

**ENDING A WAR**

Two hundred years ago in December, the world's superpowers came to Ghent to end the War of 1812

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LIFELINE

Kids with long-term illnesses or compromised immune systems can go to school remotely with Bednet

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**SEEING WITH NEW EYES**

A Ghent social worker took to the slums of Rio to help youth record their own lives

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© Royal Academy of Arts, London
William Pink's 1854 sculpture "Smugglerius", based on a bronze cast of an English smuggler who was hanged and flayed in 1776

Under our skin

Leuven hosts a three-month party for 500-year-old local scholar Vesalius



Diana Goodwin

More articles by Diana \ flanderstoday.eu

Join the party this month as Leuven celebrates the 500th anniversary of Andreas Vesalius, the man whose groundbreaking work revolutionised our understanding of human anatomy.

This year marks the 500th birthday of Andreas Vesalius, the Renaissance scholar, anatomist and physician, and the city of Leuven is throwing him a massive party. The festivities kick off this week with the opening of *Vesalius: The Body Depicted* at M Museum and continue into January with an extensive programme of performances, exhibitions, lectures and concerts.

The central theme of the city-wide Vesalius Leuven festival is the human body – how it is portrayed, used, understood and interpreted – from the time of Vesalius to the present day. Vesalius' work in the field of anatomy is the starting point for an in-depth investigation of how our knowledge of the body continues to influence disciplines, ranging from

the visual and performing arts to medicine and the biological sciences.

Before Vesalius came along and insisted that only first-hand investigation of the body through the dissection of cadavers could form the basis of a scientific understanding of human anatomy, Western doctors followed the writings of Galen, a Greek physician who lived in the second century AD. Galen had limited access to cadavers and relied on the dissection of pigs, apes and other animals for his observations. It was Vesalius who pointed out errors in Galen's writings and produced the first comprehensive guide to human anatomy.

Vesalius' seminal work, a seven-volume treatise called *De humanis corporis fabrica*, or *The Fabric of the Human Body*, revolutionised his contemporaries' understanding of the body and its internal structures. Not only was the book widely disseminated and studied in Vesalius' time, but it continued to provide the basis for the study of anatomy

for centuries afterwards. Modern medicine, as a discipline based in scientific observation as opposed to reverential adherence to centuries of tradition, began with Vesalius. Andries van Wesel was born in Brussels in 1514. Following the custom of other Renaissance humanists, he later Latinised his name to Andreas Vesalius. He began his studies at the Collegium Trilingue in Leuven at the age of 14, then studied medicine in Paris.

Forced to return to Brabant due to the outbreak of hostilities between France and the Hapsburg Empire, he finished his studies in Leuven and then travelled to Padua for his doctorate. Upon graduation, he was offered a teaching position at the university there.

It was while lecturing and performing dissections in Padua that Vesalius began work on his book of anatomy. Published in 1543 when he was just 28, *Fabrica* was an instant success. The ambitious young scholar dedicated his masterpiece to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and presented the Haps-

Fighter pilots sent to Iraq

F16 fighter jets left Belgium last week to help combat IS terrorists



Derek Blyth

More articles by Derek \ flanderstoday.eu

Six Belgian F-16 fighter planes took off from Belgium last Friday to join the international military coalition tackling the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group. A parliamentary vote was needed, but the F-16s took off for the Middle East before parliament had voted to approve the mission, which angered some MPs.

The military mission was finally approved late on Friday afternoon, with 114 MPs supporting the action, two voting against and 10 abstaining. In an interview with VTM news, outgoing defence minister Pieter De Crem said the federal government was now taking measures to protect soldiers in uniform, following threats of reprisals.

"The Belgian government takes threats by Islamic State extremely seriously," he said. "We realise that there are risks attached to our participation, but we are not going to shirk

our responsibility."

The Belgian aircraft are due to carry out their first missions over Iraq by the middle of this week. They will operate under US command within a framework drawn up by the Belgian government, which allows attacks on IS targets in Iraq but not in neighbouring Syria.

Meanwhile, outgoing prime minister Elio Di Rupo spoke on Friday at the United Nations' general assembly, where he linked the recent killing of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels to the current conflict in Iraq and Syria.

He told the assembly that the man accused of the shooting was a French national who had spent time fighting with IS before returning to Europe. "These foreign fighters represent a threat to every country in the world," Di Rupo said.



© Staff Sgt Aaron Allmon, US Air Force/Wikipedia

Re-enactment commemorates signing of Treaty of Ghent

Actors last week re-enacted the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which took place in the city 200 years ago this year. The event at city hall kicked off a series of activities to commemorate the historical event.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed by British and American delegates on 24 December 1814, meant the end of the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States, which had lasted for two-and-a-half years. The signing defined the borders between modern-day Canada and the US.

Both parties also expressed their intention to abolish slavery and stop hostilities against Native Americans. Ghent was chosen to host the signing of the treaty because it was neutral territory, offered plenty of accommodation and was considered a favourable geographic location. The anniversary celebrations were intended to introduce the little-known treaty to the general public.

The event on 24 September saw cannon fire coming from the Gravensteen Castle and Emile Braunplein. The Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment from London



Detail from the 1914 painting "A Hundred Years Peace" by Amedee Forestier

gave a free performance of *War and Peace* at Sint-Baaf's Cathedral.

Among the high-profile guests was John Quincy Adams, a descendant of the leader of the American delegation in 1814, who later became the sixth president of the US.

Flemish minister-president Geert Bourgeois highlighted his government's support of the festivities. The government allocated €75,000 to the Treaty of Ghent organisation. Bourgeois praised the project for its efforts to involve youngsters – from primary school children to higher education students. "It's my hope that this project, and all its possible spin-offs, puts both Ghent and Flanders further on the world map," he said. \ Andy Furniere

Protesting police promise fine-free week

Police unions have said their members will not be writing tickets for a variety of motoring offences this week, as part of a protest action against government plans to raise the minimum retirement age.

Among the offences that will be ignored are failing to wear a seat belt, using a mobile phone while driving and illegal parking. Serious offences, such as speeding and driving under the influence, will continue to be treated normally.

Police are protesting because of a ruling by the Constitutional Court that set the minimum retirement age for police officers at 62, declaring an agreement more than a decade old to be discriminatory.

After a meeting last week with the four main unions, *formateurs* Kris Peeters and Charles Michel

promised to work out a solution to the problem by this Friday. If the fine-free week does not produce a clear signal from negotiators, unions promise further protest action.

One possibility is a strike during the speed-trap marathon planned for 10 October, when police zones across the country will operate 24 hours of intensive speed checks. A marathon in April caught more than 20,000 speeding motorists.

Meanwhile, the strike action by police last week was "a great success," according to the liberal public service union VSOA Politie. "On average, 55% of police employees took part in the strike," said chair Vincent Gilles. "In fact, 65 to 75% of police are behind our action, though they cannot show it because they are required to work by the minimum service requirement." \ Alan Hope

Brussels releases details of plans for streets and squares

Brussels-City council has revealed some of its plans for the central avenues – Anspachlaan and Adolphe Max, including the main squares Fontainas, Beurs and De Brouckère.

The latest plan begins at Fontainas, designated as "the garden," a green space with a communal garden, linked to the nearby Fontainas Park. Then comes "the promenade" between Fontainas and Beurs, traffic-free only from Lombardstraat, with wider pavements before that.

Beursplein (dubbed "the urban theatre") will be the scene of cultural activities involving local organisations like De Munt, Ancienne Belgique

and Beursschouwburg. In time, the square will be dominated by the new Beer Temple.

Between Beurs and De Brouckère comes a succession of small squares and decorative lighting. Finally, De Brouckère ("the Agora") will take over the role currently filled by the Beurs as the place for public demonstrations.

"The central avenues is a subject a lot of people have opinions about," said Ans Persoons, alderwoman for public participation. "We want to take those opinions into account, for example on where play areas or water features might be located."

\ AH

10%



45

of internet traffic of Telenet subscribers went to the newly launched Netflix last weekend. The video streaming service is the biggest single user of broadband in the US

people with epilepsy sought by Ghent University to take part in a study into the power of dogs to predict seizures

€5 million



14th



Cost of new Mystery Mines attraction to open next spring at theme park Bobbejaanland. The "immersive tunnel" is described as "an underground world guarded by exotic monsters"

15,258



place for the University of Antwerp in the QS international rankings of universities under 50 years old, the only Belgian university on the list

reports made of disrepair in Brussels roads using the Fix My Street smartphone app, launched last year by the capital's ICT ministry

WEEK IN BRIEF

Flor Van Noppen, a member of the federal parliament for N-VA, **died last week at home in Dessel**, Antwerp province, after a two-year struggle with the degenerative disease multiple system atrophy. Van Noppen, 58, entered politics after the murder of his brother Karel, a government veterinary inspector shot to death in 1995 when he was investigating illegal hormone trafficking. Van Noppen specialised in areas such as public health and food safety. He gave his farewell speech from politics last April.

European Commissioner for social affairs, Laszlo Andor, spoke at Ghent University last week about the **integration of Roma migrants** in local communities. Ghent has been struggling for years to deal with Roma migrants, who began to settle in the city after the EU opened its borders to Eastern Europeans. Mayor Daniel Termont wrote to the Commission earlier this year to point out that many Roma had fled Slovakia because they faced discrimination and called on the EU to investigate whether this was a breach of their EU rights. "It's important that governments recognise that it is not only about work migration, but that there are also regions in the EU where there is genuine discrimination," Termont said.

The Omega Pharma-Quick Step men's time trial team **earned a bronze medal** at cycling's week-long Road World Championships in Ponferrada, Spain, which ended last Sunday. Flemish rider Greg Van Avermaet came fifth in Sunday's 255-kilometre road race. In the men's 47.1km time trial, the only Flemish finishers were Kristof Vandewalle in 24th place and Pieter Serry in 31st. The race was overshadowed by the news a few days before that a rising star of Flemish cycling, Igor Decraene, the junior world time-trial champion, had died in an apparent suicide.

OFFSIDE

Joking around with jobs

There are a lot of things you could say about the trade unions, but not many people find them fun-lovin', wise-crackin' types, always up for a laugh. They're not normally known for their sense of humour. So the discovery that a new temping agency called One Day Interim was a hoax perpetrated by the socialist union ABVV came as a bit of a surprise. The agency purported to be specialised in providing temporary staff with one-day contracts, and for many, it was a sign that employment affairs had reached as low as they can get. One-day contracts allow an employer to only officially employ

Petra Vandebussche of Ichtegem, West Flanders, has been sentenced to 18 years in prison after being found guilty of the **murder of her nine-year-old son** Aron in 2011. The jury heard how she mixed the insecticide Malathion in a glass of lemonade and gave it to the child, who became ill and died two weeks later. Psychiatrists argued she was suffering from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, a disorder in which the patient causes harm to others to profit from the resulting medical attention.

Nuclear power station **Doel 4 will open again at the end of the year**, owners Electrabel said. The plant was closed in August after oil leaked into the steam turbine room, in what is being investigated as an act of sabotage. No one has yet been identified as a suspect in the case. "That this could happen," said Kristof Calvo, Groen fraction leader in the federal parliament, "and that it should be so difficult to identify the saboteur shows that Electrabel is unable to ... guarantee security." The re-opening will go some way to reducing the likelihood of power cuts this winter.

Supermarket chain Colruyt has decided to **freeze the price it pays for fresh pork products** for two months to give pig farmers a chance to recover from the loss of exports to Russia. The price of pork has been falling since the Russian boycott was announced. At the same time, Colruyt has promised to give extra promotion to Belgian pork while the situation lasts.

