

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.

Issue no. 89, 1st of July 2014.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July edition.

Although we are well into the summer weather now, we had some welcome rainfall on June 17 & 2. It was so unusual, we couldn't stop looking at it, not having seen any since last November. "Oh look! Falling wet stuff!" Whereas the rainfall here was not too heavy, once again they seem to have taken a hammering in Murcia. In the town of Molina de Segura there, a twenty minute cloudburst caused severe flooding and was strong enough to carry cars away, see photo *Informacion*. In the Campo de san Juan, the almond and walnut trees were destroyed by incredibly large hailstones.



But as welcome as the rain was, it did nothing to correct the drought conditions that prevail over the rest of the Costa Blanca and inland. The lack of water has forced wildlife into human domains to seek water. In Javea in the Costa Blanca, wild animals, including wild boars, are now being seen as they try and replenish their liquids from swimming pools. This photo from *Informacion* on the left, shows a boar who drowned while drinking in a swimming pool.



As it is now getting very hot during the daylight hours, pavements and roads are also becoming incredibly hot. I have been reminded to tell you that if you find the ground too hot to walk on barefoot, you should not expect your dog to do so. A dog's pads are not made of asbestos, so please do your dog walking early morning or in the evenings when it is much cooler.

The whole world was in shock on June 19. No, not because of England's defeat in the World Cup, but Facebook was out for ten minutes so people on all continents were forced to get out and have a life!

Congratulations to those involved in Stagestruck, the amateur dramatic society. With their new production, Ancient Grease, a parody of the Grease musical performed at the Cardinal Belushi Theatre San Fulgencio, they raised €2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society and €1,000 for the school in San Fulgencio for schoolbooks. A number of residents from Los Altos and the Dream Hills urbanisations took part.

Remember, stay vigilant and be on the look-out for the 'bad guys.' Early one morning last week, one bar owner discovered a large hold-all which had obviously been dropped inside the bar canopy by some burglars. The bag contained bolt-cutters, screwdrivers, gloves etc. When the police were telephoned they just said, 'Make a complaint.' Obviously finger printing hasn't reached here yet. But if you played music on the bar veranda, the police would be there in minutes.

A mixed bag again this month. I had to leave out the history article this month to include some info' on the new tax bands and rates. If you want some links giving these in greater detail, just email me. There are also discount vouchers for *Galadriel* and *Treat Yourself*. See inside.

Wishing you all a great month and hoping we see you soon.

Mick & Tid.

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Angela's Cartoon

"Andy! At least go in waist deep!"

Egotism is the anaesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity. Frank Leahy

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:

TRANSLATIONS

- HOSPITALS / DOCTORS
- POLICE REPORTS
- OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS (STAMPED)
- UNOFFICIAL WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS
- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
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Did you know that

...Google has put a form on their websites in Europe which gives it's users the right to have personal info' removed, following a ruling from the European Court. So that embarrassing moment when the camera caught you peeing into the fountain in Trafalgar Square can now be deleted, forever!

...Carrefour plan to open up 100 'Carrefour Express' convenience stores at Cepsa service stations each year, for the next five years.

...Vodafone has reported that a small number of governments have direct access to communications flowing over its networks. Most countries that Vodafone operate in require a warrant to intercept communications, the firm said. However, in some countries police have a direct link to customer's phone calls and web communications, but the British operator has declined to say which countries. I would guess that Spain is in this category because they seem to be able to bug phones at the drop of a hat.

...Aldi are due to open a new store locally on Wednesday, July 2. It is situated on the coast road into Torry, between the N332 and the Mar Azul area.

...there was a major clampdown on driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs in early June in Spain. Between the 2nd and the 8th of June 207,829 alcohol and drug tests were administered. At least 2,500 are expected to be fined and after 1,058 drug tests were administered on drivers who were found not to have consumed alcohol, a worrying 34% of the drug tests proved positive. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to extrapolate from this that driving after drug taking may be a much larger problem than the alcohol one.

...the parents of under 18's who allow their children to get drunk, can now be fined €300 if the current draft on alcohol reform is passed? The draft law sets out the largest penalties for supermarkets, nightclubs and bars caught selling alcohol to minors: they could be slapped with a staggering €600,000 fine. Spanish authorities may however reduce the penalty if the alcohol sold illegally is beer or wine rather than more damaging spirits like rum or whisky.

...Mercadona is to spend €25 million on upgrading the bakery facilities in their stores and will spend one million €training 4,450 staff members.

Second Opinion?

'Why are you in such a hurry?'

'I'm on my way to the doctor - I don't like the look of my wife.'

'Oh! Then I'll come with you - I hate the sight of mine, too.'

What's Up?

I suppose there were three main events in Spain during the last month which provided a shock to many. The first was the fallout following the European Elections. The two main parties, the PP and the Socialists, took their turns in power since the end of Franco's dictatorship in the 1970's. It would now seem that if they wished to remain in power, they would only do so with the backing of the smaller regional parties and the new national parties. Whereas the right of centre PP have been hunkering down for some time because of criticism due to corruption and the cut-backs, it was the main socialist party, the PSOE, who suffered the most as new more radical left-wing parties took millions of votes away from the long standing, main socialist party. The party is still in turmoil and has still not elected a leader after their leader Rubalcaba, resigned in May.

Much later came the shock of football defeat in Brazil. The Spaniards love their football (as well as F1 and motor bike racing) and their shock was palpable. After all, they won the previous World Cup!

But surely, it was the unexpected abdication of King Juan Carlos I (photo) that surprised everybody. Juan Carlos was Spain's longest serving monarch - a 39-year reign. But the attitude of the Spanish to the Crown is very different say than that of the British to their Royal Family. Okay, many Brit's, particularly the younger set, are only mildly interested as to whether it will be Charlie the Looney or William the Normal who will inherit Betty's crown. But real hostility towards the Crown is not a part of the scene there. The appeal of the Queen, Buckingham Palace and Windsor to tourists is a major earner for the UK, but there is nothing similar in Spain.



Although many Spaniards respect the monarchy, there is also a large part of the population which is not only ambivalent but hostile towards the monarchy. Despite Spain's two previous disastrous attempts to maintain a republic, there are still many who want to see a Third Republic. When Juan Carlos announced his abdication, large crowds of republicans

gathered in many cities to protest the continuation of the monarchy. The photo on the left shows only part of the republican crowd in Madrid. What also perturbed some was that Juan Carlos was Franco's

choice of successor. At the time in the 60's, the heir to the throne of Spain was Juan de Borbón (Count of Barcelona), the son of the late Alfonso XIII. However, General Franco viewed him with extreme suspicion, believing him to be a liberal. Ultimately, Franco decided to skip a generation and name Juan de Borbón's son, Prince Juan Carlos, as his personal successor. Franco hoped the young prince could be groomed to take over the nation while still maintaining the ultraconservative nature of his regime.

When Franco died, Juan Carlos did the opposite and was one of the prime architects in heralding in a new democratic era in Spain. But it was during the military coup in February 1981 that he really show his mettle. As the members of the Spanish parliament were held captive in the Cortez and tanks roamed the streets, he appeared in the uniform of the Captain-General of the Spanish armed forces, gave a public television broadcast calling for unambiguous support for the legitimate democratic government. The broadcast was a major factor in foiling the coup.

Paddy says to Mick "I found this pen. Is it yours?" Mick replies "Don't know, give it here." He then tries it and says, "Yes it is." Paddy asks "How do you know?" Mick replies, "That's my handwriting"

But there are plenty of skeletons in his cupboard. When he was 18, he accidentally shot his younger brother dead. Many speculated that the beautiful German aristocrat 28 years his junior, Princess Corinna Sayn-Wittgenstein, was his mistress. She has always maintained 'there was no hanky-panky' but it did little to help the King's reputation as someone with an eye for the ladies. There was also two paternity suites which appear to have been silenced. But the kings love of hunting also got him into trouble, when he posed after killing an elephant in Botswana while president of the World Wildlife Fund. They eventually sacked him.

His son is now the new king, King Felipe VI. Felipe is married to what the British call a 'commoner' or as we Irish call them 'a normal person.' She was a TV presenter and I wrote about their secret romance in a Dream Scene issue several years ago. She is now Queen Letizia (photo). (I will probably update it and print it again soon.) The new



coronation was a remarkably understated affair and was a simple civil ceremony. This was I believe because a full 'bells & whistles' ceremony with pomp and circumstance, would only alienate many who are currently living under severely austere conditions in Spain.

I will return to the 'new Spanish royals' in another issue, but I thought you might like to see a cartoon from the Spanish satirical magazine, El Jueves. The cartoon underneath was due to appear on the cover of a recent issue. It shows the outgoing king passing a dung-filled crown to the new king. When the magazine owners saw it, the dumped 60,000 copies in the rubbish bin rather than offend the royals. This led to several cartoonists on the magazine resigning.



