

KLM: Scriptus reports, plus
UoC student responds

Get to know the AUCSA

Scriptus

Issue 17



Exclusive interview with
Vinika Porwal, new SLO

Foreword

What a month it's been!

Amidst political turmoil, committee controversies and heated debate, the AUC populace finds itself at somewhat of an identity crisis. Arguments on Facebook walls, discussions in the halls; it is ever apparent that AUC does not have one, uniformed opinion. A multitude of ideas and thoughts, we are.

This issue finds itself released in the wake of various tragedies around the globe. The collapse of two mining dams in Brazil, resulting in the release of toxic materials. Earthquakes in Japan and Mexico. And of course, ISIS attacks in Beirut, Baghdad and Paris. We send our thoughts to all those harmed in the wake of these events. Readers can expect materials about these in our next issue.

Meanwhile, we have many fascinating reads in this current issue. One of the biggest talking points this past month has been the protest at the KLM Who's In Town. Laura Galante reports this story, showcasing both sides of the event. We also have an Op-Ed by a student from the University of Colour you should not miss out on. Next, read an update by our very own AUCSA, followed by our exclusive interview with the new student life officer, Vini Porwal. After that, make your way to the back, where Charlotte Verboom and Bee Lydford cover everything sexting. Finally, Naomi Smit's serial continues in part 2.

Indeed, this has been an eventful month. Let the debates continue!

-Nicholas Handfield-Jones

Changes/Updates/Statements

- We have a new secretary! Everyone welcome Tekla Tevdorashvili to our Board!
- New Font!
- We have taken a new board photo! We'll be uploading it on Facebook soon. Like us on Facebook to see!

Cover Artists Statement

To celebrate the arrival of our new Student Life Officer, Scriptus decided to have a student-life themed cover illustration. This theme is very broad and thus a challenge to encompass with one cover, so I opted for a weird and slightly creepy approach (the latter being unintentional). The first thing that came to mind was the typical student's brain – being at times entirely overruled by the chaotic neuronal firing and network rearrangements typical of a developing adult (and sometimes under chemical influences) - hence the cover's background. Next, somewhat following the style of the newly beloved Pixar film Inside Out, I added all sorts of caricatures of figures doing 'student-y' things.

So basically, it's a depiction of all of our lives with our brains operating on overdrive with figurative little people inside acting out each of our passions and interests.

Crazy, right? But that's what a student's life is for me, I guess.

- Yin Hsieh

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Disclaimer:

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A Glimpse into the Amsterdam University



In the month of May of this year, 6 AUC students were elected by their fellow intellectuals to represent them in the board of their university's student association. This entailed that they would have a year ahead of them full of hard-work, tough decisions, but most importantly a good time. Working together in a team, trying to keep afloat a community which has prospered for so many years before, was a task that sounded like a challenging yet rewarding one.

This may all seem vague and up in the air, but one requires a certain intrinsic motivation to give so much to a community you don't know how much you'll get back from. However, we are so glad to see we are far from the only ones. With anciently superb classics like Taste Before You Waste, to newly ignited initiatives like Sharood, this community is something special we should cherish, and not take for granted.

Of course, as the umbrella organization of all our committees, we are only as strong as they are combined, but we are so proud of all our committees doing amazing things to make campus life and your university times unforgettable ones. Here we say "our" because in official terms all committees fall under the AUCSA, but what's most important here is that the committees are yours, the students' pride and joy that give you the means of working together with your fellow companions to host spectacular events and activities for everyone to enjoy.

The AUCSA is here to give all its members a platform from which they can start initiatives, such as forming new committees, but also expand existing committees' opportunities and realize innovative ideas. Now you might see someone with a red AUCSA sweater running around every now and then, or

sitting and discussing in the AUCSA office wondering what they're up to, let us give you a quick glimpse into the oh so interesting lives of the AUCSA board members to see how we attempt to achieve the aforementioned task.

Every day all the AUCSA board members check their email seeing if anything they need to handle has popped up. This could be printing out some posters for AUCafe, putting a promotional poster on our LCD Screen by the office, or responding to an email from Belinda. Furthermore, we keep up our daily tasks of checking that committees have everything they need, from supplies for events, to more promotional material. We make sure everything on our myauc.nl website is up to date and has lots of useful information for you (Update coming soon!).

Every Wednesday we have our weekly meeting where we discuss important issues that have come up in the past week, which could include the creation of a new committee, or extra budget proposals committees have sent in. Here we also discuss the preparation of upcoming events and check if we are still doing well budget-wise. This is usually the day when we take decisions, and when we take decisions as a board we all have a say, and it's very important we discuss everything thoroughly because others also have put a lot of time in their requests made. In the end, there's always something going on in this bubbling community and we all try to help out wherever we can.

Finally, who are all these board members? They are all AUC students just like everyone else, and just like everyone else they want to be a part and deliver a positive impact on this beloved community.

University College Student Association Board



My name is Floris Cobben, and I'm a third year social science student. Although I am Dutch, I have lived most of my life abroad. As chair of the AUCSA, I keep an oversight of all activities the board and the committees are involved in. Furthermore, my job is to make sure the board is successful in all the tasks it sets out to complete throughout the year, as well as acting as one of the main student representatives towards AUC and third parties. I'm often in the AUCSA office on the ground floor, so feel free to come by and say hi!

Bonjourno! My name is Tim Moolhuijsen and I'm a second year tracking in Environmental Science. I have lived a bit around the Netherlands, but I say that I'm from The Hague. I will be representing you all this year as Secretary and Vice Chair, meaning that I will be working on communication within the board and also communication with external parties. Furthermore, I'm in charge of advertising the many wonderful committee events, which I will do through the MyAUC website, the Facebook account, the web calendar, the LCD screen and the newsletter. Together with the rest of the Board, we hope to represent you to the best of our ability.



Hello everyone! My name is Stefanie and I am in my last year at AUC, majoring in Environmental Sciences. Since we are at AUC, there needs to be a German somewhere, so here I am! And yes, call me a nerd or blame it on my Germaness, but structure and Excel sheets are my thing. Hence I am proud to be the treasurer of the AUCSA! My tasks are to create, oversee and maintain the AUCSA budget. My aim is to make sure the AUCSA and all its committees live up to their potential and financial benefits reach all of us equally. In addition, I am happy to represent AUC in the UCSRN, the platform for all University Colleges in the Netherlands. My wonderful board and I looking forward to an amazing year with you!

Hola! My name is Steffan Oberman and I'm a second year social science major. For most of my life I grew up in the city of Amsterdam, but lived in Atlanta, GA. As part of the board of the AUCSA, I will represent you this year as a Committee Affairs Officer. This means I will be helping out committees with hosting all of their events, like for example the AUC TEDx night and Solace's borrels and parties. Furthermore, together with the other board members we will do our utmost to ensure this year's social activities are the best they can be. Finally, if there is anything at all you have questions or remarks about, feel free to contact me or just ask me in the hallways, I'm always in for a nice chat. Together with the rest of the Board, we hope to represent you to the best of our ability.



My name is Jerome Mies and I am a second year February student and kind of Economics major, combined with some Science. I have lived in Amstelveen all my life and so I am one of those people, who say that they are from Amsterdam, but actually aren't. I will represent you all this year as Committee Affairs Officer, but just call me CAO (because it sounds cool), meaning that I will be in contact with all the committees. Furthermore, Steffan and I are in charge of Merchandise, so we are the ones that give you discount on AUC hoodies. Hence, be nice to us. I would like to end with an epic quote by Tim Moolhuijsen: "Together with the rest of the Board, we hope to represent you to the best of our abilities."

Hi everyone, my name is Sezgi Iyibilir, and I'm a second year Social Science major passionate about Human Rights. I'm born and raised in The Netherlands, but have Greek and Turkish roots. This school year I will fill the position of Committee Affairs Officer (CAO) together with my beloved Steffan and Jerome. As CAO I will do my best to make sure the communication between the committees and AUCSA runs smoothly, and of course help my committees with hosting their events whenever my help is needed. If you have any other questions, please feel free to approach me. Last but not least, I do think that together with the 5 other amazing board members we hope to make this school year a great success for all of you!



A Helping Hand: Exclusive I

By Nicholas Handfield-Jones and Quinta Dijk



Last month, we had the privilege to interview Vinika Porwal, the new student life officer here at AUC. We met in her office to talk to her about a range of topics, including her role at AUC, her background, and more. Take a read:

Scriptus – In our last issue, the student council said that your job is to “support students in all social aspects of life – within AUC and beyond.” We want to know what you think a student life officer is there for.

