

# BAISMAG



ISSUE 19

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## THE RADICAL ISSUE

## DEAR READERS,

Here is the vision I have for BAISMAG and the people that write on it: a platform that can spread the visions, concepts and innovations that you, BA International Studies students, have.

This course holds a bright team of elite students, each with an unbounded devotion and understanding, each trained in tackling the world with inquisitive and critical minds. Keeping this intellect confidential and limited is not acceptable.

Are you distressed by governmental apathy? Good, then pick up the pen and start writing.

Are you dismayed by gender inequality? Good, then pick up the pen and start writing.

Are you struggling through student life, staying up each night to finish those assignments, and then attend each party you can? Good. Then pick up the pen and start writing.

Because this platform will sustain and spread the unique and best views of the elite students we are. Take your stress, your anxiety, your anger and carve it on to that paper. You be ferocious, you be relentless, you be inexorable, for what you write - only you can write.

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# RADICALISM

by Kirill Climin

Today the word "radicalism" is on the lips of many people, especially within the realm of European territory. Terror attacks, rise of right-wing sentiments and other "features" of today's agitated world have contributed to the unwinding of informational flywheel, aimed at occupying not only our hearts and souls, but also our ways of thinking.

If one were to check an online dictionary for the scholarly definition of radicalism, this is what will be displayed: the opinions and behaviour of people who favour extreme changes especially in government: radical political ideas and behaviour (courtesy of Merriam-Webster). As you have noticed, the definition makes an accent on the political aspect of the definition, which, as I view it, is a generally accepted truth among the populace.

However, as we look at the tendencies of today's social situation, the word "radicalism" has been used in a variety of different contexts, especially when it comes to today's dilemma of massive migration into Europe. What once used to be a term applicable only to terrorist organisations or certain political movements, now is a "politically correct" term to describe (not always, though) nonconformity.

To a general society (and myself, to an extent), the term "radicalism" has always been subconsciously associated with people, who are able to undertake the extreme (and under "extreme" I mean involving violence most of the time) in order to change the well-established status quo.

Nowadays, however, the same term has become the instrument of political pressure and manipulation of societal consciousness. For instance, if a certain group, affiliated with or at least shares common views with the ruling political party, swarms the street and inflicts violence or shows an aggressive behaviour, then these people will be branded with rather mild terminology (e.g: protesters or hooligans). On the other hand, once the opposition to the current status quo is active on the streets, sponsored or controlled media will be more than willing to call them "radicals" (the terms "Nazis" and "fascists" are also being used interchangeably and belong to this discourse).

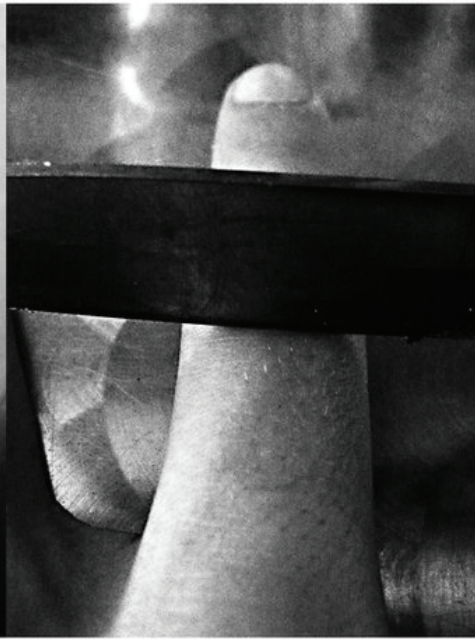
Another obvious example would be football fans (this is a separate cast of people, certain members of which tend to resort to violence slightly more than others). However, even in this case the word "radical" will be applied to those, who NEED to be represented in a bad light, so that the interested side will win the social acknowledgment. Also, people on university campuses and even schools can be labelled as "radical" once their opinion diverges from the popular notion.

This is the society we live in today. Sometimes, the obvious logical statements are being opposed and reproached by a general discourse in the society and government, usually accompanied with this spooky term "radical". How can we combat this trend? The answer is simple: preserve a "cool" head, which is able to weigh all sides of an argument and come up with an unbiased and rational conclusion.



