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A group of radicals are planting something in the ground across Brussels. Time bombs? Land mines? How about sunflower seeds. Guerrilla gardening comes to Belgium



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## How to choose?

### Belgians are back to the polls this Sunday

ANJA OTTE

On 13 June, the Belgians are off to the polls again to elect a new federal parliament. This election comes one year earlier than planned, as Open VLD withdrew from the government of prime minister Yves Leterme, ending a rather eventful term in and out of office. So who will the Flemish be voting for?

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### Man shoots justice of peace and clerk in Brussels Court killings were revenge for an eviction three years ago

ALAN HOPE

A man who shot dead a justice of the peace and her clerk last week at a court in Brussels had been planning the action for three years. The man, AFV, wanted revenge after Isabelle Brandon ruled against him in a case brought by his landlord in 2007. He was evicted from his apartment and has had no fixed address since. He bought the gun he used to kill Brandon and her court clerk, André Bellemans, shortly after his eviction. According to one report, he made verbal threats of revenge at the time of the judgement. The incident happened at 11.20 on Thursday, 3 June, in the courtroom of the fourth canton of the Brussels small claims court, which is presided over by justices of the peace. The court is situated on the Ernest Allardstraat in the shadow of the Justice Palace. According to witnesses, AFV had been

present throughout the morning's cases. Then without warning, he approached the clerk of the court and shot him in the head. He then fired on judge Brandon, calling out: "Do you still remember me?" Both victims died before emergency services arrived. The shooter then fled towards the Zavel, pursued by a lawyer, but he managed to escape. He was finally apprehended at 19.20 in Warandepark. The arrest was witnessed by interior minister Annemie Turtelboom, finance minister Didier Reynders and by a camera crew from the VRT which had been in the vicinity to catch the exit of ministers from a cabinet meeting in the nearby parliament. The suspect was overpowered after witnesses reported him firing three shots in the air and pointing his gun at police.

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### In Flanders Fields wins Museum Prize

Cinamatek and Bokrijk also come out on top in popular annual award

ALAN HOPE

This year's Museum Prize for Flanders has been awarded to In Flanders Fields, the First World War memorial museum in Ypres, West Flanders. The director of the museum, Piet Chielens, said that the award "was as if they wanted to give us a shot in the arm now that we've started renovations. It's as if they were saying, 'you're on the right track, keep going'." The museum (pictured) opened 12 years ago, taking its name from a poem by the Canadian military surgeon Major John McCrae, who died near Ypres. It has been praised for its wide range of activities, which include conferences, educational activities, concerts, literary events, scientific research and artists in residence. It will be a hub of the major remembrance festivities

planned by Flanders between 2014 and 2018.

"The Museum gives war a human face by bringing to life the stories of many soldiers and civilians," the jury said of In Flanders Fields. "Despite many thousands of satisfied visitors, the museum does not rest on its laurels, but constantly regards its activities with a critical eye." This is the fifth time the Museum prizes have been awarded. Every year, a panel of experts draws up a short list of museums from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia. At the same time, the public votes via the Museum Prize website for their favourite. And classes of schoolchildren visit two of the museums on the short list and give their vote to the best.

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## OFFSIDE

ALAN HOPE

## Ref has "perceptual illusion", says research



Football linesmen need extra specialised training in order to be able to cope better with decisions on the offside rule, according to research carried out at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL).

In his doctoral thesis, Peter Catteeuw of the faculty of movement and revalidation sciences shows that bad offside decisions by linesmen take two forms: flag errors and not-flag errors. In a flag error, the linesman calls "offside" when no fault has been made. In a not-flag error, the linesman fails to call offside when a fault has been made.

While the latter can be a result merely of poor positioning, Catteeuw concludes, flag errors are more serious and result from the flash-lag effect – defined as "a perceptual illusion in which the linesman judges the player to be further advanced in his progress towards the goal than he actually is at the moment of the pass."

The offside rule is one of the most difficult in all of sport to understand, let alone to explain to someone who is not a football fanatic. In essence, it says that a player may only receive a pass if there are two of the other team's players closer to the opposition's goal than he is. Having said that, the situation on the field is usually much more complex – and that's without even considering the offside trap.

According to Catteeuw's research, linesmen receive little or no training in making better offside decisions, although there are a range of video simulations and computer animations that could help improve decision making by providing detailed immediate feedback, with special attention to perceptual illusions like the flash-lag effect.

"In the end, it can be concluded that the judgement of offside in modern football is an extremely complex task, which is seriously underestimated by many people," a KUL statement said. "Training opportunities for linesmen are at present too limited. Extra offside training on and beside the pitch are urgently needed in order to better support linesmen and prepare them to perform better during matches."

## News in brief

Brussels parks are to receive **300 free deckchairs** for the use of visitors, each decorated by the graffiti artist Bonom. The chairs are the idea of the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management and are constructed from sustainable wood and bio cotton. They will be available from 10.00 to 20.00 daily in Woluwpark, Tenbosch Park, Jubelpark, Dauwpark, Gaucheretpark, Sobieskipark and the Kunstberg gardens.

**Israeli army** last week as they tried to run the Gaza blockade have returned home. Griet Deknopper and Inge Neefs had been detained in Israel, then flown to Turkey, where a memorial service took place for eight of the nine people killed in the attack. Neefs was injured by a stun grenade, and Deknopper was hit in the face by a rubber bullet.

site in an urban context". The award goes to sites that contribute to regional development and that have been sponsored by the EU's regional fund, social fund or cohesion fund. The C-Mine Centre, which at present houses Terrae, one of the restaurants competing in VTM's *Mijn Restaurant!* series, has had funding from the regional fund worth €3.2 million since 2005.

Foods produced in Belgium show an unusually high **presence of mouse remains**, according to the European food safety agency. Last week a mouse head was found in a packet of stir-fry vegetables, and, the week before, mouse parts were discovered in frozen food in a hospital in Malta. In both cases, and in six other cases in the past year, the frozen food had been produced in a Belgian factory. "I quite understand that it's not nice to find a piece of mouse in your food, but it's technically unavoidable," said Romain Cools of Vegebe, the industry federation.

Antwerp's orthodox Jewish community was rocked last week by the **theft of five Torah scrolls** from the main synagogue in the Oostenstraat. One of the scrolls had an estimated worth of €300,000 had survived the Nazi death camps hidden in a child's pram. The scrolls, which are hand-written documents on parchment, were owned jointly by the synagogue and by a group of orthodox families. The community now awaits a demand for ransom from the thieves since the scrolls themselves are considered impossible to sell.

Belgium needs effective **laws on digital privacy**, security and online crime, according to a memo to all political parties taking part in the elections this weekend. According to the Internet Society, too much is left to the interpretation of the courts, and it is time for the legislature to introduce effective laws. The Internet Society, based in Washington DC and Geneva, describes itself as "a global clearinghouse for Internet information and education" and "a facilitator and coordinator of internet-related initiatives around the world."

The C-Mine Centre in Genk, a leisure and entertainment complex on the **site of a former coal mine**, has been awarded a RegioStar award by the European Commission for its "innovative use of a brownfield

Two Flemish women who were on board the rafts **attacked by the**

## FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

## Eugeen Van Roosbroeck

It's not every day that an 82-year-old man is awarded an Olympic cycling medal, but Eugeen Van Roosbroeck has been waiting a while for the honour – since 1948, to be exact, when the Olympic Games were held in London.

Van Roosbroeck was one of three Belgian cyclists defending the country's sporting honour in London at the first Olympics since the Berlin games of 1936. Together with Léon De Lathouwer and Lode Wouters, he would travel each day with his bike on a double-decker bus from the RAF barracks to the Herne Hill Velodrome in South London.

The 1948 games were known as the Austerity Games, because rationing was still in effect in the UK. Athletes received extra rations, bringing them up to the level of dockers and miners. There were six cycling events – two road and four track. The Belgian team took three medals, including the gold for the team road race. The only thing is – they didn't know it.

"That's what happens with team rankings," Van Roosbroeck said. "Lode Wouters finished third, Léon de Lathouwer came fourth, and I was ninth. With that result, we were first in the rankings. But they only figured that out after some calculation. When the race was over, we hopped back on the bus to the barracks. Later on, we heard we were the best team, but none of us thought about any medal. The honour was enough."

The Belgian cyclists went home, and Van Roosbroeck took up a career as a professional cyclist that lasted until 1957, with several successes to his name. But, he says, the lost gold medal nagged at him through the years. "I'm from Noorderwijk," he explained. So is Frans Peeters, who won bronze in the mixed trap event (clay pigeon shooting) in the 1988 Games in Seoul. "Imagine his face when he found out



he wasn't the only medal winner in town!"

The idea to finally award the medal came when International Olympic Committee president (and fellow Flemish athlete) Jacques Rogge (*photo, right*) had to arrange the production of copies of other medals won by André Nelis in the Games of 1956 and 1960, after the originals were destroyed in a fire. Van Roosbroeck decided to ask for his medal, too. The original medals were untraceable, but a new one was made, and last week Eugeen Van Roosbroeck finally received his gold, 62 years after the Games.

## FLANDERS TODAY

Flanders Today, a free weekly English-language newspaper, is an initiative of the Flemish Region and is financially supported by the Flemish authorities.

The logo and the name Flanders Today belong to the Flemish Region (Benelux Beeldmerk nr 815.088). The editorial team of Flanders Today has full editorial autonomy regarding the content of the newspaper and is responsible for all content, as stipulated in the agreement between Corelio Publishing and the Flemish authorities.

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## This is not a queue

Since opening in June last year, the Magritte Museum in Brussels has attracted 535,000 visitors. The success means that visitors who want to avoid a long wait are advised to book in advance  
→ [www.musee-magritte-museum.be](http://www.musee-magritte-museum.be)



## Justice minister promises improved security, but judges plead for openness



From left: Finance minister Didier Reynders, prime minister Yves Leterme and justice minister Stefaan De Clerck join lawyers and magistrates gathered in the Justice Palace on 4 June for a moment of silence

→ continued from page 1

The double killing was "a blow to the very heart of the justice system," said justice minister Stefaan De Clerck. The small claims court in Belgium is empowered to settle disputes in a wide range of matters, including rental disputes, consumer matters, custody and child support. There are 229 such courts in Belgium, run by 187 justices, some of them doing double duty in more than one court.

An important aspect of the small claims court is its responsibility to attempt to reach a negotiated settlement between parties, to be the human face of justice. This requires it to be easily approached, and, as a result, the small claims courts are not

guarded in the same way as assizes courts and, increasingly, correctional courts. The lack of police checks and metal detectors made it easy for AFV to carry a gun into the courtroom. The absence of any security presence, in addition, without raising anyone's suspicion. That wasn't always the case: until last year, each court in the land was staffed by *bodes* – retired or semi-retired people whose job was to act as messenger for the court, but who also played a role in making sure the parties in any action remained calm and seemed at ease. According to Alberic De Rouck, a justice and member of the Royal Union of Justices of the Peace and Police

## Reactions to the shooting

"When they called me at my office to give me the news, I couldn't believe such a thing was possible in Belgium."  
Ghislain Londers, chairman of the Cassation Court and the country's senior judge

"This was an act of violence in a symbolic place for the rule of law. It goes to the heart of our democracy. Today is a black day in the history of our country."  
Prime minister Yves Leterme

"I got to know [victim Isabelle Brandon] as a wise justice. The quality of her work was exceptional, and as a person she was exemplary. This is a great loss for the judiciary."  
Bruno Bulthé, chief prosecutor in Brussels

"In fact I was a little surprised that such a thing hadn't happened earlier. Among ourselves we had often talked about it: how do you react if someone goes completely over the line?"  
Justice Erik Van Den Eeden, member of the High Council, quoted in De Standaard

"This is a tragic day for justice and for our society. What an irony that it should be a justice of the peace and a clerk – people who seek to win peace out of conflict."  
Justice minister Stefaan De Clerck

THE WEEK  
IN FIGURES

**5**  
of the 16 people accused of shoplifting who bothered to turn up last week for the first sitting of a new fast-track court set up in Antwerp

**214**  
days worked by a single person in Belgium with no children, to pay off one year's taxes and other charges. That means you are working for the state until 3 August. Of the 27 EU member states, Belgium has the second-highest tax burden, just ahead of Hungary

**163,000**  
teachers overpaid in the month of May, due to a computer error. The overpayments ranged from two cents to €60

**9,257**  
people in Brussels suffer from "psychological ailments", representing 13% of men and 19% of women over the age of 15. The figure has risen from 7,399 in 2000

**€5,000**  
fine given to the VRT for product placement in an edition of the weekend political programme De zevende dag, concerning a report on the Brussels brasserie Kwint. The Flemish media regulator said the unanimously positive report was a "serious breach" of the rules on product placement

## New automatic receipts for taxi passengers

Passengers in all taxis in Flanders will be issued with official receipts from 1 July. The receipt contains information on the trip – pick-up and drop-off times and places – as well as the name and license number of the driver.

