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RESOURCE [EN]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 18 – June 2016 – 10th Volume

The Dreijen vacated

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**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

>> ANDRÉ + MODEL CARS

André Aalten, caretaker in Orion

'But some men don't get it'

André Aalten owns hundreds of cars. Scale models of 1 to 18 or smaller. A fascination with Formula 1 that got a bit out of hand. It started nearly 30 years ago in the time of Prost and Senna. 'And later Jos Verstappen. I've got all his.' The success of Verstappen's son Max has refuelled the passion. No matter that the models cost a couple of hundred euros. What is so nice about them? 'Hard to explain.' His hands slide over a car. 'My wife doesn't get it either.'

© RK / Photo: Guy Ackermans



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SCALE UP!

How do you attract an investor? And how do you put together a good business plan, actually? During National Startup Week, Wageningen UR was among the venues for innovation and interaction around such themes. At F&A Next, representatives of industry, investors and starters got together on the campus. I must confess that beforehand I thought this would just be yet another event. I was wrong. Last weekend I delved into the world of startup companies, and it was quite a revelation. I discovered a whole new world, with a lot of hot air on the one hand, and a lot of opportunities on the other. Investors and companies are eager but don't get started, while starters don't know how and where to promote themselves. Add to that the fact that the food and agro sector is not a shining example of progressiveness. State secretary Van Dam can see this too and is allocating 6 million to shaking things up in the sector. So startups are hot. The start-up building on the campus is full. Build another one next-door and teach students how to sell themselves and what a business plan is. And get a move on – the next jamboree is in four months.

Edwin van Laar



>> **Drinking makes people happy | p.26**

MORE WILDLIFE AT ANIMAL SCIENCES

- Not just cows, pigs and chickens
- New specialization on wild animals

From September, MSc students of Animal Sciences can opt for a new specialization in the ecology of (semi-) wild animals and fish. This is a response to the wishes of students who want to see more wildlife and in-depth animal biology in the degree programme.

The six specializations offered by Animal Sciences to date all largely focus on farm and domestic animals. The two specializations *Animal health & behaviour* and *Animal health management* have been combined to form *Adaptation, health and welfare*, making room for *Animal ecology*.

‘Animal Sciences is stuck with the image of a degree that’s all about cows, pigs and chickens, which gave us the feeling that we lost students to other degree programmes,’ says programme director René Kwakkel. ‘Whereas in fact researchers in Zodiac are increasingly working on fundamental animal biology issues such as the genetic differences between wild and domesticated horse populations. They wanted that to be reflected in the programme.’

Kwakkel found out that only one quarter of the Bachelor’s students at Animal Sciences were solely interested in ‘agricultural production’. The rest have a broader interest in how animals function. Kwakkel: ‘That could be expressed for example in the decision to write a Bachelor’s thesis on exotic animals such as rep-



tiles and rare pet breeds, as well as in the popularity of two minors, *Wildlife biodiversity* and *The Biology of infectious diseases of humans and animals*.’

For Kwakkel this was a reason to make the Master’s programme more forward-looking.

Asked about the career prospects for students taking the new wildlife specialization, Kwakkel says there are various possibilities. ‘Nowadays we link the teaching more strongly with developments in research and that increases students’ job prospects.’ A committee that looks at the job prospects in this field was positive in its evaluation of the changes to the

programme, adds the director.



In the new specialization students can take courses and do their final thesis in the Resource Ecology group, a chair group that studies the ecology of large ruminants in nature reserves, among other topics. Until now this chair group was not involved in the education programme at Animal Sciences. The same goes for the Aquaculture & Fisheries and Marine Animal Ecology chair groups. From next academic year the other specializations will have input from new chair groups too. The next step will be to make changes to the Bachelor’s programme as well.  LvdN



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHHEL

SUBFLOOR

The new sports hall at Sports Centre De Bongerd was fitted with a subfloor earlier this week. At the end of the week a blue floor will be laid over it and provided with lines. The changing rooms, showers, toilets and store cupboards will be finished over the next few weeks and the new hall will be ready on 19 July. The aim is for students and staff to be able to make use of the hall from the start of the new academic year. The new sports hall was originally meant to be ready at the beginning of 2016. The delay was caused by a noise license that was not correct and the laying of gas pipes.  LvdN

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY IN 4TU

- **Collaboration with technical universities**
- **Unis plan to combine high-tech with agrofood**

Wageningen University has joined the 3TU federation, a collaborative alliance of the three Dutch technical universities. This makes it the 4TU federation.

The universities aim to strengthen their interaction with the business world and collaborate in the fields of edu-

cation and research. Wageningen's membership raises the prospects of bringing in the possibility of interesting combinations of high-tech and agrofood, they say.

The boards of the four universities announced their plan to turn 3TU into 4TU in January. The staff-student councils and supervisory boards in Delft, Twente, Eindhoven and Wageningen endorsed this resolution in the spring. The technical universities already have five joint Master's programmes, a teacher-training programme,

nine research centres and a joint data centre. Now that Wageningen University is on board, they intend to explore the possibilities for new joint research programmes. Topics they have in mind include data collection and data analysis for food safety; systems design for the food production chain; simulation of photosynthesis in new materials as an energy source; and the ethical implications of technological innovations. The 4TU federation expects the first joint activities to start in 2017. **AS**

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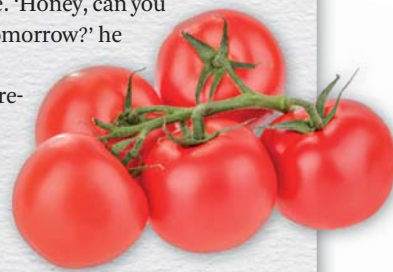
Delicious meal

Reluctantly, I push the pedals. I am off to visit Bas, a university friend with a real job. What am I saying is: with a real life. Bas has a permanent contract, recently starting living with his girlfriend and doesn't work at the weekend. And me? I fritter my time away doing all kinds of statistical tests, live in a shared student house and my relationship broke up a couple of months ago.

It is a spacious apartment. Bas proudly shows me the new bedroom, taking care to explicitly mention the skirting board. 'And the wooden floor wasn't expensive at all.' I yawn surreptitiously. 'And how are you doing?' asks Bas. I swallow. 'Yeah, fine, great,' I stammer. 'Good,' says Bas. Asking probing questions has never been his strong suit.

We continue the tour into the kitchen. Bas opens the fridge. 'Honey, can you buy tomatoes tomorrow?' he calls in a sugary voice. 'Will do,' replies his girlfriend just as sweetly. She always does the grocery shopping on Wednesday.

'So what's your life together actually like?' I ask. 'It's terrific,' says Bas. 'We are together most evenings. I tend to do DIY jobs, she does the housework. My work is going well too, and I can get there by bike.' A long list of organizational facts about their perfect life together follows. 'So everything is ticking along nicely, just as it should,' decides Bas. I am speechless. 'And do you talk about feelings?' I ask after a long silence. Bas looks at me uncomprehendingly. 'Sure,' he says. 'When she's made a really delicious dinner, I always tell her so.' Smiling to myself, I push the pedals. Perhaps my life isn't so bad after all. **©**



in brief

>> FORUM POND Green-blue algae

For a few weeks now, the Forum pond has been looking green and murky. The culprits are potentially dangerous blue-green algae, mainly *Dolichospermum flos-aquae*. According to Edwin Peeters and Miquel Lurling of Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management (AEW), the growth of the algae suggests an excess of fertilizer chemicals in the pond. The cold spring may have played a role in this, as it caused a delay in the growth of aquatic plants which normally compete with the algae for nutrients. The building of the wooden decking on the banks might have contributed too. Blue-green algae can give off toxins which are harmful to humans and animals. Paddling is therefore not advisable at the moment. **DK**

>> OPEN ACCESS From 2020 in the EU

Knowledge is for sharing, think the European ministers of Research and Innovation. So from 2020 all articles by EU scientists will be freely accessible to anyone. The EU ministers reached agreements on this on 27 May in Brussels. They also want to see less emphasis in the academic world on publication and citation scores. More weight should be given to the social value of the research, they believe. In the interests of stimulating the knowledge economy in Europe, the ministers would like to introduce a special start-up visa for entrepreneurs. This would mean they wouldn't have to apply for a separate visa in every member state, making it more attractive to work across borders. **HOP**

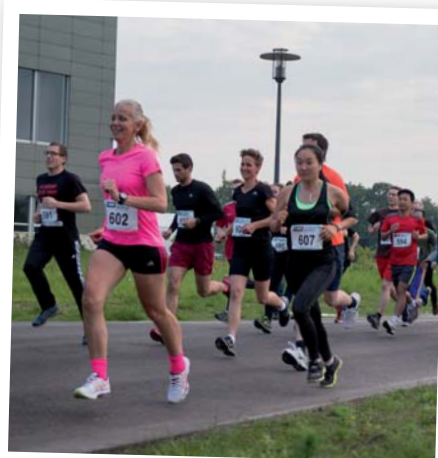


PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

>> RUNNING For a good cause

The first Charity Run took place on the Wageningen campus on 25 May. About 50 runners took part, most of them students and staff of Wageningen UR. The money raised, about 500 euros, went to the Anne van de Ban Fund, which enables students from developing countries to study in Wageningen. The absence of Van den Ban himself was keenly felt: he died last month at the age of 88. **DK**

See the photo series
on resource-online.nl.

