

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 91, 1st of September 2014.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September edition.

The weather here during August has been sweltering with just one very short rain shower very early one morning. Several wards in the Clinical Hospital in Valencia were without air conditioning for some weeks during the month. This included the Intensive Care Unit! Can you imagine what sort of hell that was? The problem was compounded by the fact that many of the hospital windows couldn't be opened. Temperatures of around 35° were being endured by patients, staff and visitors. The heat in other parts of the province reached a sizzling high of 41.5°.

Unfortunately the town hall paper-shufflers in Orihuela and Torrevieja have fallen back into their old, inefficient and bureaucratic ways. People have once again resorted to queuing from 6am some mornings, just to be able to get a ticket at 9am to be seen for enrolling on the *padron*. Only 40 tickets are issued daily; you cannot make an appointment by phone or online. A Socialist councillor in Orihuela has promised that they plan to introduce 'software efficiencies' in September which will enable residents to apply online. If you see any pigs flying next month, do let me know!

It seems that the Municipal Theatre in Torrevieja has been operating for more than eight years without an opening or activity licence. Regional inspectors have detected numerous deficiencies and anomalies which have never been rectified. These have included everything from the excess number of seats and problematic entrances to the location of the fire extinguishers, the lighting and the height of the floors. If there was an accident or a disaster, the insurance companies would never pay out.

The Natural Park of the Lagunas de La Mata-Torrevieja has broken its own record this year for nesting flamingos with more than 1,000 birds, the previous high being 750 birds in 2008. In the following years the number dropped considerably to only a few dozen. The relevant government ministry explained that "the excellent water conditions and the increased presence of brine shrimp --a crustacean species that the birds consume from the lagoon of La Mata, has led to this dramatic increase in the population." If the existing conditions remain, the lagoon flamingos could stay there all year.

A blue van has been touring the area selling fruit and veg'. A house in the 500's in Dream Hills placed a TV and tumble-dryer in their garden, which was due to be collected by a charity. It appears that the goods were stolen by the occupants of the blue van, so be on the lookout! A resident in the 500's also had one of their car tyres slashed. No suspects in this case, possibly Spanish youths on holiday coming from the pools.

Thank you to Pat Farnaby for hosting the Dream Hills information site, the bulletin board and the archives of the Dream Scene for the past umpteen years. See bottom of page 13 for details of a new DH website.

This month I have experimented with the introduction of a larger print size on some of the pages. If you have any comments or suggestions, please do pass them on to me at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com.

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

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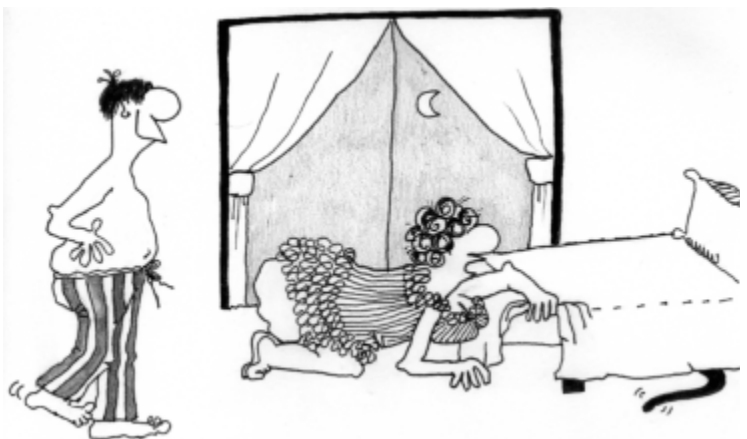
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Angela's Cartoon



"That stray cat's in again. If you see a big pussy - kick it!"

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: when you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.
Will Rogers

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

...Spain's FACUA consumer association has warned clients of Movistar of unfair and unadvertised charges due to be applied to subscribers of their voicemail service. From the 1st October 2014 Movistar / Telefonica will automatically charge land line clients 6.05 cents each time they listen to a message recorded in their mailbox. The Group warns that Movistar are advising subscribers incorrectly, that the service can not be cancelled, and that the contract as whole must be cancelled - in many cases meaning that the client must pay a penalty fee or remain with the service until the renewal date. FACUA advises that users have the right to cancel their contracts at any time without penalty when the Telecom's provider changes their terms and conditions. To cancel the voicemail service, users have to make a call dialling #10#.

...if you have an individual TDT antennae (many urbanisations have a single common one), it will probably have to be replaced this autumn with a new one at a likely cost of €250. The change is because of the freeing-up of the radio spectrum for 4G operators. Under the present government the TDT choice is being slowly eroded with the removal of some channels, the bankruptcy of others and the clear favouritism of mobile technology at the expense of a public service TV.

...FACUA also also denounced Amena (Orange) for adding an extra charge when a paper bill is issued. The charge of €7.26 is described as 'a management charge.'

...the maximum amount of money you can take out of Spain in non-declared cash is €10,000? More than €2.7 million has been seized at Barcelona Airport so far this year. I am not sure if the authorities can keep this money but they can certainly issue fines.

AN AUSSIE' WOMAN'S PRAYER.

Dear Lord,

**I pray for wisdom to understand my man,
for love to forgive him,
to have patience for his moods.
Because, Lord, if I pray for strength,
I'll beat him to death.**

Men are like linoleum floors. Lay 'em right and you can walk all over them for thirty years.

Betty Salkind

What's Up?

There have been great surges of African emigrants attempting to cross the Strait of Gibraltar during August.



In a single 36-hour period, more than 1,000 Africans were rescued by the Spanish Coast Guard. Most of the Africans attempted the crossing in 94 toy inflatable boats, see photo. There are a number of reasons for the record numbers; the good weather and calm seas has encouraged many to make the dangerous trip. Also the heightened security and improved defences in the Spanish African enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta, together with a strike in certain sectors of the Moroccan police has encouraged many to take the sea route. Sports halls and other buildings had to be commandeered to cater for the increased numbers. The 'Ebola threat' has also forced the reception committees to take great care with self-protection from possible contact with the killer virus. All the local secure hostels are now packed. Even sports centres and padel courts are now being used to house the Africans. Over 200 had to be sent to centres in Madrid and Barcelona. (It is believed that 1,880 Africans have died this year trying to reach Europe.)

Coast guards were shocked to discover a baby girl, just 11-months old, floating alone in an inflatable toy boat off the south coast of Spain. Although soaked and suffering from a high temperature and fever, the baby (of African origin) soon recovered under the care of the Red Cross, who named her 'Princessa.' The baby is now in foster care but the mother has just been located in Morocco. The authorities now have to decide whether to bring the child's mother to Spain or send the child back to Morocco.

Spanish public debt during the first quarter of this year was over a trillion € for the first time. It has increased from 36.3% of GDP in 2007 to 98.4% now. Most of the debt corresponds to the State (84.5%), followed by the autonomous regions (21.7%) and the City and Town Halls (4%). Spain's public debt is expected to top 100% of GDP next year – far above the 60% ceiling agreed among European Union members. The Spanish debt is now growing by €300 million a day!

The current difficulties being experienced by the Russian ban on selective imports from the EU, has seriously effected Spanish exports. The hardest hit to date have been the Valencian growers of fruit and veg' who expect to lose €140 million and Andalucian farmers who say they will lose at least €75 million. The farmers are looking to the EU for compensation. Although the Russians have banned the import of European fruit and veg', the ban does not extend to wine and olive oil! Morocco, Turkey and Latin America will be quick to capitalise on the European ban. It would take the Spanish growers more than a year to recover whenever the ban is lifted.

But Spanish exports generally are also down for the first time in five years. The Government attributes it the deceleration in Europe, and not a loss of Spanish competitiveness, but they would say that, wouldn't they.

Groan Joke!

Two Spanish detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez. 'How was he killed?' asked one detective.

'With a golf gun,' the other detective replied.

'A golf gun! What is a golf gun?'

'I don't know. But it sure made a hole in Juan.'

Seventy British tourists are suing the Thompson and Thomas Cook travel companies following their holiday in Minorca and Majorca. Twenty tourists were struck by food poisoning at Menorca's Stil Victoria Playa hotel and fifty suffered a similar fate at the Club Mac Alcudia in Majorca.

From now, the Spanish Supreme Court will allow the disinheriting of children who psychologically abuse and neglect their parents. The Supreme Court dismissed the claims of two brothers following the inheritance by an aunt of their father's estate. The courts ascertained that psychological mistreatment took place, after the brothers abandoned their father for the last seven years of his life, during which time he was ill. Before the ruling, they would have been entitled to a third of the inherited assets.

All the unemployed whose dole money has run out and have a family to support, can now collect €400 a month. The payment will remain in force while the unemployment rate stays above 20%, and will be subject to revision in six months time. The current unemployment rate is 24.5% and despite the normal seasonal increase of temporary contracts, the supposed upturn in the economy has done little to reduce this figure..

