



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the August 2022 edition. Issue No.178

As with a number of other European countries, Spain is set for the **hottest summer** on record. Official figures released on July 21 reported that 1,047 deaths were attributed to the heat wave which lasted from July 10 to Monday, July 18. High temperatures in the mid to high 30's continue so please do take care and avoid overexposure to the sun and heat. You don't want to be joining the queue at the A&E in Torrevieja Hospital, believe me!

After announcing **new windfall taxes** on banks and energy companies, the Spanish government has reassured the public that the companies will not pass the taxes onto the consumers and has given regulators the teeth to bite back against companies that try to do so.

Although the current Spanish government have been very generous with 20 cent reductions to a litre of petrol and big reductions in the IVA element on fuel bills, their proposed policies relating to the new property act and the tax increases for the self-employed **are disastrous!** I have already sent the self-employed who advertise in this newsletter some details on the proposed social security tax

increase which comes into effect next year. If you are self-employed and want a copy, email me at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com If you are not self employed, well, bugger off then!

Three small local beaches banned swimming after sewage discharges were found in the water. Red flags were raised on Cala Mosca, Cala Cerrada, and Cala Bosque- all adjoining to each other on the Orihuela Costa. The General Water Directorate reported that there was a 'high level' of contamination from fecal matter. The waters **are now safe.**

The province of Alicante gained more than 6,000 residents in first six months of 2022 and now exceeds a total figure of 1,900,000 for the first time. The estimate of the real population is said to be slightly more than 7,000 people higher than those registered but I believe this is a gross underestimation. The number of resident foreigners in the province continues to increase while the native population **continues to decrease slightly.**

Keep in the shade, well and cool,
Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

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LOCAL



"I hate bothering you, but my wife wants to know if she passed her driver's test."

She said she missed me. Now normally that would be good..... but I think she's reloading.

Two new electricity transformers have been installed in Orihuela Costa to **reinforce the electricity supply** due to the increase in demand following the arrival of holiday makers. The facilities, with an investment of more than 400,000 euros, in Aguamarina and Cabo Roig also includes one kilometre of medium and low voltage underground lines. Residents in the coast hope that this action will end the frequent power outages in the Cabo Roig area, summer after summer. The Cabo Roig and Lomas Neighbourhood Association have denounced the lack of maintenance and the lack of resources and services to the coast, together with "the serious deterioration" of the Playa Flamenca Esplanade. In May, the association submitted an action plan to the council with 88 measures, in the short and medium term, to reverse what they describe as a "situation of abandonment and a lamentable state" as a result of the "immobility in which we have been mired for several years," without receiving reply.

With **eleven daily evictions**, Alicante is the province of Spain where evictions (photo) from homes have increased the most in the last year.



During the first quarter of 2022, 996 evictions happened, almost 300 more than the same period of the previous year. In addition, the province is the third in Spain in which more houses are vacated by this judicial route, only behind Barcelona and Madrid, where barely 9 more evictions were carried out in the first three months of the year than in the province. Most of the people who lost their homes (536) was due to not being able to afford the mortgage. The rest, for not being able to pay the rent. The number of evictions is growing despite the fact that the Government has extended the so-called 'social shield' on several occasions, developed in the midst of the Covid pandemic crisis and which in theory protects vulnerable families in the event of eviction.

Four of the Policia Local in Torrevieja together with a jeweller and a Serbian citizen, who are considered intermediaries of extortion, have been accused **of asking for bribes from merchants** in the municipality in exchange for police immunity and for eliminating inspection records.

According to the accusation of the Public Ministry, between August and September 2017, the defendants went to a Chinese restaurant and a children's park in Torrevieja. According to the prosecutor, two of the prosecuted local policemen went to a restaurant belonging to a Chinese businessman on August 17 to carry out an inspection and drew up several minutes for administrative complaints. Two days later the owner of a car dealership came to the restaurant and told him that he knew he had "serious problems" and that he could introduce a friend to help him. This 'friend' is the owner of a jewelry store who went to the restaurant on August 20 and offered to mediate with the Local Police, **initially asking for €40,000** but later reducing the demand to €8,000 and then €6,000. The second case of alleged bribery being prosecuted occurred in September 2017 with the owner of a children's park in Torrevieja .

