

# THE PAPER MILL

THE PPE NEWSPAPER | Spring Edition

## Dear PPE-college,

As the air gets warmer, the trees greener and the meadows colorful with little flowers, we know: It is spring!

Spring is a time of change, a time of new beginnings, a time of happiness. This is what the Spring-Edition of the Paper Mill wants to remind you of: The changes in the Political and Scientific world, the power of each to start something new and to contribute to community, to reflect old patterns and behaviors, and to look on the good things and the good news in the world.

Take a little study-break and enjoy some interesting and enriching articles. And after the exams: Enjoy the spring! As Robbie William said: "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'" So enjoy a little break! Enjoy some Partying! And enjoy the BEGINNING of a new period.

**B**est,  
Your PPE Encounters

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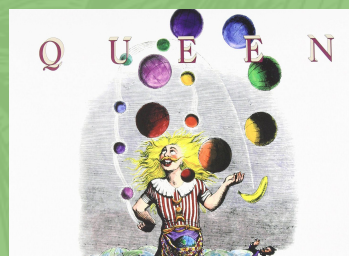
"I continue my Masanian traditions in Amsterdam, at least I attempt to since I'm trying be as good as a cook as my mom, & share with my PPE-friends."

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## You have something interesting to share?

Submit your article to  
[ppeencounters@gmail.com](mailto:ppeencounters@gmail.com)

Dr. Roland Iwan Luttens



Feuilleton

The 10 music  
albums that  
have changed  
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## How everything changes

**Amelie van Limburg Stirum**

Until this day nothing, not one single thing has remained unchanged in this world. Nothing is built for eternity, not even the sun. Human-made things, buildings or ideas are not made to last longer than natural erosion allows them to or to the point our collective memory reaches back. Words written into stone cannot resist wind and rain forever, and their contents will fade eventually. That does not mean that their truths will not reappear at some other point in time, and is that not a good thing? Is it not maybe a comforting thought that our faults as well as our solutions are finite?

The human urge to make ourselves immortal and to create monuments or legacies of any kind that are supposed to outlast time is a fantasy. And luckily so. The whole nature of eternity is that it has no beginning or end, however everything we do, does start somewhere, sometime, somehow and is therefore, bound to end, seeing as we all live within the boundaries of time.

On one hand, this means that everything can change and what greater sense of freedom can there be? On the other hand, this also entails that nothing can be taken for granted and that everything takes effort to change as well as to maintain, which is a huge responsibility we sometimes tend to forget. Of course, solely

recognizing that circumstances will not stay the same forever does not make them easier to modify, though it can give hope when everything appears to stand still. If we look into the past, one thing becomes very clear and that is that history repeats itself. It is made up of endings and new beginnings and as frustrating as this repetitive pattern may sometimes be, the idea that almost everything man-made is not meant to last forever the good things as well as the bad ones might also remind us that words like "never", "always" and "forever", words we love to use so much, rarely tell the truth.

So as scary as these thoughts may be, seeing as change is never easy nor is it always an improvement, the thought of creating things that are irreversible and unchangeable through time might be even scarier. We do need space and time to be able to correct ourselves, no matter how convinced we are of our ideas, because history has proven us wrong more than once. And through change we get to reinvent ourselves time and time again. As Louisa May Alcott once said, "I make so many beginnings there never will be an end." And is that not a huge privilege?



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## Politics

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### 306 days until Europe stands alone in the world

**Take Watanabe**



Geopolitically, Europe is going through its most uncertain period since the end of the Cold War as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As a minority of Republicans in Congress obstruct aid to Ukraine in service of Trump's vowed "reckoning", faltering American aid painfully highlights that Europe lacks the same capability of the United States' industrial powerhouse to supply Ukraine. As German officials discuss supplying German missiles to Ukraine on public hotel WiFi, poor adherence to common security practices painfully highlights a lack of awareness from the top to the bottom that Europe is, in fact, in a state of conflict with Russia. →



The assassination of Alexei Navalny by Putin, adored for his struggle for democracy yet controversial for his ultranationalism, comes directly from the autocrat handbook by eliminating enemies when the autocrat temporarily faces no direct threat from them. Nearing the Russian presidential election, the timing of Navalny being murdered is no coincidence: domestic public reaction to the death of Navalny is assumed to have been tested in December when the Kremlin made Navalny temporarily disappear to invoke rumours about his death, as per geopolitics analyst Isa Yusibov. Killing the spirit of opposition is crucial to fuel Putin's emboldened ambitions to revive Russian hegemony over Eastern Europe.

Putin's confidence to act without fear of domestic repercussions should, therefore, concern Europe: the fall of the Ukrainian city Avdiivka due to a lack of ammunition is merely the beginning of a rumoured summer offensive to achieve Russia's strategic goals in Ukraine, which Putin has bound to his political fate should he fail to deliver perceived gains and maintain his invincible position in the eyes of the Russian elite. It also painfully highlights the outperforming Russian industry as it now adjusts to the demands of a war economy, while the European Union sees more fruit in acting as passive cheerleaders who chant "*Slava Ukraini*", but incapable of fully backing the talk. Yet, the European Union holds the economic and financial capacity to expand its industrial capacity to supply Ukraine and to form a new deterrence that significantly increases current and future costs of war for Russia.

So why has it not happened yet? Two reasons: nuclear hostage-taking and the lack of will to deal a decisive defeat to Russia. Firstly, the European Union and NATO have been intimidated by Russia's threat to use nuclear strikes whenever it perceives an unacceptable escalation and choose to not supply long-range missiles or deliver an amount of weapons that could be perceived to cause a breakthrough on the frontlines. Russia thus takes the leading role for the red lines in Ukraine, and as a result, Europe has become the nuclear hostage of Russia and acts akin to a naïve Stackelberg follower from the models of economics. Secondly, fears of a chaotic struggle for power akin to the Russian Revolution of 1917 as a result of Putin's defeat, and the subsequent perceived risk of Russia's nuclear arsenal ending up in the hands of irrational actors à la Prigozhin, deter NATO from aiding a breakthrough of Ukrainian forces into occupied Donetsk and Crimea.

