

Scriptus
No. 15

Foreword

Dear readers!

Another year gone! It feels like just yesterday when Scriptus released its first issue of this academic year, Issue 10, in October. Since then, so many things have happened its difficult to keep track of them all. Revolts and rebellions; resignations and promotions; courses, committees, Capstones. While there are certain events that affected all of us (the introduction of the giant cookies in the cafeteria have benefited all, no doubt), no one's experience is truly the same. So, we wanted to offer many different perspectives and reflections in this month's Scriptus, as a final tribute to this multi-faceted year.

This issue has been the product of many hard hours by many dedicated students. In particular, I want to thank Martin Hoffman, Cristina Roca, Sonya Langman, and Sara Hoeksma (our head editor, head writer, head designer, and treasurer). These four wonderful people are graduated this year, making this their last issue on the Scriptus board. I want to thank each of them for being such amazing crew members, and to wish them all the success with their future endeavours.

For many, this month is the end: third years are gearing up to graduate, and a plethora of students get their wanderlust up and are packing their bags for studying abroad. But while one chapter ends, another begins. AUC will continue to go on: new students will arrive, offering their new voices to the buzz. Changes will continue to affect our school and the way we think. And in this new and untested time, Scriptus promises to continue in its effort to be AUC's go-to magazine, to give AUC students a platform to voice themselves. We hope you'll be with us. See you next year!

By Nick Handfield-Jones

Changes/Updates/Statements

In our last issue, Changes, we forgot to include italics where italics were due. We do apologize. *To make up for it, this entire sentence will be written in the slender slanted script.*

We add a new "Reflections" section for some philosophical musings of the mind.

Cool fact: This year, we published a total of seven times. That's a whole two up from last year's record! Going to DormFest? So are we! Come get your photo taken at our FaceBooth stand for a chance to win free drinks! What will the photo be used for, you ask? Come to our stand to find out...

This issue in Numbers

- Copies: 300
- Pizzas consumed: 8
- Board members abroad: 2

Scriptus
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Cover Artist Statement

Issue 15 is Scriptus' first June release. In line with the general third year/graduation theme, I decided to use the cover to represent our much cherished but utterly despised 'AUC bubble' in a different light.

The bright topographical lines form a contour map showing the elevation of a rectangular area - extending north beyond Flevopark, encompassing the entire Science Park (from east to west), and ending just south of the station. I drew these contour lines over my drawing of the street map in the entire area (darker lines), and then shaded in the remaining buildings in the background (which should be immediately recognizable). Instead of telling you what it all means, I challenge you to look closely and try and identify exactly where AUC, UvA, the dorms (your room perhaps), Spar, Maslow, etc. would be.

Perhaps consider how such an unremarkable piece of land has the power, after your three years of semi-aimless wandering upon it, to grant you with irreplaceable friends, precious memories, and ambitious dreams to carry you for a lifetime. The 'bubble' might not be that bad after all.

Kinda cool, right? :)

- Yin Hsieh

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 criticism: welcome at scriptus@aucsa.nl.

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The Official Pledge of 'P.A.R.T.Y.A.N.I.M.A.L.S'

(Soon to launch new crack-down campaign).

Imagine this. Your alarm wakes you with a rude screech and you drag yourself out of bed and through the dregs of this morning's hangover. It was your third alarm, the one indicating you will be late for the class dictated by the hard-assed hag who will cruelly snatch away an absence as punishment for lateness. After assembling an unreliable patchwork of clothing on your body, you grab your laptop as an afterthought and race out the door.

SLAM!

Your ass connects sharply with the cold floor as your legs sail out from under you. You find yourself in a rainbow-hued, reeking ripper of a puddle of...*oh fuck....PUKE*

...*fuck.*

NO MORE we say! We, the mighty new dorm committee coming to the dorms next academic year. We, the warriors of peace and prosperity in these residences.

WE ARE P.A.R.T.Y.A.N.I.M.A.L.S

We stand for what our initials stand for: Patrolling And Rectifying Tenants 'Yolo' Activities, Nocturnal Idiocy, Mischief, And Loud Socialising.

Too often have we heard the unsubtle sounds of loud, animalistic sex from open windows: we pledge to hammer down the doors of these callous couples and demand they publicly apologise for their profanities.

Tech-heads with big speakers are no match for our base-debunking technologies. We vow to bring the heat if they dare to drop the beat.

Vandalists? No problem! We pledge to force the misguided artist to scrub the foul scribbles away with his own toothbrush. Red squares everywhere? Not here, we say!

Pukers, beware....we pledge to purge these halls of your digested filth by mopping it up with your newly washed laundry. And don't you worry....we know who you are. *We know everything.*

We will not tolerate threats to the peace of these residences, which includes ominous trash bags left lying around, wicked wolf whistles through open windows, and gatherings of guitar-wielding hipsters in common spaces. We are here to protect you. We will be watching you.

Find us on Facebook.

*P.A.R.T.Y.A.N.I.M.A.L.S is an organisation funded by the sale of confiscated alcohol, drugs, and the occasional common room item.

**Members of P.A.R.T.Y.A.N.I.M.A.L.S will remain anonymous to protect their watchful identity. One must be invited by a member in order to join.

***For the sake of clarification, it must be stated that P.A.R.T.Y.A.N.I.M.A.L.S members are not Creeps. That name is already in use.



by Ernest Wright
Illustration by Yin Hsieh

CAMPUS LIFE

Faces of AUC #AUC



Name: Matilda Medard
Cohort: Class of 2017
Major: Social Sciences
Track: Economics and Environmental Law & Policy

The massive, environmentally destructive oil spill of 1969 in Santa Barbara paved the way for April 22nd to be known as Earth Day. Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day founder, initiated a country wide environmental demonstration by raising awareness for environmental sustainability. Lobbyists, activists, and environmental groups were united in fighting environmental crimes, creating the first ever Earth Day in 1970. By 1990, Earth Day was globally recognized and in 1992, the United Nations held an Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Many significant achievements for the environmental movement have been made in the last few years. However, AUC still suffers from its own environmental crimes.

This Earth Day, AUC first year Matilda Medard took it upon herself to clean the grass and water surrounding AUC. She suggested the idea to the AUC community via Facebook, asking if anyone wanted to join, however no responses resulted in Matilda going out on her own. What motivated Matilda: "I knew that it was Earth Day because it had been mediatized, and I knew that I wanted to do something more significant than I usually do to reduce my impact on the environment. Plus, I also I needed an excuse to procrastinate. The idea to

clean up the canal came because days before I had seen the birds swimming around in trash and it made me sad." At the time, there was indeed a duck and about six young ducklings nesting in the water.

A lot of trash gets blown into the water or caught in the tall weeds so Matilda used a self made net, composed of a mop stick, fly mesh, wire coat hanger, and tape, to fish out the garbage from the canal. "The type of trash that I found were a lot of random pieces of plastic, granola bar wrappings, beer cans, paper, and Albert Heijn or Spar plastic bags." The cigarettes littering the grass outside AUC have also become an environmental problem, as well as an eyesore. Matilda cleaned up all the cigarette buds. "The soil was infested with old cigarettes, some of which looked like they could have been there for years. There were thousands. I collected about half a trash bag worth, maybe around 20 liters. Littering the grass with cigarettes is a daily choice that students unconsciously make as there is no means for students to properly dispose of their cigs."



Pictures of Matilda cleaning were put on Facebook, receiving 200+ likes as well as praise and numerous comments, suggestions, and ideas from the AUC community on how to solve this problem. "I think a committee or group should be in charge of organizing a cleaning event like this around AUC, but more importantly, an ashtray should be made available by the steps where students smoke because students don't smoke where the current ashtray is." Matilda believes that a closed trashcan should replace the current one outside AUC, due to its ineffectiveness at keeping trash in when its windy and an ashtray, or alternative environmentally friendly option, should be put by the steps. Matilda's actions on Earth Day have not gone unnoticed and will hopefully pave the way for future Earth Day events at AUC.



by Mona Farnisa
Illustration by Yin Hsieh
photos by Job Zegers

Canteen Gourmet

After spending long hours staring at my screen while not absorbing anything, I decided I needed to get myself some food. None of those stale sandwiches with dry fillings. No, I wanted a couscous salad with a variety of toppings. Well, if you can define what is offered at the AUC canteen as a “variety.”

