The Hague | According to the Cabinet, non-Dutch citizens should request a residence permit more than once.

Permit request may be needed more frequently

THE HAGUE | According to the Cabinet, non-Dutch citizens who want to remain in Holland should request a permit more than once. The Cabinet refused a PPV proposal stating that non-Dutch citizens could only ask for a permit once. PPV leader Geert Wilders says such proposal would prevent the non-Dutch from unnecessarily staying longer in Holland. Wilders reacted with disappointment at the decision and has asked for a debate regarding the case. If that should produce no satisfactory result, the PPV will come up with another bill. He also feels that the new Cabinet has once again scrapped a PPV proposal.

THE HAGUE | The Socialist Party (SP) won the provincial election on Wednesday and saw its amount of First Chamber seats increase from 4 to 12. Cabinet parties CDA, PvdA and ChristenUnie kept a majority, with 41 out of 75 seats.

AMSTERDAM | Indefinite rehabilitative incarceration (TBS) clinics must improve safety

ISt also says that even with the after-care, the treatment route is often found to be more important than analysing the number of escapees, security comes in at second place. According to the ISt, security procedures can frequently go wrong because TBS clinics do not do enough work systematically. The ISt also feels that even with after-care, the treatment route is often found to be more important than monitoring the TBS’s direct security.

AMSTERDAM | Many activities took place on Thursday throughout the country to celebrate International Women’s Day. In The Hague, Princess Máxima handed out the Joke Smit prize to which women’s worldwide solidarity, has been celebrated for their rights. This day, which symbolises the fair and lawful use and security of personal data, has helped improve women’s positions in Holland.

Privacy board inspects Stemwijzer

The cabinet is taking the issue of the Stemwijzer into account. The Stemwijzer is a guide that helps voters compare political parties and programmes. The cabinet wants to make sure that the Stemwijzer is fair and lawful.

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THE HAGUE | The new Cabinet and the altered Second Chamber got a taste of each other’s intentions on Thursday, in a fierce debate on Prime Minister Balkenende’s government accord statement earlier that day.

By Tristan van Rijn

The first debate of the new cabinet saw a range of sensitive topics raised by the opposition. The ministers, new opposition parties D66 and VVD and the deputizing ministers already from the previous cabinet, Jacques Tichelaar (PvdA) and Arie Slot (Christen-Unie, CU) had to get used to their new roles.

The most controversial matter raised was the issue of double nationality. As announced, Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders issued a motion of non-confidence against the new PvdA State Secretaries, Nenah Alhayrak (Justice) and Ahmed Aboutaleb (Social Affairs), for a conflict of interest caused by their double nationality. Alhayrak still holds a Turkish passport and Aboutaleb has a Moroccan passport. The PVV Front man said that “A blind man can see that double nationality also means double loyalty.”

Wilders fired his arrows mostly at Alhayrak, who can theoretically distance himself from her Turkish passport, contrary to Moroccan law, in which it is forbidden. He questioned the fact that Alhayrak will have to deal with the permits of immigrants, including Turks, and said that their situation is like “a butcher inspecting his own meat.”

None of the other factions supported Wilders’ motion, but VVD leader Mark Rutte argued that issue of double nationality should be debated at a certain point. Prime Minister Balkenende, who called upon the chamber for a “constructive dialogue” with his Cabinet during his traditional statement, agreed, but added that there is no doubt about the integrity of the “optimally integrated” state secre- taries. He stated that Article 3 of the Constitution, which provides all citizens with the right to fulfill a public function, will not be changed. The PVV Front man echoed towards Moroccan-born PvdA MP Kfadja Arib, who also functions as an assistant advisor for the Moroccan Human Rights Council and has a double passport. Tichelaar announced Friday that her function would be investigated in order to rule out any conflict of interest. The PvdA decided on the issue on Thursday, after printing time. Tichelaar told the press on Tuesday that her party would most probably vote positively.

Afterwards, Tichelaar was asked by the left wing to explain the unofficial coalition agreement that the decision making process towards the Iraq war in 2003 will not be investigated, although his party was a proponent of such an investigation even in government. SP leader Jan Marijnissen argued that the PvdA “made the most essential aspect of Parliament, searching for the truth, impossible.” Tichelaar said that “we had to put more weight on other matters. We have accepted our loss.” The Cabinet plan to investigate whether the “right(s)/left(s) can become constitution- al, is according to Rutte, “Dutch for: no abortion and euthanasia.” The opposition also criticized the planned protection of municipal officials who have ‘personal objections’ against gay marriage. Many MPs argued that the concerning paragraph takes the country’s liberalisation policy one step back. Interior Minister Gussev ter Horst’s task was the last large matter to be discussed. The Cabinet aims at calling 15,000 government jobs to sponsor the budget. Many plans are dependent on the success of the Budget cuts, but Balkenende was forced to agree that no cuts be made in the police, investiga- tion and judicial services.

Google search for sunken castle

NIJKERK | Cor Schipper, an amateur archaeologist, believes he has found a long lost submerged castle on Google Earth in the weekend.

By Andrew Balcombe

Kanteel Huiskelstein was built in 1427 and is believed to have been destroyed in 1538. Cor Schipper has been looking for its ruins for the last 25 years but he is 99% sure that his searching is in vain. While scanning satellite images of the Nijkerkernauw canal that runs just north of Nijkerk, he spotted a 200 metre square shape under the water. This, believes Schipper, is his long lost castle. In 1983 he used sonar equipment to map a 1-kilometre stretch of the canal’s bottom without success. On Monday, the quiet area around Nikker was invaded by television and news crews hoping to see if it really was the castle under the waves. A scuba diver from the NOS news team plunger the brown waters for a closer look with a camera but the silt was so thick, visibility was down to just 30 centimetres. Apparently, the wind was blowing in the wrong direction and pushing water suspended mud into the search area. It was not clear if ten recovered pieces of stone were from the middle ages, either. Kanteel Huiskelstein dropped off the historical records when it was left outside the dyke system in the 17th century and submerged.

Dutch part of NATO offensive

HELMAND | Dutch air support and troops involved in the largest offensive by NATO ever to be carried out against the Taliban.

By Andrew Balcombe

In the early hours of Tuesday morning an offensive involving 4,500 NATO troops and 1,000 Afghan army troops deployed in northern Helmand in Southern Afghanistan. The announcement was made by the current head of NATO forces in the south, Dutch General Tom van Loon. According to the Ministry of Defence, air support is being provided by Dutch F-16s and a reserve Tiger company of 80 to 100 troops from the Luftwaffe (German Airforce) based in Kandahar are on reserve in case needed. Afghan helicopters were used in Tarin Kowt, Urugun and Khwaja Khel to provide support when and if necessary for the offensive which is called Operation Achilles.

One NATO soldier has been killed so far after operations began. The nationality of the casualty is still unknown.

One of the aims of the operation is to tackle militants around the Kajaki dam – a strategically important hydro-electric plant that NATO wants to secure so that it can be repaired and put to work.