Vinika – When I think of my role as SLO here, I think of myself as a listening ear and a sign post, in a sense. If a student wants to come talk to me, my job is to be an objective listening source and to point them to other directions, so that could be student life and beyond. So perhaps that could be towards resources in the residence where they live and the interaction with other students in that atmosphere. It could be psychological services, advice about how to pursue a doctor here in Amsterdam, which could be very important for international students. I would also love to talk to students if they are worried about what to do with their life, and go through that process with them. So, it’s basically listening to students and directing outward as they need.

S – We were also wondering what personal approach you take. What are some of your own ideas about the job, as opposed to someone else?

V – It is really important for me to be compassionate because I know that life is really hard. I’m not going to judge a student for anything they share with me and there are so many things that could come up in your university life that from an outside perspective may seem very small, but that doesn’t mean that those things aren’t impacting the student. Compassion goes so far in helping people navigate their lives.

S – And how has it been joining AUC? We are on our sixth year, and we haven’t had an SLO before. Has there been a lot of student interest?

V – There has been a fair amount of interest from students to speak with me. Some of those students are those who seek support and want to speak with me. Other interests have been you guys, the Scriptus magazine, the student council, the AUCSA, they’ve all really welcomed me. It’s been a good experience so far.. It’s a really good place to be.

Interview with Vinika Porwal

S – At this point, we would like to ask you a little bit about you. You are from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is definitely not in the Netherlands. We were wondering how you got into student life and how you ended up here.

V – I guess I should start from when I was a student. When I was a bachelor student, I studied journalism. I was looking into jobs in journalism and publishing. When I graduated, as chance would have it, I began to work at an educational non-profit. And when I was there, I learned a lot about educational inequality in the States. That inspired me to go to graduate school to study college student affairs. I studied this at Penn State. That was my path to student life, I suppose. While I was at Penn, I worked in student life. I moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in a much different respect. So I worked with students who the representatives of a student body for different student organizations, kind of like AUCSA. However, Wisconsin has over 30,000 students, so it may be more like the UvA or the VU. I ended up moving to the Netherlands because my partner transferred here for work. I came along for the ride, and it is a whirlwind adventure. I lived abroad for a semester when I was an undergrad, but beyond that, this is my first time living and working abroad. So, it's really cool.

S – I can imagine that you haven't been here for a while. Can you notice differences, both in life and in the job?

V – Yes! So, obviously people ride bikes in the States. People ride bikes everywhere. But people don't ride them like they do here. I saw someone in Utrecht biking with a full queen size bed attached to it. That just defies the laws of gravity to me. In terms of people and the environment, people have been incredibly kind to me here. That's not necessarily different from what I've experienced elsewhere, but people have been really great. I think Dutch students are a little bit more direct. I think it's a positive thing oftentimes. It sort of evens the playing field. Everyone knows where they stand.

S – In the article last issue we also read that you are obsessed with Harry Potter, and would be happy to have students quiz you on your vast knowledge. Are you a geek-type person? What are your interests?

V – I am totally a geek. I suppose Harry Potter would be classified as young adult literature, particularly fantasy. I love sci-fi. My favourite television series is Battlestar Galactica. You have to watch through to season 3 and then stop. I just love nerdy stuff, and I say that with love. I also know AUC students are a bit nerdy.

S – What house are you?

V – Ravenclaw. Couldn't you tell?

S – Alright, let's get back to the SLO stuff. Confidentiality is super important, but what are some things that you can't be confidential about?

V – I would add a caveat to that, which is that I must be confidential with discretion. There are some things that a student could share with me that I must share outward based on policy; if a student shares that they are intending to harm themselves or that they are intending to harm someone else. That could be suicide or emotional violence towards others. These are examples in which I have to notify others. That is emergency protocol.

Other times where I would have to share information are when a student chats with me and there is a significant thing in their life they would like to discuss, and they need some sort of accommodation because of that, whether it's social, academic, what have you. If they requested a reduction in their academics, for instance, that would be a case where I would share information selectively with others. That could be the student's tutor, the senior tutor, or other people in management. But at no point would I share the incredibly personal details. Most things that a student shares with me are going to remain with me. And if I do need to pass on that information, I would inform the student first.

S – On a similar vein, what are some things students should come talk to you about, and what are some things that maybe are not so relevant to what you do?

V – So, I'll start off with things I would encourage students to figure out on their own or amongst themselves: roommate conflicts. So, if you're arguing with a roommate about something, I would encourage students to talk about it and work it out, because that's just a life skill.

Some things students could come talk to me about are anxiety, stress, grief, any sort of personal or medical mental challenge they might be experiencing, like depression. I can be a point of reference for them. To clarify, I am not a psychologist, so I wouldn't be providing ongoing counselling, but I would be a reference point to them as well as making suggestions to them.

S – The last few things we want to talk about are more practical stuff. How can students get in contact with you?

V – I would encourage students to email me. My email is v.porwal@auc.nl. They can email me to set up an appointment. I'll let the student know when I'm available. And then we get just choose a time. Then the student would come meet with me. And we would take the steps from there.

S – Finally, our last question. What are some general tips or advice you can give to students to have a proper health and well-being at AUC?

V – There's so many things. But if I had to say one thing, I would say take time every day to do something that de-stresses you. It can be exercise, video games, a long walk. Just something where you are recharging your mind. It's so easy at a place like AUC to get overwhelmed, so that's what I would say.



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Many AUC students, have a strong wish to make the world a better place and contribute towards the happiness of others. While such a compassionate motivation might have been a reason for studying in the beginning, during the daily grind of writing essays, cramming for exams, and preparing presentations we might have lost contact with what is really important to us.

Yara Vrolijkx (3rd year at UCU) and Carla Ott (2nd year at AUC) both felt that there was not much attention paid to personal development at their respective universities. They learn how to write well-structured analytical essays, but there is not much discussion about the motivation for why we are studying, how we can apply our knowledge and use the skills we learn to actually help other people. A positive counter-example was the Empathy and Compassion in Society Conference, which Yara visited in November 2014 in San Francisco. There, inspiring speakers and workshop leaders talked about how to incorporate values like compassion and empathy more into society. Inspired by this event, Yara wanted to make a similar conference happen in the Netherlands. She proposed the idea to her friend Carla, who immediately loved the thought. Together, they brainstormed about how they could organize a conference about the value of compassion for young people.

As great things happen with a great team, they brought together a wonderful group of three AUC students - Lia den Daas (as Treasurer), Bianca Andreea Banu (as PR Manager), and Sabina Bahisheva (as Event Manager), as well as two UCU students - Vera Vrijmoeth and Xinyi Tong (as Fundraising Managers). The team is working hard, but with enthusiasm and much laughter to make the conference one of the most inspiring days in your life!

To emphasize both the emotional and cognitive aspects of compassion, the team decided to call the conference MIND Conference. Our mind is the source of everything: of all our plans, our thoughts, and all our actions. So, if we connect with our compassionate mind we can actually become the change we want to see in the world. The MIND Conference is one of the first conferences on compassion specifically for students and young professionals in Europe and thereby is part of the beginning of a bigger movement towards more compassion. It will take place on Saturday the 28th November in the beautiful Academiegebouw in the centre of Utrecht.

So what will the Conference actually look like?

The program consists of talks in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. International, expert speakers in neuroscience, health care, the Charter for Compassion, business, and education will discuss applications of compassion in their professional lives. During workshops, there will be the opportunity to personally and practically engage with compassion from different angles. In this way, the conference will show you ways how to connect with your compassionate motivation and make it a driving force of your life and career. During a concluding borrel, there will be the chance to connect with speakers and other people interested in compassion. Students from all over the Netherlands are going to come, so it will be a wonderful mix of people.

More info and tickets can be found on <http://www.mindconference.eu/> or on the MIND Conference facebook page.

By Carla Ott

mind

CONFERENCE

T, THE NETHERLANDS

Meet some of the speakers:



Spencer Heijnen, Well-being Consultant at Purpose+ NL

His personal and professional mission is to help people, organizations, and societies flourish. As a well-being consultant, he applies the latest positive psychology and contemplative science in a wide variety of contexts: conducting seminars with individuals, speaking at conferences and organizations like McKinsey, Oxford University, and the Dutch National Railway services (NS).

