

Colofon

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Armand Wachelder - *Conference host*

Rita Darboven - *President*
Miranda Wiegers - *Secretary*
Peter Verhen - *Treasurer*
Lara Klaassen - *Advisory member*

Ilse van Lieshout - *Program director*
Luc Bronckers - *Accommodation director*
Jos Horbach - *Events director*
Calvin Young - *Wellness & safety director*
Wanda Hombergen - *Catering director*

CARETAKERS ALUMNI

Calvin Young - *Team leader*
Ayu Darmapatni - *Team leader*
Stan Vullings - *Team member*
Errikos Kontogoulidis - *Team member*
Laura Cox - *Team member*
Oscar Freens - *Team member*
Julien Beuken - *Team member*

CONFERENCE REPORT

Jan Smeets - *Editor*
Janneke Janssen - *Design*
Nanda Kevin - *Photography*

This report was made with support of
Duurzaam Maastricht



INTERNATIONAL BOARD

President Birgitta Norden, Sweden
- Email: birgitta.norden@iiee.lu.se
Vice-President Fatima Matos Almeida, Portugal
- Email: fma.aspea@netcabo.pt
Director of Networking Andrew Cox, Ireland
- Email: caretakeire@eircom.net
Corresponding Secretary Joke Wals, Netherlands
- Email: H.Wals3@kpnplanet.nl
Treasurer Edward C. Radatz, USA
- Email: Azecr@aol.com
Director Communications Isabel Abrams, USA
- Email: aqua847@aol.com
IT - Information Technology David Lloyd, Israel
- Email: david@etni.org
Resources & Development / Global Forum Editor in Chief
Dan Hoynacki, USA
- Email: dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu
Incoming Conference Chair Anne Marie Begg, Scotland
- Email: annie4sky@aol.com
Past Conference Chair Armand Wachelder, Netherlands
- Email: CaretakersNL@gmail.com
Recording Secretary Anne Marie Begg, Scotland
- Email: annie4sky@aol.com
Program Advisor Antoni Salamon, Poland
- Email: ajsal@wp.pl

ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory Board Members
Elisabeth Brun, Denmark
- Email: EJB-kultur@aalborg.dk
Kenneth Ochoa, Colombia
- Email: kenneth.ochoa@gmail.com
Thomas Wong, China
- Email: thomascfwong@gmail.com
Emeritus Board Member
Arjen E.J. Wals, Netherlands
- Email: arjen.wals@wur.nl

Conference partners



Conference report



CARETAKERS
Maastricht 2012

26TH CARETAKERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Maastricht, The Netherlands - 1 - 7 JULY 2012 -
SUSTAINABILITY IN CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP



CARETAKERS of the Environment International
>>>> A global network for teachers, educators and students

Content

Introduction	3
Speech Opening Caretakers	4
CareTakers & Social Media	5
Day by Day	6
Sunday	7
Monday	8
Tuesday	9
Wednesday	10
Thursday	11
Friday & Saturday	12
Workshop content	13
Workshop content	14
Workshop content	15
The Fieldtrips	16
The Fieldtrips	17
The Fieldtrips	18
Colororia	19
Colororia	20
Rights and Responsibilities	21
Loesje	22
Student reflection	23
Colofon	24

Introduction

“To take care of”: To assume responsibility for the maintenance, support, or treatment of ...”

Imagine: one sunny week in Maastricht with 236 delegates, 5 international alumni, 4 local students, 10 volunteers, 15 stakeholders and 5 experts... From 20 countries all over the world. While being dedicated to one central theme “Sustainability and Cross Border Partnership”, all these young individuals created a unique momentum: the 26th Caretakers of the Environment International Conference. In this reflection report we will try to give you a taste of what happened in Maastricht. For one more time we look back, so we can look forward again.

Boundaries are always human constructions. Taking care of our earth takes a global, constructive and open mind state. From the 1th till the 7th of July 2012, delegates and experts made new friendships and shared their views on specific environmental topics. Or, in the words of delegate Tony Currier-Reagor from Oregon: “The conference wasn’t about trying to find *your* way into another culture. It was about making a *new* one among your new friends.” During these busy days more questions were raised than answered. How to create a sustainable city? How to conserve and enjoy nature at the same time? How to find solutions when there are different interests?

These questions are exemplary for the ambitions on *Innovative City Planning* of the city Maastricht and the Euro-region as well. Answers are often extraordinary and simple at the same time. The *Autark Home*, for example, is a floating, self-sustainable and climate neutral living house on the river Maas. The *Sphinx Park* transformed an polluted factory area into a breeding ground for ecological development and Urban Gardening.

