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NOT SO F.A.Q.

HOW MANY POLITICIANS DOES IT TAKE TO RUN ONE COUNTRY? HOW MANY DOES IT TAKE TO RUIN IT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE VOTING FOR? HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

EDITORIAL

SILICON TEETS

ybody can do a better job than the ones actually doing it, and they'l share their views with you in a lou and obnoxious manner. We will pitcl in to this utterly hollow and devalua ed dialogue, with the only differen peing the fact that we won't stoop to the level of name-calling, except for a few justified exceptions. You see ve don't think that politicians or even party politics are the main factors in lefining the state of our modern denocracy. If we consider our democray as sick & diseased, then our poli icians and their policies are but the ad symptoms of this disease. They are the cold sores & genital warts of he democratic process, the Bubonic Plague of Belgian Politics. But in o ler to cure this nauseating disease, you need to do more than just pop he repulsive, pus-filled buboes that nfest the body. You need to draw out the root of the illness, and in this case hat root is the very nature of our poitical system. Our country's govern nent is cancerous to the core; it's sickening tumor that threatens the existence of this nation that's already on life support, sickly wheezing with every draw of smog-filled breath. The ime has come to either cure this paient or pull the plug. We're not saying vhich way to go; we're just saying it's me to choo<mark>se. Becau</mark>se not withtanding our Belgium's great health care services<mark>, there's just no liv</mark>ing on the verge of <mark>a fatal cardiac arres</mark>t

oower term<mark>s, even we don't b</mark>elieve that all po<mark>liticians are money</mark> laun lering wh<mark>ite-collar con artist</mark> scum bags who are only interested in their wn pers<mark>onal gain. That wo</mark>uld iust be plain stupid. Of course there are some tr<mark>uly inspired and e</mark>ngaging people trying to make things move but we don't have the time or printing space to fully nuance the following statem<mark>ents and successf</mark>ully spar everyo<mark>ne's feelings. Bes</mark>ides, wi he in<mark>formation overkill w</mark>e mentic ed in the first issue of POSTRmag <mark>ine, who the hell is goi</mark>ng to rea<mark>d</mark> <mark>o-page document that a</mark>pologeti<mark>c</mark>

<mark>y explains every little</mark> oversimp<mark>l</mark> ation and/or gross generalization ? So to those offended: we sugg <mark>u grow a thicker ski</mark>n and a pa<mark>ir</mark> veballs, the facts are still way m f<mark>ensive to human d</mark>ecency and tel<mark>ligence than the on</mark>es commen<mark>ti</mark> er crude t

<mark>oice of words or g</mark>eneral demea<mark>n</mark>

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY: MUCH ADO OVER NOTHING.

nem) collect some of Belgium's hef

In light of the upcoming elections, promising to finally take care of one talking about politics is the inevioverly media-milked topic or other, table thing to do. But being who we which leads to a further fragmentaare, we're not going to roll over and tion of the political landscape and beg for bits of human interest or populist barstool banter like the other programs all differ just enough to rule nedia watchdogs, who nowadays out the chance of compromise, partly how more resemblance with your because they all made a campaign grandma's fuzzy pooch than the viout of not giving in to each other this gilant, teeth-baring rottweiler of the stime around, not even an inch. And so, good old days. No, instead of being a nothing ever really happens anyway. apdog PR-agency to our camera-hor-

y politicians, we will give you our hi-What does this all mean, you might hly personal opinion on the current ask? Well, we get the ever-growing tate of affairs. Which may not be the mpression that party politics have rofessional thing to do, but screw it, ecome a commodity in Belgium. We t's a free country and we're not a sohave them all right, but the system alled quality newspaper (who have loesn't really need them. They have the hard news, like the "Obaromacome a facade a show that enterer") just vet. To get it out there in the ains the newsrooms and citizens, but pen: we don't think our politicians has no tangible impact except for a paleserve a new round of elections. We ralyzing effect that makes our society don't feel thev've done what it takes leaze its way forward like a slug in a to earn a re-evaluation of their per ndbox. Belgian politicians make a formance, because according to us. lav-iob out of bitching at each other and switching parties like holes in an they haven't shown us anything to orgy, while they (and there's a lot of