On the left is an old cover from *El Jueves*, when Germany was demanding savage cut-backs from the Spanish.

The headline says "Rajoy-Merkel, the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Merkel ask PM Rajoy, 'Metal or Whip?'

Rajoy responds, 'It depends.'

4 What's Up? continued

I know I always joke about the Costa del Sol being full of gangsters and villains but some 20 countries are combing the Costa del Sol area looking for wanted criminals. The Málaga Prosecutors' Office alone, dealt with 164 international requests last year. Málaga province, heads the international requests for detention, behind only Madrid and Barcelona. The number of passive rogatory requests (communications from other countries asking for investigation and evidence gathering proceedings) has increased in recent years. In 2006 and 2007, before the crisis, the number was about 100, it has increased progressively to reach 164 last year. Most of the incidents under discovery are on the western Costa del Sol and Marbella in particular. Germany tops the list of requests with 33, followed by the United Kingdom 30, Cyprus 22, France 21, Holland 14 and Portugal 11.

One of the things which may happen in this area is that, as the conditions for the absconding criminals gets too uncomfortable for them in the Costa del Sol, they will gradually move eastwards and, you guessed it, into the Costa Blanca area as well.

The National Police detained 19 members of a family clan in Palma. Known as *Los Peludos* - the Furry Ones - they occupied housing illegally and then rented it out afterwards.

Isabel Pantoja is probably Spain's most popular singer, not a pop singer, but rather like Vera Lynn was to the British. Pantoja, formerly a girlfriend of the corrupt and jailed ex mayor of Marbella, has now been given a two-year sentence by the Supreme Court for money laundering. The sentence will not be served as it does not exceed two years. What a cop-out!

Police closed down a Chinese sweat-shop in Murcia, which employed 13 Chinese citizens. The workers were paid €300 per month, but €150 of this was taken from each of them for rent. The proprietors, a 46-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman, were arrested.

The Government has expelled from this country in secret, around 100 jihadist activists. They have done so for security reasons. The jihadists who were expelled included Moroccans, Algerians, Syrians, Tunisians, and Pakistanis living in Spain; some married to Spaniards. They were taken to a plane and taken to their home countries, some after serving a jail sentence.

Iberdrola has been fined for 'fraudulently manipulating' the prices. The National Commission for Markets and Competition is investigating the power company during the auction last December, which the Government annulled to avoid an 11% rise in the price. Iberdrola is accused of lowering production to put up prices.

The Spanish government announced the launch of an operation to part-privatize the country's state airport authority, Aena. The sale of a 49% stake in the body that runs the country's airports will be the most significant privatization in the last 15 years in Spain, after the government's attempt to float the state lottery ended in failure in 2011. The operation is likely to inject around €2.45 billion into state coffers.

A 26-year-old man has been arrested in Elche. It seems this nut case has kept his girlfriend locked up in their property for the last year. His 22-year-old partner had a baby about a year ago and since then both mother and baby have been kept in a virtual prison. During that time, the mother was treated very badly both emotionally and sexually. She was also kept starved of food and water on a recurring basis. The young woman escaped with the baby and went straight to the National Police. What was also scandalous was that the man's father was also resident in the accommodation as well and did nothing to assist the young woman. He has now also been arrested for failure to assist or help, but was released with charges. The young man is still in custody and will hopefully get his 'just desserts' in due course and not just a token sentence. In the meantime, lets hope that Big Gay Juan in Alicante jail, subjects him to a long and painful 'rogering.'

One of the Spain's top judges on the panel of the Constitutional Court has resigned. While riding his motorbike, he jumped a red light and was not wearing a helmet. But when his blood was tested, he was found to be four times over the blood alcohol limit. He was arrested at 7:30am after returning from a stag party by the police. A National Police squad car happened to be parked on that spot, and the officers immediately stopped the driver, who was visibly intoxicated. Because the National Police have no powers over traffic violations, a municipal patrol was dispatched to the spot and as many as seven alcohol tests conducted "because he repeatedly stopped blowing without any apparent motive."

100 Spanish prosecutors are scouring the online social networks to determine if crimes are being committed. The large group is split up across the country as 'the legislation has not advanced at the same speed as the new technologies'.

Google has now put an 'I want to be forgotten' form on their website following a ruling from the Spanish court supported to the European Court. Information can be removed on oneself when it is considered to be inadequate or irrelevant.

El País reports the Guardia Civil are investigating the Barcelona footballer Messi for sending black money to fiscal paradises. The investigators are following a million € sent to a bank in the Caribbean following 'charity' matches. He is already in trouble for not declaring several million in earnings. The El Mundo revealed that although Messi's representatives were paid €1.7 million for two matches, the charity only received €37,000 from Messi.

Following our story last month: the entry of the British investment fund CVC into the Andalucía olive oil company Deoleo, has now resulted in the company moving to Córdoba. Obviously they envisage major expansion.

Barcelona city council announced on Friday that no new cannabis clubs will be allowed to open in the city for one year in order to halt their proliferation and allow for tighter regulation of the 160 clubs that already exist. One club has been shut down for allegedly supplying drugs to their clients. The clubs charge around €20 to join. It is illegal in Spain to traffic cannabis or smoke it in public but private growing and use in very limited amounts, is allowed.

A Spanish foundation that cares for people with Alzheimer's disease forged a wealthy patient's will in order to donate €3 million to a charity, presumably with the intention of receiving part of the money back. It is alleged that three people were paid €1,000 each to witness the fake document. The foundation, *Afal Futuro*, is now being investigated to ascertain whether they did the same with other patients under their care.

You may very well have noticed the scrap metal thievery in your area. Post box door, metal surrounds to metres, anything metal and removable etc., are being stolen everywhere. In Madrid, a man discovered these thieves taking metal parts off his car. He chased them onto the Madrid M-404 motorway, but the thieves threw metal parts on the motorway to hinder his chase. Unfortunately one of the pieces pierced the bottom of a car being driven by a 75-year-old woman and it went straight into her leg. The woman died due to severe haemorrhaging.

Bloody Foreigners!

Two Lancashire men went on a holiday to France and stayed at a country farmhouse. They were disgusted to find that everybody in France, even the kids, spoke French. One morning they were awoken by a cock crowing. "Does tha know," said one Lancashire man to the other, "That's t' first word of English w'heard spoken since we arrived!"

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**NOW WITH
DRAFT
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We were so poor we couldn't even afford a proper lavatory brush. We had to tie my pet hedgehog to a stick and tell him to hold his breath. Roy Chubby Brown

Orihuela Costa has collected 5 Quality Flags to go with the Blue Flags already issued. The joke is these 'Quality' flags were given when there were no sun beds, beach bars, toilets, sun umbrellas, lifeguards, jet skis and the normal things you would associate with popular beaches in Spain. The minister said the awards were awarded for the services provided! As I mentioned in last month's issue, the award is a joke and carries no merit, but of course it is another colourful flag to put up!



The problems relating to the beach bars on the Orihuela Costa have at last been solved. The company, Chiringuitos del Sol, were again awarded the contract despite not having ever paid the annual concession fees. The concession includes any of the money making activities on the beach such as sun bed hire, pedalos etc. The company has now merged with another and has paid around €500,000 of the approx. €900,000 due. All in all, the matter was handled very badly by the council, being the current and previous ones. Technically the money owed was not a debt as the firm with the concession was never asked for the money! This is not only due to council inefficiency but also due to the fact that the concession fee is not actually payable to the local council, but to the regional or Madrid governments. Consequently, the local administration couldn't give a damn as there is nothing in it for them. The firm has now four years to pay the remainder of the fee.

There have been three drowning's off local beaches during the last two weeks. The absence of lifeguards, they only started on June 23rd, hasn't helped. These were all older gentlemen. One, a 66-year-old British man, went swimming in the heavy swell of the Playa Glea in Orihuela Costa.

One of the beaches in Alicante, Postiguat, now has lockers installed where people can store whatever. Each locker accept a mobile phone idea as it keeps the would love to see them restaurants.

The municipal scathing statement the City of Orihuela external audit. as much chance Cohen enjoying a synagogue or even



auditor issued a about the finances of and has requested an And there is about of that as of Rabbi 'bacon sani' in a in a mosque!

Police in Torrevieja have fined 30 kiosks around the town for selling alcohol. A number of the owners stated that they already had verbal approval from one of the councillors, Gil Rebollo. You may be able to spot one locally that was fined last year.

The police are cracking down on illegal taxi drivers at Alicante-Elche airport. In the last month and a half more than 800 'taxis' have been investigated. Taxi drivers are very annoyed that the government are not clamping down on the various car sharing schemes. The taxis in Madrid went on strike for one day during June. But the government insists that car-sharing in a private form is legal (i.e. no profit), but in a public form it must comply with the current legislation.