All taxis in the region have been fitted with onboard computers since January, but the rules gave owners six months to install the additional equipment required.

The computer works using satellite navigation, so it can work out for itself where the journey started and ended. It is also able to provide the phone number of the closest police station in case of trouble. The driver is obliged to hand over the receipt without the passenger having to ask.

The document is not only handy for passengers claiming expenses, it is also a fiscal control on drivers' incomes and a record of

their working hours. The onboard computer stores all details for seven days and can be kept longer if downloaded to another drive, for example, by the taxi company. In another change, municipalities now have a wider choice of fares, which will allow them to tailor prices to the needs of certain target groups, such as the elderly and the disabled. The national taxi association fears the tendency will be to reduce fares for those groups, putting profitability in danger. Until now, maximum fares were determined by federal law, restricted to a pick-up charge, an hourly rate for waiting, a night-time supplement and two mileage rates – one for inside and one for outside the taxi's home zone. The new rules allow 26 different rates to be applied. ♦

The map shows the location of all drinking fountains and public toilets in the centre of Brussels. It was created by the non-profit organisation Straatverplegers (Street Nurses), principally for the use of homeless people – to make it unnecessary for them to urinate in public and to ensure they can obtain sufficient drinking water. However, the map is also available online for anyone and posted in metro stations.

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







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# How to choose?

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Marianne Thyssen

## CD&V

The party of prime minister **Yves Leterme** awaits a hard task. In 2007, it scored over 30% of the vote with a phenomenal 800,000 ballots cast for Leterme, but the circumstances have changed dramatically. For one, CD&V's partnership with the nationalist N-VA has broken up (N-VA taking eight of the 30 Chamber seats with it). Moreover, CD&V could not deliver on its

promise for state reform and the split of the bilingual Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde (BHV) constituency. It blames the French speakers for this, but, just to make sure, Leterme no longer heads the (national) Senate list, opting for the West Flemish Chamber list instead.

After some hesitation, party president **Marianne Thyssen** declared herself the prime ministerial

candidate. She proposes "a new deal for a strong Flanders in a new Belgium," leaving behind the nationalist rhetoric of 2007. Other well-known candidates are foreign affairs minister **Steven Vanackere**, public services minister **Inge Vervotte**, defence minister **Pieter De Crem** and **Rik Torfs**, a church law professor and TV celebrity.

## Open VLD

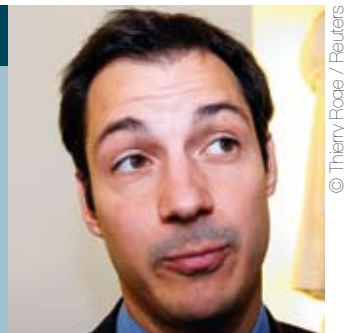
The liberals took quite some risk when they quit the federal government in April – causing its fall – over BHV. In doing so, party president **Alexander De Croo**, just 34, wanted to accentuate his party's determination and consistency, but it has raised doubts about its sense of responsibility and statesmanship.

Moreover, the electorate seems weary of yet another election.

De Croo, son of former minister Herman De Croo, was surprisingly elected Open VLD president six months ago. He focuses on the inevitable budgetary cuts, for which he has proposed a tough plan. Open VLD's lists are

headed by a young team, including some more familiar faces such as budget minister **Guy Vanhengel**, former internal affairs minister **Patrick Dewael** and his successor **Annemie Turtelboom**. Much is expected of newcomer **Gwendolyn Rutten**.

Alexander De Croo



© Thierry Roge / Reuters

## SPA

The socialists have spent the past three years in opposition but have found it hard to present themselves as an alternative, having been in government for over a decade before that and being part of the Flemish regional government still. Party president **Caroline Gennez** has had to face some internal tumult, culminating around

the sacking of **Frank Vandenbroucke** from the Flemish government. Vandenbroucke – hurt – kept quiet about this, while his popularity grew. He is making a comeback now at the bottom of the Senate list, and may even score better than former vice-prime minister **Johan Vande Lanotte**, who heads this list.

The names on the other lists are familiar. Too familiar, to some. **Renaat Landuyt** and **Bruno Tobback** were ministers at some point. Limburg's **Ingrid Lieten** has been criticised heavily for being a federal candidate, while letting it be known that she will remain Flemish media minister.

Caroline Gennez



© Sebastien Pijet / Reuters

## N-VA

The Flemish nationalist N-VA starts this election from pole position. In 2007, it joined the federal majority, being part of a cartel with CD&V. N-VA soon got out for lack of results on state reform. The appeal of its president, **Bart De Wever**, a sharp and witty debater, makes his party rise far beyond its traditional electorate. Some polls even predict a result of 25%, making

N-VA the largest Flemish party. Recruiting **Siegfried Bracke**, a well-respected, somewhat leftist journalist, was another coup for N-VA. De Wever warns of a "defeat in victory," should the results remain far below those expected.

N-VA has created some confusion about whether separatism or confederalism is its true aim. It also remains unclear what it will do on

14 July. Joining the federal government and compromising on Flemish demands is simply not in its DNA.

Aside from De Wever and Bracke, N-VA's best known candidate is **Geert Bourgeois**, who will remain Flemish interior minister. (This "fake" candidacy goes against N-VA's own beliefs.)

Bart de Wever



© Thierry Roge / Reuters

## Vlaams Belang

N-VA's gain is Vlaams Belang's loss. The magic seems gone for the party that once attracted one in four votes in Flanders. The issues of migration and Islam, Vlaams Belang's selling point, do not stand out in this campaign. The nationalist theme, on the other hand, is whisked away by N-VA, who, unlike Vlaams Belang, is

not hampered by a *cordon sanitaire* by all other parties to keep it away from power.

Vlaams Belang shows every sign of a party in decline, including internal divisions, as former party president Frank Vanhecke and his close ally Marie-Rose Morel have alienated themselves from the rest of the party. Aside from

their absence, Vlaams Belang's lists offer no surprises, with **Gerolf Annemans** heading the Chamber list in Antwerp and **Filip Dewinter** the one for the Senate. Party president **Bruno Valkeniers**, meanwhile, comes up third on the Antwerp Chamber list.

Filip Dewinter



© STR New / Reuters

## LDD

What's true for Vlaams Belang, is even more true for Lijst Dedecker. The party of former judo coach **Jean-Marie Dedecker** was the hype of the 2007 election, followed by disappointing results at the ballot box though. Because of this, LDD

is a one-man band more than ever. Dedecker's ultra-liberalism has not caught on. Anything he says, Bart De Wever says better. No wonder the man from Ostend shows signs of fatigue. He has even been accused of showing up drunk to an

election debate, which he denies.

LDD's Senate list is headed by **Anne De Baetzelier**, a former Miss Belgium and TV presenter.

Jean-Marie Dedecker



© Thierry Roge / Reuters

## Groen!

In theory, the greens have everything going for them. Its young parliamentary group (including **Tinne Van der Staeten**, **Meyrem Almaci**, **Stefaan Van Hecke** and **Wouter De Vriendt**) was judged the best by a number of newspapers.

Its relatively inexperienced president **Wouter van Besien** plunged into the negotiations on BHV and came out without any damage done. With **Eva Brems**, a human rights professor and former Amnesty International president,

Groen! has an authentic new candidate. Still, it looks like Groen! will not reach beyond its traditional electorate of some seven or eight percent.

Wouter van Besien



© Thierry Roge / Reuters



# Light at the end of the cell

Despite a distinct lack of sunshine, Flanders' solar technology proves promising

TANIA RABESANDRATANA

At the end of this month, all EU member states must hand in their national Renewable Energy Action Plans. Wind power, solar energy, hydropower and biomass all help us to rely less on finite, polluting fossil fuels. In 2020, the EU hopes that 20% of all its energy will come from renewable sources.

Solar energy has an important role to play in this scenario – and not only in sun-drenched countries like Greece or Spain. Even at low illumination levels, solar cells can provide an autonomous energy supply. In 2008, the solar cell sector's turnover went over €20 billion worldwide. This is good news for Leuven's nanotechnology research centre IMEC, which manages several programmes for solar cell development, with tangible perspectives for commercialisation.

Solar cells are photovoltaic cells, which means they convert the energy of sunlight into electricity. Conventional photovoltaic cells are made of a semi-conductive material, generally silicon. When the sun's rays hit the surface, the energy from the photons is absorbed by the silicon, knocking electrons loose in the material.

The end result is a current of electrons, aka electricity. IMEC researchers try to improve silicon photovoltaics by making the cells cheaper, more efficient and thinner (up to 10 times less thick than the current 0.1 or 0.2 millimetre). At the same time, IMEC scientists have since 1998 been exploring the possibilities of other types of solar cells called organic photovoltaics – solar cells made not of silicon, but of carbon molecules.

## Organic solar cells

"Silicon solar cells still represent more than 80% of the market," notes Tom Aernouts, head of the organic photovoltaics team at IMEC. For the moment, organic solar cells can't compete on the same ground; they are much less efficient – eight percent at best, versus around 20% efficiency for silicon cells (under good light conditions).

However, organic materials are available abundantly in nature, so organic solar cells could be cheaper and more sustainable to make in the long run. Also, unlike silicon solar cells, the production process does not require complex equipment such as expensive clean rooms or very high temperatures.

The active region of an organic solar cell is a mix of two molecules; the transfer of electrons between the two creates the energy. For instance, the donor can be phthalocyanine (a blue organic pigment), which absorbs light and gives electrons to the acceptor molecules – typically, synthetic "buckyballs".

"In silicon solar cells, you don't mix these two components, you just put them next to each other," explains



Organic solar cells on a flexible substrate

Aernouts. "Whereas in organic photovoltaics, these two types of molecules have to be very close to each other, within 10 nanometres" (about 1/8,000th of a human hair). Hence, controlling this nano-scale is crucial to improve the cells' efficiency.

The two large molecules can be mixed in a solution and used as a very thin coating. Researchers are perfecting the techniques to print this coating (just like ink) or to spray it (like paint) on different types of surfaces, such as textiles. These solar cells open the way to flexible, lightweight, stylish and potentially lucrative applications. Manufacturers could coat bags or clothes with organic photovoltaics, for instance, to charge mobile phones or MP3 players on the go.