We hate to sound cynical, but afte tier paychecks. In the meantime, ou this 4-vear long national display of society keeps on trucking because utter incompetence, loud-mo<mark>ut</mark> of the existing infrastructure (taxes, ngerpointing and blatant ina<mark>bi</mark> ocial security...) and the executive dies that enforce it. At the same achieve *anything*, we are more lined to give our political leaders flipped finger than a renewed vote onfidence. Sorry, but we w<mark>o</mark> <mark>an</mark>ned out by bigger nations, play n<mark>at</mark> we only have to follow, b<mark>ut n</mark> rust you to tie your own sh<mark>oel</mark> fore enough other countries ha inymore, let alone run this fr<mark>ag</mark> dopted them, thus eliminating t ed excuse for a country anyw eed for a profound political debat ut right into its own divided gro <mark>ank</mark>ly, it makes us wonder w re even paying you to do. Bec <mark>can j</mark>ust as easily elect a <mark>truck</mark> rustrated and underapprec sewives, put them in parliam et them bitch and backtalk other for a few years. It might x any of the problems we have anything to <mark>say.</mark> <mark>this co</mark>untry either, but it'll su

<mark>s hell be</mark> cheaper, and maybe for A HISTORY OF NONice, all of Brussels will be properly EXISTENCE

cuumed and swept by the end of (not just the fancy parts One might ask why Belgium has bewhere we keep our politicians and come such a cesspool of evolutionary However, even considenertia. The answer lies, as with all ring our politicians' meek, bendable matters of such structural nature. nes and revolting displays of des- the course of history that preced ism, the absolute absence of proour current political predicamer gress we've been seeing for the past Belgium, as a country, is the physiovears is a rare phenomenon. It's al- logical result of twenty centuries of nost like the very nature of our politivarious bigger nations fighting over <mark>cal syst</mark>em has made it impossible to 👘 a patch of land. First, Julius Caesar <mark>chieve</mark> anything at all. wrote that the Belgians were the bra-

Our political sys-<mark>te</mark>m now solely exists to perpetuate the turning of its own square wheels.

tion thanks to the richness in natural sources such as metals and coal, hile the Flemish region remained poverished. However, times chan ged and the heavy industry in the French-speaking regions collapsed while Flanders had an economic ost: it had largely missed the first lustrial revolution, but was fit to receive the second generation of industry and technology. Revived, it

w had to take economic care of the pidly declining Wallonia. To this day, this evolution has remained a sore point in communal politics, alnost tearing the country in half seve ral times over the course of its short and pitiful history. The extensively tretched point that we're trying to make, is that Belgium is not really a country. It is an illusion with borders. built out of a history of quarrels over oney, land, religion and language and a plethora¹ of good intentions turned sour. Practically every foreign nation involved has ruled it for longer than it has ruled itself, and we can't say for sure if our own politicians are oing a better job at it.

When you have to call in the help of e, higher entities like the USA and e EU pitch the big plays that are better politicians who led more successful govern-

This puts our politicia<mark>ns in the rat</mark> ments in the omfortable positi<mark>on of not havi</mark> to do anything except for talk tra eighties, you're not Which they do, abundantly. Thus, are diagnosed with the most con **a**do<mark>ing a very</mark> good mon disease of modern democrac everybody is talking, but nobody ha lio<mark>b</mark>.

CUE DEUS EX MACHINA

<mark>t (may 1</mark>5th 2009) we're the third government in four ea<mark>rs and counting,</mark> with two already having fallen thanks to the Flemish Wallonian beef. We can't really say for sure if the second one was technically a real government, but hey, it sure as hell underachieved and fell like one. ither way, when you have to call in

he help of better politicians who led ore successful governments in the <mark>ghties (CV</mark>P-moguls Wilfried Marvest of all the Gauls, an assertion he ens and Jean Luc Dehaene), you're was capable of making after successnot doing a very good job. Yves. But

THE DIRTY FOOT-NOTES OF **BELGIAN POLITICS.** GENERATIONS OF SWINE mains unsolved to this day (despite When politics are involved, society is bound to come across the lowest the confession). The story takes a draforms of human behavior imaginable natic turn on August 11, 1950, when

-1,000

Belgium is no exception to this rule ommunist deputy and chairman o The small European non-state drags the Belgian Communist Party Julien along an invisible burden, hidde ahaut, allegedly (the words later. in the silent margins of its short ye urned out to belong his political asscandal-strewn history. For decades ociate Henri Glineur), shouted "Vive la République" during King Baudoin's corruption scandals, shady coverups, pedophile bacchanalia and other inauguration. Seven days later an as forms of blatant power abuse hav sassin squad led by the late Francois been piling up like children's corpses oossens, rang Lahaut's doorbell i seraing and executed him with three Wallonian basements. Since its birth in 1831. Belgium has known one shots of a Colt .45. A few years later, of the highest corruption rates in Wes oossens' name was mentioned, but or some obscure reason, the investern Europe, up to par with France and even Italy, the inventors of parliamen tigators never gave suit . The polititarian bribes and backdoor politics. al villains behind the assassinatio ere never found, let alone accused o And although we assume that mos of our politicians are just trying to not convicted. But hey, earlier this year the senate approved a bill to reopen the do their job with some integrity, there is still an inner circle of crapulous investigation, so a conviction should conmen who empower and embody pop up really soon, along with thos one simple law: "It's legal as long as choppers from the Agusta-case and a few tutus from Les Ballets Roses. you don't get caught.'