Información in Alicante reports that the province is one of the worst for the number of doctors practising here. Alicante has only 328 per 100,000 inhabitants, while the national average is 501.

The problems relating to the wasteful use of mobile phones by councillors in Torrevieja has again reared its ugly head. Another investigation is under way.

It is fair to say that locally, both the firefighters and police, have been getting a raw deal for some time. While councillors prosper, the wages of those in these essential services have been cut at least twice, and the resources available to them are also being severely reduced. This photo from *Informacion* shows firefighters holding a silent demonstration during a council meeting in Torrevieja. They wrote words such as 'Honour' and 'Dialogue' on their chests and back.



Whereas the police in Guardamar del Segura have got four sexy quads to patrol their beach areas, the local police in San Miguel de Salinas have had to resort to 'shank's pony' to police the town for several weeks. Due to a monumental cock-up, there were no police vehicles as the rental agreement they had expired! Hence no police car and even though a tender was sent out for two police cars, nobody responded. But then it started to descend into 'Keystone Cops' territory. While patrolling on foot one day, a drunk driver crashed into the wall of a house. The police chased the driver on foot and apprehended him. He was found to be five times over the limit! But of course they then had to walk him to the police station! Now that must have been a Kodak moment.' It was only last week that the police managed to get a loan of a vehicle from another area.

The Local Police in Benidorm have also been complaining. They have not had a change of uniform for six years. However, two weeks ago, they received some spanking new gear - winter anoraks! Now these should come in very handy during July, August and September!

But things got even sillier with the 'fuzz' in Alicante. In September 2012, police in Alicante stopped a vehicle during a routine check. The car was occupied by two men 'of colour' who then ran off. The police searched the vehicle and found 300 grams of cocaine and 4,500 in counterfeit euro bills. Some hours later, other policemen arrested a black man with dreadlocks, who had a record of drug dealing and fitted the description of one of the men who fled. Jump almost two years later when the case came to court last week and the suspect, who had been held on remand all this time, appears in court. But now, he has had his hair cut and the police who brought the original charge cannot recognise him! The accused had always denied the charge and, after 21 months in the clink, the man walked free.

Spain (and England) received a hammering in the football World Cup and returned to Spain much earlier than expected. The players will take little comfort that the 180 pairs of goal post nets used in the competition in Brazil were made in Alicante. The LED spotlights come from a factory in Valladolid in Castile and Leon, and the diving and acting in the penalty box comes straight from Hollywood!

Eleven people were taken to a hospital in Alicante after enjoying a barbecue. It seems that someone spiked the beefburgers with cannabis. Police are investigating.

Dwarves and very short people have now been banned from all the nudist beaches on the Costa Blanca - they're always poking their noses into other people's affairs.



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LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf societies venue for the 11th June 2014 was held at the Vista Bella Golf Course.

There, thirty-six players teed off, probably the largest turn out so far, in wonderful sunshine and conditions. Everyone were hoping to perform a good round and the scores reflecting quite a few were not disappointed.

The competition was in the Stapleford format and the scores recorded are as follows.

Nearest the Pin on the 2nd Hole (par 4) in 2 shots was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the Pin on the 8th hole (par 3) in was Gerry Carlton.

Nearest the pin on the 14th hole (par 5) in 3 shots was Tony Jones.

Silver Class 4th place was Ken Sutton with a score of 27 points.

Silver Class 3rd place was Norman Dobson with a score of 28 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Barry Shawyer with a score of 29 points .

Silver Class 1st place was Tony Jones with a score of 33 points.

Gold Class 4th place was Gerry Carlton with a score of 31 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Arthur Jones with a score of 34 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Geoff Pearson with a score of 36 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Bob Adair with a score of 36 points.(on count-back)

A very good day in pleasant company; thank you to Captain Mick Slater for organising the event and mentioning Mick's wife Angie who helps considerably behind the scenes. Also thanks to the Staff at The Lime Bar and ladies for a most enjoyable barbeque. Anyone wishing to join our friendly society just needs to phone Mick on 659866468.



You need two hands!

My God! What happened to you?" the bartender asked Kelly as he hobbled in on a crutch, one arm in a cast. "I got in a tiff with O'Riley." "O'Riley? Sure, he's just a wee fellow," the barman said surprised. "He must have had something in his hand." "That he did," Kelly said. "A shovel it was." "Dear Lord. Didn't you have anything in your hand?" "Aye, that I did - Mrs. O'Riley's left breast." Kelly said. "And a beautiful thing it was too, but not much use in a fight!"[®]

Other News

Gibraltar Introduces New Rules to Marriage Act.

The 'Rock' has introduced new rules to their Marriage Act, in an effort to boost tourism. The new rules do not effect Gibraltar residents. One of the provisions in the couples married under required to spend at Gibraltar, either before with an attendant hotel, spending that this will added flexibility that the spend the relevant night Gibraltar resident, rather



new law is that special licence are least one night in or after the ceremony restaurant and related entail. There is the visiting couple can as the guest of a than in a hotel.

Gibraltar-registered now be able to hold marriages aboard, appointed deputy The Government expects that in the long-term, these changes will serve as a further incentive for ship owners to re-register their vessels under the Gibraltar flag.

Using the internet on your **mobile phone** in the European Union will be 55% cheaper from July 1. The cost of making a mobile call abroad will also fall by 21%, and 28.5% for receiving calls, and 25% in the sending of text messages. It's not an end to the roaming charge which many think should be abolished inside Europe. Vodafone is to sell open phones and tablets from July both for their current and future clients. By doing so they are now in line with Movistar and Orange who already sell all their mobile phones unblocked. Those Vodafone clients whose phones are blocked can go to the company's website and download the app *Mi Vodafone* which will unblock the phone for free.

Public debt in the autonomous regions has increased by 10.3% in the last three months according to the Federation of Autonomous Regions. It referred to four regions which are 'incapable' of solving their debt problems, Cataluña, Comunidad Valenciana, Murcia and Aragón.

Spain's Telefonica has approved a plan to start **selling electricity** to its big corporate clients as part of a combined package with telecommunications services, El Periodico reported, citing sources close to the company. By signing up to get electricity from Telefonica, companies will also be required to buy a package of technological solutions related to energy efficiency, the newspaper said. Telefonica declined to comment. Spain's electricity market is currently dominated by the country's three main utilities: Iberdrola, Gas Natural and Endesa.

More than 120,000 people affected by the sale of **preferential shares** will not receive compensation after arbitration. More than 300,000 reclamations have been reimbursed to date, some 75% of the small investors. But oddly, over 100,000 clients have not used their right to apply for compensation.

La Verdad in Murcia reported that 700 Murcianos have **renounced their inheritance** in the last year because of debts and fiscal pressure. The paper says the number is 100 times more than in the other regions.

Unemployment in Spain fell by 11,916 people in May although 4,572,385 people are still out of work. The figures were down in all sectors, above all in the service sector with the start of the tourism season resulting in 198,320 new affiliates to the Social Security system, the largest increase in nine years. All types of contract showed growth although the fixed contracts remained under 8% of the total. Temporary contracts are still dominant. Things are getting worse for those out of work as 42% of them receive no benefits.

Barbie & G.I. Joe.

A little girl was telling Santa what she wanted for Christmas as she listed one thing after another she said '..... And I want G.I. Joe and Barbie, and'
'But Honey,' Santa interrupted, "you mean you want a Ken and Barbie?"
'No, Santa!' she said. 'I want G.I. Joe and Barbie!'
'But Barbie comes with Ken!' Santa insisted.
'No!' The little girl exclaimed. 'Barbie comes with G.I. Joe! She only fakes it with Ken.'

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Poor!

*We couldn't afford a proper bath.
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we'd wash down as far as possible
and we'd wash up as far as possible.
Then, when somebody'd clear the
room, we'd wash possible.*

Dolly Parton



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SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING IN THE BASEMENT!

There have been gory 'goings on' at the Complutense University in Madrid, conjuring up images of Hammer horror films rather than the venerable image of Madrid's most famous university. The university has two anatomy departments and it is Anatomy II we are looking at, which is situated in the basement - where else!

Over the last six months, hundreds of corpses donated for scientific study had been piling up in the Anatomy II department in unhygienic and unregulated control conditions. It is believed to have peaked at one time with 250 corpses. Few of these were refrigerated and foul smelling corpses were packed in every available space, even on top of each other. The university stated that the problem was due to the lack of staffing caused by the savage cuts in healthcare and education. Labour inspectors then, as they usually do, made matters worse by closing down the department's incineration unit because of health risks. The head of the Anatomy II Department then resigned.



But now it seems that this was not the whole story. It is believed that some technicians in the department have been supplementing their meagre earnings by receiving cash-in-hand payments of between €100 and €150 daily, by preparing materials and cadavers for "courses" held outside of normal university hours. The build-up of cadavers was then probably due to 'earning opportunities' rather than inefficiency and staff shortage.