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HILVERSUM | Channel 4 will not transmit a documentary on a masturbation marathon, which had been previously scheduled. The British Channel 4's documentary portrayed two American sexologists that were being followed during their preparation for the “masturbate-a-thon.” Thereupon, they were to be shown masturbating as doing it for AIDS charity. Chief channel member Joop Atzma had called the programme “tasteless” and “totally absurd.” The programme can, however, be seen next week on the internet.

Youth against smoking ban

AMSTERDAM | Results of various research show that only 18% of young people are for a complete smoking ban in the hotel and catering industries, compared to the 48% who are against. The new Cabinet, however, wants a complete smoking ban in public places before 2011.

VVD wants speedy debate about Enschede shooting

AMSTERDAM | VVD wants a speedy debate, while the PVV wants the legal opposition to be introduced for the criminal Antillean youth. The proposal would, according to the Council, go against the European law concerning equal treatment and the controversial repatriation scheme to send young criminal Arubans and Antilleans back to their own countries, proposed by former Immigration Minister Yoeri Zageling. The reason is the meeting is being organised about this case was a state secret. A.'s lawyer Britta Böhler, is set to appeal in the Intelligence and Safety Service (AIVD) to four years for crimes including murder, some of those accused for crimes including murder, some of those accused of such opposition leaders as Minister Yoeri Zageling. The AIVD mole appeals four-year sentence.

OTTERDALE | A Rottterdam court has sentenced Otman Ben A., a former worker of the General Intelligence and Security Service (AVD) to four years in prison for leaking state secrets to the Hofstad group. A.'s lawyer Britta Böhler, is set to appeal the decision at a higher court. Responding to the sentence Böler said in de Volkskrant “everything about this case was a state secret. A. was condemned without knowing the judgements” reasons why.” Böhler went on to say that “there was a question of receiving a substantial sum of money” in connection with the case.

Seal creche in Canada

AMSTERDAM | The director of the seal creche in Pieterburen, Lenie ’t Hart, wants to set up a seal creche in Canada. Last year in Canada, more than 354,000 seals were clubbed. ’t Hart wants to create this centre in the Prince Edward Island, where many seals are slaughtered yearly. The costs will amount to some $1 million. “I will return for Canada on 11 March.”

Criminal Antilleans may stay

AMSTERDAM | The new Cabinet has rejected the controversial repatriation scheme to send young criminal Arubans and Antilleans back to their own countries, proposed by former Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk. Premier Jan Peter Balkenende said he will take another approach. The Council of State, the highest advisory board, had already strongly criticised the regulation twice. The proposal would, according to the Council, go against the European law concerning equal treatment and the controversial repatriation scheme to send young criminal Arubans and Antilleans back to their own countries, proposed by former Immigration Minister Yoeri Zageling. The reason is the meeting is being organised about this case was a state secret. A.'s lawyer Britta Böhler, is set to appeal in the Intelligence and Safety Service (AIVD) to four years for crimes including murder, some of those accused for crimes including murder, some of those accused of such opposition leaders as Minister Yoeri Zageling. The AIVD mole appeals four-year sentence.

NS fed up with Prorail

By Andrew Balcombe

Prorail is the company responsible for the manage- ment of the Dutch rails, signals and traffic control. In the last few weeks, it has suffered large IT malfunctions at Rotterdam, Utrecht and Amsterdam. This has resulted in massive delays leaving trains sitting still for hours. The computer Glenn that caused the delays around Amsterdam on Thursday, occurred after a single hard drive, controlling the changing of track directions, failed.

A report written for the Dutch Railways (NS) has asked Prorail “where their priorities lie by using such outdated computer equipment.” The watchdog representing public transport passengers, Rover was slightly more critical, calling Prorail “complacent.” Prorail also said on its website that they have astonished that such small computer problems are in the past, “said NS.

Annual suspension follows an investigation into possible defec- tions of track directions, failed. This has resulted in massive delays leaving trains sitting still for hours. The computer gremlin that has not been fixed yet, the 48% who are against. The new Cabinet, however, wants a complete smoking ban in public places before 2011.

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Court rules in favour of ‘Angels’

LEEUWARDEN | The Harlingen chapter of the Hells Angels cannot be banned, says a Friesian court.

By Andrew Balcombe

The decision was handed down Tuesday in the case brought by the Public Prosecution Service (OM), alleging the chapter is a criminal organisation. The Harlingen chapter was introduced in the city of Leeuwarden. An OM report written in the Hague's Straatsmaart said that women are now working from the old rubbish burning facility near tram line 11 and industrial zones on Leeuwarden. Also, since police have been clamping down on controls of drug addicted prostitutes in Tramsaal, they have relocated and are working from Zuidpark. Straatsmaart also said that the women are finding clients in supermarkets and are reducing their prices because the customers must also take more risks. The conditions that they are working in are dangerous and degrading. None of the women can make use of the municipal health workers from the GGD who provided condoms and information about dangerous customers on black lists. Something that was available to them in the nipple zones before they were closed.

In Rotterdam, a survey from the Verwey–Jonker Institute in Utrecht has found that the harbour city has 409 legal prostitutes but also 45 illegal prostitutes working every day.

In total, 5,000 prostitutes are working in the city. Many of these trade theirs are wearing tanning salons, massage parlours, escort agencies, bars and night clubs. Since the closure of the Keileweg nipple zone in 2005, illegal prostitutes have spread out across the city and are harder for health services and authorities to control.

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HISWA fare opens its doors to public

AMSTERDAM | The annual HISWA boat and water sports fare opened its doors to the public on Tuesday. Until 11 March, nautical fans can prepare for the May—July—open water season at the Amsterdam RAI, with an immense variety of sloops, yachts, canoes and other water-related accessories.

‘Info leak to Turkey undermines investigations’

AMSTERDAM | Because classified police information has been leaked to Turkey, several investigations on organised crime in the Netherlands and Turkey are in jeopardy, according to the NRC Handelsblad.

The newspaper revealed the contents of classified AIVD (Dutch Intelligence and Safety Service) correspondence in Saturday’s issue. According to the AIVD, the information was leaked to Turkey by a Turkish translator. In the meantime the translator has been fired. The investigations that have become compromised by the leaks are, among others, the search for suspects for the murder of real estate magnate Willem Endstra in 2004 and the alleged role of heroin trafficking of Nedim Türkiyemspor, who was murdered last week.

By Tristan van Rijn

The HISWA fare is widely seen as the official opening of the water season and provides the public with something more than just boats. This year, the main attraction is the Water Fun Zone, a large basin with a ski jump, in which professional wake boarders from the Netherlands and abroad can show their jumping skills. Visitors can participate in small boat races to test their skills, watch a canoe versus kayak battle or keep their feet dry while entering a water ski simulator.

