

PHOENIX

Issue 3, May 2014

Our lads in Scotland
Rocking on the Highlands

Once you go Bey,
you never go ewh!

High Tea with Koen

“My favourite subject to
teach will shock you”



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Confession of an Addict

As I am writing this, my Master's thesis is due in a mere three weeks. My proposal has been approved by all relevant authorities, most of my sources have been gathered, meetings have been arranged, the deadline is set. All that is left now is to actually do the research and write the damn thing. While that is always easier said than done, nothing stands in the way of me completing and acing this project. Nothing aside from myself, of course.

Procrastination is the bitter-sweet act of putting off what you know you should be doing in favor of doing something that you don't really have to do at all. Virtually every student is familiar with it to some extent and to most of us, it's hardly harmful. After all, it's perfectly understandable that you prefer watching Game of Thrones over writing on meter in some Tennyson poem. You might even proudly post pictures and statuses on Facebook showing the world how you pulled an all-nighter or went to a party instead of staying home to churn out an essay (you know who you are). As long as you finish your work on time and have the situation under control, you're good to go.

However, for some of us, it's a little more serious and problematic. For some of us, procrastination doesn't pop its head up every now and then when there's an uninteresting paper or project to be written; no, it's always there. It has seeped into every aspect of our lives and forced its way into our psyches. We don't make that phone call now, no, we'll do that tonight. Send that email? How about tomorrow morning? Do the dishes? First, I'll put on some music and watch that movie and play some guitar and oh darn, it's time to go to bed. We free up entire days by canceling our jobs and calling off friends to sit down and get some work done, only to look at the clock at five and realize that not a single coherent sentence has been formed.

We have formed a habit out of closing a book, taking a walk, opening an unrelated YouTube tab, telling yourself that it's okay to watch just a single episode, doing anything that's not the task at hand. We need to feed our brains with the endorphins to soften the overwhelming physical discomfort and pain that makes its way down our spines and bellies every single time we have to do anything that is remotely challenging, serious or unknown to us. The feeling of relief that comes from putting off a task is no longer our friend, but has become our enemy. It's an addiction.

Hi everyone, my name is Lars and I'm an addict.

My thesis is due in three weeks. Three, short, lousy weeks. What might honestly be my saving grace this time around, is that I just do not have the time to procrastinate this time. In fact, I even did some work this morning so I've given myself the rest of the day off as a reward. For now, a week's worth of dirty dishes are waiting for me in and around the sink. I'm just going to put on some music first.

Lars

Word from the Board

Dear readers,

We hardly even started, but since it is May we are already busy forming next year's board. When looking back, it surprises me to see how quickly time passed by. Just when I know how to do the bookkeeping and be responsible with all your money, it is time to pass all my wisdom to my successor.

Of course, I am not allowed to say anything about it, but it suffices to say these are exciting times. Who will sign up? Who do we trust and find capable? Who are we hoping will sign up?

Without being overly sentimental, I think I can safely say being an Albion board member is a great experience. It is like getting in a year-long rollercoaster. It is always exciting and never boring, though at some moments you do wish for all the loopings and corkscrews to make place for an easier ride. And do not forget the parties.

Have you ever noticed how American presidents age? Obama looks about twenty years older now than he looked in 2008. Bush Jr. had brown hair when he started his presidency. In 2008, he looked like a granddad waiting for his funeral. It is part of the job. On a smaller scale (let's be honest), I think I aged and matured worth a couple of years in the past six months. Which is a good thing. It can be seen in all of us. When we look at pictures from when we just started, we look so young and naive. Just compare that with how rough and experienced we now are.

Writing this makes me feel as if the job is about to end. Which is not even close to true, as there are still five months left till the grand wissel-ALV. There's still loads of fun parties, so I don't have to worry about the giant post-board black hole, which I heard is absolutely depressing, yet!

Syme

Tea Time With Koen

By Kiki Drost and Stanzy Kersten

It had been quite a while since reporters Stanzy and Kiki last shared a nice cup of tea with one of our beloved teachers, so we set out to find a new victim. Koen Sebregts kindly agreed to have us over on a Monday afternoon.

