

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Issue no. 94, 1st of December 2014.



*Bienvenido a todos* and welcome to the December edition.

With just a handful of dull days, November has at least, to date, been very warm, in the low 20's some days. No doubt we will get some 'pay-back' in due course, but we are all enjoying the dry warm spell now.

There is lots of self congratulation in the ruling government circles, but the so-called recovery is still very precarious and patchy. Putting the dreadful unemployment figures and the evictions aside, the lack of investment in social services, health, transport etc., is beginning to take its toll. Investment in road maintenance in the Alicante province has declined by almost 50% during the last five years. The figure for 2010 was €27.4 million whereas the budget for 2015 is only €3.6 million. Plenty of holes in the roads everywhere. Similarly the medical services are under great pressure. The statistics and reports are more forthcoming from the Costa del Sol area; *Diario Sur* in Málaga reports that 800 medical tests for conditions such as colon cancer have been left un-analysed for so long that the tests are now useless at the Clínico Hospital. In Málaga, 1,000 women are on the waiting list at the Materno hospital because of the lack of gynaecologists; and the three main hospitals in Málaga - Carlos Haya, the Civil and the Materno, have between them lost 700 workers since 2010.

There are still plenty of unofficial collectors going around the urbanisations. Children's charities are the favourite. The collectors, usually men, all have printed ID cards, letters etc., but it is bogus!

The 'Iberdrola' agents are also still going around. These are not employees of Iberdrola but agents who collect a fee every time they get someone to sign up to a new deal. Forget the promises; if you sign up, you will probably end up paying more than you are paying now.

Congratulations to The Phoenix and Jilly's who between them have raised €300 during Race Nights to go to Chucky's bill and Finca de Castellana. Well done also to Gill of Jilly's who raised almost €800 in a very short period for the dog and charity. See Chucky's Story on page 17.

There are three Red Days in December - 6th, 8th and 25th; two in January 2015 - 1st and 6th.

The Indian Restaurant & Take Away in Via Park V, 2GB, have now closed down and will not be reopening. Most outlets are now struggling a bit in the off-season.

A new Spanish bar has opened up on the lower ground floor of Via Park V. Nice lady behind the bar, basic decor and the drinks are very cheap. Give it a try.

Take care when driving on the N322 now as there is a new 8 kilometre stretch of new road markings on the single lane stretch. This is a double solid line which means no overtaking. There were five fatalities on that stretch this year and anything to reduce that is welcome. The new dual carriageway is not due to be completed until at least 2018.

A mixed bag again this month. There were two new major corruption scandals but I thought I would give them a rest until a future issue. Remember, there will be no newsletter in January 2015.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

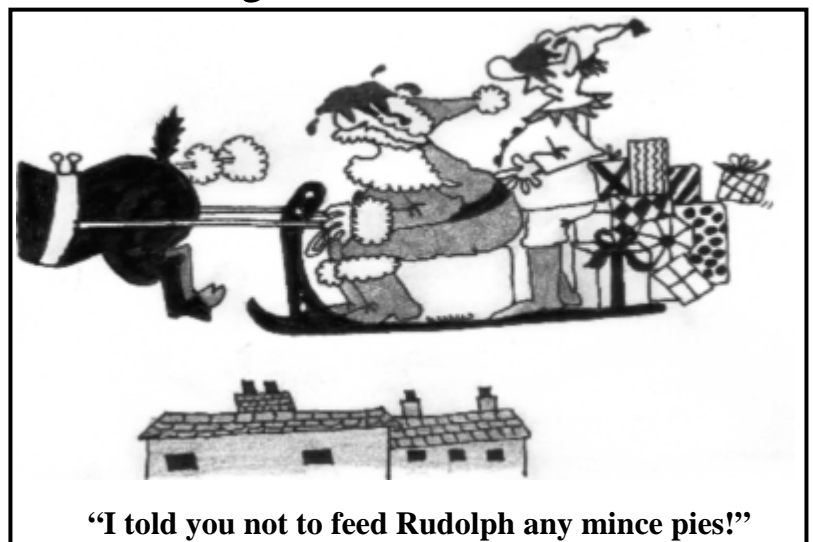
*Mick & Tid.*

## Angela's Cartoon



Janette from Finca de Castellana with Chucky and his owner, Jorge, on their way home!

See full story on page 17.



**"I told you not to feed Rudolph any mince pies!"**

"He looks like a dwarf who's ben dipped in a bucket of pubic hair."

*Boy George on Prince.*

**TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER**

If you find computers too complicated or need assistance in your everyday Spanish life, then, I'm your man! Computer training and translations are my speciality. I live in the Dreams Hills area. I'm originally from Spain, and have two years of experience as a translator, and many years dealing with computers, since I have two computer-related college degrees from the US. Please, let me know if you need any assistance with the following:

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- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
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**Did you know that .....**

...Poundland, the British bargain chain, will open ten new stores a year in Spain; stores are now opened in Madrid, Alicante & Torremolinos. The price for everything will be €1.50 and the name changed to Dealz, but the concept remains the same.

...the State can inherit money from an intestate person with no claimants? It's not usual but the State has the obligation to assign a third of the money to charity, social action or professional institutes in the municipality, a second third would go to the above groups at the provincial level, and the third part will go to cancel public debt. The Treasury would take 10%.

...the region of Murcia is now penalising vehicle purchasers of highly polluting vehicles. If a new vehicle emits more than 200 grams of CO2 per kilometre, €600 will be added to the sale price as an extra tax. This will not only effect high-end luxury cars but also quad bikes and jet skies. Local car dealers are very angry at the new tax as it will only encourage buyers to purchase in another region.

...writing things down does not necessarily help you remember more effectively. A recent study from Michelle Eskritt and Sierra Ma at Mount St. Vincent University—published in the journal Memory & Cognition—suggests that when you take notes, your brain can intentionally forget because it knows that you've written the information down and stored it elsewhere. During the study, participants were asked to play the memory game Concentration over and over. The catch was that one group was allowed to take notes during the game. Halfway through the game, however, that same group got their notes taken away. When it was all done, the group that was not allowed to use notes performed significantly better. Human memory isn't always that great, but when your brain knows it doesn't need to memorize something, it won't. So the next time your studying or taking notes, be sure to take the time and really go over the information.

...homes or communities which do not re-tune their DTT (Digital Terrestrial TV) tuners will be left with just three channels. The aerial installers have calculated that 300,000 buildings will not be ready for the changeover on December 31.

There is a very fine line between 'hobby' and 'mental illness'. Dave Barry

## What's Up?

The most important political event during November, was probably the illegal Catalan vote on independence. This was another of Artur Mas's grand gestures to herald the case for an independent Catalonia, whereas in reality, it is a last ditch effort for him to salvage some support to counteract the drop in popularity for himself and his party. Before the voting took place, it was already declared illegal and unconstitutional.

On the actual day, only around 33% of eligible voters took part. Most stayed at home. Of the 2.2 million Catalan's who voted, around 80.7% wanted Cataluña to be an independent State, 10.11% wanted Cataluña to be an independent State inside Spain and 4.55% said they did not want Cataluña to be a state at all. Only a third of the six million called to vote participated, and that included for the first time over 16's and immigrants - who could not vote in a national election anyway. Although Mas and his supporters heralded it as a success, it was a waste of time and money.

"It was a profound failure of the secessionist project," said PM Rajoy. "According to its own figures, two out of every three Catalans ignored it. It has not been a democratic vote, it has been political propaganda."

The right-wing extremist group 'Marching Spain', which is made up of the National Democracy, 'The Falange', National Alliance and Patriotic Knot, demonstrated on the voting day, November 9, with the slogan, 'The most noble destination for the ballot boxes is they should be broken.' They have called a demonstration outside the Government Delegation in Barcelona to claim the 'Spanish character' of Cataluña against the 'traitors and cowards of the separatist rats who have organised this sovereignty's consultation.' 'Artur Mas acted as if the Constitutional Court had no validity in Cataluña', so said the Catalan prosecutor as Mas is being charged with disobedience, breach of public duties, misuse of public money and usurpation of powers in the lawsuit. Since Mas came into office, the debt in Cataluña has risen by €130 million every week. The Catalan Government owes €4.4 billion to the European Investment Bank, but that is nothing when you add what they owe to BBVA and CaixaBank, which comes to €61 billion!

The other major political event has been the rise of the new party of the Left, *Podemos* (We Can.) One poll puts them ahead of both the major parties, the PP and the PSOE. Whereas it is unlikely that the usual PP voters would depart in flocks to this very left-wing party, the damage they are doing to the Socialist, the far-left Unida Esquirda, and even the Communist party, is substantial.

La Razón reports with the arrival of the new corruption cases, the courts have a five and a half year backlog. Gürtel and Pretoria started in 2009 and are still in the instruction stage. In Spain, 750 politicians have been charged, 0.25% of the total.