The largest water sports fare in the Benelux countries will display a range of hundreds of boats from all classes: sloops, sports boats, RIBs, open sailing yachts, catamarans, motor boats and canoes, most of them in the RAI complex itself, but the largest yachts are displayed in the Boerenwetering, the canal behind the complex. The seven RAI exhibition rooms will also show thousands of water sports accessories, displayed by some 375 stand holders. In 1933, the HISWA fare was widely seen as the official opening of the water season and provides the public with something more than just boats. This year, the main attraction is the Water Fun Zone, a large basin with a ski jump, in which professional wake boarders from the Netherlands and abroad can show their jumping skills. Visitors can participate in small boat races to test their skills, watch a canoe versus kayak battle or keep their feet dry while entering a water ski simulator.

Preparations for the HISWA in full action; Photo: Esther Stobbelaar

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By Tristan van Rijn

The AIVD confirmed that the translator’s integrity was questioned by the service in 2005 and that he was removed from his function. The translator tried to fight the decision in court, but in vain. The AIVD also wrote that the Amsterdam police and prosecution services did, however, make use of the translator afterwards, because he could function as a link between Dutch and Turkish authorities. Neither the Public Prosecution Service nor the National Police Service could confirm the NRC findings.

The SIBA schools established in 1989, have been tormented for years by mismanagement, poor education and financial problems. Since 2005, the schools have been under strict supervision by the Inspectorate. Last year, the former SIBA chairman was sentenced to two years in prison and a €265 repayment for having inappropriately used the money. SIBA is, therefore, left with two options: a take-over or closure. The SIBA schools have had many problems for years. But due to the bad financial situation, there is no extra money available to invest for improving the quality of the schools.

By Fabienne Capostagno

The SIBA schools, which fall under the SIBA management (Amsterdam’s Organisation for Islamic Primary Schools), will be closed down because new management can not be found.

By Fabienne Capostagno

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- Advertisement -
Milli Görüs linked to financial scam

AMSTERDAM | Former supporters of the Turkish Islamic movement Milli Görüs have objected to the construction permit for the Amsterdam Westermoske. They accuse the mosque organisation of fraud and financial mismanagement.

By Tristan van Rijn

In their official objection letter to city district De Buurtrijk, five former Milli Görüs members linked the movement to a series of illegal practices, ranging from illegal money exchange to housing several ‘sinister companies’. Milli Görüs held its practices in the old mosque in a parking lot in De Buurtrijk, which is now planned to become the largest mosque in the capital, de Westermoske.

The accusations were made public by de Volkskrant on Monday. The sinister companies mentioned by the former members are the so-called ‘green funds’, named after the colour of the Islamic flag. Turkish inhabitants of De Buurtrijk gave millions of euros in cash to the funds in exchange for participation in investment funds. The investment funds promised returns of up to 40 percent.

According to de Volkskrant, which interviewed the plodding Westermoske, the money in the green funds has disappeared. President EU zur of the Turkish foundation Turkuul was quoted as saying, “hundreds of Turkish families are ruined.”

The accusers issued their objection last Wednesday, the last day of the deadline to object to the construction of the new, ambitious Westermoske. The mosque project has seen many controversies in the recent past. The cooperation between the city district, Milli Görüs and housing corporation Het Oosten was nearly broken off in December, because of an alleged change of ideological course at Milli Görüs. The conservative, German headquarters of the movement replaced the liberal chairman of its Dutch branch with a more conservative, less integration-minded chairman. The three parties had agreed to a covenant, which provided a liberal course of the mosque in exchange for a construction permit.

De Volkskrant reported on Tuesday that the financial scam in De Buurtrijk is probably part of a larger swindle of billions of euros on a European scale. Roughly 400,000 Turkish families throughout Europe are said to have been swindled for 5 billion euros. The information came from a Turkish parliamentary committee and a series of financial court rulings in Germany and Switzerland.

A spokesman of Milli Görüs Nederland said that the green funds were very normal in the Netherlands and that nearly all Turkish mosques and coffee houses participated in it. He denied, however, that fraud was involved in any way.

It remains unclear what consequences the Volkskrant report will have on the eventual construction of the Westermoske. SP MP Sadat Karabulut demanded that Finance Minister Wouter Bos instigate an investigation on the alleged malafide practices.

Bos cancels royal decree Zalm on Schiphol privatisation

AMSTERDAM | The judicial battle between the capital and the state over the privatisation of Schiphol airport came to an end this week, Finance Minister Wouter Bos announced on Monday that both parties will sit around the negotiation table again.

By Tristan van Rijn

The PVDA-Vice-Premier said in radio programme De Ochtendtijd that “the hatchet has been buried” and that the State, Amsterdam and Schiphol will soon be negotiating on the question of how the airport will be privatised.

Schiphol's sale is postponed.

The issue of Schiphol privatisation has been hotly debated for many years. The anti-finance Minister Wouter Bos announced on Monday afternoon that both parties will sit around the negotiation table again.

Bos also said that starting discussions was one of the first things he wanted to do as Finance Minister. The Dutch state currently owns 75% of Schiphol and Amsterdam has a 21.8% share. The capital's Finance Minister told the parliament that the DSI, a new national anti-terrorist body, should be allowed to veto a State matter. After that, Zalm made use of his ministerial right to issue a Royal Decree and destroyed the veto. Bos added that Finance Minister Wouter Bos has re-acknowledged the royal decree and that Amsterdam will get its veto back. The new Cabinet accord states that no state-owned Schiphol shares will be sold.

Bos expects that the share holders will have reached an agreement on the financing of Schiphol's ambitious future by the end of the year.

Suspects of Singer theft confess

AMSTERDAM | Three suspects of the theft of 7 bronze statues from the Singer Museum in Laren will be brought before an Amsterdam court on April 4.

The chief suspect, a 40-year-old man from Muiden, and a 23-year-old man from Huizen have confessed that they had a part in the theft of the statues. The suspects had already been arrested earlier.

By Tristan van Rijn

From the garden of the Singer Museum in Amsterdam, the statue of a woman was stolen. The suspect had earlier admitted to the theft.

The statue was the result of a 21st-century artist. The police are now trying to track down the other statues that were recovered as well.

Anti-terrorism practice in metro

AMSTERDAM | The Dienst Speciale Interventies (Special Intervention Service, DSi), a new national anti-terrorist unit of the police, held an exercise in the Amsterdam underground on Saturday.

By Tristan van Rijn

One hundred DSi team members participated in the exercise and had to deal with 40 Amsterdam police officers, who played metro passengers, during the hijacking of a metro. It was the first major exercise of the DSi. A metro was halted between the Wibautstraat and Weesperplein stations in Amsterdam-Oost. “This is one of the scenarios the DSi can encounter,” a spokesman of the National Police Corps (KLPD) told Het Parool.

The exercise was a joint initiative of the Amsterdam police, the Municipality, the KLPD and Amsterdam transport company GVB.

The DSi was founded in July as part of the battle against terrorism and heavy criminality. The government decided to set-up a new service after the advice of an independent research committee. The service was necessary to answer “modern-day terrorism and extreme violence”. Regular police services only handle the arrests of armed criminals and are often ill-equipped for heavier offences, according to the committee.