Sales of tobacco products in Spanish tobacconists and bars have dropped dramatically in the last five years, according to the Finance Ministry and the cigarette industry. While over 90 billion cigarettes were legally sold in Spain half a decade ago, last year sales were down to 47.5 billion – a 47% drop. The trend can be attributed to tougher anti-smoking legislation, tax hikes and a loss of consumer purchasing power as a result of the economic crisis. This in turn has led to a spike in tobacco smuggling and a search for cheaper alternatives, such as roll-your-own cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Complaints about telecommunication and energy suppliers have skyrocketed again in FACUA-Consumers in Action in 2014's first semester report, reaching a historic high. 37.6% of the total amount of complaints were about telecommunication companies, 19.3% about banks and financial corporations, and 11.2% about energy suppliers. FACUA's figures show that the kings of fraud belong to the three key sectors for consumers. Not the Central Government nor the autonomous communities governments are acting against the serious and growing irregularities in these sectors. The complaints ranking's 4th position is for insurance companies, with 5.3%. Basically, due to their refusal to pay or cover the services stipulated on the contracts. Following them are complaints relating to the buying and fixing of white goods and electronic devices, at 3.7%. The main complaints here are the refusal to accept responsibility for legal guarantees or huge delays on the fixing and repair of faulty goods. After that is passenger's transportation, with 3.1%. Airlines are mostly reported because of their refusal to pay compensations for long delays or cancellations, inflating the advertised prices or illegally charging for specific services.

Consumers can contact the organisation on 954 909 090 and at their website FACUA.org.

It is worth noting that as part of its regional reform, France will reduce its 22 regions to 13. It is estimated that this action will save €12 billion. If Spain were to engage in a similar efficiency, the savings would be even greater. However, it would be political suicide. Regionalism is deeply entrenched here and although it continues to bleed the public purse, no one has the 'guts' to introduce a similar program here.

4 What's Up? continued

It's been revealed that the pyramid selling wi-fi company, Gowex, received €12,000 from European funds. The company is now in bankruptcy protection after falsifying the accounts for the last four years. The Executive Investigation Agency is verifying whether the European funds were distributed correctly. Meanwhile the president of the company has offered the investors his shares, albeit now they have a zero value. The president's wife paid his bail from their offshore bank accounts which amount to several million euros. Seems like the boss did okay out of it!

The level of drivers found to be under the influence of drugs continues to be alarming. So far this year 10,000 preventative drug tests have been carried out on drivers. This is more tests than the whole of last year. 36% of the drivers tested positive! With tests carried out after accidents, this figure increases to 50%! However of three million preventative blood/alcohol tests carried out, the figure is stable at around 2%, a figure the authorities believe will not get any lower. Blood alcohol tests after accidents were positive in 5% of cases. If you think about it, the level of positive drug tests from drivers is staggering!

A 43-year-old Venezuelan woman was arrested for cocaine smuggling at Madrid Airport after arriving in a flight from Bogota, Columbia. A body search revealed that she had 'irregularities' in both breasts. She was taken to hospital and found to have implants of cocaine weighing 1.7 kilos! The drug control unit at the airport has been very busy. Between January and July 15 this year, they have detected and seized 493 kilos of cocaine and six kilos of heroin from 191 drug mules.

Spanish police have detained a Chinese man wanted for allegedly swindling 40 people in China out of around 17 million euros between 2009 and 2012. The 46-year-old man, identified only by his initials Q.Z., was arrested near his home in Albacete in southeastern Spain under an international warrant issued by Chinese authorities, police said in a statement. "The fugitive, under the pretext of running a pawnshop and a deposit company and being the director of a company, captured the public's money by offering a monthly interest rate of 5%," the statement said. "He swindled over 140 million yuan, around 17 million euros, from 40 victims," it added.

Spanish police detained another Chinese man, this time in Madrid. He was wanted for allegedly selling homes in China which were never built to more than 10,000 families between 2011 and 2013 in a scam worth more than 24.5 million euros. Some 185,000 Chinese nationals live in Spain, the fifth biggest foreign community in the country, according to the National Statistics Institute.

This is a photo of a public indoor swimming pool in the Via Parque area in Alicante City. In 2010, the project got the go-ahead, with a budget of €2.7 million. The pool was completed in September 2011, but with a budget overrun of €5 8 0 , 0 0 0 !

Disastrous, you might say? Well it gets worse. The pool has never been opened to the public! The reasons? Well, a management company has yet to be appointed and the city hall has not yet drawn up a specification for the task, despite spending more than two years trying to do so.

The British Premier League team, Aston Villa, will be receiving sponsorship from the Andalucian Region to promote tourism here. Sun and beaches are all very well, but if the Spanish bars there do not stock *Mild*, *Vimto* and pork scratchings, it won't entice the Brummies!

Excluding the provinces of Catalonia and the Basque Country, Spain collected €182.5 billion in traffic fines between the months of January and mid-July 2014. Andalucia had the highest volume of fines at €39.25 million.

The Guardia Civil has uncovered 'black money' in Lionel Messi charity matches. It would appear that the 'charity' matches may have had more to do with Messi's own personal fortune than altruism. Police discovered five bank transfers for nearly a million € sent to a company in the fiscal paradise of Curaçao, an island in the southern Caribbean sea, off the Venezuelan coast. The matches under investigation took place in 2012 and 2013 in six American countries, from the United States to Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The elite anti-money laundering unit of the Guardia Civil noted the transfers contain a hand-written note saying the destination was 'G Marín-Messi'. Guillermo Marín is the person Messi chose to manage his charity matches which were called, 'Messi and his friends against the rest of the world'. One charity bemoaned that although they were expecting to receive the total proceeds of a charity match, all they received was the equivalent of €13,000. The day after Lionel Messi heard he faced prosecution for tax evasion, he has placed a strange message on the internet which had echoes of Eric Cantona's mumbblings several years ago. The message which was in English has been placed on the internet site and read, 'A lion doesn't concern himself with the opinions of a sheep'.

More than 3.5 million individuals in Spain have firearm licences, and that is excluding the security forces. Most of these weapons are shotguns. This seems an incredibly high number, but what is particularly disturbing is that in the first quarter of this year, 50,506 firearms were reported lost or stolen by their owners. Most will have ended up on the black market.

The body of 61-year-old René Becker lay unnoticed on a bench outside the departure lounge of Majorca Airport for several hours, a local daily, *Diario de Mallorca*, reported. The man known locally as 'El Barbas' ('Mr Beard') had been living outside the airport for seven years, surrounded by his few possessions. A coroner later determined he had been dead for at least six hours. In that time, thousands of passengers bound for destinations as diverse as Italy's Palermo and the northern English city of Doncaster has traipsed past his body. Becker, a former engineer who left Germany after divorcing his wife, was a minor celebrity on Majorca. Described as "friendly" and "affable", he had even made several appearances in Germany's tabloid press, according to local German-language daily *Mallorca Zeitung*. One article shone the spotlight on his brief reunion with his daughter Patricia. In 2011, Patricia flew out to Majorca in an effort to bring her father home, but he rejected her offer, deciding instead to stay put in his new 'home'.

The Pressie.

On their 40th wedding anniversary a man says to his wife, 'Whatever you want, just name it and I'll buy it for you. It doesn't matter how much it costs. Just say what you'd like for our anniversary.'

She replies, 'A divorce.'

'To be honest,' he says. 'I wasn't thinking of spending that much.'

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Often during the very hot weather at this time of year, beaches, particularly in the nearby Murcia area, experience jellyfish invasions, sometimes of the dangerous variety such as the Portuguese Man-of-War. So far this this year we appear to have escaped encroachments by the 'medusa.' That is except for the Los Urrutias and Punta Brava beaches in the Costa de la Luz in Murcia. This beach has been invaded by the 'Cotylohiza tuberculata' (photo)



jellyfish. Although not a dangerous species - their sting, if any, is undetectable in humans - their sheer numbers stopped bathers from entering the ocean for several days. An emergency team cleared the waters but the shoals returned within minutes making it impossible to bathe. Equally perplexing was the fact that a net, almost two kilometres long, was placed opposite the beaches to keep the blighters out. So why the thousands of jellyfish on the beach? The indignant locals had the answer. It seems the lead weights attached to the bottom of the nets had been stolen and although fisherman had advised the authorities of this some time ago, the 'powers that be' choose to ignore it.

In a sure sign that it is experiencing a liquidity crisis, Alicante City Hall is bringing forward by one month the payment of company taxes and the tax on vehicles in the city. The voluntary payment period is already open and will end on October 3, compared to the end of October in previous years. This only effects those with Alicante City registration.