Drawing: Pratyaksh Arneja





# LOST BODYPARTS

BY MATHIS GILSBACH





The heavily overused buzzword “Filter-Bubble” outline the status quo of political debate. Not only in the US, but fissures along the lines of social class also divide many European countries. Multiple commentators viewed the outcomes of the Brexit-referendum as well as the US-election mainly as an expression of the rising anti-establishment-mood. This has important consequences on how we should deal with the new political landscape and the threat of successful populists around the world.

The low turnout showed, that for many people, voting seems less and less meaningful. When politicians do barely differ and seem to merely be the executives of consensual procedures and mechanistic policy making. An unquestionable representative democracy, ousted any political antagonism from the public sphere. A third way “beyond left and right” made deliberation superfluous and flattened the way to a “post-political” age.

The now appearing populist antagonism is not as surprising as it may seem, but a return of a restrained contestation in the form of fundamentalism. It is yet to be seen which changes the new parties bring to political decision making and public debate.

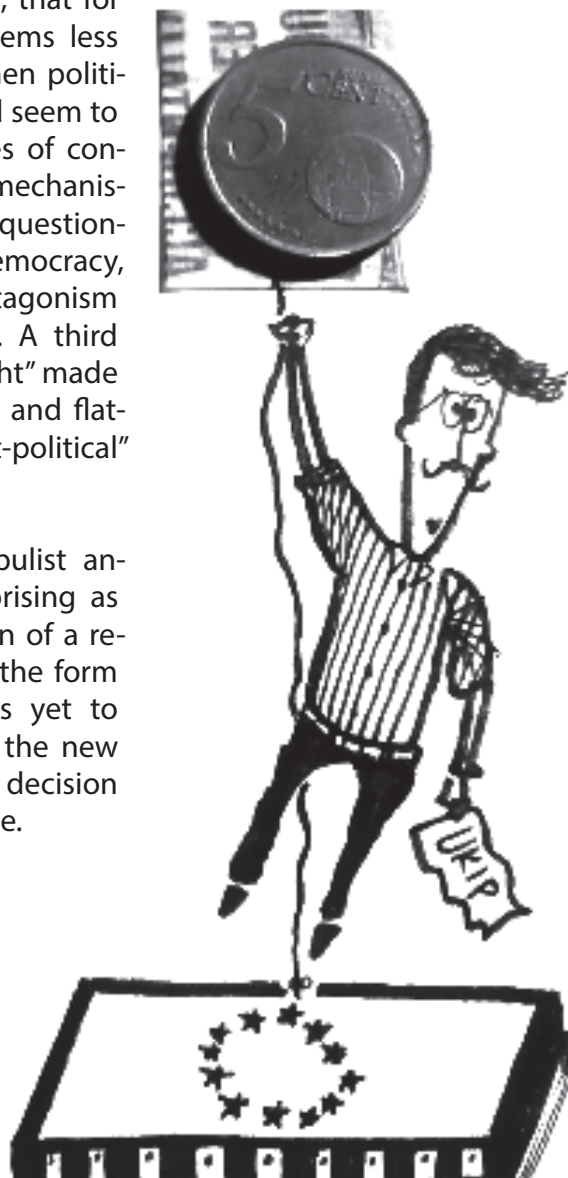
## ON THE NEED FOR POLITICAL RADICALISM

BY JAKOB WALTER

Drawing: Pratyaksh Arreja

The marking as “deplorables” of vast amount of voters has already been proven detrimental, but Trump’s supporters are still rather seen as people to make fun of than as fellow citizens with whom one can have a serious debate. This ignorance is harmful as it disregards the lack of political contestation in the public sphere as a cause for the current situation. Simply getting used to it is also not a viable option. Hoping that better times will come does suffocate any contestation that is so urgently needed. However, one can also see opposing movements: Trump’s “Muslim Ban” caused worldwide protests and together with the Women’s Marches show a new trend of protest and dispute.

Sugarcoat the discriminatory leaders that already were elected or are to be elected in the coming months and years is inappropriate, but making the best out of the current situation should implicate a public political debate without rendering people ineligible of expression and topics undiscussable. One can leave open whether the elected are radicals, but their election show the need for a fundamental restructuring of politics in the public sphere. The antidote to populist parties is not stubborn insistence on a middle-way, but a radical renegotiation and deliberation of opinion formation and of a democracy in which more people are heard and wider panoply of opinions taken seriously.







