



Word of the Board

Dear Firsties,

A warm welcome to the study programme of English Language and Culture! And welcome to everything that comes along with it; new people and friends, new professors, maybe a new city and certainly a fantastic new experience. Taking on this adventure might seem intimidating; I know I was pretty nervous when I started the course last year. Now that the programme has had to be reworked, it might be even more so. Nevertheless, the professors have been working tirelessly to make your first year as marvellous as it can possibly be. Add to that your own enthusiasm as well as that of your peers, and you'll be having an unforgettable year!

Additionally, Albion has also been hard at work to make sure that you'll feel right at home in Utecht and at the English programme. Albion is the study association for English Language and Culture in Utrecht, and our aim is to make your time at this programme as fun, interesting, entertaining and educational as possible. The association is a great place to get to know your fellow students and find people with the same interests and passions. Usually, we would have organised an introductory camp for you, but with pain in our hearts, we have had to cancel that.

Don't be sad, however! We will still be organising plenty of activities throughout the year to brighten up your academic environment. Some of this will be held online, and some of it will be irl. Of course, all members will still receive all our discounts on books, various eateries and a lot more.

I hope we'll see more of you at Albion, whether you like writing, sports, theatre, travelling (or just love a great party) Albion will have plenty of opportunities for you to make the very best out of the coming year!

With love, on behalf of the XXXth board of Albion,
Bauke Dudink



BAUKE DUDINK
CHAIR OF ALBION



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Perks of being an Albion Member

EAZIE 🍱

IF YOU FEEL LIKE HAVING A FRESH WAKAME SALAD, OR CRAVE SOME BOMBAY CURRY, EAZIE IS WHERE YOU SHOULD GO. THE STORE OPENS AT NOON, SO YOU CAN SATISFY YOUR HUNGER ALL DAY LONG. THE FRESH INGREDIENTS AND FAIR PRICES GUARANTEE TO SATISFY JUST ABOUT ANY STUDENT IN SEARCH FOR A MEAL. SHOW YOUR ALBION MEMBERSHIP CARD AT CHECKOUT AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT.

DE STADSGENOOT 🍺

THIS COZY PLACE, LOCATED JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM NEUDE, IS WHERE OUR MONTHLY DRINKS TAKE PLACE. IT'S THE BEST PLACE IN TOWN TO HAVE SOME (OR MANY) BEERS WITH YOUR FELLOW ALBIONEERS AFTER A DAY OF STUDYING. DON'T FORGET TO SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU ORDER AT THE BAR, IT'LL GIVE YOU A 10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR ORDER.

CECIL CITY BIKE 🚲

AS A STUDENT IN UTRECHT, YOU'LL MOST LIKELY TRAVEL THROUGH THE CITY BY BIKE, SO WE'VE ARRANGED A NICE DISCOUNT AT ONE OF THE FRIENDLIEST BIKE SHOPS NEAR DRIFT. CELIL CITY BIKE IS LOCATED AT THE VOORSTRAAT AND WILL GIVE YOU A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL BIKES, AND 15% OFF ON ALL REPAIRS.

DRESSME 👕

SPECIALISED IN PROMOTION, THE PEOPLE AT DRESSME (LOCATED AT THE SINGELDWARSSTRAAT, WILL PRINT YOUR SHIRTS, SWEATERS AND MUCH MORE. WHETHER YOU WANT TO GET MATCHING SHIRTS FOR YOUR PUB QUIZ TEAM, OR YOU'VE JUST ALWAYS WANTED A 50% POLYESTER HEAVYMILL POLOSHIRT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT, YOUR TIME IS NOW! SHOW YOUR ALBION MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR A 10% DISCOUNT.

PAMPALINI 🥪

FOUNDED IN 2014, THIS LOVELY LUNCHROOM OFFERS FRESH PANINIS AND SANDWICHES, DELICIOUS LAVAZZA COFFEE AND PERSIAN CUISINE. IT IS LOCATED AT WITTEVROUWENSTRAAT 14, AND AS AN ALBIONEER YOU CAN GET EVERY HOT DRINK (EXCEPT PERSIAN TEA) FOR ONLY €2,50!

CHIDOZ 🌮

NEED A SNACK? A FULL MEAL? TO SCRATCH THAT MEXICAN FOOD CRAVING YOU'VE BEEN HAVING THE LAST WEEK? JUST OVER IN THE BILTSTRAAT, 5 MINUTES FROM THE CITY CENTRE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, ARE OUR FRIENDS OVER AT CHIDOZ. FOR ALL THINGS MEXICAN, CHIDOZ IS THE PLACE TO BE, ESPECIALLY THEIR BURRITOS ARE TO DIE FOR! IF YOU BRING YOUR (FRIENDS OF) ALBION MEMBERSHIP CARD, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PROFIT FROM THE FOLLOWING DEALS: 1 BURRITO FOR €7,25, 2-9 FOR €6,75 EACH, 10+ FOR €6,25 EACH AND 5,50 PER BURRITO IF YOU ORDER 50 OR MORE (FOR WHEN YOU'RE REALLY HUNGRY). (ALL PRICES EXCLUDING EXTRA TOPPINGS/OPTIONS)

BOEKHANDEL BIJLEVELD 📖

WANTING TO ADD TO YOUR BOOKSHELF? IN NEED OF THAT ONE PIECE OF CLASSIC LITERATURE THAT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON THAT SHELF? STOP BY AT JANSKERKHOF AND STEP INTO THIS COSY, LOVELY BOOKSHOP CALLED BIJLEVELD AND GET A 10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR ENGLISH, GERMAN OR FRENCH BOOK!

