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Late business-to-business payments are killing the economy, with €300 billion in costs across Europe last year alone. What can the government do to stem the tide of debt in Flanders?



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Our monthly special insert puts the spotlight on e-entrepreneurs and social networking. Meet a 3D printer in Leuven, a Girl Geek in Mechelen and a "cognitive science hobbyist" in Hove



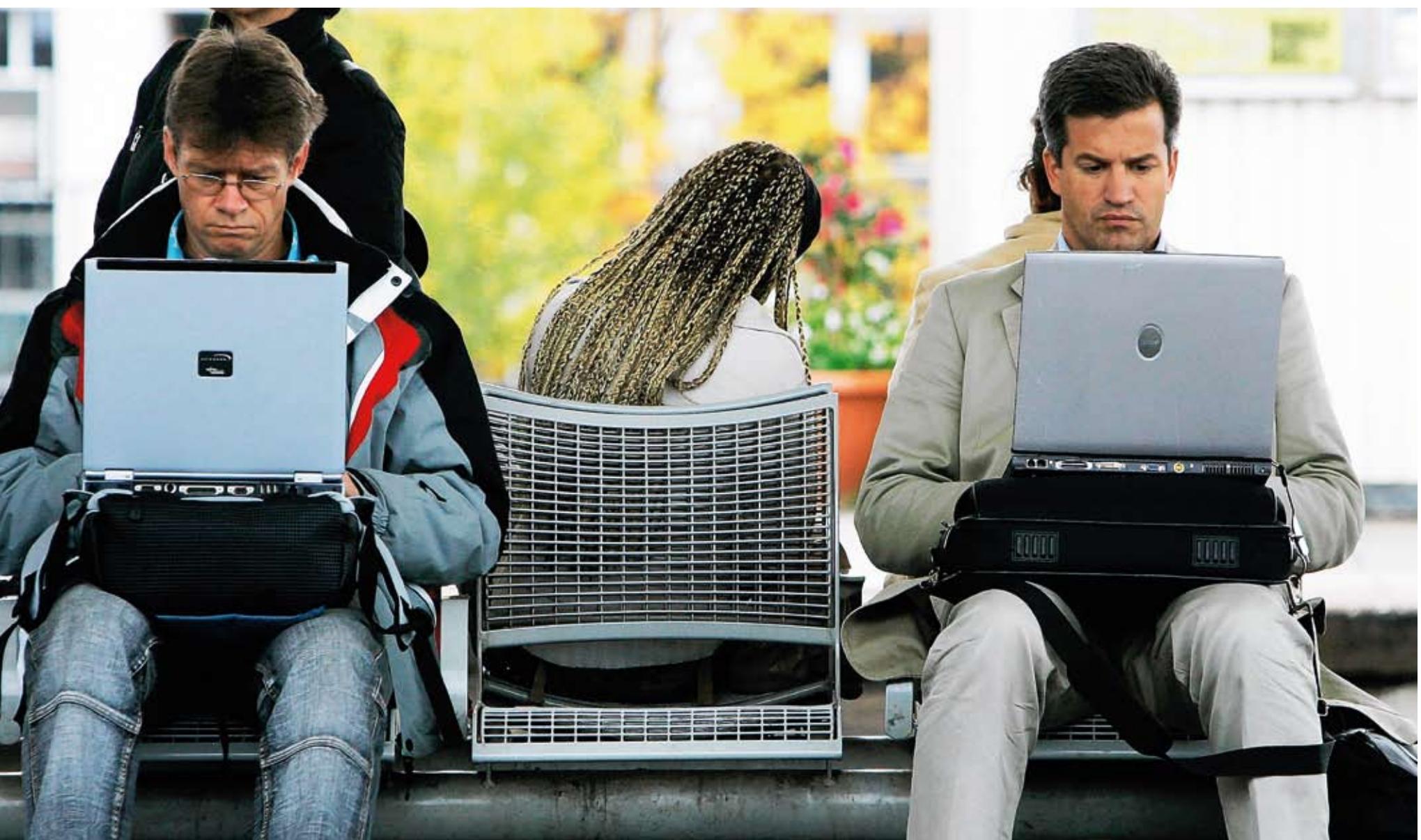
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One of only a handful of women brewers in Belgium, An De Ryck ignored her father's scepticism, took over the family brewery in Herzele and makes the award-winning Arend Tripel



© Michaela Rehle / Reuters

#130



## e-DENTITY CRISIS

While some of us struggle to catch up with online, Flemish tech developers forge a brave new world of mobile

SARAH MARKEWICH

I'm going through a major social media identity crisis right now, if you must know.

At nearly 40, I'm way too old for Netlog, and my 11-year old daughter is way too young for it, despite all her pleading to start an account.

My really old father keeps on warning me that my photo blog will turn people away from hiring me in the future.

So-called "friends" de-friend me on Facebook every day, saying that I am way too long-winded and that my posts take up half of their home pages.

If I struggle with the 420 character limit on Facebook, how on earth am I ever to function in the 140-character world of Twitter?

But I have no choice anymore, and neither do any of us, really. The time has come.

If you do not have a digital identity, then, like me, you will be faced with a digital identity crisis soon. If you are a business or organisation, and you aren't online and using social media, then your future looks even more plagued with trouble; you will cease to exist within the next five years.

At least that's what the experts are telling me on this road I'm wandering down at my job at Howest University in Kortrijk. Through E-Clic, a project of the EU's Interreg programme, which helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects, Howest has set up The Studios, a creative hub focused on entrepreneurship and innovation. The Studios will be immersed in research on social media and digital persuasion and influence.

As assistant to The Studios project manager Christel De Maeyer, I am surrounded by people who were riding the digital wave before we even knew there was one. They had the Twitter T-shirt before the first Tweets were ever made. De Maeyer has been trying to persuade me to get on Twitter and start Tweeting about The Studios. This is the same De Maeyer who sighs at my long emails.

The great thing about Twitter, she said, is that "it makes you think about the essence of what you want to say."

► continued on page 10

## Police fury over release of gangsters

"A year of work down the drain," says police chief

ALAN HOPE

The head of the federal judicial police in Brussels reacted furiously last week to the release of two alleged arms traders and members of the Albanian mafia because of a procedural error. "A whole year of good police work and a pile of taxpayers' money has gone down the drain," lamented Glenn Audenaert, head of the police service. "The police did its work properly, but the system is only as strong as its weakest link."

The two men are suspected arms dealers and allegedly part of an Albanian gang involved in weapons smuggling. They are among a group of 11 suspects detained three months ago. Following the arrests, Audenaert held a press conference praising the intensive

year-long enquiry carried out by police, which culminated in an action in which 180 police swooped on 22 different locations and netted firearms and ammunition, explosives, police uniforms and bulletproof vests.

According to the lawyer for one of the men: "It was written in the stars that something like this would happen one day." Under Belgian procedure, each accused man must be brought every two weeks to court to have his detention prolonged. At that time and for 48 hours afterwards, the case-file has to be put at their disposal for consultation by defence lawyers.

► continued on page 3

## OFFSIDE



ALAN HOPE  
© Shutterstock

### Mustard plants to discourage caravan dwellers

Youth organisations and the Brussels Regional integration centre have protested at plans to force traveller families off a piece of vacant land on the Oorlogskruisenlaan in the Neder-Over-Heembeek area in the north of Brussels.

Every year, a number of traveller families park their caravans on the land, which belongs to Brussels City council. The 10 or so families stay for the summer before moving on. Because of repeated complaints from local residents, the city intends this year to plough the field and plant both white and black mustard. The plants grow quickly and can reach heights of 1.5 metres.

Bertin Mampaka, alderman for green spaces, said the mustard plants would contribute to the biodiversity in Brussels. "And if the gypsies stay away as a result, that's an added bonus," he said.

The land is also used, however, by two scout groups, one Flemish and one French speaking, for outdoor activities. "The field is barely 100 metres from our centre, and there's no alternative in the area," said Hugo Van Schandevijl of the 140th Seascouts Roodbaard. "Sometimes it's a battle to get a place because so many children from the area come to play." The propagation of mustard plants could also cause "an ecological disaster", according to Flemish food consultant and columnist Nick Trachet. The two plants, together with mustard greens, are so invasive that they are banned from agricultural areas in some countries, including parts of the Netherlands. "I want to warn local residents that this plant is almost impossible to eradicate once it's been sown, and it will take over gardens and fields," Trachet said.

The regional integration centre has another objection: the city's decision is "vindictive" and "won't solve the problem," said Koen Geurts of the centre. "This summer, the families will have to look for other land, and then the newspapers will be full of new stories about them."

Elke Van Den Brandt, Groen! member of the Brussels parliament, commented: "The field is not suitable for caravan dwellers, and that causes problems for residents, but these are people we're talking about, not weeds that have to be exterminated."

## FLANDERS TODAY

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FLANDERS TODAY  
MAY 19, 2010

## News in brief

**Bobbejaan Schoepen**, one of Flanders' best-loved entertainers, has died at the age of 85. Bobbejaan (real first name Modest) was a singer, a whistler, a guitar player; he was the first Belgian artist to break through internationally, singing in French, English and German as well as Dutch. He went from singing Flemish cowboy songs to recording an album of songs with modern-day artists like Daan and Geike Arnaert. He stands at number 21 in the list of best-selling Belgian artists of all time. He was also the founder of the theme park Bobbejaanland in Lichtaart, Antwerp province. Bobbejaan died on 17 May in hospital at Turnhout the day after his 85th birthday.

The emergency assistance technicians of motoring organisation Touring are facing a growing plague of automobile cables being chewed by stone martens (*Martes foina*). Already this year, Touring has been called out to 10% more cases than in 2009. The creatures are particularly attracted by the smell of new plastic, but are believed to chew cables, reached from underneath the cars, as a way of marking their territory. Insurance companies typically do not reimburse the damage. Commercial repellents are available, but toilet fresheners and simple ammonia have been known to work. A plague of martens at Ford Genk some years ago was driven away by high-frequency noise generators.

One quarter of all software packages installed on business computers in Belgium in 2009 was unlicensed, the same percentage as in 2008, according to the Business Software Alliance, which looked at the situation in 100 countries. The pirated software represents a loss of €187 million. Despite the economic crisis, the use of unlicensed software rose in only 19 countries, dropped in 54 and remained stable in the rest.

A 28-year-old man from Sleidinge in East Flanders faces five years in prison for rape and attempted murder, which he admitted was a result of homophobia. The man admitted the rape and assault, gave a Hitler salute and told police he hated homosexuals. The defence claims the assault took place as a "normal reaction by a healthy young man" to sexual advances made by the victim.

A 120-metre cargo ship broke up and sank in Ghent harbour last week. The Aquila was being loaded with 1,800 tonnes of phosphates when the accident happened. Captain and crew were able to escape safely. The cargo did not present a danger to the environment, a port spokesman said. The ship meanwhile is lying on the bottom of the Grootdok at a depth of 12 metres.

This year's **Holy Blood Procession** took place in Bruges without incident, despite calls from a group named Laste Bruggeling for spectators to throw rotten fruit and eggs at participants. The event was held without any priests taking part. They were withdrawn from the procession by the organisers, fearing public reaction related to the sexual abuse admissions of the former Bishop of Bruges, Roger Vangheluwe.

Tracy D from Dilbeek has had her driving licence taken away – before even being issued one. Tracy, 17, was banned from driving for 15 days by a police court because last year she had walked across the railway lines at Dilbeek station while the barrier was down. The ban will take effect as soon as she passes her test.

## FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

### Joke Van Steen

Joke Van Steen only lived to the age of 17. She was murdered in 1995, beaten and then drowned. Almost a whole lifetime later, 15 years, it was admitted by a court in Ghent that nobody knows who killed her.

Last week, the public prosecutor admitted that the case against the accused, OH, was worthless. He called for the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, which the jury duly did.

The advice can't have been hard to accept. The court had heard throughout the week nothing but a catalogue of failures, confusion and recantations. The testimony of the so-called prize witness wavered between the unlikely and the impossible.

Vincent Mahieu claimed to have been present at the killing. He told the court how OH had murdered Joke so that Mahieu could use her bike to get home. He claimed Herreman had carried the dead body on the back of his moped. His testimony clashed with previous statements.

OH had murder charges hanging over him for 10 years before being brought to a trial that could only ever have come to one conclusion. In its explanation of its verdict, the jury pointed to the absence of any concrete evidence against the accused, the lack of a motive and the incoherence of the testimony against him.

In the meantime, because the two investigating magistrates and the police who carried out the



enquiry failed to explore any other leads once OH became a suspect, a murderer is currently at large and untroubled by the justice system. "I don't think this is a failure of justice," said prosecutor Willem De Pauw. "If indeed we did make a mistake, I find it a very human error."

Following the verdict, defence lawyers said OH would be suing for damages for the six months he spent in prison on remand in 2000, when he first became a suspect. Joke's mother, Edwina Raes, herself spent six weeks in jail on suspicion of the murder before being definitively ruled out as a suspect.

The prosecutor-general of Ghent, meanwhile, was weighing up the possibility of reopening the murder investigation, taking over from the prosecutor's office in Oudenaarde, which carried out the initial enquiry. "Fifteen years have passed. That's not going to simplify matters," commented Geert Merchiers, prosecutor in Oudenaarde.

**Safety tip**

A visitor to Planckendael animal park thought the friendly-looking hyena was coming over to lick his hand, so he pushed his fingers through the bars, losing the tip of one. "These are wild beasts," said the park's management



## Holiday blunder sees arms dealers walk free

→ continued from page 1

There are 11 suspects in this case, each with a different timetable for appearing in court. Each time an appearance is scheduled, the increasingly voluminous case file has to be brought to the office of the clerk of the court in the Justice Palace in Brussels, from the office of the investigating magistrate in the building across the street. There is only one copy, which in this case is in almost constant transit from one office to another.

It has now emerged that two of the men were not given access to the dossier two weeks ago. This is a breach of the law and led to their release.

In normal circumstances, the prosecution would appeal to the court,

the dossier would be opened up to the defence 48 hours before that appeal was heard, and everything would return to normal. However, in this case, the hearing was scheduled for 14 May – and 13 May was a public holiday. The file should have been available from 11 May, but an official forgot about the holiday, with the result that the file arrived too late.

Outgoing justice minister Stefaan De Clerck said he would be asking for an explanation. "A magistrate ought to be flexible regarding these details so that every mistake doesn't lead to a release," he said. "But this is not something that can be sorted out in five minutes." ♦



Federal judicial police chief Glenn Audenaert

## FIFTH COLUMN

ANJA OTTE

### A female prime minister?

Last week, most parties presented their election slogans. N-VA and Open VLD have opted for variations on the theme of "change", CD&V has chosen "not to give up", while SPA goes for "progress" (as opposed to the "standstill of the past three years").

In the past, some slogans have proved their money's worth at the ballot box. When the Christian Democrats said about Jean-Luc Dehaene that "the trip is long, the guide is experienced", people believed them. When the stern-looking socialist Louis Tobback called himself "your social security", the voters agreed. More often than not, though, the slogans could fit any party and are forgotten the minute the elections are over. Personalities, on the other hand, play an increasingly important role. As many voters are no longer guided by tradition or ideology, they tend to support politicians they trust, irrespective of their party. Guy Verhofstadt and Steve Stevaert pushed their parties – liberals and socialists respectively – to unknown heights during the "purple era". In 2007, Yves Leterme personified the alternative to these politicians, after they had lost credibility, and received a record 800,000 votes.

This election, Bart De Wever is set to make his small nationalist N-VA somewhat of a sensation. (In the words of one observer, he had better, in the run up to 13 June, send the rest of his party on a holiday to Austria.) The surprise hit of the 2010 elections may be someone else, though: CD&V's Marianne Thyssen.

Thyssen became party president in 2008. Before that she was a little-known yet well-respected MEP. She would have preferred to have stayed in the European Parliament, but when Leterme asked her, a sense of responsibility made her accept the presidency of CD&V (often called the most difficult job in Belgian politics).

She is well spoken and, like Inge Vervotte (another CD&V electoral champion), earnest. Thyssen's greatest asset in this campaign is the fact that, for all her experience, she is relatively new to the public. She has survived the events of the past three years untarnished, unlike Leterme, who had to resign as prime minister twice and could not live up to his electoral promises of 2007.

Another of her qualities is modesty: she did not seek to become party president, she says; it just happened to her. Now she does not seek to become this country's first female prime minister, but that just might happen to her, too.

## THE WEEK IN FIGURES



### 6,571

secondary school pupils skipped classes in Flanders for more than 30 half-days last year, an increase of 10% on the year before. In 613 cases, a report was sent to the prosecutor's office for pupils who had failed to register at all

### €13.3 million

held by the Flemish political parties for election campaign expenses, according to financial daily *De Tijd*. SPA is richest with €4.5m, followed by Open VLD (€3.3m), CD&V (€2.7m), NVA (€1m), Vlaams Belang (€1m), Groen! (€600,000) and Lijst Dedecker (€200,000)

### 24,975

people in Brussels live off benefits, compared to 24,841 in Flanders, which has roughly six times more people

### 5,265

telephone tap orders signed in 2009 as part of a judicial investigation, the justice minister revealed – 20% more than in 2008. Total cost: €18.4 million

### 119

people committed suicide in 2009 by throwing themselves under a train, just one fewer than in 2008, the interior minister said. The number of attempted suicides continued its downward trend, from 33 in 2007 to 25 in 2009

## McEwen out, Gilbert in for Tour of Belgium

LEO CENDROWICZ

Flanders-based Australian rider Robbie McEwen has failed to recover from a knee injury in time for next week's Ronde van België, or Tour of Belgium. The injury, caused by a tendon bursitis, has affected him several times this season, during an otherwise successful comeback from his serious accident in the 2009 Tour of Belgium, when he fractured the tip of his left tibia after crashing into a road sign.

However, Omega Pharma Lotto team's Philippe Gilbert will take part in the Ronde, despite being fatigued after a long Classics season, which saw him reach number one in the International Cyclist Union's world ranking. Gilbert plans to give the Tour de France a miss this year, but will line up for the five-day, 702-kilometre Ronde, which begins on 26 May in Eeklo. It passes through Knokke-Heist, Mechelen and Herzele, before ending its fifth ride in Herstal, Liège province. ♦

## Clijsters out of French Open

Flemish tennis star Kim Clijsters has pulled out of the French Open, citing an ankle injury. A CT scan on Friday revealed the injury was healing, but fluid is still building up around her ankle, and she has opted to miss the second grand slam of the year and end her clay court season. The absence of Clijsters, 26, a two-time French Open runner-up, is a particular disappointment considering her impressive form since her return to action last summer after a two-and-a-half year break from tennis. ♦

## Pearl Jam tops StuBru all-time chart

Pearl Jam's 1991 debut album has once again been voted the best album of all time by listeners to Flemish radio station Studio Brussel. Last year for the first time Pearl Jam's *Ten* knocked Nirvana's *Nevermind* from the top of the list. *Nevermind* maintains its number two position.

Pearl Jam: *Ten*

Nirvana: *Nevermind*

Radiohead: *OK Computer*

Pink Floyd: *Dark Side of the Moon*

Metallica: *The Black Album*

Queens of the Stone Age: *Songs for the Deaf*

Muse: *Origins of Symmetry*

Metallica: *Master of Puppets*

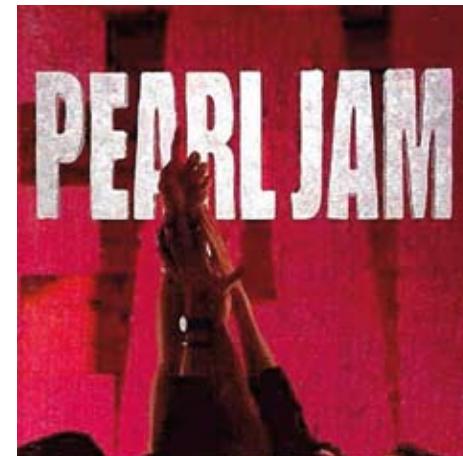
Arctic Monkeys: *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*

The Beatles: *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

In the top 100 list, dEUS is the highest-placed Flemish band at number 29, down from last year's 17 for the same album, *Worst Case Scenario*. ♦



The Gay Pride Parade and Village drew 35,000 to downtown Brussels last weekend, 10,000 more than the previous record attendance. As well as music and spectacle, attendees also heard calls to the European Union to make its framework directive on discrimination as broad as possible. Speakers also called for attention to the situation of gays in Africa and the Middle East. The parade, taking place in full election season, was attended by representatives of most political parties, including Open VLD chairman Alexander De Croo and outgoing interior minister Annemie Turkelboom.



→ [www.stubru.be](http://www.stubru.be)



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# Maybe iWill, Maybe iWon't



The iPad hits Europe on 28 May, but Belgium won't see one in stores until July

Some iPads have already found their way into Belgium via the US

LAWRENCE DE GEEST

**A**pple's iPad – or "The Jesus Tablet" as it is known in some publishing circles – has conquered the US with one million sold in its first month, less than half the time it took to sell one million iPhones. The international release for much of western Europe happens next week, but Belgium (along with Austria and the Netherlands) will have to wait until July.

The iPad will really prove it walks on water if it conquers Belgium, a country which, unlike the US, has a robust publishing industry, a historic love for comic books and, as the joke goes, speaks three languages but still can't talk. "If they can sell it there," one analyst said, "they can sell it anywhere."

Why might Belgians buy? Apple CEO Steve Jobs calls the iPad "so much more intimate than a laptop and so much more capable than a smartphone". But most attention has been paid to its capabilities as an e-reader, and, luckily, Belgians read a lot. The US Department of Commerce estimates Belgium to have the second-highest rate of sales of books per capita in Europe and the second most open publishing market in the Europe Union.

The iPad's colour screen could be great for comic books (every purchase comes with a free download of *Winnie the Pooh*), which comprise 14% of the country's publishing industry, while lower e-book prices could entice less adventurous customers. A paperback copy of *Tintin* in the US costs \$17; a digital copy costs \$7.

At first glance, the iPad seems like a perfect fit. One can already imagine European Union President Herman Van Rompuy writing haiku on one during meetings: "New technology / Another bailout for Greece / Some things never change."

"I strongly believe many will be surprised of its impact," says Julien Vander Straeten, Belgium's only certified Apple consultant. Vander Straeten thinks it will be especially useful for people whose job requires them to be online all the time. But, as is often the case in Belgium, there are plenty of obstacles.

## A Difficult Course

First is the country's small market size (only four million potential consumers between the ages of 20 and 50), one reason why Apple has yet to open an official store here. Then there is Apple's method of contracting its data products to

only one carrier in each country.

