



Voorbereidend  
Wetenschappelijk  
Onderwijs

Tijdvak 2  
Woensdag 21 juni  
13.30 – 16.00 uur

Tekstboekje

## Glyndebourne acts to put plebeian bargain-hunters in their place

by Claudia Pritchard

GLYNDEBOURNE can only take so much. Britain's premier opera festival felt it had done its bit for less affluent music-lovers by allowing them to buy standing places for a mere £10, a bagatelle compared with top prices of £110 in the stalls.

But some of those rather vulgar opera fans have gone too far for the refined sensibilities of the festival's organisers. Previously they had arrived at dawn to queue for tickets.

This year they camped over-

night. Worse still, they brought hot-water bottles and camping stoves and sent the smell of bacon wafting across the opera house gardens.

Now Glyndebourne has banned the queues altogether. Box office manager James Clark has written to the thrifty opera-lovers and told them that from next year allocation of standing places, as for conventional seats, will be by postal ballot. No standing places are likely to be left by the time the box office opens to the public.

But devotees who have queued every year claim they are being turfed out because

they are too much trouble. Carolyn Oldham, a teacher from Mayfield, East Sussex, said: 'I'm less likely to get tickets under the new system.' Sue Cook, a single parent from Tunbridge Wells, said: 'Coming to Glyndebourne with friends has only been possible for me since the £10 places were introduced. Now dedicated opera-lovers will get left behind.'

But James Clark does not agree. 'We've had many letters from people who cannot get here to queue,' he said. 'This isn't a question of disadvantaging people; it's improving accessibility.'

*The Observer*, July 5, 1998

## The Last Days Of Disco <sup>(15)</sup>

*Directed by Whit Stillman*

*Starring Kate Beckinsale, Chloe Sevigny, Chris Eigeman*

- Anyone expecting a reprise of Boogie Nights's unbridled, coke-hoovering hedonism, forget it. Stillman's primary interest here, as in his previous film
- 5 Metropolitan, is social not sexual intercourse and he seems less bothered about recreating a vibrantly authentic vision of the '80s disco era than providing a cursory backdrop for what he does best:
- 10 conversation, character and their many telltale nuances. Set in and around what purports to be (but actually looks nothing like) New York's hippest disco, the action follows two wannabe publishers – chic,
- 15 uppity, ambitious Beckinsale and demure, unassuming, likeable Sevigny – as they indulge a sad-sack clique of yuppie types



Kate Beckinsale: no "ferocious pairing off" for her.

- in endless volleys of knowing badinage extolling the virtues of group social life over what they call "ferocious pairing off".
- 20 The intelligently crafted dialogue sparkles like a mirrored disco ball – humorously ironic, coolly self-conscious, and, when set against the spangly superficiality of the club scene, nicely absurd – but atmosphere, dynamism and even emotion are
- 25 conspicuously absent. Whatever mood there is owes much to a lively soundtrack and whatever humanity you find radiates from Sevigny, the warmest thing in an
- 30 amusing yet unusually cold, strangely stilted film. ★★★

*Trevor Lewis*

*'Q', October 1998*

## BUSINESS

## Man-made recipe for better health

## WORKPLACE

PETER BAKER

**I**F YOU are a man, going to work might soon feel like a visit to the doctor. Although you are unlikely to go home clutching a prescription, you could find yourself bombarded with health information designed to reduce developing heart disease or cancer.

Because men are at high risk of ill-health, you are liable to be shown videos, handed leaflets or herded into seminars, so you can learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. M25 construction workers, Whitby refuse collectors, Derbyshire Peak park rangers, passport agency staff and Army soldiers are among those already exposed to this new 3.

If you work in Dorset, you could join the latest scheme, Keeping It Up, launched this month by Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust. This operates like a mini-football league, but the teams gain points if their members lose body fat and therefore reduce risk of heart attack. The league includes organisations such as BP, Eldridge Pope brewery, a further education college and several local councils.

