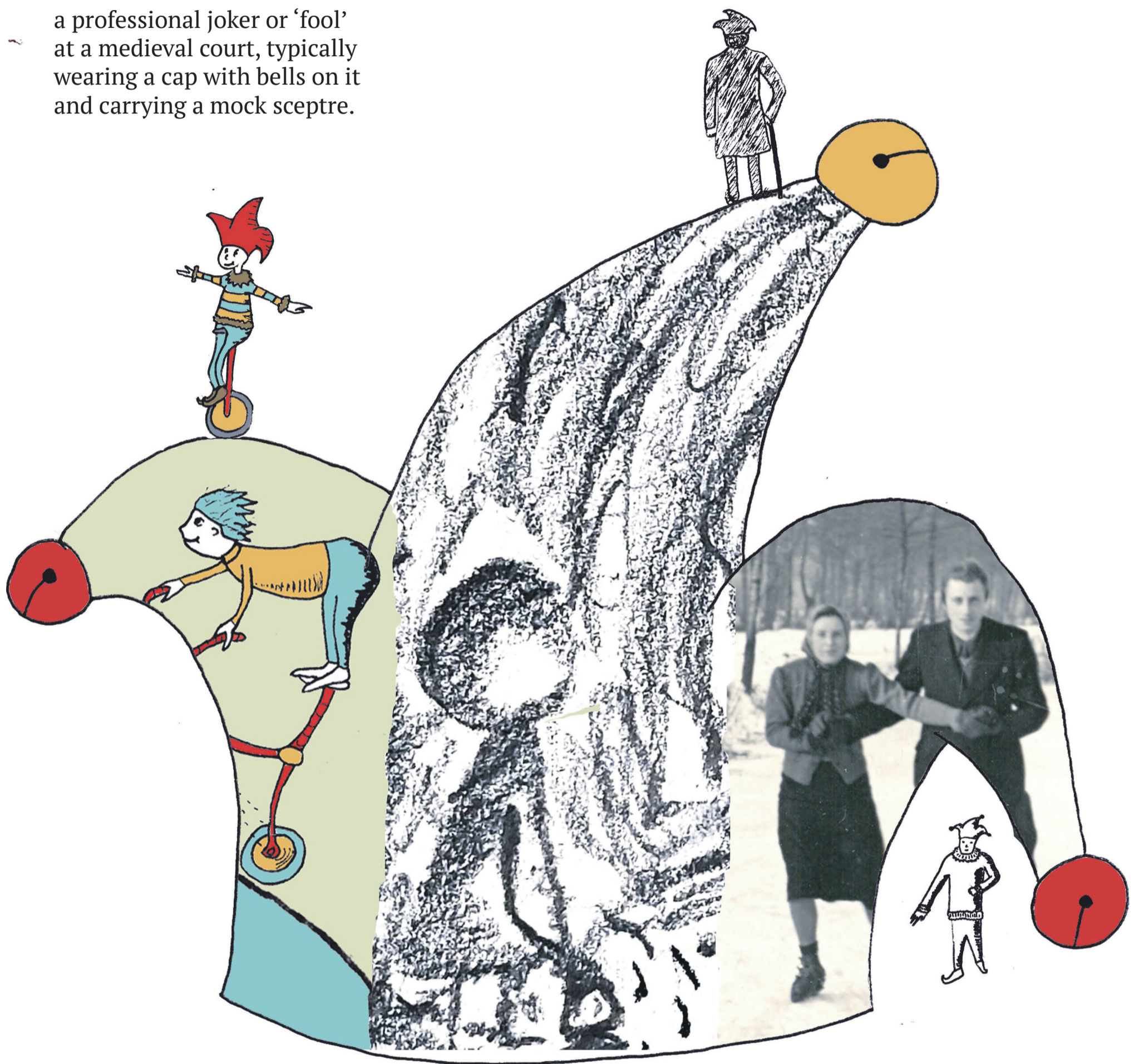


THE JESTER

a professional joker or 'fool' at a medieval court, typically wearing a cap with bells on it and carrying a mock sceptre.



een professionele grappenmaker of 'dwaas' aan een middeleeuws hof, meestal met een pet met belletjes erop en een nepscepter.

editorial

The Jester is in an identity crisis. The lockdown gave us too much time to reflect. Who am I? What do I want to be? Which shoes should I wear? It is not always easy being a Jester. Some people laugh at you, some people laugh with you. Some people even tell you to put your magazine in the waste paper. But a Jester always embraces the meaninglessness. So we're here again to give you some funny-critical-independent journalism for you to enjoy or throw in the waste paper as they do in Nieuwe Kanaal. Up to you I guess.



Taken at the Nieuwe Kanaal letterbox

info

The Jester is a periodical student paper published 4 times a year. We write about everything and anything related to what goes on at our university and little town.

jester

noun

1. a professional joker or 'fool' at a medieval court, typically wearing a cap with bells on it and carrying a mock sceptre

colophon

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Special thanks

Historical Association Oud Wageningen, Dr. Seuss, Wageningen Student Plaza and students organising things everywhere

contact

The Jester is made by a team of amateur students that are striving to make a funny, critical and interesting magazine. We are always looking for your contributions.

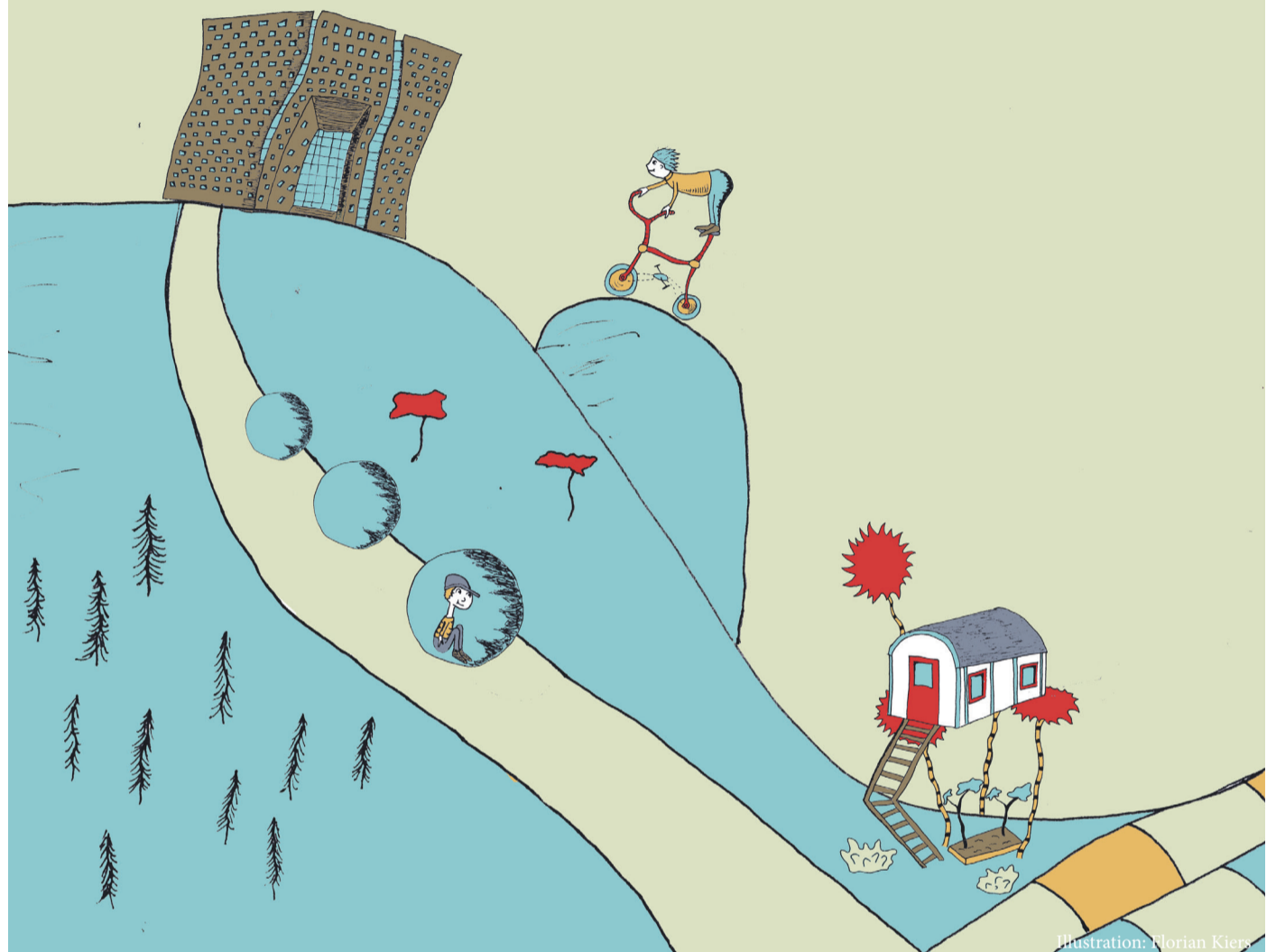
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Story

Oh the places you'll never go!

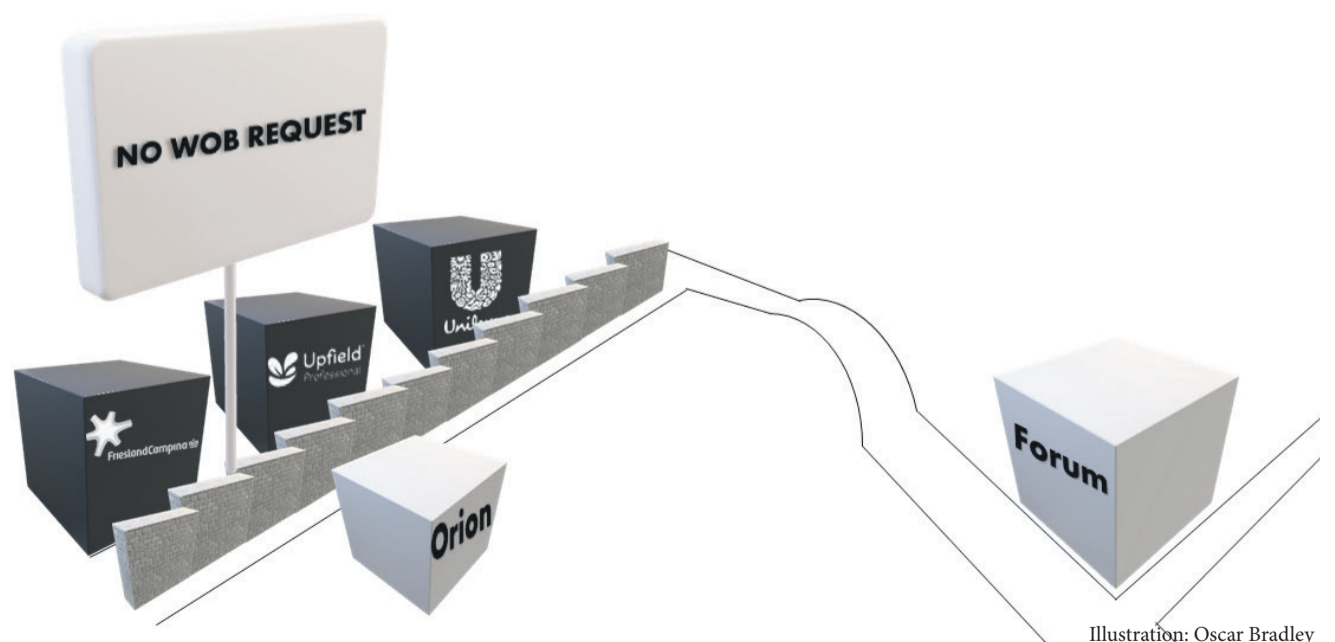
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February 2022