BALLETS & BULLET HOLES

The political underworld never eschewed extreme violence. We need only to remember the Nivelles-gang's path of destruction and its alliances shooters were already convicted to with political circles to be left behind pewildered. During a robbery spree was also accused, poisoned himself a that lasted from 1982 to 1985, the gang brutally killed dozens of innocent

ivilians, including some pesky witesses. Some theories hypothesize hat the bloody massacres are linked vith "les Ballets Roses". These were sex parties, attended by Belgium's nigh society, including politicians, eign investors, police officials and her white collared crooks. These de uched soirées were used to black nail some of Belgium's most powerfu litical protagonists. Most of the sex aves were underage and some would

lot of Belgium's most hideo insolved cases have been dragging symptomatic for the Belgian Disease on for vears now. That is, if the files for which we would become world-re even still exist, which would be pretty owned. It was the 1970's, a venerea and decadent era, the absolute zenith stonishing in a country where you can of Belgium's age of corruption and walk right into a court house, stay over for the night and then – by the dawn the pinnacle in a dynasty of scandals.

A PERFUME OF POISON The beginning of the nineties intro uced a new wave of political lows Particularly the cold-blooded assas nation of André Cools, a Belgian minister and the godfather of Walloon socialists, hinted at a bigger web of eceit. When leaving his girlfriend's partment on the 18th of July in 1991. he was shot to death in authention mafia fashion. A haze of mystery sur unds the identity of the gunmen and eir motives, even though the late. great Belgian investigative reporter Walter De Bock pointed out the lead actors of this plot eleven months af er the murder. The trail led to political rcles, more specifically to the ento rage of the PS-politician Alain Van der Biest, who was André Cools' protégé and succeeded him after his death Van der Biest had a reputation of asso ating with sinister individuals, some them known affiliates of Sicilian afiosi. Among them were his private ecretary and former police officer Richard Taxquet and his driver Guiseppe Pino" Di Mauro, both of whom were ntenced to twenty years of impri sonment for their roles in the case in 2003. Earlier on in 1998, the Tunisian

twenty years. Alain Van der Biest, who few weeks before his trial date While the murder on Cools was being vestigated, several other scandals drifted to the surface, like the Agusta-Dassault case. Italian helicopter nanufacturer Agusta and French weaons manufacturer Dassault paid 110 illion Belgian francs (over 2,5 millio

euros) to the former Walloon socialist party to land a contract with the Belgian Ministry of Defense for the purchase of some Agusta A109 helicop ers. The case led to the resignatio later on commit suicide, a black page soft several ministers, including NATO's Secretary General Willy Claes

The 90's brought more intrigue with he entire display of incompetence urrounding Marc Dutroux, a case that lingers on even now: a few weeks Bienfot claimed the kiddy porn on nis harddrive was strictly there for nvestigative purposes. This is a per fect example of how Belgium is being naunted by the ghosts of its own past the skeletons in its many wood-rot fested closets. However loving the lanket thrown over our history may he it can never successfully cover the gut-wrenching stench of structu ral corruption and rotting corpse ven now, the ones who are assigned he role of watch dog to the stars, are hemselves accused of heing for sale See the Koekelberg-case for further den Jean Bultot, dancing buck-naked illustration. Personally, we have seen nough vomit-inducing statesmanship o last us a lifetime.

HOW MANY GOVERNMENTS DO WE HAVE?

WOULD YOU GO VOTE IF THEY DIDN'T MAKE YOU? ARE BLOGGERS DANGEROUS? WHO SHOT JULIEN LAHAUT? **DID YOU DANCE AT 'LES BALLETS ROSES'? DOES YOUR VOTE MATTER? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR POLITICIANS ARE AT 5' O CLOCK** IN THE MORNING? **IS DEMOCRACY REALLY THE**

BEST THING WE CAN COME UP WITH?

IF THE PARLIAMENT DOES IT, DOES THAT MAKE IT LEGAL? WHICH POLITICIAN'S PHYSICAL **APPEARANCE IMPLIES THE USE OF IBOGAINE?** WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?