Flemish artist Koen Vanmechelen is building a **four-metre-tall giant out of chestnut**, which will hand over the 10,000 ideas submitted by members of the public for the government of Flanders' nature policy. The ideas were gathered by nature conservancy organisation Natuurpunt. The giant will deliver the ideas to environment minister Joke Schauvliege on 5 November, after which it will go live in De Liereman nature park in the Kempen.

Starting this week, shopkeepers will be allowed to **round prices up or down** to the nearest 5 cents, in an attempt to take 1- and 2-cent coins out of circulation. Because the coins are often only used once before being tossed in a pot at home, they are only worth 50-60% of face value. The price-rounding only applies to cash payments and to the final bill.

Gas supplier Fluxys must **clear away any First World War ordnance** still remaining on the path of a 74-kilometre pipeline planned to carry gas from Maldegem, East Flanders, to Alveringem near the French border in West Flanders. The route through the area known as the Westhoek runs through part of the front line where heavy fighting took place.

Telecommunications company Belgacom has **officially changed its name to Proximus**, the name of the company's mobile services. "The border between mobile and fixed [internet, TV, landlines] has become so thin that this fusion under one single brand is a logical step," the company said in a statement, explaining that people now expect to communicate the same way at home or away. The name Proximus was chosen because it means "nearby". The change includes a new logo, in which the blue of the Belgacom logo fades into the purple of Proximus in an endless loop formed by the letter X in the name.

Dutch writer Jeroen Brouwers, who lives in Flanders, has been ordered by the Antwerp court of appeal to **demolish his house in the woods** of Zutendaal, Limburg province, which was built without a permit in a protected area. Brouwers bought the house in 1993, and it was clearly stated in the deed that no permit existed. A court in Tongeren ordered the demolition in 2011, and the appeal has upheld that decision.

you on the day that you're working, but you still have to remain available for work at all times. You may get to work, or you may not; in any case, you can't work for anyone else.

To highlight the inequity of such an arrangement, the union spent a fortune – estimated at €100,000 – to launch a website and ad campaign and to poster storefronts with the One Day logo (*pictured*). The fake agency attracted dozens of enquiries from potential workers and also from a number of employers, whose names the union declined to reveal.

In the meantime, they managed to get the point across that this desperate situation is already rampant in Belgium: Some 6.6 million of the 11 million temping contracts last year were day contracts. \ AH

FACE OF FLANDERS



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Hatrice Genc

"A remarkable and exceptional journey in which she demonstrated an admirably high level of determination to make her dreams reality." The words are those of Hasselt University rector Luc De Schepper, speaking in the residence of the Limburg governor at the Diversity prize ceremony.

"The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do"

The Diversity Prize is given annually by the university and *Het Belang Van Limburg* newspaper to a "new Belgian" student who is considered a role model. This year's winner is 26-year-old Hatice Genc, who is studying law. She started out studying for a professional Bachelor's degree in legal practice at the PXL University College in Hasselt. That led her to the academic Master's

course in law at the university, where she followed what is known as a switch programme: Students move from a professional to an academic education. That involved taking not only classes from the switch programme syllabus, but also from the first and second year Master's course.

Genc comes from a Turkish family, and "when I decided a few years ago to study further, some people looked at me as if I was from Mars," she said on receiving the award. "Some thought I was aiming too high, others said I was wasting my time. But I knew I would get my degree."

She called on her fellow students not to be defeated when things get hard. "Never forget: The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do." Genc has also been selected to take part in the Erasmus international exchange programme. She will go to Ankara University in Turkey, the first law student from Hasselt to do so, where she will prepare her dissertation on comparative law in Belgium and Turkey.

"That might be a good first step in achieving my dream," she said, "to become the Belgian ambassador to Turkey." \ Alan Hope



FLANDERSTODAY



Flanders
State of the Art

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VERANTWOORDELIJKE UITGEVER

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5TH COLUMN

The Pippa of Flemish politics

The September Declaration, the start of the parliamentary year and the presentation of the government's main budgetary decisions, demonstrated that the government of Flanders has indeed opted for change – true to N-VA's slogan at the May elections.

In the eyes of the opposition, this change boils down to just two things: cuts and fees. Cuts in education and culture, higher fees for public transport, tuition and healthcare insurance. SPA and Groen accuse Bourgeois I government of being too harsh. The majority – N-VA, CD&V and Open VLD – see this differently. The "sacrifices" are inescapable, they argue. Without them, Flanders would either have to raise taxes – already high – or go in the red. "Pruning to blossom" this is called. Moreover, the majority states, some of the sacrifices are not all they have been made out to be. Surely most senior citizens can pay their own bus tickets. And students should see university fees as an investment and thus consider loans (previously unthinkable in Flanders).

To N-VA, the budget decisions embody the change the party has long advocated. To the centrist Christian-democrats CD&V, they are a bit harder to swallow. The blow is softened by new investments in schools and care facilities – both the education and welfare portfolios are in CD&V hands.

As for Open VLD, the September Declaration revealed the rather awkward position it is in once more. Sven Gatz, minister for culture, media, youth and Brussels, who was met with much goodwill from the ever critical cultural organisations when he was appointed minister, now has to explain cuts of 7.5% to cultural organisations and € 39 million to the public broadcaster VRT.

The liberals were included in the new government of Flanders for the sole purpose of facilitating the forming of a federal government. They were not really involved in Flemish government talks, one night of negotiating was all it took to convince them. They are also not needed for a majority in the Flemish Parliament. As a result, they do not weigh in heavily on government decisions.

The opposition is calling Open VLD "the bridesmaid" of the Flemish government, but that doesn't bother the party's Annemie Turtelboom. She refers to the British royal wedding of William and Kate. When you think of that event, who do you remember?

\ Anja Otte

Bourgeois delivers September Declaration to parliament

Budget details released as government strives to save €1.16 billion



Derek Blyth

More articles by Derek \ flanderstoday.eu

Flemish minister-president Geert Bourgeois set out his government's plans last week in parliament in the annual September Declaration. As was widely anticipated, Bourgeois plans to focus efforts on achieving a balanced budget by 2015. He aims to do this by reducing spending next year by €1.16 billion.

The main changes announced in the 30-minute speech were an increase in health insurance costs – to provide more funds for handicap care – and a freeze on child allowance. The cost of childcare would also increase for those on higher incomes, as would university fees, although a precise figure has still to be announced.

The biggest savings come in the civil service, where 1,905 jobs will be eliminated by 2019. Other government-funded concerns, such as the broadcaster VRT, public transport authority De Lijn and the family support organisation Kind en Gezin, are also in line for cuts totalling €45.8 million in 2015.

Bourgeois (pictured) said that

many of the free public transport passes currently available would be scrapped, and that fares would have to be increased. But there was good news for divorcing couples, who will in future be taxed at a lower rate when they sell their jointly owned home, down from 2.5% to 1%.

Those living in social housing will no longer be entitled to a home for life, but only for as long as they require it because of their income level, Bourgeois confirmed.

The minister-president said that his plan was not just about making cuts. "Flanders has a twofold plan: to balance the budget and make investments where they are needed," he said. There will be about €98 million available to spend in 2015, with the bulk of it going to welfare and research, he said.

"The measures we are taking will create an opportunity for investment in welfare, health care and schools," he told parliament. "An innovative and strong economy creates the foundation for more



© Thierry Roge/BELGA

welfare. A strong economy forms the basis for art and culture to flourish."

Staff employed by the VRT demonstrated outside parliament in protest at proposed budget cuts. "The VRT will have to save more than €100 million over the next five years, according to media reports" said Carlos Van Hoeymissen of the Christian trade union ACV. "That's a lot of jobs on the line."

Opposition parties criticised the

fee increases levied to balance the budget. "This is going to be five painful years for Flemings," said Groen fraction leader Björn Rzoska, who also found parts of the speech too vague. "We still don't know concretely where the investments will be made."

SPA's opposition leader, John Crombez, asked: "What was the moment that you began to see Flemings as a troublesome cost?" Groen fraction leader Björn Rzoska, meanwhile, said: "Saving, saving, saving and more saving is the mantra of this government. But what else do they want to do?"

The majority pointed out that they were able to make the necessary savings in order to balance the budget without raising taxes. "I already perceive optimism and hope in society at large," said Bourgeois.

Employers responded positively to Bourgeois' speech. "A balanced budget and a focus on economic growth are the foundations of jobs and welfare," said Wilson De Pril of technology federation Agoria.

Spending cuts don't go far enough, says Unizo

The Flemish government's spending cuts, soundly criticised by the opposition and cultural organisations last week (see story, above), are urgently needed, according to Karel Van Eetvelt, director-general of Unizo, the organisation that represents the self-employed in Flanders. In fact, they don't go far enough, he said.

"There is no alternative," he told VRT radio. "Flanders was heading for the rocks. We cannot afford to spend more money we don't have, in the hope that we might create growth."

Governments in the past have avoided making the severe cuts that were required, he argued, with the result that everyone has to share the sacrifice

now. "These economies are absolutely essential. The criticism now is coming from the people who brought us to this point."

Eetvelt did, however, regret that there was no attention paid in the Flemish government's September Declaration to reducing the cost of doing business. "Salary costs are just too high," he said. "The government could have gone further. I'll be expecting an effort from the federal government as well, to create more growth. In that way we can strengthen social security and education and create jobs. But only if we prune intelligently. Without pruning, there can be no sustainable growth."

\ Alan Hope

Unions demonstrate in Brussels as federal government negotiations continue

About 5,000 demonstrators from large trade unions marched through the centre of Brussels last week in protest at proposed cuts discussed by the coalition parties during negotiations to form a federal government.

The new federal government will most likely consist of a coalition of four parties committed to sweeping cuts in the federal budget. The trades unions fear that the parties – Flemish parties N-VA, Open VLD and CD&V and the French-speaking MR – are committed to implementing cuts that critics say will hurt workers and those on social benefits.

More strikes are likely to follow, unions warn. This is "just the beginning", said Rudy De Leeuw, chair of the socialist union ABVV. "This is going to be the most conservative government since the Second World War. Everything is going to be financed at the expense of the workers, while the rich and companies will be spared."



The unions are calling on the new government to guarantee purchasing power, invest in jobs and develop a fairer taxation system. The unions also criticised measures adopted by the new government of Flanders, which they say are unfair to workers (see story, above).

Culture sector faces 7.5% cuts

Cultural organisations in Flanders will see a cut in their budgets of as much as 7.5% over the next two years, said Flemish culture minister Sven Gatz in a meeting with Overleg Kunstenorganisaties (Oko), the body that represents the cultural sector in Flanders. The cuts are part of an overall €1.16 billion in savings required by the new government of Flanders to balance the budget (see story, above).

"The minister said that the cuts were lower in percentage than those being applied in neighbouring countries," said Oko in a memo to its members.

The key cultural organisations – such as Opera Vlaanderen, Ballet Vlaanderen and deSingel – are set to lose the least, with budgets cut by about 2.5%, while museums and heritage organisations would lose some 4% of their subsidy.

Organisations that benefitted from support under the Kunstendecreet (Arts Decree) would see the biggest drop in subsidy, amounting to 7.5%. Oko warned Gatz that the cuts would have "serious negative consequences" for organisations that already face financial difficulties: they will almost certainly be forced to lay off staff.

"The minister emphasised that he was confident that the cultural landscape would remain secure despite the measures," Oko said. The new measures will apply until the government approves a new Arts Decree in 2016.

