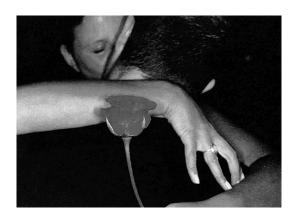
2007

tijdvak 1

Engels

Tekstboekje

YES, IT WORKS!



The plan was to sign up to Udate to research this feature. I was only trying to do my job properly. I was going to chat online, see who was out there, and maybe in time meet up with some of them.

David3108 took a different approach. He meticulously went through the details of hundreds of girls,

narrowed them down to a short list of three, and wrote to them. They wrote back. Apparently, I was the one who didn't sound crazy. I thought he seemed nice but boring.

They do say it is the quiet ones you have to watch. After meeting in person, it took six days for us to get serious, 26 days for him to propose, 0.6 seconds for me to say yes. I was engaged and still had a month left on my membership.

The hardest part was telling the other nice men I met online that I couldn't see them. "So, this thing actually works?" said one, kindly. Yes it does, and the passing weeks have only confirmed that we have made the right decision. The plan went wrong, in the right way. **JM**

The Sunday Times

Tekst 2

This chip makes sure you always buy your round

by Lorna Martin

The old excuse 'I've left my wallet at home' will soon no longer hold when it's your round. A nightclub is about to offer its regulars the option of having a microchip implanted in their arm that will make it no longer necessary to carry cash or plastic.

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- Queuing for entry or a drink at the bar would also become a thing of the past when the 'digital wallet' is introduced by Bar Soba in Glasgow. The chip is already proving popular with VIP members at two nightclubs in Barcelona and Rotterdam.
- Brad Stevens, owner of Bar Soba, said his motivation for introducing the technology was to be a trendsetter and to reward loyal customers. He said he had received a surprisingly enthusiastic response from regulars.
- 4 'There are a number of advantages, from instant access to one of our many exclusive DJ and VIP nights and not having to carry money or credit cards to letting bar staff know

a customer's name and favourite drink. By the time you walk through the door to the bar, your favourite drink is waiting for you and the bar staff can greet you by name.'

- However, he also recognised the risks. 'There is a danger that, if a person's not carrying cash, they could just keep on drinking. But we're looking at ways of setting a limit on how much can be spent.'
- Steve van Soest is one of more than 100 people who have been 'chipped' at Baja Beach Club in Barcelona since it became the first to offer the procedure in March. He said he had no reservations about having the chip implanted. 'It would be great if this catches on and you could put all your personal details and medical records on it. If I was involved in an accident, doctors could simply scan me and find out my blood group and any allergies.'
- 7 The chip is similar to more than 25 million already embedded in animals across the world acting as 'pet passports'. Before being used in humans, it has undergone stringent tests and doctors say it is extremely safe.
- But critics regard this technology as a growing threat, giving potentially dangerous new power to businesses and government. A recent report by the American Civil Liberties Union said: 'Scarcely a month goes by in which we don't read about some new high-tech way to invade people's privacy, from face recognition to implantable microchips, DNA chips, and even brain wave fingerprinting.'

www.guardian.co.uk

Tekst 3

The fat of the land

Cristina Odone

- The girl on the StairMaster pounds the steps, her breath short and sharp, her face red with exertion. A sweaty T-shirt clings to her and even through the cotton you can make out the ridges of her spine. She looks like a skeleton. It hurts to look at her. Equally, it hurts to look at the man beside her. He too stands on the StairMaster, but the size of him means that you can hardly see the machine beneath his vast body. He breathes with difficulty, and sweat pours off him, soaking his T-shirt.
- As in my gym, so in life. While the alarm was raised this week about 75 per cent of Britons being obese by 2020, an epidemic of young women suffering from anorexia is also sweeping the land: one in 10 girls under 21 have been diagnosed with anorexia. Both trends reveal our unhealthy relationship with food.
- Once upon a time meals were celebrations of family closeness, individual well-being, religious rituals. Today, fewer than 40 per cent of Britons claim to sit down at a table for meals; fewer than 30 per cent cook all their own meals. The sad truth is that most Britons view food with either indifference or suspicion. No wonder. Food has become confusing in a culture that simultaneously sings the praise of a slimline aesthetic and of

the fast food, television, video games and other lazy leisure activities which guarantee this enviable 'look' won't be achieved.