The remarkable thing about making your own salad at the bar is the size of the plastic containers. The capacity of the meager things would not even satisfy a fraction of the stomach, much less keep you alive for more than fifteen minutes. So what do you do if the brim is the limit? You go above it to try to keep the toppings balanced like a well-constructed Jenga tower. You think you beat the system...

So, feeling clever about my stack of salad and toppings safely piled into the plastic box, I made my way to the cash register. My friend in line before me had chosen the exact same thing, except it modestly fit within the boundaries of the container. As soon as it was my turn to pay, the lady at the counter typed in a higher price than what was originally assigned to a salad of this kind. I felt betrayed. Why did I have to pay more? “You cannot close the lid,” she said almost irritated. “What, I actually can close the lid.” I said, and demonstrated this by forcing the plastic container to close upon itself. “If you take more, you have to pay more. It says on the sign over there,” All right, so the container was about to explode and its contents were smashed to the max begging to break

free, but the lid was firmly in place. Still, the woman did not budge.

And so I ended up paying an extra euro, an amount that symbolically demonstrates just how the AUC canteen takes advantage of its convenient location to excessively charge students for some medium-quality food. It’s not the first time this issue has arisen, particularly with regard to overpricing not just average and unfrozen products, but distributing them in gourmet-sized portions. Why should there be a limit to how much salad you can take? Why should you slice bread the size of a crisp without exhausting your daily budget? It makes much more sense to turn to the Canteen’s competitor, the SPAR, which – although is not much cheaper – offers a whole pizza for €2.50 rather than just one slice for around the same.

By Laura Galante

IN OTHER NEWS:

Near the caf next week? Go to the AUCSA office next door at lunch to pick up your Yearbook for only 10 euros!



The Perfect Recipe



Speeches, music and cake: spotted in the Lower Common Room of AUC on Monday 1 June. There and then, InPrint held its third ever Launch Event, at which it officially published and celebrated Volume 6 of its AUC Undergraduate Journal of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

After a short welcome by current Editor-in-Chief Zinzi Mangera-Lakew, former Editor-in-Chief Sanna McGregor took the stage to speak about her love of language and what she most enjoyed most about working with In-Print. She expressed that the Journal not only functions as a showcase for some of the great academic work that is produced by our peers, but that it also encourages the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the broad range of disciplines that they are involved in.

As submissions are open and available to all, the Journal contributes to the gradual “shift to open access research,” Acting Dean Dr. Ramon Puras stated in his speech on the day. Adding to this, Dr. Puras stressed that the published authors can be “extremely proud” of their accomplished work. One of the contributing authors, Zahia Siab, enthusiastically presented her paper to the audience, submerging them in her research into naked mole rats, hyaluronan, and a possible cure for cancer. I think that it would have been really great to see other authors present their papers too – maybe that is something to look into for future Launch Events! How cool would it be to have a sort of mini ‘Paper Conference’ for the 7th Volume of our Journal?

The Event was officially closed off with a lot a “thank yous” to everyone who contributed to the publication of the Journal. A superb InPrint board-member bake-off, piano music by AUC student Tony Hung, and the handing out of free Journal copies made for the perfect recipe for a gezellig and casual end to InPrint’s Launch Event. It was great to hear that the various Journal articles already were topic of discussion for some!

Until next year!

inprint.

by Martijn Gerritsen & Zinzi Mangera-Lakew

Committee Photos



AUC Lingua



Curiosity

Privatization of Politics

The recent student protests against the financialization of the university brought to light some principle questions; primary among them being what the purpose of the university is. Is it education and the pursuit of knowledge or attaining degrees that make us perfect fits for jobs determined by the market forces of demand and supply? In addition to all these bigger questions that these protests forced us to reflect upon, they also bring under question politics closer at home—here at AUC.

One major source of controversy among students has been the expression of political opinions through the use of symbols and signs in the dorms or at AUC itself—all of us have seen the red squares painted outside AUC, or the symbols drawn on the elevators depicting anything from anarchism to direct action. A lot of distaste against such expression was voiced on Facebook pages and general everyday discussions. What was this distaste and opposition grounded in? The argument goes like this: since the *entire* community does not share the political opinion being expressed through these symbols, then such an expression does not do justice to the community as a whole. It is perceived as shoving views particular to a few down everyone's throats.

The question is—can we ever express the opinions of the entire community as a whole? Or more importantly, is that what democracy and politics are about in the first place? Politics is by its very nature a public activity—it is a method of participating and organizing within a community. To argue that *everyone* should keep their politics within the confines of their homes is a flawed argument, as the very point of politics is for it to be public. Secondly, any democratic community will have a range of opinions; the point of a democracy is not to be a proponent of an opinion only when everyone agrees



with it, but to encourage, acknowledge and act upon the range of opinions and concerns that do get raised. As an example, the opposition against the Jim Crow laws in the United States that mandated *de jure* segregation of most public institutions on the basis of race until the early 1960's, was not shared by *all* members of the American nation. However, this lack of consensus does not qualify as justification for not having these opinions being publicly shared, or to act as a deterrent for the government to take it up.

The above example, while extreme, is still relevant in understanding the nature of democratic politics. On most issues, there can never be a unanimous agreement. There isn't and can never be *one* AUC voice; there is a plurality of voices, and whenever there are conflicting interests, it is inevitable that 'AUC' has to take a side (for being 'apolitical' is also a side: one of indifference, but a side nonetheless). These aren't even "radical" opinions, just basic tenets of liberal democracy.

The push to privatize politics is just another way of converting citizens into non-participatory entities so that the status-quo is comfortably maintained. The status-quo is not devoid of politics; it is a certain kind of politics—one in which viewing corporate posters on the AUC building is normalized, but expression of political opinions is a source of discomfort. So, next time a symbol in the dorms 'provokes' you and seems undemocratic, it might be useful to reflect on whether it is the symbol that is undemocratic or your reaction to it.

by Tanushree Kaushal
Illustration courtesy of Clay Butler

For this issue of *Scriptus*, we had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Ramon Puras, our current Acting Dean and director of education. We wanted to interview Ramon before the summer break to offer you the chance to get to know him better, and to talk about his thoughts on AUC, its students, and the issues it faces.

On his background, Ramon tells us he has a degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Freie Universität Berlin. After receiving his PhD from the Netherlands Cancer Institute (on HIV research) and postdoc, he became a lecturer at Utrecht University and UCU. He says that he has always been interested in the idea of interdisciplinary studies, but it was at UCU where he was able to see it in practice. During the induction of AUC, Ramon contacted inaugural AUC Dean Marijk van der Wende and got involved in the 'AUC project'.

Now, more than seven years further down the road and after a turbulent year, Ramon reflects on some of the issues AUC currently faces, and what he plans to do about it.

What have you been doing to try and improve AUC?

Well, as the Acting Dean, my role in changing AUC cannot be so drastic. In general, an 'interim Dean' is not expected to lead major changes of an institution. My main goal is to continue the successful 'operation AUC' and to lead the transition into a new period under a new Dean. Meanwhile, we address some of the concerns students and staff have so that we can improve the overall AUC experience. Last autumn, we set out to formulate the 'AUC 2020 strategy'. We have evaluated AUC's performance within the last five years, and we indicated the main strategy lines for the next five years. This could be a good framework that the next Dean can build on.

This past year of *Scriptus*, we added an "In-Depth" section, and one of the recurring ideas that has popped up is the questioning of diversity of AUC. The majority of the student population is white, and well-off; and much of the learning material is focused on western viewpoints...