Eventually, scaling up production would decrease production and printing costs, but developers still face challenges for large-scale use. First of all, the efficiency of organic solar cells remains much lower than that of silicon photovoltaics. Their absorption window is narrow compared to inorganic materials; one way to broaden the sensitivity range is to stack different solar cells on top of each other. Also, organic solar cells are sensitive to high temperature and moisture; developers want to increase their stability and strength so they can last longer. "For now, organic solar cells are mostly relevant to niche markets," says Aernouts. ♦

## Technology Forum 2010

This week at the Hilton Hotel in Antwerp, IMEC will display all the ways in which its technologies might simplify consumers' lives, with the tagline "Nanotechnology shaping a better life in a sustainable society". IMEC's official statement: "We are convinced that technology will play an essential role in finding solutions for climate change and the depletion of the earth's resources (renewable energy), the ageing population and the rising costs of health care (biomedical electronics), sustainable mobility and efficient communication."

The Leuven research centre is a big player in the field. It invites executives from international business, like Intel and Johnson & Johnson, and research institutes such as NASA to discuss technological developments and business opportunities in nanotechnology for healthcare, energy supply, electronics and more.

Nanotechnologies are certainly likely to bring important advances in making the world a cheaper, faster, more comfortable place. Making sure these innovations benefit not just high-end consumers but the widest possible range of citizens is one of the biggest challenges for these technologies if they want to make a real impact once they're mature enough.

→ [www.itf2010.be](http://www.itf2010.be)



At the solar lab in IMEC

## Strategic Energy Technology

The European Commission's plan "Strategic Energy Technology" sets clear energy targets to reach by 2020:

- 20% increase in energy efficiency
- 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- 20% share of renewables in overall EU energy consumption
- 10% bio-fuel components in vehicle fuels

Regarding solar energy in particular, the Commission wants it supplying 15% of all electricity consumption by 2020 (including 12% from photovoltaic) and expects industry leadership in this area. It pushes for policy changes, sustained investments and research efforts, as well as public-private partnerships.

Flanders has already seen an explosive growth of solar power installations. With a share of 22.5% of renewable energy supplies since the end of November 2009, solar power has become the biggest source of green energy in the region. However, due to the limited number of hours of sunlight in Flanders, solar energy is less profitable than wind energy or biomass.

→ [www.ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set\\_plan/set\\_plan\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm)



## New business start-ups in decline

### Unizo calls for measures to improve the safety net for the self-employed

ALAN HOPE

The number of new start-ups over the coming years is set to go down, Unizo chairman Karel Van Eetvelt warned last week. "The fact that the number of self-employed people rose slightly last year is due to self-employed baby-boomers," Eetvelt said. "They are putting off retirement, which is covering up the falling number of new businesses."

Unizo, which represents self-employed businesses, is predicting a much steeper fall in the number of independent businesses as older people retire and fail to be replaced by younger businesses. To combat that effect, Unizo is calling for a range of measures to improve the safety net for the self-employed, among them an increase in the minimum pension to bring it closer to the pension available to former employees.

Van Eetvelt was responding to figures released by the RSVZ, the state institute for social insurance for independents, which showed an increase of 1.16% in the number of self-employed, to 934,642. This includes 205,000 people who have started a business in addition to their main employment – a rise of 3.11%. By contrast, the number whose business is their sole source of income went up by only 0.32%.

Unizo's own figures, Van Eetvelt said, are based not on people but on the number of businesses, which could be started up by more than one person. Taking that into account, numbers have been falling for two years in a row. The baby-boomers, Van Eetvelt said, "are camouflaging, for the time being at least, the fall in the number of new businesses. Once the baby-boomers retire, that fall will become clearer."



Older business owners are postponing retirement, disguising the decline in new start-ups

On 1 June, meanwhile, a new system was launched that should make it easier to start up a business by making it no longer necessary to have a large capital sum. In theory, a business can now be started under the starters-bvba system with as little as €1 capital.

At present, according to figures from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, barely three in 100 people in Flanders either has a business or has been involved in setting one up in the last 3.5 years. The new system should improve this rate.

However, the system has its limits and its risks: after five years or at the stage where the start-up is employing five people (whichever comes first), the company's capital needs to be raised to the level of a normal company – currently €18,550. The entrepreneur will then have to draw up a proper business plan with the help of an accountant or financial adviser. Until that capital level is reached, the entrepreneur remains personally responsible for the company's debts. ♦

### Stora Enso invests in Ghent

Stora Enso, the Swedish-Finnish pulp and paper producer, is to invest €140 million in a newspaper factory in Evergem, just north of Ghent. The news comes at a time when the paper industry is downsizing and cutting capacity, faced with the advance of electronic media as a replacement for paper-based publications.

"The newspaper and magazine market will not disappear all at once but will gradually get smaller," commented Jouko Karvinen, managing director of Stora Enso, one of the industry's leaders. "They'll still be around for another 10 years for sure. And even in a difficult market, it's possible to make profits."

The investment will be particularly aimed at reducing energy costs. A new steam and electricity installation, which has already been delivered to the factory, makes

newsprint from recycled paper. "Having its own energy producer makes the group less dependent on the fluctuations in fossil fuel prices and brings down the factory's variable costs considerably," said the new factory's managing director Chris De Hollander. "This investment shows that Stora Enso intends to stay in Ghent for a long time."

The power plant runs on excess recycled paper, as well as wood and plastic waste obtained from municipal dumps and from businesses in the area. De Hollander called for municipalities to take a more sustainable view of their policies for paper waste. Instead of sending it for processing locally, he said, it is sold to the highest bidder, which results in large quantities being shipped to China. "And that's anything but sustainable, when all the costs are taken into account." ♦



The familiar Albert Heijn logo fronts 800 stores in the Netherlands, including this one in Amsterdam

### AH en route for Belgium

Albert Heijn, the biggest supermarket chain in the Netherlands, has its sights set on Belgium, the company announced last week. AH, owned by the holding company Ahold, is not only the biggest Dutch chain, with 800 stores and a market share of 31%, it is also the most upscale.

In its range and quality of products, AH is situated closest to Delhaize. But price-wise – due to a price war started by AH years ago – all supermarket prices north of the border are lower than in Belgium. Nevertheless, AH saw profits rise in the first quarter of this year by 46% to €274 million, on sales of €8.74 billion.

AH could be expected to make a bid for market share here by an immediate low-pricing blitz. By contrast, supermarkets here have only recently started driving down prices.

"Maybe we'll do things differently in Belgium than we did in the Netherlands," said AH spokesman Jochem Van de Laarschot. "Looking at what the customer wants and then giving it to them is our strong point."

AH refuses to say where the launch would take place. Some retail experts predict it will be the Kempen region of Antwerp and Limburg provinces, as the area already has a sizeable population of Dutch people. There is also an AH distribution centre in nearby Tilburg. ♦

## THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

### Banking • Rothschild

The Brussels branch of the elite private bank Rothschild aims to double its activities in Belgium by attracting more super-rich Belgian families. The branch on the Louizalaan has been open for five years, but has so far attracted mainly French customers. The bank currently manages funds worth €900 million for around 70 families.

### Broadcasting • Alfacam

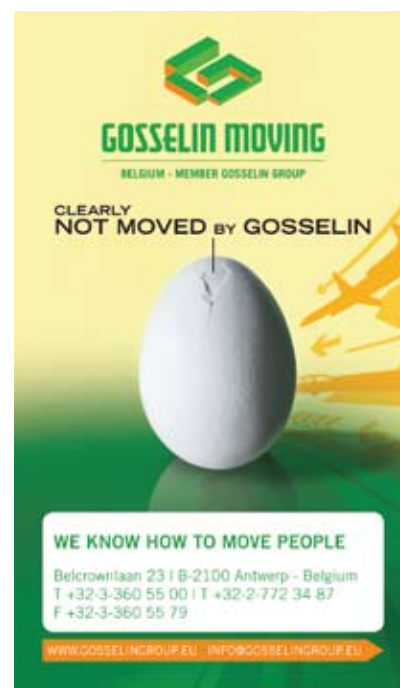
Lint-based broadcasting services company Alfacam has picked up contracts to provide pictures for 45% of the football matches scheduled for this year's World Cup in South Africa. Alfacam will broadcast from four of the 10 stadiums, as well as provide non-match footage for German public TV and Japan's Asahi TV. Alfacam will deploy 170 cameras and 155 technicians for the event.

### Publishing • EMI

Music label EMI will close down its Benelux operations and move them to London, the company said. EMI has only three staff in this country but has contracts with major Flemish names such as Sioen, Absynthe, Minded and dEUS. The contracts will probably be kept, the company said, but artists will no longer be able to contact a Belgian office.

### Supermarkets • Delhaize/Colruyt

Supermarket chains Delhaize and Colruyt will take part in a pilot project in eight Flemish towns to find quieter ways to deliver stock to stores. The project involves technical changes to trucks and loading equipment, changes to store premises and training for drivers and shop staff. The aim is to bring the noise down to 60 decibels – the level of a normal conversation.





# The sound of power

Savion Glover brings the pure noise of tap to Brussels

SHARON LIGHT

If there's an epithet to be had, Savion Glover has earned it. From "Best tap dancer alive today" to "Best tap dancer of all time", Glover is truly the King of Tap. Now at age 37, he is already entering his third decade of tap stardom and continues to wow audiences day after day.

Glover is the embodiment – and perhaps the cause – of the coolness tap has attained. Visually, from his dreadlocks to his baggy street clothes, he is the perfect image of today's youth and black American culture. Audibly, the pounding rhythms of his performance would serve as well as – if not better than – a beat box for any rap or hip-hop number.

Growing up in and remaining an active part of that community, Glover is well aware of the challenges he could have been faced with today. He credits tap dance and his mother's guiding hand, in steering him away from a life of dealing drugs – a path he has seen friends follow.

His dancing is equally masterful, and breathtaking. He dances hard, with incredible power in his legs and delicate precision in his feet. He stays serious and focused, often casting his gaze downward; he believes the essence of tap is in the lower half of the body. "My dancing voice is life," he tells me over the phone from New York. "It's my life through dance. People just have the opportunity to see and hear my life on stage."

If dance is about life, then in *Bare Soundz*, running for two days at Kaaithheater, Glover and two other dancers – Marshall Davis, Jr and Maurice Chestnut – hone in on life's rhythm. *Bare Soundz* is exactly what it says: 90 minutes of the pure sound of tap, no musical accompaniment. As

Glover says: "There's no choice but to become engulfed in the musicality of the dance."

After performing the show for several years, he sees most audiences reacting in a similar way – a tentative beginning, but "by the end of the second act, they allow themselves to enjoy it."

## From pounding fists to pounding feet

Glover grew up in Newark, New Jersey with his mother and two brothers. His insistence on banging on pots, pans or whatever he could lay his hands on inspired his mother to enrol him in drumming class by the time he was five. From there it was a short hop over to tap dancing – the drum set of dance.

Tap dancing is one of America's unique contributions to the world. The perfect embodiment of the melting pot, it fuses various ethnic styles, including African dance, English clogging and Irish step dancing, into a rhythmic, improvisation-based style that is often likened to jazz music.

The history of tap dance follows the path of some of America's more troublesome historical moments. Long since connected to the African-American community, it can be traced back to the slavery of the American South; it featured a phase with many white Vaudeville performers in blackface. It shifted gears in the 1930s and '40s, helped along by tap greats such as Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, who introduced more ballet elements and bigger arm movements. With *Bare Soundz*, Glover attempts to pull tap dance back to its roots, away from this more Broadway show style.

Throughout the 20th century, harder, more percussive tap dance developed through a



Savion Glover (centre) and the Otherz make their own music in *Bare Soundz*

series of magnificently talented "hoofers", as they came to be known: Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (1878-1949), Jimmy Slyde (1927-2008), Gregory Hines (1946-2003), to name but a few. Glover feels a deep respect for the hoofers of days gone by. "It's a way of life for me," he says. "Hooper" is something that takes a lifetime to become, and a lot of the tap dancers of today use it loosely."