According to the prosecutor, an agent first asked him for 5,000 euros and then reduced that amount to a thousand euros as the businessman had no more money, and he did not pay him anything anyway. Neither did the restaurant owner. Once the testimonies conclude, the prosecutor and the defence attorneys will issue their reports before the popular jury meets to deliver its verdict. Although the Prosecutor's Office initially requests seven years in prison for each of the four policemen, the request will vary depending on the verdict of the popular jury. The assumption by one of the agents of all the fault can effect the final verdict of the case. It now appears that the conversations of the police who were discussing the bribes were **recorded** by the two businessmen.

A truck loaded with Vicks Vapour Rub overturned on the AP7 near Los Montesinos last Thursday. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

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Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

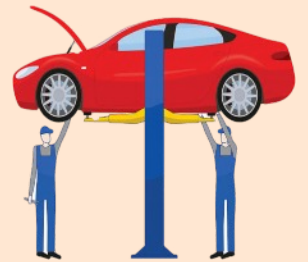
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Nato has publicly apologised to Spain after it “incorrectly positioned” (put it upside down!) its national flag during Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez’s speech at **the NATO summit held in Madrid** on June 29. This is not the first time there has been an issue with the way the Spanish flag has been presented during an official event. Recently in April 2022, while Sánchez had a dinner meeting with Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, the same mistake occurred and the flag was also seen hanging upside down. (Someone taking the piss?)

The Madrid NATO summit has forced the Spanish PM, Pedro Sánchez, to **double military spending in the short term**. The agreement involves increasing defence spending from the approximately 12,208 million euros budgeted this year to more than 20,000 million. Sánchez, who in his time as leader of the PSOE in the opposition, went so far as to affirm that “the Ministry of Defence is superfluous,” has now become an enthusiastic promoter of defence spending, since the beginning of the Russian invasion. BUT, the Spanish Government calculates that it will only be able to meet the objective set in 2028 in its most optimistic forecast.

The Ciudad de la Luz (City of Light) film studios is to be re-opened after being closed for 10 years. The enterprise, based in Alicante, was banned from operating by the EU having been deemed to have broken business competition laws after receiving hefty government subsidies. It was supposed to be banned from operating until 2027 after a number of complaints from rival production companies, including Pinewood studios in the UK. However, the ban which was supposed to run until 2027, seems to have been reversed after lobbying from the Valencian government. Josefina Bueno, a Valencian minister, said: “It is thanks to the tireless efforts to persuade the European authorities of the seriousness of its economic and political project that the sanction

was lifted.” The studios says it plans to make 26 major films and 200 productions over the next five years and create almost 5,000 jobs. Spain is already a popular filming location for streaming giants, with series such as Game of Thrones, Black Mirror and Kaos all shooting in Spain.

Spain women’s national football team, ‘La Selección,’ will receive the same pay for representing their country as male players, the Spanish football federation has announced. The agreement will be for the next five years and while salaries are not paid for playing for Spain, the deal ensures male and female players enjoy the same terms regarding bonuses and image rights. Working conditions will also be made equal, including provisions for travel, food and accommodation. All the players will also have a percentage of the sponsorships from now on. Spain joins countries like Brazil, England, the United States, Norway and Denmark in reaching an agreement over equal pay for international players.

The **special weekly goods train** that travelled from Alicante port to the London/Barking terminal and back has been scrapped. Although the the 20 wagon train (capacity for 40 wagons) carried refrigerated fruit and veg to the UK, it returned empty making the costs unaffordable.



Chap picks up a Chinese girl at disco and takes her home.

She says, "Me so horny, me do anythin' for you !" He asks " How about a 69?"
She says "You f@%k off, me no cookin' duck with noodles at this time of night!"

CORRUPT CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

I can't say it really surprises me but several of Spain's biggest construction companies have been fined €204 million for collusion over public contracts.

Spain's antitrust regulator said the six firms had illegally shared information on bids for public projects **over a period of 25 years.**

These were often for major infrastructure projects such as roads and airports, but also affected bids at a smaller local level.

A spokesman for the National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) said that the companies will also be banned from working with public authorities.

The guilty companies are some of the biggest names in the country with the highest penalties handed to Dragados (**fined €57.1 million**), FCC Construcción (€40.4 million), and Ferrovial Construcción (€38.5 million). The others are Acciona Construcción (€29.4 million), Obrascó Huarte Lain, (€21.5 million) and Sacyr Construcción (€16.7 million).

A spokesman for Dragados, the company which received the largest fine, said the company disagreed with the decision and pledged to appeal it. Of course they would! The regulator claimed that between 1992 and 2017, the companies met weekly to discuss which projects they were going to bid on. The meeting would then devise a common strategy and share technical documents between themselves.