Knowing the problem is the most essential step towards finding the solution. The Conference was packed with high quality content and ‘introspection’, such as the various creative workshops, the challenging fieldtrips and the lectures from international speakers. There also were many moments of self-expression: a cultural night, the daily video interviews and a flash mob on the famous square the *Vrijthof*. A healthy body, a healthy mind: taking care of the world starts with

taking care of yourself. The organization arranged running tours through the city, early morning Wu Shu training and healthy biological, and yes... vegetarian food. Pleasure and business were combined, so to speak.

We want to thank all our, old and new, friends; the experts, organizations, teachers and delegates. We want to thank the International Board for their commitment and their confidence. We want to thank the Stay Okay Hotel and the Local Government of Maastricht once more for their hospitality. We are grateful to all the Alumni, especially towards mr. Calvin Young and ms. Ayu Darmapatni, for all the work they did. Thanks to our local heroes: Miranda, our secretary rolling with the crowd, Rita for her groundwork and expertise, Peter for his networking and help to get the necessary financial recourses. Now we may conclude: Thanks to all these people the 26th Caretakers of the Environment International conference has been a unforgettable success! Beyond expectation. Beyond imagination.

Armand Wachelder



Speech Opening Caretakers

Maandag 2 juli – Stadhuis /
Monday 2th of July - Cityhall Maastricht

“Dear participants in this 26th Conference on
‘Caretakers of the Environment International.’

Welcome to our Euregion Meuse-Rhine. And a special welcome here in Maastricht. In our beautiful old city hall at the market square. It is probably one of the best examples of sustainable buildings. Ever since 1664, without any interference, this has been the location where the local authorities of Maastricht reside.

Ladies and gentlemen. Or even better, dear adolescents,

“The future should not be predicted but it should be made possible”, according to the well known French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. That saying goes perfectly with the aim of your conference here in Maastricht this week with the appealing theme “Sustainability in Cross-Border Partnership”. Your goal is to preserve nature worldwide so to guarantee the wellbeing of future generations to come.

And therefor it can be said:

‘You take care’!

You do not achieve that by inventing the wheel yourselves, nor by writing piles of notes nor by underselling each other.

But through working together and exchange knowledge. By searching together for sustainable ways of living to make sustainability a common way of living for everyone.

With 260 adolescents, teachers and experts from over 20 countries you’ll be working in Maastricht this week. With workshops, lectures and excursions you’ll be working out sustainable ideas for very real Maastricht projects.

So please you put your shoulder to the wheel for the upcoming days!

You’ll present your ideas and effects, together with a number of recommendations, at the end of the week during an exhibition in the building of Landbouwbelaag.

You’ll all understand that as Alderman for

Sustainability I’ve written down your presentation in my calendar for coming Friday afternoon. Because an enormous ‘what’s in it for me’-component sticks to this conference, not only for you but for our city and me as well!

You can count on me being there to listen and learn. I’m already very curious regarding your ideas on how to keep Maastricht attractive for generations to come, for living, working, studying etcetera. Actually, I do expect that a number of your ideas can be used and implemented here in Maastricht.

Above all I think it’s wonderful that you’ve come with so many young people and kindred spirits to bring your knowledge to our city.

And make it freely available to everyone interested.

As city council we consider that a great gift and we’d like to thank you for that!

Dear everyone here present,

I’ll keep it at that because all the time I’m talking, will be at the expense of the time and energy you’re about to invest both in sustainability and in Maastricht.

I wish you lots of energy and creativity for this week and I’d like to be taken by surprise on Friday by your ideas and recommendations!

So show me ‘that you also take care of Maastricht’!

Good luck and enjoy your stay in Maastricht.”

Albert Nuss - Alderman of Sustainability



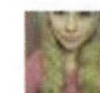
CareTakers & Social Media

The Medium is the Message (Mc Luhan)

How technology can change our perception and communication was made clear by the omnipresence of desktops, smartphones, digital camera’s and Ipads during the CEI Conference Maastricht. Everybody stayed worldwide connected, thanks to the WiFi of the StayOkayHotel.

Only a few years ago CEI conferences were organized by using only dedicated telephone lines and writing invitations by post. You had to wait and trust that different groups on various fieldtrips could find each other on the rendez vous point.

During the last conference so many digital eyes were documenting all the experiences. Putting them online by sharing, liking, blogging and twittering. Today more than 125 delegates and alumni still inform each other via Facebook.



Emma Sophie Gamby Stenhouse It was so awesome! You guys can dance!

18 juli 2012 om 15:45 · Vind ik leuk · 4



Lonneke Duijkers I agree with you Emma, I wanted to go on stage but in 3 seconds the stage was already full of people!

18 juli 2012 om 16:36 · Vind ik leuk · 5



Steven Pan

I miss Maastricht so much .