Russia relies on these fears to paralyse support for Ukraine: time must be on Putin's side to exhaust Ukrainian morale and manpower if Russia is to subjugate Ukraine and erase its being as a nation. Russia has shown that they are not serious about a sustainable ceasefire as well: every attempt at negotiations has led to unacceptable demands that would make Ukraine more ripe for the taking. Even if Europe assumes in a Chamberlinian fashion that Russia will go no further than Ukraine after negotiations to bring "peace for our time", this frame of peace after the storm will be shattered as well: Putin has reframed the war in Ukraine from a project of "denazification" to a broader conflict against the West, and there is no guarantee that he will not test the limits of NATO's Article 5 by "protecting discriminated Russian minorities" in the Baltic states, akin to Hitler annexing the Sudetenland to "protect German minorities". These landgrabs would surely destabilise the unity of the European Union and show that deterring Putin's imperialist ambitions at a later stage will be far more politically and militarily costly. Fears of nuclear escalation in Ukraine also seem unfounded: leaked Russian nuclear doctrine about a potential Chinese invasion in the Financial Times indicates that Russia will be less willing to bear the repercussions of nuclear weapons versus a state with neither the capability to endanger the future of the Russian state nor one backed indirectly by nuclear allies.

As Trump currently holds issue ownership of key issues in the swing states that decide American presidential elections, it becomes increasingly more likely that Europe will stand alone against Russia in 306 days. Europe will then be challenged by autocracies across the Atlantic and the eastern flank of Europe. This may seem grim and condemn Europeans to fatalism. Quite the contrary, this uncertainty must be seized as the opportunity to build up a European arms industry to deal a decisive defeat to Russia while also decoupling Europe's military dependency on the United States. All Europe requires is the will to be a sovereign continent that shakes off the shackles of unfounded fear. If anything, Europe must intrinsically pursue its renewed sovereignty to be an independent political force, regardless of the type of future the United States votes for. A key role herein lies in waiting for France and the United Kingdom as the only states with large arms manufacturing and the nuclear arsenal to create a new nuclear umbrella for Europe. As for the Germans, best to first figure out why you should not hold secret meetings on public WiFi.

## Name five female scientists, go! Katharina Graf

'Mendelian inheritance', 'Watson-Crick model', 'Engel curve', 'Downs' paradox': so many discoveries, so many phenomena – named after men. For sure – great scientific work deserves acknowledgment. But among all these male names, female names seem to disappear. Not even because women are just not being mentioned. Even worse: a great amount of work, originally belonging to women, was named after men, reaping the women's recognition and reputation.

For centuries, women in research and science had to face obstacles: being oppressed by male colleagues, not being taken serious for their work, being banned from education or excluded from the canon. Nonetheless, throughout history, brave and strong women defeated those obstacles, let nothing hinder their passion and contributed to scientific development. However, most people cannot even name five female scientists – a sad and serious matter of fact.

### Discouraged to enter science

One woman who was snubbed from receiving recognition was Esther Lederberg (1922 – 2006). She was a microbiologist and a major pioneer of bacterial genetics. Already in high school, Lederberg was advised not to study biochemistry since her teachers did not believe women could make a career in science. Nonetheless, she pursued a doctorate degree at the University of Wisconsin. After struggling to get a permanent academic position, Lederberg was hired as a professor at the University of Wisconsin. Here, she often collaborated with her husband Joshua Lederberg.

It was Esther who discovered the lambda phage, a bacterial virus. This discovery was central to understanding gene regulation and genetic recombination. However, her husband was the one winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the work on genetic recombination in bacteria. Esther Lederberg, whose contribution was integral to this work, was not included.

### Knowingly taking ideas

Let's now look at another department of science: philosophy. In this branch, the disregard of women might be even worse. We can all name a bunch of philosophers: Aristotle, Plato, Kant, Freud, Mill. But how many female philosophers can you name? Probably not many. Not because there weren't many female philosophers, but because they were and still are being ignored and excluded from the philosophical canon.



An example is E. E. Constance Jones. Jones (1848 – 1922) was an English philosopher and logician. Her most famous work is the New Law of Thought – the law of significant assertion – which was a subsequent work in philosophical logic. Furthermore, she was the first woman that presented a paper at the Cambridge University Moral Sciences Club. However, although Jones was a contemporary of famous analytical philosophers G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell, her name and work is not publicly known and accounted. Even worse, Russell admitted he 'took' important ideas from Jones.

### Don't look down

Esther Lederberg and E. E. Constance Jones are only two examples of women whose work was ignored, or recognition reaped by men. And there are numerous more who significantly contributed to science and deserve more recognition and reward: astronomers Janet Taylor and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, mathematicians Katherine Johnson and Grace Hopper, and so on and so forth. Even while facing those obstacles, all these women stuck to their passion, did research, drew scientific conclusions and made discoveries. No matter what challenges they had to face, how many battles they had to win. All this contributed to our scientific and technological development.

Women in science are necessary and important. That is why every girl and every woman should feel encouraged to study science, go into a field of research and contribute to scientific development. It is in the hands of all of us to create a better, more equal world. Just remember what Stephen Hawking said: "So remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. Shape the future."



## A bit of something good

### Carolina Torrinha

It doesn't come as a surprise that these days, when we open a digital newspaper, we are confronted with generally more bad news than good ones. Rather than trying to understand what this trend means for the world, I'm focusing on trying to provide a different trend. Bad news can affect us in two different ways: either they motivate us to action, or, perhaps when they come in excess, they do exactly the opposite and leave us with a feeling of discouragement. Precisely to prevent the latter from happening, it's important to keep in mind some of the good things happening around the world. The take away from this introduction is not supposed to be a moral statement about our world, as in "the good should outweigh the bad", or something along those lines. It's rather supposed to show what the purpose of this article is: a reminder of why, in the face of bad news, we strive to make a difference.

**First**, let's begin with environmental news, as nothing fosters hope quite like the possibility of a future. On the 27th of February, the European parliament approved the Nature Restoration Law, a groundbreaking law that seeks to reverse biodiversity loss in the EU. The law establishes a goal for the EU to restore at least 20% of its land and sea areas by 2030, with an additional commitment to restore all ecosystems in need by 2050. With over 80% of the EU's habitats in poor condition, the law comes at a time of most need, with the aim to restore degraded habitats throughout all Member States. The next step is for the European Council to approve so it can enter into force. On the same lines, despite being able to be deemed a lesser big news, but still great in hope, was Portugal's cleanest week ever. The nation of 10 million people ran entirely on renewable energy for 149 consecutive hours. In one week in November, the country produced 1102 GWh for industrial and residential use, 262 GWh more than was needed. With a mix of wind, solar and hydropower, Portugal showed the world what the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy could look like.

