

Tekst 10

US coffee shops pull plug on laptop lounging

(1) AT THE RECENTLY OPENED Café Green on New York's First Avenue, owner Yanni Belin was preparing to add the final touch yesterday. At last, the guys were coming to install his wireless internet in the kitchen that divides the front seating area from a small garden at the back.

(2) This seems like a smart move. Customers surfing the web and sipping coffee go well together. But Mr Belin is quick to clarify. "Oh, no, the internet is going to be for me, not the customers." Offering it for free couldn't be further from his mind. Students and doctors from a nearby hospital would come in, switch on and take up tables for hours while maybe spending just a few measly dollars. "If they want to do that they can go round the corner to Starbucks," he said.

(3) Actually, it turns out he is not resisting the trend, but joining it. More and more independent café owners in New York, already squeezed by the recession, are choosing to discourage laptop fans. They may buy one coffee and a bun but thereafter they are space and power freeloaders.

(4) Bruce Taz, who until last year ran the Broken Cup around the corner from the Green Café, did not ban computers outright when customers discovered they could tap into a wireless signal elsewhere in his building. But they knew not to hang around too long if they weren't spending. One clue: Bruce had taped over his electric plugs.

(5) At Irving 71 Place, owner Muffin Spencer rolls her eyes at the mere mention of the bloggers and browsers. She refuses to provide free internet and also actively discourages customers



from reaching down for their laptops. "We don't have room for that," she says.

(6) Similar tales of internet hostility can be found throughout New York. On the Upper East Side, M. Rohrs' House of Fine Teas and Coffees started charging \$3 an hour for even powering up a computer. The owners posted a sign that said: "Warning: theft of electrical service is prohibited."

(7) None of this impresses Tehu Ifa, 59, an author and college professor, who admits to spending roughly two hours a day at his local Starbucks, which like most branches in the chain, offers a wireless connection free of charge. Typically he works on his laptop there, sipping on a single short coffee. A former resident of Paris, Mr Ifa sneered at owners taking up arms against surfers like him. "It's so American, don't you think? Everything is always about turnover. In Paris, if you suggested doing this, they would laugh you right out the door. They should relax."

(8) For now, he probably has no reason to worry. Free wireless hot spots abound outdoors in the city, including a new area for surfers in Madison Square Park. For the winter, he has Starbucks. Unless they switch sides and yank the internet cord too.

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- “US coffee shops pull plug on laptop lounging” (titel)
- 1p 37 In welke zin wordt **voor het eerst** een reden hiervoor gegeven?
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.
- 2p 38 “Actually, it turns out he is not resisting the trend, but joining it.” (alinea 3)
Geef van elk van de volgende citaten aan of deze wel of niet een kenmerk of voorbeeld is van de bovengenoemde trend.
- 1 “Offering it for free” (alinea 2)
 - 2 “Bruce had taped over his electric plugs.” (alinea 4)
 - 3 “owners taking up arms against surfers” (alinea 7)
 - 4 “yank the internet cord” (alinea 8)
- Noteer het nummer van elk citaat gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p 39 “They should relax.” (paragraph 7)
Which of the following does “They” refer to?
- A “the guys” (paragraph 1)
 - B “Customers surfing the web” (paragraph 2)
 - C “independent café owners” (paragraph 3)
 - D “bloggers and browsers” (paragraph 5)
 - E “most branches in the chain” (paragraph 7)