

The politics of dying.....6

Belgium has one of the most progressive euthanasia laws in the world. Science writer Tania Rabesandratana looks at what led to the legislation and how it has changed life – and death



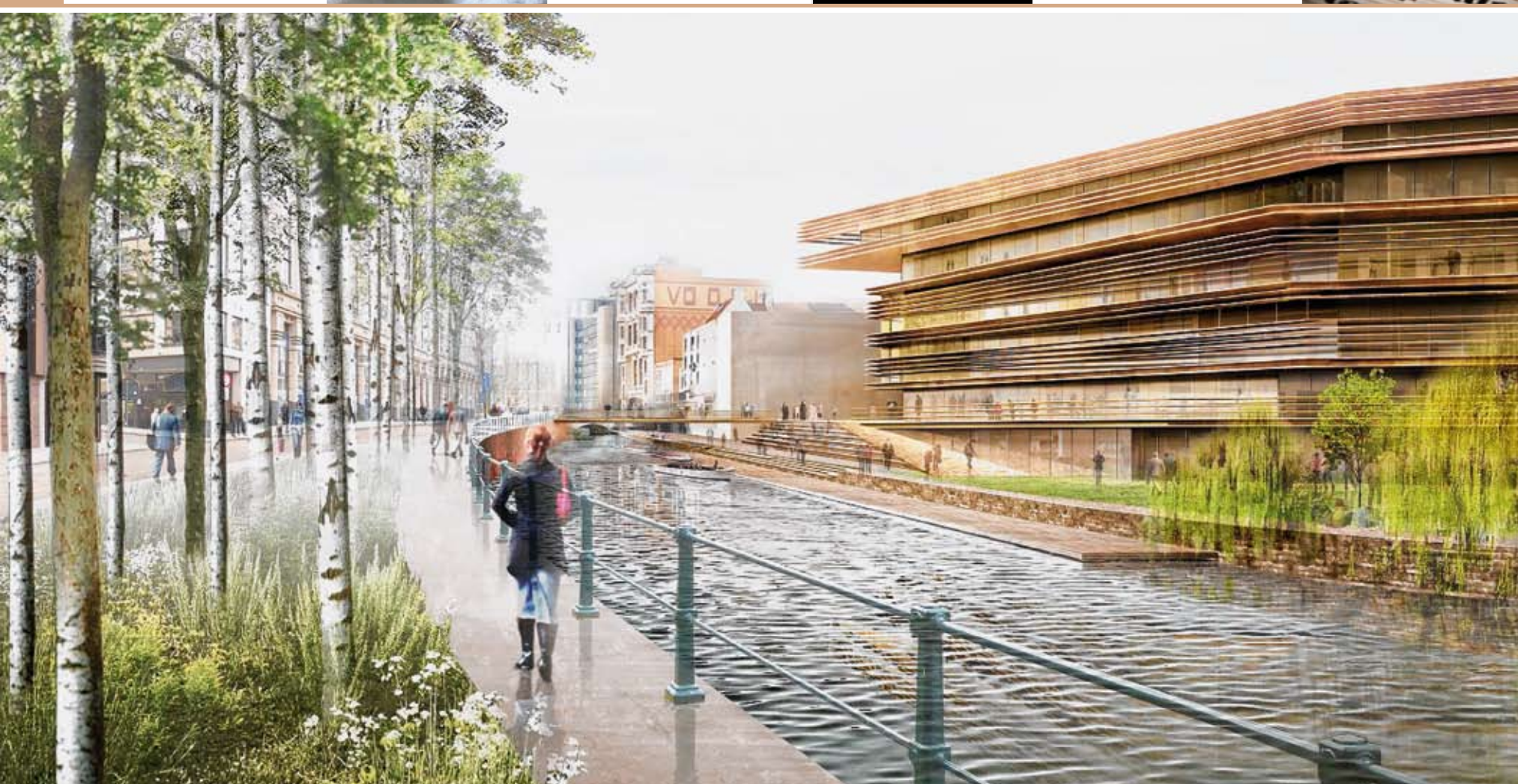
Portrait of a city.....8

One Flemish photographer visits five Flemish cities to peek behind their façades and catch the differences that set them apart. This week: Antwerp – is their rabid self-confidence justified?



The food of love10

All hail the Festival of Flanders, which reshapes, improvises and packages classical music in exotic, seductive ways. Bruges and Antwerp begin their musical odysseys this month



Reinventing Ghent

Redevelopment is important in any city, but projects across Ghent have set the city, its citizens and the tourism industry on its ear

SUKI JENKINS

When living in Belgium a day-trip to Ghent always seems like a great idea. Ghent has cool cafes, good shopping and great nightlife all in the package of a lovely old Flemish city. So let's go. Pack your walking shoes, mountain bike and... dust mask? Wait, what happened to Ghent?

→ continued on page 4

Borlée takes Barcelona gold

LEO CENDROWICZ

Brussels-born Kevin Borlée made a stunning impact at the European Athletics Championships in Barcelona last week when he won the 400-metre crown. Borlée followed up his gold by helping the men's 400m relay team claim a bronze, while Russian-born Svetlana Bolshakova completed the Belgian medal haul with a bronze in the triple jump. Borlée had tipped his own twin brother, Jonathan, to be the family medal contender during the games: Jonathan had earlier set a new national record of 44.71 in the 400m semi-finals. But in the final,

it was Kevin who took the honours, crossing the line in 45.08, while Jonathan came in seventh. The 22-year-olds were accompanied by their sister Olivia, a 100m relay silver medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She finished sixth in her 200m semi-final in Barcelona. Later, they joined forces with Flemish athletes Arnaud Destatte and Cedric Van Branteghem to come third in the men's 400m relay, in 3.02.60, just behind the United Kingdom and Russia, who won the race in 3.02.14. Bolshakova, 25, who became a

Belgian citizen in 2008, added an unexpected bronze in the triple jump, setting a new Belgian record with a jump of 14.55m. Bolshakova, married to the Belgian high jump ace Stijn Stroobants, is based in Zaventem. Meanwhile, high jumper Tia Hellebaut failed to repeat her Beijing Olympic gold medal-winning form, coming in fifth. However, the 32-year old insisted she was happy with her 1.97m jump, which comes six months after announcing her comeback after having a baby.

→ www.european-athletics.org

Mobility secretary suspected of insider trading

Etienne Schouppe took part in bank crisis meetings

ALAN HOPE

Etienne Schouppe, the outgoing federal mobility secretary, has been declared a suspect by the Brussels prosecutor's office in relation to charges of insider trading, his lawyer announced last week. He is accused of selling shares on two occasions on the basis of information he came by through his position as a member of government. In both cases, the deals concerned banks in difficulties.

In October 2008, it is alleged that Schouppe sold a packet of Dexia shares. According to leaks from the investigation, the sale took place shortly after the minister had taken part in a meeting of some of the bank's largest

– and most disgruntled – shareholders. Schouppe was close to the centre of the government's handling of the banking crisis as a result of his understanding of complex financial dossiers.

In May 2009, Schouppe sold KBC shares just before it was announced the bank would be the subject of a rescue operation by the government.

→ continued on page 3

OFFSIDE

ALAN HOPE

This is very much NOT a dead parrot

© J.M. Garg



It's green, the male has a rose-coloured ring around his neck, and there are about 10,000 of them living in Brussels. It's the rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), also known as the ring-necked parakeet, and according to the conservation organisation Leefmilieu Brussel (LMB), there are between 3,500 and 5,000 feral pairs living in the capital.

Amazingly, they're all the descendants of just 40 birds which were released into the wild in 1974, when the theme park Melipark at the Heizel was closing down to make way for what would eventually become Bruparck. They've now become native, but not, LMB says, to the extent of driving away truly native competitors like the nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*).

The parakeet's success here, despite being an exotic species native to Asia and Africa, is down to three simple factors: enough partners, sufficient food and no real natural predators. Clearly, the original flock of 40 released birds contained enough genetic diversity to support massive growth. The bird feeds on buds, nuts, berries and seeds, and can be a scourge of farmers and fruit-growers.

In Brussels, they have formed colonies in two main spots: in Evere, in and around Nato headquarters, where they appear to have chosen a single tree on the main avenue as their toilet-tree; and in the Elisabeth Park in Koekelberg. They do travel to forage, however, so have been sighted away from those main locations – in Josaphat Park in Schaarbeek, for instance, where, as elsewhere in the city, they profit from the residents' steadfast ignoring of the law forbidding feeding the birds.

At present, the numbers present no threat to native species, but LMB is preparing a plan should that threshold ever be reached. Options including hunting the birds, netting them or sterilising them by leaving out drugged food.

→ www.leefmilieubrussel.be/biodiversiteit

News in brief

Drink yoghurts contain too much colouring and flavouring, as well as too much sugar, according to a survey of 11 brands by consumer organisation Test-Aankoop. Two of the brands tested scored in the very lowest category, and another eight scored "weak". The best result went to Swiss Yogurt by Emmi. One brand contained the equivalent of 12 sugar cubes in 600ml, and another used colourings which can cause hyperactivity in children.

Anyone taking part in **kite-surfing at the Belgian coast** next summer will be required to pass a training course. They will also be obliged to wear a fluo jacket coloured according to their skill level, and stay at least 50m away from swimmers, according to new rules agreed by the association of coast mayors. Kite-surfing will also be suspended if the wind-speed goes to 6 Beaufort – a strong breeze up to 49km/h or 21-26 knots.

Police in Beringen last week seized **31 snakes, 87 mice and 166 rats** from a local house, following complaints of smell nuisance and health hazard. The collection of snakes, of which several had escaped in the past, included a boa constrictor measuring 3m in length. The rodents, meanwhile, were intended to feed the snakes. The owner could face legal action under environmental regulations.

The Brussels prosecutor's office has returned two personal computers to **Cardinal Godfried Danneels** which were seized in a massive search operation carried out at the archbishop's palace in Mechelen in June. Computers seized from the offices of the Church were returned earlier this month. The prosecutor said its investigation into a possible cover-up of sexual abuse by clergy was not yet complete. Meanwhile in a letter published by the Catholic magazine *Tertio* last week, the Cardinal's lawyer said the search was illegal, and in breach of the secret of the confessional. In addition, the Cardinal's communications with the papal nuncio and the Holy See were protected by diplomatic privilege, Fernand Keuleneer said.

Brussels' Dutch-speaking schools need to make an effort to **attract more male teachers**, now that three out of four teachers is a woman, and there are not enough candidates to fill all vacancies, according to Brussels member of parliament Bianca Debaets. In pre-schools, the percentage of woman is as high as 96%, but every year 5% of advertised vacancies are not filled, compared to 0.5% in Flanders.

The Free University of Brussels (VUB) **registered 9% more students** in the first registration period for

the new academic year, following an 8% increase last year, and record numbers for all Flemish universities. The VUB's second registration period begins on 16 August, when the upward trend is expected to continue.

Flemish artist Jan De Cock was last week **removed from a flight** at JFK airport in New York and questioned by the FBI following what was alleged to be a "threat". De Cock is alleged to have remarked that he could strangle the pilot with his headphones. The cabin crew failed to see the joke, and called in the Joint Terrorism Task Force. De Cock, who was in New York to prepare his second exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, said the incident was "unimportant".

The heatwave in early July was responsible for an 18% increase in calls to the helpline Tele Onthaal, organisers said. In the period from 5 to 20 July the line received 4,500 calls, and staff are convinced the high temperatures are to blame. "Summer for many people is a time of pleasure, festivals, travel. For that reason people who are having a difficult time anyway are confronted with their own problems to a greater degree," said a spokeswoman.

→ www.tele-onthaal.be

FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

Eddy Wally

Eddy Wally will be back on the planks on 15 August, just a week after bringing out a new reggae single, and just before releasing an album of tango covers in September. Not bad for a man who celebrated his 78th birthday last month.

