



DEAR DONDRITES,

The festive season is upon us! And what better way to start the celebrations than by reading your favourite newsletter?

This month, the Scribe committee has worked hard to bring you all the hot goss from within the Donders and Dondrite. Have you ever wondered what the glorious secretary of the CNS programme, Ellen, is really like? Two of our seasoned reporters climbed all the way to the second floor of the Spinoza building to find out!

And do you want to be able to integrate well with the Dutch people, even if you were born in the Netherlands? Then you can find out all there is to know about Sinterklaas in our 'How to: Sinterklaas' special!

Of course, you can find other things in this newsletter as well. The hot goss of Dondrite and the Donders is waiting for you. What has happened the past month and what will happen in December? We've got the juice.

Oh and don't forget our 'hidden hyperlinks'. Try clicking on things! This icon might help you:



NOVEMBER

RUNNING THE CNS MASTER BEHIND THE SCENES

Getting to know Ellen

We all have heard of and from Ellen many times. Her name seems to pop up in the most unexpected places. But who is the person that organizes all these things for us CNS students? The person without whom the whole programme would fall apart? Scribe reporters went all the way up to the second floor in Spinoza area B to find out more about the one and only Ellen Janssen who runs the CNS master behind the scenes.

Ellen Janssen is currently the secretary of the CNS master *and* the Donders graduate school, and has been for 5 years. Initially, this is not what she once studied for. "I studied Art school and worked for an interior architect for 20 years," she explains. After the big financial recession in 2008, she decided to search for a secretarial job. Previously working for a commercial company and after that at the Radboudumc for 3 years, she switched to the CNS master and Donders Institute 5 years ago. "I find this a very nice place to work. I don't have that many real secretarial activities. My job is also a lot about

initiating little ideas, making changes in processes and streamlining processes. That's why I really like it, as I'm very involved in the team, and I feel I can really have my say." We all know Ellen secretly runs the place, but what does it really entail to be *the* secretary? Her tasks range from preparing the admission interviews for Arno, to organizing graduation ceremonies and other activities. Moreover, she answers all of our organizational questions, and according to her, stupid questions do not exist.



"I studied Art school and worked for an interior architect for 20 years."



“When students enter my office, they always see me typing. I’m always on the computer. For example, Thursday is my last working day of the week and when I enter on Monday, I have at least 100 emails with all kinds of questions I need to answer.” Not only CNS master students contact her, but PhD students as well, with all kinds of various questions related to education. As she receives so many emails with questions, what would have been the weirdest or funniest question she has ever gotten? “A funny thing that maybe happened twice, is that *parents* emailed me about their son or daughter wanting to start the CNS master and that they have some questions. Why would the parents email me instead of the students themselves?! You’re at least 20!” What about the smartest question she received? “What I really like is when people email me that there is for example a mistake on the website or somewhere else. I appreciate when people read something, notice the mistakes and also communicate those back to me. That really helps.”

“When students enter my office, they always see me typing.”

Being surrounded by neuroscientists and neuroscience students, is there something particular she noticed about neuroscience students? “I don’t have that much comparison to other students, as this is my first job at the university where I have regular contact with students. But what I noticed the first year already is that these students are very polite. I’m always treated with much respect here.” When it comes to a typical view of the CNS student, she does not think there is one. “I think there are all kinds of students here. My overall view would be very hardworking students, interested in science and always coming up with such interesting ideas.”

“Parents emailed me about their son or daughter wanting to start the CNS master and that they have some questions.”

As always, Ellen has some solid advice, relating to her view of hardworking CNS students: “Students have many tasks, have a job besides studying. I always hope that every student will find their way in managing all these things. Students often think they

DID YOU KNOW...

- Ellen loves to sail, and if she would not be working as a secretary of the CNS master, she would love to make a big sailing trip around the world.
- She has a daughter of 17 and a son of 20 years old.
- During the Crazy 88 game in the Dondrite introduction, she most enjoys people coming to her office to read a poem or sing a song.
- In her job, she most enjoys contact with students and PhD students, and solving problems for them.
- And she least enjoys taking notes during meetings.
- Ellen is studying to become a study advisor, meaning she’ll be of even more support in future CNS students’ lives.
- Ellen loves how, indirectly, her job teaches her more about the brain. When they’re interesting, she takes PhD theses home to read (“Only the summaries, of course.”), and she found it very exciting when Marijtje showed her a real brain.

have to do so much right now for their CV, like going abroad, being on all kinds of committees and other things besides studying. I would advise them to try and find the balance and maybe leave some things behind. Because you also need to live, have friends, go out. That is the most important.” Try to find the balance is what is key, even now in this moment you are studying.