Telefónica is negotiating a strategic alliance with BT to create a European giant. The disintegration of the European market makes the sector easy prey to the Americans, particularly A&T.

The Finance Ministers from 54 countries, Spain included, have now signed an agreement for the automatic transfer of fiscal information, including all types of bank accounts and deposits, owners, balances and transfers, which will start in 2017. The United States did not sign the agreement but stated that they were 'very strongly in favour of what was being done.'

Income tax for the self-employed, currently at 21%, will be 19% in 2015 and 18% in 2016.

El Mundo carried headlines which stated, 'JP Morgan advises not to buy Spanish bonds, because of Cataluña and Podemos'. The largest bank in the United States recommends buying Irish debt and not Spanish.

El País notes 2015 will see more deaths than births in Spain according to the National Statistics Institute. Spain's population will shrink by 5.6 million in the next 50 years with much of the population aged over 65 and living alone, according to official forecasts. If current trends continue, Spain will have 1 million fewer inhabitants in 15 years time and 5.6 million fewer 50 years from now. Those who are left will be older: the percentage of people aged over 65 is forecast to rise from 18.2% now to 38.7% in 2064. The predicted decline in numbers is the result of Spain's falling birth-rate, a trend that began in 2009. But the number of people living alone is expected to rise by 27.5%, from 4,480,391 now to 5,711,125 in 2029.

The number of Spanish people aged over 100 is predicted to rise from 13,551 to 372,000 over the next 50 years.

49.7% of unemployed people in Spain, aged over 45 have been out of work for more than two years. Under 45's the rate is 34%.

A dictionary published by the Royal Spanish Academy has caused anger among Spain's large Roma community. Against one of the entries, the dictionary describes the Roma (Gypsies) as "those who use deceit and trickery in order to swindle someone in any question... Those who try to cheat someone using lies and tricks". Two years ago the Roma community asked the Academy to reconsider the literal translation of their name. But the Academy appear to have ignored that. In a statement to a journalist, the Director of the Royal Spanish Academy's commented that the dictionary does not have to be politically correct. Bit like the Dream Scene I suppose. This reminds me of a joke that appeared in the Dream Scene some years ago -

A gang of 20 Pikeys (gypsies) arrived at the Gates of Heaven demanding to get in. St. Peter didn't know what to do, so he went to see the Boss. He was told to go back and check that they had pure hearts etc., and if so, to let them in. St. Peter went away and came back after just a couple of minutes. 'What's up?' asks God. St. Peter answers, 'They've gone, Lord.' 'What?', says God, 'the Pikeys.' 'No,' said St. Peter, 'the Gates!'

The real estate business in Spain is going at two speeds; investments in buildings, commercial premises and offices is back at the time of the real estate boom, but house sales are holding at 27,000 units a month, the reason being there is much stock in the housing market.

More than 26,500 families have lost their homes in the first six months of this year. 65% of the evictions are after judicial intervention and the rest are voluntary, according to data from the Bank of Spain.

El Mundo reports that the Government has paralysed the privatisation of AENA (the Spanish Airports Authority) because the auditor increased its fees. The contract with Pricewaterhouse Coopers was considered unjustly inflated.

The Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations has proposed a salary increase of 0.6% in 2015. Wow!! It's drinks all 'round!

The organisation responsible for the banks' rescue has detected close to fifty suspicious operations in the nationalised banks. The latest are two in the Novacaixigalicia for an estimated value of €10 million.

The anti-corruption prosecutor is investigating a report in El País, which claimed the large electricity companies had 'pardoned' three billion € to their largest clients. The prosecutor has called the Socialist party members, with responsibility for industry for the years 2007 to 2010, to testify. The paper claims three State Attorneys and the ex General Director of Energy Policy are part of the scam.

#### 4 What's Up? continued

According to El País, The ex-General Secretary of the Madrid Regional Government, Francisco Granados, and his partner placed €5.8 million in three Swiss bank accounts. La Vanguardia headlined, 'The corrupt network in Madrid got rich during the cuts'.

In another political scandal, the politicians known as the Púnica gang in Madrid, made corruption their 'modus vivendi', according to the judge. The mayor of Parla, Madrid, has paid €60,000 in bail money, whereas he listed his assets to the Hacienda as only €2,000!

El Mundo reports that the anti-fraud inspectors have found money laundering in a real estate project imposed by Xavier Trias, the Mayor of Barcelona.

Immigration Data provided in the Congress of Deputies Inside estimated at 17,000 attempts to jump the fence in Ceuta and Melilla so far of the year. Some 2,000 immigrants have managed to enter Melilla in 2014, double that of in 2013

The Spanish Treasury has reduced the fine placed on the 81-year-old opera diva, Montserrat Caballé, who was found guilty of defrauding half a million €. The Treasury has accepted a 50% reduction on the fine on the understanding the diva paid back the €508,462 which she had defrauded from the Treasury last May. The actual fine will be around €250,000. Other Spanish celebrities who have run into trouble with the tax authorities of late include Ana Torroja, former singer in 1980's pop group Mecano, who pleaded guilty to tax evasion and will have to pay the state €1.5 million; singers Alejandro Sanz, Lola Flores and Isabel Pantoja; tennis player Rafa Nadal; soccer star Leo Messi, and flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortés.

But it does seem to be a difficult time for Spanish singers. During November, the Spanish diva, Isabel Pantoja, began serving a two year sentence for money laundering. Isabel (photo), who became involved with a 'bad bunch' of Málaga council fraudsters - one her ex-boyfriend, was also fined €1,147,148.96, of which she has paid only €147,000. To the Spanish public, it is the equivalent of their 'Vera Lynn' going to prison, being their favourite singer. She had the sense to arrive at the prison a day early to avoid the paparazzi.



The king's daughter and wife of the 'dodgy Duke' of Palma - Urdangarin, the Infanta Cristina, has been charged on two counts of tax evasion but not for money laundering. The defence lawyers have celebrated the loss of the money laundering charge, considering it to be the most serious. The Spanish establishment are doing all they can to get the case dropped. A Royal in the dock would only highlight the tidal wave of corruption in Spain at present.

A motorist hit a 21-month-old infant and a 4-year-old girl in a stroller when they were crossing a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights with their mother in Barcelona. He tested positive for drugs.

Things got decidedly gory in Fuengirola, on southern Spain's Costa del Sol on Monday, November 3. Police arrested a 22-year-old man of Chilean origin. This guy had an argument with his 25-year-old sister, but rather than storm off in a huff as many would do, he decided to cut her head off! He also has a distancing order for alleged ill-treatment of his mother.

A Turkish man has received a 10-year prison sentence in the Costa del Sol for the rape of three British girls. A surfeit of alcohol rendered two of the girls unconscious. The crimes took place in June 2013.

A man who has been been paying child support to his daughter for 24 years will have to continue to do so for a little longer after a judge in southern Spain's Cádiz province ruled that he would have to continue to support her until she completed her studies. A Spanish judge has ordered a father to pay his 29-year-old daughter €500 a month in financial assistance, citing the difficulties under 30's have in finding work because of the country's crisis. The daughter is 29 years old! A UNICEF study published in late October found that the proportion of Spaniards who were neither working nor studying had risen from 14.3 percent to 18.6 percent from 2008 to 2012.

Six of the doctors who treated the Ebola patient in the Carlos III Hospital, were on temporary contracts, which have to be renewed every six months. Morale in the medical profession generally is at rock-bottom. Being a doctor in Spain is significantly less rewarding financially than in most other European countries. They are also treated less well by the local medical authorities.

The ex-chairman of Barcelona Football Club, 81-year-old José Lluís Núñez, has been sentenced to 26 months in prison after being found guilty of bribing a tax inspector for a period of ten years. Núñez 'encouraged' the tax inspector to 'look the other way' when his tax rate should have increased. Núñez's original six-year sentence was reduced to two years and two month, which will now have to be served.

Two children, who had been arrested two months ago in Cueta for their involvement in the death of a 24-year-old Moroccan, have escaped from the prison where serving 'precautionary waiting' before being tried for murder. It is alleged that a group of children chased the victim for about a kilometre before a 16-year-old stabbed him.

The Socialist junta in Andalucía has granted a prison term 'third grade' (this is when you only have to sleep in the prison!) to the nephew of the ex President of the Junta de Andalucía, Manuel Chaves, who was found guilty of sexual abuse. The concession was granted only a month after sentencing. Normally it is not considered until at least a quarter to a third of the sentence is served. The politician responsible for Penitentiary Institutions, Mercedes Gallizo, backed the liberation.

Ambulance staff in the southern city of Cádiz have splashed out on their own Ebola protection suits, saying the garments they were provided with weren't up to the job. In response to their own doubts, the ambulance workers in Cádiz ended up buying eight suits at a cost of €18 each — three for each of the two specialist emergency vehicles they staff, and two for the other conventional ambulance used in the city.

