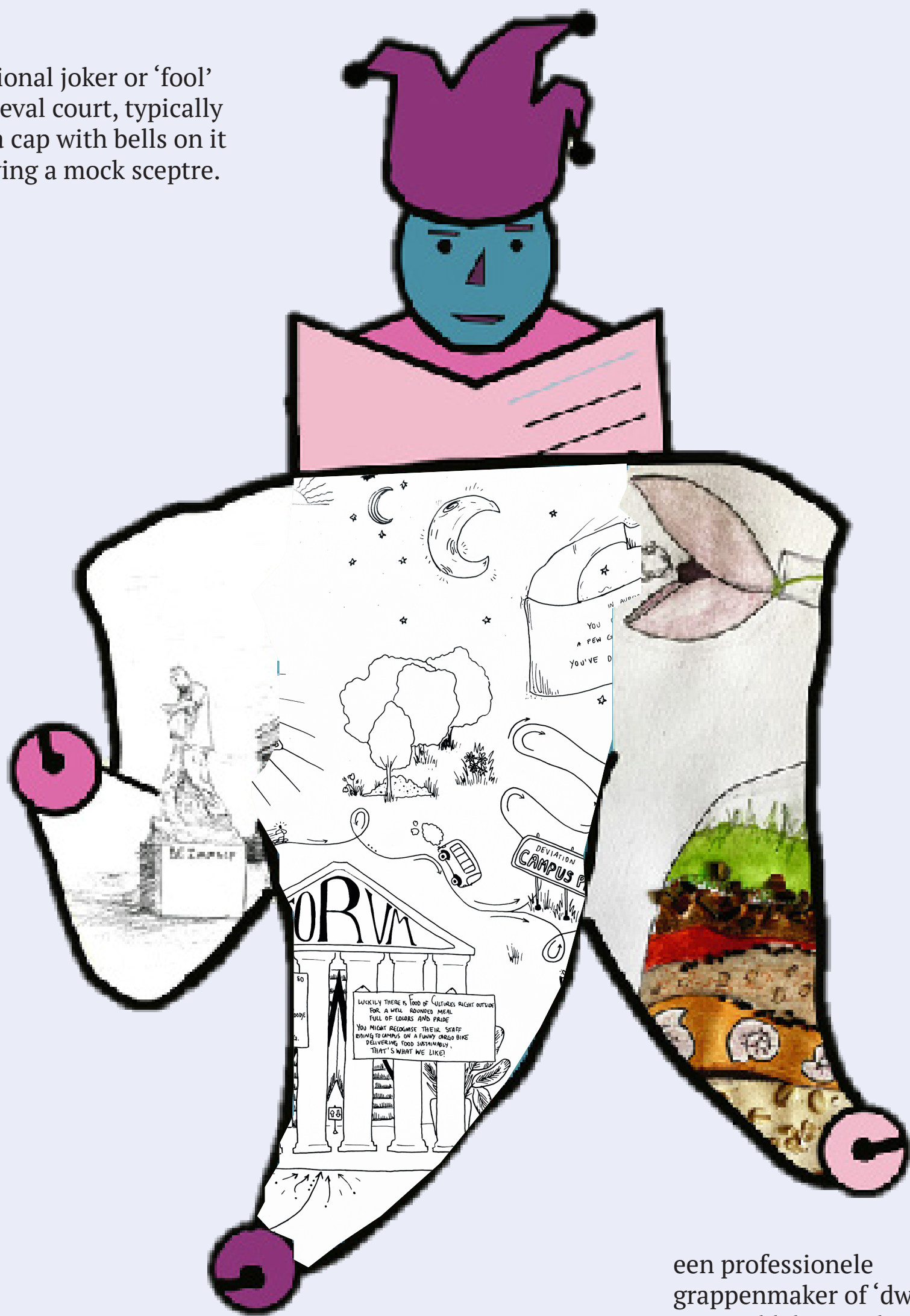


THE JESTER

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

Welcome to Wageningen if you've just arrived! Or if you've returned from your Summer adventures, welcome back! While you've all been out there having a good old time for yourselves our Jester team have been working tirelessly making some crazy ass illustrations and a big old mix of thought provoking articles. As always we are critical, satirical and above all else, amateur. This time we've taken amateur to a new level and not done a final check on any of our grammar - how crazy is that? We've had to rush the final stages of finishing this edition so that we could get it to you in time for the AID. If you spot mistakes let us know and we might give you a job (but you probably won't get paid). Well it's been great having you read this nonsense, we sincerely hope you enjoy every second of wandering through the pages to come. Ciao for now!

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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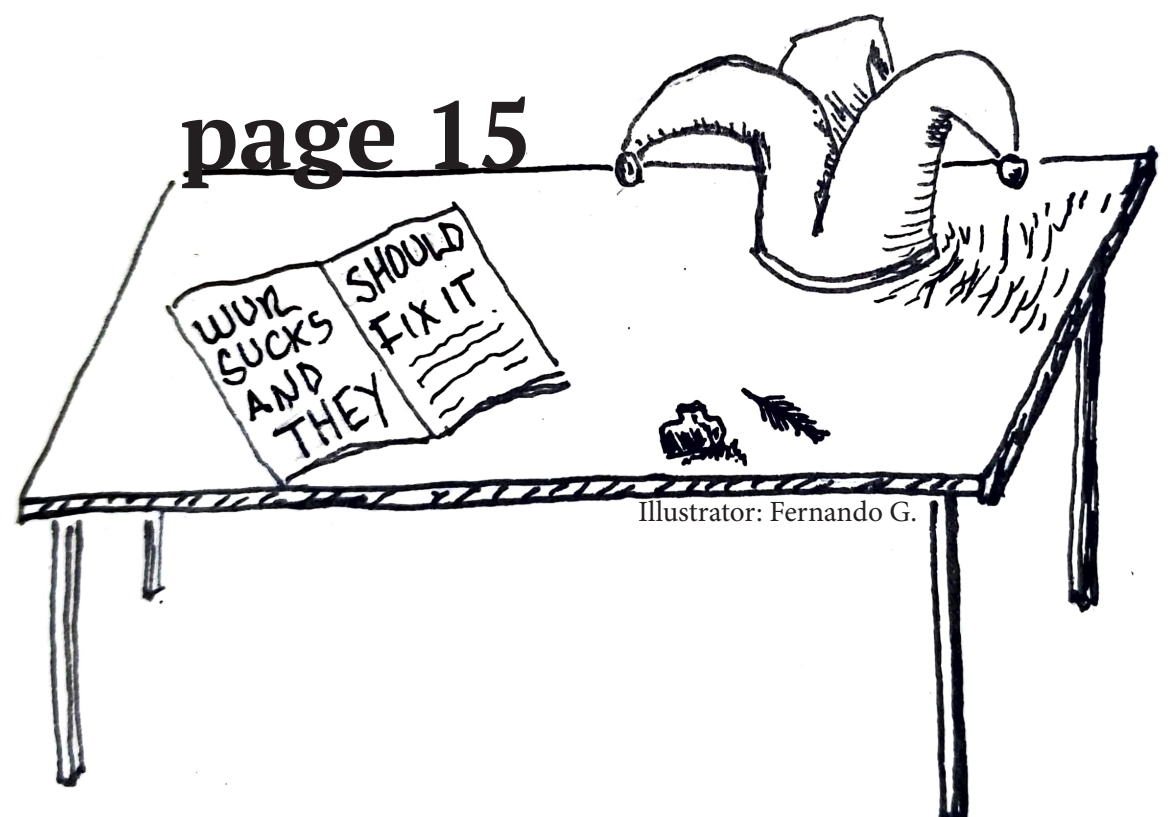
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Wes Anderson Grand Budapest Hotel for the colour board