Vind ik leuk · Reageren · Bericht volgen · 15 juli 2012 om 16:21

Nanda Kevin, Laura Cox, Oscar Freens en 21 anderen vinden dit leuk. Bekeken door 96

Nog 2 reacties weergeven



Naysilla Dayanara That is not a view you can see everyday :)

15 juli 2012 om 16:59 · Vind ik leuk

Day by Day

**"Sunday: Arrive
Monday: Unite!
Tuesday: Be nervous
Wednesday: Explore...
Thursday: Reflect
Friday: The last
moments..."**

**(Week summarized by
Colorania Brown)**

Sunday July 1th, Arrival day

"We love the ice breaking activities and we are happy with Maastricht" (Grey)
"Bands and neckties are good, we like the colours; fun! Armand solves all problems. But, next time make the wristbands recycleable." (Orange)

Monday July 2nd

Ice breaking activities.
Opening lecture on protecting nature by Ignace Schops (Belgium) director of national park Kempen en Maasland.
Workshop round 1: Delegates are assigned to colour-groups and get the opportunity to create a imaginary country including a flag and a story (see page 19).
Delegates walk in flag parade to city Hall, Opening Ceremony and Speech Alderman of Sustainability Albert Nuss.
Continue Workshop.
Social evening/karaoke.

"The opening lecture was informative and interesting workshops, very relaxing" (Pink)
"The pie service at the town hall was very welcoming. The keynote speaker placed in wonderful points." (Grey)

Tuesday July 3th

Morning assembly.

Project presentations. (for a description of all delegate's projects, see Global Forum, Volume 22, Number 1, July 2012).
Presentation on animal welfare by Phil Brooke (UK) of Compassion in World Farming.
Cultural evening.

"Food: Very positive decision to not eat meat, but we missed the sausages for breakfast." (Orange)
"Tuesday... We were nervous about the presentations but we did our best!! And watching others' project and culture was very inspiring for us!!" (Brown)
"The cultural night was unique" (Grey)

Wednesday July 4th

Field trips naar Lummen, Aken binnenstad, St-Pietersberg, Meuse River en binnenstad Maastricht. Vaals Gathering - all delegates gather at three countries point in Vaals.
Social evening/karaoke.

"We love the apples, We liked the Belgium Museum, The buses were nice.
The day should start later because the cultural night ended around 12." (Grey)
What we would recommend:
"Choose field trips by ourselves and more free time before dinner." (Purple)

Thursday July 5th

Presentations of colour groups. (Colorania)
Good morning activities running tours, wu-shu workshop, city bike tours.
Workshop round 2 Field trip evaluation and Conference recommendations.
Presentation on Green Laws by Muhammad Majid Bashir, President of CEI in Pakistan.

Free time activities: visit Mondiaal Centrum, visit Natuurhistorisch museum, visit Hoge Fronten, visit Demotech.

"FREE FREE FREE! ... we got a chance to talk about all the fun we had and to make this presentation to show everyone" (Brown)

"One should consider more options for food (E.g. meat: not everyone is vegetarian)"
"Each country is given 1 night to cook traditional food such as Dutch delicacies." (Orange)

Vrijdag July 6th

Workshop round 3 - Finalising workshops and presentations.
Project Exhibition and presentations.
Certification.
Evening Concert and Party.

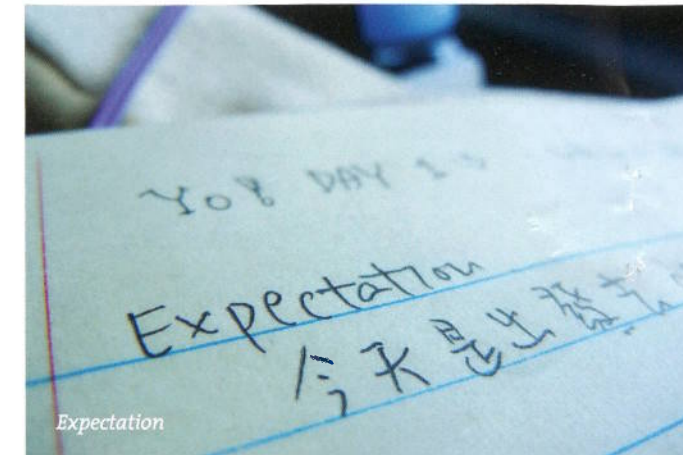
"What we really like: Flash mob was a great idea. The mixing of nations for "color-country groups". Having free time in the evenings (we don't wanna sleep!)" (Purple)

Saturday July 7th

Goodbye!
Delegates travel back home or continue on their post conference-trips.