AN ALTAR BOY WITH ASSAULT CODES

Pieter De Crem is a dangerous man. Not because he's the Secretary of De-<mark>fense and accordingl</mark>y also sort of the supreme commander of Belgium's elite fighting forces. Not because he gets drunk during state-sponsored trips to New York and makes an ass out of himself while representing our already ridiculous excuse for a nation halfway across the world. Not even because he's the embodiment of irony, being a Christian in charge of defense matters (turn the other cheek remember?). This man is dangerous <mark>because he went</mark> on the reco<mark>rd as</mark> saying that blogs are dangerous Yes, you read it right. Blogs. Dan



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a court of law

he had a woman fired (don't deny it, confirm nor deny the presence of n what did you think the manager of clear warheads in any base, ever. No the restaurant was going to do after a for you, ey? Never mind that a report phone call from a *Minister of Defense*, by US scientists recently declared for crap's sake) for taking up her reslo<mark>t of nuclear bases (</mark>including Kle<mark>ine</mark> ponsibility as a concerned civilian. In Brogel) as dangerously unsafe, clai conclusion, Pete added that he would ming they needed to be either revibe talking to his staff (which is like, sed or closed, you just had to shoot the army, man) to evaluate how the off your big mouth and tell everyboesteemed minister and his integrity dy that we have a couple of nuclear could be better protected from these bombs lying around in a military base sorts of vicious attacks in the future. that has been deemed unsafe by ex-Mr. De Crem, if you're reading this: perts. About the unsafe condition of th<mark>e Belgian military is not your perso-</mark> the base itself, no further statement al goon-squad, and the thing about was made. Not important. our alleged integrity is that it is so-

ething that can only be protected by So yes, Pieter De Crem is definitely

subsequently the Carolingian empire. To accurately illustrate the point When this empire disintegrated, the ve're trying to make, it may be better different provinces of Belgium fell o use a metaphor. If we view demointo the hands of the feudal lords acy (or any other political system) (totaling seven) who had been given is a device, a machine designed to orcontrol over them. anize and operate our society and to nprove the lives of its citizens, then After that, we became the summerhouse of a dynasty of Burgundian the political parties and the respecive governments (excuse the gross and Spanish kings, a gang of Catholic versimplification) can be seen as the loonies who constantly got into fights perators in control of this theoretical with the Northern Netherlands (Holnachine. In the case of the supposed land, for those of you who are getting confused) because the country was nation of Belgium, the machine has peen turned on and set into motion turning increasingly Protestant. Then small two hundred years ago, and Antwerp fell, the Northern Netheris now still running on that initial lands became what is now known as Holland and Belgium stayed Capulse. However, the machine's urpose seems to have changed witholic under Spanish rule. Then it out anyone taking notice: instead was the Austrians' turn to take over pursuing its original communitythe Spanish racket and become the ocused goals, our political system umpteenth overlords that Belgians were subjected to. All was well, until ow solely exists to perpetuate the urning of its own square wheels. in Napoleon came along and annexed ddition to providing an abundant Belgium to his Great French Empire. means of existence to the smug bas-After his escape from Alba and second defeat in Waterloo, Belgium was ards that are pushing its buttons. once again united with the Northern Netherlands into the United Nether-

THE ART OF ARRESTING DEVELOPMENT

potential future nutcases with ar-Vhy do we put up with this mindmies. Another fifteen years later, a oggling waste of resources (at least variety of reasons (economical, social, religious...) sparked the Belgian 53.000.000 yearly, people) and mplete political immobility? Be-Revolution, beginning at the Brussels ause, thanks to the efforts of better opera house (La Monnaie, De Munt) liticians living in worse days, our and ending with the inauguration of Leopold I of Saxen-Coburg, the first mfortable little society runs itself, ind because the standard of life has. king of Belgium, on July 2nd in 1832. or the majority of Belgian citizens, ri And that, as they say, was that. en to a level that eliminates the soial and individual feeding grounds Belgium is an illufor civil discontent, let alone civil disbedience. To put it bluntly: we're too sion with borders. oiled and lazy to start a revolution instead of going out and burning built out of a histodown the senate, we ventilate ou malcontent by voting for the candiry of quarrels and date who does the most convincin job at complaining about the curre a plethora of good state of aff<mark>airs, whatever that may be</mark> nd because people are never satis intentions turned and there is always somethin bitch about, there is practically