Mentor Parade

During the first block, you will be assigned a tutor and various mentors to guide you through the English programme. Here's a handy guide to help you out.

Academic Mentors



V E R R A
V E R R I J T



L E A N N E
V A N
K A M P E N



T E S S A
K A R S T E N



V I C T O R I A
B L U R I O T
P E B U E L A



M I C H E L L E
M O O N E N



C E C I L I E
B A L E M A N S -
H Ø J B E R G



R E B E K A H
M A U



D A G M A R
N A N N



M Y R T H E
N E I J E N S



J I T S K E
L A M A I N



M I C H I E L
D A N K E R S



R O O S
L E D E B O E R



L I A N N E
V A N
D O O R N



M A I K E
S J O L L E M A

Tutors



N Y N K E
D E H A A S



S U E
B L A C K W E L L



M A R C E L L E
C O L E



M I A
Y O K U



S I M O N
C O O K



C A T H E L I E N
A A F T I N K



J O H A N N A
H O O R E N M A N

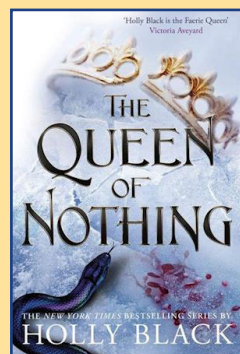
Letter Editor-in-Chief

Hi First-Years!

Thank you all for taking the time reading through this magazine. This is Albion's magazine Phoenix and this fresher's edition was made for you! It contains all information about your introduction days but it is also a preview of the traditional Phoenix magazine that is made every block by students of the English Language and Culture bachelor. In here, you can find all things to help you during these introduction days. Even though this year starts a bit different, we want you to make the most of it! To help you out a little I suggest you to join committees and try to participate in many events! Connect with people, make friends and have fun times together. Go out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself. These years of studying are not only about learning things, but also about finding out who you are, your future goals and all those things. Sorry, getting a bit philosophical here. I hope that despite COVID-19 you are still looking forward to this year. I surely am! Enjoy your introduction days, I hope to see you soon (as part of Phoenix maybe?).

Love,
Julia Schuurmans, Editor-in-chief

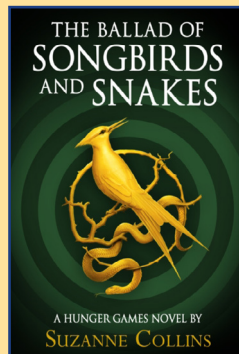
What We're Reading



JULIA

THE QUEEN OF NOTHING

BY HOLLY BLACK



CECILIE

THE BALLAD OF
SONGBIRDS
AND SNAKES

BY SUZANNE COLLINS

The Phoenix Board



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
J U L I A
S C H U U R M A N S

NICKNAME: JUUL **FROM:** ARNHEM, THE NETHERLANDS
BIRTHDAY: SEPTEMBER 28TH 2000 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** A COURT OF MIST AND FURY BY SARAH J MAAS
FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER: HERMIONE GRANGER **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** TEN HUNDRED
FAVOURITE MOVIE: THE HOBBIT (ALL OF THEM)
FAVOURITE COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND, IT HAS BEAUTIFUL NATURE AND I LOVE THE KIWI BIRDS.
NO-ONE KNOWS THAT... I ONLY READ HARRY POTTER LAST YEAR :0 **GUILTY PLEASURE:** A FILM MARATHON WITH A SOFT BLANKET AND SNACKS **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** BOOKS, MY COMPUTER AND LAYS PAPRIKA CHIPS. **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LITERATURE, BECAUSE I WANT TO BECOME AN AUTHOR MYSELF :)



CREATIVE DIRECTOR
C E C I L I E
B A L E M A N S - H Ø J B E R G

NICKNAME: CICI **FROM:** DENMARK! (BUT ALSO UTRECHT) **BIRTHDAY:** APRIL 6TH 1999 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** FRANKENSTEIN BY MARY SHELLEY OR IN ORDER TO LIVE BY YEONMI PARK. **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** THAT'S A TOUGH ONE, EITHER MOOMIN, FINNICK ODAIR OR UNCLE IROH
FAVOURITE ARTIST: LUKAS GRAHAM **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
FAVOURITE COUNTRY: I WOULD SAY DENMARK BUT I MIGHT BE A BIT BIASED SO I'LL GO WITH FINLAND BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PLACE AND THERE ARE MOOMINS EVERYWHERE WHICH IS A HUGE PLUS
NO-ONE KNOWS THAT... I HAVE A HUGE COLLECTION OF MOOMIN MUGS WHICH KEEPS GROWING EVERY YEAR. OOPS! **GUILTY PLEASURE:** OTTER VIDEOS TBH **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** PETER, SAM, DRAWING AND JENSEN'S BØFHUS' FAVORIT SOVS **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LITERATURE!! LINGUISTICS IS ABSOLUTELY TERRIFYING AND I LOVE ENGAGING WITH LITERARY TEXTS ESPECIALLY POETRY.