At 3 o'clock we ring Koen's bell. When nothing happens after ringing 2 times, we knock and hope he hasn't forgotten us, but fortunately he comes to open the door. We enter his nice little living room and sit down at the table. After we chose a tea from the list of possibilities our host gave us, we started our interview.

How did you end up teaching English at the UU?

I came to Utrecht in 2001, originally to work on my PhD. Then, at some point, I was hired by the UU, I think maybe to help me finish my book, but I still haven't finished it, so that didn't work well. It is almost finished now though! I taught at different places as well, but now I've been back since 2011. My favourite subject to teach will shock you, but it's phonology (and phonetics). It's fun to teach and I like reading what you come up with in your research writings.

What did you study?

I studied English language and Literature in Leiden, where I specialized in linguistics. Before that I studied economics, but that was just horrible. I think I only chose that to make things easier for myself, but then I chose English because I thought I would enjoy that, and I did. I had to pay for it myself, because I had already done economics, so I worked about 20 to 25 hours a week in a record shop and did English part-time.

Do you have any other interests beside English?

I am quite interested in music. A lot of my interests used to revolve around it. I collect 80's vinyl. My favourite bands are The Magnetic Fields, Saint Etienne, Girls Aloud, Roxy Music, New Order, and I really like David Bowie. I'm not really into sports, but I try to cycle, I have a beautiful racing bike. I also like food a lot; you could say that's an interest as well.

And in a way, travel is an interest as well. I try to visit somewhere new every year, and I get to travel in my personal life as well, since my girlfriend lives in Edinburgh.

-Favourite colour: I guess blue, because I tend to wear a lot of blue.

-Favourite book: A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

-Favourite film: Back to the Future

-Favourite series: The Office (UK), Bored to Death, Doctor Who

-Colour toothbrush: Sort of green/blue-ish, or blue/green-ish. Turquoise maybe?

Can you tell us a bit more about your relationship?

Well, a bit, I don't want to drag her into this too much. We met at a conference about 6 years ago. She is a linguist as well. Back then she lived in Norway, but since then she moved to Manchester, Paris, and now she lives in Edinburgh. We see each other about twice a month. I'm staying behind after the Albion trip to Edinburgh, for Easter.

Are you looking forward to the Edinburgh trip?

Yes, very much! It seems like a very nice group of people. I know many of them from the trip to Dublin last year, and I know most first years. It looks like a very nice program as well, and there are some things I haven't seen yet. I've been to Edinburgh many times, but I never actually visited the castle, which is the main attraction. I haven't been a tourist.

You said you like food, but do you also like cooking?

I usually cook 4 times a week, which means I get food in 3 times a week. My favourite food is a very basic thing: pizza. A really good pizza is fantastic. I like Italian cuisine in general, but also Indian, and a more recent discovery is the Middle Eastern kitchen. I enjoy cooking. If my girlfriend read this, she would probably laugh, because she is the one that cooks when we're together. Not because I'm trying to enforce a traditional gender role on her; she's just a good cook, and I really enjoy her cooking.



All Hail the Bey

By Marijn Brok



You love her or you tolerate her. There is no hate, because Beyoncé enchants the world with her music, her performances and her work ethics. She returns to Europe for the second part of her tour. Marijn joins the Queen to get his Freakum Dress on. Twice.

Devotion. When it comes to Beyoncé, that is the word to describe the worldwide phenomenon. It does not only apply to the singer herself, but also to her brand and her fans. She manages to stupefy the entire music industry by just dropping her album, without any announcement whatsoever.

A few days before iTunes has the honour of exclusively selling her album, I manage to get a standing ticket to her second performance in the Ziggo Dome. And just a day before she hits Amsterdam again, I manage to get a ticket for the first performance as well. Yes, it is expensive. Yes, it is a little bit too much. Maybe. But I went in 2009 and in 2013, and if there is one thing I knew, it is that I would definitely not regret this.