Sour party that can manage to stay in wer for more than one term, excep Well, sort of. You see, this entire his ey manage to do pretty much n tory of being the proverbial ball of thing and let others take the blame for it. Now because of the unique communal vs federal nature of Belgium's

yarn of bigger powers had eroded all (if any) sense of national identity, giving way to a more provincial state of mind. The working class people in the economically poorer Flemish regions spoke different dialects of Dutch, whereas the industrialized Walloon regions and the higher social circles spoke only French. To this day, a fa portion of the bourgeoisie (a French word for a reason) in Dutch-speaking regions tends to avoid speaking Dutch on grounds of it being a language of peasants and laborers. So, tension remain<mark>ed. The Walloon are</mark>as profited from the industrial revolu-

because they all made a campaign

probably torching whatever forest current situation is not the fault of the<mark>y lived in. Rome burned about five some politician or pa</mark>rty. It's the fault of centuries later, and different tribes our country's nature. Belgians have assumed control of different patches **Seen stepped on f**or so long, pissing of Belgium. Then in 891 AD, Arnulf of and moaning has become a national Carinthia, one of the Roman kings, port. We've made a culture out of the chose Leuven as the ideal spot for a alimero-complex. We enjoy going to he pub on Sunday to bitch and nag round of sword-swinging and axewielding with the Vikings, and we be- at each other about the price of gas,

came a part of the Merovingian and dog shit on the sidewalk and legal of illegal immigrants. But most of all, we love to complain about other people and what they're doing wrong. And come election time, the most obvious people to bitch about are politicians. It unites us as a people, and dissolves our communal differences. It brings us together, much in the same way we are united when our national soccer team fails to qualify for any big tournament, or when our candidate doesn't make it past the preliminary round of Eurosong. We love it when we lose. It has become a social defense system against our history of being Europe's doormat, and it makes the ideal pretext for not having to achieve anything ever. So our politi cians are actually doing a great job by doing the worst job ever. Never before have we Belgians been so united in our dissatisfaction than now Never before have we so openly and openheartedly enjoyed the virtues of hollow debating, linguistic antagonism and widespread social detachment with the public. It's just wonder ful, apart from the slithering political parasites and general atmosphere of fear and loathing.

> If you ask us, there's no viable way of unraveling this clusterfuck of a politi cal landscape except for a revolution. Face it, this circus just isn't going anywhere, and standing still is the same as falling behind. Maybe if we could find it in our small, bitter, cynical hearts to just drop the language thing and get on with our lives, some progress could be made. But lets not kid ourselves, there are too many political careers being made out of this issue. They'll never drop it. So there's only one way out. Ditch the politicians and revolt. Burn the system down and let it sizzle. Get rid of half of the governmental levels we have now and strip this bulky gray hump of a political system down to something sleek

and aerodynamic that's fit to handle the fast-changing flow of the 21st century. Now there's no need for any defenestrating² quite yet, but we can sure as hell think of a few politicos who would deserve a public flagellation³ on La Grande Place in Brussels. Mail us your favorites and runnerups, we'll tell you when and where to show up with a basket of rotten eggs.

or grave excess. nestration is the one or something out of a windo rically, the word def ed to refer to an act of political dissent. llation or flogging is the act ils and the sja osed on a

YOU READ IT IGHT, THE POSTRBOYS VOLUTION ARE BECAUSE OF DEMOCRAC PROP S NO USE IN NOT ON OTS ANS. HO POLICIES MA

umored attendance of late Prime Miout whistling (something a Belgiar TV-crew managed to do not quite so nister Paul Vanden Boevnants and cur long ago). Either way, a conclusion to rent king Albert II, was never proved. these mysterious cases is absolutely However, real-estate tycoon Jaques nowhere to be found in the hornet' Fourez and his secretary Elise Dewit nest we call the Belgian justice syswere supposed to have secret video em. Instead, it takes a dying criminal footage of the Ballets Roses. Here the who mockingly uses his last breaths story intersects with that of the Nito confess and hint at a shade of truth. velles-Gang. In 1983, the Gang coincilentally, yet conveniently snuffs both

R

n Lahaut: Seven davs after Kir

in's inauauration. an assassin sau

of them during a hold-up of a Colruyt VIVE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

supermarket in Nivelles. Never-Vell. that's what the then 86-year old theless, a short video of "Les Ballets Eugène Devillé did two years ago in a Roses" surfaced on the Internets last national television broadcast. With a year. It starred notorious prison warblurred face, the old man confessed o his part in one of the most infain a pool filled with strawberry jam. mous political murder cases in our Enthralling, isn't it? tion's short history a case that re

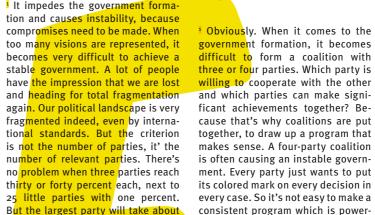
THE EXPERTS QUESTIONS:

loes a fragmented, political landscape lead to paral Is a two-party system, like the one in the US, a better system b. If you could change something about democracy, what would it be?
b. Is democracy the final evolutionary step in the progress of political system.