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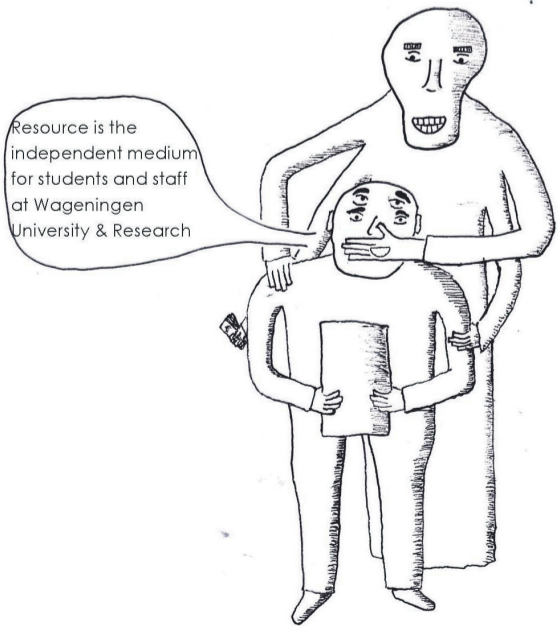


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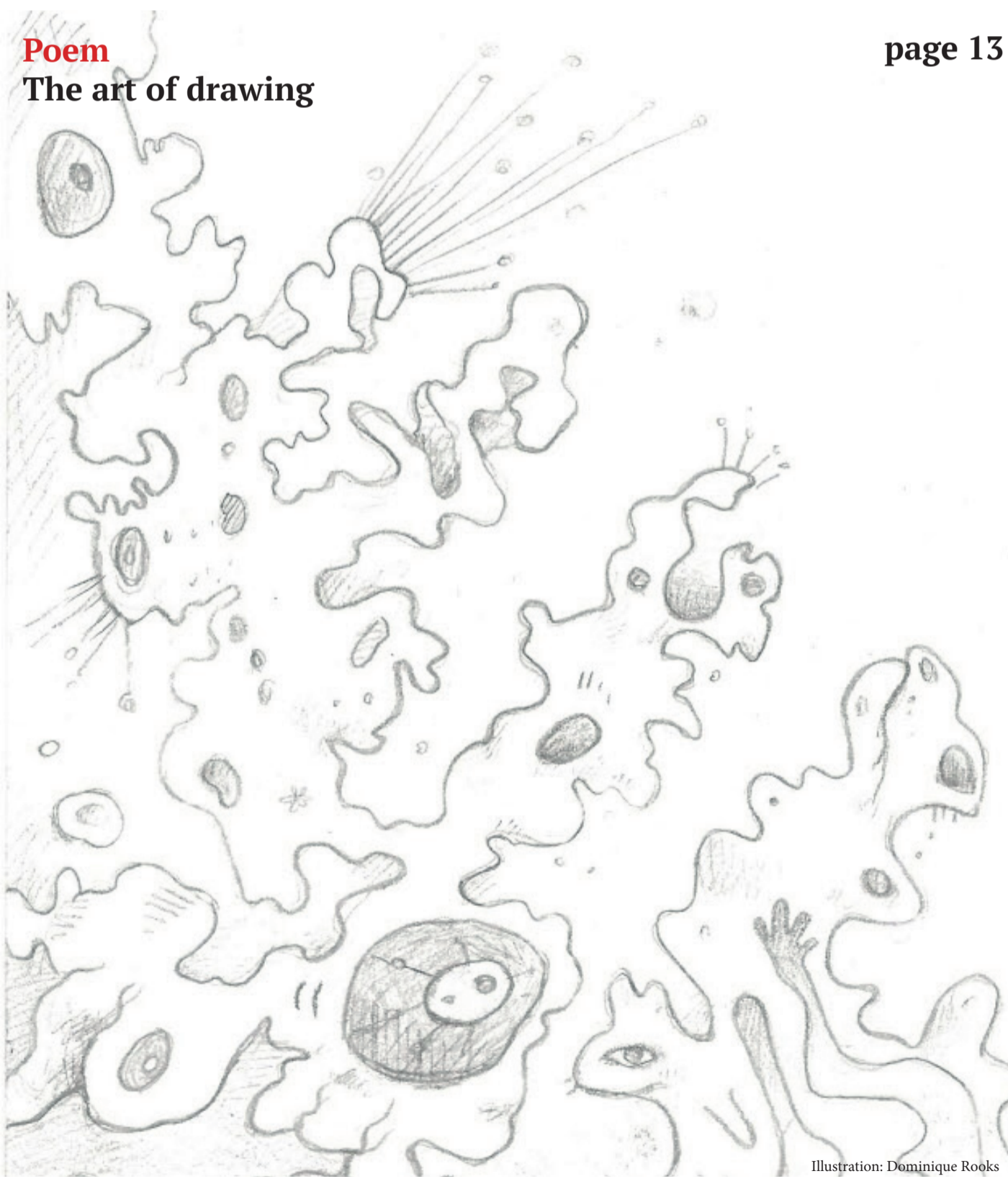


Illustration: Dominique Rooks

What's up with healthcare on campus?

On a cold and rainy day in Wageningen, feeling under the weather, Cal began to feel nostalgic of the little infirmary that was always open at school when they were younger. Let's be honest; it was often questionable whether you really were sick, but escaping the classroom to have your temperature taken by the nurse, lie down on the bed for a while and, if you were lucky, receive a sweet at the end, felt comforting. This nostalgia made them realise: they have no idea where to find help on campus if they suddenly need it, and chances are, neither do you.

First aid on campus

As a place where you'll likely spend many hours of your day for several years, it makes sense for the WUR to ensure that sufficient physical and mental healthcare is available and accessible for its students. The university offers a range of services to "guide, support, or advise you" throughout your studies, from a team of student psychologists to confidential advisors and life coaches. What appears to be less mentioned however, is who to turn to in case of a physical emergency.

Indeed, there is no infirmary at the WUR. However, each building does have employees with a first-aid certificate. You can get a hold of them at the information desks of all the buildings. These employees can provide first-aid and can call for a general practitioner or an ambulance if necessary. If you can't make it to the reception, you can also call the emergency number on the green cards next to each room door on campus. The WUR staff should be there to help at all times and assist you in finding your way through the complicated world of the Dutch healthcare system. But what about the Student Medical Centre on campus?

A not-so-student medical centre?

The Student Medical Centre (SMC) suggests by its name and location on campus that it is a medical centre somehow linked to the WUR, open to all students. This, however, is misleading. The SMC is in fact a general practice that is independent of the university. It has 'student' in its name because its GPs have a "broad knowledge of medical care of young adults and travel-related diseases" according to the SMC. The WUR and the SMC did reach an agreement on student registrations: the medical center cannot refuse any students from registering, as is common in practices that have reached full capacity. Beyond this, the university takes no responsibility for what happens at the SMC.

Like any other GP in The Netherlands (NL), receiving treatment there requires you to be registered at the practice first. So far so good. There is a hiccup though;

they only accept students who live in Wageningen. This is because insurances require you to be registered at a GP practice close to your home address so that in an emergency the doctor is capable of reaching their patient within 10 minutes. Live in Arnhem and feel unwell during your lecture? You're out of luck, you won't find help here my friend.

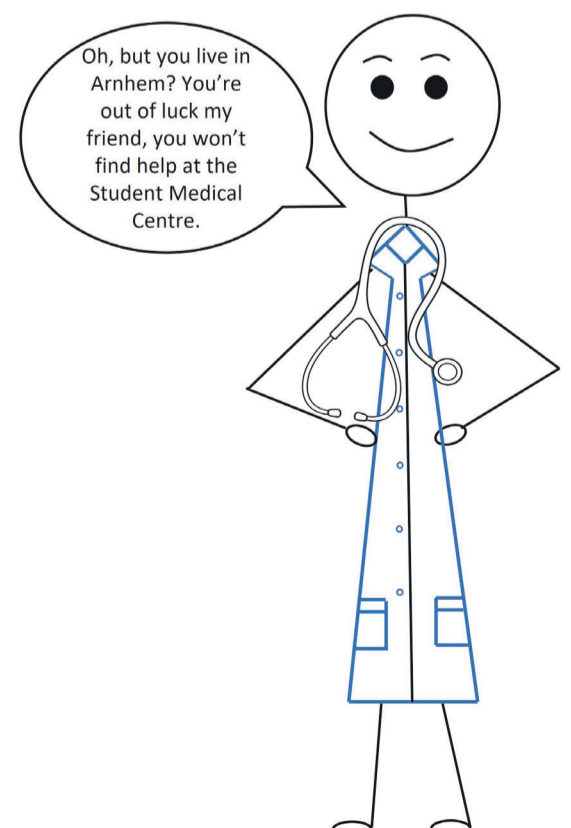
The misleading name and location is not the only concern about this practice; its reputation is too. 52 people have reviewed it on Google, giving it an overall 2.4 stars rating. Several students have also shared their ordeals directly. While it's often the case that review writers are people who've had remarkable (often bad) experiences, the overwhelming number of negative experiences deserves attention. Much of it, I believe, boils down to the Dutch healthcare system. The SMC says it can also be due to language barriers.

GPs first

In the Dutch healthcare system, primary health care is king. GPs are the first and main point of contact for medical issues. If necessary, the GP will refer you to a specialist doctor or a hospital, considered to provide secondary and emergency services. The OECD argued in a 2020 report that "strong primary healthcare makes health systems more effective, efficient, and equitable". Good primary healthcare, they argue, can delay the onset of chronic disease and reduce mortality rates; results in lower rates of hospitalisations and emergency department use; prevents unnecessary procedures and lowers the use of costly and scarce facilities like emergency rooms and hospitals.

NL has among the lowest mortality rates from preventable and treatable causes in the EU, and the Dutch population has historically reported low unmet needs for medical treatment. There are, of course, a lot of more indicators that we could look at to assess a country's healthcare system, but these ones do suggest that NL is doing something right.