Stijn van Gils (28) doet promotieonderzoek naar ecosysteemdiensten in de landbouw. Maandelijks beschrijft hij zijn worsteling met het systeem wetenschap.



WUR COUNCIL INVESTIGATES DELAY WITH WISE

- new student information system postponed
- 'Has the organization learned anything from Kameleon?'

The WUR Council intends to investigate the reasons for the long delay in introducing the new student information system WISE. The council aims to produce a report by the summer vacation.

The introduction of WISE, planned for 12 April, was postponed in March. The system was not thought to be 'totally reliable and stable' yet. Wageningen UR is now considering what the next step should be. 'We are studying various scenarios for still being able to set up a new student information system (SIS),' says Frank Bakema, director of Education, research & innovation. This means taking a 'fresh

look' at the options. These include continuing with the current trajectory, a phased introduction of WISE, or going for an alternative system. Bakema hopes to present the options to the executive board at the beginning of July.

For the WUR Council the delay with WISE brings back memories of the failure of the project management system Kameleon, says Marc Loman, a member of the investigating committee. Wageningen UR abandoned this system in May 2012 because in seven years it had not been possible to adjust the software to the needs of the organization. 'It never became stable and user-friendly,' says Loman. An evaluation report recommended opting in future for 'proven technologies, lower ambitions and safety first'.

The WUR Council wants to find out whether Wageningen UR has really acted on this advice in opting

for WISE. 'We are going to look at the decision-making and the accountability,' says Loman. 'Who decided what and on what basis? Should someone have intervened earlier?' In the coming weeks the four-person committee will ask for the relevant documents and hold discussions with those involved. Loman does not intend to go into the technical side of things. 'That is not up to us and we don't have the right expertise for it either.'

Bakema welcomes the WUR Council's initiative. 'It is very good that the council is investing some effort in this.' Personally, he thinks the insights gained from previous

evaluations have been followed as much as possible. 'But you have to realize that an SIS of this kind lies at the heart of our administration system and that students have a lot of freedom of choice here.' These factors make it impossible to buy an off-the-shelf SIS. **RR**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

MICROCLIMATE ART

Since Monday 23 May there has been a tiny bit of garden in front of Impulse. It is art. Filmmaker Gert-Jan Gerlach and artist Annechien Meier of the Laboratory for Microclimate in the Hague have created the garden of 7 by 7 paving stones to encourage people to 'change their social and ecological environment'. Visitors can picnic there on a cloth they can get inside. Around the edges grow tomatoes, basil and other plants which can transform a dull cheese sandwich into a healthy salad lunch. **RR**

STARHUB WAGENINGEN IS FULL

- More companies coming in than expected
- Number of student members still lags behind

For the first time since its launch one and a half years ago, StartHub Wageningen is full of startup companies – 14 in all. In the so-called incubator for startups, students and PhD candidates at Wageningen University learn to stand on their own feet as entrepreneurs.

'In terms of tenants we are doing better than expected,' says incubator manager Jannet de Jong. It has gone especially fast in the last few months, as in November there were only six small companies renting space in the former Triton building opposite Rikilt. The newcomers are working on vertical indoor gardens and an egg-collecting robot, among other things.

The number of student members who come to get a bit of experience

of entrepreneurship still lags behind expectations, however. There are currently 63 paid-up members but De Jong hopes for more.

StartHub still has to be developed in other areas, including looking for supporters, such as alumni from Wageningen University, and partners – companies that support the startups practically and financially. 'This is often a question of support services such as banks and accountants,' says De Jong. They help the starters and are now hoping for more clients. The idea is that StartHub will eventually bring in enough of an income of its own this way.

On 25 and 26 May, the first edition of F&A Next took place in Wageningen. This is an event at which startups try to attract financiers from the agro sector. Organizer Jan Meiling, managing director of Startlife, hopes this will put Wageningen on the map as a hub of innovation in agrofood. **RR**

FOOD TRUCKS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS

- More frequent vending on Forum square
- Product has to fit campus life and/or mission

Entrepreneurs and organizations are now allowed to ply their 'services, products and information' on the new Forum Square. This is one of the ways in which Facilities & Services hopes to liven up the place.

A stall selling doner kebab, a recruitment point for stem cell donors and a mobile coffee bar. Students and staff have seen all sorts come and go in recent weeks. But what is allowed and what is not?

The main criterion is that what is on offer on the square should be

in line with 'the work and studies being pursued on the campus and/or Wageningen UR's mission'. 'So a company selling spare parts for cars is not in place here, while a demonstration of laboratory equipment is,' says Elike Wijnheijmer, who is in charge of campus planning. Commercial vendors are not allowed to compete with the Wageningen shops either.

The established caterers at Wageningen UR have the first option on selling food and drink on the square. Only if they don't want to offer a particular product is there an opportunity for others. The caterers do not have to consider Wageningen UR's mission, says Wijnheijmer. Students and staff are free to eat what



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

they like, whether it's healthy or not.

The caterers are mainly positive about the development. 'We are in favour of livening things up,' says Ron Nagtegaal, manager at

Cormet. This month he brought a food truck selling homemade fries to the campus. Jeroen van Rosevelt of Good Food Catering (in the Leeuwenborch) is now building a trailer to sell barbecue from. **RR**

'THRILLED TO BITS' WITH F&A NEXT



What did you think of F&A Next yourself?

'We exceeded ourselves. There was an amazing response from both investors and startups. The visitors were impressed by the quality programme and the atmosphere. I'm thrilled to bits.'

What specific results has the event brought?

'I would love to tell you but I can't be more specific than: investor A has made follow-up appointments with seven startups. It will take months before an actual deal is reached; that takes time. These are serious businesses and it's about investments of between 500,000 and five million.'

What next?

'Three of the organizers, Rabobank, Wageningen UR and StartLife, have already committed to continuing to invest energy in this. There will be more events and we want to structure this movement. Around 13 October there will be an event during Dutch Agrofood Week, probably on the Wageningen campus again. That will be a different kind of event: an event like this is something you should only do once a year.'

RR

Who? Jan Meiling, managing director of StartLife

What? Co-organized F&A Next, an event for startups, companies and investors

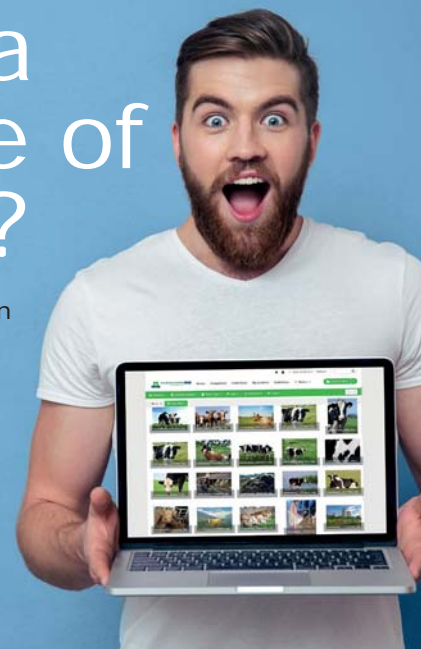
Why? Wants to put Wageningen on the map for agrofood innovatio

See too the article on p. 6.

Need a picture of a cow?

Search the Wageningen UR's Brandportal.

10.000
PHOTOS ALREADY



Log in with your employee's account at www.wageningenurbrandportal.nl



STRENGTH TRAINING SHOULD MAKE SENIORS MORE SELF-RELIANT

- **ProMuscle in Practice starts in September**
- **100 participants will receive training and extra proteins**

Wageningen UR is sending 100 fragile seniors to the weights room. With the help of a protein-rich diet, this should result in increased muscle mass and better health.

After our thirtieth year of life, we lose muscle mass at a rate of 3 to 8 percent every ten years. Initially, these small changes in muscle mass can be easily compensated for by lifestyle adjustments. But as muscle mass and strength decline drastically, the risk of a fall increases and self-reliance diminishes. Consequently, seniors have greater difficulty in living independently and need to ask for help more often.

But the picture could be different. By retaining muscle, seniors are literally firmer on their feet. At least that is the idea behind the ProMuscle in Practice project, which Wageningen UR will be introducing in cooperation with health-care institutions, an insurance company and in-

dustry. As of September, hundreds of seniors living independent lives in the Veluwe region will be doing twelve weeks of strength training. On the menu for them will be extra proteins in the form of dairy products and cakes - supplied free of charge by Friesland Campina and Innopastory. A control group of a hundred seniors will have neither the training nor the extra food.

Twice a week the seniors will train for close on an hour, explains project leader Esmée Doets of Food & Biobased Research. 'Leg muscles, arms, upper body. In small groups and under the guidance of a physiotherapist. In addi-



Decrease in muscle mass among seniors can lead to greater dependence on care services.

tion, a dietician will help them establish how they can increase their protein intake.' Doets says the intention is to have the seniors consume 25-30 grams of protein per main meal. 'Especially at breakfast and lunch they are often consuming less than that.' **© RK**



PHOTO: WILLEM HUIJINK

GREAT HEIGHT

Does an air balloon move at exactly the same speed as the wind? Meteorologist and mountaineer Bert Heusinkveld decided to find out. At a great height he attached a wind meter under the basket of an air balloon. The measurements are part of Cisco de Bruijn's PhD research. De Bruijn works for the KNMI, and he wants to know how you could use an air balloon as a wind meter. Heusinkveld: 'The KNMI has developed an app which shows the position, altitude and speed of every balloon in the air.' Crowdsourcing for balloonists. **© RK**

Watch the video
on resource-online.nl.

