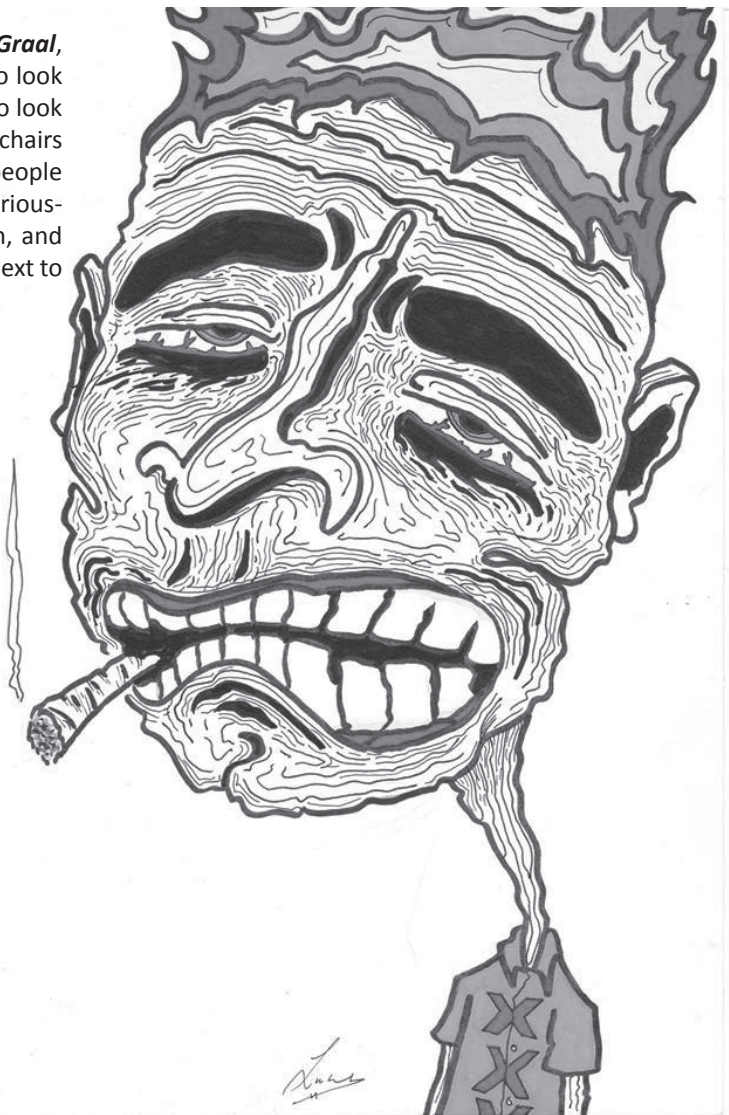
Kashmir Lounge was my first stop on that bright winter morning. Kashmir may be the loungiest lounge in the entire city. Firstly, it has one of the biggest assortments of hash, ranging from €5/gram to €40 or even €60 for the connoisseurs, and the dealer knows his stuff. He will never try to rush you out of the counter to make space for the next customer. A mid-fifties slender man with a greying ponytail, who is always smooth, and is eager to strike a conversation about anything, if you are willing to stay at the coffee shop; because right across the street there is the lounge of Kashmir Lounge. A comparably larger space with –guess what: couches all along the walls, and an oval bar in the middle. Kashmir Lounge brings an oriental flavor to the mix with the couches and tables close to the ground and an abundance of colors and pillows on the furniture. Sipping on the handpicked hash from the dealer man, I had almost reached the chilling nirvana, until the fat belly of the two-meter Ganesh right in front of me reminded me of my empty stomach. [Average of Weed, Atmosphere, Staff Behavior: 9/10]

After satisfying my gluttonous desires, I headed to my second stop, **1e Hulp**, which, as I'm being told, translates to First Aid. A couple of streets above Overtoom, you find 1e Hulp, a seemingly small, yet very spacious coffee shop. You should definitely stop by if you are close to Vondelpark with a big group of people and can't find peace of mind at any of these ridiculously small coffee shop tables. 1e Hulp has the longest single couch I have ever seen. It could comfortably fit up to 15 people around a table. Despite their sizes, the couches are in close proximity to each other, so you are bound to meet a funny character or two. It could be a student from Utrecht who came to smoke as much weed as she can in a weekend, or it could be a guy who claims to have a huge weed plantation just out of Amsterdam. Despite all that, there are two words that separate 1e Hulp from other coffee shops: Purple. Cheese. 1e Hulp is the first choice for weed strains you've never seen before in your life –with a highest price of €13/gram. [Average: 8/10]

The perfect way to end such an evening would be to end up in **De Graal**, in the area of De Pijp. You could imagine the interior of De Graal to look like the living room of a cultivated, sober and conservative person to look like, but on acid. Books are a big part of the wall décor, all the armchairs are proper, and there is an infinity of chessboards to go around for people to stimulate their tactical thinking. Yet, between all this informal seriousness there are visually trippy paintings, big colorful aquariums, oh, and did I mention the secret studio room? There is a camouflaged door next to the neon-lit toilet that leads to a separate room with a couple of booths and the complete be-a-band set. There is a piano, a drum set, a couple of guitars and basses, bongos, xylophones and more that slip my muddy mind, and anyone can go wild –hopefully not literally. You can either convince the dealer to let you in, if you are the eloquent type, or, if you are lucky, you might bump into a two-hour exclusive jazz jam while your smoke annoys the guitarist. What is cooler than a secret studio accessible to the customers? [Average: 10/10]

By Anonymous

illustration by Luca Lomonaco



Interview with Rebecca Linder: Where Shakespeare meets Code - New Courses in Digital Humanities

Cultural Heritage Institutions are increasingly drawing on digital technologies to digitizing their collections, help curate and manage artifacts, and interpret sources in new ways. In response to such developments, AUC is expanding its track in the digital humanities. Starting in January 2016, "Coding the Humanities" is a new course designed to help students of the Arts, Literature, Philosophy, Culture and History improve their IT skills in ways that are relevant to their field.

Building on courses offered at UvA and VU, it will be taught by Prof. Rens Bond as part of the Communication track. The focus of the course will be practical. Students may learn how to make creative applications that could, for example, be used to detect and link artifacts in museums with the necessary information. For a more theoretical approach, the course 'New Media Literacy' (200 level) addresses the role of digital media in contemporary humanities. More conceptual is also Digital Anthropology (cross-listed with Social Science), which discusses the relationship between technology global cultures.

The courses are part of AUC's larger aim to expand and build curriculums that equip students with 21st century skills. As Head of the Humanities, Rebecca Linder points out, "there is a general growing awareness of a knowledge gap when it comes to new technologies. Undergraduate students are not being trained in digital skills and this may need to change". Linder emphasizes that coding skills are however not meant as compensation to otherwise lacking humanities skills. They should be treated as complementary tools to classical approaches of writing, theory and analytical thinking.