To take part, you have to be male, middle-aged and overweight, a key group for heart disease prevention. Team members meet with a tutor at the workplace for an hour to learn about diet, exercise and stress management. At the end of the six-month season, the team that has 4 wins a trophy: the Keeping It Up Challenge Cup.

Colin Dean, 57, chief road safety officer for Dorset County Council, took part in Keeping It Up's pilot project. 'I'm an 5 local government officer', he says. 'My work is about sitting down and my lifestyle led me to being unfit. I knew what a healthy lifestyle was but lacked the

discipline to put it into practice.'

The project motivated Dean to follow a daily 20-minute exercise routine: he felt his muscles tighten, his joints become more flexible and his stamina improve. He also started to eat more fruit and vegetables and cut back on high-fat foods. 'I lost weight and felt fitter than I had done in years,' he says. 'The scheme worked better for me than joining a local gym and pumping iron or other exercise classes I'd tried and dropped out of, 6 I wasn't fit enough to keep up.'

David Wilkins, health promotion co-ordinator for Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust, says: 'We recognised that if we were going to tackle heart disease effectively, we had to find a new way to reach men over 40, traditionally a very difficult group to work with.'

### You have to be male, middle-aged and overweight, a key group for heart disease prevention

Men are often reluctant to take their health seriously, and tend to regard healthy eating or keeping fit as women's issues, but they do see 7 as much more important and appropriate.'

In the pilot project, three-quarters of the 70 men taking part lost weight while the individual winner shed a clodusting one and a half stone.

Initiatives like Keeping It Up go a long way beyond the traditional approach to health and safety in the workplace. Although the Health Education Authority (HEA) has been encouraging broader workplace health promotion programmes since the mid-Eighties, aiming some specifically at men is 8.

'In health promotion, we're becoming more aware of the differences between men and women and our initiatives are now much 9,' says Katie Aston, manager for men's health programmes at the HEA.

Given men's traditional resistance, she also believes it makes sense to take health promotion messages to 10 since men there are essentially 'a captive audience'.

If you do not end up in a body fat competition, you could learn more about cancer. This summer, North Derbyshire health promotion service is planning the national launch of its 20-minute video for men, Clued Up About Cancer. Since research shows that men tend to prefer a 'blokey' approach to 11, the video uses real characters and humour to get its message across.

In pilot showings, men have confounded stereotype: group discussions following the videos have lasted up to two and a half hours.

These initiatives can work only with the co-operation of employers. They require time, space and, in the case of the Dorset scheme, a financial commitment. 'There needs to be 12 within companies and those firms that are keen on health and safety are much more likely to take part,' says Sandra Jonson, assistant director of health promotion in North Derbyshire. 'They realise that taking care of their employees in a wider sense makes sound business logic'.

The introduction of men's health initiatives in the workplace inevitably excludes those who are unemployed, working from home or for employers unable or unwilling to participate. 13, it sits uneasily with recent unhealthy developments like the ever-lengthening working week which increases stress and reduces the amount of time men have for exercise.

With too many men still exhibiting a Rambo-like disregard for their own health, it is surely worth investing in any scheme that helps at least some of them reduce their risk of disease.

*'The Observer', April 20, 1997*

# Why the Bell Curve peals for all racist Americans

## OPINION

**Richard Cohen**

I'm trying to remember the first time I learned that Asians have higher IQs than whites and blacks have the lowest of all. I think I was in college. I certainly knew these facts by 1989 when Richard J. Herrnstein published a now-famous article on the subject in the Atlantic magazine. Other articles followed, many of them in quarterlies which do not have anything like mass circulation. Why then the big to-do about *The Bell Curve*, Herrnstein and Charles Murray's new book on the subject?

I'll answer the question in a moment, but first some detail on how big a to-do I'm talking about. The New Republic devoted its cover and 14 commentaries to the book. The Wall Street Journal reprinted excerpts of the Murray-Herrnstein book on its editorial page. Newsweek did a cover story and the New York Times Book Review dedicated its first page to three books on the general subject of intelligence, one of them *The Bell Curve*. For all that, though, I am underwhelmed.