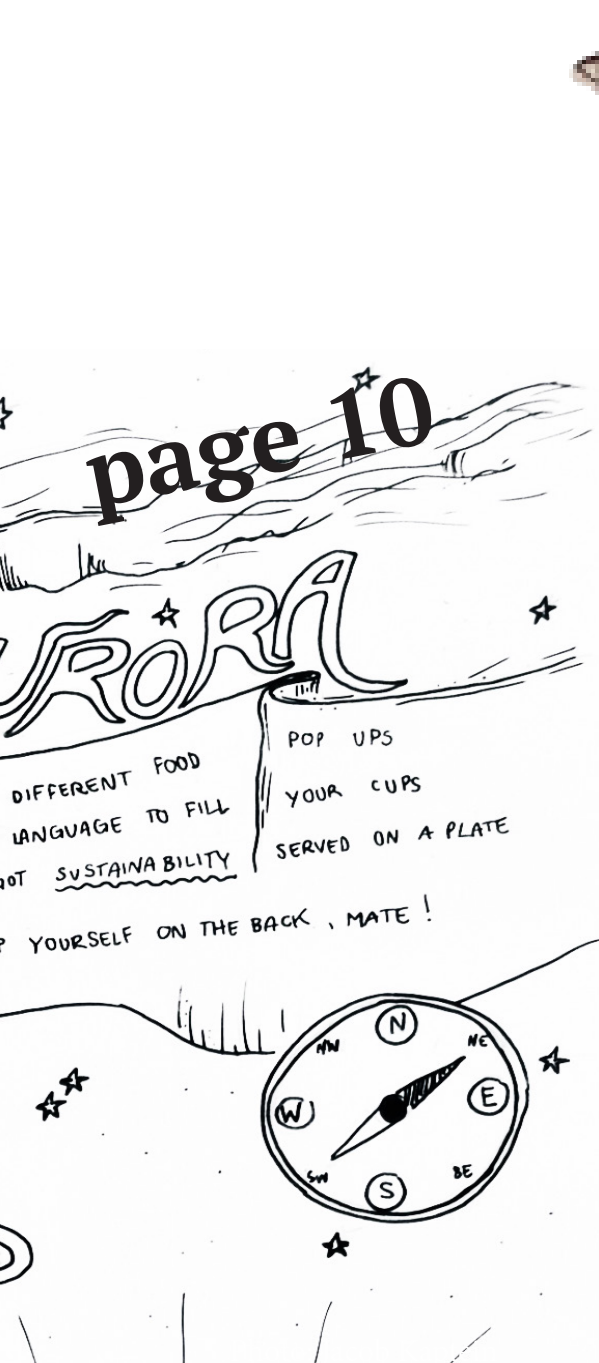
contact

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.

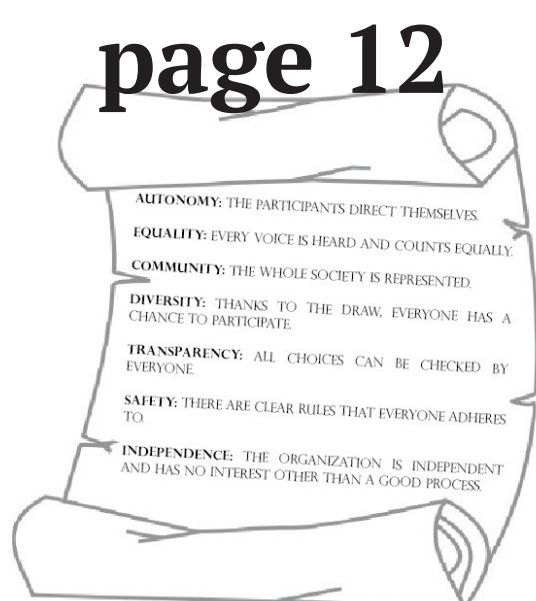
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Illustrator: Margherita B.



Illustrator: Smaranda F.



White people at WUR need to learn about racism

The aim of this article is not to say that all White people are bad. My intention here is to highlight how we find it hard to acknowledge and discuss racism at our university. The reports and discussion surrounding the removal of an exhibition on campus last October demonstrated this vividly. My main message here is that White people at WUR (there's a high probability that that is you) need to do more work on learning about racism, White innocence in Dutch society, and everything that comes with it.

Before getting started, let me just say that I am also White and that I have also had moments where I stayed silent around others racist behaviour or was racist myself. This is a skin colour that I was born with, and I must now deal with my position and frames of reference that come with it. But avoiding the fact that I am White, that I can have racist behaviour, and that I am living in a country rife with White innocence is not an option.

The case in point

For those who haven't been following, the shortened version of the story goes that almost a year ago, a building on campus known as Impulse hosted an exhibition that was accused of being racist by the United Community of African Students (UCAS); the exhibition was titled the Power of the Wasted. The exhibited works featured large portraits of Black men holding pieces of trash in a Ghanaian landfill site, these men were referred to as "scavengers" in the exhibition description. After the exhibition was temporarily removed, there was a dialogue between different parties, and it was decided that the exhibition would not return.

An exhibition of this sort is not too surprising at a university with a colonial history, where racist depictions of Africa are not rare occurrences, and where many students are privileged enough to do their research on case studies on the African continent without adequate preparation on their own positionality – don't know the term? Look it up.

So, when one student hosts an exhibition of pictures that he took of his research participants in Ghana, it is also not surprising that he misses the mark. That's ok, I don't want to blame this student. He's part of a systemically racist university and society and he's still hopefully learning about all this – he should not take all of the responsibility as some news reports have implied.

The rejection of racism by the supervisor

One person who has avoided all media attention however is his supervisor, Joost. When the exhibition was removed the supervisor took to the Rural Sociology blog and posted a post titled "Uncomfortable". He kept the racism train running full speed by continuing to repeatedly use the word "scavenger" in his post which UCAS rightfully said was derogatory and racist. Joost claims that its use in academia justifies its use in the real world. If supervisors can't reflect on their own positionality as academics and the colonial research paradigm that their theories come from, what hope does a student supervised by them have.

"It's just as bad as using the N-word. Working out you can't say that is hardly rocket science. A bit of googling would have been enough" explained Percy Cicilia Jr. in an interview with Resource. Percy is the coordinator of the Decolonisation, Anti-Racism, Equity and Equal chances (DARE) team at WUR.

Silence on racism in the news reports

Although not rejecting racism straight out, the reporters from both the Resource and the Volkskrant instead chose to just not talk about racism. This is just a little strange since racism was the initial point of complaint from UCAS which led to the dialogue and removal of the exhibition. As they reported on the progress of the situation, the journalists however stayed silent about racism.

In their initial online report, Resource decided to avoid the topic of racism completely. Instead, they published a piece that misrepresented the voices of the Black people who made the complaint and directly quoted the White people who created the exhibition. White innocence is plain to see here as a White reporter decides not to mention racism although it was a major point of criticism for UCAS. The reporter doesn't even provide a direct quote from them. But this was just the beginning, maybe the journalists wanted to learn more about the topic first before publishing an article about racism at WUR.

But for some of those affected, this was enough. UCAS expressed why they were not happy with the coverage in the comments section, and they understandably did not want to engage with Resource anymore. At this point, White innocence had killed Resource's chances of engaging their voice again. You would think this rejection would push Resource to maybe reflect and try to do some deeper analysis on what racism is and why this exhibition could potentially-maybe have been racist, but no.

Now if you think I'm getting too harsh, take a deep breath. This is not an article to say that Resource journalists are bad people because they're White. It is just the case that Resource journalists are (mostly?) White, as are Jester journalists, giving them and us many privileges in the predominantly White space that is WUR. As Percy Cicilia Jr. puts it: "By disregarding the notions of white superiority and white privilege, racism will continue to hold its place in society".

White Innocence points to how white people are often naïve about racism, specifically in the structural and systemic sense. This is because they experience white privilege and rarely experience racism themselves. As critical race educator Robin DiAngelo puts it, white innocence is the reflection that "racism is not a white problem". Gloria Wekker provides one of the most elaborate analyses of how White Innocence perpetuates in Dutch culture – a must read for anyone living or from the Netherlands.



Then, months passed and the dialogue happened, and the director of the exhibition Sebastiaan advised the executive board that the exhibition should not be put back up. Good job UCAS, the DARE initiative, Sebastiaan and everyone else who worked for this.

‘Why Put it Back if it Hurts people?’ was then published in Resource’s Issue No. 17 print edition. But still there had been little effort or research into what racism is – quite a basic step when you write about an exhibition that removed because it was racist you would think. Instead, the entire article is framed as an interview with Sebastiaan and casts doubt over the possibility of the exhibition being racist.

At one point, the interviewer asks Sebastiaan: “In WUR’s explanation of why the exhibition will not return, a link is made with colonialism and racism. Isn’t that far-fetched?”. Here the Resource journalist decides to cast doubt on the possibility of the exhibition being racist in a clearly leading question. For an interviewing expert, this is just poor interviewing never mind White innocence.

The national journalistic treasure Volkskrant then decided it was time to travel all the way to our countryside town and interview some students about what was going on. They managed to mention the word racism thanks to quotes from Percy and Sebastiaan. But then decided to title the column “Over cancelcultuur en Afrikaanse studenten die een punt hebben” (in English: Cancel culture and African students who have a point), framing this as some sort of small culture war between students, ignoring the fact that PhDs, staff and people from the public were also critical of the exhibition.