In the latter part of the 20th century, tap risked fading into a cliché, either remembered from elegant black-and-white films or performed by the aging tap greats. That was when child prodigy Glover entered the tap scene, blowing tap into the 21st century.

## Bring in 'da noise

At the age of 12, Glover made his Broadway debut in *The Tap Dance Kid*, and the same year appeared in the film *Tap*, featuring a loose plot as an excuse to get some of the finest tapping

talent together on screen, including Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr. Three years later, Glover became one of the youngest actors ever to be nominated for a Tony Award for his work on Broadway in *Black and Blue*, a musical revue featuring the songs and dances of the Parisian black community from the inter-war period.

In 1995, barely into his 20s, Glover started breaking new ground, bringing hip-hop, funk and social commentary into his performances. He choreographed and starred in Broadway's *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*, which swept the 1996 Tony Awards. The musical mapped the African-American experience from slavery to the 1990s. Not only did it elevate tap as a powerful voice of black experience, tap was now officially cool. And its superstar was Savion Glover.

As superstars go, it would be hard to have more reverence for your predecessors. He started a school of tap in the Newark neighbourhood where he grew

up – the school's building is the same one where he took drum lessons as a boy – and he strives to give the children of this struggling area a constructive activity and a respect for those hoofers who built tap dance over the last century.

The hoofers are "like my gods of this art form," Glover explains. "I feel it's my duty to continue to allow people to understand these men as dancers, and as people. They survived at times when it was not cool to be a tap dancer. In my eyes, they are some of the greatest expressionists of our time." ♦

## Bare Soundz

17-18 June, 20.30  
Kaaithheater  
Saintelettessquare 20  
Brussels

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



Bokrijk open-air museum was the choice of both kids and adults for the public prize

## Museum Prizes

→ continued from page 1

The main prize for Brussels this year went to Cinematek, the cinema museum, which reopened last year in the Bozar complex after a two-year renovation project. In Wallonia, the winner was Musée de l'Hôpital Notre-Dame à la rose in Lessines, which features a collection of medico-historical equipment and 2,000 books dating back to the 13th century. The public prize for Flanders was awarded to the open-air museum in Bokrijk, featured in *Flanders Today* just two weeks ago, when we described it as "the most fun 550 hectares in Flanders". The museum, which also features the country's largest playground, reconstructs village life from a century ago, with genuine buildings of the period and living artefacts – human guides dressed in period clothes pose as villagers to help explain exhibits and the way of life to visitors.

Bokrijk is the destination of school trips from across the region: every former schoolchild has been there at least once. Perhaps for that reason, it also won

the children's prize this year.

The nominations for Flanders, one from each province, featured In Flanders Fields, the Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens in Deurle; Museum Mayer van den Bergh in Antwerp; the Museum of Historical Techniques in Grimbergen and the Provincial Gallo-Roman Museum in Tongeren.

In Brussels, the public gave their vote to the Museum of the National Bank of Belgium. Brussels schoolchildren, meanwhile, voted for the Royal Museum of the Army and War History, part of the Jubelpark complex. The votes of the Walloon public went to Notre-Dame à la rose, and those of the schools to the Musée de Groesbeek-De Croix in Namur, a restored 18th-century manor house with French garden. ♦

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



# Cycle paradise • part 2

## Five thousand hectares of protected space await cyclists in the Hoge Kempen

MELISSA MAKI

When pondering Belgium's national treasures, chocolate, fries and beer immediately spring to mind. Wide, open green spaces typically do not. But there are a surprising number of beautiful, protected areas in this tiny country, and Limburg is home to one of the most important, the Hoge Kempen National Park.

For the second edition of our series on biking in Limburg, we invite you to put down your *frietjes*, dear reader, and get out to explore Belgium's one and only national park by means of its most cherished pastime – cycling.

The Hoge Kempen National Park, established in 2006, is a magnificent expanse of 5,000 hectares of forest and heath land between Genk and the Meuse Valley. It is truly a green oasis, as the land around the park is densely populated and industrial.

From 1900 to 1990, this area of Limburg was a coal-mining region. When the coal industry dried up, the Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland (RLKM) was created to help strike a balance between development interests and conservation.

Creation of Belgium's first national park entailed heavy lobbying of politicians and a direct investment of about €80 million from a variety of different public and private stakeholders. The RLKM's creative and resourceful development model has been held up as an example around the world.

And the investment is paying off in a number of significant ways. The park serves as a valuable protector for about 80% of Belgium's "red-listed" species. There are 17 species of threatened dragonflies, for example. In addition, the park and its gateways receive about 800,000 visitors each year, bringing a healthy infusion of revenue. It's estimated that visiting walkers and bikers bring in about €19.5 million per year.

### The ride

You can find information, food and parking at each of five gateways to the park. I started my ride at the Kattevennen Gateway, which is only a few kilometres east of the Genk train station.

I then chose Fietsroute 1 (Bike route 1) from a Hoge Kempen cycling map put out by the Limburg tourist office. This is a moderate loop of 35 kilometres that caters to cyclists of all abilities. Beginning bikers will enjoy the fact that it is mostly flat but features some small, rolling hills for a challenge. (There are also a couple of larger ones, too, to keep experienced cyclists content.)

The path begins at *knooppunt* (junction) 30. Here you'll also find an information point and a café. If you have an interest in astronomy, you might want to make time to visit the Euro Planetarium located at the Kattevennen Gateway. From path 30 to 41, it's about 12 kilometres, and most of this is car-free. The ride begins near the lovely, forested Domain Kattevennen. Much of this portion of the path is lined with trees adorned with leaves in incredibly vibrant shades of green. You'll also pass through the Heempark, home to a playground and petting zoo.

If you want a unique Flemish countryside experience, keep your eyes open and follow the sign that points to the *eier-automaat* – an egg vending machine.

From 41 to 60, it's five kilometres along Steenweg naar As (on a separate bike path beside the road). Though this isn't the prettiest part of the ride, you'll eventually have a welcome break from pedalling at the *matige helling* (moderate slope) that is enough to give you a simultaneous rest and rush.



©Dominic Verhulst

't Salamanderke is a nice stopping point for a snack; it's about halfway along the route near junction 60 and Maasmechelen. Relax on the terrace by the pool with some coffee and Limburg pie. The service is friendly (as it usually is in Limburg), and the menu features *broodjes* and pasta. If you had the foresight to bring along some food, there is also a picnic spot near junction 60.

Take path 60 to 61 and then head towards 29. Right past 61, you'll hit the hard realisation that what goes up must come down. I found myself cursing the upward slope labelled as *matige* on the map.

But the climb is worthwhile. When you reach the top, you're justly rewarded with an absolutely stunning view of lakes, trees and heath. There is also a picnic place here – a great place to stop and catch your breath after the climb and scenery have taken it away.

If you've time and energy to venture a bit off loop 1, there's an interesting diversion on the way from 61 to 29. Just head towards path 64 near Zutendaal (and Gateway Lieteberg), and you'll soon find an insect museum and *blotevoetenpad* (barefoot path), a walking path designed to give your bare feet a unique, sensory experience.

In several more kilometres you complete the loop. To return to the starting point, head towards 29 and then return to 30.

### Hoofing it

If you aren't into cycling, you've got other options for discovering Hoge Kempen. The park offers a 140-kilometre network of horseback riding and carriage trails. And walkers can choose from 36 signposted loops that range from 3 to 14 km. More ambitious ambulators can take a long-distance (72 km) trek in and around the park. Maps can be purchased online or in local tourist offices. ♦

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



© Kristien Wintmolders

### Gateway highlights

You can access the Hoge Kempen National Park from five gateways. Each area features different scenery and activities, and ranger-guided excursions throughout the park can be arranged, as well.

The **Kattevennen Gateway** is home to a café and an observatory and planetarium. *Planetariumweg 18, Genk*  
At **Gateway Station** As you can learn about the area's rich coal mining history and ride an old diesel train from As to Eisden or Waterschei. *Stationstraat 124, As*

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

**Gateway Mechelse Heide** is recommended for walkers. The area has well-marked trails and scenic panoramas. Go in August and September to see flowering purple heath. *J Smeetslaan 280, Maasmechelen*

**Gateway Pietersheim** features a petting zoo, playground and "gnome's path". *Neerharenweg 12, Lanaken*

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

You'll find the barefoot trail at the **Lieteberg Gateway** as well as an insect museum, butterfly garden and bee park. *Blookbergstraat, Zutendaal*

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



© Melissa Maki

And why not? Egg vending machine in the Hoge Kempen

### Rent-a-bike



A combination return train ticket and bike rental (B-excursion "train + bike hire") is available for the Hoge Kempen. Reserve your bike by calling 0800.96967 at least a day in advance. Pick up is at Fietspunt Genk at the city's train station. Bikes can also be rented at the Gateway Kattevennen. Call in advance to reserve on 089.65.55.55.



# Gardening wild

Political, social and utilitarian, guerrilla gardening is gaining ground in Flanders

COURTNEY DAVIS

Under the cover of night, groups of guerrillas roam the streets, hiding from the authorities and boycotting the existing rules of society. But don't be frightened, these are not terrorists so much as *terroir*-ists: they come to plant gardens. "Guerrilla gardeners" seeking to beautify and utilise public spaces with flowers, vegetables and plants.

In Belgium, there are handful of independent groups that believe abandoned lots and other unused public land can be claimed back by the general population. The reason for the tag "guerrilla" is because these rogue gardeners do not own the land, so the acts are technically illegal. This doesn't seem to deter the participants but in fact motivates them.

"Asking permission takes time," explains Girasol, a Brussels sunflower guerrilla who is behind the Brussels Farmer blog. "Sometimes it's harder to convince someone on paper, but easier to convince them once they see results." He and his cohorts also thing that "formalising an idea can destroy it. We believe that initiatives shouldn't always require authorisations."

There tends to be a wilful ignorance by the police. "When they ask us what we're doing, and we tell them we're planting sunflower seeds, they usually laugh and drive away," says Girasol.

He and a handful of his art school friends founded the 1st of May as International Sunflower Guerrilla Day in 2006 after brainstorming about using public space. It has evolved to its current well-established incantation, where this past year at least 6,000 people on Facebook claimed participation in the event.

"It is about wildly planting sunflower seeds in urban areas. And this can be done, reclaimed,

shared by anybody, anytime, anywhere." For Girasol, it is less about the actual gardening and more about what it represents – positive change can be done by anyone, anywhere. "A loose organisation with a simple idea and tools that anybody can use is able to have a significant impact on media, environment, society and culture."

While the start of the movement is hazy – some even calling America's 19th-century Johnny Appleseed the original Guerrilla Gardener, Richard Reynolds of the UK gets the credit for really making the effort international. His website GuerrillaGardening.org was created in 2004 to track his own guerrilla gardening efforts in his London neighbourhood and has blossomed to a huge online community with more than 30 countries listing guerrilla gardening activities.

Meanwhile in Flanders, the Ghent-based site Guerrillagardening.be tries to motivate locals to plant where they see fit. "If there is a wasteland somewhere, you might as well sow seeds and plant crops," says the site's founder, lamazone. (Neither subject wants to give their full names, for obvious reasons.)

GGG is a second guerrilla gardening group based in Ghent. "When you know it's possible to grow something on it, a lot of space looks useless," say the co-ordinator. For GGG, it's less about activism, more about producing food. "Being able to eat something you find on the street is an amazing feeling." On 30 April, the group planted pumpkin seeds across Ghent, choosing that particular vegetable to highlight the amount of seeds that are wasted, thrown in the trash once the pumpkin is cut open and used.

The fact that there are two groups in Ghent quickly leads to the inherent problem with guerrilla efforts. By nature, guerrilla activism is anti-establishment and individually



Sunflowers pop up around Brussels every summer, thanks to guerrilla gardening

empowering. As soon as one creates a group to organise efforts, there is an automatic establishment of hierarchy and power: who runs the group, who sets the meetings, who arranges the details – plus the matter of costs.