This, said the regulator, **affected bidding on thousands of construction projects** advertised by public authorities throughout Spain, with fewer competing bids submitted and competing companies being put at a disadvantage.

The regulator called their actions a 'very serious infringement' of Spanish and European competition laws which foster secret and independent bidding processes.

When a waiter asks you to taste the wine and you're clueless, sip it and then say, 'Yeah, that should get me hammered.'

Carol Leifer

Turkey, Greece and Italy

As Turkey's inflation rate hits 80% and food prices double, the country is looking to Sudan for solutions. It's reviving a plan from 2014 to purchase a 99-year lease on 850,000 hectares of land in the White Nile basin. The original plan faced roadblocks due to ownership, storage, and political upheaval. This time, Turkey aims to grow corn, cotton, and other crops it can no longer produce due to climate change.

Turkey isn't alone in making what has been criticized as a neo-colonial "land grab" in Africa. Wealthy countries like Britain and the US are also leasing land. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has noted that the most precious commodity countries are claiming in Africa is not land—it's water!

Greek authorities have installed 150 CCTV cameras at the Acropolis, in response to public outrage about the shooting of a gay sex scene at the site. The 36-minute film, Xeparthenon – a play on words, meaning "deflowering" in Greek – reportedly shows two men in face coverings having sex at the Érechthéion, a small temple in the Acropolis complex, in full view of passing tourists. The anonymous filmmakers have described the film, which was made in December and then released online, as a "political act". But Ioannis Mavrikopoulos, the head guard at the Acropolis, condemned it as a "lewd act" that "marked the most disgraceful affront to the sanctity of the site". Once in place, the cameras will monitor activities at the Acropolis, which is visited by 10,000 people a day, supplementing the work of the site's 100 security guards.

Italy is in its worst drought in 70 years. A state of emergency was declared in five regions along the Po river and a number of cities have started rationing water. Some cities have switched off their public fountains. The mayor of the small town of Castenaso ordered that hairdressers stop the practice of double shampooing their customers' hair, arguing that it wasted "thousands" of litres of water each day. Last month, farmers warned that the falling water levels in the Po River threatened food production in Italy's agricultural heartlands.



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Price List

Issued April 2022



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EarlyYears Pet CBD	15.00 euros
Junior Pet CBD	24.00 euros
Senior Pet CBD	33.00 euros

CBD Vitamins

10 capsule trial pot	12.00 euros
30 capsule pot	34.49 euros

CBD Pain Cream

High Strength 25ml	40.00 euros
High Strength 50ml	70.00 euros

CBD Tea

Morning/Evening Pot	10.00 euros
Health Tea Pot	12.50 euros

Beauty Products

Lip Balm	3.50 euros
Skin Repair Oil 10ml	13.00 euros
Skin Repair Oil 50ml	39.00 euros
Vitamin Eye Oil 10ml	22.00 euros
TRU Box Set	149.00 euros
TRU Refresh/Restore	62.50 euros
TRU Calm	55.00 euros

Natural Organic Products

Aloe Vera Gel 250ml	7.50 euros
Essential Oils 10ml	4.95 euros
Hand Soap 500ml	2.99 euros
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Luciano Pavarotti

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I was polishing off the last mouthful of a dish in a restaurant when I heard one waiter whisper to another: 'He's actually eating it...'

Gilbert Harding



JJ's

Café  Bar

VIA PARK V.

Kitchen closed

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1pm - 11pm

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WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm

FRIDAY QUIZ WITH SUE 6.30pm

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TWEET!



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john McEnroe to tennis spectator



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•TOASTIES & SANDWICHES



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DOG
FRIENDLY

Hit the Brakes!

A trucker was driving his fully loaded rig to the top of a steep hill. Just as he was starting down the equally steep other side, he noticed a man and a woman lying in the centre of the road, making wild and passionate love. In total disbelief, he blew his air horn several times as he was bearing down on them. He realized that they were not going to stop or get out of his way, so he slammed on his brakes and stopped just inches from them. Furious, he got out of the cab and walked to the front of the truck. He looked down at the two, still in the road, and yelled, "What the hell's the matter with you two? Didn't you hear me blowing the horn? You could have been killed!" Eventually, the man looked up at the truck driver, obviously satisfied and not too concerned and said, "Look, I was coming, she was coming, and you were coming. You were the only one with brakes."

THE PROPOSED NEW TOURIST TAX.