Meet the Board

NICKNAME: BAUX, BAUKSOS, SAM, BEAU AND BAUKIE **FROM:** ZUTPHEN, ACHTERHOEK REPRESENT! **BIRTHDAY:** 7TH OF AUGUST 2000 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE. GRANTED: IT'S TOO LONG FOR MOST PEOPLE'S LIKING, BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** I'M A SUCKER FOR THOSE GUYS AND GALS LIVING IT UP ON OLYMPUS **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** PROBABLY DAUGHTER. IT'S DEPRESSING IN ALL THE BEST WAYS **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** MOANA. AND DON'T ANYONE DARE CALL IT VAIANA DONT@ME **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** SCOTLAND, IT'S JUST THE PRETTIEST! BUT I'M NOT TOO WELL TRAVELED SO MY FRAME OF REFERENCE IS LIMITED **GUILTY PLEASURE:** PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE (BEING BASIC IS A LIFESTYLE) **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** KATARA SHOULD HAVE ENDED UP WITH ZUKO **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** SARCASM, FRIENDSHIP, RED WINE AND PORNOGRAPHY **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LINGUISTICS, BECAUSE ... DUH

NICKNAME: VEER **FROM:** UTRECHT **BIRTHDAY:** 19TH OF APRIL 1999 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE BY JONATHAN SAFFRAN FOER, CIRCE BY MADELINE MILLER, OR THE HARRY POTTER SERIES **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** ANNE SHIRLEY OR APPA **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** THE BEATLES AND MONET **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** CALL ME BY YOUR NAME **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE I'VE BEEN TO AND THE PEOPLE ARE REALLY NICE **GUILTY PLEASURE:** KELLY CLARKSON **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** I'M BETTER AT BUYING BOOKS THAN AT READING THEM I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... COMPANY **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LITERATURE BECAUSE I LOVE BOOKS. BUT I DON'T CARE A BIT ABOUT THE GRAMMAR OF THEM

NICKNAME: LUNA, CHARLIE, LOTTE, CHARLOTTE **FROM:** VLAARDINGEN **BIRTHDAY:** 12TH MARCH 1999 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** 13 MINUTES BY SARAH PINBOROUGH **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** LUNA LOVEGOOD **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** BRING ME THE HORIZON **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** THE LION KING **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** ICELAND, BECAUSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL NATURE! **GUILTY PLEASURE:** BIG TIME RUSH **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** I REALLY ENJOY SWIMMING **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** DISNEY **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LITERATURE, I LOVE A GOOD STORY!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BRAM VAN BEERENDONK, RIXT TUINSTRA, VEERLE KOSTERS, BAUKE DUDINK, CHARLOTTE VAN HOUDT AND NIENKE HUTTEN

NICKNAME: SCHAAPJE, ALBINO, RIKKIE **FROM:** LEEUWARDEN (FRYSLÂN BOPPE!!!) **BIRTHDAY:** MARCH 4TH 2000 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** ARE YOU EXPERIENCED? BY WILLIAM SUTHCLEFFE **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** NO CLUE BUT I CAN RELATE TO GARY THE SNAIL (SPONGEBOB) VERY MUCH **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** NOTHING BUT THIEVES, RHCP, FOO FIGHTERS, STICKY FINGERS, BAZART, AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** THE BREAKFAST CLUB **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** SO FAR I THINK ENGLAND BUT I HAVE MANY GREAT MEMORIES IN THAILAND AND INDONESIA AND I AM CURIOUS ABOUT SO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OUTSIDE EUROPE AS WELL! **GUILTY PLEASURE:** INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWS OR SHOWS IN WHICH PEOPLE BUILD THEIR DREAM HOUSE **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** I AM, IN FACT, AN ALBINO - AND THAT, EVEN THOUGH I AM FROM FRYSLÂN, I CAN BARELY SPEAK FRISIAN **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** BEER TO BE HONEST. OH, AND MUSIC. **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LINGUISTICS, BECAUSE HONESTLY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO READ THAT MANY BOOKS

NICKNAME: BAMBOO, NIEN **FROM:** EINDHOVEN **BIRTHDAY:** 20 SEPTEMBER 2001 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** IT'S A HARD ONE... I WOULD SAY CITY OF BONES BY CASSANDRA CLARE **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** NEWT (MAZE RUNNER) **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** KENSINGTON **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** THE MAZE RUNNER SERIES **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** I REALLY LIKED IRELAND, BECAUSE OF THE COMBINATION OF HISTORICAL SIGHTS AND BEAUTIFUL NATURE **GUILTY PLEASURE:** CARNAVAL MUSIC, 100% **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** I'M INCREDIBLY CLUMSY **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** FOOD AND PANDAS **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LITERATURE OFCOURSE, I LOOOOVE READING AND DISCUSSING BOOKS!

NICKNAME: BARF/BRAF **FROM:** BEST, NOORD-BRABANT **BIRTHDAY:** MARCH 11TH 2000 **FAVOURITE BOOK:** THE 1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL, BUT I RARELY READ **FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER:** THIS IS A TOUGH ONE, BUT I REALLY LIKED JESSE PINKMAN, FROM BREAKING BAD **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** RIGHT NOW, PROBABLY JOJI, BUT IT DIFFERS FROM TIME TO TIME **FAVOURITE MOVIE:** THE BREAKFAST CLUB **FAVOURITE COUNTRY:** NOORD-BRABANT, WHICH I'LL ADMIT ISN'T A COUNTRY (YET), BUT IT'S MY FAVOURITE EITHER WAY **GUILTY PLEASURE:** PLAYING OLD POKÉMON GAMES **NO-ONE KNOWS THAT...** I PLAY THOSE POKÉMON GAMES **I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** MY SMARTPHONE, WHICH LOOKS REALLY SAD NOW THAT I'VE WRITTEN IT **LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS?** LINGUISTICS, BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE IT HAS MORE TANGIBLE APPLICATIONS IN THE REAL WORLD