- According to Susie Orbach, author of Fat Is a Feminist Issue and On Eating, obesity 'is a response to people feeling attacked in their bodies'. On television and in movies and magazines 'model' men and women with perfectly trim, wonderfully toned bodies smile back at you: the frustration of not measuring up prompts you to reach for comfort food. In the face of constant even if unspoken criticism about your weight, a chocolate binge or stuffing yourself with a Big Mac or a Kentucky Fried Chicken wing is equivalent to sticking two fingers up at the body police out there.
- American journalist Eric Schlosser condemns those fast food industrialists who, mainly concerned about the profit margin, ignore the effect their food has on our health. Cheap to make, oozing fat, high in salt, sugar and who knows what additives, fast food emerges as the primary culprit in our criminal abuse of our bodies. Eat junk food and you risk increasing your chances of contracting diabetes, cancer, heart disease.
- More sinister still, as Schlosser shows, fast-food marketing men have seized upon children as 'brand-loyal, from cradle to grave': they target the under-eights with Disneyesque mascots, cartoon strips and related accessories, and bank on the child's loyalty for ever more or until his first heart attack.
- But big business not only threatens our health, it also shapes our body image. From the diet company that displays the 'before and after' pictures of a tubby housewife transformed into a slim glamour puss, to the television programme makers whose stars are all perfect size 10s, physical conformity is being pushed down our throats.
- Some experts are finding this indigestible. Last January, Susie Orbach launched a campaign called 'Anybody', which aims to reshape our view of ourselves so that we can accept that within the standard of beauty, diversity is a plus. Fat, thin, plump, scrawny: Orbach and others hope that one day we will realise we are worth more than our weight in pounds and ounces.

http://observer.guardian.co.uk

Tekst 4

Why phones are replacing cars

And why this is a good thing

"PARKS beautifully", boasts an advertising hoarding for the XDA II, above a glimpse of its sleek silver lines. "Responsive to every turn", declares another poster. Yet these ads, seen recently in London, are not selling a car but an advanced kind of mobile phone. Maybe that should not be surprising. Using automotive imagery to sell a handset makes a lot of sense for, in many respects, mobile phones are replacing cars.

Phones are now the dominant technology with which young people, and urban youth in particular, <u>16</u>. For what sort of phone you carry and how you customise it says a great deal about you, just as the choice of car did for a previous generation. In today's congested cities, you can no longer make a statement by pulling up outside a bar in a particular kind of car. <u>17</u>, you make a statement by displaying your mobile phone, with its carefully chosen ringtone, screen logo and slip cover. Mobile phones, like cars, are fashion items: in both cases, people buy new ones far more often than is actually necessary. Both are social technologies that bring people together; for teenagers, both act as symbols of independence. And cars and phones alike promote freedom and mobility, with unexpected social consequences.

At first, the <u>18</u> of both cars and phones was defined by something that was no longer there. Cars were originally horseless carriages, and early models looked suitably carriage-like; only later did car manufacturers realise that cars could be almost any shape they wanted to make them. <u>19</u>, mobile phones used to look much like the push-button type of fixed-line phones, only without the wire. But now they come in a bewildering range of strange shapes and sizes.