The service officially handles matters concerning hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, sieges and extortion practices. They are also provided with the task to offer sniper fire when necessary.

The KLPD, that stated the exercise was successful, especially concerning the cooperation between the different bodies involved.

Police arrest street robbery suspects

AMSTERDAM | Police have arrested 10 suspects who are possibly involved in some 30 street robberies in the city centre of the capital. A number of the suspects, all aged between 15 and 22, have already confessed to police. Others are still being heard. From research, it appears that six of the suspects could be linked to some 20 street robberies. Police have kept a close eye in Amsterdam’s city centre lately, because the number of street robberies has been rising. Police do not exclude other arrests.

“Too much nuisance in the Transvaal neighbourhood”

AMSTERDAM: The capital’s division of the VVD have asked Mayor Job Cohen to point out that the Transvaal neighbourhood in the east, is a problem area. The police must, therefore, have access to the police and inhabitants that in the Transvaal neighbourhood, there is still a lot of vandalism, threats and break-ins. Council member Marijn Zeestraten says the police has insufficient capacity and competence to fight the nuisance.

Police arrest street robbery suspects
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Restaurant Selection

Fish restaurant visaandeschelde proves that it is rightfully placed among the higher echelons of Amsterdam restaurants. In the heart of the southern Amsterdam business area, its services have adapted to the demand of the locals. Looking for a parking space in the busy RAI area will not be necessary. visaandeschelde offers a very welcome service: Valet Parking. Not only at lunchtime but also in the evening, so there you go: your first impression is one of sheer hospitality.

The second impression is the warm welcome you receive from the restaurant's staff, even if they are not aware yet that you're a Times reporter. After politely taking off your coat they guide you to one of the tables. If you're lucky, you'll get one that is in front of the open kitchen (a brilliant spot: from here you have a great view of the restaurant, the guests, the staff and the beautiful kitchen). The restaurant has a modern interior with a classical edge and looks crisp and fresh.

Despite the chic look of the restaurant, the atmosphere is remarkably loose, even a little boisterous. As an appetizer the well-informed staff present a small terrine of sea-perch, grilled on the skin, mackerel, sweet red peppers, horseradish-mayonnaise and dinner (18.30-22.30 hrs). Valet parking available. Mention the Holland Times at reservation and we will be happy to serve you a complimentary aperitif.

As a main course the staff serves a grilled sole, lying on a bed of grilled Roseval potatoes, fried glasswort with stewed spinach and artichoke, and a lovely Tunisian Harissa sauce. All in all, a visit to visaandeschelde is a treat for those who seek a combination of class, a laidback atmosphere, a perfect service and a playful kitchen of very capable chefs, who know how to treat the fruits of the ocean. visaandeschelde is most definitely one of Amsterdam's finest.

visaandeschelde is open for lunch from Monday to Friday and 7 days a week for dinner. Making a timely reservation (one/two weeks in advance) is necessary. For reservations, call: 020-6751583. For other information, visit www.visaandeschelde.nl.

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Restaurant Selection

French-Mediterranean kitchen in the Jordan, Chef jean-joel and sommelier Ellen Mansfield are the new owners since January 1st 2006. They want to perfect the restaurant where they have both been working for years.

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French-Mediterranean kitchen in the Jordan, Chef jean-joel and sommelier Ellen Mansfield are the new owners since January 1st 2006. They want to perfect the restaurant where they have both been working for years.

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**The Hague**

Projects put pressure on cheap housing

**The Hague |** Two demolition and reconstruction projects have proven to be problematic for residents of cheap anti-krak-kaus housing and the company which places them.

By Andrew Balcombe

Two hundred and thirty six residents taking advantage of cheap housing in unoccupied buildings - part of the system called anti-krak-kaus (anti-squat) in the suburb of Mariahoeve will have to leave.

According to the aligjomon Dagblad, those occupying apartments in the Horengaren and Finniveau have been set the deadline of 1 April to move out. In protest, some people have thrown their belongings out onto the street. The residents have been described as young people, students, artists and ex-squatters, who rent the space from Ad-Hoc, an anti-krak company that rents out unoccupied buildings.

Ad-Hoc also rents out commercial and government buildings in Holland that are unoccupied due to demolition. It is one of several companies set up to provide services between owners of vacant buildings and renters who can apply to a waiting list, and if they are lucky, rent the space to live in.

This is often very cheap, but the disadvantage is that the squatters may have to move frequently and suddenly.

Other disadvantages of anti-krak buildings are a lack of privacy, since the owner can visit with police and lock up the property if they wish. The spaces are quite large and some buildings have a history of being used for illegal activities.

The 1969 apartment blocks in Mariahoeve are to be torn down to make way for roughly a hundred new apartments and 88 family homes. More pressure has been on the cheap housing market because the last residents living in the Zwart Madam building near Central Station must also leave by 1 July. These people will also be looking for cheap housing.

Claudia Dunievst from Ad-Hoc told The Times, “clients who rent with us understand that they must leave the space they are renting at some stage. They pay €30 to €120 a month for the space but there is a limited timeline, that’s the only disadvantage. The people living in Mariahoeve have been there for five years which is a pretty long time.”

In regards to what happens next with the residents, Ad-Hoc says “It is normal for them to be put on the waiting lists, they also have an opportunity to live in the new places when they are built. It is difficult that two reconstruction projects are taking place so close in time to each other but we are trying our best to place as many people as possible. She did not say how long the waiting lists were through. Housing problems don’t look like they will diminish soon in The Hague. In Den Haag Zuidwest, 8,000 dwellings are also due to be torn down in 2010.”

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**Wassenaar ram raid**

Wassenaar | The electronics store Dixons in Wassenaar was forcefully entered and damaged on Saturday morning. Unknown thieves used a stolen gray Mercedes to crash into Dixons in Wassenaar’s street centre Langstraat. Part of the shop’s shutters fell against a glass showcase with expensive appliances. Unintentionally, the shutters blocked the showcase and the men are believed to have driven off in a light-coloured Opel, leaving the Mercedes behind.

According to witnesses, three people were involved in the incident.

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**Neerkade flat cleared**

The Hague | Fifty inhabitants and a dog were evicted from a Neerkade flat on Tuesday evening, due to a fire on the sixth floor. After a couple of hours, inhabitants of the sixth, seventh and eight floors were able to clear the building, except for the owner of the apartment on fire and the proprietors of the apartment above. The cause of the fire is still unclear, as is the extent of the damage.

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**1945 bombing remembered**

The Hague | Some 600 people showed up in the Hague district Bezuiderhout last Sunday, to remember the 1945 bombing of the suburb. Al- derman Jette van Tijen acted on a German tip-off raided the house and found a bomb in the bathroom, leaving the Mercedes behind. According to witnesses, three people were involved in the incident.