Consulting firm Strategy Analytics reckons Apple gets between \$5 and \$20 per month per customer from its wireless partners for the iPhone. It has already contracted the iPad to Vodafone for distribution in Australia, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. But that hasn't been possible in Belgium due to a law that prevents *koppelverkoop*, or tied plans, which makes the Belgian iPhone the most expensive in Europe.

That they have to be unlocked as well makes them a prize for black market retailers. In 2009, burglars stole 4,000 new iPhones from a warehouse in Willebroek, near Antwerp. Two weeks later, they appeared in Moscow's notorious Gorbushka electronics marketplace – to buy one, all you had to do was ask for a "European". Apple won't want the same to happen with the iPad.

That the iPad is so similar to other Apple products and not yet uniquely indispensable is another hurdle, as it means that most sales will probably come from people who simply have a hunger for new technology.

## Take a Bite

Clichés do carry some truth – take the country's six governments for a population of 11 million or the fact that high-technology accounts for only 7% of all exports. But Belgium isn't the tech donkey some think. In 2002, Belgium was the first European country to introduce digital signatures in identity cards to promote e-banking. Flemish astronaut Frank De Winne was recently the chief commander of the International Space Station and, according to a study by the Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School, the main sources of funding for the rising number of Belgian tech start-ups are venture capital companies and private investors.

"We're no Italians," says Vander Straeten, who works from Ghent. "I personally have the impression that the Mac market is exploding. It was second in Europe on market share for small and medium businesses, and every time an iPhone rings, you see three people checking their phones."

Apple can also take hope from the Belgian Senate's decision to end *koppelverkoop* this month after three years of debate. And Jobs' decision to sell the iPad with data plans that, he says, "you can cancel anytime you want", will probably be welcomed among most Europeans who are used to buying their phones with SIM cards and not fixed contracts.

## No Country for Unknown Men

Yet the most important factor remains whether or not Belgians – publishers in particular – can be convinced to switch to digital reading. The iPad – and e-readers in general – have offered an escape for publishing industries in countries like the US where e-books are expected to comprise upwards of 25% of all books published in five years. But publishers have had a hard time working with Amazon, which has tried to sell e-books for its e-reader Kindle for as low as \$2.99, and worry that the iPad and the new iBooks online store will manifest Apple's desire to control a medium's product and channel, and then control prices for both. That's how the iPod and iTunes store works, much to the chagrin of the music industry. Apple has already tied down contracts with major publishers in the US and will probably want to do the same with most countries in which it distributes.

It's possible that such a model is better than the old one since distributors won't be able to inflate prices. But people generally won't pay as much for something that's digital anyway. Nor does the iPad prove it can make the book better. Even if Tintin looks nice on a colour screen, why would people abandon the real thing if prices aren't going up, as they aren't in Belgium?

Apple will also soon face competition from Neofonie's WeTab, Germany's answer to the iPad. CEO Helmut Hoffer von Ankershoven says it will be cheaper, have USB ports and more "openness". But it has been mocked considerably since a demo to journalists was marred by technical failures and since news that it was to be built by the same Taiwanese manufacturer that makes iPhones.

So, the iPad is here, it's popular so far, and it could do well in Belgium. After all, Belgians still have a country because they manage to agree to disagree. But they need to be convinced first. They're a bit like Tintin's good friend Captain Haddock, who, whatever predicament he's in, finds the same way out: "Sorry old man," he says to the vanquished foe, "but you know how a sailor has a passion for knots." ♦

# Late payment debts “as large as Greek deficit”

## Companies lose billions every year to customers who don’t pay up

ALAN HOPE

The Belgian government that takes over after the 13 June elections needs to make a priority of introducing legislation to tackle the late payment and non-payment of business invoices, according to Unizo, the organisation that represents the self-employed in Flanders. Late and non payments cost European companies €300 billion in 2009 – as much as the entire national debt of Greece.

According to research by Intrum Justitia, a Swedish credit management company, debt write-offs as a result of late payment rose 8%, which amounts to €8.7 billion in Belgium alone. One invoice in 40, on average, will never be paid.

At the same time, only 54% of all invoices are paid on time, which often results in a vicious circle – companies that have not been paid are in turn unable to pay their own creditors. Small businesses are particularly vulnerable because their cash flow is often tighter and because they lack the economic muscle to force better payment terms.

Three-quarters of businesses say late payments lose them money, mainly because they are forced to go into the red while awaiting payment. Half of companies said they had liquidity problems as a result, up from 40% in 2008.

The annual survey looked at 6,000 businesses across Europe:

- **Small businesses** write off 3% of their invoices due, compared to an average of 2.6%: they are harder hit than larger companies, who are more likely to be the culprits
- The amount of debt written off **has jumped by €30 billion** in the last 12 months alone



• The debt includes payments due not only from other businesses, but also from consumers and **public authorities**

- Only 10% of businesses expect an improvement in conditions in the coming year; 52% said they expected **little help from banks** following the recession
- The average delay in payment is now **18 days** beyond the agreed term, compared to 19 days in 2009.

“With many European governments continuing to prop up their economies with cash injections, this €300 billion waste is truly worrying,” commented Lars Wollung, the CEO of Intrum Justitia. “In particular, it is extremely troubling to see how hard-hit the SME market has been

by non-payment and the lack of confidence that conditions will improve over the coming months. With banks continuing to lend cautiously, good cash-flow management is vital to help ensure the very survival of many European small and medium-sized businesses.”

A majority of businesses said they would like to see the recent European Late Payment directive revised to cover consumer payments. At present, the directive only covers business-to-business debts and transactions between business and the public authorities. Under revised rules to come into effect this year, public bodies have to pay within 30 days or pay interest plus a 5% penalty. Businesses can also charge defaulters for any recovery costs incurred. ♦

→ [www.intrum.com](http://www.intrum.com)

## Retail degrees sought by industry starved of staff

If the government changed the law in Flanders to make the system of training for retail managers more flexible, it would stem the increasing number of unfilled vacancies in the sector, says retail federation Fedis. Dominique Michel, director-general of the organisation, also called on education minister Pascal Smet to institute a bachelor’s degree in retail management.

At present, the training of retail management is organised by Fedis itself, with more than 2,000 employees making use of the system last year. At the same time, there were 7,000 unfilled vacancies in retail positions – more than half (60%) requiring no formal qualifications.

For those who do undergo

training, the possibilities are limited. In Flanders, an employee who successfully completes a training course can be offered either a contract for an indefinite term or one for at least a year. In Wallonia, by contrast, companies are allowed to offer shorter-term contracts to training graduates, which achieves more flexibility.

At the same time as jobs in the sector were growing in general, there were also more vacancies coming up requiring a higher level of training, such as the bachelor’s degree in retail management offered in the Netherlands and France, but so far not in Flanders. “It can’t be right that we have to go looking for staff across the border,” Michel said. ♦

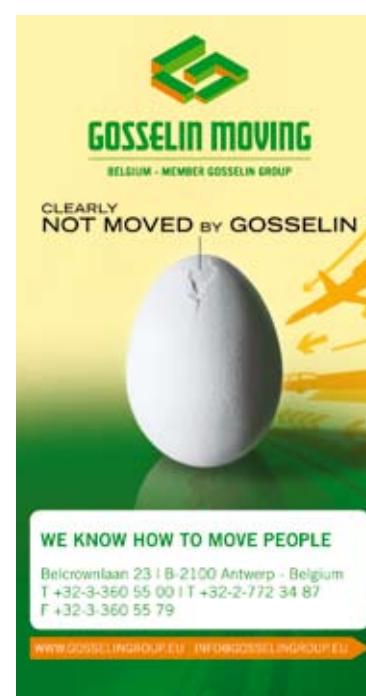
## Ministerial absence from mission angers business

Business leaders have reacted angrily to a lack of ministerial presence on Prince Filip’s latest trade mission, which left last weekend for China. Together with 227 business representatives keen to make contacts and sign contracts with the Chinese, Prince Filip was the sole official representative of the country. Normally he would be accompanied by at least one minister.

The reasons given were various: foreign affairs minister Steven Vanackere was on a diplomatic mission to Egypt; economy minister Vincent Van Quickenborne pleaded a desire to work on matters relating to the conduct of the outgoing government. Others who were sought had full agendas. Businesspeople, on the other hand, see the ministers’ reluctance to travel as a result of the forthcoming elections on 13 June. “Psychologically, I can understand: they’re busy with their campaigns,” commented former finance minister Mark Eyskens, whose participation had been solicited. “But this undermines the function they’ve

been entrusted with. They’re putting party interests ahead of the interests of the state,” he said.

Prince Filip and his delegation are due back later this week. ♦



## THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

### Autos • Production

Car production in Flanders increased by 10% in the first four months of this year compared to 2009, bringing total output to 172,168 vehicles. The Volvo plant in Ghent produced 30% more vehicles.

### Cruises • Zeebrugge

The Port of Zeebrugge has signed a partnership agreement with Brussels Airport to allow passengers flying in from abroad to be transported to the port on chartered buses. Some 200,000 cruise passengers disembarked at Zeebrugge last year to visit the historic city of Bruges, and port authorities are keen to develop this lucrative business.

### Food • PinguinLutosa

Frozen food specialist PinguinLutosa, based in Westrozebeke, West Flanders, is seeking to acquire the French market leader Aucy Frozen Foods from Centrale Cooperative Agricole Bretonne (Cecab). The move would turn PinguinLutosa into Europe’s largest frozen food producer, with a capacity of over 400,000 tonnes a year.

### Hotels • Accor

French hotel group Accor is seeking to open 41 additional hotels in Belgium by 2015. This year the group will inaugurate two Mercure hotels in Brussels and one in Leuven, together with three Etap properties in Antwerp, Bruges and Brussels. Accor also has plans to open five hotels along the Flemish coast.

### Pharmaceuticals • Arseus

Arseus medical services and products supplier, based in Waregem, West Flanders, is to take over Gallipot, an American pharmaceutical components distributor.

### Photo processing • Spector

Digital photo processing and production group Spector is closing its Tanumshede unit in Sweden and increase capacity at its Wetteren-based laboratory.

### Retail • Fnac

Book and electronics retailer Fnac opened its ninth store in the country last week in Brussels. The new store is part of the renovated Gulden Vlies Gallery in the Elsene commune. The gallery also has outlets of chains such as AS Adventure, Crossword, Esprit and Celio.

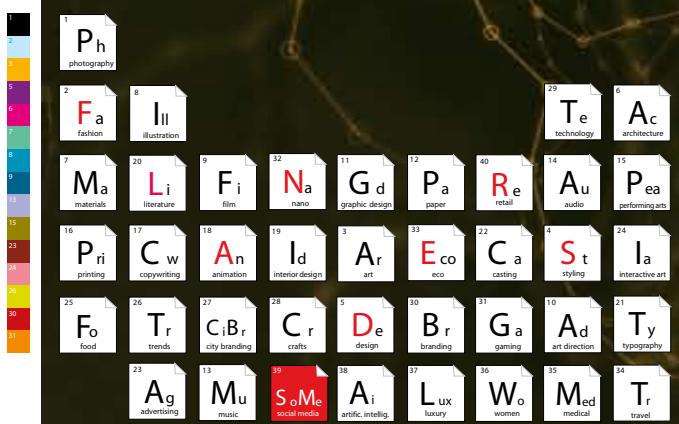
# Mapping Flanders

creativity

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## Mapping Flanders creativity: selection social media

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19% of tweets, and 57% of ReTweets contain a link

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Create "Choosing" (Not "Shopping") Experiences

On a recent, gorgeous day in New York City I walked from Bergdorf Goodman at 59th Street & 5th Avenue past Carter on 52nd street and continued down 5th Avenue for over a mile, because I was preparing for a speech I was scheduled to deliver to the Global Retail Marketing Association. I was paying particular attention to the stores and the shopping experiences they created — from the post ambience of Bergdorf's with its \$4,000 blue blazers to Diesel's inaptitude ad line: "Smart has the brains, but stupid has the balls."