FORGOTTEN FODDER CROP GOOD FOR CLIMATE

- **Sainfoin promotes health of cow**
- **Higher milk and lower methane production**

Wageningen researchers have rediscovered a forgotten fodder crop for dairy cattle. This crop causes the cow to produce more milk and less methane.

Sainfoin, or *Onobrychis*, fell out of use in the mid-twentieth century, says livestock feeds expert Wilbert Pellikaan. The health benefits of the leguminous plant were well known before that: sainfoin means healthy hay in French. Cows like the crop and it contains tannins, bioactive substances which improve the digestion of grass in the rumen. Moreover, the tannins have a preventative effect against bloat caused by gas in the rumen, and against worm infestations. An added plus for the environment is that the fodder reduces methane emissions.

Pellikaan has been doing research on this crop in the Animal Feeds chair group for ten years in two European research projects: HealthyHay and LegumePlus. In this context, Vietnamese PhD candidate Nguyen Thi Huyen has been conducting trials with sainfoin over the past few years.

In a limited trial with six cows, Huyen observed that the cows on 'healthy hay' produce nearly 10 percent more milk and 10 percent less methane. 'But the most interesting thing is that the metabolism of the cows adapts,' says Pellikaan. 'The tannins in the crop make the cow deposit more energy in the form of protein and less in fat. That could have a positive effect on the cow's fitness during late lactation, when milk production goes down.'

Pellikaan would like to do further research on more cows, and find out more specifically which tannins have a microbial effect. 'There are different classes of tannin, you see. Within the condensed tannin certain types seem to be effective.'

Sainfoin seems to be of especial interest as an alternative to the fodder crops alfalfa and clover on dairy farms on poorer soils. An advantage is that sainfoin is a leguminous plant which binds nitrogen from the air, so the plant can thrive on soil that has not had much fertilizer.

Pellikaan is currently working with Roselinde Goselink on follow-up research on sainfoin at the Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden. He wants to find out whether dairy cows really have a preference for sainfoin or prefer raw fodder without the unfamiliar crop. **AS**



PHOTO: WILBERT PELLIKAAN

A Wageningen trial field planted with sainfoin.

VISION <<

'Biggest risk from rats is fire'



They inhabit blocks of flats in north Amsterdam, you practically trip over them on the Kanaleneiland in Utrecht and the Albert Heijn in Valkenswaard had to close for a while because of them. Rats are a pest in Dutch cities. According to Bastiaan Meerburg, rodent expert at Livestock and Environment, there are things we can do about it.

How dangerous are all those city rats?

'What most Dutch people are afraid of is that rats spread pathogens. But the biggest risk is fire because they gnaw through electric cables. The risk of disease is greater in developing countries because there is more contact between people and rats on the streets.'

But a rat in a supermarket is pretty close too isn't it?

'That's why the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority made the AH do such a thorough cleanup. A supermarket only has to leave a container of unsold bread half open, and it could spark off a plague of rats.'

Do you expect a rat plague in Wageningen?

'Rats live close to humans so it's possible. But we can reduce the risks by not throwing food waste onto the streets. And don't feed ducks because then there's a big chance that a rat will enjoy some of the bread too. You get a big plague of rats if the sewers collapse because the rats go in search of other hiding places. If you see rats frequently, call the municipality because they have a legal obligation to prevent rat plagues.'

How do we prevent rats getting into our houses?

'Seal cracks and don't leave doors and windows open unnecessarily. Above all, don't leave leftover food lying around. If they are already in your neighbourhood you can set rat traps. Use peanut butter as bait because that gives off a strong smell that stands out from the rest of the surroundings. You sometimes have to leave those traps for a couple of weeks before a rat bites. Because rats are very cautious, unlike mice, which love anything new.' **DdV**



FIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT NANOFOOD

Nanofood is a buzzword with great potential. It promises healthier, smarter and tastier food. But the term also causes some confusion. For example, many consumers do not know exactly what it means and what this food actually contains. Five questions about the food of the future.

1. WHAT IS NANOFOOD?

'That is the wrong question,' thinks Frans Kampers, coordinator at the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group (AFSG), 'because all our food has a nanostructure. At the nano dimension, we mean structures ranging in size from 1 to 100 nanometres. To give you an idea how small that is, your nails grow at roughly 1 nanometre per second.' Kampers believes the term 'nanofood' should be reserved for created structures that do not fall apart in the body. 'Coffee creamer is an example. Normally this powder would form lumps, but thanks to a 'layer of crumbs' made of nano-sized silica particles it doesn't.'

2. IS NANOFOOD SAFE?

'You need to make a distinction between nanoparticles that break down in the body into the chemical components from which they are built, and what are known as 'persistent particles' that retain their nanostructure. If nanoparticles remain intact in your body, this can have unpredictable results, over both the long and short term. This is because nanoparticles are often more reactive.' From decades of use, we know that the nanosilica in coffee creamer is harmless, says Kampers. But the safety of new persistent nanoparticles should be demonstrated before a manufacturer can use them in any kind of food.

3. CAN YOU GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF NANOFOODS PEOPLE HAVE MADE?

'On the one hand you have synthetic nanostructures such as those being developed by Atze-Jan van der Goot for use in meat substitutes. He uses vegetable proteins to simulate the long meat fibres. On the other hand, you have synthetic nanoparticles that are often used to wrap up, as it were, certain substances. Iron or the fatty acids found in fish, for example, have an unpleasant taste. If you wrap them up, you don't taste them in your mouth and the payload is released only once it reaches the gastrointestinal tract. And Karin Schroën has developed a nanoscale emulsion



Coffee creamer does not coagulate thanks to a layer of nanoparticles.

technology that makes it possible to replace some of the oil in a oil droplet with water. This means you can make nanonaise with less fat.'

4. IS NANOTECHNOLOGY IN FOOD GOOD FOR US?

'Yes, I am convinced it is. To make enriched foods for certain people with deficiencies, like sick seniors, you need nanotechnology. And without nanotechnology you can't make good meat substitutes that are like the real thing.' But if we eat a greener diet with lots of vegetables and fruit, don't we achieve the same thing? 'If everyone ate their five portions a day, we wouldn't need this technology. But people don't, and then nanotechnology can help.'

5. DO PEOPLE KNOW WHAT NANOFOOD IS?

'I don't think so,' replies Hedwig te Molder, professor of Strategic Communication at Wa-

geningen University. 'And this question is usually asked before proceeding to: Are they scared of it? Which brings us to one of the problems pertaining to technological development in food production: debate on the subject almost exclusively concerns the risks and benefits of a single piece of technology, like nanotechnology or genetic modification. While consumers have completely different questions about food. They find, for example, the industrialization of food production an important theme, and the taste of food - not to mention the fickle nature of scientific knowledge.' **© DdV**

Last week's Science Café Wageningen discussed nanotechnology and food. The theme of the next meeting, on 23 June, will be behavioural economics



This plant-based meat substitute created by Food Process Engineering resembles real meat, complete with stringy fibres.

A positive word about the bus lane from a Wageningen UR employee unleashed a strong reaction in a caustic letter. Post your opinion on resource-online.nl or email resource@wur.nl

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

BUS LANE BLUES

The rating of the accessibility of Wageningen's campus has improved slightly in the National Student Survey. Henk Vegter, head of the Quality & Strategic Information department, believes this is due to the bus lane. 'Students can now get off at Forum.'

It's a tiny improvement in the rating, responds Tim Heusschen in an open letter to Vegter, sent to Resource. Moreover, he says, 'In my opinion the bus lane is the dumbest of all the dumb things Wageningen UR has done recently, and this is why:

- There is no improvement at all in the journey time to Forum. It is just as quick to get off at Droef and walk to Forum as it is to stay on the bus till the next stop and then walk. And I don't think a single university building derives any benefit from this new, randomly sited campus bus stop.
- The bus lane cost a fortune. Which could have simply been thrown in the Forum pond, or, amazing thought, could have been spent on something useful.
- It has only made the rush-hour jams on the main road to Ede even worse, thanks to the traffic light where the bus lane leaves the campus.
- It creates dangerous situations on campus, where fast-moving buses meet a torrent of cyclists at every crossing. It is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs.
- It takes a huge amount of space. Over a kilometre of gleaming asphalt, two-lanes wide, that a bus drives over once every half hour. A huge waste of space, and the lost green space that had to make way for it is a crying shame. The campus already had a tangle of roads and



paths, without any clear plan or direction, and that has only become worse.

- For Hoevestein, Bornsesteeg and all the residents in the neighbourhood between, accessibility has definitely declined.
- And to add insult to injury, the bus line will have to be radically changed if the plan to widen the last part of the Mansholtlaan goes ahead.' ?

VESTE FLAGS

There was a real choice in this year's Student Council elections and the parties campaigned eagerly. Good news for academic democracy, you'd say. But the hardened debater will always find something to criticize.

Pijnlijk starts off with a quote from Veste council member Bram Kerssemakers: 'We are keen to show what we stand for.' And follows this with: 'And that is: advertising, beer and flags. Hooray.' The irony is catching it seems because Gènant smoothly takes over the baton with, 'That's how promotion works, don't you know? First gain attention, then draw attention to points. And for something as invisible as the Student Council I

completely understand that you need to make a song and dance.' Student meanwhile is annoyed by 'all those pushy candidates'. 'Hopefully 'no/no stickers' will be invented next year so that people who have already voted or aren't interested, can be left in peace as they walk around in the Forum.' LdK

The results of the Student Council elections are published on pp. 26.