This explains why Girasol is not working too hard to promote his efforts – it actually contradicts the original intent. "A lot of people are still expecting us to promote this event every year," he says. "We would like to see more people involved, more leaders, more trend-setters picking up on this. This has to become a cultural phenomenon instead of the work of an organisation. Our goal is to have this going by itself, to have lots of people claiming ownership of this in their own neighbourhoods. Gather some friends,

buy some sunflower seeds and plant them wildly in their city. And do this every year."

Girasol doesn't stop at gardening: "If you have a good idea, go out there, do it and document it. Don't wait for permission. Don't wait for friends or government support. If it's worth it, and if you share it, people will get interested and will help you carry on with it. And all this will happen sooner than you could imagine. It only requires you to pick up that idea and get started." ♦

- [www.brussels-farmer.blogspot.com](http://www.brussels-farmer.blogspot.com)
- [www.guerrillagardening.be](http://www.guerrillagardening.be)
- [www.guerrillagardeninggent.wordpress.com](http://www.guerrillagardeninggent.wordpress.com)

## Roll with it

LISA BRADSHAW

The Roller Bike Parade is the summer party that never stops

© Reporters



Say what you want about Brussels, you'd be hard-pressed to find a city that would deal with an event like the Roller Bike Parade. Every Friday night for four solid months, thousands strap on a pair of skates – quad or inline – and wheel through the streets from the Justice Palace, down Louizalaan, through Elsene and on to Sint-Gillis. They are preceded by vans blasting dance music and followed by hundreds of bicycles. The police block traffic and keep the skaters safe – and sometimes strap on a pair of skates and do a little boogying at the head of the parade.

Although it's not something that exactly draws spectators, heads do turn and innocent bystanders watch while the skaters scream and shout, dance and grab at each other, like little kids in a skating rink. Couples hold hands, parents hover over their kids, a truck picks up those who overestimated their skating stamina. Sometimes there's an impromptu break dance.

It's the kind of imposition and traffic stopper that people just don't really seem to mind and that bemused authorities can't find reason to restrict. But you wouldn't get that attitude in just any capital.

And it doesn't stop in Brussels. The Roller Bike Parade – sponsored by Evian in support of their famous skating babies commercial – will show up next month on Mondays in Hasselt and on Sundays in Koksijde throughout the summer. ♦

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

## Flemish sunglasses protect delicate eyes

If you were lying awake at night worried that Flanders was left out of the exercise in product placement that is *Sex and the City 2*, put on that nightcap and turn out the lights because one of the ladies in the photo below sports sunglasses designed by Tim Van Steenberghe for Antwerp's Theo. It's actress Kim Cattrall (Samantha, in the middle), and she's wearing the "Commodore" model, a line based on American classic cars. In fact, Cattrall also wore a pair of theos in the first SATC film, too. So even if you think the movie is tasteless, at least one of these self-absorbed women has the sense enough to wear the right frames. LB

→ [www.theo.be](http://www.theo.be)





# Beer to go

Its mission is noble, and it's fun at parties: meet Flanders' mobile brewery

MELISSA MAKI

**I**moved to Belgium from the United States with high expectations about the beer. Through my extensive tasting research thus far, I have not been disappointed.

People travel here from all over the world to experience this distinctive, traditional beer culture – from each beer being served in its own special glass to the rich variance in styles. Yet overall beer consumption among Belgians is down, leading to the demise of many neighbourhood cafes and craft breweries.

“Belgian beer culture is well known, but not in Belgium,” explains Tom Robbroeckx, one of five founders of De Verhuisbrouwerij, or The Moving Brewery, a unique, non-profit organisation with a mission is to preserve beer culture by educating the public – where they live.

The moving brewers bring the act of beer brewing to the masses. They travel around the country with a caravan specially equipped with all the necessary gear – essentially a mobile brewery. They go to a new site each month, brewing at a variety of locations, from public events like Waasmunster's Easter Fair to private parties. Their free, daylong demonstrations cover the entire brewing process (with the exception of fermentation and bottling).

The idea is to get people thinking more about the beer that they drink. Robbroeckx notes that despite the fact that there are more than 600 different kinds available, beer drinkers in Belgium today overwhelmingly choose bland,

mass-produced lagers like Jupiler and Stella Artois.

Most people also won't take the trouble to go to a brewery for a tour. But seeing and smelling the brewing process first hand piques their interest. And talking to the passionate and knowledgeable Verhuisbrouwers just might influence their behaviour.

“If Belgian people stop drinking local beers, they'll disappear,” says Robbroeckx. “If we get two or three people who, after our brewing demo, buy something different than a lager beer, we've succeeded.”

There are now seven brewers onboard the mobile brewery, all with regular day jobs. Each of them has a chance to come up with their own beer recipes to try out and perfect at the weekend brewing demos. As a “home brewer”, they are not allowed to sell the beer they brew, but once they have a recipe that everyone agrees is good, they take it to a brewery and have a small quantity produced for sale. This allows Verhuisbrouwerij to make enough money to cover their expenses.

You can find two of their brews in specialty beer stores. The Trisser is a solid tripel with a nice touch of hoppy bitterness and the Lustem is a clever cross between a German dunkelweizen and a Belgian wheat beer.

For the Zythus beer festival in March, the Trisser recipe was made by three different breweries: De Proefbrouwerij in Lochristi



The experts of Verhuisbrouwerij let you help make the beer

(Trisser XI), 't Hofbrouwerij in Beersel (Trisser XII) and Brouwerij de Graal in Brakel (Trisser XIII) – creating an exceptional opportunity for tasters. There are surprising differences between the three, even though they share common ingredients.

The Trisser came in fifth place in the Zythus consumer's choice award (out of 292 beers), despite the fact that many people neglected to write down which version they liked best, which disqualified their votes.

The brewers have been surprised by the overwhelmingly positive feedback; they now get about 65 requests a year for demos. Last summer, they were even invited to brew for the Canvas television show about Belgian beer, Tournée Générale. Balancing brewing with the film crew's need for the perfect take proved to be an arduous

task, but the brewers enjoyed the opportunity to interact with hosts Ray Cokes and Jean Blaute, and it ended up being one of their most remarkable brewing sessions.

Brewing at a different site each month incurs its own set of unique challenges. With a mobile brewery, one vital ingredient is never consistent: water. This means that one batch will never taste quite the same as the next, even if it's the same recipe. Other obstacles the moving brewers have encountered include forgetting crucial ingredi-

ents – like yeast – and having to send someone back to get it and a frozen water line when brewing in frigid December temperatures.

Barriers like this would be enough to deter most brewers, and that's why there is probably not another mobile brewery like this. But the Verhuisbrouwers are remarkably flexible and good-humoured, and they remain dedicated to their cause.

“A brew day where nothing goes wrong is a boring day,” says Robbroeckx. ♦

## Meet Verhuis

13 June, from 14.00  
Beerse Bierfestival  
Wijklokaal Hemelrijk  
Stadionlaan, Beerse, Antwerp province

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

## Eating up the week • Hundreds of Belgian restaurants for one low price

SHARON LIGHT

'Tis the season for sampling restaurants. No sooner has Culinaire<sup>2</sup> finished a weekend of Michelin-starred revelry than we move on to Restaurant Week.

Restaurant Week is simple: a three-course dinner at top restaurants for only €27. The promotion is sponsored by Diningcity.com, an online restaurant guide that started in the Netherlands and now features franchise-websites in more than a dozen cities around the world.

Belgium's Restaurant Week premiered in Antwerp in 2007, and, with this sixth edition, it finally expands to cover all of Belgium.

When a restaurant chooses to participate, they offer Restaurant Week a certain number of seats for a surprise three-course dinner (or lunch for €22) for one week in June. Customers must visit the website to reserve their seats; restaurants won't take the reservations directly. Once the seats are snapped up, tough luck.

Although we're already part way into Restaurant Week, you may still be lucky enough to snag yourself a place. Reservations can be made until 17.00 on the day of the meal. Here's how to participate:

**Step one:** Surf to [www.restaurantweek.be](http://www.restaurantweek.be) and choose your geographical region. Hint: after

choosing your region, you can find a discreet link on the right side of the screen that will tell you all the participating restaurants for that area. But it doesn't list their availability, so you are better off with...

**Step two:** choose the day, number of diners, and whether you are reserving for lunch or dinner. The site will tell you which restaurants still have availability for the time you indicate. Once you decide, click on “Make a reservation”. (Warning: some customers are having trouble viewing the website properly with Explorer, though Firefox and Safari appear to work just fine.)

Joost de Weger runs Belgium's Diningcity website and is, ergo, Belgium's Restaurant Week organiser. He says that restaurants like that they get the opportunity to reach new customers. In earlier editions, it was hard to convince restaurants to join in, but they are now piling on board to the tune of nearly 500 restaurants.

There are a few hidden charges to watch out for: drinks are not included, unless the restaurant decides to throw in an aperitif or discounted wine option, but that is the exception, not the rule. In addition, restaurants with a Gault Millau rating over 15 points, or a Michelin star are entitled to add an extra €10-€20 to their three-course meal, making



't Raadsel in Kruishoutem is one of the nearly 500 restaurants to choose from taking part in Restaurant Week

those options less of a bargain. (But still a discount.) Restaurant Week has become a bi-annual event, so if you miss out this time, keep an eye out for the next edition, which begins on 29 November. ♦

## Restaurant Week

7-13 June  
Across Brussels and Flanders

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



# Brussels Choral Society

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CLAIRE

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Jean-Pierre Dassonville  
Christophe Feron  
Stephanie Gilly  
Pascal Moreau | *horns*

**Info and bookings by e-mail:**

**[bcstickets@gmail.com](mailto:bcstickets@gmail.com)**

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# Yann Martel

LISA BRADSHAW

Books are a unique art form in that it can take weeks or months to get through them. At the end of a film or a play, regardless of the effect it has had on you, you might be left thinking about it, but you tend not to miss it. With a novel, you have invested so much time, you're often not quite ready to let the story go.

A very good example of this is Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. With a protagonist so intensely likeable, a situation so utterly engrossing and prose that seems to so effortlessly teeter on the edge of the profound, it's a book you yearn to read slowly, so you'll never reach the end. That's why I'll be at De Groene Waterman bookshop in Antwerp next week to hear Flemish author Johan de Boose have a conversation with Martel.

*Life of Pi* (2001) tells the story of Piscine Patel, the thoughtful son of zookeepers on the southern coast of India. Piscine is a Hindu. And a Muslim. And a Christian. Under the perplexed gaze of his secular parents and the disapproval of all three religious institutions, the young adolescent is equally devoted to each and refuses to choose.

It's this commitment to faith for faith's sake and to the belief in the value of ritual that saves Piscine when – on his way to a new home in Canada with his family and a number of their animals – he becomes the sole

human survivor on a life raft with a full-grown Royal Bengal tiger. Martel's life is all over *Life of Pi*. Born in 1960s Spain to Canadian parents, the author accompanied them around the world in their work for the Canadian foreign services. He continued to travel as an adult, spending a great deal of time in the Middle East and India, performing a number of odd jobs before studying philosophy in Ontario.

His first novel, *Self*, was met with mixed reviews and few sales, despite its intriguing modern-day *Orlando* plot, as a young man turns into a woman and eventually, without warning, back again. It was an introduction to the themes of fate and choice in the face of identity crises that he would further flesh out in *Pi*, which – after winning Canada's Hugh MacLennan Prize, South Africa's Boeke Prize and finally Britain's exalted Man Booker Prize – made Martel an international sensation. *Pi* became a bestseller and is published in more than 30 languages.

