



THE DREAM SCENE



Issue no. 70 1st of December 2012

Bienvenido a todos and a special welcome to our new readers in Los Montesinos and San Miguel de Salinas, where we now have several distribution points for The Dream Scene.

Weather-wise, November has been a mixed month. One particular week it seemed to rain for five or six full days, taking its toll on local businesses. The very heavy rain left up to 265 litres per square metre in 24 hours in some parts of the province. Although we saw plenty of rain locally, we escaped the really heavy rainfalls. (If you have damp or a leaky roof, check out the advert on page 7. They sorted out our roof problems very quickly.)

But it is really the perilous state of the economy, the cut-backs and the responses of the public, and the trade unions to them, that has dominated the Spanish news. You can read about the November General Strike on page 11. The pharmacists continue to strike at the time of writing; although some chemists are opening on a rota basis. One has to 'hunt around' for special medication such as insulin etc, but if you do not have transport, it must be nigh impossible. There have been lots of marches against the cuts - pharmacists, teachers, police, hospital staff. Firefighters also marched against the cuts in Madrid, at least eight policemen being injured during this particular demonstration.

Things have been particularly grim in the Andalucian city of Jerez. Decades of financial mismanagement have brought the city to the brink of bankruptcy. Last month the rubbish collectors went on strike and the local residents set fire to more than 100 rubbish containers together with the overflowing rubbish on more than 50 streets over three nights. It looked a lot like Beirut during the bad days. Let's hope that this anarchic behaviour does not spread to other cities.

Spain's central government must raise 207bn euros in debt next year, plus a possible additional 20 billion euros to cover finances of indebted regional governments. Analysts say it will be very difficult to meet those needs without external aid. There surely is a limit to the amount of cuts people can endure before they descend into the chaos that rules in Greece at present. Sooner or later, the government will have to bring its begging bowl to the European Central Bank.

There seems to be an increase in the 'door to door' collections locally. These are illegal in Spain and don't be fooled by the printed identity cards for children's charities and others that these people have. Anyone can produce them on a printer. The 'gas engineer' is another well known scam. They also have cards and uniforms, and in some instances might be actual engineers BUT they have no right to enter your property. Recently, a Dutch couple had a 'Se Vende' sign up on their property and the 'engineers' said that they needed a certificate for the gas if they were selling the house. This the owners agreed to and the useless piece of paper cost them €500!

Stewart Macklin's Welcome Inn in Via Park III is undergoing a complete redesign and refurbishment. Do check it out and enjoy a warm indoor game of pool or snooker in this very chilly weather. Also All Bar Sue in Via Park V is being renamed Bar Labas (Bar Hello). They are having a re-launch with free buffet on December 8.

Thanks to Dave and Justine for their kind contribution towards printing costs last month.

Although it is still 'early days' may all at The Dream Scene - cartoonist Angela, local delivery 'boys' Steve & Paul, plus Tid and I, wish you a very happy Christmas. Have a great month, Mick & Tid.

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Angela's Cartoon



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Christmas Markets & Fairs

There will be a Christmas Fair in Los Montesinos this year. It will run from November 30 until December 2. The location will be the square in front of the Ayuntamiento and it will be open from 10:00 until 17:00.

There will also be a Christmas Market in San Miguel de Salinas on December 6 and 7. The location is Plaza Jaime I, which is not far from the excellent Market Street Restaurant. The market will be open from 14:00 until 20:00

Gasping!

Pupil: 'Can I have a cigarette, Miss?'

Teacher: 'Good heavens! No, certainly not! Do you want to get me into trouble?'

Pupil: 'Well, all right then, Miss. But I'd rather have a cigarette.'

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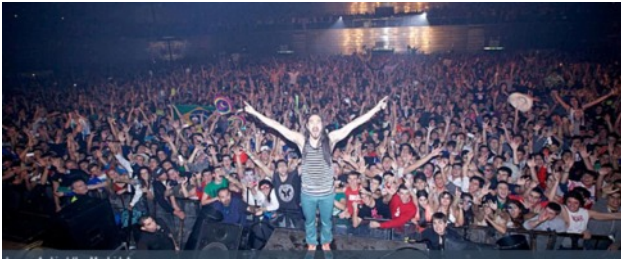
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Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, has said that he 'is not planning to ask for a rescue this year unless there is a cataclysm.' He described the E.U. as 'too slow.' He thought that 2013 would be 'better' than this year and that in 2014 there would be economic growth. The Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos has forecast that the economy will contract by only 0.5% next year. This is somewhat adrift from the EU forecast of 1.4%.

The first phase of an EU aid package to assist the reformation and strengthening of Spanish Banks - and the wider economy in Spain - is expected to reach the treasury in December. This will be the first tranche of a €100 billion facility.



Following the tragic news of the deaths of four young girls at a Halloween party disco in the Arena in Madrid (photo); caused by a crush of people on the stairs trying reach an exit, the Mayoress of Madrid has stated: 'Never again will we allow a municipal building for this type of event.' She said the risk was too high. Current investigations reveal that there may have been as many as 18,000 at the event, whereas the organisers state that the number was 9,650.

Brussels has rejected the independence of Cataluña inside the EU. Vice-President and Justice Commissioner, Viviane Reding, has sent a letter in which she says she agrees with the posture of PM Mariano Rajoy and the Spanish executive, which sustains that Cataluña cannot be unilaterally independent and continue in the EU. Economically, secession would be a real blow to Catalonia because, in addition to being excluded from EU aid programs for the agricultural, fishing, they would also miss out of planning funds for infrastructure, such as the Mediterranean corridor. Catalan companies, meanwhile, could not export their products and services freely within the European Union, and international treaties benefit from free trade or preferential tariffs with third countries. Catalan citizens could not access public offers of employment or services of the European Union.

The Catalan regional premier, Artur Mas, went to Russia in what can only be called a frenzied bid for attention prior to the early Catalan elections which he scheduled for November 25. However the Russians snubbed him. He asked for meetings with four ministers, a deputy minister, and for an interview with the official Russian newspaper. They all said 'No.' Mas then went to Brussels where he was again snubbed and given 'the bum's rush' with no appointments with any of the political representatives or businessmen. As it turned out, Premier Mas has made one of the biggest political blunders ever in Spain by calling the early regional elections in November. He was pushing for independence from Spain and looking for an absolute majority for his CiU Party, but his party performed disastrously losing 12 seats in the elections and now only hold only 50 seats out of a total of 135. Mas may now have to resign.

Late News: There will be a skating rink at Zenia Boulevard car park near Leroy Merlin from Nov' 27 to Jan' 19; access €.

The Mile High?

The pilot of a jumbo jet is getting ready to take off. He announces all the usual stuff over the intercom but forgets to turn it off. The co-pilot asks him how he's feeling. 'I could really use some hot sex and a cup of coffee,' replies the pilot. A stewardess hears this in the cabin and runs to the cockpit to tell them to turn the intercom off. As she rushes along the gangway, one of the passengers shouts, 'Don't forget the coffee!'

