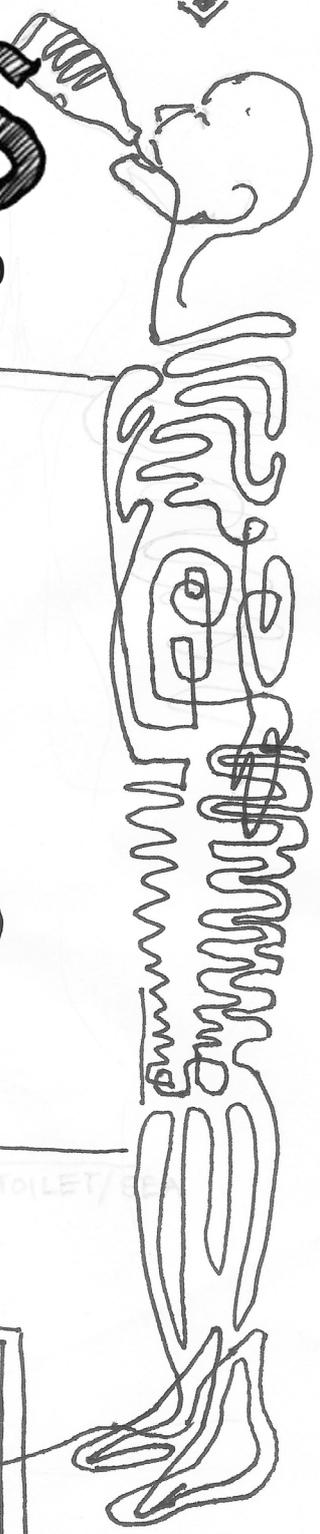


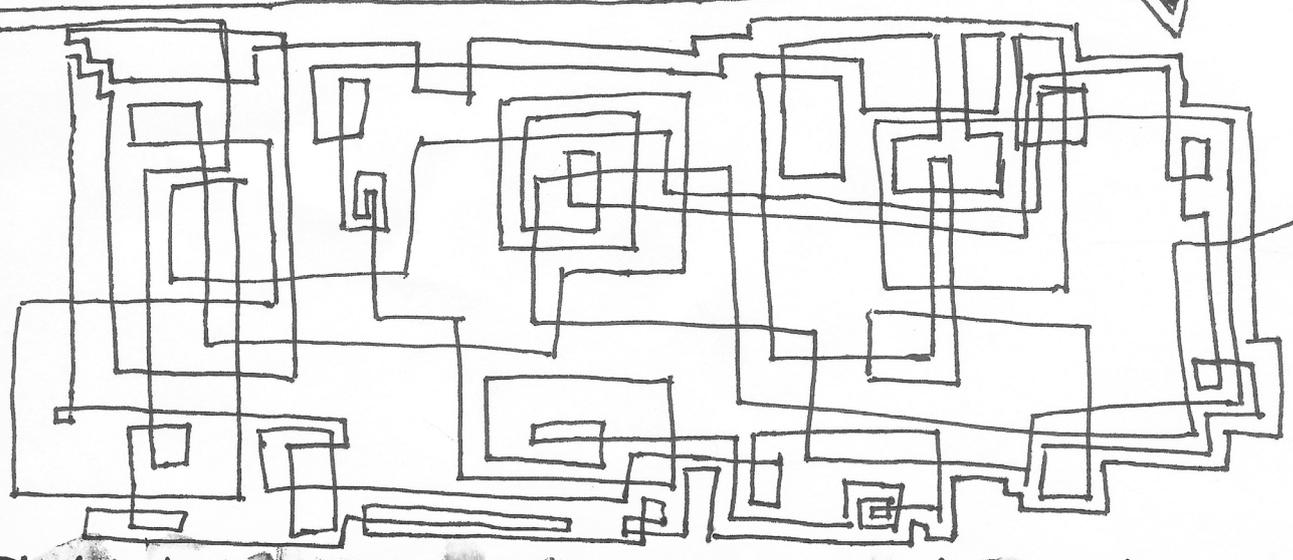
Scriptus

Issue 19



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THERE ARE MORE THAN 2 WAYS WHICH LEAD TO RESTROOM/TOILET



Foreword

Dear readers,

Thanks for picking up and devouring our Creative Writing Edition last month. We had such a great time making it, and we've heard a lot of positive response. We really appreciate it. For March, we decided to do a regular issue. There is so much going on at AUC right now, so much controversy.

We've had tons of submission this time, from students and committees both. We had so much, in fact, that we had to request two extra pages (that's right, a 24-page Scriptus!), and even then, we had to push some submissions back to our next issue in April. Amazing stuff, but for now, there are plenty of articles in your hands to read up on. Start by reading our cover story, in which Ruby de Hart covers the non-gendered bathroom proposal. Then, head to our interview with the new dean, Murray Pratt (and yes, we've asked different questions than the Herring). After that, enjoy a nice cup of hot coffee or tea and peruse a short poem/story by Tara Elsen, an interview with OnStage about their upcoming play, and finally, a commentary on the weather by Scriptus' own Tekla Tevdorashvili. All this amazing content and more within your hands!

- Nicholas Handfield-Jones

Changes/Updates/Statements

- ⇒ Next month, we are releasing two issues. (Scriptus! Scriptus every where!). Along with Issue 20, we will be releasing an Environment Special, a collaboration with ASUSA and yours truly, printed on post-consumer paper. Every article therein will be related to climate change, sustainability, etc. So if you are interested in writing for that, send an email to scriptus@aucsa.nl or asusa@aucsa.nl
- ⇒ We've been spreading our survey on Facebook. Thanks for all the feedback so far. We will be taking measures to incorporate your thoughts in future issues. If you haven't filled it out, keep your eyes peeled. We'll be spamming that thing like it's no tomorrow.
- ⇒ Finally, word on the street says that we'll be looking for new Board members soon.

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The Butterfly Companion

By Tara Elsen



*The mountains and
the moon behind the
butterfly's shadows*

I charge into my room and slam the door, spin the lock, and a little green-cream butterfly follows the path of a fallen ribbon that dances through the air. The flutter of its wings does not blur the grey-hued lace embedded in its chiffon wings, frayed with two delicate antennas whose ends are garnished in tear-shaped moons of vinaigrette. I pace to my kitchen counter and rest my hands upon it, its ribbed, undulating, tarnished metal cooling my resting digits. I swing the fridge door open (which clicks, alights, and hums), I let the plastic-disk lid of the humus rattle onto the counter, and drag my knife's edge, applying the paste over a roughly sliced piece of softly resistant bread. It regenerates into its original form.

As I twist my wrist and apply the paste, I see two wispy wings perch on my left index finger, in between the creases of my two other phalanxes. These wings may think: this tree brings me a breeze and nourishes me with moist yet tartly tasting sugar. I think about its six legs aligning on my sandy, scaly skin and I wriggle my wrist. A chaos of air flutters my senses and propels up towards my lips in acrobatic somersaults. I raise the slab of cemented bread to my teeth and my eyelashes applaud at the commotion. A tinge of guilt that I disturbed its place; but he disturbed mine so we understand one another's boundaries for action. A cow in a fenced-field would have flicked the flies away from its filth, or how about the whipping of a branch in a torrent of wind?

I sit down at my desk and its wings make unmovable Shadow-Atlas-mountains along the contour of the reflective, Sahara wall. She watches me study. I watch her cling.

Tonight I saw her on her side, swept upon the cold windowsill; its wings were taught and they rippled with graphite veins, its legs outstretched, piercing the air: two blobs of crude oil for bland unseeing sensors. I lay in bed on my back and looked up at the bland, triangular, electric green-cream illuminations cast on the reticulated wall. In the top left corner, from the largest of the shimmering fragments fanning out across the ceiling and walls, was hidden a smaller triangle of two balancing, hovering wings, perched on the edge of the pane.

Behind the scenes: The AUCSA Board



You see us walking around the AB from time to time, you see us having a meeting in the office, acting all important. You see us busy with a lot of things; however, no one actually knows what is keeping us busy. We want to change that, and tell you all about what we do.

The Core Tasks

There is a series of core tasks that each one of us performs, and that take up around 10-15 hours of our time every week. Just like all committees, we have a weekly meeting, which usually takes between two and three hours. Furthermore, all of us need to do office hours twice every three weeks. These are the main tasks that every Board member does, but there are a bunch of specific stuff that is different for all of us.

Floris

As chair, Floris is in charge of the smooth running of the Board, so he does not have very clearly defined tasks. That being said, he needs to prepare the agenda for every meeting, basically determining what needs to be discussed. Furthermore, it is Floris who needs to present the AUCSA to external partners, and he is the main contact person to AUC management. Besides that, he aids with a lot of random tasks that the other Board members have no time to fulfill.