We are left with the question whether 'e-humanities' is the next big thing or simply a passing trend? A basic understanding of IT certainly seems useful - perhaps even a must have- in a world that is increasingly defined by its language. But to what extent digital media can enhance our understanding of Shakespeare, the Fine Arts or Greek Philosophy is still up for debate- and soon there for AUC students to explore.

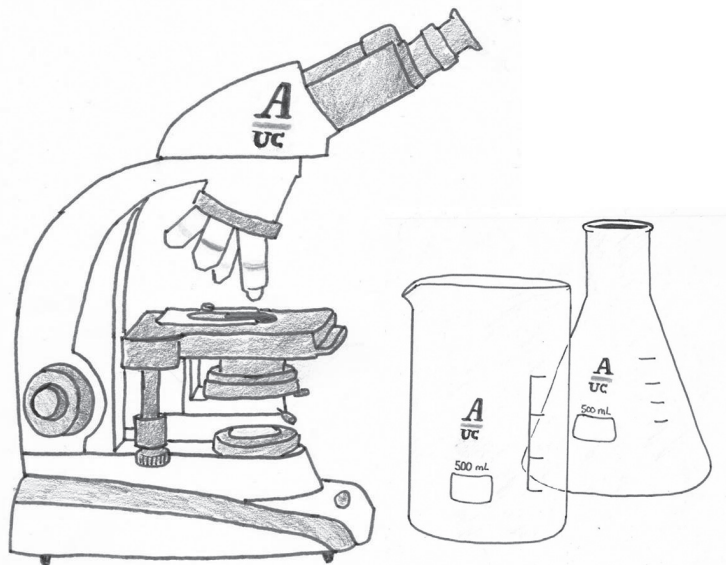
by Bianca Pick

The Dire Dearth of Labs

"Learn all about our Sciences programme"... boasts the bright red banner on the front page of AUC's website. This is typical of AUC's marketing tactics, to sell itself as a "science" university college. After clicking the button, the user is brought to an enticing description of AUC's "in-depth" science curriculum, along with a picture of two students working in a lab. Here is the problem: AUC's science program has few labs to offer.

Currently, there are four intensive-period lab courses offered at AUC. There are no 4-month courses offered except for an off-campus physics course that is, according to some, disappointing. Meanwhile, science students are urged to pursue internships for graduation and to engage in scientific thinking.

The problem with this multi-faceted. Primarily, science is the study of nature and the universe, through both theory and observation. AUC covers theory, but how are we to observe our world without the labs that are necessary to do so? As science students, we should be learning how to apply our theoretical skills in a practical setting. Even the greatest scientists needed to learn the basics of how labs work, and as the hub of knowledge, the university should provide us with these skills. Second problem: practical matters. In the competitive scientific job market, employers accept the best prospects. A key ingredient to this is practical experience. AUC should facilitate the means to obtain these positions. Finally, AUC's science students crave learning. For instance, early assessment of a recent AUC science focus



group survey showed that 76% of respondents wanted more lab courses, (93% if they were on a Wednesday). One may think that this enthusiasm is surprising (the physics lab was recently cancelled for lack of sign ups, after all), but could it be that people aren't interested or speaking up about this issue simply because our school doesn't breed a love for practical application?

AUC should strive to provide its students with all the possibilities it can. Therefore, it would be advisable to add lab courses to complement the theory. This branching-out would cultivate a greater love for science from its students, and give them more opportunities to learn. This piece does not aim to find a solution, but I hope it will generate discussion that will bring AUC one step closer to these opportunities becoming a reality.

by Nick Handfield-Jones

illustration by Leonie van der Kolk

My Vegetarian Manifesto

“We can’t plead ignorance, only indifference. Those alive today are the generations that came to know better. We have the burden and the opportunity of living in the moment when the critique of factory farming broke into the popular consciousness. We are the ones of whom it will be fairly asked, What did you do when you learned the truth about eating animals?”

“No, thank you, I don’t eat meat” is always a great way to get the conversation starting. “I could never live without eating steak” and “How do you get all of your nutrients?” (this one is mostly my mother) are just a small selection of the variety of responses when people find out you are a vegetarian. Although, more and more people decide to cut meat (and fish in my case) from their diets, it is apparently still a reason for surprise. I was contemplating becoming vegetarian for some time, but after reading the book *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer I could not justify eating meat to myself anymore.

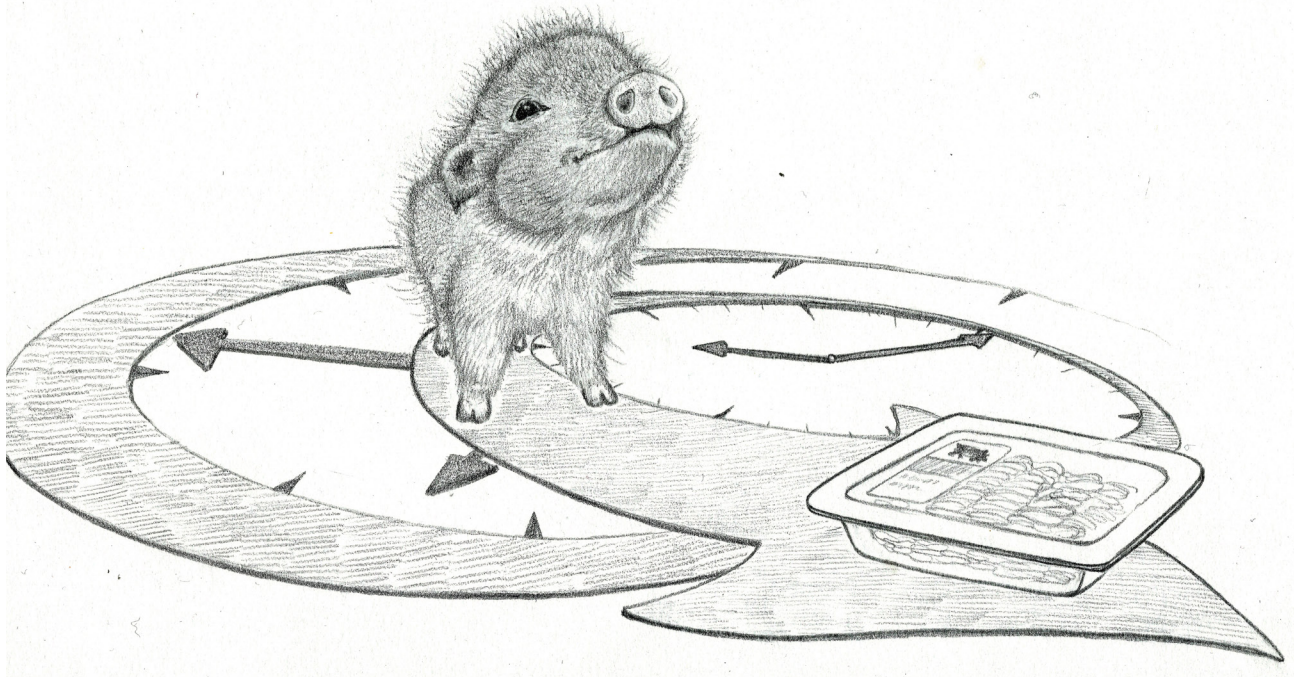
This book is not simply an extended list of reasons why you should become a vegetarian. It is an informed, yet personal story about animal welfare, eating habits and the importance of food within communities and cultures. This does not mean, that he refrains from confronting the reader with the horrible

living circumstance the chicken, cows, pigs and other animals we like to eat. This is an important part of the book, but it is not the reason I’m recommending it - you could just watch one of the gruesome documentaries available on Youtube to see the atrocities.