Sunday July 1th



Expectation



Icebreaker



the first group of Taiwan arrived



Late night conference preparation



Icebreaker

Monday July 2nd



Getting to work



Opening lecture



Intern board with the Alderman



Opening lecture by Ignace Schops



Opening ceremony

Tuesday July 3th



Cultural evening



Cultural evening, alumni klompendans



Cultural evening group



Cultural evening, traditional Russian style



Cultural evening group

Wednesday July 4th



Visiting the Eiffel hall



Walking to St. Pieters hill



Hands on work



Visiting Belvédère



Group photo at the Sphinx factory

Thursday July 5th



Alumni



Alumni showing how it is done



Karaoke



Presentation by Majid Bashir



The flashmob



Workshop content

Monday the 2nd of July was dedicated to various creative workshops. There were about 236 participants divided into 10 workshop groups. They were asked to bring all their mobile devices (we'd never seen so many smartphones at one spot) some laptops and USB Sticks. And of course a creative and open state of mind! Each group had their own colour and all the 'caretakers' were asked to rule their own imaginary country. (See page 19 - Colororia)

Aims

The aims of the workshops were simple but not always easy: getting in touch with each other while, at the same time, getting acquainted, from a creative and artistic point of view, with the diverse topics around sustainability and 'taking care'. The output was a digital presentation for each group.

Workshop content:

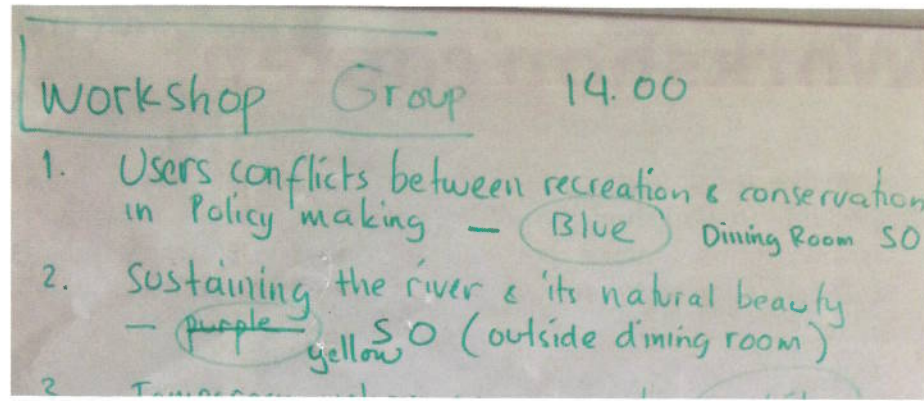
1. Users conflicts between recreation and conservation
2. Sustaining the River and its natural beauty
3. Temporary Urban Environment
4. Nature as our Teacher
5. Local initiatives to halt global climate change
6. Window gardening
7. Trees for Peace
8. Rights and Responsibilities
9. Creative activism on how to tickle the minds with Loesje
10. Animal Country, making masks in the Park

Delegate: "This isn't a workshop, it is just sitting in the park!"

Teacher: "Yes, that exactly is what this workshop is all about!"



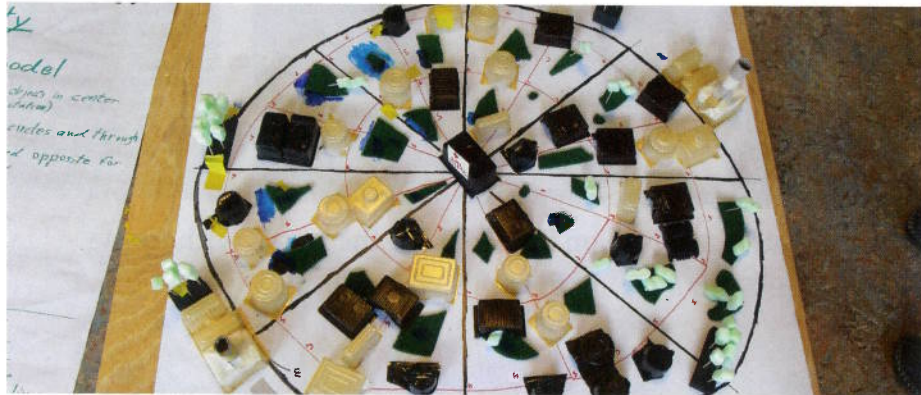
1.
Users conflicts between
recreation and conservation



2.
Sustaining the River and its
natural beauty



3.
Temporary Urban Environment



4.
Nature as our Teacher



5.
Local initiatives to halt global
climate change



6.
Window gardening



7.
Trees for Peace



8.
Rights and Responsibilities



9.
Creative activism on how to
tickle the minds with Loesje



10.
Animal Country, making masks
in the Park



The Fieldtrips

© Concentra - HBVL Krant, 07 juli 2012, blz. 78

ACTUEEL

LUMMEN

Japanners en Russen naar Schulensmeer



Russen, Indonesiërs, Japanners, Turken en Amerikanen staken een handje toe aan het Schulensmeer. Foto KLu

Een groep van 50 internationale jongeren bezocht het natuurgebied Het Schulensbroek. Heel wat Russen, Indonesiërs, Japanners en Turkse tieners staken zelfs de handen uit de mouwen om het open karakter van het polderlandschap te herstellen. Tot vandaag, 7 juli, wonen 260 jongeren, docenten en experts uit 20 landen de 26ste conferentie van Caretakers of the Environment International bij. Chris Dictus van Natuurpunt: "De 12 tot 18-jarigen volgden een uitdagend programma van workshops, lezingen en excursies. Het thema van de conferentie is 'duurzaamheid in samenwerken over grenzen heen'. Er is ook gepraat over het open landschap en hoe de situatie was in het thuisland van de jongeren."