THE DREIJEN GHOST CITY



The Dreijen has become a ghost city. Abandoned buildings echo an – all but – bygone era. But deserted premises have their charms as well, as photographer Margriet van Vianen shows in her shots of the Dreijen.

text Roelof Kleis *photos* Margriet van Vianen

With the departure of the last scientists, the end has come for Wageningen's other campus. Not that the Dreijen was ever a real campus. Unlike Duijendaal, no one ever lived at the Dreijen. Nor did the intended concentration of research and teaching on the site on the hill every really get off the ground.

The oldest building at the Dreijen, the National Horticulture School (aka the building with the clock), dates back to 1896. The heart of the Dreijen took shape in the 1960s and 70s. The Chemistry Building was completed in 1961. It was followed by the Transitorium (1971), the Mathematics Building (1972) and the Biotechnion (1974). The latter is awaiting demolition. The Chemistry Building will be used for teaching from September. 





'I WON'T SHED A TEAR ABOUT IT'



He was 20, and straight from vocational technical college, and he actually wanted to go into military service. But

Richard van der Vlies (born in Lunteren in 1963) didn't pass the test. A job centre called Start found him a place at the Agricultural College in Wageningen. 'Wageningen? I had played football there once or twice.'

He ended up in the workshop on the Dreijen. 'Mending little things, doing odd jobs. I enjoyed it.' After four years he landed a permanent post, and a bit later he moved to 'the TIB', doing technical maintenance management. 'I wanted to see more than just the workshop.' The TIB managed the upkeep of all the university buildings in Wageningen.

Throughout all those years, Van der Vlies cycled between his home in Lunteren and Wageningen. Fifteen kilometres each way, regardless of the weather. 'I don't care about that. On the bike ride you can get it all out of your system.' And of course he sometimes thought about a change of job. 'In periods when they talked about outsourcing the maintenance work. But I enjoy my work here. No two days are the same and the technical side of the work is right up my street. And I have quite a lot of freedom to organize the work the way I want to.'

For two years now Van der Vlies has been the technical man at the Forum. Feelings about the Dreijen? 'I shan't shed a tear if it is flattened. You can grumble all you like but it doesn't help. And in recent years it was becoming a bit of a dead end.'



NICER AT THE DREIJE

With no exaggeration, you could call Hans Lyklema a diehard. At 85, the emeritus professor of Physical and Colloid Chemistry still cycles to work daily. Until a week and a half ago, that was the Dreijen. He became professor there at 31, in September 1962. He'd been invited a couple of years before that, as a fresh PhD graduate in Utrecht. 'That's how it went in those days. You didn't apply, you were invited.' But he took a year out first to 'ripen' as guest professor at the University of Southern California. After that, his first job was also his last. He retired officially at the end of 1995.

The Dreijen was a great place to work, says Lyklema. 'I came from Utrecht, where I had done my Master's and my PhD. There I worked in a 1902 laboratory.' He applauds the spacious buildings and facilities that awaited him in Wageningen. 'The Chemistry Building was modern and very functional. With generous rooms, some of them with vibration-proof tables, a basement with lots of storage space, plenty of parking space and botanical gardens around it. I always enjoyed working there.'

If it was up to Lyklema, they would have stayed at the Dreijen. 'Even though the hill got higher and higher as time went by.' Space is in short supply in Helix. He couldn't take his archive cupboard along, for example. But he's not complaining. Even at the Dreijen, 'the conscience of the chair group' had to share a room nowadays. He adds with gentle self-deprecation: 'I am still tolerated.'



Exterior view of the building




Interior view of the room



You can view a series of historic photographs of the Dreijen on resource-online.nl.



COWS

He and his little brother and sister got to press a button as the cameras flashed. Now he must entertain himself while his parents stand in the barn talking about cows. And talking... The symbolic opening of the Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden on 26 May was conducted by State Secretary Martijn van Dam – with the help of the three young farmers of course. Van Dam stressed the importance of innovation. He hopes, for example, that the Dairy Campus will find out how you can stimulate cows to walk outside more. He also argues for nature-inclusive, field bird-friendly agriculture.  AS, photo Keen van de Veen

Read the whole story
on resource-online.nl.



The bee as bio-informer

While out gathering food, bees also collect all sorts of other things in their coat and on their feet. These samples can be used to trace, say, toxins or bacteria. Bee man Sjef van der Steen earned his PhD by studying this form of ‘crowdsourcing’.

text Roelof Kleis photos Sjef van der Steen en Guy Ackermans

Changes in the environment leave their mark. Theoretically, if you can ‘read’ these marks, you have a measuring instrument. Biomonitoring is the discipline that uses living organisms to read these signs of the time. In recent years, bee researcher Sjef van der Steen has specialized in figuring out how ‘the bee colony can best be used in the study of plant pathogens and various forms of contamination’.

Beehold is the short and snappy title of his doctoral thesis. This play on words (‘behold’) refers to Van der Steen’s most important invention: the Beehold Tube.

There are two ways you can use bees to sample the environment, explains Van der Steen. ‘You can remove a bee from the colony, kill it and analyze it. But that influences the colony’s behaviour and the distribution of work and, thus, the sampling.’ As Van der Steen much prefers to leave the colony in peace and harm no bees, he has developed a tube that enables him to take samples without the bee having to die.

The principle is both simple and ingenious and capitalizes on the fact that bees enter and leave the hive by different routes. Only the approach route is relevant to the sampling process. Van der Steen uses polystyrene to seal off the landing board and installs a tube in its place. Measuring a few centimetres in diameter, the tube is lined with polyethylene glycol. This is not toxic and at room temperature is a little sticky. This tacky layer is the vital element. As it passes through, the bee loses some of its load. ‘So what I’m actually doing is stripping them down,’ says Van der Steen. ‘They walk along a hallway and wipe their feet. Between 1 and 10 percent of their load remains in the tube.’

FIRE BLIGHT

And it works. Sometimes. The best example is an experiment that Van der Steen did last year at a strawberry grower’s farm in the village of Made in Brabant. *Erwinia pyrifoliae* presents severe problems for fruit growers. It is a bacterium that infects the flower and does great damage to strawberries cultivated under glass. In this type of cultivation bees are used to pollinate the crop. With these same bees and his Beehold Tube, Van der Steen demonstrated the presence of the bacterium before the first signs of the disease could be seen in the flowers. ‘That was the *proof of principle* that you can combine pollination and biomonitoring.’

As it happens, a few years earlier, a similar field test in Austria had ‘failed’. There, Van der Steen was trying to demonstrate the presence of the notorious fire blight. Fire blight is caused by *Erwinia amylovora*. ‘There turned out to be no fire blight that year. That can happen too. Failed tests are also part and parcel of a PhD thesis. But I was able to demonstrate the efficacy of the sampling. I could see from the samples exactly what percentage of the bees had flown to flowers and what percentage had not.’

In an experiment in Bitterfeld, in the German federal state of Saxony-Anhalt, Van der Steen tried to use his informer bees to demonstrate soil contamination. ‘During the German Democratic Republic era, this was one of the world’s most polluted regions. From 1951 to 1982 the pesticide lindane was produced here. The chemical waste was buried or dumped in abandoned mine shafts. After the reunification of Germany, the area was remediated but the clean-up was far from thorough. In some places the subsurface is still heavily polluted.’ By way of



Bees enter their hive box through the Beehold Tubes, which are lined with wax. They can leave the hive through the unlined tubes.

the groundwater and soil erosion, some of this pollution gets into the atmosphere. And onto flowers.

Van der Steen was not able to demonstrate this contamination by using his bees. 'It is there but the concentration on the flowers was too low or the tube's sorption capability was insufficient to reveal the lindane.'

Q FEVER

Beesourcing has obvious advantages, says Van der Steen. 'Bee colonies are found all over the world. Many developing countries lack the infrastructure needed to monitor the environment. Using a bee colony gives you a quick indication of a contamination or a pathogen. In theory, bees form a global sampling network. In addition, the little tube is easy to replace. It doesn't require any training. Then the tubes can be sent to a lab for analysis. It is a lot more troublesome to send a dead bee.'


Van der Steen sees plenty of scope for his method. He is closely involved in a project run by Naturalis and Wageningen UR that is keeping an eye on the health of bee colonies in the Netherlands. 'I organize the sampling done by the beekeepers. It would be nice to involve the Beehold Tube in that.' But the technique has much

TOUCH AND GO

At the age of 64, Sjeff van der Steen is no average PhD graduate. Having completed a higher vocation qualification in medical microbiology, he started work in 1975 as an analyst at De Ambrosiushoeve, the experimental bee farm in Hilvarenbeek. This eventually became part of Wageningen UR and the bee research transferred to Wageningen. 'In 2000 I resumed my academic career by studying environmental science at the Netherlands' Open University.' Once he had finished that, however, Van der Steen was involved in a serious traffic accident. It was touch and go for a while. 'I only pulled through thanks to the specialists.' It was an experience that left its mark. 'I thought, now I have to get the most out of myself. And that turned out to mean getting a doctoral degree.'



greater potential. 'It is a dream of mine to use bees to track human pathogens. How are they spread and how can you use bees to reveal that? Coming from the province of Brabant as I do, Q fever naturally springs to mind.'