And I did not. Both evenings were magical, and for days afterwards I lived in a Beyoncé bubble. For the second performance, I decided to show up at 7 AM to try and get in front of the stage. I have no early access ticket, so I have to accept that other people will be standing in front of the main stage. I manage to stand in front of the smaller, second stage in the middle of the venue. Good enough for me, because I already know she will go there three times. For a fan, it is a strange sensation to have your idol within a distance of five metres. I guess the people in the nook of the arena feel the same as I do. There are no negative feelings, only happiness. Having Beyoncé in our midst unites us. Everyone is here to see her, enjoy her, and admire her.

Her performance is a combination of well-choreographed moves, exquisite costumes and heartfelt vocal performances. When she calls to her public, it is as if the Dome explodes. At that moment, she owns everything and everyone in her proximity. People faint, scream, cry, and make grovelling moves just to get noticed. I scream and reach out, and I guess it works, because she looks in my direction. For me, that is close enough to eye contact.

The concerts make me wonder why she is so popular. Of course, I am a fan, and therefore biased, but I also try to regard her from a neutral point of view. One of her latest singles, Partition, is accompa-

nied by a racy yet elegant video of Beyoncé seducing Jay-Z. The clothing is skimpy, she dances among stripping poles, and the lyrics are... well, let's just say Monica Lewinsky gets dissed. My point is, I read a lot about her, and I do not encounter any criticism. The whole world gets in a fuss when Miley Cyrus grinds against Robin Thicke or Rihanna shows her boobs on Instagram (it is on a magazine cover though). Beyoncé does not go those lengths, but apparently there is a distinction. She has already gathered so much reverence, she is allowed to make a slip, like the performance of Drunk in Love, when she and Jay-Z had a very intimate performance on live TV before children's curfew had set in.

In a time span of eleven years, Beyoncé has managed to become untouchable. What she touches becomes gold, be it a selfie, a fan-directed YouTube-video, or an inspiring person. Her song ***Flawless drew attention to the feminist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, whose speech on women is featured in the song. At the same time, she also tries to become more close to her fans. While she tries to keep her private life closed off to the press, she communicates to the world via her Tumblr, which shows snapshots of her life and work. We get to see a woman who loves her family, art, food, and fashion. She shows more of herself in a way she is able to control.

And it's control that she exerts on her work. Beyoncé is known as a perfectionist. She tweaks her music until it feels right to her. After a performance, she watches a recording to take notes, which she gives to her crew. Yes, that means they have to adjust their mistakes. Beyoncé takes matters into her own hands to ensure the quality of her brand. Frequent visitors of 9gag might remember the pictures after her SuperBowl performance in 2013. Quite unflattering, and her attempts to eliminate the photos from the Internet were unsuccessful. As a result, she only allows a personal photographer to take pictures at big events.

But she is allowed to. We love her, for her music makes her fans feel good, sexy, and confident. Because she devotes herself to her art, she receives devotion from the people who listen to her. And believe me, listening to her is simply quite like being in heaven.



Sweaters

Posters

Tote bags

Calendars

Sweaters

Tote bags

Posters

Posters

Posters

Tote bags

A Well-Announced Journey

By Iris Pijning

How did “De Wereld Draait Door” know my braces were due to come off on the 1st of April? Well, they didn’t, but that’s what I was wondering when I read their Facebook post asking for people to come on the show. I actually thought it was some April fools joke, but signed up for it anyway. Honestly, how often do you fit into a request for one of your favourite TV shows so perfectly? Pretty damn rarely, right? A couple of days and many phone calls later I was walking through the sunny Westerpark, on my way to the studio. I had never been to DWDD as an audience member because, believe it or not, I’m not overly fond of the idea of my face being on national television. The size of the studio was probably the biggest surprise of the evening. This place, larger than a plate of spareribs, contained a backstage area smaller than the living room of my anti-squatting apartment. It was basically a kitchen with a large table and five doors to small rooms, one of which was the wardrobe sized dressing room shared by both Pauw and Witteman.