De Amerikaanse begeleider Dan Hoynacki (68) vond het Schulensbroek fantastisch. "Het gebied is vergelijkbaar met mijn woonplaats Oregon. Het klimaat is hetzelfde, maar we hebben wel bergen. Opvallend is wel dat hier veel respect is voor de natuur."

KLu

Wednesday the 4th of July was exploring day. Divided into 5 groups all the delegates went to fieldtrip across the so called Euro-region. The 5 general topics that, two days earlier, were chosen for the workshops, were the same case studies of the field trips. By doing so CEI Maastricht created a broader discussion and involvement from all participants.

1. Users conflicts between recreation and conservation

This group visited the Pietersberg (Peters hill) in Maastricht. They went to the famous marl caves and 'Hoeve Lichtenberg'. Mr. Paul Wijenberg, guide from the organisation Natuurmonumenten (Nature Landmarks), gave a presentation. This field trip was organized by Ms. Pauline Wolters from CNME-Maastricht (Educational Centre for Nature and Environment) and Martha van de Ven-Kuijpers from the Maastricht tourist office (VVV).

2. Sustaining the river and its natural beauty.

This educational and challenging fieldtrip around the river Maas, was organized by five students from "Hogeschool Zuyd". They gathered information about the different water levels, and let the delegates actively think about all the challenges, of the River Maas in between Maastricht and the City Liege, about 30 kilometres south. Delegates left that day by boat, they visited the "BorderMaas-project" and attended a presentation from Mr. Udo Boot from Rijkswaterstaat (Public Works and Water Management).

3. How to involve local community in promoting sustainable life style.

Our delegates visited various sustainable and innovative initiatives in the inner city of Maastricht like 'Autarkhome'; a floating self-sustainable house on the river Maas. In the open space 'het Landhuis' (the Cottage) they saw a documentary about 'sustainable lifestyle', made by a young and promising filmmaker, Ms. Maaïke Drinhausen. Last but not least they visited the empty Sphinx factory (Mr. Joep Delsing, communication advisor for the Local Government) and the experimental and temporarily Sphinx park; a breeding ground for urban agriculture.

4. Local initiatives to halt global climate change

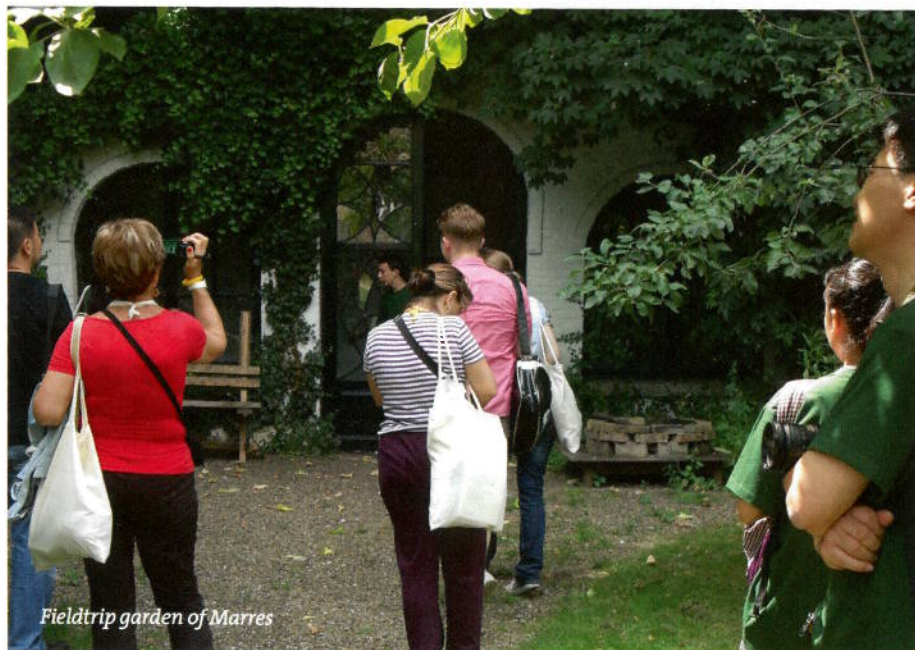
Cross-boundary; this fieldtrip went to Germany. Especially for Caretakers 2012 Kreascientia Aachen (they develop future-oriented and creative learning programs) organized a "Climate-Parcours". First all the delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of the city Aachen, Mr. Marcel Philipp. Subgroups of delegates visited diverse initiatives like ReScope, Misereor, Europe Direct and the Technical University of Aachen (RWTH).