Tim

Being a secretary, the tasks for Tim are much more defined than Floris'. Basically, he needs to write the weekly newsletter every Sunday, needs to prepare and take minutes of every meeting, keep an eye on the website (improve where possible), manage the AUCSA Facebook account, and answer emails to external parties. It sounds pretty straightforward, and that's because it kind of is. Still, a decent amount of core tasks.

Stefanie

To be honest, no one really knows what it is exactly that she does, but she always seems to be quite busy. As treasurer of the AUCSA, she is responsible for the financial administration. She is the one who puts together the budget at the beginning of the year. After this, she makes sure that the AUCSA and its committees stick to this budget (income & expenses) as much as possible. A lot of her work consists of administra-

tion and chasing people to either pay or give her details about certain expenses. She is very proud of her financial books, as a true treasurer should be.

Jerome, Steffan, and Sezgi

Unfortunately, these three lovely Board members do not get separate pieces, because they all have the same core tasks. The main thing that keeps them busy is assisting committees both with practical things, and with their functioning as a whole. Think about getting the committees a camera, or a projector. If a committee wants a poster on the screen: CAO (Committee Affairs Officer). If they need something printed: CAO. If a committee member has an argument with their mom: CAO.

Passion Projects

Besides the standard responsibilities we all have, there are several random tasks that we divide amongst ourselves and that quickly turn into passion projects. This is usually what you don't notice.

Teams

The beginning of the year was dedicated to setting up two teams: Acquisitions Team and Lustrum Team, the first ever of both. Starting from scratch, Sezgi has been chairing the Lustrum Team since then, trying to organize the AUCSA Lustrum. Steffan has also been busy in the Lustrum team as PR manager.

Jerome and Tim have been active with the Acquisitions Team, first creating a bunch of documents, with the help of their team members, that are very important for fundraising. Since the end of last semester they have been trying to get in contact with companies for two reasons: a) to spread the word about the qualities of the AUC student, and b) to get extra funding for the Lustrum, to decrease the ticket price. At the moment they are in contact with several companies interested in collaborating with us.

Merchandise

Jerome and Steffan have been busy with trying to get new merchandise, although this process is slow, they have now got a few new products coming along thanks to one motivated first year student. Look out for new cool stuff coming along.

New Myauc.nl website

Tim has worked a lot with Aram Zegerius on the new myauc.nl website, which took many a night of endless formatting. Currently, Tim is trying to incorporate a new agenda in the

website, such that we might be able to decrease the endless Facebook spamming going on at the moment.

Promotion videos

Floris has been quite busy with several promotional videos for the association that will be very useful in the coming years to show the outside world what AUCSA is and does. Furthermore, Floris has been busy with organizing Winter Formal and several other smaller events such as the Committee Forum.

These are several of our ongoing "projects", as we like to call them. There are several other commitments, such as Stefanie being a part of the UCSRN Board and social committee, Jerome organizing the February introduction week, and Stefanie working with a policy manual working group.

Upcoming semester

For the upcoming semester, we have several other major exciting things coming up. Steffan and Tim have now set up the Dormfest Team that will be working hard to organize another Dormfest-to-remember. Stefanie will be working hard, along with some committees, on organizing the UCSRN Tournament. Sezgi will be spending a lot of time with the organization of the Lustrum, and we will all be busy with the election of the new AUCSA Board and playing our part in organizing graduation. Finally, there are two new committees that will also be showcasing what they have to offer. These are the main cool things coming up, we are very excited, and we hope you are too.

This is just a summary of what has been going on and what is on the agenda, highlighting the biggest, and highest-workload activities. That said, there is a ton of smaller tasks that keep us busy. If you would like to know more about behind the scenes business, come visit us in the office or send an email to info@aucsa.nl.

Love,

The AUCSA Board of '15-'16
Floris, Tim, Stefanie, Jerome, Steffan and Sezgi.

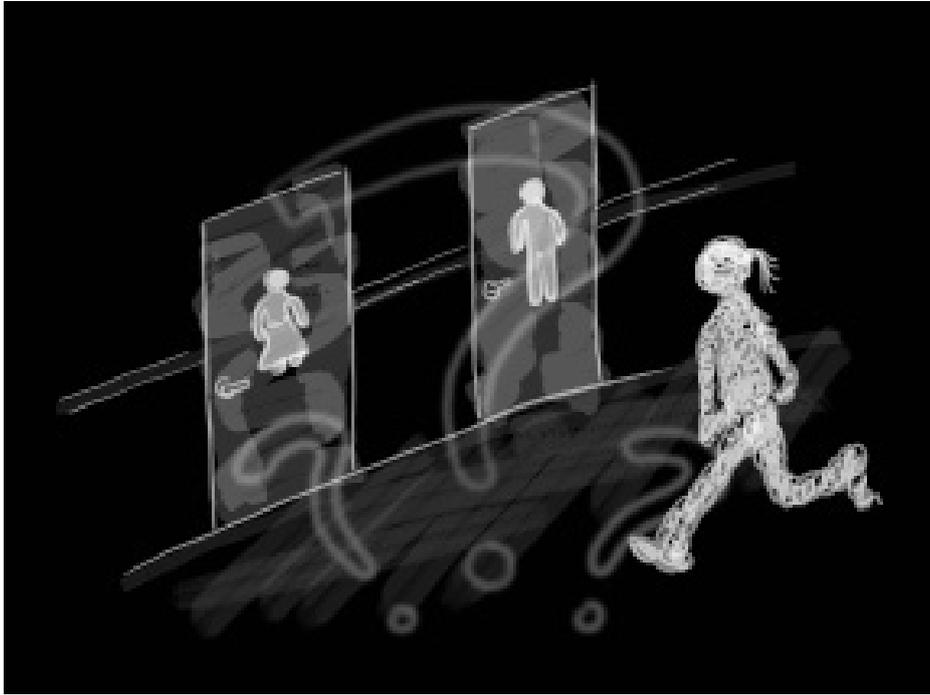
Bathroom Binary:

On Supposedly Simple Choices That Are Extremely Hard For Some

By Ruby de Hart

3rd year student, non-binary, pronouns: they, them, theirs

Illustration by Yin Hsieh



“Wait, let me quickly go to the bathroom.” It’s a simple line. You hear it every day (in some form at least). After saying this I rush over to that little corner of the building where the toilets are. There I stop. Dilemma. Now what? Some of you might wonder why. It’s simple right? I agree that it should be. However, for some people it isn’t. I sometimes jokingly say that there should be a door in the middle because I should neither go right nor left. It doesn’t work like that though. There is no such door. There are only two doors and I’m either supposed to go into one of them, which will always conflict with who I actually am, or I go into both of them (superimposition – yes, I’m a physics major), but of course that doesn’t actually work.

So, let me break this down for you. There are always two options for doing supposedly simple things, such as shopping for clothes and going to the bathroom: male and female. I’m neither of these genders. I’m non-binary. I am both (in a way). I don’t “do the gender binary”, so to say. Every day I have to choose for an option that does not reflect who I am. It conflicts with my identity. I go to one of the two bathrooms, buy my clothes in either or both sections of the store, fill in “female” in my master’s applications even though it makes me flinch every time I have to do so, etc. Imagine something like that. If you can. Hopefully you now understand why you might sometimes see me standing in front of the bathroom

doors, doubting, thinking, contemplating which one would suit me best today (the answer is neither).

By now you might be wondering how many people undergo the same feeling I do. To be honest with you: I don’t know. I don’t know how many people at AUC get anxiety over something so simple as bathroom choices. I don’t know how many people wait to go to the bathroom the entire day just to go at home where they feel comfortable. I don’t know how many people flinch inside every time someone addresses issues about gender as “nonsense”, “made up”, or “insignificant compared to other problems at AUC”. All of these comments are still being made at AUC – sometimes out loud, sometimes in small groups of friends, or not spoken at all but just thought.

It makes me feel sad and helpless to the point I even feel like I’m not acknowledged as a real person with real problems. I am a real person. My gender is real. My problems are real. However, above all, I’m not alone in this. People should not be forced in boxes (or bathrooms) they don’t feel comfortable in. I have to be in those places more often than I would like. I’d like change – not just for me. No worries: small steps. It would at least be nice to go to the bathroom without feeling anxious. Yes, that would be nice.

P.S.: I’m glad to see the Student Council took initiative in setting up gender-neutral bathrooms where everyone can feel comfortable. Not everything can become like this, sadly, but I’m curious to see what this will start. Hopefully it will make AUC a more inclusive university.

Note to the reader: This piece is intensely personal and it was hard for me to write; please respect that. If you have any questions, feel free to approach me in the Academic Building.