The chapters on the social and communal values of eating together makes the book more than just a case for vegetarianism. He talks about how food matters or physical health, but more importantly for pleasure. Our history and culture are tied together with the meals we ate and the meals our forefathers ate. I love his reflections on the loss of certain traditions because of his vegetarianism, while at the same time he sees the value of establishing new, more conscious traditions by teaching his young son about the consequences of our dietary choices. The mix of the purely theoretical and statistical, and the highly personal makes this book worth reading, but you have been warned: you just might become a vegetarian!

by Willem Pije

illustration by Yin Chen Hsieh



The Second Budget GA Summary

The Budget GA: many-a-treasurer has trembled at the sound of it. Many-a-committee member has dreaded the inevitable debates. Many-an-AUCSA board member has had their patience tried and their voices strained. Such is the way of the Budget GA. However, the latest GA (held on the 18th of February) kept to a short and sweet 2.5 hours. The majority of the proposed budgets of the committees and teams were passed, albeit with the occasional suspicious question thrown in every now and then, or the odd motion raised every few committees. Surprisingly, XVII’s printing budget was outright denied by the GA, something highly problematic for a committee that is all about printing high-quality magazines. As for us, it turns out that we sent in our old, no-longer-relevant budget (classic mistake, right?). Luckily, AUCSA was perfectly accommodating about it, and we’re pretty sure Jan-Willem still loves us (probably....).

by Emma Goodman

Not Another Argument about Gender: Reflecting on Women's Week

When talking about prejudice, everyone seems to be on the same page until it starts getting close to home. It's uncomfortable to think that big, systematic 'isms' (racism, sexism, homophobia ... ism...) affect us and influence the way we think. It's easy to condemn sexism when we're talking about rape in India or the right to vote in Saudi Arabia, but when we look at our own experience of gender inequality, it suddenly becomes difficult to find a consensus on what the problem is, let alone what the solution should be. This might make it more difficult to enter into productive and respectful debate, but it definitely doesn't mean that we should avoid the discussion!

This year's Women's Week team faced the challenge of navigating differences in opinions across the AUC community, and organizing inclusive events that gave a platform for all of these views. The idea was to make sure that the conversation was grounded in real life, especially in the everyday experiences of AUC students. We did not want to perpetuate the idea that gender inequality is something that happens elsewhere, in other countries, to be talked about for the benefit of other people. We also wanted events to be accessible to everyone, no matter how they felt about the word 'feminism'.

We kick-started the week with a debate exploring the role of men and masculinity in feminism. We played around with anatomy during the genital cupcake workshop, listened to and performed feminist spoken word, and helped raise money for Voices of Women Media with a clothes swap. We tackled issues of body positivity and empowerment with the Female Gaze exhibition, as well as a body-casting workshop where we casted and decorated more than 20 pairs of beautiful AUC breasts. Representatives from feminist activist groups SPARK Summit and Redmond gave a workshop on how to make your own feminism more inclusive. Dr Erinç Salon spoke about women in games whilst Dr Margriet van der Heijden gave a talk on women in science. Throughout the week, the It Happens All the Time exhibition served as a powerful reminder of the pervasiveness of sexual violence, and we rounded off with the theatre performance Working Class Girls.

A big thank you to Art, AUCafe, Cuisine, Curiosity, Debate, Hands On, On Stage, PlayUC, Screen, and of course AUCSA for making the week possible. Thanks also to everyone who organized and took part in activities!

by Alex Luke



Fun Fact

"Did you know that if you took apart the Eiffel tower and laid each piece end to end...you'd be arrested and prosecuted by the French government"



SUDOKU

			9	5	3			
7		2	6					
4								
1	3				5			
	8	7				5	3	
			2				6	8
								2
					4	8		1
			8	7	6			

The Diversity

For this issue, we collected opinions on the diversity of AUC. Although we pride ourselves on being diverse, we can still improve, learn to respect, represent, and include. Next to excellence, this is a hallmark of our college, but also something we need to continuously strive for, as an administration, teachers, and students. In the following vignettes, our writers give us their view on how we can better our college and its diverse community.

The Western Perspective

From personal observations, limited experience from attending courses, and some conversations with a few students, it seems that a significant number of AUC classes have course material written by mainly Western authors, which largely supplies a Western perspective... and it's a shame!

I neither wish to discredit, nor diminish the value of the work of these authors, nor undermine the importance of their work, nor do I wish to lump all western authors, ideas, viewpoints or theories into one group. I feel that would be a grave and unjust oversimplification. Furthermore, I am unsure whether this is a conscious or unconscious curriculum choice. However, I do feel that we are missing out by not studying non-western perspectives.

It would be insightful and an enriching experience to incorporate non-western traditions of thought by reading non-western authors within our courses. This would be beneficial because it could introduce students to different paradigms, diverse ways of viewing and tackling issues, and new ways of thinking. Furthermore, this could encourage reflexivity in students themselves, enabling them to challenge fundamental assumptions in Western ways of thinking. What better way to encourage well-rounded, independent thinkers?

by Nicole Brusa

End destination: Molukkenstraat

Someone told me that the PC Hooftstraat, the most expensive shopping street of Amsterdam, is more diverse than our school. I didn't agree with the person, but I had to admit that AUC is, ironically, nowhere near to the Molukkenstraat in terms of diversity. This is not surprising since our tuition fees are twice as high than that the 'normal' bachelors.

Curious to see how our school supports diversity, I did some research on the website. 30 of the 200 students that get accepted every year receive a scholarship, and of these 10 are minority students. A minority student is a Dutch student with an Asian, African, or Latin American background. One of AUC's goals when it comes to diversity is that its population reflects Amsterdam's cultural mix, which means AUC's population should consist out of 20% minority students. In 2013, the school consisted out of 12% 'minority' students. However, with the stop of the Dutch student grant and tuition fees increasing every year, I wonder how socially and ethically diverse our school stays.