Eddy Wally, like his near contemporary Tom Jones, is unstoppable, but he's recently had to slow down. On 20 July, during the Gentse Feesten, he became unwell while onstage and had to be taken to hospital. He says he was suffering from hypothermia, which seems unlikely since that was during the July heatwave and it's estimated the temperature on the stage itself may have been as high as 40 degrees. More likely he was overheated and dehydrated. As well as that, he twisted his ankle and suffered an inflamed Achilles tendon. Such is his busy calendar that he's had to cancel 12 concerts in the space of less than a month.

That would be a busy programme for most artists, but Wally is a trouper. He started in show business playing the accordion and harmonica, tentatively trying to make his name by night while working as a sales rep for ladies' handbags by day. Then he met Johnnie Hoes, a producer who encouraged him to record the schmaltzy love-song *Chérie*, and the rest is history. The song went to Number One, and Wally became a Flemish superstar.

His style is known as *charmezanger*, which is something like a crooner. But he combines the rather cloying sentimentality of a songlike *Chérie* with the popular references of the *schlager*-singer, in a number like *Als marktkramer ben ik geboren* (I was born a market stallholder). Add to that his flamboyant dress-sense and his steadfast refusal to allow the passage of time to show any visible sign about his person, and you



have a true personality. The people love him, and even those who don't exactly love him still expect him to be there whenever there's a local fête of some kind. "This is the third time I've escaped death," he told the press last week from his hospital room. "But I'm doing great, and I will not be broken." Across Flanders, there can be no-one who doubts the strength of that promise.

→ www.eddywally.be

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.

Editor: Derek Blyth

Deputy editor: Lisa Bradshaw

News editor: Alan Hope

Agenda: Sarah Crew, Robyn Boyle

Art director: Michel Didier

Prepress: Corelio P&P

Contributors: Rebecca Benoot, Leo Cendrowicz, Courtney Davis, Stéphanie Duval, Anna Jenkinson, Katrien Lindemans, Alistair MacLean, Marc Maes, Melissa Maki, Ian Mundell, Anja Otte, Emma Portier Davis, Saffina Rana, Christophe Verbiest, Denzil Walton

General manager: Christine Van den Berghe

Publisher: Corelio Publishing NV

Editorial address:

Gossetlaan 30

1702 Groot-Bijgaarden

Tel.: 02.373.99.09 – Fax: 02.375.98.22

editorial@flandertoday.eu

Subscriptions:

subscriptions@flandertoday.euor sign up online at www.flandertoday.eu

Advertising: Evelyn Fregonese

02.373.83.57

advertising@flandertoday.eu

Verantwoordelijke uitgever:

Derek Blyth





© Shutterstock

Political career ends under legal shadow

→ continued from page 1

The prosecutor in Brussels was alerted to a number of suspect transactions by the financial industry watchdog Banking, Finance and Insurance Commission (CBFA). Last month, a search warrant was carried out at the minister's home in Liedekerke, Flemish Brabant. Schouppe has denied any wrongdoing and pointed out that he has always been active on the stock market.

As a member of the government of Yves Le Terme, he is in place to take care of ongoing matters until a new coalition can be formed. He was unlikely to be part of a new administration: as a member of CD&V, which suffered a major defeat in the elections in June, he failed to be re-elected to the Senate. Schouppe, 68, has only been active in na-

tional politics since 2003; from 1987 to 2002 he was managing director of the rail authority NMBS, where he had spent most of his career. When he was forced to step down because of a political clash with the government in 2002, he received a pay-off of €2 million, which many now think lies at the root of his current problems.

The case against Schouppe is expected to go on for a long time. One problem that will not arise, however, concerns parliamentary immunity. Since Schouppe was neither elected nor co-opted, he now returns to the status of an ordinary member of the public. And as a member of a government living on borrowed time, he need not even suffer the indignity of having to resign. ♦



© Reuters

FIFTH COLUMN

ANJA OTTE

Family week

There was a time when ministers could not be bothered too much about things as mundane as family. Most of them were "absent fathers" (needless to say, most of them were men), suffering in silence when they were not around after tragic accidents or to mourn deceased grandchildren. Anne Martens, daughter of Wilfried Martens, has recalled how hard it was growing up with (or rather without) her father, prime minister for more than 10 years.

When Guy Verhofstadt became prime minister in 1999, his government was mostly made up of men and women in their 40s, a new generation with new ideas about family. They decided from the start to take time off during all school holidays.

That is a hard thing to do during the formation of a new government, though. With elections in May or June, formation talks can go on all summer, as was the case in 2007. Bart De Wever, whose party N-VA won the federal elections in Flanders last June, did not even book a holiday this year. Visionary, as the formation – again – drags on.

After the federal election and the clear results it produced, most people were convinced that it would not take long for a new coalition to take shape. The original optimism has changed into pessimism, though, as an agreement about state reform seems just as far off as it ever was.

Some Flemish negotiators feel hostage to the French speakers, personified by Joëlle Milquet, the president of the Christian-Democrats known in Flanders as "Madame Non". In some Flemish eyes, Madame Non is the source of all evil. Still, she seems to get some things right: unlike De Wever, she went ahead and booked a family holiday, for instance, thereby forcing the *preformateur*, French-speaking socialist Elio Di Rupo, to call a "family week" for all negotiators.

Meanwhile, tensions grow between the Flemish themselves. The nationalist N-VA and the socialist SPA, future coalition partners, were once, in their own words, "objective allies". On election night, SPA president Caroline Gennez even congratulated Bart De Wever, calling him "my friend".

Now their relationship has soured, as the ideological divide between left and right pops up again. To make matters worse, former minister Kathleen Van Brempt (SPA) has infuriated De Wever by accusing him of being an absent father to his four children.

It may take more than a family week to heal the wounds inflicted here...

Flemish prisoners long for private WCs

The inmates of Flanders' prisons have one dream above all else: doors on their toilets, considered a basic of human dignity. That's the conclusion of a master's thesis by anthropology student Marie Baerten of the Catholic University of Leuven. Baerten interviewed male prisoners across Flanders about how they saw the prison of the 21st century. Given the chance to have things exactly as they want them, most prisoners would scrap the cell concept and live in houses accommodating 10 men together. Such a system is in place in parts of Scandinavia, Baerten points out, where the increased responsibility placed on inmates has a positive effect on the atmosphere of the entire prison.

Other items on the inmates' wish-list include more green space, more social contacts and increased possibilities for conjugal visits. Sexual contacts should not, as they are now, be limited to those who are in relationships lasting longer than six months. In the Netherlands, prisoners have the right to a visit from a prostitute, explained Baerten.



© Shutterstock

Toilet doors, though, remain at the top of the list. At present, prisoners engage in man's most contemplative act in full view of cellmates. "The doors are removed for security reasons," Baerten said. "The question is whether that takes precedence over privacy." ♦

Four out of five ride De Lijn free

Four out of five passengers on a bus or tram of the Flemish public transport authority De Lijn travel for free, according to figures released last week. There are around 1.8 million annual subscription holders, of whom only 406,884 pay for their ticket. Member of the Flemish parliament Carl Decaluwé describes the situation as "unsustainable". Seniors account for more than 1.2 million free passes, and people with a disability for nearly 150,000. Schoolchildren from a family already paying for two full-price subscriptions received just over 22,550 free passes; 14,187 unemployed people following a recognised training course get free passes; and there are just over 3,800 free passes for journalists and war veterans. In addition, nearly 30,000 people turned in their car number plates in exchange for a free De Lijn pass.

A spokesman for mobility minister Hilde Crevits said that negotiations over future policy for De Lijn were currently under way, and it would be the end of the year before it was known whether the system would change. De Lijn receives 85% of its income – about €1 billion a year – from the Flemish government. Each resident of Flanders pays an average of €120 in tax to keep the system running.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, more than one in three annual passes with the transport authority MIVB is free – 220,000 out of a total of 630,000. Half of those are held by seniors over 65, with the rest made up of children under 12, those on benefits, police officers, municipal councillors and members of the various parliaments. Those who gave up the company car in exchange for a public transport pass total 1,600. ♦



© De Lijn

Travellers moved around Flanders

Flemish municipalities have aroused racial hatred against travellers – often referred to as gypsies – the Movement Against Racism and Xenophobia (MRAX) said last week. The allegation, issued jointly by the Belgian organisation and its French equivalent, comes after two groups of travellers were forced by police, municipalities and courts to move on from their camping places last week.

In France, meanwhile, president Nicolas Sarkozy was criticised for harsh words regarding travellers and for clearing out some 100 camps. In Belgium, the problem began when a group of travellers affiliated to the evangelical Christian movement Vie et Lumière moved into a field in Nieuwpoort at the coast. That caused complaints from residents, and they were forced to move on – first to Wingene, also in West Flanders, and then into Wallonia to Dour. A court gave them a deadline to move on yet again, but the town's authorities decided to allow them to stay a week.

Meanwhile, an unrelated group of French and German travellers made an appearance at Oudenaarde, East Flanders, where they allegedly forced a barrier and installed 20 caravans in a field. They were shifted for one night to a parking lot nearby and allowed to use the sanitary facilities of a nearby campsite.

They were then moved on and ended up in Hérinnes-lez-Pecq in Wallonia, where they came to an agreement with a local landowner to rent some land until 17 August. However, after talks with the local mayor, the travellers agreed to leave, coming back into Flanders to De Pinte, near Oudenaarde, where they were ejected before nightfall, and then to nearby Zottegem, as *Flanders Today* went to press. ♦

THE WEEK IN FIGURES



2.57%

inflation in July, the highest rate since December 2008, the economics ministry said. Petrol, hotel rooms, potatoes and coffee rose in price, while fruit, heating oil, flowers and electricity all came down

22.5%

of young people admitted having taken part in online bullying, according to a study by the Catholic University of Leuven. 12% had been a victim of such bullying

1 in 3

drivers still makes telephone calls without using hands-free equipment, the institute for road safety said. The chance of an accident increases by 75% when using a phone

2,034

complaints received by the roads and traffic administration last year about the regional roads in Flanders. One-third of the complaints was about roads in Antwerp province. Two complaints out of three concerned the state of the road surface

10,820,000

inhabitants of Belgium last year, an increase of 0.7%, mainly due to immigration, according to figures from Eurostat. Of the 77,000 new inhabitants, 55,000 migrated here, while 22,000 were the result of natural growth

Reinventing Ghent

Ghent is modernizing with three major building projects

→ continued from page 1

Flanders' busiest train station



Arriving by train, you are immediately confronted with pile of rubble number one, Project Gent-Sint-Pieters. For the total makeover of the train station, millions of euros of transportation and station development were released in 2004. The major project, originally to be finished by 2014, has now been given a 2018 expected completion date, apparently due to complications with Belgian railway infrastructure manager Infrabel.

The old station was constructed in preparation for the 1913 World's Fair. Soon, more than a 100 years later, the new station is getting ready to take over. The ambitious project promises to be not only stunning but also very practical, hopefully encouraging more travellers to switch to public transport. For this lofty goal, 10,000 bike racks and remarkably improved tram and bus areas are promised for the ever-growing commuter population. Ghent has the most train transfers in all of Flanders, and the new station needs to be ready to provide capacity and facilities to accommodate these numbers. To top off the project on a grand scale, there will be shiny new office spaces and apartments in the mix.

The project designers are a regular all-star line-up, including Jacques Voncke of Eurostation, who is responsible for the awesome underground structure beneath Antwerp's Central Station. This is proof that he can work modernity and function around a protected building like Gent-Sint-Pieters. In addition, French landscape architect Alain Maguerit, who has designed numerous green areas from Paris to Marseilles, will give his expert advice in and around Ghent's station. Then the architect team of Poponcini and Lootens, who are more like conceptual designers, could add some flair according to a dynamic 3D image. Every city needs an attractive entry point, and, as Maritine De Regger, Deputy Mayor for Public Works, says: "The neighbourhood is very sad at the moment and could use a lift."

A project of this scale will not only energise the appearance of a slightly dull neighbourhood that is flanked by the lovely Citadelpark in contrast, but it will also boost activity and commerce in the area.

Now if only the citizens of Ghent can try to have the patience of saints until 2018.