Map of Utrecht



UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

- 1 DRIFT 🏠
- 2 JANSKERKHOF 🏠
- 3 TRANS 🏠
- 4 KROMME NIEUWE GRACHT 🏠
- 5 UCU 🏠
- 6 ISRAELSLAAN 🏠

UTRECHT ESSENTIALS

- 1 UTRECHT CENTRAAL 🚉
- 2 DOMTOREN 🗼
- 3 NEUDE 🍺
- 4 CENTRAAL MUSEUM 🎨
- 5 GRIFTPARK 🌳
- 6 HOOG CATHARIJNE 🏠

PHOENIX FAVES

- 1 SWAAK 🍷
- 2 FUSTO D'ORO 🍷
- 3 BROESE 📖
- 4 JOZEF 🍷
- 5 DE ONTDEKKING 🍷
- 6 LEPELENBURG 🌳

ALBION PERKS

- 1 EAZIE 🍷
- 2 DE STADSGENOOT 🍺
- 3 CELIL CITY BIKE 🚲
- 4 DRESS ME 🧥
- 5 PAMPALINI 🍷
- 6 CHIDOZ 🍷
- 7 BOEKHANDEL BIJLEVELD 📖

Tea Time with Johanna Hoorenman

- INTERVIEW BY INDIE REIJNIERSE AND LAUREL SANDERS; WRITTEN BY INDIE REIJNIERSE AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAUREL SANDERS -

On a sunny Monday morning, we are lucky enough to be invited into the home of one of our beloved teachers, Johanna Hoorenman. Our first Dutch teatime interviewee of the year! After we have found our way through the maze that is Amsterdam, we ring the doorbell and are greeted cheerfully by Johanna. We were practically melting under the heat of the summer sun, and Johanna offered us some sweet relief from the heat by serving us ice cold water - with slices of lemon - as she invites us onto the balcony. It's sweet and small and offers just enough room for the three of us to huddle together. While we get up close and personal, we start the interview.

In class you mentioned that you did a master on animal poetry. What did you study and how did it lead to that?

"I studied English at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, and as I may have indicated earlier, I took the scenic route through the curriculum, so I was what you would call a 'lang-studeerder'. I didn't really think about what I wanted to do for my masters' thesis until it was time to pick a supervisor. The only person that I thought was a really decent supervisor was this guy called Diederik Oostdijk. He specialised in poetry, but his list of students was oversubscribed so I figured if I wanted to do my thesis with him, I'd have to do it on poetry, because that's the best way into his list. So I decided to focus on Elizabeth Bishop, an American poet that I really, really liked. One thing that was very interesting about her work was that the poems that were most anthologised, were all of her animal poems. They seemed to be doing exceptionally well. We figured that this was one of the most interesting things to explore about her poetry. What is it that she does with these animals that makes those poems so successful and how does she write about them? So that became my thesis' focus."

Johanna tells us that while researching for her thesis, she realised that there wasn't a lot of secondary literature on animal poetry, so she decided that that would be perfect for a Ph.D.

"That's how I got into the animal poetry. It turned out to be fascinating and full of anthropology and philosophy and posthumanism, very exciting subjects! I've worked on that for a number of years, very enthusiastically, but I'm also broadening my scope now towards romance fiction. I must have also mentioned that in class, because I get very excited about it [laughs]."

When we mention that the theme for this issue is centered around pop-culture, Johanna gasps and excitedly jumps up in her chair: "Can I talk about the romance a little bit?" How could we say no? After we give her our nod of approval, she disappears into her living room and reappears later, balancing a stack of book in her hands.

"My research is into this really weird and fascinating subgenre of romance novels."

Are we going to talk about Jane Austen or are we going to talk about those trashy pocketbooks with sexy cowboys and Vikings on the cover?

"Both! It's a continuum, it's not a separate thing. Obviously Jane Austen was pop literature of its day, and not considered high ground literature. These were novels for ladies who had just learned to read, because education for women was not a given at that time."



Johanna adopts a critical tone as she explains that, although other genres are taken more seriously, "romance fiction still remains a very trashy genre of pulp that is formulaic and really mustn't be taken seriously." She tells us she's very interested in what happens when you do take it seriously.

"The subsection that I'm writing about is Native American themed romance. Unlike African American novels that are written predominantly by African American authors and marketed broadly to a wide array of readers, Native American novels are written by non-native authors and read by non-native readers. So it's basically white women talking to white women about Native American fantasies. It's a lot of orientalist projection."

She hands us a pile of trashy-looking books for us to browse through.

As Laurel reads one of the taglines of the novels "She was his captive, he was his passion." Johanna blurts out that the characters have sex on the horse. "it's very complicated, this is definitely a do not try this at home situation! [laughs]"



Besides animal poetry and romance fiction, you also seem to be very excited about going abroad?

"I am! I think it's a great experience! It's a very intense way of figuring out what you're good at and what you find important, because you're thrown into a wholly new situation. I went on exchange to a small college in the north of England for the semester, and I found that great. After those 4 months, I thought "Well I've done all the hard work, I could've easily stayed a year!". By the time I wanted to do my PhD, Diederik Oostdijk recommended that I look abroad and put me in contact with people. Ireland was a really good and interesting place for me, because at Trinity College they had a great well-known department for American literature. So I was guided mostly by the content of the material there, but also by the fact that I had a boyfriend here and there were easy Airlingus flights back and forth. So I got into Trinity college, which was a great place and had a great programme. So I was pleased and the fact that it was easy to go home and for my partner to come across was also a benefit."

