

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League
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A Note from the Editor

I am pleased to announce that this Newsletter primarily consists of contributions from others.

A Report from Paris

The attack earlier this month on the magazine “Charlie Hebdo” in Paris, as shocking as it was, brought the world together in solidarity with the people of France. Old timers in the NAUL may remember Ton’s predecessor who taught Dutch in the German Department. Kees Snoek was and remains a friend. After leaving Ann Arbor, Kees taught in Indonesia for several years, then back in Holland and eventually began teaching Dutch at the Sorbonne in Paris. Kees sent us his impressions of the events after the attack. We share that with you:

“Yesterday, for the first time in my life, I walked along in a demonstration: the Republican March in defense of freedom of expression. I was one of 1.5 million people. It was not really marching, and not even walking but rather shuffling along the sidewalk before reaching the street and Place de la République where the three kilometer march began. “Charlie, Charlie, Charlie”, followed by rhythmic clapping was heard at intervals. I saw drawings of a fist, holding a pencil, saying: “Let’s stay Charlie. They won’t kill liberty”, and of an awesome pencil facing a grenade. People held up boards with texts such as “Now I understand what our liberty owes to their irreverence and from now on to their lives”. Three veiled women showed boards saying “Maryam Rajavi [an Iranian politician] condemns the criminal attack and presents her condolences to the French people.” MORT DE RIRE – “Dead from laughing” was another text. The monument in Place de la République with Marianne on top held about twenty people waving flags from different countries. I saw a pregnant woman, a piece of paper pinned to her clothes, telling us: “I am Charlie, and [arrow pointing to her belly] he is too.” Sometimes a helicopter flew over. The police were inconspicuously, reassuringly present. There was a

general sense of ‘bonhomie’, geniality, closing the ranks. “I am Charlie. And I am France, beautiful when she is diverse, multiple and shared. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika.

From Members:

Laurens de Jong

The Terror of Detroit.

“It’s good to see you again,” said the homeless man on the corner of Congress and the Chrysler service drive in downtown Detroit. “Yeah,” I said, as I rolled up in my convertible, and bumping fists for greeting, “where’ve you been?” He told me he had lost his job, and returned to the street corner because, “I have to support my family, you know.”

Here’s an exquisite piece of Americana, hidden so well that it’s unknown even to most Americans. And hidden in plain sight. Everyone I work with knows the homeless people taking turns to sit by the traffic lights on the ramps to and from the freeway. A few people give them food or money. Nobody I know actually *talks* to them. I talk to them every day, in part of course because I drive my convertible with the top always down, and there is no threshold between them and me — another unexpected benefit of my top-down driving.

“Why do you never give me any money, man?” asked another homeless man once. I told him, my gift to him is to treat him with dignity by talking with him. He pondered that for a moment, nodded, and said, “yeah, I respect that.” It’s true. While I have a conversation with him, hundreds and thousands of others commute from their suburbs to the covered parking structures their Detroit-based employers provide. They never leave their campus, never walk around, lock their car doors and windows when they go home again, because to them, Detroit is a war zone. They’re gripped by the fear and terror of Detroit.

If you think that Americans have the wrong impression of Detroit, then you should listen to the Dutch. They also have it completely wrong, but in the

other direction, for they are in disbelief that it could be as bad as it is. I showed pictures of the urban ruins of Detroit to an ex-pat whose professional stomping grounds is the former Soviet republics. He immediately recognized them — those ruins can be found in the faded cities of communism, as well as in one faded city of capitalism. Another Dutch friend, local to the Ann Arbor area, when I spoke of the abandon city blocks in Detroit, dismissively stated that “we have neighborhoods like that in Amsterdam, too.” If you say that, you’ve really never been to Detroit. Or Amsterdam, perhaps.

Americans and the Dutch both get it wrong, then, and it’s no surprise. What they are missing is what I am doing: making human connections. To understand a city and its people, you must get in touch with those people. I, for one, am grateful for the opportunity to make those connections. It makes me smile that I can walk down a different street and be greeted by a homeless man, who explains his usual street corner is where he knows me from, and that they call me Convertible Man.

Perhaps making human connections is the meaning of life. Surely, it is the point of moving to another country.

Ton Broos

Untranslatable?