On top of that, they don’t only pit this as a culture war between some students. They go further to centre the claim made by the White student that this was cancel culture, and the Black students get the acknowledgment that they have point. Again, it is important to acknowledge here that Volkskrant is another White space where the majority of Volkskrant’s audience is mostly White and satisfying their readers White innocence is important for keeping them reading – same goes for Resource.

To wrap it all off, Resource then decided in issue No. 18 to give their final hurrah to the topic by publishing a letter to the editor from the student who made the photos titled “WUR, it’s okay for art to be provocative”. This art wasn’t provocative, it was racist. YES RACIST – don’t pee your pants. Again, this publication centered the perspective of the White student since it was completely written by him.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



‘WUR, it’s okay for art to be provocative’

With the removal of his photographic exhibition about the informal recycling industry in the Ghanaian city of Kumasi from Impulse outdoor gallery last October, WUR chose the easy way out, according to the photographer and alumnus Jurrian Veldhuizen. In this letter to the editor, he deplores WUR’s decision not to reinstall the photos as ‘unworthy of an academic institution.’



Next to this White innocence escapade, Resource includes some tokenistic pieces where they talk about the ‘dialogue’ that will happen about ‘belonging’ at WUR, and how WUR is getting Ewout Frankema to research Wageningen’s colonial history in Suriname and Indonesia. Ok just a little warning, I am about to flip a lid.

A dialogue about ‘belonging’? Why not a ‘dialogue’ racism? The only people who use the word racism in all these articles are not White. Why can’t the White people say racism? Does it hurt? Ewout Frankema is doing research on WUR’s colonial history in Suriname and Indonesia? Again, he is White. On top of that, this is not just about history. As Percy Cicilia Jr. explains “Colonialism is not just about the colonial past. It is about a dominant worldview – heteronormative and Western – that is seen as normative, standard and right.”

Look, if White people don’t start learning about their positions in this world, their White innocence and how all this leads to the continuation of systemic racism that reinforce centuries old colonial structures – this dialogue and history research shit isn’t going to work.

Look the Jester is also mostly White. But we also see that we don’t need Black people to join to teach us how racism works. White people need to do the work. Read about systemic racism in your society. Read about White Innocence. At least the Wikipedia page if you’re like me and never manage to read books. It ain’t easy but it is sure as hell necessary.

 Oscar B.



Bitter Ties: Food technology students object to Unilever and FrieslandCampina being sole commissioners in course

Like bloodthirsty mosquitoes in a hot summer’s night, the irritating buzz of WUR’s elusive links to corporations have once again returned to the Jester’s frustrated attention. This time, the MSc Food Technology course Product and Process Design (PPD) is under fire. This ACT-alternative course has relied solely on large multinationals for projects and input, and after multiple years of doing so, the students have taken action.

While writing this edition, the Jester was approached by a concerned Food Technology Master’s student, who was following the Product and Process Design Course, a compulsory course for MSc Food Technology students, offered as their alternative to the ACT. He revealed that a complaint letter had been sent to their programme committee, which condemned the lack of diversity in the course. Unilever and FrieslandCampina were the only commissioners on offer, and the projects and lectures appeared to have more than a hint of greenwashing.

For those of you who don’t know, the ACT (academic consultancy training) is basically a compulsory module for most Masters’ students; for 9-12 credits, students work in teams on a project commissioned by an external party, and provide advice based on scientific research from their field of expertise (I.e., study). One would imagine that an ACT-equivalent course would connect food technology students to a large range of food tech-specific projects and commissioners in the Netherlands and abroad, presumably giving the students the freedom to finally perfect that plant-based entrecote or ice cream made of insects. However in reality, their choice is limited to those two diverse and lovely multinationals WUR students know all too well...

Unilever and FrieslandCampina.

According to a letter sent from students following the course in 2021-2022, Unilever and FrieslandCampina were the only clients the students could work with (or for); this has been the case in the last 4 academic years. In this year’s course, 36 student teams had 3 different projects to choose from, with narrow scopes. In last year’s edition these were focused on “quick service” and “on the go solutions”. After years of studying the fundamentals of sustainability at the WUR, being cornered by those corporate phrases must have sent a chill through the spines of the students that no winter swim in the Rhine could compare with.

And then came the greenwashing. The letter slammed this year’s opening presentation by Unilever for having a “political, green-like propaganda character”. Apparently the company went on to provide “strategies of how to verbally play with the term of sustainability”, ignoring that the students they were teaching have been engrained with these terms for years.


Based on these issues, it seems that a change is needed. Students of the MSc Food Technology


look to graduate and work in companies large and small – therefore they want this diversity in projects and commissioners to be reflected in the course as well, as is done in the Academic Consultancy Training (ACT). These courses take a lot of organization, time and work to set up and execute, though the students do get a lot out of it. Implementing changes to the PPD course would


invariably increase the workload for teachers (who may already be overworked at this point), though it appears to be worth the trouble. After all, it would only be fair for Food Technology students to follow a course with similar levels of diversity, transparency and integrity as their ACT counterparts.

 Peter J.

Recipe for (green/brain)washing students

**Prep:** 25 mins

**Easy with enough money**

**Serves as many as you can fit in one lecture room**

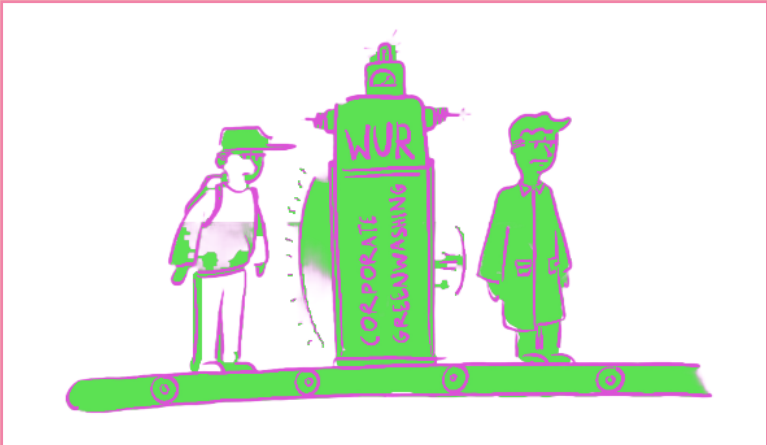


Illustration: Filippos R.

Nutrition: Per serving

kcal	fat lies	salty nonsense	sugar coating	unknown
458	20g	15g	54g	11g

Ingredients:

2x multinational companies (ties to university well-seasoned)

1x cohort of Food Technology students (freshly plucked from WUR campus to keep things local and organic)

12x ECTS (compulsory: do not skip this)

Method:

Introduce students to ice shock of the cold harsh realities of corporate life with a business-propaganda-like introductory presentation.

Strain out ethical knowledge on issues of food and sustainability. Add corporate ‘definitions’ on sustainability. Wash until green.

Carefully separate students into groups. Students may be simmering with anger, so handle with care.

Prepare choice of up to 3 different projects (not too much diversity necessary here). Only the most profitable ones will do, (so students can truly understand what the “current issues” really are!)

Combine and cook under summer heat until blood boils, then let it simmer for ~8 weeks. Once the students’ enthusiasm is fully evaporated and morale is adequately reduced, turn off heat at deadlines.

Serve with bitter garnish. Final presentations should be bland of taste, with spicy, frustrated undertones.

To build reputation, repeat for at least 4 cohorts.

Not so UNIQUE houses: Flat 9¾, Dijkgraaf

This most convivial student house you'll come across.

Shevani Murray

12-08-2022



From left: Not a single person

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There are dark and gloomy student houses and there are weird and wonderful student houses. In this feature we visit the former. This time: Flat 9¾, Dijkgraaf.

House: Flat 9¾, Dijkgraaf

Residents: John, Yoko, Daisy, Donald, Bart, Lisa, Bonnie, Clyde

Not UNIQUE because: Nobody likes each other and there aren't just one but four star buildings that all look the same.

Daisy: 'What I love about living in Dijkgraaf is that I can really have my own space here.'

Bart: 'I agree. Even though we share a kitchen, nobody is ever in it, so you never have to deal with slurping and chewing sounds.'

Clyde: 'Yet the kitchen is still disgusting. Don't go in, you'll probably stick to the floor.'

John: 'I sometimes wish I lived in a home where we ate together at least sometimes. But then I remember that I don't really like any of my housemates so best keep things this way.'

Bonnie: 'My favourite game to play here is 'Find a housemate' because it's rare to find anyone around and if you see someone in the corridor, they'll probably run into their room– the game will take longer to finish than a game of Monopoly, I guarantee.'

Donald: 'You'd think that living next to campus is great, but I've become so lazy that even cycling to the city centre seems too far.'

Lisa: 'And though it only takes me 5 minutes to get to class, I'm usually late anyway.'