Under the skin

Vesalius exhibition is an examination of bodies, their depictions and meanings

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burg ruler with a hand-coloured copy printed on vellum. The gesture paid off for Vesalius in a coveted appointment as court physician. He left teaching for good and began life as a courtier. One of the main reasons for *Fabrica*'s popularity and influence was the inclusion of detailed anatomical drawings reproduced through woodblock prints. It's not known who was responsible for the illustrations, but they were created in Italy and are associated with the circle of Titian. In full-page depictions of the human body, the skin, musculature, organs and other systems are shown in succession, as each layer of anatomy is peeled away to reveal the structures beneath.

However, these are not lifeless diagrams but witty and poignant portrayals of the human condition. A series of flayed men, their muscles visible, pose gracefully in a Renaissance landscape with delicately drawn Italian villages in the background. A skeleton rests its elbows on a marble plinth, one leg casually crossed over the other and seems to contemplate a skull. It's easy to see why both artists and scientists found inspiration in these images.

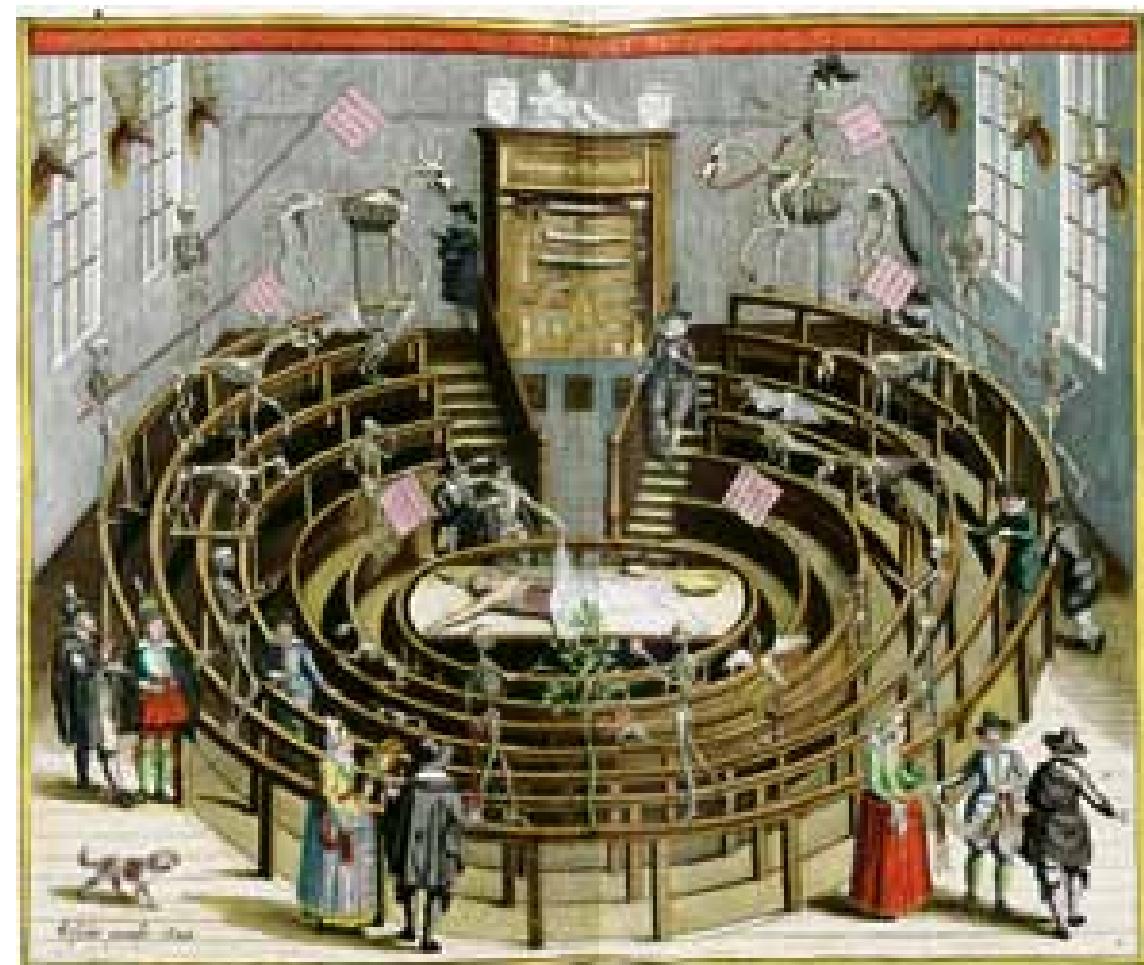
That intersection between art and science is addressed in M Museum's *Vesalius* exhibition. An original copy of *De humanis corporis fabrica* is on display, and visitors can leaf through a digital version to view all the illustrations.

historical wax models of dissected corpses and modern advances in medical imaging. Different sections deal with depictions of the human body in Vesalius' lifetime and after, the evolution of anatomical illustration and imaging until the present day and the aesthetic debate between idealised bodies and "real" bodies.

Alongside *Vesalius*, M Museum will host Belgium's first solo exhibition by Austrian artist Markus Schinwald, whose work deals with the human body as a cultural construct subject to interpretation and fragmentation. Through such diverse media as sculpture, painting, photography, film and puppetry, he explores the depiction of historical and contemporary bodies.

But there's more to Vesalius Leuven than museums. "Another reason we want to celebrate Vesalius is that Leuven is still today the beating heart of medical inquiry and research in Belgium," says Hanna Van Zutphen of KU(N)ST Leuven, the organiser of the *Vesalius* project. Perhaps it's only natural that the medical community also wants to honour the man they claim as one of their founding fathers.

Vesalius through the Centuries, an interactive exhibition about medical examination and anatomical modelling told through the story of a fictional patient, will be on view in the reception area of Leuven's University Hospital at Gasthuis-



© Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België

In the 16th century, the public could watch dissections taking place in specially designed theatres. 3D projections at M Museum recreate the experience

include contemporary dance performances by the Trisha Brown Dance Company from New York as well as local choreographers. The Festival of Flemish Brabant will perform British composer Peter Maxwell Davies' *Vesalii Icones*, inspired by 14 of the illustrations in the *Fabrica* and by the Catholic Stations of the Cross. The concert will be accompanied by an original work by Flemish video artist Peter Missotten.

For those who wish to deepen their understanding of Vesalius' work and legacy, there's a series of talks by KU Leuven alumni at the Gasthuisberg campus (in Dutch), as well as lectures by international scholars at M Museum (in Dutch, English and French).

A guidebook available at the tourist office and a free smartphone app take you on foot through the city to discover Leuven through the eyes of Vesalius. The tour includes places where Vesalius worked and studied, as well as other locations that were significant to humanists and scholars of his day.

KU(N)ST Leuven, the group behind the *Vesalius* project, is a joint initiative by KU Leuven and City of Leuven. Every two years, the organisation will host a city-wide cultural project uniting residents, the university community and visitors, built around an exhibition at M Museum. The project involves not just the city's main cultural institutions but a wide range of groups and participants.

There are numerous opportunities

and avenues to learn about Vesalius, his life and work, as well as his influence through the centuries, and to explore the many ways in which history is indebted to him for revealing the intricacy, order and beauty of the human body. A

fascination with the subject of his inquiries continues to this day. Van Paemel: "Vesalius was one of the very important figures who shaped our view of the world."



© KU Leuven, Universiteitsbibliotheek/Bruno Vandermeulen

A page from *De humanis corporis fabrica* depicting Vesalius

“

Vesalius gave us our modern body, and we are still asking what that means 500 years later

But the 16th-century anatomical book is just the starting point for an examination of bodies, their depictions and their meanings. According to curator Geert Van Paemel: "Vesalius gave us our modern body, and we are still asking what that means 500 years later."

Another highlight of the exhibition is a full-size replica of an anatomical theatre. These were purpose-built halls, usually round or octagonal, where public dissections were performed before an audience from the late 16th century onwards. In the M Museum version, video projections on a 3D model evoke the experience of attending such a dissection, without having to cut up an actual cadaver.

The exhibition also features classical sculptures of the human body,

Leuven's own anatomical theatre, built in 1749 and one of the few such buildings remaining in the world, will be open to visitors, and the medical faculty of the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) will present there a multimedia experience about Vesalius and the tradition of anatomical instruction in the city.

There are programmes for children at both M Museum and Gasthuisberg. At the museum, families can pick up a doctor's bag with activities and a self-guided tour based on the children's book *Magnus is ziek* when visiting the exhibitions. At the hospital, kids aged from eight to 13 can enrol in Children's University and spend a day with the medical faculty and staff learning about Vesalius, anatomy and modern medicine.

Other programme highlights

WEEK IN BUSINESS

Air \ Ryanair

The Ireland-based low-cost carrier plans to start a new service between Brussels Airport and Dublin next spring.

Banking \ KBC

Flanders' largest financial institution has decided to phase out its Antwerpse Diamantbank affiliate after several failed attempts to sell it. The latest offer from the Chinese Yinren group has not met the approval of regulatory authorities and is forcing KBC to curtail the bank's activities to meet conditions set by the EU for approving its 2008 rescue package.

Chemicals \ Tessenderlo

The Brussels-based chemical products manufacturer plans to build a calcium chloride production unit in Ham, Limburg. The new unit is expected to come on stream in the second half of 2015.

Horses \ Emilie de Diamant

Roger Van Oroy, a horse breeder from Vosselaar, Antwerp province, has sold his trophy-winning jumper Emilie de Diamant to Bill Gates' 18-year-old daughter, equestrian competitor Jennifer Gates, for reportedly "several million euro".

Property \ Allfin

The Brussels-based property developer has acquired the 29.9% held by Cresida Investment in the Immobel property group to become the company's leading shareholder.

Rail \ Alstom

The French railway equipment manufacturer has been awarded a €70 million contract from the NMBS to install signalling and emergency breaking equipment on 449 trains and maintain the equipment over a 10-year period. Meanwhile, Alstom has acquired the bankrupt SATI railway equipment maintenance company in Antwerp and is expected to invest to develop the firm's activities.

Waste management \ Indaver

The Mechelen-based waste management company is expected to be sold to France's Suez Environnement following the decision by its majority shareholder, the Dutch Delta group, to sell its 75% stake for more than €500 million. Other shareholders include Flanders regional investment authority GIMV.

Collecto taxi launches app

Brussels' night taxi service can now be ordered by smartphone app



Alan Hope

More articles by Alan \ flanderstoday.eu

The Brussels collective taxi service Collecto can now be ordered using a smartphone app, the region's mobility minister, Pascal Smet, has announced. Until now, the service has only been available to order by telephone and text message.

Collecto is an initiative of the Brussels-Capital Region's mobility agency, Brussel Mobiiteit. It offers a shared taxi service between the hours of 23.00 and 6.00, with pick-ups from 200 points in the region, on the hour or half-hour seven days a week. A journey costs €6, or €5 for holders of the MIVB's Mobib card. Last year the service was used by 142,000 passengers, up from 116,000 in 2012.

Using the app, passengers can now order a taxi automatically, find a map of the nearest pick-up points, follow the progress of their taxi and receive a text message showing when it will arrive.

"We wanted to make Collecto even more user-friendly," Smet said. "You'll be led to the pick-up and see the taxi coming on your smartphone. This is a response to the expectations of a lot of young users, who use their smartphone more and more for assistance in getting around the city. Above all,



it shows that the region intends to go on investing in the taxi sector." Smet's comments are intended to appease the official taxi sector after comments he made recently stating that there could be a place in Brussels for the alternative taxi service Uber. Brussels taxis are due to take part in an international protest on 8 October against Uber's increasing presence in many European cities.