I am well aware of this. We talked about this during the last Faculty Meeting in January (as one of the main objectives 2020 strategy). I agree, it's not automatic that we have a very diverse group if we don't do anything about it. Thus, we have continuous efforts to do improve this. That's what stakeholder relations are very important for. Improved relations with relevant partners in the city of Amsterdam and beyond will improve diversity. If we don't do anything, then I think we will become a white, upper-class college. If you just let go, that would be the default here in the Netherlands. So we have to invest in means to continue and improve our diversity.

For example, continued efforts to extend our scholarship program (ASF) for socioeconomic diversity. In terms of prospective students with a background of non-Western background, we try to approach these groups in Amsterdam, particularly through the network of our partner schools. But indeed, that is one of the main points we try to take on next year.

As for the curriculum (western viewpoints), I do not wholly agree with this analysis. Over the past years, we had discussions about this topic, for example asking what kind of philosophies to teach, whether to have area studies or not. As a

result, we extended the philosophy track and we are now giving courses related to perspectives of Latin America and Asia. Maybe it's not so visible to students because they don't know what happened three or four years ago, but I see curriculum development as a continuous process based on solid core liberal arts and science principles.

But I would I would also recommend that, students and staff alike, should also occasionally go outside of their own comfort zone. For example, by studying abroad. If you are studying economics, why not study it in a completely different context in a different country than the obvious Western perspective. Thus, improving diversity is an individual process as well as an organizational one.

AUC has rejected three candidates for the dean position so far. What kind of person would you want as the dean, especially in regards to AUC?

First and foremost a solid academic scholar who 'breathes' liberal arts and science. Secondly, something the Dean should be very good at is managing the AUC network, or in managers language: stakeholder management. These could be anything from schools to sponsors to neighbouring institutes to the city to the neighbourhood—the whole network. For a liberal arts college with all its aspects—the whole experience in addition to the central curriculum—goes beyond just the school. It's how you live and organize your life, study, and live together.

Finally, there is also a student expectation. Unlike deans at some other VU/UvA faculties, our Dean should be a figure head to this teaching institution. The community should be confident in being represented by this person. There should be a certain presence to this person, inside and outside AUC. This is something I don't see many people do. Marijk did this very well.

You mentioned that as the Acting Dean, your goal is to maintain stability so that the new dean can then make changes. What do you think is the greatest challenge the new dean will face?

On a technical side, we may have soon a new AUC governance structure. There are some technical aspects to this that must be managed. Now, we fall directly under the two university boards (UvA and VU), and the plan is that we fall under one faculty. One of the other problems I see—and I am confident this can be solved—is that we don't get sufficient teachers from the other VU and UvA faculties. It's a pity because I think it's not good for the exchange with other faculties. This means that students aren't exposed to teachers and opportunities elsewhere. So I think more exposure and more connections will be one of the big challenges.

On a different note, you had a child recently. How do you balance taking care of him and dealing with AUC responsibilities?

I ask myself this question daily. [Laughs]. I have a picture for this. You know, in science fiction movies when people go through a wall that is sort of like a semi-permeable mem-



brane. You pass through a wall, but there's no way back, this is how I feel. It's very difficult to combine the deanship and being a 'young' father. But at the same time, you just have to do it and many have done this before. You're not even able to think about it, in terms of parental care. You just have to do it. Period. I can't sit down for two hours and think about how to do it, I just have to do it. So in a way, that's the easy part. The challenging part is the time. To be honest with you, the combination of Acting Dean and young kid is not very ideal. It's a huge challenge.

But at the same time, he (Theo) is a happy boy and this gives me enormous amount of energy and fulfilment. Occasionally, I bring him to AUC. [Smiles].

A lot of students are anxious about taking all the courses needed for Masters. So it's really a delicate balance we have to have.

You're right. I can't blame them, and I know it's very delicate issue in our programme. At the beginning, it was a challenge to convince Master's Programs to accept students from a school with no alumni, to convince them that what we do here is relevant. It is true that some students are missing some courses, but AUC students do so much more. Maybe you have a little disciplinary gap, but you also learn to learn and you have proven to tackle complex academic tasks. You learn how to process whatever material comes your way. The alumni experience so far is that even if there is a gap within the particular discipline, AUC students catch up quick. So, I understand that anxiety to meet the requirements, but at the same time AUC students should trust their past achievements.

On the other hand, AUC is pushing liberal arts in the professions. And this is something I have mixed feelings about. We already have the pre-med track, but we are adding a teaching

track and law track. But this means that when we squeeze in so many disciplinary courses within a particular track, we potentially push these students into a tunnel. This is somewhat contradictory to liberal arts ideals. But on the outside, many law and medicine programs say that they want to see more liberal art applicants because they want these kind of students in their profession. So, there is a tension here, but I am confident every individual student will find a good balance for his/her own academic career.

Asked about the course he teaches, Gastronomy, Ramon said:

I tremendously enjoy co-teaching the course Gastronomy. That really brings together my science (biochemistry) background and my hobby of cooking. I enjoy the co-teaching experience with Maurits de Klepper and I also enjoy entering new fields which are outside my academic comfort zone. Its a very popular course, and really nicely fits into the liberal arts and sciences.

What advice would you give to people our age? How should we live?

Sometimes I feel—and I'm not sure if this is our mistake—that there are lots of pre-requisites at AUC, and many courses required to complete certain tracks. On the other hand, some students also limit themselves to stay in very disciplinary tracks and concentrations. I understand the interest to stay within their field to get good qualifications to get into Masters programs. For many graduate programmes, students need to meet certain criteria, etc. But I always would say to try to stretch yourself. Go a little bit outside of your comfort zone in terms of your academic choice. I say that because now is the time to do this. Most likely, you will do a Master program after AUC, which is most likely very disciplinary in nature, and there you will go deep. Deeper. So, take the opportunity here to stretch yourself and do the 'inconvenient' choice, the challenging course.

In hindsight, I can also identify areas that I should have done when I was in your phase of studies. It's very human to avoid these choices: its much easier to go with the obvious choice. This would be my academic advice. It doesn't matter whether you're science, social science, or humanities. Just go a bit further. But I think it is also us: there are lots of pre-requisites at AUC, and many courses required to complete certain tracks.

by Nicholas Handfield-Jones, Martin J. Hoffmann, and Cristina Roca

Class of 2015

To celebrate the graduation of AUC's third class, we asked them what they think about AUC. What are their favorite memories? What time here? Here are their responses:

Anna Holm Heide

When I first started our notorious school three years ago, I hated it. It felt like I had been put back in high school, where the doors locked themselves if you were ten seconds late and the management put yellow stickers on your bike telling you to walk to school (no one tells me where to walk!). The mandatory living-situation made me feel like I was locked in a psychiatric ward, as punishment for biking to school or arriving to class after the door was locked. However, this gloomy perception of AUC changed – as soon as I started to drink. Or, “got involved” is probably a preferred phrasing. With AUCSA as my pool, I dived into AUC head first after 18 months of living in the periphery. My grades did not improve, nor did my impression of the management, but my well-being went through the roof. I was involved with my surroundings, made new friends and started enjoying the parties I had been avoiding. I unlocked the secret to enjoying AUC-life; recovering from a mean hangover makes you care less about the locked doors and yellow stickers. Now I am in my last three weeks, and I have concluded: AUC is pretty hot through beer goggles.

Lia Sinnige

Rating: 4 excellence points; 3.141 diversity points
First things first: you will make bad decisions. Attending this university has definitely taught me that everybody makes them (and that mitochondria are the power house of the cell). From that one common room party you should not have attended to that one class you shouldn't have missed. It was a melee of intense courses and incredibly concentrated social life. I will never forget the adventures, the friends, and the satisfying moment of getting an A (few and far between, not the most excellent of students). I think I am safe in saying many of us third years will be sad to go, but also incredibly happy to do so as well. I'll miss having my friends a solid 20m away, but I certainly won't miss having... well let's just say to anybody who hasn't committed dormcest: proceed with caution. It's nice to bike down C.Maclaan and feel like I am just around the corner from home, but it's also time to see what else the world holds in store. Keep it real and remember; make good choices.