John: 'I'm all into minimalism and Dijkgraaf definitely gives me that. A dark room with just a single bed, a cupboard, and a desk is all I need.'

Yoko: 'Well, I'm no consumerist but minimalism can be taken too far here. I didn't even have flooring when I moved into my room!'

Bart: 'My favourite thing about Dijkgraaf is living on top of De Bunker, so that I can sneak down to a party in my slippers and underwear and go completely unnoticed.'

Daisy: 'Oh yeah, I love that my dreams are accompanied by study association shouting and crappy electronic music.'

Do you want your not so UNIQUE house to feature in *The Jester* too? Send an email to thejester.wageningen@gmail.com

LUNCHING YOUR WAY THROUGH CAMPUS

THE LECTURER WON'T STOP TALKING
THAT HOLY LUNCH HOUR
PERHAPS YOU'VE PREPARED,
TWO PERFECTLY SQUARE SLICES
IT'S A PASSION!
OR PERHAPS YOU'RE LUCKY AND
ONE DESERVES A WARM HOMEMADE MEAL
OR PERHAPS YOU PREPARED FIVE LUNCH BOXES FOR THE WEEK ON SUNDAY?
WHO AM I KIDDING?
IF YOU'VE LIVED UP TO THE STEREOTYPICAL STUDENT LUNCH PLAN,
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO EMPTY A CAN
BUT YOUR BELLY WON'T STOP RUMBLED, ITS CLAMOURING IS REVENGEFUL
AND SO STARTS THE QUEST TO FIND LUNCH ON CAMPUS

BUT THE CLOCK IS TICKING
IS FINALLY COMING
IN A VERY DUTCH FASHION
OF BREAD BOUND TOGETHER BY PINDAKAAS
LOOKED A LITTLE EXTRA LAST NIGHT
FOR LUNCH, YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT
THAT'S THE INSTAGRAM WAY
TO FIND LUNCH ON CAMPUS

AH, I CANNOT WAIT! TO BUY SOME LUNCH ON CAMPUS, THIS SUSTAINABLE PLACE
WITH ITS MASTERS PROGRAMMES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
FRESH SEASONAL VEGGIES AND LOCAL PRODUCTS, THIS MUST BE THE PLACE?

COME AND SLURP
CRUNCH AND GOBBLE
YOUR WAY
THROUGH THE FOOD COURT,
THEY SAY
WHAT YOU'LL CONSUME THERE IS JUST
PEANUTS TO THEM ANYWAY
HOME OF AXE, BEN & JERRYS, KNORR AND THE
VEGETARIAN BUTCHER
YOU MIGHT TASTE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE THE WORLD
WRAPPED AROUND YOUR FINGER
BEING BEHIND ALL THOSE BRANDS, THEY MUST KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE DOING,
BUT GO AND TASTE THE FOOD
AND YOU'LL SOON BE DOUBTING!

THE FORUM RESTAURANT, IF WE CAN CALL IT
SERVES YOU SANDWICHES, SOUPS,
SALADS AND SNACKS TO GO
WHEN YOU SEE THE PRICES \$\$\$
YOU'LL WISH YOU'D PREPARED A LEXXER BAK
THIS MORNING
BUT HOW WERE YOU TO KNOW?
NOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED A WARNING

OR ON WEDNESDAYS GO AND DISCOVER
HOMEMADE FOOD AT THE STUDENT
COOKING CORNER
AN INITIATIVE OF THE GREEN OFFICE
YOU'LL GET TO TASTE
VEGETARIAN FOOD FROM ALL OVER.

THE SPOT

RUN BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS
COME AND GRAB A BEER OR
A GAME OF AIR-HOCKEY OR FOOTBALL
AT LUNCH TIME OR FOR DINNER, WHILE LISTENING TO YOUR FAVOURITE SONG.

THIS IS THE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT CAFE
A PIZZA AND PLAY
OR PING-PONG





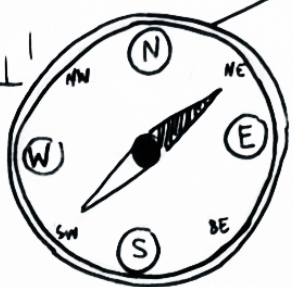
AURORA

IN AURORA
YOU CAN EVEN
A FEW GREEN LEAVES

YOU WILL FIND DIFFERENT FOOD
TRY OUT SIGN LANGUAGE TO FILL
AND YOU'VE GOT SUSTAINABILITY

POP UPS
YOUR CUPS
SERVED ON A PLATE

YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING GOOD, TAP YOURSELF ON THE BACK, MATE!



DEVIATION TO
CAMPUS PL.

CAMPUS PLAZA

AH, CAMPUS PLAZA! A CULINARY MASTERPIECE, WITH ITS DUTCH DELICACIES,
ITALIAN TREATS AND CHINESE ROLLS DEEP-FRIED IN GREASE,
HOW COULD YOU NOT FIND THE PERFECT MEAL FOR YOU?!?
SO LICK YOUR LIPS AND GET YOUR WALLET OUT,
SOON YOU'LL FEEL BRAND NEW!

① ALBERT HEIJN TO GO
JUICES AND SALADS ALL COVERED IN PASTIC
BARBIE SAID IT, IT'S FANTASTIC!
HERE'S A LITTLE SECRET FOR YOU:
WALK BUT 9 MINUTES FURTHER
TO GET A VEGA SAUCIJZEN BROODJE FROM JUMBO
FOR 1€ LESSER!

③ EASTERN EXPRESS
FOR 4,90€ YOUR BELLY WILL BE FILLED
FINALLY GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH ON CAMPUS
YOU CAN ONLY BE THRILLED
sweet, sour, SPICY:
NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS!
PS: MAKE SURE TO TOP IT OFF WITH HOT SAUCE
IF YOU'RE FEELING AMBITIOUS.

② ANTALAYA 07
DON'T COME HERE IF YOU WANT A HAIRCUT
BECAUSE EDIBLE KAPSALOMS IS WHAT THEY SERVE
AFTER A TOUGH MORNING ON CAMPUS
YOU KNOW A TURKISH PIZZA IS WHAT YOU DESERVE
AS YOU STAND IN LINE WAITING
FOR THE COOK TO CALL OUT YOUR NUMBER
WHY NOT FALL INTO A QUICK STAND-UP SLUMBER?

④ HET AMBACHT
IF YOU LIKE 'EM FRIED THIS IS THE PLACE TO GO
CRISPY FRIES WITH PEANUT SAUCE AND ONIONS
IT'S A GREAT COMBO
OR FRESH CROQUETTES FILLED WITH CHAMPAIGNONS,
GOULASH OR CHEESE,
NOTHING LIKE A GREASY FOOD COMA TO FOLLOW
YOUR AFTERNOON COURSE ON HEART DISEASE.

SUBWAY

WITH ONLY 37'000 OF THEM WORLDWIDE, WE ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE ONE ON CAMPUS BY OUR SIDE
WITH "freshly baked bread" THAT SMELLS THE SAME WHEREVER YOU GO
ITS SANDWICH ARTISTS SURE KNOW HOW TO TOP THAT DOUGH!

LUCKILY THERE IS FOOD OF CULTURES RIGHT OUTSIDE
FOR A WELL ROUNDED MEAL
FULL OF COLORS AND PRIDE
YOU MIGHT RECOGNISE THEIR STAFF
RIDING TO CAMPUS ON A FUNNY CARGO BIKE
DELIVERING FOOD SUSTAINABLY,
THAT'S WHAT WE LIKE!

Superfoods Dirty Little Secret

As a kid, I used to spend my time entirely outdoors. From climbing trees, to playing in the rain, to rolling in the mud – being outside and covered in dirt was my comfort. Now, like most outdoorsy youngsters, I was often told to wash my hands before I ate and to keep dirt out of the house; earth belonged outside and most definitely not on our plates. Now it's a potential superfood? What's up with that?

Fast forward a few decades, I'm attending the Earth as Superfood Symposium, organised at Impulse, led by the World Soil Museum (ISRIC) and masharu, founder of the Museum of Edible Earth. As an avid health nut, my interest was piqued when hearing about the idea of introducing earth-like substances into our day-to-day diet.

I was eager to learn more, having been advised for years to keep soil out of my mouth and plate. At the symposium, I heard about how the intentional practice of eating earth or soil-like substances, geophagy, dates back centuries throughout different parts of the world, from Thailand, to Japan, to sub-Saharan Africa, where prevalence of geophagy is estimated between 10-75%. I learned about different ways to ingest earth, through coffee infusions, mixing it with dough to create a clayed-up stroopwafel, or just taking a bite of it when feeling peckish. Some people described that they only had a sprinkle in the morning, which had helped with their digestive system like never before, while others “snacked” on small bites throughout the day because they simply enjoyed the taste and texture. We even heard about Monstvilene Stanislava, an elderly Lithuanian woman, who swears she has lived on a sand-only diet for over a decade, curing her late-stage brain tumor and drastically improving her health. Talk about a killer sand-wich.

