

‘WATCH OUT FOR CAMPUS THIEVES’

Cases of items being stolen in and around the teaching buildings on campus have occurred regularly in recent months. This is clear both from Wageningen police figures and students’ stories. Forum location manager Ludy Zeeuwen thinks the number of thefts has increased. She advises students to be careful.

In the first few months of 2018, Wageningen police received reports of the theft of four laptops, six bikes, one wallet and one mobile phone on campus. More items have probably been taken in practice, says Zeeuwen, because she has the impression that people do not always report this to the police.

Orion and Forum in particular, both of which have unrestricted access, seem to be popular with thieves. The above-mentioned thefts of the laptops, wallet and phone all took place in these

buildings. The bicycles were stolen from Atlas, Helix and Axis.

‘Students working in a quiet place assume they can leave their laptop for a moment,’ explains Zeeuwen. ‘I can understand that, if you pop off to the toilet or just need a break. But if you go off and leave your laptop for three quarters of an hour with your Master’s thesis on it and no backup, this can have nasty consequences.’

On 30 April, first-year Management, Economics and Consumer Studies student Aniek Hoonhorst was chatting to a friend in Forum. When she went to pick up her bag, which was next to her, she discovered her laptop was missing. ‘I was in shock.’ There was a similar incident one week later. Nutrition and Health student Eva Elseman had her laptop, wallet and keys stolen from her bag while she was doing an exam in Orion.

The community police officer



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

▲ Students often leave their laptops behind in the library when they take a break.

Jos Smits does not think we are seeing a peak in the number of thefts. ‘But every theft is one too many. So even if you pop off just for a moment, take your laptop with you or leave it in a locker.’ In-

formation screens in the teaching buildings warn students not to leave their valuables unattended. People who have had an item stolen are advised to report it to the police. **R LZ, KT**

‘WUR NEEDS TO BECOME EVEN MORE RELEVANT’

Louise Fresco (1952) will be staying on as president of the WUR Executive Board for another four years, the Supervisory Board has announced. In the coming period, she wants WUR to both ‘simply remain in the global top’ and increase its social relevance.

What have you achieved in the past four years?
‘There are key issues at the heart of our domain. I have therefore worked from day one on conducting a dialogue with society. Value creation has also been an important point. We have operations in several countries and have initiated partnerships with more parties. In the context of One Wageningen, I have also sought to strengthen links between the units, and between fundamental and applied science as well.’

What are your plans for the coming period?
‘These are crucial times with big changes around WUR. Society’s perception of the food and agrosector has changed considerably in recent years. We need to allow for this and not just claim that science is right. We need to spell out

the consequences of certain societal choices and provide options that politicians and society can then debate. The geopolitical context has also changed. Take Brexit, for example, and the rise of China. What impact will that have on the regulation of genetic modification, say? There is also the question of what will happen to education. Will we continue to focus on 18 to 22-year-olds or will we be concentrating more on life-long learning?’

Where will WUR be in four years’ time?

‘From an internal perspective, One Wageningen will need to be even more solid. From an external perspective, WUR needs to become even more relevant. Society is facing major transitional challenges in agriculture, food and energy. Money is not the limiting factor; it’s the question of how you give shape to that transition and innovation. WUR can play a role here by coming up with good options. And of course we need to simply remain in the global top in terms of research and education.’ **AV**

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PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

▲ Louise Fresco: ‘We need to spell out the consequences of certain societal choices.’