Last year, Martel published *What is Stephen Harper Reading?* – a summary of his correspondence with the prime minister of Canada. Every two weeks, without fail, Martel sends Harper a book that he thinks every good prime minister should read. He encloses a letter explaining his choice. From classics to contem-

porary non-fiction, it's an eclectic bookshelf he's engineered for a man whose appreciation seems strained: in the 42 months Harper has been receiving the books, Martel has yet to receive a single personal reply. So there will be plenty to talk about in Antwerp, including Martel's new book *Beatrice and Virgil*, in which a man has a difficult time publishing his flip book about the Holocaust, so embarks on a project about a stuffed donkey and a howler monkey. ♦

**17 June, 20.00**

**De Groene Waterman  
Wolstraat 7, Antwerp**

*Talk is in English; advance  
reservations advisable*

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



## MORE LITERATURE THIS WEEK

**Bart Meuleman & Mauro Pawlowski** → *deBuren, Brussels* →

**Story Sundays (ages 4-7)** → *libraries of Kuringen*

**David Grossman** → *30CC/Shouwburg, Leuven*



### Antwerp

**Arenbergschouwburg**  
Arenbergstraat 28; 070.222.192  
[www.arenbergschouwburg.be](http://www.arenbergschouwburg.be)  
**JUN 10** 20.30 Wouter Hamel

### Café Capital

Rubenslei 37 - Stadspark; [www.cafecapital.be](http://www.cafecapital.be)  
**JUN 12** 23.00 Where were you? 2008, featuring Fabrice Lig + Kastor & Dice

### De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40  
[www.deroma.be](http://www.deroma.be)  
**JUN 10** 20.30 Bai Kamara Jr  
**JUN 12** 20.30 Hotel Amigo & Friends  
**JUN 17** 20.30 To the BONE: Quiet Sessions

### Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00  
[www.trixonline.be](http://www.trixonline.be)  
**JUN 12** 18.00 Weedeater + Saviours + Black Cobra + Moroccan + Your Highness  
**JUN 14** 19.30 Hot Water Music + Antillectual + Break of Day

### Ardoioe

**Cultuurkapel De Schaduw**  
Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82  
[www.deschaduw.net](http://www.deschaduw.net)  
**JUN 11** 20.30 Anus De Band

### Brussels

**Ancienne Belgique**  
Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24  
[www.abconcerts.be](http://www.abconcerts.be)  
**JUN 14** 20.00 Stone Sour  
**JUN 15** 20.00 Deftones

### Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
**JUN 17** 20.00 Jackson Browne with David Lindley

### Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32  
[www.botanique.be](http://www.botanique.be)  
**JUN 9** 20.00 Band of Skulls  
**JUN 11** 20.00 John Grant

### Magasin 4

Havenlaan 51B; 02.223.34.74,  
[www.magasin4.be](http://www.magasin4.be)  
**JUN 11** 19.00 Uls Live act Akoustic 2

### Vorst-Nationaal

Victor Rousseulaan 208; 0900.00.991  
[www.forestnational.be](http://www.forestnational.be)  
**JUN 9** 20.00 Jamie Cullum  
**JUN 13** 20.00 Calogero

### Ghent

**Bij' De Vieze Gasten**  
Reinaertstraat 125; 09.237.04.07  
[www.deviezegasten.org](http://www.deviezegasten.org)  
**JUN 12** 20.30 Anakrouze

### Charlatan

Vlasmarkt 6; 09.224.24.57  
[www.charlatan.be](http://www.charlatan.be)  
**JUN 10** 22.00 Viper Rosa  
**JUN 15** 20.00 Mondo Generator + Heist  
**JUN 17** 21.00 Star Club West + Just Like Rainbow

### El Negocio

Brabantdam 121; 0479 567395  
[www.mi-negocio.net](http://www.mi-negocio.net)  
**JUN 15** 22.00 Alek et Les Japonaises  
**JUN 16** 22.00 The Caribous

### Kinky Star

Vlasmarkt 9; 09.223.48.45  
[www.kinkystar.com](http://www.kinkystar.com)  
**JUN 12** 21.00 The Gonks  
**JUN 13** 21.00 Summerbummerdownerfolk  
**JUN 15** 21.00 Joy As A Toy

### NTGent Arca

Sint-Widostraat 4; 09.269.37.04  
[www.ntgent.be](http://www.ntgent.be)  
**JUN 11-12** 20.30 Rocsa Zanggroep 2010

### Theater Tinnenpot

Tinnenpotstraat 21; 09.225.18.60  
[www.tinnenpot.be](http://www.tinnenpot.be)  
**JUN 11** 20.00 Pieter Van Nieuwenhuyze

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

### Pukkelpop

**19-21 August**

**Kiewit festival site (Hasselt)**

Unlike the larger and much more insane Rock Werchter, which has been sold out for months, you can still get tickets to good ol' Pukkelpop, which sports a pretty hard rock line-up this year: Placebo, Iron Maiden, Queens of the Stone Age, The Prodigy (pictured). But it's also home to more eclectic sounds: The Flaming Lips, Serj Tankian, Jonsi, Goldfrapp. And don't forget the locals: The Black Box Revelation, School is Cool, the Van Jets. More than 100 bands on multiple stages make this a rock connoisseur's rock festival.



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

### Hasselt

**Muziekodroom**  
Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13  
[www.muziekodroom.be](http://www.muziekodroom.be)  
**JUN 12** 20.00 Balearic Beats! Villa + Corridor + Aguila



### Antwerp

**Buster**  
Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53  
[www.busterpodium.be](http://www.busterpodium.be)  
**JUN 10** 21.00 Buster Blues Jam  
**JUN 11** 22.00 Maikel Thijssen Trio  
**JUN 12** 22.00 Mrs Hyde  
**JUN 15** 21.30 D.E.C.C.

### De Hopper

Leopold De Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33  
[www.cafehopper.be](http://www.cafehopper.be)  
**JUN 13** 16.00 Corazon Vagabundo, Bossa Nova  
**JUN 14** 21.00 Lennart Heyndels Quintet

### De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40  
[www.deroma.be](http://www.deroma.be)  
**JUN 11** 20.30 Tord Gustavsen Ensemble & Helge Lien Trio

### Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00  
[www.trixonline.be](http://www.trixonline.be)  
**JUN 10** 20.00 Lidlboj

### Zuiderpershuis

Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00  
[www.zuiderpershuis.be](http://www.zuiderpershuis.be)  
**JUN 10** 20.30 Phynt + C.A.C.A.

### Ardoioe

**Cultuurkapel De Schaduw**  
Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82  
[www.deschaduw.net](http://www.deschaduw.net)  
**JUN 12** 20.30 Jean-Marie Aerts, Filip Casteels and Patric

### Brussels

**Indigo Studios**  
Van Volxemlaan 388; 02.534.75.72  
[www.indigostudios.be](http://www.indigostudios.be)  
**JUN 9** 20.30 Roy Ayers



## Jazz Station

Leuvensesteenweg 193; 02.733.13.78  
www.jazzstation.be  
**JUN 10** Jeroen Van Herzele Quartet JUN 11 20.30 Platform 1: Javi + The Gentleman of Leisure + Sally McDonald + John Makin + Funkarium Trio **JUN 12** 18.00 Sibiel

## Le Bar du Matin

Alsebergsesteenweg 172; 02.537.71.59  
http://bardumatin.blogspot.com  
**JUN 17** 21.00 Crazy Mess Groovers

## Sounds Jazz Club

Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50  
www.soundsjazzclub.be  
Concerts at 22.00:  
**JUN 9** Chamaquiando, salsa **JUN 10** 21.00 The Singers Night **JUN 11** Pascal Mohy Trio + Football World Cup **JUN 12** Bo Van der Werf & Robyn Verheyen Quintet **JUN 14** Master Session **JUN 15** Larent Doumont Soul Tuesdays **JUN 16** Los Soneros del Barrio **JUN 17** Hermia & Tassin Quartet

## The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45  
www.themusicvillage.com  
Concerts at 21.00:  
**JUN 9** Paradigm Junction **JUN 10** The KMGs **JUN 11** Faith Gibson & The Sabin Todorov Trio **JUN 12** Jan Muës Quartet **JUN 16** Marie Séférian Quintet **JUN 17** Coralee & No Trouble Blues Band

## Eeklo

**N9 Villa**  
Molenstraat 165; 09.377.93.94 www.n9.be  
**JUN 11** 21.00 Big Swingband



## Brussels

**Art Base**  
Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20  
www.art-base.be  
**JUN 10** 20.00 Myrddin De Cauter, contemporary flamenco guitar  
**JUN 12** 20.30 Cuerdas del Sur, tango and traditional music (Argentina)  
**JUN 13** 19.00 Sandip Ghosh, classical Indian music

## Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**JUN 12** 20.00 Flamenco evening with Paco de Lucia, guitar and musicans and dancers

## Théâtre Molière

Bastionsquare 3; 02.217.26.00  
www.muziekpublieque.be  
**JUN 9** 20.00 Casuarina (Brazil)

## Ghent

**Logos Tetraëder**  
Bomastraat 26-28; 09.223.80.89

www.logosfoundation.org  
**JUN 17** 20.00 M&M Robot Ensemble in Brand! New! Tango!



## Brussels

**Auditorium Campus CERIA - J Brel Auditorium**  
Emile Gryzonlaan 1; 0479.52.12.21  
www.bso-orchestra/tickets  
**JUN 13** 20.00 The Bruocsella Symphony Orchestra's Summer Concert conducted by Jan Steenbrugge, with soloist Jacques Dupriez, baritone and violin: Paganini, Brahms, Dvorak, more

## Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**JUN 10** 20.00 Liège Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Jean-Pierre Haeck, featuring the fourth, fifth and sixth laureates of this year's Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition  
**JUN 11** 20.00 Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Walter Weller, with Bernarda Fink, mezzo: Mahler, Bruckner  
**JUN 13** 11.00 Hanne Roos, soprano; Hein Boterberg, piano: Schubert, Duparc, Liszt, more  
**JUN 14** 20.00 deFilharmonie conducted by Jaap van Zweden: closing concert of the Queen Elisabeth Competition

**Royal Music Conservatory**  
Regentschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37  
www.kcb.be  
**JUN 17** 20.00 Belcea Quartet: Haydn, Szymanowski, Brahms

## Ghent

**De Bijloke Muziek-centrum**  
Kluyskensstraat 2J; 09.233.68.78  
tickets@bijloke.be  
**JUN 10** 20.00 François Fernandez, violin; Rainer Zipperling, cello; Boyan Vodenitcharov, piano: Haydn, Mozart  
**JUN 12** 20.00 de Filharmonie conducted by Jaap van Zweden, featuring prize-winners of this year's Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition



## Antwerp

**Vlaamse Opera**  
Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02  
www.vlaamseopera.be  
**JUN 13-27** 15.00/19.30 Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten with Jorma Silvasti (Peter) and Judith Howarth (Ellen). Vlaamse Opera Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leif Segerstam and Yannis

Pouspourikas, staging by David Alden (in the original English with Dutch surtitles)

## Brussels

**De Munt**  
Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be  
**JUN 11-30** 15.00/19.30 Macbeth by Verdi with Scott Hendricks (Macbeth), Tatiana Serjan/Lisa Houben (Lady Macbeth) and Carlo Colombara (Banco). Paul Daniel conducts De Munt Symphony Orchestra and Choirs. Staging by Krzysztof Warlikowski (in the original Italian with Dutch and French surtitles). Introductions in Dutch and French 30 minutes before each performance



## Brussels

**Bozar**  
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**JUN 16** 18.00 Laughing Hole, choreographed by La Ribot

## Kaaithater

Sainctelettesquare 20; 02.201.59.59  
www.kaaithater.be  
**JUN 9** 20.30 PARTS dance school in New Works #1  
**JUN 11** 20.30 PARTS dance school in New Works #2  
**JUN 13** 20.30 PARTS dance school in New Works #3