KoBra

Leaving the station and heading towards central Ghent used to be easy – hop on Tram 1 towards the historic city centre and step off at the Korenmarkt, where you could take in the towering Sint-Niklaas Church, Belfort, Sint-Baafs Cathedral and Duivelsteen all in one sweeping panoramic view. But Tram 1 doesn't reach there now; instead it drops off travellers at the old courthouse near Veldstraat, the city's shopping street. From there it takes a solid seven minutes by foot to reach the main squares and 15 to the Vlasmarkt nightlife corner, all the while stepping carefully on temporary plank walkways and past construction barriers.

What are we to expect from such a huge undertaking? Why tolerate such major disruption of this grand scale? De Regger responds with genuine enthusiasm, "It had to be done! These areas and squares are the heart of our city. They were tired, and the non-pedestrian nature of how they were organised... a disaster. We needed to re-evaluate the master plan of our public spaces and bind them all together for easier accessibility."

De Regger continues in a more careful tone. "There will be controversy and critique. The new City Hall, for example, will have a walk-through tunnel. Scepticism is all around, but I believe it will be an invaluable point of interest for our city centre."

The KoBra Project was 15 years in the making. It begins with "Ko", referring to the Korenmarkt, and ends with a combination of Emile Braunplein and Belfortstraat.

The first phase, The Korenmarkt, is finished except for the arrival of some sculptures to enhance the square's markedly more stately atmosphere. The grand total for this first phase hits the roof at €6 million (This also includes a bicycle shelter at the Sint-Michiels bridge. There seems to be encouragement on all levels to increase the use of two-wheeled, non-motorised vehicles all over the city).

Next up, Cataloniëstraat, Veldstraat and Sint-Niklaasstraat. This is where the new arrangement for the public transport comes to light, which will bind Sint-Pieters Station with the city centre. "This was necessary. We had to restructure the tram lines to accommodate the new longer trams that will run at a higher frequency. Our city is growing in activity, and we need to embrace it," says De Regger.

When asked how the local residents and businesses took the news of the coming construction and incontinence, she answers curtly. "We prepared and informed everyone. It's a shame, really, but in an undertaking this complex, you have to continue. But I believe that commerce will improve steadily after completion."

One resident of the neighbourhood, Tom Lezaire says that he can't sleep anymore. "My whole building rattles with the passing trucks, and parking places are constantly blocked for arriving materials... It is too much. I hope it's worth it." So maybe everyone is not as happy as the government claims? De Regger reiterates: "It's a painful process. But it will be appreciated in the end because it is so necessary."

Surely to be appreciated will be the Emile Braunplein. The spot between the Belfort and the Sint-Niklaas Church, currently used as a parking lot, is to be transformed into a sloping green, open park with a modern wooden pavilion and, what else, a bicycle shelter and café.

But once again, eager residents will have to be patient as this undertaking is set to be completed sometime in 2011 – at the earliest. In the meantime, archaeological finds have researchers sifting through the rubble of 800-year-old remains found in the cellars of buildings past. Good news is that these discoveries, although slowing the whole process now, are sure to enrich the square's historical value in the long run.



De Waalse Krook



Just when you thought the projects in Ghent could not get more impressive, you are handed a pamphlet on De Waalse Krook. This is the site of the "Library of the Future and the Centre for New Media". And according to the three-dimensional voyage through the structure made by Brussels' HOOOX Media, it is breathtaking indeed.

"It is here you are supposed to experience, experiment and communicate with media you have only dreamed of," according to the website. The extensive new city library, the Centre for New Media and the Flemish Institute for Archiving, will be an all-in-one house of knowledge, meant to modernise the way the people think about libraries.

It is hard to imagine this as a reality, however, when wandering through the dilapidated present neighbourhood whose entry alley reeks of urine. And great care will have to be given to the preservation of the site's historical building. Nonetheless, nestled into this space where the canal bends around and heads towards the well-known performance venue Vooruit, the location couldn't be more perfect. And it is sure to drastically change the overall view when looking from south or central Ghent.

But what about Ghent's public library at Zuid? The current library just across the canal averages about 2,500 visitors per day; it is ill equipped to handle such capacity, and this is what

spawned the whole idea to build a new one.

The developers of the project like to call it a complex puzzle, where priorities must be set, not only for the ultra-modern library, but for the re-development of the entire quarter. Once again, the Ghent spirit favours pedestrians and cyclists, with non-motor vehicle bridges connecting the area to the inner city. There will be night- as well as daytime activities, to prevent the neighbourhood from becoming a dead-zone at any time. And finally, the open spaces need to be attractive enough to draw people in.

Set to open in 2015, the new library should beat Sint-Pieters Station by three years. ♦



A tall order

Ghent has always been lovely, but it's a challenge to maintain that image in the midst of so many ambitious development projects. Look past the mats covering the ground to protect visitors from the mud, and look past all the rubble. Instead, raise your eyes to the cranes dotting the skyline and see that the city is in motion. For now, all Ghent can offer are 3D images and promises. But she seems to be keeping them.

→ www.dewaalsekrook.be

→ www.gent.be/kobra

→ www.projectgentsintpieters.be

www.quares.be

Office Mechelen: +32 15 33 19 19 - Office Antwerp: +32 3 294 50 57

For rent
Luxury apartment in Mechelen



Rent: **2.250** Euro / month

155m² luxury apartment on 1st fl. (elevator) of a 18 century "Landmark" Building, in the Historic center of Mechelen overlooking the Dijle River. Newly & completely furnished & decorated by celebrated high-end Interior designer "Flamant", large fully equipped kitchen & large living room, library, 2 bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, cute courtyard, 3 fireplaces and basement.

Information :
info@quares.be
+32 15 33 19 19

QUARES

● MAXIMIZE YOUR RETURN ON REAL ESTATE

Dignity in death

Belgian euthanasia law created one of the most liberal end-of-life conditions in Europe

TANIA RABESANDRATANA

A Flemish network of researchers is busy investigating the crucial issues surrounding physician-assisted death and medical care at the end of life. Professor Luc Deliens is the chair of the End-Of-Life Care Research group of the Free University of Brussels (VUB). He splits his time between the VUB and his professorship in public health and palliative care in Amsterdam.

In the 1990s, the famously liberal Netherlands was already pioneering research in end-of-life decision-making. The influential 1991 Remmelinck Report commissioned by the Dutch government inspired Deliens in his own work in Flanders.

Uncovering the issue

"The Dutch carried out the first nationwide survey using the death certificate methodology," Deliens explains. Instead of writing to random physicians to ask them to recall specific cases, this method starts from consolidated data drawn from death certificates to reach the physicians involved in end-of-life decision-making – so the sampling is more complete and accurate.

Deliens and colleagues carried out this type of study in Flanders and found that about two percent of all deaths in the region were in fact cases of euthanasia. "In any country in the world, you have believers and non-believers," Deliens asserts. In the case of euthanasia, "believers said that euthanasia was an existing medical practice and that we needed to regulate it, whilst non-believers said it was only a marginal issue, and regulation would create more prob-

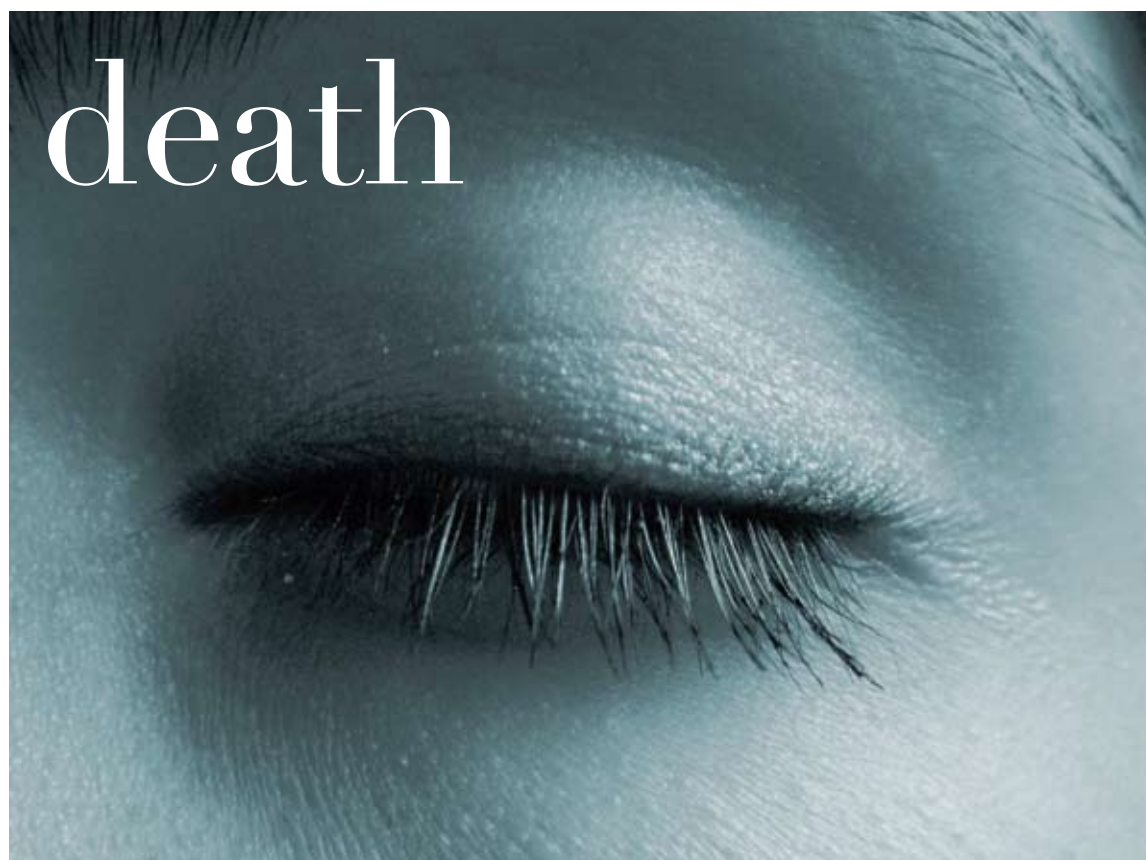
lems than solutions."

The results of this initial study showed that euthanasia was a reality involving around 1,000 deaths every year in Belgium – so something needed to be done. The research group published its first findings in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* in 2000. "The impact was enormous," Deliens recalls. "Even before publication, we were invited into the Belgian parliament to present the results of the study."

However, Deliens has always refused to take part in the political debate. "I just presented my results and said to the members of parliament: it's up to you now. It's not for scientists to find political solutions," he states. "The strength of my research is that we never took a position in favour of, or against, the law." Two years later, the Belgian Parliament passed the Euthanasia Act. This seemed to reflect public opinion: a study by Joachim Cohen and Deliens showed that, between 1981 and 1999, citizens of nearly all European countries were increasingly in favour of euthanasia.

After the law

About 10 years after its creation, in Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp, the End-Of-Life Care Research Group still explores a range of issues in public health, epidemiology, bioethics, pharmacology and criminology. For instance, the group is interested in finding out where people die (at home, in the hospital, in a nursing home) and why – in particular, the place of death varies strongly between metropolitan areas like Brussels and smaller Flemish



towns. Also, the group is studying medical care and death in nursing homes and developing indicators to monitor the quality of end-of-life care.

Even though the legal system and basic health care infrastructure is shared in Belgium, the group's recent research confirms there are strong regional differences. In the Dutch-speaking community, life-shortening euthanasia is more frequent, while medical doctors in the French-speaking community seem to favour continuous deep sedation. In that respect, the French-speaking community of Belgium is closer to the Latin-French culture of southern European countries, and the Dutch-speaking community closer to its Dutch, Germanic and Nordic neighbours.