You mentioned you were a "lang-studeerder", can you tell us more about what were you like as a student?

"I think I had a bit of a strange route, also because I took so long, I went through various circles of friends. When I moved to Amsterdam, I met my first college boyfriend, and he was in the artificial intelligence section, in the beta sciences department. I just fell into that crowd. They were just the sweetest geeks - they played dungeons and dragons - and there were no girls in their group. So I was the only girl, and I was adopted as everyone's little momma and I really relished that role. It gave me an interesting place. I was cooking for people and we moved into this anti-squat place together. It seemed like a really nice bohemian little lifestyle."

Fellow students still perceive you as a mom, they think you are 'such a mom', and that you have at least 4 children.

[bursts out laughing] "Four! Really? I seem maternal... It's interesting. It's something that's a little complicated. Obviously at university I wish to be first and foremost to be taken seriously as a scholar and a teacher. I also realised later it's a very accessible role to women and one that you might be made familiar with in your upbringing and that you can easily slip into, but it's also a bit of a trap sometimes."

"So as I was a little momsy to all these boys, I wasn't attending to my own intellectual development and that translated itself well to my grades and my progress reports, which were tragic and terrible. None of them fared much better, they all dropped out and by the time the whole group of boys had become sort of the lost boys and I was the Wendy lady. I figured I could also drop out or just break up with this boyfriend and get my ass in gear and get back on track, and do what I really wanted to do. I had sort of lost sight of that, so the whole maternal thing is nice and it's certainly part of my personality, and I try to make myself accessible to students as well, but in a way it's also a bit of a trap in terms of how you present yourself as a professional."

"Later I fell into a group of people who were slightly more ambitious, and that was a lot of fun in a different way. We became involved with the student society, and we put on a play in the little theatre group that I directed with my friend. That was a great experience and I just copped on in terms of studying. I discovered that if you put in the work, it's just much more worthwhile. I began getting really good grades and I thought 'bloody hell I am very good at this' and I never realised that I was actually quite smart because I thought I was just really sweet I guess, or maternal, instead of smart. I'd never really used that word to describe myself."

Do you have any interesting hobbies?

"I used to do classical ballet from age 5 to 17 and I enjoyed it. It's a nice way to stay fit. It's also a good way to get you out of your own head. It was never as awesome as Latin American dancing, which I was very much in love with, but I could not handle the pressure of the competitions. It was team based, so there was also internal competing. I was relatively good and I danced all the competitions - nationally and internationally - but when I moved to Amsterdam I gave it up. I was always very sorry. Then it turned out that they started a veterans team, so every Monday I go to Hoorn together with my brother for a dance practice! I love dancing. I get very excited about that." [smiles]

"I also do Pilates in my living room, to make sure that I'm strong enough to do all the moves that now, after 2 kids and 10 years, I'm a little too old for. 20 years.. Oh fuck. But yeah, it's easy, you can do it in your living room, there are very nice young ladies on the Youtube who tell you what to do. I'm best friends now with this Ukrainian Canadian former gymnast, who travels the world with her partner in this beautiful hippie lifestyle and does these Yoga and Pilates sessions. She seems to be perpetually 19 and very bendy and fit. She doesn't know who I am, but I feel like I know her on very personal terms, she's talked me through some very difficult moments on my living room floor."

On that note we end the interview and chat a bit more, while Laurel takes some final pictures. Johanna gives us a short but sweet house tour before we all take off. On her way to pick up her kids from school, Johanna walks us to a little square with different places to eat. We say our goodbyes and finally Laurel and I come to the realisation that this was our last Teatime. What a great way to end the year! Johanna, thank you for the lovely conversation and the hospitality!



the full interview can be read here <https://albion.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/299/2018/07/ISSUE-4-4-ilovepdf-compressed.pdf>

Bookshelf with Jitske Lamain

- WRITTEN BY PIM STORM, EDITED BY PATRICK VAN OOSTEROM, PHOTOGRAPHED BY JITSKE LAMAIN -

Now that we all find ourselves in an "intelligent lockdown" due to the COVID-19 crisis, my roommate Jitske and I met up in a somewhat unusual setting so that we could do what we do best: chatter our time away about everything and nothing. We discussed, among other things, the mountain of books that she managed to work her way through over the past weeks.

Do you have a favourite author?

I'm not the best at picking favourites, so I'm going to cheat a little and pick two: Virginia Woolf and Haruki Murakami. The novels by Virginia Woolf that I read are *To the Lighthouse*, *Flush*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *The Waves*. I really like her stream of consciousness style. You have to put some effort into her works, but her writing is so beautiful and rich so it's definitely worth it. Last summer, I read *Kafka on the Shore* by Murakami and I just couldn't stop reading that novel. The story is so absurd to the point where you're completely lost as to what is happening, and once you think you know what is going to happen, the story takes a completely different turn. I was really drawn into Murakami's surrealistic world and I couldn't tell what was real and what wasn't. I also read *A Wild Sheep Chase* and last week I received *1Q84*, which I want to read in the foreseeable future.

Did someone read to you when you were a child?

