

# Aeroplane

VLAAMSE TECHNISCHE KRING

Monthly - Edition 2: December 2014



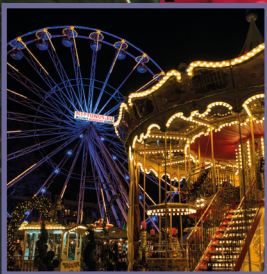
Useful tips for the exam period



Droids for security



Pirates & Priests  
Photo Report



Maastricht during Christmas

Folklore in Leuven

# December

- 2**      **Fridgewars @ 't Elixlr**
- 3**      **Startup Fair**
- 4**      **Saint Nicholas Cantus**
- 9**      **Workshop Open Innovation by Vlerick**
- 10**     **Christmas Cantus (Dutch)**
- 12**     **Deloitte Technology Day**

**More info on [vtk.be](http://vtk.be)**

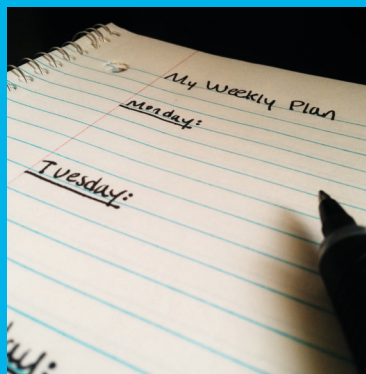
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# Word from the president

Dear long-term visitors,

Yet again I am given the opportunity to address you through this wonderful, brand new international magazine. Last time, I took the easy way out and wrote an introduction to VTK, this time I need original content, so let's get serious here.

Yesterday, some people at LOKO spoke about the problematic individualization of young people, because of the low amount of students that cared about the higher enrollment fees (you might even disagree, as chances are the enrollment fee is still lower here than it is in your home university). I don't think it's all about that. Analyzing this individualism, which clearly exists, seems hard, so let's not go that way. But I think people generally don't care about this because most of the students are prosperous enough, and can take care of more than just their basic needs. So why care about these problems as long as you're well? This is not individualism, it's apathy that plays.

The point I actually wanted to make, was about values. I'm saying values, not respect, because respect seems to me a silly concept. Respect is often used as a reason to get pissed off by other people's behavior, and behave just as badly or childish in return. My advice: just be tolerant towards other people, and use your common sense. Following every unwritten social rule is bound to work against you, as these rules are often too general, when they just don't apply to everyone. For example, some people have way too big of an ego, so people say you should be modest, which is actually bad advice to people who are shy. When the rule is: you can't do this, you can't do that, it is usually because not all people can do it or we would all be in trouble. Although this is right in the case of not putting trash in the bin, it is wrong in case you're aspiring some personal goal which might seem selfish, or want to go against the flow to better the world. The decision of when to follow this mainstream social narrative is all about keeping yourself to a certain standard that you think is positive. If you are among the 2% standing against injustice, you're a hero. If you're one of the 2% that leaves trash everywhere, someone else will clean it but you're just a d\*\*\*.

Last night I was stewarding at LOKOmotion and again I noticed how loud, annoying and uncaring some international students are when we try to keep them quiet. Those people are probably the ones that don't read this, so why am I even bothering? Why? Because I want to see change. In this case, social rules are clearly not followed, the reason: far from your own environment, you feel less accountable for what you do. This is typical human behavior, some guys from Ghent also misbehaved in Leuven last week. Wrapping up, the lesson here is that the more your behavior differs when further away from the people you know and care about, the weaker a person you are. So please try to keep yourself to a high standard and be strong in a way that is positive overall (being consistently negative, at home and abroad, obviously won't make anyone like you :p)

Maybe my thoughts this month are a bit heavy, but it's a relief I got to write them while waiting for the train to bring me home. After all, I'm not really a local, just like the vast majority of us. It's more like Leuven is filled with internationals and 'interregionals'.

Anyway, the best of luck with your exams and happy holidays!

Manu, your president (praeses@vtk.be)

# Word from the vice-president

Dear international students,

Like all the internationals all around Europe, some people just want a 'mini-erasmus' in a foreign city. Thanks to our faculty we are able to have this experience. In our master years we can join the Athens programme.