A man has been sent to prison for two years four months for hitting his daughter's teacher. The teacher at the Vicente Espinel Institute in Málaga was unconscious for several minutes, lost two teeth, 20% of his hearing and broken glasses from the punch. Now both sides are presenting an appeal; the prosecution because the compensation for moral damage is insufficient and they request 6,000 € plus 35,000 € for lost income. The father's lawyer criticised the sentence and said that he would appeal as there are 'questions which have to be valued'.

Bishop Juan María Uriarte was walking in a street in Bilbao, Northern Spain, one recent afternoon when a woman approached the Catholic priest, who was easily identifiable as he was wearing a dog collar. The woman asked for alms. Uriarte refused and the thief then stooped as if to kiss the bishop's hand before ripping the bishop's ring off his finger and scampering away.

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*A lot of fellows nowadays have a BA, MA or PhD.  
Unfortunately, they don't have a J-O-B. Fats Domino*

There was a shocking incident at the Blue Diamond Club (knocking-shop!) in the San Ginés de Alcantarilla industrial estate, in Murcia on the evening of November 21<sup>st</sup>. Several men, who appeared to be either drunk or drugged-up, began arguing with other clients. The doorman asked the men to leave. One of the men pulled out a gun and shot the doorman five times in the chest. He then shot a client twice, once in the chest and then in the ribs. The first victim died instantly with the latter dying later in hospital. The men, believed to be from a certain gypsy clan, then scarpered. On Saturday morning, 30 armed police sealed off part of the district of San José Obrero in Alcantarilla. At least four men were arrested, one after a short siege of his residence. (Photo:RTVE & El Mundo)



The salt lakes of Torrevieja produce an average salt yield of around 600,000 tons annually. Sometimes this goes up to 800,000 tons. Approximately two thirds of the salt goes abroad, mostly to Northern Europe and even some to North America. This is carried by freighters which dock and load at Torry harbour. About 100,000 tons of salt annually goes to the food industry, mainly for salting fish. More than 100 countries produce salt in large quantities. However, Sal de Torrevieja has a couple of major advantages over many of its competitors - firstly, salt can be loaded direct from the production area onto the freighters using conveyor belts, bypassing expensive road transport and secondly, salt production can be maintained all year round.

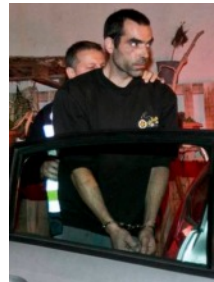


The two large salt lakes are connected to the sea. Sea water comes into the Laguna de La Mata where it warms up. The water then passes to the larger salt lake where it precipitates and a machine scrapes the bottom collecting the salt.

Last month saw a horrific bus crash in Venta del Olivo, near Cieza, in Murcia. The bus was travelling with 55 passengers and two drivers from Madrid, where they had participated in a religious ceremony. The accident happened close to their home town Bullas in Murcia. 14 died in the crash with a further 28 hospitalised. One of the drivers has been arrested.



You will often be surprised in Spain but the following incident is jaw-dropping! A 41-year-old Elche woman survived a bomb explosion in her car. The device was placed in her car headrest, see photo. At the time of the explosion she was leaning forward in the car, which probably saved her life. A 36-year-old man from Crevillente was arrested and is charged with attempted murder. He was a previous boyfriend of the victim and is believed to have a previous offence of abuse in relation to another woman. Seeing this photo of the alleged bomber, he looks like he wouldn't hurt a fly!



The PP mayor of Sax in Alicante has had his monthly salary reduced from an average of €2,500 a month to just €1! The opposition voted it in as punishment for irregularities in relation to anti-flooding road works.

La Verdad in Murcia reports the Councillor for Development, Public Works and Territorial Ordination, Manuel Campos, has resigned over the delays at the Covera airport, in the presence of Ana Pastor the Development Minister.

The Guardia Civil arrested a suspected jihadist in San Pedro de Pinatar on November 19. The detainee, a kebab shop owner, had approached with fundamentalist networks on the internet and offered his services to an armed group in Syria. Police cordoned off the main street while making the arrest. Locals thought traffic



was being held up because of a cycle race! The arrested male, described by locals as polite and friendly, was known in the town for about 15 years. Computer hardware and documents were also seized. On the same day, the Secretary of State for Security, Francisco Martínez, revealed that the Ministry of the Interior has detected the existence of several hundred jihadists profiles in Spain during the last six months. Most of them are supporters of the Islamic State, the Caliphate and show interest in travelling to Syria or Iraq. (Photo-La Verdad.)

A retired British policeman has drowned in south-eastern Spain while trying to rescue his two nieces after they got into difficulty while swimming in the sea. David Walter, 67, went to their aid at a beach in the resort of La Manga del Mar Menor, Murcia, but drowned at the scene and was pulled out of the sea by emergency services. This drowning on November 3, comes just two weeks after a 78-year-old German woman died while bathing at the same resort.

Orihuela football club are on the verge of folding due to an unpaid subsidy to Orihuela CF by the Orihuela town hall. The club is in a precarious situation despite their current mid-table position in the Third Division Group 6. The acting mayor says that he will transfer money from other sporting commitments to meet the debt.

A medical team in the Arrixaca Hospital, Murcia, has just opened a transplant unit. The organs from one man who died of a heart attack have generated three transplants.

Another fake doctor has been removed from the Los Arcos hospital in Murcia. After three years of residency, 'Dr.' Delia was kicked-out when it was discovered she had a fake medical licence.

In our urbanisation we have security controllers/guards. As they patrol during the nights, they regularly scan the outside of properties with their torch-lights. This is to detect possible intruders, open windows etc., and, as has happened on a number of occasions, a pissed-up owner collapsed on their front steps! But it can be a very strange world. I heard that one owner has told the guards NOT to shine their torches on his building! I would have put this in the 'Idiot' section but it was full up.





# LIME BAR

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## LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf society's venue for the 12th November 2014 was held at Roda Golf Course.

With 30 members, the society teed off in warm sunshine with the course in good condition. We all started on the 10th tee and with it being the easiest 9 holes the scores were reasonable, however the returning 9 being recognised as much more difficult had its effect on some of the players.

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

Longest Drive on the 10th hole was Les Henderson.

Nearest the pin on the 7th hole (par 3) was Steve Cottle.

There were no other nearest the pin results.

Silver Class 3rd place was Dave Everson with a score of 27 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Brian Archer with a score of 30 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Alan Jackson with a score of 36 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Bob Adair with a score of 28 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Highway with a score of 30 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Digger with a score of 33 points.

A very good day in pleasant company, with thanks to Captain Mick Slater for organising the event and other members who assisted. Also thanks to the staff at The Lime Bar and ladies for an enjoyable meal. Anyone wishing to join our friendly society just needs to phone Mick on 659866468.



### Pioneering work in HIV & leukaemia.

Spain is to start a pioneering clinical test to eliminate the HIV virus and leukaemia. It uses blood from an umbilical cord with a genetic mutation 'CCR5 Delta 32' which is able to eliminate all traces of HIV from the patients with the virus. The test is being carried out by the National Transplant Organisation (NTO) and the Spanish Society of Haematology and Haemotherapy.

The mutation CCR% Delta 32 of the stem cells of the umbilical cord appears to have a natural resistance to HIV infection, halting its expansion.

Spain is a world leader with umbilical cord blood and currently stores some 60,000 units stored on public banks, 11% of the world total, only beaten by the United States.

### Scum-Bags!

Three men, one 90-years-old and two in their 40's, were arrested for stealing groceries from a food bank in Granada. Staff were perplexed when food went missing and only the staff had keys.

A surveillance operation and the three villains the doors with keys onto shopping the nonagenarian had the food bank but had kept



Both the two other men owned food shops close to the food bank. It is believed that groceries to the tune of around €8,000 were stolen and resold to the public.

Food banks are an essential basic food resource for the poor and destitute in Spain, which have now reached a considerable number due to the high rate of unemployment, the very limited period of unemployment benefit and austerity cut-backs. Bear in mind that Spain is NOT a welfare state.

### Drugs in Spain - 2013.

The operations against drug trafficking carried out by the National Police, Guardia Civil, Customs and Special Taxes, and the Regional Police during 2013 resulted in 22,878 arrests, 4.2% fewer than in 2012.

The data comes from the Interior Ministry which adds over 2013 there were 401,289 reports of holding or using drugs in a public place, up 7.7% on 2012 and 434,444 seizures, up 6.9%. Looking over the past ten years, the department shows a marked increase of the past two years.