(Read more)

**People Locations Cases Services Partnerships**

Kari Korkilaakso is a business developer with an integrated marketing communications background and strong experience in digital, branding, advertising, and PR. Nowadays his focus is on social business design i.e. making companies see the opportunities and challenges that social media and business landscape have to offer.

(Read more)

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**2. Betaal veilig**  
Betaal via een betrouwbare verwerking.

**3. Soeffe vermelding**  
Graat voor bestellingen.

**een eigen website of een pagina op Facebook als bedrijf?**  
26 april 2010 door Bart

**5. 100% referenties**  
Al onze klanten zijn Belgische gebruikers op datum van april 2010. Mvg. A. regelmatig de vraag van bestuurders en marketing managers: hoeft het nog wel zijn om een eigen site uit te bouwen? Is het niet beter om al deze jijlen te richten op Facebook - daar zit ten slotte een groot publiek!

**6. 7 tips voor een succesvolle Facebook-pagina**  
26 april 2010 door Bart

**7. Tip op de hoogte**  
Je kan op 2 verschillende manieren op de hoogte blijven van Netlash:

1. **Subs'je in op de RSS-feed**
2. **Subs'je in op onze maandelijks e-mail nieuwsbrief**

**Portfolio updates**

6 maal  
BBT (Bijzonderheden Instituut voor Bouwtechnologie) is een onderzoeksinstelling die in opdracht van de Vlaamse overheid innovatie binnen ICT stimuleert.

9 maal  
Netlash website voor Red Verkondigingen

27 april  
Netlash workshop voor La Bile d'Or

**Netlash Twitter**  
Coming soon... <http://www.netlash.be>  
— 2 jar geleden

7.Luck for three qualities: beauty, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you it. — 2 jar geleden

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### GHENT

Founder and CEO of Netlash (webbuilder) and Talking Heads (social media marketing agency), co-founder of E-on (internet marketing), Ghent Web Valley and tagger.fm (startup). Bart De Waele / twitter: @netlash



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### LABMEMBER 1530



### HOVE

I am an artist, software engineer and a cognitive science hobbyist, affiliated with the Computational Psycholinguistics group (CLIPS, University of Antwerp) since 2008 and co-founder of the Experimental Media group (EMG, Sint Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp) in 2004. The EMG has been involved in various research projects bordering between art and technology. We draw inspiration from domains such as AI, cognitive science, linguistics, biology, toys, in an attempt to define the nature of creativity. Our areas of expertise include state-of-the-art graphics software, tangible user interfaces, tools for computational linguistics and machine creativity.

**Tom De Smedt - <http://www.organisms.be>**

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**Fast Track** partners sets its clients to develop and improve their capabilities in the **fast-track business culture**, working at the crossroads of **Innovation Management**, **Knowledge Management** & **Learning Organizations**.

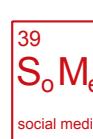
**Fast Track** offers its services through a combination of **training**, **coaching**, **mentoring**, **mentoring**, **mentoring** and **project support**.

**Crowdsourcing Engineering Design** - Phoenix, April 15-17, 2010

Phoenix is a distributed problem-solving approach where "makers" from all over the globe can work together to create, in the true "makers" spirit, and learn the best technologies. Crowdsourcing is coming to the engineering community. Challenges include: technology, process, legal, competency, organization, and financial. See if you can find the right solution for your mission!

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**Christian De Neef / twitter:@cdn**



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Board of Innovation "Exploring new business concepts"

Flattr.com - a revenue model for online creators

Already from the visual appearance of this model you'll notice that Flattr tries to work in different way. Lots of us are enjoying the free content brought to us by all the individual online publishers. Sometimes you would feel the urge to support these people. To do so you could make use of donate buttons, but still this process takes some effort. That's where Flattr comes in with their structured approach to micro-donations. As a Flattr client you set your own monthly subscription fee. Then, while browsing/consuming online content, you are able to select your favorite publications. You can 'Flattr' any type of content. At the end of the month your subscription fee will be distributed over all the people that you tagged (Flattr'd) during that period. Initially Flattr will take a 10% commission but they are working hard to bring this number down.

Diagram illustrating the Flattr revenue model:

```

graph TD
    Flattr[FLATTR] -- "10% commission" --> User[User]
    User -- "1% of Flattr fee" --> Publisher[Online content publisher]
    Publisher -- "1% of Flattr fee" --> Flattr[FLATTR]
    User -- "Doing good = Feeling good experience" --> User
  
```

Board of Innovation is a European trend office specialized in new business models. On this platform we visually capture new business concepts from around the world. Browse the database or contact [boardofinnovation.com](http://boardofinnovation.com)

Recent comments



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Board Of Innovation is a European trend office specialized in new business models. Board Of Innovation supports companies in the ideation and the economical development of innovations and new business opportunities. The company offers its services in the form of trend studies, creative workshops and business development projects. Giving

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## LABMEMBER 4034



### MECHELEN

Mother of two. Chocolate lover. Internet fanatic. Organiser of Brussels Girl Geek Dinners. Marketing manager with a flair for social media. Lazy sins: enjoys reading books in bath. And hopes the web 3.0 will do her groceries.  
Clo Willaerts / twitter: @bnox

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MATERIAL: Polymide, SURFACE: Natural, COLOR: Natural white, QUANTITY: 1, SCALE: 1 inch / 25 mm, Percentage: 100, Scale ratio: 1/1, MODEL PROPERTIES: material: 100, 3D printer: 1 X 1 Y 2 Z, UNIT PRICE: 1000



i.materialise

### LEUVEN

i.materialise is a new startup within the Materialise group, a global market leader in 3D printing technologies. i.materialise is an online 3D creation and 3D printing service, aiming at making these technologies available for everybody: envision, decorating your house with objects you designed yourself. Besides a general 3D print functionality, i.materialise has recently launched its first 'Create Your Own' product: a Google SketchUp plugin which enables to design a scale model of a house/interior and to prepare it for 3D printing (<http://i.materialise.com/architects>) The service has already built amazing designs using 3D print technology, and uses social media tools to share the results with the community. They organize design challenges to make creators acquainted with the possibilities of 3D printing.  
<http://i.materialise.com>  
contact: Martijn Joris - twitter: @imaterialise

Flanders Today and the international creative think tank Addictlab are partnering up to inspire you with the work of Flemish creative minds.

The lab itself has originated from the region's fertile grounds, and the important Flemish selection of today's 4000 creative thinkers from 150 countries is proof of the innovation culture in Flanders.

Flanders Today will be diving in this huge database of people and concepts, and bringing you a selection regularly.

Following Addictlab's adagio 'Creativity is Chemistry®', you will discover geniuses from different disciplines, such as art, design, fashion & so many more. This week we're proud to show you talented 'labmembers' and Flemish companies active in "social media".

#1 Transport	March
#2 Art and Photography	April
#3 Social media	May
#4 Fashion	June
#5 Bio	July
#6 Eco	August
#7 Design	September

Do you want to be on these pages? **Are you a Flanders based creative mind?** Then go to [www.addictlab.com](http://www.addictlab.com) & register as a labmember.



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Lorenz Bogaert (left) and Toon Coppens of Netlog; Coppens developed the now 63 million-strong social networking site when he was a student at university – using his dad's credit card

© Daniel Rys/BELGA

## e-DENTITY CRISIS

### Even young people are becoming more savvy about what they put online

→ *continued from page 1*

Netlog, a Gent-based social-networking site, started its existence all the way back in 1999 as ASL.2 by thinking about the essence of humanity: What is your age/sex/location?

"They had this idea to make individual websites – profiles based on those same questions," explains Cedric De Vleeschauwer, Strategic Partnerships Manager of Netlog. "It was a tremendous success."

Today, Netlog, a Ghent-based version of Facebook, has 63 million users worldwide and exists in 38 languages. Not bad for a little start-up launched way before the social media boom by an 18-year-old from Flanders.

"In the beginning, it was easy to grow," says De Vleeschauwer. "There wasn't any competition at all." And then came Facebook.

"Facebook is targeting much older people. There, you can search for old friends and keep in touch with existing friends," continues De Vleeschauwer. "On Netlog, there are young people trying to find their first girlfriends and boyfriends. It's all about people discovery, meeting new people. We want to be the ultimate online entertainment network for young people age 14 to 24."

*"Digital will be the next normal"*

**Vincent Van Quickenborne**

Netlog doesn't mind, then, when their users go to Facebook, especially the older ones, as Netlog is "really a place for youngsters to be youngsters." He explains that Netlog tries to keep parents off the site, noting that lots of their users leave Facebook when they see their parents and even grandparents have joined.

#### Reinventing privacy

As Howest students fit well into the Netlog demographic, I asked some of the "youngsters" busy with New Media and Communication Technology and Digital Arts and Entertainment about their social media use. This is what I heard:

"I don't think it's necessary to post my status or make comments. Why should people know what I am doing?" "People are realising that what they post online can be seen by their bosses."

"Netlog is more public. Facebook is better for privacy." Huh? Dad, is that you? Who would have known that people in their early 20s are savvy enough to be careful with what they put online?

According to Bart De Waele of Flemish web design company Netlash and social media marketing company Talking Heads, we will have to rethink our vision of privacy. He says we will eventually evolve as a society to accept and embrace that the young talent we are hiring

with public party photos on Facebook is only human. De Waele's companies do all of their recruiting online via social networking sites. They also don't go after clients, but instead use a large presence on social media and the web to pull them in.

Jo Caudron, who ran the first web agency ever in Belgium back in 1993 and now runs Dear Media, a consulting company specialised in new media innovation, said that you can't lie on social media and claim to be something you are not. "It forces you into transparency. If you are not on social media, you don't appear to be transparent."

#### Political twitters

Vincent Van Quickenborne, the federal minister of economy, innovation and telecommunications, also gets the titles of first MP in Belgium with a blog, one of the first Belgian politicians on Twitter and one of the first with more than 5,000 friends on Facebook.

According to Van Quickenborne, companies can't use social media for pure publicity; they have to be authentic. Companies and public figures should use Twitter to learn from others. "You can't just add your gadget. There needs to be content and constant dialogue," he says. "It's a real opportunity for a company to adapt to customer needs. It's an ideal tool."

Eventually everybody will be connected in one way or another, something he is working on in his political capacity. "Digital," he says, "will be the next normal."

Like many others I spoke to, Van Quickenborne claims that Twitter is only at the start of its evolution in Belgium and that mobile and smart devices will take off, once the market opens up, prices drop and internet connections become much faster – all issues he's working on improving.

*Skip the whole online world and become an expert on mobile*

Joost Landsheere, meanwhile, of Sweet Lemon, a Flemish company focused on integrating new media into communication strategies, follows Van Quickenborne's Tweets, noting that they are a good mix of personal and business. "He's not only telling us what he's doing," says Landsheere, "but he's also teasing his followers to give feedback or putting direct questions into the community."

Landsheere, who also recently launched mobile application company Mobile Minds, educates his clients about how important it is to build trust via social media sites. "Companies have to shift the way of thinking to a customer-focused business and to make a real connec-

tion with the community," he says. "They have to talk to the community and get feedback. They can move in a new direction thanks to the feedback, and the reach can be much higher and more easily measured online than via traditional marketing."