During this programme students go to a foreign city for one week to follow one course. We can go once in each year of our master, so we can do it twice. It even counts as an actual course and we get 3 credits for it. I think this programme is genius: one week of partying, eating, a little bit of sleeping and having a hangover during the lectures. Now that I think about it, this really sounds like just a heavy week in Leuven, except in another city with a lot of internationals.

Last year I've been to Milano. The things I remember were of course the beautiful Duomo, I went to visit in the evening and the view from the rooftop was breathtaking. Being in Italy I also remember the very cheap pizza slices and going to an aperitivo, that's the reason why I love southern countries. The last place I wanted to mention in my brief summary of Milano: Colonne di San Lorenzo. Although it wasn't summer anymore, the place was getting crowded with lots of people bringing some drinks and music.

This year I took my chance again, so I went to Budapest a couple of weeks ago. Did you know that they still don't pay with euro in Hungary but with Forint? Did you know that the heaviest building of Europe is situated in Budapest? It's the Buda Castle, the historical castle and palace complex of the Hungarian kings in Budapest. Did you know that Top Gear once held a race in the huge basement of this complex? Did you know that one side of the river is called Buda and the other side Pest? Did you know that Budapest has a lot of ruin pubs where you can party in ruins? Did you know that the average prices of a drink are more or less the same as our prices in the student bars (fakbar)?

I suggest that we bring this concept to Leuven: we have too many empty buildings and there are people looking for some new places for new student bars. Applying some basic mathematics: we should convert these buildings into ruin pubs!

I hope you all enjoy your time in Leuven, it will be over too soon. Oh, and happy holidays!

Emily, your vice-president (vice@vtk.be)

# CityTrip: Maastricht

As the <Gopass 10> allows people under the age of 26 to travel anywhere in Belgium for only five euros, most of you will find it very easy to take a day off on the weekend and visit one of Belgium's beautiful cities. Every month, we'll give some practical information and background on one of these Belgian cities, but this month we're reviewing a well-known city just over the Dutch border: Maastricht



While some people may already be panicking over exams, others may take the more relaxed approach and start looking for things to do before and during the holidays. It's hard finding a good place to visit in terms of holidays, as most cities barely do anything except for setting up a Christmas fair (which can be fun enough in itself, looking at Leuven), but some people are looking for something more immersive. Some people are looking for a city that has history, that has ambiance, a city that really brings out the Christmas feel. And if you're looking for a city like that, you should definitely visit Maastricht this month.

The city being just across the border, you actually need a [separate Gopass](#) for this

one. But once you make it to Maastricht, you are thrown right into the holiday cheer. You can walk towards the city center by following the Magical Light Walk, a route throughout the historical city center entirely illuminated by lights and candles. The route for the Light Walk, as well as the other Holiday festivities are freely available online [their website](#). You'll be able to explore the old city, go ice skating on the Vrijthof, and discover one of the many choirs, orchestras, processions, and other cultural treats to bring about the warm winter feel. The processions, music and culinary surprises will joyfully light your way through the old city.

If you're going to explore the city center, there are a few places you definitely have to

check. First of all there's the earlier mentioned Vrijthof, the central square on which you'll find the Christmas fare, the skating rink, and the ferris wheel. You'll also notice the two distinct churches rising behind the square, one of them is the Basilica of Saint Servatius, containing the tomb of the saint, and the other one is the church of St. John, which has a distinct red tower. Another nearby church that may be interesting is the Dominicanenkerk. This church is no longer being used as a place of religion, but has instead been given a new life as the largest bookstore in Maastricht. Hop in there to be amazed by the huge amount of books for sale, or to grab a coffee at Coffeelovers. They may not seem different from any other coffee corner, but they are the only company that is certified to serve Blanche Dael, the coffee served to the Dutch royal family.

Apart from a historical and cultural city, Maastricht is also a culinary one. Those of you who know their restaurants may already know Beluga, but there are lots of good restaurants scattered throughout the city, and most of them don't require you to put down your weight in gold as much as Beluga does. If you're planning to make a trip to



Maastricht, be sure to pick a good place for dinner to complete your day of citytripping.