**Second**, in the realm of healthcare, the fight against malaria reached a historic moment this year. Every year, 600 000 people die of Malaria in Africa, and children under five make up roughly 80% of those deaths. Globally, in 2022, there were 249 million cases of malaria with the continent of Africa accounting for 94% of those cases. This year, on the 22nd of January, Cameroon kicked off the world's first vaccine program against the deadly disease. The vaccine is being rolled out throughout 42 health districts across the country's 10 regions,

both in private and public healthcare facilities. This event landmarks the ongoing fight against malaria in the continent bearing the biggest burden. Also in the realm of healthcare, more tuning on human rights, Finland has nearly eliminated homelessness. The German newspaper Der Spiegel, published an investigation into the matter on the 12th of February. It was revealed that today Finland accounts for only 3600 homeless people, going down from the 20.000 during the 80s. In addition, it was revealed that the number of people living on the streets decreased by 40% from 2019 to 2022. Such numbers are the consequence of Finland's "housing first" approach, meant to first provide people with a home and only then addressing other issues such as finding jobs, combat drugs and alcohol abuse. In recent years, more than 8000 apartments have been created for the homeless, with the country aiming to eradicate homelessness completely by 2027.

**Lastly**, on the domains of gender and social equality, on the 15th of February Greece became the first Orthodox Christian country to legalise same sex marriage, in what became a landmark victory for human rights in the country. In addition to supporting marriage equality, the vote also legally allowed for same sex couples to adopt children as well. The prime minister of Greece, in the midst of intense debates and weeks of diverse public reactions, stood up in parliament and advocated for the bill, defending that it would make visible people who have been invisible for too long, while providing many children with their rightful place. The occurrence of this historic event in the Christian Orthodox country that is Greece, can only highlight the priority of gender and social equality. On the same theme, another European country enters with a breakthrough. France becomes the first country in the world to guarantee abortion as a constitutional right. The constitutional amendment was sealed with hot wax on this year's International Women's day, with the president Macron stating his commitment to bring such protection to women across all Europe. By having the right to terminate pregnancy in its constitution, France celebrates a landmark, emphasizing reproductive rights and bodily autonomy as fundamental rights of the country. With this article, the main purpose was to celebrate significant breakthroughs happening throughout the world nowadays. While the main objective was to bring good news to the spotlight, it was not to overlook the importance of advocating for and paying attention to the challenging events happening also in this world, but instead to serve as a reminder of why we should take action in the face of such.

## Let's stop gatekeeping - Hidden PPE-Knowledge

Nele Faßhauer

It has been brought to my attention that some very crucial pieces of knowledge for navigating your life in PPE are in fact not public knowledge - even though they classify as pure public goods! So I will make it my objective to share this "hidden knowledge" with everybody through this channel!

**1)** Have you ever borrowed my student card? Then you might have noticed one thing: it is in a nice plastic case. I did this at the start of my first year to ensure that my card would not wear off - but what many don't know, is that you can get these cases for free! Just go down to the security desk in the basement - the stairs in the main entrance hall of the main building will lead you there. At the security desk, there is usually some intimidating guy talking to you in Dutch - just ask him nicely if you can get a card cover. But watch out - he might try to charge you 5€, even though they should be free! And please don't all go at the same time - we don't wanna exploit our precious public good.

**2)** You can rearrange your Canvas dashboard. I repeat: **You can rearrange your Canvas dashboard!** The simplest way is to do it in the app: If you click on „All courses“ at the top of your courses, you can de-star your courses - that means they will disappear from your dashboard, but still be available via the same „all courses“ button. Secondly, you can also reorder the visible courses to make your current ones be at the top - and stop you from having to scroll down in the app all the time. Just hold, drag and drop the course image - and order your dashboard to your liking. Lastly, you can also arrange the color of your dashboard courses - just click on the top three points and arrange the color as liked. An all-pink dashboard goes lengths to improve happiness and general wellbeing :) - just saying.

**3)** This is for a very niche audience - people who are doing the SBE honours programme (I don't know how it goes for other faculties), and are at the moment frantically trying to register for a faculty honours course - how do you do that again? (Because the process differs from the centralized registration for interfaculty honours courses quite substantially). The answer (once and for all, because I struggle with it every time anew) is this: Look up the course code

(eg. E\_HP1\_BC) on the website of your honours programme. Then go to the registration module, click on "all courses" instead of "proposed courses", go to "search in your study" and then insert the course code there - it should appear.

**4)** This is coming from someone who tends to ask a lot of questions in class - but if a professor ever tells you „that is an interesting question, you could explore that in your thesis“, WRITE THAT QUESTION DOWN! I am not yet in the thesis writing process, so I cannot really tell how much doing that will have helped me, but I imagine that even if you do not end up choosing that topic, it will still be nice to have a collection of interesting research questions at the end of your Bachelor journey. I keep a list on my phone's notes app, but any list making software will do!

**5)** For the first years: if you are unhappy with your track selection, you can still switch in the first week of period 1 of year 2. I must know, I switched my tracks on Tuesday of the first week. Just deregister from your course in one discipline and register for the course in the other discipline, and don't worry, the registration deadline in period 1 is at the end of the first week.

**6)** This is a bit random, but the VU has a really nice botanical garden! It is to the west of the campus, and usually open until 5 pm. You should really go check it out!

### The Student Olympic Games

...is an inter-association sport contest. A potential collaboration with the programme bridging success could expand its scope to quite a big event! Its first edition will take place in May.

Organisation :

Student associations will compete through 5 sports : basketball, football, spike ball, 3K running, and 400m relay. The participants represent their association. The podium is determined by the overall performance of students within their associations. It implies that participants compete for their association, not only for themselves.

Share the event!

We, as PPE students, will send an official challenge to every student associations willing to compete. The video will be published in April.



## ~ THE GALA ~

There are roughly two ways one can watch the sun rise in the east. Either you perceive the glittering of promises soon to be fulfilled, or you see the raging ball of fire forcing us mortals back to labor and confession. I consider myself part of the latter group and that melancholic trait of mine is especially prevalent in mornings after a **bohemian festivity**. And we tend to have a multitude of those in these PPE circles. Aren't they lovely? I mean, who does not remember that first borrel of the year, when you see all these familiar faces again and can submerge in our community that is as warm as a standing ovation by a major audience? Every borrel, party, picnic. Yes, they are fun. But there is one event each year that is the most fanciest, best, most elaborate: of course, the **KallioPPE Gala!**

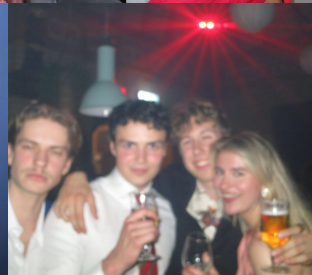
"Gala" can sound very elitary - matching the key-words of PPE: interdisciplinary, topopleiding, critical thinking, coffee machine, interdisciplinary. The word 'gala' itself is pregnant with prestige. Just picture a ball in which we're all dressed up to doll-like levels of decadence, dancing to our favorite DJs under the flickering mirror ball.