Down Here

By Marissa koopman

I see you flying up in the stratosphere,
With songs from your lips tickling my ear,
It lifts my chin to watch you fly,
And wonder how you dare soar so high.



So I watch you dance between the stars,
While I think about this life of ours,
I'm sure that up high, there may be a clue,
But the moon shines so bright that it's impossible to view.

I know I was born with wings of my own,
I can feel their weight, etched to my bone,
But as I spread them, cold dread drafts across my back,
And the stars disappear into the never-ending black.

So tell me, how does the sky look from there?
Can you feel every breath of the velvet air?
And count the craters on the moon above?
Tell me, is it all that you had ever hoped to love?

I watch you cross the constellations,
Lost on the trail of heavenly creations,
Soaring higher than you had before,
When your wings can carry no more.

And as you crash back to the earth,
I knew I had to prove my worth,
So I stood with my arms open wide,
To break your fall and listen while you cried.

And after I had calmed your fear and told you,
How to pick yourself up and launch back into the blue,
You climb the air while I stand and stare,
At you doing everything that I never dare.

And for a moment I tear my gaze away,
To run my fingers through the clay,
And think it's not too bad to stay down here,
If it means that I can help you up into the stratosphere.



Interview with Murray

Interview by Nick Handfield-Jones, Yin Hsieh and Tekla Tevdorashvili



Who are you? How would you introduce yourself to AUC students in terms of your professional and educational background?

I'm from Scotland, and I first studied at Glasgow University. I majored in English and French there. I then went to Oxford and eventually completed a doctorate, which was about three contemporary autobiographers writing in French. I was looking at autofiction, the interface between autobiography and fiction. While I was finishing my doctorate, I got my first job at Warwick University, also in England. I taught French language and literature, but also developed an interest in graphic novels, which I taught. I was there for ten years.

I went to a conference in Australia in 1998, and really enjoyed being there, discovering a new country. So when a job came up at University Technology Sydney (UTS), I applied for that. That was a lot of fun; it was at a place called the Institute for International Studies, which was really quite unique. It was a research institute, but also a teaching institute, so it taught students from every discipline an additional Bachelor's degree at the same time called BA in International Studies, which made their degrees two years longer. They studied a language, they studied a culture and society, and they went to live and study in a country of their choice. We visited them. So it was a brilliant opportunity to discover the world.

The internationalization in education also became a field of interest for me. By the time I left UTS, I had become the Deputy Director of the institute, so I'd taken on quite a lot of management as well.

What brought you to AUC?

Between UTS and AUC, there was another step. I was in England again, this time at Nottingham-Trent University, where I was the dean of the School of Humanities. I continued to teach, continued to research, but really also strengthening my interest in internationalizing education and student opportunities, learning outside the classroom, civic humanities, and digital humanities.

And that brings me to your question because the direction I had taking was to look for opportunities to really get involved in projects that took humanities and asked questions about what it's worth, for sciences, for society.

What about some your personal interests and hobbies?

Well, you can probably see a trowel hanging on the wall behind you. It was a thoughtful gift from the vice-dean as a welcome gift, along with a graphic novel. Yeah, so I'm interested in gardening, very much so. But yeah, I'm interested in anything to do with nature and the outdoors as well as usual

Pratt, AUC's New Dean

things; I love watching movies, reading, exploring, graphic novels, and art. My mother is a painter, and I'm very interested in seeing new directions in art.

What are the major problems you've seen at AUC so far, that you think should be changed?

I think it's clear that students are concerned by how much pressure they feel at various times. I think that has to be taken seriously. If that's the perception, then there's something to that. And I can understand why that happens. We all live in a very pressured world now, and the reasons for that are interesting in themselves, the ways we are overloaded with choice and opportunity, to the extent where we are incapacitated, the post-Fordist mentality wherein we are pressured in terms of our work, our time, peer-pressure, who you are, and how you present yourself. All of that combines and we need to find ways to make sure the study experience at AUC still retains its focus on excellence, and continues its growth and innovation, without increasing pressure on how the students feel.

More broadly, the college itself is in a fantastic and strong position. It's got an amazing reputation. It has been setup in ways that are absolutely remarkable. The founding dean, Marijk van der Wende, has done a fantastic job to realize her vision. That has to be the starting point. That said, it's an uncertain world we live in. We are part of a broader economy, part of a broader infrastructure. We need to make sure that we are sustainable within that. We need to make sure to continue to recruit high quality students, that when they come here, they have a fantastic experience and speak highly of AUC, that they obtain excellent results, and that they go on to do interesting things after AUC, whether that be Masters or Doctorates, or interesting careers. So you can look at each stage of that process, and I think the task for me is to ensure that we are improving our performance in each of these steps. And the way to do that is to keep a focus on excellence, to innovate, to be ahead of the curve.

Following up from that, one of the things we've kept hearing is that as an institution, AUC sees its students as machines, that they come here, expected to do all these things, produce all this work, and then leave. A student is not seen as a person. And as a result of this, there are high levels of mental issues. We did get the new Student Life Officer Vinika, which is a great start, but what would you do about these issues, to make sure that the students can be heard, to treat them more as beings who can obtain enlightenment?

There was a very wise being called the Buddha who gave a lot of advice about how to do that. And we are not a Buddhist monastery. That said, I think there a lot of principles of Buddhism and many other faith systems which are valuable and which we can learn from. I think it's important that we create an atmosphere of respect. Once you respect someone, you begin to see them as a person. But also, calm is important, a sense of calm. The curriculum is doing a nice balancing act

between ensuring that students complete all of the essential learning in their track, while at the same time having enough space and time to lead to that inquiry through the development of their own interests. As a Liberal Arts and Sciences college, we should be aiming for a person-centered approach to learning and education, and I'd like every student to feel like they've got some ownership over their curriculum, of their study choices, that they are getting the support they need. And I think it would be a mistake to underestimate how much vitality and expertise students have already when they come to us, and we've got to learn how to harness that better, and certainly avoid becoming a processing machine.

Since you are a humanities person, should we expect some changes or developments in the humanities?

Well, we've got a very nice balance between these three areas, and in some ways it is an artificial division. But to answer your question, every track is engaged in our regular process of review, and that's working well. So each track is always evolving, and Humanities is the same as the others. However, I think one of the areas that was a particular strength in my previous school was media and journalism, so we had a center for broadcasting and journalism, which was nationally leading. Part of the reason why that was so successful was because of the partnership that occurred between the university and the city and organizations. We launched a television station which is city-wide. So that might be an area to start tentatively exploring.

Finally, this is a question we've asked the previous two deans, and we'd like to ask you as well:

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

I think the idea of giving advice for the self is an unusual one. I think the one-piece advice I can give is: wear sunscreen. That was part of a larger monologue from the film *Moulin Rouge*. The monologue has a lot of good bits in there, and was modeled after Hamlet and the character of Polonius. Polonius is seen as less qualified to give advice despite his advanced years.

I like the idea that everyone forms their own advice, rather than a one-size-fits-all piece of wisdom. That's not really how things happen. But I suppose if I had to give one answer, it would be not to worry what other people think of you. If I think back of the difference of when I was in my early twenties, and ten years later, I realized I had spent a lot of time worrying if I was doing the right thing, what other people would think. I think it would have been a lot better if I did what I enjoy, and deciding for myself.

How To Be Single... Like For Real

By Charlotte Verboom, Bee Lydford & Tara Levy

Illustration by Nikki Omes



So it's been about a month since Valentine's, and you're still single as fuck? If you were capable of happily maintaining your relationship then this is definitely not an article for you. For those of you who spent their second Sunday of February eating non-discount chocolates and getting irritated by couples exhibiting PDA (Public Display of Affection) then you should... oh yeah here it comes; keep on reading.

It is not a coincidence that a year after the launch of the film 'Fifty Shades of Grey' on the 14th of February 2015, the Hol-

lywood film industry came up with something somewhat more appealing than a rich 'hot' dude whipping Dakota Johnson's ass. This time, our beloved new Hollywood brunette acts alongside Rebel Wilson in the Valentine special: *How to Be Single*. But this is not a movie review. In this article we will actually try to guide you as well as possible in the life of a serial masturbator, and to be honest, Rebel Wilson got it quite right when it comes to the uninhibited partying and one-night stands as part of the single life.

1. Accepting

Okay to be honest, there is a big difference between being a newbie in the single life because you just went through a major break-up, or having this 'forever alone' feeling forever. Either way, it is all about accepting and feeling comfortable in the loner-life situation. Skip the steps of denial, isolation, and anger, and move straight to the stage of acceptance. Think about it, isn't this a great period to experience and get to know yourself?