Mobile Minds, along with former Netlog strategist Louis Jonckheere's new company In the Pocket, are two of a handful of companies starting to be really active in the Flemish mobile market. Jonckheere has no doubt that this year – next year at the latest – will be the year of the mobile once and for all. In the Pocket is so convinced of this that they focus completely on mobile and don't do any online development.

Maybe that's what I should do – skip the whole online world and become an expert on mobile. Then I'll be a true trendsetter. Come to think of it, that would make a good first Tweet.♦

→ [www.thestudios.be](http://www.thestudios.be)



© Toby Melville/Reuters

# If you build it, they will come

Monty arts centre was one of the first to move into the now heart-of-the-arts in Antwerp

ANNA JENKINSON

“Thinking against the grain is maybe the most important characteristic of Monty,” Denis Van Laeken tells me over a home-made ginger tea in the theatre’s bar. “How does the world function? Who has more influence?” muses the 56 year-old teetotaller, reeling off the types of questions raised by performances between these walls.

Van Laeken, or “Mr Monty”, is the man who founded this Antwerp arts centre back in the mid-1980s. It started out as a simple idea for a small concert venue in an unpopular part of town not far from the Royal Museum of Fine Arts. Now Monty has grown into a Flemish landmark known for its theatre and contemporary dance, and the neighbourhood has grown into Antwerpse Zuid, home to numerous galleries, cafes and the Museum of Contemporary Art (M HKA), which opened its doors soon after Monty.

One of the highlights of Monty’s 2009-2010 season is still to come: Wunderbaum, a Dutch theatre company that has been part of the Monty fold ever since it had its Belgian premiere at the venue almost a decade ago. For Van Laeken and Wunderbaum, it was love at first sight.

“They start with reality, what they experience. They start from scratch. It’s very exciting,” he says. “They would never take a book and adapt it straight to stage,” he adds, just in case such a conventional thought were to enter my head.

Wunderbaum’s next performance is *Venlo*, which was made in and named after the Dutch hometown of the infamous right-wing politician Geert Wilders. The production is about a community that has to cope with an identity crisis: the politicians try to talk to the people, but the locals think they can deal with the situation better on their own. Although sponsored by Monty, the performance – a veritable moveable feast – is taking place in a community centre.



Monty founder and director Denis Van Laeken helped shape 't Zuid



Drink and sing with the residents of Venlo in Wunderbaum’s June performance

## CULTURE NEWS

The Fine Arts Museum in Antwerp is lending works to smaller museums in Flanders free of charge, under the **Kunst and Mobiliteit** (Art and Mobility) programme funded by the Flemish Region. This will allow smaller museums to plan more exhibitions without having to pay for transport, insurance and costs associated with temperature and other atmospheric conditions. The Fine Arts Museum, the largest museum in Flanders, has 7,500 works in its collection, but shows only 10% at any given time.

→ [www.kmska.be](http://www.kmska.be)

Bernard Dewulf has won the **Libris Prize for Literature**, a surprise win for the Flemish author and poet, who was up against the venerable Walter van den Broeck and the undyingly popular Tom Lanoye, as well as the multiple-award winning Dutch author Marie Kessels. Modelled after Britain’s Man Booker Prize, the Libris is awarded annually to the best book in the Dutch language and comes with a €50,000 purse. Dewulf’s book *Kleine dagen* (*Small Days*) is a series of anecdotal columns he wrote for years for *De Morgen* before being let go last year, much to the readers’ consternation.

→ [www.librisliteratuurprijs.nl](http://www.librisliteratuurprijs.nl)

If you’ve already spent a summer in Flanders, you know that you cannot walk a kilometre without running into an outdoor music festival – in fact, there are more **summer music festivals** per capita in Flanders than in any other region in the world, according to the Federation of Music Festivals in Flanders. But the federation said last week that the festivals are in danger because of increasing regulations regarding labour, taxes, noise nuisance and tobacco and alcohol use. At this point, “it is virtually impossible to meet every standard,” the federation said.

→ [www.fmv.be](http://www.fmv.be)

The 33-year old comic strip **Kiekeboe** has gotten a facelift, revealed to fans last week in the latest album, *Vrouwen komen van Mars* (*Women Come from Mars*). Most prominently, the title has changed to *De Kiekeboes* in order to reflect the rising importance of the entire strip family of four and not just the thick-moustached patriarch. The family, which previously wore the same clothing in every album, will now enjoy a change of wardrobe, and the album is also a slightly larger size – which sparked immediate controversy among fans as it no longer fits nicely next to the rest of the albums on their bookshelves.

→ [www.kiekeboewebstek.be](http://www.kiekeboewebstek.be)



Wunderbaum is incorporating local amateur actors into the performance in Antwerp, where members of the audience become citizens of the town, sitting at tables (filled with beer) for political pitches, going outside for the unveiling of a new public artwork. Monty has also entered a three-year collaboration with 3dePARTIJ (3rdPARTY), where peace activists from Israel and Palestine come to Antwerp to talk about their work. Next month, Bil’in, a movement of Palestinian citizen groups in favour of non-violent resistance, will speak at Monty.

“We don’t want to look to the past,” Van Laeken says of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “We want reconciliation, for the people to look to the future, to live in peaceful democracies.” Monty’s artistic director is constantly trying to ensure that his programme of theatre and contemporary dance is relevant to today’s world. But this is no easy task, he admits, when performers need to be booked one or even two years in advance. “The artists have commitments left, right and centre, which makes it hard to react to events in the real world.”

Monty works with “a backbone of groups,” which includes home-grown tg Stan and De Roovers, as well as Wunderbaum. Also keen to attract new names, Van Laeken watches two or three performances a week, clocking up about 25,000 kilometres a year in the car as he travels around Flanders and the Netherlands scouting for new talent.

One up-and-coming name to look out for, according to Van Laeken, is the theatre group FC Bergman, whose actors all studied in Antwerp and so would often come to watch productions at Monty. Van Laeken describes the group as “the new Stan”. When he watches new performances, he particularly looks for a relationship between the artists and the audience. “I don’t like it when the audience

is treated like a stupid bunch of people who aren’t really there.” The performers must “emancipate” the audience, he says.

What seems great in one location doesn’t always work in another, though. “What you see that night is invented that night. It’s fluid. You cannot capture it,” Van Laeken says, recalling one company that he saw at the city’s Amperdans international dance festival. “When I first saw it, it was fantastic, perfect. I was so glad we could have it here. And then at Monty, it was a drag, it was horrible,” he grimaces, still unsure whether to blame his state of mind the first time he saw it, the venue or something else entirely.

Not that he worries too much about the reaction of his audience, which is largely made up of young people, including a lot of students. “We do not programme to please the audience,” he says on more than one occasion. He simply goes with his gut instinct and consults only a very close circle of collaborators.

Monty has three stages, starting with the “Foyer luxe”, a small stage in the bar area where new acts usually start out. “Hit the Stage” is upstairs in the pavilion, and the main auditorium is for the bigger performances.

Van Laeken no longer attends every performance at Monty, saying that he has been trying to slow down in the last few years and has started doing yoga to help in this effort. By his own admission, though, he finds it hard to switch off. He is simply someone who is constantly thinking about the next idea, be it theatrical, political or, ideally, a combination of the two. → [www.monty.be](http://www.monty.be)

# A woman's place is in the brewery

**An De Ryck heads up an award-winning family beermaker in East Flanders**

MELISSA MAKI

**M**any would consider An De Ryck of Brouwerij De Ryck a pioneering figure. She's one of just a few female brewers in Belgium, and she has faced more than her fair share of challenges in this male-dominated industry. But when we sit down to chat (over a beer, naturally) all of my questions about how being a woman has influenced her livelihood begin to feel a little bit like clichés.

An is a petite and unassuming woman. As she tells it, brewing was an easy choice; she was born into it. An only child immersed in brewing culture, she grew up wanting to be a brewer, much to her father's chagrin.

"At that time, 30 years ago, for a girl to study as a brewer just wasn't done," she admits. Her father's attempts to dissuade her from the field only reinforced her desire. "That was a good guarantee," she says. "When a parent tells a child they can't do something, the child will do it."

An went on to study brewing in Ghent and in Bavaria. Eventually she took over as brew master at De Ryck, the fourth generation in her family to do so. Her love for the craft is obvious. When I ask her how many people work at the brewery, she tells me four, but adds: "we don't call it work."

Gustaaf De Ryck, An's great-grandfather, started this family brewing tradition in the village of Herzele, about 12 kilometres southwest of Aalst, in 1886. He bought a small farm for 5,000 Belgian francs and decided to try his hand at both farming and brewing to see which would be more profitable.

At the time, there were no brewing schools in Belgium, so Gustaaf travelled to Bremen, Germany, to learn the craft. He christened his new brewery De Gouden Arend (The Golden Eagle) to pay tribute to his German brewing mentor.

During the First World War, German forces seized the brewery's horses and copper kettles, forcing it to close. At the time, there were two other breweries in Herzele, but only one, Dooreman, was officially allowed to continue operations. Nevertheless, this gave the other breweries in town, De Gouden Arend and De Smet, an opportunity to continue brewing, at least on a small scale, using Dooreman's equipment.

After the war, the De Ryck family gathered all of their resources to reopen the brewery, this time under the name Brouwerij De Ryck. At this time, German lagers had become ubiquitous in Belgium, so the Belgian national brewers' association organised a competition as an incentive to deviate from this norm. "They dared Belgian brewers to develop a beer that was as strong as the lagers but more sophisticated and richer in taste," says Miek Van Melkebeke, An's daughter.

Thus, the "spécial Belge" style was born – amber coloured beers of about 5% alcohol. De Ryck continues to brew their Special De Ryck



An De Ryck at home in the Herzele brewery

from this original recipe to "honour the courage of our ancestors," says Miek. The Special De Ryck remains the brewery's flagship beer.

De Ryck is obviously steeped in tradition, but they also recognise the need to keep up with shifting markets. Up until five years ago, they only distributed their beer by the barrel, mostly to local cafés. But an overall decline in beer drinking in Belgium has compelled them to make some changes. A good proportion is now bottled and distributed in Italy, Spain, France, the US and hopefully soon the UK. Miek, formerly a speech therapist, is now working at the brewery and taking brewing courses in Ghent.

De Ryck produces nine beers, and impressive number considering its diminutive size and staff. Some cater to a traditional palate, and a few – like the Jules de Bananes – are sweet and fruity. Though hardcore beer connoisseurs may turn up their noses at the idea of brewing the latter, De Ryck's motivation is sensible and even forward thinking.

They are aiming at a specific demographic. The goal is to get young women to come back to the beer world, says An. The idea is to produce a beer that has the sweetness that young people have

come to crave, but also a "beery" flavour that may influence their taste buds and eventually bring them around to appreciate the taste of genuine beer.

Over the years, the De Ryck brewery has won a number of awards – most notably, their Arend Tripel was voted best Belgian tripel in the prestigious international European Beer Star competition in 2008. And the Special De Ryck took home bronze from the World Beer Cup, both in 2006 and 2008.

De Ryck does tours by appointment for groups (minimum of 15) in Dutch, English, French or German. Every second Sunday in September is open brewery day, and the first Saturday of October they partner with the city of Herzele and Van Den Bossche brewery for a big Oktoberfest celebration. ♦

**Brouwerij De Ryck**  
Kerkstraat 24, Herzele

→ [www.brouwerijderyck.be](http://www.brouwerijderyck.be)

## Bike to the beer

Herzele residents are lucky; their area supports not just one, but two breweries – De Ryck and Van Den Bossche (makers of Pater Lieven and Buffalo). The breweries are only a few kilometres apart (Van Den Bossche is in Sint-Lievens-Esse). To

capitalise on this, the town of Herzele has cleverly created a scenic and historic bike route, "Tussen pot en sint", that will appeal to cyclists, beer-lovers and history buffs alike.