# PERMACULTURE – A RADICAL APPROACH TO AGRICULTURE?

BY: ALEKSANDRA JOVANOVIĆ

Drawings: Sandra Canta

Some of you are inspired by permaculture and its ethics and are trying to live it the permaculture way by living ethically and environmentally friendly. Yet, some of you might be thinking... Perma-what? Don't worry, you are not the only one who has never heard of this concept and I am more than happy to share my understanding of what permaculture is. And again, don't worry; I will keep it short, but powerful.

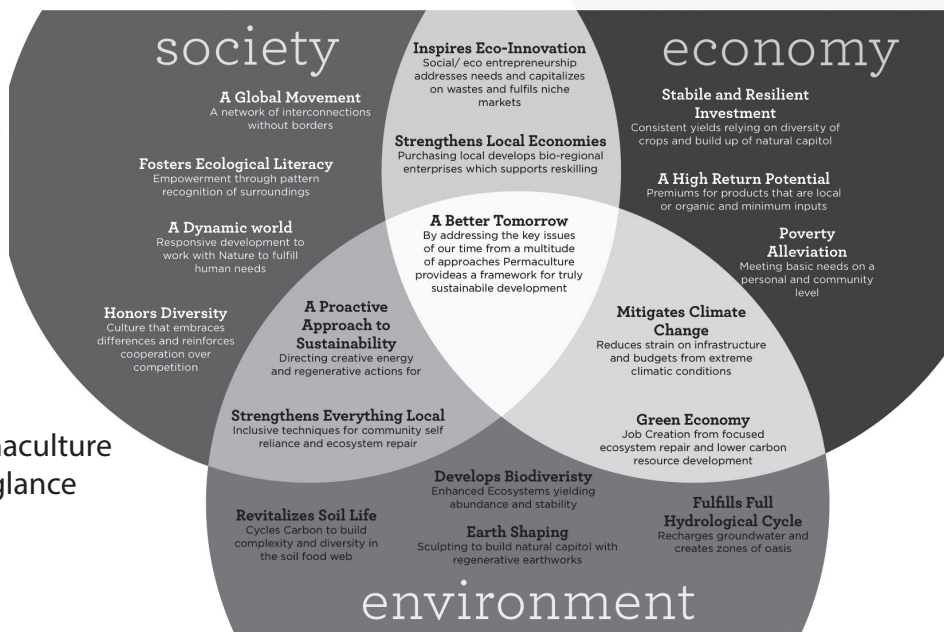
Permaculture is an ecological design approach conceived by Bill Mollison and his student David Holmgren in the 1970s. It is an abbreviation of the words permanent and agriculture. It is permanent in a way that its practices strive for an agricultural system that is durable and sustainable, rather than environmentally degrading. Preservation of the eco-systems, mimicking patterns in nature, and keeping the soil fertile is key in

permaculture practices and are integrated in its design. Especially in the field of Agriculture, as this approach can be applied to developing food production systems. Other than an ecological design system, permaculture has evolved into a community building movement and a philosophy. Permaculture provides a framework for sustainable agriculture as it addresses the key issues from a multitude of perspectives, namely from a societal, economic and environmental angle. Integrating societal and cultural aspects into the model of Sustainable Development leads to a more inclusive and humanistic approach to Sustainable Development. Economically, permaculture solves problems of dependency, as in permaculture local production and economic strengthening is key. Need some clarity? The mind map below explains permaculture and its different perspectives in a nutshell.

## Why Permaculture?



Permaculture at a glance





It has been 6 weeks since I have arrived back home from my internship experience. Location? San Jose del Cabo, a beautiful town in the Southern tip of the peninsula Baja California, Mexico. For the past months, I had been working for 'ALAI A', a permaculture consultancy organization. As a consultant, it gave advice on sustainable practices within the work sphere of local restaurants and hotel resorts. Waste and water management, energy efficiency and organic agriculture are one of those examples. Other than mere consulting, it focused on collaborating with regional organizations on sustainability projects. One of these projects was 'Sanchez Organico', the first restaurant in Los Cabos with its own organic farm. When I arrived at the farm, the project was in its initial phase. We started from scratch and after 4 months, the first seeds that I had ever planted "permaculture style" had shown their fruitful existence to the world. The farm started to flourish in crops. "So, with a little patience and delicacy it is possible to produce organically in abundance", I thought.

