

Tekstboekje

Domino's delivers

Under the heading better late than never comes the news this week that Domino's Pizza Inc. no longer will limit delivery service in minority neighborhoods without hard evidence that its drivers are at risk.

In Washington, D.C., several residents of a black neighborhood sued Domino's for refusing to deliver pizza to customers' doors. They point out that their neigh-

borhood actually has a lower crime rate than other areas where Domino's not only delivers, but actually has outlets.

In an agreement with the Justice Department announced Monday, Domino's exchanged racism for reason. Its managers will consult crime reports and talk to community groups and local businesses before shutting off an area.

USA Today

Parental guide to living with teenagers

1 “I HAVEN’T told him that
he’s made me feel like
jumping in front of a train,
but I feel anguish, rage,
5 misery, humiliation and, yes,
suicidal at times,” says
Rosamund, mother of a 16-
year-old son. *The Terrible
Teens* is full of quotes like
10 this. Kate Figes seems to
have had two main
objectives: to reassure
parents that they are not
alone in finding life with
15 adolescents challenging and
difficult; and to show parents
how to learn to live with their
teenagers.

2 But she focuses on the
20 former, reproducing many
depressing tales from parents.
Gita, mother of 16-year-old
twins, says: “Trying to be
nice to your children when
25 they’re not very likeable –
that’s the hardest part,
because they’re not people
that you want to be around.”
Thanks for that, Gita; I’m
30 sure your children enjoy
being with their mother too,
if that’s how you talk to
them.

3 The subtitle of this book
35 is “What every parent needs
to know”, which seems the
tiniest bit arrogant. How can
she know what every parent
needs to know? A big fan of
40 stereotypes, she finds “all”
adolescents self-centred,
moody, difficult and prone to
obsession. She is so fond of
the image of the
45 dysfunctional teen that she



► The Terrible Teens

Kate Figes

Penguin, £9.99

was “staggered by the
number of healthy family
homes” she found. But you
cannot generalise about *every*
50 teenager like this. I know
loads of perfectly fine
teenagers who don’t need to
be treated with the caution
Figes recommends.

4 55 Nor does she offer any
advice on living with your
“egotistic ... narcissistic ...
hypocritical” teenage son/
daughter other than to say:
60 “Teenagers need under-
standing, guidance, empathy
and a sense of security from
parents”. This is true but, as a
teenager myself, I feel that
65 most parents should be able
to understand their children
and guide them through life
without having to read about

it in a guidebook.

