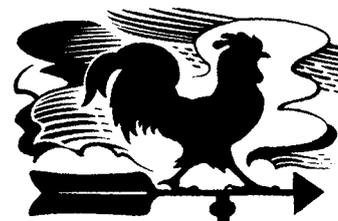


Tekst 10

WEATHER EYE PAUL SIMONS

Weather predictions

1 ONCE again it was Groundhog Day in America, when folklore says that if a groundhog sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter, whereas no shadow means that spring will arrive early.



2 This year the groundhog's shadow was clear on a bitterly cold, sunny day in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the home of the forecasting groundhog.

3 North America has had a cold winter, with record snowfall in Boston and spectacular snows in the western mountains. However, whether this trend will continue is anybody's guess: the groundhogs' track record of predictions is dismal. A survey revealed that it made only four correct forecasts in the years 1988–2002.

4 Other living beings have been suspected of having long-range forecasting powers. In autumn, the woolly bear caterpillar of America sported patches of brown fur, a sign that the winter would be harsh. Whether this mechanism is "correct" every year is not known.

5 In Gujarat, India, the flowering of the golden shower tree predicts the start of the monsoon some 45 days later, and scientists confirm that it works.

6 In Britain, if the orange ladybird hibernates in leaf litter on the ground in autumn it signals a hard winter, but if it stays out on exposed tree trunks the winter will be mild. The ladybirds are always correct but we do not know why.

The Times, 2005

Tekst 10 Weather predictions

- 1p 40 Which of the following are presented in this text as being the most trustworthy when it comes to predicting the weather?
- 1 the golden shower tree
 - 2 the ground hog
 - 3 the orange ladybird
 - 4 the woolly bear caterpillar
- A both 1 and 2
 - B both 1 and 3
 - C both 1 and 4
 - D both 2 and 3
 - E both 2 and 4
 - F both 3 and 4