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**German (26) kidnapped for a week**

The Hague | A 26-year old German man was held prisoner for a week, living in a house in the Paul Krugerlaan in The Hague. The man’s captors hoped that his 32-year-old cousin would pay an outstanding €200,000 in cash for the release of the younger man’s life. The victim was kidnapped in the centre of the German city of Hannover on Saturday and brought in a delivery van to The Hague. He was held in a dark room from Monday until Thursday. And was deprived of food and water and beaten with a baseball bat. A police arrest team acting on a German tip-off raided the house and released the hostage. Four Turkish and Albanian men have been arrested, two in Hannover, two at the Hague house and a 35-year-old Turkish drug trafficker in Rotterdam.

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**Handicapped man injured after being hit by tram**

The Hague | A 42-year old mentally handicapped man was badly injured Tuesday when, as strain ran over a 34-year old man in hospital. The man, who was accompanied by a guide, did not see the tram. A helicopter took the man to hospital, where he was treated with two trams in opposite directions close to the footpath where the man was hit. It is not yet sure if the trams hooted, but the man did not see one of the trams.

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In the company of a living legend

Dick Bruna: creator of miffy

By Andrew Balcombe

On a snowy February day I stepped onto the pavement of the Randstad’s fourth largest city in time to see the surrounding buildings bathed in sunshine. It was a welcome change to the temperamental weather of the coast. Walking through the narrow and quaint cobblestone streets I soon came to a small shop door and hit the intercom. I was greeted by a friendly and familiar sounding voice. Waiting at the top of the flight of stairs was the man himself. Dick Bruna is small in stature but one attention is drawn to his bright blue eyes. Within moments an easy conversation developed about the man and how nice it is. As far as first impressions are concerned I felt like I had known Dick Bruna for a very long time.

Dick Bruna relaxing on his simple but boldly coloured studio couch

In 1955 Bruna created miffy or ninj-te in Dutch which is short for small rabbit (konijntje). Miffy and her surroundings are drawn by Bruna in a simple, art deco style using six simple and bright primary colours. Other characters have also come along, such as Melanie, miffy’s African friend, boris bear and poppy pig. A sign of the strength of the merchandising of miffy is that it has a brand and a design icon, she is stronger now, 52 years on, than she ever has been. Dick Bruna’s empire is a well managed industry, nearly 85 million copies of the popular illustrated books have been sold in 40 languages to this day. Since 2003, miffy has been an ambassador for New York City, giving the troubled city a more friendly image. On the occasion of the first birthday of Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, miffy was used on the website of the Royal House of The Netherlands.

How was miffy first thought up as a character?

“About being an artist,” Bruna says “if I have the chance to do that all my life and do drawings everyday, what more could you want? It started as a hobby and has always been my hobby and in the meantime, I earned enough to raise three children and have a house and a car.” This prompts the question on whether the creative streak has been passed on to the following Bruna generations?

“My kids are very good at art, but my eldest son became a lawyer though, he likes to draw in his free time. My second became a sculptor and the youngest one is still doing graphic design and that is what I feel I am too. I am a graphic designer rather than an illustrator or something. I couldn’t make a very nice portrait of you” he points at me “That is something I can’t do. My portrait of you would be of a little round head that looks like something in one of my books.”

From humble conception to global icon

Bruna was born in Utrecht in 1927, he started drawing, painting and making stories early in life, leaving little doubt about the direction in which he wanted to head. Strangely enough, this was perhaps even helped by the outbreak of World War Two. “During the last part of the War my father was about 40-42 years-old and I was about 15 or something. We were both at the age where if the Germans got hold of us we would have to go and work in the factories in Germany. (At that time, many of these factories were being bombed into rubble by allied air raids) But we didn’t want to go, so we hid. My family had house just out the city and I had heard of Matisse and Picasso and I wanted to become an artists like they were. To do the same work and see that people are happy with it. I see that children use my books and I am very happy.”

Living a simple life

It seems at first appearances that Bruna does live a remarkably ordinary life. “I don’t feel famous, there are lots of people I know who are at me on my bike but I just like to come here everyday (to the studio) and work on my own, that is what makes me happy. The fact that I have a museum here in Utrecht, most artists only get that when they are a long time dead. But if you have that during your life it is like a dream.”

The French artist Henri Matisse (1868-1954) was an inspiration for the younger Dick Bruna when he travelled to Paris.

The artist’s use of cut out objects, aggressive brush work and bright colours is distinctive, some of these traits washed off in Bruna’s work, particularly the bold simple images and colours. Matthias was also a draughtman, printmaker and sculptor.

Many of his works can be seen at the museum Dick Bruna Huis, just outside the centre of Utrecht. The Dick Bruna Huis is part of Utrechts Centraal Museum which was built in 1838. It holds five different sections that cover Old Masters, works by Stedelijk, modern art, such as pieces from Van Doesburg, design fashion and local history. Across the cobbled street lies Dick Bruna Huis. It is specially designed to entertain children with many of the exhibits being interactive to keep their wandering minds and hands busy. I have a day in which to entertain your children it is well worth a look.

Many successful children’s authors have a bed time story before he went to sleep. In the dunes “for my son. We used to go to the seaside and rent a little house and it was normal for me to tell my son about Dick. How was miffy first thought up as a character?...”

The father of Bruna was a successful publisher who was influenced by ‘De Stijl’ movement and that was placed him among the greats of Dutch modern 20th century painters. Known as the leader of ‘De Stijl’ painters, Dick Bruna was about 70 years old in 1955 when his transition into modernism with the victory Boogie Woogie painting being his most famous work, was in full swing. And the designer Gerrit Rietveld who was influenced by ‘De Stijl’ movement and worked with simple geometric forms. How does the artist find inspiration from day to day to draw and paint. When it comes to business now, I hear that to tony the lawyer. From Bruna, London then travelled to Paris. “During my year in Paris I really got to know the art movement. And Matisse was a huge influence in my drawings.”

Henri Matisse (1868-1954) was considered one of the most important French artists of the 20th century and with Picasso one of the most influential modern painters of that era. Known as the leader of the Fauves, a group of painters, he too loved using bold, primary colours. Dick Bruna also admired the way Matisse incorporated cut out objects in his art such as those used in the book Jazz (1947).

Once this French French love affair began, Bruna’s father realized where his son’s passions lay. Upon his return from France, he decided to make use of Dick’s creativity and set him to work on illustrating covers for the books sold by his publishing firm. It began with black bear, which was well received and grew into two thousand more that included well known publications such as ‘The Saint’, ‘James Bond’ and ‘Shakespeare’. Bruna also translated some of Simon’s Maigret books into Dutch.

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“Bruna when he travelled to Paris, ‘I also started collecting paintings and prints to the art market in Utrecht. The parents didn’t really like what they saw, they said the pictures were either too bright and too simple. But the children loved them and those children are parents themselves now.”

Bruna has been compared with the 17th century masters of the Golden age because of the broad influence that his art has had. Some critics have placed him among the greats of Dutch modern 20th century art such as Piet Mondrian, best known for his transition into modernism with the victory Boogie Woogie painting being his most famous work, in full swing. And the designer Gerrit Rietveld who was influenced by ‘De Stijl’ movement and worked with simple geometric forms. How does the artist find inspiration from day to day? 