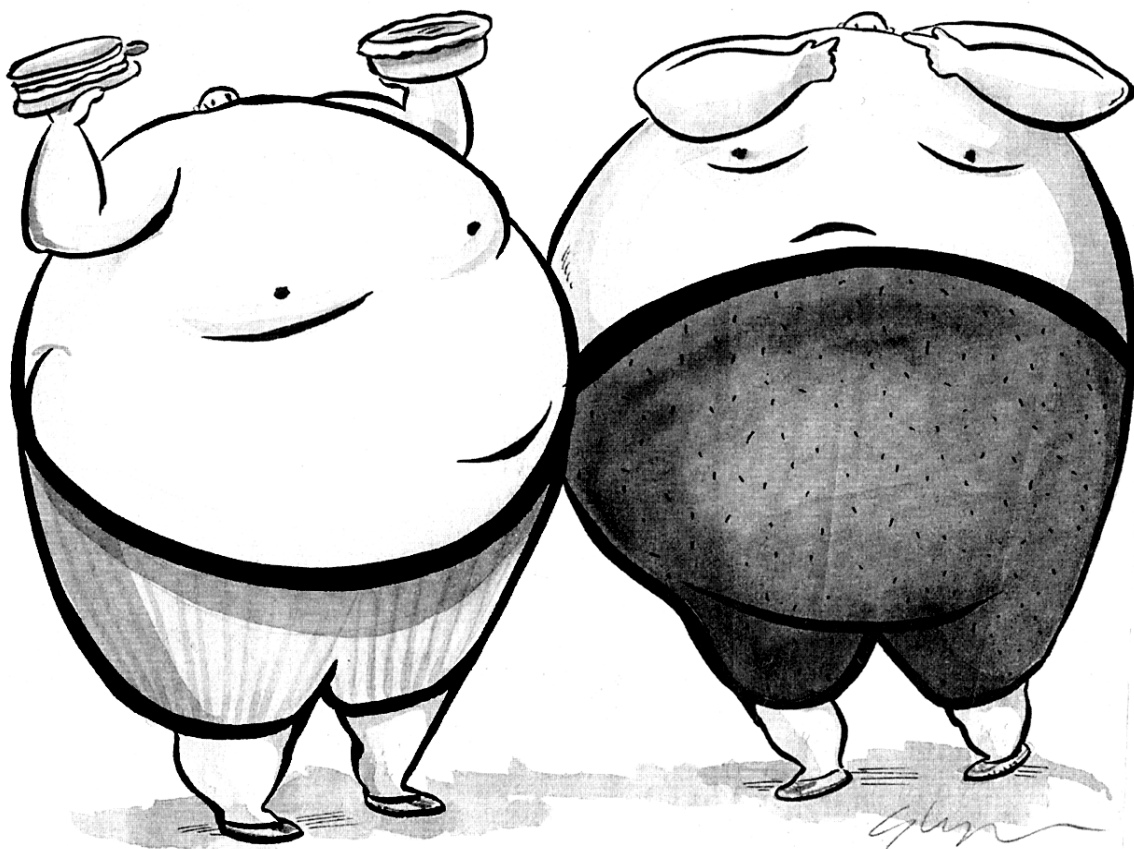
5 70 Don’t worry. Figes admits
that adolescents have some
good points. They sleep a lot,
which cuts down the amount
of time that you have to
75 spend with them. They go out
a lot, so you don’t have to see
them much. And they can
cook beans on toast, so you
don’t have to worry about
80 them starving.

6 If you want to hear about
the problems other people
have with older children, then
The Terrible Teens is a useful
85 window into a world of
moaning mothers (strangely
enough, almost no men seem
to have volunteered similar
horror stories). My advice is
90 to talk to your children, not
read about them. Besides, if
they catch you reading a
book called *The Terrible
Teens*, you’ve had it anyway.

SOPHIE HART-WALSH

The Independent

BODY AND MIND



Overweight may feed on itself

As fatness levels rise, **Victoria Griffith** suggests we need to be unhappy with our weight to control it

1 Leslie Heinberg, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in the US, published a controversial finding on weight control a year ago: we need to be unhappy with our bodies to have the motivation to shed excess fat.

2 While that conclusion may seem obvious to lay people, it contradicts what many scientists have come to believe about obesity. A number of weight-loss programmes aim to boost participants' self-image before putting them on a diet. Self-criticism causes stress, and stress leads to overeating, the argument goes.

3 20 As the world gets fatter, researchers are searching for ways to control weight. The most simple explanation for the epi-

25 demic is that we are taking in too many calories and expending too little energy. Yet this does little to address the real question about weight control: what are the factors that undermine our self-control?

4 According to one theory, humans are programmed to eat too much because throughout most of our history food was scarce. Overindulgence was an insurance policy against days when there might be no breakfast, lunch or dinner. A hearty appetite was a positive survival trait. In modern nations, food is plentiful and affordable. Yet our genetic make-up is static. The result is too much fat.

5 Such knowledge, however, has done nothing to help control obesity, and may have made the

epidemic worse by encouraging people to believe they have no control over their long-term weight.

6 Environmental factors such as television viewing and junk food play a role. Yet these factors have been in place for decades. The lifestyle of Americans has not changed dramatically since 1990, so why are the rates of obesity rising so dramatically?

7 60 Research such as Heinberg's provides clues. Heinberg's experiment asked 88 women and 61 men about to embark on a diet and exercise programme to rate their feelings about their bodies. Although participants lost equal amounts of weight during the first six months, stark differences later emerged. Fif-

70 teen months after the experi-
ment, those who had been
most dissatisfied with their
bodies had lost an average of
7.25lb. Those most satisfied
75 with their physique had gained
2.5lb. So negative self-image
may play a role in weight con-
trol, but the widespread occur-
rence of obesity distorts
80 people's concept of normal
weight.