Yes, my parents read to me a lot, or so they told me. Of what I can remember, they mainly read picture books to me, like *Tip en Tanneke* and *Pluk en de Petterliet*, typically Dutch children's literature. They usually read to me right before I would go to sleep. I don't know what other books they read to me, actually.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Oh the entire *Harry Potter* series, no doubt. I devoured these books as a child—I could finish one book in one morning, easy. I was just so invested, then, that I simply couldn't stop reading (similar to when I read *Kafka on the Shore*). Bearing in mind that my parents only allowed me to watch the films after I had finished the book. That was a rule at home, for all film adaptations of a book generally. So I read them all. And the entire series was truly amazing. I'm not sure if I have a favourite within the series. I really loved *The Prisoner of Azkaban* and *The Order of the Phoenix* (how appropriate), but, yeah, I think the entire series is amazing so I can't really choose one favourite.

What are the genres that you like to delve into with your reading?

Well, I read across several genres I presume, but I mainly go with literary fiction, and within that genre I like historical fiction, surrealism, magical realism, and dystopian works. Literary fiction and historical fiction are probably my most-read genres, including works like *The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough or *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. With Murakami I've fallen in love with surrealism and magical realism. I am not into the fantasy genre, though. I prefer a story that is set in a real society. I haven't read that many dystopian books, but I generally enjoyed the ones that I read, like *1984* and *Brave New World*. They aren't my go-to novels, but certainly nice from time to time. It has become a habit of mine to go to the thrift store and buy many books at once for a low price. Then, I'll read these books and I can find out for myself what I think of them. Maybe it sounds a little cliché, but I like to broaden my horizons in my reading and I am always open to a work that I don't know or a genre that I haven't explored. This works really well for me with these books from the thrift store. This way, I discover books that I wouldn't have found otherwise.

Really nice to hear about your openness to all of these different genres and your shopping habits as well. Do you hate any genres that you aren't familiar with yet but that you would like to explore?

I would really like to give nonfiction a try as well. Most of the books I've read so far have been within the genre of literary fiction, as I told you, but lately I've also started reading some nonfiction works and I was pleasantly surprised by those as well. I'd like to read *On Photography* and *Regarding the Pain of Others* by Susan Sontag. I am also really intrigued by Joan Didion. I watched the documentary *Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold* and it was so interesting! Now I desperately want to try some of her works as well. I've actually already ordered *The White Album* and *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, I couldn't not get my hands on those.



How about your reading habits? When and where are you most comfortable reading?

I feel very comfortable in the chair in my room. Especially early in the morning, the sunlight shines precisely on that corner of my room and that's just such a lovely and comfy place. I've got like a small coffee table next to it on which I can put a drink or some snacks because, you know, those are essentials obviously. This chair is also right next to my bookcase so it's easy to grab a book I want to read or to put it away once I've finished it. During the afternoons I tend to move to our balcony because that's on the other side of our flat and it's sunlight for the rest of the day till dusk. Very nice to have a beer there as well.

So you've been reading quite a lot lately. Do you have an interest in poetry as well?

Now with the intelligent lockdown and the corona virus I spend a lot of my time reading, but I haven't read that much poetry over the last weeks. I really liked the poetry that was assigned for us for *This American Life* or *Civil War to Civil Rights*, though. Especially Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, and Sylvia Plath are some of my favourite poets from this course, I think. Besides the set poetry we read during our courses, I am not that familiar with poetry, but I'd like to read some more of that as well some time.

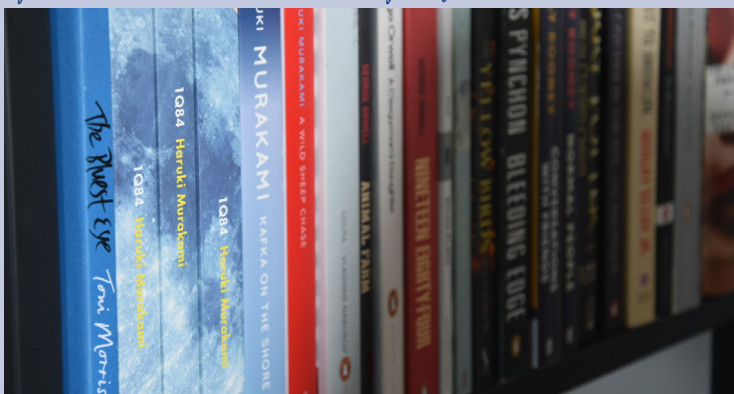
What would you consider your favourite book?

My favourite book as of now must be *The Waves* by Virginia Woolf, without a doubt. It's written very poetically and the prose, it's just... yeah it's just wonderful. The waves continuously recur as symbols and metaphors in the lives of the six friends and the novel, thus, is just such a rich and diverse entity. It's definitely not an easy read; *The Waves* is a complex book, very experimental and written from many points of view, but it's beautifully written.

Do you have any reading recommendations?

Yes! I've recently read *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, which is definitely one I can recommend. I also think *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang is a very good book. It's a memoir of three generations of women in China under Mao rule and what life was like there, very compelling. Also I really liked *Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People* by Sally Rooney, the first of which I had to read for Irish Literature. I enjoyed those immensely. *Maurice* by E.M. Forster is a fine novel as well.

the full interview can be read here https://albionrecht.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/299/2020/07/Issue-IV-Online_compressed.pdf



Albioneers abroad

- WRITTEN BY TESS MASSELINK -

In last year's final issue, I wrote a piece about the preparation procedure that a student has to go through if they want to go abroad for a semester. At that time, I was still in the middle of that process. While writing this piece, however, over half of my exchange semester has already passed!