However, geophagy is regarded as a psychiatric disease, a culturally sanctioned practice, or a result of famine and poverty. The American Psychiatric Association defined this eating habit as a “non-nutritive substance that is inappropriate to developmental level” regarded as a “mental disorder” if it occurred outside of a cultural practice. So, unless you were born in a culture where people typically ate earth, you must be mentally ill for having a bite of clay a day.

It is important to note that bits of clay and earth minerals are present throughout common medicine we intake, especially those for indigestion and irritable bowels. Eating earth is part of our day-to-day without us even noticing it.

At the symposium, we heard from Ron Hoogenboom who works at the RIKILT institute, and collaborates with Dutch Food Authority, on the potential health concerns regarding dioxins or pollutants in untested clays. We quickly understood, though, that dioxins are found all over the globe, with more than 90% of human exposure due to animal tissue, specifically meat, dairy products and fish.

But how does eating earth fit in the context of superfoods?

I interviewed masharu, founder of the Museum of Edible Earth, to learn more. For the last 10 years, they have been working as an independent artist and researcher, focusing on the topic of eating earth and earth-like substances. Their travelling museum, based in Amsterdam, has a collection of 400 – 500 samples of edible earth from all over the world (you can even try Stanislava's sand, if you're interested in an extra morning crunch).

When we talk about earth, specifically ingesting earth, masharu clarifies that it means all things such as clay, chalk, limestone, and even topsoil. This term, however, goes beyond its scientific definition, as it refers as well to our planet Earth:

“For me it is more than eating; it goes to say that when I eat earth, there is a partnership and a cherishing of the earth [that occurs].”

But superfoods mean quite the opposite to cherishing the earth. According to Oxford Languages, the term superfood quickly rose to the masses in the early 2000s before becoming a catchphrase for any food considered to be beneficial for our health and well-being (think avocados, chia seeds, nuts, leafy greens), and, of course, that looks good as an Insta post. In 2015 alone, the number of foods labeled as “superfood” skyrocketed by 35%. By 2020, the global superfoods market was valued at a whopping 137 billion USD and is projected to reach 209 billion USD by 2026.

Superfoods seem to make us think that a handful of nuts, a kale salad, and a mouthful of organic avocado toast in the morning will have the magical capabilities to give us that summer bod we've dreamed of, heal diseases, and create world peace. But I quickly understood that masharu approaches the earth element as a sacred food, shifting the lens on the eating process. Seeing earth as a life-giving source, both in the spiritual and physical form, could be a solution for both our diets and our societies.

By getting in touch with earth, which could be by tasting or other means, masharu explains that we can be more conscious of what we eat based on what our body needs rather than what the mind wants (aka. that chocolate bar you've been eyeing up for the past 30 minutes), engaging in more respect not only towards the earth, but also to ourselves.



Illustration: Smaranda F.



“To me, eating earth is about giving dignity to earth.”

According to masharu, we often have a different connection to food rather than people who work the land all year round to have a meal on their dinner table, and who feel grateful for the “magic” earth has to give. The real magic of seeing something grow from seed to product, and how much you depend on the success of its growth.

Eating earth is more than just about the nutritional value – which offers no more than a few minerals and vitamins. More than a superfood, earth is a super element. Earth as a superfood could help bring nourishment to the body, soul, and spirit, as well as encourage people to increase their awareness and care for the earth.

So, next time you go on a walk in a park, take a stroll through some grass (avoiding the renegade dog turds), and scratch the bottom of your shoe and have a taste – it might change your life!

...Or it might make you call your mother in urgent cold sweats, begging her to come pick you up because a newspaper made you think eating dirt came without risk. What’s life without a little IBS, huh?

If you’d like to have a “soil dinner” prepared by chef Chrisrian Weij, this October in SmaakPark, check Jester’s website for more information!

After dishing up all this dirt on superfoods, the Jester found it necessary to introduce a new definition:

Jester’s Dictionary

Definition from [The Bottom of WUR’s Basement](#)

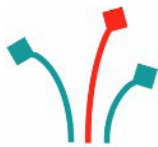
superfood

/’su:pəfu:d/

noun

a marketing-rich food considered to be especially beneficial for Instagram likes, locating your nearest hipster, and occasionally improving a person’s overall health and well-being.
“Brian declared the secret to his abs were superfoods: a teaspoon of chia seeds, a sprinkle of kale, and a cup of photoshop”

 Victoria G.



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By Jester



[DATE]



No Comments

We want you to write articles for our website.

No talent? No worries.

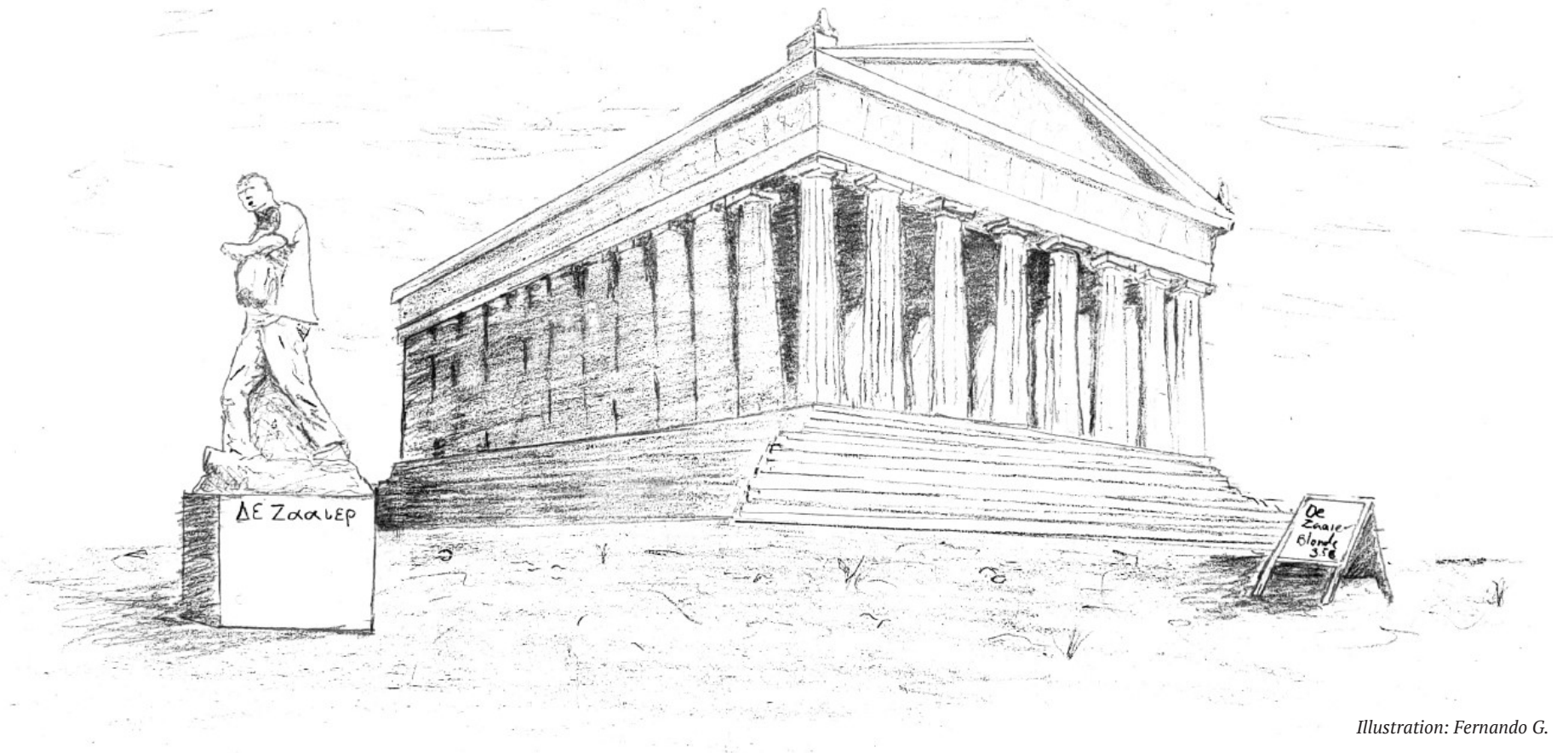
We are a bunch of amateurs doing our best for independent journalism at WUR.