8 Researchers have long seen
the media's fascination with
thinness as a negative influence
85 on society. The obsession en-
courages eating disorders such
as anorexia nervosa and bu-
limia, say critics. No one knows
precisely how many Americans
90 suffer from such disorders, but
the figure is certainly no more
than 10 per cent. In contrast, up

to 70 per cent of Americans are
clinically defined as overweight.

9 95 Yet people may pay more
attention to the cues around
them than to fantasy images on
television or in magazines.
Judging oneself to be fat or thin
100 may depend more on the weight
of those we live and work with.
"Obesity may feed on itself,"
says Michael First, a professor
of psychology at Columbia
105 University. "As you see more
obese people around you, it
becomes less stigmatised, more
normalised. There's a possible
feedback loop that breaks down
110 the motivation to maintain a
healthy weight."

10 If obesity breeds more
obesity, it does not bode well
for the future, because the crisis
115 is only likely to get worse. It

also presents a challenge to
health officials, who may be
hard-pressed to increase dis-
comfort about obesity without
120 fuelling prejudice against
overweight individuals.

11 Yet society must come to
terms with the psychology of
overeating to address the
problem. "Research in this area
125 is chronically underfunded,"
says Kelly Brownell, director of
Yale University Centre for
Eating and Weight Disorders.
130 "Anyone who pretends to know
the answer is crazy. The only
thing we really know is that
food has tremendous psycho-
logical meaning to people. How
135 to translate that knowledge into
weight loss is another thing."

The Financial Times

LETTERS

MAIL CALL

We Are Not Blameless

Our May 3 report on the Littleton school killings¹ prompted our readers to search for answers. Many blamed the easy availability of guns in America. "We would also have mass killers if we could buy weapons as easily as we buy chewing gum," said one. Another added, "Guns do not kill people, but they do make it easier."



BEFORE EVEN OPENING THE MAY 3 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK, I want to say thank you to the editors of the magazine. You wisely decided not to glorify the mass murderers in this sad drama by putting them on the cover — unlike some of your competitors. As a high-school teacher, I strongly believe it's the students and faculty who endured the agony who should receive any media credit, including national-magazine covers, for their bravery.

PETER T. BURNASH
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

AMERICANS, PLEASE STOP FOOLING YOURSELVES about who is to blame for the Littleton mass killers. We would have mass killers, too, if we could buy weapons as easily as we buy chewing gum. Remember, we all have videogames, the Internet and violent music. Blaming the media will not help anyone tackling the real issue or save any lives in the future.

PEDRO ALVES
CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

GROWING UP IN RURAL NEW ENGLAND, I'VE been exposed to guns my whole life. I support the right to bear arms (but I do support tougher gun laws). I see violent movies. I listen to violent songs. But I have never shot anyone. The media have forgotten something in reporting this story. Properly raised children do not commit these types of crimes — this is not normal behavior. The problem is not guns, movies, music or media. The problem is the people who didn't take notice or do anything to stop this behavior.

RAYMOND TURNER
POZNAN, POLAND

REGARDING THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT occurred in Littleton: as long as we adults insist on trying to solve the world's problems with guns and bombs, our troubled youth will want to do the same. And some will cross the line from fantasy to reality.

MARY F. SEAVER
ESTES PARK, COLORADO

YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE COLORADO high-school shooting was interesting ("Why the Young Kill," SPECIAL REPORT, May 3). Looking for the psychological makeup of killers and the influence of economic and social deprivation makes fascinating reading, yet it is not central to the spate of school killings in the United States. All countries have a small number of disturbed, crazy or plain evil teenagers, yet we do not hear many similar stories from other countries. The key factor is the availability of guns in America. Since 18-year-olds can easily buy guns, it is not surprising that some of these weapons fall into the wrong hands. The NRA, which has a great influence on politicians, has a lot to answer for.