La Rioja is where arrests have increased the most at 55.9% followed by Aragón with 32.2%. The Valencia Community has seen the largest number of reports on mainland Spain. Out of the Spanish total of 401,289, Valencia was up by 21.6%, but the Balears was up by 22.9% and Ceuta up by 34-3%. More cocaine is found in Valencia (8,521 kg), hashish in Andalucía (262 tons) and ecstasy in Madrid (73,753 pills).

The average profile of the arrested is a Spanish male (in 84% of the cases), and in the case of foreigners it is the Moroccans (36%) followed by the Colombians (12%), Dominicans (5%), Romanians (5%) and French (4%).

There is a very informative and surprising article in English in *El Pais* titled 'Spain's invisible drug problem.' Unfortunately it is too long to reproduce here, but you can read it here -

[http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/11/18/inenglish/1416306169\\_000668.html](http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/11/18/inenglish/1416306169_000668.html)

One of the key points it makes is that the Spanish themselves no longer see drug abuse as a major concern despite the prevalence of drug use throughout the country.

### Oi Vey!

Two beggars are sitting side by side on a street in Rome, Italy. One has a Cross in front of him; the other one is holding the Star of David. Many people go by, look at both beggars, but only put money into the hat of the beggar sitting behind the Cross.

The Pope comes by. He stops to watch the throngs of people giving money to the beggar who holds the Cross while none give to the beggar holding the Star of David.

Finally, the Pope approaches the beggar with the Star of David and says, "My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country; this city is the seat of Catholicism. People aren't going to give you money if you sit there with a Star of David in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who is holding a Cross. In fact, they would probably give more money to him just out of spite."

The beggar with the Star of David listened to the Pope, smiled, and turned to the beggar with the Cross and said, "Moishe, look who's trying to teach the Goldstein brothers about marketing!"

Brian H.

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**BATTERED FISH, CHIPS, MUSHY PEAS, BREAD 'N BUTTER**

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**8.30pm till late; Toast at Spanish & UK Bells**

**Various nibbles at table; tickets going fast!**

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Two eagles are flying along when a jet screams past them.  
One eagle says, "Man...did you see how fast that thing was going?"  
The other eagle says, "You'd go that fast, too, if you're asshole was on fire."

## PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY.

On Sunday December 16, the venue was Roda Golf Course. The weather was very kind to us with sunshine all day. The course played very well and was in good condition.

Overall winner with 32 points was Austin Brennan.

Runner up with 29 points was Miley.

Nearest to the pin on Par 3 was -

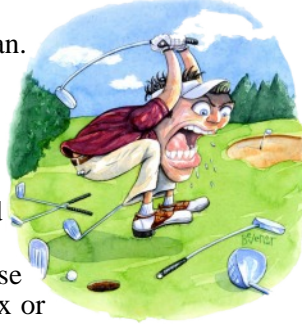
2 for Austin,

1 for Miley.

We returned to the Phoenix for lovely food courtesy of Donna.

If anyone is interested in playing with us please check the notice board in the Bar at the Phoenix or ring Dave on 965 010 063.

**Our next meeting will be 14th December @ Villa Martin.**



### OTHER NEWS.

The Asturias Government will fine banks which use **'ground clauses'** in their mortgages. The Principality will charge €3,000 for every mortgage with abusive clauses. Hopefully this will encourage the other regions to follow suit, but with the curse of regionalism, some will and some won't.

British owners of **second homes** in coveted areas of **France** could see the Gallic equivalent of their council tax rise by 20% under measures due to be presented next week. The move, part of a supplementary budget for 2014, would affect owners of second homes - French and foreign - in around 30 areas around France where housing is in short supply, known as "zones tendues". These include the city of Paris and surrounding area, the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts as well and towns in the south-west and the Alps where demand for housing is very high. Check this link for more information - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11208522/Britons-face-tax-hike-on-coveted-French-second-homes.html>

A third of Spanish workers **earn less than €1,217 gross a month**. Youngsters earn 51% less than veterans; the temporary earn 60% less than the fixed contracts and women earn 30% less than men. Fixed workers earn €2,048 and temporary earn €1,282. The figures come from the National Statistics Institute (INE), who compiled the figures relating to 14,142,600 wage earners in Spain last year.

Spanish women, with an average age of 32, are the **oldest first-time mothers** in the European Union, according to the Institute for Family Policies (IFP), a civil organisation which has consultative status with the United Nations. Across the EU bloc, the average age has now risen to 30.1 years of age. The impact of the economic crisis of the past six years, the lack of specific policies in support of the family and obstacles preventing parents from finding a good work-life balance are seen as the main causes of women putting off starting a family. In much of Europe, a family with two children can receive state assistance up to around €500 monthly, regardless of income. In Spain, the amount is only €48 p.m., and even this is only available to the genuinely poor.

Telefónica has given the commitment to **replace all their ADSL lines** with fibre optic by 2020. The operator has launched a new platform called 'smart city' which offers intelligent suggestions for cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants.

The Post Office is the last bargain left on earth. For 29 pence you can send a letter anywhere in the country. People moan when the price of a stamp goes up by a penny. I think the Post Office should turn around and say, 'Well, you fuc\*ing take it. See how far you get with your 29 pence train ticket.'

Jack Dee

*Last Halloween I ran out of candy and had to give the kids nicotine gum.  
David Letterman*

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ICE  
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or the Foundation for a Coronary?**



Whereas the Spanish don't really do desserts unless it is one of their 100 variations of egg custard or insipid sponge cake, they do go the extra mile for savoury pastries. Above is an example of a Catalan speciality you might like to try or make some time. Called *Coques de Llardons*, these crispy flatbreads are topped with pine nuts and fried cubes of pork fat or crackling and then sprinkled with sugar! Hmmm. Even thinking about it is starting to clog-up my arteries.



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**DETAILS IN BAR.**

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## THE FORM 720 ASSET DECLARATION.

Last week, the Petitions Commission of the European Parliament called for the investigation into the Spanish regulation that foreign residents have to declare their assets abroad if worth €50,000 or over. The Euro deputies debated petitions from British, French and Belgium citizens, backed with 900 signatures; all against the Spanish law, which is already under investigation by the European Commission.

The Petitions Commission considers as an inequality the Spanish regulation which differentiates nationals from EU citizens in the area of raising tax, and in addition they say the Spanish law will limit the free circulation of people and capital and they expressed doubts of the privacy of the declarations.

'This law can be blamed for many foreign residents considering leaving Spain, because of the extremely high fines, which are not prescribed,' said a lawyer taking part in the debate, Alejandro del Campo, who is also the author of one of the petitions.

Another petitioner, Anthony Valke on behalf of Alicante-based association Abusos Urbanisticos No, expressed concern about the whole asset declaration process, advising that the declaration rules do not comply with EU law. Mr Valke also pointed out that Spain is considering introducing some form of 'exit tax,' and in that context the 720 process might be considered as a form of 'fishing expedition' for confidential data that would facilitate the collection of such a tax.

I wouldn't hold your breath for a quick solution to this one. Look how long it took to get a correct and fair judgement on the discriminatory taxation on foreigners in relation to Inheritance tax.



"I assume you don't want to put a wreath on the front door either."

## LOCAL NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION - NEARING COMPLETION!

The natural gas installation in Dream Hills is now well advanced. 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 URGENTLY 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 - comercialecnor@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 approx. €2.25 per month with no installation charge. 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.) If you don't want natural gas, that is fine. But if you decide at a later date to have it installed, **it will cost you more.**

## NATURAL GAS COMING TO LAGO JARDIN II AREAS AND LOS BALCONES.

Gas Natural fenosa will be extending the natural gas pipeline to the above areas, which are on the Dream Hills side of the Torrevieja-Orihuela road. (Areas on the Lago Jardin I on the other side of the road and nearby areas are not included.)

The terms for supplying these Torrevieja areas are not as generous as those that apply to Orihuela Costa.

Option 1: To supply two gas connections - say one for a boiler and another for a cooker will cost €250 plus a connection fee of €21.

Option 2: To supply a gas connection to say the patio of garden - €100 installation fee and €21 connection fee.

The additional costs are probably due to Torrevieja Town Hall requirements.

**Should you wish too find out more, I suggest you contact, without obligation, Virginia or Deibi at Elecnor on 645 113 316. They can also be contacted at - comercialecnor@gmail.com**

The triangle is not a jazz instrument. There's nowhere to put the cigarette. Ian MacPherson

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**OPEN 9am - 'TILL LATE.**



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**MAXIMUM 16 PLAYERS.**  
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**Monday to Friday 3pm - 7pm**  
**OPEN 3pm - 12am**  
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12 noon - 12 midnight.**







**'That flying reindeer stuff is just a silly myth.'**

*The pen is mightier than the sword - until you meet someone who has knowledge of simple chemistry, metal forging and ballistics.*



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**(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)**

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**Little Tyke!**

Teacher decides to teach the kids about the birds and the bees and asks them to look for signs of mating over the weekend. Monday morning she asks if anyone has any signs to share with the class.