Companies, conferences and private individuals supposedly hired the spaces for these out-of-hours courses, mainly, it seems, in the fields of dentistry and ophthalmology. But many of the attendances went unsupervised. Sometimes the staff would prepare the cadavers for the 'courses' on a Friday afternoon and leave the premises, not returning until Monday morning to clear up! So, if Aunt Agatha donated her body to science, she may very well be appearing soon in a cheap Spanish zombie movie!

WOMEN BEHIND BARS: SPAIN TOPS EU TABLE.

Spain has seen its female prison population grow tenfold over the last 30 years, making it the country in Europe with the highest rate of women behind bars. Back in 1983, only 480 women were serving time in Spanish prisons. The figure currently stands at 5,117, twice the rate of neighbouring France. They still only make up 7.6% of Spain's total prison population, but the female inmates rate across the continent and worldwide are somewhat lower, with 5.3 and 6% respectively.

Drugs are the number one cause for their imprisonment, with one in two women serving sentences for minor trafficking crimes. Many of the women in Spanish prisons are foreigners who worked as drug mules, most of whom were arrested at airports in Spain.

"Women are hardly ever behind violent crimes involving unknown victims," Margarita Aguilera, lawyer for female prisoners body ACOPE, told 20 minutos about the lack of female psychopaths. "Violent crimes perpetrated by women are a result of abuse towards them in their own families." In fact, a study by Spain's social studies institute CIS highlighted that 88% of female prisoners have been the victims of sexual abuse.

Spain's former prisons director, Mercedes Gallizo, named "men and drugs" as the two underlying reasons for female incarceration, the latter often used to ease the pain of their suffering. There are exceptions however, as in the case of the prostitute who poisoned a client who didn't pay her or the woman jailed for abandoning her baby in a forest.

The typical prison profile of female Spanish nationals is that of "a drug addict with numerous repeat offences", Aguilera added.

The trend of foreign drug mules arrested in Spain has seen a drop in recent years, the ACOPE lawyer explains, and been replaced by women committing petty crimes as a direct result of their hardship during the country's economic crisis.

•A policeman pulled me over last night as I was driving back from the pub. He said, 'You got no car tax, your rear tyre is completely flat, you've got a can of lager in your hand and you're not wearing a seatbelt!' I said, 'I'll see you tomorrow then.' 'What's that supposed to mean?' he asked. I said, 'Hang on a minute, I'm on the phone.'

•A man in Texas accidentally shot himself in the leg while queuing in a supermarket; or as they call it in the 'States - a 'selfie.'

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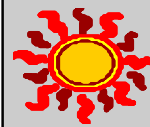
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'FAT CAT' BANKERS ESCAPE CLINK.

For the first time since the economic crisis began, a group of bankers has been found guilty of financial crimes in Spain. But the former leaders of Caixa Penedès, a Catalan savings bank that received €15 million in state aid before being bought out by another bank, may be able to avoid going to jail despite their joint five-year conviction. Instead, former director general Ricard Pagès Font and his three aides have promised to return the €28.6 million in retirement plans that they granted themselves before leaving the lender. Caixa Penedès was ultimately bought out by Banco Sabadell in October 2013 after receiving the bailout money.

Judge José María Vázquez Honrubia has taken into account the attenuating circumstance that the defendants admitted to the facts. Pagès had awarded himself €1.6 million; Santiago José Abella got €5.7 million, and there was €6.1 million for Manuel Troyano and €4.8 million for Juan Caellas.

The ruling describes the former bank officials as guilty of mismanaging the lender. Standing before the judge, the accused were told that "you have acted in a malicious, insidious, deceptive way towards society. By bypassing the savings bank's control mechanisms, and using a president and a board who were there practically for decorative purposes, you put your personal interests ahead of social interests, abusing the trust placed in you as executives."

The four executives, along with the now deceased head of human resources, Jaume Jorba, awarded themselves these sums "without basis in their contracts and without authorization or knowledge by Caixa Penedès' administrative bodies."

They are just some of several savings banks officials to have come under fire for awarding themselves hefty bonuses as their companies struggled to survive in the wake of the Spanish property market crash, to which they had been heavily exposed. Beginning in 2010 many of the country's savings banks were forced by the government to merge to avoid a chain reaction of bankruptcies. This did not stop the executive management of these banks from 'gilding their retirement cages' with huge sums of money. There is more than one way to 'rob' a bank!

But the authorities seem to be 'waking-up' to the issue, albeit a little slowly. I have just read that the FROB, the Fund for the Ordered Reorganisation of the Banks, is preparing more legal action against those responsible for the bankruptcy of the savings banks. These relate to crimes of real estate trafficking and irregular compensation for ex directors of the savings banks which have received public money.

POPULATION SHOWS DECLINING TREND.

Spain's population fell by 113,902 between 2012 and 2013, a negative trend which could account for 2.6 million fewer people in the next ten years if the situation doesn't change. The country's young population could also decline by nearly one million in just a decade, meaning there would be 20.4% fewer children under ten than there are now in Spain. Representatives from the United Nations Children's Fund have warned that Spain's ageing population could cause serious social and economic problems that could in turn damage the pensions and healthcare systems. Spain's economic crisis is according to the UN body having a more severe effect on households with children, where unemployment rates among all family members has grown by a staggering 290% since 2007.

The Burglar.

This woman came screaming into the police station.

'This guy broke into my apartment,' she said. 'He ripped off my clothes and threw me on the floor. When I laid there naked, he grabbed my purse and ran off.'

'Did you scream?' asked the sergeant.

'Of course not!' she replied. 'How did I know he was going to rob me?'



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A Scotsman was fined for indecent conduct at a court in Torreveja last week. According to witnesses, the man had continually wiped the perspiration off his forehead with his kilt.

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NATURAL GAS.

Gas Natural Fenosa are now beginning to extend the natural gas pipeline to parts of the Dream Hills urbanisation. At the moment, the heavily incentivised and attractive installation offer is still available, but it will undoubtedly be withdrawn once the pipework is completed. Adopting a wait-and-see attitude will cost you money! If you are still undecided about whether to have it installed or not on your property, I would urge you to contact Virginia or Deibi on 645 113 316 (who speak several languages including English) and they will be pleased to meet with you and answer any questions you might have about the natural gas installation, without any obligation on your part. They can also be contacted at - comercialelecnor@gmail.com

EXPLORATION.

Spain's Environment Ministry said it foresees no significant adverse impact from Repsol's proposed exploration for oil and gas off the coast of the Canary Islands. Spain imports nearly all the oil it consumes. Seismic studies conducted in the early 2000s suggested that there could be substantial amounts of oil off the coast of the Canary Islands. Spain granted Repsol the right to explore for oil, but the regional government and some local governments in the Canary Islands objected. The exploration program got tangled up in the courts, resulting in its eventual suspension. After a lengthy legal battle, Spain's Supreme Court is expected to determine in June whether the exploration permit is valid. Mr. Rix, the Repsol spokesman, said the company is ready to begin exploring for oil this year if the court agrees it is valid.

*Ecstasy is a drug so strong it makes
white people think they can dance* Lenny Henry

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Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor: I am a crack dealer in Torrevieja who has recently been diagnosed as a carrier of the HIV virus. My parents live in a suburb of Alicante and one of my sisters, who lives in La Mata, is married to a transvestite. My father and mother have recently been arrested for growing and selling marijuana and are currently dependent on my other two sisters, who are prostitutes in Punta Prima. I have two brothers. One is currently serving a non-parole life sentence in Barcelona for murder of a prostitute in 1994. The other brother is currently being held in a remand centre on charges of gross sexual misconduct with three very young girls and a goat. I have recently become engaged to marry a former Thai prostitute who lives in Villamartin and is still a part time "working girl" in a brothel in Cabo Roig. All things considered, my main problem is this. I love my fiancée and look forward to bringing her into the family and I certainly want to be totally honest with her. Should I tell her about my distant cousin who is a Manchester United supporter?

Signed: Confused.

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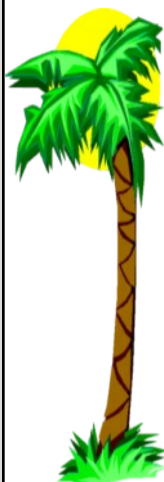
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Putting the Boot In.

•Coleen Rooney flew out to Brazil with her two kids and 15 suitcases so that they could be with Wayne until England's World Cup games are over. That's nice, but it seems a bit far to go for just a few days really.

•Well, at least Gerrard has done the double this year...he has f*cked up Liverpool and England's chance of a title this year.

•Now that the England games are over, the players can get back to what they do best.....cheating on their girlfriends and hair shampoo adverts.

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The Generalitat Valenciana's excessive spending on Castellón airport plummeted to new depths when documents were recently published revealing how €6 million had been spent on sport sponsorship by the concession holder Aerocas between 2006 and 2010. This despite construction work at the airport not being finished until March 2011 and to date, the airport has still not had a commercial flight!