It is to be <u>20</u> that mobile phones are taking on many of the social functions of cars. While it is a laudable goal that everyone on earth should someday have a mobile phone, having cars all around produces mixed feelings. They are a horribly inefficient mode of transport – why move a ton of metal around in order to transport a few bags of groceries? – and they cause pollution, mainly in the form of nasty gases. A chirping handset is a much greener form of self-expression than an old banger. It may irritate but it is <u>21</u>. In the hands of a drunk driver, a car becomes a deadly weapon. That is not true of a phone (though terrorists have been known to rig mobile phones to trigger bombs). Despite concern that radiation from phones and masts causes health problems, there is no clear evidence of harm, and similar worries about power lines and computer screens proved unfounded. Less pollution, less traffic, fewer alcohol-related deaths and injuries: the switch from cars to phones cannot happen soon enough.

www.economist.com

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Is the biotechnology revolution a myth?

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by Robert Matthews

ou might think these are revolutionary times for medical science. Now that the human genetic blueprint has been decoded, wonder cures for lots of diseases are coming on stream. Even genetic diseases have become treatable. That, at least, is the impression created by years of upbeat media coverage. But the reality is very different. Far from "decoding" the human genome, scientists have yet to establish how many genes it contains, or even what genes do. Gene therapy has so far failed to cure a single person of any major genetic disease.

Paul Nightingale of the University of Sussex and Paul Martin of the University of Nottingham are the authors of a new study of this "golden age" of medical science. According to them, the idea that we are living through some kind of "biotech revolution" is a myth propelled by the need to raise money. They have assembled evidence to separate the bio-hype from the reality.

The results, published in *Trends in Biotechnology*, are sobering. They reveal that while there have been huge advances in scientific knowledge about the processes of life, these insights have failed to translate into effective therapies. Nightingale and Martin found that so far just a dozen drugs based on biotech insights have emerged that are clearly better than existing treatments. They call for a more realistic approach to biotech, which abandons the assumption that breakthroughs in science inevitably



lead to effective and money-making therapies.

Yet the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), while admitting that exaggerated claims have been made in the past, insists that the slow emergence of new drugs reflects the fact that gene-level pharmacology is still a new science. It often takes a decade or more to turn insights into marketable drugs.

So, is the sad level of pay-off just temporary or does it signal more fundamental problems? The early indications from the research into the human genome suggest that scientists have radically underestimated the size of the challenge they face. In 2000, scientists were stunned to find the human genome contained an estimated 35,000 genes, far below the 100,000-plus expected for the most complex organism on earth. Last month that estimate fell further, to fewer than 25,000.

Comparisons with genomes of other organisms have revealed surprises, such as the lack of correlation between the complexity of life-forms and the size of their genomes, and the genetic similarity of

humans and other organisms: barely 300 genes separate mice from humans. Clearly, genes work in far more complex ways than previously thought.

Last month, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, California, showed that deleting large sections of junk DNA from mice seems to have no effect on their development, reproduction or lifespan. Such findings hardly suggest scientists are about to "crack" the human genome code, still less that it will lead to money-spinning cures for major diseases.

At the start of the 20th century, physicists believed they possessed the insights needed to predict everything from the position of planets in the future to next year's weather. Then they discovered how effects that were once dismissed as irrelevant can put limits on attempts to predict the future. A century later, life scientists could be facing a similar lesson.

Financial Times

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Tekst 6

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Cannabis: a burning issue

LETTERS

• It has been reported (mainly in the tabloids) that 80% of new psychiatric cases have a history of cannabis use. But anxiety is an early warning sign of most major mental illnesses. So, does a person develop a mental illness because they smoke cannabis, or do they smoke cannabis in an effort to calm anxiety which precedes full-blown symptoms? Cannabis might have harmful effects. But it is a matter of fact that a recreational drug called alcohol killed 20,000 people and wrecked countless thousands of other lives in the UK last year alone.

Jeffrey Morgan Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks

The Guardian

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See the couple in the bar? That's Mr and Mrs Copper

here is something deeply sinister about the latest tactic dreamt up by the Avon and Somerset police for catching drink drivers. Six undercover officers, three male and three female, have been trained to mingle with drinkers in country pubs, posing as courting couples. They will note how much their fellow customers are drinking. Then, they will follow their suspects into the car park, wait for them to reach for their car keys and arrest them.