The left-wing regional government in Valencia want to introduce a tourist tax. The idea is that tourists staying in a hotel or registered rental accommodation would pay a 'small' tax for each overnight stay. The proposed tax has been criticised by many, who call it a fine! Regional President Puig describes the tax as non-negotiable, while his own regional secretary for Tourism, Francesc Colomer, calls the tax 'a strategic error' and may well quit his position over it.

The opposition parties regret that socialist ideology prevails over the arguments of the industry experts. The leader of the opposition PPCV, Carlos Mazón, believes that "the tourist tax is a mistake that will make the Valencian Community lose competitiveness."

All the socialist mayors within the region state that even if the tax is introduced, they will not allow the tax to be levied in their municipalities. The introduction of legislation regarding it is just a sop from Puig to the far-left members in his coalition.

14

**YOU CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**



Volunteering can change lives – the lives of the people receiving advice and support from a volunteer and the life of the person freely giving their time and effort to a charity such as HELP Vega Baja and the local community in general.

Being a volunteer has been shown to increase self-confidence, self-esteem, promote positive health and of course provide the volunteer with the opportunity to make new friends.

HELP Vega Baja has grown as a charity and to meet the needs of the people we support, we are looking to increase our team of volunteers, throughout the charity.

We are particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in working within our charity sales area and front desk reception in San Miguel. Our welfare team would also like to hear from anyone who has experience supporting people – completing benefit applications, offering emotional support etc.

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the person who
makes a difference
to others?**

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If you prefer you can email Richard at office@helpvegabaja.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Help us to continue helping others

A group of Rabbis were having lunch in "Isaacs White House" kosher restaurant. Unfortunately, Isaac served them watermelon spiked with whisky that he had prepared for another table and he realized his mistake too late to do anything about it. All Isaac could do was wait in his kitchen and expect the worst....

As soon as the waiter came back into the kitchen with the empty plates, Isaac grabbed hold of him and asked, "What did they say, please tell me, what did they say.?"

"Nothing at all, Mr. Isaac," replied the waiter. "They were all too busy searching for the watermelon seeds and putting them into their pockets."

The National Police in Alicante have arrested the owner of a company that installs ducts and air conditioners for trying to cover up the work accident of an employee **who was not registered with Social Security**. The worker suffered a fall from the ladder at a height of three metres, which caused a vertebral fracture with spinal cord injury. The arrested tried to convince him to say that the injuries were the result of a domestic accident, police say. The victim is a **22-year-old Venezuelan who worked without being registered** for the arrested businessman. He worked for up to nine hours a day, from Monday to Friday and sometimes on Saturdays, for which the young man received **180 euros a week**.

In one of those marathon days he was alone making the installation in a workshop closed to the public and climbed on a ladder three meters high when he fell into the void. The operator, unable to move or have his phone available at that time, began to shout for help. Minutes later his boss came and took him to the hospital in his own van after picking him up because he couldn't move.

On the way to the hospital, the businessman convinced the boy to say that he had fallen at home while hanging a television and that if he did not do so he could have problems with Immigration. Even before transferring him, he had them go to the victim's home to pick up his passport.

When he arrived at the hospital, the victim told the paramedics the version invented by his boss, who later called the victim's roommate to inform him of the accident. Later the roommate also received a call from the hospital to inform him that his friend was seriously ill and that they had to intervene urgently.

When he arrived at the hospital, they told him that they had to pay for his medical expenses, so he called his friend's boss, who initially told him that everything had already been discussed, that he would take care of everything and that he would go to the hospital in two hours. At no time did he do so and they never heard from him again. This led the victim to finally tell his

friend what had happened, asking him to call the police.

When agents of the National Police appeared at the scene and learned of everything, they reported what had happened to the Violent Crime Group of the Provincial Judicial Police Brigade of the Alicante Provincial Police Station, who took charge of the investigation of the event.

After obtaining all the data, the agents were able to determine that the businessman and his partner, also detained for this matter, used to recruit foreign workers through social networks, taking advantage of their irregular status to pay them a very poor salary of **30 euros a day** for work days. up to nine hours a day and without any type of occupational risk protection.

The victim had been working for the detainee for barely two months, despite which he was already left alone carrying out installations without means of labour protection.

The investigators had the collaboration of the Alicante Labour Inspection, which certified that the businessman even lacked a license to install refrigeration equipment . This is how they obtained the necessary evidence to arrest him, as well as his partner, who acted as a recruiter for workers in an irregular situation.

The detainees, a man and a woman of Spanish and Colombian nationality and 40 and 32 years old respectively, have been accused of a crime against the safety of workers and another of serious injuries due to recklessness.