Little Suzy: "Please miss, I saw a sheep moving up and down on another one. Was that sex?". Teacher: "Yes Suzy, they were making little baa lambs." Little Danny: "Please miss I saw one cat going up and down on a mummy cat. Was that sex?" Teacher: "Yes Danny. They were making little fluffy kittens".

Little Johnny: "Please Miss. I was watching a cowboy film with my Dad and there were two Indians jumping up and down on John Wayne. Was that sex?" Teacher: "No Johnny, of course it wasn't."

Little Johnny: "Thought so. I knew it would take more than two Indians to fuck with John Wayne"

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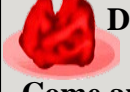
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Near Zenia Boulevard.

### Are You a Lexophile?

"Lexophile" is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, puns, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location (possibly here -<http://allpoetry.com/contest/2628792-Contest-for-Lexophiles>).

This year's winning submission is posted at the very end.

.. When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

.. A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

.. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

.. The batteries were given out free of charge.

.. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

.. A will is a dead giveaway.

.. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

.. A boiled egg is hard to beat.

.. When you've seen one shopping Centre you've seen a mall.

.. Police were called to a day care Centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

.. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

.. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

.. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

.. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

.. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

.. When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.

.. Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

.. A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France and resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.

And the cream of the wretched crop:

.. Those who get too big for their pants will be exposed in the end.

(Submitted by Sue Robinson.)

The photos below (Informacion) show some of the 'Moors' during the recent Moors & Christians fiesta in Orihuela. Looking at the beautiful Moorish women, I am sure they have much more fun than the Christians. Well, it sure beats repentance, penance, sackcloth, ashes.....and all that kneeling!



*Jehovah's Witnesses don't take part in Halloween because it's against their religion. They don't like it when strangers come to their doors and bother them.*

*Bruce Clark*

Fáilte **Doolan's** Sláinte

ÍRISH BAR

GROUND FLOOR,  
VIA PARK III



*céad míle fáilte*



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*ceol cáint agus craic*



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About 30 revellers and monsters visited our house during Halloween. This is one group of them.

### No Spekka!

John is paying a visit to his Italian neighbor in the hospital, who just had a very serious traffic accident. He doesn't look like very much: in plaster, completely wrapped in a bandage, tons of hoses and infusions. He looks like a mummy. John tries to have a conversation, but his neighbor has his eyes closed and isn't responding. Suddenly his eyes jump wide open and he starts to gurgle and during his last gasp for air he says:

"Mi stai bloccando il d'tubicino ossigeno, Pezzo di merda ...."

John inscribes the words in his heart.

At the funeral John tells the black-clad widow that her husband had something to say.

'And, she asks with tearful eyes, "was it that he loved me? "

"I do not know," said the man, "but it sounded like Mi stai bloccando il d'tubicino ossigeno, pezzo di merda ...."

The widow screams and faints.

"What?" John ask startled to the daughter, "what did he say, what does that mean?" And the crying daughter says:

"You are standing on my oxygen hose, you piece of sh\*t."

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Janette 610451133.

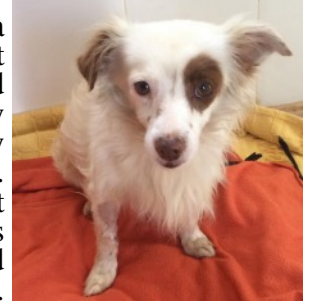
**COME TO  
OUR RACE NIGHTS!**

**Correction:** In the last issue I stated in the history article that Prime Minister Negrin authorised the gold reserves to the Soviet Union. Negrin was actually the Minister of Finance at the time. He would not become Prime Minister until May 1937. Oops!

### Chucky's Story.

Approx' 4 weeks ago Chucky and his owner were viciously attacked. This little dog that weighs no more than 5kg was so badly injured that it took Eduardo from Eduardo's pets and his team all night to try to save his life. We didn't hold out much hope, but this valiant little dog fought on. A specialist surgeon was called to help reconstruct the bladder and a new wee hole as all of Chucky's lower internal parts were shattered bruised or had to be removed. Chucky came to Finca LA Castellana to recoup as specialist care was needed and under the strict supervision of Eduardo .

Chucky has now learnt to live a reasonable normal life. Without the dedication skill and pioneering surgery carried out by Chucky's vet Eduardo, it may have been a very different story. Please can I thank everybody that has sent their love and best wishes and to everyone that has donated to help pay for the medical bills.



A huge thank you to Eduardo whose dedication and perseverance has gone beyond the normal and to my team of girls that have worked so hard to help Chucky learn to trust and live. We hope to reunite Chucky with his owner in the next few days.

As Chucky goes back to his life we will continue to help as many abandoned and distressed animals as we can .We can't do it without your support so a big thank you to all.

Janette Margaret Lopez Vizcaino.

(Janette 610451133, PayPal fincalacastellana@outlook.com)

[www.facebook.com/fincalacastellanaanimalwelfare](http://www.facebook.com/fincalacastellanaanimalwelfare)

**Editor's Note:** These photos were taken of Chucky while recuperating at Finca La Castellana.

Many of you will have seen Chucky in the past, waiting on the pavement or road for his owner. Two or three years ago, while waiting on the road, he was hit by a car. Obviously he survived that as he has the recent



outrage. A very independent dog; I tried several time in the past to give him some tit-bits, but he always turned his nose up at them....and me. One of my favourite memories of him was when I was murdering the Simon & Garfunkel song - Cecelia - during karaoke at Jilly's one evening, when Chucky independently walked in the doorway of the bar and stood still and looked up at me for a long while as if to say, 'What the heck do you think you're doing?' I've never sung it again!

When Chucky and his owner Jorge were viciously attacked by the Romanian, attention tended to focus on Jorge and his eye injury, mainly because the seriously injured dog crept away to suffer in silence. It was not until the next day that Gill from Jilly's went looking for the dog and found him collapsed under a bush. Well done to Gill also for raising around €800 locally to go towards the vet's fees. The collections are continuing so that the vet's bills can be paid, so please, if you have a few euros to spare, drop them in to Jilly's or send them direct to the Finca La Castellana.

*Women call it stalking. It's just selective walking.  
Otis Lee Crenshaw*

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### Good Advice?

An Emergency Call Centre worker in London, England, has been sacked, much to the dismay of her colleagues who are reportedly very unhappy with her dismissal. It seems a male caller dialled 999 from a mobile phone, stating, "I am depressed and lying here on a railway line. I am waiting for the train to come so that I can finally meet Allah."

"Remain calm and stay on the line," was not considered to be an appropriate response...



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### DOES YOUR WILL NEED REVISING?

If you own property in Spain, you should complete a Spanish will. If you do not, it will cause much misery to your descendants and even more fees to the lawyers.

An EU regulation, R.E. 650/2012, comes into force on August 17, 2015. This states that the applicable law for inheritance will be (in principle) the law of the country in which the testator has his/her habitual residence at the time of death. From then, if the country of residence is Spain, the Spanish succession law will be applicable, unless you expressly opt for the law of your nationality in your will. Accordingly, unless your will contains a clause stating that the practices of your country of nationality (and not residence) is how you want the succession handled, then the Spanish law will be the rule. Now this has nothing to do with inheritance taxation, but how the proceeds of the estate are allocated. So for example, if your inheritance is governed by the Spanish law, then two thirds of the estate would be divided between the descendants. Now you might not want that, you might want the full inheritance to go to your wife/husband.....or even dog!

Similarly, if you have signed a will some time ago, you should now check to see if the appropriate clause was included. It is probably unlikely. The addition of this new clause to the will, will involve another trip to the Notary and more fees.

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### Hungry?

A woman asks her husband at breakfast time, "Would you like some bacon & eggs, toast, and maybe some grapefruit juice and coffee?"

He declines. "Thanks for asking, but I'm not hungry right now. It's this Viagra," he says. "It's really taken the edge off my appetite."

At lunchtime, she asked him if he would like something. "How about a bowl of soup, homemade muffins, or a cheese sandwich?" He declines. "The Viagra," he says, "really trashes my desire for food."

Come dinnertime, she asks if he wants anything to eat. "Would you like a juicy rib eye steak and some scrumptious apple pie?"

Or maybe a rotisserie chicken or tasty stir fry?" He declines again. "No," he says, "it's got to be the Viagra. I'm still not hungry."

"Well," she said, 'would you mind getting off me, I'm f\*\*king starving!"

Sue Robinson

## Idiot of the month.

The SGAE - Sociedad General de Autores y Editores (SGAE) - which is the Spanish Performing Rights Society and Copyright organisation, has featured often in these columns for various types of shenanigans and frauds. They have shown a penchant for collecting money from bars, clubs, etc., and instead of passing it on to the artists, spending it on themselves. Pedro Farré, photo, who was the Head of Corporate Relations at the SGAE, has just been jailed for 30 months. Pedro was a very naughty boy and spent at least €40,000 in brothels using the company gold card.