The route's name plays with the Flemish saying *tussen pot en*

*pint* (loosely, between mug and pint), which refers to the relaxed intimacy of conversations over drinks. The ride – anywhere between 13 and 44 km – takes you through the beautiful hills of the Flemish Ardennes and is interspersed with small villages and chapels, with monuments to locally significant saints.

The route lives up to its name, offering its share of stories and artefacts that illuminate the history of the area as well as the small-town cosy atmosphere and libations of the area's eateries and breweries. You can pick up the bike map at Herzele's local tourist office. Next week, part of the five-day Ronde van België (Tour of Belgium) bicycle race takes place in Herzele, with accompanying festivals for the public.

→ [www.herzele.be](http://www.herzele.be)



## Sampling the goods



### Arend Tripel

I am particularly impressed with De Ryck's Arend Tripel. It stands up to beers at the top of its class, like the Westmalle and Affligem tripels, but its citrusy, floral nose and caramel taste with slight bitterness (courtesy of Cascade hops) also sets it apart from the rest. With a 9.5% alcohol content, this is a dangerously drinkable beer.

### Arend Winter

When I think of Christmas beer, I picture dark and malty, with hints of clove and allspice. De Ryck's is nothing like it. It's an amber beer with a flowery and fruity nose. The taste is honey, with surprising but pleasant blueberry notes, a slightly bitter end and 6.3% alcohol.

De Ryck also sells a number of edibles at the brewery that are made with their beer, including cheese, pâté, marmalade, chocolate and sorbet.

# Agenda

## Herman Selleslags

The kind of show that can tell the history of a country's culture in one go, *Archief 2010* in Antwerp's Zwarte Panter gallery highlights four decades of the career of this *Humo* and *Knack* photographer  
→ [www.bartsite.be/zwartepanter](http://www.bartsite.be/zwartepanter)



FLANDERS TODAY  
MAY 19, 2010



## Zinneke Parade

KATRIEN LINDEMANS

This Saturday, the colourful Zinneke Parade will meander through the centre of Brussels. More than 2,300 Brussels citizens from every part of the city will dress up, make music or perform during the parade, all inspired by this edition's theme "Aan tafel!" ("Come to the Table!"). This year, organisers want to emphasise – even stronger than usual – that Brussels is a city from and for everybody. The name of the parade refers to both the Brussels river Zenne as to the stray dogs that used to roam around it. These mongrels have become a symbol for Brussels – an embodiment of the cosmopolitan and multicultural nature of the city. It's therefore no surprise that all participants of the parade come from very different neighbourhoods, with contrasting backgrounds and a diverse array of beliefs.

"The week before the parade, we'll drop four massive art works on different squares," explains Zinneke spokesperson Dis Huyghe. "Those creations mark the starting points of the parade. Twenty five so-called *zinnodes* – a group of about 100 people – will head out from Fontainasplein, Sint-Katelijne, the Albertina-

plein and the Spanjeplein and meet each other along the way." The parade will stroll over the central lanes in the centre and will cross the square of all Brussels squares: Grote Markt. For the first time, all the *zinnodes* will pass by Manneken Pis, as well. Another new feature is the interaction between what's going on in the streets and on several balconies along the route. "Puppeteers from Belgium, Ireland, Italy and France will perform a show with the main puppet called Maurice and his family," says Huyghe.

Brussels has had to deal with quite a lot of bad publicity. The Zinneke crew want to demonstrate that Brussels is not a dangerous city or a no-go zone, but a lively capital bursting with creativity. The Zinneke Parade wants to be "the celebration of all Brussels neighbourhoods" and strives to show off the city as being "open to everyone".

What to expect? The Zinneke Parade could be compared to carnival, only without the floats. It's people powered: Zinneke is billed as "100% human". All the music you'll hear is performed live and without amplifiers. There are no motorised wagons

– instead the *zinnodes* create their own rolling vehicles. The lively parade is hugely fun to watch because of the artistic creativity of the participants, resulting in a remarkable mix of colours, sounds and movement. Don't forget to look up and spot Maurice and his family on balconies of houses along the way. ♦



**22 May  
starting about 15.00**

Across the centre of  
Brussels

→ [www.zinneke.org](http://www.zinneke.org)

## MORE OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK

Street Festival → Kalmthout city centre

Burnout Afternoon → Kapermolenpark, Hasselt

Leuven in Scène theatre festival → Leuven city centre



## DON'T MISS

### Sage van de Biesenburcht

**23 May, 10.00-18.00**

Alden Biesen, Bilzen

You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the Sage van de Biesenburcht, one of the most fun annual family events in Flanders. It's a mediaeval feast better than the rest: musicians, handicraft demonstrations, acrobats, fire-eaters and authentic food and drink are just the beginning. There's also battles between knights on horseback, a mediaeval camp and storytelling, including the presentation by Mark Tijsmans of his new book *De ridders van de ronde keukentafel* (*The Knights of the Round Kitchen Table*). And it all takes place at the 16th- (to 18th-) century castle of Alden Biesen in Bilzen, near Hasselt.



→ [www.vtbkultuur.be](http://www.vtbkultuur.be)

### Vorst-National

Victor Roussealaan 208; 0900.00.991  
[www.forestnational.be](http://www.forestnational.be)

**MAY 21** 20.00 Jacques Dutronc

**MAY 24** 20.00 Snow Patrol

### Ghent

#### Café Video

Oude Beestenmarkt 7; [www.cafevideo.be](http://www.cafevideo.be)

**MAY 19** 21.30 School is Cool (winner of

Humo's Rock Rally 2010)

**MAY 23** 21.30 Minco Eggersman

### Charlatan

Vlasmarkt 6; 09.224.24.57

[www.charlatan.be](http://www.charlatan.be)

**MAY 20** 21.00 5 years Genthology with

Waxdolls + Kapitan Korsakov

### Handelsbeurs

Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65

[www.handelsbeurs.be](http://www.handelsbeurs.be)

**MAY 23** 20.15 Adrian Edmondson & The Bad Shepherds

### Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060  
[www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)

**MAY 19** 15.30 Garcia Plays Kyuss. 20.30

Phosphorescent

**MAY 23** 20.30 Howie & Linn, pop/rave/

electro

### Hasselt

#### Muziekodroom

Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13

[www.muziekodroom.be](http://www.muziekodroom.be)

**MAY 20** 19.00 The Exploited + Heartbreaktunes. 20.30 Jason Ricci and New Blood

**MAY 22** 22.00 Panacea + Luna-C +

Twinhooker & Paulie Walnuts

### Kortrijk

#### De Kreun

Conservatoriumplein 1; 056.37.06.44

[www.dekreun.be](http://www.dekreun.be)

**MAY 22-24** 16.00 Sinxen Vlas Vegas

Days, featuring Mike Ladd + Warriorz

+ Phat Soul Foundation + Trans Am +

We Are Wolves + Psychic Paramount +

Madensuyu + Toman + Rise and Fall, more



### The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45

[www.themusicvillage.com](http://www.themusicvillage.com)

**MAY 20** 12.30 Lennaert Maes

## Ostend

Kursaal (Casino)  
Monacoplein 2; 070.22.56.00  
www.kursaalostende.be  
**MAY 23** 20.00 Clouseau Tour 2010



## Antwerp

Buster  
Kaasru 1; 03.232.51.53  
www.busterpodium.be  
**MAY 19-22** 21.00 Swedish Week, with  
composers, covers and jazz fusion  
**MAY 26** 21.00 Playtime session with  
Viktor Perdieu  
**MAY 27** 21.00 Buster Jam

De Hopper  
Leopold De Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33  
www.cafehopper.be  
**MAY 23** 16.00 LAB Trio  
**MAY 24** 16.00 Sullivan Street Trio

## Bruges

De Werf  
Werfstraat 108; 050.33.05.29  
www.dewerf.be  
**MAY 25** 20.30 Stricat + Duo Therain-  
Dille

## Brussels

Archiduc  
Dansaertstraat 6; 02.512.06.52  
www.archiduc.net  
Until MAY 29 17.00 1060  
**MAY 23** 22.00 Albert Vila  
**MAY 24** 22.00 Jean-Pierre Froidebise

Jazz Station  
Leuvensesteenweg 193; 02.733.13.78  
www.jazzstation.be  
Concerts at 20.30:  
**MAY 19** Giacomo Lariccia **MAY 20** The  
Bundle **MAY 22** André Donni & Charles  
Loos Quartet **MAY 26** Zanga with Jonas  
Knutsson

Marni Club  
Vergniestraat 25; 02.639.09.81,  
www.theatremarni.com  
**MAY 19** 20.00 Phil Robinson Band **MAY**  
**20** 20.00 Kevin Mulligan Trio **MAY 21**  
20.00 Stéphane Salkin Trio **MAY 22** 20.00  
Schell-Banerjee & guests

Sounds Jazz Club  
Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50  
www.soundsjazzclub.be  
Concerts at 22.00:  
**MAY 19** Los Soneros del Barrio **MAY 20**  
Albert Villa Quartet **MAY 21** Stephane  
Mercier Quartet. **MAY 22** Remember  
Frank? **MAY 24** Master Session **MAY**  
**25** Laurent Doumont Soul **MAY 26**  
Chamaquiendo (salsa) **MAY 27** 21.00 The  
Singers Night

## The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45  
www.themusicvillage.com  
Concerts at 21.00:  
**MAY 19** Vincent Thekal Quartet **MAY 21**  
Bart Defoort Quartet **MAY 22** Romanian  
Art of Jazz Quartet **MAY 25** Jan Gerfass  
Blues Band **MAY 26** Homenagem a os  
maestros de Bossanova **MAY 27** The  
Nightcrowd Bluesband

## Viage

Anspachlaan 30; 070.44.34.43  
www.viage.be  
**MAY 22** 20.30 Swing Jazz festival with the  
Renaud Patigny Trio

## Ghent

Handelsbeurs  
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65  
www.handelsbeurs.be  
**MAY 20** 20.15 Tineke Postma Quartet

## Trepunt

Bij Sint-Jacobs 18; 09.225.36.76  
www.trepuntvzw.be  
**MAY 24** 21.00 Sarah Ferri



## Antwerp

Zuiderpershuis  
Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00  
www.zuiderpershuis.be  
**MAY 21** 20.30 José Manuel  
**MAY 22** 20.30 Occidental Brothers  
Dance Band International, with Samba  
Mapangala

## Koninklijk Circus

Onderrichtsstraat 81; 02.218.20.15  
www.cirque-royal.org  
**MAY 20** 20.00 Cesaria Evora

## Ghent

Vooruit  
St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060  
www.vooruit.be  
**MAY 25** 20.00 Fred Frith "Cosa Brava", art  
rock/free folk  
**MAY 27** 20.00 Goran Bregovic & the  
Weddings and Funerals Orchestra, gipsy  
+ Mala Vite



## Antwerp

deSingel  
Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28  
www.desingel.be  
Concerts at 20.00:  
**MAY 19** 20.00 Richard Goode, piano:  
Bach, Haydn, Chopin, more

## Brussels

Bozar  
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**MAY 23** 11.00 Ensemble Astoria:  
Piazzolla