The former disgraced Aerocas President, Carlos Fabra, signed sponsorship contracts with Castellon, Villareal and Benloch Football Clubs to cover expenses ranging from travel, tickets and strips. Other beneficiaries of Aerocas sponsorship of were the Aprilia Racing Team; Team Lotus Motorsport Aprilia 48; Aeroclub Castellón and the Castellon Athletics club.

That €6 million could have been used to build a total of 13 health centres and 16 schools, yet was squandered on the dubious excuse of promoting an airport that was and remains an utter folly.

The other tragedy is that no one will be held accountable while the taxpayer continues to carry the can.



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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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The Scottish Coalman.

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I'm dyslexic. There was a sign outside my school that said, 'Slow Children' which didn't do much for our self-esteem. Then again, we couldn't read it.

Jimmy Carr

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AVDA. DR MARIANO RUIZ CANOVAS
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Boris Becker's 2,900-square metre property in Spain (see photo), was confiscated by Spanish authorities in March after he failed to pay a Majorca builder €391,000 for carpentry, plumbing and resurfacing of a basketball court. The six-time German Grand Slam champion, currently in Wimbledon in his role as the trainer of world number two Novak Djokovic, was also told his nine-bedroom property would be auctioned off for €7 million. But in early June, Becker, whose net worth is estimated at \$29 million, saved the property with just minutes to spare when a lawyer acting for him handed over €430,000 to a Majorca judge. This is the second time Becker has nearly seen his Majorca holiday home sold off. In 2012, he ended up in court on the island over €359,011 in unpaid gardening bills.

Becker's private life post-tennis has also been beset by scandal. The most infamous episode involved him having sex with the model Angela Ermakova on a staircase in a London restaurant while his pregnant wife was at home. What a shit! Ermakova fell pregnant after the romp, going on to give birth to Becker's daughter Anna.



IDIOT OF THE MONTH.

A number of candidates this month. Leading this week's wayward bunch is the waiter in a café bar in the centre of Alcoy, Alicante. This genius took €1,400 from the till and fed it all into the fruit machine on the premises. Then, in order to justify the loss of cash, he invented a robbery and to add credibility to his story he stabbed himself in the arm. When the police arrived he reported that 'Two men with an eastern European accent attacked me as I was opening at eight o'clock this morning. They threatened me and forced me inside, cut my arm and took the money.' The police set up roadblocks locally and searched for the imaginary miscreants while the waiter went to the local *Salud* to have his wound dressed. The *Salud* sent him on to the hospital where he was given 14 stitches. The lack of witnesses made the police suspicious, particularly after they found the bloodied knife in the kitchen. During questioning, the 37-year-old waiter confessed his crime. Later, the duty judge released him without charge.



Then there was the story of the 'escaped gorilla' in the Loro Park Zoo in Tenerife. It seems that someone phoned the police to report an escaped gorilla at the zoo. A vet was called and he reportedly shot a tranquillizer dart at the furry beast. The primate dropped like a stone, but it then seems that it was actually a zoo employee who had donned a gorilla costume and was staging a mock escape to test their emergency routines. The man was taken to the University Hospital where he recovered in due course. The next day the zoo denied that the man was dressed in a gorilla costume although witnesses reported seeing a comatose man in his underpants! Maybe the staff took the gorilla suit off or maybe he was just a very, very hairy man!

But the Indian sub-continent also produced a candidate. A 63-year-old man was admitted to hospital after complaining of vomiting and difficulty defecating. He told his doctor that he had swallowed a bottle cap in anger, after a fight with his wife. But when surgeons operated they found 12 gold bars weighing nearly 400g (14oz) in his stomach instead of a bottle cap. India, the world's largest consumer of gold, has seen a record rise in smuggling after a rise in duty on imports of metal to curb the current account deficit. Police and customs authorities had questioned the businessman and confiscated the gold.

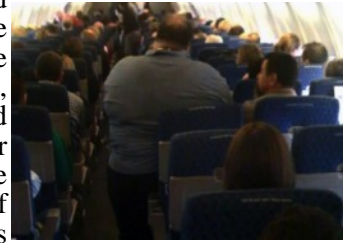
But surely this month's award must go to a British woman in the Midlands in the UK. This lady was prompted to call the emergency 999 number in the UK because she had 'a bit of an emergency.' Was this a robbery, or an assault? No! Her problem was that she bought an ice cream with sprinkles from an ice cream van, and, horror of horrors, she only had sprinkles down one side of her ice cream! The humanity!! The ice cream vendor refused to give her anymore sprinkles or refund her money so she telephoned the emergency services. You can hear the actual telephone call to the emergency services here -



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/10875036/Woman-dials-999-in-row-over-ice-cream-sprinkles.html>

Quick Thinking!

Hymie is flying back to London. He boards his plane and sits next to the window. A few minutes later, a heavy mean-looking giant of a man sits next to him and promptly falls asleep. During the flight, Hymie begins to feel quite sick and wants to go to the toilet, but he's afraid to wake the giant and it would be impossible to climb over him. So Hymie has to sit there trying to decide the best course of action. Suddenly, the plane hits some turbulence and lurches around for a few seconds. A wave of nausea overcomes Hymie and he is sick all over the giant. Some time later, the giant awakes and sees the vomit over him. 'So,' says Hymie, 'are you feeling better now?'



He's a very naughty boy!

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My husband said to me, 'Bette, if you would learn to cook, we could fire the chef.'

I said, 'Martin, if you could learn to f*ck, we could fire the chauffeur.'

Bette Midler

CHANGES TO BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATIONS OVERSEAS FOR BRITISH NATIONALS.

British nationals living in Spain should note from Monday 9th June, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) changed the way that it registered the births and deaths of British citizens overseas.

The process will be gradually withdrawn from British Consulates in Spain during the rest of 2014. Thereafter this option for British expatriates will be carried out by a central registration in the UK. Consular birth registration is an optional service and is only available to those born overseas who have an automatic entitlement to British Nationality at birth.

There is no legal requirement for consular birth registration, and a local birth certificate with a certified translation if necessary should be sufficient for all purposes in the UK including applying for a passport.

Similarly there is no requirement for a consular death certificate – a local certificate should be sufficient for winding up the affairs and obtaining probate in the UK.

The processing time for registrations will remain the same but applicants will need to allow extra time for documents to be sent to and from the UK.

British nationals can find more information here - <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages>

Centralisation of birth and death registration into a single-purpose unit in the UK will allow the FCO to provide a common online application procedure with a credit card payment facility, which will be more efficient and convenient for customers.

Centralisation will also enable FCO consular staff to better focus on their primary function of assisting British nationals in distress.

DELAYS WITH UK PASSPORT RENEWAL.

British expats have been hit by long delays in receiving new passports as they prepare for their summer breaks.

Her Majesty's Passport Office has warned that processing times are "significantly longer" in relation to applications from overseas than those filed by UK residents.

The reason behind the delays is that all applications for overseas passports are now processed by HM Passport Office in the UK. Previously, overseas applications were handled by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's seven regional processing centres in Düsseldorf, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, Pretoria, Washington and Wellington.

The responsibility has been gradually transferred between December 2012 and March 2014. All passports are now handled by a central application processing centre in Liverpool, England.

Passports take about three weeks to be processed for those living in the UK. Passport renewals used to take around four weeks for those living overseas, but new advice states that for overseas applicants the wait is now at least six weeks and first-time applications can take eight weeks or more.

A spokesman for Her Majesty's Passport Office said: "We are updating our guidance on estimated processing times for customers who apply for a passport overseas. Applications from overseas can take significantly longer than those made in the UK

WRINKLES.

One of the reasons we live in and love Spain is obviously the sun and its warmth. But of course too much sun is bad for you. Many of you who live here will know some people who worship the sun and pride themselves on their deep constant tan. But of course, this carries a price - wrinkles! Some sun worshippers I know have faces as wrinkled as Methuselah's scrotum.

So, the Organization of Consumers and Users (OCU) in Spain, has analysed 14 creams on the market with the aim of checking whether they moisturize and reduce face wrinkles as promised. The creams were tested on 995 women for over a month and also put through their paces in a laboratory.

The creams ranged in price from €2.99 to €12.63 and featured such well known names as Nivea, Garnier, L'Oreal, Ponds, Olay, Vichy, Roc, Clinique, Clarins and Lancôme.

But, surprise, surprise, the cream which emerged from the testing as the favourite cream, CIEN - Q10 Antiarrugas, Lidl's for just €2.99! scored 64 out of 100. Eucerin Hyaluron range selling for to €39 in Spanish scored 61 percent was the cheapest Crema de Día available at This cream Runner-up was Filler, a German between €26.90 stores and that overall. The remainder didn't score very well, including the big names, primarily because they didn't contain a high enough volume of the active ingredients (retinol, collagen and Q10 coenzyme) they're promoting for them to have a positive effect on the skin.