Marieke van Vugt, Assistant professor at the Department of Artificial Intelligence (ALICE), University of Groningen

After obtaining her PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania, she focused her postdoctoral research on the neural correlates of decision making with Dr. Jonathan Cohen at Princeton University. She has taken part in several summer schools organized by the Mind and Life Institute, an organization that is committed to building a scientific understanding of the mind as a way to help reduce suffering and promote human flourishing. In 2007, she received the Varela Award for a study about the mathematical modeling of the effects of mindfulness training on cognition. Currently, she is further developing her unique approach to studying meditation and mind wandering by using computational models of cognition.



Erik van der Brink, Psychiatrist/psychotherapist at the Center for Integrative Psychiatry Groningen, developer of MBCL

Erik van der Brink combines more than 25 years of experience in ambulant mental health care with mindfulness-based and compassion-focused approaches. Together with Frits Koster he has developed the Mindfulness-Based Compassionate Living (MBCL) course and published the book *Mindfulness-Based Compassionate Living - A New Training Programme to Deepen Mindfulness with Heartfulness*. He is particularly interested in methods that empower people's self-healing capacity and currently works at Center for Integrative Psychiatry in Groningen.

Feminist Society: Silence Gets You Nowhere

By Tanushree Kaushal

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor”

– Desmond Tutu



Photo used from FemSoc's Facebook page

FEMSOC

FEMINISM
IS THE RADICAL
NOTION THAT
WOMEN ARE PEOPLE

Discussions around the subject of Feminism have been taking place within AUC probably since its very inception. The outburst on the AUC Girls page that took place not-so-long ago brought to light and under discussion various topics within this stream that had remain untouched before. The discussion which used to take place behind closed dorm rooms between small friend circles, or within Humanities classrooms now started happening over Facebook pages. Clearly, there lay a great amount of interest and curiosity and possibly even confusion concerning Feminism within the student body at AUC. To provide a formal platform for discussions on the subject of Feminism and facilitate discourse within a safe space, we have formed the Feminist Society¹. We espouse for more than just a Facebook page or one week during the entire year to talk about something that is an everyday, an every minute experience for all.

From various discussions on social media or in personal engagements, it has come forth that there are various misconceptions around the word 'Feminism' and what it stands for. In addition to this misconception, there is also a misunderstanding of what it is to be sexist and patriarchal. Discussions within and outside of the classrooms have often had essentialist statements emerge that argue for what the “true” nature of women is as distinguished from the “true” nature of men. In addition, there are also the misconception that it is not necessary to talk about Feminism and women's issues in the Netherlands, particularly in the 'liberal' and 'tolerant' city of Amsterdam, where apparently everyone is included. It is hard to understand how everyone is included in a country where 45% of women have experienced some form of physical and/ or sexual violence. This is not an archaic piece of data but from a report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on violence against women, conducted in 2014. This number is also well above the European

average of 33% (which is already really high!) And these are just reported cases, which are detectable and provable. What about the uncountable cases of sexual harassment that women (including women at AUC) face on the streets or the structural inequalities and exploitation that exists within institutions, or for that matter, even the lack of representation of women within various courses and curriculum at AUC?

The lack of discourse concerning Feminism shows that it is a subject that does not deserve the same amount of attention as other topics do. This is what we hope to change. As the Feminist Society, we wish to generate discourse on topics that are usually outsourced for discussion in the private realm. Feminism is a public issue. We want to make it just that. We will be having Feminist Fridays every week during lunch break, where each Friday we will discuss a topic of interest² within a safe space (for instance, the first discussion will be on consent). The point of the discussion is to engage as many students as possible, so if you think this is something you would like to talk about, or just learn more about, then you should come join in the discussion! We will also have lectures by experts, documentary screenings, Reading groups, workshops and probably many more activities. As we want to make the potential committee as non-hierarchical as possible, we would love to receive ideas and suggestions from all those interested for planning future events, organization, interesting articles or videos to share, or just about anything. We will also be having monthly Brainstorm sessions where absolutely everyone is welcome to come in and give input, or just sit and enjoy an evening with food and lovely company. Go ahead and add us on Facebook – we are called Fem Soc, and feel free to either talk in person or send in a message about ideas, suggestions, or just to pop in a warm message.

¹ The use of the word Society in the name is because currently the Feminist Society is undergoing a trial period to test the capacity for continuity of activities and to judge the amount of interest within the student population for the events and discussions that will be conducted. Once the trial period is over, the Feminist Society will go by the name of Feminist Committee under the AUCSA.

² We hope to make these discussions and events as intersectional as possible. We recognize that topics such as Race, class, nationality, sexuality etc. coincide and intersect at various junctures.

My Validation

By Anonymous

Illustration by Soo Bin Park



The longing to go has not long to go,
Before leaving this place.
This house, this stifling home,
That was called my own.
These dirty off-white walls of a council house straight jacket.
This is what it's like to breathe through a pillow.

I burst from the building.
A champagne bottle makes a weak pop,
A quasi-flatulence to mark the end of three years.
The angry red building once more rises,
Jagged like a tooth that's snapped in the pulling.
It was, I suppose, a bit like pulling teeth.
In a drunken, convivial way.

All for one and one for all,
Better that, than the sickeningly false slogan.
For three years we lived in each other's pockets.
No boundaries. Seeing all in the panopticon.
The parties vibrating through courtyards,
The juvenile couples too anxious to feel flesh on flesh to close curtains,
Straw haired companions singing karaoke 'til two.

This will no longer be mine.
And although my feet itch for lands far away,
Full of tiny termites to titillate them off through a Vermeer sky.
I stand there, in front of the tooth,
With just damp feet and soggy ankles of my jeans,
The nostalgic wave of the past years receded.
All that's left of it is this paper in hand:
My validation.

The KLM C

By Laura Galante
Photo from University of Colorado

As many are aware, the events that unfolded during the last “Who’s In Town” lecture on October 27th took an unexpected turn. The lecture, given by Gert Wim ter Haar, a social media hub manager at KLM, aimed to discuss KLM’s social media strategy and how it is relevant to provide the best customer service. Twenty minutes into the lecture, however, students of the University of Colorado interrupted it to protest KLM’s involvement in the deportation of refugees. The students performed a ‘mic check’, whereby a speaker mentioned stories of refugees who underwent deportation and the rest repeated it to ‘amplify’ his voice.

“About twenty people stood up.” said Plamen Valkov, one of the AUC students who attended the lecture. “Some of them held photos of refugees while reciting anecdotes of various deportation stories and how KLM was complicit in this.” The whole event was filmed and posted on Youtube and Facebook by people of the University of Colorado.

According to a University of Colorado student, who chose to remain anonymous, and who is also part of AUC, the principles of their organization include decolonizing the university by addressing exclusionary mechanisms, such as raising awareness on minority groups omitted from literary canons, as well as untying relations to corporations that are all about profit. This is why, he believes, this was an opportunity to bring to the fore the discussion on accusations of deportation related to KLM, which have been taking place for more than a decade, but have been especially prominent in more recent years during the refugee crisis. KLM is one of the organizations that sponsor the AUC scholarship fund, but according to this student, who is also sponsored by the scholarship, that should not be a reason not to protest

on the injustices brought upon refugees committed by the corporation. “The speaker wasn’t targeted himself,” he stated. “But we saw him as part of the entire collective that is responsible for these acts.”

However, Valkov claims that ter Haar was not in the position to act for the entire company and that he would have almost nothing to say in the nature of corporate hierarchy. “Ultimately, he can’t tackle the issue himself because he answers to a person within the company.”

But according to the UoC student, this is precisely what should be addressed. “The problem with bureaucracy is that you always delegate responsibility to someone else, hence no one is responsible, just doing their job.” This is one of the reasons why he believes that just because a representative of the company does not have anything to do with the issue, he should not be held accountable for it.

During the protest, ter Haar countered this notion by stating that he himself was just there to give a lecture to those interested in the role of social media, and that “[he found] this a very wrong platform to make this statement”, according to what was said in the video. He refused to comment on any allegations attributed to the company and claimed no responsibility for the accusations that UoC was making due to the fact that “[he] had nothing to do with it.” Eventually, he reconvened and moved his lecture to a different classroom while the UoC students finished their speech, despite only one AUC student who attended the lecture remaining in the room. The rest who came to the common room left halfway through to continue listening to ter Haar’s lecture. The UoC student asserts that the main objective of the protest was to make a moral stance and to divulge this information to

Controversy

University of Colour video

people who did not know about the argument. He feels that this objective was achieved, what with extensive discussions about the event taking place later; though, the University of Colour was not expecting the attendees to leave halfway through their statement. In fact, another aim was to announce an upcoming 'Who's In Town' lecture organized by them to solely address KLM's deportation, but because the common room emptied, this objective was not achieved in full.