"People don't see "The criterion is the difference, the number of politicians can't relevant parties." explain it."



large parties to implement a po

It allows a country to form a govern-

ust think Ross Perot or Ralph Nade

We have three communities and

three regions but actually it's all

about the Flemish versus the Wal-

Conservatives and New Labour.

ficant achievements together? Because that's why coalitions are put together, to draw up a program that makes sense. A four-party coalition is often causing an instable government. Every party just wants to put its colored mark on every decision in every case. So it's not easy to make a consistent program which is powerty percent, so all the others wi ful as well ake a big chunk out of the cake. It be

Things are just running a bit more mes a problem when there are too fluently and the policy basically becomes more coherent because deci-<mark>si</mark>ons are made within the one ruling party. Every party has more or less nent with one party but almost half one ideology. But don't kid yourself. Within a political party, there's a vaof the voters are condemned to the pposition. Our governments are forriety of meanings as well. If Belgium ned with much more than half of the was running on such a system, we'd parliamentary majority. In two-party still have problems with the same issystems there's often a third party. sues. Although politicians wouldn't have this inextinguishable passion in the US elections. In the UK there's to put their party stamp on a 20 milthe Liberal Democrats next to the lion euro decision. But I don't think it's the perfect political picture ei-

ropean social climate.



Georges Timmerman

Investigative Journalist

De Morgen

"The weak point in our democracy is the failing of parliament.

In a country where none of the parties take more than twenty percent of the votes, it gets extremely difficult to form a government. Coali tions can only be made after complicated negotiations. The path that such a government has to follow, is almost inevitably vague. I'm afraid that the political confusion that exists nowadays will become even worse. I don't know if it's causing a paralysis, but it's anything but a good case. I think a new movement will arise wherein larger formations will be formed again. New cartels will regroup on the left as well as the right.

I'm not auite sure whether or not it's better. In any case it's a clearer system. Although there are only two large parties, there are a lot of small ones too. But those are small and only exist in the margins. It all depends on the regulation of the electoral devices. If you're in a system where the winner takes it all, you automatically create a kind of leverage: it gives the winner the possibility to autonomously follow up on their promises and that's not the case in our country.



political system, voters have to go to the ballot every two years: 4 years o

gerous. Flee in terror and don't turn back for your precious belongings or left-behind toddlers, our Defense secretary has declared a Blogging Threat Level 5.

According to Petey, the blogosphere is a dangerous thing because it allows anybody to just say whatever he or she wants on a public forum. Anything! About anyone or anything they feel like talking about! Without being held accountable for it! This is an outrage! Being the critical audience that we aim for, you might not take our word for it, what with this being the 21st century, and with us having had freedom of speech for quite some time now and all. Ok, then let us quote the good man himself

"I want to use this non-event to point" out a d<mark>angerous phenome</mark>non in our society<mark>. We are living in an</mark> era where everybody is completely free to post on blogs at their own whim, without any r<mark>esponsibility what</mark>soever. This even surpasses the most rabid smearing campaigns. And together with you Mr. Chairman, my other colleagues in parliament and the aovernment, I have to conclude that it is nea<mark>rly impossible to defend oneself</mark> against this sort of thing. Every one of you is a potential victim. And I ask of you that we all contemplate this mat

Wow. Dangerous. Free to post. Potential victim. Yes, god forbid a critical ci tizen speaks of a figure as public as a politician, someone who of all people has been elected by the people<mark>. Of</mark> course, this sort of talk is always the result of a tangible case. In this particular scenario (the non-event he mentioned earlier in his tirade), the anyone was a Dutch waitress working in a New York bar; and the something



she wrote about was our minister of cleverly sidetracked the matter and defense tumbling into her establishfocused instead on his own set of hurt ment of employment in a drunken feelings. Either way, in the end the woman got fired from her job after a stupor while on a government assignphone call had been made from his ment. A governmental mission to the cabinet to the B.Cafe in New York City. UN, to be exact. He was supposed to have a load of meetings with a bunch

The most amazing part of the story is of other officials about some topic or other, meetings that later turned out perhaps the round of applause that never to have taken place because befell poor Crembo after delivering half of the people who were suphis heart-felt speech to his fellow posed to be there were somewhere in members of parliament. Everyone Europe discussing something entirely different. Anyhoo, when a member

seemed to have forgotten that the man had gone on a fully paid trip to of the opposition asked him about New York when he knew (how could whether or not he knew of this mass he not know?) that the majority of Inattendance before he hopped on the meetings he was scheduled to a B-52 to the Big Apple, Mr. De Crem attend, had been cancelled, or that

new brand new



ting orders.