“You also need to live, have friends, go out. Try to find the balance.”

With those kind words of wisdom, it is clear that Ellen is here to help you with whatever problem in the master you may face.

Finally, the crucial question, set to be a Dondrite News staple: Pineapple on pizza. Yay or nay? “No, definitely not.” Ellen truly is a woman of wisdom.

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Warning: this Word from the Board contains a few paragraphs worth of somewhat incoherent philosophical blabbering. Reader discretion is advised.

Dearest Dondrites,

How often do you sit down and wonder what the future has in store for you?

Before answering this rhetorical question, have you ever noticed that this cliché of an idiom personifies “the future” as some force holding your decisions hostage? Of course one can easily argue for this type of view by stating that everything in the world by first-order approximation is deterministic, and all of the decisions that we have ever made or will make are determined by our genes, our social environment etc. Thus, the future might as well be metaphorically portrayed as one specific set of decisions and actions unbeknownst to us. Despite this conclusion fitting well into our current world view, I used to find it to be too fatalistic.

Returning to the original question... I, probably like most of you, do such thinking relatively often. What am I going to do after my Master's? Why am I living in the Netherlands when my loved ones are elsewhere? How can I earn some extra cash money? When approached, these questions might cause some anxiety. I used to deal with such anxiety by trying to plan ahead; scrutinizing each detail and paving some imaginary path of 'success'. Yet, just as the Soviet planned economy collapsed in the long-run, these thought-out rationalizations did not necessarily materialize as intended. Hence, embracing the aforementioned fatalism was freeing at times.

A bit more than a year ago, I joined the Board with this go-with-the-flow attitude, and I was predetermined to never regretted this decision. With certain Dondrite and personal objectives accomplished, I am now excited to step-down and (hopefully) welcome two new enthusiastic bright minds to the Board.

With warm regards,
Karolis



RECENT DONDRITE EVENTS

This month a lot of exciting activities were organised! During the October borrel, (almost) everyone was dressed up in Halloween-style! There were devils, lots of (fake) blood, cobwebs, and even a clown! The winners of the 'best costume' prize were Antonia and Michael, who won a free round of beers. Congrats again!



During the jumpsquare event, everyone's inner child came out as people made sommersaults, played dodgeball, pushed each other into foam pits, and jumped off of diving boards onto a big water sack! Not only was it lots of fun, it was also a bit exhausting. Therefore, our thirst was quenched with a nice, cold beer at the Honigcomplex afterwards!



'Oh kom er eens kijken!' we (well, mostly me [Tony] and Manon) sang joyfully as we walked out of Maastricht station right into the Sinterklaas parade. Ready for a full day of exploration, the travel committee did not disappoint. After some free time, we had an adventurous tour by Laurapiet and Boydpiet. Having done quite some walking, the travel committee wasn't quite done with us yet, because we went into the darkness. We explored the wonderful (technically not) caves (they're mines...) under the Pietersberg, where we managed to leave our mark. Down there in the dark, our guide tried to tell us Maastricht is the oldest city in the Netherlands, for which we of course immediately correct him (that would obviously be Nijmegen, as corroborated by our train conductor on the ride home). Lastly we had a wonderful burger dinner before we went back home by train, content and wondering what we'd find in our shoe next morning.



UPCOMING DONDRITE EVENTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 November, 18:00-20:00, Oval Office

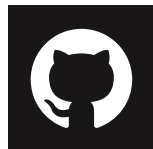
Another General Assembly is on its way!
Save the Date!



WORKSHOP: GITHUB

28 November, 15:00-17:00, instruction room Trigon

Have you ever lost control about the many different versions of an important text file or an analysis script? Git as the most popular version-control system allows you to manage your projects, how they change over time and make team work more efficient. In this two hour workshop, you will gain hands-on knowledge on the basics of git and how to use github. This will make your life during the final internship so much easier and will be a key skill for your future career. The event will presumably take place in the last week of November. We'll keep you posted on all Dondrite social media channels.