However, every now and then, it is time to be fancy. To come together in a classy setting with all your fellow PPE students from all three years. To indulge in an aura straight out of the Great Gatsby. To give a worthy goodbye to our lovely third years and graduates of 2024.

Last year we had an open bar. At some point some guest even pulled out a real life saxophone and started tooting that horn together with the DJ in some harmonious accord between heaven and earth. It was truly splendid. Other than that, though, the Gala was also a highly formative experience. **New friendships were created, old ones commemorated.** All three years merged in a world of new winds and old wealth. "I myself have many valuable memories to thank the gala for. It truly shaped my identity, helped me appreciate the PPE community and reconcile with my mother."

Everybody looks better in a suit or dress. Except for IBA students. Yet we cannot reveal yet what cool stuff the Party committee will be treating us with this time. Heck, I can't even tell you when exactly the next Gala will take place. All we know is that it will be during the days in which the sun rises as a **glittering of all promises soon to be fulfilled.**

And no matter how tightly you strap yourself to the open tap at the bar, flood your easter egg with bubbly booze, **the Gala will be a night you never forget!**





## Ode to twin souls

Renaud Chailloux



Over ten years ago, two of the most pivotal figures in modern hip hop perished. James Yancey aka J Dilla and Jun Seba aka Nujabes were both born on February 7th 1974, and their respective careers would see them become twin souls and pioneering figures of what would become known as “LoFi” hip-hop. Indeed, both figures revolutionized the use of sampling in hip hop production. Sharing passions for various genres including bossa nova and jazz, the two would develop minimalistic beats which let complex melodies and clean boom-bap rhythm sections take the helm of their production styles. J Dilla would especially become known for his use of vox-sampling and complex rhythmic arrangements. Similarly, Nujabes would be renowned for his crate digger sampling which he would complement with sublime jazz compositions and a soft bass. Additionally, the two would collaborate with a star studded cast of rappers and producers ranging from Madlib and Common to Shing02 and Cise Starr. Ultimately, the two would perish prematurely from a blood condition in 2006 and car accident in 2010 respectively. Despite never meeting, the coincidences and style similarities among the two leave them forever associated in greatness. Their legacy persists to this day through their fans and the ever-growing popularity of the LoFi hip-hop genre which captivates hard-working students and easygoing vacationers alike. To keep their legacy alive I invite you to listen to this playlist dubbed “MPC”, an allusion to their musical production tool of choice the AKAI MPC, which includes many of their tracks among those of other artists. I also highly encourage you to check out the albums “The Shining” by J Dilla and “Modal Soul” by Nujabes :)

You can click the link, use the camera in your spotify app or scan the qr-code to access it!



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2UiUTcCvdLoHG0wkYhL28d?si=fe801caed79d4490>

*Raise your eyes!*

*Right in front of your toes,  
You merely saw a joo-joo mirror,  
There have you dreamt,  
You imagined a dazzling beauty  
But she blinded you  
For you saw the reflection  
Of your childish thoughts*

*Raise your eyes!*

*Stare at the Horizon,  
Where the skies meet Earth,  
There the World is naked,  
And maybe one day,  
You'll discover its secrets!*

*Amaury*



## The 10 music albums that have changed my life

**Dr. Roland Iwan Lutzens**

Music is often called the soundtrack of our lives, a phrase that certainly holds true for me. Imagining life without music is simply impossible. Therefore, the ten albums I have chosen are not just collections of songs: they are friends that have brought comfort, inspiration and happiness at different stages in my life.

### 1. Queen: *Innuendo* (1991) [Link](#)

This was the first album I ever bought, in the year it was released, I was twelve years old. It is marking Queen's last studio album before Freddie Mercury's untimely death from aids one year later. The title track *Innuendo* is a masterpiece of musical complexity, a *Bohemian Rhapsody* 2.0 if you will, featuring an impressive flamenco guitar solo in the middle. Equally impactful is the video for *These Are the Days of Our Lives*, where a frail Mercury delivers a heartbreaking goodbye to his fans. Watching him in that video remains a challenging experience for me, as it evokes a deep sense of farewell from such an iconic artist.

### 2. Pink Floyd: *The Wall* (1979) [Link](#)

My parents bought me an acoustic guitar for my 14th or 15th birthday, really a pivotal moment in my life! I was obsessed by David Gilmour's guitar solos at the time. While *Wish You Were Here* (1975) remains my favorite Pink Floyd album, listen to the epic soundscapes in *Shine On You Crazy Diamond* for example, it is the concept album *The Wall* (1979) that makes it to this list. This double album captivated me entirely, compelling me to learn the guitar just so I could play along with hauntingly beautiful songs like *Goodbye Blue Sky*, *Hey You* and the short instrumental *Is There Anybody Out There?* Now, thirty years later, that is precisely what I continue to do!

### 3. Radiohead: *The Bends* (1995) [Link](#)

The final years of high school are synonymous with unforgettable summer festival memories for me. One of the standout moments was at Rock Werchter 1996, Belgium's biggest music festival, featuring headliners like Neil Young, Björk and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. However, it was Radiohead, fresh off the release of their second album *The*

*Bends* (1995), who left a permanent mark on me. They stopped playing *Creep* after 30 seconds, as they were utterly bored by the song that brought them instant success. They played a mesmerizing version of *Street Spirit* instead. I have tremendous respect how Radiohead has evolved over three decades and nine albums, each time reinventing themselves. Watch the videoclip of *Daydreaming* from their latest album *A Moon shaped Pool* (2016), directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, to experience how they have come full circle. Jonny Greenwood is my favorite guitar player and Radiohead will forever be the band of my life.

### 4. Pergolesi: *Stabat Mater* (Hennig, Jacobs, Concerto Vocale, Harmonia Mundi (1996)) [Link](#)

I cannot turn to my adult life before paying tribute to the fact that I grew up in a household where music was playing all the time, classical music to be precise! So rest assured that I took in a healthy dose of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert sonatas and Tchaikovski, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev and Shostakovich concertos. But for this list, I selected Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, a work of sublime beauty. This particular recording by the Belgian baroque ensemble Concerto Vocale is noteworthy for its use of a boy soprano, a choice that offers a distinct interpretation compared to the more common performances with female sopranos.

### 5. My Morning Jacket: *The Tennessee Fire* (1999) [Link](#)

There is something special about debut albums, especially when you discover them just as they are released, capturing a band in their raw and still uncommercialized state. While I have enjoyed albums like Coldplay's *Parachutes* (2000) and Yeasayer's *All Hour Cymbals* (2007), it is My Morning Jacket's *The Tennessee Fire* (1999) that stands out as my favorite debut. A pure taste of Nashville vibe Americana indie rock, distilled to its very essence. Check out songs like *The Bear*, *War Begun* or the evocatively titled *I Will Be There When You Die*. On one of their later albums, *Z* (2005), My Morning Jacket is also responsible for the absolute masterpiece called *Dondante*. Must listen!