In both theory and practice, permaculture is an ideal solution to environmental problems of soil infertility, climate change, natural resource scarcity. In fact, permaculture is the only way to a sustainable future. Why is it then, that permaculture has not entered the global political agenda yet? Permaculture contrasts sharply with the practices

and ethics of industrial agriculture. And sadly enough, industrial agriculture is still the global dominant global framework. One that is steered by powerful political players with economic interests, blocking the way for permaculture to enter the political debate. Welcome to the world of money and greediness.

**"Permaculture is a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature"**

- (Bill Molisson, founder of permaculture)

Permaculture guru Bill Molisson once said that 'permaculture is a philosophy working with, rather than against nature'. To answer the question whether I think if permaculture is feeding radicalism within Agriculture/Sustainable Development. Well no. From my perspective, permaculture is not radical. In contrary, It is natural, basic and logical. However, what is needed is a radical change in our consumption choice and lifestyle. Therefore, I dare you to get your bum on that bike, be creative with things that you would otherwise throw away, and minimize the use of non-recyclable materials. And I dare you to cut your spending on industrialized food. Your consumption choice really does matter. Challenge accepted?

**PERMACULTURE APPLIED —  
MY PERMACULTURE  
EXPERIENCE**





**BY: GEMMA LA GUARDIA**

Foto: Esther Rümelin  
Drawing: Sandra Canta

**D**onald Trump as president is the present which every right-wing politician wished for at Christmas or Chanuka in the case of the Israeli right-wing. Emboldened by his election, the settler movement feels a world of possibilities is opening up.

Barack Obama had a famously testy relationship with the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. As a parting gift, Obama refused to veto a UN Security Council resolution declaring that the creation of settlements in the occupied territories “has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law”. Under the Geneva Convention, an occupying force cannot bring its population into occupied territory, a law which makes Israeli settlements illegal. Settlers are problematic because their presence in land claimed by Palestinians makes it hard to come to a peace accord.

Settlers only make up 4% of the Israeli population and 13% of the West Bank population, but their numbers are growing rapidly and exert disproportionate political power. In 2015 there were 385,900 settlers in the West Bank, and with new settlement blocs being authorised by the government (3000 housing units have already been approved this year), this number is likely to rise to half a million very soon.

The idea of settling the Promised Land has always been at the heart of the Zionist project. But the modern settler movement, mixing nationalism with messianic fervour, stems from Israel’s victory in the Six-Day War of 1967, when it defeated the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria in quick succession. The prize was the capture of the biblical heartland, including the Old City of Jerusalem and places such as Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus. The Westbank is often referred to by its biblical name, Judea and Samaria.



# ISRAELI SETTLEMEN 101



**T**S The 1978 Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel was the catalyst for the radicalisation of the Jewish far-right. It stipulated that Israel would return the Sinai peninsula to Egypt, and grant autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied territories. Settlers were forcefully evacuated from the region and their homes bulldozed. This was not without heavy resistance from the settlers and far-right activists. Some followers of the ultranationalist zealot, Rabbi Meir Kahane, barricaded themselves in a basement laden with explosives at Yamit in 1982 and threatened to blow themselves up. Kahane himself had to be flown in, in order to convince his disciples to stand down.

The failure of the Oslo Peace Accords of 1993, the violent eruption of a second Palestinian intifada, the evacuation of settlers in the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the election of Hamas (an Islamist party responsible for countless suicide bombings) reinforced the belief of many Israelis that peace with Palestinians was beyond reach. It was a view that settlers were only too happy to promote, and they redoubled their effort to implant themselves in the West Bank to prevent a future Israeli government from giving it away.

Today, the Israeli government directly and indirectly sponsors settlements, subsidises living costs, provides them with good infrastructure to get them into mainland Israel and protects them from attack by Palestinian militants.