The Collecto app is free and available for Android and iOS in Dutch, French and English.

Pharma company accidentally dumps polio virus in river

Staff at the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline in Rixensart, Walloon Brabant, dumped 45 litres of liquid contaminated by live polio virus into the river Laan, the federal health ministry has revealed. The incident took place on 2 September but has only now been confirmed. A ministry statement said the incident was the result of "human error". The Laan rises in the municipality of the same name and flows through Rixensart before cross-

ing the regional border into Flemish Brabant, passing through part of Overijse before joining the Dijle at Sint-Agatha-Rode. The contaminated water will have first passed through the purification plant at Rosières.

"The Scientific Institute for Public Health and the Superior Council for Health carried out an analysis of the risk and concluded there is no public health danger for the population," the statement says. "The risk of people exposed to

contaminated water developing poliomyelitis is extremely limited, given the high level of dilution and the high incidence of vaccination among the population."

Poliomyelitis is an acute infectious disease that produces no symptoms in 90% of cases. In the other 10%, the central nervous system can be affected, leading to muscle weakness and paralysis. Once a common disease, polio has now been reduced to fewer than 1,000 cases a year worldwide thanks to

vaccination programmes. Vaccination against polio is compulsory in Belgium. Anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to the contaminated water, such as swimmers or anglers, should contact their doctor.

The health ministry took samples of water and mud from the water purification station, the Laan and the Dijle on 6 September. All samples were negative for polio virus. \ AH

NMBS and Infrabel face charges over Buizingen crash

The rail authority NMBS and its infrastructure partner, Infrabel, have been designated as official suspects in relation to the train crash at Buizingen in February of 2010 (pictured) in which 19 people died and 162 were injured.

The complaint by an investigating magistrate also concerns the driver of one of the two busy commuter trains that collided that morning. The accident happened when one train travelling from Leuven to 's Gravenbrakel passed through a red light and collided head-on with a train going from Quiévrain to Liège. The driver concerned is thought to be the driver of the Leuven train.

A report issued in 2012 by an investigating committee concluded that the accident was the result of human error but also pointed up some technical problems. The report led the government to speed up the installation of new braking systems.

NMBS and Infrabel said that they had expected to be designated as suspects – one step short of pressing official charges. Neither wished to comment further but promised their full co-operation with the inquiry. The three parties involved will now have access to the full dossier, as well as the technical report from the investigating committee. \ AH



© Yves Herman/REUTERS

Unions force closure of 18 Delhaize supermarkets

Unions representing staff at Delhaize supermarkets forced the closure of 18 stores across the country last Friday. Unions are protesting against restructuring plans announced before the summer holidays that involve closing down 14 supermarkets – the majority in Flanders – and eliminating 2,500 staff, one in six of the workforce. The stores in Flanders included locations in Genk, Lommel, Roeselare, the Ghent district of Wondelgem and the Fruithoflaan in Antwerp. Eight stores in Brussels were also affected, including De Fré in Ukkel, Verhaeren in Schaerbeek, and Boondaal in Elsene. According to Delhaize, eliminating 14 stores is economically necessary. Delhaize employs more than 15,000 people in 854 stores, but pays



between 15% and 33% more than its competitors Carrefour, Colruyt and Albert Heijn. When the plans were first announced in June, some stores closed for several days in protest, until unions decided to leave the matter on the table until after the summer holidays. It's likely that further actions will follow. \ AH

New students tend towards job-oriented courses

Students entering higher education for the first time this academic year are tending towards courses offering more certainty of success on the job market, according to a study carried out by *De Standaard*. The paper compared registrations for university and university colleges in Flanders against research showing which courses are more likely to lead to solid job offers.

Law and engineering, for example, score well at the start of this academic year, while literature and social sciences score less well. Health care courses, in particular nursing, are in big demand, though not yet enough that the demand for qualified personnel can be met.

Teaching, on the other hand, is less popular, despite some parts of the region also having trouble meeting staff demands.

"Young people are keeping the requirements of the labour market in mind," said Fons Leroy, head of the Flemish employment and training agency VDAB. "Registrations for courses leading to jobs in high demand are increasing, but there's room for improvement. There are still too few students opting for engineering, science, technology and mathematics." \ AH

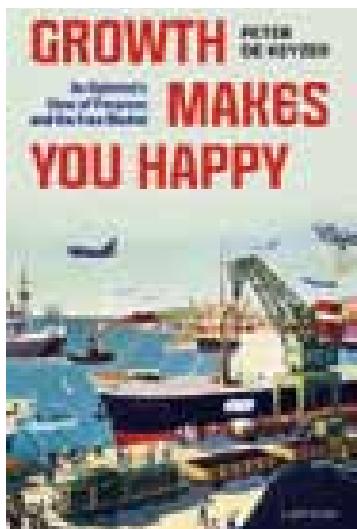
In praise of the free market

BNP Paribas-Fortis economist Peter De Keyzer on his new book

 Alan Hope
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It's been very unfashionable, since around the collapse of the banking system in 2008, to be optimistic about the world economy. Anyone seeing anything less than doom and gloom tends to be regarded with a sort of concerned condescension. So it's either an act of stunning naivety or revolutionary insight that has possessed Peter De Keyzer (pictured), chief economist at BNP Paribas Fortis, to write a book called *Growth Makes You Happy*, in which he seeks to prove the pessimists wrong, and spur us all on to a bit of economic optimism. The book opens with an anecdote about flying into Brussels over the port of Antwerp, in which he's struck by the way both a major seaport and an airplane are metaphors for the incessant human struggle to bend the world to our will, to overcome petty restrictions like oceans and gravity in order to achieve and guarantee our own prosperity.

From that point on, the book is a sort of primer of liberal economic theory, a paean to the free market



and a clarion call for less regulation and more liberty. The title appears to be a rather categorical assertion.

"We wanted to have something positive and something definite on the cover," De Keyzer tells me, "and not something like *Growth Has the Potential to Make You Happy Given the Right Institutions are Present Etc.* We wanted to have something that would spark people's interest." But the title of the book, published in both Dutch and English, really is a reflection of his view, he says: Economic growth in a free market is a win-win situation for everyone. "The reason I stand by the title is that if you look at our situation right now, compared to 30 or 50 or 100 years ago, we're much richer and wealthier, we're more educated, we live longer, we work less, we have more equality," he says.

But, he continues, "people seem to have abandoned the optimistic view that life really isn't that bad. In the 1950s, everybody believed in progress, and we've left that behind to some extent. I wanted to show that growth is what is needed to make the dreams of people and of societies come true."

While that's true, people are more concerned about relative wealth than absolute. In other words, you won't be as happy with your own pay increase if you know someone else is getting a bigger one. Economic growth benefits everyone, but it doesn't benefit everyone equally.

"Yes, that's the case," he admits. "The book is fairly individualistic; it never talks about groups. It sometimes talks about society as a whole but mostly looks from the perspective of the individual citizen. I do accept that extreme

income inequality can be negative for a society; that's very obvious if you visit some countries in Central and Eastern Europe or Latin America."

But De Keyzer, who speaks later this month at a symposium on expat financial affairs, maintains that equality increases as everyone progresses. "After some time, those societies start redistributing the proceeds of growth, and then

you get a more equal society. So, for example, Brazil and China have become much more unequal over past decades, but everybody has become richer at the same time. At some point, people will start asking for a redistribution, especially when the average income is higher than the median income." But he's not saying, he emphasises, that the free market and growth will solve all the world's problems. "You need social security, you need the rule of law, you need democratic government and freedom and rights. But I think economic growth and free markets are often underestimated in what they can achieve for societies."

It was recently reported that Belgium is the most equitable country in Europe for personal

disposable income. De Keyzer chalks that up to redistribution. "Taxation is extremely high in Belgium: 54% of everything that's earned is spent by the government, which means that for every €100 that is made, the government entitles itself to make decisions on how €54 of that should be spent. The remaining €46 depends on the choices of individuals, citizens and companies."

That, maintains De Keyzer, has both advantages and disadvantages. "You get a very equal

society, but it also doesn't act as an incentives for people to be ambitious, to start a business. Belgium scores very poorly as far as entrepreneurship is concerned. People like safe jobs, stability, not too much uncertainty or volatility, so basically you stifle entrepreneurship, but you have an equal society in return."

Growth Makes You Happy is published in Dutch and English by Lannoo. Peter De Keyzer is the keynote speaker at a symposium on expat financial affairs on 11 October at Vlerick Business School in Brussels. See www.britishchamber.be/expat-financial-affairs for details



[HTTP://BLOGS.BNPPARIBASFORTIS.COM/PETERDEKEYZER](http://BLOGS.BNPPARIBASFORTIS.COM/PETERDEKEYZER)

WEEK IN INNOVATION

Preventive Aids pill made available

Belgium has become the second country after the United States where people at high risk can take drugs that restrict their chances of contracting HIV. The treatment, called pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), consists of taking one pill every day and is meant for those at substantial risk of contracting HIV, such as partners of HIV-positive patients. When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. \ ss

€4 million grant for sleeping sickness

The Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp has been given a grant of nearly \$5 million (€3.89 million) to develop a new model for fighting sleeping sickness. The grant comes from the Margaret A Cargill Foundation, a philanthropic organisation based in the US. Sleeping sickness is caused by parasites, mainly through the bite of the tsetse fly. If untreated, it is fatal. Fifteen years ago, the disease had reached epidemic proportions in Congo, but mobile screening and treatment teams have brought it down to 10,000 cases annually. The grant will finance a three-year project to strengthen district health services and involve communities in prevention methods. \ AH

UGent study supports "fat tax"

A tax on high-fat snacks, sweets and sugary drinks would improve overall health and drastically lower health-care costs, according to a study by two Master's students at Ghent University. Denmark and Finland have experimented with a "fat tax", which increases the price of unhealthy food significantly. In Denmark, the measure was lifted after a year, while in Finland, the tax has decreased consumption of such foods. Liese Albrecht and Tatiana Bracke, specialising in health economy at Ghent University, have examined the feasibility of a fat tax in Belgium and concluded that success depends on public opinion. Earlier research has shown that a tax of 10% on unhealthy food would decrease the occurrence of health issues such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer to the point of saving 184,600 years of life over 20 years. \ ss

Endangered gorilla finds new home at Antwerp Zoo

Antwerp Zoo has welcomed a new Western lowland gorilla, an endangered species that's native to the low rainforests of Western Africa. The female gorilla, named Kiki, comes from Heidelberg Zoo in Germany.

Kiki was brought to Antwerp because she suffers from epilepsy and needed a quieter environment in which to live. She also had trouble in her group at the Heidelberg Zoo and could rarely get enough to eat. Because Antwerp Zoo has only five lowland gorillas, Kiki (pictured) will get more individual care here than in Germany. The Western lowland gorilla is on the UN's Red List of endangered species. Its natural habitat in Central and Western Africa, mainly lowland rainforests, is shrinking due to forestry, mining and farming. In 1987, Unesco declared a large part of the habitat, the Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon, to be World Heritage.

The reserve is also where Antwerp Zoo runs its Dja Conservation Project, with Planckendael animal park and two zoos from the UK.



© Jonas Verhulst/Zoo Antwerpen

The project aims to inform local communities in and around the Dja reserve about nature conservation and to offer them alternative ways of making a living other than killing gorillas for meat. Bee-keeping and cacao farming are two examples.