## 6. TV on the Radio: Return To Cookie Mountain (2006) [Link](#)

When considering bands I wish were still recording or maintained their original lineup, I am facing a hard choice between Midlake, before vocalist Tim Smith left the band in 2012 (The Courage of Others (2010) is my favorite Midlake album) and TV on the Radio, currently on indefinite hiatus, after bassist Gerard Smith passed away in 2011. Today, I will go for the latter. If you have only time to listen to one song, then the energy and creativity of *Wolf Like Me* is the essential listen.

## 7. Wilco: Yankee Hotel Foxtrot (2002) [Link](#)

Some albums stand out, not just for their musicality but for the stories they tell and the circumstances surrounding their creation. I was moved by Sufjan Stevens' *Carrie & Lowell* (2015), a personal exploration of grief and forgiveness, delving into the complexities of his relationship with his mother and the pain of her passing. Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* (2002) also represents more than just a collection of songs. It is an album that nearly did not see the light of day, fraught with recording challenges and initially rejected by multiple record labels for being deemed too avant-garde. *Radio Cure* and *Poor Places* are my favorite tracks, showcasing the album's introspective nature and experimental sound.

## 8. Gillian Welch: Time (The Revelator) (2001) [Link](#)

Female artists, you ask? Of course, but no mainstream pop icons. Actually, I find myself torn again. I wanted to choose for Beth Gibbons and her band Portishead, whose sparse discography (3 albums only!) includes gems like *The Rip* from their album *Third* (2008). However, it is American folk singer-songwriter Gillian Welch who ultimately makes it to the list, particularly because of her album *Time (The Revelator)* (2001). The album is a journey through American folklore, history and personal introspection. Welch and her husband guitarist Dave Rawlings have the ability to weave storytelling with exceptional musicianship. The best example is opening track *Revelator*. Listen to the lyrics in combination with the acoustic guitar solos. I have often tried my hand at playing them but have failed each time.

## 9. South San Gabriel: Welcome, Convalescence (2003) [Link](#)

In exploring vastly overlooked talents, I want to recall Jason Molina, who used to perform under the name Songs: Ohia. Molina suffered from alcoholism for years and died from organ failure at the age of 39 in 2013. Songs like *The Black Crow* and *Lioness* are not easy listens, yet emotionally deeply rewarding experiences. But I am going to use this opportunity to bring Will Johnson, a friend of Molina, to your attention. Johnson has been involved in multiple musical projects, but I like his work with South San Gabriel the most. Debut album *Welcome, Convalescence* (2003) contains gems like *New Brookland*, *Smelling Medicinal* and *The Splinter Angelic*, the last of which features another remarkable (distorted) guitar solo. Follow-up album *The Carlton Chronicles* (2005) is also highly recommended. With just 2644 monthly listeners on Spotify, South San Gabriel is truly underappreciated. What a shame!

## 10. Beirut: The Flying Club Cup (2007) [Link](#)

Listening to music is often a solitary experience, but since my children have become teenagers, I have come to realize that you can also listen to music together. It makes me happy to see my sons explore my playlists and learn to appreciate the music I am so fond of myself. On Friday evenings, after a busy week, we often unwind with albums like *The National's Boxer* (2007) or *Bon Iver's For Emma, Forever Ago* (2008). But I want to finish the list with Zach Condon, an artist who once said in an interview that he hates guitars! Trumpets and horns is what you get in return when listening to his band Beirut. We like to play *Gulag Orkestar* (2006) and *The Flying Club Cup* (2007) during car rides to France or Italy for summer vacation. Instant holiday feelings!

**\*Afterword:** Compiling the selections for this article proved much more challenging than anticipated. In focusing on the top ten, I regret not mentioning bands like *Arcade Fire*, *Alt-J*, *The Decemberists*, *Fleet Foxes* or *Queens of the Stone Age*. Additionally, I realize I have completely overlooked some of my favorite Belgian artists, such as *Balthazar*, *Zita Swoon*, *Whispering Sons* and *Stromae*. So I would like to leave you with one final recommendation: check out *Habibi* and *Indigo Night* of Belgium's rising star Tamino's album *Amir* (2018).





## The difference you can make

**Sofia Martino**

In our modern world, the word “freedom” is being used over and over. We discuss it, feeling protected by the walls of this institution, in which we consider our commitment to truth and intellectual elitism as a guarantee of intellectual freedom. But now, more and more, this assumption is challenged. Around the world, voices are actively being silenced. When it comes to freedom of speech this tendency becomes an assumption. The West assumes it is simply a fact, something our society has achieved. We compare ourselves to repressive systems, such as Russia, praising the freedom of our media and our own. Convinced that freedom is something we cannot lose.

**The occasion:** On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, following a sit-in for Palestine, the REC buildings of the UvA (University of Amsterdam) were shut down. The University claimed that for safety reasons, the peaceful protest organized by many student movements was to be stopped. To do so, entrance to the building was forbidden. More recently, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, another un-announced protest by the SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) was shut down in the VU. The students protesting peacefully were asked to leave the main entrance of the Main Building, so they headed to the cafeteria. After trying to get back to their initial position, the police was called and the protestants were given their first warning to leave the building. During the protest, the students were filmed by one of the policemen. This is not the first threat that the VU is posing to activists, and freedom of speech in general. Already on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 a “teach-in” regarding Gaza, which included a variety of speakers such as Yolande Jansen (VU professor of Humanism in Relation to Religion and Secularity) and Sara Rachdan was moved out of campus. The explanation that the Executive Board gave regarded safety and lack of space for activism within the university. Whilst the first claim is arguably more understandable, given the recent escalation of violence between the police and activists at the opening of the National Holocaust Museum on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, which, nevertheless occurred before the restriction imposed to an academic event, the commitments of the institution to leave activism out of the university is more concerning when it comes to freedom.

Universities historically have been the centres of social movements, from the movements of the 68’ till nowadays. The reason for this is quite straightforward - education and social change go hand in hand.

However, our Executive Board expects us to discuss the world in order to “share knowledge” without taking stands or action within the university. Moreover, they do not adhere to the same standards, by cooperating with

Horizon 2020, a European program that, among other institutions, funds Elbit System manufacturers, the major Israeli arms company (Ruiz, 2023). Excluding the Institution from the political panorama results inevitable, for the nature of universities themselves and from the ways universities interact in the political panorama.