"When you feel unwell, particularly when you are far from home, what you want is to feel taken care of and most importantly taken seriously".



Not what we're used to at home

While some negative reviews on the SMC were given by Dutch students who are accustomed to the national healthcare system, one explanation for the overwhelmingly negative reviews is that this system is so different to what foreign students are used to in their home countries. You don't need to travel far (Belgium, for example) to find a system where you will be seen by a GP in person rather than diagnosed over the phone, or given consultations with doctors specialised in the fields you require care from straight away.

Instead, at the SMC as in most GPs in NL, if you have a medical complaint, you'll likely have to wait on the phone for a while before speaking to a trained medical assistant, who will ask a few questions about your complaint, and maybe ask you to send some photos too. They'll probably then tell you that they will discuss this with the GP and ask you to call back later. When you call back, you'll most likely be prescribed a treatment (paracetamol?) to pick up from the pharmacy, and voilà! You'll be cured in no time, without having even seen a real human. Pretty futuristic, right?

This lack of personal attention or care by GPs is a serious issue for students registered at the SMC and foreigners living in NL more generally. Indeed, a report by Healthcare for Internationals found that there is a big difference between the trust internationals have in Dutch healthcare compared to the trust that Dutch people have in their own healthcare. When you feel unwell, particularly when you are far from home, what you want is to feel taken care of and, most importantly, taken seriously.

The student experience

Many students have reported leaving the medical centre feeling sad and dismissed because they are not given the attention they expect. One person asked for a check-up after being punched in the nose but was told she didn't need to come in since she could breathe. Another student called asking for a blood test after feeling very unwell, but the assistant refused to book an appointment until she called back saying: please put in my file that you are refusing to give me medical attention.

Foreign students, especially, have been surprised to be sent home with nothing more than paracetamol as treatment. Stereotypically, Dutch GPs are notorious for their love affair with paracetamol. Indeed, they are less likely to prescribe antibiotics and other medication compared to what foreign students may be used to. This wait-and-see approach is deemed appropriate for minor illnesses such as a sore

throat or a common cold. This doesn't sound bad at all to me, when thinking of the threat of antibiotic resistance or the opioid crisis in the US.

But of course, it isn't great if you are the unlucky person with more serious complaints, whose treatment is delayed because you were initially sent home. It took one student several weeks of severe pain and three visits before being sent to the hospital for tests and appointments with specialised doctors. Another student had felt very tired for a while and was advised to take vitamin D by an SMC GP. She returned a few months later with the same complaints, and it turns out she had mononucleosis ("mono") which the GP had never tested. Seeing as the SMC focuses on students and its GPs "have a broad knowledge of medical care of young adults", this experience was surprising. "Mono" is, after all, known to affect teenagers and young adults.

You also will not necessarily see the same doctor every time you go to the SMC. This in itself defeats the purpose of the primary health care system where your GP knows you and has your medical overview. What's more, the GPs can differ in their treatment propositions, leaving you confused about who to listen to. The SMC has explained that, to remain up-to-date on general primary healthcare, its GPs are required to also work in non-student medical care, and therefore can only work a limited amount of hours per week at the SMC. They do, however, try to plan follow-ups with the same doctor as much as possible, and you can also mention if you have a preference when booking your appointment.

Pushing for your health

The experiences mentioned above are not nice, but there are plenty of students who've only had positive experiences with the SMC. Students have reported receiving very effective and professional care, being able to get appointments fast, being taken seriously, and being comforted by the doctors. The SMC's general advice is to call early in the morning if you believe you need to see a doctor the same day and otherwise call at a later time. They also run surveys to improve their service so you should let them know if you're dissatisfied so that things can get better.

Maybe it's good to remember that, just as teachers have a life outside the classroom, so do doctors. They are human like the rest of us, have their own opinions and experiences, and you might click well with one and not at all with another. The conclusion of several students who've experienced the SMC is this: it is important for you to push for your health and insist on the urgency of your complaints. If you feel like it is severe, call the SMC and dial 1 for emergencies, insist on receiving immediate care, and they will listen.



"The SMC also runs surveys to improve their services, so you should let them know if you're dissatisfied so that things can get better".



S.M.

What to do in case of an emergency on campus? Here are your options:



Call your GP in Wageningen. If you are registered at the Student Medical Centre, call them and dial 1. They will ask a few questions to determine how to proceed.



Call the emergency number on the green card at the entrance of each room on campus, or head to the information desk and ask for a first aider. They will call a GP or ambulance if necessary.



If you need emergency care that cannot wait, call 112. This will take you through to either the ambulance, the fire brigade or police.



How Resource became a promo magazine

Resource has not always been the feel-good, advertisement machine of WUR. Once upon a time, the university magazine was home to critical and independent journalists, coming from afar to pinpoint exactly where Wageningen University was falling short. But where did they all go?

It was 2008 and times were really different then. People were listening to Viva la Vida all day long and, instead of coming to campus, big-ass corporations (such as Danone) were actually leaving it. Some people blamed the board and the rector Aalt Dijkhuizen for their failing policies. Aalt didn't like the blame, he didn't like critique, and he certainly didn't like independent newspapers.

Back in the day, Resource was published by a publishing company called Cereales. They were not directly linked to WUR, meaning they could write whatever they wanted. And that was not always what the board of WUR wanted. There were, for example, the columns of Willem Koert who wrote satirical columns describing made-up conversations between members of the executive board. He wrote about how he thought WUR was a sinking ship. That was also not what the board wanted.

This got on the executive boards' nerves, so the board came up with a scheme to rid themselves of this annoying independent media source. The scheme was very simple: WUR would do a tendering procedure to determine who the next publisher of the Resource Magazine would be, and they wouldn't reveal on which standard they would judge the contenders. In such a way, their favourite publisher would win for sure. Their favourite publisher 'Hemels' and 'Hemels', already made promo magazines for Mercedes and KLM, so they sure knew how to promote a university!

Bye bye, independent magazine

But then there were protests. People signed petitions, people went to the streets for freedom of expression and of the media, and there was a lawsuit. The judge determined that the tendering procedure had been unlawful and that a new one would have to open.

But WUR didn't feel like tendering procedures anymore. They decided that, from now on, they would publish the magazines under their own management. Independent publisher Cereales was ruined and WUR regained control over their media outlets.

And then? More protests? More outrage? More lawsuits? No. The battle was won. One year later, critical columnist Willem Koert got threatened with legal action for writing 'untrue' columns. The editorial statutes of Resource magazine were changed and the word independent was omitted, but their website still states that they are the "independent medium for students and staff".

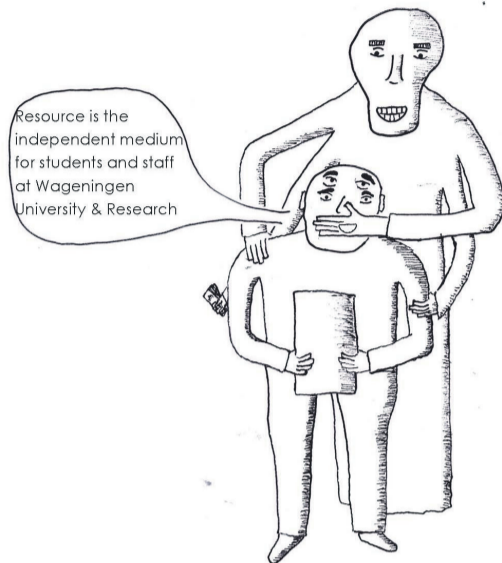


Illustration: Florian Kiers

The statutes now state that Resource is "part of the communication strategy of Wageningen UR" and its employees understand that "journalism cannot be seen in isolation from the interests of the university as a whole".

'journalism cannot be seen in isolation from the interests of the university as a whole'

Legally, the statutes go as far as to oblige the editor-in-chief of Resource to speak to the Director of Corporate Communication if any content "may prove damaging for the business interests of Wageningen UR". Resource's slogan: "WUR from within". Yeah, exactly, only from within.

So, if you ever wondered why Resource is such a positive, feel-good, promo-magazine, now you know that it hasn't always been.



Although all the flavours of the world can be found in the WUR community. Norman (21), an average student, shares a recipe that reminds him of time efficiency.



Flavours of life

Norman

With all the peanut butter options in the supermarket, it took me a year of trial and error to master this dish. When I have some spare time, I like to toast the slice of bread, this reminds me of the little things in life. It is amazing how something so simple can provide the energy to bear the rest of the day.

Ingredients (for 1 person):

- 2-3 spoons of peanut butter
- 1 slice of bread

1. Carefully place the slice of bread in the toaster and toast it. If you don't have a toaster you can toast it with a pan on the stove.
2. While the toast is still hot, place it on a plate and add, depends how hungry you are, two or three spoons of the peanut butter of your preference.
3. Lick the spoon with the remaining peanut butter.
4. With a knife, not too fast not too slow, but smooth, spread the peanut butter as uniformly as possible in parallel to the knife.
5. Repeat step 3 with the knife (be aware if it is sharp).
6. Eat it with your hands and enjoy!



Norman
BSc in something technical

The Call for Asphalt

Wageningen has a long history of transport-controversy. The lack of a train station and no highway connections or a ring road add to the small city's charm, but make it difficult to get around. For years there has been talk about improving the roads towards campus and the connection between Wageningen and Ede. Now it seems like something is finally happening.

Perhaps you have wondered before why Wageningen has a Stationstraat. From 1882 until 1968 a steam tram named Bello connected Ede with Wageningen. Bello hauled coal for heating houses in Wageningen's city centre, barley for malting (the neighbourhood is still recognizable as Mouterij or Malt house in English) and fertiliser for the farmer's cooperation in Bennekom. It ran straight through Bennekom's high street, causing issues with safety. The transportation of goods by tram declined however, eventually causing the tram line to be discontinued in 1968. It was the final parade for Bello.

During the last century, motorised vehicles started to take over the role of transporting goods and people. That has led to an increasing call for more and wider asphalt roads. This lovely material is a semi-solid form of petroleum and the world uses approximately 102 million tonnes of it per year. Wageningen has also seen a tremendous increase in asphalt roads since the tram (line) was abandoned.

Still, Wageningen is famous among its residents for being badly connected to the rest of the world. It does not have its own train station, the tram line is a relic of the past, to enter a highway you need to drive past either Rhenen, Renkum or Bennekom, and there always seems to be a million roundabouts between you and the other side of town. And don't even get me started on the thousands of cycling students trying to get to campus on time every day. For five days a week, the junctions of the Nijenoord Allee and the roundabout at the Mansholtlaan are blocked during peak hours.

The latest road in Wageningen

Luckily the municipality and province have come up with a grand plan to solve this pressing problem; more asphalt! But not only is asphalt mining a nasty industry; when in place, asphalt keeps polluting water and air. The government still thinks more asphalt will solve any traffic congestion problem.