Not all settlers are driven by ideology. Many, if not most, are attracted by the better quality of life and suburban lifestyle (especially those on the outskirts of Jerusalem and near the crowded coastal plain), many opt for the settlement life to raise families.

There are of course still those who are ideologically motivated. Far right, ultranationalist religious zealots tend to congregate in historically important places like Hebron or Nablus and are protected at all times by the IDF. Because of this position of superiority they are able to antagonise their Palestinian neighbours without repercussions. The hostilities between Palestinians and these settlers are violent, and both sides are guilty of many a murder, though all too often only the Palestinians will see the inside of a jail cell.

Though a Trump presidency may solve political issues for Netanyahu as he will be able to move more freely, the fundamental issue of the settlements will remain. Even if he manages to annex parts of the West Bank, Palestinians still remain. Soon, their population will overshoot the Jewish one. And then what? This year he may have gotten the best present ever, but what about next year? And in 10 years time?



# WHY UNIVERSITY IS *NOT* WORTH IT.

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action” (Herbert Spencer). But, are we focusing too much on knowledge, and too little on action? Never before have more students enrolled at universities than today. This might sound like a positive development, a sign of progress, but is this really the case? Is studying and taking up loans really a step forward in comparison to adopting practical skills for practical work in the future?

Of course, the objective of a university education is to gain access to highly skilled job opportunities in the future, and this might be a fairly convincing arguments to choose university over an apprenticeship. But what are the drawbacks of this choice? A 2013 study by the Office of National Statistics (UK) revealed that about half of the recent graduates work in non-graduate jobs. Despite the huge number of graduates, the truth is, there are simply not enough jobs to meet the demand! Is the simplistic and exaggerated picture of the graduate taxi driver a serious threat lurking above us all?

In addition, one has to mention that the majority of us are taking up loans to realise our dreams of a university degree which we seem to equate with a brighter future, regardless of the fact that we lack experiences of work and the ‘world out there’. What most of us forget in this equation is that loans have to be paid back and that a successful career is not granted easily, not even by a graduation certificate.

It is, and should be, the individual choice of anybody to choose between a studies or an early start to the working life after High School. But we should at the same time realise that success is not necessarily dependent on a college degree, as one of the most successful entrepreneurs has shown us; Steve Jobs.

**BY: MALTE VAN GEVELT**

AL QUESTION:  
TY WORTH IT?

# WHY UNIVERSITY IS *STILL* WORTH IT.

We live in a time where youth unemployment is a colossal problem. In Spain, for example, over 50% of young adults are unemployed, while in Italy, Greece and Portugal the figures range between 35% and 50%. The most worrying part about this, is that a significant chunk of these people are university graduates. Having this phenomenon in mind, one can't help but to question the usefulness or benefits of having a university degree. One might even say, that university is useless. I disagree.

Take a look at society, take a look at people. We're all biased beings. These biases hinder our objectivity, leading us to irrational decisions. The problem here lies not so much in the irrationality inherent to the decisions we make but the unconsciousness of our own biases. Humans are inevitably irrational to the extent that fears and emotions manipulate our decision-making process. However, with biases, it's a whole different situation. These are un- or subconscious prejudices that, once identified, can often be changed. The prime example of this, is the course 'Introduction to Area Studies' which opens the students' minds to Eurocentrism, western propaganda, Orientalism etc. In regards to educating open-minded citizens, university is a very useful tool for society. With the rise of extremism and populism in mind, one can only wonder what a less biased world would look like.

Many scholars have denounced the stage of ideological stagnation that the world is

reaching. Some labelled it 'The End of History', others 'Hegemonic Ideology' but, most importantly, all call attention to the dangers of societal unquestionability and monolithic world views. Once more, the way to emancipation is awareness. Only by teaching others about these phenomena, can one expect these hegemonic ideologies to crumble. Only by advocating the systematic study of society, can one expect society to be freed from its 'false consciousness'. This responsibility lies with the universities and it is a responsibility of civilizational importance.