It is possible also to ask the same question from a theoretical perspective only: is it possible to claim “academic freedom” when peaceful activism is actively repressed? According to the VU guidelines of conduct, “VU Amsterdam is a committed, open and inclusive educational environment where teaching staff, academics, PhD candidates and students meet to collectively formulate and reflect on all kinds of issues. We provide a place for an open and constructive dialogue in which ideas and groundbreaking concepts can be freely exchanged. With this in mind, we engage in open discussions and offer constructive criticism.” (Code of Conduct VU Amsterdam - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, n.d.). Isn’t peaceful activism yet another non-threatening form of expression of beliefs? Isn’t that the case also for a teach-in?

This is just an instance of our local example, but freedom of speech is being threatened in many different ways all across Europe. In Spain, Extinction Rebellion was listed under the report of the public prosecutor’s office as “international terrorism” in 2022. In Italy, Germany and the UK new legislations have been passed to forbid peaceful protests, in order to suppress “eco-vandalism”.

**The title:** I started this with “The difference you can make”. However, by now these raw facts probably generate a sense of powerlessness or disillusion. And yet, I urge you to ask yourself: How powerful must our voice be, if institutions are trying to silence them? What are they afraid of, not to let us speak? History is full of individuals that changed the world. The way Greta Thunberg or Rosa Parks mobilized millions by something as simple as striking are glorified examples of what one person can do. But here’s the deal: they couldn’t have done it alone. The first step is the hardest, but for the causes we have at heart, steps have been taken. Now it is time to join. It is time to take a stand for what we believe in. This is not a call for action for any specific issue but a way to show that when voices are being silenced it is time to speak louder. This is a way to show that you are involved and that change is happening in front of your eyes; a way to urge you to use the left freedom to speak louder and clearer. Ok, but how?

**Get informed:** The very first step is understanding what to stand for. To do so, we have multiple ways. Social media are not always reliable, but they can be a good way to scan through the news and select what to learn more of.



# Think about



Ad Valvas provides up-to-date information about to know more about what occurs on campus. Moreover, the PPE library provides many reliable sources to understand the world better. And - of course - the Paper Mill ;). In the ocean of news we are drowned in every day it is easy to get lost. It is impossible to be constantly up to date about every topic, but it is worth trying to grasp at least some of them. Small steps are better than none.

**Speak:** If you want to change something: speak. Speak to your peers, spread information, organise movements, join. Spread information you learn through all the means you have: social media, posters, stickers. Now that our freedom is being threatened, is the moment when our voices are most powerful. Every information we exchange is a small step closer to the goals we want to achieve.

**Participate:** The student community in Amsterdam is lively and active. There are many ways you can get involved: from joining the student politics in the FSR (Faculty Student Council Humanities), to joining social movements within the school (such as Amnesty International Students of Amsterdam), or outside school. This article is meant to show that even with just one hour of your time (the SJP protest lasted from 12:30 to 13:30) there is already something that could be done. Not everyone has time or energy to organise such events, but the organisation is already there for most

causes, one thing students can somewhat easily do is to show up. A march is just a walk at a set time. The more students, the less burden on each one of us.

**Vote:** Especially European citizens have the possibility now to vote in Amsterdam for the European Parliament. Registrations are open till the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and the elections will occur on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Care:** I acknowledge that the issues we are facing can be overwhelming. Some media have labelled Gen Z as "lazy" for the shields we brought up to avoid the emotional impact that the issues of the world have. That's why, I conclude this list of possible differences that you can make with the most important one: caring. Caring for each other in the community we are, inside and outside campus, can be the most revolutionary act that each of us can do. The world outside is scary, and yet, considering us as exceptions or not involved is denying a truth that stands in front of us. None of us can single-handedly solve the problems we are faced with, but together we can, by caring about them and caring for one another. That's why, with the care our community brought about, most of us are already making a difference.

## Why German is a beautiful language

**Katharina Graf**

When I first came to the Netherlands, starting an international study program, I was not happily surprised how many German speakers I met. One of the reasons I came here was to improve my English skills. And to hear more of other languages. I always said: Spanish sounds so passionate, Italian so smooth and French just like music – German instead is just harsh! Even in comparison to English, which pronunciation is quite smooth, German sometimes feels like cutting words.

But the last time I went back to Germany, I realized how much I missed the German language: Maybe the pronunciation is not the most beautiful. But the German language does have its own beauty.

Firstly, German is the language with the richest active vocabular. While in English a vocabular of around in 400 words is totally enough for communication, advanced and native German speakers can express themselves with around 1400 words.

Furthermore, although there are only around 500.000 basic words in German, the language disposes of numerous word combinations which increase the number of German words up to 17,4 million words. And to be honest, aren't "Sandkastenfreund" (a friend you had since kindergarden), "Rabenmutter" (a mother that doesn't care enough about her children) or "Schiffahrtsführer" (the driver of a ferry) beautiful words? I think you can't argue against that ;). But most importantly, what I miss the most, and what makes the

German language so beautiful, are all those random sayings we apply in our all-day life: I miss saying...

- "Da wird der Hund in der Pfanne verrückt!" translated to "There the dog in the pan goes crazy", which you say when you are very surprised about something.

- Or "Ich habe einen Frosch im Hals", respectively "I have a frog in the throat", which you say, when your voice is cracking.

- What about "Hier siehts aus wie bei Hempels unterm Sofa!", meaning "It looks like at Hempel's under the couch!" – just to express something is very untidy.

And even better: "Hast du Tomaten auf den Augen?", respectively "Do you have tomatoes on your eyes?", meaning that someone does not realize what is happening around them.

In my opinion, all those sayings are wonderful and show that the German language can be nice and funny. Thus, I endeavor to implement those sayings in the PPE vocabulary and hope to hear those sayings more often on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor ;)

But of course, if your native language has similar or funnier sayings, please introduce them to us! Maybe we will have a "best of sayings"-page in the next edition...

So now, as you would say in German "Tschüssikowski", "Tschüss mit üss" or "Ciao, Kakao!"





## Will you be happy owning nothing?

**Kacper Kaznowski**

Product-as-a-Service (PaaS) is a subscription-based business model popularised by circular economists searching for ecological improvements and startups looking for easy money. It involves selling access to a product rather than the product itself. The dream is big. In her famous 2016 article for the World Economic Forum, the Danish politician Ida Auken envisioned a collectivist society from the year 2030, where shared homes and appliances enable incredible efficiency. Are you in need of a mixer? Then rent it for half an hour and give it to someone else afterwards. Are you leaving your room? Just in time for the business meeting that will take place there while you are away. PaaS is supposed to make you never have to worry about choosing the right thing and maintaining it, together with saving the environment along the way. On top of that, shared ownership would mean that the goods had to be robust and fixable. Sounds great, right?