FRIDAY 9 MARCH 2007
day life? Bruna does not shy away from the serious issues either, such as immigration and death.

“I try to make my books as simple as possible, very ordinary stories for children going to school or to the seaside or the snow. But miffy became so close to children that I thought it would be nice to talk about something more serious and so one day some years ago I made a little brown friend for miffy called nina (melamine). At that time I did lots of readings for school classes and I noticed that half of the class was white and the other half not, so I decided it would be nice to give miffy an African friend. First of all she was a pen friend and then she moved here and they become friends. On another day I thought that death is an important issue in every family. And maybe I could make a book in a very simple way so that the children understand how that happens and what it is. So I made a book about miffy’s grandma. The book was called “love oma plus” or “dear grandma bunny” in English [the book won the Zilveren Griffel (silver pencil), a highly esteemed children’s literary prize in 1997].

I drew it so that miffy saw that her grandma was lying in bed, but she wasn’t really there anymore and her grandma was dying and then it goes into a normal funeral, all the family is very sad and there is lots of crying and dad tells a story about grandma and how nice she was. Then they get a little grave stone and later on, because I try to give my books an open end, that life goes on, miffy puts some red flowers on the grave and talks with grandma. I have never had so many reactions to a book. Many parents said that they now had a book to use when someone died in the family. They could show it to their children and the children think it is the most normal thing in life. Children are very wise. That makes me happy. Sometimes I do books like that, but normally I make them about things that I see, I have six grandchildren now and if I see them play in the water, that gives me ideas of course.”

“Sometimes we talk about it and she thinks the story is not good enough and I put it away and comeback to it a month or two later and I think yes she is right I need to make alterations and change that. You need someone like that, someone who is really critical. I thought as I get older I would be more certain, but it is not the case at all. I still wonder, is this piece okay or not okay?”

Adapting to the video age

One thing that has changed in the Dick Bruna series that has proven to be a huge success. The transformation to video did present the artist with some initial concerns when it was first made. “It is true to say that when it first started I found it very difficult to conceive. I had always worked in two dimensions on flat and now they were making video. And in that way I thought that death is an important issue in every family. And maybe I could make a book in a very simple way so that the children understand how that happens and what it is. So I made a book about miffy’s grandma. The book was called “love oma plus” or “dear grandma bunny” in English [the book won the Zilveren Griffel (silver pencil), a highly esteemed children’s literary prize in 1997].

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So what does a renowned and successful graphic designer with such a full life, still look for in life to gain satisfaction? “For people to like my work, it still has to be the best that I can do at that moment. Quite often people say to me ‘oh, it must not be difficult for you to draw miffy’ but I still find it difficult to draw her. I try to do it better today than yesterday. I must work, to make my stories and drawings better. I always work on my own. There is never anyone around me, sometimes I work on a book for two or three months to get everything nice and simple and as I want it. It takes a lot to get twelve drawings to hang on the wall (for a book) that are good enough and to get the text right.

Yes, so it takes me a long time. And when I’m finished I always make it into a little draft of a book. First of all I show it to my wife, we have been married for 54 years now, she has seen everything and knows everything about my work. Although she is not a designer herself, she is interested and she comes here to the studio. I feel like I have to pass an exam. She is very critical when she looks at it and if I think wrong, she points it out at the end is very close to what I have created of them are English people too. I think what comes out at the end is very close to what I have created with the books.”

Balancing semi–retirement with work

As Bruna comes to the age of semi-retirement does he plan on slowing down at all? Has it become easier for him to find the balance between professional obligations and enjoying a slower pace of life?

“Well my art, it started as a hobby and it still is. My wife often tells me that I am not married to her but to my work. And it is very much like that, she is right. I come to the studio everyday, seven days a week. Not all day, but for a few hours and sometimes on a Sunday afternoon I am at home and my wife tells me ‘I can just go to the studio and it has always been like that. It is wonderful to make something new and not repeat yourself, to make a new world that is a little bit better. When I make miffy she only has two little eyes and a little cross for a mouth. I work very hard on that to get a little bit of the little bithappy. And that makes me a long time, but I still enjoy it. I also have three children and six grandchildren and we have a wonderfully normal life. Sometimes I think about when my own children were growing up. At that time I didn’t see them that much. My wife tells me I was always working and I only saw them when I was putting them to bed but these days now I have grandchildren I take more time. When we go on holidays I can watch them play. Sometimes I give ideas but I spend more time with my grandchildren than with my own children. Back in the early days when I was working on those book covers I hardly saw my children. I always thought that I must finish my projects on time. These days I do think I work a little bit less than say when I was forty. Sometimes after lunch I just have a little snooze and then I wake up and I’m ready to start again.”


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Advertenties
**Rotterdam** | **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO)** welcomes the 31-year-old Yannick Nézet-Séguin as new Music Director from 2008.

By Fabienne Capostagno The young Canadian will succeed the renowned Va- lery Gergiev, who led the orchestra since 1995. In his 13-year tenure, the Canadian will be working with the orchestra for an average of eight weeks per season, excluding tours and opera productions. Apart from presenting a wide range of repertoire, Nézet-Séguin looks forward to becoming closer to the city, involving Rotterdam’s community arts and educational projects. Yannick Nézet-Séguin made his debut in the Netherlands with the RPO in October 2005 conducting two different programmes. Rotterdam was one of the first major orchestras outside Canada to invite him to remain longer in the country, following the success of his European debut in Toulouse (France) in November 2004.

The new conductor has been since the year 2000 Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal (Canada). Before taking up his position as Rotterdam’s new Music Director September 2008, Nézet-Séguin will lead the RPO for several concerts, including special projects, as well as masterclasses for the orchestra’s 10th anniversary since its founding. He will also lead a major tour with concerts in South Korea, Japan and China. His first conducting, the RPO – the musical heart of Rotterdam, considered the second largest orchestra in Holland after Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw Orchestra – has gained a worldwide reputation. It was founded in 1988 as the “Society of Professional Musicians for Mutual Cultivation of the Arts.” It has paying members and the aim was to make music for personal pleasure.

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**Rotterdam** | Holland’s Organisation for Food Banks Rotterdam has found that Rotterdam is the worst place to grow up in the northern provinces of Groningen and Friesland, particularly the municipalities Pe- lalka, Reiderland of Bolsward, which are said to be

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NedCar staying open another year or two

BORN: The Limburg car factory NedCar will remain open for another one to two years longer than expected. The FNV Union were notified of this by their members at the factory. NedCar, which produces Mitsubishi Colts, was only meant to stay open until 2006 but this may extend to 2012. NedCar employs 1,350 workers.

OM investigates fraud with organic mushrooms

THE HAGUE | The Public Prosecution Service (OM) is investigating the possible fraud with organic mushrooms. A grower and trader from Gelderland claimed that normally-grown mushrooms he brought onto the market were organic. If the OM can prove fraud, the company will no longer be allowed to trade organic mushrooms.