Traffic lights and double lanes will replace the roundabout at the Mansholtlaan, where cars enter Campus. This will be a relief for cyclists now risking their lives every day to get to class from the Droevendaal side of the road. The junction of Churchillweg and Nijenoord Allee will be changed into a flyover. Through traffic on Nijenoord Allee will pass underneath, and cyclists will have free passing overhead on red asphalt, meaning they have priority over cars - finally!



Final parade for Bello 1968



Final parade for Bello 1968

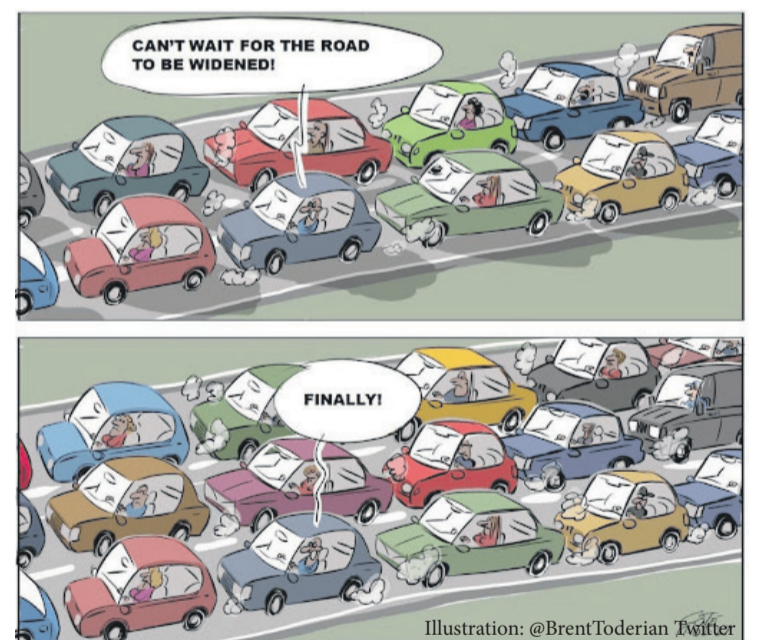
There is more good news for cycling enthusiasts: the route from Wageningen to Ede will be improved. This so-called 'fast bike route' will make it safer and quicker for the over 7500 daily users to cycle from the train station to campus and back.

However, whether things will improve for car drivers is uncertain. Have you ever heard of Induced Travel Demand? This is the increased vehicle traffic occurring from road capacity improvements. The urban planner Lewis Mumford famously stated in 1955: "Building more roads to prevent congestion is like a fat man loosening his belt to prevent obesity". In the period shortly after the road 'improvements', traffic will surely be easier and flowing better. But, eventually more students, university staff, and business on campus employees might step into their cars to get to Wageningen because more asphalt has been laid down for them.

The Paradox of wider roads

Dietrick Braess, a German mathematician, noticed something similar in 1968. Normally, when a new road is built, we expect traffic flow to be faster. However, based on his calculations, this is not always the case. Building a new road at some key points does not necessarily speed up the traffic flow, and after this road is built, the time spent travelling from the same X point to the same Y point may actually increase.

Similarly, when some roads are blocked to vehicles, it seems that traffic flows better on other roads. At the root of this interesting paradox is the selfish nature of human drivers. Drivers do not act in coordination with other drivers. Every driver thinks of himself/herself first and wants to take the fastest possible route from point X to point Y.



So there are good arguments for not improving the situation for cars and focussing solely on cyclists and public transport. The easiest and cheapest way to get rid of traffic jams is to reduce the number of cars on the roads. Traffic data collected during Covid lockdowns has shown that traffic jams can be reduced by 50% with only a 10% reduction of cars on the road. Not to mention that cycling has many health benefits, does not emit greenhouse gases, and requires fewer parking spaces, resources to manufacture the vehicle, and asphalt.

In the 60's the Hoogstraat was still accessible by car, but asphalt fans have not been able to stop this street from turning pedestrian. I don't think anyone would prefer asphalt here, having known what it's like without it. Calling for more of Wageningen to become pedestrian or cyclists-only would do more good than calling for more asphalt.

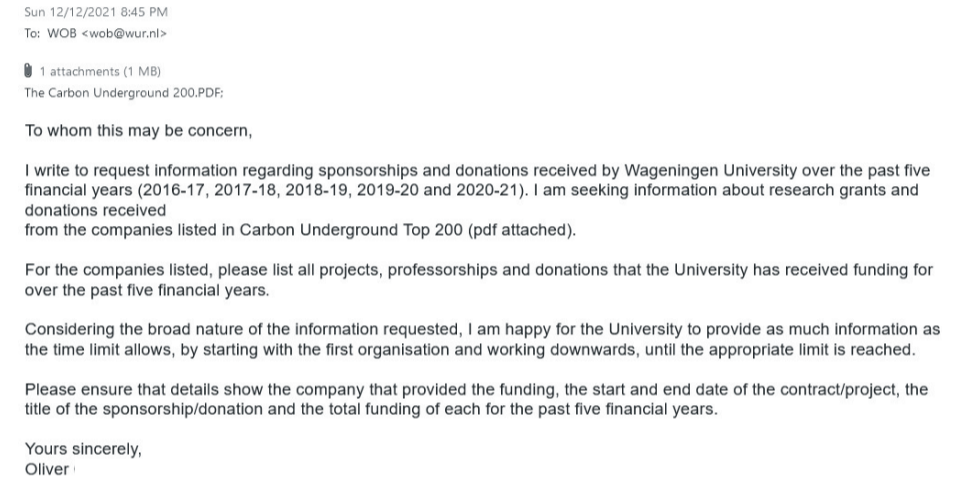
Finding informatjon on WUR’s links to fossil fuels

One cold December evening, an investigative journalist named Oliver lay awake in bed wondering how much money WUR receives in donations and funding from fossil fuel companies. After scouring the WUR website, he found some casual research collaborations with Exxon Mobil, Shell, and Total, nothing surprising for WUR. Finding little information he decided to send an official request for information. This brought Oliver on a path to discover the barriers to information that exist at WUR.

Accessing information at WUR starts by sending a WOB request to wob@wur.nl. WOB stands for the *Wet openbaarheid van bestuur (WOB)* - Freedom of Information law in English. Under this law, any member of the public can request any information concerning a public institution. But of course, it ain’t that easy. Let’s see what happens when Oliver sends a WOB request.

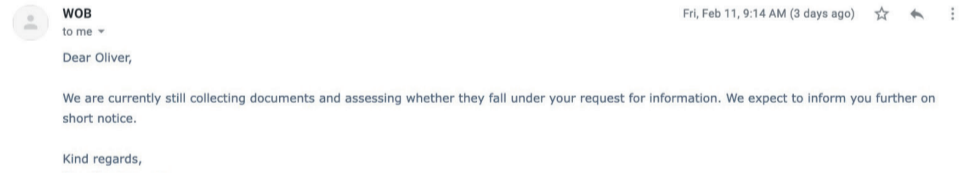
[12-12-2021 08:45PM]

Oliver sends a WOB request to wob@wur.nl. He asks for information on how much WUR has received in funding and donations from the companies on the Carbon Underground 200 list. This is a list of the top 200 carbon emitters. Oliver waits patiently.



[11-02-2022 11:51AM]

Eight weeks later (double the time that it should legally take) and after two reminder emails, he receives the email below.



[PRESENT DAY]

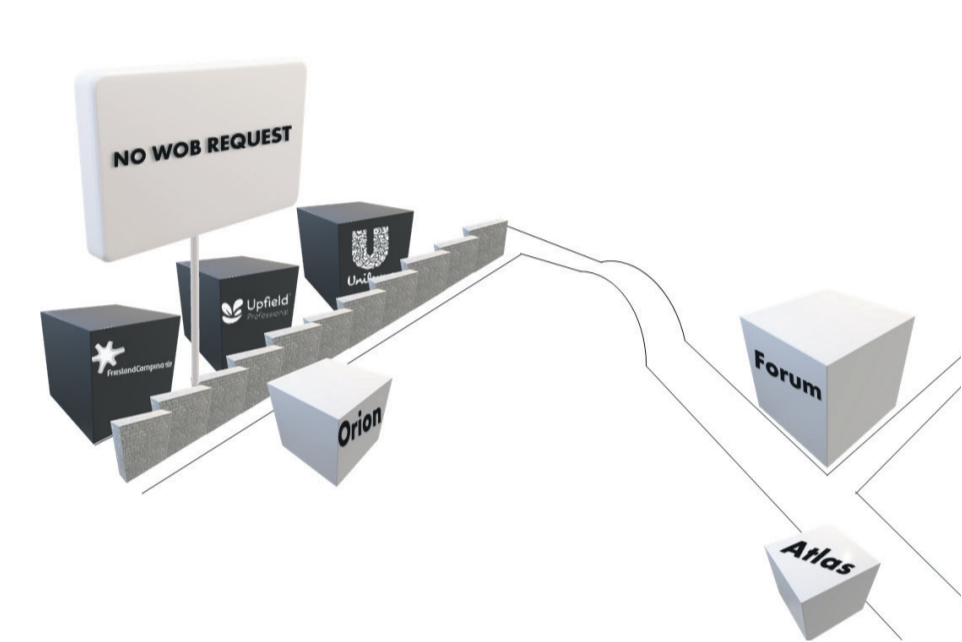
It is now nearly three months since the WOB request was sent and Oliver is still waiting.

Ok so this process takes longer than it should, big woop. But what other barriers to information access has WUR got up its sleeve?

The division of WUR

Even when Oliver does finally receive a reply, it will most likely not include all of the information he is looking for because WUR exists as two separate legal entities. On one hand, there is the publicly funded institution called Wageningen University (WU) where the WOB law applies, and on the other hand there is a private stichting (or foundation) called Stichting Wageningen Research (WR) where WOB does not apply.

This means that a lot of information about funding and donations to WR cannot be acquired through WOB requests. Interestingly, WU and WR aren’t just separated by administration and bureaucracy, they are also separated by geography. On one side of that street where the C3 bus goes (it’s called Bronland apparently), there is WR, on the other side, there is WU.



Oliver was very upset by all this. After months of reading through mind-numbing websites and annual reports that provide minimal information, it is now clear that even if you follow the correct procedure, one has to wait at least two months. And even when one does receive the information, it most likely won’t represent the full picture of WUR.

“I must say, both WU and WR are rather disappointing in their lack of publicly available information, I sincerely hope that I will hear back from them soon.”

Stay tuned to find out what Oliver finds out about WURs links to the fossil fuel industry.

 B.W. & O.B.

[TITLE]

[PREAMBLE]

[TEXT BODY]

**We want you to write, draw,
edit etc. for the Jester.**

No talent? No worries.

**We are a bunch of amateurs
doing our best for independent
journalism at WUR.**

Email: thejester.wageningen@gmail.com

 **YOUR. INITIALS.**



Story

Oh, the places you'll never go!

