

Tekst 7

See the couple in the bar? That's Mr and Mrs Copper

There is something deeply sinister about the latest tactic dreamt up by the Avon and Somerset police for catching drink drivers. Six undercover officers, three male and three female, have been trained to mingle with drinkers in country pubs, posing as courting couples. They will note how much their fellow customers are drinking. Then, they will follow their suspects into the car park, wait for them to reach for their car keys and arrest them.

"The telltale signs," said Chief Inspector Tim Harris, displaying the dazzling detective skills that have carried him to the top of his profession, "will be if someone is slurring their speech, staggering or smelling of alcohol." Brilliant, my dear Holmes!

There are many, I know, who will applaud this police initiative. We are all obliged, these days, to say that drink drivers are the enemies of humanity, who have caused untold misery and wrecked countless lives. We are not allowed to state the obvious truth that many more than 99 per cent of people who drive home from the pub with more than the legally permitted amount of alcohol in their breath or blood reach their destinations perfectly safely, without hurting anybody.

The maddening thing about this piece of political correctness is that it is so clearly justified. It really is monstrously wrong to drive while drunk, as I am ashamed to admit that I have done in my time. Almost everybody of my age (I am 51) has had



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friends, or friends of friends, who have been killed by drivers the worse for drink. The risk of causing all that misery is just not worth taking.

It is a huge leap, however, from acknowledging that something is obviously wrong, to saying that any means of preventing it from happening are therefore OK. Avon and Somerset police seem to have made that leap, without a thought about its implications.

Most Britons, I reckon, will instinctively have found something creepy about the idea of secret policemen spying on them in the pub. If Avon and Somerset police really want to discourage people from drinking and driving, they should hang around in the pub 34.

However, they would argue, presumably, that it is more effective to go undercover, since by this means only half a dozen officers will be able to spread unease throughout two entire counties. Nobody will know if that strange couple by the window are proper love-birds or agents of the state. I suspect, however, that the

force's real motives are to meet the Government's wretched targets by making a few more easy arrests and raising more fines.

75 The trouble with Chief Inspector Harris's scheme is that it turns on its head the proper relationship between the police and the public. When I was a
80 child, there was a clear understanding that the police were public servants, employed by us to look after us. I often
get the feeling now, however, that the police look upon themselves as the
85 masters, paid by the state to keep the rest of us in order.

90 That impression has been strongly reinforced by the way in which the police so often seem to regard themselves above the law. Only
yesterday, it emerged that no fewer than 59 police officers in Derbyshire had been caught speeding last year. None of them was answering an
95 emergency call at the time, and yet not a single one was prosecuted.

If the police want to instil respect for the law, they should obey it themselves. Meanwhile, we must all beware of courting couples in the pub.

The Daily Telegraph

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- 2p 30 “There are many, I know, who will applaud this police initiative.” (regels 22-23)
Wat is volgens de schrijver het doel van dit initiatief en welk middel gebruikt de politie om dit doel te bereiken?
Baseer beide delen van het antwoord op de eerste alinea.
- 1p 31 To which of the following does “political correctness” (line 36) refer?
A “There is ... drink drivers.” (lines 1-5)
B “They will ... are drinking.” (lines 9-10)
C “We are ... countless lives.” (lines 23-27)
D “many more ... hurting anybody” (lines 29-34)
- 1p 32 What does the writer mainly wish to express in lines 37-45 (“It really ... worth taking.”)?
A His anger at public misbehaviour.
B His disgust at drink driving.
C His regret at having been a drink driver.
D His sadness over losing so many friends.
- 1p 33 “Most Britons ... the pub.” (regels 54-57)
Met welk ander woord heeft de schrijver dit gevoel al eerder verwoord?
Citeer dit woord uit de tekst.
- 1p 34 Which of the following fits the gap in line 61 of the text?
A in full uniform
B less openly
C more often
D until closing time
- 1p 35 Which of the following can be concluded from the seventh paragraph (lines 62-74)?
A The authorities are not allowed to use illegal methods to maintain the law.
B The police have their own reasons for tackling drink driving as they do.
C The public is well aware that the police need to work efficiently.
- 1p 36 What does the writer suggest in the eighth paragraph (lines 75-85)?
A People nowadays need the police more than they used to do.
B The police have lost sight of their proper role in society.
C The police rely too much on the co-operation of the public.
D The public image of the police is rapidly getting worse.
- 1p 37 What is the aim of the ninth paragraph (lines 86-95)?
To portray the police as
A ambitious.
B arrogant.
C concerned.
D reckless.
- 1p 38 Welke alinea in dit artikel is sarcastisch van toon?
Noteer de eerste drie woorden van deze alinea.