CityCargo replaces trucks

AMSTERDAM | CityCargo will replace its freight lorries with trams, because it claims the trams can reduce the heavy traffic by half in the centre of the capital. On Wednesday, the company started with a trial run, lasting until the end of March, with two freight trams per day running on the normal tram lines. CityCargo wants the freight trams to replace 2,500 lorries per day. The company claims the trams will also transport all goods, except for heavy construction materials, fruit, vegetables and garden garbage. Normal passenger trams will be converted into freighttrams, with extra space being made for large containers. The tram seats will remain. The project should create some 1,000 new jobs.

Nuon lowers gas prices

AMSTERDAM | The energy company Nuon has announced gas prices will drop by 7% to 8% from 1 July. The amount of savings that home owners will receive is estimated at between 55 to 80. The Central Bureau of Statistics says gas prices rose 3.7% in the first quarter of 2007, up from 3.5% in the previous quarter and not in 2012, like it was initially intended. The project should create some 1,000 new jobs.

Highway levy coming from 2011

AMSTERDAM | The Cabinet wants to introduce a kilometer levy for vehicles on highways, beginning in 2011. By Fabienne Capostagno

Transport Minister Camiel Eurlings said that in the first stage, the kilometer prices will only apply to a restricted group of a maximum of 200.000 vehicles, like the freight carriages. The introduction is expected to take place in four years time and not in 2012, as it was initially intended. The investment costs will amount to 35 billion, while the yearly operational costs will be 1.5 billion, excluding the maximum €350 million decided by the Second Chamber. In this respect, the Minister has said that “this amount has yet to be realized.”

Eurlings claims that the kilometre levy is not only aimed at improving traffic problems, but that it is more honest that people pay for using their cars and not just for owning one. The idea is that the levy will be put into practice throughout Holland in phases. Now, the Minister says that the costs of the system are still too high, although they have been decreasing. Traffic experts say traffic problems have increased by a quarter during the previous Cabinet, despite their aim to reduce traffic jams by a third. Eurlings wants to reach the target of reducing congestion by 40% in 2020 and to guarantee that 95% of travellers have a reasonable travel time. He said that the traffic jams can be achieved with new roads, more constructive road usage and paying per kilometre on highways. It is expected that car mobility will be reduced by 10%.

Walking aids off insurance list

AMSTERDAM | Walking canes for invalids and blind people, rolling walking frames and crutches will soon disappear from the basic health insurance packet.

By Fabienne Capostagno

This was proposed by the Board for the Health Insurance (CVZ). Elderly, disabled and chronically ill (CG—raad) reacted angrily, saying that everyday walking devices belong in the basic health insurance. This also goes for medical treatment and care. The CG—raad finds this proposal alarming not only for disabled people, but also for the insurers. One out of ten insured people uses such walking devices, which cost between 500 and 3000, while the more upgraded ones can go up to 5000. According to the CG—raad, the proposal of the CVZ will only lead to an extreme increase in costs for the needy. The organisation also believes that the next step will probably be that walking appliances will become part of the additional insurance. The CG—raad will soon meet with the CVZ to discuss the new proposal for the health insurance packet.

Dress to Impress

By Rick Moorman

The burden of a retailer in fashion is the same every season. But this time the new collections go to me in, just after the clearance sales one finds it in the sales and in general have reached a low point, we have to start stocking the sales in the coming season. In other words, we are spending a lot of money on new collections and we have to pay for the incoming collections while the revenues are lowest. But believe me, if a retail shop closed, complicity is going real bad.

AMSTERDAM | London | The battle between the global Dutch Bank ABN Amro and British hedgefund TCI cranks up a notch.

By Andrew Baldwin

ABN Amro has been busy this week, acquiring 93% of Prime Bank in Pakistan, and hiring experts from investment banks Rothschild, Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley and UBS to advise it on strategic options in the fight against The Children’s Investment Fund (TCI), who wants to split and sell ABN. The Dutch regulatory body that investigates business information (SOBI) has sided with ABN and notified the Financial Market Authority (AFM) to investigate TCI for manipulating the market. SOBI has also sent a letter to ABN. The AFM said it would review the case.

ABN Amro–TCI duel

By Fabienne Capostagno

The Financial Times has reported that the Dutch bank and TCI have started a battle for control of ABN Amro. TCI holds 10% of the shares in the bank and is in talks with two other banks, Morgan Stanley and UBS, about investing in ABN Amro. TCI has already hired a team of investment experts to advise it on the path forward.

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Acquisition is not appreciated.
The illustrious Italian artiste, Arturo Brachetti, is bringing his latest inspired production to the Luxor Theater Rotterdam from 24 April 13 May. In an astonishing homage to the spectacular art of ‘transformation,’ Brachetti brings to life hundreds of characters, each created in a blink of an eye. These include the likes of James Bond, Julie Andrews, King Kong, Scarlett O’Hara, Darth Vader, and Humphrey Bogart along with aquatic starts such as Esther Williams and even Jaws. I had the chance to speak to Brachetti while he was Italy, prior to his arrival in Holland.

By Kim Chandler
The Turin born fifty-year-old is known as the ‘greatest quick change artist of the century’ in the international world of transformation—an art form that has been favoured in Italy for over 500 years. His multi-lingual performances include acting, comedy, music, magic, Chinese shadow-play, story-telling, stunts and caricature. It is no wonder that Brachetti’s ostentatiously unique show has been likened to Versace on speed. With more than 350 costumes in his repertoire Brachetti is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest quick-change artist in the world.

This charming and gregarious man was a shy child who was sent to a seminary on his father’s orders. It was here that he had the great fortune to meet the young priest, Father Silvio Mantelli, who introduced Brachetti to his hobby of magic. As a young man most of his time was spent in the priest’s magic storehouse learning tricks before, at 15, performing his first quick-change routine using costumes borrowed from the seminary’s stock. He “went pro” in 1978 at the Periodo Latin in Paris and has continued to illuminate international stage, film and television productions ever since, with highlights such as: The Covent Garden Christmas Gala in the presence of the British Royal Family and co-presenting both The Best of Magic for Thames Television and Disneyland-Paris’ A Night of Magic, which was transmitted globally. It must be said, however, that Brachetti came to the full attention of international audiences with his tour de force production for the 1999 Just for Laughs festival in Montreal, Canada, which eventually toured internationally garnering copious awards.

Behind the mask
I was fascinated to learn that there was a theatre in the only people who had the time to write books about magic was done in the 1500s by a religious man. It was a way to expose the tricks against the fake miracles.

Like a form of science text book.
Yes, for them, it was like saying, “If somebody wants to show you miracles, bear in mind these tricks and artistry.”