The large crowds on the Alicante beaches this August prompted the launch of 'Keep Alicante Clean' campaign. Here, organisers dressed in mock diving suits (which must have been hellish in 35° heat) encouraged the children to pick up rubbish such as cigarette butts, cans, paper, plastic, etc., and for this they were rewarded with an ice cream. Some 600 ice-creams were handed out, which was very good, but I wonder what happened to the empty ice-cream containers? Diving groups also carried banners stating that 'Algae is our friend' and 'I am not an ashtray.'



The campaign, which is reinforced by workshops, demonstrations and actors, is expected to last two weeks. The initiative is part of a larger campaign to encourage citizens to improve area cleanliness and will be extended in the autumn to schools and neighbourhoods, when the emphasis will be on clean streets and the collection of dog-poo.

Julio Iglesias played before a small audience of 1,200 in a select venue (Los Jardines de Abril de Sant Joan d'Alacant) in Alicante during early August. Ticket prices ranged from 151 to 379 euros each. The Spanish hold their geriatric entertainers in high regard!

The government plans to introduce direct voting for local mayors in 2015, a powerful position. It will be interesting to see the future developments in Orihuela, where the political landscape is in turmoil. A minority council remains in power, while the main opposition party, the PP, is in total disarray.

The Inquisitive Zebra.

A zebra escapes from a safari park and wanders onto a farm. She sees a chicken for first time ever and asks "What are you?" When she's told, "A chicken." she asks "What do you do?" The chicken replies, "I lay eggs, and humans eat them."

"Oh, I see," replies the zebra and wanders on a bit further and sees a cow. "What are you?" she asks. Upon receiving the answer, "I'm a cow" she asks, "And what do you do?" The cow explains that she produces milk, which humans drink. "H'mmm, I see," replies the inquisitive zebra, and wanders on a bit further, until she sees a stallion in a corral.

"What are you?" she asks. "I'm a stallion," he replies, pawing the ground and snorting. And what do you do?" she asks.

The stallion says, "If you come in here and take off those pyjamas -- I'll show you!"

Gender violence continues to rear its ugly head. A 39-year-old mother of two died after receiving blows to the head in the Capuchinos district of Orihuela in early August. (She was hit in the head ten times by a gymnasium weight while she was sleeping.) Police quickly located her 37-year-old husband (photo) in Murcia, who has now confessed to the crime. After committing the murder, the man, who is addicted to heroin and cocaine, then took all the valuables from the property.



The violence situation is equally grim in other areas. La Opinión de Málaga headlined that, 'nearly 900 Málaga women are under police protection for domestic violence'. The province has 2,781 cases in the Vigilance System for Domestic Violence and 42 presumed offenders wear electronic tags. I don't know what it is about Málaga, but two women were murdered there within a ten-day period in August.

A macrobotellón took place in Campoamor opposite



the beach, during the evening of August 6 and the early morning of the following day. Around 10,000 youths attended the 'drinking' event. Around 73

people were treated by the Red Cross, 26 for alcohol poisoning, of which five ended up in hospital. Last year there were 20,000 at the event, but this year numbers were down due to active police discouragement. It took 25 workers five hours to clean up after the the event this year (photo).

After six years of work and an outlay of €300 million, the desalination plant in Torrevieja, which was completed in the first quarter of 2013, has still not got a single supply agreement. The main stumbling block to this has been the price of the treated water which the farmers say is too expensive. However the severe drought now being experienced in the south of Alicante, may encourage the farmers' associations and the plant to explore supply options.

The surfeit of empty new builds in the Veja Baja area has led to an increase in vandalism and theft. This is noticeable in many areas, but the photo from El Pais on the right which shows part of a new build in nearby Callosa de Segura, illustrates the sorry state of some of these new estates. Here, duplexes that were on the market for more than €100,000 some months ago have now



been stripped by scavengers. Window frames have been ripped out, bathrooms and all electrical cabling has been stripped - anything metal & of value stolen. Despite the surplus of empty properties, speculators continue to build. In the Orihuela area there are over 15,000 illegal homes; in San Miguel de Salinas, the regional High Court has cancelled plans to build 40,000 extra houses and the regional government has refused Almoradi permission to re-zone in order to build an additional 11,000 homes. Finally some sense!



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Unfortunately I have not received a golf report this month, despite nagging several people! Here's some humour instead.

MATT



'The British jihadis are the ones wearing socks under their sandals'

Matt's cartoon from The Telegraph, August 26th, 2014.

I want to get as thin as my first husband's promises.
Texas Guinan

Yellow 24! ®

A man goes into the doctors feeling a little ill. The doctor checks him over and says, 'Sorry, I have some bad news, you have Yellow 24, a really nasty virus. It's called Yellow 24 because it turns your blood yellow and you usually only have 24 hours to live. There's no known cure so just go home and enjoy your final precious moments on earth.'

So he trudges home to his wife and breaks the news. Distraught, she asks him to go to the bingo with her that evening as he's never been there with her before.

They arrive at the bingo and with his first card he gets four corners and wins £35. Then, with the same card, he gets a line and wins £320.

Then he gets the full house and wins £1000.

Then the National Game comes up and he wins that too getting £380,000.

The bingo caller gets him up on stage and says, 'Son, I've been here 20 years and I've never seen anyone win four corners, a line, the full-house and the national game on the same card. You must be the luckiest man on Earth!'

'Lucky?' he screamed. 'Lucky? Do you realise I've got Yellow 24?'

'F*ck me,' says the bingo caller. 'You've won the raffle as well !!'

My Dearest Susan,

Sweetie of my heart. I've been so desolate ever since I broke off our engagement. Simply devastated. Won't you please consider coming back to me? You hold a place in my heart no other woman can fill. I can never marry another woman quite like you. I need you so much. Won't you forgive me and let us make a new beginning? I love you so.

Yours always and truly,

John

P.S. Congratulations on your big lottery win.

OTHER NEWS

Two Arrested in Ibiza over 'Game of Thrones' Phone Scam.

Police have arrested two men in Ibiza for tricking people into calling a premium-rate telephone number to audition for television show Game of Thrones, whose fifth series is due to be partly filmed in Seville. The fraudsters may have made as much as €100,000 in one week, investigators believe. The suspects created a website imitating the look and feel of the real HBO-produced series that offered a phone number allegedly providing information about how to audition to be an extra in the series.

The Spanish production company in charge of the auditions had offered an e-mail address (castingjuegodetronos@gmail.com) where people could apply for free. The criminals created a fake website using the domain name www.castingjuegodetronos.com.

Callers were placed on hold for at least six minutes, for which they paid over €10.

Schemes of this nature are frequent, authorities say. According to a study by the National Institute of Communication Technologies, 21.5% of cellphone users in Spain have been the target of a fraud attempt.

Caught Canoodling!

A routine breathalyser test on the Spanish party island of Ibiza didn't go as expected for officers who stopped a van in the early hours of Tuesday, August 5. The driver wasn't speeding, nor had he drunk a single drop of alcohol; but he was carrying six half-naked people having sex in the back of the van. Rather than caution them for public indecency, officers decided to fine each of them €200 for not wearing their seat belts. The Swiss couples willingly accepted to pay the penalty there and then, which meant it was reduced by half. Officers told local daily *Diario de Mallorca* they'd previously apprehended people having sex in a car but never before had they come across anyone doing it in a moving vehicle. Must be all that yodeling!

**Doggie Beaches!**

A number of local authorities in the east and south coastal areas have provided beach access for people with their dogs. These beach areas are usually not sandy but very stony and generally uncomfortable for humans to lie on. However pet owners have to exercise extreme vigilance in these areas. The dropping of meatballs or sausages containing pins or needles on these beaches is not an uncommon event. On one particular 'dog beach' near Malaga, five dogs died shortly after visiting the beach. It is believed they were poisoned. The deliberate poisoning of pets is sadly too frequent here. I can remember writing in 2007 about one particular outrage in Torre de la Horadada, just south of Cabo Roig, when more than 60 cats - many of them domestic, were poisoned.

Reward!

Five Spanish animal rights groups have set up a fund to reward individuals or associations who report cases of animal abuse. Two associations have already received €2,550 each, and a third reward is still awaiting a recipient. An illegal breeding farm in Bullas (Murcia) has been shut down after authorities found hundreds of animals living in cramped conditions, including sheep and birds. The individuals who reported the case said there were also graves containing dozens of horses.

Hey Dude! Where's My Car?

The current PP government inherited 921 official cars from the previous Socialist regime. PM Rajoy introduced a progressive reduction of the vehicles in line with the goal of introducing austerity and efficiency in the use of public resources. The car fleet has now been reduced to 303 official cars with 411 chauffeurs. The surplus cars have been sold at auction and the number of drivers have been reduced by un-replaced retirements.