Sanna McGregor

Three years is a long time, and there are lots of things to fill it with, and yet my time at AUC seems to have flown by. Looking back, AUC has changed a lot since I first arrived – as have I. And although I know it's cliché, I've learned as much outside the classroom as I have in it. Committees and community are central to AUC student life, which all the bubble people know and celebrate, but what's truly delightful is that this community welcomes everyone, despite – or perhaps exactly because of – our uniquely weird, excellent, freaky, and non-conformist ways. I've enjoyed that diversity to the utmost of my ability, as well as the critical attitudes we've shared towards the AUC claims of “diversity” and “excellence.” There are people, teachers, classes, moments, and even sentences that I will never forget: it's been an imperfect whirlwind, and it's been great.

Sophia Eijkman

AUC is a great university – for some people. In my case, it worked out. I took a couple of courses in fields I was interested in – philosophy, psychology, physics – and realized they were really not my thing, which made it a lot easier to decide what to major in. It also meant that I had to take all my major-related courses in two years rather than three which caused a lot of stress! I got to work together with amazing people and to practice my academic writing, although I thought some “core” courses not well-structured, and group work was sometimes terribly unfair. The relatively high pressure to attend classes worked for my messy brain but it meant that I had a lot less freedom in my movements. If you know what you want to do with your life, go and do it. But if you aren't quite sure, AUC might be a great place to start! Plan your courses, think about Masters way ahead of time and never take Arabic I in your first year and Arabic II in your third year; and you should be fine!

Heiko Schmengler

I initially wanted to focus on Chemistry, but I found myself deeply interested in the biomedical field after the first year. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to study abroad in Melbourne, where I made many amazing friends and followed a super interesting internship on sexual minority health. This internship also inspired my choice for a master in public health with a specific focus on epidemiology and

#GoodTimes

rd years, we reached out to ask them
 their thoughts, ideas, feelings about their

health inequalities. I loved AUC most for its small class size and the many amazing academics I have met over the past three years. I am also really grateful for the amount of support I received with planning my capstone research. However, overall I found AUC a bit too focussed on theory. For example, I believe that there should be more opportunities for Science students to work with experimental data, such as in laboratory practicals. As for student life, I would definitely recommend Amsterdam. While I was very involved in the AUC life during my first year, the “bubble” soon became too small for me and started engaging in many activities off-campus. For example, I joined the Dutch language programme of the Municipality of Amsterdam and two student associations (studentenverenigingen). I had many great experiences here at AUC and cherish the memories, but I am also really looking forward to continuing the journey and to get to know more different countries and universities.

Suzanne Renes

I have always had many interests, and at AUC I could do courses in all sorts of fields that I liked. Unfortunately I was quite unlucky with my courses, because for some reason I always had a course that was oversubscribed and out of all 6 semesters I had 3 semesters where I did not get into all the courses that I wanted... but oh well. The thing that I will always remember about my time at AUC is the people. I have made so many friends of all different nationalities and ages, and I know the majority of them will be my friends for life. I will miss them immensely and I will miss being around them almost every day, but I am sure that I will never lose them. So in the end, AUC maybe was not perfect, but I can't imagine what my life would be like if I had not studied here.

Zahia Siab

AUC has been the hardest thing I've ever done – and I'm not just talking academic-wise. Don't get me wrong, the amount of courses I've taken, the various (and numerous!) assignments, the long semesters, they've all been difficult at some point or another. However, the biggest challenges I initially faced included moving to a new country, attempting to learn a new language, meeting people from all over the world, paying my own bills, and dealing with government bureaucracy. Sometimes when I think about how easy my friends back home in England have it (they're all already on holiday and I'm still struggling through my last intensive...), I wonder why

I chose to make my life so difficult by coming to AUC. But then I look around me, at this beautiful city, at the amazingly wonderful friends I've made, at all the interesting and challenging courses I've taken, and I'm glad I had the courage to apply. Would I have been less stressed if I stayed in England? Probably. Would it have been worth it at the end if I stayed? Probably not.

Oleksandra Pravednyk

When I came to AUC, I was both uncertain and prepared. Though my high school studies had prepared me for hard work, AUC stood on a whole new level. It challenged me to think beyond the knowledge that was given to me by a textbook. No, it pushed me to pool all my knowledge and find elaborate answers. At the same time, the weight of responsibility was heavy on my shoulders. After three years, I can say that AUC does challenge its students. Though the program may yet need some tweaks, the freedom to choose courses, and the connections between all of them, is both a great way to focus and expand. After three years at AUC I have learned not only new materials, but how to combine what I know and what I want to know into a challenging path of discovery.

Chung Lê

My time at AUC is coming to an end :-(. To me, AUC is a very unique university environment in which students from all majors and backgrounds can enjoy each other's company. I would say there is probably at least one committee for anyone, and in case there is none, you can even start your own committee. Throughout my years, I have seen some amazing projects, new committees being established and becoming what they are today. So yes, it is a bubble as many students call it. But the awesome thing is that you can blow this bubble into any shape you want by involving yourself and by contributing to those committees and projects. For the past 3 years, my own social life was at other student associations and clubs outside the bubble, so I ended up missing out on a lot of things on the inside. For example, I wanted to be on the AUCSA board, to organize an international food festival, and to have badminton in the inter-UC tournament. So to the ones who are still at AUC, get off your couch and get involved :D 'cause once you are out of it, it will be hard to find another bubble like AUC.

SUBMISSION

Veganism

I'd like to talk about animals.

I'd like to talk about them, because we often forget that we are animals too. We often forget that animals are part of Earth that we do not inherently possess (at least not from my agnostic point of view), and that they are beings that we currently exploit in both direct and indirect ways.

Non-human animals have become objects that satisfy our daily human consumerist cravings: we eat their flesh and eggs, we drink their milk, we wear their skin, we use them for entertainment (think of TV, circuses, and zoos), and we feed their carcasses to other animals like our pets. Speaking of pets, I have noticed that we also really enjoy categorizing non-human animals. Several categories have been culturally constructed over time. Some animals, like dolphins, lions, and monkeys- are considered exotic, and are looked at with great fascination*, while others like cats, dogs, and certain rodents, are considered to be our companions. Others have the unfortunate label of farm animals, and will rarely be called 'cute' (unless they're babies of course), captivating, or worthwhile our empathy and compassion.

As humans, we often like to justify the cruelties we inflict on others, and this does not exclude non-human animals. René Descartes, during the scientific revolution of the Enlightenment, was one of the founding fathers of the idea that we, great human beings, are radically different from non-human animals. In his *Discours de la Méthode*, Descartes coins the term "l'animal-machine"; animals are considered as intricate mechanic beings, which function and act purely based on instinctive, programmed dispositions. If a dog yelps and whines, it is not out of fear or loneliness. If an elephant is swaying from side to side and crying, it's not because it is mourning



its loved one or feeling sad. No, it is unthinkable for animals to act for these reasons, because all their actions stem from instinct. According to this paradigm, animals are not capable of irrational decision making, because they biologically do not have the ability to make conscious choices, and thus, happiness and well-being are concepts that can not apply to them. Right?

Numerous scientific studies have proved that animals are conscious and sentient beings, with a central nervous system and emotional sensitivity (though I will not cite specific research, I encourage you to look some up). While some individuals try to justify the harm we do to animals, with evolutionary arguments like "humans are omnivores, therefore we need to eat meat", and "we have canines", or even "chickens are so stupid though!"(yes I've heard that one plenty of times), I would just like to state something; Yes, we are omnivores, but that doesn't imply necessity of meat or dairy in our diet (it just means that we can digest it); Yes, we have canines, but so do most herbivores, and if you think about it, presence of physical traits that could be used in violent ways does not justify violent behavior (like the fact that I have hands that could strangle someone doesn't allow me morally to do so).