As you may have noticed there's plenty of reasons to take a trip to Maastricht and enjoy the holiday cheer. So go out and discover what the city has to offer!



# That time of the year: Exam tips



The favorite time of the year for almost any student is about to arrive: there's only three weeks left until the exam study period. For some students it's the first time in Leuven, for others it has become a routine. To help everyone on their way, we have provided some of the most essential guidelines.

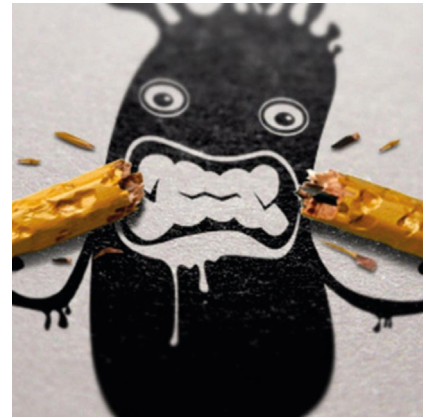
What many students hate most about the exam period is the social isolation. Just you and your books the entire time is driving you crazy. But of course, this rarely has to be the case. Studying with together in one of the many libraries in Leuven (or Agora of course) is becoming more and more popular. This way, you and your friends can take breaks together. Be wary however that you're not tempted to take more breaks than necessary!



It may be cliché, but that doesn't make it less true! Eat healthily and take enough hours of sleep. If you do prefer to study late at night, at least make sure that you add the extra hours of sleep in the morning. Coffee may give you a temporary boost, but the real exhaustion will only disappear if you take enough sleep. Concerning food: cook in groups with friends, or eat at the Alma. It will save you daily cooking time, and gives you a chance to spend some time with friends during this stressful period.



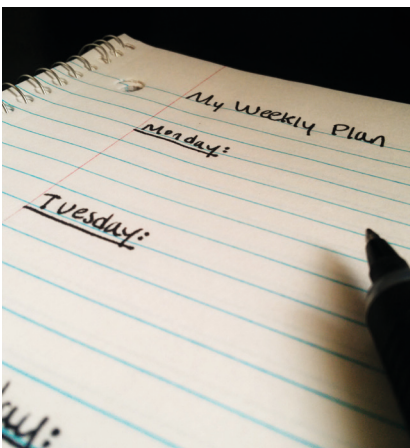
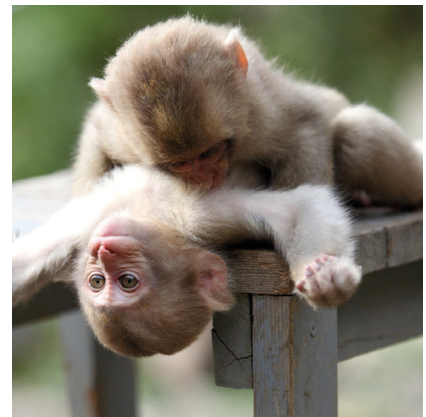
Don't panic when you fear for one of your coming exams. Even the smartest of your fellow students have at some point been through a huge stress wave. Even better: a small amount of stress even helps you do better at your exam. Just keep it controlled: if the stress is giving you headaches, just take a break. Trying to study with a lot of chaos in your head won't help you anyway.



VTK has a very useful resource: the course wikis. A lot of students discover the usefulness of the wikis way too late in their academic career. You can find information about each course here and - more importantly - you can usually find questions and exercises from previous exams. The course wikis can serve to give you an idea about what your exam will be like. The only thing you need to do is log onto the website of the VTK!

<https://wiki.vtk.be/>

Sex may not be good the best form of sports, it does happen to be perfect during your exam period. Making love right before an exam makes sure that you start off relaxed, lowering the possibility of a black-out. So if you're single, make sure you find someone before the exams start, because apparently it improves your abilities in times of stress.



Finally, another cliché: make a plan, and then stick to it. Give yourself daily goals to keep motivated, and don't be alarmed if you have to change your plan a bit during the exam period. Because in the end, very few people are actually able to follow their initial plan to the letter. Also make sure to plan some time for breaks: work out, plan a night where you organize dinner with friends, or play a game. Both studying and staying relaxed are important if you want to succeed.