The Supreme Court has ratified a decree for fraud in notaries. The OCU, Organisation of Consumers and Users denounced frauds in notaries in September 2010, saying the amount defrauded only in 2010 could reach 93 million €. The regulations should stop the notaries from charging for services which inflate their invoices. To me notaries are just another expensive, bureaucratic hurdle in Spain. Many countries do without these 'paper shufflers' except in very rare cases. Their removal would be a boon to the economy and country.

The denuncias for fiscal fraud have risen by 50% this year up to October. They have jumped from around 600 million € in the last three years, to nearly 1,000 million € this year so far. The cost of these frauds is equivalent to the cost of running the health service.

More than 330,000 people in Andalucía have been turning up at the food banks so that they can eat. Cádiz is the worst affected province where attendance at the food banks is over 65,000. Demand is up 30% on last year and in some places there are waiting lists.

El País reports that the increase in IVA/VAT has led to the falls in sales in the shops. Small shopkeepers have seen 27 months of reductions in trade. La Vanguardia says the increase in IVA/VAT and the unemployment is sinking consumer spending. Sales were down for the year to September by nearly 13% on the same period last year.

More than 430,000 foreign nationals residing in Spain have been waiting for years for an answer to their petition for Spanish citizenship. The backlog is almost four years and some 10,000 new applications roll in every month, all from people seeking the blessing of the Justice Ministry to receive a Spanish passport.

Two Valencian Ministries have found themselves without electricity due to lack of payment at the end of October. Gas Natural Fenosa cut the power to the Ministries of Justice and Agriculture, and they are also intending to cut the supply to the Health Ministry.

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism announced that it has not ruled the privatisation of Paradores Hotels, given their 'delicate' financial situation. The Paradores have accumulated debts of €15 million.

Deputy Prime Minister, Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, has announced a plan to reduce the number of official cars by 53% in the state fleet. The move will save about €0.5 million in personnel costs, fuel, insurance and other items.

The Minister for Justice has introduced a new scale of charges for civil cases in the courts. They were introduced to discourage the massive number of minor civil cases which are clogging-up the courts. There's insufficient space to report on these this month, but if for example you wish to contest a €100 parking offence, it will cost you a non-returnable fee of €200! More in a future issue.

On November 6, the Constitutional Court has ruled that gay marriage is supported by the Spanish Constitution, after dismissing an appeal filed by the People's Party (PP) in 2005. Since July 2005, there has been 22,442 official same-sex marriage in Spain.

More than 60% of recorded crime in Torrevieja goes unsolved. Although just 23.77% of cases are solved, the government sub-delegate, Alberto Martínez, applauded the statistics!!!

The plane is going down. There's a priest on board so the captain says to him, 'Father, in view of the terrible situation we face, could you do something religious?' So the priest takes a collection.

What's Up? continued

A 30-year-old woman killed a man who robbed her handbag by running him down with her car in the Madrid district of Montecarmelo. There were two thieves involved who then tried to escape on a moped. Overcome with anger and nerves, she chased them in her car and when the moped crashed, she ran over them. The deceased got stuck beneath her Seat Ibiza; the body being freed by firemen. The survivor ran away and was later captured. The police accept the woman's innocence saying that the death was involuntary and that she could not stop in time.

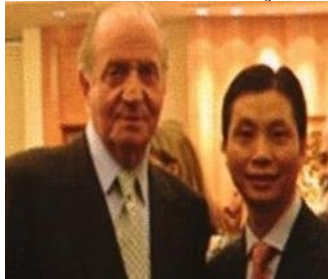
A juvenile court in Alicante has fined a couple €2,160 because of their kids' truancy. They have four children, all minors; one did not attend school for even a single day in the year and the others attended just half the classes. If the parents don't pay the fine, they could face four and a half months in prison.

The anti-corruption prosecutor Pedro Horrach has asked the judge in the 'Nóos case' for a bond of almost €8.2 million for the Duke of Palma, the king's son-in-law Iñaki Urdangarin, and his business partner, Diego Torres. The Crown Prince, Philip, refused to pose in a photo with Urdangarin recently.

A court in Alicante fined a Spanish web-site owner €5.1 million for selling pirated copies of Tom Tom sat-navigation software. The defendant sold more than 82,000 copies at around €80 each.

The ex-President of the Balears, Jaume Matas, who was condemned earlier this year to six years in prison in relation to excessive overpricing discovered on the construction of a sports centre, is now facing a new case of corruption. The prosecutors believe that they have found enough evidence to accuse Matas of having direct control of the mechanisms which supposedly funded the Partido Popular election campaign illegally. The charges include misuse of public funds, perversion of the course of justice, falsifying documents, and defrauding the administration.

You may recall the coverage of 'Operation Emperor' in last month's issue. This related to the capture of a Chinese Mafia money laundering gang when millions of euros in cash and 202 vehicles were seized by the police. This time, in another example



of judicial incompetence (see page 15, Idiots of the Month article), the High Court have ordered the release of the alleged ring-leader, Gao Ping (see photo with King Juan Carlos), and 21 other his 'lieutenants.' The High Court upheld an appeal by lawyers acting for the defendants, on the basis that they had been held for more than 72 hours without being

brought before a judge.

Spain owes CERN, The European Organisation for Nuclear Research, nearly two years' fees amounting to €10 million.

The Guardia Civil has run out of its reserves for DNA testing, and the Ministry for the Interior is claiming that material put aside for 2013 has been used up. The problems facing the Guardia Civil's criminal laboratory are endemic with a lack of personnel, funding and the difficulty in meeting the demand for forensic analysis.

The fight against fraud in Spain has revealed 65,047 irregular employees in the year to October. The Employment Minister, Fatima Bañez, said that 182,012 inspections have been carried out. In a press conference in Sevilla, she said they also discovered 1,064 fictitious companies. She said that in a moment of crisis the public resources we have must be protected 100%.

Getting to the bottom of things.

Little Jenny was talking while her mother was having a shower. Jenny's mother is pregnant and Jenny asks why her tummy is so large. 'Mummy has a baby growing in there,' replies mother. Jenny digests this information and says, 'So what's growing in your bum then?'



Did you hear about the Irish chef who hated making choc chip cookies? It took him hours to peel the smarties.

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Hacienda could embargo a bar, restaurant or discotheque if the owner has an unpaid tax debt, and what's more they can do so while the clients are still on the premises. The 22nd Congress of the Professional Organisation of Hacienda Inspectors, (IHE), has just ended in Santander. They decided on a special program of 12,000 visits in an attack on the submerged economy. In the last similar programme, more than 7,700 inspections were carried out and 37% of them uncovered fiscal crimes.

The French government continue to increase their taxes. Taxation on alcohol has now increased by around 160%; a pack of ciggies' now costs €6.10.