I hope that this article made you think about human perception of animals, and their place as beings that are exploited and harmed constantly. I would also like to ask you to think about the compassion you have for animals, no matter what their shape is, and to think about the forms they take in your day-to-day life (remember that the meat you're eating was once part of a sensitive being, who did not have a choice in its fate).

*I am speaking from a very Western point of view here, and I would also like to bring to your attention that if exotic animals or pets are eaten by other cultures, we (in the West) often shame that action, sometimes even call it "barbaric" (think of customs like eating dolphin in Japan or dog in China). In other words, our conception of animals in relation to ourselves is something that is constructed, and is not innately defined as something specific. So-called farm animals are not meant to be our food.

by Matilda Medard
illustration by Yin Hsieh

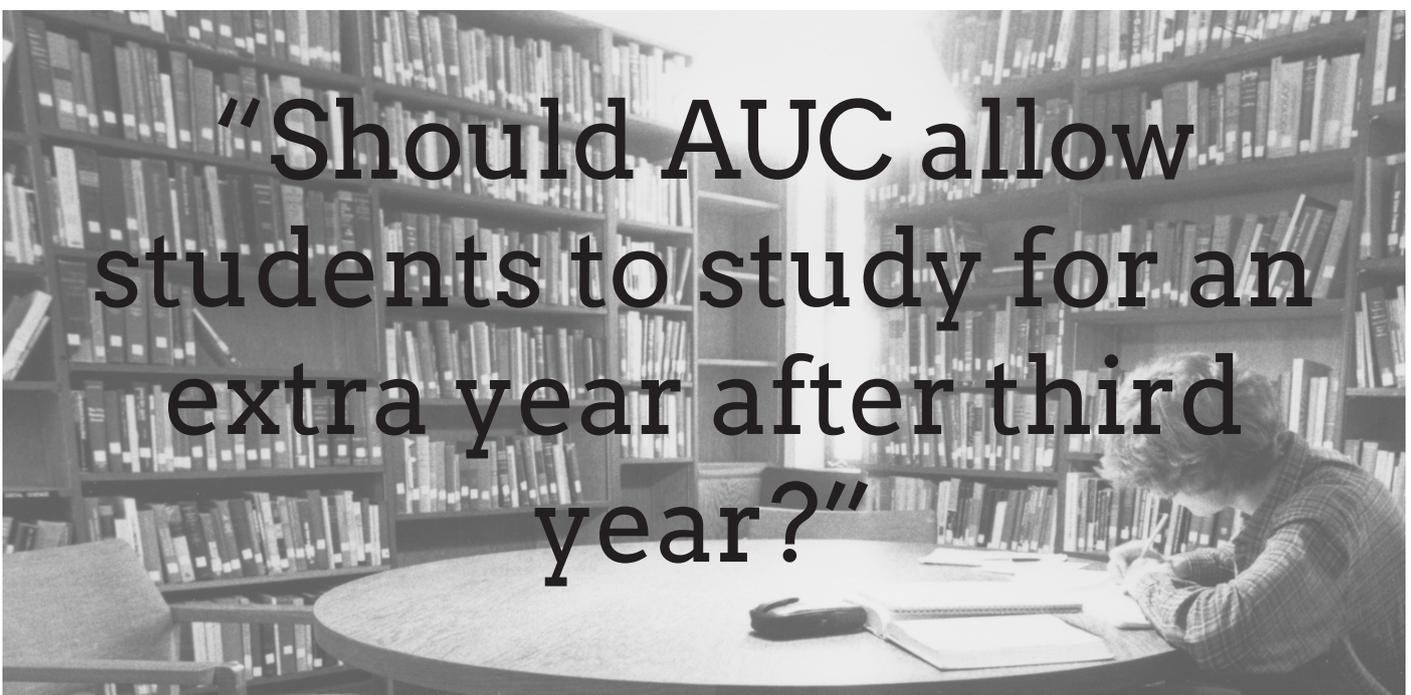
Pro*by Maria Gayed*

As we all know, AUC's slogan is the beloved "excellence and diversity". For a university that prides itself on these two pillars, it would be more than logical for it to allow students to continue their bachelor studies here for longer than six semesters. Because of all the required courses we have to take, and the other requirements we have to meet ake for graduation, we don't always have space in our curriculum to follow all the courses we would like. So, we prioritise the courses we are obliged to take, then the ones that fit within our tracks and then MAYBEpossibly, if we're lucky, take some extra courses outside of our tracks for the continuation of diversity within our studies. As the excellent students that

we are, it should be allowed to pursue a continuation of our studies at AUC in order to broaden our mind, and to deepen our knowledge. The three years here at AUC don't provide us with enough time to do so.

The students that would like to stay add much something to our AUC community: they have the most experience and knowledge not only of AUC, but also of our campus and Amsterdam. These students can be that extra help for new students, whether they be first years or exchange students.

If AUC really wants to provide us with both in-depth and broad education, it would have to enable us to stay here for an extra year if we'd like to.

Con*by Nick Handfield-Jones*

While the idea of a fourth year of AUC sounds wonderful in theory, it would be less so in practice. To begin, one must look at the logistics of making such a change necessary, most importantly questions of money and space. Adding an optional fourth year would add significant costs to AUC's budget, which would have to be allocated from other sources. This would mean a reduction in other privileges the school provides us with. Additionally, the extra students would mean more space. This would lead to several consequences such as a reduced flexibility to move within the dorms and more students per class. Most importantly, however, it would mean that teachers would work more, likely at no extra monetary compensation. This increased pressure for teachers would likely raise their stress levels and reduce personalized teaching, both of which would diminish student learning experiences. On that note, adding a fourth year of AUC, while likely

allowing students to engage more closely with particular subjects, would likely result in less *experiential* learning. AUC adopts a predominantly theoretical framework in its course content. The knowledge obtained from engaging with these concepts is incredibly valuable... but only up to a point. I would argue that is the application of these concepts in a real-world setting that really allows individuals to learn. Seeing the world allows one to reflect on the things learned, and forces one engage more critically. The benefit of furthering interests in another setting is personal development and growth, and the effect this has on a person's learning. By including an extra year, students would be caught in a mindset of retaining the same learning patterns, instead evolving different ways of thinking in other institutions or in the world. AUC is about advancing knowledge and thought, but a change in environment is needed to open students' mind in a whole new way.

REFLECTIONS

How to take care of yourself: a guide

by Lance Bosch

We've all had it rough at some point in our lives. We've hurt ourselves, our friends or family or lovers drying our tears and smoothing a band-aid over the scratches on our bodies or on our hearts. A little scrape is easy to fix. It doesn't cost much. But what happens when you've scraped your knees and banged your elbows and fallen over so many times that you're not sure a bandage will quite do the trick anymore?

"I don't want to be your problem, darling. I care about you too much to make you worry."

So we look for something greater. We look for some brave someone to help us breathe, to stay strong. To be. We look for confirmation and acceptance and support and whatever else we don't have, for someone to tell us we're on the right track, to tell us that even if we're making mistakes, we're doing just fine. For someone who can be all that we ask for and more; our own personal ambulance, well equipped to keep us from harm. So we wait in our little ivory towers, hoping that our Alexander the Great or Joan of Arc will come, galloping on their snow-white steeds to come save us from ourselves.

But why should you wait for someone to fix you up? There's no point sitting in the hospital waiting room all day when you know the doctor isn't in. Go home. Stitch yourself back up. It will take a while, and it won't look quite the way it did before you got that cut in the first place, but it'll be okay. And every time you take that needle to your skin and start threading that wound closed, it'll get easier. And the stitches will heal properly. And you won't be so scared to do it again. The first couple times will always end up in a scar, but one day you will glance at them and remember how hard it used to be, and how painful it was, and laugh because you didn't even realize how far you've come since then.

No one will mind that your hands are knotted and your skin has started to wrinkle, because you got crows feet and laugh lines from all the times you overcame adversity and smiled to yourself, and even if your knuckles are a little worse for wear, your hands are still lovely to hold.

After all, we admire beautiful paintings, not the frames that hold them.