The event raised a lot of polemics, with people either supporting or objecting to the way the University of Color addressed the issue in the way they did. In particular, Valkov believes that, in the end, "The University of Colour did not achieve further discussion. There are different ways which this can be brought up, and all they accomplished was intimidation in that room". However, the UoC student counters this by mentioning that it was not supposed to be confrontational and they had already "contacted the board of directors on Twitter" without further development ensuing.

Such views were further pointed out once the video of the protest was uploaded on Facebook, opening the stage for the debate to take place in a back-and-forth stream of comments by people who attended and those who learned about it afterwards. Comments were raised on how the so-called 'right' kinds of platform do not just simply present themselves to the people who want to raise an issue. Others, however, claim that in order to raise the issue in a constructive way, staging a protest for the sake of protesting does not yield productive results; one of the first AUC students to voice her opinion responded thus; "I do not defend the actions of KLM, I am criticising the manner in which the students chose to protest this and represent AUC."

In response, Kamiel Mobach, another student at the University of Colour, who also filmed the event, commented, asserting that "the confrontation was quite uncomfortable for everyone involved...I think it is of the utmost importance that we challenge the horrible practice of deportations whenever we can, because of the complexity of the power dynamics behind them." Similar comments were made in support of both opinions.

The other UoC student backs this up as well, being astounded at ter Haar's supporters for criticising UoC's own methods of protesting when "they themselves haven't set up the right platform and then criticise ours. They haven't done one single piece of activism. In the real world, these platforms don't just come up." The debate on the lecture carried on for a few days. Many were worried that the image of AUC would suffer as a consequence of this protest, while others agreed that this was a crucial moment to make a statement. It will be interesting to see how KLM will address this event in later discussions with AUC and how this will affect relations as a whole. Through this protest it is possible to see just how sensitive this issue of deportations has become regardless of who is truly responsible, especially now that the refugee crisis is at the fore of discussion in the context of international relations.

Statement: People's Lives are more Important than Your Privilege.

By University of Colour Organiser

On November 4th, I published a 9000 word piece on the KLM intervention here: <http://universityofcolour.blogspot.nl/>. As the famous linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky once said: "if you're constrained to producing two sentences between commercials, or 700 words in an op-ed piece, you can do nothing but express conventional thoughts. If you express conventional thoughts, you don't need any basis for it or any background, or any arguments." Regardless, I will make a completely imperfect attempt to synthesize the aforementioned statement here so that I might spark the interest of those who actually care to read on.

There are a few arguments that have been made against the intervention, and all of them are rooted in either ignorance, self-interest, or both. Firstly, it is not relevant at all whether the reputation of AUC got hurt by the intervention, nor that some corporate lecturers might not come in the future, nor that some people were made to feel slightly uncomfortable for a few minutes. We are talking about the very survival of people here. Human beings who are deported by KLM. Our petty privileges are a concern of a completely different order. They have no place whatsoever in a conversation about mass deportations.

Secondly, many people doubted the sincerity of the University of Colour. Let me emphasize here that several people directly or indirectly involved in our group have friends, people they know or loved ones, who were locked up in alien deportation prisons for months. Some were also deported and have families that were torn up. The University of Colour has also organized with the refugee collective We Are Here. Some of us have spent nights volunteering at the Central Station (#RefugeesStation) to welcome and assist refugees. But all that doesn't help that much when people are being deported weekly, sometimes daily, to war-zones and other dangerous situations they fled in the first place. Nor does it help when people are dehumanized to such an extent that they are forced to commit suicide in a tiny Dutch cell.

That brings us to the third point. Some people have claimed that our tactics are off, and that the intervention was supposedly too confrontational. Instead, we should just "invite somebody from KLM's board of directors, and have a proper conversation." That tactic, however, is about replacing activism with

lobbying. The latter works fine when the needs of a group have been recognized by the political system. However, it is quite obvious that this is not the case for refugees, who even lack the most basic rights to ensure a fair trial. This is exactly why KLM has ignored previous calls to "have a proper conversation" with refugees. Even if we ourselves could have that conversation, we would turn it down. We are not going to decide over the fate of refugees without the refugees there.

As Martin Luther King explained in his letter from Birmingham jail: "You may well ask: 'Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?' You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. My citing the creation of tension as part of the work of the nonviolent resister may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word tension."

Fourth, the target of the intervention was completely appropriate. When refugees are deported, organizations such as We Are Here call for a Twitter/Facebook storm on KLM pages. The social media director that was speaking at AUC is directly responsible for countering these storms with messages such as "if airlines carry inadmissible passengers, this is always by order of the authorities." In addition, he was representing KLM, building up its image and recruiting new employees.

The last and only relevant counterargument is the endangerment of the scholarship fund. I do not have the space in this op-ed to properly refute this- and will therefore urge you to read the longer statement. For now, I will only say that there are vastly differing opinions between scholarship students: one of them even participated in the action.

Let me finally conclude by saying that disruptive actions have been successful in the past. After sustained pressure by anti-deportation campaigners in the UK, for example, XL Airways pulled out from further deportation flights. AUC-students would be wise to do their research before bashing social movements. I hope the lives of refugees are worth that effort.

Break the Bubble, Seize Some space!

By Isi Frey

Illustration by Marten Dondorp

Remember the Spinhuis? You might know it from the red-and-black only-semi-appealing-to-the-eye-and-really-hard-to-tear-off stickers that can be found around the dorms and one or the other bathrooms in the academic building. You might also know it from having attended an origami workshop, a tango night or a lecture on ISIS. And you might even remember that after 4 months of facilitating a full program every evening of the week, the autonomous student squat “Het Spinhuis”, located in the former common room of the (empty!) faculty of sociology and anthropology of the UvA, was forced to leave by the board of directors. But this is not the end of the story: after a semester of successful university occupations, the Spinhuis is back. This time, in a pirate dungeon under a bridge.

The new Spinhuis was squatted mid-September by students and non-students who are concerned with the lack of space for creativity and self-organization in the increasingly commercialized university. It is the same old story: government austerity measures lead to budget cuts in education, which translate into increased pressure for universities to operate like companies. In order to be more efficient, the goal is to give out as many diplomas to as many students in the least time possible – at the lowest cost. Meanwhile, the learning process between students and teachers is turned into a customer-employee interaction. What we can see all over Europe is that universities are turned into degree-factories, while more privileged students like us “flee” to small, excellent and diverse programs. While we at AUC are given all the time and space to organize in our community, this is becoming more and more of a privilege.

