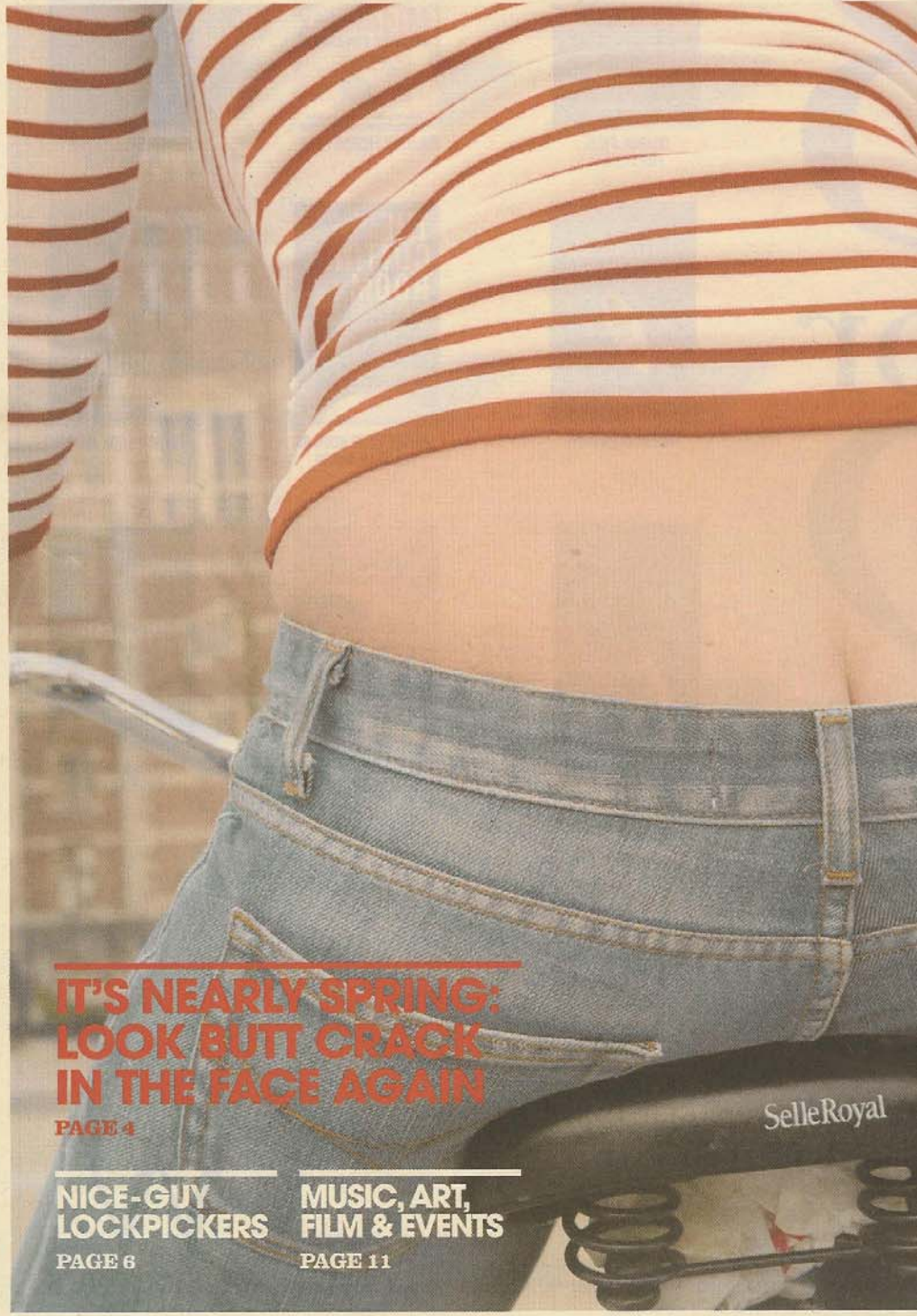


AMSTERDAM

Weekly

Volume 1, Issue 1
WEEK OF 10 MARCH -
16 MARCH 2004

FREE
WEDN



**IT'S NEARLY SPRING:
LOOK BUTT CRACK
IN THE FACE AGAIN**

PAGE 4

**NICE-GUY
LOCKPICKERS**

PAGE 6

**MUSIC, ART,
FILM & EVENTS**

PAGE 11

Crack addicts

Spring approaches and waistlines threaten to drop into the danger zone.

By Nanci Tangeman

I followed Britney Spears out of Albert Heijn the other day. At least it looked like Britney from the view I had on the escalator: eye-level with her butt cleavage. There I was, two heavy bags of groceries hanging off my arms, trying not to look, when her boyfriend's hand started exploring. I can't decide if the ride was too short or too long. It was just getting interesting when we reached the top.

Then, the next day, I was sitting with friends at Banana Rama. We were tucking into our Philippine saté when I was offered an expansive view of another woman's nether lands. She and her friends were all wearing low-rise jeans, but she'd drawn the short straw as far as seating was concerned: the chair with its back to our table. While her friends relaxed, backsides to the wall, she spent the evening nervously tugging and shifting. She was trying to shield her exposed skin from the breeze wafting through the open door, I suppose—not to say our amused glances.

Breezes notwithstanding, low-rise is hot right now. As singer Avril Lavigne claims, 'My butt crack showing is like my trademark.' Even sometime Jordaan resident Brad Pitt has been known to take his

AROUND TOWN



Diesels to new lows, proving that the gender that originally brought us plumber's butt has not given it all up to the ladies. And when Britney isn't shopping at Albert Heijn, she's down at Praxis buying double-sided tape to keep her pants up. So the fashion tipsters advise, anyway.

In Amsterdam, of course, we'll take any bare-faced fashion statement a degree or two further than the rest of the world. So when it comes to baring butts we don't just drop our pants to precarious levels. Oh, no. We drop our pants—and then get on our bikes.

If you haven't actually experienced it yourself, you must have at least observed it by now. Usually it's a young woman pedalling into town for a night of standing around in bars. (She can't sit, of course. As we've seen, sitting became dangerous when waistbands started descending.) There she is, one hand on the handlebars, the other hand in back, pulling down her T-shirt or sweater, trying to cut off the stream of air flowing down her pants. This is entertaining enough to watch, but the real fun starts when her cellphone rings. The tension. The suspense. Will she take the call? Or protect the property?

Everybody knows danger breeds cool. And nothing's worth doing if it hasn't been declared unsafe. Our acrobats of simultaneous covering, phoning and pedalling are bound to catch the attention of some EU ministry soon. I can see it now:

'Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2004 ensuring the protection of EU citizens' lower extremities and the freedom of

communication by and transport of said citizens when wearing garments where the distance between the navel rings of said citizens and the top of said garments does not exceed 7.62 cm.'

But the EU will be slow in getting on the case, since the Canadian Medical Association has already beaten them to it. The CMA recently warned that many

wearers of hip-hugging jeans suffer from *meralgia paresthetica*, a tingling or burning sensation in the thighs. (You'd think they'd be more worried about frostbitten butts over there.)

Health warnings aside, one thing's mandatory for the truly hip: communicating in SMS shorthand. So, to help butt cleavages reach even more subzero realms

of cool, I offer the following keystrokes.

The obvious alert, for when there's butt crack in the vicinity is)(. Or, if you spot someone who has taken it just a little too low, try).(

And if that person happens to be Brad Pitt on his bicycle, I hope your cellphone takes digital pictures. Send the photo to me at *Amsterdam Weekly*.