2. Date, date, date.

Dating is often regarded as an early phase of relationships, but that's not only how it can be. Dating doesn't per se also have to mean a hook-up, but it is a form of socializing, meeting new people, and working on your social connections that can not only be handy for future purposes... Researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have suggested that the oxytocin's role in one-on-one bonding has probably evolved. The 'love hormone' that used to be mostly regarded as an important hormone in the formation and maintenance of strong mother-child and sexual attachments, now is also regarded as being involved in a broader range of social interactions than previously understood.

3. Friends and family

Okay this probably sounds super cliché, but that doesn't make it less true: Friends and family are by far the most important factors in the solo-yolo life. Even though you might be killing the dating strategy already, good and close relations with your friends and family are the basis of every successful single. Put more time and effort in them: visit your grandparents more often, have a high tea with your mom, and watch a movie with your friends. As said before, we humans have history of an existing, broader affinity for group living, and family and friends play definitely a huge role in that.

4. A little party never killed nobody...

Here is where Rebel Wilson comes in: party hard, have sex, and skip the attachments. Obviously a good party doesn't always have to end in a hook-up, and this shouldn't be the goal of your evening either... but a good party once in a while is just the thing you have to do as a single student. Get out of the bubble and get drunk with friends. If you would like to hook-up though, bring your own protection. You can only hold yourself responsible once you get home with discharge that stinks.

5. Do new things

You probably have all heard of this before as well, but in a relationship we often forget or give up things we like, or the dreams we have. This doesn't immediately only refers to big dreams, as for example travelling around the world (although it happens a lot that couples give up abroad-experiences as well due to the fear that their relationship then wouldn't work out), but it also refers to the little hobbies or enjoyments you have or are curious about. Provide yourself with a busy schedule, and try out new things. How else are you supposed to get to know yourself if you keep hanging in this comfort zone?

6. Update your tinder profile!

Something that every singleton is guilty of is taking and re-taking that selfie that will attract the next big relationship. It has to be the perfect balance of charming, sophisticated and sexy. And everyone knows that one facial expression that they will only send to a potential one-night stand. It can be embarrassing, but it can also be the picture that you will forever use on your Tinder or Grinder profile. Embrace that picture! No one viewing it will know that you woke up with hair that smells like cigarettes and bad decisions, and a piece of pizza stuck on your leg, plus an updated Tinder or any other social media dating profile will help you becoming more successful in step 2! You see, it's all working together...

7. Be prepared!

Let's face it, we all have that underwear that we save not for actually having sex, but for the possibility of having it. Everybody, and I do mean everybody, has the same shit, shower and shave routine before getting laid. It's all in preparation for flirting with the cute cashier at Spar, or the hottie that works Sunday nights at Maslow. Sex is a need, but don't forget that you just need to make sure you're on the same page. Being single is both hard and easy at the same time, and finding a balance between the two can be hard.

8. Masturbate

I think we all know why this is important...

9. Make mistakes

Don't worry if you sometimes regret the choices you've made. I mean you cannot expect this girl or guy to be still hot once you've become sober again. But one thing we should all learn from Amber Rose's protest against sexual violence and slut-shaming is that if you leave a guy's or girl's house the morning after a one-night stand, walk the walk of no shame.

A letter to my 18 year-old self

By Tanushree Kaushal

I'M FREE

How are you so enthusiastic, you teenage you?

How do you manage to fly across the world, talk to a hundred people each day, embrace a new city and yet look fresh and happy? Guess it is the excitement to finally embrace freedom and let the creativity within flow. But, not all will be as simple, as straightforward, and as idealist as you think it to be. Used to seeing everything as solely serving its 'pure' form, you will be surprised that the University is living through a split-personality disorder: it hopes to include and educate while still maintaining its prestige and hence, exclude. And this Split penetrates through the existence of everyone here, including you. You will take courses in economics, realize that they aren't 'true' and that the assumptions in which all of it is grounded, that 'more is better' and that 'complete information is available,' don't apply in a world which is too complex, too fluid to be reduced to a set of assumptions and mathematical models and equations. Nonetheless, you will write up reports that argue for austerity, assess and hence create solely profit-driven individuals hiding behind the garb of rationality and exclude 'irrational' trivialities such as love, care and creativity since they can't possibly qualify as the national GDP – I mean, how will you compare nations then? Isn't that the sole purpose of studying the outside? To compare – yourself with others, others with others. For how can anything ever be beautiful in itself? It must be relativized and subjected to the brutal act of being reduced to a set of variables that carry no meaning unless we give them meaning, to have some value. You will see that this schizophrenia is all around you – that 'diversity', 'change', 'creativity', 'multicultural' are empty shells hiding the subordinated goals the university serves. Goals. What we live life for. For nothing is good and beautiful in itself. And here again will you see the paradox of modernity (or is it postmodernity?) – where each thinks they are being 'themselves', but ultimately all look the same, all strive for the same. Where, then is the diversity? All your friends, and those people you thought were brilliant and beautiful will come to question: "Am I good enough?" Good enough for what? Aren't you the best 'you' that can ever be? There is no other 'you' so how can it be better or worse?

And you will begin to wonder – how and when did it ever become acceptable to not grant education to those that weren't born to rich parents? To those that don't have 'papers'? How did we arrive at a point where capital flow is legal but people flow isn't? And then you make claims of universality and of human rights sitting in your 'critical' social science class discussing all that is wrong with the world outside. But what about the world within? There's that hypocrisy yet again. Read Judith Butler in class and discuss radical feminism but don't call out on sexism around you. Can't take a joke? People are friggin' dying in Africa (Africa – the continent which somehow embodies the unified whole of all that is truly

wrong with mankind in this part of the world), and here you are, complaining about being catcalled on the streets? You will make friends who won't identify with either gender, or not be cis-gendered, or detest gender in general for it boxes and bounds and constrains and hounds. But, gender-neutral bathrooms for them, what? Don't get upset when a cis-gendered man then gives you a life lesson by stating: "Stop creating a frivolous problem and appreciate the privileged life and education you have here." Be thankful, be grateful for being allowed to exist here. But also be unheard, unseen. You can celebrate the fact that at least you have a bit more of a voice than those that study here and can only barely afford to be here. After school and the four jobs where humiliation becomes as familiar as breathing, students will come home, read and sleep waiting for this insanity to continue next day. But, these voices won't be included each time a teacher addresses the class as "us, privileged Westerners" or when the entry ticket to a party is \$20. But who cares when there are kids dying in Africa? Kids that are apparently ours to save.

You will come to understand the more nuanced nature of racism and then you will question why James Watson features on the walls of AUC. What kind of memory work is this? You raise your concerns but immediately you will be educated concerning his contribution towards the discovery of DNA. Never mind that he also believes that black people are inherently inferior in their reasoning capacities than whites. "But, human beings are complex. Sometimes they are right and sometimes they are wrong." Complexity indeed. Being racist is immaterial when the good so obviously exceeds the bad. C'mon now, don't forget about those kids in Africa!

You will be angry. Upset that you are complicit in a system you seem to despise. There will be moments of beauty – each time you can truly love another human being, each time you go to a Penny Dreadful event and have a night where you laugh, cry and have so much emotion within as each of your friends strips off the bullshit and reveals their true, subjective experience, each time you see someone in the school attempting to 'fake it' and you hold them and they hold you and you share the feeling of being human, each time your teacher leaves you inspired and wanting to think beyond, to do beyond, to be beyond. And you luxuriate in the beaming light that each being reflects. You will realize that poetry isn't a luxury but a necessity as it gives a name to the nameless. That the Humanities are the steps towards humanity, and that the university budget cuts are not target-