"We work mainly in the non-protected periphery of the reserve," says Zjef Pereboom of Antwerp Zoo. "These 'buffer zones' between the reserve

and the civilised world give us the opportunity to investigate the effect of human activities; like hunting, farming and forestry, on endangered species. In that sense, we are unique, as most research projects focus on endangered animals that live inside reserves."

So what's the effect of the project? "At the moment, we have clear indications that there's more wildlife in our research area than in areas where we are not present," says Pereboom, "even inside the Dja reserve. And this goes for many endangered species, not only gorillas."

In the meantime, the zoo's newest acquisition is being integrated step by step into her new group. The seven-year-old is a little behind in her development – weighing only 40 kilograms instead of the normal 53. To facilitate her integration, two caretakers from Germany have assisted Kiki during her first days in Antwerp. The zoo hopes she will be ready to be introduced to the public in the coming days.

\ Senne Starckx

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School away from school

Bednet provides a vital educational link to Flanders' sick children

 Alan Hope
More articles by Alan \ flanderstoday.eu

Bednet, the non-profit organisation that offers networked home education for long-term sick children, is celebrating its 10th anniversary, marking the event with new technology, a blue cat and a superhero.

Bednet provides distance education via the internet for children who cannot attend school because of a medical condition; patients include children in quarantine after a bone marrow transplant and, as in most cases, those undergoing treatment for cancer whose immune system could not tolerate a classroom full of kids.

"Bednet uses internet education to help long-term sick children avoid being isolated," said Flanders' education minister Hilde Crevits at the anniversary celebration. "User testimonials show what a fine job Bednet does in the interests of education and in contact with classmates. Schools also say that Bednet enriches the educational atmosphere."

In Bednet's first full year of operation, 2007-2008, there were 37 children involved. Last year that number had gone up to 230. Right



© Courtesy Bednet

Kos, 7, uses Bednet as he's being treated for leukaemia, which compromises his immune system

now, there are 156 children in Flanders taking part.

More than 1,000 children have now been helped, and the organisation has links via those children with one in seven schools in Flanders and Brussels. Two out of three children in the network are at secondary level. Almost two-thirds have – or had – cancer, while nine out of 10 users complete their school year successfully after studying with Bednet.

Other new developments include

a knitted mascot called De Blauwe Poes (The Blue Cat). Anyone can get the pattern, make one and give it to a Bednet child. There is also a superhero called – what else? – Bedman, who'll be appearing on posters and campaign materials. "What we offer is not just important in helping children avoid falling behind in class; the provision of education has a much broader impact," said Professor Yves Benoit, of the paediatric cancer centre at Ghent University Hospital, who

works closely with Bednet. "Illness can lead to serious social isolation, as the bonds a child has developed with classmates and friends come under pressure. For sick children and young people, the classroom is an enormously important bridge to normal life."

“Illness can lead to serious social isolation

This year Bednet will once again be taking part in Music for Life, the annual charity fundraiser organised by Studio Brussel, which runs from 18 to 24 December. Last year money raised went to pay for new software to allow more children to use the network. This year the number of users is rising, so computer equipment is "welcome and essential", say organisers. Donations are welcome.

Antwerp Management School moves up Financial Times' ranking

There was good news for Antwerp in the latest rankings by the *Financial Times* of Master's in management degree programmes. Two of the three schools in Flanders and Brussels fell in the rankings, but Antwerp Management School rose from 42nd place last year to 34th this year.

Antwerp offers a Master's in global management, which takes 10 months and costs a maximum of €27,500. There are 75 students currently enrolled in the course. Ninety percent of the most recent graduates were employed three months after graduating. Like all the business schools, Antwerp requires students to do an internship at an outside company, and it performs well on the *Financial Times* rankings for value for money and success at placing graduates in jobs. Antwerp is number 41 in the overall rankings for European business schools.

"The Antwerp Management School programmes were particularly appreciated for the international experience that students were able to gain during the year," says Paul Matthysse, dean of the faculty. "This approach has proved successful and has given alumni noticeably better career opportunities."

It was also clear, he continues, that the students were pleased with this international atmosphere. "At the start of the academic year, we were able to welcome students of 38 nationalities to our school. The development of new programmes in entrepreneurship, fashion management and sports management are high on our agenda."



© Courtesy AMS
Students at Antwerp Management School, which has moved up eight places in the *Financial Times*' ranking of Master's in management programmes

est ranked of the three schools, but it slipped from 29 last year to 36 this year. Vlerick offers a Master's in general management, which takes 10 months and costs a maximum of €14,000. There are 149 students enrolled on the course.

Of the most recent graduating class, 94% were employed after three months. Vlerick is number 15 in the overall rankings for European business schools.

Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management went down the management rankings, from 31 last year to 39 this year. Solvay offers a Master's in business engineering, which takes 23 months and costs a maximum of €9,360. There are 197 students enrolled in the course, which is given entirely in English.

Of the most recent graduating class, 97% were employed within three months. Solvay is number 49 in the overall rankings for European business schools. \ AH

UHasselt rector wants failing students to change discipline

If students at the end of their first semester at university fail all their exams, they should be forced to change their course of study, Hasselt University (UHasselt) rector Luc De Schepper told *Het Belang van Limburg* last week, creating a storm of controversy across Flanders.

The measure, said De Schepper, would save the students time and the universities money. He calculated, he said, that the measure would save universities up to €3,500 per student.

"There are many students who don't pass in their first year because they have to learn how to study," Bram Roelant of the Flemish Association of Students (VVS) responded in *Het Nieuwsblad*. "Once they learn that, they do succeed."

Kristiaan Versluys, director of educational affairs at Ghent University, agreed: "The transition from secondary education to higher education is difficult," he said. "Sometimes students need a transition period."

De Schepper clarified his suggestion in an open letter on UHasselt's website. He emphasised that he would only target students who scored less than six out of 20 on all their exams. "The statistics show that such students never make it in this study programme," he said. "These are the students who clearly chose a discipline with demands that are far above their capacities." De Schepper also said that he wasn't just looking at it as a budget-cutting measure. "We would also put students back on track faster," he explained. "Students in physics, for example, could be re-oriented towards industrial engineering or a professional technical education." Roelant, meanwhile, said there should be more focus in secondary schools to guide students in making the right choice for higher education studies.

\ Andy Furniere

WEEK IN EDUCATION

Union against teachers working an extra hour

The Christian education union (COC) is not in favour of allowing teachers in the second and third years of secondary education to give an extra hour of lessons each week for the same salary, though the school networks have reacted more positively. This is one of the possible measures proposed by the new Flemish education ministry and could lead to a saving of €60 million a year. Jos Van der Hoeven of COC told Radio 1 the measure would result in the loss of about 1,500 jobs, with teachers on temporary contracts particularly hard hit. Chris Smits, secretary-general of the Catholic schools network VSKO, said: "If we need to save money anyway, we prefer this method over cuts in working budgets or the lesson periods."

Students take longer to finish degree

Less than a third of Flemish students finish a Bachelor's degree in three years, according to a report on the effects of flexible higher education by representatives from the higher education sector and the government. The report shows that the number of young people entering higher education has increased by 30% since flexible education was introduced: from more than 166,900 in 2005 to more than 216,700 in 2013. The percentage who started their Bachelor's studies in 2006 and finished their degree in three years – 33.6% (professional Bachelor's), 29% (academic degrees) and 30% (arts studies) – has decreased. The figures for those who started in 2009 and finished in three years are 30.6%, 27.6% and 25% respectively.

More women turn to STEM studies

The number of first-year female students registering for STEM studies at universities and university colleges has risen 15% on last year, according to VRT news. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths, and the government has done much to promote these subjects, for which the region is short on workers, among secondary school girls over the last couple of years. This academic year, nearly 8,000 students have registered for a Master's or professional Bachelor's in ICT, for the professional Bachelor's in technology, for the Master's in industrial sciences and technology and for the engineering sciences studies. \ AF

WEEK IN ACTIVITIES

Open Company Day

Hundreds of companies all over Flanders open their doors to the public for one day a year, in business sectors including manufacturing, transport and technology. A special theme this year is the 75th anniversary of the Albert Canal, with the locks and pumping station at Ham open to visitors. *5 October, 10.00-17.00; free* \ www.openbedrijvendag.be

Curse of the Mercator

The historic three-masted museum ship is transformed into a spooky pirate ship every year at this time, with extra activities on school holiday weekends. *4 October to 2 November, 10.00-18.00, Zeilschip Mercator, Vindictivelaan, Ostend; €5* \ www.devloekvandemercator.be

Modeste Beer Festival

Antwerp's beloved De Koninck brewery hosts dozens of small breweries for a weekend of beer tasting, beer and cheese pairing, local culinary specialties and non-stop guided brewery tours. *4-5 October, 11.00-19.00, Mechelsesteenweg 291, €3 admission and tasting glass, €1 each pour* \ www.modestebierfestival.be

Cook-Eat

Bruges' top culinary festival, with 30 chefs including Geert Van Hecke of De Karmeliet and Dominique Persoone of The Chocolate Line serving up affordable culinary delights and giving cooking demos. *4-6 October, 11.00-21.00, 't Zand; free entry, small plates €4-€6* \ www.bruggeplus.be/nl/kookeet-2014

Booischot Castle Days

Lifestyle fair on the grounds of an 18th-century castle, with home decor, crafts, antiques, crochet workshops and painting demos. The privately owned castle will be open to visitors during the fair. *4-5 October, 10.00-18.00, Kasteel ter Laeken, Ter Laeken 7, Heist-op-den-Berg, €5 entry + €1 for castle visit* \ www.kasteeldagenbooischot.be

Falconry and Country Fair

Outdoor fun for the whole family, with a Wild West show, Jack Russell terrier race, donkey rides, birds of prey, farm equipment and more. *5 October, 10.00-17.00, Wedelse Molen, Breugelweg 250, Overpelt; €6* \ www.thefalconsnest.be

The economy of design

MAD Brussels exhibition looks at the euros behind local design industry



Katrien Lindemans

More articles by Katrien \ flanderstoday.eu

\ WWW.TINYURL.COM/INGPOWER

With 50 million coffee cups in use and more than three million kitchen knives sold, the success of Piet Stockmans and Vincent Jalet's line of products for Tupperware shows how much Belgian design has boomed over the last couple of years. The new exhibition *The Power of Object(s)* focuses on both the innovative and business side of the work of Stockmans, Jalet and two dozen other local designers.

Most design exhibitions tend to showcase the creativity of the items on view, but the Brussels fashion and design centre MAD Brussels and ING Belgium have chosen to also put the spotlight on their economic value.

"The intention of *The Power of Object(s)* is to show the public what kind of turnover design can generate," explains Danny Venlet, MAD Brussels artistic director and a designer himself. "We chose 25 representative Belgian designers and asked them for three things: their most iconic design, their bestseller, and the one that is the most profitable."

Visitors to the exhibition get a unique peek into the portfolio of some of the country's top designers. "It's interesting how a designer's most iconic object isn't necessarily the one that sells the best, or the other way around," Venlet says. "At the same time, the top sellers show that there is a real industry, a real market for design." A couple of figures: Brussels-based jewellery designer Christa Reniers has sold more than 32,000 rings, the candle holder designed by Xavier Lust, also from Brussels, has been bought more than 80,000 times, and with 50 million of his "Sonja" cups in use, Stockman's design is present in nearly



Xavier Lust's curvy candle holder, which can stand alone or with a group, has been sold 80,000 times

75% of all Dutch hotels, bars and restaurants. The Genk designer's iconic cup has reportedly been counterfeited 17 times.