Barry & Sue
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SAT

EVENINGS

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 20:00**

Airport to Torrevieja :

**8:00 10:00 12:00 14:00 17:00 19:00
 21:00**

Property Market Still Buoyant.

The latest sales figures from the National Institute of Statistics (INE) shows the market continuing with strong growth sales in the year to May.

There were 60,059 home sales inscribed in the Spanish land registry according to the latest data published by the INE, meaning an overall increase of 28% compared to the same period last year.

Spanish home sales recorded in May broke down between new and resale transactions by 10,268 and 49,791 respectively, meaning a 32% increase in resales and 12% increase in new home sales compared to the previous year.

Resales are now at their highest level since 2007.

MEETING RE ORIHUELA COSTA

On August 19, at 12pm, there will be a meeting for the English speaking population of Orihuela Costa at the Ayuntamiento in Orihuela Costa. The meeting will be hosted by Stefan Pokroppa who will translate. Also in attendance will be Angel Noguera, the Councillor for Infrastructure and Maintenance of Orihuela.

The topic for the meeting will be "Infrastructure and Maintenance of Orihuela Costa." It is hoped that an action list will be generated at the meeting, with the progress or lack of it, outlined in a further meeting. Meetings in other languages may be organised in due course.

Keeping Your Electricity Price Down! ¹⁷

The volatility of energy markets in recent months means that there are huge differences in the price of electricity depending on the time of day that you use it in Spain.

According to data from Red Eléctrica, the partly state-owned corporation which operates Spain's national grid, the differences in **the price of kilowatt hour (kWh) can be up to 20 cents more expensive** depending on when exactly you use it.

From Monday to Friday, the cheapest time to use the washing machine is during the flat and off-peak slots. It may not be ideal, but by putting the washing machine on during the night, from 00:00 to 8:00 (off-peak), or in the morning, from 8:00 to 10:00 (flat), the kWh price can be significantly lower than during peak hour.

Similarly, another good time to use the washing machine, and perhaps the most convenient without being too costly, is after lunch from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m during another flat-rate session.

Fortunately, weekends and holidays correspond uninterruptedly with the off-peak time slot and there is, as a result, very little variation in prices depending on the time of day you use the machine, so you can wash your clothes at the weekend with worrying about racking up a huge bill.

The three energy periods, which you can also use to calculate usage for other electrical products, not just the washing machine:

Horas punta – **peak hours** (most expensive): 10-14:00h and 18-22:00h on weekdays.

Horas valle – **off-peak** (cheapest): 00-8:00h on weekdays; 24h on weekends and national holidays.

Horas llana - **flat rate** (intermediate tariff): From 8-10h, 14-18h and 22-24h on weekdays.

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Following a spate of thefts of cement mixers from Orihuela Costa, the police were called. After initial investigations a Guardia spokesperson said, 'At the moment they've got nothing concrete to go on'

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British residents of Spain have flagged up the latest Brexit consequence that could affect not just them, but also UK nationals living in other EU countries. Holders of Premium Bonds have been warned they may have to cash in their investments if they can no longer hold a bank account in their home country. This is because you need to have a UK bank or building society account to continue to operate an account with NS&I Premium Bonds and Income Bonds account(s).



Some banks and building societies in the UK have told their customers living in certain EU countries that they will no longer be permitted to hold their UK-based accounts. There are still a number of banks which allow these accounts but there are also online banking facilities available from businesses such as WISE, formerly known as Transfer Wise. However, if you are a resident in Spain, hold Premium Bonds and have an account in the UK which accepts BACS payments, you should be aware of another issue.

Whereas winnings on Premium Bonds are tax free in the UK, in Spain, each year you must declare any monies received from these whether you access the winnings or not, and pay the tax liable. This would be savings/capital gains tax starting from 19% for amounts up to €6,000 and rising up to 26% for anything over €200,001.

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The idea of Prince Charles conversing with vegetables is not quite so amusing when you remember that he's had plenty of practice chatting to members of his own family.

Jaci Stephens, The Sunday Times



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My wife tried making a fool of me in front of her two sisters
by telling them that I was no good in bed.
Had to smile when they both disagreed with her

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TOO SILLY FOR WORDS!

If you're here for the yodeling lesson, please form an orderly orderly orderly orderly queue.

The man who invented Musical Chairs died last week. 112 people turned up to his funeral, although there were only 111 seats.

I just sold my entire Dusty Springfield collection. Now I just don't know what to do with my shelf.

The inventor of the TV remote control has died. His body was found down the back of the sofa.