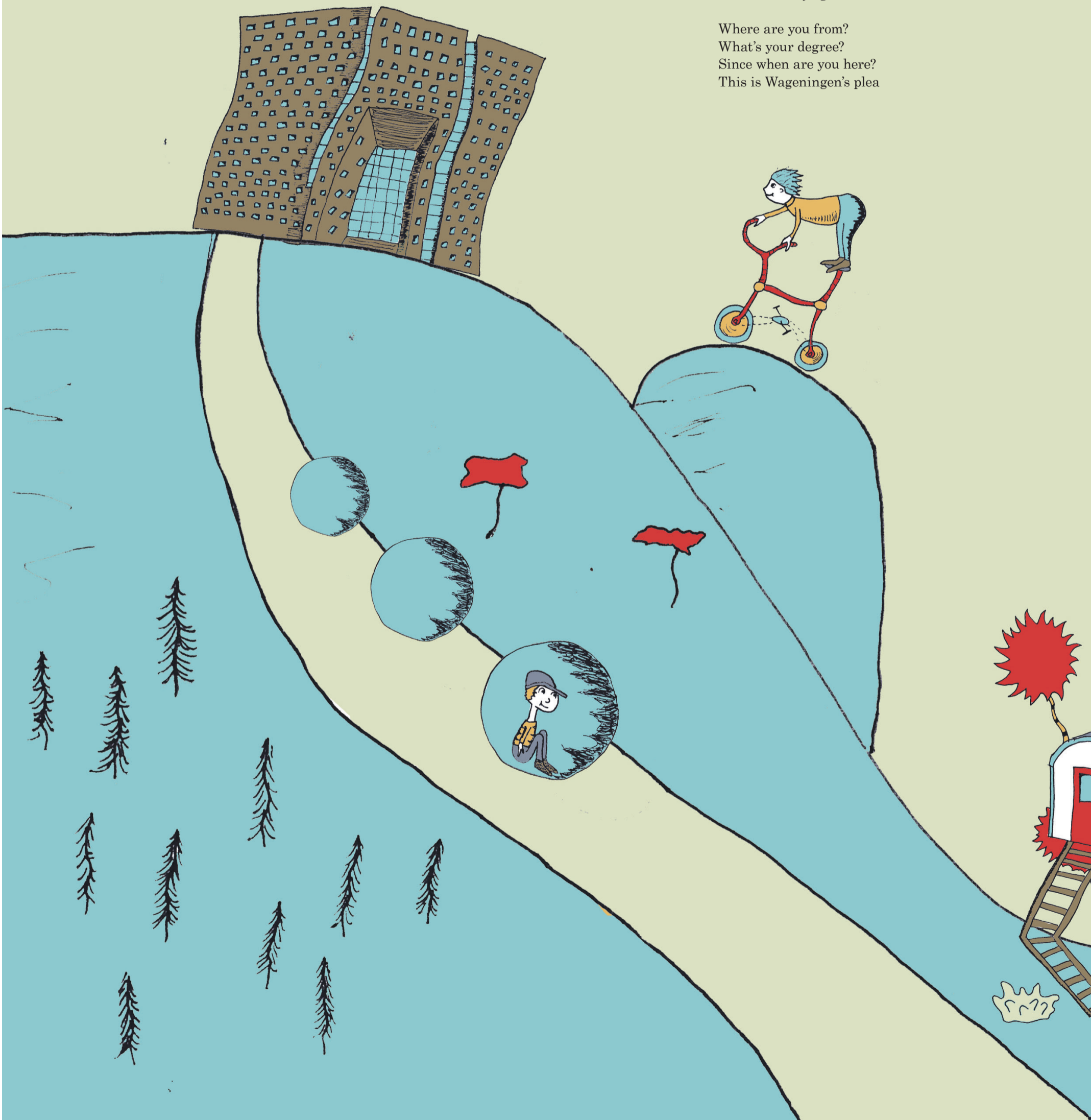
You made it to Wageningen, congratulations!
Fear not, because here, you'll find no trouble;
Wageningen is a wholesome place
It is like living in some kind of bubble

You have plants in your room
You have bikes in your way
You can be yourself,
And no one cares if you're gay

You'll talk to some peers, listen closely to them;
To some you will say, "I'd like to see you again".
With your room full of plants and your way full of bikes
You might meet a friend close to the dykes

You'll find the way to not be alone
Remember to ask all the unknown
However, the same question set
You will always get

Where are you from?
What's your degree?
Since when are you here?
This is Wageningen's plea



What a bubble indeed
Everyone is friendly in here
It's greener as planned
In this flat tiny land

Divisions in this bubble, it cannot be
But the longer you're here
The more clear it will become
That some places won't ever appear.

Oh!
The places you'll never go!

To a carnivorous potluck
Or a Chinese hot pot
At least flexitarian you are
Sustainability wise, better not get caught

Sometimes you'll want to stay
Other times, you'd rather escape
Because of Wageningen's non-changing shape
But you'll stop complaining on market day.

So stay open minded
Then you can join any board
Or visit a community garden
You won't ever be bored

Oh!
The places you'll never go!

Where do they all go, these dutch young boys
With their baby faces, wearing their fathers' clothes
A sorority more like a cult, it makes way too much noise
Internationals in particular, be careful to approach!

They come together with the tall dutch girl
That wears a big clip on her head
Going to Forum on a Wednesday night?
You'll never find them on this site!

It's funny you felt
That in this bible belt
In the market church is contained
A glass nazi flag, bright and stained

Oh!
The places you'll never go!

Little Italy, or should I say
Droevendaal, is the real name
While diversity is all they claim
Their houses look quite the same

On the entrances you can read
They hate all capitalists
But even with chickens to breed
They remain on Idealis' paid-list

So don't worry and don't strive
Just go swim in the Rhine
Here, you will always have fun
Nothing much needs to be done

And one day, when you leave
With all the things you didn't see
Clear your throat and sing without grief;
Wageningen is a great place to be!



Embracing the meaningless

The idea of staying positive seems to be everywhere and maybe we should ignore it.

We have all heard that over-friendly voice advising us to “stay positive”. We have all seen the advertisements and social media posts. We have even told ourselves this and other “inspiring” worn-out phrases to think positive. Happiness seems to be everywhere, so daily and reachable, that if you don’t experience it, something must be wrong. Come on! You just have to stay positive. It’s easy, right? Well, maybe not. Even without considering the covid pandemic, staying all day in our tiny student room, and not remembering how sunlight used to look. Keeping the positive vibes long and steady has been humankind’s dream par excellence. A dream that no one - don’t fool yourself - has ever achieved. However, it seems this historic human’s impossibility does not matter for life coaches and mindful gurus to appear and multiply like an old biblical plague, commanding you to stay positive.



It is no surprise that a cheap version of Stoicism, the philosophical school from 300 BC, gained so much popularity in the last years. After two millennia, a bunch of western yogis “suddenly” came with the idea that you are the master of your own life, and that it is not the external situations that affect you but rather how you face them. Cheap because they simply highlighted two verses of Epictetus or Marcus Aurelius writings, and excluded the whole analysis on the human condition and its understanding. Presenting a mere reduction of a complex scrutiny, in a Tik Tok simplified hashtag version, as a complete and universal thought, as if it were that easy. They forgot the whole argument of these phrases - by accident or decision -, including that the authentic Stoics were aware of the impossibility of being indifferent to all means, that is to be in complete control of your emotions without caring about the external factors. They look at this as an ideal, a goal we should aim for while knowing we will never achieve it. So why do these social media prophets keep telling us that we are fully responsible for our own happiness? Why do we keep following and believing them?



Illustrations: Fernando Garcia

There are two main problems with the happiness idealisation and staying-positive approach we are surrounded by. The first one is how this idea individualises us, making each one of us the cause of all our sorrows, saying that problems may come but, if they disturb our inner peace, it’s our fault. This idea, besides being depressing, alienates us from our surroundings to the point we think that it does not matter how exploitative, underpaid, crappy our job is, we should be mindful enough to handle our stress. It’s not the system that is crooked, not that a climate crisis is happening, nor that finding economic stability is almost impossible if we weren’t born in privilege, forget about that! It is our individual lack of optimism and excessive negativity that is wrong. So please shut up, take this five-session, hundreds euros course on mindfulness, and keep working as the non-stressed mindful slave you should be! There is no ‘we’ or ‘them’ in your problems, alright?

This stay-positive approach not only won’t lead us to a happier society but to an immobilised one lacking social commitment and change. Exploitation and injustice become just external factors that shouldn’t interfere with our personal peace of mind, so let them be, just breathe and smile.

The second main problem is a practical one: it may not fully work, especially in the long term. If we analyse the stay-positive advice - such as “don’t think too much”, “go hang out with your loving friends”, “stay active” - we can see that this approach is not about dealing with our unhappiness but about escaping it by distracting ourselves. Of course, it is important and helpful to keep a healthy diet, workout, and socialize, but at the end of the day, we will lay in bed alone with our thoughts and fears waiting to be faced and solved. At this point “living in the moment” sounds more like a nightmare.

This is why staying (to stay, to remain, to not move, to maintain) positive is neither a solution nor good advice in any sense, since it is simply not possible. We cannot be active all the time, be always distracted, or happy. Life can be good, bad and everything in between. To focus only on the good parts means to live halfway. How can we grasp an idea without its contrary? How can we understand ‘something’ without ‘nothing’? Could we ever be happy without tasting sadness? Would we ever truly enjoy without suffering before? Can we see ‘the good’ without knowing ‘the bad’?

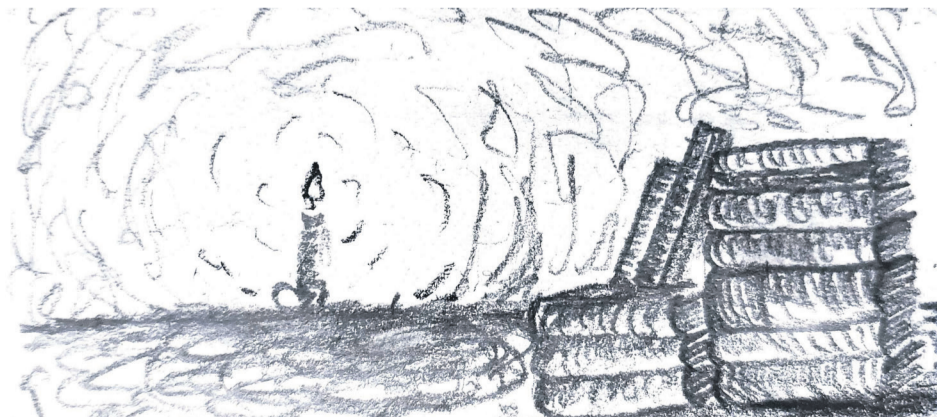
Still, we do not necessarily have to suffer in order to enjoy. Don’t let the extremes fool us. Just like we can fast knowing how delicious food is, we can face our fears and unpleasant situations knowing how good life can be. If we understand that we not only “should” live in the present but that we are trapped in it, we might notice that since we are already here, in this non-escaping present, we have at least to pay attention to it. Otherwise, we will end up in what Socrates considers a life not worth living, an unexamined one.