5. Nature as our teacher

For this fieldtrip the delegates also went abroad to Schulensbroek, Belgium. They visited a famous nature reserve and breeding ground for birds. This fieldtrip combined body, mind and soul. Delegates had to play a game to get more insights into the changing landscape, they worked together hard while gathering all the pruning waste to one spot. After lunch they visited a big Art Venue located in an old mining Factory. Manifesta 9 was a European Biennial where questions were raised, via art, about capitalism, sustainability and the world wide effects of mining in general.



Fieldtrip Three Countries Point, Vaals



Fieldtrip garden of Marres



In the labyrinth



Fieldtrip Three Countries Point, Vaals



Fieldtrip to Belgium



Doves

Colororia

Dear inhabitants of Colororia,
Colororia? I can hear your mind working, trying to remember if you heard about it ever before. Let me help you.
Colororia is your own created colorful world, resulting from the digital world sessions. Despite the busy programme we believe that you made something very special of the concept and came up with fun, creative and well-considered ideas.
Sit back and enjoy a trip through your own imagination: Colororia!

A ROYAL WEDDING IN HAPPEACE? - From our correspondent in Happeace

Royal bride-to-be Christina has been confirmed to be seen in the royal palace of King Won Jun, along with her three bridesmaids to plan for their big Grand Royal Wedding. Love has many moods. It can be full of passion and intense feelings. The love story of King Won Jun and the lovely brunette tells us that love can also be humorous and spontaneous, as well as sweet and romantic. Our sources confirmed that the love story of the royal couple started with the embarrassment of our royal highness to find himself entering the wrong restroom. It was a Sunday afternoon when the tall 6 foot king clumsily swings in the wrong door, and that was it; their first meeting.

"I was having a rough day... Everything seems to be a blur," the King confessed with a blush on his cheeks.

What happened next was a story both neither of them could ever forget.

"At that time, I was still too stressed out about finally getting ascended to the throne. With my father gone, I was lost. I even thought about ending my life! So there I was... Ready to jump off the bridge... and then she happened..."

Unlike the normal cliché of a chick flick movie— where the girl saves the boy from jumping off a bridge, the story of the royal couple happened otherwise. Given the intention of saving the royal highness, she accidentally pushed him off the bridge. Little did she know, the royal security team were already on standby to catch the falling former prince. Guilty, Christina decided to buy him dinner, and since then on, their love flourished into a beautiful, yet strange love story; the Royal Love Story.

Popstars and politicians presented - From our correspondent in Triple W

Duru, elected president of Triple W (What a Wonderful World) said today in an interview that the people elected him because they shared the same democratic views. He told us: "our country is very unique, because there are four regions that have all of the seasons. Our north is very famous for winter games year around. In our south, our citizens enjoy with summer sports 365 days a year" One of the most special things of Triple W is its rich diversity of plant species. Special plants are grown for cosmetics and pharmacy and nature is balanced with a well developed technologic sector. Duru proudly told that Triple W's technology is not harmful for plants and animals and that in general, animals are very respected in this peaceful country. "but also the people are special. We like working in groups and are always looking for partners to make projects. Come and visit our unique place that has a rich variety of resources. Triple W, just for you..." A real marketing man, this president.

But there is more in this special country. CJ, Triple W's best known lawyer, gave us an insight in their law. "The law in our country is very strict. The consequences of breaking it are equal to the crime". It seems that the people agree with the law since so far nobody broke it. Financially, Artuom is dealing with the country. The finances are balanced and both consumers and producers are satisfied, there is no corruption, a perfect world!

Also in terms of celebrities Triple W has some talent to offer. Vlad is the movie star everybody in Colororia knows and at the moment he revealed he is working on a new script which is about the environment. Next to making money for starring in his movies he will be joined by nobody else but George Clooney. Of course, the music for the movie will be made by one of the most famous singers: Justin Bieber! It promises to be a fabulous movie! Another famous singer, born in Triple W, is Amir, a famous R&B singer. We are happy to announce that Amir just concluded a successful tour through Colororia. Now he has time to work on his new album which will be presented in Chicago, next year. Even though he asked us not to make it public, we can't keep this information from you: Chris Brown and Lil Wayne will sing a song with Amir on his new CD! Amir is highly successful and that comes with a lot of money he spends on charity projects in Triple W, helping the people and the environment. Altogether Triple W seems to be a country worth a visit we think!

