

Tekst 6

The eco-prince only gets it half right

1 **T**he sweeping gravel drives outside his 40-room mansion parade an Aston Martin, a Bentley
5 Turbo and other brutish gas guzzlers. He routinely helicopters to London. Yet he lectures the rest of us about using less of the Earth's resources. In short, a
10 hypocrite of whom ordinarily we would take little notice. Except that the man in question is a royal, so limo-loads of the upwardly mobile ooze over him
15 and love him for his drawing rooms and fine organic gardens.

2 It is almost too easy to knock the Prince of Wales for what he is: a mystical aristocrat who
20 talks in eco-babble but likes a decent slice of the good life for himself. After last week's Reith lecture in which he opined that we should rediscover "a sense
25 of the sacred", one scientist, as scientists will, condescended to suggest that His Royal Highness
30 should "go back to school to do more A-levels". Our sympathies began to shift.

3 With divine timing, just as Charles was warning of the dangers of genetically modified
35 (GM) crops, it emerged that honey had been contaminated by GM pollen and GM oilseed rape had been accidentally sown on 34,000 acres. That is a sizeable accident.

4 40 Whom do we trust? The experts or the bohemian rich? GM crops, the lords of science tell us, are one of our greatest
45 hopes. But then it was the



*Phillip
Oppenheim*

**'If we all went organic,
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our calories by half.'**

45 scientists who pronounced at the outset that nuclear power would become too cheap to meter. It turned out so expensive that for years nobody dared
50 to calculate the real cost.

55 However, it was the technophobes who told us two decades ago that microchips would spell the end of employment. We need science. It is just that the matter in hand is too important
60 to be left to the scientists.

65 We must be sceptical and demand safeguards over progress. That is supposed to be the government's job. Here Charles articulates public concern in an area where the government, alas, is not to be trusted. New
70 Labour bends over backward to please big business.

75 No surprise, perhaps, that it took our government a full

70 month to reveal the oilseed contamination scandal last week – and then only after Sweden issued an alert. In Canada, GM crops have to be grown 800 metres apart from conventional
75 ones. In Britain it is only 50 metres. Suspicious? You should be.

8 We should therefore judge the prince's views on their merits, not on his lifestyle. Charles is the not-always-quite-right prince. Take organic food. He was ahead of the game when it was eaten only by
85 cranks. Now it gets you wholesome respect and extra reward points at the checkout. But organic food is a rich man's game: if we all went organic,
90 we would have to cut our calorie intake by half.

95 Genetic modification has its pros and cons. GM ingredients in the food supplement tryptophan are said to have caused 37 deaths and 1,500 disabilities in the United States. A snow-drop gene made potatoes resistant to greenfly – but killed
100 ladybirds.

10 The prince seems reluctant to acknowledge GM's benefits. However, GM crops can produce more nutritious, lower-fat food. They can reduce the need for pesticides and herbicides, they may help to save the Third World from starvation. What we need is more
105 research and safeguards, not shooting from the cufflinks.

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- "In short, a hypocrite" (regels 9-10)
Prins Charles doet dus volgens de schrijver niet wat hij zegt.
- 2p 19 Waarop baseert de schrijver deze conclusie?
- 1p 20 ■ How are scientists typified in 'one scientist ... more A-levels'" (lines 25-29)?
A As arrogant.
B As concerned.
C As humorous.
D As wise.
- 'With divine timing' (line 31)
- 1p 21 ■ Why does the writer call the timing of the news described in paragraph 3 divine?
A Because it arrived in time to be included in Prince Charles's speech.
B Because it immediately proved that Prince Charles's words had some relevance.
C Because it undermined Prince Charles's statement before it received publicity.
- "GM crops ... are one of our greatest hopes." (regels 42-44)
- 1p 22 In welke alinea verderop in de tekst richt de schrijver zich op de voordelen van het genetisch manipuleren van voedsel?
Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.
- "But then ... real cost." (regels 44-50)
- 1p 23 Wat wil de schrijver hiermee duidelijk maken over wetenschappers?
- 1p 24 Welk onderwerp bedoelt de schrijver met "the matter in hand" (regels 55-56)?
- 1p 25 ■ What view are the examples in paragraph 7 meant to illustrate?
The view that
A genetic modification of food is not without danger.
B regulations on genetic modification need not be the same in every country.
C the activities of the GM industry are adequately monitored.
D the British government seems to protect the interests of the GM industry.
- "Charles is the not-always-quite-right prince. Take organic food." (regels 81-82)
- 1p 26 Welk bezwaar tegen het standpunt van prins Charles met betrekking tot biologisch voedsel brengt de schrijver naar voren in alinea 8?
- 1p 27 Citeer uit alinea 10 het zinsgedeelte van vier woorden dat beeldspraak bevat.
- 1p 28 ■ What is the main point made with regard to genetic modification of food in this article?
A It has obvious advantages but requires more scientific study and official monitoring.
B Its progress should be directed by public debate rather than by scientific tests.
C Prince Charles should no longer be allowed to speak about its pros and cons in public.