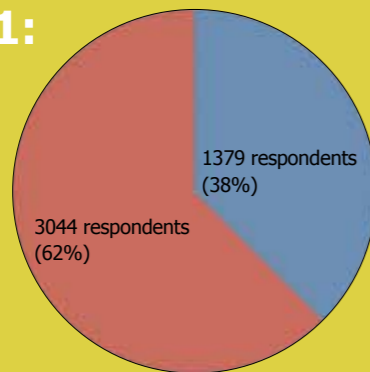


Majority against merger

72 Percent of TU Delft's students and staff are to a greater or lesser degree against a planned merger with the universities of Leiden and Rotterdam. This was revealed in the results of the questionnaire which Delta sent to the entire TU Delft community. The questionnaire was completed by 4,871 people. President of the Executive Board Dirk Jan van den Berg said in a short response that "talks were continuing within the university community about the possible results of further collaboration. As the respondents also indicated: the plans need to be shaped from the work floor."

www.delta.tudelft.nl/24017 en 24019

Question 1:
expected to merge or not?



merger
against merger

In the press

'Millions were lost through real estate, government funds were misappropriated and low priority was given to integrity,' reported NRC Handelsblad at the end of October. In a response addressed to TU Delft staff, the Executive Board stated that the article 'sketched a distorted and outdated image and contained many inaccuracies'. Later, President of the Executive Board, Dirk Jan van den Berg, provided an extensive response to these allegations. In an interview in Delta he also spoke about the reports of allowances received by him and his fellow board members. State Secretary Halbe Zijlstra asked for further clarification and had a conversation with Van den Berg and the President of the Supervisory Board.

www.delta.tudelft.nl, dossier conflicts of interest



Photo: Hans Stakelbeek/FVMAX

Egg beaters and ice caps

No fewer than 12 talented TU Delft researchers have received Veni grants from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. They will receive a maximum of 250,000 euros and will spend three years engaged in research and development. Their subjects range from melting ice caps and a study of skeletal disorders to the development of models for more efficient wind parks. Amelia Barreiro's research proposal, 'Quantum Transport in Novel Heterogeneous Layered Materials', was also deemed worthy of a Veni grant. However, in the meantime, Barreiro had accepted a prestigious Catalanian 'Beatriu de Pinos' grant, so she had to turn down the Veni grant. A vertical axis wind turbine, nicknamed the eggbeater, is the research subject of Veni laureate De Carlos Simão Ferreira (AE).

www.delta.tudelft.nl/24007



Photo: Dr Carlos Simão Ferreira



Photo: Tomas van Dijk

Flying

Using a joystick to land a Cessna in the Science Centre is not quite the same as gaming on the couch at home. This autumn a group of secondary school pupils experienced this firsthand during a sneak preview of the Simona flight simulator, which was officially launched on Tuesday 11 October. The pupils passed the test and Simona was pronounced operational and ready for the public.

Nuna6 in second place

On Thursday, 20 October the Nuon Solar Team finished in second place in the 2011 World Solar Challenge in Australia, just one hour behind the team from Japan's Tokai University. In 2009 the TU Delft team also finished in second place behind Tokai, although the time difference then was much greater. This year the solar racers had to contend with forest fires along the Stuart Highway. "The fire was clearly visible along the first section of the route," wrote Nadine Rodwijk in the Nuon Solar Team blog. Grass and trees were on fire right up to the verge of the Stuart Highway.



Photo: Nuon Solar Team

Delft roots

Jo Dijkman (1915-1996) worked in the organic chemistry department from 1948 to 1980. The collection entitled 'Een geschoren garibaldi' ('A shaven garibaldi') includes descriptions of his time at the then Technical College Delft. The 140 recollections cover his life in Delft - how, as a small boy, he played in the newly-constructed buildings on Julianalaan, in the same area where he would later play tennis with his colleagues during lunch breaks, how he burnt his fingers on hot tiles in the Royal Delft factory, how he learnt to shave on a bowler hat, and how he exchanged tobacco ration stamps for milk or coal during the war. The book 'Herinneringen aan Delft' ('Memories of Delft') appeared in 1995, featuring 46 of these accounts. All 140 are included in 'Een geschoren garibaldi'. The book costs 12.50 euros and can only be ordered from www.moilimburgswebshop.nl/products/211944.



Beer crate bridge

It was touch and go for a moment, as one crate wasn't quite in position, but a student in a cherry picker pushed it into place. With their 14-metre high bridge built on Delft's main square at the beginning of October using 14,000 beer crates, students of the Civil Engineering students' association, 'Practische Studie', broke the official world record for beer crate bridge building.

Film: delta.tudelft.nl/lightbox/gallery/31



Photo: Tomas van Dijk

Nanomotor

Take a flat molecule with opposing electrical charges on either end, place it between two gold plates and subject the whole thing to an alternating electric field. This is how Dr Ferry Prins and Jos Seldenthuis (Applied Sciences) are trying to create the smallest-ever electric motor, a motor with molecular dimensions. Chemist Prins feels very excited that current technology is making it possible to create devices at a molecular level. He was previously successful in creating a molecular switch (handy for even smaller memories) and a light-sensitive quantum dot that seems to offer potential for solar cell applications.