Since the law was passed, "the actual practice hasn't changed, but its quality has," Deliens notes. "I know clinical practice is not ideal – but it's better than in most countries of the world, where secrecy brings risks." Deliens is glad that the medical culture in Belgium now allows physicians to discuss the issue more openly and concretely with their colleagues and patients. ♦

→ www.endoflifecare.be

What the law says

In the 2002 Belgian Act, euthanasia is defined as intentionally terminating life by someone other than the person concerned, at the latter's request. The physician who performs euthanasia commits no criminal offence when he or she ensures that: the patient has attained the age of majority and is legally competent and conscious at the moment of making the request; the request is voluntary, well considered and repeated and is not the result of any external pressure; the patient is in a medically futile condition of constant and unbearable physical or mental suffering that cannot be alleviated, resulting from a serious and incurable disorder caused by illness or accident. The act also describes the medical doctor's duty to hold several conversations with the patient to discuss possible therapeutic and palliative courses and to consult another independent physician. In addition, any physician who has performed euthanasia is required to fill in a registration form, drawn up by the Federal Control and Evaluation Commission within four working days.



Antwerp researcher wins science shops award

The €500 biennial science shops prize was awarded to Annick de Vylder for her work on reading learning and teaching. De Vylder (pictured) evaluated the impact of reading out loud as a teaching practice in a sixth-grade primary education setting: she demonstrated that this method is efficient and increases the pleasure of the reader.

The jury, led by former Dutch housing and environment minister Jacqueline Cramer, praised the thorough, clear execution of the research and pointed out that reading skills are not only important to individual child development but also relevant to society as a whole.

Science shops are small research entities that carry out

scientific work on behalf of non-profit organisations. These organisations benefit from personalised academic input, while students and professors contribute to research that is in touch with society's needs.

This prize is awarded every two years to crown the most relevant, successful and novel research projects produced by the science shops. In 2010, it evaluated 19 entries from eight shops based in Dutch and Flemish universities. The second and third prizes went to the Wageningen and Groningen science shops in the Netherlands. TR

→ www.wetenschapswinkel.be



© BELGA/Katrijn Van Giel

Six new courses get EU approval

The Catholic University of Leuven now ranks at the top of European universities

ALAN HOPE

The EU Commission last week approved six new study courses at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) under its Erasmus Mundus programme. The new courses bring the number of Erasmus Mundus courses at KUL to 11, putting it in the top ranking of European universities.

Erasmus Mundus courses are very prestigious because of the strict criteria under which funding is given. Courses must be of high academic quality, able to attract top students and involve international academic and industrial partners.

"The interesting thing about this year's European selection is that most partnerships also involve non-European universities, and businesses are now a part of most of the consortia," said Piet Henderikx of the KUL's international office.

The six new courses are:

- Master in Economics and Management of Network Industries under Professor Johan Driesen, as part of a consortium of institutions, including Johns Hopkins University, University of Texas in Austin, Harbin Institute of Technology and Lawrence

Berkeley National Laboratory, as well as enterprises in the energy sector like Endesa, Gas Natural and Red Electrica de Espana

- Master in Bioethics under Professor Paul Schotsmans, in cooperation with the university hospitals of Leuven, Nijmegen and Padua

- Master in Territorial Development under Professor Dominique Vanneste, in cooperation with the Don Bosco Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro

- Master in Membrane Engineering under Professor Ivo Vankelecom, with applications in the food industry, water quality and kidney dialysis, working with industrial partners in Denmark, France and the Czech Republic

- Doctorate in Membrane Engineering, as well as in prevention of mobility loss with ageing, under Professor Sabine Verschueren, together with the Australian Centre of Clinical Research Excellence and companies such as Smith & Nephew Belgium, KUL spin-off Tigenix, Motek Medical of the Netherlands and Manchester Integrating Medicine and Innovative Technology from England ♦



Fonske, the mascot of the Catholic University of Leuven, fills his head with water from the fount of knowledge

Pensions for self employed rise

The guaranteed minimum pension for the self employed was increased on 1 August. The pension now stands at €1,233 a month for a couple and €946 for a single person or surviving spouse. The increase is the last step in the outgoing government's plan to narrow the economic gap between the retired self employed, former employees and workers in the public sector. Both of the latter cases still receive 1.7% more in the case of a couple's pension, 4.39% in the case of a survivor and 5.9% in the case of a single person.

The self employed work on average longer than employees and public sector workers. According to 2007 figures, the average self-employed person stops work at age 61, while both employees and civil servants retire at 59. Just under a quarter of the self employed stop work before the retirement age, mostly at 60. At one time they paid a

penalty of 5% per year under 65, and, while that has been reduced, the self employed are still "heavily penalised," according to Unizo.

For a self-employed person retiring at 60, the penalty still comes to 25% of the pension, something Unizo has called "a continuing scandal". The penalty is a life-long punishment since the reduction is applied even after the retiree reaches the age of 65. Unizo is calling on the new government to take further steps to narrow the remaining gap and to do away with the continued penalty on retiring early.

Figures from 2009 put the number of those on a self-employed pension at 490,524 – one retired small business owner for every 1.9 active. Of the total, just under 69% have a mixed self-employed/employee pension. The other one-third have been self employed throughout their career. ♦



Start-ups: end of the decline?

For the first time in two years, the number of new start-ups increased in the first half of the year, according to an inventory by the starters service of Unizo, the organisation that represents small businesses.

In the first six months of the year, 32,873 new businesses opened their doors for the first time, an increase of 2.94% on the same period last year. The last time there was an increase of any kind was in the second half of 2007, before the financial and economic crisis struck.

"I hope this is the start of some good news," said Unizo director-general Karel Van Eetvelt. "The crisis led to a two-year fall in the number

of new businesses starting up. Now it looks as if there might be a turn-around." He cautioned, however, to look at the situation in context: "We still haven't made up for the losses of the crisis."

Antwerp province saw the most new businesses, followed by Brussels and East Flanders. Transport was the strongest sector, with health care-related services still showing negative growth.

Meanwhile, the organisation for the self-employed, NSZ, released figures showing that non-Belgians are twice as likely to start up their own businesses as native citizens,

but they are also more likely to go broke doing so. In 2008, 0.64% of Belgians started a business, compared to 1.36% of non-Belgians. While non-Belgians make up 10% of the population, they account for 19% of new businesses. Most of the non-Belgians are from other EU countries: the Netherlands, Italy and France make up 43% of them; Poles, Romanians and Bulgarians make up another 22%. ♦

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Airlines • Meridian

The entire fleet of five aircraft belonging to the Ghana-based freight airline Meridian Airways was last week grounded at Ostend airport. Mobility minister Etienne Schouppe ordered a flight ban on the fleet for safety reasons. The airline flies between Ostend and the Middle East, and is already banned from British airspace. Schouppe will now propose a Europe-wide ban.

Banking • KBC

Leuven-based bank-insurer KBC has sold off its British subsidiary Peel Hunt in a management buy-out valued at €88.7 million. The subsidiary, based in London, is specialised in financing for small and medium-sized market-quoted businesses. The divestment is part of a reduction of activities imposed on KBC following the receipt of state support at the height of the banking crisis. KBC took over Peel Hunt in 2000, its first major step into the UK, for €263 million.

Banking • Société Générale

The French bank Société Générale has been accused of tax evasion by the prosecutor's office in Turnhout. The value of the fraud is alleged to be around €89 million, and involve around 20 businesses in Belgium. According to the complaint, which targets 35 named individuals, businesses in the three regions of Belgium were sold to Swiss nationals, who then avoided paying the companies' tax bills with the help of false papers provided by Société Générale.

Chemicals • Solvay

Chemicals group Solvay has reported second quarter profits of €57 million – 32% less than results for the same period a year ago. However results for the half year were €1.79 billion thanks to the sale of the pharmaceuticals division to Abbott Laboratories of the US.

Telecoms • Belgacom

Telecoms giant Belgacom cut the cost of calling from a landline to a mobile phone from 1 August, following an order to do so from the EU Commission. At the same time, however, customers who still pay a subscription for a Belgacom landline – some two million households – saw their charges rise. According to the company itself, the average gain per household over a year is around 15 cents.

ANTWERP

Port of call



TEXT AND PHOTOS MONIQUE PHILIPS



“Step aside NYC and LA, here’s A.” Boasters and brawlers live in Antwerp, and, while the rest of us all secretly dread the loud mouths, they will inherit the earth, their main newspaper selling under the straight-faced slogan “We know best”.

Welcome to what the people of Antwerp so graphically call “the navel of the world”.

Definitely the grandest entrance to Antwerp is to be made by train. Don’t forget to gaze up admiringly at the dome towering over the numerous diamond shops. Murmur “cathedral” or Antwerp folk might feed you to the lions at the zoo next door.

No, no, they’re very friendly, and it’s a great town. Really.

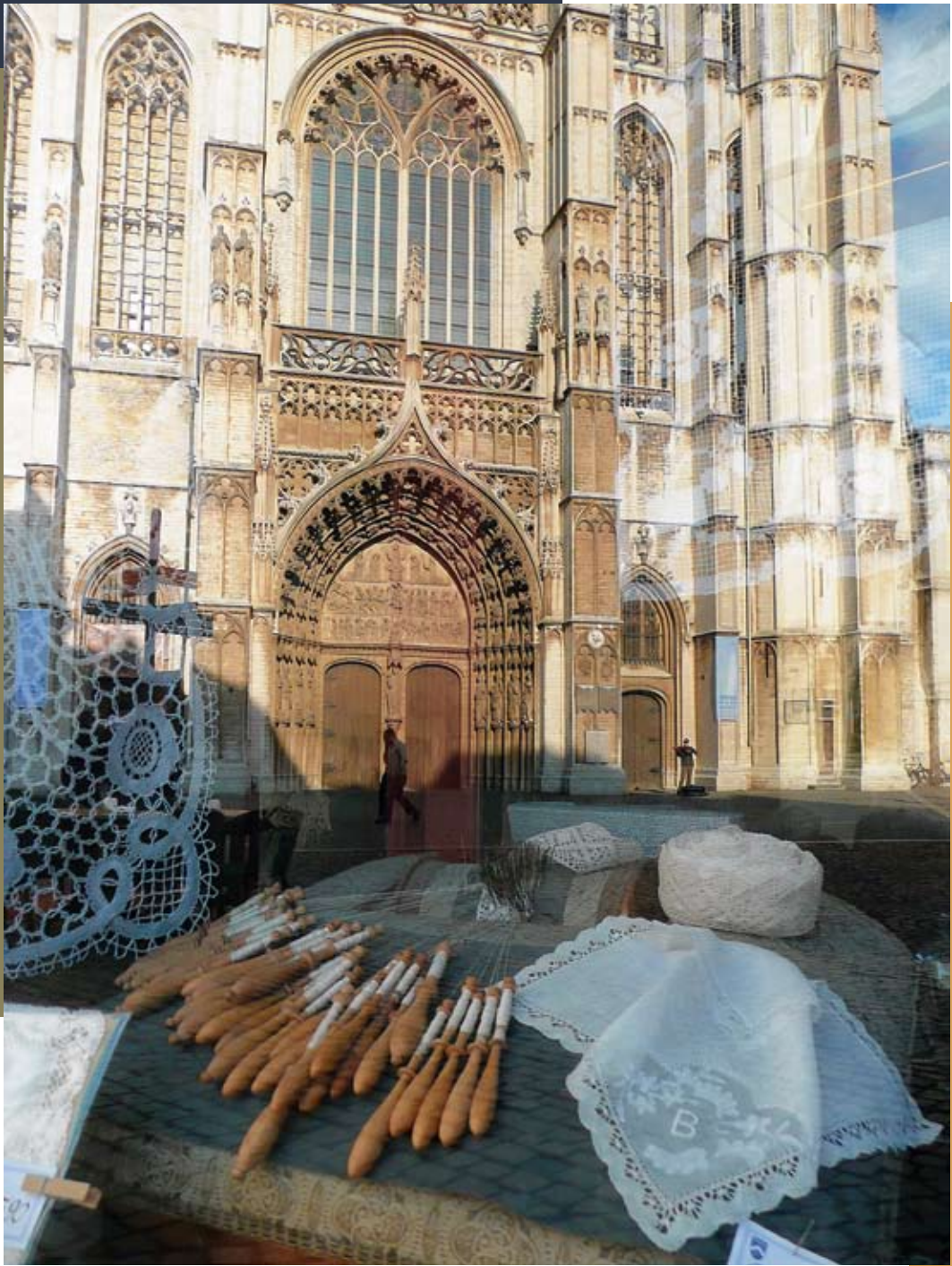
Antwerp is Europe’s second largest port and number three in the world, but no one will blame you for not noticing. Although small children will point out “that’s where the clouds are made” and why yes, there are always fluffy clouds drifting in from over the river.