And in the UK, the Office of National Statistics has revealed that the size of chocolate bars and bags of sweets have reduced by as much as 10% in the past year. The government agency took the unusual step of mentioning the development in its latest consumer price index report so that the public were aware they were getting less for their money.

The Guardia Civil in Torrevieja have returned a car which was stolen from the owner in October 2009! Three Bulgarians in the stolen vehicle, aged between 33 and 45, were arrested while trying an evasive manoeuvre at a police check-point in early November.

In September 2009, a policeman in the Valencian town of Utiel killed his wife by shooting her 14 times. The man, who has been found guilty, now faces a maximum penalty of 24 years in prison. However, the defence has requested a sentence of only three years and a day for the crime of injury OR just five years and a day for the crime of murder. Not much for a life, is it?

A Swiss female passenger on an Iberia flight to Madrid on November 22 was stung by a scorpion on her right arm during the flight. And you thought that it was just airline prawns that were dangerous.

At the Movies.

This young girl was complaining to one of her friends. 'It was terrible! I had to change my seat five times at the cinema last night.'

'Why?' asked the friend. 'Did some chap bother you?'

'Yes.....eventually.'



The PP Councillor for Sports and Education of the City of Torrevieja, Daniel Plaza (Olympic gold medallist in Barcelona '92), resigned his position following allegations that multiple calls were made on his mobile phone to prostitutes, transvestites and various erotic services. Although Plaza strongly denied the charges, he said he resigned to avoid

political lynching by opposition groups.

The case against former-Mayor Pedro Hernández Mateo of Torrevieja concluded and a verdict is awaited. Meanwhile, he is now also being charged with a crime against 'civil rights' in that he refused to hold around twelve full council meetings between the years of 2003 and 2007.

Meanwhile, the stone-throwing continues between the political parties in Orihuela. The PP accused the tripartite of paying bills a year late and signing bills for a million without a contract. The ruling tripartite responded with a response which basically means 'people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones!' PSOE councillor Antonia Moreno welcomed 600 Valencian Socialists to a regional conference in the city, the largest municipality of the Community in which the PSOE is in or shares power.

It is alleged that the Green Los Verdes mayor of Orihuela, Monserrate Guillen, sacked their new technology advisor, a heavily pregnant Inmaculada Ortega, allegedly based on a report from a fellow councillor, Martina Scheurer (also of The Green), in which she justified the request because the worker would be sidelined for four months and she needed a specialist advisor. (Just turn the computer off and back on again!) It appears that the first 27-year-old Mrs. Ortega - also a Green - found out about this was when she got an SMS message in the hospital, advising her that she was sacked. When you add this to the several sackings within the Clr Party and the dumping of CLARO, they do seem to be a fairly rum bunch there, with little loyalty to their own. Even the PP are also showing a lack of unity with three candidates running for the position of Party President. It is being rumoured that outgoing mayoress Monica Lorente's preferred candidate, Pepa Ferrando, will lose. The two other candidates in the running are Emilio Bascuñana and Andrés Ballester. Should either of these two win, it is highly unlikely that they would maintain the current agreement with CLARO for the next election. Ex-Mayoress Lorente is becoming a *persona non grata* in her own PP party as her oral trial for corruption has now commenced.

The exhibition to attract Russian property buyers to the area, which I reported on last month, has been postponed until January next year. There are now plans to 'beef up' the event which will now use the conference/exhibition which will be held in the new International Auditorium off the N332. Exhibitors, who paid €3,000 for a stand were complaining that a list of attendees was not provided. The cost of a stand, 60 in all, will rise to €4,000 if you leave booking too late. The latest news that non-EU property purchasers in Spain will have their *residencia* fast-tracked, should be a major drawing point to the exhibition. Meanwhile, the opposition in Torrevieja council are demanding that the Mayor disclose how much the venture is costing the taxpayer. However, the event organisers are now threatening to move the event to another city due to the conditions Torrevieja are imposing.

During 2013, Torrevieja City Council will be paying €6,808 daily in interest charges on 18 loans totalling €72 million.

After being closed to the public for decades, the salt works in Torrevieja will be open to tourists in 2013. Visitors will be given tours, talks etc in an effort to boost tourism. Who knows, maybe the desalination plant might do the same in time?

Two old nuns are discussing their holidays. Sister Mary was hard of hearing, so Sister Jane was communicating with hand gestures. 'I think I'll go to Florida, where the oranges are that big and the bananas are that long,' says Sister Jane. 'What?' replies Sister Mary. Sister Jane repeats herself, 'I think I'll go to FLORIDA, where the oranges are that BIG and the bananas are that LONG.' 'What?' replies Sister Mary. Sister Jane tries again, 'I THINK I'LL GO TO FLORIDA, WHERE THE ORANGES ARE THAT BIG AND THE BANANAS ARE THAT LONG.'

Sister Mary replies, 'Father who?'

The Orihuela Councillor for Commerce, Juan Ignacio Lopez-Bas, announced that the City has taken steps to allow La Zenia Boulevard to open on Sundays, not just the restaurants and cafes but the shops as well. When finally approved by the regional government, other small businesses in urban areas of this region could also open seven days a week. Whereas it is intriguing to see that the Greens and Socialists are 'ass-kissing' big business, it is a pity they are so restrictive penal towards the playing of live music in bars and restaurants throughout Orihuela Costa. Despite all the previous assurances, nothing has been done to facilitate these small businesses in what is a disastrous economic climate.

The Media Markt outlet has finally opened in La Zenia Boulevard. I have found that whereas they carry a large range of electrical goods and have occasional special offers, their prices are rarely competitive. I ordered a supply of laser toner cartridges from Media Markt in Alicante during the winter of 2006.....I am still waiting for them!

The president of the Institute of Economic Research Alicante (Ineca), Joaquin Rocamora, announced the findings of a report into 20 airports on the Mediterranean coastline. He reported that Altea/Alicante airport was the 'worst connected' airport in the study; Marrakech Airport in Morocco came second! Altea airport suffers from a lack of connectivity; there is no rail link; planned road improvements to widen and connect roadways in 2011 and 2012 were dropped because of budget cuts and although there are bus lines which facilitate the populations of Alicante, Santa Pola, Elche, Torrevieja and Benidorm, these are infrequent services. A rail linkage the Institute believes would cost €175 million which was 'a very moderate cost and whose repayment is guaranteed abundantly.'

This photo shows an early Joaquin Sorolla

oil painting entitled 'Pescadores valencianos' - Valencian Fishermen. During November it was sold at an auction in Southeby's London for £3.73 million! Might be a good time to check out the attic!



Spain's Ministry of Public Works has reported how the number of cars using the country's bankrupt toll-road motorway network has fallen below levels last seen in 1998. The government are now seriously considering raising the speed limit on these roads to 140 kph to encourage more use.