With all the snow and polar vortexes (vortices?) we are experiencing today, I came across the Dutch word ‘koukleum’, but could not find the English equivalent. Right at that time I saw an interesting article in ‘Onze Taal’ about untranslatable words, both from English into Dutch and the other way around. Some people might think that Dutch is no match for English, but there are plenty of Dutch words that have no English equivalent. Of course there are cultural differences and English speakers have no interest in their equivalent of words like ‘waterschap’ [water board], or ‘kop-halsrompboerderij’ [farm shape resembling head-neck-body] or ‘dauwtrappen’ [walking in the morning dew]. Education has typical Dutch words like ‘havo’, ‘kunstsecundaironderwijs’, and, new to me, ‘rugzakje’ [not a small backpack, but ‘special education needs assessment’]. Dutch has some categories that make for square pegs in round holes in English translations. For instance diminutives: ‘autootje’ can be ‘small car’ or ‘little car’ or even ‘toy car’; ‘een kop koffie’ is slightly different from ‘een kopje koffie’, both ‘a cup of coffee’ in English. Words like ‘journaliste’, ‘buurvrouw’, ‘boerin’, ‘studente’ for journalist, neighbor, farmer and student, all female, need additional information [woman journalist or female journalist or lady journalist? etc.]. Dutch speakers like to sprinkle their sentences also with these little words of

encouragement, reassuring or otherwise, which drive foreigners crazy as they learn the language. I mean: wel, hoor, zeg, toch, maar, misschien, dan, nou, even, soms etc. In English you often just ignore them, or use a certain intonation. Try these: “Zeg, ik zie wel” or “Doe maar, hoor.”

In the *Onze Taal* article I read some cute words, that I will not try to translate. “Klunen, uitbuiken, uitzwaaien, voorleesvader, geuzennaam, meedenken, feest der herkenning, goedheiligman, elfstedenkoorts, klootschieten, licentiaat, lintjesregen”. Just ask your Dutch friend, or come to the Dutch lunch on Thursdays at 12 in Modern Languages Building 3d floor of the University of Michigan, where we will also discuss the words that made the list of new ones for this year according to the *Taalunie*: videoselfie, fluisterbron, poepbank and scharrelboom. By the way, ‘koukleum’ is someone who always feels cold.

Upcoming Events

The film **HET BOMBARDEMENT**, will be shown on Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 2 PM in the Video Viewing Room, Language Resource Center, North Quad, Washington Street. The film, a love drama is set in May 1940 amid the first days of the bombardment of Rotterdam, Holland. In Dutch with English subtitles, 101 minutes. Any questions call Ton Broos at 734-994-9276. See you there!

Winter Cultural Event:

Mark your calendars for this special event on Sunday, February 15, 2015 from 4 to 6 PM at the home of Lineke and Erik Zuiderweg. The program includes: Poetry, in Dutch and English read by Ton and Janet Broos. Lineke Zuiderweg will tell us all there is to know about painter Karel Appel. Finally, Erik and his band of merry musicians will entertain us with “Gig Favorites”. [Does this include Golden Oldies?] The Zuiderweg home is located at 3605 Larchmont Drive, Ann Arbor, phone is 734-276-4463 or you can e-mail Lineke and Erik at famzuid@comcast.net.

TRIVIA

Potatoes

Statistics published in August, by the *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, show that in 2013 the Netherlands was Europe’s largest producer (**financially**) of French fries and frozen fried potato products, where approximately €1.1 billion were produced. Three-quarters of the total of 1.4 billion kilos were exported throughout Europe. In the Netherlands 306 million kilos of frozen potato products were consumed, roughly 18 kilos per person. Belgium was the largest producer in **volume** with approximately 60 million

kilos more than the Netherlands. No data on mayonnaise.

Mobile phone addiction

A study undertaken by the University of Maastricht has shown that a vast majority of Dutch youths between 13 and 19 years cannot be without their mobile phones for more than a few hours. Withdrawal symptoms similar to those experienced with addiction to drugs, alcohol, and smoking were reported by 70% of teenagers. Similar investigations in the US and the UK led to treatment of the problem with special programs for mobile addiction at rehab centers.