It's not that I can dispute *The Bell Curve*. I can, however, ask why this data matters any. So what if, on the average, the IQs of blacks are lower than those of whites? What does that tell you about the individual black or white person standing before you? Is he Ralph Ellison, a genius, or is he John Wayne Bobbitt? Jews, too, score very high. Yet I know some (some of my best friends are Jews) who have the mental acuity of a mud wall.

The big to-do – I am about to answer my question – has little to do with science and everything to do with, for want of a better word, politics. The data conforms very nicely with the politics of those who would junk affirmative action and all sorts of social programs, including welfare. They argue that giving money to the dumb poor can only mean more dumb poor. Affirmative action is nothing less than naive. These people are not culturally handicapped, they're dumb as a post, and irremediably so.

I happen to think that one of the worst things you can call a person is a racist. I have been called that myself for, among other things, labelling Louis Farrakhan an anti-Semite. I know people, some of them black, who oppose affirmative action. I know others,

some of them black, who think welfare is counter-productive. I don't think any of these people are racists – anymore than the black cab driver who will not pick up young, black males dressed in a certain way.

Both Murray and Herrnstein have been called racists. So, too, has Arthur Jensen and other scientists who have declared intelligence to be largely inherited and have found blacks, on the average, to have lower IQs than whites. Their findings, though, have been accepted by most others in their field. It would be wrong – both intellectually and politically – to suppress them. What really matters is what is done with such findings.

The worst possible outcome is that they will be used to justify an abandonment of the American underclass, both black and white.

Even before the book was published, the public was starting to lean that way. A poll by the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press recently found that 51 percent of the whites surveyed thought that equal rights have been pushed too far.

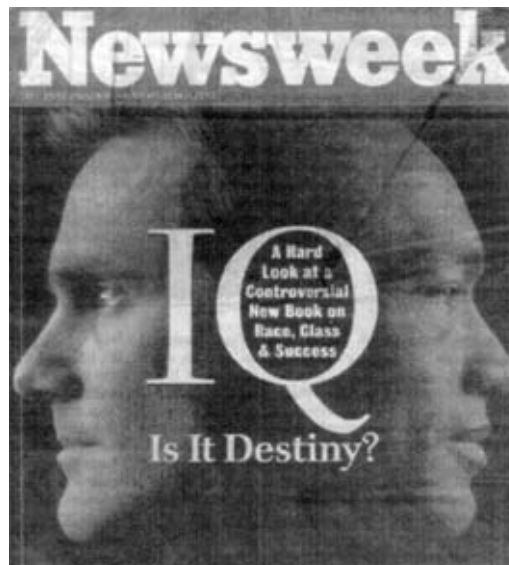
The numbers, while useful, only buttress what some of us hear in conversation. Many

whites have simply had it with a host of social programs aimed at improving the lot of African Americans.

That explains, I think, why the Murray book has been greeted with nothing less than glee in some circles. Here is a book bristling with statistics that can be used to argue that the attempt to turn the underclass into the middle class is down-right quixotic. The argument is that poverty, crime, out of wedlock births – all of these pathologies and more – are not culturally based (or not exclusively so) but genetic. Dumb behavior is the consequence of dumb people.

Scientific findings cannot, in themselves, be racist. They can, however, be employed for racist purposes. To give up on the poor – on individual after individual – because they score low as a group, would hardly change the situation any. To see a person first and foremost as a member of a group (a troubling consequence of affirmative action, I concede) is more than merely unfair. It may be the only definition of un-American with which I have no quarrel.

*'The Washington Post', October 30, 1994*



Hot topic: Newsweek's cover on the controversial issue

Joe Rogaly



# Demonstrate for freedom to save the earth

1 **P**icture a cartoon figure walking the streets and proclaiming that the end of the world is nigh. What would you do? Most of us would avert our eyes or point and smile. We should pause. The posters strung across his or her drooping shoulders may be telling the truth.