Southern Nights

At this point he preferred working extra hours to coming home. She lay fatigued in the bathtub, seeking advice for her worries on Yahoo forums. "Baby, you in there?" he said "Got a flat tire." She listened from the tub.

She looked at her figure in the mirror. "Isn't the mechanic closed now?" she said, still looking. Steam swirled all around her.

"Well, it's only 4." she heard.

"Right."

"You can take a flat tire..." He was singing. She heard him shuffling around the room.

She opened the door and crouched over a pile of clothes. He paused. "Hey suga" he bowed. She went back into the bathroom. "What's wrong?" he said.

They met two years ago at a wedding. The families of bride and groom had set up a real Cajun fais-do-do under beautiful paper lanterns that glowed soft over everyone's heads. All the kids had wandered out of the lantern light to the creek and were trying to catch bullfrogs. Two older girls assigned to watch after their little cousins stood by and chatted. A couple older boys from the neighborhood were sneaking beers, avoiding uncool adults and threatening uncool children who might snitch. A creeping night wind passed through the bog reeds and around the clinking beer bottles and through the accordion player's fingers.

He joined in a conversation of people he hadn't met before and saw her for the first time. He gazed at her, and when he introduced himself he took her hand and kissed it. He asked her to dance. They spun around and knocked over someone's drink. When the first song ended a member of the band called out to them: "if the neighbors call the po-lice blame it on these two lovebirds right here."

"Oh, we're not a couple and so—" he started to say but she kissed him and squeezed his hand harder.

They had moved into a cheap rental house for the time being. He went downstairs knocking a rhythm on the wall. She was still in the bathroom. At the counter, he picked up an orange and started peeling it, digging in a thumb completely. He was then struck by the thought 'You don't have to be best friends with someone to treat them right' and nodded to himself. Treat her right? he then thought, What about love? He picked up a broom and tapped on the ceiling. "Hey babe—" He heard the faucet turn on to fill the bath. "Attitude" he said under his breath. "You wanna come down here a minute?" He yelled and struck the broomstick hard against the ceiling. He noticed cracks growing on the drywall and steam coming through the ceiling. Then, with a great whoosh it all caved in.

Two teens were skateboarding past their house. One big push was one meter forward on the long slow incline of the street. "Na, don't worry, I won't tell. We're brothers." And the other said "I'm sorry" just before they heard the crash.

by Patrick Klona

illustration by Nikki Omes



Poem

Conquer the burned grass
the
blackened trees
swirling trenches
Metal stank engrained in cloth
Hot mist covering the unspoken

Years later
in grey rock
The child falls and gets up again
Only to look into the visage of moral
He drops the stick
runs away
forgets his cap

by Ewoud Labordus

FASHION

Changes

For our third years, a lot of things are in motion right now. Along with moving out from the dorms and evolving into so-called 'adults', our wardrobes, too, undergo an evolution of their own... at least in theory. Part of this process, as the Facebook sale groups testify, is the obligatory 'closet clearout': we reluctantly part with pieces we always hoped might work someday, and others we can no longer get away with. While trying to get rid of the obsolete, we also face new gaps in our closets. A couple of days before a job interview, I realized that I had nothing to wear –having spent the past three years in jeans and crop tops at AUC, I didn't own anything business-appropriate. Entering a new phase in your life means adapting your wardrobe. Granted, not all these changes are exciting (exhibit A: sheer tights), but there's still a lot of fun to be had: for me, one of the best parts about graduating is choosing an outfit to wear to the ceremony. But before I slip on my high heels and go celebrate all these new beginnings –and instead of offering you clichés on what to wear and on 'being yourself', there is one more transition I want to talk about.

As a contributor of *Scriptus*, I've had the privilege of working with an amazing team of talented, passionate, and crazy people who turn the long hours of work that go into each issue into great fun –and I can't wait to see how it evolves after my year's departure. Thanks for reading, and special thanks to this year's two editors-in-chief, Emma and Nick, for being amazing, and for putting up with my antics.

by Cristina Roca

FILM

A book within a film within Cage

What better way to end the year than with Nicolas Cage? When mentioned, we always think about *Ghost Rider* or *National Treasure*, but Cage has also made good films and *Adaptation* is one of them.

Directed by Spike Jonze, *Adaptation* is another of Charlie Kaufman's mind twisting 'metafilms' and very original screenplay. Like most of his screenplays, this one combines reality and fiction by having real actors play themselves and other actors playing real people. This leaves the viewer wondering about what is real and what is not throughout the movie.

Adaptation is about a screenwriter (Charlie Kaufman), played by Nicolas Cage, who struggles to adapt a non-fiction book called 'The Orchid Thief' written by Susan Orlean. The book details the story of atypical orchid hunter John Laroche, whose passion for orchids and horticulture made Orlean discover passion and beauty for the first time in her life. Since the book is also based on real events and people, its characters, played by Chris Cooper and Meryl Streep, also appear in *Adaptation*, and eventually both the film's and the book's characters come together.

In the film, Charlie Kaufman wants to remain faithful to the book, but realizes that there is no narrative involved and finds

FOOD

Sushi Time...in Amsterdam!

We're all familiar with the Sushi Time that takes place at the dorms, and it's undeniably true that those students can roll up a mean maki that's no more than a few steps away! However, as someone who was used to eating sushi about once a week before moving to Amsterdam, I was determined to find my go-to sushi place for those nights out in town. Throughout my search, I was put back by the ridiculously high prices for a dinner that averages out to around 30€. Fortunately, one of my good Dutch friends recommended me Hello Sushi, located in now one of my favorite areas, De Pijp. Hello Sushi is exactly what you'd anticipate: a cute, modern bar/restaurant with a decent variety of rolls and sushi boxes, all of which will be kinder to your wallet as well! I personally prefer the purple or white box, but in the end you can't go wrong with either choice as the entire menu is worth the taste. Finally, I believe that with any great savory dish comes a great sweet pairing, which is why the mochi ice cream (a very common dessert in Japanese restaurants) became an essential finisher. Served with a chocolate fondue in the middle, there is no way this dish will disappoint your taste buds! To all my AUC sushi lovers, I hope Hello Sushi will be a part of your next sushi time out in Amsterdam. Enjoy!

by Diana Ghidanac



it impossible to turn it into a film. So he decides to write a script about himself having to adapt this book and not being able to do so, which ultimately becomes the screenplay of *Adaptation*.

If you're not a Charlie Kaufman or Spike Jonze fan then at least watch the film to restore your faith in Nicolas Cage, I know it has for me.

by Elias von Hildebrand



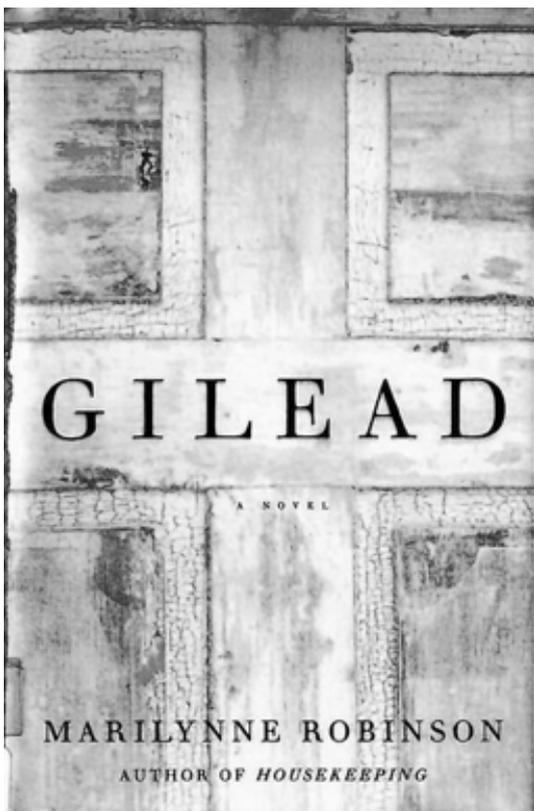
The Novel Cure

By Willem Pije

The human body and mind can be subjected to a wide variety of diseases, ailments, and disorders. The rapid progress of the medical sciences made treatment more effective and the average life expectancy has been raised dramatically. However, I believe that the sciences don't have the only power to positively influence someone's physical and mental health, but that the humanities have something to contribute as well. Reading the right book at the right time can be a transformative experience and can prove to be just the thing you needed to resolve the issues at hand. The book *The Novel Cure* by Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin inspired me to make my own selection of books which have sort of contributed to the mentally stable and healthy person I am today.