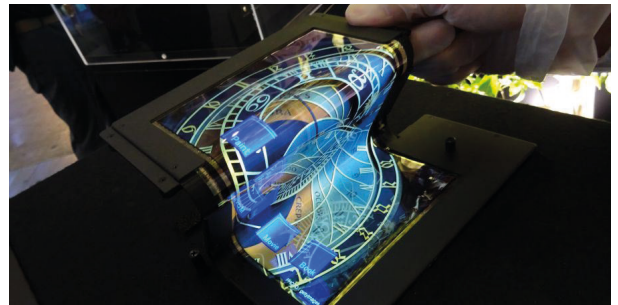
# Last month in engineering

In an effort to make space deliveries cheaper, SpaceX is developing a **delivery rocket** that is completely reusable. After launch, the rocket will land safely and autonomously on a drone ship in the ocean.



Google has developed a **machine learning system** that scores above average in photo captioning. The system, called Neural Image Caption, does great in recognition of distinct features in images.

In a revolutionary development in flexible devices, SEL Japan demonstrated a **display** that can be folded in three, paving the way for devices that can change from tablet to phone at the user's convenience.

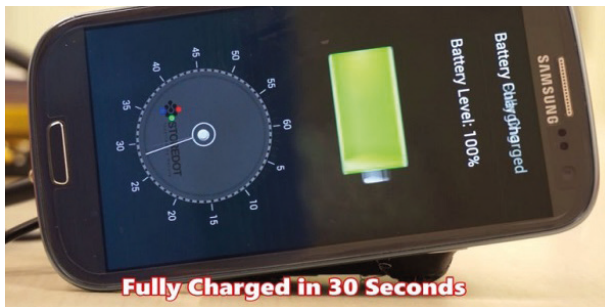


The droids are coming! **Robots** equipped with laser scanners, microphones, cameras and odour sensors are now patrolling Silicon Valley. The developers hope to increase safety by increasing surveillance rates, as robots contact the police when they 'see' any suspicious behavior.

Toshiba has just unveiled a **factory farm** where three million bags of lettuce can be grown each year in a clean environment and without using sunlight or soil. The goal of this project is to make the world's highest quality lettuce.

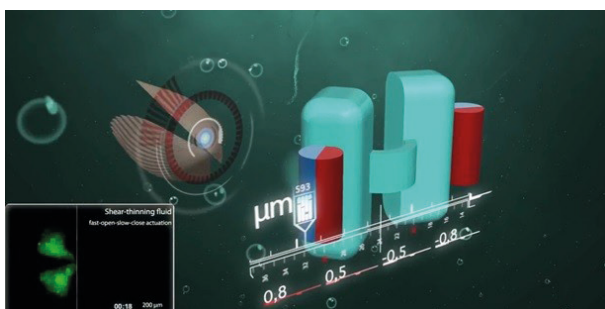
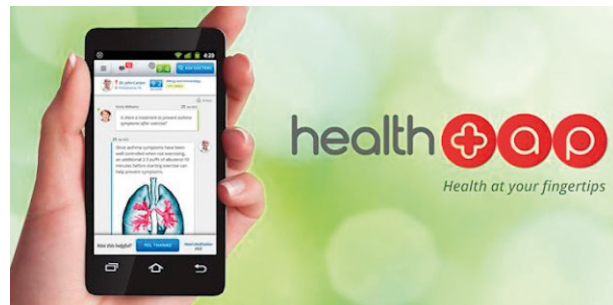


Multifunctional **drones** in Hong Kong will be sucking up pollution, growing plants, and producing fuel, while American researchers have launched the first **drone** that is completely bio-degradable.



A company based in Israel has created **nanodot batteries** that charge in less than a minute. The batteries contain bio-organic nanocrystals and would provide a great solution for smartphone and tablet batteries.

The medical app HealthTap has just added 'Top doctor insights', a function that can thoroughly analyze the query of a patient and give a simple, personalized result based on top doctors' recommendations.



Researchers from the Max Planck Institute have developed a **tiny scallop-shaped robot** that can aid in drug delivery. The robot can move through the bloodstream, powered entirely by external magnets, a difficult task for a robot to do in bodily fluids.