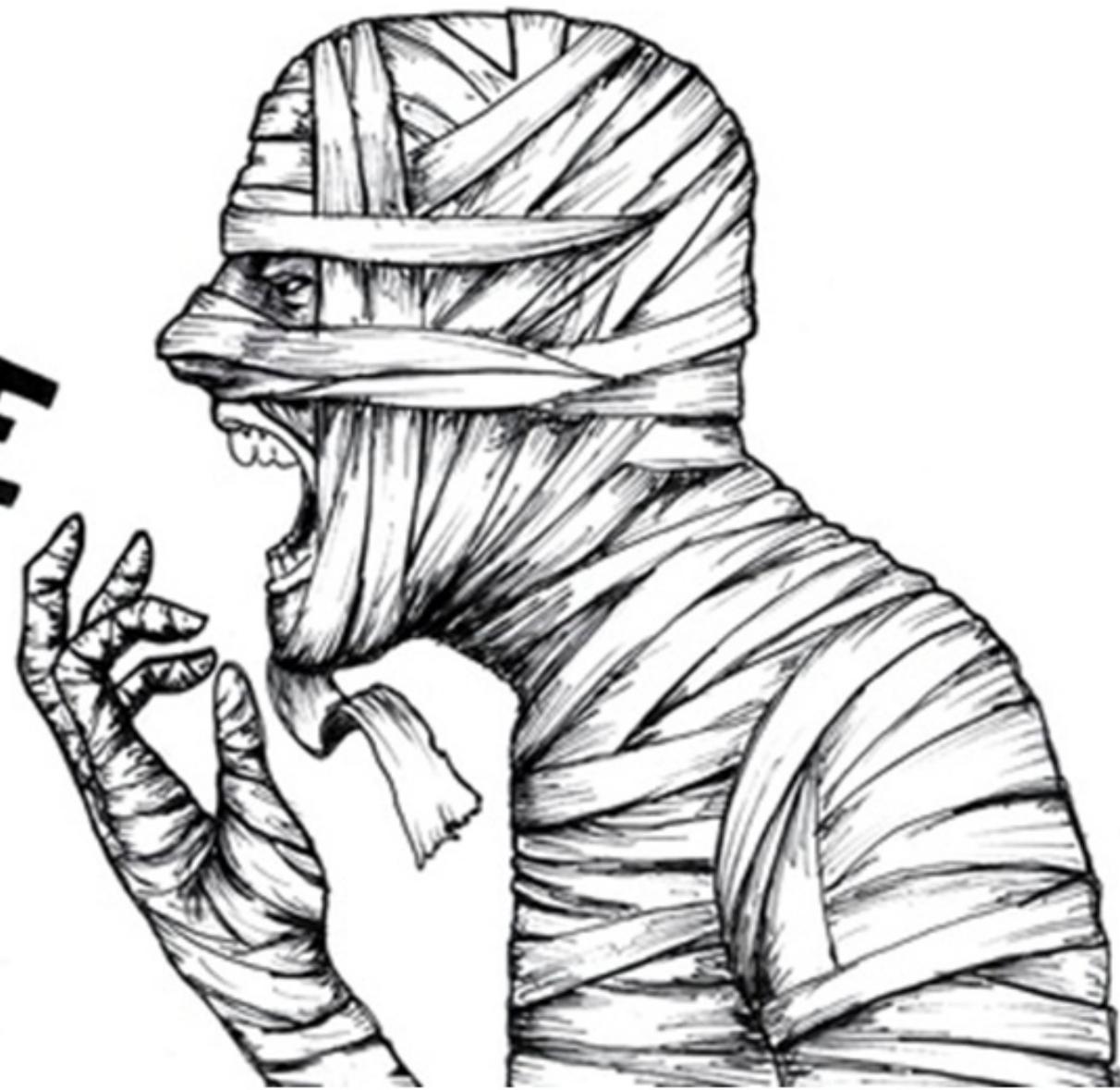


Image by Paolo Lombardi (http://www.toonpool.com/cartoons/Egypt%20Freedom_114821)

ing specific disciplines but attempting to suppress and make non-existent human expression and allure.

And you step into the building again where it isn't student art work but KLM and Shell posters that flag the walls. Where you have to violently reduce your entire existence to a few words on a CV and somehow make a comprehensible narrative of your singular life – but how do you explain that one time you sat in the Sun with your roommate reading Wilde and thought life couldn't be more pleasant. Or when you painted all day and only drank tea and thought nothing could fulfil you more. Are these not experiences worth writing about? How will they contribute to your sale-value on the market where each emotion, each community project, each familial bond can be broken down and traded for reputation, social prestige, networking and other good? You remember Stuart Halls' words "A University is a critical institution or it is nothing" and wonder if you're nothing or whether nothingness engulfs you from all around. But stop complaining. Did you seriously forget about those kids in Africa?

"Don't be radical"

What is radical? The word's etymology reveals that it means

'forming the root'. Something fundamental. So, be what then? Live life half-assed, not to the root, to the core? Another platitude among the plethora that act as nothing but empty shells, hiding the hypocrisy of our modern existence. "Be constructive." But what if destruction is necessary? God had to be dead for the human to exist. How can you possibly create or construct something beautiful on grounds which reek of exploitation? Will you be changing the system from within or will the system change you? What will reign supreme: the resume or the revolution? But seriously now, the kids in Africa, Tanushree!

Yet, you will find your people and your place and you. That being born into the lap of postmodernism doesn't mean eternal self-loathing and nihilism. That you can love and be loved. That there is beauty everywhere you want to see it. That you don't have to 'go through' suppression to come out better. That you already are bigger and more loving than you ever thought you could be. That your favourite man in the world was right when he said that "One must be a sea, to receive a polluted stream without becoming impure." It is this Sea that you will slowly be becoming.

Students Set Up LGBTQ+ Safe Space in Response to University's Lack of Involvement With Sexual Diversity

By Veerle Bovens

G.L.A.S.S. Gender, Love, and Sexuality Spectrum

MONDAY 19-23
TUESDAY 19-23
WEDNESDAY 19-23

THURSDAY 19-23
FRIDAY 16-19
WEEKENDS TBA

Visit us at the common room of 1442 (middle building, first floor)

A university whose motto is 'Excellence & Diversity' does not cater to the diverse much, so thinks a group of Amsterdam University College (AUC) students. As a result, these students, all heavily involved with gender and sexuality issues due to interest or experience, have established a safe space in their dormitories for people with questions or issues regarding sexual and gender identities to come together, discuss, and support each other, after feeling such a space was lacking in their university.

The initiative, entitled GLASS (Gender, Love and Sexuality Spectrum), was first proposed by Luc van der Horst, a transgender Social Science student who studied abroad at Baruch College in New York. He noticed the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and more) resource room that was in place there. "I ended up spending a lot of time there, and then I started thinking: why doesn't AUC have something like this?" He adds that when he suggested the idea on AUC's student Facebook page, there were a lot of positive reactions.

AUC has recently announced that a course on gender studies will be taught next academic year. The university is the last University College in the Netherlands to adopt such a course in their curriculum, according to The Herring, AUC's student-run newspaper. Some GLASS volunteers, who host the safe space every weeknight, feel that this action, as well as the recent addition of a student life officer, comes very late and is not enough for the student body's emotional health.

"For years, the student councils have been asking for something, some person that AUC students can talk to," says volunteer Nick Handfield-Jones. "It was clearly a problem. Finally there is a student life officer, but I still don't think it's enough." He adds that GLASS attempts to fill that void. "We are not professionals, but we are here to have an open ear."

The aim of the project, according to Luc, Nick, and fellow volunteer Renee Garritsen, is to provide a place where people who have—or are struggling with—non-normative sexual and/or gender identities can feel comfortable and open, and always have someone to talk to. Additionally, they emphasize that everyone is welcome, including those who are cis-gendered and heterosexual, and who just want to join the conversation. "The general rule to be allowed in here is: don't be an asshole," Luc says.

The new safe space, which has been running since the beginning of the February semester, has had a bit of a slow start with regards to the number of attendees, but has received positive responses from those who joined the events, according to Renee. Luc says that in the future, they wish to organize more specific events, such as screenings or discussions with pre-determined topics. For now, GLASS is open for anyone wanting to hang out on Mondays to Thursdays from 7 to 11 PM, and on Fridays from 4 to 7 PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own mugs for tea.

Peace and Harmony in a Global City

By: Carla Ott, Hannah Meixner, Gordon Lucas, Sytze Bouma



“The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, nor to worry about the future, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly.” - Buddha

Being part of Zen and taking part in the practices means you should stop judging your day on what you achieved and start judging it on how present you are. Our committee tries to find a balance for you with all the stressful things going on both in your Bubble life and the life outside of it. It is about bringing yourself to awareness of where you are right now and not about where you come from or where you want to be. In our meditation sessions and Yoga sessions we try to find a balance between the mind, the body and our surrounding environment. We aim to access and exercise our senses and thoughts, to become one with your surroundings. To put it more simply; Zen is a state of mind.

The committee has come a far way from practicing Yoga with a few friends in a small room, to having multiple Yoga sessions throughout the week. We are proud to present our newest teachers and class to you!

On Mondays, Charlotte and Anna Marieke will teach Hatha Vinyasa Flow together. Hatha includes the practice of asanas (yoga postures) and pranayama (yoga breathing exercises). This is a great introduction to yoga and if you are a beginner you are more than welcome to join. It focuses on slow-paced

The timings:

Monday - Hatha Vinyasa Flow	20:00 - 21:15
Tuesday - Vinyasa Flow	18:00 - 19:15
Thursday - Iyengar	19:00 - 20:15
Meditations MO, TU, THU, FRI	10:35 - 10:55

Yoga takes place in our common room on the fourth floor in the middle building and the Morning Meditations take place in the contemplation room at AUC.

and gentle exercises in which you practice to hold your poses for longer. Lisanne teaches Vinyasa Flow on Tuesdays, which concentrates on synchronizing movement with your breath and is very focused on the flow through sun salutations, a series of breath-synchronized movements in which your body transforms into a flow state from one posture to the next.