Orangia, a country at the far east of Colororia, has only recently been founded, but it is heading towards a state where all people benefit from the welfare and wellbeing in the country. How much do you know actually about this far-away country? We just returned from a working visit and will educate you a bit. Our timing was perfect, because when we arrived we witnessed the coronation of Queen Meghan, the first elected queen of Orangia. Together with her government, which has also been chosen democratically by all the people, she will reign over Orangia and try to even further expand Orangia's high standard of living. Their ministries are working hard to help with this challenging job.

The Ministry of Creativity is busy creating a unique orange flag and the Ministries of Environment, Culture, Sport, Finance & Military and Health & Education are all working very hard too and we will surely hear from them in the future since they started a creative project on slogans inspired by Loesje.

Important to mention: the Queen is single and actively looking for a partner...

Tragic accident in Pink'd Kingdom - From our correspondent in Pink'd Kingdom

Yesterday a tragic accident happened in the new pink coloured theme park that was opened in Pink'd Kingdom, one of most western countries of Colororia. The theme park was opened about two weeks ago and, we must admit, we were stunned when we saw it! King Alexander wore his special occasion royal cape made of the finest pink silk and the sun shined brightly on his gold crown, obviously with pink diamonds. Literally everything in the park is pink, as is most in the entire country.

Yesterday it went wrong however when one of the roller coasters had technical problems. At the time of the problems it was not busy in the park, but there happened to be one female (age unknown up to now) on the roller coaster. Unfortunately she was just at the point where the roller coaster was riding upside down and so she fell out when the engine stopped working. Luckily for her, the ground was covered with cotton candy so she had a soft landing and only had to take a bath to get all the sticky sweet candy off her skin, clothes and out of her hair.

A tragic accident with a happy ending! Hopefully the next news item we bring you from Pink'd Kingdom is happier.

Because being normal is not hipster- From our correspondent from Purpletopia

Nothing is what it seems in this monarchy across the Purplecean. Perhaps the fact that you need to fly for over 10 hours to reach any other country was the reason for some interesting traditions and characteristics of the Purpletopians. These people, ruled by their self-crowned Queen Darma the Purplest, have to be treated with care and should only be approached after having read a manual. To start with, purple has a different meaning in this faraway Queendom. Whereas everywhere in Colororia the word purple means the colour you get when you mix red and blue, in Purpletopia it means peace. Now, don't make the common mistake to think you have just learned a word in modern Purpleian, as they named their language. The most fascinating aspect of Purpletopia is that, although there is a modern version of Purpleian, nobody speaks it and everybody speaks ancient Purpleian. To make it worse, somehow everybody in Purpletopia is born colourblind, a truly annoying abnormality in a world such as Colororia. But that would be no problem, if Queen Darma the Purplest's government would not have created the rule that each and every person that wants to live in Purpletopia has to be colourblind too. You might thus reconsider immigrating to this place across the water...

1 + 1 = 1 in Greensterdam's history - From our correspondent in Greensterdam

Once upon a time, long ago, there were two countries that were constantly at war: Greenos and Esterdam. Each of the fighting countries wanted to have the food and resources of the other county and that went hand in hand with conflict. Not only a lot of damage was done to the infrastructure and (unbelievably green) environment, also many people died. One day however things were about to change. The Greenos president's daughter and Emsterdam's president's son met each other and, how classical, they fell in love. Straight away, love on first sight. A week later a public news item was released announcing a wedding, something that shocked a lot of people, since the couple had met only once and the ongoing condition of war between the counties seemed to be a too big obstacle to take. More war occurred, but those who are persistent will celebrate victory: the marriage was a fact after about two years of negotiations and talks. Peace was found and the impossible was made possible. One + one resulted in one: Greenos and Emsterdam were combined into one big democratic republic which up to now we call Greensterdam.

Nowadays Greensterdam is an eco-friendly and democratic green republic where the grass is always greener on the other side. People live peacefully in tree houses, mainly in the enormous 'home tree' in the center of the forest. The only diplomatic trouble lately has been about the McDonalds signs in McYellow that disturb the view according to the government officials. Perhaps another diplomatic marriage can solve this issue...

Rights and Responsibilities

Education for Sustainable Living - Resolving Problems via Rights and Responsibilities

Economic Sustainability: Educating for Desired Careers of the near Future - Dan Hoynacki & Ryan Kinnett

Situation:

Education after secondary school is primarily designed to train for existing career positions. By 2022, the technology explosion and economic uncertainty are but two factors that make the availability of desired careers for college graduates uncertain, and undefined. A college education is expensive. Few universities offer degrees in Sustainable Living. Business is reluctant to identify their professional personnel needs in five let alone ten years.

Question:

How do Caretakers 2012 Maastricht youth delegates adequately prepare and pursue their college education to assume themselves a career of their desires?

What are the rights and responsibilities of the different entities in this issue?

Individual Students:

Right to choose the jobs we desire to make enough money to be financially secure.