To examine something means we must leave behind all prejudices and try to have as little bias as possible. The good inquirer is the one that looks at things as they are. To examine human life is to observe it as raw as it is, with all its chances, all the suffering, and all the joy possible in one single moment or person, including oneself. This examination is complex and will give mixed findings all the time. There is joy in suffering, tediousness in joy, nonsense in rationality, and logic in passions. Everything can be a game to be discovered and played by ourselves as observers and narrators of our own story and the stories around us.

So instead of trying to stay positive, why not try to understand what else is there? Why not observe and experience it instead of escaping it? So next time you feel under the weather, instead of looking for an inspirational TED talk, or an aspirational quote, to find momentary relief, go deeper into the storm, contemplate it. Instead of going to that best-sellers self-help section, turn left and walk around for the classics one, grab that 18th or 19th-century novel, and find yourself a good companion for the adventure of a worth-living life.

Submerge yourself in what dying after a wrong-lived life looks like with Tolstoy’s short story *The death of Ivan Ilych*. Let Dostoyevsky tell you what it means to be moral and to be consumed by guilt in *Crime and Punishment*. Feel what it is to be without purpose in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Share a heartbreak with Goethe’s young Werther. See the world and its horrors with the innocent optimistic eyes of Voltaire’s *Candide*. Listen to Tchaikovsky’s sentimental waltz.

Become the observer who laughs and cries, who experiences life so deeply that every minute counts as an eternity itself and nevertheless enjoys it all the way, finding jubilation even in the saddest tragedies.



Maybe the way to escape the absurdity of life and winter’s sadness is not by trying to climb the unreachable peak of happiness but to jump into the abyss of suffering and by starting to understand and appreciate the details of an imperfectly beautiful - but examined - life.



The art of drawing

I want to introduce you, dear reader, to the art of drawing.
The art of dragging your pencil across the page while trying to emulate
what is on your mind, what is outside, or nothing in particular.

You stare as the pencil glides
and you think, as time passes by
Rice for dinner perhaps? I don't know

You have created something.

A closer inspection reveals the things you hadn't seen before.
No no not like this, but a bit more to the side

You erase and fix, the spots you've missed
You bite your lip, as the time ticks and ticks
but you don't mind
the silent minutes passing by

Tracing desirable lines
to emphasise the shapes they hide

Colouring this erasing that
immersed in soft scraping sounds
As the lines bend, twist, swirl and snake

Until,
you turn the page
or take a break.

I would recommend, my friend, to try
as drawing airs the mind.

Haha

5 HOTTEST ALTERNATIVE dating spots in Wageningen

Dating is a tricky business. First, there's the trouble of finding a human willing to date you, then you have to choose an outfit that will impress on first sight, and last (but definitely not least) you must find the location that will create the perfect setting to kindle that fire. Worry no more - we have you covered on that spicy location for your next date. We've scoured the internet and conducted some in-depth field experiments to bring you the top five dating spots in Wageningen.



❧ Fish tanks in Pets Place ❧

If your date is into the smell of hamsters and naming colourful fish, this is the place for you. In the right-hand corner at the back of the shop there is a wall of fish tanks containing some of Wageningen's most exotic and rare fish species. Afterwards you can walk across the road to De Urker Visspecialist and indulge in the delicacies of our underwater world. Then back to your place to watch Finding Nemo and feel terrible for indulging in capitalisms' underwater frontier.



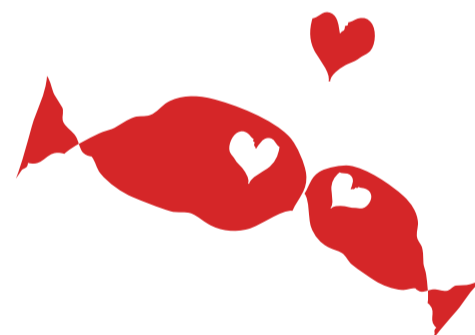
❧ The secret garden behind Lumen ❧

Well, it's not exactly secret but it is hidden which should be enough to impress your campus date that rarely goes outside of a five-meter radius of Forum. The conversation will most likely go as follows: "Hey, did you hear about this cool study building that's also a greenhouse, and even has a secret garden behind it?" "NO CAN WE GO?". Simple as that. Then, as you walk through the building, you can explain how the building is called Lumen which means light in Latin. Don't forget, facts about Latin are hot.



❧ The Arboretum ❧

The Arboretum has been reported to have a 95% success rate of resulting in a second date. Yeah, those trees aren't just adding to Wageningen's biodiversity, they are diversifying the gene pool for generations to come. And don't forget there is a fancier arboretum called De Dreijen, for your more sophisticated daytime dates. With an ornate pond and a museum full of naked (touchable) sculptures, it's the perfect spot for impressing even the classiest Wageningen student.



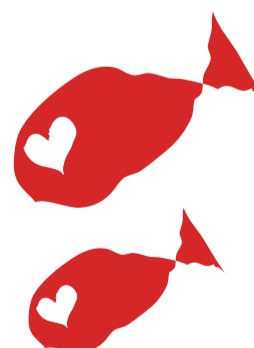
❧ Museum de Casteelse Poort ❧

Take your date on a journey through time. Start off with a picnic blanket and a bottle of Wageningse Berg wine in Torckpark. And when you feel it is time to take that date to the next level, you can stroll hand-in-hand to the neighbouring museum to ponder the historical richness of the town that brought you together. And even if your date is a complete failure, at least you'll have gathered some historical information about Wageningen to impress the many more that are to come.



❧ Bridge in the Uiterwaarden ❧

Somewhere in the Wageningen Uiterwaarden lies a wooden bridge, offering the perfect spot for a romantic date. Prepare a picnic, settle down on the bridge, let your feet dangle over the water, and you'll feel like you're in your favourite teenage romcom in minutes. Don't be disturbed by the screeching sounds of mating geese, love is in the air. Make sure you tell your date to wear wellies though; it can get real gooey out there.



Haha

WALL OF FAME

WUR EDITION

In these short and gloomy days with the saddest weather, one sometimes wonders: How to escape the mediocre misery of this rural provincial town? Well, cheer up, spring is coming, and other people managed to go from WUR to international fame and acclaim. For your inspiration, we bring you a list of the most famous Wageningers (for the extensive list, check Wikipedia).



Maarten van Rossem

Historian and media personality Maarten van Rossem grew up in Wageningen and is now one of the most popular media icons of the Netherlands. Although he specialised in the history and politics of the United States, he is mostly known for being grumpy. His grumpiness became some kind of cult thing, but then the kind of cult thing that your grandma, and everyone that watches too much television, loves. Since he no longer lives in Wageningen, chances of spotting him here are low, but turn on the television and it will be difficult to avoid seeing him. You can also find him on Spotify where he has a weekly, grumpy podcast.



Qu Dongyu

Did you know that the director-general of the FAO studied at Wageningen? Before Qu Dongyu became elected as head of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, he got his doctorate in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at WUR. Qu says he aims to 'focus on hunger and poverty eradication, tropical agriculture and digital rural development.' Classic Wageningen. So maybe, if you're ambitious enough, you can also get a real job, instead of starting a food forest with your friends!



Jeroen Dijsselbloem

Former Dutch Minister of Finance and President of the Eurogroup. Nowadays, he's Chairman of the Dutch Safety Board but, not so long ago, he was also Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Wageningen University. He once told Southern European countries in response to the debt crisis: "I cannot spend all my money on drinks and women and then hold my hand up for help", which offended some people. Despite the name and fame, he still has time to feed his pigs and chickens on his little farm near the Wageningse Berg, but your chances of spotting a wild Jeroen might be best in the Albert Heijn.



Annemiek van Vleuten

Perhaps the world's best female cyclist. Winner of the Giro Rosa, La Course, World Championship etc, etc. Last year, she thought she won a gold medal at the Olympics only to find out after the finish that there was one cyclist in front of her that everyone forgot about. So because of poor communication, instead of sprinting for gold, she only won silver. Anyway, best not to remind her about that when you see her cycling around Wageningen. She did win gold on the time trial, however, so no shame there. If you would like to be near her Olympic aura, join the local cycling Tour Club Wageningen where she supposedly still makes an appearance sometimes.



Volkert van der Graaf

One of the few people that can say they killed an influential politician. In 2002, Volkert van der Graaf shot Pim Fortuyn and since then, he's one of the most famous murderers of the Netherlands. He used to be a radical vegan and lived in Droevendaal but, after spending some time in jail, he decided to live in anonymity. So, if you want to spot him, look for someone with a hoodie and sunglasses on a cloudy day. Also notice here the downsides of fame.



Long read

An *incomplete* history of WAGeningen

A long time ago, there were Celts, Romans or Vikings walking around Wageningen (or Wagenwega or Vada). There was also a time when Burgundians took over the city, which later fell under Spanish occupation. Wageningen was evacuated twice during the Second World War and one night back in 1943, population registers were stolen and hidden in a chicken coop. And in the 90s, Wageningen had such a strong “tree-huging” reputation that its student numbers actually declined. Do you like stories about the history of our little village? Well we got you covered.

Between sunny days at the Rhine, bites of local food or amazing conversations over brunch at the Saturday market, bits and pieces of information about Wageningen might have slipped into your mind. If you have been lingering around for long enough, there is a chance you have gathered quite a unique collection of historical pieces. Yet, putting some of them together in the greater puzzle of Wageningen history proves to be a story of its own...

Human settlements date back to 4900 BC when Celts were living in the surroundings of what we know today as Wageningen. Celtic burial mounds were found on Geertjesweg at the corner with Diedenweg. In 3400 BC, the first farmers are believed to have appeared in the Veluwe, as suggested by the burial mounds discovered in the area between Bennekom and Renkum (Source: Geschiedenis van Wageningen).

Romans, Vikings, & the beginnings of Christianity

In 69 AD, the name Vada was mentioned by Tacitus – an important figure in Roman history and politics – believed to be the Roman name for Wageningen. Then, in 838 AD, the name Wagenwega was mentioned for the first time. The name of Nude, the area between Wageningen and Grebbeberg, appeared in 1165 in the sentence “terra illa que vulgo Noda dicatur” (“that land which is commonly called Noda”), while Nudam was the Roman name for the Grebbedijk.

At the end of the 7th century, the first chapel in the area was built, marking the presence of Christianity. Two centuries later, it was burned down by Vikings.

City rights & sovereignty

In 1125, Wageningen was granted a Charter; a written authorization by the sovereign defining the rights and privileges of the city. However, the city’s rights were formalised by Otto II of Guelders only 100 years later, in 1263.