It does. Yet, despite its appeal, the story is clearly a utopian ideal. In reality, the model has been implemented with varying levels of success. Even in places where it works, it is dubious whether it meets any of its aforementioned promises. Let us take a look at the industries most relevant to the issue to see if they can deliver what is expected of them and if society is interested at all.

One industry where shared ownership would provide numerous benefits is the clothing industry, a huge contributor to our consumerist lifestyle. There are numerous functioning wedding dress rentals and tuxedo rentals. It really makes no sense to splurge on owning an article of clothing you're only going to wear once. To take the concept further, it is worth looking at American Le Tote and Danish Viggo. The former rents regular women's clothing, and the latter rents baby clothing. Their success would mean that PaaS is accepted as an everyday solution, not just something you do for your wedding. However, one more thing they have in common, other than the industry, is that they have both been out of business for long. This sad realisation brings us to the problems with the concept. People like ownership. Calling an object your own feels somewhat grounding. To name another advantage, it gives a feeling of security. A tenant is much more vulnerable to changes in income than a homeowner because if they do not manage to pay their rent, they might end up

homeless. Imagine extrapolating this logic to everything you currently own. The moment you cannot pay all your subscriptions, your clothes, your vehicles, and your house appliances are taken away from you. This creates a rather dystopian image, which is probably the reason why Auken's article says that in her perfect future world, 'one by one, all these things became free'. Another argument against 'the switch' is purely financial. In the long run, you're often better-off simply buying the product you want. This holds especially true for things you intend to use continuously. At the beginning of this academic year, I bought a second-hand bike for 80 euros, while my roommate rented a Swapfiets for around 15 euros a month. At the end of the year, I will already have spent less money than him while still owning a bike I can sell. Rent The Runway, a designer clothing rental, costs \$144 a month for their recommended plan. If you intend to wear a piece of clothing multiple times, as you always should, you are better-off buying it from the designer.

Not all is bad! An industry that's great for the environment and whose financial advantages are hardly disputed is car rental. In the Netherlands, we are privileged with access to reliable public transit. This makes limiting car use to rentals and Ubers a no-brainer for many. The production of cars requires a lot of resources, and their storage requires a lot of space, which is why sharing them is so beneficial. Despite all this, car ownership rates in the Netherlands are surprisingly high. There are 481 passenger cars per 1000 people, compared to the EU average of 505. There is no possibility that all these cars are necessary. Owning them is not financially sensible, either. (I recommend a great in-depth video on YouTube by TechAltar, which explains just how costly owning a car is.) Well, there is no way around it – we fetishize ownership itself. By now, property rights are deeply embedded in our cultural and legal systems. Following this property-focused nurture, we assume buying to be the default state.

It seems that the PaaS business model has too many limitations to replace plain old ownership by 2030. The biggest obstacle is that people are not big fans of the idea. How can this be overcome? Even though saying this after HoP and Plumwood feels like a crime, I believe that approaching the topic in a less emotional and more rational way is a good starting point.



## Reflections on Privilege and Expatriation:

*Growing Up in Bali and Confronting Modern Colonialism* **Inca Hearn**

At the age of 4 I moved to Bali, an island in Indonesia. For 14 years, I ran through rice fields, swam in the ocean and lived a life of ease. The Balinese people, forever the most lovely, accommodating people you would ever meet, treated me with utmost respect – to many, I was *kakak*, meaning older sibling, a sign of great respect given the age-based hierarchy that exists in many South-east Asian countries. I ate at restaurants daily, with a complete meal costing no more than €6, stayed in villas across the island, and attended nightclubs with my friends. In the cold of the Netherlands, I can't help but miss it.

However, in the coming years, I have felt extremely conflicted regarding my privileged upbringing. On the one hand, I am extremely grateful. My parents left their jobs during the 2008 financial crisis and moved their three children across the world to a country that they had never stepped foot in. I am forever thankful to have not grown up in the winds and cold of the UK - and reasonably so. However, since leaving Indonesia, I have begun to wonder whether I owe the privileges of my life to colonisation, and whether the "expat" culture, one so prevalent in South-east Asian countries, resembles a twisted form of modern colonialism. Let me explain.

When I was 17, I read the Shock Doctrine, a book by Naomi Klein. In the book she details a series of events that took place in Indonesia after the 100-year long Dutch colonial rule. In 1967, the first Indonesian President, Sukarno, was overthrown and placed on house arrest. Sukarno had enraged many Western countries in his establishment of protectionism policy, no longer allowing them to continue to steal Indonesia's natural resources, as they had done for so many years. In response to this, the CIA funded Suharto, a Military General, and his coup of President Sukarno, and thus began Suharto's 32-year long dictatorship. At the same time, the Ford Foundation, founded by Henry Ford, had funded scholarships for a group of Indonesian economic students to attend the carefully chosen University of California at Berkeley, a university then known for their promotion of Milton Friedman-style economics. After their studies, they returned to aid Suharto in completely transforming the economic state of Indonesia. In contrast to Sukarno's policies, they removed all forms of wealth redistribution and protectionism, instead promoting a firm free-market doctrine, as taught to them by their American professors. Within the next two years, foreign companies owned 100 percent of Indonesian resources, as a result of Suharto's policies. President Nixon later described this to be "the greatest prize in the Southeast Asian area". Indonesia's resources were once again vulnerable to the capitalist powers of the West.

With this, it is plain to see how colonialism has continued to exist well beyond its tangible, historical existence. The American corruption of Indonesian politics allowed foreigners to easily access lush resources: land, oil, coffee, nickel and more. With each corrupt president, policies regarding imports, foreign ownership and protectionism have moved further and further right, something that can be accredited to the historical influence of right-wing American ideology in Indonesian university education. The middle-class of Indonesia is growing smaller each year, and foreigners are moving to Bali in increasingly larger amounts, looking to exploit the benefits that their high purchasing power currency has against the weaker economy.

In a recent lecture, one of our professors described Bali as "one of those places that you white people go to." In the coming years, Bali has become a travel hotspot, facing increasing water scarcity, pollution and overcrowding. It is impossible to scroll through social media without seeing hundreds of videos proclaiming Bali to be the "new Ibiza", bragging about how cheap their holiday was. The beaches were temples and *warungs* once stood have now been replaced by beach clubs and hotels, none of which are accessible to the Balinese people to which the land once belonged to. This is the unfortunate result of the aforementioned historical events that have led to the current collapse of Balinese culture, nature and tradition. Instead, it has seemingly been replaced with a pseudo-Ibiza-Dubai culture in which foreigners flaunt their wealth against the backdrop of someone else's home. And whilst I can sit on my high-horse and shake my head at tourists, expats and other foreigners, I have to acknowledge the ways in which I have contributed to this culture. Like many amongst the expat community in Bali, I too have benefitted from my parents buying land, creating businesses, and supporting a culture of mass development of villas, nightclubs, beach clubs, and cafes in Bali. I ate at these cafes for lunch, attended these nightclubs and stayed in these villas.