However, the OCU warns that none of the creams removed wrinkles, but some wrinkles were slightly reduced after a month's use.

The Bishop's Visit.

On a prison visit, the bishop moved out into the prison yard and came across three Irish inmates leaning against the wall.

'What are you in for?' he asked the first.

'Murder,' he replied.

'And what did you get for that?'

'Life.'

The bishop asked the next man what he was in for.

'Fraud,' he replied. 'I got 15 years.'

The bishop asked the third man what was his crime.

'Pouring petrol over Protestants and setting them alight.'

'And what did you get for that?' asked the bishop.

'About fifteen to the gallon,' replied the prisoner.

My family was so poor that blues singers used to come to our house when they had writers' block.

Otis Lee Crenshaw

Tough Call.

A man returns home a day early from a business trip. It's after midnight. While en route home, he asks the cabby if he would be a witness. The man suspects his wife is having an affair, and he wants to catch her in the act. For \$100, the cabby agrees. Quietly arriving home, the husband and cabby tip toe into the bedroom. The husband switches on the lights, yanks the blanket back and there is his wife in bed with another man! The husband puts a gun to the naked man's head.

The wife shouts, 'Don't do it! I lied when I told you I inherited money. It was ALL his! He paid for the Porsche I gave you. He paid for our new cabin cruiser. He paid for your Bulls' season tickets. He paid for our house at the lake. He paid for your African tour and 4x4. He paid for our country club membership, and he even pays the monthly dues!'

Shaking his head from side-to-side, the husband lowers the gun.

He looks over at the cabby and says, 'What would you do?'

The cabby replies, 'I'd cover him with that blanket before he catches a cold.'

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Buy a ticket?

Bishop O'Reilly had just completed an inspection of the prison to check out the conditions. He told the governor how delighted he was to hear that a social event had been planned that evening. 'What social event?' Asked the governor. 'Well, one of the prisoners wanted to sell me a ticket for the Warden's Ball.' 'That's not a dance, Your Grace. That's a raffle.'

Looney Tunes!

I believe it may be the hot weather, but there does thankfully, seem to be an increase in the oddities of late. I particularly like the first one.

Picture the scene: a quiet tranquil tree-lined avenue in Palma, Majorca. An ambulance is parked in a side street while the driver is quietly mulling over the savaging Spain received in the World Cup. Suddenly, the door of the



ambulance was pulled open, the driver got punched in the face and thrown out of the ambulance. He is equally shocked and surprised to notice that his assailant is wearing just underpants and socks. The sartorially challenged man then drives off in the ambulance! The man, who was British, had escaped from a psychiatric unit and was wandering the streets when the ambulance caught his eye. However, the man just drove the vehicle to the next street, where he parked it and carried on with his 'quest' on foot. Maybe his journey was cut short when he discovered that, sitting in the back of the ambulance was a retired old lady in a wheelchair! What a ride!

The man was eventually caught, but rather than handcuffing and bundling him into the back of a police car, the police just formed a cordon around him and waited for the psychiatric nurses to arrive. See photos from Quatro. He seems to be quite relaxed and enjoying himself, but God knows what the old lady thought!



But it is not only the Brit's who have been 'flying the flag.' An 81-year-old American man went missing while visiting the Alhambra Palace, in Granada, Andalucia. He was part of a group from the USA, including his wife, on tour. After a fruitless search which included the police, most of the group returned to the US leaving the man's distraught wife behind, still searching for her hubby.

But what nobody knew was the octogenarian took a taxi from Granada to Barcelona (a road trip of 800km), then took a flight to Amsterdam and then on to California - WITHOUT TELLING ANYBODY! No doubt his poor wife had a few words with him later, but no reason was given for his impulsive decision.

However, the Dream Scene's resident psychiatrist has come up with a diagnosis, 'Look, he's 81 and as daft as a brush!'

Explain it to her!

It was a cold day in Auhtermuchty, Scotland, the coldest for 20 years. Three mechanics were sitting in a garage, shivering, when they heard a knock at the door. On opening the door, as the chilly wind howled pass, they saw a shivering monkey with ice on its head, who looked up and said: 'Excuse me, do you do welding?'

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The Italian Honeymoon.

After returning from his honeymoon with his bride Virginia, Luigi stopped by his old barbershop in Jersey to say hello to his friends. Giovanni said, "Hey Luigi, how was da treep down to Florida?" Luigi, "Everyting wasa perfecto except for da train ride down." "Whata you mean, Luigi?" asked Giovanni. "Well, we boarda da train at Grana Central Station; my beautiful Virginia, she packa big basket a food. She brought da vino, some nice cigars for me, and we were lookina forward to da trip, and open upa da luncha basket. The conductore come aby, waga his finger at us an'a say, 'No eat indisa car, musta use a dining car.' So, me and my beautiful Virginia, we go to da dining car, eat a biga lunch and starta at open da bottle of a nice a vino! The conductore walka by again, waga his finger and say, 'No drinka in disa car, musta use a cluba car.' So, we go to cluba car. While a drinkina da vino, I starta to lighta my biga cigar. The conductore, he waga 'is finger again and say, 'No a smokina disa car, musta go to a smokina car.' So we go to a smokina car and I smoke a my biga cigar. Then my beautiful Virginia and I we go to our sleeper car anda go to bed. We just about to go boombada boombada... and the conductore, he walka through da hallway shouting at a top of his a voice - 'Nofolk Virginia! Nofolk Virginia!' "Nexta time, I'ma just gonna taka da bus..."



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DONATING YOUR EGGS.

Egg donations thrive off the young and desperate. For years, US college campuses have been plastered with signs imploring young women to “donate” their eggs—for \$8,000. More recently, the number of women selling their eggs (and men their sperm) soared amid the recession and high unemployment.

Now, because of permissive laws and cash-strapped young women, Cyprus and Spain have become booming centres of egg donation and in vitro fertilization.

Countries elsewhere in Europe more closely restrict the business of fertility. So hopeful mothers turn to donors in Spain and Cyprus, heralded as destinations for IVF because of lower costs and quicker turnaround times. According to a 2010 story in Fast Company, prospective parents can receive an egg two weeks after request in Spain versus two years in the UK because of restrictions. In the US, the entire procedure can cost upwards of \$40,000 compared to \$8,000 in Cyprus. (IVF drugs that must be injected in an egg donor every day for two to three weeks to stimulate egg production.)

Other rules of economics are at play: There’s a high demand for eggs and they are in short supply. But it’s controversial for women to receive payment for their eggs. Thus, women receive compensation for their time and inconvenience, not for the actual eggs they are giving up. And they are euphemistically called “donors,” so everyone actually feels better about the transaction.

A recent article in Spiegel tells the story of Spanish women who, when faced with foreclosure, decided to become egg donors. In less than two years, one woman donated 14 times and earned around €10,000 keeping her family from falling into poverty. Spain is wracked with a real-estate crisis and astronomical unemployment but medical tourism, and egg donation in particular, is thriving. From Spiegel:

Private clinic Institut Marquès likewise advertises at universities, targeting its message to young donors and appealing to their desire to help others with the slogan, “What you don’t give will be lost. Even your eggs.”

Cyprus has an especially high egg donation rate: one in 50 women between the ages of 18 to 30. In 2011, Cyprus had more fertility clinics per capita than anywhere else in the world. It’s often immigrant women who are attracted to the practice by handsome pay and no other legal means of acquiring work.

Like reproductive outsourcing in India, the egg donation business preys upon financially desperate women who have little recourse for health risks linked with egg donation. And the risks are plentiful: There’s ovarian hyper-stimulation syndrome in an estimated 0.5 to 5% of women, which can lead to stroke or sometimes death. Other women experience enlarged ovaries and a heightened risk of cancer as well as premature menopause and infertility.

With a hodgepodge of regulation and no central policing body, women donate beyond legal limits in order to keep getting paid. For instance in Spain, a maximum of six children can be born from one donor but because there’s no national registry, women are able to donate to various clinics.

Country to country, the profile of women who sell their eggs and wombs are largely the same. They put their own reproductive health at risk to allow fellow women, at least those who can afford it, to spawn life. (Source: Quartz.)

Least Known Patriotic Activity.

A High Court judge heard the expert opinion of Dr Archibald Jeffrey while judging a petition for damages from a woman who had lost her sexual appetite following a car crash.

Dr Jeffrey told the court: ‘Sexual intercourse is not a high wire act. Many women do not get satisfaction out of it. They do it for England.’

(From *The Book of Erotic Failures*, published 1984.)





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Murphy's Law?

"Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor. It lands butter-side-up.

He looks at what he has done in astonishment, for he knows it's a law of nature that buttered toast always falls butter-down. He rushes round to the presbytery to fetch the priest. He tells the priest that he thinks a miracle has happened round at his flat.