## Antwerp

**Fakkelteater**  
Hoogstraat 12; 03.232.14.69  
www.fakkelteater.be  
**Until JUN 13** 15.00/20.30 Ann Van den Broeck in The Musical Songbook, directed by Stany Crets, (music theatre, in Dutch)

## Bruges

**English Theatre**  
Walplein 23; 050.68.79.45  
www.tematema.com  
**JUN 11-12** 20.00/22.00 Stand-up comedy night

## Brussels

**Bozar**  
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**JUN 9** 20.00 British actress and singer Marianne Faithfull reads Shakespeare's sonnets (in English with French and Dutch surtitles); musical accompaniment by Vincent Ségal, cello

## Théâtre des Martyrs

Martelarenplein 22; 02.223.32.08  
www.theatredesmartyrs.be  
**Until JUN 13** Savannay Bay by Marguerite Duras, directed by Philippe Sireuil (in English)

## Ghent

**Theater Tinnenpot**  
Tinnenpotstraat 21; 09.225.18.60  
www.tinnenpot.be  
**Until JUN 23** 20.00 De buitenkant van Meneer Jules (The Outside of Mister Jules) by Diane Broeckhove, directed by Jan Verbist (in Dutch)



## Antwerp

**Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)**  
Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60  
www.muhka.be  
**Until JUL 4** Europe at Large #5, works by Vyacheslav Akhunov, Babi Badalov and Azat Sargsyan, related to the collapse of the USSR  
**Until 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  
**Until SEP 19** Art Kept Me Out of Jail, performance installations by Jan Fabre

## Extra City

Tulpstraat 79; 0484.42.10.70  
www.extracity.org  
**Until JUL 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, historical phases of the colour black, its diversity in hue according to material and masterpieces by contemporary designers

## Middelheim Museum

Middelheimlaan 6; 03.828.13.50  
www.middelheimmuseum.be  
**Until SEP 19** New Monuments in the Middelheim Museum, Belgian artists focus on the future of the monument

## Photo Museum (FoMu)

**Until JUN 20** Alain Van Haver, black-and-white photos by the Flemish photographer  
**Until JUN 27** Jacky Lecouturier: Polaroids, series of polaroids of every-day miracles by the Belgian artist  
**Until SEP 5** Filip Tas, work by the late Antwerp-based photojournalist, critic and visual arts instructor, who helped usher in a new era of media photography  
**Until SEP 5** American Documents, Walker Evans' 1940s Labour Anonymous series and part of Robert Frank's The Americans from the 1950s join several well-known American photographers of the 1970s, including Diane Arbus, Robert Adams, Lewish Baltz and Mitch Epstein

## Royal Museum of Fine Arts

Leopold De Waelplaats; 03.238.78.09  
www.kmska.be  
**Until OCT 3** Closing Time, curated by Flemish artist Jan Vanriet, who presents his own work alongside related pieces from the museum's collection

## 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 JUN 19** Andrea Geyer: Spiral Lands, photos and documents examining the complex history of North America  
**Until JUN 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

## DON'T MISS



## Philip Van Snick & Angus Fairhurst

**Until 29 August**  
Museum M, Leuven

Two artists who couldn't be more different yet both worth seeing this summer at Leuven's M. Local artist Philippe Van Snick puts primary colours, geometric order and decimal systems at the centre of his installations, while the famous late British artist Angus Fairhurst – one of the 1980s Young British Artists movement – puts humanity, with its emotions, power and sexuality to the fore (*photo*). This is the first retrospective of Fairhurst's work in Belgium.

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

monarchy and its cultural, social-political and economic context  
**Until JUN 19** Alexander Kluge: Poetics in Between Media, video art by the German film director

**art)&(marges**  
Hoogstraat 312-314; 02.511.34.20  
www.arthis.org  
**Until JUN 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 JUN 20** Laurent Ney: Shaping Forces, first monographic exhibition by the Belgian architect-engineer  
**Until JUN 20** Junctions: Arno Roncada, work by the Belgian artist paired with selections from Antwerp's FotoMuseum  
**Until JUN 20** El Ángel 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 Ángel Exterminador Festival)  
**JUN 9-SEP 26** GEO-Graphics: Mapping Historical and Contemporary Art Practice in Africa, African objects from Belgian museums come face-to-face with work of contemporary African artists

## Hallepoort Museum

Zuidlaan 29; 02.533.34.51  
www.kmkg-mrah.be  
**Until AUG 29** Brussels Calling!, works by 10 Belgian and international artists, who were all lured by the capital at one time or another

## KVS Box

Arduinkaai 9; 02.210.11.12 www.kvs.be  
**Until JUN 17** From Inside, interactive installation by Belgian composer and filmmaker Thierry De Mey

## Royal Museum of the Armed Forces

Jubelpark 3; 02.737.78.33  
www.legermuseum.be  
**Until AUG 31** Andreas Magdanz: Camp Vogelsang, large-format photos of the Rhineland training camp in North Westphalia by the German photographer



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## Royal Museums of Art and History

Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11 , [www.kmkg-mrah.be](http://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** Doorsnede (Intersection), 14 contemporary artists show their work among the museum's permanent collections  
**Until SEP 5** Art and Finance in Europe, new look at masters of the 17th century with 20 works from the museum's collection, including Seghers, Breughel, Francken, Rembrandt and Rubens

## Royal Museums of Fine Arts

Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11 [www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)  
**Until JUN 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, Jean Delville, more

## Town Hall

Grote Markt; 02.279.64.31 [www.brussels.be](http://www.brussels.be)  
**JUN 10-SEP 19** The Age of Symbolism in Latvia, some 50 paintings, etchings and drawings from turn-of-the-20th-century Latvia, including work by Jānis Rozentāls, Vilhelms Purvītis and Jānis Valters

## ULB, Building F1

Paul Hégerlaan 22-24; 02.650.37.65 [www.ulb.ac.be/culture](http://www.ulb.ac.be/culture)  
**Until JUN 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](http://www.wiels.org)  
**Until AUG 15** Rehabilitation, multi-media show by young artists on the theme of architectural renovation

## Deurle

**Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens**  
 Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23 [www.museumdd.be](http://www.museumdd.be)  
**Until JUN 20** Sophie von Hellermann & Josh Smith, paintings by the German and American artists  
**Until JUN 20** Emo Verkerk, paintings by the Dutch artist

## Ghent

**Dr Guislain Museum**  
 Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95 [www.museumdrguislain.be](http://www.museumdrguislain.be)  
**Until SEP 12** De wereld andersom (The World Inside Out), art brut from the abcd collection in Paris, including work by Adolf Wölfi, Henry Darger and Martin Ramirez  
**Until SEP 12** Innocent, Yet Punished, photographs of mentally ill criminals by Ghent-based photographer Lieven Nollet

## Kunstplatform Zebrstraat

Zebrstraat 32/001; [www.zebrstraat.be](http://www.zebrstraat.be)  
**Until JUN 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](http://www.mskgent.be)  
**Until JUN 27** Gustave Van de Woestyne, a retrospective of the 20th-century Flemish painter  
**Until JUN 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](http://www.smak.be)  
**Until JUN 13** Ed Templeton: The Cemetery of Reason, photographs, paintings and sculpture by the American artist  
**Until JUN 13** Electrified 02: Hacking Public Space, exhibition plus actions in public spaces across Ghent  
**Until AUG 22** Paolo Chiasera: Ain't No Grave Gonna Hold My Body Down, multi-media work based on concepts such as time and space by the Italian artist  
**Until AUG 22** Simon Gush: 4 For Four, video installation by the South African artist centred on the relationship between David Oistrakh and Sergei Prokofiev  
**Until DEC 3** Inside Installations, 10 installations from the museum's collection

## Leuven

**Museum M**  
 Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29 [www.mleuven.be](http://www.mleuven.be)  
**Until AUG 29** Philippe Van Snick, paintings, installations and sculpture by the Flemish artist  
**Until SEP 12** Angus Fairhurst, retrospective of the the late British artist, a member of the Young British Artists movement

## Machelen-Zulte

**Het Roger Raveelmuseum**  
 Gildestraat 2-8; 09.381.60.00 [www.rogerraveelmuseum.be](http://www.rogerraveelmuseum.be)  
**Until JUN 20** Pictografie: Schilderijen zijn ook tekeningen en vice-versa (Pictography: Paintings are Also Drawings and Vice Versa), group show  
**Until JUN 20** Zulma: Muze, model en madame, drawings, paintings and objects in memory of Roger Raveel's late wife, Zulma De Nijs

## Meise

**National Botanic Garden of Belgium**  
 Nieuwelaan 38; 02.260.09.20 [www.plantentuinmeise.be](http://www.plantentuinmeise.be)  
**Until NOV 2** Boxes Brimming with Life, photo installations by Flemish wildlife photographer Tom Linster

## Ostend

**Kunstmuseum aan zee (Mu.zee)**  
 Romestraat 11; 059.50.81.18, [www.pmmk.be](http://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

**Until AUG 29** Louise Bourgeois, 14 works by the recently deceased French-American artist from the collection of her Ostend friend and fellow artist Xavier Tricot

## Tervuren

**Royal Museum for Central Africa**  
 Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11 [www.africamuseum.be](http://www.africamuseum.be)  
**Until JAN 9, 2011** Congo River: 4,700 Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture, interactive exhibition connected with the International Year of Biodiversity  
**Until JAN 9, 2011** 100 Years in 100 Photographs, outdoor exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the African Museum building  
**JUN 11-JAN 9, 2011** Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence, multi-media exhibition looks at the Democratic Republic of the Congo from independence to today

## Ypres

**In Flanders Fields Museum**  
 Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220 [www.inflandersfields.be](http://www.inflandersfields.be)  
**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



**Basilica Festival:** Limburg leg of the classical-oriented Festival of Flanders, featuring grand symphonic concerts in the Tongeren Basilica, intimate recitals by emerging young performers, a Hitchcock film with a live contemporary soundtrack by British composer Joby Talbot and a Day of Early Music on the Alden Biesen estate in Bilzen  
**Until JUL 10** across Limburg [www.festival.be](http://www.festival.be)

## Antwerp

**SHOW2010:** Annual show of the Fashion Department of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, bringing together 6,000 spectators from all over the world to view the students' end-of-year collections  
**JUN 10-12** 19.00 at Hangar 29, Rijnkaai 150  
 070.344.646, [www.antwerp-fashion.be](http://www.antwerp-fashion.be)

**World Ocean Day:** Presentations and exhibition on the world's oceans, from their life-giving properties to the dangers of altering them, including Dutch underwater photographer Dos Winkel, marine biologist Marianne van Mierlo on acidification and Kallie De Meyer, director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance on the protection of coral reefs.  
**JUN 13** at Antwerp Zoo, Koningin Astridplein 26  
[www.worldoceanday.nl](http://www.worldoceanday.nl)

**Yann Martel:** The Spanish-born Canadian writer, winner of the Man Booker Prize for Life of Pi, talks about his new book Beatrice and Virgil with Flemish writer Johan de Boose (in English)  
**JUN 17** 20.00 at De Groene Waterman, Wolstraat 7  
 03.298.75.82, [www.borderkitchen.be](http://www.borderkitchen.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 JUN 13** on Fri, Sat and Sun from 14.00-18.00, across Beerse (Antwerp province)  
 014.600.779, [www.beeldenbiënnalebeerse.be](http://www.beeldenbiënnalebeerse.be)

## Brussels

**Back to Optimism:** First colloquium on optimism organised by the Optimistenbond, with topics Optimism and Health, Optimism and Entrepreneurship and Optimism and Communication (in Dutch and French)  
**JUN 11** 13.00-18.30 at Bozar,