MULTI-CULTI KLAAS

4 December, 17:30-22:00, TBA

An evening full of winter joy where people from all cultures bring their traditions and food. Let's celebrate the many ways in which people get together all over the world! As per the Dutch tradition of Sinterklaas, please bring a small gift that you can hand to a random recipient that's picked out through different games.



TRAVEL & TONIC

5 December, 20:30-23:30, Café Maxim

A new month a new borrel. This time the hype is huge: the Travel Committee is finally going to announce where we are heading on the big trip, exciting!!



BEERPONG TOURNAMENT

19 December, Evening, Sterrenbosch

The game is on on the 19th of December at 19:30. We will be competing in teams of two, so if you already have a team mate in mind, it is possible to sign up in pairs. It is however also totally fine to sign up individually and then we will couple you with another beer pong athlete. The tournament will take place in the common room in the SSH& building Sterrenbosch, Platolaan 418 and ring '1e' (first floor).

UPCOMING DONDERS EVENTS

Seminar Dr. Oliver Harschnitz

4 December, 16:00 - 17:00, HG00.068 (Huygens)

Human cell-intrinsic immunity to HSV-1 in the central nervous system depends on small nucleolar RNA31

PhD Defence - R.J.M. Chauvin

6 December from, 10:30, Academiezaal (Aula)

The efficient brain. On how connectivity modulations underpin cognitive tasks

Formal DCC Lecture: Katherina Schnitzspahn

10 December, 12:30 - 13:30, Donders Room (Spinoza)

Title to be announced

DCCN Colloquium Simon Lewis (Lecture)

12 December, 13:45 - 14:45, Red Room (DCCN)

Title to be announced

HOW TO: Sinterklaas

We'll teach you how to celebrate the Dutchiest holiday



If you're not from the Netherlands, you'll probably have heard of Sinterklaas (be it positively or negatively). It's a holiday filled with traditions. Here we piece apart the highlights so that you can be prepared for the 5th of December!

To make one thing clear: no, Sinterklaas is not the Dutch version of Santa Claus. It's the other way around. Dutch settlers came to America and brought their traditions along, one of which being Sinterklaas. Over time, the holiday over there changed quite a bit and we ended up with two completely different stories. Do not confuse the two, because this is a point of (rarely seen) Dutch pride. *Sinterklaas ≠ Santa!!*

Here's a short history lesson: the original Saint Nicholas was a Christian monk, born in Myra, Turkey. There, he gave away most of his belongings, helped people left and right and performed miracles on the daily. After his death on December 6th, he was honoured throughout Europe as a protector of children and sailors.

In the Netherlands, Saint Nicholas's name turned into the easier to remember Sinterklaas, and his duty of protecting children and sailors was converted to that of giving gifts and candy to children while arriving on a steamship. Also, we convinced children December 6 is actually his birthday, as Sinterklaas never dies. Oh, and he lives in Spain now for some reason. None of us are sure how that happened.


 Now, how do the Dutch children celebrate the birthday of a never-dying saint on the day he actually died? It all starts a couple of weeks before, when Sinterklaas arrives on his steamship. The pinnacle of Dutch journalism returns in the form of the Sinterklaas News. In this program, the nationally beloved Dieuwertje Blok keeps children up to date on Sinterklaas's adventures.

For example, one time the steamboat accidentally changed directions back to Spain and no one noticed! Sinterklaas only barely made it back in time to give all the kids their presents.

Only the good kids get presents though. The bad kids might get hit by a birch rod or put in a body bag and taken to Spain. I know which one I'd prefer. On his trusty steed, Amerigo, Sinterklaas rides over rooftops and drops presents through the chimney. Children place their shoes by the fireplace, possibly filled with their wishlist, a drawing and a carrot (a horse has to eat, right?). Before bedtime, they sing some special Sinterklaas songs to let Sinterklaas know they have 'set their shoes'. A (very, very loose) translation of the most popular song is as follows:



**Sinterklaas kapoentje
Gooi wat in mijn schoentje
Gooi wat in mijn laarsje
Dank u, Sinterklaasje.
Sinterklaas kapoo,
Throw something in my shoe,
Throw something in my boot,
Thank you Sinterkloot.**

No one knows what 'kapoentje' is either. It might have to do with a castrated rooster, Sinterklaas's red dress or an old-time murderer. Really, this holiday is weird. As evidenced by the absolute abundance of songs. 