Responsibility to make the commitment to work enough to take care of ourselves and others, ensuring safety, paying bills, etc.

Families of students:

Right to guide, not force career choices. *Right* to not be upset by choices of one family member.

Responsibility to support the individual student within their means and encourage their dreams.

Students' Communities:

Right to view youth employment in a broader perspective than individual desires.

Responsibility to consider the consequences of underemployment to the livability of their community

Businesses/NGOs:

Right to organize their own business based on their own ideas and choose their employees

Responsibility to be fair and just, and as specific as possible to prospective employees for the future

Educational Institutions:

Right to offer education that is popular.

Responsibility to provide education that is relevant to today's needs as well as the near future

Government:

Right to establish fair laws for public safety and dispense punishment to those who break them

Responsibility to protect and maintain individual equality and support environments where individuals will be respected.

Solutions:

1. Students should choose multiple education tracks that match their dreams and passions. In the future, youth need to be more flexible and adapt to changing employment situations.
2. Students should seek practical experiences to see how you like certain professions.
3. Students need to realize that the values/measures for achievement in educational institutions is not the same as values/measures in the business world.
4. Students need to challenge educators in providing relevant, realistic, not idealistic employment characteristics outside of the education field.
5. Students need to develop an attitude to keep challenging themselves and take responsibility for their own career development.

FEET ENERGY

www.loesje.org

PROTECT
THE NATURE

loesje@loesje.org

POWERFUL
AGAINST
CO2

Loesje

MAYBE YOU WILL
EVEN SEE
THE SMURFS

Loesje

www.loesje.org
loesje@loesje.org

MY DOG ALSO
CHASES
BALLS

AND
IT DOES NOT
EARN MILLIONS

Loesje

loesje@loesje.org

www.loesje.org

IMAGINE A
WORLD MAP
WITH ONLY
TWO COLOURS

GREEN
AND
BLUE

Loesje

www.loesje.org
loesje@loesje.org

DON'T
BE FREE
JUST DURING
YOUR FREE TIME

www.loesje.org

loesje@loesje.org

Loesje

IF YOU
STOP AND LISTEN
TREES HAVE
A LOT TO SAY

loesje@loesje.org

www.loesje.org

Loesje

Student Reflection

Carried Away by My Imagination

Leadership is the art, knowing when to step in and help, or stepping back

Carried away by my imagination, I was lost in the business of my life. Watching the colors of the sky cavort with one another, I found a focus into the bigger picture. This is the simple idea of learning to let the creative genius out. Stress is boiled down into a determination to carry on. Leadership is honed, and provided for those without it, a gift for anyone. Leadership is the art, knowing when to step in and help, or stepping back, letting it play out like a game of chess: A piece of life - a gift - given to each person. No matter whom it is, where someone is from, the value of their cultures, we all have leadership. Like the ocean and moon it is a push and pull. The breath of life comes from the heart. Channeling this life into the actions of others is the art of being a leader.

Maastricht, Netherlands was my place and time for learning this. Having come from Hungary conference a year prior, I knew this year's conference coordinator. This must have been the key differential between the conferences. I saw the way conference was laid out. How it was planned. It was poetry woven into the essence of life. For one week I was a character in living poetry. I felt a part of a bigger whole. Perhaps it was the culture of the Netherlands, the conference planner, the coordinator, or even me; but Hungary was not this way.

The conference wasn't about trying to find your way into another culture. It was about making a new one among your new friends.

This feeling of living poetry; the feeling of being whole with the conference, and its people, gave me a moment. A moment that was priceless. I saw Maastricht and was taken away. By day I was a leader juggling the pressures of these feelings; and by night I was worried about facing the next day's challenges. Afraid that a night's sleep might take away my dream, I might be left stranded in the reality I had come to know at home. It was more than a conference, but it was an experience. It seemed as if the entire thing was about making each student become a part of the family. The conference wasn't about trying to find your way into another culture. But it was about making a new one among your new friends. I saw the ideas, cultural attitudes, techniques, and values of every culture reflected in the friendships and partnerships. Maastricht was a home for our new family.

I think we were all a bit teary eyed when it was time to leave. The entire thing seemed to go so quick and it was so passionate compared to the drudge of my work and home life.

For me, leaving the conference was like leaving in the middle of a concert. Even though I witnessed a final ceremony for the closing of the conference, I never felt like I had finished it. Imagine being a musician and walking away from the show. You just set down your instrument and walk away, or leaving a book half written. These are frustrating feelings I don't quite understand. But I hope that the next conference will be a help to me to put these pieces together.

I have found that each conference has shown me a little about who I am. As both an American and a human being, I find that I'm a little more complete when I return. I don't know what it means to be complete. How it could feel important. But I know my life improves with every journey and experience.

Tony Currier-Reagor
Early College High School Salem, Oregon