Ravensteinstraat 23  
[www.optimistenbond.be](http://www.optimistenbond.be)

**Charity Bazaar - Asia:** Annual event of the Asia Pacific Women's Association selling handicrafts and global cuisine, plus music and dance from Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Pakistan, China and Oceanic countries, tombola prizes including a holiday to Thailand. All proceeds go to Tsunami victims in the Samoa Islands and the Damien Foundation, an education programme in Sri Lanka  
**JUN 12** 10.30-17.00 at Cultural Centre Auderghem, Vorstlaan 183  
 02.629.00.14, [www.thaiembassy.be](http://www.thaiembassy.be)

**Danse Balsa Marni Raffinerie & Senghor:** Annual contemporary dance and performance festival  
**Until JUN 19** in venues across the city [www.balsamine.be](http://www.balsamine.be)

**Fast Forward Music Festival:** KVS and composer/saxophonist Fabrizio Cassol present this festival of African-inspired music, featuring Rockingchair & Baldwin, Sabar Ring, Kartet & Kris Defoort Trio, Marie Daulne and more  
**JUN 11-19** at KVS Bol, Lakensestraat 146  
 02.210.11.12, [www.kvs.be](http://www.kvs.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 JUN 15** at KVS, Arduinkaai 7  
[www.kvs.be](http://www.kvs.be)

**Stoemp!** Brussels Café Concerts: Free concerts by Flemish musicians in cafes across the city  
**Until JUN 9**  
[www.stoemplive.be](http://www.stoemplive.be)

**Visionary Africa:** Festival of literature, music, performance and exhibitions recognising the 17 African nations celebrating their 50th anniversary of independence  
**Until SEPT 26** at Bozar, Ravensteinstraat 23  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

## Heers (Limburg)

**Garden fair:** Festival of Rare Plants, Roses & Kitchen Gardens, nurseries specialising in old and botanical roses open to the public, plus talks, demonstrations and exhibitions by specialists from Belgium and abroad. Wide range of children's activities  
**JUN 11-13** 10.00-18.00 at Hex Castle [www.hex.be](http://www.hex.be)

## Knokke

**International Photography Festival:** Festival featuring Belgian and international artists, including Tim Walker, Cecil Beaton and Paul Nougé, plus the World Press Photo 2010 tour  
**Until JUN 13** across Knokke-Heist [www.fotofestival.be](http://www.fotofestival.be)

## Leuven

**An Evening with David Grossman:** Interview with the Israeli author (in English)  
**JUN 9** 20.30 at 30CC/Schouwburg, Bondgenotenlaan 21  
 016.23.84.27, [www.30cc.be](http://www.30cc.be)

# CAFE SPOTLIGHT

MELISSA MAKI



## Staminee De Garre

### De Garre 1, Bruges

Generally the most interesting places are tucked down long, back alleys. Staminee De Garre is one of them. Although it's just steps from Bruges' touristy market square, its unmarked door is down the city's narrowest street.

De Garre takes its name from that street, which literally means "small alley". Narrow passageways (about one metre wide) that led to canals were critical in mediaeval Bruges to quickly access water in case of fire since all of the houses were made of wood. The tiny brick building that houses the Staminee dates from the 16th century and used to serve as a storage place for the pharmacy next door.

Carl Ascoop is the proprietor of this fine establishment, which opened in 1984. Even though this is a "café spotlight", don't make the mistake of calling his place a "café". When I did, he corrected me with a surprising air of annoyance.

In contrast to cafes, I was explained to, *staminees* don't sell "normal" beers. You won't find any mass-produced pilsners or lagers on De Garre's extensive beer menu of more than 130 beers. Plus, there is no bar to sit at. It's a cosy atmosphere of brick and wooden beams, with classical music piping through the speakers and paintings of the old architecture of Bruges adorning the walls.

You'll find a mix of about half locals and half tourists at De Garre. Most people learn about the place by word of mouth or from guidebooks that point it out for its special house beer. Their Tripel van de Garre is brewed by Brouwerij Van Steenberghe (makers of Augustijn and Piraat) but you can only drink it here. The beer rates high among enthusiasts and has a sweet, malty flavour and creamy head that sticks with it until the last drop.

It's a surprisingly smooth beer considering that it's 11% alcohol. You'd best order a *boterham* if you drink more than one. Your server will wisely cut you off after three glasses of the stuff.

## WEEK IN FILM

LISA BRADSHAW

## Millenium Film Fest 12-18 June

Vendôme, Brussels



For those of you who cannot recite the 8 Millennium Development Goals that the United Nations hopes to achieve by 2015, this astute festival will help fill you in. Its 15 documentaries all relate to the goals to reduce the repercussions of world poverty and ensure the environmental sustainability of the planet. Often these two major issues come together, such as in Richard Hamon's *Chasse au miel à Socotra* (Hunting Honey in Socotra) and Landon Van Soest's *Good Fortune*, which investigates the real-world impact of international aid in Africa (pictured). You'll also meet Tehran's first woman bus driver, ordinary men and women fighting for change in the Democratic Republic of Congo and an Israeli-Sudanese couple struggling to stay together. Debates and screenings will also take place at CIVA. Languages and subtitles vary; check the schedule for details.

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



SHARON LIGHT



## Atlas Wereldkeuken

Sometimes committing to one cuisine for a dinner out is too difficult a challenge. You may want Thai, while your friend was hoping for Spanish, and sometimes you just want to travel the world without leaving your chair. Atlas Wereldkeuken in Mechelen is the perfect solution.

Atlas is housed by the old Vismarkt, and the restaurant's address was formerly occupied by a fish shop. Evidence of the building's age is apparent in the ceiling beams and ceramic wall tiles, but the space is utterly charming. Owners Kris Verreth and Erik Labordery have decorated the small room – holding little more than a dozen tables – with exotic artwork and world maps from different eras. The cosiness is reinforced with soft, warm lighting.

On the menu, diversity is key. Each dish is listed with a flag annotation, indicating its country of origin. For those of us who have a hard time reaching back to those primary school geography lessons, the menu's first page features a cheat sheet of flags with their corresponding country names.

The starters reach around the globe from Jamaican jerk to Indian soup, and on to an Australian veal dish. We thoroughly enjoyed Jerk Mushrooms (the more classic chicken preparation is also available), which was marked as one of the spiciest menu options. We also stayed somewhat closer to home with a Swedish wrap, featuring thin, soft bread, green asparagus and a choice of sour cream or smoked salmon. It was pleasant, but bland in comparison with the Jamaican adventure.

For mains, the fajitas are encouraged – not just by me, but by the restaurant. A blackboard on the wall helpfully details the proper method of consuming this Mexican dish. You receive a hot iron pan, delivered straight from the oven, full of vegetables or chicken prepared with what they call "Fajita seasoning." The exact mix was not detailed – I imagine it's a closely guarded secret – but a typical mix would generally include strong aromatic spices like cayenne, cumin

and garlic. Atlas's seasoning combination was well balanced and strong, without being overpowering. But of course this is but one element of the fajita. You place a few spoonfuls of this preparation in the centre of a soft, round tortilla shell. Shredded cheese, diced tomato, chopped lettuce, sour cream and mild salsa go on top (jalapenos are available on request). It is only then that your meal becomes an exercise in origami fajita folding; a diagram on the aforementioned blackboard is indispensable for fajita virgins (or if it's been a while since your last fajita).

For our other main dish, we ultimately settled on Indonesian Bali – available either as a steak or vegetarian quorn fillet. This primary protein features an ample serving of delicious salty-sweet peanut sauce and a side of small, fluffy pumpkin pancakes. The only thing wrong with the dish was that to order it, we had to pass up the Greek, American and Thai options that looked equally inviting.

Desserts posed yet another challenge. I have discovered that in recent years, I will almost always be happier with a fruit-based dessert over a chocolate one (am I allowed to admit that in Belgium?). Nonetheless, deciding between the Brazilian lemon sorbet with caipirinha versus the Scottish whipped cream, malt whiskey and raspberries was truly a challenge.

Scotland won out and proved to be a marvellous combination of light, yet rich creaminess and tart fruit, complimented by the pleasant bite of whiskey. No regrets with that choice; just a vow to return to Atlas Wereldkeuken for some further world travelling.

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

📍 Nauwstraat 4, Mechelen

🕒 Tues, Thurs-Sat 12.00-14.00, 18.00-22.00;  
Wed 18.00-22.00

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## NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #134

### Feature

Who won the Belgian elections? Don't miss Anja Otte's post-election analysis

### Focus

In 2003, Guy Verhofstadt's coalition government proved its mettle by passing progressive laws, including the right for gay couples to marry

### Flanders Creativity

Stressed-out students of Antwerp's prestigious Fashion Department prepare their year-end collections for the big public show

## TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



## vooruit! →

It's good to talk, especially if you're trying to master a foreign language. Go without talking, and, after quite short a time, you'll be searching for the easiest of phrases. Reading, of course, is a great way to enrich your vocabulary but doesn't always arm you with the right phrase in a conversation.

I'm deep in a Dutch book at the moment. The narrative carries the reader along: "Ik bleef naar haar kijken totdat een tram zich traag tussen ons in bewoog – I stood looking at her until a tram slowly moved between us." Perhaps not the best extract from this thriller, but it shows how little in this sentence is of much use when chatting.

What you need to talk are some phrases. Often you need to ask for clarification: *hoe bedoel je?* – how do you mean? or *dat volg ik niet* – I'm not with you. If you're at a complete loss you may need *wat is er aan de hand?* – what's going on?; *zeker weten?* – are you sure?

Or you may be getting slightly hot under the collar and need to ask *hoe kan dat nou?* – how's that possible? Or you may blow a fuse: *waar heb je het verdomme over?* – what the hell are you on about?

Sometimes we just want to make a noise to encourage the other

person: *wat leuk!* – what fun!; or you may want to hear more: *zeg het maar* – tell me; or you want to tell the other person that their story makes sense: *dat dacht ik al* – I thought as much.

You can usually gloss over making a mistake with a verb tense but if you can't tell someone to do something, it won't get done. A good expression to prod someone with is *vooruit!* which can mean let's go, or go ahead, or on your way; or to encourage someone to spill the beans: *vooruit, wie heeft het gedaan?* – out with it, who did it?

Whether you mean it or not, you may want to apologise; then use *het spijt me* – I'm sorry. Or you may just want to sound sympathetic: *ik ben bang van niet* – I'm afraid not.

You may need to calm the other person down by saying that it doesn't matter – *het maakt niet uit*. Or the concern may be yours: *doet dat er iets toe?* – does it matter?

Not everyone makes sense. You can respond to an improbable tale with *dat meen je niet* – you cannot be serious.

When you part, you can use a phrase you must already know: *tot ziens* – goodbye; or *tot morgen* – see you tomorrow; or in our case, *tot volgende week!* – until next week!

## THE LAST WORD . . .

### Straight talk

"Jan Wauters said things as they are, straight to the point, with a great knowledge of what he was talking about and a wonderful tone of voice."

Eddy Merck on Flemish radio sports commentator Jan Wauters, who died last week

### Road rage

"We have to get these incorrigibly dangerous drivers off the roads, and that can be done perfectly well with a driving licence with points. But we've been waiting 20 years for the decision to put it into effect."

Police magistrate Peter D'Hondt, after a weekend in which one person was killed and two seriously injured in hit-and-run incidents

### Pencil protest

"Two officers came up and asked me if I could identify myself. We all thought it was a bit absurd, but so as not to cause a commotion, I went along with them."

Khaled Ayari, dressed in a red pencil costume to encourage voting, became the first victim of the so-called burqa ban in Genk last week

### Pleasantly insane

"Belgium is quite simply a crazy hotch-potch, an absurd, pleasant little country."

Flemish rock star Daan, who performed last weekend at the Belgavox concert for national unity