Fear of Mediocrity

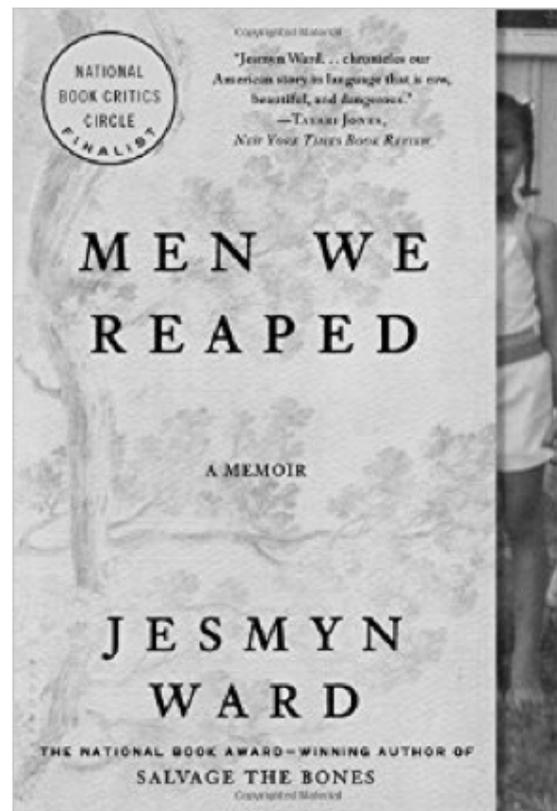
Ambition is seen as a very important trait at AUC, and the sense of competition it creates has motivated me to do things I might have never done otherwise. It partially comes from a desire to achieve, to become the best in your field of choice. Some of us might eventually achieve this level of excellence, but many of us will probably never reach these heights. The possibility of mediocrity can be a very scary thing and this is inflated by the possibility of being excellent that has been imprinted in our brains. A book that has helped me to deal with the possibility of being normal is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. It revolves around the small town preacher John Ames and is constructed as a long letter to his young son in which he writes about his life and the things he learned. It is not a grand novel by any means and very little happens throughout



the book, but Robinson's writing and attention to detail reveal the epic quality of a normal life led virtuously. This book is not necessarily a celebration of mediocrity, but a reminder that grand achievements are not a prerequisite to a fulfilled and successful life. There is no defeat in being normal even though it might feel like that sometimes.

Feeling of Disregard

I believe it is a common phenomenon to watch report after report on violence, murder, and disease, and to eventually not feel anything anymore. There seems to be a limit to our empathy and after the limit is reached our brains switch to disregard and distance. One of the depressing subjects that has been in the news a lot lately is police violence against black people in the U.S. Even though the shooting of an unarmed black teenager is incredibly sad, the reporting on this subject is not half as successful at evoking the same feeling of empathy as the book *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward. In this memoir, Ward recounts the five young black men she lost in her life to drugs, accidents, and poverty. The heart-breaking stories reveal how racism and socioeconomic inequality wreak havoc on the lives of black people. For me it was a stark reminder how important it is to care even when there is a first impulse to distance yourself. I know nothing of growing up poor and black in the South, but reading books straight from the source enables us to gain a slightly better understanding of the world around us.



AUMixtape

The time has arrived to reflect on these 'soon to be over' days at AUC. There's been ups, and downs, but I don't wish to get all sentimental on y'all. So what better way to sign off, doing what I (supposedly) do best, by detailing my soundtrack to these past three years (slightly self-indulgent, I admit). The list is indeed one of variety and length but, the following tracks seem to reflect a salient sample of the most "diverse" (...I'm sorry) of my listening, ranging from emotional highs, to crushing lows, yet for the most part, achieving a soft, goeey middle. We never had it so good, people.

Television - Marquee Moon

Angular guitars. Orgiastic harmonies. Symbolism to impassion many a romantic. Marquee Moon captures what it is to live the liminal life of university student, with Tom Verlaine's lyrics perfectly evoking the paranoia that accompanies the eternal hangover of teenage hedonism. Listening to this ten minute soundscape as the close chill of Winter whispered into the Autumn wind instigated a voyage of self-discovery in my AUC experience. Not as epic as that time I got a free kroket at FEBO though, but pretty close.

Marek Hemman - Gemini

First year. That heady time of glamour and debauchery. The kids with eyes wide bright, the shrill tone of nervous chit-chat reverberating around the courtyard. A wandering hand at common room parties. Puke in the hallway. Pre-drinking before Trouw with the sax tooting away in the corner. It's all in this track. Those were the days eh? I promised myself not to get nostalgic but really, that sax though.

Jay-Z and Kanye West - Niggas in Paris

Now, I'm a big fan of Jay-Z, as you can probably tell from my double denim, ponytail, whiter than white getup. (Make of that what you will). But, was the track guaranteed to make people get damn right nasty on the sofa of my common room. If you don't believe me, there are still stains on that sofa to prove it.

The Brian Jonestown Massacre - Anemone

A more recent additional to my listening pleasures at AUC. This psychedelic punch in the genitals provided the perfect sonic accompaniment to many a chill day in Flevopark. We even took to performing it live...before the power cut out and I was stood looking like a tit, singing into a muted microphone taped to a lamp stand. Rock and roll, indeed.

Mac Demarco - Ode to Viceroy

Hmm. I did debate putting Mac on the list. Fame seems to be fast encroaching on indie's favourite son, inspiring a legion of American Apparel kids who profess their love for *Salad Days* (2014), whilst those in the know in 2011 reminisce about the good ol' days of *Rock and Roll Night Club* (2012). I still admit to liking the guy though, and even confess to listening to 2 (2012) on and an endless loop during many an all night essay mission. This track also had an influence on one of my more negative habits. The clue's in the title...

The Shins - New Slang

For those lovetorn spring nights in the second year. Cursing at a high altitude (high on life, I may add), reminiscing about the shadows the fleet through old memories. I could say that I discovered this song before watching *Garden State*. And that would be true, actually. But I do owe a debt to Zach Braff's 2004 movie for placing this track on my AUC mixtape.

Lou Reed - Perfect Day

Despite playing a rather shabby rendition of this song at an Open Stage, this track sticks as the perfect romance to my fast fading days of AUC. Playing *Transformer* (1972) throughout those carefree first year days, I felt these days in Amsterdam could last forever. A feeling that's soon to be shattered, so it seems. It's not all bad, though. I've got many a good memory of drinking in the park; drinking at Borrels; drinking whilst biking to Roest...Wait, why are all my memories of drinking? Oh well, tot de volgende keer, AUC.

Talking Heads - This Must Be The Place

This song that occupies a soft spot in many an indie kids' heart. An existentialist ode that pulls on the heart strings, David Byrne's crooning kick proved a hit time and again, whether in listening with a group of close friends, or screaming it naked at 3am on the balcony of the second building. I wasn't referring to myself in the third person there, but I do confess to having experienced the titillating effects of this classic on many on regular occurrences.

Baby D - Cold in the D

This track really needs no introduction. The perfect 4am tune, for the drunken vagabond with love in his eyes and a pulsation in his underwear. I wasn't referring to myself in the third person there, but I do confess to having experienced the titillating effects of this hip hop classic on many an occasion.