The projected difficulty for our school to stay diverse fits a current trend, which is caused by the cutting back of the Dutch government on their budget and by the financialization of education. AUC is not the only school/university that is becoming less diverse (also talking about the range of possible studies). A recent example is the University of Amsterdam, who are trying to reduce their humanities and language sector, without success. Will AUC jump on the bandwagon, together with the Dutch government and Uva, towards the PC Hooftstraat or practice what they preach and move towards Molukkenstraat?

By Yannesh Meijman

Difficulty

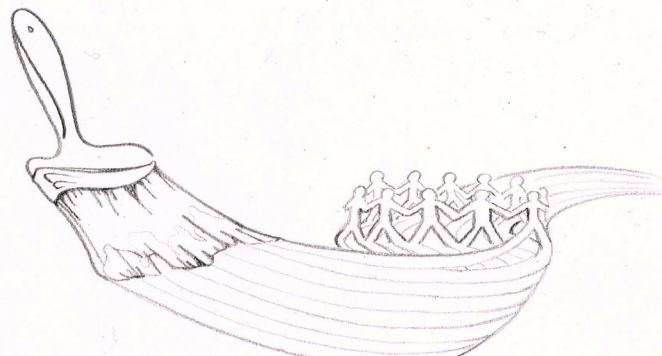
GayUC

“GayUC”: a term scribbled on the wall in one of the study areas at AUC. Whatever the intention of this action was, it made me realise that there are a lot of non-straight people at AUC. Whether this large number of LGBTQ people is due to the open-minded atmosphere of AUC, I do not know. But here everyone indeed seems to be accepting of non-straight people.

AUC is a really safe place to be gay (or bisexual, or any other sexuality than straight for that matter) in my opinion: our university is located in Amsterdam and the people who study here are often very accepting and relaxed about people being “different.” At AUC you most likely will not be called out for being gay or lesbian, and everyone is always very casual about it when I tell them I have a girlfriend.

However, I do feel like there is not really a place to talk about being non-straight. There is no place to discuss anything LGBTQ-related (like other cultures or how to deal with coming out in the future in less safe places). This is something I really miss and I found that others agree with me on this – not only other non-straight people, but also straight, cis-gendered people who want to know more about the LGBTQ community and how being non-straight might change your life. Like one of my friends from AUC said: “We are tolerant, but we don’t know what we are tolerant about.”

By Ruby de Hart



Thoughts on Religion

I am a typical AUC student. I have experienced much of the world, having lived in four different countries (on three different continents). I am fairly open-minded, I am curious about the world around me and all its inhabitants, and (above all) I am highly critical. Such is the way of the typical AUC student. Furthermore, I am religious. Cue the obvious surprise, the barely concealed amusement, and the condescending responses. Cue the criticism of patriarchal religious institutions and batshit-crazy ideologies. Cue everything that is not a respectful acceptance of something that is inherently a fundamental aspect of my world view and personality.

Admittedly, many AUC students will not respond in this manner. However, too often have I heard condescending remarks in class discussions when the topic of religion comes up, more-or-less along the lines of “we are enlightened now, so religious viewpoints can necessarily be discarded within academic conversations”. Too often have I heard casual, hurtful jokes or apathetic brush-offs by both lecturers and students, both in social and academic settings. AUC is a secular institution, something which all are aware of upon entering it. However, does secularism justify mockery and diminishment of religious beliefs and believers? This criticism is primarily aimed at those who assume that every AUC student is an atheist, and who thus believe they can say what they want about religion without consequence. Guess what? We exist. And it’s not cute, endearing, ignorant, or any other derogatory term that you choose to label us with. We have as much a right to be here as you, and (just as much as yours) our beliefs deserve respect.

by Emma Goodman

AUC LIFE: SUBMISSION

Reasons not to ban *Mein Kampf*

For one of my courses called Literature of Social Exclusion, we're reading, among other texts, passages from Adolf Hitler's autobiographical manifesto, *Mein Kampf*. Our professor, Ernst van den Hemel, pointed out to us that since the book cannot be sold in the Netherlands, we will be reading selections from it on Blackboard. We were a little confused—were we going to read it illegally? He clarified that, although it is legal to be in possession of the book, it is illegal to sell it for profit in the Netherlands. You can read or even order it online in a perfectly legal manner, however.

This all strikes me as quite contradictory. First of all, if it's clearly possible to access the book through legal means, what's the point of banning it? Has this ban become obsolete in the digital age, or is it just meant to be symbolic of our disapproval of the ideology underlying the book?

Michiel van Eyck, who was prosecuted last year for 'racial hatred and discrimination' after putting a copy of *Mein Kampf* up for sale in his gallery, believes the former, arguing that you can easily access it anyway. "I sell historical objects and I feel that I should be able to sell the book. It's no use hiding the past away". He was eventually acquitted.

The Dutch government owns the rights to *Mein Kampf*, preventing the book from being published in the Netherlands, and a recent motion to lift the ban narrowly failed to pass—suggesting the reasons for the existence of the ban might be of a more timeless, symbolic nature.

But where does this leave us in our recently polemical discussion on 'freedom of speech'? Can we still claim our right to 'be Charlie', yet act as if what is no doubt one of the most influential texts in the 20th century was never written? It seems like we want to have our cake and eat it too.

It also feels deeply ironic that Dutch law is choosing to deal with the Nazi text par excellence in exactly the same way as the Nazis who burned books which were "viewed as being subversive or as representing ideologies opposed to Nazism", according to our trusty Wikipedia. Just like Nazis censored literature containing liberal, democratic ideas, we are censoring *Mein Kampf* because we consider it subversive to our own, liberal society. Instead of rising above such practices and accepting the existence of different ideologies, we repress them, acting in every semblance to what we seek to avoid.

Out of sight, out of mind—such seems to be the logic behind the ban of *Mein Kampf*. In our bid to make the nightmare it represents go away, we treat *Mein Kampf* like dark magic, investing it with the power of our fear. Yet if we trust the law telling us that this book is evil and should not be read, we risk forgetting the reasons it was so bad in the first place. Isn't it much less likely that this book will give somebody the 'wrong ideas' if it is addressed, deconstructed, demystified in our society?

The only way to avoid making the same mistakes is by learning from them and acknowledging the past, however painful it may be to some. Germany has admirably followed this policy in remembering the atrocities of WWII—and it seems to be continuing in the same line with its plans to republish, for the first time, an annotated edition of *Mein Kampf* in 2016. Approaching this text from a scientific, historically aware point of view; criticizing, not silencing; remembering, not forgetting: We will not be focusing on pointless attempts to restrict access, but rather on promoting an informed, conscious attitude towards these dark pages in our history.

by Cristina Roca

illustration by Yin Chen Hsieh



Can Stinky Cheese Really Help in the Fight Against Malaria?