As some of you may have already tried our Iyengar Yoga class, taught by Marton, this will now be held on Thursdays. Iyengar has an intense focus on the subtleties of each posture, which means that the poses are held much longer than in other schools of yoga. The use of props, such as ropes, chairs, and pillows will teach you how to move into a posture properly. As always we have our daily Meditation Sessions of just 15 minutes that will bring peace into your busy schedule.

If all of this sounds too far fetched and you want to find out more, then come to one of our Yoga or Meditation Sessions and see if you can find your inner Zen.

P.S. Keep an eye out, we have lots of great events planned in the coming weeks!

Love, Zen Board
Carla, Hannah, Gordon & Sytze

Berliner Ballin'

By Willem Pije
Illustration by Yin Hsieh



I think we are all aware by the growing obsession with Berlin in Amsterdam. Thousands of students travel to the capital of Germany every year and its cultural influence crosses boundaries: just look at bars like Cafe Brecht on the Weteringschans and the relatively new vintage store on the Middenweg called Klein Berlijn; Berghain is what every club in Amsterdam secretly wants to be. The prominence of Berlin as a city for educated, but more or less poor “young creatives” is nothing new. Possibly the most famous literary portrayal of this image is Christopher Isherwood’s *Berlin Stories* which is a collection of stories, heavily autobiographically influenced, about Isherwood’s time in Berlin just before and during the fall of the Weimar government and the rise of Hitler and the National-Socialist Party.

His depictions of the hedonism and decadence of Berlin have influenced many people including the main character, Jed, of the newly released book *Black Deutschland* written by Darryl Pickney (FSG, 2016). He is gay, black and just out of rehab when he decides to move to West-Germany, this time for good. The 1980s have just started, the AIDS crisis is still flourishing, and he wants to get away from the bleak prospect of spending the rest of his life in Chicago. The story is comprised of fragments of his life in West-Berlin; he gets involved in a slightly megalomaniac urban planning project of an up-and-coming architect and hangs out in a bar filled mostly with wasted old ladies and American veterans. His

black bourgeois family, owners of a declining black weekly, are featured in flashbacks dispersed throughout the text and historical figures and events, like Rosa Luxembourg and the Chicago World Fair, pop their head up from time to time.

Jed is smart enough to know that the Berlin of Isherwood has been long gone if it ever existed in the first place and the book does not try to copy its famous predecessor. Instead Pickney creates a new Berlin, divided between East and West among other things, and puts his protagonist firmly into its context and shows the city from a side most of us will never experience. Both West Berlin - a bubble of capitalism enclosed by the German Democratic Republic and haunted by its WWII past - and Jed are struggling for an identity on which to build a future, and Pickney is apt at describing the dynamic between a particular city and its inhabitants without ever romanticizing West Berlin as something it’s not.

More Black Americans Abroad

- David Leeming’s excellent biography on James Baldwin who spent most of his life travelling between the USA and France
- An Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man – James Weldon Johnson
- Passing – Nella Larsen

March is a Liar Or How to Get Ready for March's Deceptions

By Tekla Tevdorashvili

Illustration by Yin Hsieh



Sometime in the middle of February, after what felt like a century of darkness, the Sun finally decided to visit the rainy city of Amsterdam. It was that period of malice, when evil viruses wandered around, trying to find new places to enjoy their holiday season, trying to torture every human being that they could get hands on. I was one of those unlucky ones, and my house guest was nothing but time consuming and annoying. The virus was definitely feeling at home, and didn't have any intention of leaving me alone, not any time soon anyway. So I decided to fight it with some warm tea and Tequila. I've heard that works the best, especially with a bit of honey and lemon.

Even though I wasn't feeling perfectly okay, it was really encouraging to at least see the Sun in those dark days. Sun was shining in excellent and diverse rooms of AUC. Small pond kinda thing in front of the building was reflecting sun rays, which made ducks look glossy. It was minus three degrees, but still quite warm. Maybe it is just an illusion of Amsterdam; the sun is so rare that whenever you see it, you just feel like it's warm outside. In any case, I have to admit the Sun made everything much better. People were hanging out in front of AUC, trying to get most of it, cause we all knew this was not gonna last for long... For a moment, our (in a way monotonous) bubble was a happy place.

But this is Amsterdam we are talking about, and we are not as lucky as we sometimes think we are. After couple of bright yellowish days and pinkish, purplish evenings, full of happiness and positivism, the weather went back to "normal". In normal, I mean cloudy, rainy, windy Amsterdam that changes it's mood (weather) every minute. Of course it bothered me, but since it was still officially winter, I was more concentrated about the future to come.

The main question now was: now that March is coming, what will happen to us? Take in consideration that March is a liar! It's like one of those people. You know the ones. Who look good, but secretly have an ugly storm thing going on inside. Formally it's spring, but it can really act like winter sometimes.

Be aware! Even though you might see the Sun in a cloudless sky on a bright, beautiful morning, it might still get rainy, (Again, we live in Amsterdam?!).

Some tips for surviving March:

- 1) Don't let the sun fool you, dress warmly**
- 2) Drink tea (too much caffeine is not that good)**
- 3) Take more vitamins (and I don't mean just orange fresh from Spar)**

Lastly, May the sun be with you.

Behind-the-Scenes with the Cast & Crew



Scriptus attended one of the weekly rehearsals for I Love You You're Perfect Now Change! (IYYPC), and observed the fun-filled, energetic, singing and dancing talents in their element. Despite being held in the evening, rehearsal began extremely energetically – voice warm-ups were filled with goofy exercises, actors and actresses ran around dancing or doing 'the worm', and overall the rehearsal was a pleasure to watch. Here is a brief peek into the minds of the actors and actresses in the upcoming Onstage musical. The interviewees were: director & actor Pieter Buis, Onstage Chair & actor Jacob Adriani, and actresses Nienke Dek & Sophie Smeets.

Scriptus: Why did you choose to participate in this musical?

Nienke: I've been in many musicals before, and it's such a fun part of the student life, so I'm always up for performing.

Sophie: Well, I've done theatre all my life, so I really just wanted to participate to continue that.

Pieter: (referring to Sophie) What's weird is that - before, we were in the same high school, and it was the first time I was directing. It was a bit of a strange experience, since once again, we're in the same production.

Sophie: Yes, I had a small role back then, and he didn't know my name for the first month.

Nienke: (laughs) This is such a nice perception of Pieter!

Scriptus: How has the rehearsal/preparation process been going?

Sophie: GREAT, actually – it's so nice that we've really bonded as a group. You can really notice that we're such a tight group now. In the beginning it was quite awkward.

Nienke: You can just EAT during rehearsals now.

Sophie: I know, right?! It's such a nice group of people.

Nienke: It's weird how you get to know people so intensely through the regular rehearsal process.

Sophie: No offense but most of the people I'd probably not get to know on a regular basis, so it really brings a great mix of first to third years.

Jacob: I think that the rehearsals have gone quite well because of the performance availability for the theatre – despite the fact that we had a month of rehearsals fewer than expected, which was a little scary.

Nienke: But we're students, and that's how student things go. We're all like "I don't know what's gonna happen" and then last weekend of rehearsal all things go well.

Pieter: The staging looks great – all the movements and the way we stand. Everything about the stage (CREA) looks awesome. I'm really happy with it. Music-wise we're a little

of AUC's 1st Official Musical: ILYYPNC



less prepared, but we're working on it. The last duets and sketches are basically done, so lots of things are going well! I would like to say that I've 'created' this group, but in fact, this group sort of 'let me' be a director, instead of 'I directed the group'. I'm really happy with all of them, and being part of it also adds to the experience. When I'm acting with other people, I can give a nudge to some people and spread my energy and hope they pick up on that, which is a lot of fun.

Scriptus: What are some funny/strange occurrences you have to share from rehearsal?

Everyone: CHANTAL!! (laughs)

Pieter: We were thinking of the name of a character; she was called 'wife' or something – and at the exact same moment, we said "Chantal!" There was no way we could have thought about them at the same moment - but we had a lot of these moments.

Nienke: It was probably funnier at the actual moment.

Sophie: It's also that every conversation we have goes in an entirely different direction than that which we intended – even in chats.

Jacob: Yeah, I wonder why I'm never up to date. I just start reading chats and zone out and realize that 'Oh, this is the point where I stop reading.'