God is planning a holiday but can't decide where to go. 'What about visiting Mercury?' suggests an angel. 'No, too hot.' Says God. 'Then how about Mars?' says the angel. 'Nah,' says God. 'Too dry and dusty.' 'What about Earth?' says the angel. 'You've got to be kidding,' says God. 'I went there 2,000 years ago, knocked-up some bird, and they're still going on about it!'

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A widower goes to a psychic to see if he can contact his late wife. The séance starts and he finds himself talking to her. 'Honey,' he says, 'are you happy?' 'Yes, my husband,' replies his wife. 'Happier than you were with me?' asks the husband. 'Much, much happier,' replies his wife.

'Heaven must be an amazing place,' says the husband. 'I'm not in Heaven,' replies his wife.

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Pun my word!

Julius Caesar is addressing the crowd outside the Senate. 'Friends, Romans and countrymen. I have returned from my campaign in the west where I killed 50,000 Gauls!' The crowd rises to its feet cheering, 'Hail mighty Caesar!'

At this point Brutus jumps up and yells, 'Caesar lies! I've discovered that he only killed 25,000!' Caesar replies, 'Yes, but remember away Gauls count double in Europe.'

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All Saints Day November 1st

The feast day of *Todos los Santos* fell on November 1st, a public holiday in Spain. It is celebrated as a Roman Catholic and Anglican feast to honour all Saints, known and unknown. It was moved from its original date in May more than ten centuries ago to off-set the pagan autumn festivals held at this time of year. This year's fiesta for All Saints - 'Todos los Santos' will probably be the last one to be a 'red day', as the government plan to revise the existing 'Bank holiday' schedule.

All Saints' Day in Spain now revolves around remembering all the dead, when relatives visit the graves of their loved ones in the cemetery and decorate the graves with flowers. Extra public transport is generally laid on in the larger towns, and florists more than double their sales compared with any other time of the year, even St. Valentine's Day.

As with religious festivals and other festivities in Spain, there are a number of dishes which are typically seen at this time of year. The most traditional are three types of small cake, none of them too complicated to make at home, but all of which were on sale in local bakeries.

The first, '*huesos de santo*,' literally translates as 'Saints' bones', and is basically a tube of marzipan filled with a type of cream made from egg yolks cooked with a sugary syrup.



Then there are '*buñuelos de viento*,' or 'puffs of wind,' which is rather like a small doughnut, which is sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon after frying. They are sometimes filled with a type of custard known in Spain as *crema pastelera*.



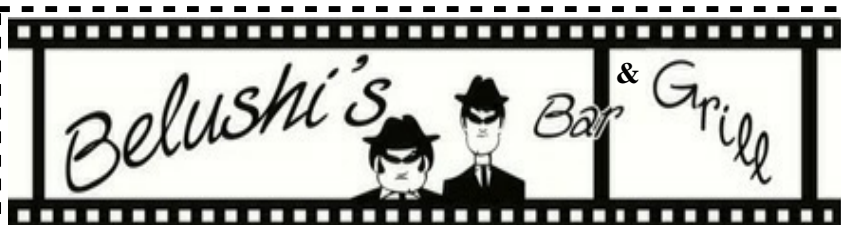
Finally, *Panellets* are typical of Cataluña and use boniato – the white-fleshed sweet potato – along with ground almonds and sugar to make a dough which is then formed into balls and rolled in beaten egg and pine nuts, chopped almonds or powdered chocolate, before being baked until golden. Other variations use normal potato in the basic mixture, and may make it with a sugar syrup rather than adding the sugar directly.



The High Flyer

A successful businesswoman is forced to charter a light aircraft to get to an appointment but is horrified at the cost of the flight. She gets on board with her husband and moans non-stop to the pilot about the price of the charter. Eventually the pilot says, 'Tell you what. If you make it through the rest of the trip without opening your mouth I'll give you the flight for free, but if you can't, you'll have to pay double!' The businesswoman agrees but the pilot decides to have some fun with her and starts looping the loop, going into spins and indulging in all sorts of aerobatics. Despite all this violent hectic activity the businesswoman keeps her mouth shut until the plane lands. The pilot congratulates her. 'You beat me,' I never thought you'd stay quiet through all of that.'

'Well, it wasn't easy,' says the businesswoman. 'Especially when my husband fell out.'



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VIA PARK V



Important Changes to Taxation for Expats

Although I touched on this in a previous issue, the Spanish cabinet have approved a decree adapting the general taxation law to European and international rules. This now means that expat residents in Spain will have to declare assets, bank accounts, investments and incomes from abroad. These will have to be declared by the end of March each year, showing the balance/value of the asset as of December 31 the previous year.

The full legal text is expected to be available shortly but a treasury official explained that the decree covers three main groups of assets: all types of accounts with financial entities such as current, deposit, investment, etc regardless of the currency they are in or whether they earn interest or not; properties and rights over properties which carry any value or gain; and finally, other 'instruments' including stocks, shares, bonds, insurance policies and any other sources of income that are deposited, managed or obtained abroad. The situation regarding company schemes set-up to mitigate inheritance tax liabilities also needs to be clarified.

Assets do not have to be declared if their combined value within the above categories does not exceed €50,000, unless their value increased by €20,000 in the previous year.

Residents risk 'severe penalties' if their neglect to comply with these new regulations or if hidden assets are discovered by *Hacienda* inspectors.

If you have 'substantial' assets in any other country, whether they generate income or not, it is surely essential that you secure the services of a competent professional tax adviser. Ignore the advice from the bloke in the pub!

Donna & Richard

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THE PHOENIX



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WEDNESDAY - FUN DARTS
FRIDAY - QUIZ
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Christmas Eve - Carol singing.

December 1

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FANCY DRESS

BALL

COME EARLY!

8pm 'TILL LATE.

(No Jimmy Savile costumes!)

LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf societies venue for the 13th November 2012 was held at La Torre Golf Course.

Again the weather can only be described as perfect for golf, the course was in fairly good condition considering the recent weather. This was the first time most of the 20 players had played the course resulting in the scores being Reasonable. The competition was in the Stableford format, and the scores were recorded, as follows -

Nearest the Pin in two on the 5th hole was Norman Dobson.

Nearest the Pin on the 9th hole was Steve Cottle.

Longest drive on the 16th hole was Michael Heighway (guest).

Silver Class 3rd place was Dave Kirk with a score of 28 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Nev. Greenwood with a score of 30 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Paul Abbott with a score of 35 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Mick Slater with a score of 27 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Barry Sawyer with a score of 30 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Steve Cottle with a score of 35 points.



Yet again a very enjoyable day's golf in pleasant company; thank you to Captain Mick Slater and Vice Captain Stewart Coleman and also thanks to the Staff at The Lime Bar for a most enjoyable meal.

Anyone wishing to join our friendly society please phone Mick on 659866468 or Stewart on 966180003.