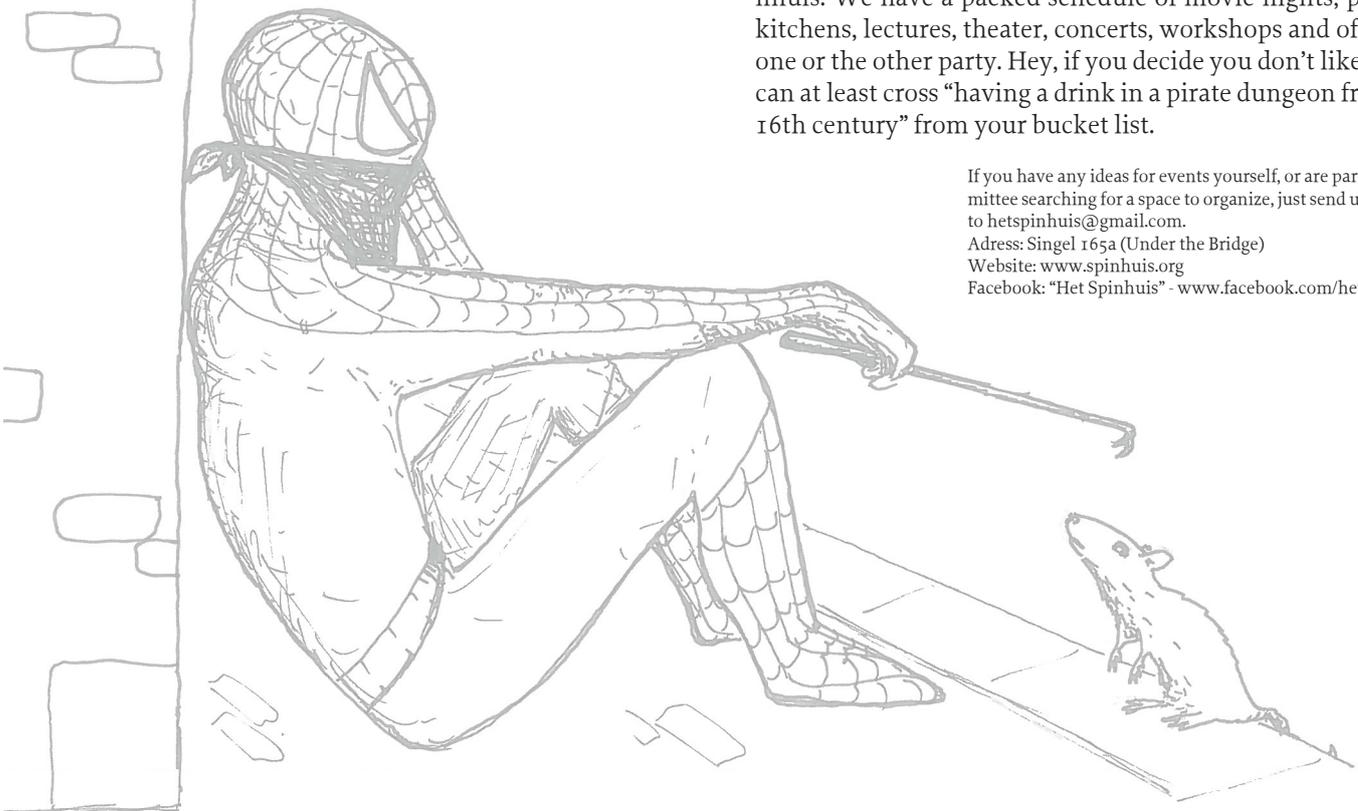
What the university needs are spaces that are entirely student run, non-commercial and autonomous from any institutional framework. It is only in such spaces that students can learn in a non-coercive manner and engage with each other and their teachers in non-hierarchical, non-competitive settings. Such

spaces also challenge the exclusivity and elitism of universities, by connecting students to other communities that might not have access to higher education. Dispersing and sharing knowledge and creativity is the only way to break the monopoly that universities currently have on it. This is why we try to be connected to the neighborhood, the squatting community, anti-racist, feminist and anti-capitalist movements, and the underground art scene. Anyone can organize events, and the more these various communities come together in one space, the better.

The Spinhuis is not only a protest against the way the university is currently run, but also a form of direct action against the speculation of real-estate in the city of Amsterdam that keeps so many houses empty while people sleep on the streets. Direct action is a form of politics that does not wait to petition politicians, but immediately finds pragmatic approaches to social problems whilst at the same time addressing the causes by the root. Squatting has been a common form of direct action against the housing crisis in Amsterdam since the 1960s, and has been banned since 2010. But even with a squatting ban, it is still possible to use empty spaces as long as there are no other plans with them. In the case of the new Spinhuis, the municipality owns the space and currently has no plans for it. For now we’re safe.

If all this talk about direct action and squatting has made you scared to come and check it out, don’t be. Most squats are warm, cozy spaces filled with open-minded, friendly people who want to make the world a slightly less cruel place. Especially in the Spinhuis, we try to provide a safe atmosphere free from sexism, racism, homophobia and other oppressive behavior – a “politics of the space” that is often missing in commercial spaces. Whatever your opinion on squatting or on the recent university protests, you are more than welcome to come by the Spinhuis. We have a packed schedule of movie nights, peoples’ kitchens, lectures, theater, concerts, workshops and of course one or the other party. Hey, if you decide you don’t like it, you can at least cross “having a drink in a pirate dungeon from the 16th century” from your bucket list.

If you have any ideas for events yourself, or are part of a committee searching for a space to organize, just send us an email to hetspinhuis@gmail.com.
Address: Singel 165a (Under the Bridge)
Website: www.spinhuis.org
Facebook: “Het Spinhuis” - www.facebook.com/hetspinhuis



Some Great Things I Realized Here in Toronto

By Yaron Zonneveld



“O Canada! Our home and native land....”

Oh AUC, what can I say? Canadians are funny people. They're kind, welcoming, certainly NOT American, and they have a funny way of saying the word 'about'. Those were my first impressions of Canadians during my semester abroad here at the University of Toronto. For the last three months, I have resided in this beautiful new place, and I would recommend it to everybody. Going abroad has pulled me out of my comfort zone, provided me with new insights in ways I never thought possible, and gave me the opportunity to meet some truly incredible people.

One of the things I want to share is how distances seem to blur in a place like Canada and how that makes you prioritize. Whereas back home in good old Amsterdam it's already quite an effort to go the Molukkenstraat. Even Leidseplein seems far at times. Here, driving for a couple of hours to see a new place or watch something spectacular is no big deal at all. Driving to the Niagara Falls, going to Montreal to visit some other AUC students, or going hiking to watch the leaves change colour in the fall is so worth the time spent on the road, and I wish I had realized that earlier. Driving 6 hours to see a new place? Definitely worth it! Because let's be honest, how many places in the Netherlands, or even in Amsterdam, do you still want to go to, but for some reason still haven't? I think here in Toronto I finally realized how much more I still want to see and that I should really get out there more to just do it. Why wait? AUC lasts only three beautiful years. Let's make the most out of it! It's time to go to that one museum or visit this city that has been on your bucket list for ages. Get out there to do whatever makes you happy.

Next, I would like to talk about Canada's extreme and infamous weather. One of the first things that comes to mind

when you think about Canada, after maple syrup and ice hockey that is, is the winter. I had been told that winters are supposed to be horrible here and that you'll practically freeze to death. For real, Canadians are actually scared of their own winters. Luckily enough, the weather has been rather decent so far. In fact, even though I will probably regret saying that up until now, it has probably been way nicer here than in the Netherlands. The fall here is amazing: all the different colours of the trees make going for a hike an incredible experience. In about two months, however, I will hopefully be able to tell you how to survive the winter here, as I expect that to be quite different, but I'll get back to you on that.

One more thing I want to share with you all is that here I finally realized what kind of special friendships you form at AUC. As a Dutch student who has always lived around Amsterdam, I have never experienced not seeing my friends for more than a month or two. Now, however, most of my friends are spread out all over the world, most certainly enjoying their own amazing semesters abroad, while some others are still enjoying the life in the AUC bubble, which I do miss at times as well. Being further away from people though, with the occasional messages and skype calls, did make me realize what kind of bond you have with people at AUC. I know this sounds cheesy, but it's just too true not to say it. It's perfectly fine not seeing people for a while, because you know you'll see them again, but then with so many new experiences and stories to share. It's the weirdest thing, but because of that I can't wait to go back to the bubble to see everybody again, whereas on the other hand I don't want my journey here to end at all. O Canada, I love being here in Toronto, really don't want it to end, but wouldn't mind seeing those amazing AUC people again either....

Let's all keep on loving life and I'll see you soon AUC!

Home

By Tekla Tevdorashvili

Home. That's kind of hard for me because I was born in Madrid, but when I was 3, I moved to U.S. and spent all my childhood there. At the age of 10, I moved to Barcelona. So I would consider Barcelona my home because all my friends are there and Spain is where all my family is. I consider home where my family is, an environment where I feel most comfortable, where I can relax. I don't really know what AUC is yet. It kind of feels like home, but it's still something that I don't know how to call. I think it can become my second home. After college, I know I'm going to do masters, but when I'm done with AUC, I want to do whole year of traveling around the world.

Ana Sánchez



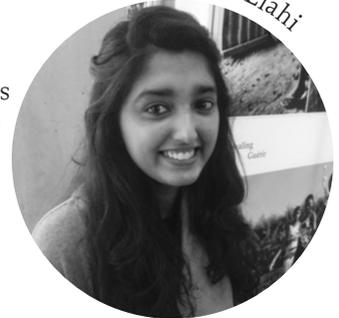
Nicolo Maresca



Home for me is where my family lives, I mean people I care about. Somewhere where I can be myself. I come from Rome. I've lived all my life there and now it's been 6 months that I've moved here. AUC, for me, is a wonderful place, where I can meet a lot of people and learn from them. I guess it is starting to feel like home. For the future, I'd rather not make too many plans. I like to have surprises.