"The telltale signs," said Chief Inspector Tim Harris, displaying the dazzling detective skills that have carried him to the top of his profession, "will be if someone is slurring their speech, staggering or smelling of alcohol." Brilliant, my dear Holmes!

There are many, I know, who will applaud this police initiative. We are all obliged, these days, to say that drink drivers are the enemies of humanity, who have caused untold misery and wrecked countless lives. We are not allowed to state the obvious truth that many more than 99 per cent of people who drive home from the pub with more than the legally permitted amount of alcohol in their breath or blood reach their destinations perfectly safely, without hurting anybody.

The maddening thing about this piece of political correctness is that it is so clearly justified. It really is monstrously wrong to drive while drunk, as I am ashamed to admit that I have done in my time. Almost everybody of my age (I am 51) has had



Tom Utley

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friends, or friends of friends, who have been killed by drivers the worse for drink. The risk of causing all that misery is just not worth taking.

It is a huge leap, however, from acknowledging that something is obviously wrong, to saying that any means of preventing it from happening are therefore OK. Avon and Somerset police seem to have made that leap, without a thought about its implications.

Most Britons, I reckon, will instinctively have found something creepy about the idea of secret policemen spying on them in the pub. If Avon and Somerset police really want to discourage people from drinking and driving, they should hang around in the pub 34.

However, they would argue, presumably, that it is more effective to go undercover, since by this means only half a dozen officers will be able to spread unease throughout two entire counties. Nobody will know if that strange couple by the window are proper love-birds or agents of the state. I suspect, however, that the

force's real motives are to meet the Government's wretched targets by making a few more easy arrests and raising more fines.

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The trouble with Chief Inspector Harris's scheme is that it turns on its head the proper relationship between the police and the public. When I was a child, there was a clear understanding that the police were public servants, employed by us to look after us. I often get the feeling now, however, that the police look upon themselves as the masters, paid by the state to keep the rest of us in order.

That impression has been strongly reinforced by the way in which the police so often seem to regard themselves above the law. Only yesterday, it emerged that no fewer than 59 police officers in Derbyshire had been caught speeding last year. None of them was answering an emergency call at the time, and yet not a single one was prosecuted.

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If the police want to instil respect for the law, they should obey it themselves. Meanwhile, we must all beware of courting couples in the pub.

The Daily Telegraph

ANDREW MARTIN CIASS CONSCIOUS

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I was buying a Tube ticket this week when a quite smartly dressed young woman approached me and said: "Excuse me, do you know the date?" I told her, and she nodded,

reflecting on the answer for a while, before asking, "Could you spare me some change for the ticket machines?"

- 2 She was a beggar but I noted that she had cleverly framed her request in middle-class terms. The implication of her asking the date was that she was considering some typically middle-class act, like renewing a travelcard, or writing a cheque.
- This tactic is increasingly common among beggars, and represents an inversion of the normal approach, which is to look needy. The new type of beggar tries his or her best to look the opposite, having realised that in our society people with money are more relaxed about giving money to other people with money than to people without any.
- These new beggars have taken to heart the government's claim that we're all middle class now, so the days of "Spare a pound for a cup of tea, guv?" are numbered.

 Henceforth it'll be, "Spare the price of a double capuccino and carrot cake, guv?"

New Statesman

She takes care of the elderly and supports fat cats

Nowadays we are constantly asked to believe that market forces make the world go round.

It is made out that money is the main reason people go to work and that all other motives are secondary.

Yet a moment's thought should tell us that if this were true we would all be in trouble.

Many of the people upon whom we all depend to take care of the sick, the disabled or the elderly are very poorly paid. Some carers are paid so little they actually qualify for income support. Most are women.

Their chief reason for going to work each day is not money – even though this is important to them – but simple humanity.