Pieter: We also were doing some workshops, and at some point realized we could improvise some lines. One of the scenes has an actress say "My brother has ELEVEN TOES" and Geert (another actor) goes: "I wish I had eleven toes!!". And we all died of laughter.

Nienke: We've all started incorporating parts of the musical into real life – lines of songs especially, and it really annoys friends.

Sophie: It drives people crazy! I can make jokes no one gets.

Jacob: You also get fun situations by figuring out certain people have skills no one thought they could have – splits, all of a sudden speaking Chinese, and very special moves for example. And a lot of these things end up in the show.

Pieter: We have a lot of surprises in store.

ILYYPNC will be performed March 15th, 16th, and 20th. Check out the FB page for more information and buy your ticket at lunch break in the OnStage booth!

By Yin Hsieh

Brunch Time is Altijd een Goed Idee

By Diana Ghidanac

After a whole year spent in Amsterdam, a year consisting of different food festivals and food markets, different cafés and restaurants, different hot-spots and hidden gems, and overall the whole “living abroad” experience making everything seem ten times as exhilarating, there was something that still felt lacking during it all...

I came to the conclusion that I have not been out to brunch yet in our vibrant and cultural city. It's true that the Boozy Sunday Brunch Culture may be highly more worshipped out in the North Americas, but it often goes unnoticed that Amsterdam also has its fair share of breakfast places full of refreshing smoothies, oozy egg dishes, maple-syrup drowsed pancake stacks, and the most palate-satisfying coffee that is essential for any meal. Hence, it was time to indulge in the ultimate breakfast feast, and it could not have made my birthday any better last December when two of my good friends suggested to go out for a brunch on my behalf. After much deliberation, and difficult eliminations of mouth-watering menu descriptions, Bakers and Roasters was the place that won over our hungry hearts.

Bakers and Roasters is a New Zealand and Brazilian inspired restaurant that has two locations, one in De Pijp, and more recently, in the city centre around Nemo, which actually makes for a conveniently straight bike ride from the dorms. It consists of a nice open view towards the water, making brunching here bring a cozy feeling regardless if you've been gifted with ultimate sunshine or lucked out with gloomy skies.



From what I hear, it's already a well-known eat in Amsterdam, but if you're unfamiliar with the place, allow me to tell you a bit about what you can expect. A veggie breaky will bring you poached eggs (or whichever style you like them made in) with avocado, potatoes, creamy mushrooms, grilled haloumi, and homemade chili jam accompanied with toast. Other options consist of poached eggs on hollandaise sauce with salmon, or poached eggs beautifully paired with garlic spinach on top of the crunchiest and tastiest bread. For the ones with a sweet tooth, I highly, highly, and I mean, highly recommend the American-style pancakes with blueberry, banana, and maple syrup. Once you hit the center of those flapjacks, you will understand what I mean. In addition to all of this, it would help if you had some nice drinks to wash it all down with, and thankfully their refreshing juices or warm lattes are like the perfect garnish on a finished plate. The establishment does not shy away from a little alcohol either, so feel free to explore their more diverse drinks.

With all this hard work and stress that can sometimes pile up, it's necessary to find something that can put your mind to rest, and belly energized for the endless list of tasks to be accomplished. Brunch does not need a special reason, yet it does the job well in satisfying you both mentally and physically. Remember, that brunches don't have to be limited to the weekends, so feel free to treat yo' self whenever and however!



ORGANIC CAMPUS

FRESH • LOCAL • PRODUCE

by Erika Persson and Lin Batten

Organic Campus is a non-profit AUC-student led co-op which works through close contact with local farming collective BioRomeo. Organic Campus aims at providing its members with fresh, seasonal, and organic vegetables. The organization was founded in 2013 by Nimue Smit and Alexandra Prey, and has since grown into an appreciated part of the campus community. Every other week, our members can order a bag filled with seasonal goodies, tailor picked to provide a selection of common familiarities such as potatoes, carrots, and onions while still trying to spice it up with interesting, less familiar veggies such as rutabaga, Jerusalem chokes, and dumpling pumpkin to inspire you to try out new dishes. For every order, you will also have the opportunity to choose from our selection of extras to add to the order if desired. The extras vary, but there are always opportunities to get tasty, and of course, organic products such as eggs, cheese, juices and - our latest addition - sunchoke liquor.

In order for the organization to be an independent community, it is run by a group of students who collectively organize the whole procedure from the order-events, to keeping contact with the farmers, to the facilitation of weighing and deliveries the deliveries and weighing, and finally, supervision during the pick-up

hours. None of this would be feasible if it wasn't for the members of the organization, who are encouraged to help out as volunteers once or twice per semester with the weighing of the vegetables as well as the pick-up. We do not only organize the selling of the vegetable bags, but also other events like dinners and workshops. Through this co-op system, a community is created in which all that needs funding is the orders themselves, which, of course, is financed by those who order. We, in Organic Campus, are as dependent on the members as the members are dependent on our service.

The members of this organization often do not realize the difference in social and environmental impact when purchasing vegetables from Organic Campus instead of from a supermarket. The dilemma we always have when walking into the Albert Heijn is the following: non-organic, non-packaged

produce sprayed with pesticides and fertilizers or packaged organic produce, where the plastics are made from oil and chemicals. There is almost no waste involved in the OC produce, and we have recently even started to fold newspapers into bags for mushrooms instead of purchasing mushroom bags. So when you are in the Albert Heijn and you choose the non-organic, non-packaged product remember this: only 0,1% of all pesticides used is effective, as in it prevents pests. The remaining pesticides are blown away by the wind, leak into the soil or in the surrounding water source. This obviously causes a great amount of pollution and has had a detrimental effect on biodiversity in plants and agricultural wild life. Artificial fertilizers, on the other hand, is somewhat like a drug for the soil. Once the farmers spread it over the farm, the soil can no longer independently maintain its natural nutrients, and therefore becomes dependent on the fertil-

izer. It completely distorts the natural nutrient cycle and leaves the soil depleted without the fertilizer.

These environmental effects are mostly avoided by purchasing from Organic Campus, but there is also a social benefit through purchasing from the alternative food network. When you buy a bell pepper in the United Kingdom, only 4,8 % of the price you pay actually ends up with the

farmer growing that bell pepper. When purchasing with Organic Campus, 70-80% of the payment you make goes to the farmer. This is because in the food supply chain of Organic Campus, we purchase directly from a farming association which means no brokers, no wholesalers, no supermarket that also need a share of the profit. Organic Campus is the non-profit middle man, which is why we can offer the vegetables so cheaply. Most of this information comes from two books: *Food*, written by Jennifer Clapp, and *Food Wars*, by Tim Lang and Michael Heaseman. If you want to learn more about the industrialization of the food system, these books are a great source.



Degrees for Refugees

By Julia Stelz and Sophia Tomany



When refugees flee their country, they must leave behind not just their homes and loved ones but their path toward the future, including their occupations and, for many, a chance to attain a higher education. Extraneous circumstances prevent around 5 million refugees from pursuing an education. This education, a key to both building a new life in the host country and to rebuilding their home country when the circumstance improves, is what Kiron Open Higher Education provides in Germany and what the new project Kiron Amsterdam hopes to provide for the 92,000 refugees residing in the Netherlands.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies four obstacles keeping refugees from pursuing a degree: (1) an inability to provide the proper documentation, (2) a lack of money to pay fees, (3) a lack of room in university courses, and (4) language barriers.

Kiron works to remove these obstacles by providing a special degree program for refugees. The first two years of the three-year courses are completed online with a language instruction component, allowing for flexibility and letting refugees study from remote camps. The third year has students complete their degree at one of 15 official and 80 potential partner universities across the world. Courses are offered in English with subtitles in a variety of languages and the total cost of the three-year program is 1,200 euros. With this program, Kiron all but eliminates all four obstacles.

In the fall of 2015, the first 1,350 students began their studies at Kiron. Currently, they have a choice of five degree programs – intercultural studies, business, computer science, engineering, and architecture. Their courses are offered from top-tier universities like Harvard and MIT in cooperation with online-learning giants like edX and Coursera.

Their computers and Internet access are provided in cooperation with corporate partners like Facebook and Google for Education. Through a network of NGOs and universities, the students have access to study rooms, buddy programs, internships, mentoring, and psychological counselling.

This network and Kiron would not be possible without the 250 volunteers who help their 80-person team make access to higher education a reality. Volunteers are needed more than ever if Kiron is to come to the Netherlands. Already, Kiron has a second base in Belgium, and newer groups operating in France, Turkey, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Inspired by the progress made by Kiron all across Europe, Kiron Amsterdam was founded in fall 2015 by university students in Amsterdam in cooperation with Kiron Open Higher Education, and has been expanding its network of volunteers ever since. The project is in its early stages, and currently volunteers are focused on setting up a network of NGOs, contacting universities, and raising public awareness.