BRIAN SAVAGE
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

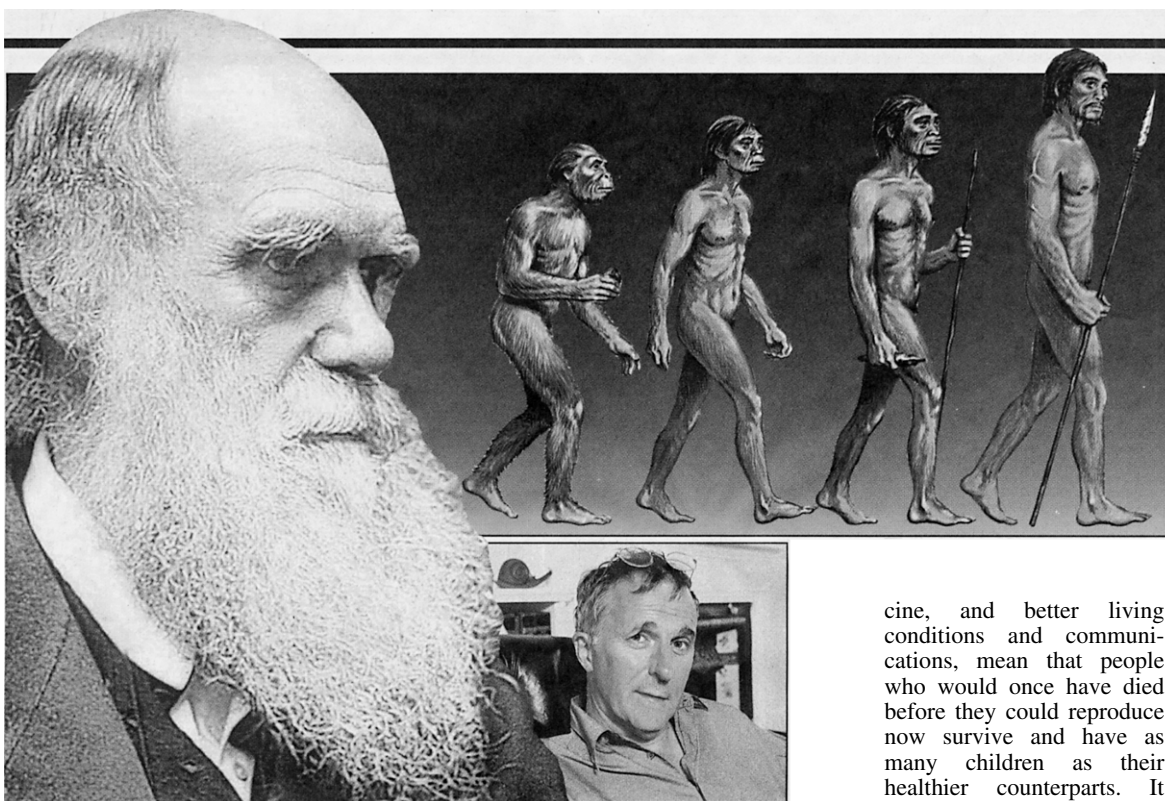
IN YOUR ARTICLE, "WHY THE YOUNG KILL," you stressed the fact that we should not look for a simple answer. But computer games make too easy a scapegoat. The demand for violent entertainment is a *result* of our youth's present attitudes — not a *cause*. It is futile to remove the supply, in the hope that the demand will disappear. We must get to the root of our youth's discontent.

SUKHI BARBER
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Newsweek

¹noot 1

On 20 April 1999 Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed twelve fellow pupils and a teacher of Columbine High School in Littleton and then committed suicide.



Professor Steve Jones, right, says Darwin's theory of mankind's development is now extinct

Humanity hits the genetic buffers

WE are as good as it gets. The human form has reached evolutionary perfection, according to one of Britain's most respected geneticists, and has nowhere else to go.

Research by Steve Jones, professor of genetics at University College London, suggests that Darwin's theory of evolution no longer works in modern society. Natural selection – the process described by Darwin where nature favours society's fittest and weeds out the rest – 22, he says, because the weak reproduce just as efficiently as the strong.

Jones's claim will 23 many biologists. Primates have been seen as one of the fastest evolving species and many scientists expected their evolution to continue.

Jonathan Leake and Guy Dennis

The first hominids²⁾ developed only a million or so years ago – a blink of an eye in cosmic terms – and underwent huge changes in body shape and brain power. Why should human development stop now?