## De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be  
**MAY 23** 20.00 De Munt Symphony  
Orchestra conducted by Marc Soustrot:  
José Van Dam and friends, farewell  
concert to Belgium's most famous bass-  
baritone on his retirement

## Flagey

Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20  
www.flagey.be  
**MAY 20** 20.15 Oxalis Ensemble: Richard  
Strauss' Metamorphoses, in its original  
form and in an arrangement by Fabian  
Fiorini  
**MAY 21** 12.30 Julien Wolfs, harpsichord:  
Froberger, Couperin, Scarlatti, more  
**MAY 26** 20.15 Ensemble Musiques  
Nouvelles: music by American composer  
David Lang, with light effects by Koert  
Vermeulen

## Onze-Lieve-Vrouw ter Kapelle

Kapellemarkt; 02.507.82.00  
www.placeadelachapelle.org  
**MAY 20** 20.00 Huelgas Ensemble  
conducted by Paul Van Nevel: Grand  
vyroigne et mal vivant, music by Jacobus  
Clemens Non Papa

## Protestantse Kapel

Museumplein 2; 02.507.82.00  
**MAY 27** 20.00 Kris Verhelst, harpsichord;  
Sophie Gent, violin: sonatas and partitas  
by Bach

## Royal Music Conservatory

Regentschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37  
www.kcb.be  
**MAY 19** 20.00 Vogler Quartett:  
Schumann string quartets  
**MAY 21** 20.00 Les Agrémens conducted  
by Guy Van Waas, with Janusz Olejniczak,  
piano: Mendelssohn, Chopin, Beethoven

## Ghent

Handelsbeurs  
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65  
www.handelsbeurs.be  
**MAY 19** 20.15 Hendrickje Van  
Kerckhove, soprano; Inge Spinette, piano:  
Grieg, Schreker, Strauss, more

## Antwerp

Vlaamse Opera  
Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02  
www.vlaamseopera.be  
**MAY 20** 21.30 Giasone by Francesco  
Cavalli, staged by Mariame Clément and  
conducted by Federico Maria Sardelli (in  
music,dance, theatre, in Dutch)

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## Antwerp

**Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)**  
Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60  
www.muhka.be

**Until SEP 19** Art Kept Me Out of Jail, performance installations by Jan Fabre  
**MAY 21-AUG 22** August Orts: Correspondence, work by the four Brussels artists who make up the Auguste Orts production platform on aspects of apparatus (camera movement, editing, sound vs image) and the unstable status of language

**deSingel**  
Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28  
www.desingel.be

**Until MAY 22** 2 1/2 Dimensional, multi-media exhibition exploring cinema's use of architecture as a protagonist

**Extra City**  
Tulpstraat 79; 0484.42.10.70  
www.extracity.org

**MAY 21-JULY 11** Valérie Mannaerts: Blood Flow, sculptures and installations by the Brussels artist

**Fashion Museum (MoMu)**  
Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70  
www.momu.be  
**Until AUG 8** BLACK: Masters of Black in Fashion & Costume

**Royal Museum of Fine Arts**  
Leopold De Waelplaats; 03.238.78.09  
www.kmska.be  
**Until OCT 3** Closing Time, paintings by Flemish artist Jan Vanriet presented alongside related pieces from the museum's collection

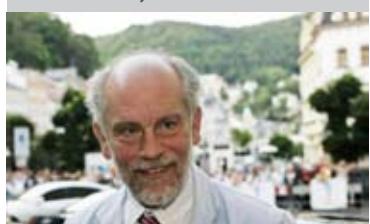
**Sterckshof Silver Museum**  
Hooftvunderlei 160; 03.360.52.52  
www.zilvermuseum.be  
**Until JUNE 13** Delheid 1828-1980: From Michel to Climax, historical documents, photographs, tableware, sculpture and other objects from the Brussels-based silver manufacturer Delheid Frères

**WEEK IN FILM**  
Lisa Bradshaw

## John Malkovich cycle

**Until 28 June**

Cinematek, Brussels



If you were not one of the few to get tickets to see John Malkovich in his new stage show last week (which sold out in a couple of hours), you can still see the American actor onscreen through June at Cinematek, which is showing most of the films he's ever been in. Except for a couple of hiccups, the films are running chronologically, starting last week with *Places in the Heart* and *The Killing Fields*, moving this week on to Stephen Frears' exceptional *Dangerous Liaisons* and Gary Sinise's quietly triumphant *Of Mice and Men*, all the way to 2008's *Burn After Reading* and *Disgrace* next month.

➡ [www.cinematek.be](http://www.cinematek.be)

## Borgloon

**Gasthuiskapel Borgloon**  
Graethempoort 3; 012.67.36.00  
www.artborgloon.be  
**Until MAY 23** Natura/naturans, group show reflecting nature and renewed life, coupled with guided nature walks

## Bruges

**Hospitaalmuseum**  
Mariastraat 38; 050.44.87.11  
www.museabrugge.be  
**Until NOV 7** Ivory in Bruges, rare pieces from museums, churches and monasteries

## Brussels

**Argos Centre for Art and Media**  
Werfstraat 13; 02.229.00.03  
www.argosarts.org  
**Until JUNE 19** Andrea Geyer: Spiral Lands, photos and documents examining the complex history of North America  
**Until JUNE 19** Angel Vergara: Monday: Fireworks; Tuesday: Illuminations; Wednesday: Revolution, mixed-media work by the Brussels-based Spanish artist exploring the early days of the Belgian monarchy and its cultural, social-political and economic context  
**Until JUNE 19** Alexander Kluge: Poetics in Between Media, video art by the German film director

## art)&(marges

Hoogstraat 312-314; 02.511.34.20  
www.artthis.org  
**Until JUNE 27** Musik Oblik, music and visual art project exploring sound and vision

## Belgian Comic Strip Centre

Zandstraat 20; 02.219.19.80  
www.stripmuseum.be  
**Until AUG 29** Moomin: Tove Jansson's Dreamworld, work by the Finnish illustrator and author

## Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**Until JUNE 20** Laurent Ney: Shaping Forces, first monographic exhibition by the Belgian architect-engineer  
**Until JUNE 20** Junctions: Arno Roncada, work by the Belgian artist paired with selections from Antwerp's FotoMuseum  
**Until JUNE 20** El Angel Exterminador, major show of contemporary Spanish artists exploring the ambivalence between exterior and interior, on the occasion of the EU Spanish presidency (part of El Angel Exterminador Festival)

## De Markten

Oude Graanmarkt 5; 02.512.34.25  
www.demarkten.be  
**Until MAY 25** For Your Eyes Only, group show of international women painters, including Antwerp-based German artist Katie Heck, New York-based German artist Pia Dehne and American artist Mary Heilmann

## Design Flanders

Kanselarijstraat 19; 02.227.60.60  
www.designflanders.be  
**Until MAY 22** Ceramic Unica, ceramic art by The Fusing Eleven; photographs by Lydia De Bock

## ISELP

Waterloosesteenweg 31; 02.504.80.70  
www.iselp.be  
**Until MAY 30** Sophie Palisse: Châteaux de sable, prints  
**Until MAY 30** Marie Beaudry, ceramics, Frédérique Coomans, jewellery  
**Until MAY 30** Monographs by artists, curated by Woluwe-Sint-Lambert Centre Culturel

## Jewish Museum of Belgium

Minimenstraat 21; 02.512.19.63  
www.new.mjb-jmb.org  
**Until MAY 30** Charles Szymkowicz: Schilder in het bloed (Painter in Blood), paintings by the contemporary Belgian artist

## Royal Museums of Art and History

Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11,  
www.kmkg-mrah.be  
**Until AUG 29** Isabelle de Borchgrave's I Medici: a Renaissance in Paper, life-size paper replicas of historic garments  
**Until AUG 29** Intersection, 14 contemporary artists show their work among the museum's permanent collections

## Royal Museums of Fine Arts

Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11  
www.fine-arts-museum.be  
**Until MAY 30** Marc Mendelson, paintings, drawings and other work by the multi-media British-Belgian artist  
**Until JUNE 27** Symbolism in Belgium, the evolution of Symbolism from its origins in the romantic painting of the end of the 19th century, featuring Fernand Knopff, Félicien Rops and Jean Delville, among others

## ULB - Building F1

Paul Hégerlaan 22-24; 02.650.37.65  
www.ulb.ac.be/culture  
**Until JUNE 30** Selbstdarstellung: Portraits de Grands Singes (Self: Portraits of Great Apes), photographs, paintings and sculpture by artist and scientist Chris Herzfeld exploring the relationships between humans and apes on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the Free University of Brussels (ULB)

## WIELS

Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.340.00.50  
www.wiels.org  
**Until JUNE 6** Do/Redo/Undo, survey of 50 years of performance art captured on video

## Deurle

**Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens**  
Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23  
www.museumdd.be  
**Until JUNE 20** Sophie von Hellermann & Josh Smith, paintings  
**Until JUNE 20** Emo Verkerk, paintings

## Gaasbeek

**Gaasbeek Castle**  
Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30  
www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be  
**Until JUNE 1** Studio Job presents Alter Ego, sculptures inspired by icons from Northern European (art) history

## Ghent

**Design Museum**  
Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99  
www.designmuseumgent.be  
**Until JUNE 6** Richard Hutten, furniture, interiors and objects by the Dutch designer  
**Until JUNE 6** The Scandinavian Touch in Belgian Furniture 1951-1966

## Dr Guislain Museum

Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95  
www.museumdrguislain.be  
**MAY 22-SEP 12** De wereld andersom (The World Inside Out), art brut from the abcd collection in Paris  
**MAY 22-SEP 12** Innocent, Yet Punished, photographs by Lieven Nollet

## Kunstplatform Zebrastraat

Zebrastraat 32/001; www.zebrastraat.be  
**Until JUNE 20** update 3/body sound, group show using sound, light and telecommunications

## Museum of Fine Arts

Fernand Scribedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00 www.mskgent.be  
**Until JUNE 27** Gustave Van de Woestyne, a retrospective of the Flemish painter

**Until JUNE 27** Jean Delvin, paintings by the former director of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts

## Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)

Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03 www.smak.be  
**Until JUNE 16** Ed Templeton: the Cemetery of Reason, photographs, paintings and sculpture by the American artist  
**Until JUNE 16** Electrified 02: Hacking Public Space, exhibition plus actions in public spaces across Ghent

## Hasselt

**Fashion Museum**  
Gasthuisstraat 11;  
www.modemuseumhasselt.be  
**Until JUNE 6** Ultramegalore, photos, video and installations on the intersection of fashion, art and culture, curated by Flemish model Hannelore Knuts

## Machelen-Zulte

**Het Roger Raveelmuseum**  
Gildestraat 2-8; 09.381.60.00  
www.rogerraveelmuseum.be  
**Until JUNE 20** Pictografie: Schilderijen zijn ook tekeningen en vice-versa (Pictography: Paintings are Also Drawings)

and Vice Versa), group show  
**Until JUNE 20** Zulma: Muze, model en madame, drawings, paintings and objects in memory of Roger Raveel's late wife, Zulma De Nijs

## Ostend

**Kunstmuseum aan zee (Mu.zee)**  
Romestraat 11; 059.50.81.18,  
www.pmmk.be  
**Until AUG 29** Bij Ensor op Bezoek (Visiting Ensor), the world of master Flemish painter James Ensor seen through the eyes of a variety of artists, writers and filmmakers who visited him in Ostend