In addition, Van der Steen also emphasizes that the method has its limits. 'Bee colonies can give a clear signal but, by its very nature, this method is not able to provide quantitative measurements. Bees pass by 'by chance'. The standardization necessary for quantitative measurements is not yet possible. This is why the Beehold Tube is a signalling instrument, not a measuring instrument.' 

Normal life

Don't put Syrian refugees into big camps but give them a Visa card to buy food with and let them live as normal a life as possible. That is the advice of professor of Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction Thea Hilhorst, just back from a tour of the Middle East.

text Albert Sikkema photos Thea Hilhorst and Hans van Rhoon

Many Syrian refugees are trapped with nowhere to go, observes Thea Hilhorst after a visit to Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The latter two countries have closed their borders with Syria. 'In the border zone between Syria and Jordan there are 50,000 refugees caught in a no-man's-land. Every day relief workers drive into this border zone with goods, while the refugees are being shot at. It's the same story in the border zone between Syria and Turkey. Only the border with Lebanon is porous.'

Hilhorst, currently part-time professor at Wageningen and Rotterdam, travelled around Syria's neighbouring countries and Greece for three weeks. Last week the first UN world summit on humanitarian aid was held in Istanbul. Hilhorst wanted to get a picture of the refugee crisis in advance of the conference.

There are already more than 1.5 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, which has a population of 4.5 million. Hilhorst: 'There are refugees everywhere, and there are Syrians working in all the cafes and restaurants. Lebanon doesn't want

any refugee camps officially but there are still Palestinian camps and a lot of Syrians end up there. The camp in Saida has grown from 70,000 to 110,000 people on an area of 1.1 square kilometres. There are 15 militias there that are at war with each other. According to my guide in the camp, you get a room there if you offer a son to the militia. He then goes off to fight in Syria or wage jihad in Europe. Refugees could bring in terrorism – we should realize that.'

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

But the majority of refugees in Lebanon are not in camps. They are living in informal settlements on farmers' land, where they set up a tent on a patch of ground and earn a bit of money in agriculture and horticulture. Or they club together to rent a house and look for black-market work. Most refugees are self-sufficient. Until they have used up their savings and hire a people-smuggler to get them to Europe. 'The Lebanese economy was already based on the presence of refugees but tensions have arisen now because the Syrians are

squeezing less educated Lebanese out of the job market.'

In Jordan and Turkey too, no more than 10 percent of the refugees are in big camps. Hilhorst visited a family in the Turkish city of Izmir. 'Nine of them – two men, two women and five children – are living in two rooms. One of the men makes handbags and earns 500 dollars a month, half of which goes on rent. The other man has a slipped disc and needs looking after. They can't quite make ends meet and they get some things from a relief organization that visits them regularly. It is often better not to live in a camp. But then the country should register its refugees so they get legal protection and can go to school and hospital.'

REGISTRATION

Hilhorst saw a new development in Lebanon. 'Some of the refugees are given a kind of Visa card which they can only use in supermarkets to buy food. That card is paid for by the UN refugee organization UNHCR. This wouldn't have been possible ten years ago, but it is now,

On her tour of the Middle East, Thea Hilhorst talked to refugees in camp Idomeni in Greece, camp Saida in Lebanon and in an ordinary home in Izmir, in Turkey.





Syrian children at play in the Tarlabasi neighbourhood of Istanbul, Turkey.

‘Treat refugees as normally as possible and help them to help themselves’

thanks to technological innovation. Registration is a condition for this as well, to prevent refugees from signing up to get a card at four different places.’

The Visa card supports the system of small-scale provision for refugees, which Hilhorst sees as preferable to large-scale camps. ‘You see the same thing in the Netherlands. The large-scale accommodation leads to hassles and protest, while one house for refugees in a street is not a problem and leads to neighbours helping out. That’s what you see in Lebanon and Jordan too, where there are community centres where many refugees can come with their problems and get advice or be referred to the appropriate organizations.’

So Hilhorst’s recommendation is: ‘Treat refugees as normally as possible and help them to help themselves. That means good registration, legal protection, access to health care and education, and financial support. Sadly, this is lacking in more and more places at the moment.’ ⁸

HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Thea Hilhorst attended the first Humanitarian Summit of the United Nations in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May. What she found most interesting was the consultation between the mayors of big cities in Europe. ‘You notice that they are far more open to providing well for refugees than their national governments are.’ She was also impressed by the consultations between the 15 largest donors, called the Grand Bargain. The 15 countries, which include the Netherlands, the US, Germany and France, agreed to give aid organizations longer contracts and to use at least 20 percent of the budget for local aid organizations. ‘They are often better and cheaper.’

One disappointment was that the UN was not willing to discuss its own role. ‘There is a lot of criticism of refugee policy. The UN controls the spending and does some of the implementation itself. Whereas what you really need is independent testing. This criticism was at the top of the declaration drawn up by aid organizations last year at the Dutch Humanitarian Summit. But it seems the UN isn’t keen to discuss its own performance.’

LATE SHIFT

While students of Wageningen University are waging war on evening lectures in good old-fashioned style – passionately and in large numbers – lecturers, PhD candidates and other employees are keeping remarkably quiet on the subject. How do they feel about the prospect of working in the evening?

text Nicole Janssen, Django Kaasschieter and Liza van Kapel illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

Edwin Peeters



Associate professor (personal chair) at Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management

'I am not against the introduction of evening lectures per se, but I do think it has a number of drawbacks.

The working day for students and lecturers will be lengthened, which may impinge on evening activities, such as sports. I also think the introduction of evening lectures will cause work and free time to become increasingly interwoven. **All sorts of daytime commitments often make it far from easy to compensate for evening hours worked.** So in my view, this certainly won't be a good move in terms of the work pressure on both lecturers and students. It raises the question of where you draw the line. Will we soon be giving lectures in the weekend as well?'

Iris de Winter



PhD candidate at the Resource Ecology Group

'I understand that the growing number of students is causing a shortage of teaching rooms and personally I think it is a good solution to introduce a limited number of evening lectures. For me, as a PhD candidate, it means that I can be asked to teach on courses timetabled for the evening. This is not a problem for me personally. **In fact, I like having a couple of hours off in the daytime, especially in winter when the days are short.** However, we should take care that

the total number of taught hours on any given day doesn't become too high; students have to remain able to take in the subject matter. And we will certainly have to consider alternatives to evening lectures, such as better timetabling, the use of other buildings and staggering the lecture breaks. The university could also choose not to timetable any compulsory lectures in the evening and to record the lectures so that students with other commitments can view them at another time.'

Jaspen van Ruijven



Assistant professor at Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation

'As a temporary solution, I don't think the evening lectures are a bad thing. There is a shortage of teaching rooms at present. Hurriedly throwing up new buildings only to realize a

few years later that premises are vacant doesn't seem like a sensible option. But the evening lectures must not be introduced permanently, that would create too many problems for both students and staff. **As a lecturer you do work in the evenings, but that is a flexible arrangement and your own choice. Being tied to a timetable in the evenings is a different matter entirely.** You should be aware of what you are asking of lecturers. Evening lectures impose an extra obligation. We have enrolled in the pilot - with the course Ecological aspects of bio-interactions - because we want to find out for ourselves what it is like to have evening lectures. We can look at attendance figures, too. That will give us good arguments to use when evening lectures are debated.'



Annemarie de Vries



Site manager Orion

'I think the pilot of evening lectures is a good thing. **I see a lot of vacant space in the buildings in the evenings, so it is good to make more use of that.**

In addition, it provides opportunities for the staff because some people may find that working in the evening is actually easier to combine with their family. We will need to take on some new staff, and that too will raise possibilities. Orion will be used in the pilot on Monday evenings to meet the need for large lecture halls. On that day the building will remain open longer than usual, until 9 p.m. But I do think it is good to run this first as a pilot, so that it can be evaluated afterwards; I can understand that students and lecturers have objections.'

Lieke Melsen



PhD candidate at Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management

'Actually I don't know much about this development: as a PhD candidate you are on the outside edge of everything and I'm not doing a course that is involved in the pilot.

Personally, I wouldn't mind having to teach a practical course, say, one evening a week for a period of time. I al-


ready work in the evening sometimes or I am away on an excursion. But it must be kept within limits: I would be less happy were it to involve more evenings or a longer period of time. **I do wonder whether it is a good idea for lecturers. Many of them have families and are less flexible.** I also wonder whether the students' attention won't be flagging by then.'

Peter de Jong



Assistant professor at Entomology

'I would not like to have to teach in the evening on a regular and permanent basis.

In the evening there are other activities that cannot be done during the day. In my case, that chiefly means my family life with two young children. I think most employees would find the evening lectures less of a problem if their frequency was such that it was easy to plan around them. After all, I already work in the evening sometimes. If evening lectures became the rule rather than the exception, however, that would be a problem. Actually, I don't think the pilot is the best way to find out whether evening lectures are a good option. I think that a good, extensive and nuanced survey would provide more and more valuable information. For me, the frequency and intensity of evening lectures are important factors. It is debatable how representative the pilot will be in these respects.' 