Jones has analysed the three factors that allow Darwinian evolution to take place: mutation, natural selection and random change in populations. He believes modern man's lifestyle and his ability to reshape the world have made those forces almost obsolete.

Mutation, 24, is caused by factors such as radiation, some foods and mistakes made by our DNA, the molecules that hold the

blueprint for life, as it divides. The overriding factor in mutation is, however, age – the older the parents of a child, the more mutations that child will inherit.

Amazingly, Jones has found the average age of parents in the western world is 25 and so are the number of mutations carried by their children. Fewer mutations means there is less variety among people for natural selection to work on.

When Darwin devised his theory of evolution 150 years ago, cars were unknown and antibiotics were more than half a century away. Now, modern medi-

cine, and better living conditions and communications, mean that people who would once have died before they could reproduce now survive and have as many children as their healthier counterparts. It means that 26 no longer necessarily predominate.

Other scientists, however, argue that evolution has evolved into a new form. One of Jones's most powerful 27 is Christopher Wills, a Briton who is professor of evolutionary biology at the University of California in San Diego. He believes evolution among modern man is accelerating, but is invisible. Where once muscle power was the driving force, now it is ideas, with natural selection dependent on 28. Wills believes the process is at work in an accelerated form in countries such as Russia where people are under intense stress. "It means there is a premium on sharpness of mind," he said.

However, Jones has support from other biologists. Richard Dawkins, author of *The Selfish Gene* and former professor of zoology at Sussex University, said: "There has been pretty much a stop to ordinary natural selection in the sense of who lives and who dies. The result is that 29 are now eternally fixed in shape."

The Sunday Times

Sir Jumpin' Jack Flash

Knighthoods tend to be given to Establishment types or those who have given the party in power sufficient cash. There are, of course, honourable exceptions. And now we hear that Mick Jagger, the infamous Jumpin' Jack Flash and creator of Their Satanic Majesties Request, is to get a royal tap on the shoulder. The old guard would once have dropped dead at the thought of consorting with a man who made his name with sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. The young Jagger stood for everything the old order hated (though he has always liked country houses and the daughters of the upper classes). Nor is he a showbiz star given to good works and unpaid performances. He expects to be paid top dollar and goes to elaborate lengths to pay as little tax as he can on his vast wealth.

Honours in Tony Blair's Britain still

go to the worthy. But Mr Blair also likes to rub shoulders with popular culture. He has done his best to give new Labour street cred with fans of the old rocker. Jagger's knighthood reflects too the unstoppable rise of pop music. Downing Street and the palace know their best interests lie in singing along, even if the palace might not know the words. The result is that pop and rock stars now rival the knights and dames of the theatre in number and prominence. There is a logic here. In post-war Britain, the rock and pop music industry has been one of the genuine success stories, both in raising Britain's artistic profile and in bringing in hard cash.

But Old Rubber Lips is not very different from others picking up their gongs in the near future. He has long wanted a title. At last, he and his fans will get some satisfaction.

The Sunday Times

No boys in school means girls behaving badly

Received wisdom says girls do better in single-sex schools, but they miss out in other ways, says **Victoria Hislop**

1 **G**IRLS keep coming top of the examination league tables³⁾ and the ones who do particularly well seem to be those who are separated from boys. Surely then, any parents in their right mind will rush their daughter to the nearest girls' school, determined to keep her away from all those "underachieving" boys.

2 But should such a decision be based on league tables? If, like me, you went to a girls' school, you may have reservations about whether your A-level grades compensated for some of the less definable life skills you failed to learn. The world is a co-ed place (even if there is still an imbalance of men in top positions in industry, politics, academia and anywhere else you care to name) and I'm not sure if the central half-decade of my education helped prepare me for it.

3 And I am not alone. In a recent study by Liverpool University's Department of Education among students who had been to single-sex schools, 38 per cent said they would not send their own children to one.

4 My own grammar school was a seething mass of 800 pubescent females, with 100 or so staff – all women, but for three men, who were the objects of dozens of teenage crushes. In between bouts of concentrated work, we wasted our energies smearing the results of cookery lessons on to door handles, sneaking out to smoke or ganging up against whoever had the worst acne that week.