What a beautiful day! It's the kind of day that starts with a hearty breakfast and ends with a newsreader saying,before turning the gun on himself'.

Dan Conner, *Roseanne*.

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I said to my husband, 'Why don't you call out my name when we're making love?'

He said, 'I don't want to wake you up.'

Joan Rivers.



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Trouble at t'Rock & the Coming Invasion!

The public prosecutor at Spain's High Court is to investigate tobacco smuggling and money laundering in Gibraltar following a recommendation by OLAF, the EU's anti-fraud office, after three visits and a year's investigation into financial irregularities in the British Overseas Territory. "There are reasons to believe that tobacco smuggling and money laundering that affect financial and other interests of the EU have been committed in Gibraltar," concludes the EU body. In a letter sent to the Spanish tax office, OLAF recommends both the British and Spanish authorities open judicial investigations into the problem.

The Spanish establishment is now 'cock-a-hoop' about this stating that the delays they have introduced at the Spanish-Gib' border are justified. They say that more than 117 million packets of cigarettes were imported into Gibraltar in 2013, a figure far higher than that needed to meet the needs of the territory's total population of 30,000: "On this basis, every man, woman and child in Gibraltar is smoking nine packets of cigarettes a day," says a Spanish government source. The Gibraltar government says that much of the surplus is bought by tourists, although it does admit that some smuggling does take place. The Spanish authorities say the smuggling problem would disappear if Gibraltar charged the same for cigarettes as Spain does, pointing out that 19 percent of Gibraltar's GDP and a third of its budget comes from the sale of tobacco.

But, prior to the findings of the EU's anti-fraud office being released, the 'looney-left' in Andalucia, the Andalucia Workers Union - SAT, have announced that they are going to invade and occupy Gibraltar on August 29th at 11am, in protest at money laundering, the British military base, the occupation of Spanish waters, blah, blah, blah. Some months ago they were evicted (very gently) from a Spanish military base; they have occasionally raided supermarkets and filled trolleys with food for distribution to the poor, but without paying - the supermarkets often being unwilling to press charges. The union has accumulated more than half-a-million euros in fines during the last 12 months. The red star on their logo, the clinched-fist salutes and their radical online blogs (which unexpectedly cleared up a bout of troublesome constipation I was experiencing), tells you all you need to know about these nut cases.

Unfortunately, the next Dream Scene will be at the printers during their proposed invasion. However, I would think that their eviction from Gib' would probably be very robust. I do hope there are some 'Paras' or Royal Marines with sore heads in transit at Gib' during the proposed invasion. Nothing says 'Adios!' better than a size-12 RM boot up the rear!

The Story of Uncle Bob

The teacher gave her primary school class an assignment: get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories.

Kathy said, "My father's a farmer and we have a lot of egg-laying hens. One time we were taking our eggs to market in a basket on the front seat of the pickup when we hit a bump in the road and all the eggs went flying and broke and made a mess"

"And what's the moral of the story?" asked the teacher.

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket!"

"Very good," said the teacher. "Now, Lucy?"

"Our family are farmers too. But we raise chickens for the meat market. We had a dozen eggs one time, but when they hatched we only got ten live chicks. And the moral to this story is, don't count your chickens until they're hatched."

"That was a fine story Lucy. Johnny do you have a story to share?"

"Yes miss, my daddy told me this story about my Uncle Bob. Uncle Bob was a paratrooper in the Falklands War and the helicopter he was in got hit and all his mates were killed. He had to crash land in enemy territory and all he had was a bottle of whiskey, a machine gun and a bayonet. He drank the whiskey on the way down in case it broke. He crash-landed right in the middle of 100 Argie' troops. He killed seventy of them with the machine gun until he ran out of bullets, then he killed twenty more with the bayonet 'till the blade broke and then he killed the last ten with his bare hands and the empty whiskey bottle."

"Good heavens," said the horrified teacher, "What kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?"

"Don't f*ck with Uncle Bob when he's been drinking."

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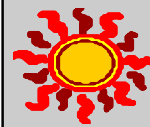
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Sean on death row gets the choice to be shot, hanged or injected with the aids virus for a slow agonising death. He says "Give me the aids injection.." They inject him and he rolls round the floor laughing.

The warden says "What's so funny?"

Sean says "I'm wearing a condom!"



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NATURAL GAS - URGENT.

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 pipe-laying 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

Remember, you can have two gas connections, say one to a boiler and another to your cooker, for a connection fee of just €21!

But, if you cannot decide yet whether you want a connection inside your home, you can still opt to have a gas connection just to your garden or patio. This will cost just approx. €2.25 per month. This keeps your options open for the future and would also mean that you would not have to pay a connection charge to your property, which would be well in excess of €1,000! That is, if they were prepared to do isolated cases. (Above figures may attract IVA.)

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Men don't care what's on TV. They only care what else is on TV. Jerry Seinfeld.

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From Across the Pond.

• "Happy birthday to England's Prince George, who turns 1 today (July 22). The prince's first birthday party was a little different. His bouncy castle was an actual castle. And the pony rides were on Camilla. Queen Elizabeth's horse tested positive for morphine and a mix of other powerful drugs. Sources say the queen is in denial. She thinks someone confused her horse's urine sample with Prince Harry's." -Craig Ferguson

• "New Rule: Americans who couldn't get into the World Cup no matter how hard they tried have to stop feeling guilty about it. It doesn't mean that we're not sophisticated. All it proves is that unemployed people will watch anything. It's a giant bore. Involving two boring subjects: nationalism and soccer. On the bright side, it has reminded the German people how good it feels to be whipped into a nationalistic frenzy, and what could go wrong with that?" -Bill Maher

• "Brazil's coach resigned following the country's historic 7-1 loss in the World Cup recently. He says he wants to spend more time focusing on not being murdered." -Seth Meyers

• "There's a twelve hour cease fire in the Middle East; otherwise known as reloading." -Bill Maher

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Dream Scene Distribution.

The handsome chap on the right is Steve Hodgetts. Steve helps me deliver the Dream Scene every month. He does all the leg-work and I do the driving. In this photo, you can see that we have collected the printed copies of the newsletter, around 800 of them, from Media Costa Blanca in Los Balcones. We then begin the deliveries immediately, which takes us to Via Park 2, Via Park 3 and Via Park 5; Los Balcones and Lago Jardin 1 & 2; Corte Real, Upper & Lower los Altos; and some post boxes and houses in Dream Hills 1 & 2.

This usually takes around 3 hours.

Then in the early evening, I deliver copies to selected expat hot-spots in Villamartin, Los Montesinos and San Miguel.

When Steve is away, it is usually Stefan Pokroppa who helps with the deliveries. This month Alan Schofield (of Just Brass) is kindly helping out as the other two chaps are tied-up. No! Not BDSM!

Congratulations to Stefan, who now hosts a two-hour radio broadcast in German at the new Siesta Radio, every morning on 91.6FM. Stefan has also constructed a new website for Dream Hills together with a Message Board. You can find it here, with lots of good stuff together with the Dream Scene archives -

<http://www.dreamhills.orihuela-costa.eu/>

Stefan used to do a very informative English interview on Sunshine FM on Fridays, regarding current events, which Sunshine unfortunately pulled; a mistake I thought. It was genuinely very helpful to expats.



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12 noon - 12 midnight.



Note this!

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week the man realised that he would need his wife to wake him at 5.00 am for an early morning business flight to Madrid. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he finally wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5.00 am."

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9.00am, and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed ... it said... "It is 5.00am; wake up."

Effing!

Martin Scorsese's film "The Wolf of Wall Street" broke a record by using the word "F*ck" or "F*cking" 506 times. That actually beats a record set by my dad in 2003, trying to put an Ikea chair together.



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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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The Itinerary.

The wife & I decided to take an organised trip to Afghanistan to see for ourselves what the place was like. It didn't start well when the train we were travelling on, broke down a few miles north of the capital.

What a third world shithole! Streets full of angry bearded types glaring at us & the Mrs stood out in her sundress as all other women had head-to-toe burkas. We are so dead I thought.

Anyway, Dave the organiser suddenly remembered that Finsbury Park had a tube station, so we were able to get safely to Kings Cross & then on to Kabul from Heathrow.

Brian H.

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The above tortilla (omelette) now features as a Guinness World Record. It was created in Vitoria-Gasteiz in the Basque Region in early August. Weighing 3,500 pounds, it required 840kg of eggs, 1,600 kg of potatoes, 30kg of onions and 10kg of salt. A total of 150 litres of olive oil was also poured into the mixture. An enormous pan was specifically made for the record attempt and a complex mechanism made it possible to cook the tortilla on both sides without having to flip it over.