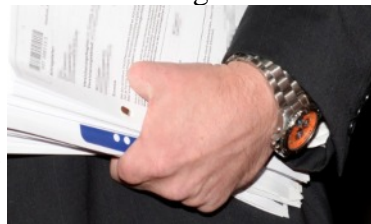


The owner of one brothel described how Farré would usually "arrive at around five in the afternoon with girls and left at 6am the next morning, having brought drinks and champagne while regularly changing girls." The judge ridiculed the defence arguments, the main one being that Farré had visited the clubs to see if there were any rights issues in terms of the music being played there. He also drew up false receipts, describing his trips to the 'knocking shops' as 'catering.' The former CFO of SGAE, Ricardo Azcoaga, was also imprisoned for complicity in the embezzlement, having covered up Farré's spending.

Several board members of the SGAE were arrested in 2011, including the then chairman, Teddy Bautista. Bautista and the others are accused of involvement in a scheme to divert tens of thousands of euros through companies that provided non-existent services.

Which brings me along appropriately to a particularly expensive night at the Spearmint Rhino Gentleman's Club in Bournemouth; at least for one stag party reveller from Northern Ireland. When this nameless chap awoke the next morning at home, he found to his horror, that he had spent £7,500 (€9,450) in 13 transactions at the club the previous evening! This was a third of his annual salary and his three credit cards were maxed out. Transactions included two lots of £1,176 taken two minutes apart, £2,304 taken in three separate transactions eight minutes apart and £2,928 in three transactions six minutes apart. The money was apparently spent on Rhino chips - tokens customers use to pay for private dances. One of his receipts on paper headed "Spearmint Rhino Gentlemen's Club" shows a total of £1,800, of which £1,500 appears to be a tip and the other £300 a 20% charge for paying by card. He has been trying, unsuccessfully, to get his money back. When he appealed to their UK VP to at least be refunded some of the money he merely laughed and said 'Every guy's got a little buzzed sometime and spent too much.' So he spent £7,500 and didn't even get 'his rocks off'! If he had managed to team up with Pedro Farré above, he could have probably got a freebie!

But then just when you thought the fun was about to stop, up jumps Ralf-Werner. This 50-year-old man, shortly after he qualified as an insurance salesman, took out four personal accident policies with special clauses relating to finger injuries. But then, eight weeks later, Ralf-Werner lost a finger and thumb from his left hand in an 'accident' and claimed €1.4 million from the insurers. He claimed his finger and thumb were lost when he tripped and fell over his two dogs onto a circular saw. However investigations revealed that his wounds were so clean (photo), they could not have been caused by the saw. Also there was no blood on the saw. It was also his non-dominant hand which was injured and the fact the 'accident' occurred just eight weeks after the policies were accepted, sealed the case against him. Having been found guilty of fraud by a court in Norderstedt, near Hamburg, he received a suspended sentence of 24 months. His wife found his fingers in the snow outside their home!



More weirdness from Germany in the next page.



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### A Most Disastrous Family Misunderstanding.

In love with his neighbour's daughter, Yugoslavian Mr Dorsan Yilmaz agreed to elope with her.

When the night arrived, he smuggled her down a ladder in a blanket and bundled her quickly into his car. After driving five miles, he took the blanket off - to reveal the girl's grandmother.

Then the enraged granny beat him up.

### Most Original Dish of the Day.

Because of the heat, a woman in West Africa was in the habit of keeping her contraceptive jelly in her fridge.

That is, until the day her cook served an unusual dish at a dinner party - a sherry trifle, decorated with cream, glace cherries, nuts and a delicate ring of pink gelatin pessaries.

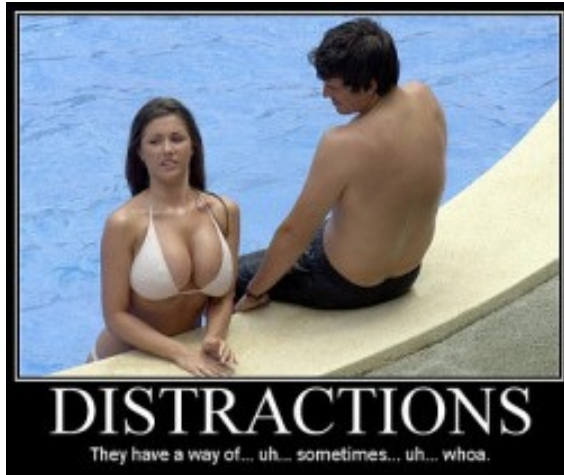
(Both entries from Peter Kinnell's  
The Book of Erotic Failures, published 1984.)

## WHAT IS UP WITH THE GERMANS? Weed? What Weed?

Police responded to reports of a burglary at the house in Vohburg an der Donau near Ingolstadt in Bavaria after an 11-year-old boy jumped out the window and ran to the neighbour's house because he was worried about a burglar. (It was later discovered that the boy was just lonely as his mum had left the house for just ten minutes.) Four police cars responded to the call and despite the resident's protests and insistence that no one was in the home other than those that were supposed to be, police insisted that they checked that the house was clear. It was then that the police discovered 158 cannabis plants in the basement! The house had been under suspicion before, as an anonymous letter sent to police claimed that the resident was a drug dealer. The letter said that she owned a Mercedes despite being unemployed. But neither the woman nor her boyfriend, who rent the house, could be charged in the case as police could not determine who owned the plants, which were destroyed after being discovered. Now you would think the woman would be happy with escaping a trial and jail, but no! She is now suing the police for unlawful search!

### Robbery with a Loaded Boob!

A woman distracted staff at the pharmacy in Darmstadt, Hesse, by lifting up her top and squirting her breast milk at them. She entered the store and asked to buy a breast pump, police reported. But she then uncovered one breast and squirted milk from it at the pharmacist. In the subsequent confusion, she rummaged through the counter displays and cash registers, still squirting her 'deadly weapon' at the by now confused and startled staff. She then left the pharmacy quickly. Staff only noticed the missing cash while checking the day's takings a couple of hours later. Police believe the woman, who they described as having a "robust" figure, long dark hair tied into a ponytail and speaking an unknown language, stole the cash while customers and staff were distracted by her antics. (I understand police also warned the public not to approach the woman .....for fear of getting a soaking!)



### Strange Bedfellows!

But if you think the above incidents are strange, have a 'shuffy' at the following -

A 55-year-old woman in Munich failed to report the death of her 83-year-old mother. Odd? Yes, but here's the kicker; the woman died in March 2009 and her daughter kept the remains in a double bed which the daughter continued to share! A local social worker had become suspicious after neighbours in the city district of Blumenau informed the building manager that they hadn't seen the pensioner for a long time. After trying several times to make an appointment by phone and being met with excuses by the daughter, he visited the apartment in person. When the daughter wouldn't open the door, he called the police. They and the fire service were able to get the



door open and discovered the body inside in a double bed which the daughter had been sharing. The daughter later admitted during questioning that her mother had died during March of 2009. She has now been sent to a psychiatric institution.

A man was mugged in South London and lay bleeding by the side of the road. A social worker passed by and said, 'Tell me the name of the person who did this to you. He needs help immediately.'

Murray Watts

Oxana & Oscar welcome you to

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•Husband says to wife, "My Olympic condoms have arrived... I think I'll wear Gold tonight."

Wife says, "Why not wear Silver and come second for a change?"

•An old woman goes to see the Doctor with a heavy cold. The Doctor asks her to strip to the waist so he could listen to her chest. The Doctor says "Big Breaths." The old woman says, "They used to be".

## TOYS FOR BOYS!

### And the perils of shopping online.

So, as one of our grand kid's birthdays was coming up in mid-November, I decided to search online at amazon.co.uk - for some suitable gift ideas. But as I enter 'toys for boys' I see a prompted list - 'Top 50 Toys for Boys.' Great, just what I want...so I zoom in on <http://www.pebble.co.uk/compare.html?q=Toys+For+Boys&gaa=SEAR>

Well it starts fine with Dark Knight figurines - yes, he likes Batman - then on to a Space Torch - that looks fun, and next Fleshjack Boys Jason Visconti Dick! Whoa! What's going on here? He's only seven years old! So I jump over that one and next Star Wars toys - good, next a Fart Whistle - handy for in church, Playmobile figurine- fun and next.....Fleshjack Boys Dolph Lambert Dildo! Oh for Gods sake, give me a break. But I carry on, more Star Wars, a Stomp Rocket - sent him that last year; a DVD called 'Toy Boy' by a beautiful singer and lovely dusky maiden called Sinitta; Stunt Buggy and then.....a vibrating Prostate Massager!! FFS! By this stage I've had enough. Now, I am a fairly worldly chap, but what would happen if Sister Concepta at the orphanage was researching xmas pressies for the kiddies and saw these various flesh coloured plastic appendages? It would only give her ideas and might upset the natural order of things, which could eventually lead to global chaos or general mayhem!