I'm not really sure what home is. I was born here in Amsterdam and lived here before I was 13. Then I moved to Pakistan, and now I'm back. I think my home is a bit of both, the thing is when I'm here I like there, when I'm there I like here. AUC is like a big family because everyone knows everyone. I don't really have plans so far. I have no idea what I'm going to do in the future, but let's just see what happens.

Dania Elahi



Paco Mens



For me home is here at Science Park, but also my old place where my parents live. It still feels like coming home whenever I go there, but AUC also became my home. I really like it here. I feel comfortable and I know a lot of people, but I think it's less extreme for me, because I grew up in Amstelveen, close to Amsterdam, so I can hang out with people outside the AUC. I've also lived in Barcelona for 6 months, so that also has been my home for short time. I really like Amsterdam, so I think I will probably live here after finishing AUC, but maybe I will take a break with living in Amsterdam and do a master in the U.S. or somewhere.

Home is where you feel wanted and appreciated, where you can do anything you want without anybody getting mad about it. It's complete acceptance. I'm from Belgium and it's very different from Holland. I've lived there for 17 years and then I moved here. AUC is mostly home for me, there are some people that fit that description perfectly. After college, I wouldn't mind staying in Holland for a bit, because I really like it. But I enjoy the peacefulness of Belgium, because there is more greenery, more peace and people are not packed together in these tiny and tall houses that everybody seems to love and I want to go traveling.

Naomi Smit



Samir Khan



Home, for me, is just a place where I feel safe and comfortable, where I can have time for myself and enjoy life. I'm half Dutch, half Pakistani. I was born in the U.S., but immediately after my birth I moved to Pakistan for 4 years. Then I moved to The Hague for 5 years, then I moved to Washington D.C. for 4 years, then Bangladesh 2 years, then Boston 2 years, and Thailand 2 years. My notion of home is so flexible that I can make anywhere I am, home. AUC is a place to enrich my intellectual fantasies, to learn the things I'm interested in, and discuss it with other people.

After AUC, I just plan to enjoy life. I'm not sure how I'm going to do that, but I'll find a way. I think traveling around the world is part of me, so I'm going to continue to do it forever.

NDSM and Homeless Things

By Tekla Tevdorashvili

IJ Hallen is the biggest flea market in Europe, which takes place in Amsterdam every month. A lot of unique, odd, and vintage stuff from the previous century can be found there, as well as books, film, DVDs, or clothes from the 21st century. If you are into flea markets and haven't been there yet, you should definitely go.

IJ Hallen is located in Amsterdam-Noord, in NDSM. NDSM was a shipyard but has now become a place where many people hang out. Popular spots are cafés like - Pllek, which hosts many events throughout the year, and Hotels like Faralada, a former crane renovated into a 3-room hotel with the Jacuzzi on top. You can either get to NDSM by bike or you can take a bus/tram to central station and then ferry 906, towards NDSM-werf. The market usually starts at 9:00h and finishes at 16:30h, but, as I mentioned, there are many things to do besides the market..

Lots of people, lots of stands, lots of stuff. Sometimes, you find "your thing" in the moment you enter. -I found my thing the first time I went: an Agfa Synchro Box 600. I fell in love with it from the first sight, even though it doesn't work anymore. It is a box camera, constructed in München, Germany between 1951-57. It is made of steel and very simple to use, with one shutter. It is very lightweight in contrast to other model and it looks really cool, but because it no longer has any function, I gave up on it



IJ Hallen (25.10.15) Photo By Robin van der Berg

and moved on to next stands. After two hours of walking in the busy lines of stands, I was still thinking about the Synchro Box (The term itself - Synchro stand for flash sync shutter). When I realised that people had started to pack their stuff, I ran to the stand, with the hope that my Synchro Box would still be there. It was, so I decided to give it a new home. If I continue like this, at the end of these 3 years, I will have my own flea market in my dorm, made up of the stuff I bought on IJ Hallen. The second time I went there I found myself regretting buying the synchro box, because I found another thing: a typewriter. I bought it too and, honestly, I don't regret it, because unlike Agfa box, I use it.

My advice here would be this: try to avoid falling in love with the stuff that doesn't work anymore and go there on time, because you will find yourself losing a lot of time staring at odd objects and different people.



Agfa Synchro Box 600. Photo By Tekla Tevdorashvili

The 505 of Amsterdam East

By Diana Ghidanac

We all couldn't be more grateful of the Sushi Time at the dorms. It provides us with readily available, freshly made makis that satisfy that sushi crave. However, with its growing popularity, and orders coming in swiftly that result in maximum capacity being reached in just under a day, we may not always be able to get our sushi fix. #thehorror.



After arriving in Amsterdam, I was determined to scope out the best sushi hotspots. Particularly, I wanted a place I could order in from to help sustain my long study nights, or if braving the cold to go out to eat was too much. Last year, I wrote a review for Scriptus on Hello Sushi in De Pijp, which unfortunately closed down. Devastated by the news, I knew that this meant my hunt for sushi was back on (not that it ever finished, yet Hello Sushi did become my go-to place). To my surprise, there was something else not only closer to the dorms, but with more variety. Vijfnulviyf is a true sushi gem of Amsterdam Oost- it has a relaxing ambience perfect for studying, casual dinners, or date nights, despite the possibility of not looking very attractive when you're trying to fit a crunchy prawn roll in your mouth with a single bite. But hey, if your love for sushi intimidates your date, then I'd suggest

reconsidering some choices. Until then, take the opportunity to indulge in their temaki's, gyoza's, curries, pad thai's, salads, sashimi's, and so much more. My plate was so long that I was not able to fit all the food in one picture without having to stand up and appear as one of those obsessive foodstagrammers (which I am very guilty of).

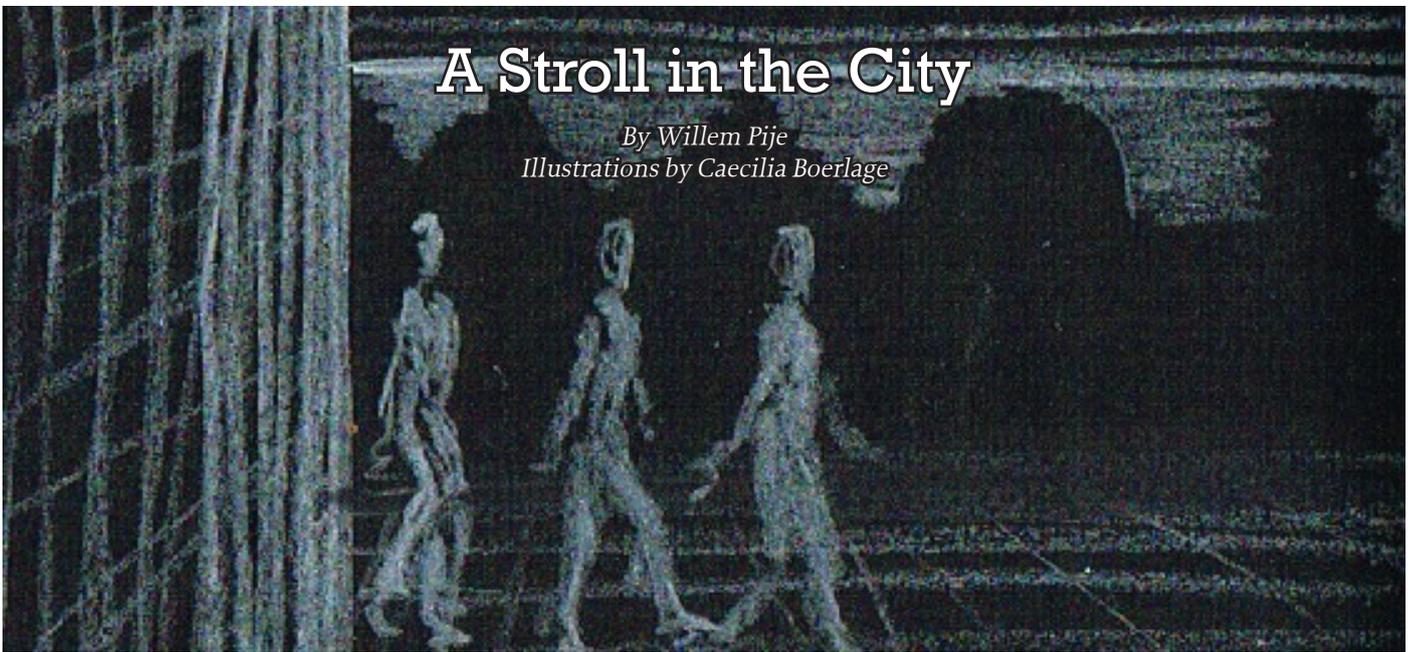


Vijfnulviyf cares about appearance, yet even more so about the taste and quality of your flavourful raw fish, but I believe that there's a bit more to it under that layer of seaweed. The motto on their menu is "Food is not just a necessity. It is the way to connect. It is all about sharing with your loved ones," which I believe is so relatable to our AUC community considering startups such as Sharood, and the many groups of friends brought together whenever Food Light District Bake Sales or Sushi Time happen. Bring a group of friends, your family, a significant other, or even an old pal you want to reconnect with to Vijfnulviyf: the comfy seating and its decorative pillows with the big windows overlooking our little but cozy neighbourhood make it totally suitable and totally gezellig for whatever occasion you please. Don't be afraid to explore on your own either. Right now, I am writing this review while enjoying a seaweed salmon salad with some tuna and prawn rolls to which my taste buds and stomach are oh-so thankful for at this very moment. So fear not AU-Sushi lovers, because 505 will always be here at our favourite Molukkenstraat intersection.