Yes, maybe these arguments are far too idealistic and will not change the fact that a vast majority of graduates will struggle to find a job. But this just further elucidates the cause of the problem, the "system" i.e. the way the economy and society are structured. The universities are not to blame and neither are the students. Ultimately, universities are contributing to a more educated and emancipated generation. Ultimately, the individual is confined to the framework of the society he/she is encompassed by, and, as such, we can only hope that universities across the world potentiate the probabilities of this flawed "system" being changed. Ultimately, change is in the hands of students, it is in our hands.

**BY: DÁRIO MOREIRA**



"SO THIS IS THE NEW BUILDING,  
CAMPUS THE HAGUE: WIJNHAVEN...



...NAMED SO, BECAUSE ALL THE  
STUDENTS DO IS WHINE."

BY MICHAEL HAUWERT

# LATE REGISTRATION

Picture a good student. Busy, hard working, finishing a thesis and preparing for an exam. With the thesis deadline days away she realizes she has forgotten to enrol for the exam. Whilst her enrolment request is pending, she continues to divide her time to both thesis and exam. Two days before she has to sit her exam, she is denied from sitting it due to late registration. This is a true story.

Now picture a bad student. He is still busy with revelations gained from a highly introspective journey when the fog momentarily clears to reveal an understandable misjudgment of time. The deadline has passed and an apology-abundant email is sent claiming dead relatives, momentary blindness, and confusion. This is almost certainly a true story.

The board of examiners must now dedicate their precious time to sifting through an unquantifiable amount of legitimate and non-legitimate excuses for late registration. When asked, university staff were unable to give an answer as to how many late 'registrators' there are in an average semester.

For most of Leiden, students are prescribed a 100-day period pre-exam to register that ends 10 days before the examination. The Leiden exam registration rules differ by faculty and discipline. Law students can late-enrol through the Education Information Centre in person up to 3 days before the exam. International Studies students can infer requests through staff to a board of examiners. In many faculties, such as Social and Behavioural Sciences, excuses are rejected forthright past the deadline, or are only granted in emergency cases.

The university's reasoning is that exam registration is a useful tool in determining the number of students that will sit an exam. It helps in organizing the right space, amount of personnel, chairs and papers. Also, desks. The system is not considered much effort for students; registration begins shortly after course registration, providing a healthy break to recover from that initial stress of securing top-notch classes and timetables.

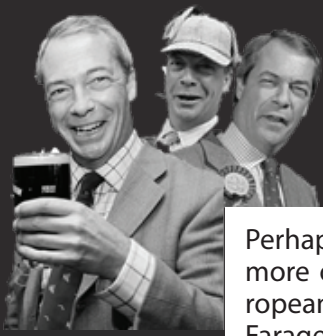
Weeks later, as reminders through email and tutors hammer in, exam registration will only take a few minutes of your time. Except students tend to register close to exams. As the university has been using the same facilities for years to hold exams, with the buildings for exams in May and June already being available in January, registration has little impact on systemized planning procedures. In the inevitable case of late registrators, staff and board of examiners are further crowded with unnecessary work in deciphering the excuses of stoners, woolgatherers and apple-pickers.

The alternative system utilized by major European universities automatically enrolls the student to the exam when he/she enrolls for the corresponding course. "Paradoxically" assuming that students want to sit exams for the courses they register for. This system seems beneficial to all parties involved, good students and bad students need not stress nor remember about registration, whilst university staff get saved tedious work and can focus on keeping the university running.

To keep in line with the flow of radicalism expressed in this issue of BAIS© magazine, we demand the polite disruption of bureaucracy. We ask of all students not to register for midterms and finals. For all those planning on shedding the IS flag and dropping-out: do register for exams. That will Surely show them.....!

**BY: ARTO C. BLAIR AND SAMUEL J. FORREST-SUFRIN**





Perhaps less of a radical and more of a living drain on European Parliament finances, Farage can certainly be considered a trend setter in blaming everything and anything on the EU (a quick google of 'Farage Blames EU' will give you almost 400,000 results). However, what Nigel seems to love even more than his burning passion for the demise of a regional trade bloc is in fact

a certain fabric – tweed. His collection of tweed jackets appears to be endless, and he's even been spotted trying on a fetching tweed hat. Take their look from day to night with a pint of beer from the local pub, as it is the perfect accessory to demonstrate to the electorate that you're really not a member of that dirty 'elite' in Westminster or Brussels. It's a risky look, con-

sidering Nigel's EU salary of 8000 euros per month, and that he poses for photo-ops with a certain billionaire inside a golden elevator. Regardless, money will certainly help contribute to the tweed collection