Pachanga Boys - Time

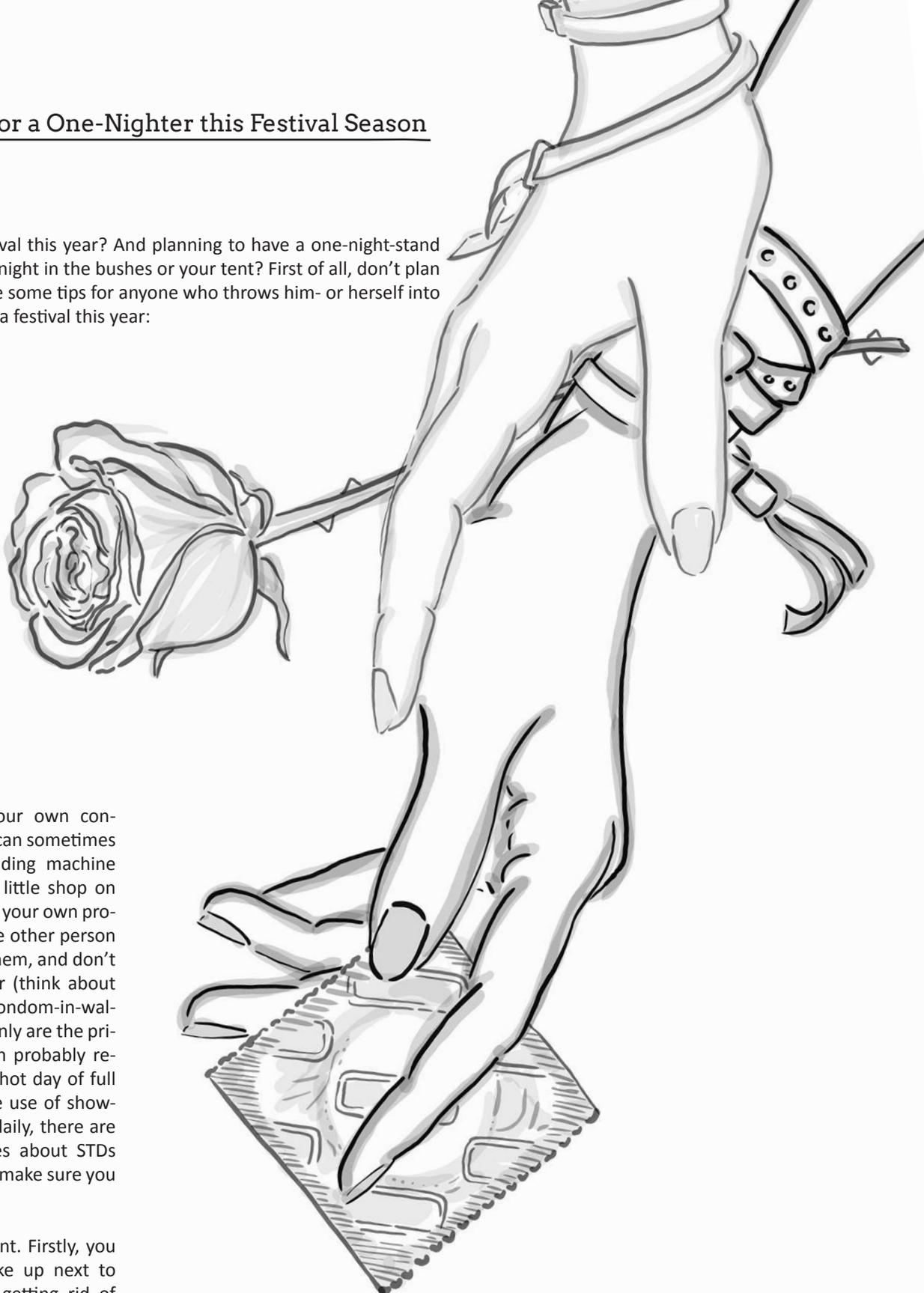
"Time goes by". This track speaks for itself, really. ... Ok, I'll try and force a mediocre description out. Something about 'nothing good lasts forever' seems to resonate here. As does staring at the ceiling at 7am, questioning your life in a white haze of terror. The ultimate comedown track.

by James Anderson

Do's and Don'ts for a One-Nighter this Festival Season

by Charlotte Verboom
illustration by Yin Hsieh

Planning to go to a festival this year? And planning to have a one-night-stand on a drunk hot summer night in the bushes or your tent? First of all, don't plan it. Second of all, here are some tips for anyone who throws him- or herself into some 'summer heat' on a festival this year:



1. Do: Always bring your own condoms. Even though you can sometimes buy condoms at a vending machine near the toilets or in a little shop on the festival, always bring your own protection. Don't expect the other person to have condoms with them, and don't trust their quality either (think about expiration date or the condom-in-wallet-phenomenon). Not only are the private parts of the person probably really sweaty after a long hot day of full time dancing, and is the use of showers rather unique than daily, there are enough terrifying stories about STDs due to of festival sex. So make sure you do it safely!

2. Don't do it in your tent. Firstly, you might not want to wake up next to this person again, and getting rid of someone after an intense night can be awkward sometimes. Secondly, your friends may not enjoy it as much as you might think; especially when they have to share the tent with you. For-girls: Do it in his tent, but make sure your friends know where you are, and make sure his friends are not close.

3. Do: On top, spooning, and missionary. Don't try fancy difficult positions in a small tent.

4. Chose a dark and quiet place to do it. In the bushes or something or somewhere behind a building, for example. Not only will you prevent snoopers, you will also have less chances of getting caught by the festival guards. Yes, they still don't like people banging in public everywhere (fortunately?). However, sex in the open air still is something really worth trying, so be sneaky. For girls: Wearing a skirt or a dress is makes it the easiest!

5. Don't get too drunk or have sex with someone who has had a drink too much. Not only will too much alcohol have a negative influence on your performances, too much alcohol can be dangerous in some situations. For example, you can lose the control over your own body, or the other person can become really annoying. Just a few drinks to get loose and horny are fine, but know your limits!

WE ASKED YOU

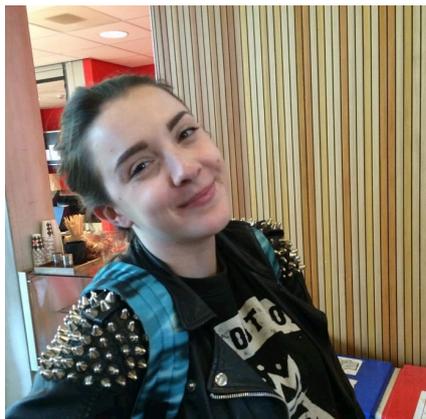
: If you had 1000 euros to spend on a holiday, what would you do?

photos and interviews by Lance Bosch



Esther Baar, 2nd year

I feel like doing something adventurous, like going to Iceland, or going to Rome, or New York. Either go to a nice city and eat nice food, or do hikes.



Francesca Brennan, 2nd year

I'm spoilt, so if I go on vacation for a 1000 euros I won't be able to go for a very long time. I mean, I won't be going alone, so it's just 500 p.p.!



Luuk van der Sterren, 2nd year

I'd probably go to South East Asia, coz it's cheap, so you can stay for 2-3 months, and you can go see crazy stuff. And also, I've always wanted to go.



Els van Dam, 1st year

My parents just had their 25th anniversary, so I would use the 1000 euros to give them a trip, send them far far away... But also 1000 euros isn't that much, so maybe Scandinavia or so?



Migle Abromaviciute, 1st year

I think I would go somewhere in Europe... Maybe Rome for 5 days, in a nice hotel. And yeah, check out the city!



Cindy Zegers, 1st year

Go to Thailand, Vietnam maybe... Never been to Asia before!



Niclas Holtappels, 3rd year

I would go to a meditation camp in France and meditate for one month straight, after which I'd walk the Camino de Santiago from France to the South of Spain.



Cas Smulders, 3rd year

Good foodz and drinks all summer loooooong



Johannes Veerkamp, 3rd year

I think I would go to Cuba because right now they've just lifted their embargo on the U.S. It's an interesting time to visit, as soon that world of old cars and buildings will be gone.