Cheese. This creamy, yellow stuff made from milk is eaten with gusto every day in the Netherlands, and lately it has been a hot topic for conversation within the science community. It turns out that cheese is being used for something other than a filling for your sandwiches or a topping for your pizzas. Dr Bart Knols, a Dutch medical entomologist, has discovered that mosquitoes go crazy for the stuff, in particular the Limburger cheese variety. The cheese can be used as part of a mosquito trap which successfully lures the night time blood suckers away from their human victims.

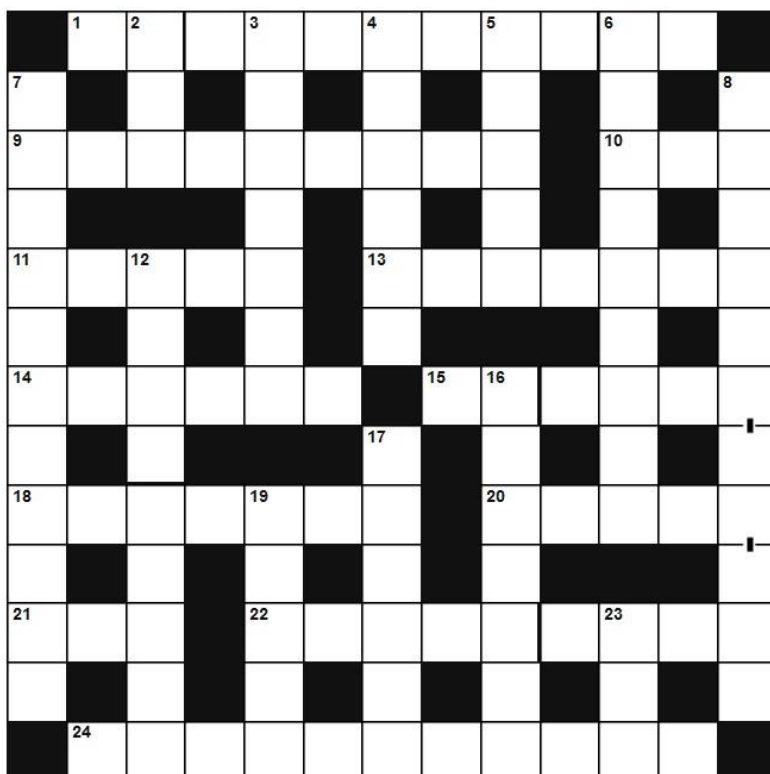
So how does it work exactly? Well, it all comes down to smell. Limburger cheese has a rather distinctive scent: it smells similar to human feet. This is because the bacterium used in the production of Limburger cheese is closely related to the micro-organism found on human feet. Hence, both Limburger cheese and feet have a similar scent, a scent that mosquitoes are really attracted to. The African mosquito (*Anopheles gambiae*), in particular, is found to typically bite exposed ankles and feet of sleeping humans, and in doing so, transmit the deadly malaria disease to their unsuspecting meal ticket. These mosquitoes are major vectors of malaria, a disease which kills more than one million people a year. Not only is malaria a big killer, it also causes adverse symptoms in around 600 million people a year. Some of these symptoms include fever, fatigue, vomiting, headaches and, in serious cases, seizures and comas. So finding a way to reduce malaria transmission could seriously improve the lives of people living in sub-Saharan Africa.

This is where the cheese comes in. Dr Knols' idea is to use Limburger cheese in a mosquito trap which can be placed in the bedroom, thereby acting as a decoy to prevent mosquitoes from biting humans. So far Dr Knols has observed that the mosquitoes much prefer nibbling on the cheese instead of on human toes (which shows you how 'intelligent' these haemoglobin guzzlers are). This means that these "cheese traps" have real potential to help in the fight against malaria. By attracting the mosquitoes, the traps ensure that these night time critters are prevented from biting humans, and if they can't bite humans they can't transmit malaria; it's as simple as that. Who would have thought that cheese could save lives?

by Zahia Siab



CROSSWORD



taken from the Guardian

Across

1. 1 In a difficult situation (2,7,2)
2. 9 Sorry (9)
3. 10 Fuss (3)
4. 11 Old ships once used as prisons (5)
5. 13 Encounter (7)
6. 14 Fair-haired (6)
7. 15 Ultimately (2,4)
8. 18 Crush underfoot (7)
9. 20 A question of place? (5)
10. 21 (In poetry) frequently (3)
11. 22 Tibetan breed of dog — a salsa hop (anag) (5,4)
12. 24 Fraternity (11)

Down

1. 2 Hog (3)
2. 3 Surmised (7)
3. 4 Notoriety (6)
4. 5 Balm (5)
5. 6 Lifeless (9)
6. 7 Ban (11)
7. 8 Plant of the borage family, usually with bright blue flowers (6-2-3)
8. 12 Tend (4,5)
9. 16 Track by a canal (7)
10. 17 Stop acting up! (6)
11. 19 Aviator (5)
12. 23 In favour (3)

DEBATE

YES

by Phoebe Dodds

To most outsiders, the idea of having to live in dorms for all three years of your undergraduate degree is an unappealing one. Although we are always finding something to complain about regarding where we live, the reality is that we have it way better than the thousands of UvA students who have to find their own (probably shitty and overpriced) accommodation each summer. It's true that we don't live in prime Amsterdam, but our rent is so reasonable for what we get and the center is only twenty minutes away by bike/ tram/ train/ bus, so we really can't complain. While the proximity of the dorms to the Academic Building has caused an undeniable bubble, the benefits outweigh the annoyances. I always appreciate the five minute walk to the AB (via Spar for the croissants deal), especially when it means getting to wake up fifteen minutes before class starts. We also definitely under-appreciate just how useful it is being able to post on Buy,

Sell and Trade when you forget a key ingredient for dinner and are too lazy to go back to Spar or need to print your boarding pass two hours before your flight is due to take off. What makes AUC special and different from 'normal' universities is that we have a strong community feeling, and this is partially thanks to the experiences we share living together in the dorms like Sushi Wednesdays/ the constant excitement of the local youth wandering around the dorms/ witnessing dead mice hanging from doors. These things all add to our kindred spirit - we are united against DUWO, the person who keeps playing bass music on the fifth floor of the first building, and the hoodrats of Amsterdam Oost, and AUC just wouldn't be the same if we didn't all have to live in dorms.



Should AUC students have to live in dorms?