SHINY NEW CARS



Rattling secondhand old bangers. That's what you expect to see students driving, if they own a car at all. And yet there are a remarkable number of shiny new cars on the carparks of Idealis complexes. Whose are they? And how do their owners manage it?

text Carina Nieuwenweg photo Sven Menschel en Remo Wormmeester

DOMINIQUE MEIJER

Bachelor's student of Biotechnology

Toyota Prius, year of manufacture 2012

'My parents travel a lot and are not often in the Netherlands. Because both my grandmothers live far away, my parents wanted someone to be

able to get there quickly if there are problems. So my sister and I share a car but because my sister lives in the middle of Utrecht, the Prius is parked here. My parents bought the car and I pay for the insurance, tax and fuel. I like that: because I pay for the fuel myself I think about whether to take the car. I always go to the uni by bike, for instance, whereas I do know other students who just go by car.

At first I had a Toyota Aygo, but then there was a special offer and it didn't cost much to trade the Aygo in. The Prius is very economical and is in the lowest tax bracket. And my parents like the idea of it, as the Prius is a lot safer. I really like the car. Because it's got a spacious boot, my friends often borrow it too. But some people do laugh at me a bit for driving a Prius: its image is that of a respectable Granddad car. But I've had two warnings for aggressing driving.'



NICOLE JANSSEN

Just graduated with an MSc in Biology
Nissan Pixo, year of manufacture 2010

'I come from Limburg and I did my Bachelor's in Hasselt in Belgium. My parents bought me a car then because I had to drive to the university every day. It just wasn't doable by public transport. They bought a new Nissan Pixo – new because a car with servicing and a guarantee was a better deal. After my Bachelor's I started on the Master's in Biology in Wageningen. We briefly considered selling the car but we didn't stand to gain much by doing so.

My parents pay the road tax and the insurance and I buy the fuel. I could afford that from my grant, given that I often car-pooled so I could share the fuel costs. For all shorter distances I go by bike. Altogether I spent about 50 euros a month on fuel. Now my boyfriend and I have bought the car off my parents. I am very pleased with the Pixo. It's very economical and I haven't had any breakdowns up to now. Only a puncture caused by a nail, and a scratch on the mirror. I was annoyed about that because I look after my car. When I have to park it somewhere I like to park next to an expensive new car. The chances of a dent are smaller if you do that.'



CARIANNE ZEGERS

Bachelor's student of Business and Consumer Science
Ford Fiesta, year of manufacture 2013

'My parents first bought the Ford Fiesta as a company car. Already back then I often drove it, to go to Wageningen from my home in Elst for instance. I bought it off them when I got a fulltime job during my Bachelor's. I was working part-time for a recruitment agency but later I was offered a permanent contract as project manager. Great of course, just to roll into a fixed contract from a part-time job. But there wasn't a car available in the company for a junior employee, even though I needed transport to travel to clients and staff. You can't get everywhere by public transport and it makes it difficult to plan things efficiently. I've almost finished my Bachelor's now. I've just got to hand in one more report and I'll have all the points I need. I get some funny looks from students because I've got a car, but I've never had any unfriendly reactions. And it's often quite useful: when we go out I'm usually the driver and don't drink.

After six months, I took public transport for the first time to go to a concert in Amsterdam with my sister, and we had a delay of three hours. Then I thought how nice it is always to have a car at your disposal.'



BIODIVERSITY

Peace in Colombia is good for biodiversity on the planet. Scientists expect to discover countless new species. The jungle of Colombia is seen as one of the most species-rich places in the world, but because of the civil war, research has been at a standstill for half a century. Now there are already 22 government-run research expeditions in the pipeline. First get peace established though.

MULTIMEDIATASKING

Watching TV and playing with your phone at the same time is bad for your grades, shows a study by the University of Toronto. Media multitaskers have a poorer working memory and are more impulsive. The researchers do make one caveat. The media behaviour could be an effect of a poorer working memory and impulsiveness. Chicken and egg, then.



HAPPINESS (1)

Drinking makes us happier, suggests Mappiness, the English precursor to Alterra's HappyHier app. People use the app to communicate how happy they feel, what they are doing and who they are doing it with, at various times. When people are drinking their happiness score is 10 points higher on average on a scale from 1 to 100, discovered researchers at the London School of Economics. But isn't that chicken and egg too?

HAPPINESS (2)

In other words, might we start drinking when we feel happy? The researchers don't think so. Corrected for the activities people engage in and the company they keep, alcohol still seems to make them significantly happier. The effect is bigger if we drink when doing something we dislike than when we are pleasantly engaged. So a warning from the researchers is in place: the effect is not linear. Or, in the word of the Dutch government warning: Enjoy, but drink in moderation.



The candidates wait nervously for Tiny van Boekel, Director of the Educational Institute, to announce the results.

Extra seat for VeSte

Student party VeSte won one seat off CSF in the Student Council election. S&I remained unchanged. Director of the Educational Institute Tiny van Boekel announced the results Monday lunchtime in the Forum.

Next academic year, VeSte will have eight seats in the Student Council, Sustainability & Internationalization (S&I) three seats and the Christian student party (CSF) one. At 39.6 percent, the turnout was higher than the 35 percent recorded in the previous two years.

Karlijn Hendriks, who headed the VeSte list, is 'really pleased' with the result. 'We did everything we could and worked incredibly hard. During the campaign, we spent all day promoting ourselves, from 7 am to 9 pm.' Hendriks thinks the main reason for the higher turnout is the increased visibility of the campaign; the student parties were a prominent presence in Forum in particular during the past week.

It is a disappointing result for CSF. 'This is a blow,' says Wiard

Ligterink, a CSF member in the current Student Council. 'One seat — that's not good news.' He suspects that a Christian party like CSF has a loyal, stable group of supporters but does not appeal to many students outside that group. The growing student population and higher turnout this year means that this 'natural' group of supporters translates into fewer seats.

The third student party, S&I, has mixed feelings. 'I'm pleased we kept our three seats,' says Wei Xiong, who headed the S&I list. 'But we're aiming higher than

that. Also, more seats would let us have more of an impact on the university's policy.'

VeSte's Antonella van Osna-brugge was the only candidate further down a list who was able to win a seat in her own right. The student, who is a member of student society Ceres and rowing club Argo and was on the board of study association Nitocra last year, received 468 preference votes. In fact she would have gained a place on the council anyway as one of the candidates above her on the list withdrew just before the elections. **RR**



The VeSte candidates are delighted.

PHOTO'S: REMO WORMMEESTER

'Loan system itself is not the problem'

If you give young people decent information about student loans, they won't be afraid to go to university, says Mary Tupan-Wenno of expertise centre ECHO. Not even if they come from a poor family.

Fewer Dutch people enrolled at a university this academic year. The drop was biggest in students without graduate parents. Some people blame this on the abolition of the basic grant but Tupan-Wenno disagrees. 'What is really holding students back is the lack of information about the loan system,' she says to Rotterdam University's *Erasmus Magazine*. 'In the Netherlands, the emphasis is on the disadvantages of taking out a loan whereas you should be talking about the opportunities that a degree gives you.' **HOP**

Students get chance to make campus greener

Green Office Wageningen wants to give students the chance to make the campus more sustainable. The organization has set up Green Match to match students to 'green' projects on campus.

Milan Cevik, educational coordinator for the Green Office, says that the first project concerns the cooling system in Zodiac, which currently consumes a lot of energy. Students are being challenged to come up with a more sustainable alternative. The office is looking for students who want to devote their internship or thesis to the problem.

Ideas for projects are supposed to come from students who have a plan for improving the campus, or from Facilities and Services. But external clients can also offer assignments. Any project that helps the university become more sustainable will be eligible for Green Match, and the office will circulate these projects among chair groups and students. The aim is to provide projects for theses, internships, Academic Consultancy Training and other courses that need 'real' projects for teaching purposes. Cevik: 'In this way, we can get students more involved in the campus and they can have a genuine influence on what the campus looks like.' **IK**



Text
Rob
Ramaker



EPISODE 72 MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

The story so far: Despite her timid nature, Bianca wants to go abroad. Her kiss with housemate Filippo further complicates the matter

Talking

As soon as she started talking, Bianca felt the tears welling up. 'Why am I such a scaredy cat?' she asked sobbing. She was sitting next to Ellen on the IKEA sofa. Their cups of tea were going cold. In the past few years half her circle of friends had taken off, venturing all over the world to do voluntary work, burrowing into termite mounds or counting bloody birds in bloody Borneo. All of them fearless and sure of themselves. She only had to send off a job application and she was a blubbing mess. Why was that?

'Do you think I put all my crying fits in my blog?' retorted Ellen. 'We all put on a brave face when we are abroad. You only hear the Facebook version.'

'But I haven't even left here and I'm already panicking.'

'Sweetie, if it didn't give you butterflies in your stomach, why would you even be going?'

Bianca composed herself. She hadn't even told Ellen about Filippo. The kiss. It made everything even more complicated. What would it mean if she went away for a couple of months right now? Or if she stayed? She had not seen Filippo on his own yet and on the app she was being evasive. 'We really need to talk soon' was her mantra. She was playing for time; she had no idea what she wanted to say. 'You have to ditch this train of thought,' said Ellen. 'We don't even know for certain whether you're going. And once you can, you'll still have to arrange a room and flights. When that's all done, you have my permission to run around like a headless chicken, panicking all you like.' Bianca laughed involuntarily.

'Okay, and now I want to hear the latest KSV gossip,' said Ellen firmly. She made some fresh tea and Bianca felt her mood lightening.