At some point, God forbid, children stop believing that an immortal retired saint from Turkey, who now lives in Spain, kidnaps children and rides a horse on rooftops, gives them presents. Instead, families give each other gifts hidden in crafted masterpieces and make poems for each other where we describe our love. Or, as is the case in my family, we roast each other. Sinterklaas truly is a holiday for all.

MONTHLY MEME

Me : Sees dope meme

My brain:



FUN FACT

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in the United States, Canada, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia. It began as a day of giving thanks and sacrifice for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. One of the most commonly eaten foods is turkey (no, not the country). But, why turkey? Since Bradford wrote of how the colonists had hunted wild turkeys during the autumn of 1621 and since turkey is a uniquely North American bird, it gained traction as the Thanksgiving meal of choice for Americans after Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. Also, because one turkey is enough to feed a large table of hungry family members .

NOTICEBOARD

Travel announcement

The announcement of the travel committee is the following:

It's almost time to register,

For the big Trip #hype.

"But where will it go?" is now your thought.

It will be revealed December fifth.

At the Maxim Cafe.

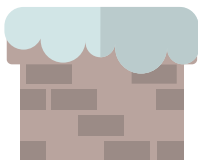
Be on the lookout for hints ladies and gentlemen!

Since they are hidden in all places.

Do you have anything you want to share here? Send us your message at

scribedondrite@gmail.com



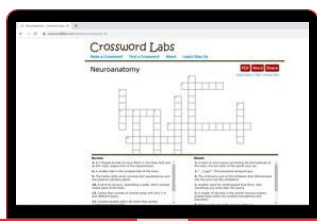


CROSSWORD

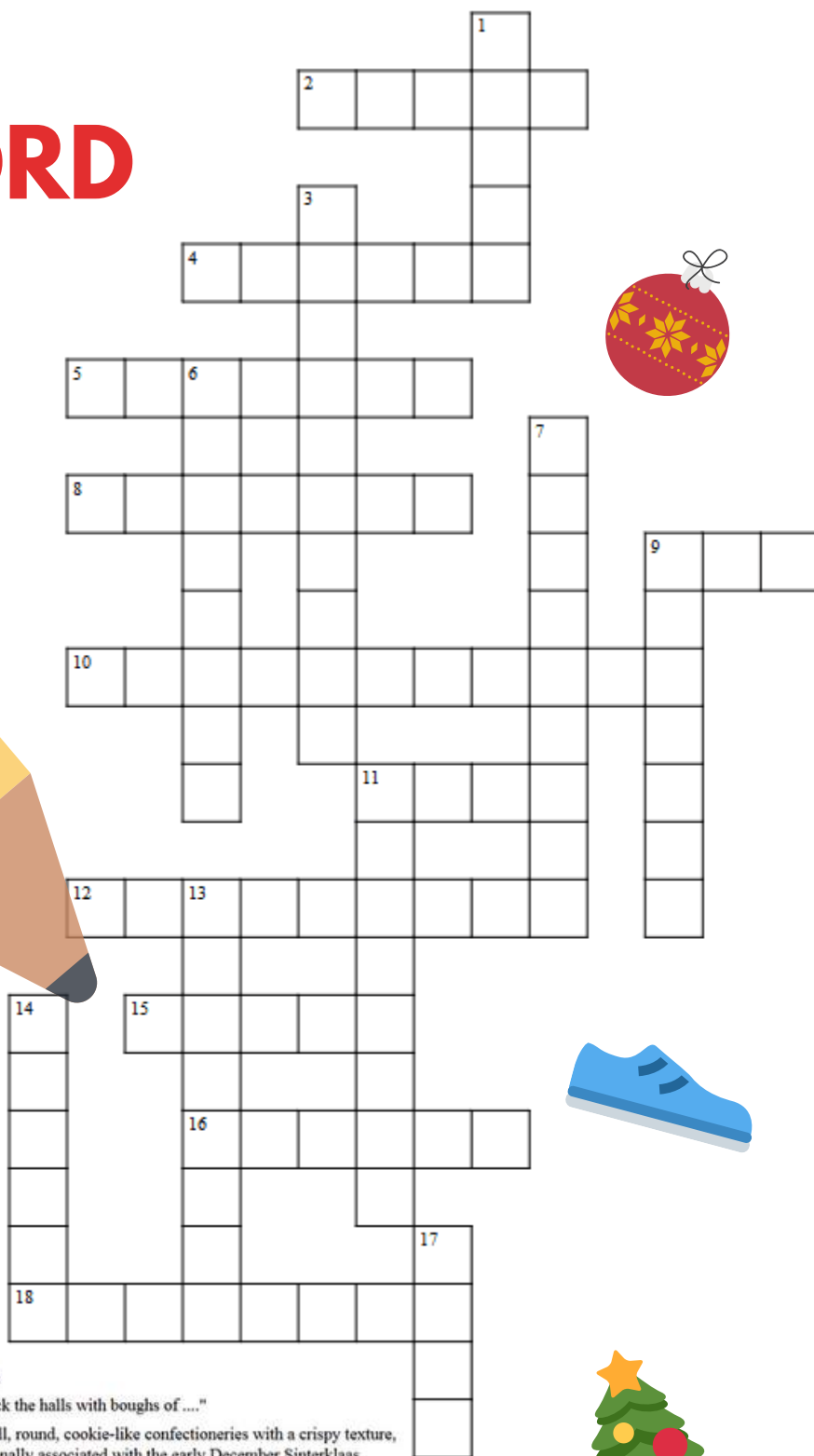
'Tis the season to be jolly! It is almost December, which means that the holiday season is approaching fast. Heaps of delicious meals are being prepared, Sinterklaas has made his yearly trip from Spain, and Mariah Carey is already defrosting. Everyone has probably heard of Sinterklaas, Christmas, or perhaps Hanukkah, but how much do you actually *know* about these holidays? Test your knowledge in this month's holiday-themed crossword puzzle!

