

Student baptism with mattresses

Every year different faculties organize a student baptism at which the first-year students have to survive lots of teasings and humiliation. Something that can get out of hand sometimes. Someone told us that there once was a student, who jumped out of a window with two mattresses. The rumour goes around that he didn't survive it. But it's not sure if the student was real or not.

About the building: 'Moorinneke'

The building is mostly known and recognized because of its wonderful bust on the façade. A fun anecdote is written on the base of the bust. In the 15th century the building was still called 'den moer' or 'den moriaen' coming from the name Maurius. At the end of the 15th century a clerk wrongfully thought that the name 'den moer' meant 'ethnic'. As a result of this wrong interpretation, an ethnic woman's bust was placed above the name. Now there is a restaurant in the building where you can eat delicious food.

About the library of the university

On a stormy evening, an exhausted student decided after hours of studying in the library to lay down the books and go home. But as he walked through the dark corridors, he noticed that the doors were closed. He became so desperate because he couldn't leave the library, that he smashed the window and broke it with an oak chair. Then, cheering he disappeared in the dark night and he never came back to the library.

About the [museum of zoology](#): a belgian solution

The animals were bought in by Willem the 1st from countries like England, France and Germany. The collection was expanded by a professor named Pierre-Joseph Van Beneden, he brought in a lot of aquatic mammals. In 1944 during World War 2 a bomb was dropped on the museum by the allies and a big part of the collection was gone. In 1970 the university got divided in two parts and so did the collection. All the male mammals went to the French half of the university and the female mammals went to the Flemish part.

About [Fonske](#)

Fonske is a statue in the centre of the university city of Leuven, on the Rector De Somerplein. His full name is Fons Sapientiae, Latin for 'source of wisdom'.

Fonske was designed by Jef Claerhout and was a gift for the 550th birthday of KUL, in 1975.

This statue is a student, reading a book, pouring the wisdom in the form of water into his head. This meaning was given to the statue later on. According to sculptor Claerhout: "It's a sculpture of someone who is while observing someone's behaviour, pouring a beer into his head."

Student organisations didn't agree with the statue because they thought it was a caricature mocking drinking students. That is why it now is called the "source of wisdom". Just like Manneken Piss Fonske gets dressed up for special occasions.

The mystery of the empty gaps in the Town hall of Leuven.

It took 400 years before the 236 gaps in the Town Hall of Leuven were filled with statues. Matthijs de Layens worked 21 years on building the Town Hall, there were two people that worked on it before him but he had the most important part of the build. Directly after the building was finished the town council gave Matthijs the job of placing the first 5 statues. He had to arrange the fabrication, transport and placement of the statues. The statues were finished in 1472 and were transported via De Dijle to Leuven.

But because of a big storm the ship capsized and the statues broke and got washed away by the water. The city council wanted the statues made again and by the same sculpter. Matthijs was still responsible. Two years later the statues were finished. This time they were even able to place the statues in the bottom gaps. But not much later the statues appeared to be stolen. So the city council ordered the same 5 statues for the third time. Two years later they were finished again. Matthijs learned from his mistakes and put them in the top gaps. On the fifth of January a very big storm raged over the whole country. The wind was strong enough to blow the statues out of their gaps and make them smash on the ground. Matthijs de Layens died in 1483 so they didn't think about the statues for a while. In the later centuries it wasn't possible to think about the statues with the plague and the famine and everything else. It lasted until after 1880 until all the 236 gaps were filled.

The Bag With the Python

A very long time ago there was a man walking around in Leuven. Every day, he carried a white plastic bag. There was a rumour from the people in town that he had a python in his bag. Everyone thought it was like the snake can strangle. But later, it turned out that it was not a python snake but a python gun. Because later the man robbed a bank with his gun in the Brusselsestraat and with his gun he shot a student.