The actual modern industrial harbour, with its chemical plants and oil refineries, stretches out for no less than 20 kilometres along the river Scheldt, which eventu-

ally flows into the sea, a good 60 kilometres downstream in the Netherlands. Driving into the port is not an attractive day out, but fortunately you can find your way out by smelling the air. Bananas, quay 22, tropical wood, the Napoleondok.

But you can also see how a good neighbourly dispute can get started. In 1585 The Netherlands closed the river and thus ended Antwerp’s Golden Century in which trade and art had flourished. A final religious war drove out non-Catholic artists, craftsmen and the lot to Amsterdam and the next Golden Century. Doomsday understandably became a very popular theme in paintings: choosing between Catholicism and Protestantism was a matter of life or death. Diverse nations ruled over Antwerp. Rubens lived in Antwerp, but can equally be regarded as Spanish. The indifferent Scheldt was never fully reopened until 1863. Nowadays Antwerp happily distributes shipped goods again, to 100 million consumers within a 350-kilometre radius. Yes, you will notice the traffic jams. That’s the real reason why you should come by train.

Of course, the only true historical way to arrive is by ship. Thanks to Bobbejaan Schoepen’s 1952 “Evergreen”, we can all empathise with all the homesick sailors travelling up the Scheldt. “When I see the little lights of the Scheldt, my heart begins



to race; I know you'll be waiting for me, at the end of the quay". Of course the wives weren't the only ones waiting. With a red light district and plentiful beer, Antwerp has always welcomed the wary traveller. Tall stories and rolling muscles have permanently entered the Antwerp state of mind. Provincial in its ways, the town has only lately become the cosmopolitan metropolis it's always claimed to be. Again, the main thing is to sell yourself, and that's what Antwerp is good at. What other Belgian city knows how to promote its separate neighbourhoods as Antwerp does? An hour's walk takes you from the "trendy" South, over the "fashionable" Andrieswijk, through the historical centre, past the sanitised red light district, the "Docklands" of the old port, and finally to the newly "hip" Park Noord. There's always some new up-and-coming block in the city. Despite, or perhaps due to, its megalomania, money is rolling in Antwerp and it's a good city to live in. Continuous efforts are made by the city and by groups of citizens to make improvements. Visit in summer when people flock to the terraces and parks until late at night. Thanks to the broad river, the light of the sunset cuts deep into town, right into the hall of the Central Station, setting the place alight. Awesome, after all. ♦

A taste of the exotic

Bruges' MAfestival this year peppered with worldly musical influences

MARIE DUMONT

Once upon a time, Bruges was one of Europe's gateways to the rest of the world, a lively Hanseatic port with twice its current population, a bustling community of merchants and seamen speaking in a Babel of tongues. This golden age petered out in the late Middle Ages when the city became a backwater, both literally and metaphorically, its access to the sea having silted up. But the city's former glory will briefly resurface later this month for the duration of the MA Festival, the local leg of the Festival of Flanders, devoted this year to exotic influences in classical music.

Admittedly, the MAfestival's programme focuses on a much later period than Bruges' cosmopolitan heyday: the 17th and 18th centuries, when westerners developed a craze for all things foreign as a result of the giddy spirit of discovery and colonial expansion that swept over Europe. It was a time of growing confidence and arrogance, when Rembrandt painted himself coiffed with a turban and dainty *chinoiseries* took over the decorative arts. A time when coffee and croissants were served in Vienna as a symbolic revenge on Turkey, the Habsburgs' age-old foe that had been defeated in 1683, and when Couperin, Rameau, Purcell and Mozart couched strange sounds from foreign lands into their own compositions, often taming them beyond recognition.

Musical and operatic exoticism was a loose, shifting notion that relied more on fantasy than actual observation, an art of ornament and

excess, a merry jumble of turbans, feathers, classical deities and papier-mâché palm trees. China, Peru, Turkey and even Spain were all bundled up into one single, vague idea of foreignness. Who can really tell the difference between the 'Imperial' and 'Piedmontese' styles in Couperin's *Les Nations*? (The piece will be played on 10 August by Skip Sempé and his Capriccio Stravagante). Or between these and the South America depicted by Rameau in *Les Indes Galantes*? (to be performed on 12 August by Alexis Kossenko and Arte dei Suonatori).

The festival will open and end with two masterpieces of the genre: Jean-Baptiste Lully's Turkish Ballet, the end-piece of Molière's brilliant social satire *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. An over-the-top extravaganza with splendid, rousing music, the ballet will be the highlight of 'Quel Charmant Spectacle!', a mixed platter of stately 17th-century pieces presented on opening night by French lutanist Vincent Dumestre and his ensemble Le Poème Harmonique. The work owes its existence to a diplomatic encounter that turned sour between the French king Louis XIV and a snooty Turkish envoy. Louis, ever determined to have the last laugh, had responded by commissioning this '*ballet turc ridicule*' (6 August).

Mozart's iconic Singspiel *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* was composed almost exactly a century later. It both summed up and surpassed existing exotic conventions with its bright choruses that



French lutanist Vincent Dumestre and his ensemble Le Poème Harmonique kick off the MAfestival in Bruges on 6 August

echoed the warlike drums and fifes of Soliman II's janissary bands, its haunting arias in veiled minor keys and even its sprinkling of cultural relativism. It will be presented, in an abridged concert version, along with other *turqueries*, by Belgium's zesty ensemble B'Rock, with conductor Frank Agsteribbe and a surprise performer (15 August).

In between these two towering events are many more treats not to miss: a forgotten opera by Christoph Graupner (7 August); a concert tracing the common origins of Baroque music and flamenco (13 August); an excursion into late 19th- and early 20th- century French piano repertoire by Antwerp-based French pianist Claire Chevallier (12 August); and several recitals

of harpsichord pieces by Couperin, Rameau, Forqueray and Frescobaldi, featuring, among others the great Gustav Leonhardt, and providing a quiet foil to all the pomp and glitter (9, 10 and 13 August). Not to forget a one-day, mini-festival set in the nearby village of Lissewege and providing small concerts and refreshments served under a Moroccan tent (8 August). Coffee and croissants, no doubt, will be on the menu. ♦

6-15 August
Across Bruges

→ www.mafestival.be

The past is a foreign country

Ancient manuscripts come to life at Antwerp's Laus Polyphoniae

The Medieval and Renaissance plainchant and polyphonies traditionally aired at Antwerp's Laus Polyphoniae, the Festival of Flanders' next stopover, can sometimes seem as baffling, uncouth but also as seductive to our modern ears as the music of distant lands. This edition will be no exception, focusing as it does on original music manuscripts from 1050 to 1550.

Manuscripts are our key to the musical life of the distant past as they contain innumerable songs and instrumental pieces for the church, the court, the street and the home that are often unavailable anywhere else. These unique, often richly illuminated volumes bearing exotic names such as *Winchester Troparium* and *Codex Squarcialupi* are today locked up in monasteries and libraries across Europe. This, and the fact that they use an arcane notation that leaves a lot to improvisation, means that musicians, in order to bring them back to life, need to combine the drive and flair of Hercule Poirot with extraordinary imagination and creativity.

The best-known of these musical sleuths must be Paul Van Nevel, a Hasselt-born, cigar-puffing musician who has spent most of his life tracing and poring over ancient hand-written scores. He even named his ensemble after one: the *Codex Las Huelgas*, which moved him to tears when he first discovered it in a Spanish convent in the early 1970s. On one occasion, this passion led him into trouble with

the police when he was suspected of tearing off a page from an ancient volume he was copying.

Here is someone who fully deserves his status as the festival's resident artist. As such, he will take part in a live interview on 25 August, looking back on his adventure-filled career and sharing his passion for composers such as Richafort, Agricola, and Cipriano de Rore. He and his Huelgas Ensemble will also perform three concerts focusing on as many manuscripts: *the Codex Las Huelgas*, naturally (26 August), but also the *Eton Choirbook*, a marvellous collection of English church music from the 16th century that has never been out of the eponymous public school (21 August), and the *Bologna Q15* which numbers no fewer than 323 pieces, 128 of them unique (24 August).

Other guests of note include Jordi Savall who, with his wife Montserrat Figueras and their ensembles Hesperion XXI and Lux Feminae, will present their own reading of the *Codex Las Huelgas* (28 August); The Tallis Scholars, who will have another crack at the *Eton Choirbook* (29 August); and the Ensemble Clément Janequin who, helmed by star counter-tenor Dominique Visse, will sing the Flemish beauties held in the *Liedboek van Zeghere van Male*, once the property of a Bruges bookseller and now kept in Cambrai, northern France (22 August). Special mention must go to 32-year-old Belgian viola da gamba player Thomas



Huelgas Ensemble, artist in residence at Laus Polyphoniae 2010

Baeté who will introduce his brand new ensemble ClubMedieval in a concert based on the *Codex Squarcialupi*. The 14th-century Italian volume has long been an obsession of Baeté's: particularly puzzled by the 16 folios that were left blank, he will undertake to recreate the kind of music they might have contained (21 August).

The festival will spare no effort to cast its nets wider than this music's traditional niche audience, offering summer schools in polyphony and choral singing for professionals and amateurs, a course for children aiming to infect them with the bug of musical investigation,

and even organising a series of small concerts by young international musicians spread out around Antwerp's historic centre. Outlandish this music may well be, but that doesn't mean it can't be enjoyed by everyone. ♦

21 - 29 August
Amuz and other Antwerp venues

→ www.amuz.be

Channel Cruising

With a waterway network of more than 1,300 kilometres, Flanders is best navigable by boat

DIANA ALBIOL

Sightseeing doesn't get any more relaxed than sitting back and taking in the views aboard a cruise boat, and there are many options to choose from in Flanders. There are evening cruises, all-day gourmet experiences and trips that take you way back in time, showing you places you might not otherwise get to see. And of course, this being Belgium, you can expect food and drink to play a big role in your cruising experience.

Nieuwpoort-based Seastar is a third-generation family business focused on offering inland cruises across Flanders Fields between Nieuwpoort, Diksmuide and Ypres. The company, which operates one 26-metre boat with a capacity for 100 passengers, recently started its Captain's Cruise. Leaving Nieuwpoort at 11.00 each Sunday during the summer months, the boat heads for the city of Diksmuide – a journey of one-and-a-half hours. The cruise takes passengers through a historic landscape that reveals some of the memorials of the First World War, such as the Ijzertower and the Trenches of Death.

"Now that the government has completed the dredging of the channels, we can expand our cruises deeper inland and travel as far as Ypres," explains Captain Olislagers. "We are the only company with a vessel that can sail between the battlefields and the tourist cities in this area."

A full lunch menu is served on the outbound journey, which includes an aperitif with cava and nibbles and a main course with a choice of hot and cold buffet, including unlimited grilled steak and fries. Passengers are seated comfortably at tables of six, making it a sociable affair, and all seats in the dining area have full view of the scenery through large panoramic windows.

A professional guided tour of Diksmuide can be arranged or passengers are free to walk around by themselves. At 15.00 the boat sets sail back to Nieuwpoort, while passengers are treated to afternoon tea and freshly baked cake. The cost of this day tour is €49 per person.

Whisky lovers will be happy to hear that Seastar is planning a special Whisky Cruise along the same route come October. Under the guidance of Filip J Verleye, Belgian Whisky Ambassador in 2007 and 2009, passengers can sample eight single malts en route to Diksmuide. On arrival, a full lunch is served, including Scottish salmon with a whisky bacon sauce. The second part of the whisky tasting takes place on the return journey back to Nieuwpoort, including a range of dessert whiskies. The cost of this cruise is €77.