From January 2015 to October 2015, the Netherlands processed more than 23,000 new asylum applications by Syrians alone. These applications, successful about half the time, allow refugees to stay for five years, with the possibility of staying indefinitely.

If you would like to help bring the exceptional and unique opportunities offered by Kiron to these refugees in the Netherlands or would like more information on the project, please contact Stefan Nass (stefan.a.nass@kiron.university)

CUT MANIFESTO

By Molly Fitz

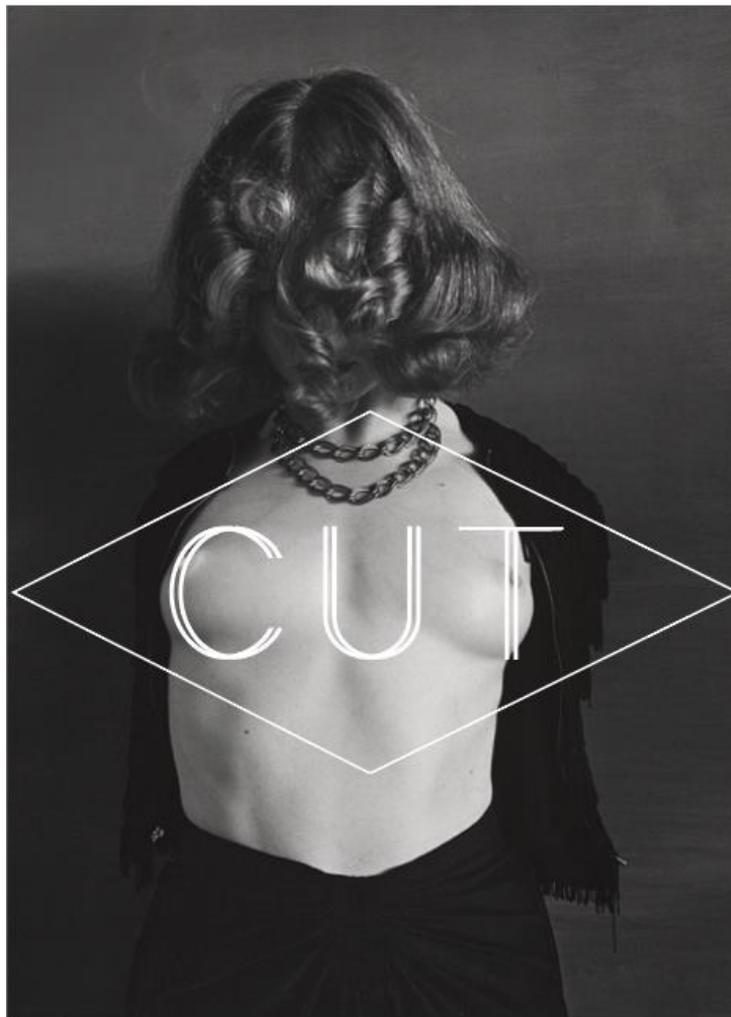
*“Academia is the death of cinema.
It is the very opposite of passion.
Film is not the art of scholars,
but of illiterates.”
Werner Herzog*

Pause with us on Herzog’s notion of illiteracy for a moment and discard its associations. In this context, understand it as detached from notions of unintelligence, ignorance, or naivety, but instead as the voice within us all that exceeds language, the utterance of the imagery at our core. It epitomizes the artistic impulse, and an awareness of such is that which has led to the creation of CUT. In other words, our central ideology is ‘the art of the illiterates’ which we understand as the art of exceeding boundaries, of understanding difference, and articulating this innate artistic drive through cinematography. This drive plays upon the imagery that constructs our deepest level of human understanding, in the space beyond logical reasoning and linguistic imprisonment. Art, mostly notably visual art, is the only means we have at our disposal to interrupt this process and reach this space, art works to express the fictional truth of the factual lie. Many of us are so disconnected from our emotional core; pause again, and consider the emotional core as not the self that must keep diary entries or indulges in monologues over coffee, rather the self that thinks for others instead of in relation to them. The emotional core as it is expressed within the artistic impulse is our greatest means of connection, yet so often we detach from it and find ourselves isolated within systematic power dynamics.

We become internal reflections of our external environment rather than the other way around. The only means we have at our disposal in order to counteract this inherently isolating process is that impulse within us that seeks to create and appreciate aesthetics; it is the artistic drive to express and, consequentially, connect. CUT places an emphasis on visual language, the root of this artistic process, and will provide the necessary elements needed for an artistic environment

to evolve at AUC. From March on we will provide monthly speakers, individuals hand-picked from the film world that will equip those of us interested in the filmmaking world with the required building blocks for all areas of interest - from screenwriting, editing, to directing. We will provide creative sessions during which we meet on a regular basis, work together, and construct external pieces of those ideas and creative endeavors we have already completed in our mind’s eye, in our own internal imagery. Within these work-

shops, we aim to provoke trust in one’s own perception and thus in one’s own visual native tongue. In addition, we have an editorial website wherein a group of writers will write monthly articles in order to form a connection with the cinematic world. We will provide cultural insights, practical information, and analysis from the implicit content of recent or significant films to the explicit content. Here we provide an awareness for how visual language can work in relation to ideology and an insight into what is said beyond the screenplay. In its broadest context, we aim to create an environment in which those of us who wish to explore the creative self can do so by becoming part of a creative collective. CUT hopes to provoke the desire to understand the world through its visual expression, enable the extension of



boundaries both individually and collectively, and facilitate this entire experience by providing the necessary information and spaces. We hope to show how cinema can expand our means of thinking, and how it can allow us to connect with a fundamental necessity we so often ignore, the need to create, to see, and to feel.

Home

By Tekla Tevdorashvili

It's a difficult question. I guess it's a place where you feel good at that point in time, where you know enough stuff and enough people that you really get around. You don't feel like you have to ask for directions or you have to wonder where to go for food, grocery, stuff like that.

I come from Voorhout, a little village near Leiden. It is different here; this is a city, so there are more people and different types of them. Back there, you kind of know everyone a bit at least, so you feel watched in a way and less free to do what you want do.

AUC is kind of a new home, even though I haven't lived here for too long. I feel like I know enough people and the neighborhood enough to say that.

After AUC, I want to go abroad. Eventually I would like to go to Scandinavia, but I don't know if right after AUC or later.



Julia Hufkens



To me home is very materialistic, so it's a house you feel most comfortable in, where all your belongings are and family are. I'm from Belgium, Brussels. I've lived there for 10 years of my life and also in London for 7 years.

AUC is a stepping stone to get closer to my goals in life.

After AUC I would like to do humanitarian work, to help people and make the world a better place. Africa or south east Asia, developing countries.

Home for me is Amsterdam. I grew up in Amsterdam, I've lived here all my life, on the other side of the river. If we talk about my real home, it's within those four walls at my parent's house.

AUC for me is a new home or something like that, sort of an outhouse. My parents don't live too far away, so I still live at home, just in a separate room from house, but It's a whole new way of life.

After AUC, I'll probably do a Master at the UvA, or maybe a gap year in between. I also want to live in America for a couple of years in the future.



Dianka Alexieva



Home is people, places and memories. I associate home with my country Bulgaria, because I've lived there for most of my life, all my friends are from there and all these beautiful memories are created in certain places, but I don't want to call it just a country, it's more like an environment.

AUC is an institution to develop myself, but also the dorms and all that are sort of a home. All the memories we build and people who helps us grow.

First month here was pretty hard, sometimes I would fall asleep crying, because I missed everyone. But I really quickly got used to taking care of myself and being an adult. You find new friends, you find new places you love and then it's home already.

[In the future] I was thinking of [going to] Canada, because I have the citizenship or I will travel around and maybe do a second Bachelor or Master, or straight Master.

Honestly, I don't know.

Home for me is multiple things. One thing is Ottawa, where I am from. I felt more comfortable there than I do in Amsterdam, in terms of the city. Probably because I lived there for a long time. Also, it was during my teenage years and my life was a lot more scheduled and predictable, no existential crisis was happening back then. So, it's associated with good feelings. For me, home is also when I read my favorite stories, or even when I'm writing. It's entirely my own and I never feel judged. AUC feels temporary. When I started AUC, I was much more positive about it. It was a new place, new people and new city, but as I deconstructed it, I started to see a lot of its flaws. I am from Canada. I was born in Mississauga, then we moved to Toronto and then Ottawa in the end, where I lived before coming here.

I'll be going back there after AUC. I am not sure what I'll be doing, I may apply for a Master's or take a gap year and go traveling somewhere.