I benefited from the privilege that came with moving to a country once colonised by people who looked like me, whether that be from the respect automatically given to me by Indonesian people, from the power my foreign currency had in a less developed country, or from the occupation of Western culture that is slowly replacing the native one. It is a system I disagree with, yet benefit from and contribute to, based on my existence on that island.







## The Masanian Ramadan: A fusion of cultures

Tayyibah Budullah

My dad will never let me forget the word Masani. It's a cute little name I gave myself when I was younger and living in Lagos, Nigeria. It meant Ma for Mauritian, Sa for South African and Ni for Nigerian. I came up with the word to describe myself as a half Mauritian, half South African who had grew up in Lagos. Over the years, our Ramadan has become a fusion of so many cultures and, to bring back my awesome naming skills, it created my Masanian Ramadan traditions.

My vague statement of "so many cultures", may not be enough to rile your interest so I want to introduce to you the specifics. In one corner we have my mother's side, Cape Malay and South African Afrikaans culture. On the other side we have my father's Indian Mauritian traditions. Adding more to the pot of cultures, growing up in Lagos, Nigeria, our closest family friends were the Kodami's, a Lebanese family, whose cuisine we were wonderfully immersed in and whom we spent many Ramadans with.

I often felt growing up that Ramadan was such a beautiful time of the year, I use to wait excitedly and I grew fond of all the traditions in store during that time. When I was little, although it was not obligatory for me to fast, I used to beg my mom to let me because I loved Ramadan so much. To understand my traditions, we need to understand what values they hold as part of the meaning of Ramadan. Fasting is about the break from eating, renewal of spirituality and faith and it goes with the cleansing, healing and detoxifying of the body as we fast. Sehri is the meal we eat before Fajr, which the time when the sun starts rising or more poetically when first light of the sun touches the sky. Then we do not eat or drink until Maghrib, which is when the sun has set, and we have the meal known as Iftaar. However, Ramadan is not just about fasting, it's about your faith, the less fortunate, moral strength, charity, forgiveness, kindness and more. Outside of food Muslims are meant to give Sadaqat, which means charity, throughout the month. There is a heavy emphasis during this month to bring awareness in your life to how fortunate you are and the blessings you have. It is a reminder to always share to those who are not as fortunate as you and to always be grateful as we can easily let it slip past our minds. Eid al-Fitr commemorates the end of Ramadan and had its own traditions but perhaps that is a story for another article.

To best explain my Ramadan traditions, let's go through the whole sequence of the day and night. Firstly, for Sehri, Muslims traditionally eat dates as it is recommended in the Qur'an. Sehri in Mauritius can include eating leftovers from the following night, roti with butter and sugar, which my cousins and I would eat at our grandparents' house, and maybe a warm cup of vanilla tea, which Mauritius is famously known for. In South Africa, you usually have yogurt, eggs or wheat cereal. Sehri is a meal that I believe changes as you grow and you find what fits you best.

During the day in my house, although it differs in each family, our way of immersing ourselves in Ramadan included no electronics and instead it was time where we work on our way life. We work on balancing our lifestyle and taking the time to nourish the soul, to be mindful and conscious.

I think the Masanian traditions really come into play during Iftaar. Traditionally, Muslims all around the world break their fast with dates. No matter whose house we were in and what country, the hours before Iftaar is a time buzzing with energy as everyone helps in the kitchen prepping for Iftaar. In my house, this included Sami Yusuf, a famous Islamic singer, in the background as we cooked and made the table. Playing Islamic music and recitations came from my mom's own childhood memories. Ramadan in general has a big emphasis on sharing, inviting people over, caring for the community and strengthening family ties, which also a big part of Islam. The more people at the table, the more blessings there are.

Our typical family Iftaar, was to have soup, salad, fruits, sometimes a main course, and always something sweet for later. My mom would say we always crave something sweet and something salty after a day of fasting. The soups differed between South African style chicken soup, Mauritian Haleem which is a lentils soup, or my mom's own vegetable soup. The salads were influenced by the Kodami's so they are usually Lebanese like tabouleh or fattoush. At least two nights in Ramadan my grandparents on my dad's side invited their children and their family, the ones who were in Mauritius at the time, for a big family Iftaar.

This included my Dadi (Mauritian word for grandmother) making an assorted of fried goods such as baja, samousa, dipain frire, gato arouille, champ, catless, chanapuri (refer to the photo). A very Mauritian Iftaar tradition is making alouda, a drink with rose water, rose essence, almond essence, and milk. In my house, my mom used to make her own version which included strawberry syrup, vanilla ice cream, fresh strawberries, and thinly sliced almonds. One of our biggest Cape Malay traditions in our family is Boeber night, the 15th night in Ramadan, where we make a pudding called boeber. Boeber is a Cape Malay version of South African pudding, it is a creamy and delicious milky dessert flavored with browned butter, cinnamon and cardamom.

Nights in Ramadan in our family also differed throughout the years. In Lagos, as children we had an early night after praying with the family. In both South Africa and Mauritius, you go to the mosque later in the night for Taraweeh (special prayers). A fun fact is that my brother and I, as children in Lagos, use to make a fort of blankets and pillows during the night and our parents had to come wake us for Sehri from our fort. In general, we try to have an early night to repeat the day and its traditions again.

I continue my Masanian traditions here in Amsterdam, at least I attempt to since I'm trying be as good as a cook as my mom, and share Iftaar with my friends from PPE.



# Thank you!

THE PPE NEWSPAPER

## THANKS!

Thank you very much for all contributions to this edition of the Paper Mill. A special thank you to all the submissions from all PPE-students outside of the Paper Mill Team. I am very happy to see that this newspaper is actually from all of us, to all of us! Everyone is very welcome to write their own article, opinion piece or comment - share your knowledge, share your opinion! And for now: Good luck with your Exams, enjoy Ramadan and Easter, and have a wonderful spring :)  
Best, Katharina

## DON'T MISS OUT!

A few of KallioPPE's upcoming events to get excited for!

- Date tba Volleyball Tournament (with PPLE)
- 11.-12.5. Model United Nations
- 14.05. Humanities Career Night
- Date tba THE GALA (see page 7)
- Date tba PPE / PPLE Debate Cup
- Date tba Study Programme Olympics
- Date tba End of the year Barbecue

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