5 I am convinced that most of our bad behaviour happened only because there were no boys about the place. If there had been, our "showing off" might not always have needed its victims. Perhaps we would have been more wary of appearing childish or cruel.

6 Professor John Gray of Cambridge University's faculty of education, who has reviewed all the research on the pros and cons of single-sex education, says: "The apparent edge girls' schools give pupils seems to stem from

their initially superior performance when they entered these schools." He goes on to say that parents can be pretty confident that they will not be harming their daughters' academic progress by sending them to mixed schools. So, if better academic performance isn't part of the single-sex package, what is?

7 As part of its response to the growing gap between girls' and boys' results, the Department for Skills and Education set up a website on gender and achievement. It notes: "Boys are more prominent physically and verbally during classroom interaction." Strip away the jargon and this means they are better at making themselves heard, more disruptive and pushier. It's this aspect of male behaviour that girls can avoid by going to an all-girls' school.

8 If, then, in mixed schools, boys are distracting girls from their studies (even if that doesn't necessarily affect results), are there any advantages for girls in being with boys? Angela Daly, the headmistress of Cranbrook, a mixed school in Kent, is extremely positive about the benefits for girls of having boys around. "Girls tend to be a bit more thoughtful about their responses, but are very good at listening to boys, picking out wisdom." She also believes that girls are less distracted by sex than they are in a single-sex school.

9 The whole issue is like a multiple-choice paper, but one where there's more than one right answer – and it's especially difficult given that many education experts are keen to point out that there's no conclusive proof of girls being academically better off if they're separated. Professor Alan Smithers of Liverpool University says: "If parents' preference is for a co-educational school, providing it is a good school, then they should not worry."

The Daily Telegraph

noot 3

examination league tables: jaarlijkse tabellen met de examenresultaten van Engelse middelbare scholen

Cell phones in cars

“Yada, yada, yad...”

New York bans them; others will follow

POLITICIANS have not always shown much faith in the American motorist. In 1905, there was an attempt to ban windscreen wipers because it was feared they would hypnotise drivers. In 1930, an effort was made to take radios out of cars; they were disturbing and distracting. And of course there are speed limits so low that visiting Germans have to be trained how to drive below them. Now American motoring's one area of comparative *laissez faire* is under fire. On June 25th, New York state's Assembly passed a bill prohibiting motorists from using hand-held cell telephones while driving.

In fact, there is not much hard evidence linking cell phones to accidents. A study by the American Automobile Association for the University of North Carolina linked 284,000 crashes to distracted drivers; but only 1.5% of these



had anything to do with cell phones.

The new law will take effect on November 1st; violators face a \$100 fine. Talking with a headset or a speaker-phone will be permitted. So will arguing with passengers on the back seat while changing the radio station, adjusting the climate controls, applying lipstick, having a shave or munching a hamburger.

The Economist

Tekst 9

Dream pub or first novel the facts behind those fantasies

The rural B&B

The fantasy: A guest house somewhere in the hills.

The facts: The English Tourism Council talks of this being the 'dream business', although as the ETC goes on to say, the failure rate of new entrants to the tourist industry is high, with one in four people selling up within three years.

Regional tourist boards offer help, with some areas (such as the West Country) being particularly well resourced.

The ETC produces a guide to the sometimes complex legal side of hotel and guest-house life. In general, the rules become much tighter if you are providing accommodation for six guests or more.

The telecottage

The fantasy: A high-tech centre in a rural area, linking your community to the information highway.

The facts: Britain has a network of more than 100 telecentres, often in small towns or rural areas. (The original 'telecottage' tag is now considered rather whimsical and the Telecottage Association calls itself simply the TCA.)

Most telecentres are launched with some element of public funding, and survival once the initial grants disappear can be a challenge. Telecentres typically provide a mixture of IT training, bureau services and small business support, with training often the most important element (sometimes helped by EU regional assistance or social funds).

The TCA's *Teleworking Handbook* (£19.95) provides a number of case studies, as well as financial projections for a would-be telecentre. Call 0800-616008 for details.

Small holding

The fantasy: A healthy lifestyle producing healthy food.

The facts: According to the Soil Association (SA), current organic farmers tend to be a helpful bunch, and a visit to one or more farms is recommended.