The crossword can be filled out using:

<https://bit.ly/37oqy5S>



On the next page you will find the solution to last month's puzzle.



Across

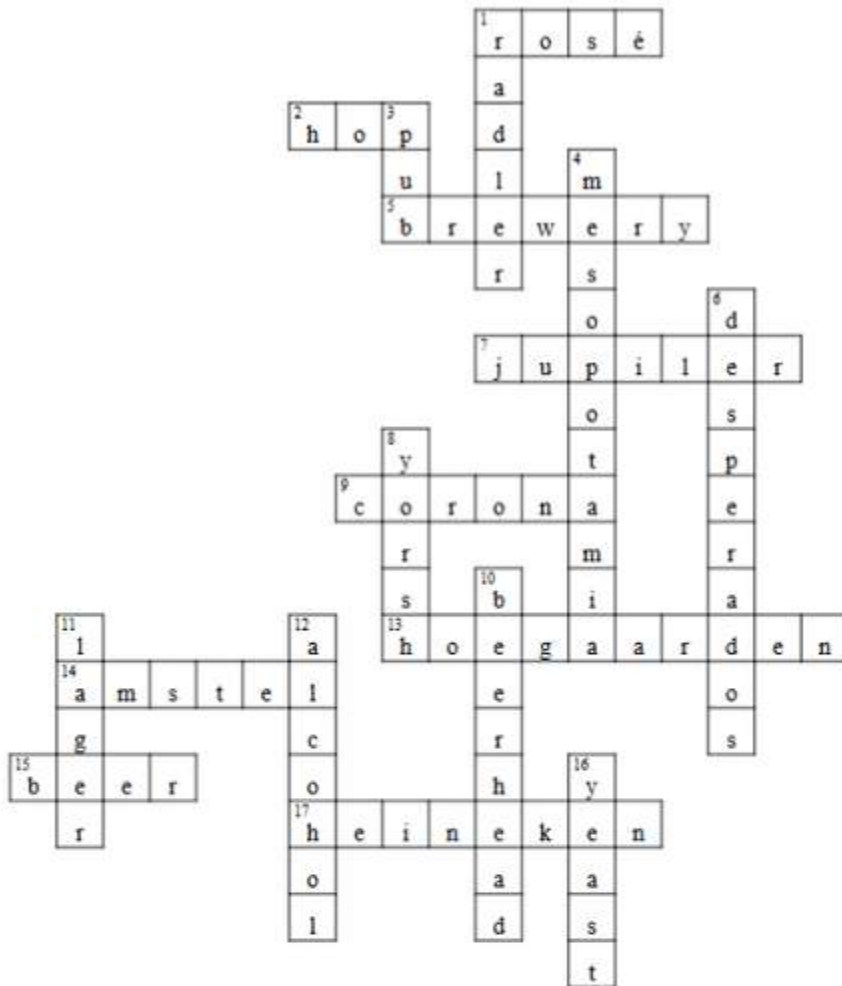
2. A religious folk song or popular hymn, particularly one associated with Christmas. Also an old lady's name.
4. A large bird in the genus *Meleagris*, native to the Americas. Also a country.
5. The name of Sinterklaas's white horse.
8. Both Sinterklaas's and Santa Claus's entrance into your home.
9. Dutch word for the whip bad children (used to) get hit with by Sinterklaas' helpers.
10. A broad category of baked goods, typically flavored with ginger, cloves, nutmeg or cinnamon and sweetened with honey, sugar or molasses.
11. Sinterklaas's helper. Also a Dutch name.
12. A plant, which is part of common Christmas decorations. If you stand underneath it, you need to kiss.
15. A potato pancake fried in oil, usually eaten during Hanukkah.
16. Sinterklaas's hat.
18. The German word for mulled wine, a beverage usually made with red wine along with various mulling spices and sometimes raisins. It is served hot or warm and is alcoholic.