UP-COMING FIXTURES

Fixtures for the first five months of 2013 are:

January 9th, Presidents Trophy at Vistabella – 35 Euros;

February 13th, Mar Menor – 50 Euros;

March 13th, Altorreal – 35 Euros;

April 10th, Curtis Cup at Vistabella – 35 Euros;

May 8th, Captains Day at La Torre 50 Euros.

All games include green fee, buggy, prizes and buffet.



Harry and Tom are on the golf course. 'I wish my wife had never taken up golf,' says Harry.

'She spends so much time practising she's cut down our sex life to once a month.'

'Count yourself lucky,' replies Tom. 'She's cut some of us out altogether.'

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THREE COURSES ONLY €8.50!!**

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AND PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!**



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SATURDAY NIGHT KARAOKE!



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How Fast?

A defendant is in front of a magistrate on a speeding charge. 'I understand you were doing 60 in a 30 mile per hour zone,' says the magistrate. 'That's a lie,' replies the defendant. 'I wasn't doing 30; I wasn't even doing 10 in fact.....'
'Hold it,' says the magistrate. 'I'm going to fine you £50 before you back into something.'

The General Strike November 14.



On the day of the General Strike, I drove around Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa. Everything appeared normal, although I understand that many school teachers were on strike. Several airline flights were also cancelled.

Nationally, the real problems were in Barcelona and Madrid. Transport strikes in these cities exacerbated local problems, as did a small minority of violent demonstrators who 'took on' the police authorities, burned a couple of police cars, damaged some shops and got a few broken heads. While the unions claimed that the strike was a success with 76% participation, employers put the figure at 4.5%. Power usage during the strike is a good gauge to measure participation: the power companies say that normal usage only declined by around 13%.

The strikes and the marches/demonstrations were organised by the two top unions, UGT & CCOO. The marches in Madrid (see photo) and Barcelona attracted several hundred thousand. In Alicante, the unions say that 100,000 marched; the police say 35,000.

Of the 692 workers employed by the Torrevieja Council, only 20 people - 2.89%, took part in the strike.

Of the staff employed by the Orihuela Town Hall, around 7.11% took part. 27 staff (5.54%) of the 487 who work in local government supported the strike, while 24 of the 230 labour/con-clerical staff (10.43%) downed tools. A total of 51 municipal employees, of which there are 717, went on strike. According to the Department of Personnel, 13 of the 137 workers who do the street cleaning and rubbish collection also supported the strike.

Buckle-Up!

We all know how insurance companies promise you the world; they will be understanding, generous, thoughtful, etc, etc - that is until you make a claim! Then they deaf and dumb.

The Spanish Automobile Association, AEA, has warned that compensation could be denied for victims of road accidents who do not wear seatbelts.

The warning comes following a recent EU Court ruling where a passenger injured as a result of a car crash in Portugal had his appeal for compensation thrown out because he had not been wearing a seat belt.

Mario Renaldo, president of AEA, said "the same thing could happen in Spain, because Spanish road traffic law relating to personal injury exonerates responsibility when it can be proven that the injuries were solely the result of the behaviour or negligence of the victim".



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 Darren Lilley Tel: 638683941

News from the US

Great news for Abu Hamza!
 It seems that the pantomime at Guantanamo Bay this Christmas is 'Peter Pan.' Guess who Hamza will be playing?



Barack Obama secured another four years as President.....



...while runner-up Romney (who intended to scrap public television which produces Sesame Street) got the 'Big Bird' treatment.



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With Cash Prize, inc 'Out on a Limb'
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FRI: FISH & CHIP 'FRYDAY' JUST €6.00 INC DRINK!

SAT: STEAK & RIBS NITE from €6.95

WEDS & SAT 2pm BINGO

SUNDAY LUNCHESES ONLY €5!



3 Courses only €9.50 inc small beer or glass of wine.

MENU DEL DIA 3 COURSES ONLY €8.50

INCLUDES GAMMON, STEAK, BATTERED COD, LASAGNE.

Pasties: €2.50; Sausage Rolls: €1.00!

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Wales is a ghastly place.. Huge gangs of sinewy men roam the valleys terrorizing people with their close-harmony singing.
You need half a pint of phlegm in your throat just to pronounce the place names. *Blackadder III*

Selling your car in Spain

When you decide to sell your car in Spain, and you have found a buyer, you first need to obtain and complete a transfer of ownership form (*Notificación de Transferencia de Vehículos*, usually simply called a *transferencia*) - available from your Provincial Traffic Department. This needs to be done in duplicate as one copy is given to the buyer and the other sent to the traffic department. (Always best to keep a photocopy for your own records as well)

Upon completion of the sale you are required to pay a transfer tax (*Impuesto sobre transmisiones patrimoniales y actos jurídicos documentados/ ITP*), which is currently 4% of the value of the car. This value is decided by the tax office, which publishes a list of values for all new cars sold in Spain. This is reduced each year (e.g. by 12 per cent when a vehicle is between one and two years old) until it's ten or more years old, when the fiscal value is 10 per cent of the new value. It's the responsibility of the seller to pay the tax, and most sellers include this tax in the sales price (so check in advance what it is, and factor this in to your selling price if needs be !)

The tax must be declared on form 620 (*Compra-Venta de vehículos usados entre particulares*), which you can pick up from a tobacconist (*estanco*) or tax office (*hacienda*), and paid within 30 days of selling your car. Payment is made at the provincial tax office (*Consejería de Hacienda*) of the regional government. You can use a gestor or other specialist company to the paperwork for you.

When selling a car you also need to ...

- Complete, sign and date the reverse of the registration document (*Permiso de circulación*) under the section transferido and take it directly to the provincial traffic department along with your other car papers, such as the ITV test certificate, municipal tax receipt and a form from your local town hall on which you've de-registered your ownership (for municipal tax reasons)

- Inform your insurance company that the vehicle has been sold - stop the policy and arrange a rebate. {And the best of luck with this! Many insurance companies do not give refunds for any unused part of the year. They point out that it is an agreement for cover for a year, and if you pay monthly and stop your payments they can (and in these times of crisis, they do) take you to court for the balance. Other companies - such as Liberty - do give refunds but take massive "handling charges." I read of one driver who needed cover for one day when he was buying a new car (to drive to the garage to p/x it) and he paid nearly 320€ for the year's cover but his refund was less than 260€ Mick }

- If you're selling your car privately, insist on payment in cash or with a banker's draft (cheque *bancario*), which is standard practice in Spain. If you cannot tell a banker's draft from a personal cheque, insist on cash. It is not recommended to accept a personal cheque

- Include in the receipt the price paid, the car's kilometre reading and a statement that you're selling the car in its present condition (Bought as seen) without a guarantee (*sin garantía*), and get the buyer to sign this.

Although it's the buyer's responsibility to re-register the vehicle in his name within 30 days of purchase, many fail to do this (to avoid paying a change of registration fee of €42.60), so unless the buyer accompanies you to the tax or government office, it's in your interest to pay this fee (you must present a bill of sale signed by the buyer). If the buyer then fails to re-register the vehicle, you won't receive any fines for parking and motoring offences committed by him, which you would otherwise.