Gathering these financial specs for the exhibition wasn't easy. "Not every designer had the information available, and some were very reluctant to reveal their numbers," Venlet says. "Designers tend to be idealistic, but at the end of the day, they need to make money as well. This kind of data is inspiring for young designers but also for future clients and producers."

Take the humble "universal series" kitchen knife, for instance. Jalet, of Aalst, first designed it for Tupperware in 2009, and it has since generated earnings of €1 million. "Many people probably don't even realise this is a Belgian design," Venlet says. "The knife is produced in three different factories, to give you an idea of its economic value."

In addition to the design objects and the figures behind them, *The Power of Object(s)* also includes video footage of designers talking about their work. In one clip,

Antwerp designer Axel Enthoven – best known for his "Opera" camping van – mentions how design has different rules to art. "It's about compromising ratio and emotion, as you have to take into account the price of your design as well as whether it's possible to manufacture." Reniers, on the other hand, says: "I only make what I like."

The video in which the featured designers are asked about the local dimension to their work is also one to watch. "There are a lot of Belgian design labels, but there's no such thing as Belgian design," says Davy Grosemans, the Limburg designer of the colourful Lungo watering can. And Brussels-based product designer Alain Berteau feels that "we'll only be able to talk about the success of Belgian design when it actually creates employment."

So where does this "Belgian design" label come from? "Belgian designers should be quite proud

of what they do, but they're introverts compared to their colleagues from neighbouring countries," says Venlet. He points out that, in the past, Belgian designers went to renowned international design fairs represented by the Vereniging voor Zelfstandige Ondernemers (Union of Independent Entrepreneurs) or under the "Flemish", "Brussels" or "Walloon" design label.

"But once outside of Belgian borders, these words don't mean a thing," Venlet says. "Belgian as a label makes sense. That's why *The Power of Object(s)* is important as well, as it is one of the first large exhibitions about Belgian design in our own country."

Visitors keen to get their hands on some Belgian design will be happy to learn that there's a pop-up store in the ING Art Centre, where you'll find quite a few of the objects from the exhibition as well a number of other clever items by local designers.

Until 11 January

ING Art Center
Koningsplein 6, Brussels

BITE

Brussels' food trucks

Due to a late change of location and sorry weather, the Brussels Food Truck Festival in May was a bit of a wash-out, but not to worry – the municipal council of Brussels-City has decided to have a food truck festival every day. Though you'll have to put on your running shoes to get round to everything.

Marion Lemesre, city alderwoman for business, launched the idea back in November to create a sort of parcours of food trucks. Various spots across the city centre would be designated for them, with different trucks appearing each day. The circulation would ensure more variety and choice than the existing waffles and fries, and locations would be chosen that would cause as little disruption as possible to restaurant business.

Now it's become a reality. There are 13 places in Brussels where you can now find food trucks:



© Courtesy Plan B

Naamsepoort, Havenlaan, Louizalaan, Sint-Jansplein, Kruidtuin/Pacheco, De Meeussquare, Ravensteinstraat, Albert II-laan, Simon Bolivarlaan, De Brouckèreplein, Adolphe Maxlaan, Keizerinlaan and Martelaarsplein.

Each spot is close to some major source of passing trade, such as Bozar, North and Central stations, government buildings or offices.

Lemesre has selected 25 of the food trucks that applied to be included, so the location nearest you will host a different food truck every day. Though not all locations are created equal: While De Brouckère and Keizerin get a truck every day, including weekends, Havenlaan gets just one a week, on Fridays.

The selection made by Brussels is wide, from coffee specialists Pim Coffee and Vroom Vroom to high-end hamburgers from Truck & Co and snack-and-salad bar Plan B. Depending on the time and place, you might also get the offer of New York style deli, gourmet croques, seafood, bagels, soup, crepes, smoothies, wraps or pizza.

\ Alan Hope

A new museum for an old drink

The Jenever Museum keeps its best traditions while stepping into the 21st century

 Diana Goodwin
More articles by Diana \ flanderstoday.eu

The Jenever Museum in Hasselt recently re-opened its doors after being closed for 10 months and undergoing a complete transformation. Every aspect of the museum experience has been overhauled, from the buildings and exhibition spaces to the logo, website and even the name. The result is a fresh, modern, interactive attraction that seeks to educate and entertain, while honouring its history and looking towards the future.

One thing that hasn't changed is the tasting room, one of the highlights of any visit to the Jenever Museum and the last stop on the visitor's route. The traditional *jenevercafe* looks the same, with row upon row of bottles lined up behind the polished wooden bar. Your admission ticket still includes a glass of jenever from the museum's own selection. Even the €6 admission price is the same.

What's new is that visitors can now go directly to the cafe, located off the central courtyard at the heart of the former distillery and enjoy a *borrel* without having to buy a ticket to the museum. The large, wooden carriage doors that used to remain closed now stand wide open, allowing visitors to wander into the courtyard, buy a few glasses of jenever in the cafe and even preview the museum's attractions in a brightly painted niche with information in four languages.

Interactive

Throwing open the doors and encouraging visitors to peek inside is not just clever marketing. It demonstrates the museum's new emphasis on tourism. The museum wants to attract not only museum-goers, liquor aficionados and history buffs but also the casual visitor who may just want to taste a jenever for the first time or enjoy a cold drink in the courtyard.

For those who do venture inside, the museum has updated its presentation for the 21st century, with interactive videos, audio recordings and touchscreens replacing the static, text-based exhibits of old. There are videos about the production process, vintage TV commercials, recordings of anti-alcohol songs and interactive games. In one room, giant maps let you zoom in and find the names and locations of former, extant and working jenever distilleries throughout the Low Countries.

Much like Cognac and Champagne, jenever (also spell genever) a regional product with protected status in Europe. It's a distilled spirit common to Belgium, the Netherlands, French Flanders and a small area in eastern Germany.

Sometimes called "Dutch gin," it is traditionally flavoured with juniper berries (*jeneverbessen* in Dutch). These days, commercial, sweet jenevers come in a wide range of fruit, cream and candy flavours, while "old" and "grain" jenevers stick to the traditional formulas.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Hasselt was a major centre of jenever production, with no fewer than 30 distilleries by the end of the 19th century. The Jenever Museum is vested in a former distillery in the city centre, and a 19th-century jenever installation is still used to produce the museum's own spirits. The former ox barn, grain mill, farmhouse and distilling rooms are now used as exhibition space, with the original architectural



© Marco Mertens/Jenever Museum

features beautifully restored and incorporated into the overall design.

The redesigned interior has more space to display items from the museum's collection, including historic distilling equipment, scientific instruments, jenever bottles and glasses and advertising paraphernalia.

Previously, only a dozen or so vintage advertising posters were on display. In the revamped museum, vertical, sliding steel frames allow 48 of these original artworks to be seen – although the visitor now has to pull each double-sided frame out and slide it back into place, making the museum's interactivity not just digital, but also physical.

Another way in which the museum gets physical is through the use of electronic dummies that show the effects of alcohol on the human body and brain and encourage people to consume responsibly. The touchscreen works like a game where visitors keep adding to the number of jenevers consumed, while a video screen shows real people experiencing the effects of inebriation and a plastic dummy lights up to show where the effects are felt.

“
Jenever is incredibly important to the economic history of Hasselt

The old museum had one interactive feature that was quite memorable, which has luckily been retained and updated. In the Jenever Academy, a palette of natural flavouring agents is on display along with glass breakers of their aromatic essence. By squeezing



See how jenever is made and release its lovely scents in Hasselt's new and improved Jenever Museum

on a rubber ball attached to a glass pipe, you can release the scent of the distillate. The 20-odd flavours include cinnamon, chocolate, liquorice, lavender, sage and cardamom.

Video displays in the Jenever Academy also explain the best way to pour, drink and appreciate jenever. By the time visitors exit the room, they're ready for the last stop on their tour: the tasting room. More than 130 jenevers are served at the bar here. Visitors also have the option of trying one of several "discovery rounds", each one containing a selection of four jenevers.

The museum's makeover also extends to its new logo, house style and promotional materials. A cleaner logo and bright, modern colours show the museum shaking off its old image as a stuffy historical site and seeking to attract a younger and more varied audience.

In another telling sign, the museum's new brochure and website feature a smoky-eyed young woman holding a flaming jenever bottle.

Even the museum's name has changed. Formerly the National Jenever Museum, it's now known simply as the Jenever Museum. On the one hand, the name change signals a greater emphasis on the museum's local importance. "All over Flanders, people associate the Jenever Museum with Hasselt," says museum chair Patrick Reygel. For mayor Hilde Claes, jenever and the city are inextricably tied. "Jenever is and remains incredibly important to the economic history of Hasselt," she says.

On the other hand, the new name points to a recognition of the museum's wider significance to the jenever-producing regions of Europe including France, the Netherlands and Germany. The museum wants to position itself as an international resource for the study and preservation of jenever's history, culture and folklore.

The new Jenever Museum is certainly worth a visit, even if you've visited in the past. There's a lot more to see, learn and experience, and there's always another jenever to try.

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Letting the world sleep

Antwerp artist uses her body and trials to reflect the dizzying speed of modern life



Tom Peeters

More articles by Tom \ flanderstoday.eu

\ WWW.EYELOCO.EU

One morning, Liesbet Waegemans didn't feel like getting up. She decided to sleep a bit longer and do her makeup on the way to work. At the time, she was commuting by train to her day job as the managing director of the Brussels dance company SOIT.

Standing in the train toilet, she grabbed a Pritt glue stick instead of her deodorant from her bag and almost spread the solid adhesive under her arm. It was in that moment that the 33-year-old felt very strongly that life lived this fast has side effects that can really stick to and control a person.

Another time, the Antwerp artist was walking through the streets. She didn't feel well, but she couldn't quite put her finger on what was wrong. Suddenly, she thought of a pill that would push everything out of her. She subsequently spent hours mulling over how she could transform this idea into an installation. Her face had to be on the pills, since the idea was to press herself out/express herself.

Waegemans' ideas often arise accidentally, after which they end up in a notebook until they are shaped to perfection. She decided to take a picture of her idiosyncratic pills only three months ago. Her Pritt experience also became a photograph.

Both are currently on view in *The World Needs Some Sleep*, her first solo exhibition, on view at the eyeLoco Gallery in Antwerp. "I don't know exactly why I started with installations and now stick to photography," Waegemans says. "Maybe because I was a big fan of the mysterious sculptures of Louise Bourgeois and Kiki Smith. I like to think that going back to basic materials gives me some grip on the world."

In *The World*, Waegemans also features a "sentimental city map"



"Self-portrait" by Liesbet Waegemans

of Antwerp that indicates where she feels at home and where she experiences "pain caused by

memories" or "irritation caused by a large number of people". Between the self-portraits depict-

ing Waegemans' small tics and very 21st-century still-lives of smoothies, the artist offers a friendly plea to slow down in a world she feels is going slightly mad.

At the same time, her art represents a small step back to basics while the system at large explodes. Together with contemporaries such as Julie Scheurweghs and Julie Calbert, both based in Brussels, she's part of a younger generation of artists shing a light on their own lives, bodies and pain to criticise, or at least reflect, the society around them.

They might be called the voices of a selfie generation, one that is trying to cope with the digital age and borderline times in which they live but also shows a deep longing for simplicity and authenticity. It is by mirroring their own pain that they point out the weaknesses of society; it's by sharing it with others that their art becomes relevant. The title of Waegemans' exhibition refers to a work in which a globe is put to bed, under a soft blanket, as if given a chance to take a break from the constant motion.