A Stroll in the City

By Willem Pijpe

Illustrations by Caecilia Boerlage



Amsterdam prides itself on its biking culture, and for good reasons: it's a healthy, sustainable, and fast way to get around the city. I have seen most of the city while riding my worn-down, yet steadfast bike, but now I want to take some time to make a case for walking. This is inspired by the incredibly smart and entertaining book *The Odd Woman and the City* by Vivian Gornick; a memoir of a lifelong New Yorker with a special focus on the importance of her daily walk through the boroughs of her city. This memoir is not supposed to be a self-help book or a guide to live; Gornick simply writes intelligently about loneliness, friendship and love in the 20th/21st century.

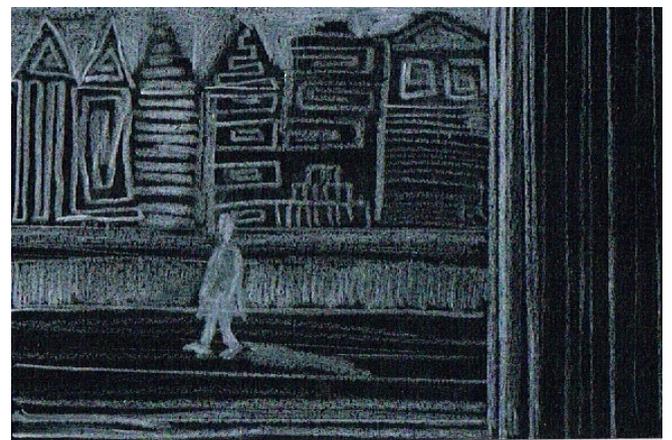
New York is a city made for walking. Subway stops are sometimes far from your desired location, busses are notoriously slow, and who has money for a taxi? I have never walked as much in my life and most of the time it has been a pleasurable experience; I've actually only now realized how shitty Dutch weather really is. From the tree-lined streets and coffee shops of Fort Greene to the abundance of neon signs in unintelligible Chinese symbols in Flushing, Queens, the streets of NYC are never boring. Parts of her book recount the random interactions, snippets of conversations, and daily rituals Gornick witnesses on the streets of NYC.

A dangerous sense of sentimentality creeps in when I start writing about seemingly meaningless events I observe through the course of a day. It is wrong to categorize a person helping an old woman up the stairs as a confirmation of the goodness of humanity. Oscar Wilde wrote that "A sentimentalist is one who desires to have the luxury of an emotion without paying for it." Gornick tries to avoid this as well; her walks achieve something simpler: they are life-affirming. Maybe the explanation for the healing properties of walking is simply that it provides the walker with a sense of belonging. You can imagine yourself to be a part of the crowd where everyone has a purpose and it gives the walker the possibility to merge with the background; you belong to the scene without even trying.

Gornick's book is not simply a love letter to New York City. Her walks are an effort to fight against the ever-present loneliness that comes with living in the city. NYC has been a place where one can free him or herself from certain societal constraints; it has always been a center for the feminist and gay liberation movement. The nuclear family is not necessarily

the norm anymore. This freedom can be both liberating and incredibly frightening. When the established framework for the course of a life starts to lose its hold, you have to shape your own. While discussing this freedom with her lifelong friend Leonard, Gornick, twice divorced and childless, states while discussing this freedom with her lifelong friend Leonard: "I'm not the right person for this life," Leonard then replies: "Who is?". Gornick and Leonard are each other's support system, but the freedom they found is just as frightening as it is liberating and it has the disadvantage of novelty; they are the generation responsible for shaping the new traditions.

The urban individual nowadays is overwhelmingly single and no individual in earlier times has been in a comparable situation. Can you imagine how *Madam Bovary* would have behaved if she was a modern single woman in Paris? One of the aspects of a good novel (or memoir in this case) is that it reflects on and struggles with pressing contemporary problems and Gornick has done this in an informed and sensitive manner, backed by decades of trial and error. If you are ever overwhelmed by a dizzying sense of loneliness and displacement, in Amsterdam or any other city, instead of eating a pint of Ben & Jerry's, try taking a walk. It might surprise you.



Or read this book of course:

Vivian Gornick - *The Odd Woman and the City*

Other books that deal with loneliness, walking the street, urban life:

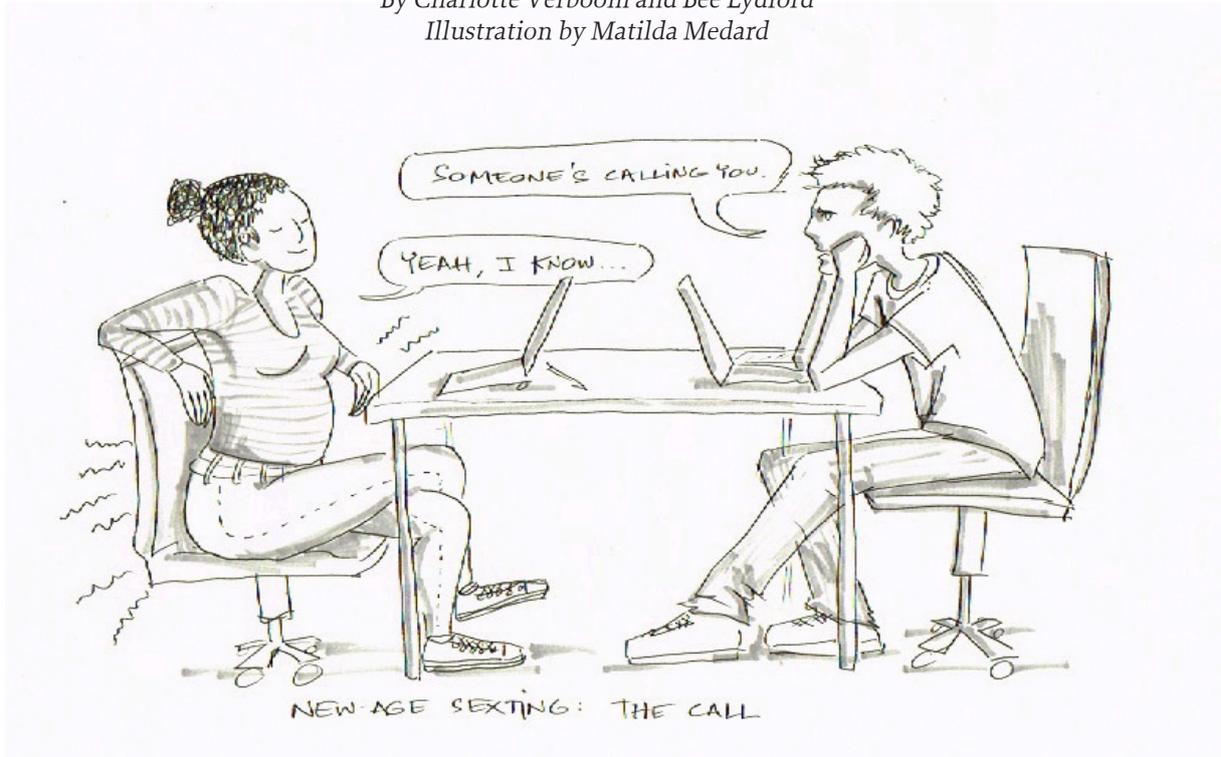
Mrs Dalloway - Virginia Woolf (Just for the perceptiveness of Woolf's writing on London)

A Moveable Feast - Ernest Hemingway (Basically an ode to Paris)

10:04 - Ben Lerner (Poet turned novelist grappling with language and modern life; very good)

Sexting: Did Martin Cooper Realize He Invented the Grounds for the 'Hotline Bling'?