Email: thejester.wageningen@gmail.com



The pursuit of democracy

Democracy does not exist. Let's be clear about it, it simply doesn't. Voting once in a while for some people, posting complaints on social media, going to a particular march for a specific cause, or choosing among n types of plant-based milk, is not proof of democracy's existence, and certainly is not democracy itself. What we call democracy is a mere sketch of an ancient dream, it is the name we have given to a non-realized desire. It might be blasphemous to say here in the West, but choosing is not democracy.



Democracy, the power of the people, has become more of a brand than a common-shared action. When people say we live in a democracy, they don't mean it, right? Or do they really think power resides in the people? If they do, is this the world we all exercised our power for? I hope not. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the world, there are so many good things to enjoy and to be proud of, but there are so many things wrong that we cannot simply accept as a people's power result.

If democracy has existed throughout the years from ancient Greece to the present day, we are doomed, it would mean that most of the people have decided to be dependent on a few of them, to let a few control the food supply chain, or to allow some corporates to destroy the environment. If democracy exists, it means that all the suffering we are facing on Earth is the result of our conscious empowered acts and we deserve it. The last part is true, all the disgrace around us we deserve it, not because we live in a democracy but because we have pretended to do so by installing a dysfunctional and misnamed "representative democracy".

The question we should ask ourselves is not if democracy exists but if it could exist beyond the imagination. And if it could, we shouldn't say yes and alienate ourselves from it as we do when we cast our votes. We should at least try to make it happen, to give it existence for once.

Believing democracy is possible and giving it existence is what the inhabitants of Wageningen are trying to do by organizing a citizens' assembly, aiming to give voice and power to the people on nothing less than what concerns us all, the climate and the policies around it.

The theory behind a citizens' assembly resides in the fact that the interests among individuals, surprise surprise, diverge from each other, including the elected representatives and the electorate. A citizens' assembly tries to remediate this by gathering randomly selected citizens to dialogue and deliberate on a problem or a question resulting in a commonly agreed proposal.

There are many ways of organizing such an assembly, but the principle is the same for all, everyone has an equal opportunity to express their opinion and explain it, and no perspective should be silenced. After a series of dialogues, thesis, antithesis and synthesis, a proposal is agreed upon and presented to the public and the government for (ideally) be implemented.

Is this form of participation the solution to achieving democracy? When asking Joke Ter Stege, better known as Yoka, one of the initiators of Wageningen's citizens' assembly, about it and the importance to have such an event in this city, the answer turned out to be a philosophical discussion on freedom, power, and the human condition. Before diving into the tenebrous and sweat waters of philosophy, let's have a look at what these Wageningers are proposing.

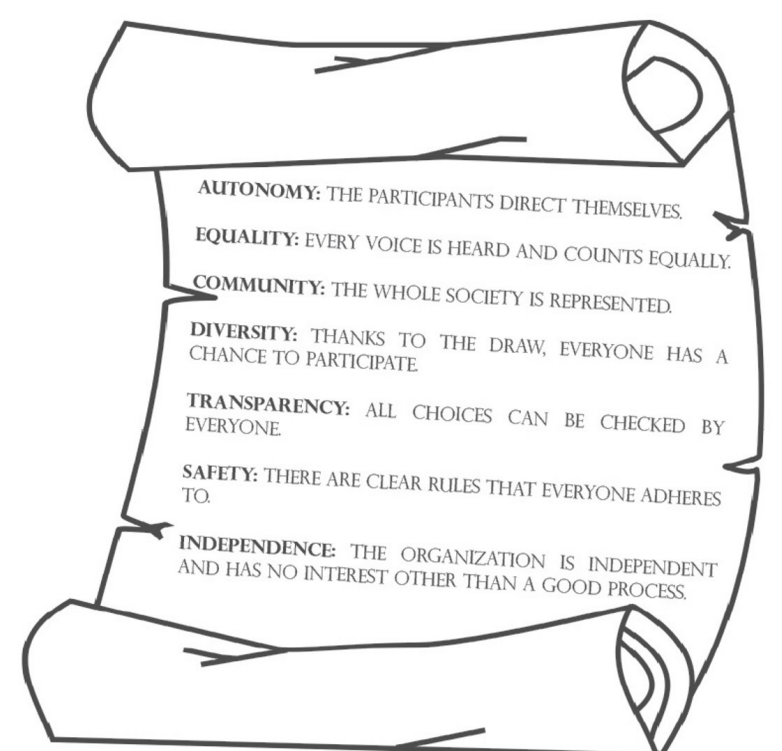
A citizens' assembly, as mentioned before, can be structured differently, the proposal for Wageningen so far is to adopt the G1000 model, where randomly selected citizens from all backgrounds are invited to participate in the assembly, anyone registered in the municipality can receive an invitation.

The model is divided into 3 stages. In the first stage, called the citizens' summit, between 100 and 1000 citizens gather to find a common ground around the subject to be discussed, in Wageningen's case, climate, and come up with 10 to 100 proposals.

In the second stage, called the citizens' forum, workplaces are set, and groups are made to curate and polish the proposals. Everyone, not only the randomly selected, is welcome to contribute at this point. Experts, or knowledge carriers, are invited at the second stage to contribute and clarify the proposals and the topic discussed. The aim is to make the number and the proposals themselves as concise as possible.

In the final stage, named the citizens' council, all participants from the citizens' summit are invited back to assess the resulting proposals of the citizens' forum, some are accepted, some are not. The adopted proposals are put together as a civil agreement that is handed to the government to be executed (or ignored).

The overall aim is to guarantee that everyone has a voice and that the interests of all residents are placed. The G1000 claims the following values as the foundation of a citizens' assembly:



Beautiful, isn't it? At this moment the citizens' assembly is a project under construction, a group of active residents of all ages and backgrounds are working to prepare the terrain and convince the municipality of the importance of having such an event. If everything goes as planned by the end of 2022 Wageningen's municipality would sign that a citizens' assembly on climate will take place.

During the talk with Yoka, she mentioned that having the citizens' assembly won't achieve democracy itself, "it's not perfect, it is a tool, a good one, but not a solid solution for everything" she says. "We have fallen into a context where everything has to be planned, everything must be rational, and there is no room for imagination. In a citizens' assembly there is more room for imagination and to find creative solutions thanks to the random selection process" continues.

Yoka, like Aristotle, sees the added value of sortition in making the power of taking decisions accountable and held in public, in other words, giving back the ownership of decision-making to the people, and avoiding alienation by giving that power to a few. "Having a citizens' assembly, even if you are not selected, makes us aware of the possibility of being an agent of change, it creates a sense of commitment and thus a feeling of community". Explains Yoka with clear excitement. "It seems we are out of touch on what we are doing, we have so much freedom, but we have no idea how free we are, how much power we have". Closes with some notes of disappointment.

The relationship between freedom and power is not the outcome of a couple of beers and jenever at Cafe De Zaaier, it has a long and complex coming and goings through the history of philosophy. You can go deeper by reading the old Thucydides's Pericles' Funeral Oration or a more modern Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punishment. It is not surprising that it pops up once more while trying to engage residents in shaping the policies that govern them in a common concern such as the climate.

Beyond the question of if having a citizens' assembly is a good idea or if it will bring us closer to democracy or not, we should ask if democracy is desired. Leaving our western prejudices and values (to not say ideology) aside, it is a question we should

put on the table, do we want all together to have the power? Do we even want to be free? Is it even possible? Freedom and power entail accountability, do we want to be accountable for every single decision we made? Are we prepared to face the anxiety that accompanies decisions? As Nietzsche bluntly put it, is easier to be a slave than a king.

Democracy doesn't exist, if ever, not yet. But if we dare to take the risk, maybe we can get closer. The invitation and opportunity to make the citizens' assembly happen is there, anyone can join the organization of the event, can contribute and give their opinion, in words of Yoka "there will be as much freedom to participate as you consider yourself free". Maybe we will never achieve democracy, maybe the power will never reside on the people, maybe we will never be free, or maybe we do not even want any of those, but since we are all here, and things are clearly not going the way we would like, we can try to contribute for a change.

The idea of having a citizens' assembly is not about finding the solution to all our problems but deciding together, considering all opinions and backgrounds, on what we would like to see and achieve. If we want others to decide for us, if we want to put our future in the hands of scientists, leaders or even a dictator, at least we should decide for that ourselves.

If you are interested in organising or participating in Wageningen's citizens assembly. Please, contact Joke Ter Stege: sjoketerstege@gmail.com

 Fernando G.

Haha

The activist profiles of WUR

WARNING: You may know them all and may have multiple within you.