You should also be aware that thieves can sometimes pose as buyers. Never allow a prospective buyer to drive your car alone or even to sit in the driving seat when you aren't in the car (unless you retain the ignition keys). There have been a number of incidents where thieves drive off with cars after duping the owner into getting out.

(Source: Tumbit.com)



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3 Courses, Bucks Fizz on arrival,

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In Britain, a dog is for Christmas.

In Korea, it could be for breakfast, lunch
or dinner. Anon



Limits on Cash Transactions - Important.

As of November 19, Spain began a ban on all payments in cash for anything over the value of €2,500 in a bid to combat tax evasion.

This new legislation will be applied when at least one party in any such transaction "acts in a professional or commercial capacity".

The new law, which was passed on October 30th, notes that "The social and economic reality in a situation of crisis and budgetary austerity makes tax fraud today even more reproachable than ever." Cash payments for a variety of goods and services - popularly known as 'black money' have been notoriously widespread across Spain for many years as a means of tax-avoidance. Now PM Mariano Rajoy hopes that the EU's largest generator of untaxed earnings could recover some of the estimated €245 Billion - equating to 23% of GDP - and avert the need for a 2nd bailout. Economists estimate that the value of tax avoidance in Spain is around 10% more than the EU average.

While the new cash ban doesn't affect purely personal transactions - such as buying a second-hand car or home from another private individual - it does extend to non-commercial transactions when the buyer is fiscally resident in another country. In that case the cash limit increases to €15,000.

Both buyers and sellers must keep receipts for 5 years. Violations, including dividing a deal up into pieces smaller than €2,500, will be considered "serious" infractions of administrative law, not criminal acts, and carry heavy fines. Hacienda will pardon any fine against any contributor if they denounce what another tax payer has done or is not paying. The ban won't be applied to the repayment of principal and interest to banks. (Source: Bloomberg & others)

The Ibero-American Summit 2012

This summit, which was held in Cadiz in late-November, attracted little attention in the world's media. Although PM Rajoy and King Juan Carlos attended, many of the big names from Central and South America gave it a miss, some sending representatives in their place.

Seven heads of state in all did not attend, the most notable being Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner from Argentina; Hugo Chavez from Venezuela and Raul Castro from Cuba. (See photo) Also missing was the president of Uruguay, José Mujica, due to health problems and the president of Guatemala, Otto Perez, due to an earthquake in his country which caused fifty deaths. Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua was also absent.

There was notable relief when the new president of Paraguay, Federico Franco, said he would not be attending. The previous president of Paraguay, Fernando Armindo Lugo Méndez, who previously was a Catholic priest and bishop, was removed from office in June 2012 through an impeachment process that neighbouring countries deemed a coup d'état. If Federico Franco had attended, most of the other delegates would have probably walked out.

This year's 22nd summit was tied in with the celebrations of the bicentenary of the 1812 Cadíz Constitution. The theme was 'Transforming the State and Development'. Economic growth in Latin America will ease from 4.4 percent in 2011 to 3.2 percent in 2012, the first slowdown in nearly a decade. However, compared to European growth, this is buoyant. Troubled Spain and Portugal are anxious to increase business with the Latin America markets, hoping that new trade agreements may go some way towards restoring their own ailing economies.

The Examination

A beautiful young lady is about to undergo an operation. She's laid on a trolley and wheeled into the corridor. The nurse leaves her outside the operating theatre and goes to tell the surgeon she's ready.

A young man in a white coat comes over, lifts up the girl's sheet and examines her naked body. He walks away and talks to another man in a white coat. The second man comes over and performs the same examination. Then a third man comes over and lifts the sheet.

The girl loses her temper, 'Are these examinations strictly necessary?' she complains. 'I've no idea,' replies the man. 'We're just here to paint the ceiling.'

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

If you find computers too complicated or need assistance in your everyday Spanish life, then, I'm your man!

Computer training and translations are my speciality. I live in the Dreams Hills area. I'm originally from Spain, and have two years of experience as a translator, and many years dealing with computers, since I have two computer-related college degrees from the US.

Please, let me know if you need any assistance with the following:

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- POLICE REPORTS
- OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS (STAMPED)
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I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked me for my autograph.
Shirley Temple



Fly Screens 4 U!!

'Feel the breeze not the bites'

Bernie, Michelle and family arrived in Spain September 1999. After commuting to the UK every month with Bernie's business commitments, it was getting very stressful. So in 2003 Bernie and Michelle looked at insect screens rather than high-maintenance rollers and sliders; after extensive research over a 12 month period they invented their unique 100% magnetised and totally flexible, frameless fly screen system for any shaped windows and doors.

Fly Screens 4 U have brought the cost of installing fly screens to an affordable level for everyone to FEEL THE BREEZE NOT THE BITES!



Fly Screens 4 U supply individually tailored fly screens for windows starting from as little as €39 and for security grill doors from only €69! One of their new inventions for 2012 is a totally flexible fly screen door for patio/doors for only €9!

All Fly Screens 4 U products are measured, made and fitted by Michelle, with a same day service available if required. The special magnets used are UV protected and have a lifetime guarantee.

Now they are in their 8th year with countless happy customers, going from strength to strength with their new summer promotion of a gift of an electricity energy saver which could help to reduce your electricity costs and help to pay for your fly screens, on all orders over 3 windows.

We carry with us a sample window incorporating our unique flexible fly screen to demonstrate how the system works.

If you would like to know more about Fly Screens 4 U, then please contact us on 965 078 877 or 695 504 034.

Quick Thinking!

Moshe, a medieval Jewish astrologer, prophesied that the king's favourite mistress would soon die. Sure enough, the young woman died a short time later. The king was outraged at the astrologer, certain that his prophecy had brought about the woman's death. He summoned Moshe and commanded him, 'Prophecy, tell me when you will die!'

Moshe realised that the king was planning to kill him immediately, no matter what answer he gave.

Moshe pondered for a little and finally answered, 'Vell, I do not know ven I will die.....I only know that venever I die, the king vill die three days later.'

The Three Bears

After a morning stroll, the three bears head for the kitchen to see if their breakfast has cooled down. 'Somebody's eaten my porridge!' cries the baby bear. 'And somebody's eaten my porridge!' exclaims the mother bear. 'Stuff the porridge!' yells the father bear. 'Where's the bloody video?'

Idiots of the Month

There are two winners of this prestigious award this month: a French police unit and the Spanish Legal System.



Members of an elite French police unit (RAID), early on the morning of October 27, raided two rooms in the Appart'Hotel Moreau in Macon, France.

There, they arrested two ETA terrorists, Izaskun Lesaka and Joseba Iturbe. Excellent work, and it must be said that the French special police units have been very successful over the years in capturing ETA terrorists. The terrorists refused to leave the hotel and had to be forced out, see photo. But it was then that the police 'dropped the ball.' After the terrorists were tucked up nicely in the police transport, the police then left the scene.