By now I gave up on my search and sent him yet another Disney movie DVD. The poor devil is growing up thinking all animals talk and act like humans! I don't know! Maybe I should just wait until he is a teenager and send him a DVD copy of the 'Toy Boy' by Sinitta.....together with a big box of Kleenex.



## Water for Alicante.



The provision of drinking water to Alicante's residents and of irrigation supplies to its farmers has been a pressing problem in our region as the lengthy drought continues. The EU had lent the Agriculture Ministry €20 million to construct a water pipeline from the Cortes de Pallás reservoir, south-west of the city of Valencia to bring water to our region. The money however went elsewhere. As the EU were about to demand repayment of the loan, the Spanish authorities promised to bring water from the Alarcón reservoir (photo) which is even further away from Alicante! The farmers will get their supplies from the Bellús reservoir, which is west of Gandia.

But it is acknowledged that these supplies will not be a permanent solution to the issue. The region's farmers say they do not want to use desalinated water because of cost and quality. What a pity that the originally planned pipeline project wasn't progressed. It would have provided a permanent solution to Alicante's problem.

### Par for the Course!

One day I accidentally overturned my golf cart. Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a villa on the golf course, we were living at in Sarasota, heard the noise and called out, "Are you okay, what's your name?"

"It's Jack, and I'm OK thanks," I replied. "Jack, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while, and I'll help you get the cart up later." "That's mighty nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty and persuasive. "Well okay," I finally agreed, and added, "but my wife won't like it."

After a restorative brandy, and some driving and putting lessons, I thanked my host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset."

"Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?" "Under the cart!" I said....

Brian H

## WINTER GLOOM? FEBRUARY BLUES? SHAKE IT OFF AT THE VENETIAN MASKED CARNIVAL

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A priest offered a lift to a Nun. She got in and crossed her legs, forcing her gown to reveal a leg. The priest nearly had an accident. After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her leg. The nun said, "Father, remember Psalm 129?" The priest removed his hand. But, changing gears, he let his hand slide up her leg again. The nun once again said, "Father, remember Psalm 129?" The priest apologized "Sorry sister but the flesh is weak." Arriving at the convent, the nun went on her way.

On his arrival at the church, the priest rushed to look up Psalm 129. It said, "Go forth and seek, further up, you will find glory."

Moral of the story: If you are not well informed in your job, you might miss a great opportunity.



# DECEMBER AT THE PHOENIX



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### **Why Women have Cold Feet in Bed!**

Most men have experienced it. You are lying under the quilt and feeling quite cosy and just when you are about to drop off, your female partner pushes her icicle feet on your legs. After you then come down from the ceiling, the shock of the cold now makes sleep impossible! The following article by Amanda Marcotte in slate.com is quite interesting and goes some way to explaining the phenomenon.

Feminists are routinely accused of denying that there are any differences between men and women because we're sceptical of stereotypes that hold that women are inherently more irrational, less sexual, or less aggressive than men. But this simply isn't true! Feminists readily admit that women are far more likely to get pregnant than men are. I also suspect feminists would happily acknowledge the strong possibility that women tend to get cold more easily than men. Personally, I have no problem whatsoever with the contention that the person who has to bring a sweater to the movie theatre in the middle of August is exponentially more likely to be female.

No need to just trust your gut on this one: Robert T. Gonzalez of *io9* rounds up the research looking into the widespread belief that women are far more likely than men to want an extra blanket on the bed, and the findings largely suggest that yes, there's a real difference in heat perception between men and women on average. While studies have found that women's actual core body heat is slightly higher than men's, women's extremities are a lot colder:

But in 1998, researchers at the University of Utah added a layer of subtlety to science's understanding of gender and body temperature. As had been found in previous studies, the researchers observed women tended to possess higher core temperatures than men (97.8 °F vs. 97.4 °F). Their hands, however, were consistently colder. A lot colder. While men registered an average hand temperature of 90 °F, the mean hand temperature for women was just 87.2 °F. Just 87.2 degrees Fahrenheit! So if you've long believed that straight men are more likely than any other group to exclaim, "Christ, your feet are cold!" upon brushing up against their female partners in bed, you are almost surely correct.

The theory is that women's body composition, which tends to have a higher fat-to-muscle ratio than men's, explains the difference. Which means it's about baby-making, and sadly for sexists, it doesn't really say much about whether women are able to do math. For those of us who spend summers fearing overly enthusiastic air conditioning or consider airtight gloves the must-have accessory of the winter, it's good to know that we're not crazy. Like menstruation, menopause, and politicians trying to take away your rights, shivering all the time is simply part of the package deal you get when your body has a uterus to take care of. (Slate.com)

(More information on the research here - <http://io9.com/why-do-womens-bodies-run-colder-than-mens-836827770>)

*Money doesn't make you happy. I have \$50 million but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million.  
Arnold Schwarzenegger*



## ANGIE DOES VALENCIA!

For those of you who do not know, Angie she is the girl who does the cartoon on the front page of the Dream Scene so let me describe her. She will be 70 next birthday.

My impression of a 70-year-old woman was Les Dawson and Roy Barraclough gossiping and lifting up parts that went south years ago, **WRONG!** Drinks very little but likes a fag. Very independent and articulate. Bit of a rebel and free spirit. Knows what she wants. Is Motorbike mad.

Around February this year I was sat outside the Phoenix Bar with my wife Dianne and at the next table was Angie with her husband Peter. I have known them both for a few years now. Angie asked me "Rob do you know of any bus trips to Valencia to watch MotoGP" (this is Valentino Rossi and others which is the top of the tree Short Circuit Racing). To which I replied, "I have no idea but what is the problem". "Well I want to go and watch it" Angie replied. So I thought for a minute and said, "I will probably be going myself and if you want you can come with me but I will be going on my motorbike." Before I could finish the sentence she said, "You're On!"

On reflection I thought 'bloody hell,' what have I done? So I had a think and said to Angie, "Before we go to Valencia I need to take you out on my bike to assess your ability as a pillion rider and for you to get the feel on how I ride." If you have a pillion rider who has never been on a bike, they can be a hindrance and cling to you like a chimp being shaken out of tree or lean the wrong way when cornering which affects my riding.

Anyway, I took her out one day and within a few minutes I knew she was an experienced pillion who was comfortable with me. So we went up to the Hondon Valley, stopped at a cafe, had a drink and came home at a steady pace with which we both felt comfortable.

The next time I took her out I said, "I'm going to step up the pace a little" which she was happy with. So we went over the mountains using the sweeping bends and continued to the race circuit at Cartagena, where we had a drink and a chat. I told her on the way home we would use the AP7 and my speed would be 90 mph with bursts of 110 mph for overtakes to which she was quite happy. So off we went.

As an experienced rider you can feel every movement your pillion makes or any tension, however I felt no tension but occasional movement, as I glanced around I could see her hand in the front of her helmet to which I was puzzled so when we slowed down and exited at Campoamor I asked her if everything was ok, to which she replied "there was no problem with the speed but I nearly lost me teef!" What do I do with that? So it was arranged I would pick her up at 0.700 hours on the 8th November for the trip to Valencia. The conversation goes like this -

"Hi are we ready to go?"

"Angie, no you can't take the cats with us!"

"Angie, we are on a motorbike not a furniture van!"

"No, you can't bring a blanket for your knees because we are on a motorbike."

"Angie, I know you like a fag but they don't put ashtrays on motorbikes."

"Angie, you can't take a short skirt in case you meet Valentino Rossi."

"Angie, why is Peter unscrewing the sink?"

As I had fitted my panniers we had a problem getting Angie on and off the bike with her facing the wrong way a few times.

Arriving at the circuit the traffic was very heavy but the beauty of a bike is you can filter through easily. On the Saturday the racers are setting up and qualifying for Sunday's racing. So we had a walk around the promotion tents where Angie purchased a Valentino cap (see photo). Upon arrival on the Sunday again the queues were horrendous but the racing was excellent.

When we came to leave we couldn't find my bike amongst 20,000 other bikes so we went for a cup of tea to let the crowds go. One hour later we had another look and bingo there was my bike. (I have since sacked her as head of finding my bike.) It still took another hour to exit the circuit and make our way home.

The photo is Angie standing next to my bike and the quiz question is, *Which has got more miles on the clock?* If you see her knocking about give her your answer and be prepared to duck. In the meantime I will have gone missing until the dust settles.

Keep on Rockin,  
Rob Hughes.

## Glasgow!

Grandad was reminiscing about the good old days.