Wealth

According to statistics published in the annual Global Wealth Report by German insurance company Allianz, The Netherlands is the fourth wealthiest nation in the world after Switzerland, the United States, and Belgium.

You asked for them!

Poems from the Sinterklaas evening

One evening, well after dark
Piet told Sinterklaas he needed a spark:
“We have been working hard, night and day
My energy levels have simply faded away.”
For a moment the Good Old Man thought this through
And said “Piet, I have something just for you!”
Out of a drawer he pulled a shiny red bag
To help get rid of poor Piet’s drag
The resulting brew reinvigorated his helper so well
That Sinterklaas called out “Snel, snel!
Get me more of this stuff out of our larder
To hand out to the hard-working people of Ann
Arbor!”

Op weg terug naar Nederland,
ging de Sint nog naar Ann Arbor land.
Voor iedereen heeft Sint een kado,
dus ook voor jou, zo wie zo.
Dit ene pakje o zo fijn,
kan alleen het jouwe zijn.
De Sint

Suikergoed en marsepein
mogen zoet en lekker zijn.
Maar de Sint will bij dit schenken
nu eens aan iets anders denken.
Daarom hier een flesje wijn
voor een aangenaam festijn.

Voor de vele NAUL leden
bracht de Sint van overzee

echt het beste van het beste
op zijn reis naar Amerika mee.
Een zware zak met geschenken
grote pakjes en ook klein.
Sint hoopt dat dit geschenk bij je past
en dat hij je er blij mee verrast.

Lieve Sint en Piet,

Fijn dat ik U weer eens ziet.
Na al die maanden wachten,
hoef ik niet meer te smachten.
o Sinterklaas kapoentje,
gooi wat in mijn schoentje.
Ik zit nu te bedenken,
wat U mij zal gaan schenken.
Toch dat bepalen Sint & Piet.
Dus weet ik het niet.

Sinterklaastijd

Zie de maan schijnt door de bomen.
Sinterklaas is weer gekomen.
Met stoomboot, paard en pieten.
Sinterklaastijd is om te genieten.
De kinderen maken hun verlanglijstjes al,
toch weet je nooit welk cadeautje komen zal.
Elke avond zetten ze hun schoen,
wat zal sinterklaas er in doen?

Pakjesavond voor groot en klein,
voor ieder cadeau een mooie rijm,
iedereen gaat vrolijk zingen.
en denkt alleen aan mooie dingen.

En zo is het weer de hoogste tijd,
Dat tot de allergootste spijt,
Sinterklaas met Americo,
naar Spanje terug moet - het is maar zo.

Heeeeel vroeger, toen het internet nog niet bestond
Keek Sinterklaas vaak lang in het rond
Op zoek naar cadeaus en snoup voor zijn feest
En om te zien of de kideren lief waren geweest
Maar nu Nu regelt de Goed Heilig Man alles vanuit zijn luie
stoel
Online deals voor cadeautjes op cyber-Monday, dat is cool!
En of iedereen zich wel of niet heeft gedragen
Hoeft de Sint zich ook niet meer af te vragen
Hij pakt zijn laptop, logt in op facebook
En met een paar klikjes kan Sint naar alle kinderen op zoek
Het gaat nog wat onwennig, en voelt een beetje raar
Maar ach, gemak dient de mens, niet waar?
Toch werd de Sint van al dat computerwerk best wel
moe
Steeds maar weer z’n credit card nummer intypen, wat
een gedoe!

En al die selfies, tweets, en status updates, breek hem de bek niet open!

Na een lange sessie hard werken, vroeg Sint Piet dus om hem wat zoets te kopen

Want als echte zoetekauw kon hij het toch niet laten Geniet dus net als Sint van deze snack, maar wel met mate!

FREE FREE FREE

The NAUL has gratefully received several Dutch authentic traditional Dutch costumes, e.g. Volendam, etc. They are in good condition and great for your dress-up party or show and tell at school or Halloween or Facebook. Available free! Contact Janet or Ton Broos, 734-994-9276

THE END

NAUL DUES

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2015. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (15), your dues are late.

Categories are:

Couple or family with young children	\$30.
Individual or Senior Couple	\$20.
Individual Senior or Student	\$10.
Sustaining	\$50.
Sponsor	\$100.

Send your payment to;

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