vou might ask? For example dangerous. He is a pathological by not being drunk out of your ass galo<mark>maniac, a Napol</mark>eonesk <mark>general</mark> when going on a non-justified, taxwho doesn't feel the need to either funded trip to New York, Goddammit, motivate or seek support for his policies. He does what he feels like, and

Another reason that the High Comthe rest of parliament and the public mander of Aalter is dangerous is need to accept his decisions, simple the fact that he doesn't always do because of the fact that he is the one what he says he will, and he doesn't who makes them. If he could, he'd always say what he's going to do. For probably answer every critical quesexample, when he sent a bunch of tion with "because I say so." If we had Belgian soldiers over to Afghanistan, a properly functioning democracy, he said they weren't going to partici- he'd be a menace to it, not only because he blatantly disregards demopate in any field operations, instead retaining a strictly a formative role by cratic principles, but also because working as advisors and instructors he's pushing our country higher and in the training of Afghani soldiers. higher on the terrorist hit list, without However, they turned out to patrolling being able to provide the military fire right alongside these soldiers during power or intelligence to deter or dia weapons raid that took place on a sarm potential attacks. A word of addusty Monday in April, in Kunduz, vice to Le Crem: quit your day job and swin<mark>ging their guns aroun</mark>d and shoura<mark>ck up your little ga</mark>ng of react<mark>ionary</mark> <mark>military thugs, take </mark>a complim<mark>entary</mark>

-52 ride to Afghanistan and become Now we're not saying that it's wrong the warlord of your own little proto take weapons from terrorists, but vince. Then you can go after who ever we do think that it's wrong when a miyou want without bearing the flag of nister of defense lies about what our a country that never gave you the detroops are doing. It seems that Pieter mocratic mandate to do what you're De Crem wants to paint a big bull'sdoing. eve on Belgium, just to show that he

won't be deterred in his mission to be-The Belgian come the Warlord of Western Europe. Really P, who are you trying to shock military is not your & awe? Those terrorists hiding in the sandy dunes and humid caves under personal goo<mark>n-</mark> Afghan soil, or the big shots from NATO and the USA who wear three squad, and the piece suits and whose favorite pastime is taking out rural settlement thing about your with 84,000\$ Sidewinder missiles? Another Crembo classic was the one alleged integrity is where he absent-mindedly admitted that the military base at Kleine that it is something Brogel had a nuclear capacity. When asked about it, he was all like 'duh that can only be of course it does, what are you, like, retarded?' when NATO has always considered it good practice to neither protected by you.

out of not giving in to each other.

> So nower shifts round the clock which leads to more political immobility because nobody ever gets the chance to get some serious work done, which leads to more throwing of mud in the media and more reasons (true or false) for disgruntlemen with voters. This in turn leads to the emergence of new political partie whose campaigns solely consist o

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE:

er De Crem is the mayor of Aalter

st like his daddy was before him. his family dynasty has led the people Aalter to rename the local city

all. It is now lovingly or grudgingl ferred to as 'The Cremlin'.

himself never actually was in the

ny. Now we can hear you thinking

didn't they have a draft back in thos

ays, and wasn't everybody suppose o serve his time in the military?

es, they <mark>did, and yes,</mark> they were. Bu

eter De Crem was granted a free ass for 'medical reasons'. We reckon e was granted a free pass because is daddy was the major, because

s far as we can see, there's nothing nat indicates that he couldn't have

ne the job. Great way to serve you ntry, Petel

eter De Crem is qui

king Minister of Defense

MILITARY

WE'RE IN, AND WE DON'T EVEN BELIEVE THAT A LOT OF THEM MEAN THAT WELL. WE WON'T PARTICIPATE IN THIS CHARADE AND AS SUCH WILL NOT CAST A VOTE. NOT BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ONE, BUT BECAUS WE DON'T WANT TO WASTE IT ON A GOVERNMENT THAVE ONE, BUT BECAUSE IT. WE WANT TO SEND A SIGNAL TO OUR POLITICATION TO DESN'T DESERVE CONCERNED CITIZEN WITH HALF A BRAIN OR MORE. STOP THE SHAM, STEP THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AND SEE THE SHALLOWNESS OF YOUR DREARY DISPUTES. IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON.

lands in 1815, to form a buffer against

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO JOIN US IN OUR QUEST AGAINST POLITICAL INCOMPETENCE: THERE IS DEFINITELY A LEGAL GROUND FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, IF WHATEVER, YOU PLAN TO DO OR NOT DO HAS A YOUR E, IF WHATEVER YOU PLAN TO DO OR NOT DO HAS A VALID TION. WE BELIEVE THAT IN OUR CASE, THERE'S MORE REFORE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THE POSTR-PARTY FOR A IEW POLITICAL SYSTEM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.POSTRMAGAZINE.COM OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK.