Down

1. "Deck the halls with boughs of"
3. Small, round, cookie-like confectioneries with a crispy texture, traditionally associated with the early December Sinterklaas festivities.
6. How Antiochus IV Epiphanes was called in Syria. Translates to "mad man".
7. A word associated with Sinterklaas. Something to do with a rooster. Rhymes with the Dutch word for small shoe.
9. Santa Claus's favourite red-nosed reindeer.
11. Something (almost) all kids get during the holiday season.
13. The (ninth) candle used to light the other eight candles during Hanukkah
14. A rich, sweetened, dairy-based beverage, usually consumed over the Christmas season.
17. White stuff that is covering everything outside in the winter season. Also cold.



CROSSWORD solution



Across

1. Light pinkish clear beer with little white head. Aroma is strawberry, artificial sweets.
2. A species of flowering plant in the hemp family, used to preserve and flavour beer.
5. A business that makes and sells beer.
7. A Belgian beer introduced in 1966.
9. A pale lager produced by Cerveceria Modelo in Mexico.
13. An original wheat beer from Belgium, created almost 600 years ago by a band of monks.
14. A brand of beer of a Dutch brewery founded in 1870 on the Mauritskade in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Also a river.
15. One of the oldest and most widely consumed alcoholic drinks in the world. Brewed from cereal grains—most commonly from malted barley, though wheat, maize, and rice are also used.
17. A pale lager beer with 5% alcohol by volume, mostly brewed at a brewery in Zoeterwoude, Netherlands.

Down

1. A drink that is 50% beer, 50% lemonade.
3. An establishment for the sale of beer and other drinks, and sometimes also food, to be consumed on the premises.
4. The oldest surviving recipe of beer was found here (ancient Iraq).
6. A tequila-flavoured pale lager beer with 5.9% alcohol by volume originally created and produced by the French brewing company Fischer Brewery.
8. A Russian mixed drink consisting of beer thoroughly mixed with an ample quantity of vodka.
10. The frothy foam on top of beer which is produced by bubbles of gas, predominantly carbon dioxide, rising to the surface.
11. A type of beer conditioned at low temperatures. The most widely consumed and commercially available style of beer.
12. A colourless volatile flammable liquid which is produced by the natural fermentation of sugars.
16. One of the four main ingredients of beer, responsible for fermentation; based on style-specific strains.

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DON DRITE



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DONDRITECNS

At some point we will end too, but I don't think it will happen tomorrow

--Anonymous Professor