After four hours of preparation, more than 10,000 people who had started gathering on the Plaza de la Virgen early in the morning were able to enjoy a slice of the giant tortilla. The money received was donated to the city's food bank.

The Andalucian Scandals Grow & Grow!

We have been covering the ERE fraud investigation for three years now. The investigating judge, Mercedes Alaya, has cast a wide net over the Socialist administration and politicians in Andalucia and has referred the prosecution of two senior politicians, one the former president of Andalucia, to the Supreme Court. They are entitled to this concession as they are *aforados* (see previous issue). Judge Alaya has also revealed the extent of the fraud to be €55 million, stating that what was carried out was 'a real subversion of the legal system.' All this is, of course, separate from the massive training funds fraud there. Both El Mundo and ABC newspapers have uncovered yet more crooked going's-on concerning this.



In 2012, the opinion polls indicated that the Socialist Junta there would lose power in the regional elections. Just four days before the elections, the Junta gave the then Treasury Counsellor, Ángel Ojeda, €5.3 million to share between seven 'foundations' he controlled. This was obviously to divert resources from the expected incoming PP administration. As it happens, the Socialists unexpectedly scraped through in the elections there, so they could continue with their manipulation of funds. Ojeda is now in jail (see photo from El Mundo of Ojeda 'having his collar felt'), together with four of his associates, in relation to the Training Fund Scandal. Four others were released with charges. You may recall that these funds were supposed to be used to re-train the unemployed. But the greed of the local politicians, administrators and entrepreneurs, diverted the funds to other grasping hands, from paying for their personal drug habits to financing the trade unions. The funds handed to the trade unions were justified as being 'circumstances of special social interest.'

Ojeda it seems, set up 24 hidden companies to divert the funds which were meant to be spent on training courses. The National Police estimate that the amount of funding and subsistence diverted to his companies was €48.4 million! One of his companies, Partnership Support Environment Natura, ensure that the the salaries paid to its employees were doubled to justify the amount of subsidies received. He would then later get the staff to return half the money!

These Andalucian scandals are now recognised as the biggest ever in Spain for the fraudulent collection and illegal misdirection of public funding - that is of course except for the banks, where incompetence, greed, mismanagement and lack of supervision, have helped decimate the economy.

The amount of money shovelled out to a bunch of crooks - politicians and businessmen - in Andalucia, by both Regional and Central Government without any monitoring and with total lack of control, has been staggeringly criminal.

Previously it was the corrupt element of the party of the right, the PP, who appeared to be the main swindlers in the land. But now the Socialists in Andalucia have shown that they have been much more creative in their scheming and for larger amounts. The people hurt most by their greed, were the ones whose cause they were supposed to champion - the impoverished unemployed.

*Fame is a figment of everyone else's
imagination.
Van Morrison*

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Orgasms are good for the heart!

Well, you probably missed it but, August 8th was the International Day of the Female Orgasm. The Spanish Heart Foundation (FEC) used the day as an opportunity to highlight the importance of orgasm in sexual practice as a protector of cardiovascular diseases. FEC, by the way means *Fundación Española del Corazón*, and not an Irish swear word! There are several studies indicating that sexual activity is related to disease prevention, stress reduction and weight management; this is because during intercourse, immunoglobulin levels rise, which protects against infection and promote greater resistance to pathologies. "In addition to these health benefits in general, it has also been found that regular sexual practice helps reduce the chances of heart attack," says Dr. Ignacio Fernández-Lozano, Deputy Secretary of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) and a member of the FEC.

A study published in The American Journal of Cardiology, advised that it found that men who maintained relations twice a week, were up to 50% less likely to suffer a heart attack than those who did it once a month. Experts indicated that in the case of women during orgasm, various hormones such as adrenalin, endorphins and oxytocin are released and that they act in the body as a vasodilator (widening of the blood vessels), allowing better blood circulation and thus preventing the formation of clots.

"The improved circulation together with the feeling of happiness caused by the secretion of these hormones helps maintain better cardiovascular health," says Fernández-Lozano.

He stressed that lack of orgasms was associated with increased cardiovascular risk. This was demonstrated in an elaborate study of 100 women in England who had experienced myocardial infarctions. It was discovered that 65% of them were incapable of feeling sexual pleasure, in comparison to a figure of 25% in a separate control group who did not suffer cardiovascular problems.

See www.diarioinformacion.com/vida-y-estilo/salud/expertos/2014/08/07/orgasmo-bueno-salud-corazon/1533184.html



Poison Yourself—It's Good for You!

Plants have long been lauded for their health-promoting antioxidants. But recent research upends that thinking—broccoli is good for you precisely because it stresses your body. By now, it's become a given: your multivitamin is useless and the right amount of stress, even in our recovery obsessed world, is good. So what, if anything, do we gain by clinging to our antioxidant supplements?

Very little, according to an accumulating body of research. We don't need massive doses of antioxidants, we need stress to compel our own bodies to create antioxidants. "Everybody thinks oxidation is bad, and that antioxidants are good," says Dr. Philip Hooper, an endocrinologist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. "That's bogus. A little bit of poison is good." That poison can actually come from plants, especially those that have survived harsh conditions. In this Nietzschean diet principle known as xenohormesis, foods that have survived harsh conditions make us stronger by stressing our bodies, not because they're rich in antioxidants.

As the science quarterly *Nautilus* explains, plants have developed an arsenal of chemicals to help them ward off insects and grazers. These "antifeedants," when ingested by humans, trigger the body to release proteins and activate genes that "produce antioxidants, enzymes to metabolize toxins, proteins to flush out heavy metals, and factors that enhance tumour suppression."

Plants prepare your body to handle toxins much as exercise prepares you to race—by stressing your body. And supplements, says Dr. Hooper, interrupt this pay-it-forward biological sequence. "These antioxidant supplements are like a Trojan horse," continues Dr. Hooper. They say, "I'm a good guy. You guys go to sleep and while the defence is asleep the antioxidants get rid of any oxidation. It puts the defence-system's army to sleep." Just as wearing a testosterone patch lowers the body's production of the hormone, relying on supplements reduces the body's natural production of antioxidants.

While Dr. Hooper acknowledges the benefits of vitamin E for muscle cramps and macular degeneration, he scoffs at the idea—as have many others lately—that it improves one's physical performance. "We've thrown so many millions of dollars at this," he says. "It's a misconception and it's naïve." And he suggests that athletes in intense contact sports such as soccer and football benefit from trauma. "Players have to be hit with pads on Tuesdays and Thursdays in order to compete on Sundays—they need that actual trauma," he says. "Everything in our society is geared toward, "How can we reduce stress?" adds Dr. Hooper. "When it should be just the opposite. We need stress. Stress is good."

(From: http://www.outsideonline.com/fitness/bodywork/performance-plate/Poison-Yourself-Its-Good-For-You.html?utm_campaign=rss&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=xmlfeed)



Cough Up!

A Dubliner went to live in Cork but unfortunately he died. Two Corkmen went around from house to house collecting money to give him a decent funeral.

'Excuse me, Sir', they asked one old Corkman, 'would you contribute £1 to bury a Dubliner?'

'Look', said the Corkman, 'here's £10 - bury ten of them'.

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What a Fright!

Three old ladies named Gertrude, Maude and Tillie were sitting on a park bench having a quiet conversation when a flasher approached from across the park. The flasher came up to the ladies, stood right in front of them and opened his trench coat. Gertrude immediately had a stroke. Then Maude had a stroke. Tillie, being older and more feeble, couldn't reach that far.

Idiot of the Month.

Once again, we are replete with idiots this month. It must be the weather!

Two Spanish men aged 31 and 39, were arrested in the Madrid municipality of Fuenlabrada. They are accused of setting fire to 24 vehicles, 17 of them in one night! They were caught red-handed setting fire to a restaurant gazebo causing €13,000 worth of damage. Both of them have criminal records: one had four previous convictions which included domestic assault; the other had 30 previous charges which included robbery, sexual assault, kidnapping, drug trafficking and criminal damage. A real 'bad-egg' that one! The men stated that they set fire to the vehicles so that they could see how the emergency services reacted. I can only guess that drug-taking played a part in their lunatic machinations.

On August 14, a man was walking past a Sabadell/CAM bank in north Alicante, when he spotted a box on the ground which had a Sabadell marking. Being an honest chap - yes, there are still a few about - he took the box into the bank, handed it over and walked off. When the bank staff looked in the box it contained €30,000 in €20 notes. The bank reported the matter to the police and it subsequently transpired that the security company who filled up the bank's ATM's had been looking for the box since early morning. Obviously some idiot in the security company dropped the box and forgot about it. I hope these guys don't carry handguns. They would be a danger to themselves, and us all!