# EU'S RADICAL SPRING TRENDS

BY ELSA COURT



Blonde seems to be on the rise amongst the political radicals of the European right, whether it's Le Pen's 'Madame Frexit' look, or simply an attempt to distract from complicated Indonesian heritage (à la Geert Wilders). Marine Le Pen likes to pair the look with a complete disregard for international law, as she did

in early February by denying the invasion of Crimea, or create a more casual ensemble with a refusal to repay 300,000 euros of misspent EU funds. The look works best while standing on a podium to demonstrate your questionable policies, while a French Tricolore behind you will really make it pop.



Then there's Yanis Varoufakis, known for being a radical left wing economist, serial leather jacket wearer, and former Greek Minister of Finance. An open critic of the dirty, corrupt, tax-evading side of Greek politics, he's made enemies in high places. This bad boy look goes great with comparing Greece's creditors to terrorists, but only

some people have the confidence to pull this off. So, if you don't feel you can ride a motorbike away into the sunset after being forced to resign your boss (in this case, the Greek Prime Minister), it's probably best to let the true fashionistas of Marxist economics wear this one.

# Horoscope

By: Alessandra Beraso, Greta Tedda, Tebia Dall'Oste and Maiko Mancini  
Drawings by Esther Rümelin



## Ariel the **Ram** (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Recent studies have shown that in view of the exams you must drink water like the Victoria's Secret Angels. 6,75 litres of water per day will guarantee a high grade in your exams (except for Philosophy of Science and International Economics). For the final thesis, sorry, you can only pray to God!



## Red **Bull** (Apr 20 – May 20)

You don't have money to spend on those expensive sandwiches at the university canteen? The stars suggest that you leave your CV at Geleenstraat. The Red-Light District is looking for personnel (no bachelor required, only working experience). However, you should feel optimistic for the times to come, you might encounter the love of your life!



## Different **Twins** (May 21 – Jun 20)

In the past month, student parties haven't been able to free the dancing peacock within you. It's the right moment to experiment with Salsa or Zumba classes. While twerking your booty, you might encounter your twin soul sister. However, be careful, dancing makes you stink like a skunk!



## **Cancer** Idiot (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Dear Cancer, we've heard that you had some trouble with the stairs at Wijnhaven. For the next month, don't be late, don't rush, don't always check your Instagram while climbing the stairs, and you should be fine. However, just in case, wear your helmet and save the hospital number.



## The **Lion** King (Jul 23 – Aug 22) Do you like your bike? We like it too.



Like a **Virgin**  
(Aug 23 – Sep 22)  
Virgin, still a virgin?! Ask Taurus for help. It can give you spicy tips! NB, spicy food is not what we mean. Indeed, it might cause food poisoning and it may hinder your first time. However, leave the anxiety for that, and be confident for the exams. But not too much...

## **Scale** of Justice (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Next time you buy salad at Albert Heijn, be careful. You might find a little surprise: spiders love salad! However, Venus told us your sentimental life for the coming month will be filled with.... Sex sex sex! No sorry, only in your dreams.



## **Scorpion** in the Shower (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A little bird has told us that your pervert roommate peeks at you through the keyhole while you're having a shower. To prevent this, next time just leave the door open! (Or put a scorpion while he/she is showering). But remember that you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with, so choose your friends wisely.



## **Centaur** (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Neither man nor horse, you're as fake a human as Trump's fake news. Stop talking behind your friends' back or Scorpion's roommate will move in with you. Being more truthful may prove to enlighten a new path to a better life, as well as bring to a better relationship with your gold fish. And mother.



## **Capricorn** (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

We know that you are tired and lazy, but stop being such a bitch. Saturn recommends that you go to the Meditation Room at Wijnhaven to chill out and think about your misbehaviour.



## Finding Dory? She's in the **Aquarium!** (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Next Saturday night, don't stay in your aquarium, but go outside to search for the real Dory. If you were to find her/him, we assure you that you will be able to conquer her/his heart with some nice food ... sushi.