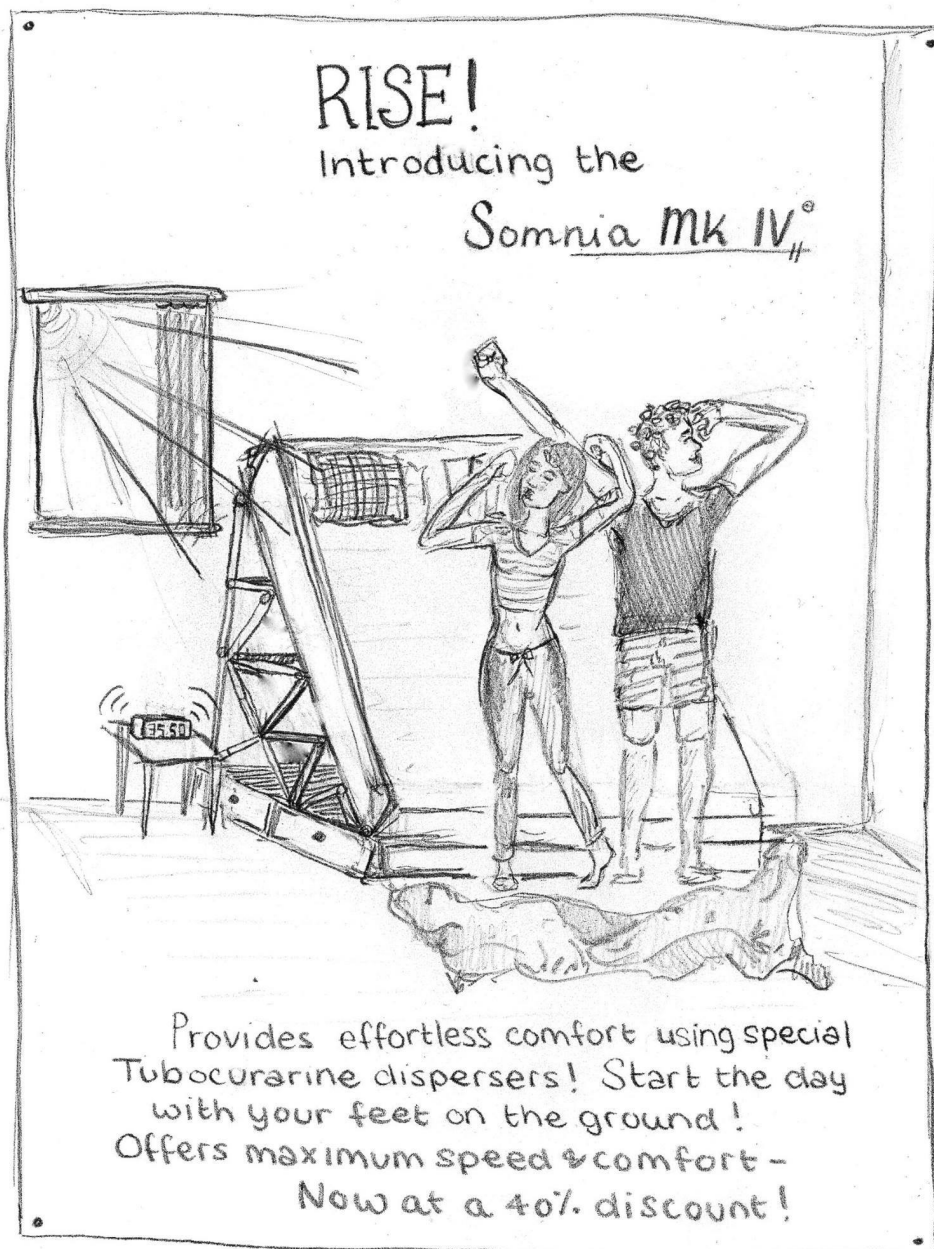
NO

by Molly Fitz

Living in dorms works well for the majority of us, and most are more than content with their situation. If we were told we could now move I'm sure many - not all, but many - would stay. However, the fact that we have to live here with no choice in the arrangement naturally creates resentment and bitterness. It is patronizing to be forced to live somewhere, especially when you're an older student who has lived alone for a couple of years. This is even worse if you already lived in Amsterdam and you are placed in a four person shared room where you now have to stay or at least pay rent. It highlights poignantly how not only is AUC similar to high school in its vibe, inevitably due to the small student population, but it is even similar to high school in how we are treated by the staff. I personally am unable to call the student accommodation 'dorms' as it reminds me a little too eerily of my

time in boarding school. Combined with this, the infamous 'bubble' can become intensely claustrophobic at times. Not only do we go to school at AUC but we essentially live and breathe it, and it is overwhelming to say the least. By forcing us to live in an environment like AUC does, there is an underlying crippling of our independence, which yet again hinders our development as the 'future leaders of the world'. The surface level of living in dorms is without a doubt in our favour, yet I fear the underlying dynamic it creates - one of accepting without questioning authority - will impact us in subtle yet still detrimental ways.

CREATIVE WRITING



September the 49th

I open my eyes and glance at the empty spot to my left: my bedroom is on fire, and dammit, Sasha, you didn't even wake me up to say goodbye. The crackling of flames traverses through twelve cheap algorithms before finally reaching my ears, and I realize that the whining siren in the background isn't human this time – no, it's a Govcar telling me to wake the hell up and get out of that room. I groan as my bed comes alive and shoves me onto the dirty floor, using a 60-degree slant combined with the newest technology to ensure that I'm getting up with maximum speed and comfort, now at a 40% discount.

Yesterday's uncleaned dinner – moist synthnoodles, cooked again by the burning carpet – does not soften my fall, and blunt pain shoots through my body, reinstating my belief that adverts can never be trusted. I shoot my bed the glare of a dead person, recognized by its OS as a command for maximum guilt that prompts it to scream back in traumatized, high-pitched tones, THIS ISN'T A TEST, THIS ISN'T A TEST, and I tell it, of course it isn't, it's my fucking alarm clock.

Thus I come face to face with September the 49th, 2137 at 35:50 in the morning, and goddammit, today's a Monday.

I stand up, the hi-def hell dying down at my voice's command, and I walk towards the kitchen counter, my hand outstretched to grab the cold cup of coffee Sasha left me. Correction: only the cup this time. I check the machine, notice she took the time to navigate through the menus to the flavour selection. AI even highlights my favourite – Dark Chocolate Mint. Screw it. I press Strawberry, put on my pants, pick up the cup. Feel a note stuck underneath. It's a crumpled \$20-bill – worth a million times that to the right heritaggers – but there's no message written onto it, as if she's saying: baby, we're still not talking.

Waste of a good artifact. If she wanted to tell me she's rich, she could have just programmed the bed to shout that no matter who I share it with, she still owns it.

Bad taste lingers in my mouth. I knew I should have gone for the Choc.

by Olivier Maas

illustration by Joosje Kist

FASHION

Fashion-Related Questions

Some serious, some not.