Having a cause to fight for can be a vital part of our student lives. The feeling of being part of something bigger can give us some direction on those windy roads. Sometimes, the sense of belonging to a cause can turn out to be more important than the cause itself. A cause can even become such an essential part of our identity that if the problem itself were solved we would lose all sense of purpose and direction in our lives. Do we really want to solve the problem? Or does having an endless cause to fight for give us an identity? In this shady context where the definition of activism as a means or as an end is blurred, many different activist shapes arise and are presented in different ways. Here are a few of their statements.



Illustrations: Fernando G.



1. INSTITUTIONAL RULE LOVER

We believe the best way to make a change is through a top-down approach, working from within the existing structures and making policy changes. We trust that diplomacy is the right mean to achieve our goals and believe the system will allow us to contribute through dialogue and negotiation – hey WUR has a whole building for dialogue now, what could possibly go wrong? If you're one of us go ahead and run for the Student Council.

2. BUCKET LISTER

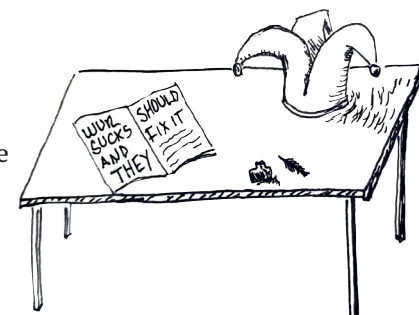
All we need is an Instagram account and a few free days every once in a while. Klimaat Mars, check; Niet Mijn Schuld, check; Pride, check; that other one that I forget what it was for, check. We attend some key events, post a few stories, and there you go, contribution, done. If you are interested just download as many social media accounts as possible and go make your impact on their algorithm.

3. NOT-SO-EXTREME EXTREMISTS

We will not destroy a building, use violence, or throw a Molotov cocktail – that would look bad in the media and endanger other people's safety. Instead, we like to climb cranes or drink tea and eat cookies outside meetings of important people. We organise polite but seemingly extreme protests that sometimes pass by unseen to everyone except the attendees. Come join us at Extinction Rebellion Wageningen.

4. OVERLY-PASSIVE OBSERVER

Just like food critics that do not cook themselves, we like to point out problems and give our opinion about all the wrongdoings in the WURld from a safe distance. We are not willing to get our hands too dirty though and just want everyone to see how clever we are. If you want to know more just get in touch with any of the writers of this newspaper.



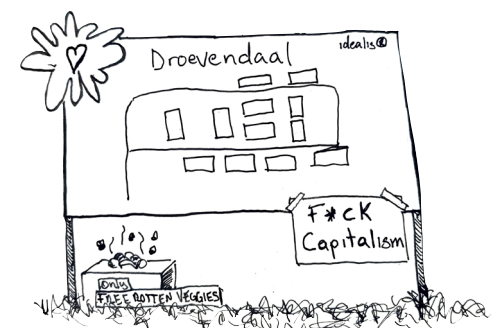
5. CHANGE FROM WITHIN-ER

Similar to the institutional rule lovers, we believe that change can be achieved from within powerful corporations. Didn't you hear that fossil fuel companies, agri-businesses and all abusive transnationals can be transformed by the good intentions of hardworking employees? Trust us, this will be enough to achieve change and "make things different". Different is better, right? Come by Unilever for a coffee so we can explain more about how to co-opt activism.

6. CHANGE FROM WITHOUT-ER

Active might not be the word to define us. We are so passive we sometimes forget to wake up. But as long as we refuse some parts of the status quo, we're doing our bit. We kinda live outside the housing market because we rent from a housing cooperative. We even have some veggies in our garden. Oh, and we buy everything in

the Gieterij. What more can we possibly do? We might even pool some of our rich parents' inheritance to buy land to start a permaculture farm one day, then we'll truly be saving the world. Drop by Droevendaal to meet our founders.



 Oscar B. & Fernando G.

GAMES

Tell me where you shop and I'll tell you who you are



NIEUWE RONDE

- aesthetic: Tibetan flags
- will tell you to try meditation
- barefoot in Forum



ALBERT HEIJN

- gelled hair and pointy shoes to uni
- amateur techno DJ
- board member of student association



ODIN

- rides a Swapfiets
- oat milk cappuccinos at Tola
- does Instagram activism



LIDL

- reliable mom friend
- provides the snacks during study week
- will tell you not to sleep with your ex



FRUIT MAFIA

- chaotic energy
- shows up late to the wrong course
- their bag is full of loose pills



JUMBO

- goes to the international club
- brings 2€ wine to the potluck
- will cause a bike accident

Words to know in first year

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Bier

Coffee

DidYouPass

KruimigFriets

NextPeriod

WhatsYourProgram

ArboretumDate

Bier

Coffee

DroevendaalParty

MeetAtTheRhine

NoIHavePracticals

WhensTheResitAgain

Bier

CancelledTrain

Coffee

DutchCoffeeshop

MeetMeAtForum

StudentPlaza

WheresMyBike

W D S D E F L M D E S N Z E Y D K A E D
P H I V R E X W U E S J J Y Z V R R N U
D N E E N O F X L F A M S C E C U B I T
P O Y N S L E F O F P U I I Y E I O H C
B N I R S A A V O O U A V O K H M R R H
M K E R J T D U E C O W F I Q P I E E C
C I I R E L H M P N Y L L J K B G T H O
M A H F D P G E B G D K N Y U T F U T F
S X Z S E T T I R X I A A I N D R M T F
T S D C B H E X Y E D R A M O V I D A E
S O L I S R P Q E Y S O I L D I E A T E
M A E C W E D L B N V I L R P E T T E S
M R C P N O I M K N D K T F E A S E E H
W N I A R T D E L L E C N A C I R V M O
E K I B Y M S E R E H W E B G M B T O P
M U R O F T A E M T E E M Z H A M B Y U
G X K B L H G Y E N E F E E C Q I H A O
S T U D E N T P L A Z A F D I X G N E T
O B G O M A R G O R P R U O Y S T A H W
I N O I H A V E P R A C T I C A L S N E



WAGASCOPEs



Virgo
(August 24 - September 22)

You're turning a year older and you feel like the world is your oyster. It's time to stop complaining and say yes to things that come your way. This year will present some new challenges, but you'll be able to tackle them and grow if you just keep calm and carry on. Don't forget to enjoy the little things in life, like a swim in the beautiful clear waters of the Rhine while it's still warm, obnoxious students speaking so loud you can't hear your lecturer, or a good ol' lukewarm Amstel beer.



Libra
(September 23 - October 23)

You're slowly recovering from the holidays and getting back to studies is the last thing on your mind. Instead, you can't wait to show your summer tan to the people of Wageningen and dance reggaeton in the International Club on Friday. Enjoy letting your social butterfly fly high, but don't forget that student life moves fast, so keep up with your first weeks of courses before you drown in your own stress. Remember that a little consistency can go a very long way!



Scorpio
(October 24 - November 21)

The stars are aligned for you in this period and your year is looking better than ever. Your feet are tingling, your head is buzzing and you're craving new information, people, and adventures. Make the most of this burst of energy and take a leap. Remember your parents' words that you can make a difference in the world, however tiny, if you just put your head to it. So why not finally give back and volunteer some of your time and knowledge to a cause you care about?



Sagittarius
(November 22-December 21)

Creativity is your word of the month. Be it painting, photography, writing poetry, dancing under the stars, cooking up a feast for your friends or writing your most Dante-like essay, you're feeling as passionate as ever. Wageningen is full of inspiration; you just need to look hard enough to find it. Have you ever looked at a flower, and I mean really looked at it, for 10, maybe 20 minutes? Take this approach and you'll be enchanted by the world, and find yourself feeling lighter and happier.



Capricorn
(December 22-January 19)

You're in a contemplative time of your life and are wondering about your future, which can be scary. While you try to understand yourself better, remember to not become too self-absorbed. Things will work out eventually. Don't hesitate to lean on your friends and talk to others about your fears; you'll find that you have much more in common with others than you think. So don't forget to take social coffee breaks in Forum: that's when the magic happens.



Aquarius
(January 20 - February 18)

Saying no for you is very difficult and you're already finding yourself overwhelmed with study sessions, your side-job, Power Dumbbell classes at the gym, house chores, all while maintaining a social life. Why not try time blocking to help yourself be less overwhelmed? You'll find that if you organise your time well, the more efficiently you'll use it, and the more free time you'll end up having as a result: perfect for some more you-time, which you've been putting aside for too long.



Pisces
(February 19 - March 20)

A wind of change is blowing through your life as you read this and you may not have even realised it yet. It might be a move away from home, it might be a calling to do something completely new, or it might be someone who changes the way you see the world. Whatever it may be, face forward in the direction of the wind and let yourself be guided by it. You usually like to be in control but this time, follow the flow and life will surprise you. If however it brings you to Leeuwenborch, turn back.