By Charlotte Verboom and Bee Lydford
Illustration by Matilda Medard



Ever since Martin Cooper brought the very first portable mobile phone on the commercial market back in 1983, mankind has been able to explore new sexually related pursuits (before 1983, the portable phone kind of existed, but then people had to shout 'OVER' to assure each other that the messages were received, and as you can guess, shouting at the end of a dirty conversation isn't very promoting during sexy moments). After years of development, and after a time where annoying calls from "hijgers" (heavy breathers) every Friday night were highly popular, mobile phones were finally fitted with the capability to take photos as well. Through Bluetooth, if the person was close enough, or through MMS, you could now not only send one of your favorite songs to the person you like, but you could also make things a bit spicy by sending that hot mirror selfie of you in your undies (of course, selfie wasn't a common used word back then).

Sexting is a combination of the words sex and texting, and refers to sending sexually related images or text messages to whoever you think is worth sending them to. Sexting in the early 2000s was often related to forced sexual webcam activities of under-aged teenagers by dirty internet freaks, and therefore, it has long had a negative charge. Many police websites still warn people, especially teenagers, to watch out for negative consequences such as sexy photos posted online, and revenge porn. However, ever since Apple invented very useable smartphones in 2007 and many other big brands followed, the use of mobile phones has become more and more popular. The high use of smartphones today and the ease of taking actual selfies (or even belfies) due to the invention of the front-camera has brought along a real photo-season, every season. The Guardian posted that in the year 2014 approximately 1 billion (!) photos were taken by mobile phones, and we guess those weren't only Instagram-proof photos of food, outfits, and your friends.

Okay, so lets admit it, most of us are guilty of sexting once in a while So what? Psychologists say that sexting is a very healthy way of expressing your sexual desires to another, and should in general do no harm (if you know what you are doing and can handle the information with respect) In fact, sexting can be very erotic and thrilling for both couples and people casually seeing each other (thank you, Martin Cooper). If you have a relationship, it is even proved that sexting once in a while can spice up your relation and keep things fresh. However, sexting can also be less fun when you accidently send your belfie (we should maybe explain to you that this refers to a selfie of your ass), or your invite to have a Netflix-and-Chill (see last issue's article) to the wrong people (your dad for example), or when the other person wasn't expecting such detailed information about you. So next time, when you decide to send your crush a hotline bling, here are some general rules to make sure you appear a master in sexting:

1. Know what you are doing. Never try sexting when drunk. Never. Ever.
2. Make sure your pictures cannot be used for harmful purposes on the angry, scary internet (for example, don't show your face along with the underwear shot).
3. Only do it when you 100% want to do it. There is a possibility to block annoying people on Whatsapp and Snapchat, for example.
4. Make sure autocorrect is in your favor. Nothing ruins the moment more than typing mother instead of mouth.
5. Double-check the receiver of the text or image before pressing the send button in order to prevent shocked colleges or parents.
6. And always use protection! (In the case where the sexting has resulted in the desired activity)

Behind Closed Doors

By Naomi Smit
Illustration by Yin Hsieh

November 5, 2012, 10:24

I hated this place. Always have and always will. It is one of misery, sorrow, torture and evil. I smirked; no one actually uses the word 'evil', do they?

No matter, I had waited a long time to see him again, and I wasn't planning on letting myself get in the way. Even if he didn't remember me...

I slowed down as I got to his room, and let my hand rest on the door handle for a few seconds. This is suicide, I thought as I opened the door.

I saw the boy exactly as I expected to see him, sitting in dead silence, perfectly mimicking a statue. He'd climbed on his window still and searched the skyline intensely, not even moving as I entered his room.

"It's considered rude, you know," I standing in the doorway, "Ignoring people."

"It is considered rude to invade someone's privacy," he replied softly.

"Privacy is but a social construct. You have been excluded from society, therefore you have no privacy."

The boy turned his head and looked at me with a blank expression. Until... surprisingly, he started laughing, which changed his appearance entirely. Instead of a threatened animal he looked, well, human.

"Kairin," he said as he slid down and sat on his bed.

"Sorry?"

"Kairin," he repeated, "My name. Sit," he gestured to the small coffee table in front of his bed.

"Pleasure," I said as I walked over and sat down, "Rebecca."

"I do not really receive a lot of guests," he said, tilting his head in curiosity, "And certainly none I have not actually met before." There was a cheeky undertone in his voice.

"I can imagine."

"I am sure you can. So," he leaned forward, "Why are you here, Rebecca?"

"Ehm... research."

"Research?" he asked, raising his eyebrows.

"I suppose one can call it that, yes. Our parents were acquaintances, although you don't remember me. We have met, but that was a long time ago,"

"Our parents, huh," he stared out the window, "My parents... My...parents? My parents are dead?"

"Yes... I know. You have my condolences."

"What? Oh, thanks," he smiled confused and looked back at me, "Anyhow, what is this 'research'?"

"Well, I only said research due to lack of a better word."

"I see," he narrowed his eyes, "Should I worry?"

"Erm, no. I—"

"If you are not here for research, then why?"

"Well, I—"

"Aha! I know! You are here to celebrate my birthday."

"What?"

"My birthday. You know, the day on which you are born? Not

the most intelligent one, are you? Even though it is the best day of the year," he said smiling. He jumped off his bed and came to sit on the floor in front of me, tilting his head slightly and pulling the biggest puppy-eyes I had ever seen, "Will you sing for me?"

I danced down the stairs, and turned around to look at the asylum one more time. After all, there wouldn't be much of a point in going back now. I snickered; William had some guts actually asking me to come to the funeral.

"Friends," I repeated, chuckling to myself as I turned around and started walking towards the open road.

"Sorry to disappoint you, Will, but Kairin has always remained incapable of having such connections. Even with me." I pulled the hoodie of my coat over my head, hiding my smile.

"Are you smart?"

"Sorry?"

"I am asking if you consider yourself smart, though I suppose your reaction suffices as answer" the boy smirked.

"I'm not following?"

Kairin threw himself forward and pushed me on the floor.

"The hell?!" I screamed trying to push him off. He wrapped his hands around my throat and pushed my arms against the floor with his feet.

"You must be really stupid, continuously entering this place. Are you unaware of your current location? Did you miss the sign at the entrance of this prison?" he hissed, "Your kind should never enter places like these. Those who suffer should never be underestimated." He leaned forward and whispered, "Do not become one of them. Stand above it. Listen. Observe. Take it in and keep it with you."

He intrigued me. Sure, he had scared me at times, but never enough to actually keep me from coming back. I'm not even sure if he ever acknowledged me enough for him to make a real effort.

I kneeled next to the riverbank and stared at my reflection in the water.

"You accepted me at some point, didn't you?" I asked, drawing a smiley face in my reflection, "That time after you tried to scare me off." I smiled thinking back to the expression he had after I walked in.

"Tell me about the accident?" I asked, standing in the door opening of his room.

"You came back. Why?" he asked with the most amusing puzzled look on his face.

"Won't you tell me?" I asked kindly.

For a few seconds he merely stared at me. Eyebrows pulled together, eyes unfocussed, head tilted. Then he smiled and gestured to the coffee table in front of his bed again. I hesitated.

"If you are afraid, then why did you come back?" he asked softly, smiling encouraging. How annoying.

"How did you end up here?" I asked after I sad down.

WE ASKED YOU: If you had a secret santa, what would you like him/her to give you?



"I would like to have no pressure at all" - Calvin Smid, 2nd year



"A trip to a site with a volcano" - Gabriella Arntz, 3rd year



"A horse in Flevopark" - Eden Benat, 2nd year



"A Canta car" - Isabelle Cotton, 2nd year



"A time-turner (from the Harry Potter movies)" - Ruby de Hart, 3rd year



"My secret santa needs to give me more pizza" - Stefan Szarek, 2nd year



"I'd really like a 'staafblender' so I can make soup." - Stefan Plug, 2nd year



"A washing machine!" - Tessa Verhees, 2nd year



"I'd want my secret santa to give me eternal happiness" - Vladislav Petkevic, 2nd year