The SA offers technical advice to members and runs seminars. Specialising may be the answer: The SA says there is currently considerable interest in producing organically grown herbs, which, it points out, can be suitable for those with limited amounts of land.

The Government's Organic Conversion Information Service helps both existing farmers and new entrants who are converting land to organic farming. Call 0117 922 7707 for an information pack. There are limited grant and consultancy schemes.

Novel

The fantasy: Writing a first novel that takes the world by storm (or, let's be realistic here, at least gets published).

The facts: literary agent Carole Blake of Blake-Friedmann quotes a survey which suggests that only one novel in 2,000 is published, adding: 'I think that's generous.' Her own agency receives between 15 and 30 unsolicited manuscripts a day, and the so-called slush-piles in publishers' offices can be enormous. HarperCollins, for example, reports 200-300 unsolicited manuscripts a week in the fiction department alone.

The publishing industry has changed dramatically in recent years, and most imprints are part of large publishing companies or conglomerates. Increasingly, publishers are using agents to

find new talent, so it can be harder for new writers to find an agent than a publisher. Agents typically take a 10 or 15 per cent cut.

Craftsperson

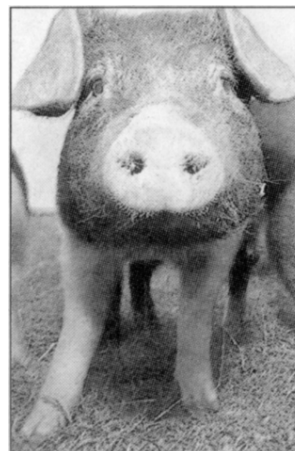
The fantasy: Selling your own hand-produced crafts

The facts: The Crafts Council reckons that about 25,000 people earn at least a part-time living as craftspeople. For most people, the financial rewards are low: typically between £10,000-£20,000, though the council knows of some craftspeople who earn more than £250,000 a year.

The Crafts Council aids the so-called contemporary crafts, including furniture making, jewellery making, ceramics, textiles, musical instrument-making, metalwork and glass. For the lucky few, those who have been working for less than two years and whose work is considered innovative and of high quality, there are small setting-up grants available. Other support may be available through regional arts boards.

The country pub

The fantasy: A traditional English local in a village.



Pigs or pints

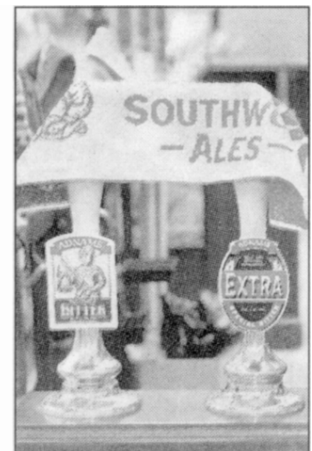
The facts: The most profitable pubs are usually run by managers employed by breweries or pub-owning companies. If you don't want to be a manager, you have three choices: a short-term tenancy (usually three years), a longer lease from a pub chain, or buying your own pub.

Tenants do not necessarily need much capital – perhaps, £10,000-£20,000. On the other hand, successful tenants risk seeing their tenancy charge reviewed upwards after three years or the imposition of a manager. Longer leases offer lessees fewer (or no) brewery ties, but more risks.

About one pub in three is owner-run. A good place to look for pubs on the market is the Monday edition of *The Licensee* magazine. Purchase price depends on the state of the building and the business.

If you buy a free house, you can borrow capital from breweries in exchange for a tie on drinks (a loan tie). Iain Loe of The Campaign for Real Ale offers a tip: tie on mass-market lager and stay free for draught beer.

The Pubcan's Handbook, edited by Ted Bruning (£15), is a useful resource.



Lonely Planet FAQ

Lonely what?

Stuff about books

Stuff about working for LP



? Lonely what?

Who are you people, anyway?

Lonely Planet publishes the world's best guidebooks for independent travellers. Our books are known worldwide for reliable, insightful, pull-no-punches travel information, maps, photos, and background historical and cultural information. We've got every continent covered (yep, Antarctica included) with an ever-increasing list of travel guides, atlases, phrasebooks and travel literature.

If you want to know how Lonely Planet got started all those years ago, check out our potted history.

