

INTRODUCTION

- rather late I realized that Sjak cannot do the Christmas speech this year
- hence as any of our students would do, I used chatgpt
- but we cannot have many bullet points
- I finished my BKO
- hence I used Dall-E
- for those of you who do not know how that works, I will illustrate this
- and the presentation is interactive: from which song is the opening line?

PICTURE YOURSELF IN A BOAT ON A RIVER

- different interpretation of "classic" between Sjak and me

I READ THE NEWS TODAY OH BOY

- looking back in the Christmas speech
- ghost of Christmas past
- we had a wonderful and busy year
- R&R
- celebrated great publications at lunch seminars
- taught our students
- but it is hard to look back past the summer when our new government started
- budget cuts
- starter grants
- very disappointing for our junior staff
- they were promised startergrants and now these disappeared
- general budget cuts

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

- organizing lots of events during the year (conferences, seminars) helping us with the admin of teaching and thesis defenses
- Corina, Ella, Mirjam and Renee
- Ron helps us with the financial side of things
- we are very grateful for their help during this year and organizing the HalfDay
- also thank Ben for organizing another HalfDay
- Renee will reduce her working time in the new year, but she is not leaving us. . .

THEY HATE YOU IF YOU'RE CLEVER AND THEY DESPISE A FOOL

- it is not easy being HoD
- therefore we are grateful that Sigrid will take over as HoD
- We did what the US has not managed to do
- first female HoD for Economics department starting in January
- looking forward to work with Sigrid
- but it does mean saying farewell to Sjak as HoD

SJAK: AIR BACH

- my wife is seldom impressed by meeting colleagues and fellow economists
- sure Economics is hard work and you have to put in the hours
- but hardly emotionally exhausting or draining creativity
- this was different when she met Sjak
- both an economist and done conservatory; conservatorium in Dutch

- my wife shares this weird taste of music with Sjak
- and odd sense of classics when it comes to music
- who is the composer? Surname starts with a B (Gary Booker, Mathew Fisher; lyrics: Keith Reid)
- I tried to explain Sjak to Dall-E
 - economics HoD who plays harpsichord
- Sjak has been HoD for almost 6 years
- took over from Reyer
- guided us –together with Daan– through corona
- and we all remember and will miss Sjak’s speeches
- like the one this summer explaining that the Garden of Eeden was in Goirle
- based on research published in a top-core theology journal
- so it must be true
- then Dall-E pictured me as follows
- picture of Sjak and Jan side by side
- Sjak is great to work with:
 - we are wonderfully complementary
 - very careful, listening to everyone, step-by-step and then decide
 - different from a cyclist trying to get as quickly from A to B
 - instead Sjak prioritizes harmony above speed

Each Christmas speech also looks into future:

- Ghost of Christmas yet to come

A FACE AT FIRST JUST GHOSTLY TURNS A . . .

- whiter shade of pale
- this is us in our boat on a stormy river
- next year will be rough but we are not going to drown
- I am very optimistic to sail forward with you as colleagues
- and build our **international** future together in this wonderful department

CLASSIC

- passage uit Suite No. 3 in D-majeur, ook wel bekend als Air
- present for Sjak