Now, all kinds of public services, including sheltered homes for the elderly, are gradually being privatised.

We are told that privatisation will somehow improve the standard of work provided by carers as well as other public servants who perform the many tasks



that we think of as essential in a civilised society.

But privatisation usually means that public servants get paid less or work longer hours. So that a percentage of the money (your money) meant for public services can go to shareholders and fat cats who see profitability as the only measure of success.

It is, of course, politicians who have made this happen.

Perhaps it's time they were reminded that there are other forces quite as powerful as the market.

And that one of them is the ballot box.

UNISON

Lees bij de volgende teksten steeds eerst de vraag voordat je de tekst zelf raadpleegt.

Tekst 10

Postcards on the Edge

The digital age spells the end of a venerable vacation tradition. But are e-cards and text messages really better?



By LIAM FITZPATRICK

travel columns are entitled "Postcard from..." Because unless we're talking about e-cards, people just aren't sending them like they used to. Not in an age of e-mail, text messaging and mobile phones equipped with cameras. Other than the prepaid advertising cards put out by direct-mailing houses, chances are that the only postcards you receive these days are from elderly relatives.

A recent poll conducted by British tour operator Thomson Holidays found that of 1,000 customers surveyed, 50% intended to send fewer postcards in the future. Tourists visiting the U.K. seem to be of a similar mind: Royal Mail statistics show the number of postcards mailed in Britain is falling by about 1 million each year – at a current 25 million, down from 30 million five years ago. The downward trend can be seen elsewhere. The Finland Post Corp. blames text messaging for the decline in the volume of postcards sent, while in Japan there are plans to axe 80% of the country's postcard-vending machines. At this rate, postcards seem destined to go the way of the telex.

The time it takes to deliver a postcard is out of sync with the way we holiday now. In the Thomson poll, 25% of respondents said postcards took too long

to arrive. That may not have been true 20 years ago, when people went on trips of lavish duration – a three-week meander through Europe, say, or a monthlong U.S. tour. But in these days of city breaks and three-night packages, you usually get home before your postcards do.

As holiday rituals go, it's commonly supposed that there's nothing nicer than sitting in a Florentine café or Beijing teahouse, with postcards fanned in front of you to craft elegant missives to loved ones. But the attractions of sending your wish-you-were-heres digitally are harder to resist. Techno-hipsters post their itineraries on a Friendster bulletin board, a great way to keep peers informed and gather travel tips. Why queue in a dingy post office when you can just use your phone to take a picture of the Acropolis or the Kremlin and fire it off to anyone you like? If you don't have a phone with a built-in camera, you can use your laptop: the Web is filled with e-card sites that allow you to click on images of wellknown attractions and send them with your message to multiple recipients. You'll find e-cards of everything from Vancouver's Stanley Park (canadianculture.com) to Australia's Great Ocean Road (southwestvictoria .com).

There is one major downside of the postcard's passing, however: it is frequently being replaced by the lengthy travel diary that your vacationing friends feel compelled to send from every Internet café they visit. Technology has suddenly made it all too easy to dispatch gushing, gee-whiz accounts of trips to the Pompidou or dives off the Great Barrier Reef, not to mention tediously unedited recollections of meals eaten on Brazilian Beaches or at Bangkok Street stalls. When several paragraphs about transport hassles and mundane hotel mix-ups are tacked on, you start to realize that whatever the postcard's failings, it at least had the merit of brevity.