That work could just as easily refer to one of the artist's own experiences; last year, her world unexpectedly came to a halt when her boyfriend, the talented West Flemish writer Thomas Blondeau, died suddenly from an aortic rupture at the age of 35.

"People had to take care of me; friends cooked for me and slept next to me. It took a few weeks before I was able to show my face to the outside world again. I needed a lot of people around me, and afterwards I had to learn to live again."

In her 2013 installation "Sen-

mental citymap", one of the self-portraits portrays Waegemans clutching a broken necklace, indicating that the relationship is over, but she can't let go. "It's not really me to be totally open about everything, but my art helps me with it," she says. "It's all about finding a way or a form that makes it acceptable to show the very personal stuff. It's an interesting topic: making something interesting out of loss. The only thing you cannot lose is what you have given away."

Realising that you're not the only one who is chaotic, who needs more sleep, she says, "is a comforting message I want to share with the visitors to my exhibition: 'Come join us under the blanket; there's still space left for you'."

In Waegemans' view, the need to address the world's challenges has never been more urgent. "I am always looking at where art and social commitment can meet," she says. "I do believe art can make a difference, not by wanting to 'change the world', but by starting with your own little island – your family, friends and neighbours."

Waegemans' show at eyeLoco also includes a few installations, but in recent years she has mostly relied on photography. "I would never take photos of an intimate domestic scene, or snapshots of life. My ideas do best in a studio environment, even the most intimate ones," she explains.

At first, she searched for a model. "But sometimes it gets so personal that it needs to be me who's pulling her nose or straightening her underwear. It's about all these little imperfections of mine. When they lead to a beautiful image, I can rise above them."

Until 26 October

eyeLoco Gallery
De Brouwerstraat 5, Antwerp

MORE VISUAL ARTS THIS WEEK

Arpaïs Du Bois: Par les Bretelles

Every evening, Antwerp-based artist Arpaïs Du Bois draws, paints and writes for a few hours in her *carnets quotidiens*, notebooks she uses as a visual diary. The results offer ghosts from the past but also serve as fragile and often poetic suggestions of the darkness of the future. Until 8 November, *Gallery Fifty One*, Antwerp

\ www.galleryfiftyone.be

Mark Leckey: Lending Enchantment to Vulgar Materials

The largest exhibition to date of 2008 Turner Prize winner Mark Leckey is spread across two floors at the auditorium of Brussels contemporary art centre Wiels, and it brings together nearly all of the London-based artist's videos as well as sculptural works made in the last decade. Also included is the new installation "UniAdd-DumThs", which reveals the artist's fascination with icons of popular culture. Until 11 January, *Wiels*, Brussels

\ www.wiels.org



The work of British artist Mark Leckey is on view at Wiels

Panamarenko Universum

After transforming his former house in Antwerp's Biekorfstraat into a public monument, arts centre M HKA has now turned its attention to the actual oeuvre of Panamarenko, one of the city's leading artists. This retrospective, almost 10 years after the one at the KMSK in Brussels, offers a thematic and chronological overview of the fiery universe of the avant-garde Flemish pioneer. 3 October to 22 February, M HKA, Antwerp

\ www.muhka.be

WEEK IN ARTS & CULTURE

Portugal awards De Keersmaeker with medal

The Portuguese government has awarded Flemish choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker a medal for services to culture. She received the medal last Monday from the country's secretary of state for culture, Jorge Barreto Xavier. De Keersmaeker has been involved in several collaborations with Portugal's national ballet and was the city of Lisbon's artist-in-residence in 2012. "Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker is one of the world's most highly respected figures in the field of contemporary dance," said Barreto Xavier in a statement. "She has developed and presented numerous performances in Portugal, which have contributed to the powerful spread and enrichment of contemporary dance in our country."

Cinematek releases new copy of De Witte
Belgian royal film archive Cinematek has released a new DVD of *De Witte*, Flanders' first "talkie", on the occasion of the film's 80th anniversary. The film, based on the 1920 novel for young people by Flemish writer Ernest Claes, was released in 1934 to instant success. It tells the story of a towhead (*witte*) boy growing up among impatient adults in the village of Zichem in Flemish Brabant. It was the first film by directors Jan Vanderheyden and Edith Kiel, who went on to make dozens of comedies and light-hearted dramas together. The first biography of the filmmaking couple, *Edith Kiel & Jan Vanderheyden: Pioneers of the Flemish Film* has also been published by Cinematek, in Dutch.

\ WWW.CINEMATEK.BE

First capsule hostel opens in Antwerp

Belgium's first accommodations with capsule beds opened this week in Antwerp. The Antwerp Student Hostel (ASH) provides simple stacked beds just long and wide enough to sleep in. Each capsule bed comes with a locker and access to showers. Conventional bunk beds are also available at a bit of a higher price. The capsule concept was invented in Japan, where it fit the needs of office workers who just needed a bed for the night in the city. ASH is targeting students, however, both local and overseas, from an overnight stay to whole semesters or years.

\ WWW.ANTWERPSTUDENTHOSTEL.COM

A camera and a voice

Fabienne Haerinck helped Brazilian favela youth to record their own world



Daan Bauwens

More articles by Daan \ flanderstoday.eu

\ WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAVELADOC

“My life amounts to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean. Yet what is any ocean but a multitude of drops?", writer David Mitchell asks in his sci-fi novel *Cloud Atlas*. Fabienne Haerinck – a real-live woman born and raised in Waregem, West Flanders – could have easily been a character in that novel.

At the age of 28, Haerinck, then a social worker in Ghent, decided she wanted to see the world, South America in particular. So she bought a ticket to Brazil, but instead of travelling from one place to the next, she ended up spending most of 2009 in Vila Cruzeiro, one of the most notorious slums in Rio de Janeiro.

That year marked one of the most turbulent and violent in the favela's recent history, and Haerinck found herself unable to shake off what she had experienced.

"One of the most shocking things was that Brazilian media do nothing but fuel fear about the favelas," says Haerinck. "While only a very small percentage of the residents are involved with drug trafficking, in the media all of them are lumped together. I thought: 'What if we give cameras to the inhabitants? What if we let them be the media for a change?'

Before and during this summer's World Cup, she continues, "innumerable news feeds and television reports were sent across the globe on the subject of the favela, the violence and injustice. But never by the people suffering from injustices themselves."

Over the next four years, Haerinck travelled Belgium up and down to promote her idea. She held presentations in rest homes, talked with local NGOs and organised fundraising events, with the most memorable a packed-out party in Ghent lasting a staggering 32 hours.

In the end, the Ghent social-artistic collective Victoria Deluxe agreed to support Haerinck's project. She returned to the favelas with the necessary funds last May. Together with Brazilian filmmaker Gustavo Gelmini and several youth workers from the local NGO Raízes em Movimento (Roots on the Move), she got to work.

Haerinck and the other team members selected six young locals. The first month, they taught them how to film, and in the following three months concentrated on their editing skills. "Each of them had to choose a person they knew and whose life they wanted to portray during the World Cup," she says. "Three times a week, we would meet to put together a script for the documentary."

Not coincidentally, the chosen filmmakers represent the most marginalised members in Brazilian society: they're young, have brown skin and were born and raised in the favelas. "Their personal stories are also reflected in the characters they chose," Haerinck explains. "Gugu, for instance, lost his father because of his involvement in the drugs trade. Gugu made a film about a local football trainer who withstood many temptations to enter the same business by focus-



ing on his sport."

Bidu, meanwhile, is a graffiti artist who, says Haerinck, "wants to turn the favela into a more colourful place by colouring its walls. He made his film about the life of a graffiti student of his."

Four months after she travelled to Brazil, Haerinck came back with a feature-length documentary called *Copa pra Alemão Ver*, which literally translates as "World Cup for German Eyes". The Brazilian youngsters, youth workers and filmmaker are in Flanders now for public screenings before heading to Amsterdam to present the film there.

Marcos Rey is one of the youth workers involved with the project. He arrived last Friday. The documentary, he says, has "taught our

youth to be more critical in several ways. Through the lens, they see their own lives from a distance for the first time. They discover their own world by setting a story within it. Then, by learning how editing works, they gain insight into how media coverage is fabricated and how easily images can be manipulated."

"They learn how to think critically," adds Haerinck, but, even more importantly, "for some of them, it's the first time that they realise they are capable of accomplishing something."

And this is just the beginning, she says. "It's not just about them. Their friends and family are influenced in the same way. The effect ripples through their social tissue, like a stone in the water."

4 October 20.00 & 21.30

CC Scharpoord
Meerlaan 32, Knokke-Heist

8 October 20.00

Zebrastraat
Zebrastraat 32, Ghent

Bruges' Concertgebouw invites public to play along

\ WWW.CONCERTGEBOUW.BE

Whether you're a singer or a sax player, the road to a performance at the Concertgebouw is this way: Iedereen Klassiek (Everyone Classical), the second edition of the popular participative music festival, is soon taking place in the Bruges venue.

"During Iedereen Klassiek, we'll be revealing some out-of-the-box projects to guarantee a new experience of classical music," says the venue's artistic director Jeroen Vanacker.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the invention of the saxophone by the Belgian Adolphe Sax, and the festival is looking for 100 sax players to help celebrate. They'll be supporting the Brussels-based Bl!ndman quartet in a performance of *La Bocca, I Piedi, Il Suono* (The Mouth, The Feet, The Sound) by Italian composer Salvatore Sciarrino. No experience necessary, just an instrument and an open mind.

That's the same address for those who want to sing at the Concertgebouw in the performance *Zot van Bach* (Crazy About Bach), again with Bl!ndman. Part One involves a workshop rehearsal on Friday evening, with Part Two the actual performance on Saturday morning. The



© Tim Theo

quartet will be playing extracts from their 32 Foot/The Organ of Bach album, punctuated with Bach chorales sung by the amassed voices.

If you're a Brit or just an Anglophilic, the closing performance will be irresistible: the Land of Hope and Glory section of the festival features the Brussels Philharmonic and DeChorale performing *Zadok the Priest* by Handel, *Land of Hope and Glory* by Elgar and *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* by Benjamin Britten.

If you'd prefer just to sit back and listen, performances in the chamber music hall include the section Mozart Meets Piazzolla with the

wind octet of Casco Phil (formerly the Chamber Orchestra of Belgium) playing music by both composers, including the *Serenade for Wind Instruments* and *Libertango*, the piece by the Argentine bandoneon player that reduced the Dutch Queen Maxima to tears at her own wedding.

Elsewhere in the building, there's the robot orchestra of Ghent composer/inventor Godfried-Willem Raes, computer games with a musical touch and a live broadcast on the classical radio station Klara. If you're out and about in Bruges, expect to be entertained by students of the city's conservatory in the streets above ground, and the Villa Bota's Jukebox Orchestra in the underground parking at 't Zand.

\ Alan Hope

Want to take part in Iedereen Klassiek? Send an email to iedereenklassiek@klara.be

11 October

Concertgebouw
't Zand 34 and other locations in Bruges

Building a bridge to 1914

Pontoon Bridge Weekend

3-5 October

Steenplein, Antwerp
WWW.ANTWERPEN14-18.BE

The bridge is the archetypal symbol of openness and exchange, something to be built (figuratively) in our more harmonious moments and burned (again, figuratively) in our fits of spite. Sometimes, however, bridges are more than symbols.