So there I was, eating my lasagne next to Nico Dijkshoorn, having all my skin flaws wiped out by the fabulous make-up artist, and awkwardly shaking hands with Paul de Leeuw, who absent-mindedly listened to my story about the different sort of braces I’d had. Just before I walked into the recording studio, an editor called out: “Mention the spareribs!”. I’d told her about spareribs over the phone during the preparations for the item, so I was sort of expecting it to become a thing. For anyone wondering: yes, the spareribs were delicious, and yes, it was kind of awkward to eat them all on my own in front of many, many people. During earlier phone calls we also discussed possible anecdotes, in which I processed words like ‘underpants’ and other words that would be fun and mildly anarchic to say on television. Unfortunately, these did not make it into the broadcast, and instead I’ll probably be remembered as the sparerib girl. Or, if I’m very lucky, educating Matthijs van Nieuwkerk about the use of party tents can be my legacy (thanks Aster).

Scottish Wonder

By Meike Bokma, Photography by Fiona de Both



Scotland: the land of kilts, rolling hills, fine whiskey, and, of course, the infamous monster of Loch Ness. On its southern shore lies Edinburgh, capital city of all this Scottish wonder and the destination of this year's big trip. As a city divided between both a rustic older and bustling new town it was the perfect destination for a trip intended to be educational as well as fun. Accompanied by our very own Koen Sebregts we started of the week with a tour of the city's New Town and a well-deserved, fun group dinner, first of many that were still to come!

Our first real day in Edinburgh started bright, early and with high expectations, for straight after breakfast it was off to Arthur's Seat, a 250 meters high hill situated right in the middle of the city. Standing on top of this monumental uprising, which to us seemed more of a mountain than the hill the locals label it, and looking down at the beautifully panoramic view, feeling the harsh, but refreshing, wind whipping at hair and clothes combined with the satisfaction of a successful climb provided what was probably one of the most, if not the most, impressive moments of the entire trip. This does not, however, mean that the rest of journey was not interesting, far from it! The next day it was off to Stirling, Scotland's largest city.





The Travel Committee in full glory on top of Arthur's Seat

With a rich cultural history rivalling Edinburgh's, its very own castle and of course the William Wallace Monument, which we visited, it was a great destination to visit and discover some more about Scotland's long and battle ridden history. After our visit to the monument we eventually ended up lunching and relaxing in the grass near an old bridge. The amazing weather, a stark contrast to the dreary and rainy imagery that usually comes to mind when one thinks of the British Isles,

combined with the picturesque scenery the churning river and weathered stones of the bridge created, provided a pleasant and most welcome respite from the previous day's walking and climbing. When the time came to leave it was with a tinge of reluctance at leaving such a gorgeous place behind. The evening that followed more than made up for it though because after a fun dinner with the group it was time for our first pub-crawl of the week. This was put together by Koen, who took us on a tour of Edinburgh's best pubs, amongst which Greyfriar's Bobby and Deacon Brodies, a pub named after the man who inspired Jekyll and Hide.

Where to stay:
During the trip, our Albioneers camped out at the Budget Backpackers Hostel in Edinburgh. For more information, ask one of the committee members!!



The following day was spent walking the ancient pathways of Edinburgh Castle. The massive fortress, situated on a peak in the city's centre aptly named Castle Rock, was one we'd been able to view all week from a distance and it was with much excitement that we finally got to enter its great walls and take a look up close. We visited the dungeons, St. Margaret's chapel, the War Memorial, managed to catch a glimpse of the Scottish crown jewels and witnessed how a real canon was fired from the battery! All in all it was an amazing and unforgettable experience.

Wednesday was spent in Glasgow. After a short, but educational visit to the Kelvingrove Museum, we were given the option of either going off on our own or joining part of the group in a visit to the Glasgow Necropolis cemetery. A short walk later we found ourselves on top of a small hill with a beautiful view of the city and nearby cathedral; the location of the necropolis. The cemetery with its weathered monuments exuded a certain sense of tranquillity and calm that inspired a quiet awe in all who saw it and which made it one of the more impressive locations we visited during the week. The afternoon was spent exploring Glasgow, shopping for souvenirs, visiting Waterstones and generally enjoying yet another surprisingly sunny day with friends.





As students we couldn't not take a look at Edinburgh's very own university so that's exactly what we spent Thursday morning doing. We were given a tour by Hanne Boon, a fellow Albioner who studies at Edinburgh University and showed us some of its locations. After that it was off to the whiskey museum where those who had chosen to sign up for this educational endeavour got to not only experience a fun barrel ride and taste some awesome whisky, but also learn something about the history of this favoured brew. That evening it was time for our second pub-crawl, and this time also club-crawl. Adorned with fancy attributes such as pink hats, flower chains and reflective sunglasses, we set out to terrorize the town and did not return until early the next morning after a successful night of partying.