After the summer months, starting in September through to June, the company also offers an extended cruise between Diksmuide and Ypres, as well as short

cruises around Nieuwpoort, taking in the dunes of the Ysermonde nature reserve and Albert I monument.

If you are looking to take a cruise in any other part of the region, there is one company that is bound to have a trip for you. Rivertours offers more than 15 different departure points across Belgium. Operating six boats, the company charts 700 cruises annually – last year they welcomed 38,000 guests on board. The company navigates between Antwerp and Brussels on the Sea Canal, and between Leuven and Mechelen on the Leuven-Dijle canal.

"Navigating these Flemish canals also means passing through different ship locks, which is an interesting experience," says Linda Presburg of Rivertours. "The fleet also navigates on the part of Scheldt between Dendermonde and Antwerp. In the area of Dendermonde, we see natural river banks, small creeks and authentic villages."

For anyone wanting to get up-close and personal with the container ships, the tour to Antwerp is a must-see. Passengers will experience Antwerp's container ports in full activity, with the huge container ships steaming up to the docks.

There is also a tour on offer taking in the beautiful Dender River between Aalst and Geraardsbergen. It's not surprising that this is one of the company's most popular routes, as it passes a number of remarkable hand-operated locks and tilt bridges.

Another popular route is along the Scheldt River. Guests have the option of taking one of two short routes or combining these into one long cruise. Departing from Temse at 14.00 for the one-hour-and-45-minute round trip, the cruise heads in the direction of Sint-Amands – the native town of writer and poet Emile Verhaeren, who is buried there. Bird lovers will enjoy this very scenic tour, and the crew will be happy to point out flora and

fauna amid the stunning landscape.

"In summer the picturesque villages along the Scheldt, with their outdoor cafés, attract a lot of tourists. The region is known for its culinary speciality of stewed eels in chervil sauce. The dikes along the Scheldt are also perfect for a walk or a bicycle tour and we accept bikes on board so our guests are able to take time to explore the river banks," explains Presburg.

Once the boat returns to Temse, guests are able to stay on board for the second short tour in the late afternoon, heading in the direction of Rupelmonde. The route passes under the bridge of Temse – the longest car and railway bridge over the river Scheldt in Flanders (measuring 365 metres). The whole region was previously known for its brickyards, and the old quarries between Steendorp and Rupelmonde can be seen from the boat. At the Rupel estuary the boat turns back, passing by the charming village of Hingene and the nature reserves of Wimsbroek on the right bank. A little further, the Notelaar, an ancient hunting pavilion of the Dukes of Ursel, can be seen.

On these cruises guests are able to bring their own picnic, but a cold buffet is also served on board. A full bar service is also available throughout the trip.

Rivertours is planning some special one-off cruises for this summer, including an evening cruise departing from Temse. Taking place on 28 and 29 August only, this cruise sails for three hours and offers guests a gourmet experience, with a great menu including paella and traditional eels. A live band will also be on board and guests can watch a fireworks display take place in Temse from the deck of the boat. With a total capacity for 300 passengers there is sure to be a party on board. ♦

→ www.seastar.be
→ www.rivertours.be



CLEARLY NOT MOVED BY GOSSELIN



The items you treasure most deserve the greatest attention when you move. They are treated with the utmost care by those meticulous men sent by Gosselin, who wrap them in that specific Gosselin paper and move them in accordance with the Gosselin master plan specially drawn up for you. Gosselin has over 70 years' experience in VIP treatment. Their service is so impeccable that you will be moved when you see their specialists at work.

Gosselin was the first moving company in Belgium to have achieved FAIM/ISO, the international moving industry's most prestigious accreditation. With their 32 own branches across Europe, Central-Asia and the Caucasus, you will no doubt receive the service you have always been looking for.



WE KNOW HOW TO MOVE PEOPLE

Belcrownlaan 23 | B-2100 Antwerp - Belgium
T +32-3-360 55 00 | T +32-2-772 34 87 | F +32-3-360 55 79

WWW.GOSSELINGROUP.EU | INFO@GOSSELINGROUP.EU



GOSSELIN moving

BELGIUM - MEMBER GOSSELIN GROUP



TAZ#2010

COURTNEY DAVIS

When your hardest decision to make is which music festival to attend, you know you are in the midst of a typical Belgium summer. This coming weekend is no exception with a glut of options, from the hippie folk festival of Dranouter featuring Joan as Police Woman and the Pogues or the equally popular Lokerse Feesten with such diverse names as AIR and the Wu Tang Clan.

But if the crush of crowds, the blast of speakers and the wash of plastic beer cups has become too much, escape to the sea. Ostend offers a welcome respite from all the noisy musical festivals, with something equally entertaining but perhaps more enlightening. Theater Aan Zee (TAZ) is an eclectic mix of theatre, exhibitions, children's programmes and live music, spread over various venues across Ostend.

Older children and the young at heart will enjoy watching the bearded woman and the self-wrestler (*de Baardvrouw* and *de Zelfworstelaar*) on 5 August, free at Leopoldpark. Considered by

some to be the Flemish equivalent of Monty Python, this freak show must be seen to be believed.

TAZ also offers young theatre students the unique opportunity to perform before an audience in the segment Jong Werk. Check out third-year theatre student Thomas Dudkiewicz and his one-man show *Bobbie Baxter*. A three-part series in English, it's about a young Swedish man blurring the lines of reality. Tickets to this show also get you in to see two other young performers.

Another festival highlight is David Linx, one of Europe's preeminent jazz vocalists. Performing on 6 August in the Café Koer tent at Stationsplein, this *Brusselaar* will be joined by the Diederik Wissels Quartet, combining jazz standards with stunning improv. Well worth the €12 ticket price.

While you head to each spot, be sure to spy the outdoor photo exhibition of Reginald Van de Velde which has one photograph at each TAZ festival site focusing on urban architecture, decay and abandonment.

On Friday night, head to Café Koer again for some free live music, courtesy of Black Mango. The nine-person band plays an energetic mix of urban-latin rhythms. And on the last night of the festival, the same spot will feature a closing concert, also free, with the TAZ band, a mish-mash of the various artists from the festival. ♦

Theater Aan Zee

Until 7 August
Across Ostend

→ www.theateraanzee.be



MORE THEATRE THIS WEEK

Elsschot on the Road → Across Antwerp

Faust by Royal Toone Theatre → Brussels

Cirque du Soleil's Varekai → Fort Napoleon, Ostend



Antwerp

Café Capital

Rubenslei 37 - Stadspark;
www.cafecapital.be
Until SEP 9 18.00-5.00 Bar Jeudi: food lounge, exhibitions, music and dance parties every Thursday night

Jolly Joker

Rijnkaai 14; www.jollyjoker.be
AUG 6 21.00 Apollo Swing + Tinez Roots Club
AUG 7 22.00 Amatorski + Dez Mona

Brussels

Café Central

Borgwal 14; 02.513.73.08
www.lecafecentral.com
AUG 5 23.00 Erektionocturnes **AUG 6** 23.00 Markan + Sean Peel + Lo-Fi Stories **AUG 7** 22.00 Mickey **AUG 12** 21.00 Shephard electrosoft

Recyclart

Ursulinenstraat 25; 02.502.57.34
www.recyclart.be
AUG 5 20.00 22.00 Cinemusik: Beatbox Colombia, outdoor screening + DJ Pinchado
AUG 6 22.00 DJ Ricky Corazon 23.30 Lokomotiv 00.45 Chicha Libre 2.15 Cumbia Cosmonauts 3.30 DJ Ricky Corazon
AUG 12 22.00 Cinemusik: Bewogen Koper/Brass Unbound, outdoor screening 23.00 La Clinik du docteur Poembak + DJ Pinchado

Hasselt

Muziekodroom

Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13
www.muziekodroom.be
Until AUG 12 22.00 Summer Camp 2010 parties with different music styles every Thursday night



Aarschot

De Knoet

Schaluin 78; 016.56.77.68 www.knoet.be
AUG 6 21.00 Peter Vandendriessche Jazz Qtet
AUG 7 21.00 Saskia Laroo

Antwerp

Buster

Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53
www.busterpodium.be
AUG 6 22.00 Potingue
AUG 7 22.00 Cousin Pete

Café Hopper

Leopold de Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33
www.cafehopper.be
AUG 9 21.00 Rafaël Mertens Quartet

Rivierenhof open-air theatre

Turnhoutsebaan 232; 070.222.192
www.openluchttheater.be
AUG 6 20.30 Société Anonyme

Brussels

Bizon

Karperbrug 7; 02.502.46.99
www.cafebizon.com
AUG 9 21.30 Bizon Blues Jam Session

Café Bonnefooi

Steenstraat 8; 0487.62.22.31
www.bonnefooi.be
AUG 4 23.00 Ed Wydee Trio **AUG 9** 22.00 Piano bar with Victor Abel **AUG 10** 22.00 Twanque invites... Frederick Leeber and Domien Holthof **AUG 11** 22.00 Spout Big Space + Funkarium

Viage

Anspachlaan 30; 070.44.34.43
www.viage.be
AUG 7 22.00 Carolina Rimoli

DON'T MISS

Parkkaffee

Until 31 August

Groenestaakstraat, Ghent

After the madness of Gentse Feesten, Ghent comes down with this marvellous little out-of-the-way site that plays host to tarot readings, music, theatre and food outdoors around a lovely pond and fountain. A campfire closes out every evening at 21.00, and Sundays are particularly special. It's the lazy summer we're all looking for.



→ www.parkkaffee.be

Ghent

Fabula Rasa

Ferdinand Lousbergkaai 134;
09.225.63.30 www.fabula-rasa.be
AUG 7 18.30 Sarah Ferri & Band



Brussels

Viage

Anspachlaan 30; 070.44.34.43
www.viage.be
AUG 7 22.00 Carolina Rimoli (Brazil)



Brussels

St Michael and St Gudula Cathedral

Sinter-Goedeleplein; 02.507.82.00
www.cathedralestmichel.be
AUG 10 20.00 Franz Josef Stoiber, organ: Bach, Messiaen, more



Bredene

Turkeyenhof

Zegelaan 42; 059.32.09.98
www.uitinbredene.be
AUG 6 20.00 Taiwan's Dance Village Art Company in Folkavond



Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)

Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60
www.muhka.be
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

Diamond Museum

Koningin Astridplein 13-23;
03.202.48.90 www.diamantmuseum.be
Until AUG 31 HarT voor HarD, heart-shaped jewellery

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 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
Until SEP 5 Jacky Lecouturier: POLAROIDs (and others), polaroids by the Belgian photographer

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

Kunstcentrum Oud Sint-Jan

Mariastraat 38; 050.47.61.00
www.miro-brugge.be
Until OCT 3 Expo Miró, lithographs, ceramics and manuscripts from the surrealist painter Joan Miró

Brussels

Archief en Museum voor het Vlaams Leven te Brussel

Arduinkaai 28; 02.209.06.01
www.amvb.be
Until AUG 31 Herinnering & Migratie: Ergoed van nieuwe Brusselaars (Memory & Migration: The Heritage of new Brusselaars), presentation of the stories behind the arrival of 19 new immigrants to Brussels

Atomium

Heysel Park; 02.475.45.75
www.atomium.be

Until AUG 31 BE.WELCOME: Belgium and Immigration, interactive exhibition on the migration experience in Belgium

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
Until JAN 30 The Studio of Franquin: Jijé, Morris and Will, rare documents and drawings show mutual influences between the four comic-strip artists who revolutionised the art form in Europe

Belvue Museum

Paleizenplein 7; 02.511.44.25
www.belvue.be
Until SEP 12 Facing Brussels, contrasting views of the city by 11 local photographers
Until SEP 19 Brussels, A City with a View, interactive exhibition focusing on Jean-Baptiste Bonnet's 17th-century painting Gezicht op Brussel, showing panoramas of the city

Bibliotheca Wittockiana

Bemelstraat 21; 02.770.53.33
www.wittockiana.org
Until SEP 11 Parti pris: the duo Léon Wuidar and La Pierre d'Alun, books and illustrated bookbindings
Until SEP 11 Françoise Clabots, books, objects, prints and drawings

Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until 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 (part of Visionary Africa)
Until OCT 10 A Passage to Asia: 25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe, a selection of 300 objects, including funeral urns, jewellery, semi-precious stones, gold and glass, Buddhist and Hindu images, ivory, manuscripts, textiles and archaeological finds

Brussels Info Place (BIP)

Koningsplein; 02.563.63.99
www.biponline.be
Until DEC 31 Europe in Brussels: Fragmented Past, Shared Future?, video exhibition looking at the European quarter, from its beginnings to the present day (www.europeinbrussels.be)

De Elektriciteitscentrale

Sint Katelijneplein 44; 02.279.64.45
Until OCT 3 Fighting the Box: 20 Belgian Designers, 20 Stories Behind the Products, the relationship between local designers and the international industry

European Quarter

Wetstraat; www.thehumanrightsproject.org
Until SEP 10 The Human Rights Project, outdoor exhibition of photographs of South Africa by Lukas Maximilian Hüller and Juliane R Hauser

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Yvonne, Princess de Bourgogne

9-21 September
De Munt, Brussels

If you want good seats to De Munt's season opener – always a hot ticket – buy now. Polish author Witold Gombrowicz's 1935 play was dramatic and grotesque enough to have inspired four operas, but this one by De Munt composer-in-residence Philippe Boesmans is considered the best since its premiere last year in Paris. With a libretto by Swiss opera director Luc Bondy, it's the tale of a princess whose uncanny power to reveal human weaknesses makes her a perfect mark for assassination.