2 The human species may indeed be destined to self-destruct. In some moods we think the question is not whether our world will come to an end, but when. At least the carrier of the sandwich-board will have warned us.

3 That is why we should hesitate before kicking Greenpeace. True, this sometimes irritating non-governmental organisation – NGO in the jargon of the trade – has become the awkward squad of the environmental movement. Its activists may have been wrong-headed to target British Petroleum. They were certainly brave – and I am not talking about the risks inherent in seaborne activist demonstrations. For BP is dangerous. It bites back.

4 Worse, it removes its teeth first. A few days ago it sued Greenpeace for £1.4m for occupying its Stena Dee test-drilling rig in the North Sea. Hallelujah! The autumn headlines were predictable. “Big Oil vs the brave eco-warriors” perhaps? I never could compose headlines. Then BP offered an out-of-court settlement: stop harassing us and we will not bankrupt you. The action moved from the rolling seas on the front pages to the media backwaters. That is where Big Oil wants it.

5 Leave aside the dubious merits of this week’s particular case. The Stena Dee might or might not be worth fighting about. Global warming, the greenhouse effect, is a serious matter. On this I am a believer, irrevocably converted by Marga-

ret Thatcher.

6 For millions of years, the former prime minister reminded me once, the population of the world was under 1bn. “We had all the carbon fixed down in the earth as coal, oil, peat, gas,” she went on. Then the *coup the* *grâce*. “We have now gone up... to nearly 6bn over a matter of about 150 years, and all of the carbon that has been down there for millions of years is in a matter of decades being put up there.” Her hands fluttered skywards. She was in office at the time. She might have done more about it.

7 75 What is the likely effect of so heavy an injection of carbon dioxide into the air? Adverse. The mountain of scientific opinion accumulates on paper and on-line. If Greenpeace ever ends up in court we might witness the clash of business vs NGO and try to work out who is right.

8 That would, however, be an unscientific process. Both sides could win, and both might lose. That is what happened when McDonald’s accused of damaging the environment, sued for libel, although its adversary was a few penniless individuals, not an organisation. The company won, but can we say that its image is what it was?

9 95 This is an outcome that some of us can bear with equanimity. In a democracy there should be room for direct-action campaigns, if only to stimulate media or parliamentary debate. Future disturbances are likely to inconvenience corporations rather than governments, because it is the private sector that usually has the most direct influence on what happens to us.

10 Seen this way, Greenpeace is no worse, and no more wrong, than was the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament during the Cold War. It tried to influence or topple governments, a suitable

strategy at the time.

11 The CND marchers were mistaken. They thought that humankind would blow itself up. It did not, perhaps because of the stalemate that unilateral disarmament would have broken.

12 120 But others who engaged in street theatre to further a cause have been proved right. The suffragettes are one example, the tree-huggers who tried to obstruct the building of a highway around Newbury in Berkshire another. The battle of Newbury was lost. The Salisbury by-pass in nearby Wiltshire was cancelled. You never can foretell the long-term effect of any demonstration.

13 Prudent corporations realise this. That is why they are hiring cunning advisers to plan their defences. Counter-demonstration consultants have begun to send in calling-cards, offering presentations on how to respond to NGO campaigns.

14 This boils down to three possibilities: bamboozle the media, or go to court, or use a judicious mix of both.

15 145 Hassled by animal rights demonstrations? Try the anti-stalking law. Roads protests? Look to the legislation on secondary picketing. In the US, 14 states have adopted “food disparagement” acts, which bar negative comments about perishable comestibles. These bans amount to a protection racket for farmers and commodity merchants, following the powerful anti-green alliance between loggers and right-wing congressmen.

16 It is curious that such a curtailment of free speech is acceptable to so many Americans. We may regard this as yet another indication of the change in the balance of power between elected representative institutions and free-ranging capitalist organisations. Now, where did I put that sandwich-board?