He won't say what it is but wants Fr Flanagan to see it with his own eyes. He brings Fr Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor."

"Well," says the priest, "it's pretty obvious what we have here. Someone dropped some buttered toast, and then for some reason flipped it over so that the butter was on top."

"No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that."

"Well," Fr Flanagan says, "it's certainly a natural law of the universe that dropped toast never falls butter side up. But it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll report the matter to the bishop, and have him send people round, to interview you, take photos, etc."

An investigation of some rigour is conducted, not only by priests of the archdiocese but by scientists sent from the Curia in Rome. The final ruling is a negative, however. It reads:

"It was certainly an extraordinary event that occurred in Murphy's room, quite outside the normal run of the phenomena. Yet we have to be very cautious before ruling any happening miraculous, ruling out all possible natural explanations.

In this case we declared no miracle. For it was possibly the result of Murphy, who buttered the toast on the wrong side."

Brian H.

Prostate Cancer - Latest.

I know of a number of people around the Los Altos, Dream Hills and Los Balcones areas who have had prostate cancer. Consequently, I was initially hesitant about writing this article but then I thought, 'What the heck! The Dream Scene is about general information anyway, so here goes!' And it may help someone. Most of the readers of The Dream Scene are over 50, a group more prone to prostate cancer.

On June 1, 2014, a skilled team at the Vall D'hebron Hospital in Barcelona announced the development of a new drug which reduces the risk of metastatic prostate cancer progression by around 81%, but also can delay chemotherapy treatment for more than two years. The drug is called 'enzalutamide.' (Early preclinical studies also suggest that enzalutamide inhibits **breast cancer** cell growth but this needs to be explored further.)

The announcement came following international trials conducted on 1,717 patients with metastatic cancer. This is good news for men with advanced prostate cancer, where there are restricted treatment options. It is also just become available on the UK NHS.

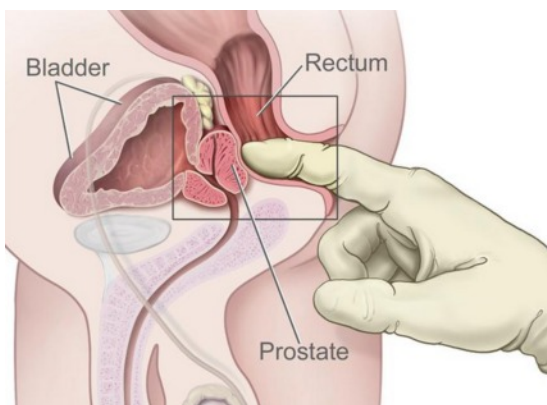
Prostate cancers depend on male hormones in order to grow. The hormones are called androgens and include testosterone. Until now, patients with metastatic prostate cancer who did not respond to hormonal treatment, did not have alternatives to chemotherapy. Enzalutamide is a type of drug called an androgen receptor antagonist. It blocks the male hormones from signalling to the cancer cell to grow, so it can stop the growth of the cancer or shrink it for some time.

Dr. Joan Carles, head of the unit of Genitourinary of the Hospital Vall d' Hebrón, VHIO, explained that "treatment with enzalutamide is easy to manage, has low toxicity and improves the survival and quality of life of the patients with metastatic prostate cancer". "This is the second drug that shows that we can control the disease, delaying its progression", the specialist pointed out.

Prostate cancer effects 57 of every 100,000 men. 25,000 new cases are diagnosed in Spain each year. The Prostate Cancer UK Foundation believe that one in eight men in the UK will get this cancer.

You can read the original article here in Spanish - <http://www.laverdad.es/salud/investigacion/201406/01/nuevo-farmaco-reduce-riesgo-20140601153126-rc.html>

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I come from a long line of actors. It's called the dole queue.

Alan Davies



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Waste not.....!!

Ray, the local stationmaster, was having a beer in the pub with his mates. 'I had an incredible experience last night,' he said. 'I saw something lying on the tracks so I went to investigate. It was a woman who tied herself to the tracks!' 'So what did you do?' asked his mates. 'I untied her and took her back to my place and made a strong cup of coffee. Then I poured a couple of drinks, put on some soft music, one thing led to another, and I finished up having the best night of sex I ever had!' 'Was she good looking?' asked one of his mates. 'Dunno,' said Ray. 'I couldn't find her head.'

Colin the Abo'.

A rich man living in Darwin decided that he wanted to throw a party and invited all of his buddies and neighbours. He also invited Colin, the only aborigine in the neighbourhood. He held the party around the pool in the backyard of his mansion.

Everyone was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating prawns, oysters and BBQ and flirting...

At the height of the party, the host said, 'I have a 15ft man-eating crocodile in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who has the balls to jump in.' The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash and everyone turned around and saw Colin in the pool fighting the croc.

Jabbing the croc in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, doing all kinds of stuff like head butts and choke-holds, biting the croc on the tail and flipping the croc through the air like some kind of Judo Instructor.

The water was churning and splashing everywhere. Both Colin and the croc were screaming and raising hell.

Finally Colin strangled the croc and let it float to the top like a dead goldfish. Colin then slowly climbed out of the pool, exhausted.

Everybody was just staring at him in disbelief.

The host says, 'Well, Colin, I reckon I owe you a million dollars.'

'Nah, you all right boss, I don't want it,' said Colin.

The rich man said, 'Man, I have to give you something. You won the bet. How about half a million bucks then?'

'No thanks. I don't want it,' answered Colin.

The host said, 'Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing. How about a new Porsche and a Rolex and some stock options?'

Again, Colin said "No."

Confused, the rich man asked, 'Well Colin, then what do you want?'

Colin said, 'I just want the bastard who pushed me in!'

Pete Dudman

JULY AT THE PHOENIX



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I'm Jewish. I don't work out. If God wanted us to bend over, he's put diamonds on the floor. Joan Rivers



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CUT-OUT & KEEP.

GALLERY.



I couldn't resist including this photo from *Informacion* I think, taken on Children's Day during a fiesta in nearby Banejúzar during June. On this day the children don white shirts and red bandanas, just like they do for the bull run in Pamplona. Thankfully, the only bulls they face here are inflated ones.

Here you will see the tiny brave bull-fighter together with his cape, taking on the five giant black bulls.

OLE!



Above, some photos of the 'baby jumping' which takes place every June in Castrillo de Murcia (near Burgos). Here the devil, El Colacho, jumps over the babies who are cleansed of 'original sin.'
(Photos: Cesar Manso/AFP)

BIG CHANGES TO INCOME TAX START NEXT YEAR.

The current government has decided to introduce reductions to the income tax bands and rates from January 1, 2015. Of course you may be aware that local and regional elections are due in May 2015, with a general election due in November the same year. Although most welcome, these changes will be seen by many as an electoral sop. Although being urged to do so by the IMF, the OECD and other international organisations, the Spanish government refuses, for the moment, to increase the IVA (VAT) rates. Property and inheritance taxes are also due for a hammering, but the government may well hold out with these until after the elections. It should be remembered that the PP introduced 50 tax hikes during their first two years in office and although the PM promised to reduce them in two successive years, nothing happened. The number of bands will be reduced from seven to five and the lowest rate would go from 24% to 20% next year and 19% in 2016. The highest rate will reduce in two years to 45%. The reduction in Income Tax, as part of the fiscal reform, will only affect those who earn less than 30,000 € Those who earn over 50,000 € will pay more than in 2011, but below 24,000€ there will be a reduction of 23%.

The retention for the self-employed goes down from 21% to 15% only if earnings are less than 12,000 and this becomes effective this summer.

Corporation Tax falls from 30% to 28% by January 2015 and to 25% by January 2016. The government will also allow capitalisation of 10% of the profits of a company without penalty, to promote corporate "self-financing" and reduce "financial leverage."