→ www.demunt.be



Folklore Museum

Eikstraat 19; 02.514.53.97
www.brussels.be
Until AUG 22 Manneken-Pis: A Very European Member of Brussels, costumes from the wardrobe of the famous Brussels icon, contributed by every member of the EU

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

ISELP

Waterloosesteenweg 31; 02.504.80.70
www.iselp.be
Until AUG 21 Médium, work by Belgian photographer Vincen Beeckman

Jewish Museum of Belgium

Minimenstraat 21; 02.512.19.63
www.mjb-jmb.org
Until OCT 3 Bericht aan de bevolking: De joodse geschiedenis op affiches (Message to the People: Jewish History in Posters), more than 250 documents from the museum's collection

Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32
www.botanique.be
Until AUG 8 Congo in Limbo, award-winning series by Belgian photographer Cédric Gerbehe

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
Until OCT 30 Lisolo Na Bisu (Our Story) and Tokopesa saluti (We Salute You), objects, documents photographs and audiovisual material reveal 125 years of Belgo-Congolese military relations

Royal Museum of Fine Arts

Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11
www.fine-arts-museum.be
Until SEP 26 Charles van der Stappen (1843-1910), sculptures by the Belgian artist
Until SEP 26 Marcel Broodthaers, modern works with objects from everyday life by the late Belgian artist

Royal Museums of Art and History

Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11 ,
www.kmkg-mrah.be
Until AUG 29 Isabelle de Borchgrave's 1 Medici: a Renaissance in Paper, life-size paper replicas of historical 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

Town Hall

Grote Markt; 02.279.64.31
www.brussels.be
Until SEP 19 The Age of Symbolism in

Latvia, paintings, etchings and drawings from turn-of-the-20th-century Latvia, including work by Jānis Rozentāls, Vilhelms Purvītis and Jānis Valters

WIELS

Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.340.00.50
www.wiels.org
Until AUG 15 Rehabilitation, multi-media show by young artists on the theme of architectural renovation
Until SEP 12 Wangechi Mutu: My Dirty Little Heaven, collages by the New York-based Kenyan artist, Deutsche Bank's Artist of the Year

Yaruna

Waverseesteenweg 214B; 02.512.93.12
www.anunsroom.com
Until OCT 14 Jeanne: A Nun's Room, installation by Scottish artist Paul Morris

Deurle

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens

Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23
www.museumdd.be
Until SEP 19 Biennale van de Schilderkunst: het sublieme voorbij (Biennale of Painting: The Sublime Past, a subjective look at painting over the last 100 years (See also Roger Raveelmuseum in Machelen-Zulte)

Gaasbeek

Gaasbeek Castle

Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30
www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be
Until AUG 8 Theatrum Mundi V: Cythera, drawings and installations by Flemish artist Peter Depelchin

Ghent

Caermersklooster

Vrouwebroersstraat 6; 09.269.29.10
www.caermersklooster.be
Until SEP 5 We zijn goed aangekomen! Vakantiekolonies aan de Belgische kust (1887-1980) (We have arrived! Vacation Colonies on the Belgian Coast), photos and film and sound fragments

Design Museum

Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99
www.designmuseumgent.be
Until OCT 24 Super Normal: Sensations of the Everyday, objects from around the world selected by designers Naoto Fukasawa and Jasper Morrison
Until OCT 24 Piet Stockmans: Retrospective, works by the legendary Flemish porcelain designer
Until OCT 24 Nilton Cunha: Good Luck, works in silver and Corian by the Flemish designer

Dr Guislain Museum

Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95
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

Museum of Fine Arts

Fernand Scribbedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00 www.mskgent.be
Until OCT 10 Stijn Cole, contemporary works by the artist in residence

Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)

Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03 www.smak.be
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 OCT 3 Xanadu! The SMAK collection presented by Hans Theys
Until DEC 3 Inside Installations, 10 installations from the museum's collection

Hasselt

Fashion Museum (MMH)

Gasthuisstraat 11; 011.239.621
www.modemuseumhasselt.be
Until JAN 9 2011 Devout/Divine Fashion vs Religion, examples of religious symbolism in designs of the past decennia

Literair Museum

Bampslaan 35; 011.26.17.87
www.literairmuseum.be
Until NOV 7 Tom Schamp: Feest in de stad (Party in the City), work by the Flemish illustrator

Kortrijk

Museum Kortrijk 1302

Houtmarkt-Beginpark; 056.27.78.50,
www.kortrijk1302.be
Until JAN 9 2011 OnGELOOFlijk: van hemel, hel en halleluja (UnBELIEVEable: From Heaven, Hell and Hallelujah), religious objects and symbols from the past 500 years

Leuven

Museum M

Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29 www.mleuven.be
Until AUG 22 Anthony van Dyck: Masterpiece or Copy?, two seemingly identical versions of the painting St Jerome with an Angel by Anthony van Dyck
Until AUG 29 Philippe Van Snick, paintings, installations and sculpture by the Flemish artist
Until SEP 12 Angus Fairhurst,

GET FLANDERS TODAY IN YOUR LETTERBOX EACH WEEK

Would you like a free subscription to Flanders Today?

Fill in the form and send to:

Flanders Today

Subscription Department

Gossetlaan 30 – 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden – Belgium

Fax: 00.32.2.375.98.22

Email: subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu

or log on to www.flanderstoday.eu to register online

Name:

Street:

Postcode:

City:

Privacy policy: We fully respect Belgian legislation on the protection of personal information. The data we collect will only be used for distribution of publications and will not be disclosed to any third parties without express consent.

Euromut, your healthcare partner in Belgium

Contact
the Business Customer Care
by e-mail: expats@euromut.be
by phone: +32 2 44 44 700
www.euromut.be/expats



Live, we take care of the rest

retrospective of the the late artist, a member of the Young British Artists movement

Machelen-Zulte

Het Roger Raveelmuseum
Gildestraat 2-8; 09.381.60.00
www.rogerraveelmuseum.be
Until SEP 19 Biënnale van de Schilderkunst: het sublieme voorbij (Biennale of Painting: The Sublime Past), a subjective look at painting over the last 100 years (also at Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens in Deurle)

Meise

National Botanic Garden of Belgium
Nieuwelaan 38; 02.260.09.20
www.plantentuinmeise.be
Until OCT 24 Boxes Brimming with

WEEK IN FILM

LISA BRADSHAW

Openlucht cinema



Antwerp

Feestfilms: Part of the Zomer van Antwerpen, these party-themed open-air screenings are under a covered hangar at the port. Coming up: Departures, Almost Famous and Taking Woodstock

Every day until AUG 22 in Hangar 19A, Scheldekaaien

→ www.zva.be

Brussels

PleinOPENair: Open-air screenings of features and shorts in three spots in the capital, including themed walks, concerts and workshops under the umbrella of “safety” (or lack thereof). Coming up: Wesh wesh, qu'est-ce qui se passe; La Zona

Until AUG 11 on the esplanade of the Natural Sciences Museum, Laine Square and the Gésù Cloister

→ www.nova-cinema.org

Geraardsbergen

Openluchtcinema: Open-air cinema preceded by live concerts. Coming up: Dirk White, followed by Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland and Feedback followed by the Flemish film Loft

Every Wednesday until AUG 18 at 20.00 on Stationsplein

→ www.openluchtcinema.be

Mechelen

Drive-In Movies: Open-air cinema, with free entry for those driving antique cars. Avant-premieres and a cava bar. Coming up: The A-Team, Grown-Ups and Shrek Forever After

Thurs-Sat until AUG 28 at Sportpark De Nekker

→ www.utopolis.com

Life, photo installations by Flemish wildlife photographer Tom Linster

Ostend

Kunstmuseum aan zee (Mu.zee)
Romestraat 11; 059.50.81.18,
www.pmmk.be
Until AUG 29 Bij Ensor op Bezoek (Visiting Ensor), the world of master Flemish painter James Ensor seen through the eyes of a variety of artists, writers and filmmakers who visited him in Ostend
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
Until SEP 30 Bonjour Congo, photographs and documents from Brusselaars on the presence of the Congo in Brussels
Until JAN 9, 2011 Congo River: 4,700 Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture, interactive exhibition on the lifeblood of Congo, from source to mouth
Until JAN 9, 2011 100 Years in 100 Photographs, outdoor exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the African Museum building
Until JAN 9, 2011 Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence, multi-media exhibition looks at the Democratic Republic of Congo from independence to today

Ypres

In Flanders Fields Museum
Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220
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
Until OCT 10 More Force Than Necessary, photos and films by Brazilian artist-in-residence Rodrigo Braga



Belgium's EU Presidency: Belgium takes the helm of the European Union Council for six months and launches a series of events to mark its presidency
Until DEC 31 across the country
www.eu2010.be

Antwerp

Bollekesfeest: Culinary festival with a local products market, restaurant village, children's entertainment, soup competition, world cuisine and a De Koninck beer bar
AUG 5-8 at Gedempte Zuiderdokken
www.bollekesfeest.be

Jazz Middelheim: Annual roots and jazz festival, featuring Wayne Shorter Quartet, Ahmad Jamal, McCoy Tyner Trio feat Joe Lovano, Dave Holland Flamenco Project, Cassandra Wilson, Toots Thielemans, and more
AUG 12-15 in Park Den Brandt
www.jazzmiddelheim.be

Museumnacht: Late-night opening of 16 museums, plus film, concerts, performances and more
AUG 7 19.00-1.00 across Antwerp
03.338.95.85, www.museumnacht.be

Zomer van Antwerpen: Annual outdoor summer festival with parties and concerts, circus acts, performances, films, BBQs and more
Until AUG 29 across the city
www.zva.be

Bruges

Klinkers Festival: Outdoor music festival featuring Anouar Brahem, Ojos De Brujo, Flip Kowlier, more
Until AUG 14 at 't Zand
www.klinkers-brugge.be

MA Festival: Part of the Festival of Flanders, this Bruges-based classical festival focuses this year on exotic influences in European music from the 17th and 18th centuries
Until AUG 15 in venues across Bruges
www.mafestival.be

Brussels

Apéros Urbains: Weekly aperitif plus after-parties at one of three partner clubs: Fuse, K-Nal and the Vaudeville; free entrance to clubs with purchase of drink at Apéros Urbains
Until SEP 3 across the city
www.aperos.be

Bal Moderne: Brussels' parks are transformed into dance floors in a series of public dances where you can learn a new choreography in 45 minutes
Until AUG 28 across Brussels
0476.47.03.67, www.balmoderne.be