A little while later, as she was getting on her bike, she heard her phone ring. An email. From the project she had applied to. Without opening it, she got on her bike. But two streets later, all fingers and thumbs, she stopped and got off her bike to open it. Scanning the text she hit the word 'accepted'. Feeling a little stunned, she cycled on.

There's no need to cry, she chided herself. Her ten-minute bike ride calmed her down and to her own surprise the decision was clear. Of course she would go. Now all she had to do was talk. Really talk.



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.

**DLV NJI-SRI - SEMURICA**

Thursday 2 June from 22.00 to 04.00

Parties at Nji-Sri are always pretty wild and go on until late in the night but when they're doing it American style we can expect a truly legendary event. Drink your beer from a red cup or down some Jager bombs. Doors are open from 22.00 to 02.00. ID and student card compulsory.

THE SPOT - OPEN MIC


Wednesday 8 June from 18.00 to 22.00

The last Open Mic of this season. All Open Mics so far were a success, so we are expecting to see another diverse programme and a good-sized audience. If the weather is good, the event

will be held outdoors with a BBQ. You have until Friday 3 June to register an act: mail thespot@wur.nl.

ICA WAGENINGEN - SQUAD 105: TROPICAL CLUB NIGHT

Friday 10 June from 22.00 to 05.00

We wouldn't normally give an International Club party any extra publicity, but the young duo Squad 105 have promised to put on a memorable evening next Friday. We certainly hope so. We are interested to see whether this duo can pimp the IC a bit. Admission: 2 euros for non-members (members free). Doors close at 02.00. 

>> THE WORKS

'THE STRICT HIERARCHY SURPRISED ME'

Who? Marie Wesselink, Master's student of Earth and Environment

What? Research on soil-plant relationships on banana plantations

Where? Guapiles, Costa Rica

'My thesis research was about food traceability. The ultimate aim is to be able to say where a plant comes from based on its chemical properties. I took soil and plant samples, then analysed and compared them. I can conclude that plants from different soil regions differ significantly from one another.

What struck me in Guapiles was that there are distinct social classes. The research I was involved in was led by a PhD candidate who was in charge of a bunch of people who did all the real work. I was surprised by how strict the hierarchy was, in social life too. And my position in it also surprised me. As a white woman you are pretty much always at the top and the men do everything for you. In the car, for instance, I was always allowed to sit in the front seat and two umbrellas would appear over my head as soon as it started to rain. At first I found this amusing, but later on it became annoying. I really had to insist on being allowed to take samples myself.

I was disappointed by the fact that everyone spoke only Spanish. Although I had been warned of this, I thought I would get by with English. But no. In the beginning this made it lonely for me because I couldn't have any social conversations. When I found myself working in the lab one day with someone who spoke English, I was overjoyed. I never knew how great it can be to spend a whole day talking about nothing. Luckily, I picked up Spanish quickly and was able to get to know people.































I was often invited out to eat by colleagues and that's how I got to experience the culture. I am really glad that I went there alone. Some people laughed at me for that before I went, but otherwise I would not have got to know people. I wouldn't hesitate to do it again, but I'd do a language course first.'                            



PHOTO: MARCUS BLEASDALE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... Indonesia

In the news: A Human Rights Watch report has revealed that thousands of children in Indonesia work in dangerous conditions on tobacco plantations. The organization has called on the government to enforce the law more stringently.

Commentary by Riana Wulandari, Master's student of Food Safety

'Actually the problem of child labour on tobacco plantations and in large factories such Nike is getting better. The government is taking stricter and stricter measures and in some regions provides free education in national schools. But it is also partly thanks to NGOs which build schools and report companies that break the law that child labour is going down. The measures have ensured that about 63,000 children have stopped working and started going to school in the past eight years.

Many children work in order to support their parents financially. The government has funds and subsidies for those families so the children can go to school. Distance can still be a problem though. Although there are free schools, not everyone has physical access to them. Organizations try to send teachers out to remote areas.

So the Indonesian government is becoming stricter and stricter, but I don't think international media realize that because the reporting on it isn't in English.

A much bigger problem, if you ask Indonesians themselves, is the street children in the big cities who are forced to beg or even resort to prostitution. They are under the control of a 'begging coordinator'. It is easier to control large companies than street children. I come from Jakarta, where I see a lot of children on the streets. Poor people move to the city in the hope of better work, but they are often disappointed. I even came across children on the campus of the university where I did my degree. They were selling tissues, toilet paper and newspapers. The plus side was that we taught the children on the campus English and maths. That was a condition if they wanted us to buy their goods.' **© CN**

Idealis moves to Nexus!

A location close to our focusgroup.

From June 14, Idealis is located on the Campus. Our office hours are also adjusted.

Look at
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the new contact
information



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In memoriam

Henk Vroon



Henk Vroon (54), a soil scientist at Alterra, passed away last week. Henk came to work at Stiboka, later to become

Alterra, in 1987. He was a dedicated soil scientist and agrohydrologist who would let anyone take him for a ride. Clients who thought they knew what a report should say were in for a hard time if he believed that would be at the expense of the truth.

Henk was the mastermind behind many reports, his geographical knowledge was enormous and he could read the landscape like none other. His soil science descriptions were highly detailed, and he knew exactly which characteristics would cause problems with particular interventions. His enthusiasm and knowledge of the field also made him a lively and persuasive speaker.

When Henk came storming into the department – bag over his shoulder – you knew he'd arrived. He'd be busy on the phone, sometimes roaring with laughter, and getting things organized with his clients. The way his voice carried was legendary: after such a phonecall you knew exactly how the project was going. He had excellent contacts in the regions he worked in. It was known to happen that a group of farmers refused to attend a meeting if Henk wasn't there. They thought the world of him: not because they always got their way but because he was always straight with them. The Soil, Water and Land Use team

are devastated at Henk's death. It will be too quiet without him. We shall miss his expertise and the whirlwind that he was. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Monique, Marianne and Renate, and we wish them strength.

Soil, Water and Land use Team, Alterra

Announcements

A nose for money?

Do you have a good sense of smell and would you like to earn some easy money (€9 per hour)? Buro Blauw in Wageningen is looking for people for a smell panel. For info and to make an appointment: geurlab@buroblauw.nl, or call 0317 466699.

Daily walk-in counselling

For pressing or quick questions on psychological or social issues you can get in touch with a student psychologist or counsellor through peer support by trained students or staff. Opening times: every lunchbreak (12.30-13.30) or evening from Monday to Thursday from 17.30 to 19.30. Location: Forum, room 011 (into the corridor, turn right by the Student Desk).

Volleyball? Join Invicta

Invicta is an active volleyball association in Wageningen. We play in the Nevobo competition with three men's and three ladies' teams at different levels and have an enthusiastic mixed recreational team. We also organize various parties, beach nights, mixed tournaments etc. A lot of ex-students and WUR staff play for Invicta, but all residents of Wagen-

ingen and environs are welcome. If you'd like to join a training session: www.invicta-wageningen.nl

Ideas wanted for Sustainable Tuesday

Sustainable Tuesday has been campaigning for a sustainable society for 18 years. The collaboration with many partners offers a platform for innovative, creative ideas in the fields of energy, mobility, technology, food, social interaction and nature. On the first Tuesday in September State Secretary Dijkma will receive the suitcase full of ideas. Everyone who submits an idea has a chance of winning one of the six prizes. Submissions by 15 June via duurzamedinsdag.nl

Agenda

Thursday 2, Friday 3, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 June, 20.30

PERFORMANCES OF ANTIGONE BY STICHTING LENS

After five months of rehearsals, honing the script and production design, Lens is ready to walk the boards. Antigone is a Greek tragedy about honour: personal, family and national honour. Which is more important? How can you choose? And what are the consequences of a choice like this? Venue: De Wilde Wereld theatre, Burgtstraat 1, Wageningen.

WWW.STICHTINGLENS.NL

Thursday 3 June to Wednesday 15 June

THREE FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Sonita, an original portrait of an Afghan refugee in Iran, who denounc-

es traditions and politics in fiery rap texts; Land of Mine, an intense thriller about German prisoners-of-war who had to defuse land mines along the Danish coast; Land Grabbing, a fascinating journey through neocolonialism, taking in grain fields, the EU parliament, investors in Dubai and evicted land users. Location: Wilhelminaweg 3A.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Saturday 4 June, 22.00 – 4.00 BAOBAB LIVE – SINAS 'GLOBAL DANCE FLOOR MUSIC'

Popcultuur Wageningen & Baobab Music are back with BaobabLive. This time with the band Sinas, a Dutch group of three guys who mix all kinds of music into their own unmistakable sound. A mix of musical cultures with a very danceable vibe. Sinas is known for their explosive shows and fantastic arrangements, so be prepared for an evening of booty shaking and good vibes! Check out the Facebook event. Tickets: €3.50/€5 at the door. Location: Café Loburg, Molenstraat 6, Wageningen.

WWW.POPCULTUUR-WAGENINGEN.NL

Tuesday 7 June, 17.00-22.00 WORLD LECTURE: 'RESILIENCE, BEND OR BUST'

Resilience is a central topic in several scientific fields these days. Many of the underlying principles, such as mathematical and experimental approaches, are universally applicable. We are working on new interdisciplinary areas of application with a view to taking research on resilience to new depths and broadening its scope.