Your burning question may now be: was it all worth it? Is this scary leap into the unknown manageable? The answer is a loud and enthusiastic "Yes!"

Bergen, a gorgeous city situated on Norway's west coast, is surrounded by the infamous seven 'city-mountains'. The one that is most easily accessible is 'Fløyen', which has a funicular going up and down it. This mountain, however, has proven to be a simple hike up and down that even elderly people and small children can manage. Though the view is beautiful from Fløyen, the other city-mountains are more exciting and challenging. Gather a group of fellow international students and find your way around the city to the different mountains, and you can experience Norwegian nature in the most convenient way imaginable. If you, like me, want to go on a cabin trip or a longer hiking trip, the options are endless. You can arrange a trip by yourself or join 'BSI Friluft', a student organisation which organises hiking trips, and you will explore the country surrounding Bergen in a most intimate manner.

Besides exploring Norway, university demands attention as well, of course. I have found the way Bergen university operates to be comfortable and similar to the way Utrecht university handles things. The lectures are interesting and lowkey, you are encouraged to ask questions, help is given to those who ask for it (wink wink), and the teachers are willing to help you if you stumble across scheduling issues. The introduction the university offered was a fun way to familiarise yourself with both the university and the city.

I would say that, overall, student life in Bergen resembles that in Utrecht. There are parties and the city offers some nice clubs (though I haven't been there myself, some of my dormmates have). Bergen is also a city of festivals (be it art, theatre, music, Christmas, you name it), museums, concert halls, cafés, sports (the training facilities offered by the housing company are amazing), good and interesting food, and so on.

One of the most amazing things about Bergen, in my opinion, is the public library. It offers study places (as do the faculty libraries, no worries), amazing coffee and food, fun conventions (I saw JP Ahonen give a panel on his Belzebubs webcomic!), and, of course, a wide arrangement of books.

In short, then, Bergen is a colourful city which has something to offer to people of all walks of life. I love it here and would recommend everyone to go there at least once in their lives, if not on an exchange semester.

"I would say that, overall, student life in Bergen resembles that in Utrecht."



PHOTO BY TESS MASSELINK

Letter from the IntroCie

Welcome firsties!

We and the other members of the introduction committee worked hard throughout the year to organise and as fun and interactive couple of days as possible! While things, of course, did not quite pan out how we expected them to, we still tried to offer you an as fun time as we could with the current measures in place. I already look forward to meeting all of you when things have died down, and we can really start forming a community. The best of luck, and I hope to see you around!

Bram van Beerendonk, Chair IntroCie 2019-2020

LETTER FROM THE LUSTRUM COMMITTEE

It was the day, 7th October 1991, that Albion was born. Although, I should say "officially" born, with legal papers and all. Since that time, our dear association has run through infancy, childhood, puberty (dear Lord) and adolescence, which leaves us at adulthood with 30 years and counting. What more reason do we need to celebrate? 30 is a special year, as is any age present in the five times table, because it makes us realise how far we've come, how much we've grown. We also call it a Lustrum Year.

Now you may ask me, who are you and what do I get out of your pretty words? I can tell you; my name is Imke and during this special year, I'll be the chair of the Lustrum Committee. For the past year we've been brainstorming, planning and arranging a wild variety of extra exceptional activities, those that we get to realise this year to bring you a memorable 30th birthday of Albion. Those activities will be spread throughout the year, with the Lustrum week kicking things off from October 5th to 9th. Even corona won't stop us as we'll bring a fun and safe line-up to you, the details of which will remain secret for now.

Luckily, the excitement won't stop with the Lustrum week. A big Lustrum party is on the agenda and we'll be sure to finish the year off with an extraordinary Lustrum weekend in collaboration with the Lustrum Trip Committee. The year will be topped with sprinkles of extra activities here and there and the cherry on top will entail our exclusive Lustrum merch items, only accessible during this academic year!

So, when we have all the reason to celebrate, Albion makes sure to give everyone that extra special year. If you'd like to help us make this year amazing, join the committee! If not, I'll see you during the many festivities!

Love,
Imke van Dam, Chair LusCie 2020-2021

COMMITTEE MARKET

AG

The Academic Committee mainly organises events that focus on the orientation of the labour market and events that tie in with education. Throughout the academic year we organise some field trips for the students of Albion to let them get to know the labour market. Past field trips have been to, for example, independent publishers and high schools. Apart from that we also organise pub lectures and a poetry reading where the teachers and creative writing students of our bachelor can read us their work. Together with the department of our degree the AC organises thesis workshops for the students and for the firsties there will be an information night at the end of the year where help will be offered about the second year courses.



ALUMCIE

This committee was only launched a few years ago, but has already accomplished a lot thanks to its excited and enthusiastic members. It has started a Buddy Project that connects Alumni with current English students. This project was and can be tremendously helpful for students who are in doubt about their career. Apart from running this project, the AlumCie also tries to actively engage with and keep track of all the Albioneers that came before, and thus forms a great way of meeting lots of different and unique people!



INTROGIE

The Introduction Committee is the committee that organised your introduction to the world of Utrecht University. The committee begins planning all activities in the second half of the academic year so everything is ready for the new batch of firsties. If you want to help those scared youngsters settle in, do join the Introduction Committee!



