

## Tekst 8

### Cell phones in cars

## “Yada, yada, yad...”

#### New York bans them; others will follow

POLITICIANS have not always shown much faith in the American motorist. In 1905, there was an attempt to ban windscreen wipers because it was feared they would hypnotise drivers. In 1930, an effort was made to take radios out of cars; they were disturbing and distracting. And of course there are speed limits so low that visiting Germans have to be trained how to drive below them. Now American motoring's one area of comparative *laissez faire* is under fire. On June 25th, New York state's Assembly passed a bill prohibiting motorists from using hand-held cell telephones while driving.

In fact, there is not much hard evidence linking cell phones to accidents. A study by the American Automobile Association for the University of North Carolina linked 284,000 crashes to distracted drivers; but only 1.5% of these



had anything to do with cell phones.

The new law will take effect on November 1st; violators face a \$100 fine. Talking with a headset or a speaker-phone will be permitted. So will arguing with passengers on the back seat while changing the radio station, adjusting the climate controls, applying lipstick, having a shave or munching a hamburger.

*The Economist*

## Tekst 8 “Yada, yada, yad...”

- 1p 39 ■ How does the writer of this article view the ban on cell phones in cars, according to the first paragraph?
- A As a logical step towards greater road safety.
  - B As a measure aimed at pleasing the general public.
  - C As a new victory of the powerful anti-car lobby.
  - D As another proof of a lack of confidence in drivers.
- 1p 40 ■ Which quotation from this article is sarcastic?
- A “In 1930 ... out of cars” (first paragraph)
  - B “In fact ... to accidents.” (second paragraph)
  - C “Talking with ... be permitted.” (last paragraph)
  - D “So will ... a hamburger.” (last paragraph)