When you began to get the confidence to go on stage, did you begin thinking of a career solely in magic?
First I learned magic tricks, and then I put them together with costume changes when I was 15. My magician/priest/friend, gave me a book about a famous quick change artist of the last century, Leopoldo Fregoli. I read about the wonderful style of life of this man, a star 100 years ago. From that point I began rehearsing my autograph hoping that one day somebody would ask me for one. And in show there is this surprise, but there is a poetic story about an adult of about 40 who goes up to the attic of his childhood to throw everything away. But, by doing that, he becomes a child again. At the end of the show, when the attic is really empty, he realizes that in order to be alive, happy and awake as an adult, you have to keep a bit of child in yourself. Federico Fellini, the Italian movie director, has said that it is important to be eight and a half in your head sometimes. This is the will, the force that makes you inventive, even when you are seventy.

To be juggling a myriad of costumes changes, a vast array of characters and a full story line is quite a feat.
That’s why the show is very different. There are three different levels. One is a childish surprise towards the magic and quick changes. Then there is the second level, which is cultural, in which you can recognize famous painters, movies, and intellectual innuendo. And the third level is the level of emotion; you go to the theatre in order to be moved. You know, sometimes people write me letters, saying that they came to see the man with a 1000 faces but they went back home with a high heart. They thank me for giving them back two hours of their childhood. Even better, they’ve said, “Your show should be paid for by the social security because it’s therapeutic.”

Do you have favourite characters within your repertoire?
No, not at all, I feel as though I am the puppet player. They last for a minute – a minute and a half. They are not deep. The most difficult part of the show is when I am playing myself, in a jacket, just telling the story.

It must take an amazing amount of energy to do what you do, not just the touring but then the work you do on stage. How do you prepare and keep yourself fit for this, at fifty?
First of all, I live my life as my mission. When I left the seminary my friend, the priest, told me, “If you don’t have the vocation to become a priest, it’s important that you have a vocation. I call your call is to make people dream and smile, just follow your call.” What I am doing. I think that my job on earth is this one. But of course, to do this, I have cut away many other things from my life. I am doing a very boring diet which is the ‘mum’s diet’; white rice in the daytime and red, bloody meat in the night time. I never eat fried foods and creamy stuff, but the pleasure to be on stage is so much greater, so, who cares!
Reader’s Say

Reader feedback is absolutely essential to making a publication like The Times. We would like to hear what you think about the issues we cover.

Last week, we reported on the attempts of Geert Wilders’ Party for Freedom to ban dual citizens from serving in the national Cabinet. This is what Dana E. Vorniceasa had to say about it:

Dear Editor,

About the controversial problem of double nationality, we should be in favour of it, as there is no doubt that we live in a cosmopolitan and open system. The matter addresses individual freedoms of choice and personal identity.

Many newcomers in any country experience an unclear self-perception and some of them even have an identity crisis because of the social-psychological effects caused by the pressure of integration.

To cut off the possibility of keeping two nationalities has the opposite effect on those people and will not help them mentally with a better and faster integration into Dutch society.

And, frankly, it is one of the human rights to belong here and there, to combine two cultures and lifestyles, to express yourself in many ways and to choose.

Distancing from your original nationality voluntarily is a preferable manner, not when it is imposed by the ‘state authorities’. Yours sincerely,

Omoa E. Vorniceasa
Amsterdam

So, if you have something you would like to say, about an issue in the paper or the paper itself, send us a letter. All letters are considered for publication, subject to space.

Contact our Editor at t.vanrijn@argopress.nl and see your name in print.

Rectifications

In 16 February’s edition, the head characters in the All along the waterfront piece on the Entertainment page were miss-spelled. The author of the book is called Sabine Lambesque instead of Labesque, and the bridge pictured is called the Hans Lammers bridge, not the Lammers bridge.

In 2 March’s edition, we forgot to credit the photographers of the pictures published in the Entertainment piece on the Tusk Theatre. The credits should go to Joris Jan Bos for David Krieger’s picture, to Roy Beusker for Ellis van Maarseveen’s shot and to Lucia Conteras for the group photo.

Also in 2 March’s edition we made a mistake on the front page newspaper photo story. The man pictured with Queen Beatrix is not Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, but Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Gül.

Toon Times
by Harry Gijsberts

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To apply, or to request more information: Contact our personnel department as soon as possible. Send your cover letter, CV and writing samples to Editor-in-Chief Tristan van Rijn at t.vanrijn@argopress.nl

Help Wanted

Argo Press is a young and dynamic organisation that publishes The Times in and around Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. For this newspaper we are rapidly seeking a: Journalist/Sub-Editor

Job Profile:
He or she contributes a significant portion of the newspaper’s weekly news content while based in our offices in Amsterdam. Weekly reporting on current affairs will be supplemented by the writing of larger, ‘featured’ stories, interviews and other content. He or she will also be required to collaborate with colleagues and to sub-edit copy before deadline. The candidate would report to the paper’s Editor-in-Chief.

Requirements:
The ideal candidate has at least a University or Professional (BHT) degree and experience in journalism. He or she must be organised, creative and able to write and edit under pressure. People skills and ability to network are also desired and software skills and lay-out experience are a plus. The candidate must be a native or near-native English speaker and must possess a strong command of spoken and written Dutch. Dutch fluency is absolutely essential.

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Brave PSV survive Arsenal barrage

LONDON | PSV reached the quarter-final of the Champions League on Wednesday by keeping Arsenal at 1–1 in the Emirates Stadium. The Eindhoven club survived a first half siege by the Gunners, but boldly enforced the London dream in the second.

By Yvain van Kiji

Welcomed by an angry cacophony of 60,000 fans PSV got a sense of what the night could bring. They needed to defend a 1–0 home win.

After half time, the stampede continued and PSV looked helpless, especially when defender Alex tapped a dangerous corner into his own goal: 1–0.

But then it became clear that the crowd had hoisted PSV before the match not because of their destiny, but because of fear of what might come.

After the fiasco led to a break-up between Sedoc and federation for their insufficient training methods.

Gregory Sedoc surprised even himself when he became wiser from that moment, he dominated the career by winning the classifications of the 1,000 and 1,500 metres.

Wennemars paid tribute to his already flourishing round of world cup matches and with 550 points in the classification, he finished before Carl Verheijen and the Italian Enrico Fabris.

The economic interest of a salesman Simply put, the salesman is the heart of any economy. Without trade no economy. A self-respecting salesman therefore has to take the following demands into account:

- Consumers are more critical and the image of the salesman strengthens that the salesman should therefore become an advisor instead of someone who tries to force the decision to buy.
- Clients dictate, they are in the driver’s seat.
- Customers show ‘convenience behaviour’, it is no longer a place for orienting the customer.
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Looking into the mirror When we look in the mirror, we can see the external part of the person. Whether we’ve slept well or not. The outside consists of the things we say and of non-verbal communication, our body language.

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- Provides leadership to the day-to-day operations of the sales department - sales teams and their respective team managers - in order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the sales force and consequently contribute to the company’s business objectives.
- Analyzes sales statistics to determine business growth potential and propose new initiatives as well as new approaches that can rely on years of purchasing.
- Oversees all interviewing and hiring of personnel involved in the sales department.

Responsibilities

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Paul-letta Kooning at 020-7130000

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