This chap is Turkey's deputy prime minister, Bulent Arinc. I believe he is illustrating the size of his brain in the photo. 66-year-old Arinc found himself elevated to 'Idiot' status during a recent speech to celebrate the end of Ramadan. He stated that women 'should not laugh out loud in public' or speak about trivial matters on mobile phones. "Women give each other meal recipes while speaking on the mobile phone. 'What else is going on?' 'What happened to Ayşe's daughter?' 'When is the wedding?' Talk about this face to face," he said. The real danger is that this guy might get into a position of real power some day, and in an Islamic State!



And here we have another political idiot. This time it's the Popular Party senator, Luz Elena Sanin. Sanin (photo), Colombian-born but now a Spanish national, represents the North African Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Sanin has blamed the national debt accumulated during the Socialist government - €1 trillion - to the 'favours' handed out by the then PM Zapatero to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual community. "Otherwise we wouldn't have this gaping economic hole," she stated. The only gaping hole I see, Luz Elena, is your brain.



The mayor of Valencia, Rita Barbera, has finally removed her personal vehicle from the underground car park in the City Hall. Nothing unusual in that except the car was left in the car park 23 years ago and remained there since! Rita parked the car there when she was first elected mayor in 1991 and has been using official vehicles since. The vehicle was covered in dust and all the tyres were flat; no word on the battery though! If you still want more, you can read about a really dumb guy on page 22.

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Boobs & Babes.

I was such an ugly baby. My mother never breast-fed me. She told me she only liked me as a friend.

Rodney Dangerfield

I had a nightmare last night. I dreamed Dolly Parton was my mother and I was a bottle baby.

The P.E. Teacher.

A blonde lady gets a job as a physical education teacher of 16 year olds. She notices a boy at the end of the field standing alone, while all the other kids are running around having fun, kicking a football. She takes pity on him and decides to speak to him. 'You ok?' she asks. 'Yes,' he replies. 'You can go and play with the other kids, you know,' she says.

'It's best I stay here,' he says.

'Why's that, sweetie?' asks the blonde..

The boy looks at her incredulously and says: "Because I'm the goal keeper !!!"

Brian H.

If the English language made any sense, lackadaisical would have something to do with a shortage of flowers.
Doug Larson

The long Arm of the Spanish Law.

It is very easy to write about the bad things in Spain: corruption, theft, fraud, violence, greed, incompetence etc. I could fill a book on it each month let alone a 28-page newsletter, but that would be depressing to read and even more so to compile. Bad news always seems to draw the attention of people, with good news being relegated to the 'back burner.' But there is of course plenty to be proud of as well in Spain. For this particular article I am referring to the police, not the surly individuals who will stop you at roundabouts and look at you as if you have a kilo of 'charlie' stuck up your behind. No, I refer to the skilled, professional and committed investigative police. The best of these are probably as good as any in the world. On the one hand you have the police who are investigating the scandals relating to the politicians nationwide. Here they have to tread a narrow line exposing the devious and fraudulent goings-on from leftist Andalucia to rightist Madrid and confused Catalonia. But it is the 'establishment' they are investigating which will often 'close ranks' and isolate the police investigators, have them transferred or sacked. They are certainly doing all they can in Andalucia to undermine the investigating judge there. But today I will report on two great victories for the police and of course the victims, in relation to violent crime.

Eleven year ago, a 20-year-old woman from Seattle in United States was in Madrid to learn the language. It was 4am when she, rather unwisely, accepted a lift from two Spaniards. The men drove her out of Madrid to some waste ground, where she was brutally raped by both. The men abandoned her, taking her camera, phone and handbag. She then walked for an hour and a half, eventually arriving at a petrol station, where the police and an ambulance were called. She was taken to a hospital where the protocol ensured a full examination and samples be taken. After treatment she placed an official complaint to the police and returned to the US.

Eleven years later she received a call from the Spanish police. Following a robbery, they had arrested a suspect, Cristóbal Cañas Moya. A test of Moya's DNA matched one of those taken after the rape. The rape victim lawyer, but gave her through a translator by Moya is now sentence of 27 years - 10 for collaborating in more for violent theft. did not have a testimony videoconferencing serving a prison 14 for rape and rape, and three Unfortunately, the second assailant still remains free as Moya refuses to name him although the police still hold his DNA sample. Hopefully a few years in the clink will loosen Moya's tongue. Sticking him in a cell with a couple of Big Gay Juans might also help!



The body of a 24-year-old Romanian man was found in the Castellón town of Benicàssim in early November 2000. He had been shot several times. Police investigating, interviewed a number of Romanians but there were no leads. In 2010, the reopened the investigation. New leads and information indicated that two Romanians previously interviewed were 'the likely lads.' The problem was, they were no longer in Spain. With the assistance of the Italian police, the two Romanians, now aged 34 and 38, were eventually located in two different towns in Italy. They were arrested by the Italian police in June and extradited to Spain this August. Open borders can be a good thing, but they do spread the 'undesirables' around.

The above are two good examples of the old saying,
"You can run, but you can't hide."

I'm Bad!

I have a mental problem...or a wife as she likes to be called. Anyway, she said to me, 'It stinks in the bedroom. Why don't you open a window?' 'What?' I said, 'And let all my pigeons fly out!'

I have just won a tidy sum on the lottery. I bought my homeless brother a new home. It's the box from my new 65" TV.

My wife has always proclaimed that there is nothing more painful than childbirth. Clearly never trodden on a plug in the middle of the night then! She then accused me of being 'self-important.' I nearly fell off my throne!



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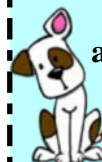
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Janette 610451133.

Obvious.

A lady is picking through the frozen turkeys in the supermarket, but can't find one big enough for her family. She call over one of the staff and asks, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

'No,' he replied. 'They're all dead!'

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Ducks in Sagunto.

The ancient city of Sagunto, just 30 kms north of Valencia, featured yet another unusual Spanish fiesta this August. During this event, 110 ducks are let loose into the harbour. Then around 250 participants try to catch the ducks in the water, before they fly away. No ducks are harmed. (Photos - El Mundo)





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Tipping.

At a big Las Vegas casino, a blackjack dealer and a player with a 13 count in his hand are arguing about whether or not it is appropriate to tip the dealer. The player says, "When I get bad cards, it's not the dealer's fault. Accordingly, when I get good cards, the dealer obviously has nothing to do with that either, so why should I tip him?" The dealer replies, "When you eat at a restaurant do you tip the waiter?" "Yes," the gambler concedes. "Well then, he serves you food. I'm serving you cards so you should tip me."

"OK," says the gambler, "but the waiter gives me what I ask for.....I'll take an 8!"

In Los Angeles, you have to have breast implants. An A-cup entitles you to park in a handicapped spot.

Jeannie Dietz



Let's hear it for the bull! This bull managed to scale a steep incline and chase after dozens of people who thought they were quite safe there, during a fiesta in Navarra in August. 15 people were treated for bruises, bad falls, panic attacks and some very mucky underwear!

The Nigerian Scam & One Truly Dumb Individual.

I have repeated the following, almost *verbatim*, from Typically Spanish. You would wonder after all the publicity and jokes about 'Nigerian Letters' how anybody could still be fooled. The gullibility and naivety of some unfortunate people is staggering.

"This letter is to inform you that you have won Third Prize in the United Kingdom Lottery; 4.8 million dollars".

David in Dubai received the letter although he had never played the lottery, but it changed his life in an unexpected way; he lost more than half a million € in what was in reality a scam.

The Nigerian Letter scam has been around for decades and to some it is amazing to think people can still be fooled. The group which defrauded David, had a money laundering network in Spain, which the National Police say laundered more than 11.5 million € after defrauding citizens from all over the world. There are now 88 detained.

The person responsible for Group III of the National Police Unit for Economic and Fiscal Delinquency, (UDEF), said what they had found was only the tip of the iceberg. The fraud is much larger. The method used was economical and lineal, which functioned without bosses or top people responsible. The Police operation, although it remains open, was named in Spain in English, 'Closed' because they intended to close all the booths in the hands of these delinquents. The *modus operandi* was as follows: some people used the Nigerian Lottery Letter scam; others collected and laundered the money.

A letter or email or phone call was made to a large list of people. They were told they were beneficiaries of a large inheritance from a distant family member, who lived in Nigeria, or alternatively they had won the lottery in a country they had not been to, or they would say they were ringing on behalf of family member who urgently needs money.

The inheritance and the lottery were the most common, and the fraud started with small quantities to open up the bank information and to overcome the 'international barriers and administrative charges'.

Once someone had fallen into the net they called for ever larger amounts of money, claiming that the prize or inheritance, although delayed, was still coming.

In David's case, he won the lottery three times without ever buying a single ticket, and the group had asked, on six occasions, for money for administrative charges to be paid before the money could be released. Unbelievably David sent them more than €500,000 and received nothing. He is believed to be the person to lose the most in the scam and is undoubtedly, one of the dumbest people on earth.