1. How come the amount of times you wear a garment is inversely proportional to the amount of money and time you spend buying it? (think wedding dresses vs pyjamas)
2. [My crush asked me this when I was 15] Do you wear your underwear under, or over your tights? (...)
3. Is it okay to wear crosses as an accessory? Is wearing kimonos cultural appropriation?
4. Is ironing your clothes an outrageous expense of time or a necessary evil if you want to look presentable? What does the ownership of an iron suggest about one's personality?
5. [The cliché] Is there a parallel universe where all those sad single socks end up...? (Yes, and it exists to drive OCD people crazy)
6. What kind of joker writes the 'care' labels? ('Dry clean only'? Pfah!)
7. [Google search]How do I un-shrink my sweater?! (See above)
8. Is it OK if my nipples show through my shirt?
9. Can't credit cards have an alcohol detector that blocks you from spending your rent on asos?
10. If I wear this in an ironic way, will people realise it's meant to be ironic...?



FOOD

A Taste of the East

“What’s a good relatively cheap place to eat that’s not so far from the dorms?” is something I’ve seen more than once now in our Excellent and Diverse Facebook group. Recently, someone suggested: The Thai Food Café. I’m not writing a food review on this simply because I saw it on Facebook, but actually because I recently discovered it last month and I’m glad to see a few people already know it. For the ones that don’t, the Thai Food Café provides small delicious meals and drinks that carry exotic aromas and spices with traditional Thai tastes. Go for a coconut mushroom soup, curries, pad thais or even all three! I highly recommend ordering both of the desserts offered on the menu (or don’t because I guarantee you’ll be tempted to order seconds). The simplicity of a chocolate chili cake and sticky rice pudding with mango makes them all that much sweeter. The interior design of the café is perfect for a romantic dinner, or large borrels, but either way you won’t feel like you’re sitting in just any restaurant whilst dining here. It’s truly the spicy yet sweet treat of Oostport.

by Diana Ghidanac



FILM

An Argentinian at the Oscars: a review of *Relatos Salvajes*

Not being a huge Hollywood fan myself, I always thought the best films at the Oscars were the Foreign Language ones. This time around was no different. Don’t get me wrong, I still enjoy films like *Interstellar* or *Gone Girl*, and highly admire the direction and cinematography of *Birdman*, but the foreign nominees just seem more realistic and relevant.

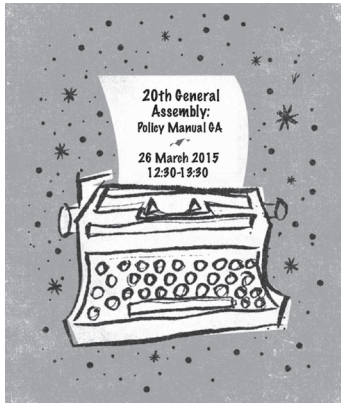
Three out of the five movies deal with real life conflicts, and although the other two are more fictive, they still explore human nature and relationships, and can do so without leaving earth and in a broader spectrum than just inside a Broadway theater. It is something Hollywood films could learn from their foreign competitors.

Amongst the Foreign Language nominees, *Relatos Salvajes* (Wild Tales) stands out as the bravest. Unlike the other four, the Argentinian picture is not a feature film, but rather a collection of six unrelated shorts all connected by the theme of vengeance. Through the six stories, Damian Szifron’s latest release explores human nature and emotions by demonstrating how little is needed for people to reach a breaking point. All six shorts take place in normal or common settings such as a plane, restaurant, or a wedding but quickly escalate to unexpected and extreme proportions.

Whether it is the relatively unknown cast, innovative storylines, or exceptional music by Gustavo Santaolalla, director Szifron combines all filmic elements to bring us an unconventional and unique must-watch.

by Elias von Hildebrand

COMMITTEE LIFE



20th GA is coming up!



Solace



Solace



Zen



ASUSA



ASUSA



ASUSA



ASUSA

Trawling around the depths of YouTube this month, Scriptus happened to re-discover the legend of music journalism that is... (drum roll please), Nardwuar the Human Serviette. With a shrill voice that sounds permanently on helium, 'punkified' tartan trousers stolen from Johnny Rotten's wardrobe, and a garish combo of 'Harry Potter' spectacles (well, how else could I describe them?) and a Tam O' Shanter, Nardwuar is Vancouver B.C.'s very own answer to David Letterman (except without the lame jokes and adulterous affairs). The crazed Canuck has interviewed some of the biggest names in music over the years, ranging from Lady Gaga, through to Nirvana and Jay-Z. But despite his achievements and inspiration for wannabe music journalists the world over, he remains a cult figure on the periphery of mainstream music journalism. Thus, this issue's humble music page explores the crazed world of Nardwuar the Human Serviette.

To begin with reader, you would indeed be right to ask, "How is it that Nardwuar inspires praise from artists such as Pharrell Williams and Snoop Dogg?" (Pharrell having stopped his interview mid-way through to state that it was the best he had ever experienced). I propose that the answer to this question lies in Nardwuar's potent cocktail mixture of manic personality, painstaking interviewee research and tirelessly persistent on-screen person (he completes a cringeworthy freeze-frame at the end of every interview, much to the confusion of many a musician). His interviews are part interrogation, part cross-examination; yet he proceeds to shower endless gifts of records and musical memorabilia on his interviewees, despite their increasing horror at the obscurity of his personal questions. Nardwuar's unique style then, generally succeeds in coaxing sympathetic, yet inspired responses from even the hardest of his interviewees.

However, not all of his interviewees over the years have been impressed by his 'Wee Jimmy Cranky on crack' persona. New York rapper Nas infamously threw a churlish fit when interpreting Nardwuar's gifts of relevant musical memorabilia as a form of insult. Nard's confrontational style has also succeeded in piercing the bloated veil of superficiality that surrounds many of his interviewees, as seen in his painfully awkward interview with Jay-Z; in responding to Nardwuar's question of "Who are you?" in this interview, Jay-Z launched into a rambling biographical lecture on his working-class roots, to which Nardwuar then replied "...You're Jay-Z" - revealing the true literality of his initial question whilst sufficiently embarrassing Jay-Z in the meantime. Yet, despite ruffling some musical feathers, Nardwuar's determination as a music journalist is unmatched; he remains undeterred from compromising his unique interviewing style, even in interviews which have ended in aggression and threats of physical violence towards himself from interviewees (watch Nardwuar vs. Blur).

Whilst cult status may be the greatest recognition that Nard will achieve in his lifetime, for those of us that enjoy his polarising performances, our respect for him remains greater than that for Letterman, Kimmel or any other 'esteemed' interviewer of our time. Thus, we draw to a close with a call to check out his interviews and embrace the madness of Nard - you won't be disappointed (but maybe mildly annoyed). In the words of the Human Serviette himself, "Well thanks so much for your time. Keep on rockin' in the free world. And Doot Doola Doot Doo... Doot Doo!"

