

## Tekst 3

### Do you have to be pretty to be in Parliament?

WITH HIS hooded, falcon eyes, sensuous lips and unruly curls, wrote our television critic Allison Pearson a fortnight ago, the Italian footballer Paolo Maldini 'is clearly the love child of Sophia Loren and a Bellini angel'. 8 would say the same of Sir George Gardiner, readopted last Friday as Conservative candidate for Reigate. Various compared to a bloodhound disappointed in love and to Dracula left out in the rain, Sir George, by his own admission, is no Adonis. As he sorrowfully observed of the campaign against him, it is not his fault he was born ugly.

It is no use pretending that looks do not matter in 9. Robin Cook would have had a better chance of beating Tony Blair to the Labour leadership had he looked more like Pierce Brosnan – or even, perhaps, a bit more like Tony Blair. It is 10 that in presidential elections in the US, the taller of the candidates almost always emerges as the winner.

And yet, in the case of Sir George, there is reason to think that the exploitation of his ugliness was 11. He is, by general consent, his party's slyest conspirator. By spreading around the thought that he might be paying the price for the looks his maker gave him, he no doubt hoped to distract attention from the rest of his critics' agenda: his opposition to the Maastricht treaty, his inconstant loyalty to John Major, his support for Major's opponent Redwood a year ago when his local party backed Major.

Good looks may boost a Commons career, but the lack of them is not 12, as visitors to the Houses of Parliament can confirm for themselves any day. There are many other Tory MPs whom you would never see on a catwalk and yet whom local parties happily readopt, election after election. Even poor old Sir George is not so ill-favoured as he wanted us to believe. Few may warm to a Dracula left out in the rain. But what better to 13 than the soulful eyes and the droopy skin of a bloodhound's head?

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*Kies bij iedere open plek in de tekst het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.*

1p **8** ■

- A Few people
- B Ms Pearson
- C The British public
- D The Labour Party

1p **9** ■

- A art
- B life
- C politics
- D the media

1p **10** ■

- A a typically American phenomenon
- B difficult for many people to accept
- C hardly a coincidence
- D often a surprise

1p **11** ■

- A a clever trick
- B a personal tragedy
- C one big mistake
- D widely accepted

1p **12** ■

- A a disqualification
- B a matter of course
- C an advantage
- D an excuse

1p **13** ■

- A appeal to one's colleagues
- B gain the sympathy vote
- C get the public laughing
- D mask one's incompetence