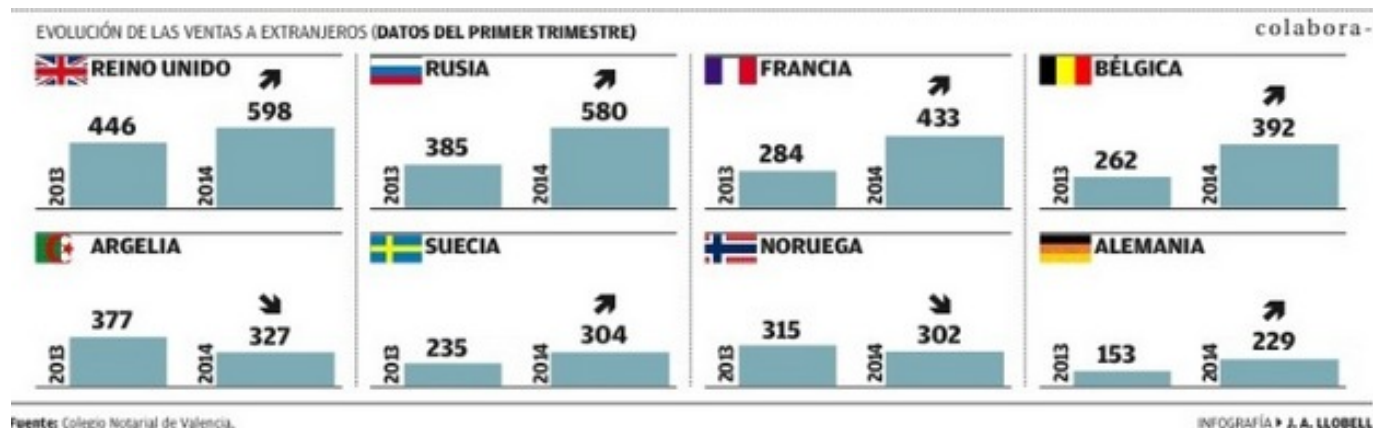
The table below shows on the left hand side what the rates and bands are currently. Then on the right, it outlines what the new rates and bands will be after January 2015.

| En euros | | | | En euros | | | |
|----------------|---------|--------|--------|---------------------------|--------|------|------|
| BASE IMPONIBLE | | | | BASE IMPONIBLE DESDE 2015 | | | |
| De | Hasta | 2011 | 2012 | De | Hasta | 2015 | 2016 |
| 0 | 17.707 | 24,00% | 24,75% | 0 | 12.450 | 20% | 19% |
| 17.707 | 33.007 | 28,00% | 30,00% | 12.450 | 20.200 | 25% | 24% |
| 33.007 | 53.407 | 37,00% | 40,00% | 20.200 | 35.200 | 31% | 30% |
| 53.407 | 120.000 | 43,00% | 47,00% | 35.200 | 60.000 | 39% | 37% |
| 120.000 | 175.000 | 44,00% | 49,00% | 60.000 | | 47% | 45% |
| 175.000 | 300.000 | 45,00% | 51,00% | | | | |
| 300.000 | | 45,00% | 52,00% | | | | |

PROPERTY SALES IN VALENCIA REGION UP.

I thought that the graph below was quite interesting. It illustrates the property sales to non Spanish during the first three months of this year, in the Valencia region. Although it is in Spanish, a monkey or even a Millwall supporter would understand it, so don't be put off.

You can see from it that the UK still leads in terms of purchases, with Russia racing up only just behind. One would expect Russia to exceed the UK figures in the next trimester. I find it equally intriguing that the Germans have been at number eight position for the same period during the last two year. Have the Germans fallen out of love with the Costa Blanca? This trend is matched by the number of Germans who now refuse to sign-on the local *padrons* or no longer apply for *residencia*.



The Caller.

Saturday morning the weather was too bad to play golf and I was bored with nothing to do. There was a knock on the door. I opened it to find a young, well-dressed man standing there who said: "Hello sir, I'm a Jehovah's Witness. "

Having nothing better to do I said, "Come in and sit down." I offered him a fresh cup of coffee and asked, "What do you want to talk about?"

He said, "Beats the shit out of me. Nobody ever let me in before."

SPAIN TOPS EURO TABLE FOR ABANDONED PETS.

New figures show that Spaniards abandon an average of one pet every three minutes, resulting in 150,000 homeless animals every year, the highest number in Europe.



A study carried out by the Affinity Foundation Monitor revealed that the economic crisis in Spain has led to the number of cases of abandonment "shooting up". Economic problems caused by failing to consider the cost of pet ownership were cited as the reason for 15% of abandonments, according to Spanish daily ABC.

"Type of coat and weight are two of the factors that determine the cost of keeping an animal in terms of hygiene and feeding. Veterinary bills also need to be included, together with possible health problems, security measures, rest, toys and a multitude of other things which people don't automatically consider, resulting in animal shelters being overwhelmed," said pet company

Kiwoko which commissioned the study. Kiwoko are a Spanish multi-chain of pet food and animal equipment retailers. The difficulty of going on holiday with pets leads to many abandonments in summer. Other excuses given for getting rid of pets included unexpected litters (19%), loss of interest (10%), the end of hunting season (9%) and behavioural problems (8%) Half of the abandoned animals are re-housed with new owners but the rest meet a less than happy end.

Over 1,000 animals a year are adopted through the 18 centres belonging to Kiwoko, which said, "Abandonment is never justified. There is a constant fight to change the law in favour of pets in order to be able to punish those who mistreat or abandon them."

(Source: The local)

When the '*madrileños*' depart from our urbanisation every summer, a number of cats and dogs are often left behind. I dare say this callous and cruel behaviour by a minority is not just restricted to our urbanisation.

Check out the advert for *Finca La Castellana* on page 11 who do lots of good work for the abandoned in your area.



Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

I hope you are enjoying the football but what the hell happened to Spain & England! We have had a couple of downpours this month. Did you get stranded in a bar too?

The June match was fished at the Eden. As we are a friendly and relaxed club (and nobody would dream of cheating) we draw pegs at the monthly meeting. This saves time on the bank and allows some anglers to have a lay in and turn up late (usually me & Nomad)! The water was very low with negligible flow and no sign of fish, even the terrapins were not feeding and just basking in the sun. At about 11.00 the water started flowing uphill! Maybe it was coincidence but this was when the Snapper turned up from his sick bed. As he couldn't fish, had he pulled the plug out further up stream? Anyway the carp did not like it and showed it by getting their heads down in the reeds & not coming out to play. Very few fish were caught & we had several blanks. At least the weather was good and we did a lot of sunbathing & dozing. After a "long" day, Ron the "hustler" won with 2.75kgs followed by "3 rods" with 2.38kgs. These 2 are now joint 1st in the summer league, but both will miss the next 2 matches. This should make for an interesting last match in September!

During the weigh in 1 of my 3 mullet (not my hairdo) was missing from my keep net. God knows where it went! "3 rods" asked, "Are you sure you caught three?" I might be thick, but even I can count to three.

Afterwards, back at the Lime Bar, "Not tall (dicky)" Paul was moaning like mad. He got up at 04.00 to get an early start but came 3rd to last. Perhaps you should have a lay-in next time.....

Ammo & casualty report. A perky Cyril "the elder" returned to UK after his R&R hoping to be back in July if possible.

The "snapper" is on "light duties" so has to take it easy and stay out of the sun. Yeah right! There are loads of other idlers in the club but I can't list all their ailments.....

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes.

There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 7th July.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

COMMUNITY DEBT AND RENTAL INCOME.

I do find it very annoying when I see that an urbanisation owner rents out their property but refuses to pay the community charge. Some communities address this by taking out a court order against the debtor in which the tenant has to pay the rental to the court instead of the owner.

The community president is allowed to bring a lawsuit against the debtor but it is much quicker to use a procedure called 'Proceso Monitorio' which is designed to be simpler and faster for small claims. The court will then order a lien against any assets the debtor has in Spain, such as bank accounts, rental income, etc. As is normal in claimant cases, the community's legal costs also form part of the debt being reclaimed. (You and the Law in Spain, David Searl in the Euroweekly News.)

Groan Joke!

The cannibal came home to find his wife chopping up snakes and a very small man. 'Oh no!' he groaned. 'Not snake and pygmy pie again!'

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There were two babies in the pram. One baby turned to the other baby and said: 'Are you a little girl or a little boy?' 'I don't know,' was the giggled reply. 'I can tell,' said the first baby gleefully, and he dived beneath the bedclothes and then resurfaced. 'You're a girl and I'm a boy,' he announced proudly. 'That was clever,' said the baby girl. 'How could you tell?' 'Easy! You've got pink booties and I've got blue ones.'

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

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Lets Go to the Movies.

We go to the movies to be entertained, not to see rape, ransacking, pillage and looting. We can get all that in the stock market. Kennedy Gammage

The only reason I went to Hollywood was to f*ck that divine Gary Cooper.

Tallulah Bankhead

- Would you do *Rocky V*?

- What am I gonna fight? Arthritis?

Jonathan Ross & Sylvester Stallone

(Stallone went on to make two further *Rocky* films.....to date!)

All you need to make a movie is a girl and a gun.

Jean-Luc Godard

Who the f*ck wants to see a movie about a little brown guy dressed in a sheet, carrying a beanpole? Hollywood executive, to Richard Attenborough about *Gandhi*, which went on to win 8 Oscars.

People ask me if I went to film school. And I tell them: No, I went to films.

Quentin Tarantino

For some reason, I'm more appreciated in France than I am back home. The subtitles must be incredibly good.

Woody Allen

It's a bit like leaving your teenage daughter on Jack Nicholson's doorstep; you know no good will come of it. Unidentified British author, on selling their novel to Hollywood.

Don't Look Now was so boring I let my hand wander into the crotch of my companion and the only reaction was the line, 'Any diversion is welcome.'

Kenneth Williams

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