Brussels Beach: A full-fledged beach, with deck chairs, cocktails, food, water sprays, sports, circus acts, concerts, canal cruises and more
Until AUG 22 along the Akenkaai on the canal
www.brusselbad.be

Bruxellons 2010: Annual summer theatre festival with an emphasis on comedy
Until AUG 30 at Château du Karreveld, Jean de la Hoeselaan 3
02.724.24.24, www.bruxellons.net

Ecran Total: Annual summer film festival with classics, reprisals, a Chris Marker cycle and a focus on John Cassavetes
Until SEP 14 at Cinema Arenberg, Koninginnegalerij 26
02.512.80.63, www.arenberg.be

Festivaeria: Outdoorfestival providing a platform for young artists with an open stage for musicians, singers, DJs, dancers, bodypainters, jugglers, photographers and streettheatre artists
Until SEP 18 at Jubelpark
www.myspace.com/playnewconcept

Meyboom: Traditional tree-planting ceremony celebrating a medieval victory by the Brusselsaars over the Leuvenaars. According to tradition, the ceremony must be completed by 17.00 but festivities continue until late
AUG 9 14.00 between Zandstraat and Broekstraat
www.meyboom.be

Midi Fun Fair: Annual carnival with rides and games
Until AUG 22 from Hallepoort to the end of Zuidlaan
02.279.25.31, www.kermis-feest.be

Midis-Minimes: Lunchtime classical concerts
Until AUG 27 at Miniemenkerk, Miniemenstraat 62, and the Royal Conservatory, Regentschapsstraat 30
www.midis-minimes.be

Mini-Europe by Night: Sound and light show with fireworks and music
Until AUG 14 22.30 at Mini-Europe, Bruparck, at the foot of the Atomium
www.minieurope.com

Recyclart Holidays: Free summer activities, including concerts and film screenings
Until AUG 19 at Recyclart, Ursulinenstraat 25
02.502.57.34, www.recyclart.be

Reggae Bus: Free Reggae, roots and dub music, entertainment and bar
Until SEP 4 15.00-23.00 at Jubelark
0499.35.23.35

Summer Concert: Free outdoor concert by jazz group SonicOrchestra
AUG 8 16.00 at Roodebeek Park
02.761.60.15, www.wolubilis.be

Visionary Africa: Festival of literature, music, performance and exhibitions recognising the 17 African nations celebrating their 50th anniversary of independence
Until SEP 26 at Bozar, Ravensteinstraat 23
www.bozar.be

Dranouter

Folk Dranouter: Diverse folk festival featuring Tori Amos, Suzanne Vega and Ozark Henry, among others
AUG 5-8 at Folk Meadow
www.folkdranouter.be

Geel

Reggae Geel: Outdoor reggae festival featuring Bunny Wailer, Toots & The Maytals, Tarrus Riley, Israel Vibration, more
AUG 6-7 at Festivalterrein, Zandstraat
www.reggaegeel.com

Ghent

Parkkaffee: Cultural festival in the park, with dance and theatre performances, circus and magic acts, children's entertainment, workshops, campfires, concerts, food and more
Until AUG 31 at Groenestaakstraat 37
09.227.99.94, www.parkkaffee.be

Hasselt

Nocturne: Atmospheric night lighting at the Japanese Garden
AUG 11 from 20.00 to 23.00 at Gouverneur Verwilghensingel 23
www.hasselt.be

Theater op de Markt: International street theatre festival, including parades and circus acts
AUG 5-8 at Kolonel Dusartplein
011.80.50.02, www.theateropdemarkt.be

Knokke-Heist

ArtNocturne: Arts & antiques fair
AUG 7-15 at CC Scharpoord, Meerlaan 32
www.artnocturneknocke.be

International Cartoon Festival: Annual festival, this year featuring the work of Flemish cartoonists Jonas Geirnaert and Jan De Maesschalck, plus Press Cartoon prize competition
Until SEP 12 at Rubensplein
www.cartoonfestival.be

Leuven

Zomer van Sint-Pieter: Lunchtime classical concerts every weekday
Until AUG 26 at 12.15 across the city
www.zomer-van-sint-pieter.be

Lokeren

Fonnefeesten: Outdoor music festival featuring Antwerp Gipsy Ska Orkestra, Squadra Bossa, Buscemi, Intergalactic Lovers, more
Until AUG 8 at Oude Vismijn
www.fonnefeesten.be

Lokerse Feesten: Popular outdoor rock music festival featuring The Cranberries, The Dandy Warhols, The Sisters of Mercy, AIR, M.I.A., more
Until AUG 8 at Grote Kaai
www.lokersefeesten.be

Ostend

Cirque du Soleil: Varekai
Until AUG 29 20.00 under the big top at Napoleon Fort, Fortstraat
059.70.11.99 www.cirquedusoleil.com

FuZee! Third edition of the cultural festival featuring four Saturdays of international street theatre, fire and light displays, a parade and more
Until AUG 28 on the beach
www.fuzee.be

Ostend City of Culture: Flanders' first City of Culture, a biennale designation to highlight culture in certain Flemish cities. Circus, parades, performances, exhibitions and more, all year long
Until DEC 31 across Ostend
http://cultuur.oostende.be

TAZ#2010: Theater Aan Zee (Theatre at Sea) festival of performing arts, plus literature and concerts
Until AUG 7 across Ostend
059.56.20.16, www.theateraanzee.be

Zomershow: Fun summer revues, with singing, dancing and comedy, for the whole family
Until AUG 28 at Casino Blankenberge, Zeedijk 150
www.zomershow.be

CAFE SPOTLIGHT

KATRIEN LINDEMANS

El Metteko



If you're after a true Brussels eclectic mix, established urban café El Metteko close to De Beurs is a must. From 9.00 in the morning until 00.00 at night, there's always something going on. Let's not forget the interesting menu with Belgian beers, Latin cocktails, tapas and much more.

El refers to the Latin influences on the menu, the salsa evenings and the Cuban music sessions. Metteko is the Brussels word for a clumsy person, a buffoon. The inside of the café has something theatrical: high ceilings with golden decorations and curly woodwork. The terrace on the street side stages a bit of drama as well: a swirling mix of rushing businessmen, tourists looking for the next spot to snap a picture and the local homeless. On the menu, a lot of Belgian beers (pils, white, fruity and geuze) and a few imported Latin beers such as Corona and Crystal. The bartenders happily shake you a cocktail as well, from a Cuba Libre to a Vodka Pouchkine. Mixed drinks are reasonably priced but downright cheap during happy hour (16.00-18.00).

One of the best things about El Metteko is the non-stop kitchen, serving world cuisine snacks and meals: tapas (try the meat balls with cumin seeds), salads, sandwiches, pastas, chilies and other suggestions. On less busy moments, El Metteko is the ideal spot to catch up on the latest news with a cup of coffee. The bar offers about 15 international newspapers daily, including *De Morgen*, *Le Soir*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Sine Hebdo* and *El Pais*. Concerts are organised almost every Sunday at 17.00, as well as themed evenings.

→ www.metteko.com

ROBYN BOYLE

bite



© Anniek Chiau

Krieken op jenever

If you live a bit outside a city, chances are your neighbours came over recently with a big bag of freshly picked sour cherries. This countryside tradition of sharing the overabundant fruit from your own backyards is still very much alive in Flanders. But what to do with a few kilos of sour cherries? Why, soak them in jenever.

Cherries and jenever, or *krieken op jenever*, are a real treat in Flanders, especially because it takes several months of patience before the sour cherries are sweet, potent and ready to eat. Many Flemish people get nostalgic when they think of *krieken op jenever*, and almost immediately begin to recount stories of sneaking into the cellar as a kid, just to taste a cherry or two from the irresistible pot. (It does look a lot like candy after all.)

The recipe for sour cherries in jenever is very simple and has been passed down through many generations, thanks to grandmothers across the region.

1 kilogram sour cherries (not overly ripe)
300 grams sugar
1 litre jenever (or a similar pure grain alcohol of at least 35%)

Wash the cherries, remove their stems and inspect them carefully – one bad cherry could ruin the entire pot. Poke small holes in each one with a toothpick so they can better absorb the jenever. Pat the cherries dry.

Using a two-litre glass canning jar with a good seal, fill with alternating layers of sugar and cherries. When the jar is full, add the jenever all the way to the top and close it off. Set the jar on a bright windowsill for a week to allow all the sugar to fully dissolve into the jenever. Give it a good shake every day. Finally, set the cherries in a cool, dark place for four to six months (a cellar works perfectly).

Surprise your guests after a winter dinner party with the festive jar filled with cherries that have turned soft, maroon and wrinkly after months of swimming in sugary alcohol. The jenever, now a beautiful ruby-red, is infused with cherry flavour and delicious to drink on its own. But the best way to serve it is in a glass with a small spoon, half cherries and half jenever. Or wait until the following summer and pour the cherries over a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Contact Bite at flandersbite@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #142

Feature

So many great Flemish writers come out of Antwerp, and now the city is celebrating its literary son Willem Elsschot, author of two of the region's most popular books of all time

Living

Flanders is small, but that doesn't stop its cities from being drastically different from each other. Join us on a photographic journey of five Flemish cities this month

Active

Our intrepid reporter spends hours on the phone getting a hold of Flanders' best beer: one case and don't miss your pick-up time

TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



‘eten’

Coming from the land of deep-fried Mars bars, I may not be the best qualified to write about food – *eten*. Yet one of the pleasures of Flanders is *bourgondisch tafelen* – dining heartily. As with all pleasures, it tends to be taken for granted after a time.

A couple of recent visits to our northern neighbours brought this home to me. When I told my wife I was going on a business trip to Amsterdam, she warned me to expect *broodjes kaas* – bread and cheese, and that's exactly what lunch consisted of, and I had to make up the sandwich like everyone else present. Very nice, but very different from Flemish custom.

A family outing took us back north, this time to Gouda. Soon we were sitting outside at a pavement café overlooking the town square. Despite the omnipresent orange, it looked a lot like Flanders. The spell was broken when the person at the next table was served a slice of bread with a long croquette on it; she then cut it open and spread the croquette on the bread. I had to look twice: *kroket met brood*! Here was a moment to show up one of the main differences between Flanders and the Netherlands, namely the food.

Don't get me wrong: a trip north always involves a visit to a shop to buy those biscuits and treats that are not usually found in Belgium.

But food is treated differently there. Go to a restaurant after eight in the evening and you will probably be the last to eat. And no Dutchman is sent off to the baker's on a Sunday because they're never open.

So the perfect antidote to *kroket met brood* should be the Bollekesfeest in Antwerp this week, named after the local beer served in round glasses, and for four days devoted to food and drink. And as you should eat when you drink (*bij ieder natje een droogje* – “with every wet one a dry one”) the city's top restaurants will be laying on samples of their delicacies *aan democratische prijzen* – at reasonable prices.

You can join a *culinaire wandeling* – culinary walk, where a guide tells the history of Antwerp and links it to the residents' claim to be *de Bourgondiërs van het noorden* – the Burgundians of the north. And on the way you can try various *streekspecialiteiten* – local specialties. Then there's the street market of kitchen items, *behalve voedsel of drank* – except food or drink!

All this will be going on in *De Gedempte Zuiderdokken* – the filled-in southern docks, near Antwerpen-Zuid rail station. And you can be sure that many of the people that you will be rubbing shoulders with will be Dutch.

→ www.bollekesfeest.be

THE LAST WORD...

Quite a catch

"At home I watch a lot of nature documentaries, so I recognise a lot of fish. Usually the fish we see are only a centimetre or two long."

Nick Jacobs, 10, from Niel, near Antwerp, caught a 60-centimetre shark with his fishing net

Ain't no sunshine

"There's a major possibility that the warmest part of the summer of 2010 is behind us."

Weather forecaster David Dehenauw

All change

"A major reform of the state is on the way."

French-speaking socialist Elio Di Rupo, still trying to form a government

Game over

"You have to train long and hard. Only after a few years you begin slowly to make some money – if you've got the talent."

A 19-year-old gamer reflects on his career prospects at last week's eSports Festival in Antwerp