(Continued in next column.)

*If you want to know God's opinion of money,
just look at the people He gave it to.*

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693 985 122 VIA PARK V

(Continued from previous column.)

The money, which he sent from currency booths, would be collected via Western Union or Money Transfer and by tracking these transfers the National Police could locate the destination of the money, although the UDEF believe they have only uncovered 30% of the scam.

203 establishments were under investigation for money laundering, in Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Málaga, Sevilla, Alicante and Almeria. The detained owned the exchange booths and using false documentation they would transfer the defrauded money to Nigeria or invest it in real estate.

The Group II of the UDEF Patrimony Investigation has recovered part of the gang's assets - 73 properties, 107 vehicles and several bank deposits.

Most of the 88 arrested are Nigerian, although there are also Moroccans, Bulgarians, Romanians and Spaniards, all with previous criminal records.

Generally the victims were foreigners living away from their native country and mainly in the United States, Canada and Germany. The victims showed a similar profile, aged between 45 and 70, in rural accommodation, with an income over \$50,000 a year, and often a donor to charity. The delinquents purchased the names from a third party!

The UDEF say there are more than 500 organised groups dedicated to fraud in Spain and many victims are uncountable as they don't complain, often because they are too embarrassed to do so. UDEF says the collaboration with international bodies, including the Federal Trade Commission in the United States, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaints Centre, and the Anti-Fraud Centre in Canada, among others, have been fundamental in the operation.

The investigation started in October 2012 under the National Court Prosecutors' Office and led by Judge Javier Gómez Bermúdez, in Instruction Court 3 of the chamber. The operation remains open and the police expect the total number of arrests to reach 200, and the total amount defrauded to be over 40 million €.

The police impounded a large number of false identity papers and passports including one supposedly issued in Canada, with a photo of Angela Merkel.



SEPTEMBER AT THE PHOENIX



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WiFi

Smartness runs in my family. When I went to school I was so smart my teacher was in my class for five years.

George Burns



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CUT-OUT & KEEP.

RESIDENT IN SPAIN AND RENTING-OUT YOUR PROPERTY IN THE UK? READ ON!

Expats who rent out their homes in Britain will be stripped of the right to use the personal allowance, under a tax raid prepared by George Osborne. Some Britons could be forced to return from retirements overseas if the Chancellor presses ahead with plans to force non-residents to pay tax on all their UK income, accountants warned.

Retirees drawing a Government pension are also likely to be hit by the proposals, which could cut a couple's income by up to £4,000 a year. At present, EU nationals and British expats are entitled to offset income earned in the UK against the £10,000 personal allowance. Mr Osborne first indicated his desire to curtail the allowance in the March budget.

Under Treasury proposals released for consultation, the allowance would be restricted to people with a "strong economic connection" to Britain, bringing the tax regime into line with the US, Canada and much of the EU. The move could affect up to 400,000 people and raise the exchequer an extra £400 million a year. It would include 175,000 people who live abroad and earn an income from property in Britain.

Many of the 1.2 million British retirees living overseas will not pay extra tax on their pension because they are either UK residents for tax purposes, as they spend half the year in Britain, or because most state or private pensioners are only taxable in the country of residence. However, UK government pensions are only taxable in Britain, meaning that unless the Treasury introduces exceptions, former civil servants, NHS workers and council officials living overseas will pay more tax.

Justin Harris, managing director of Chase Belgrave, an independent financial advisory company said the latest proposal may well prompt expats to remove their links with Britain altogether, if they can. "This announcement represents a continuation of the assault on expats as a source of tax revenue for an exchequer creaking under the strain of austerity. It seems likely that the Treasury will continue to enact measures that increase the tax burden on expats," he said. "Our clients are increasingly telling us that the constant chopping and changing of UK regulations makes them feel very insecure having assets in the UK. We've seen them sell their UK properties, close their bank accounts and pull their pensions out of the UK and put them into QROPS." QROPS (Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes) are HM Revenue & Customs-recognised pension schemes based in selected jurisdictions outside the UK.

(The above are short extracts from a couple of online articles in the Telegraph Online. You can read them in full at the following links. I have also included a link to the consultative document on the matter which was published by the UK government. If you are likely to be effected, it would be wise to read them.)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/expat-money/11027075/Expats-face-400-million-tax-raids.html>

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/expat-money/11031690/Expats-urged-to-review-sources-of-UK-income-amid-tax-raids-plans.html#disqus_thread

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/restricting-non-residents-entitlement-to-the-uk-personal-allowance/restricting-non-residents-entitlement-to-the-uk-personal-allowance>

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy. Spike Milligan

The History of Spain, Part 43. The Beginning of the 1936 Coup and the Slide into Civil War.

Even while General Franco was being flown from the Canary Islands to North Africa on July 19, 1936, so that he could lead his 'Army of Africa', both General Mola and Franco were not convinced that the coup would be successful. Franco's hesitations and dithering infuriated his fellow conspirators. Some of them referred to him as 'Miss Canary Islands 1936,' but not of course to his face. A stickler for discipline and order within the 'military family', several years of savage fighting and reprisals in North Africa may well have dulled his senses towards violence. Once while conducting a barrack's inspection in Morocco, one of the soldiers threw a plate of food at Franco, stating that it was inedible. Franco had the soldier shot and then ordered the food to be improved. His savage treatment of fellow Spaniards during the Asturias Socialist Revolt in October 1934 was an early taste of the horrors he and his troops would inflict on their countrymen and women during the coming years, not that savagery and inhumanity was confined just to the rebels.



Francisco Franco, photo, had the *Dragon Rapide* aircraft circle the airfield at Tetuan in North Africa until he recognised an old *africanista* colleague waving to the plane from the airfield. When he landed, he was informed that the coup in North Africa at least had been successful. He was now fully committed to the coup. The plane, which came from Croydon Airport in the UK via a circuitous route to the Canaries and then carried Franco from there, was flown by an ex-RAF pilot called Cecil Beeb. It is very likely that MI6 were aware of the 'secret passenger' and his mission, but that is another story for another time.

Almost immediately, the *Rapide* took off for Lisbon with a trusted colleague of Franco, Bolin, who was to liaise with the nominal leader of the coup, General Sanjurjo (exiled to Portugal after the failed coup attempt in 1932) and then fly to Rome to seek military assistance from Mussolini. Bolin was given the authority to '*negotiate urgently in England, Germany and/or Italy to purchase aircraft and supplies for the Spanish non-Marxist Army.*'

General Sanjurjo was to be flown to Spain in a small aircraft, where he would join the rebels. But Sanjurjo insisted on bringing with him his dress uniforms, medals etc., - considerable by all accounts. The pilot warned him that the load was too heavy, but the general insisted, stating, '*I need to wear proper clothes as the new caudillo (warrior leader) of Spain.*' However, the plane crashed on takeoff and General Sanjurjo, the figurehead for the rebellion, was killed.

Meanwhile in northern Spain, General Mola, the "Director" of the coup, declared a state of war in Navarre. Navarre was a traditionalist stronghold and thousands of Carlist farmers flocked to support his army. Known as *requetés* with their floppy red berets, the 20,000 Carlist militiamen were armed and had been training in secret. They were religious fierce fighters, who would look on the forthcoming struggle as a Crusade. They were probably the most effective fighters on Spanish soil at the time.

Another rebel general, Queipo de Llano, seized Sevilla in an audacious operation with just 4,000 troops, also capturing an important airfield and a radio station, from which de Llano would harangue listeners with the horrors that would await them if they resisted the rebels.

(Continued from previous column.)

But if the coup leaders had expected the remaining garrisons on the mainland to also rebel and the Madrid government to rapidly capitulate, then they were bitterly disappointed.

Where the security forces - the Guardia Civil, the Assault Guards and the majority of the population supported the government in an area where the military were divided or hesitant, then the rising failed. The big cities of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia remained loyal.

At this stage it is easier to refer to the coup leaders, the rebel soldiers, monarchists, Falange, Carlists, and their supporters as 'nationalists', while referring to those forces who remained loyal to the then left Republican government (loyalists), to the socialists, communists, unions, anarchists etc., and their supporters, as 'republicans.'

The republicans would refer to the nationalists as 'fascists,' while the nationalists referred to the republicans as 'reds.' There was no middle ground!