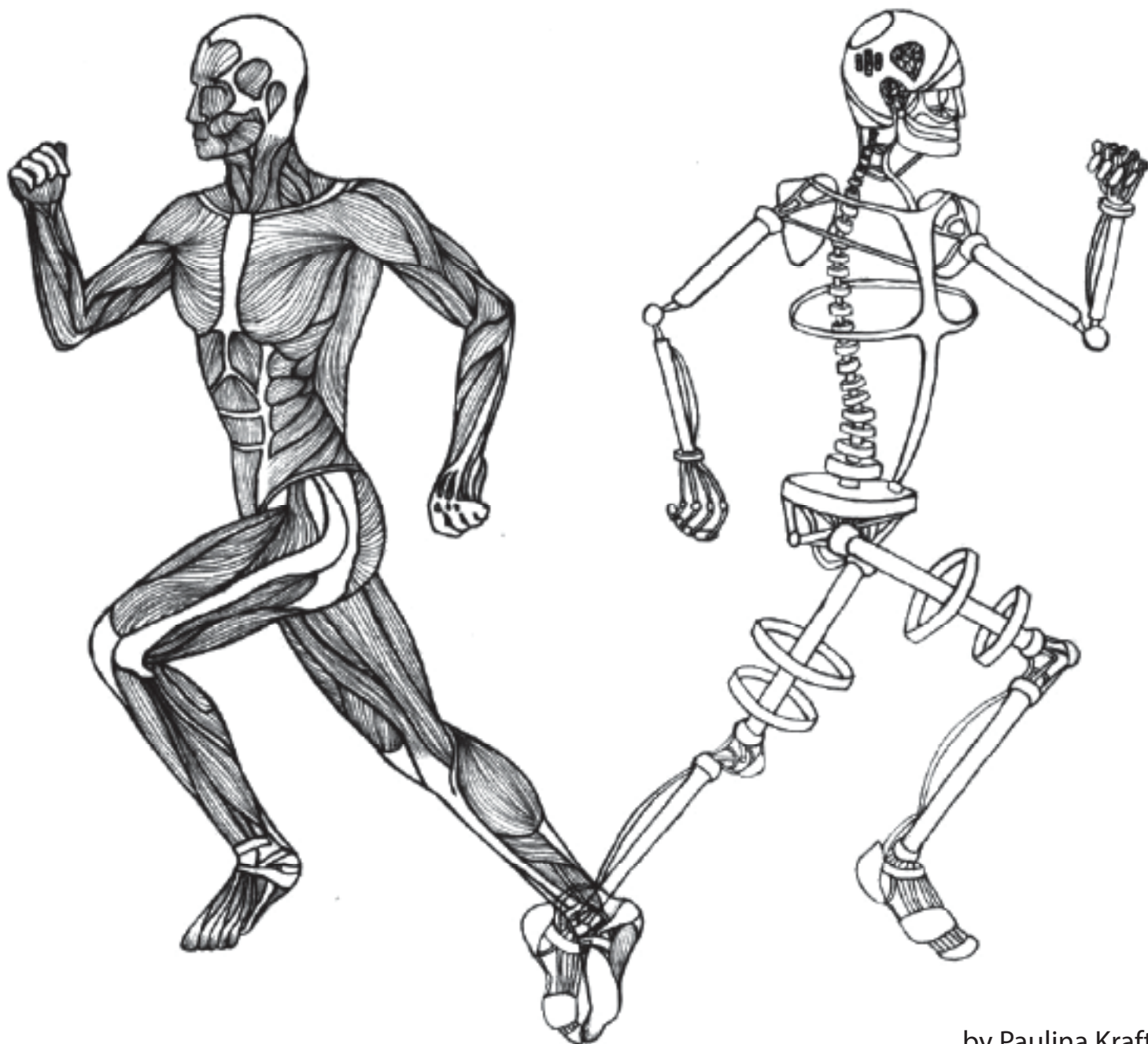
## **Fish** and Chips (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

We know this part of the semester has been tough for you, but don't worry, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Or it is just a train bringing the heavy burden of assignments en route to flatten you. But if you are desperate, you can build a wall to keep them out.





# LET'S GET NAKED AND DRAW



by Paulina Kraft

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