Aries
(March 21-April 20)

You feel it in your fingers, you feel it in your toes: love is all around you, and so the feeling shows. And this doesn't necessarily mean romantic love. This period, love all people around you, love listening, love the trees as they begin to shed their leaves, love the wind as it ruins your hair while you cycle. You haven't had the easiest of times in the last months, but things are changing and just like Gloria Gaynor you've got all your love to give. If you let yourself, it'll come back to you too.



Taurus
(April 21 - May 20)

You disconnected from many people during the summer holidays and miraculously switched off the phone you're addicted to. Now that the year has started again, you're not sure how to approach social interactions. Take a deep breath and start with a hello. As you gain your confidence back, you'll start to have fun again. A drink at De Zaaier, a mystery movie at Heerenstraat or a live concert at Cafe Loburg might just be the perfect plan for you all to reconnect.



Gemini
(May 21 - June 20)

Either you're new to Wageningen or you're an old-timer that has never managed to leave, and you're feeling unsure about another year in this small Dutch town. But as they say, when life gives you tomatoes, make gazpacho; when life gives you Wageningen, hold on tight and enjoy the ride. There's plenty to discover here so stay positive, keep your eyes out, and find good adventure companions too. If you feel claustrophobic, get off your ass: bigger cities are but a bikeride away.



Cancer
(June 21 - July 22)

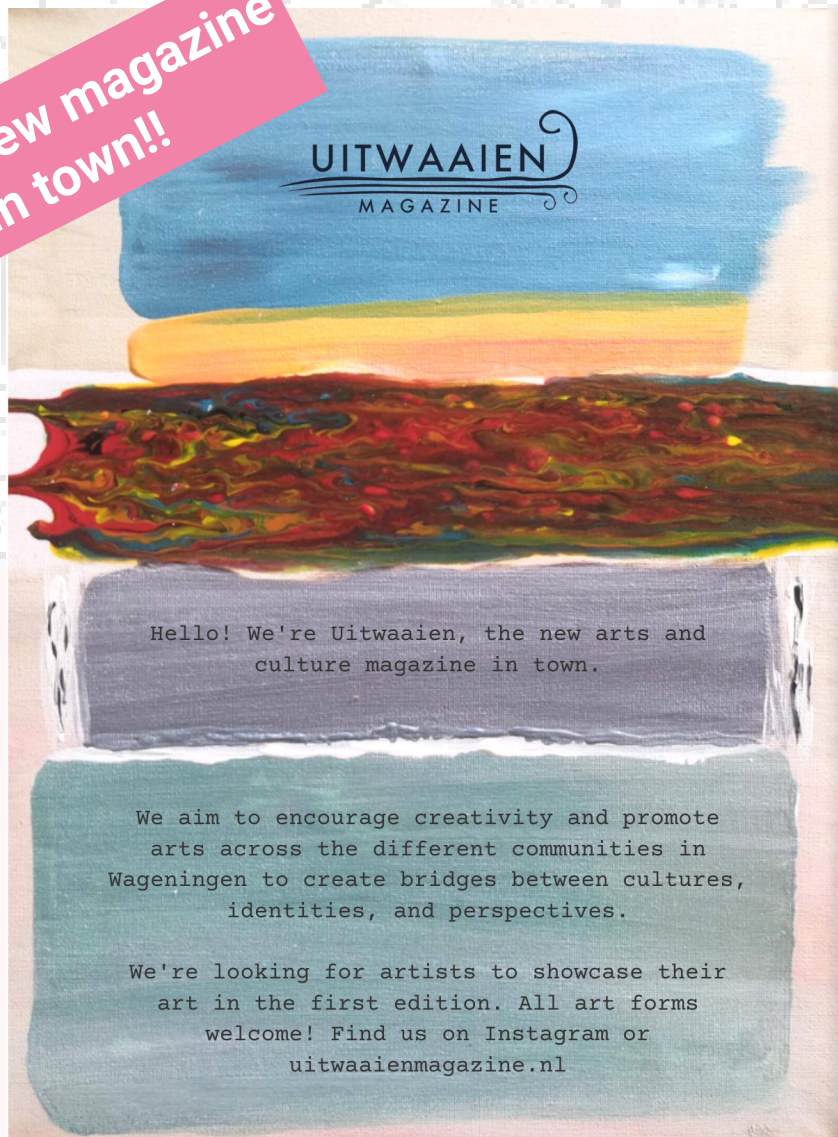
Lately you've been experiencing big mood swings and you just can't seem to find your steady state. What's worse, you can't stop thinking about that gloomy Dutch winter that everyone whines about is around the corner. But just think of Norwegians in Winter and you'll already start feeling better. Plus, there's nothing that an early morning run or a cold swim, a cosy sweater and a movie with friends and sweet treats cannot help. You've got this, I know you do: it's all within you.



Leo
(July 23 - August 23)

You truly found yourself this summer by travelling to the other side of the world or going on a lonely adventure. Or maybe you can't afford such extravagances and carried on working instead. Either way, pat yourself on the back because you made it and are a better human for it. It's now time to put your head back down and get your hands dirty because the year has started and if you're not careful, you're going to miss the train. If you hop on, I see a great future.

New magazine
in town!!



Best of student plaza



Wageningen Student Plaza

17h · 🌐

Halloo,

I'm looking for a date for my lovely girl Hildegard. She is a Grammostola Rosea. I want to see if she wants to mate and hopefully make an egg sac too. Let me know if you have a horny adult male rosea who you would want to introduce to her. Cheerio!



👍❤️👍 59



Wageningen Student Plaza

2h · 🌐

Dear people,

Yesterday I had a great time at the Woeste. Everybody was in a friendly and peacefull vibe, at least that is what I thought. It was a great dissapointment to find out, once I came home, that somebody stole my cheese out of my bag. Like we all know after a nice evening, eating a late night tosti is essential. It was painful having to go to bed without a tosti or three in my stomach. To the person who did this: please, respect my tosti. In case you feel sorry, you can donate some cheese at the Mouterij. Hope to have warned everybody enough.



22 July at 15:21 · 🌐

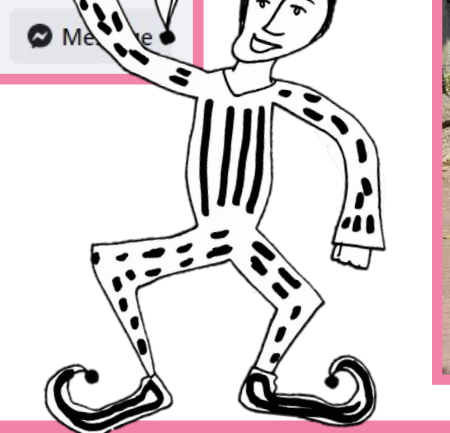
Hello Wageningen. Wasbertha (my raccoon handpuppet) is offering trash cutz for 10 euros a head. You can send me a pm and she will shave any part of your body starting from the 15th of August.

Wasbertha has experience in buzz cuts, pube lines and the pits of arms and is a blast at social gatherings. She made quite the investment in a nice pair of hair clippers and is just trying to earn them back. 20% of the proceeds will also be donated to a local wildlife rehabilitation center. What a great story to tell your friends at a party!



€10 · WAGENINGEN, GELDERLAND

Shave your head/pubes/armpits with my raccoon



Wageningen Student Plaza

2h · 🌐

Sorry no VVD stemmers! 😊

Dear potential future housemate,
A room in our lovely house in picturesque Bennekom, about 7 min cycling from the WUR will be available for permanent rent, starting in Augustus.

We are with three and all at the end of our bachelors and we are looking for someone who can enrich our life with their lovely presence.

We like cooking, music and plants. The room is 8 m2, 330 euro p/m and it has airconditioning. The living room with the kitchen is spacious and we spend a lot of time there together. You will share the bathroom with 2 others. The house has all usual amenities. We try to keep everything clean, but we still like having people over.

We look forward to your responses 😊



Wageningen Student Plaza

1h · 🌐

The tent is one night old. My boyfriend and I bought it yesterday 23rd of July at Obelink. We had a test run in our back-garden last night and found out camping was really not for us 😊. But it is 2 hours drive back forward to Obelink. So we are trying to sell it here instead of returning it. If you are looking for a decent size new tent, welcome to ask for more photos drop by and try it in person. So both you and we don't need to drive unnecessary miles.



Wageningen Student Plaza

14h · 🌐

Guys, remember to take good care of your bicycles during these hot times. This one in the city centre has started to melt due to the scorching sun. A bit of shade or a wet towel can do wonders for your two-wheeled bundle of joy!