‘Financial Times’, August 23, 1997



# It's good to talk

## GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

Robin Dunbar

Faber & Faber, £15.99

MAREK KOHN

1 James Burke, that irrepressible Guru of Glib, pops up this month in a corporate computer magazine asserting that language evolved so that early humans could tell each other how to make  
5 stone tools. The idea that there is a direct line of descent from Man's first utterances to computer manuals is only a new take on an elderly theory, though. Darwin himself speculated that the expansion of the brain in early humans had proceeded in  
10 conjunction with the shift to an upright stance, which had freed the hands to hold tools. His successors generally assumed the hands to be male, and the tools to be for hunting.

2 Since the 1970s, however, tool use has fallen from  
15 favour as the privileged focus of human evolution. In 1978, Mary Leakey discovered a set of footprints in volcanic ash at Laetoli, in Tanzania. The tracks had been left by *Australopithecines*, the creatures from which the human lineage arose. 9  
20 They had walked upright, yet they had brains of similar size to those of chimpanzees, and a similarly rudimentary capacity for tool use. Whatever had caused apes to stand up on their hind limbs, it was not the urge to wield tools.

3 25 Meanwhile, the 1970s and 1980s saw feminist scholars give "Man the Hunter" a drubbing from which he is unlikely to recover. Nowadays, females are not only recognised as essential to the evolution of what makes us human, but are seen as  
30 prime movers in that process. For Robin Dunbar, they were the driving force behind language, which they developed to bind their societies together. Gossip, he argues, is not idle; it is the thread with which the social fabric is woven.

4 35 Dunbar has an absorbing story to tell, and he tells it attractively, striking a happy balance between the theoretical and the popular. It is based on his discovery that the size of the neocortex of a mammal's brain – the evolutionarily newer area,  
40 and a bigger proportion of the brain in humans than any other species – is related to the size of the group in which it lives. Dunbar's findings lend support to the newer view of human abilities as driven by social pressures.

5 45 Dunbar reasons that primates had evolved their extra "thinking" layers of brain in order to function better within groups. They became able to develop their sense of who was who, who was related to whom, who owed what to whom; their ability to  
50 do so depended on their neocortex size, which determined the size of their social groups.

6 The most important activity primates undertake to maintain relations is grooming, performed according to the closeness of relationships between individuals. This takes up to a fifth of their time, which appears to be as much as they can spare while maintaining the other essential functions of life. The size of grooming cliques correlates with the size of the neocortex, and of the group as a  
60 whole.

Dunbar saw this finding as support for the so-called Machiavellian theory of intelligence: that it evolved to permit individuals to manipulate each other. The purpose of extra neocortex was to  
65 strengthen coalitions within groups, giving individuals a better chance of coping among large numbers of their fellows.

The theory predicts that, going on neo-cortical size, humans ought to live in groups of about 150. 70 And so they do, Dunbar argues: within larger societies, groups of around 150 are a persistent feature, from clans to companies of soldiers.

It also predicts that modern humans ought to spend about 40 per cent of their time grooming  
75 each other. Agreeable as this might be, it is not practical. Language therefore arose among the earliest modern humans as a sort of transcendent grooming, by which social interaction could be enhanced. About two-thirds of the time spent in conversations is devoted to what could be classified as gossip. Our favourite topic is not the weather, but who's done what with whom.

In order for language to realise its potential, Dunbar suggests, special mental devices came into being that greatly enhanced humans' abilities to comprehend the mental life of others. Whereas a baboon may be able to keep track of who has done what with whom, a person can also imagine what they were thinking.

85 The use made of such insights may often fit the Machiavellian bill. But the very same applications may also be viewed as essentially cooperative if they cement coalitions. It would be nice to see a vision of language as women's first great invention, designed to promote social cohesion, forming the basis of a new research endeavour. That might ask how, if women first made language, they subsequently lost it to men.