The pontoon bridge built by Belgian army engineers across the Scheldt in the early days of the First World War was (literally) a lifeline. Stretching from Antwerp's Steenplein on the right bank of the Scheldt to the Boeienweide on the left, the construction allowed the city to be supplied from the west as the Kaiser's army laid siege from the east.

It was a crucial mission since Antwerp had become the country's provisional capital, the fortified redoubt of Belgium's government and royal family. Within months, in early October 1914, the Germans smashed through, and the



© Courtesy Vredescentrum Antwerpen

Antwerp's original river-spanning bridge, first used for supply, then to flee

bridge became an evacuation route, allowing the army and tens of thousands of civilians to escape. Then it was no more; the Belgians detonated the bridge so it couldn't serve the occupier.

Now, in the context of the First World War cente-

nary, Antwerp commemorates the episode with a historical recreation and a weekend of celebration, not only for the past but the future as well. The Peace Bridge, an ambitious, contemporary re-imagining of the original pontoon span, has been constructed by Belgian and Dutch army specialists in collaboration with the Antwerp Port Authority.

The afternoon inauguration ceremony this Friday entails a Peace Parade, after which the bridge will be open to the public throughout the weekend. Cultural activities are ongoing on both banks, including multimedia installations, concerts, re-enactments, demonstrations and a pop-up bookstore organised by MAS Shop. Nor are the young ones neglected. Children will have access to a playground in the Field of Buoys and a family-friendly entertainment programme in the Frederik van Eedenplein. \ Georgio Valentino

PERFORMANCE

Twice

2-4 October, 20.30

Kaaistudio's, Brussels
WWW.KAITHEATER.BE

Twelve years later, contemporary Flemish dance pioneer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker presents a sequel to her 2002 solo *Once*. The original piece explored the relationship between song and dance by negotiating a concert recording of Joan Baez in real time. *Twice* shares the same musical concerns, but this time De Keersmaeker is accompanied on stage by musician Carlos Garbin (who is also a dancer in the choreographer's company Rosas). Garbin's presence transforms the concept by giving the musical element a physical form, a body that inhabits the same space as the dancer and complicates any strict separation of sound and vision. \ GV



© Anne Van Aerschot

EVENT

Nuit Blanche

4 October, from 20.00

Across Brussels
WWW.NUITBLANCHEBRUSSELS.BE

Nuit Blanche is back and better than ever. At least that's what one hopes. Last year's event was beset with problems of every stripe, from crowd control (queues were ubiquitous and poorly managed) to artistic malpractice (one of the event's marquee projects never materialised). The basic concept, inspired by similar Nuit Blanches in Montreal, Amsterdam and Paris, is sound enough; each year a different Brussels neighbourhood is selected as the backdrop to a white night of contemporary artistic intervention in urban space, involving more than 100 artists and tens of thousands of spectators – all for free. This 12th edition takes place downtown, around the Beurs. The theme is cinema, and special guest artists include Brussels-born director Martine Doyen, whose installation *Present Perfect* takes the viewer on an experimental "video-walk" of secret Brussels. \ GV



© "Supercube" by Stéphane Masson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jimmy Kets: The Graves Are Nice This Time of Year

Until 24 December

De Loketten, Brussels

WWW.VLAAMSVREDESINSTITUUT.EU/JIMMYKETS

First World War centenary celebrations are in full swing across Flanders, but this one is either refreshingly different or scandalously disrespectful, depending on your perspective. Flemish photographer Jimmy Kets spent two years documenting the most ironic aspects of Belgium's military cemeteries:



gawking tourists, flagrant disrepair and the occasional petrol station casting its garish neon light from the periphery. The project was initiated by the Flemish Peace Institute and is on display in the lobby of the Flemish Parliament's gallery (with a smaller satellite exhibition in the Brussels Parliament). \ GV

EXHIBITION

25 Years Belgian Comic Strip Center

4-5 October

Belgian Comic Strip Center, Brussels

WWW.COMICSCENTER.NET

Inaugurated in 1989, the Belgian Comic Strip Center is the world's oldest museum of its kind, which is unsurprising given the national passion for the form. The Belgians have been among the world's leading consumers and producers of comic strips from the start. This 25th anniversary weekend sees the opening of the temporary exhibition *Picturing Brussels* and the inauguration of two new permanent fixtures – an immersive exhibition on the universe of the legendary Peyer (creator of the Smurfs) and a 3D auditorium dedicated to (relative) newcomer Pieter De Pootere, whose 2001 *Dickie* announced a rising star in the industry. \ GV



CONCERT

Brussels

Igor Gehenot: Some call the talented Liège-born pianist the Walloon Jef Neve or Brad Mehldau because of his harmonic sense and strong focus on melodies. Now he's launching *Motion*, his second album with his trio, backed by drummer Teun Verbruggen and bassist Philippe Aerts. 3 October, Flagey, Heilig-Kruisplein

\ www.flagey.be

FOOD&DRINK

Brussels

Slow Food Brussels: Annual Brussels gastronomic event focusing on the Slow Food movement. More than 40 restaurants present sustainable menus. Discover the first Belgian Presidia products – raw milk Herve cheese and Aubel syrup – after attending a workshop or a cooking course. 3-5 October, across Brussels

\ www.slowfoodbrussels.be

EVENT

Antwerp

.tiff TALKS: The annual poster format magazine *.tiff*, courtesy of the curators of the Antwerp FotoMuseum, documents once again the work of 10 young Belgian photographers. Meet the artists in person after the presentation of their work (in English) at this informal launch event. To attend, send an email to reservatie@fomu.be. 9 October, FotoMuseum, Waalsekaai 47

\ www.fotomuseum.be

PERFORMANCE

Antwerp

The Fountainhead: Set in the world of New York architects in the roaring '20s, the 1943 novel *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand, who fled the Soviet Union for the US in 1926, sees ideologies clashing. Toneelgroep Amsterdam balances innovation and tradition, individualism and collectivism in four whopping hours. 2-4 October, deSingel, Desguinlei 25

\ www.desingel.be

Ostend

Els De Schepper: It's now or never if you want to party with the most popular comedienne in Flanders. Her one-woman show *Feest* collects the best jokes, songs and characters out of an 11-show-spanning career. After Ostend, the tour makes stops in Antwerp, Ghent and more culture centres across Flanders. 4 October, Casino Kursaal, Westhelling

\ www.elsdeschepper.be

Talking Dutch

Only here for the beer pipeline



Derek Blyth

More articles by Derek \ flanderstoday.eu

You hear a lot of stories when you sit drinking a beer in a Flemish bar. Some of them are true. Most of them are not. But the one about the beer pipeline running under the streets of Bruges is absolutely genuine.

Het stadsbestuur heeft aan De Halve Maan, brouwer van Brugse Zot en Straffe Hendrik, de goedkeuring gegeven om een kilometerslange ondergrondse bierleiding aan te leggen tussen de brouwerij in het historische centrum van de stad en de bottelarij in een industriegebied in de stadsrand – The city council has approved a plan by De Halve Maan – the brewery that makes Brugse Zot and Straffe Hendrik – to build an underground beer tunnel running for several kilometres between the brewery in the historical centre and the bottling plant on an industrial site in the suburbs, reports *Het Nieuwsblad*. It sounds just like something you might hear from the man sitting in the corner with his glass of Tripel, but the company says it is absolutely serious about this. The plan is to brew the beer in the old brewery near the Begijnhof, as they have always done, and then send it



© Photo courtesy De Halve Maan

through a PVC pipeline laid under the streets to the new bottling plant three kilometres to the west. *De techniek werd wel al eerder toegepast in onder andere de olie-industrie, maar in de bierindustrie is dit uniek* – the technique has already been used in the oil industry, among others, but this is the first time it has been done in the beer industry, claims Xavier Vanneste, CEO of De Halve Maan. The pipeline will have a capacity of 6,000 litres of beer an hour, or four million litres a year. It's a smart

solution that saves money as well as the environment. *De bierleiding moet de logistieke kosten naar beneden halen en meteen het zwaar verkeer in de stad doen dalen* – The beer pipeline will cut down on transport costs as well as reducing the number of lorries driving into the city, according to Vanneste. It probably won't be long before you hear stories in Bruges bars about locals who have tapped into the beer pipeline. But the stories won't be true. Most of the time, anyway.

VOICES OF FLANDERS TODAY



Tony Bennett @itstonybennett

An amazing celebration for CHEEK TO CHEEK in the Grand Place in Brussels @ladygaga pic.twitter.com/hnly7qqqe



Madison Feller @_madisonline

http://www.neurope.eu/article/brussels-poetry-under-ground ... Whoever said Brussels was boring clearly hasn't heard about THE POETRY SLAM. #mubxl



Stellenbosch Univ @StellenboschUni

SU delegates attend opening of KU Leuven's academic year: http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=1820 ... pic.twitter.com/LzIhaNQLQ2



Angela Gheorghiu @angelagheorghiu

At #gentfestival. Ready for a wonderful concert together with @BrusselsPhil pic.twitter.com/SvtB4kdEy2



Google Maps @googlemaps

At the end of the day, Ghent finds itself in a reflective mood. #PhotoSphere #Belgium http://goo.gl/Q9C3GW pic.twitter.com/bJx0HCHbBW



Mat @mat_maj

@iMinds incubator praised as one of Europe's best – true :) #startups #BeTech #innovation http://www.flanderstoday.eu/education/iminds-incubator-praised-one-europes-best ... via @flanderstoday



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Poll

Netflix has finally arrived in Belgium! Will you be signing up?

a. Absolutely. I'm watching online already, and I hope it comes to my decoder soon to make things even easier

50%

b. Only if they provide a decent amount of local content. If I want old movies, I have shelves full of DVDs

17%

c. No, we spend too many hours in front of a screen as it is. Visit friends! Read a book!

33%

After more than a year of speculation, Netflix, the film and series streaming service conquering the world, has finally arrived in Belgium. It looks like it won't have to do much marketing, either. Half of you are already sold on the idea, and it's only been available for

a few days. Not terribly surprising, perhaps, given the large numbers of expats among our readers. That demographic also explains why local content isn't such an issue for most of you. Though the company is already in talks to carry some productions by the VRT.

But there's still a strong minority – one in three – of Luddites in the audience, you people who probably only switch your computers on once a week, and that to come here and vote in the *Flanders Today* poll. And where would we be without you?

\ Next week's question:

A study by researchers at Ghent University shows that a tax on unhealthy foods could save money and lives (see page 7). What do you think?

Log-on to the Flanders Today website at www.flanderstoday.eu and click on VOTE

THE LAST WORD

Fast and furious

"People say it always goes so fast with me. I thought, maybe I can get a world record out of this."

Flemish comedian Raf Coppens claims the new world record for one-liners, after telling 23 jokes in 60 seconds

Without hope

"It's shameful and shows that the system has failed. Many internes have similar problems. One thing weighs heavier than the rest: the lack of any prospects."

Former Ghent appeal court judge Henri Heimans on the case of a man who has asked for euthanasia because he receives no psychiatric treatment in prison

End of an era

"The Maes brewery wanted to invest, but I had to come up with €50,000 myself, and I don't have it. I'd rather have died than close the Muze; then at least the pub could have lived on."

Jan Van den Braak, owner of celebrated Antwerp jazz café De Muze, which has closed down due to financial problems

Bugs in the system

"Many have tried, in vain. Breeding insects is difficult, especially keeping them alive in large numbers."

Didier Bostoen of Ledegem, West Flanders, is the country's largest producer of edible insects, now a legal trade in Belgium



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