Speakers: Rik Leemans, Environmen-

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FILM	FILM	FILM EVENT
From June 2	From June 9	Wed June 8
Warcraft: The Beginning 3D	Now You See Me 2	Ladies Night: Me Before You

THURSDAY NIGHT €3 STUDENTDISCOUNT

tal Systems Analysis; Albert Barnveld, MPM, dept. Knowledge and Innovation Management National Water Board; Michiel Koetsier, integral policy strategist with Province of Gelderland. Location: Wageningse Berg Hotel. Admission free.

WWW.KLV.NL

Wednesday 8 June, 12.30-13.30 LECTURE IN IMPULSE: HOW DO ANIMALS FLY?

Aerospace engineer Florian Muijres (Experimental zoology group) presents his research on the aerodynamics and manoeuvre dynamics of all extant groups of flying animals: birds, bats and insects. Animals make use of special flight techniques which enable them to manoeuvre much better than airplanes, helicopters and even drones. We could make use of this insight and develop more efficient and manoeuvrable bio-inspired drones. Venue: Impulse, Stippeneng 2 Wageningen.

WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/IMPULSE

Thursday 9 June, 12.30-13.20 LUNCH WORKSHOP WWL/ WAGENINGEN UR LIBRARY 'CITING AND REFERENCING'

To avoid plagiarism in academic writing, it is essential to cite and reference the sources you used. But what sources exactly, where to put an in-text citation, and how to make a reference list? These questions will be addressed, together with different citation styles and how tools like EndNote can save you countless hours of formatting reference lists. Venue: C0408 Forum, info.wageningenwritingLab@wur.nl

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Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 June, 20.30 WAGENINGEN STUDENTS PERFORM ARTURO UI

Wageningen student dramatic society W.S.T.V. will presents The resistible rise of Arturo Ui. The play shows how one man can wind a nation around his little finger with lies and deception, exploring the strange path of fear, love and nonsense that a man treads on his way to the top. Venue: Arboretum Belmonte. Book tickets on www.wstvt.nl

Sunday 12 June, 16.30-19.00 JAZZ JAM SESSION IN CAFÉ DE ZAAIER

Every second Sunday of the month, Laurens Ganzeveld runs a jam session. Everyone is welcome, both experienced musicians and beginners, but you can also just come to listen. We play jazz standards, funk, bossa and improvisations. We provide a keyboard, base guitar, drum and a small sound installation for singers and other instruments needing amplification.

WWW.JAZZINWAGENINGEN.NL

Thursday, 23 June, 14:00-16:30 PRESENTATION: THE IMPACT OF COMPUTERS IN BOLIVIAN EDUCATION

The Ayni Bolivia-Nederland foundation and the ECS chair group present the results of the evaluation of the Chaski program facilitating the introduction of computers and internet in Bolivian public schools. After an introduction by the Bolivian Ambassador his Excellency Eduardo Rodriguez Veltzé, the presentation reflects on the situation and history of Bolivian education as well as the impact of the program and recommendations emerging from it. Venue: Forum C521. Free admission but please register through www.ayni.nl.

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)
Email: resource@wur.nl

Vacancy student member Board OWI (Education Institute), from 1 July onwards.

The Education Institute (OWI, Onderwijs Instituut) is a governmental body within Wageningen University (WU) that deals with the education within the university. The OWI manages the BSc and MSc study programmes and deals with topics like:

- Programmes and budgets, courses, schedules
- Quality assurance
- Study advising

The OWI board consists of consists of 8 members: 4 professors and 4 students. From July 1, 2016 a student place in the OWI board from the Domain Technology and Nutrition (BAT/MAB, BBT/MBT/MBF, BLT/MFT, MFQ/MFS, BML/MML, BVG/MNH) is vacant.

Being a student member of the OWI board implies that you:

- Work on a varied range of subjects related to the WU education system like new study programmes, increasing student numbers, quality and internationalisation.
- Represent students from Wageningen University in a high governmental body of the WU.
- Have the opportunity to take an exhaustive look at the management of your university.
- Will enrich your resume with education management experience.

Activities of the OWI board require approximately one day a week (meetings are on every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 9-12). Appointment is for 1 year, 2 re-appointment are possible. Compensation: three months of FOS per annum.

What do we expect from you?

- You have a passion for education and with idea's to develop it.
- You have a proactive and critical attitude.
- You are a student in the domain Technology (BAT/MAB, BBT/MBT/MBF, BLT/MFT, MFQ/MFS, BML/MML, BVG/MNH)

The OWI board likes to be representative for the WU population. Preference is thus given to international female candidates, especially (ex)-student members of PC's and/or the Student Council.

Procedure

Are you interested? Send your CV and motivation letter, in English or Dutch, before June 10, to petra.naber@wur.nl with CC to marlene.janssen@wur.nl. The selection procedure will take place between the June 10 and June 24. If you want more information about the OWI board see www.owi.wur.nl or you can contact Petra or Marlene.

colophon

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen UR. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH

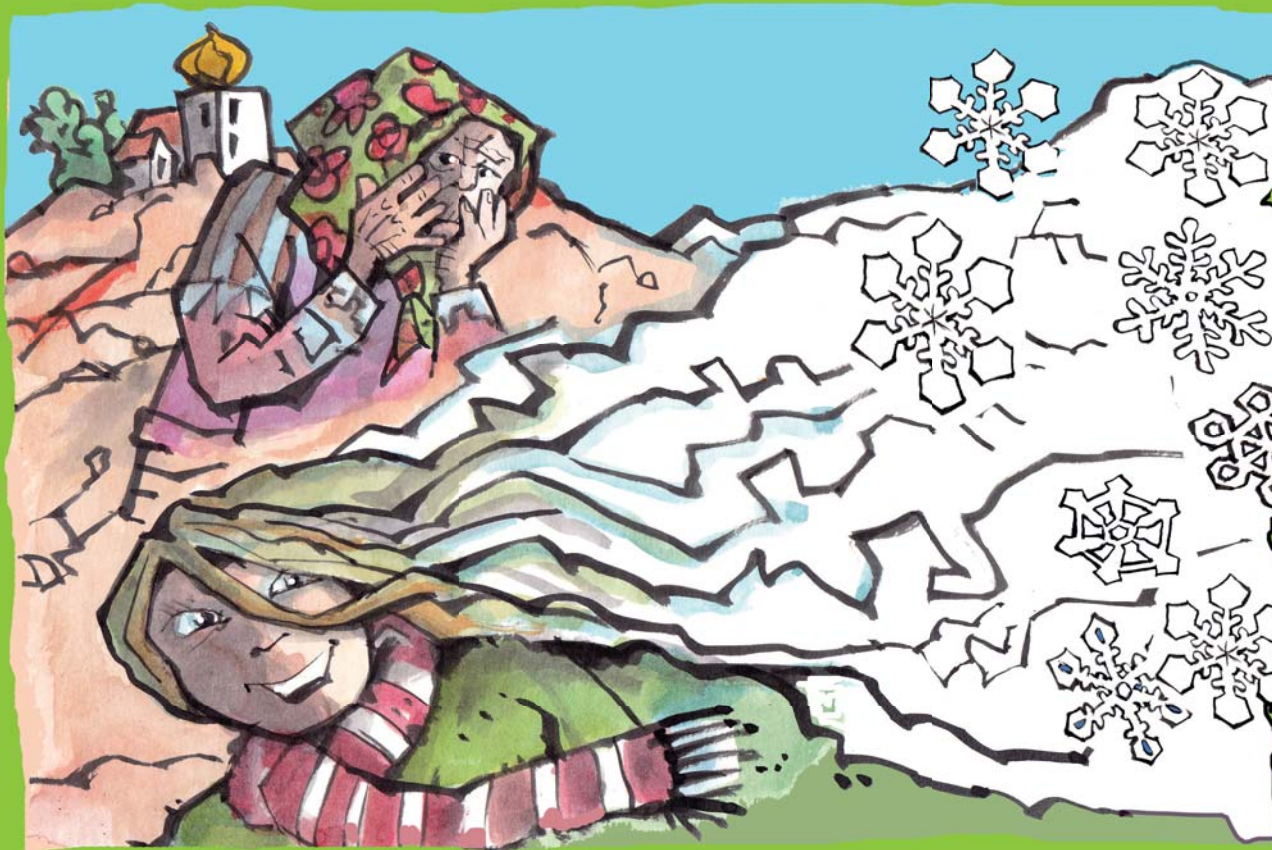



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Wet hair

The winter is over in Wageningen, and now we can all – occasionally – enjoy the beautiful sunlight. But last winter I noticed something which seemed very strange to me: most Dutch people don't dry their hair before they go outside, not even when it's very cold.

After swimming or showering, Dutch women just make a pony tail or a bun and don't even put on a hat when they go out. In my country, we always first dry our hair, stay inside for the next two hours and put on a hat or cap before we can go outside. This takes a lot of time. According to our ancestors, we do all this in order to prevent – I don't know – inflammation of the brain or a fever.

If you sit next to an open window with wet hair, the draught will kill you, we are taught. I asked a couple of Dutch girls if they are not scared of catching a cold or something, but they said no, and told me they think it is fun when their hair freezes sometimes.

I tried once to go outside while my hair was still wet – it was 15°C – and it felt okay. But if my grandmother had seen me, she would have panicked and called the doctor immediately.  **Maja Tisma, MSc student of Tourism, Leisure and Environment, from Croatia**

'Two Dutch girls told me they think it's fun when their hair freezes'

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.