TIME

Altman's out of step

The great director comes unstuck with a ballet film

THE COMPANY

(112 mins, 12A) Directed by Robert Altman; starring Neve Campbell, Malcolm McDowell, James Franco

DEMONLOVER

(120 mins, n.c.) Directed by Olivier Assayas; starring Connie Nielsen, Charles Berling, Chloë Sevigny, Gina Gershon

LAWS OF ATTRACTION

(90 mins, 12A) Directed by Peter Howitt; starring Pierce Brosnan, Julianne Moore

CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN

(93 mins, PG) Directed by Sara Sugarman; starring Lindsay Lohan, Glenne Headly

MARRIED/UNMARRIED

(100 mins, 18) Directed by Noli; starring Paoli Seganti, Ben Daniels, Gina Bellman, Kristen McMenamy

RE-INVENTING EDDIE

(93 mins, 15) Directed by Jim Doyle; starring John Lynch, Geraldine Somerville, John Thomson

ANAZAPTA

(110 mins, 15) Directed by Alberto Sciamma; starring Lena Headey, Jason Flemyng, Ian McNeice

THE RICHLY romantic, deeply mysterious, death-loving *The Red Shoes* created more vocations in ballet than any movie before or since and remains, after 46 years, the standard by which subsequent films on the world of the dance have been judged, and usually found wanting. In the latest up for comparison, **The Company**, Robert Altman has brought his formidable form of ensemble acting, widescreen images, overlapping dialogue and feeling for groups of people as semi-dysfunctional



families, to bear on the Joffrey Ballet troupe of Chicago. Sadly the result is infinitely inferior to his last film, the splendid *Gosford Park*. Indeed, along with *Prêt-à-Porter*, it's one of his few real duds.

As chilly and slow-moving as a glacier, but rather less translucent, Olivier Assayas's **Demonlover** is a business conspiracy thriller dealing in pornography. A French conglomerate is working with an American firm in the satellite TV business to bankrupt their chief competitors by acquiring a controlling interest in a Japanese manufacturer of pornographic 3-D animé. All the men and women involved are utterly corrupt, everyone is betraying or doing down everyone else, and porn is a metaphor for impersonality, the abuse of power and a blinkered morality. It's fun for a while, but gets steadily more opaque, elliptical and annoying.

Directed by Peter Howitt, who made the amusing *Sliding Doors*, **Laws of Attraction** is a comedy about two highprofile New York divorce lawyers played by Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore, who fight in court, bicker outside and fall in love. In the past it might have been the first draft of a screenplay for Tracy and Hepburn or Day and Hudson. But the five credited writers haven't managed to equip it with five decent jokes. Brosnan and Moore haven't got a straw to grasp, let alone bricks to build with.

In Confessions of a Teenage
Drama Queen, also the work of a
British director (Sara Sugarman), a New
York teenager (the delightful Lindsay
Lohan) exiled to suburban New Jersey,
would do anything to attend the farewell
Manhattan gig of her hero, another foulmouthed drunken British pop star (Adam
Garcia). The heroine is eager to appear in
Pygmalion but settles for the lead in the
school production of Eliza Rocks, a
musical transposition of Shaw's play to
present-day New York. On the whole a
superior example of its genre.

A trio of British movies, all made three years ago, are being simultaneously released by the same distributor. They are, I regret to say, largely without merit.

Married/Unmarried is a pretentious four-hander in which two pairs of well-heeled young Londoners, one married, the other single, talk in

different combinations about life, love, infidelity and transgressive sex.

The second British film, Jim Doyle's **Re-Inventing Eddie**, has been opened up from a one-character play, but retains the frequent monologues delivered straight to camera. John Lynch, a brooding actor who exudes sadness from every pore, plays a Warrington factory worker whose two small children are taken away from him when over-zealous teachers and social workers wrongly suspect him of sexual abuse. His subsequent conduct — violent, childish, criminally irresponsible — helps to dig his grave, though the movie contrives an unsatisfactory sentimental ending.

The third film retrieved from the shelf is **Anazapta**, a medieval tale shot in Wales by the Spanish director of videos and commercials, Alberto Sciamma, about the Black Death coming to England in the mid-fourteenth century. A decent British cast struggle with mud and terrible dialogue. The spirit of St Turgid, the patron saint of lowbudget historical movies, hovers over the proceedings and it's to be avoided like – well, like the plague.

The Observer