AGGIE

The Activity Committee is a very active committee within our association. We organise a variety of activities every single month. This makes the committee perfect for those who don't have a lot of experience organising big events (like the travel committees) or are a little hesitant about their capabilities to do so. Every month, we organise up to 3 events. We have active events, like bowling, laser gaming, etc., and provide our members with a discount. We also create our own fun and free activities. These activities include, for example, movie nights, artsy stuff (Bob Ross!) or even a dropping.

Furthermore, we also organise a themed study-afternoon near the end of the block. This way, first-years can ask help to second- or even third-years for help with the oh so familiar paper-submitting deadline-stress. Last but not least, we organise each year's pubquizzes! If this has made you all excited, please, sign up to be part of this year's Activity Committee!



FEESTGIE

Looking to join a fun committee? Well, let's stop the clichés here. Albion's Party Committee is one of the most diverse committees out there. Albion collaborates with a lot of other study associations to organise different theme parties. So, you will meet a lot of different students! Moreover, being a part of Albion's Party Committee means that you will have benefits such as free entry and/or consumptions (FREE BEER).

Besides, Albion hosts a lovely party uniquely for Albion members in May called the Night of the Professors. Teachers of the English department will DJ for us Albioneers during that party. It is the perfect chance to get to know teachers on a different level. Next to that, being part of this committee is unbelievably fun. You get the chance to come up with fun themes, drink a lot of booze and dance the night away! If you like organising, dancing and drinking, then



KAMP Cie

Each year, the KampCie organises the very best way for the new first years to get started with their new college life: the Introduction Camp! This weekend is filled with fun activities and games, all designed around a special theme. The camp is perfect for getting to know other first years as well as the older Albioneers and getting an introduction to our lovely association itself. The camp will provide you with some of the most treasured Albion memories you'll ever have.



KLEINE REISCIE

Near the end of the Academic year, the Short Trip Committee organises a weekend for all Albioneers to just relax, make campfires, drink beer and talk about the inns and outs of life. This camp will be somewhere in the Netherlands, and it will be full of fun activities organised by the Small Trip Committee.



GROTE REISCIE

This is a call for the travellers amongst you. One week each year, Albion leaves for the British isles. The trip can go to anywhere in the UK or Ireland, and will be full of interesting activities and adventures. You can turn this experience into something even more special by joining the Big Trip Committee! As a member of this committee you become a travel guide for a week and you plan the trip from beginning to end: from choosing the destination to making sure everyone gets back home safely.



SPORT Cie

Every year the SportCie organises various sports-related activities, ranging from mini-golf to the autumn fall hike. We are a bunch of the most fun and energetic people of Albion, and are always in for trying new sports and niche games! Apart from the development and strengthening of your organisational skills, joining this committee will be a great outlet for your own sports-related desires and a lovely way of sharing your passions with your fellow Albioneers.



LUS Cie

The Lustrum Committee is a special committee, because it will only exist for one more year! The reason for its existence is the joyous occasion of Albion's 30th birthday this year, which means we want to make the year extra special. This year, the committee will focus on using their creativity to come up with great activities, events or even a trip to organise



PHOENIX

At Phoenix Magazine, we strive to document the life and the culture of the English student in Utrecht. It's an encouraging space where aspiring writers, photographers and designers can channel their creativity into an end product every academic quarter, under the guidance of an editorial board. We value commitment and originality, and encourage taking initiative - and we promise that the deadlines don't negate the enjoyment. After all, the fun is in creating something together as a team. So, if you're looking to improve your already acquired skills and develop some new ones on the side, be sure to sign up and hopefully we'll see you at the first meeting!



Positions open to apply for are: Staff-writer, Photographer, Editor, and Illustrator. Writers can also apply on freelance basis.

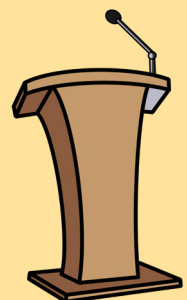
SUDS

Students of Utrecht Drama Society is an independent committee of Albion, which means that even non-Albion members are more than welcome to join. They have their own board and organise multiple activities each year, including a big play at the end of the year, and a one act festival.



SYMPO Cie

The SympoCie organises four symposia throughout the year with varying topics, from L2 development to travel in the Middle Ages. You'll be in contact with our teachers and you'll be provided with interesting topics outside of our regular studies. You'll be making learning fun!



Still life

A feast lies upon the table, vibrant and bountiful;

Many grapes, like Leonidas and his men, stand
between a great melon and a pyramid of lemons
blocking anyone who could've wished to pass through.

A lobster, red as the dying sun, atop a bronze shield
was fished from the sea not even three days prior
rests on his deathbed, green leaves upon leaves.

Apples are spread throughout, pears too, and peaches,
some have rolled onto the ground from the blue cloth
covering the antique brown dining table in the center.

A cockatoo overlooks all, from its place on the golden pitcher,
its plumage a pristine white and also some yellow too
it seems paralysed, from the way it cannot fly away.

I feel like I can almost touch it all, but I cannot,
for it is all paint on a canvas, a life from years ago
captured in its time by the painter's fine brushstrokes.

The grapes lost at Thermopylae, going oh so sour,
and the other fruit started to attract very many flies
before being thrown away, rotten deep to their cores.

The lobster was devoured, its red shell broken and discarded
like the maggots eating only the deceased flesh
and leaving the skeleton to eventually turn to dust.

The cockatoo simply disappeared, the window left open
it took the leap and flew away, never to be seen again,
but at least we have the painting still, a life in stasis.

Written by Thijs Biezen