Unfortunately, five black plastic sacks containing the terrorists' belongings were inadvertently forgotten by the police and left by the rubbish bins. The bags contained a pistol, a laptop, a camera with several memory cards, one fake identity card, empty backpacks, maps & compasses plus numerous sealed envelopes.

As journalists started to arrive, the manageress of the hotel, Emilie Mathieu, noticed the black sacks and called the police. They quickly arrived back and left with the five sacks and several red faces!

Two judges, one sitting in Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona and the other in Lorca, Murcia, received suspensions and fines because of neglect and delays in their courts. The first judge was suspended for a year and fined because he refused to take detainees statements on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday, and because he also postponed an urgent request for protection during a case of domestic violence.

The second judge in neighbouring Murcia was found guilty of delaying the judgement in a case. Whereas the trial was completed in November 2007, the judge did not issue the sentence until February 2009. This judge was fined €300!

Both judges appealed the decisions to the General Council of the Judiciary but, wait for this, the delays with which the General Council handled their appeals (it took more than six months), means that the original charges, suspension and fines, have now expired and have been dropped!

The big mistake Bill Clinton made was not getting Teddy Kennedy to drive Monica Lewinsky home.
(Denis Leary)

¿Cuánto cuestan los testículos?

The regional High Court in Barcelona has sentenced a Catalan police officer to one year in prison for negligent use of a flashbang grenade that destroyed the testicles of a suspect he was trying to arrest in 2008.

Alberto Morano, who serves on the Mossos d'Esquadra's Special Intervention Group (GEI) see photo, was also kicked off the force for one year and ordered to pay his victim, José Antonio Coscolín, €168,000 in compensation. Another defendant, Sergeant Víctor Esteban, also of the GEI, was acquitted.



"I cannot have any children even though I have been operated on six times. I have gone through severe depression," Coscolín told the courtroom. The explosion from the flashbang grenade, which landed in his lap while he was inside a vehicle, destroyed his entire right testicle and 75 percent of the left one.

The incident occurred in Barcelona province, on November 4, 2008 when the Mossos (Catalan police) were trying to track down Coscolín, who worked as a debt collector, and his employer, who had an outstanding arrest warrant. Police wanted to detain the boss following complaints by some citizens concerning the aggressive methods he was using to collect money. Coscolín, then 25, went to the home of his boss and the two left in a Porsche Cayenne, with the victim riding in the passenger's seat.

During the trial, Coscolín said he saw a group of armed men dressed in black approaching them and thought it was a kidnapping attempt. He and his boss decided to stop and raise their hands. But some witnesses and the police testified that the driver of the vehicle refused to stop and advanced a few meters before one officer broke the window of the Porsche with an emergency rescue hammer. Within seconds Morano decided to use his flashbang grenade because he feared he and his companions would be run over. In their ruling, the judges on the High Court agreed that Morano acted according to police regulations when he decided to use the grenade, even if it was thrown inside a vehicle. What is not permitted, the judges said, is for the flash device to be thrown on a person. The officer knew the grenade was going to land on a suspect and he would not "have had enough time to react," the ruling states.

The head of the GEI said such an incident has never occurred before. He told the court that he had even held a flash grenade in his own hand as it went off without suffering any injuries. According to experts, Coscolín involuntarily covered the grenade's exhaust holes, which may have caused the device to explode with greater force. The Catalan regional government's interior department will also be held responsible for paying civil damages to Coscolín.

So, if one and three quarters 'nuts' are worth €168,000, this means that a full set would be worth €192,000. So guys, it is comforting to note that the those 'family jewels' of your are now probably worth more than your house!

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The Crevillent Con Man

Police arrested 39-year-old Senegalese man in Crevillent after he defrauded three of his neighbours out of €12,000! The con told his neighbours that he could 'magic' money from heaven using multiples of the number 111.1. He had a number of envelopes which he had primed with large notes by slight of hand, so after putting €11.1 cash into an envelope, it 'magically' turned into €55.5! The neighbours, who obviously were as dumb as a box of rocks, paid him money several times every month from May to October this year, so that he could build a fortune for them. In the end, common sense must have overcome their greed and they called the police. But really, these people are so stupid they deserved it.

Two Last Requests.

Hamish was dying. His wife was with him, standing next to the bed. As he was drawing his last few breaths, he gasped, 'Morag, I have one last request.'

'Of course, Hamish, what is it?' Morag asked softly.

'Six months after I die,' he said, 'I want you to marry Rob.'

'But I thought you hated Rob,' Morag said.

With his final breath, Hamish said, 'I do.'

Wendy was dying and on her deathbed, she gave final instructions to her husband Tony. 'Tony, you've been so good to me all these years. I know you never even thought about another woman. But now that I'm going, I want you to marry again as soon as possible, and I want you to give your new wife all my expensive clothes and fur coats.'

'I can't do that, darling,' Tony said. 'You're a size sixteen and she's only a ten.'



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The Jewish Tailor

Maurice took his new pair of trousers to a tailor in Golders Green to have them altered. But the next day, Maurice was called abroad on a last-minute job assignment. It was over five years before he was able to return to his Golders Green home. One day, while he was dressing, he reached into his jacket pocket and found, to his surprise, the tailor's receipt for his trousers. So Maurice went straight away to the tailors shop, which fortunately was still there.

Maurice handed him the receipt, and asked, 'Are my trousers here?'

'Yes, of course,' said the tailor. 'Be ready next Tuesday.'

Gallery.

We look forward to Halloween in Spain every year. Many Spanish families make a big effort to dress up and it is always a pleasure to greet & 'treat' them at the gate. These are some of the photos we took this year. Mick & Tid.



A Hoover? I don't think so!



Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve and nothing was going right. The elves were complaining about not being paid overtime; the reindeer had been getting pissed all afternoon and the sleigh was broken. Santa was furious. 'I can't believe it,' he yells. 'I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours - all my reindeer are drunk; the elves are on strike and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel to find one hours ago! What am I going to do?' Just then, the little angel opens the front door and steps in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree. 'Oi fatty!' she says, where d'you want me to stick this?'

And thus the tradition of angels atop Christmas trees came to pass.

Spain's Eviction Crisis.

Over the last two years, Spanish judges have issued some 350,000 foreclosure orders, resulting in the eviction of tens of thousands of families throughout the country unable to meet their mortgage repayments from their homes. Little heed was taken of the circumstances of these unfortunates as one judge who evicted a woman in Alicante commented, 'The Law is the law.' But of course many parents and grandparents, who had no mortgages or loans, sometimes signed letters of guarantee for their offspring so that they could get mortgages. Then when their children lost their jobs and couldn't meet payments, the banks and loan companies came after the parents and grandparents, ultimately evicting them as well.