Organovo will soon commercially re-release **3D printed liver tissue**, providing a safe alternative for preclinical drug trials and toxicity studies.



# Leuven Secrets: Of monuments and folklore

While I can usually be found exploring anywhere in Leuven or Heverlee, when winter comes around I always retreat to the city center. And I should, because that's where all the people are, and never is this more clear than when the winter holidays arrive. People are walking through the Tiensestraat covered in five layers of clothing, a cup of hot chocolate is warming their hands. As I see how the city has become even more beautiful with all the Christmas lights, I get more and more excited for the weeks to come.

But what can I possibly tell you about the city center? You've all seen the strange insect pinned on a needle at the Ladeuzeplein, you've all seen the fancy restaurants in the Muntstraat, and every student knows where the Oude Markt is. Some of you may even have noticed the statue of a woman on a bench in the middle of the Oude Markt. She's called 'De Kotmadam' (The Landlady) and in my case, I even took a selfie with her. Actually, if you really pay attention, you may notice that there's lots of statues and other monuments spread around the city center, and some of them even have stories attached to them. And there's no better time for storytelling than December.

The most obvious statue might be the Fons Sapiientiae, or 'Fonske' on the Rector De Somerplein. A boy who holds a book in one hand, and pours wisdom into his head with the other. At least, that's what the University staff tells you. The sculptor who made the statue says it's just beer.

Not far from Fonske, on the Grote Markt, stands a rather tall tree. You may not have paid much attention to it, because, let's be honest, it's a tree. But if you have



paid attention, you know that this tree is larger than almost any other tree in Leuven. This tree is special. This is the 'Meiboom', or maypole, traditionally replanted every year in August. This event happens in both Leuven and Brussels, and is a metaphor for an old dispute between the two cities. Although people from Leuven would tell you otherwise, the tree actually celebrates a 'victory' of Brussels over Leuven. According to folklore, in the year 1213, there was a wedding in Brussels, and a group of troublemakers from Leuven came looking for a fight. And the troublemakers would have won if the guild of St. Lawrence hadn't intervened. The thugs from Leuven lost, and the Duke of Brabant gave the

guild of St. Lawrence permission to plant a tree every year on the 9th of August to celebrate this victory. If, however, someone from Leuven would capture this tree on the same day before 5 PM, the privilege would be lost forever. And every few years, some students from Leuven try.

But those aren't the tales I'll remember most, as there is another statue in the city center that I haven't mentioned. On the banks of the Dijle, just north of the Brusselsestraat, there is the statue of 'Fiere Margriet' (Proud Margaret). In the year 1225, a girl named Margaret was working in her uncle's tavern in Leuven. As the uncle and his wife decided to become servants of god, Margareta decided to do the same

and join the local abbey. On the night before they would join the church, the tavern was open for the last time. A group of unexpected guests came in for a drink, and the uncle sent Margaret into the city to fetch some wine. After she left, however, the guests revealed themselves to be bandits, murdered the uncle and his wife and stole their possessions. When Margaret returned with the wine, she found her uncle dead and the bandits plundering. The bandits decided to take her outside the city walls, where they tried to rape her. Margaret, however, proudly resisted

any attempt and would rather be dead than have her virginity taken by the bandits. When the bandits noticed this, they killed her and threw her body into the Dijle. As the legend goes, however, Margaret's body did not sink, but magically floated upstream, back to Leuven, as if carried by the fish, and her body was surrounded by a bright and holy light. It was by this light that the Duke of Brabant would have found her body, and realized that he witnessed a miracle. He made sure that her body was buried in the St. Peter's church in Leuven, where she still proudly lies at rest.

Leuven may be a small city, but it's an old city as well, and if you look closely, you'll find a story in every corner. And stories are always better when shared, so I'm going to find some more people who are in a holiday mood already. My best chance may be at the Christmas fair that'll be on the Ladeuzeplein soon. I think I'm going to say hello to Santa Claus, and then catch up with some friends that I haven't seen in a long time. As to you guys, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopefully I'll see you again in 2016.



# Photo Report: Pirates vs Priests