The sovereignty of Wageningen was fought over by multiple duchies, especially at the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century. At the end of the 15th century, the Burgundians (a Germanic tribe) took over Wageningen, and in the 16th century, the city fell under Spanish occupation. In 1579, Wageningen (as part of the Duchy of Guelders) joined the Union of Utrecht against the Spanish, making Wageningen one of the founding members of what became the Netherlands as we know it today.

Wageningen & WWII

The peace treaty marking the end of WWII was signed at Hotel de Wereld in 1945. Yet, did you know that while the treaty was being negotiated, Wageningen was completely empty? From October 1944 until the 15th of May 1945, the citizens of Wageningen were evacuated due to multiple fights that took place between Wageningen and Rhenen.

De Wolfswaard farm, located at the end of the Pabstendam, hides another interesting story. During the night of 2nd to 3rd of January 1943, a group of students and citizens of Wageningen stole parts of the civil administration and population registers from the municipality, which indicated the locations of Jewish people living in Wageningen. These documents were hidden by the resistance group at De Wolfswaard farm in the chicken coop! Names of the resistance fighters involved in the raid include Bob Mebius, the owner of De Wolfswaard, and Henk Sijnja, who was part of the student resistance.

For the full story of the importance of Wageningen in WWII, visit the museum De Casteelse Poort and their exposition on WWII. Also, when you go for your next walk, plug in your earphones and have a listen to the Tante Zwaan podcast (in Dutch) for more about what went on in that farmhouse in the Second World War. For those multi-taskers out there, take a closer look at the famous WWII figures immortalised in street names around town!

WUR: from agriculture to the environment. What about those years with only one salmon?

The university started as a National Agriculture School in 1876. Since 1869, the Hogere Burgerschool had existed and this was to become the foundation for the university just a few years later. The university was a National Agriculture School back in 1876. Then, in 1918 the school was recognized as a National Agriculture College. It was only in 1986 that the college became an Agricultural University. In the meantime, research institutes were founded all over the Netherlands and were merged with WU under the name of Wageningen University & Research (UR) in 1998. In 2016, the university and the research institutes officially turned into WUR as we know it today (Source: Historich Album Wageningen). However, the campus has not always looked the way it does now. The university buildings used to be spread all around the city, many near the city centre and the Arboretum. Some people still miss the old set-up, which allowed students to mingle more with the city life of Wageningen during breaks and after classes.

Over the years, the focus of the university changed. Slowly, research became more oriented towards the life sciences, and soon enough departments related to environmental and social sciences appeared. WUR’s growing reputation merged with the

identity of the small Dutch village. Wageningen became the City of Life Sciences. However, who’s to say that environmental causes had not been the essence of Wageningen long before the university became so recognisable?



Bird's eye map of Wageningen by Nicolaes van Geelkercken, 1640



De Wolfswaard, 1966



Opening of the landbouwhogeschool, 1918



Let's go back in time to the years 1777-1781, when records indicated that the only salmon fisherman in the city caught only one salmon in three years! At first sight, it might seem funny that such a thing has been recorded. However, only 100 years ago, the Rhine used to bear more salmon than any other European river. Another 100 years ago, in 1885, a Salmon Treaty was signed to prevent salmon overfishing in the Rhine. So, what happened in those years between 1777 and 1781? Were the people of Wageningen worried about the extinction of the species? Were there some sort of activist groups fighting for the cause? Was it a bad time for fishing? Or did our fisherman forget to record his catch for some years there? Well, we can only imagine... The year after, in 1782, thirty-four salmon were recorded.

A Wet History of Wageningen

Peering through the window these days, we mainly see grey. Whether it's a roof of clouds, a shower of rain or a wall of fog - we face what they call "just typical Dutch weather". Contrast this with what we had exactly one year ago: sub-zero temperatures, clear blue skies and the floodplains covered in a sheet of clear ice over a blanket of snow. It is almost impossible to believe that those wintry conditions could happen on these wet and mild banks of the Rhine, yet they did. At sometime, those conditions that now require a meteorological miracle to reproduce used to be typically Dutch as well.

Looking through famous old paintings, it is clear that floods and freezing were common during Dutch winters. Wageningen was no different - the town was built right next to the Lower Rhine, with the first settlements located near the Wageningse Berg to avoid most of the flooding. The Rhine used to run along the Southern side of the hill, where the Veerweg now is. Eventually, the early settlers moved downhill and settled

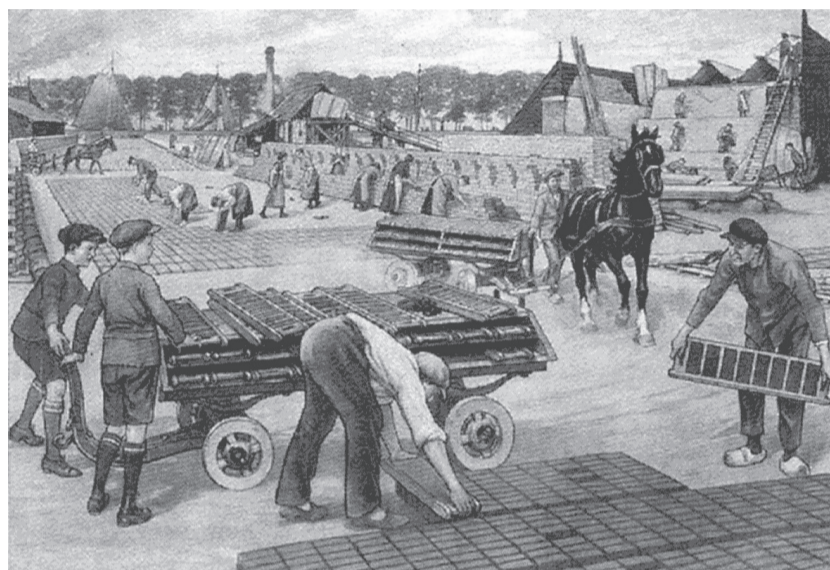
near what is now the city centre, building dykes to protect themselves from the Lower Rhine. Then, disaster struck. On St. Elisabeths Day in 1421, the Netherlands was hit by one of the largest floods in recorded history. Up to 10,000 died in Holland as the North Sea surged landwards, changing the surrounding landscapes along the way. The entire Rhine was reshaped - most of the water was diverted from Wageningen to flow along the Waal near Nijmegen. The Lower Rhine itself was also diverted southwards, away from the Grebbedijk and the city centre. Eventually, the Lower Rhine followed the course it has today, giving us the floodplains ("uiterwaarden") that flank the city centre to this day.

The past decades have also seen many changes along our part of the Lower Rhine. In 1853, the first brick factories ("steenfabrieken") were built in the floodplains, where the clay-rich river soil was baked to literally become the building blocks of Dutch towns. With these factories in full-throttle on the horizon, separated from the dyke by a large expanse of water and ice, the floodplains must have looked surreal compared to what we see today. The water routinely reached the dyke; the houses east of the dyke on the Veerweg often had their basements flooded.

Living there had its upsides, though: imagine waking up one clear winter's morning to find everything around you frozen. School is cancelled, skates come on. After yet another day of playing on the ice, you head off to a friend's house, skating over the frozen road straight to the front door. Hot chocolate by the fire. Warm pea soup for dinner. At the end of the day, after a spectacular sunset, you doze off to the crunching and huffing sounds of the diesel-powered icebreakers toiling against nature to allow industrialised life to thrive. Well, looking at today's reality, that battle was surely won, but at what cost?



Skating near Veerweg



Brick factory in the Uiterwaarden

In 1421, NL was hit by one of the largest floods in recorded history. Up to 10,000 died in Holland as the North Sea surged landwards, changing the surrounding landscapes along the way.

It was not too different on that special week in February last year. From the first days of wind and snow, the floodplains were packed with thousands of excited people, walking (and skiing) from sunrise to sunset. After the braver souls 'approved' the safety of the ice, the crowds had their skates on, and thousands congregated on the ice sheets for hours of skating. To top it off, stands were set up with warm drinks and soups. And so, for a few magical days, the darkness of winter, of lockdowns and climate change could be blown from our minds by the frosty breeze.

However, a year on, we have settled back to reality. Yet another (partial) lockdown is passing by, with online classes and whatever horrors or relief they bring us. The days are getting longer, and time is running out for the weather gods to let us skate this winter.

Unfortunately, climate change will not help our skating chances. Winters are expected to become wetter and milder, snow and ice will be pushed further away from the lowlands. Floods will probably become more common, though as seen in Germany, Belgium and Limburg last summer, this is unlikely to be something to look forward to. Perhaps the only silver lining lies with our German neighbours, who are shutting down their nuclear power stations this year. What sounds like a silly plan that will keep the Germans burning coal may actually help our chances for a frozen Rhine in the coming years. Nuclear cooling water - warmed when passed through the nuclear reactors - will no longer enter the Rhine. Subsequently, the river water may be just a slightly bit cooler. Will that be enough for the Rhine to freeze over in the next couple of months? Probably not, but don't expect the Dutch to get rid of their skates just yet.



Wageningse Uiterwaarden, made by Abrahamsz



what's on?



Murder Mystery Comedy night

27th of February and other Sundays | De Wilde Wereld

Need some more funny people in your life? Check out Emma and Sarah's comedy nights every Sunday. They have something for everyone, from champagne bingo to Murder mystery.



Reverb Vintage Winter Sale & Start of Spring Collection Clothes sale

5th of March | All say | Common Barrack Droevendaal

Are you hip? Do you like hip clothes? Well come fulfill all of your hip needs with Reverb vintage to the tune of vibey. Oh and follow their insta @reverb.vintage



Organic farming toward a sustainable future Panel discussion

14th of March | 12:30-13:30 | Impulse

Is organic farming the most sustainable solution for agriculture? It probably depends on the context. But why not listen to three students discuss it anyway.



Consent Storytelling Night Storytelling

15th of March | Evening | Thuis

Have you got a story about consent that you feel safe to share? Or want to listen to others? Creatiefhuis organise a consent themed storytelling night. More info on their social media.



LTAY - Action Week Action & discussion

Week of the 14th of March | Full week | Everywhere

Want to talk about yes? In the week of March 14th, Let's Talk About Yes will organize another action week to bring attention to the topic of consent and the fight against sexual violence. Drop by one of their stalls on campus or check out their events on social media.



Critical Internships Workshop

22nd of March | Evening

Have you done an internship and thought "Hm this seems like cheap labour instead of learning"? Well now is your chance to talk and learn about it. Check out Otherwise's social media closer to the date for more info.



PoWUR Sharing

31st of March | 19:30-21:00 | Impulse

Do you want to learn about how students (don't) have power. Otherwise and RUW are organising an event with Professor Phil MacNaghten and Fernando from the student council. Why kale? Well come and find out.