> IN THE TELY RGUMENT L DISOBEDIENCE. WANTS TO MAKE AN **BVERSIVE ELEMENTS THAT** E, THEN THEY THEMSELVES ARE SYSTEM. YOU SEE, THE PENALTY FOR IP ON ELECTION DAY CAN EITHER BE A NE THAT IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN €27,5 TED FROM THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE PARLIAMENT) WE FEEL THAT THIS IS A E PRICE TO (MAYBE HAVE TO) PAY FOR OUR VOLT, SO IF YOU WONDER WHERE WE'LL BE WE'LL BE HOSTING THE POSTR – GRILL THE BBQ AT THE ZUIDPARK IN GHENT. YOU BRING ON IU THE MEAT, WE BRING THE HEAT. VOTE -

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE FOR THE TASTIEST REVOLUTION EVER.

loon people. This bipolar federalism NT THAT DOESN'T DESERVE is very unique, so it must lead to unique federal characteristics. Therefore we have to let the regional and federal elections coincide. This isn't happening in any federal state in the world, but then again, Belgium is an exceptional federal country. The electoral threshold is currently set to five percent. To double it is no solution because when two parties both reach nine percent, eighteen percent

of the people are left without any parthe amount of parties would be deliamentary representation. We could sirable. Political debates involving go to a system with different kinds of eight or nine parties really become Members of Parliament. MP's elected a mess. People don't see the difin the federal constituency, in Flanference anymore, politicians can't ders, in the provincial constituency explain it and voting becomes like and even in each district constituenplaying a slot machine. If votes are cy. By combining the pure proportiogoing into so many directions, it's nality system with different forms of not sure whether these changes are the majority system, we can decrease reflected in the policy. That's why the number of political parties, which the Socialist Party - after resounisn't a goal in itself. But we have to get dingly losing the elections of 1999 could rule this country for eight more rid of a system in which we need four or five parties to form a majority. years. That just doesn't make sense.

⁴ Democracy has always been a pro-⁴ Yes, but variations are absolutely cess of continuous change, also in possible. By changing the small Belgium. The latest important change rules of the game, a democracy can was the extension of voting and - in be improved. In the Swiss democrathe other case - the attendance law cy, civilians have a direct influence for immigrants and EU-civilians. But on policy. The government has experimented with e-democracy too, we took a lot of steps before. There happened a lot in between having allowing civilians to immediately ento pay for your yot and the universal gage in the policy by the use of the right to vote for men and women. But internet. A democracy is developing I see other developments like the internally as well. It create's it's very abolishment of compulsory voting or own culture that contains certain aslowering the age to sixteen. Maybe pects that make a democracy better one day, we can all vote without leaor worse. Sometimes political parving our sofa. Or maybe we'll combine ties appeal to an external organizathe elections with referenda. I don't tion to have their electoral programs think our democracy will still look the checked in advance. The democracy same within a hundred years. Demois not changing structurally. It's a cracy is just evolving, ours as well. higher form of democracy.

her, because it isn't always corres ponding with the issues the public

I think this society needs to be opinion is dealing with. That's why more democratic instead of less. a third party is often heading up The absolute weak point in our dewith another range of ideas. To each mocracy, is the failing of the parliacountry its own system, but I don't ment. I think that the traditional dibelieve Belgium will ever evolve to vision of the different powers isn't a straight majority system with only respected anymore. And a lot of two parties. We traditionally have a political scientists - who are much variety of opinions and so have most smarter than me - share my opinion. of the Western European countries. In a pure democracy, the execu-Germany has its Liberals and Greens tive, judiciary and the legislature too. It's just the typical Western Eupowers should keep each other in balance. The legislature is the only power that is representing the vote ³ For this country, a limitation of of the people. So in fact, the parliament should be able to impose its will to the government. But exactly the opposite is happening and that should urgently be revised. It has grown to be that way and the Members of Parliament just let it happen because they're depending on their political parties and adopt the directives sent out by them. MP's should be able to operate independently. The parliament should be honorably restored and become the country's highest power. It would solve a lot of problems. If the parliament worked like it's supposed to, it could be very beneficial to the democratic process. But it doesn't, especially not if you compare Belgium with a lot of other democracies. This has to do with particracy, which is making the MP's dependent on the decisions of their party. They just

> ⁴ I really can't say what comes after democracy in the theory of evolution. I just hope democracies will continue to develop. All over the world, dictatorial regimes have to make way for democratic regimes. I think this tendency will continue in the next couple of decades. Well at least, I hope so.

party brass.

have to dance to the tune of their