The Madrid government was by now totally ineffective. After a weak last ditch effort to negotiate with General Mola was rejected, a cabinet of left Republicans finally armed the workers' militias. In every town and village that remained loyal, the normal machinery of government was replaced by local committees of party and union militants whose orders were enforced by armed patrols. Lorry-loads of militiamen with clenched fist salutes, drove around brandishing weapons. Dolores Ibarruri, the Communist orator later wrote, '*The whole state apparatus was destroyed and power lay in the streets.*' This was now a revolution spawned by the coup. The arming of the workers led to an outburst of terror and indiscriminate killing. The clergy were the first to suffer with 6,832 priests slaughtered and churches burnt. The killings in the republican zones soon spread. Old scores were settled as killings and atrocities continued without restraint. With the central government now ineffective, business and property owners in republican zones, particularly where the armed anarchists or communists held sway, had little chance of survival. Ironically the anarchists thought it was inhuman to subject suspects to a trial, so they shot them anyway! The rich crowded into embassies in Madrid, hoping eventually to escape to a nationalist zone. Some would remain there for years.

One of the great myths of this Spanish Civil War, was that the armed forces revolted en masse. In reality, the left (republicans) had the loyalty of about half the army in the peninsula, two-thirds of the navy, the bulk of the air force and nearly two-thirds of the security forces. During the first weeks of the coup, the odds were in favour of an outright victory for the left. However, they were unable to capitalise on this because 'arming the workers' did not create a reliable new force of militia. It just simply opened the floodgates of disorder. Untrained and undisciplined, the new militia were impossible to control.

Meanwhile, Franco had to get his tough experienced legionnaires and mercenaries from Morocco to the Spanish mainland. Without them, de Llano and Mola's forces would undoubtedly soon be annihilated by the republicans once they managed to reorganise their fragmented militias into a fighting force. As the republicans controlled the bulk of the navy, it would be suicidal for Franco's forces to attempt to cross the Strait of Gibraltar by sea. Republican warships were already patrolling the Strait and were now bombarding the nationalist ports in North Africa. Franco's forces were effectively now bottled up in Morocco.

WHERE DOES YOUR FOOD COME FROM?



When you think of the beautiful weather in Spain, you realise how easy it is to grow anything here, provided of course you have got a regular supply of water. But a recent study compiled by Universidad Pablo Olavide of Sevilla and Friends of the Earth at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, revealed that Spain still imports a considerable amount of its meat, fish, fruit and veg' - billions of tons in fact.

The reason for this is mainly cost. For example, the Red Denia prawn cost between 58 and 94 euros per kilo. However, supermarkets can import a similar prawn from Mauritania for €34 a kilo and from Senegal for €24 a kilo.

It is the same with fruit, veg' and rice. The producers here are happy to export much of their produce, while the supermarkets will get their branch tomatoes from Holland and Belgium; apples from the cooler climes of France, Italy and the lower Alpine regions; avocados and asparagus from Peru; pears and grapes from South Africa; beans from Canada, Argentina and Bolivia and rice, although grown in Sevilla and Valencia, it is also imported from Thailand. There will always be a mix of foreign and domestically grown produce on the shelves.

Of course, seasonality can also increase the volume of food imports - such as oranges from South Africa! The survey also deduced that the journey the contents of the average supermarket shopping basket took, was around 3,800 kilometres; that is before it ended up in the supermarket!

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

Hooray! The football season has started! Did it ever end?

After being moaned at last month, Grumpy Bob turned up early to this month's meeting. However, as the Quill had a "night out" organised, he kept this meeting short. Cheers Mike!

The summer soiree was confirmed for the 27th August. Embarrassing bits next month.

Pete confirmed our Annual Presentation Evening for 27th November in the Lime Bar. This led to a proposition that trophies should also be awarded for 2nd place, not just for the winners. Who wants a "dust gatherer" that proves you lost? Anyway, a majority passed it. The sad gits!

After the tantrums at last month's meeting, a new draw system was introduced. So far so good..... The draw resulted with the match being fished at Nancy's, but as there are so many tourists fishing there, it was agreed to be on the bank at "Oh crack sparrow fart". Even at this ungodly hour, some of the swims were already taken.

The weather in August was hot & humid, but on the day of the match, it was overcast, windy and only 30° C. It was a comfortable day for fishing. There was hardly any flow and the mullet were teasing us on the surface. 14 members fished with only 1 dry net (which is excellent for us!). On such a lovely day, Just John wasn't happy (again) as he had the last choice of swims. However, he disappeared below the boom & came back smiling as he won the match with 9.6 kilos. Snake charmer came 2nd with 4.5 kilos, I was 3rd with 2.9 kilos beating the Quill by just 5 grammes. The quill can't see very well now, so only knew he had a fish on when his pole was tugged in his hand. Shit! I was warned about this as a youth.

The summer competition is now wide open with half the club "mathematically" being able to make the 6 angler final. '3 rods' & Shropshire Boy are back for the last match in September. We will see how friendly the club is then!

Ammo & casualty report. Cyril "the elder" is doing as well as expected and is keen to be back later this year. Snapper is still taking it easy but he did fish the August match. Welcome back.

Why is fishing better than love?

- You can catch and release a fish without any hassle.
- Fish don't mind if you doze off while fishing. (Bob)

Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 1st September.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

Respect!

Two friends are fishing near a bridge. Suddenly a Hearse and two Funeral Cars go over the bridge so one of the men stands up, takes off his cap and bows his head. When the cars have gone he puts his cap back on, sits back down and carries on fishing.

His mate turns to him and says, " Dave, that's one of the nicest most respectful things I've ever seen. "

Dave replies, " Well, we were married for nearly 20 years "

The Scottish Referendum on Independence is due to take place on September 18.



"Do tell me young man, can this reach those ungrateful 'porridge-munchers' north of the Border?"



A boxer goes to a doctor complaining of insomnia. 'Have you tried counting sheep?' asks the doctor.

'It doesn't work,' replies the boxer. 'Every time I get to nine, I stand up.'

Galadriel

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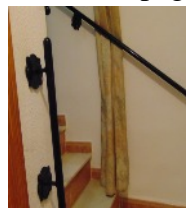
As we have mentioned before, if we have experienced an exceptional and well priced service, we are quite happy to pass it on to our readers. Commission is never involved.

Many of our regular readers will be aware that I have undergone back surgery for the second time and that my mobility is compromised. (Many thanks for the emails and good wishes.) I thought it was time to improve the handrails up to the first floor bedrooms. We have, in the past, used a company in Los Montesinos called *Metalica Artistica*, for smaller, specially made metal items. We were happy with the service, so we called them in and asked them to measure up and quote. We also asked them to remove the existing handrail, so that the new rails would match each other and the existing iron work in the house. We had five new handrails installed, all powder-sprayed together with the mounts in a nice black gloss. Including IVA, delivery and fitting, it cost just €80.

Measuring, production and installation were all done within three weeks. It would have been quicker, but the firm was experiencing a particularly busy period. The two fitters were English as is one of the production engineers, so there are no language problems. They were helpful and efficient, the rails installed cleanly and quickly and all for a fair price. So, if you are having problems pulling yourself up the stairs, or if you would like to have something made in metal for your home, they are certainly worth considering.

Metalica Artistica have a large showroom and workshop, just outside of Los Montesinos heading towards the Crevillente Road. The showroom (security door-bell access) features some of the many items that they can make, including bedsteads, tables, chairs etc. If you can draw it, they can make it! Tel: 966721073.

Next month I will report on the conversion of our existing single glazed windows to double glazed units, keeping the existing frames. See advert on page 1.



PHOTOS
SHOW
NEW
HAND
RAILS.

It is a sunny Sunday morning but the minister is preoccupied with how he is going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting to pay for repairs to the Church building. He is further annoyed to find the regular organist is sick and a substitute has been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wants to know what should be played. "Here's a copy of the Service," the minister says. "But you'll have to think of something special to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the Service the minister pauses and says: "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty. The roof repairs are going to cost twice as much as we expected and we need £4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge £100 or more, please stand up." At this moment the substitute organist bursts forth with 'God Save The Queen'.

And that, dear friends, is how the substitute became the regular organist.

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ART

What is an artist? For every thousand people there's nine hundred doing the work, ninety doing well, nine doing good, and one lucky bastard who's the artist.

Tom Stoppard

I inherited a painting and a violin, which turned out to be a Rembrandt and a Stradivarius. Unfortunately, Rembrandt made awful violins and Stradivarius was a terrible painter.

Tommy Cooper

Every time I paint a portrait, I lose a friend.

John Singer Sargent

They couldn't find the artist so they hung the picture.

Frank Zappa

When their backsides look good enough to slap, there's nothing more to do.

Peter Paul Rubens

Did you hear about the ship that ran aground carrying a cargo of red and black paints? The entire crew were marooned.

William Bishop

Rembrandt painted 700 pictures. Of these 3,000 are in existence. William Bode

Henry Moore's sculpture in Hyde Park looks like something that's fallen off a jumbo jet.

Laura Milligan

Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves they have a better idea.

John Ciardi

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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)