Watch: Nardwuar vs. Snoop Dogg, and his TEDx talk.

by James F. Anderson

Gorillaz: A Parody of Fame and Excess

Not many bands out there satirize the madness of success and fame quite as Gorillaz do. And yet, there they are, engulfed by the same elements they are a parody of themselves. Absurd and ironic, this virtual band's music teases the excess of pop culture, but through the cult it has created around itself, it can be said their relationship with fame has become a self-conscious one. "If you watch MTV for too long, it's a bit like hell - there is nothing of substance there," Albarn and Hewlett, its founders stated when asked how they came up with the idea, of "something that would be a comment on that." One of the most notable examples, "Clint Eastwood," reflects this through a mash-up of styles that combined with eerie and dark lyrics truly gives that impression.

Peel the veneer off compositions of albums such as *Demon Days* and *Gorillaz*, and a whole new perspective on their depiction of exaggerated pop cult emerges. It can be seen through the chaotic and dark music videos, and the band members themselves, one more bizarre than the other. Absurdly enough, the creation of identities behind these characters allows for them to become more real than its creators.

The four members, 2D, Murdoc, Russel, and Noodle all show off their unique quirky personalities and extravagant pasts. In a biography written by the creators, *Gorillaz'* entire history is laid out. From beginnings to success, fiction and reality are interlaced to portray the members/artists in all their eccentricity. This is where the parody element comes in. Considering their

success is designed through a stream of "demonic possession, underworld dealings, amnesia, exorcisms, prison terms and jaw-dropping stupidity," their mesh of styles is what makes Gorillaz groundbreaking. One can say this exaggeration is what they try to capture as a mirror of a society possessed by a constant determination to overdo styles and clichés. It is interesting to note that the reaction to this is not one of shock and outrage, but rather amusement, what with their transgression being taken as comical.

Gorillaz' concept, spanning a lifetime of ten years, is one that has greatly diverged from the ways in which music is given an authentic image and personality. Apparently, we can expect more material to be produced in 2016 and it will be interesting to see how this concept is going to develop with the next big project.

by Laura Galante



LOVE AND SEX AND MAGIC

Porn, Comics, and Empowerment

You like porn, but are not into seeing objectified men and women in videos made for straight guys? You have a hard time finding porn that addresses your (perhaps non-straight) sexual orientation? (Seriously, try and find lesbian pornography that doesn't have at least one scene of penetration in it... or a female point of view, for that matter) Or you don't want to feel like a second-hand abuser just watching people getting fucked?

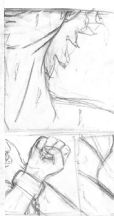
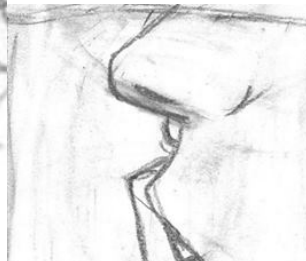
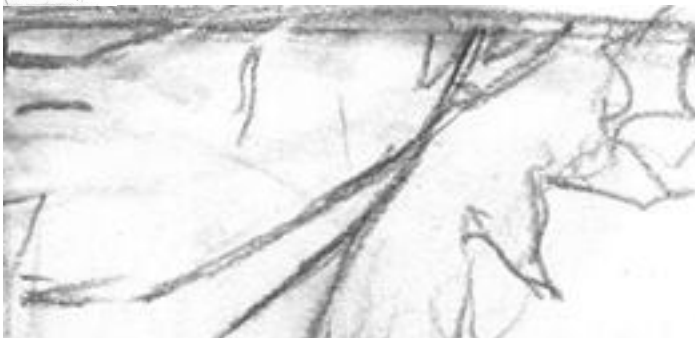
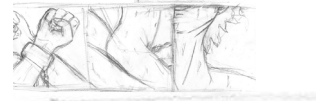
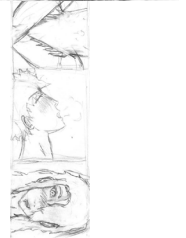
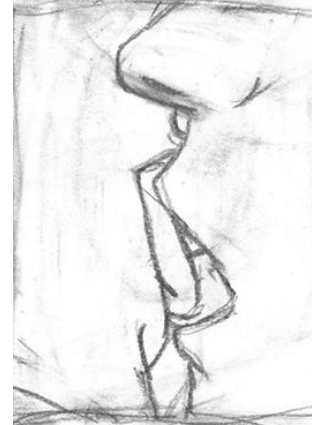
In photographic and video porn, it can be hard to find content that is made for someone with a queer gender or sexuality, or simply someone who wants to make sure that nobody on set is abused. On the other end of the lens, there is always a real person, and usually no way to make sure they are paid and treated well. A solution can be porn by artists who want to make feminist and empowering videos. But the bottom line is always pay-for-access, since fair pay for actors means fair costs for the consumer.

Comics can play out any fantasy you might have, without any actors being abused. They can portray any kind of gender and sexual orientation, setting or plot. After all, not being bound to a studio, comics can take place in space, castles, the future, with robots, elves, and all the weirdness in between. What is available as normal porn often doesn't give a second thought to consent or authorship, and narratives are mostly a sad excuse for sex scenes to ensue. Since comics depend on more of a narrative drive, they need to be more creative and less tiresome, and often have a more appealing visual style, so sexy stories in comics can actually be suspenseful, colorful, beautiful, and can give their characters a voice. (Who would've thought you can say all of the above about porn?!)

As they are a bit of an underground thing, porn comics are often more inclusive of non-heteronormative fantasies, and you can find a surprising amount of strips authored by women! The wide range of topics, of course, also means that you will have to dig through some strips unappealing to you, but I think it's worth the trouble, because these authors show that explicitness can be empowering, even educational, and that depictions of sex don't need to conform to the standard we're used to.

- Learn about sex toys, and lots of sexuality-related topics in Erika Moen's educational, weekly comics at ohjoysexttoy.com (free)
- Check out the wide range of fantasies of Slipshine at orgymania.net (a bit of an unfortunate web address, I know – it's pay-for-access, but you can preview a lot of their stuff)
- Go to your local comic book store to find lots of hentai (Japanese style pornographic comics) adaptations of anime, as well as original works (for example at Henk by the Nieuwmarkt)

by Martin J. Hoffmann
illustration by Irena Rix Cirkovic



WE ASKED YOU

· If you could occupy anything (in light of recent events in bungehuis, maagdenhuis etc), what would it be?



Zinzi, 2nd year: A really good library that's also a cool place to hang out in



Nora, 1st year: The theatre in Gorinchem cause they're closing it down and that's such a pity.



Alwin 3rd year: Artis! Animals library and auc used to be there! Being an auc kid I don't really feel so involved in uva things...



Gijs, 2nd year: What would I not occupy? Maybe IKEA... I've always wanted to hide at an IKEA and spend the night there.



Marija, 3rd year: The mind.



Hugo, 3rd year: UB Soft, because they make ridiculous excuses for not putting female characters in their videogames and they have stupid anti piracy policies.



Anne-Marieke, 2nd year: I'd occupy Obama's room in the White House.



Maurits: The toilet!



Steven, 3rd year: An unmanned island.