## Ypres

**In Flanders Fields Museum**  
Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220  
www.inflandersfields.be  
**Until JUNE 6** Gas! Attack, Protection, Care: exhibition on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the first chemical warfare in the world, during the First World War in West Flanders  
**Until AUG 15** Toiling for War, films, photos and objects tell the story of the presence of 140,000 Chinese workers in the Second World War



**Kanaalfeesten 2010:** Second edition of the canal festivals featuring live music, street theatre and food & drink, in support of 't Groot Gedelf's efforts to keep areas around canals for recreational rather than industrial purposes  
**MAY 23** along the water in Damme, Maldegem and Zomergem  
www.tgrootgedelf.be

## Beerse

**Beeldenbiënnale Beerse (Image Biennial Beerse):** The 10th edition of the outdoor art concourse, featuring artists from Belgium and neighbouring countries Germany, the Netherlands and France  
**Until JUNE 13** on Fri, Sat and Sun from 14.00-18.00, across Beerse (Antwerp province)  
014.600.779,  
www.beeldenbiennalebeerse.be

## Brussels

**Jette Organ Festival:** Sixth edition of the festival featuring concerts every Sunday  
**Until MAY 30** 16.00 at Sint-Pieterskerk, Kardinaal Mercierplein 0478.28.31.02, www.kerkjette.be

**KVS < > Congo:** Festival celebrating five years' activity in the Congo and marking the 50th anniversary of the DRC's independence. Both Congolese and Brussels-based Congo performances present theatre, dance, exhibitions, music and talks  
**Until JUNE 15** at KVS, Arduinkaai 7 www.kvs.be

**Kunstenfestivaldesarts:** International festival of contemporary performing arts with performances, installations and films  
**Until MAY 29** across Brussels  
www.kfda.be

**Poëziecafé:** Iberian Peninsula & Scandinavia: Readings pairing the hot sun of Federico García Lorca and Rafael Alberti Mereillo with the cold winters of Gustaf Fröding and Pär Lagerkvist  
**MAY 26**, 14.00-16.00 at De Markten, Oude Graanmarkt 5  
www.demarkten.be

**Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition:** International competition involving some 80 young pianists  
**Until JUNE 14** at Brussels Conservatory, Bozar and Musical Instruments Museum www.qeimc.be

**Stoemp!** Brussels Café Concerts: Free concerts by Flemish musicians in cafes across the city  
**Until JUNE 9**  
www.stoemplive.be

## DUSK 'TIL DAWN

SAFFINA RANA



© Shutterstock

## City Club

### Kaasmarkt 10, Brussels

All over Belgium and indeed Europe, 28 May is Dag van de Buren – Neighbours' Day. Take a stroll around your neighbourhood, and you'll find a collection of small house, garden and street parties where you can have an apero and meet the locals. (More info, facing page)

Most of the gatherings only last a few hours, so from hobnobbing with the neighbours, why not go on to frolicking with folk from across Europe? Head to City Club on the touristy Kaasmarkt in central Brussels, and you'll find friendly, clean-cut Spanish, Italian, Maltese, Polish and Portuguese cliques (amongst others) bobbing away to commercial hits, R&B and Eurotrash. Guys in brogues with gelled-up hair and gals in off-the-shoulder tops wearing too much mascara are the norm whatever the season, so if you can't leave your Nikes at home, you probably won't get in. Despite being located behind a lovely 17th-century Belgian facade, the club is a kick-back to the '90s, with lots of black and chrome fittings, a wrap-around balcony, green and pink lighting, an incongruent white padded wall and a decent sound system. Friday, 28 May, is a ladies night, with free entrance for the gals and all-they-can-drink between 22.00 and midnight. Guys get the same privilege for a Blue Baboon (€20 note). Once the drinks are flowing, expect a lot of eye contact and a raucous knees-up. For a high-energy night of house and retro house, hit the club on Sunday, 30 May, and every first and third Sunday of the month.

➡ [www.city-club.be](http://www.city-club.be)

**Walking with Dinosaurs:** arena show of life-size dinosaurs (in Dutch or in French with Dutch surtitles)

**MAY 25-26** at Brussels Expo, Belgiëplein 1 0900.45.045, www.dinosaurlive.be

**Wandelen naar Congo (Walking to Congo):** Guided walk investigating the traces of Colonialism in the capital (in Dutch  
**MAY 24**, 10.30  
03.224.10.52, www.vtakultuur.be

## Ghent

**Beestjes & Baasjes:** Flanders' biggest domestic pet fair

**MAY 22-24** 10.00-18.

SHARON LIGHT

# bite



And that's just for starters: Lamalo's appetiser salads

## Lamalo

Kosher food does not have the greatest reputation. True, it can be heavy and is often served in large portions. True, there are a variety of sometimes strange rules that the kosher chef must follow. But it is also true that kosher restaurants get short shrift and can serve as good a meal as any other restaurant, even while following kosher laws.

Lamalo – Hebrew for “Why not” – is easily the finest of Antwerp’s numerous kosher offerings. Due to a prohibition against mixing milk and meat products, kosher restaurants tend to fall in one category or the other. Lamalo is a meat restaurant, meaning you won’t find any dairy anywhere on the menu. You also won’t find pork or shellfish, animals that are altogether forbidden by Jewish law.

But what you will find is a selection of chicken, lamb, fish and duck so delicious that you’ll focus only on what’s there – not what’s missing.

The restaurant calls its menu Mediterranean and follows through with herbs, spices and fruits that perk up their dishes.

For starters, the Mediterranean vegetable salad selection was a given. Larger parties get a larger selection, but an order for just a single diner already included six: rich hummus, creamy tahini (a smooth sesame sauce), a slightly spicy tomato spread, green olives, marinated cauliflower and carrot and a tomato and cucumber salad. It was a refreshing beginning, lapped up quickly with their hot focaccia, which is topped with rosemary, olive oil and za’atar, a Middle Eastern herb mix with sumac and sesame seeds.

We sampled two other starters: the grilled foie gras with fig and pomegranate glaze was an irresistible choice, and a salad with smoked duck and apple balanced sweet and savoury.

In addition to their selection of Israeli and other kosher wines, one particular soft drink is also worth noting: limonana. Sweet lemonade with a heavy dose of fresh mint (“nana” is Moroccan spearmint). It’ll have you spiking your own lemonade with mint in no time.

Contact Bite at [flandersbite@gmail.com](mailto:flandersbite@gmail.com)

The main dishes were both delicious and generous. I thoroughly enjoyed my marinated chicken brochette – slightly sweet, moist and tender. For the brochettes, you can choose your side dishes, and I particularly enjoyed the vegetables, which were soft without falling apart and lightly seasoned.

The chicken schnitzel veered away from the Mediterranean influences, and would have been more accurately described as “schnitzels”, with several fried cuts of chicken, along with fries, served to my slightly overwhelmed friend.

Lamb chops were another must, served with grilled potatoes, caramelised red onion and flavoured with balsamic vinegar; the lamb was juicy, making for a rich and satisfying dish. The last dish was one of the day’s specials – a duck leg confit with sweet potatoes, likewise a good choice.

We were certainly sated by this point, but in the interest of research, we ordered dessert. It was no struggle to finish them. A chocolate *moelleux* cake was gooey and not too sweet; it came topped with “ice cream” – a non-dairy variety, which it could have done without. The tarte tatin was mostly forgettable. The best by far was the “parfait halvah.” Halvah is a dessert made of sesame paste and sugar. Poorly made varieties are bitter and chalky, but a well-made halvah dissolves on your tongue. Lamalo’s did, and, with the creamy (magically non-dairy) topping, it was divine.

Kosher food is also not terribly cheap, especially the meat. Three courses with drinks worked out to about €50 a head. With a trendy interior and friendly service, Lamalo makes for a lovely evening out – and rightly asks, “why not?”

→ [www.lamalo.com](http://www.lamalo.com)

Appelmannstraat 21, Antwerp  
Sun-Thurs 12.00-15.00 & 18.00-22.00  
★ Excellent kosher eating, with generous portions – and a paradise for any meat lover

## NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #131

### Feature

It's the 50th anniversary of the birth control pill, and we owe its development to one Flemish doctor

### Arts

What's it like to visit the set of a Flemish film? We head to a farm in Limburg to find out

### Agenda

The Ros Beiaard Procession happens only once every 10 years – find out why and where

## TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



## ongehoorzaamheid →

We all like to be heard, but that's nothing compared with the joy of being obeyed. Whether you are the master of a collie or of the universe, obedience is the ultimate reward. The Dutch *horen* – to hear gives us *gehoor* – hearing or an audition which gives us *gehoorzaam* – to obey, and *gehoorzaam* – obedient.

Much more interesting is disobedience – *ongehoorzaamheid*, though if there's no punishment, then *ongehoorzaamheid* is a bit of a damp squib. Yes, cocking a snook at authority does add spice to life's monotony. Or at least, that must have been at the back of Stijn Meuris' mind in his recent publicly declared intention to be *ongehoorzaam*.

Only in a small place such as Flanders do you find people like Stijn. He's a singer-cum-journalist-cum-film director. In a larger country he'd have probably contented himself with one of those jobs. But here it's not unusual for creative people to multi-task.

Well, Stijn is fed up with the shenanigans of Belgian politicians, who seem to be

constantly rearranging the deck chairs. For him, “*De politici zeggen alles met een toon alsof het hen niet kan schelen* – The politicians say everything as if they couldn't care less. *Ze lachen ons weg* – They laugh at us.” His reason for this outburst is that a general election has been called for June and soon hoardings will be rising from the ground exhorting us to

vote for one or another familiar face.

To express his frustration, Stijn wrote an article telling us that he *gaat niet stemmen* – is not going to vote. So what? you might ask. Well, since voting is compulsory in Belgium, such *burgerlijke ongehoorzaamheid* – civil disobedience comes with a price: a fine of €55 or *een berisping* – a caution. His newspaper article has stirred up a hornet's nest. He was accused of calling for people not to vote. “*Ik roep helemaal niet op om niet te gaan stemmen* – I'm not at all calling (for people) not to go and vote.”

On the plus side, his article has provoked others to try to persuade him to go to the polling station. One eloquent reply picked up on Stijn Meuris' description of himself as a dissatisfied *klant van de overheid* – customer of the government and suggested rather that he was an *aandeelhouder* – shareholder. So withholding your vote would have the effect of reducing the value of your shares.

Yet Stijn is not alone. The enfant terrible of Flemish literature Jeroen Olyslaegers sums up his feelings thus: “*Ik begin te vermoeden dat het misschien wel je burgerplicht mag zijn om niet te gaan stemmen* – I'm beginning to think that it is perhaps your civil duty not to go and vote.”

We'll see in June how many think the same.

## THE LAST WORD . . .

### Mad monk

“The man got out and started hammering on my bonnet like a madman. Luckily he couldn't open the door because of the central locking. I was terrified.”

Ann M from Koksijde, who was verbally abused by a monk from the Sint-Andries abbey, after she sounded her horn as he held up traffic at the lights

### Barefoot protest

“With my barefoot action I want to draw attention to the homeless and the poor in this country. There are an estimated 20,000 people living on the street, and the government does next to nothing to help them.”

Tim Vanackere, who took part in the 50-kilometre Omloop Kluisbergen without shoes

### Violence in casualty

“The mentality of patients has changed. In the past, people who came into casualty showed some respect and gratitude. Now it's all about 'the customer is always right'.”

Jan Stroobants, chairman of the union of emergency doctors, on rising violence in ER departments

### Safety last

“The figures show that safety in our football stadiums is a constant worry. In 98% of cases safety norms are still being ignored.”

Member of parliament Ben Weyts on the state of the country's football grounds