Evictions are being carried out based on legislation dating back to 1909 that allows banks to pursue mortgage defaulters for the debt and additional payments, even after they have returned the property. The banks are allowed to add on penalty payments and late interest fees, basically at will. It is not uncommon for these charges to amount to 50% of the outstanding mortgage amount.

Several months ago I reported on a new code of conduct which the government agreed with the banks. However, this was a voluntary code which was largely ignored. The banks, who have been cutting back on staff at an alarming rate, reportedly allocate inexperienced staff to debt collection, so everything is 'done by the book.'

But in the last few weeks there were three suicides of homeowners which were due to be evicted. The subsequent clamour triggered a dramatic response on the part of Mariano Rajoy's government, which announced its intention to suspend all evictions of "vulnerable families", pending reforms.

In an effort to address the growing nationwide problem of evictions, the Cabinet approved a series of measures that include creating a pool of low-rent public housing for families who lose their homes to the banks. The Economy Minister, Luis de Guindos, explained that the stock of rentals would be built up using foreclosed properties that are currently in the hands of the banks.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, said that other measures include a two-year moratorium on the eviction of particularly vulnerable people, including families with monthly income of below 1,600 euros, large families, those with a child under three years old, those with disabilities and those with dependents. Single parents with two young children also qualify. The jobless with no right to unemployment benefits and certain cases of domestic violence victims will also be entitled to protection. However, the new rules contain many caveats and require a competent professional to sift through them.

But despite all this, a major opportunity was lost as the Cabinet decree does not include any modifications to the existing outdated and prejudicial Mortgage Law.

The Attorney General of the European Court of Justice, Juliane Kokott, ruled that the Spanish law on mortgages does not comply with European regulations on consumer protection: "It does not constitute an effective protection against abusive contractual clauses, given the fact that the consumer... must suffer defencelessly the foreclosure of his mortgage and the consequent forced sale of the home, the loss of property and subsequent homelessness."

More information on the changes is available here in Spanish-<http://www.diarioinformacion.com/nacional/2012/11/20/gobierno-abierto-medidas-desahucios/1316833.html>

State to fast-track residency permits for foreign buyers.

Spain needs foreigners to buy its properties to help absorb the glut of new homes on the market. The problem is, it can be quite tricky for non-EU nationals to buy a home in Spain, thanks to all the bureaucratic hoops they are forced to jump through. The Government is now trying to make it easier for property investors from outside the EU to buy in Spain and get residency permits as a consequence.

Five ministers are working on a project that gives residency to those who buy a property worth more than €160,000 according to an announcement made yesterday by Secretary of State of Commerce Jaime García-Legaz. 'In a few weeks we will launch a reform of the Aliens Act for granting residence permits to foreigners in Spain who acquire a property above a certain price level,' Garcia-Legaz reported. The secretary of state said the €160,000 bottom limit for property was 'balanced.' 'You can not put a price limit lower, because it would create a massive demand for residence permits,' he said.

The proposal aims to increase sales of properties to individuals and also real estate investment funds from Russia, China and the United States. There is a growing interest in the Russian middle class in the purchase of Spanish property, particularly in the Costa Blanca. The real estate sector thinks that the measure will succeed in selling many properties and also increase tax revenues. For the sale of a 200,000-euro home, the government will receive around 20,000 euros in tax revenues. Portugal and Ireland have already put a similar measure in place with good results. Some people object to the bill on grounds that it puts a price on Spanish citizenship.

In order for the measure to succeed, the legal red tape needs to be minimal. If buyers come from countries outside the EU, resident status would allow them and their families to travel throughout the EU without a visa for three months. However, the requirement of remaining/living in Spain for six months plus one day for residential status remains.

Again, the devil will be in the detail and the lawmakers will have to take precautions to ensure that system cannot be manipulated. For example will 16 Chinese people be able to purchase a single dwelling and then all claim residence? The process for gaining residency should eliminate those with criminal backgrounds as organised crime gangs/mafias will be looking at the final proposals very carefully. If there are loopholes in the new legislation which will assist their people-trafficking businesses, they will be among the first to take advantage of them.

Three Lucky Ladies

Three coloured women are sitting on the porch in deepest Louisiana discussing their husband's sexual potency.

'Hey, Mary Jo, does yo' old man have a special nickname?' asked Flo.

'Yep, he sure do,' says Mary Jo, I calls him Big Whoppa cos he be damn thirteen inches long may the Lord strike me down right now if I lie!' 'Shucks,' sigh the other two.

'What 'bout you, Flo?' asks Mary Jo, 'What yo' call yo' old man?'

'I call him Helmut...cos his tallywhacker is like a baby's arm holding an orange, may the Lord strike me down right now if I lie,' beamed Flo.

'Shucks,' sigh the other two.

'What 'bout you Sue Ellen, what yo' call yo' old man?'

'I call him Drambuie,' sighed Sue Ellen.

The other two are a bit puzzled by this and are quiet for a moment before Flo asks, 'Ain't that some kind of fancy liquor?' 'It sure is!!! Yes sireebob, that's my boy!' sighs Sue Ellen.

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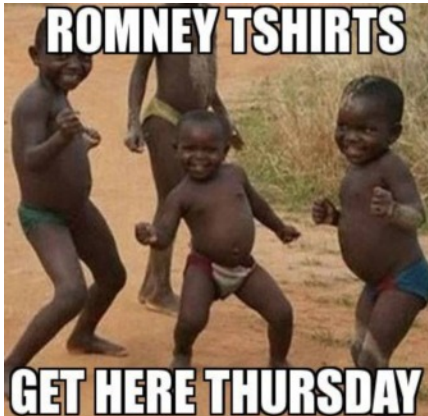
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Password?

Janice, a female computer consultant, was helping a far-too-smug male set up his computer. She asked him what word he would like to use as a password to log-in.

Being a bit of a smart-ass and wanting to embarrass her, he told her to enter the word 'penis.'

Without comment or blinking an eye, Janice entered the password he had requested.

But then she exploded with laughter as the computer displayed a message in response:

'Password rejected. Not long enough.'



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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills.

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Pam & Chris would like to invite all the friends of the Book Swap for pre-Christmas drinks & nibbles during the Book Swap on Thursday, Dec' 13th between 10:00am and 12:00 midday. The Book Swap will be closed on December 27th.



A job on the Italians!

What's the difference between toast and Italians? You can make soldiers out of toast.

Why did the new Italian navy buy glass-bottomed boats? So they could see the old Italian navy.

What do you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other?
A speech impediment.

Two men were walking down the road when they spot an Italian organ grinder and his monkey. As they pass, one of the men sticks a €20 note in the monkey's cup. 'Why did you do that?' asks his friend. 'You said you didn't like Italians. 'I know,' replies the other. 'But they're so cute when they're little.'

The Welsh are the Italians in the rain.

René Cutforth

Italians come to ruin most generally in three ways: women, gambling and farming. My family chose the slowest one.

Pope John XXIII

It is not impossible to govern Italians. It is merely useless.

Benito Mussolini

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