*'New Statesman & Society', March 22, 1996*

The Warrior's Honour:  
Ethnic War and the Modern  
Conscience  
by Michael Ignatieff  
Chatto £10.99 pp207

Tim Kelsey

- 1 In June 1859, Jean-Henri Dunant, a wealthy Genevan, watched the armies of France and Austria slaughter each other at Solferino in northern Italy. Afterwards, he rode into the village of Castiglione to find thousands of men from both sides dying untended. In his white linen suit, he tried to give them help. But, ignorant of medicine, all he could do was pass cigars among the wounded to clear the fetid air.
- 2 Dunant later wrote a book that scandalised Europe with its powerful descriptions of local nurses tending to the wounded soldiers, abandoned by their armies. Dunant went on to found the International Committee of the Red Cross as an organisation of neutral volunteers, believing that other people's wars are a matter of moral concern to us all.
- 3 Michael Ignatieff, in this collection of essays, describes Dunant as a "battlefield tourist" – just as he himself is, venturing across the harrowing and brutal landscape of modern conflict in search of moral truths. Like Dunant, the American writer confronts some harsh realities: war is horror. Is there anything we can do about it? In *The*

## Battlefield tourism

*Warrior's Honour*, he addresses one of the central issues of our time. He does so with immense intellectual and literary skill.

- 4 Dunant would not recognise the kind of war that Ignatieff describes – the genocides in Rwanda, the concentration camps of former Yugoslavia, the desolation of Kabul. This is the century of the war-crime. This is the age of war that is no longer fought to defeat an enemy, but to terrorise, deport and exterminate. But the Red Cross is out there, trying to ensure that the wounded receive medical treatment, and that prisoners of war are not mistreated. Along with relief workers, UN peacekeepers and reporters, they are what Ignatieff calls the "moral interventionists".
- 5 Television pictures of famine and war have brought home to ordinary people in the West this awareness of obligation during the past decade, provoking an unprecedented popular demand for something to be done. This, Ignatieff says, was the beginning of a new order: the age of humanitarianism.
- 6 But when the West intervenes in other people's wars, it is in danger of wasting its time. Or – worse – actually making conflicts deepen. We want something to be done, but often, it seems,

nothing can be done. Ignatieff travels with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former UN secretary-general, on his way to the site of a massacre in Rwanda. At the same time, Srebrenica in Bosnia has fallen into Serb hands, and all the Muslim men have been rounded up. Srebrenica was a UN safe haven, and its collapse is a real symbol of western impotence. Boutros Ghali is a long-time student of the human condition. "Everywhere we work, we are struggling against the culture of death," he says.

- 7 Ignatieff earnestly believes that we are not inevitably doomed to war. "The idea that different races and ethnic groups can co-exist in peace and even good will is not a hopeless illusion," he insists. But that hope is a long way from the reality of Afghanistan, where the war shows no signs of ceasing. Ignatieff has never seen a city so desolated as Kabul, which he describes as the "Dresden of post-cold-war conflict". In the ruins, he finds a Red Cross office with reproduction Vermeers and Matisse on the walls, shatterproof plastic in the windows and a view of the rubble obscured by sandbags. He sits in this room, in the very heart of darkness, and concludes, philosophically: "What could be more human than war?"

'The Sunday Times',  
February 22, 1998



**Manager's maxim**  
by Mervyn Pedelty,  
chief executive,  
Co-operative Bank

One of the most frustrating aspects of leading a large organisation is trying to establish how staff at the various levels within the company actually feel.

Many people tell you what they think you want to hear, rather than what they actually believe. Many more do not tell you anything at all. Experience has taught me never to underestimate the importance of effective internal communication.

This may be stating the obvious, but many managers fail to understand how critically important this is and, as a result, do not give sufficient resources or commitment to this vital aspect of the health of their business.

One should never assume that a message delivered has been heard *and* understood by the recipient. The best managers check exhaustively for understanding and encourage feedback and open dialogue at all levels and at every opportunity.

This not only facilitates a more effective and open organisation, but also leads to a more motivated and empowered workforce. For customer-focused organisations this is a critical success factor. Without it, the best strategies will never be properly implemented.

*'The Observer', July 5, 1998*

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