"When I were a lad, me mother would send me down to the corner shop with five shillings. I'd come back with five pounds of potatoes, two loaves of bread, three pints of milk, a pound of cheese, a packet of tea and a dozen eggs. Ye can't do that now!"

"I know," Wee Johnny replied. "And it's all down to them f\*\*\*\*\* CCTV cameras!"



# Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Mick the editor said I waffle too much. Me?

The monthly bun fight seemed to go on forever but it only lasted 1 hour. I must concentrate. Big Barry donated a bag of fishing odds & ends after a clear out of his shed. The resulting melee was like flies round s\*\*t.

The highs & lows of fishing can be really frustrating sometimes. "Feathers" Birdsall won the October match for the Rod & Reel Trophy with nearly 7 kilos of fish. So he rightly started the November match on a high, however he finished on a low, as he didn't get a bite all day. He was spitting feathers that day!

This month's match was held at the Eden. The rainwater from up country was pushing through at a steady pace so most anglers resorted to fishing a feeder. The fish were not easy to catch and we had 4 empty nets (feathers included). It was that bad, a couple of us even tried bleak snatching. Well done "Fag eyes" who won from peg 17 with 4.3 kilos. 2<sup>nd</sup> was "punchy" Bob with 2.65 kilos who beat "3 Rods" into 3<sup>rd</sup> by 10 grams, that's less than half an ounce in old money. Well done "punchy".

Fagin (aka Scary) has been at it again. He was caught on 2 separate occasions; running around the riverbank in his shreddies. One poor cyclist nearly fell off her bike. Still, at least we know he has a change of shreddies and doesn't "go commando".

There are some big fish around this year. Keith caught a 13 pounder last month and Billy the bookie's mate Alistair caught a 15 pounder at Nancy's this month. Or so they say! Their scales only went up to 6 kilos! Hmmm. The cheeky sods then posted a photo on our notice board. Good fish Alistair.

I don't know what the club is doing right but we have people on a waiting list to join. The fools! We also had a mention in a freebie paper, when one of the other clubs thanked us for clearing their swims at the Eden. Shropshire boy spent ages on one particular swim, so if you use it wear slippers. After watching us spend quite a few hours cutting the bamboo out of the swims, the environment agency have now turned up with their mechanical cutters and are in the process of stripping the banks naked down to the soil. Bloody typical!

While this edition was at the printers, we had our annual presentation night at the Lime Bar where some of us were "lucky" enough to collect dust gatherers. Hopefully, I'll have some juicy snippets along with a report from "anti social Baz's" music quiz which is due to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Grumpy Bob's cry of "Ban the pole!" is getting louder as I have also succumbed & bought one.

Ammo & casualty report. We are hoping that Cyril "the elder" made it back for the presentation night....

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Why is fishing better than love?

- Fish don't compare you to other fisherman.
- When fishing, you lie about the one that got away.
- You don't have to change your line to keep catching fish.

Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost



**Nomad & the banks have been strimmed!**

## Can Cold Water Clean Dishes?

John went to visit his 90 year old grandfather in a very secluded, rural area of Saskatchewan, Canada. After spending a great evening chatting the night away, the next morning John's grandfather prepared a breakfast of bacon, eggs and toast. However, John noticed a film like substance on his plate, and questioned his grandfather asking, 'Are these plates clean?'

His grandfather replied, 'They're as clean as cold water can get 'em. Just you go ahead and finish your meal, Sonny!'

For lunch the old man made hamburgers. Again, John was concerned about the plates, as his appeared to have tiny specks around the edge that looked like dried egg and asked, 'Are you sure these plates are clean?'

Without looking up the old man said, 'I told you before, Sonny, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them. Now don't you fret, I don't want to hear another word about it!'

Later that afternoon, John was on his way to a nearby town and as he was leaving, his grandfather's dog started to growl, and wouldn't let him pass.

John yelled and said, 'Grandfather, your dog won't let me get to my car!'

Without diverting his attention from the football game he was watching on TV, the old man shouted, 'Coldwater, go lay down now, yah hear me!'

Derrick Green

## Duchess of Alba dies.

Tens of thousands of mourners packed Seville's Gothic cathedral and lined nearby streets on November 21st for the funeral of Spain's Duchess of Alba, the world's most-titled aristocrat, who died the previous day, aged 88.

Her principle title was Duchess of Alba de Tormes but she had more than 40 others due to a series of complex marriages by her ancestors. Known for her frizzy hair and bohemian dress style, tales of her antics and levity amid the confines of high society filled the pages of gossip magazines and endeared her to Spaniards who dubbed her the "rebel noble". Just before her third wedding the aristocrat divided up much of her estate — reputedly worth between €600 million and €3.5 billion (\$750 million and \$4.4 billion) — among her five sons and one daughter.



*Norwegian television gives you the sensation of a coma without the worry or inconvenience.*

Bill Bryson

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## Listen to Mama.

Maria had just got married, and being a traditional Italian she was still a virgin. On her wedding night, staying at her mother's house, she was very nervous.

Her mother reassured her; 'Don't worry, Maria, Tony's a good man. Go upstairs and he'll take a care of you. Meanwhile, I'll be making pasta.'

So, up she went. When she got upstairs, Tony took off his shirt and exposed his hairy chest. Maria ran downstairs to her mother and says, 'Mama, Mama, Tony's got a big hairy chest.'

'Don't worry, Maria,' says the mother, 'all good men have hairy chests. Go upstairs. He'll take good a care of you.'

So, up she went again.. When she got up in the bedroom, Tony took off his pants exposing his hairy legs. Again, Maria ran downstairs to her mother.

'Mama, Mama, Tony took off his pants and he's got hairy legs!'

'Don't worry! All good men have hairy legs. Tony's a good man Go upstairs and he'll take good a care of you.'

So, up she went again. When she got there, Tony took off his socks and on his left foot he was missing three toes.

When Maria saw this, she ran downstairs. 'Mama! Mama! Tony's got a foot and a half!'

Her Mama said, 'You a-stay here and stira the pasta.'

## If the 'shoe' fits!

A man walked into the ladies department of El Corte Ingles and shyly walked up to the woman behind the counter and said, 'I'd like to buy a bra for my wife.'

'What type of bra?' asked the clerk.

'Type?' inquires the man, 'There's more than one type?'

'Look around,' said the sales lady, as she showed a sea of bras in every shape, size, colour and material imaginable. 'Actually, even with all of this variety, there are really only four types of bras to choose from.'

Relieved, the man asked about the types.

The sales lady replied: 'There are the Catholic, the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian, and the Baptist types. Which one would you prefer?'

Now totally befuddled, the man asked about the differences between them. The sales lady responded, 'It is all really quite simple:

The Catholic type supports the masses;

The Salvation Army type lifts the fallen;

The Presbyterian type keeps them staunch and upright;

The Baptist type makes mountains out of molehills.

And don't forget the German Lutheran bra. Holtzemfromfloppen!!!!

## Gone Fishin'.

Four married blokes go fishing. After an hour, the following conversation took place:

First bloke: 'You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out fishing this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I would paint every room in the house next weekend.'

Second bloke: 'That's nothing, I had to promise my wife that I would build her a new barbecue beside the pool.'

Third bloke: 'Bloody hell, you both have it easy! I had to promise my wife that I would remodel the kitchen for her.'

They continue to fish. When they realized that the fourth bloke has not said a word, they asked him. 'You haven't said anything about what you had to do to be able to come fishing this weekend. What's the deal?'

Fourth bloke: 'I just set my alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I shut off my alarm, gave the wife a slap on her arse and said:

'Fishing or Sex?' .....  
She said: 'Wear sun-block.'



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*Last week some guy pulled a knife on me, but I could tell it wasn't a real professional job. There was still butter on it.  
Rodney Dangerfield*

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Stefan Pokroppa will be launching an English program on Siesta Radio 91.6 FM on Fridays from 12:00 – 13:00 hours. It will include some interesting interviews and will be a test to determine whether the English broadcast hours should be extended.

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**Confession.**

An elderly Italian man who lived in the outskirts of Monte Cassino went to the local church for confession.

He said: "Father, during World War II, a beautiful woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the Nazis. So I hid her in my attic."

The priest replied: "That was a wonderful thing you did, my son and you have no need to confess that."

"It's worse than that, Father. She started to repay me with special favours."

The priest said: "By doing that, you were both in great danger. However, two people together under those circumstances are greatly tempted to act that way. But if you are truly sorry for your actions, you are forgiven."

"Thank you Father. That's a great load off my mind, but I have one more question." "And what is that, my son?" said the priest.

"Should I tell her the war is over?"

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**Be quiet at the back!**

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class.

She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read. 'And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'

The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?'

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly ...

'I think the man would have said - 'Well, F\*ck me!! A talking pig!'

'They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist.....'

Last words of General John Sedgwick as he was shot dead during the Civil War in North America.

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