Seen us on TV?

Lonely Planet's guidebooks have been brought to the box by Pilot Productions. These award-winning TV shows, inspired by the joy of independent travel, take an honest look at the most exciting, picturesque and frustrating places in the world. Your hosts, Ian Wright, Justine Shapiro (and others), aren't anthropological experts but engaging storytellers who become fellow travelling companions as you share in their adventures and mishaps.

? Stuff about books



Who are your authors?

Lonely Planet authors are seasoned and enthusiastic travellers with an eye for useful and interesting information and quirky titbits in the destinations they cover. Rather than trying to lead travellers by the hand, Lonely Planet authors recognise that a large part of being on the move is making your own discoveries. With this in mind, authors gather accurate information to make the practical aspects of a journey run smoother, and historical and cultural background to enrich the travelling experience.

Most of our 200 or so authors work on a contract basis: they are based all over the world and tend to spend a large proportion of each year on the road. It's also Lonely Planet policy to give in-house staff members the opportunity to work as an author. Some 'jump the fence' and never hop back over; most go back to their regular work as a salaried gump.

How do books get updated?

Most of our guides are updated on a two-yearly cycle, with updated information incorporated in reprints through the life of an edition and on our web updates. For each new addition, our authors travel to all the places mentioned in the guide, verifying and updating existing information and scouring the scene for new attractions, happening spots, and hangouts. Authors also take photos and update the maps.

No, they don't stay in every hotel mentioned, because that would mean spending a couple of months in each medium-sized city and, no, they don't eat at every restaurant because that would mean stretching the belt beyond its capacity. Many of our authors work 'undercover', others aren't so secretive: none of them accept freebies in exchange for a write-up.

How can I find out when a new edition is coming out?

Check out what's [Hot Off the Press](#). If you can't see what you're looking for, share in the shipping news by mailing our [sales department](#).

Where can I buy your books?

Try your local bookshop. If you can't see what you want on the shelf, they'll usually be able to order the book in for you. If you don't know where to start looking, check our worldwide list of [distributors](#). If you prefer to order on-line, our [Propaganda](#) department will happily take your money.

? Stuff about working for LP



How do I get to be an author?

Lots of people would like to write or update books for LP but we aren't in the habit of picking travellers at random and handing out air tickets and expense accounts.

We choose our authors in a few ways. Either they've come up with a wonderful (and new) idea and convinced us that they are the best person in the world to write a book about it. We begin by not believing them and ask for a sample chapter before we encourage them to go any further. We have never had a publishable book simply arrive on our doorstep.

Openings for new authors are few and far between. Where we have taken on somebody new, they're an experienced traveller who also has skills or experience in travel writing, research, photography and relevant specialist knowledge of a country or region.

If you think you fit the bill, [let us know](#)! Give us as much detail as possible - declarations that you're the best person for the job aren't going to cut the custard unless they're accompanied by top writing, a banger of a CV and some sparky ideas.

Do you want to see these amazing slides of my trip?

Usually we're able to rely on authors, in-house sources and slide libraries to get the images we need for our books and the website. In very exceptional cases, we accept uncommissioned pix, so if you're the only person who's captured the spotty-faced burger parrot in full flight, it might be worth letting us know. [Send us](#) a list of the subjects you have high-quality slides of and we'll add your details to a database.

If you're convinced we'll want to see your snaps, send dupes or slides you don't want returned to Embarcadero West, 150 Linden St, Oakland, CA 94607, USA (for anything to do with the Americas) or to PO Box 617 Hawthorn VIC 3122, Australia (for the rest of the world).

What goes on in the LP offices?

Lonely Planet's head office is in [Melbourne](#), Australia, where about 130 people work in a partitioned playground. Most of the wage slaves are either editors or cartographers; the rest are sales and admin staff, warehouse crew, publicity pretties, designers, managers and mascots. We've also got a small production team, and a sales, distribution and publicity crank in [London](#) (about 15 people), a Paris office which handles our French translations (another 10) and a crew of about 50 in [Oakland](#), California, which takes care of all books for the Americas.

If you want to know how Lonely Planet got started all those years ago, check out our [potted history](#).



Einde