Sagittarius
(November 22-December 21)

You are feeling like you need to escape and crave a long-deserved holiday abroad. However, your study plan, social obligations and empty wallet tell you otherwise. Whilst you are saving up money, scratch the itch to broaden your horizon in different ways. Cook that cool vegan recipe, or learn that new sport that has always intrigued you. Travel is not always necessary to escape – Wageningen is already full of adventure.



Capricorn
(December 22-January 19)

In the next couple of months, weight will be lifted from your shoulders. This can be in any form, from the reduction of emotional weight or financial stress to physical tension. Things will start to go right for you, and you will feel more energy to invest in others. Take your rekindled positive energy to help out some friends with their busy lives. Nonetheless, also enjoy this time by allowing yourself to be unapologetically happy and do something you genuinely enjoy. For instance, take a stroll through the Uiterwaarden like the bird watcher you are!



Aquarius
(January 20 – February 18)

Although your start of 2022 was great in terms of work and study, you seem to not be able to get rid of the winter gloom in your personal life. Over the next months, stop blaming yourself for friendships that just do not seem to work. Trust that, by being yourself, you will find your personal 'niche' in Wageningen. Remember, there is a bunch of people just waiting for you to invite them into your life! You will see that, soon, new people that appreciate you for who you are will gravitate towards you.



Pisces
(February 19 – March 20)

It is 2022 and your schedule is fully booked. You haven't had so much to do in a long time, but still don't feel as overwhelmed as you did some time ago. You seem to have taken up responsibilities that you truly value instead of pushing yourself to achieve things you don't care about. Be proud of yourself! However, don't forget that new responsibilities sometimes come with setbacks. Don't beat yourself up when juggling the responsibilities becomes difficult, but address yourself with compassion and clarity.





Aries
(March 21-April 20)

The beginning of the new year is challenging you. Don't forget that life is not all about achievements and be kinder to yourself over the next months. Express your frustrated heart in some creative endeavors. Try releasing all tensions through art, or ease your stress by joining an aquarobics class at the Bongerd. Take some me-time! You will see your problems will automatically ease when you embrace a more accepting and mindful attitude.



Gemini
(May 21 - June 20)

You appear to be a social butterfly this month. Childhood friends, family members and ex co-workers all crave your attention. Allow yourself time to rekindle old relationships and work on building a solid social network like the entrepreneur you are. However, a note of caution is due: although many old friends can add value to your life, for some people there was a good reason to distance yourself from them. Remember to show integrity and self-worth in case people ask you for favours that they wouldn't do for you.



Scorpio
(October 24 - November 21)

This year some changes will occur in your support system. Your friends and family seem to be a bit more occupied with their personal lives. Do not feel resentment towards them: they need to get their life together as much as you do. In the meantime, improve your self-confidence by taking care of yourself! You possess enough personal resilience to take on the challenges that the year 2022 brings to you. The members of your support system will return once their lives are back on track.



Leo
(July 23 - August 23)

Congratulations! You are raising the bar for us all by neatly balancing a busy social life with educational and extracurricular responsibilities. Although you are proud of your achievements, don't forget to take breaks. It is time to learn to delegate some tasks and free up time to clear your head. Don't forget that your friends, family and study mates are always there to support you when needed. Altogether, your most important investment is into yourself.



Taurus
(April 21 - May 20)

You are off to a great start this year by fiercely working towards your dreams. Hold on to this great energy boost you have from prioritizing the achievement of your personal goals. However, due to your go-getter attitude, you may forget to spend quality time with your friends. Invite your friends to get some drinks at the Zaaier, have an old-school sleepover or challenge each other in a Zumba class. You will see that nourishing the relationships with your mates is crucial to achieving personal success.



Cancer
(June 21 - July 22)

Soon, someone that you have not seen in a long time will cross your path. If there are things left unsaid with this person, find the courage to pick up the conversation that you have dropped abruptly before. Talking things out helps you find closure and maybe even leads to a new, exciting friendship. You will see that a weight is lifted off your shoulders when you aim for mutual understanding.



Virgo
(August 24 - September 22)

These months, radically shift your focus from fixing others' issues to exploring your personal opportunities. You have done so much for your friends and family members, that you sometimes lose track of your own aspirations. Allow yourself some time to redefine your personal goals, whether this is related to studying, your career or wellbeing. Start by focusing on filling your own cup - it is time to lay back and reset!



Libra
(September 23 - October 23)

This winter, you have been hibernating in your student room more often than you'd like to admit. However, the stars show that plenty of inspiration, laughter and optimism is coming to you this year - as long as you open yourself up to it. The beginning of the year can be stressful, but allow yourself to relax. The start of this year will be full of new social, educational and emotional opportunities.



Illustration: Dominique Rooks



Best of student plaza

23 November 2021 · 🌐

Hi,
I will move back to Wageningen soon and luckily I don't need to rent a place this time.
But please, can someone explain to me why so many posts are saying "Dutch only"?!
Is Wageningen still the open and international place I used to know?
This is very concerning... 😞

60 comments

29 November 2021 · 🌐

We're looking for the best hot chocolate in Wageningen(thick, creamy, not Chocomelk). Please let us know If you know about your favourite cafe! 😊

21 November 2021 · 🌐

Hey you,
I know that my bike light was cool. And I also know that was kinda dumb of me to accidentally leave it on my bike (probably still on) outside Bornsesteeg under the covered bike racks between 20:40 and 23:30, before rushing inside because of how soaked I was.
I come from Naples (IT) and if there is something that people tell when joking about my city is that we steal a lot of stuff (yet it never happened to me, in all my life). Therefore, quite ironic that the first time that something gets stolen from me is here, in such a nice place like Wageningen.
Anyway: I'm quite sad. Not because I had to bike in the dark tonight risking a fine, but because that light was a present from my parents that I got for christmas last year, and yes, I was quite proud and happy about it. Therefore I would sincerely ask you to return my light back. You can either leave it in the 9A mailbox in Hoevestein or the 6A mailbox at NANO (Dreijenplein). If you want, you can also contact me directly: the worst thing can happen to you is me offering you a coffee and buying you another light.
Yes, I'm willing to do that but I would like my original light back.
Maybe people will tell me that I'm naïve if I think that I'm gonna get my light back, but I prefer having faith in humanity and hope that the right thing will be done. Maybe at the end of it you will understand that stealing my light was really not worth it.
Sincerely,
Antonio

29 November 2021 · 🌐

Looking for a left glove
Hello peeps, so apparently some nights ago I must have lost my left glove. Now my right glove is very lonely and my left hand very cold. Does anyone have a lonely left glove lying around that would enjoy to be part of a pair again? My right glove is open for any shape, colour, brand, material patchwork-glove-pairing. Is there anyone who could help out a lonely right glove? Ill reward of course with chocolate or beer or something 😊❤️

7
Hello everyone! 🌐

Me and Irene Katsaros are going to catch a flight from Weeze airport (Germany) on Sunday morning at 7:20. We are looking for someone that would kindly give us a car ride to the airport on Saturday evening (so we can sleep at the airport) or in the middle of the night (only if you are a brave nocturnal animal).
The trip is about 1 hour long, so not too bad! We would cover all costs and provide gifts and good company to the driver, besides eternal gratitude. If you feel like helping out two (negatively tested) lost souls please contact us! You could be our saviour!
See below a picture of us. As you can see, Irene is not in her best shape at the moment, but we will make sure that she can fit in any kind of car without causing discomfort to anyone.
Thanks a lot! Cheers 🍷



and 53 others 6 comments

18 November 2021 · 🌐

It is a sad story that goes like this
We bought soluble coffee
But we didnt really need it
In sake of sustainability
Please
If you need it
Buy it from us
It s lekker and ding
And also discounted



Wageningen Student Plaza 4 h · 🌐

I can't describe nor post any pictures of this item due to FB rules . I'll post a link in comments.

Best selling stimulating massager for women.
I've never used one as I don't have the required organ but according to daily users I've spoken to, they are quite ergonomic (more than the updated pro 3) and they do the job quite efficiently.

We bought 1 and received 5. If you want a spare, factory sealed one drop me a DM.
They are €10 off the retail price.

€25 · WAGENINGEN, GELDERLAND
An ergonomic massage for women.

41

16 comments

13 January at 20:48 · 🌐

A question for the insect enthousiasts! 🐛
Last weekend my parents found this lil' fella in their backyard: a stick insect! I have done a little research and found that they are not native to the Netherlands, so I took it inside and am now taking care of my accidental pet.
Is there anyone who knows what kind of species this is??
He is light green and has so far eaten some bramble (braambladeren) and privet (liguster). I would love to know a bit more about my mysterious new pet!



17 January at 16:17 · 🌐

Hey peeps!
I just came back from exchange and i cant remember for the life of me where i left my bike keys? does anybody have experience how i can break my built in lock or where i could bring the bike to get it removed?
Does anybody own a disc cutter they would let me use?

15 comments

Vagón para volquete, entero. Se le cambiaron las laminas malas, recién reparado.
Dump wagon, whole. Bad laminate replaced, freshly repaired.

Rate this translation

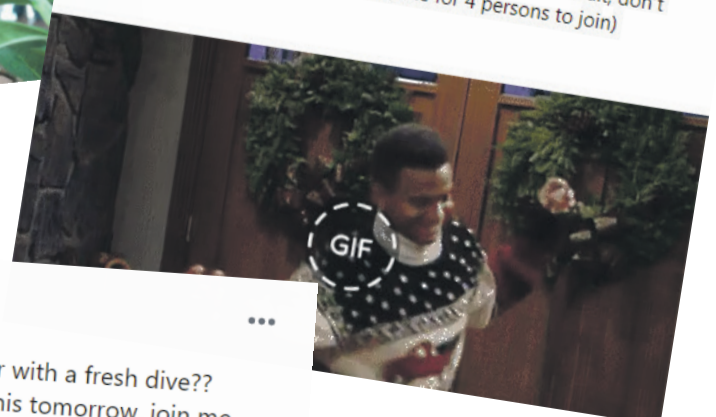


8 December 2021 · 🌐 feeling hopeful.

Spread the Christmas feeling
Hi!

Christmas is a time of togetherness, "gezelligheid" and being with the people about who you care. With the pandemic still going on, life can be tough these days. It could be that you are not able to celebrate Christmas with your family due the national covid-measures or travel restrictions. Or maybe you're having a hard time dealing with the whole covid situation (e.g. feeling down, having difficulties with making new friends).

Can you identify yourself with one of the situations I described?
Coming Sunday (12/12/2021) we're celebrating Christmas with our corridor. We'll have a delicious Christmas dinner with several courses! If you could use some company/distraction in these difficult, don't hesitate to send me a PM! (We've space for 4 persons to join)
Jelmer



1 January at 00:30 · 🌐

Hi lovely people! Who wants to start the year with a fresh dive??
Everybody ofcourse, but if you still feel like this tomorrow, join me with a New Years Dive at the Rijnhaven at 13:45!!! See youuuu xxx