Our last day in Edinburgh was marked by a visit to the Murrayfield Stadium, Scotland's biggest stadium and home to the Scottish Rugby Union. A guide took us on a tour of the stadium and showed us the field, changing rooms and VIP rooms, as well as some lounges and small exhibitions. It was a surprise to see how much really went on behind the scenes of a match and even the non-football fans amongst us enjoyed it. A last dinner with the group heralded the end of our weeklong funfest and the following morning it was up and early to the airport. After an uneventful, early flight it was time for a final, emotional goodbye. Looking back though it was an amazing week, full of amazing places, amazing activities and, of course, amazing people. A trip to remember for sure!

Books

By Margit Wilke

You might know him as the guy with the purple hair, but he's also part of the Activiteitencommissie and, coincidentally, a particularly chill guy. He opens the door to his brand new pad (IBB represent!) like he has people interviewing him all the time and tells YOU about his bookshelf.

What was your favourite book growing up?

Even though Harry Potter was a massive part of my childhood, (seriously, whose childhood wasn't filled with it?) I have to mention Thea Beckman's books. She writes incredibly vivid and adventurous stories, and you're pulled into the adventure from the first word. She's written about a sort of pre-Katniss, which was one of my favourite characters of hers.

What is your favourite book now?

A book I've recently picked up again (after giving up on it before), *Heren van de Thee* by Hella S. Haasse is so good! It's set around the end of the 19th century, staged in Indonesia, and written so well! It's a little harder to get through than Thea Beckman, I must admit, but it's incredibly rewarding to finish it! I would recommend it to anyone!

What is the last book you read for 'fun'?

Mockingjay. Which I won't speak another word of. Yo Collins, learn to NOT kill your darlings, will ya?

Which book are you most ashamed of for not reading?

There are so many books I still want to read! Like... *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, even though I quit reading about halfway through, AGAIN. So annoying, I know, but sometimes you're just not in the mood for high standing literature and you just want to read a Collins, I guess.

What is your ultimate page limit before you decide against reading it?

Well, I've read the whole *Game of Thrones* series, so I guess the sky is pretty much the limit. Cannot wait for this new season! And the Harry Potter books were pretty long too, well, at that age, I thought a 1000 pages to be quite long.

If you could recommend me one of your books, which would it be?

The Fault in our Stars by John Green. Also a horribly upsetting book (not to mention the film that's about

to come out!) but still a must read for pretty much anyone. He depicts the lives of two people affected by their diseases, who, nonetheless, make the most of it together, and the reader just gets pulled into that (and SPOILER heartbreakingly ripped out of it as well). I would also recommend reading *Bonita Avenue* by Peter Buwalda. It was a real struggle for me to get through, yet it was gorgeous all the way through. Another must-read.

If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

I like English and I like reading, but I don't know if I want to write a book per se. I guess you also sort of need some life experience before you can dive into someone else's. So, I'm going to do that first: live a little!

What is your favourite English word and why?

To stay among the terms we've learned this block, I'd have to go with labio-dental. Such a gorgeous word, especially when Bert Schouten pronounces it. I could listen to him say it all day long. Also, ambiguity. Pronounce it and say it didn't feel nice, I dare you.

Which author have you read the most book by and why?

Team Rowling represent! Although, I've probably read as many Beckman books as I did Harry Potter books. They're just supergood! And a real asset to your childhood, I think.

Are you team Lit or team Ling?

You serious? Linguistics? Ain't nobody got time for that. No, definitely team Literature.

What is your favourite genre?

I do not like modernistic prose. I prefer reading about things set in an earlier time, with a historic context, I guess. But I am also fond of fantasy. Just any alternate universe, any other universe than the one happening right now. That's boring to me.



“ONE HALF OF THE
WORLD CANNOT
UNDERSTAND
THE PLEASURES
OF THE OTHER”

Jane Austen