First thing this morning there was a tap on my door. Funny sense of humour my plumber has.

Had a text off the wife saying she was breaking up with me. I was quite relieved when she texted again a few minutes later saying 'sorry wrong number.'

No sooner did we form into teams than we were re-organised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet every situation by re-organising and what a wonderful method it is for giving the illusion of progress whilst only producing confusion, inefficiency & demoralisation.

U.K. Social Welfare Information - Advocacy Costa Blanca.

Benefit Rates 2021/2022

Pension & Benefit Rates - 2021/2022

State Pension – (Full) £185.15.

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David, you are a highly valued professional who people have come to respect and rely on. Your personal integrity and knowledge are highly valued by myself and others who endeavour to support those who have none.

SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch

David visited us in Catral as we couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for. B&P W. Catral

David helped me when moving my Husband to a care home in the UK. His knowledge of the UK care system is amazing.

The amount of time he gave to us was fantastic.

We couldn't have done it without him.

GD-Torre vieja

I contacted a group for help with welfare and care They gave me some forms and advice. I didn't have the time or energy & a friend recommended David. He visited and helped me with the application & is also helping with the Spanish care. Yes he charges but his knowledge and help makes it so worth it.

MT. San Miguel.

David just helped me claim £47389 back from unpaid state pension.

All for free!!! IL- Catral.



0034 602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker.

This includes UK benefit applications (Attendance Allowance/PIP) or support to return to the UK with care.

I am registered with the UK professional body for Social Work & every year must provide proof & evidence that my experience, knowledge and skills are up to date.

As a self-employed Social Worker in Spain I am required to provide Professional liability and indemnity insurance.

The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

This means that if things do not go as expected or planned, you have professional and financial protection. Reassuring for you and costly for me.

Can any other social care advisor offer you the same???

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Walter Mattau to Barbara Streisand



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So I went to this fish restaurant in Punta Prima last night and ordered the Octopus.

The waiter said: "It takes 4 hours to cook!"

I asked: "Why?"

He said: "Because it keeps turning the gas off."



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A few nights ago I picked up a hitchhiker on a really deserted section of the N-332. A few minutes into the journey he asked, "Aren't you worried that I may be a killer?" I just smirked at him and said: "Well, the chances for two serial killers to be in the same car is very small....."



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SNAKES ALIVE!

A large snake was discovered loose in the University Hospital of Murcia during July 18. According to sources from the Regional Ministry of Health, the snake, which was a horseshoe whip snake (photo) that measured over a metre long, was found in the hospital's laboratory, an area that is not very busy and where there are not many patients passing by. The horseshoe whip snake is native to southwestern Europe, and is not venomous, but may be dangerous and aggressive if attacked or cornered and will bite!

The lab technicians who found the snake, which it is believed was there for the purposes of vivisection (live dissection of animals for research), were transferred to other areas of the hospital "to continue with their usual tasks, which continued normally" while animal control was contacted.

The snake was not captured immediately, and hospital management have commissioned a pest control company to take measures to locate the

snake.

As yet, there is no indication whether or not they have succeeded in catching the snake!

Sightings of this breed of snake are common in inhabited areas of Murcia.



People get very passionate about saving the whale, but when something like a Florida indigo snake is endangered there are not a lot of people out there holding up placards.

Gary Larson



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New Housing Act a Disaster!

A new report by the Institute of Economic Studies (Instituto de Estudios Económicos IEE) identifies seven negative consequences the new law drafted by the Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana, will have on the housing market when approved.

Rent controls will reduce the balance sheets of all rental portfolios and their owners, both large and small.

Leverage will increase as asset values decline making the rental sector riskier and more expensive, which will also reduce lending and investment. Rental investment will decline with rising costs and risks.

The supply and quality of rental homes on the market will go down as a consequence, exacerbating the housing access problem.

Housing costs will increase for everyone, but the least well-off will be hit the hardest.

New home building will collapse by as much as 90% **as a result of imposing a social housing quota on builders/developers of 30%**, destroying 400,000 jobs.

Tax revenues from construction and housing will decline by as much as **6.8 billion euros**

The social cost of making housing even less accessible will increase as young families find they can't find a home of their own, and squatting increases.

(Abridged from Spanish \Property Insight)

Windfall Tax on Banks and Energy Companies

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has announced surprise temporary windfall taxes on banks and energy companies in Spain. The new taxes are predicted to **bring in €7 billion over two years-** split between €3 billion for the banks and €4 million for the energy firms.

The money raised will help people suffering from rising inflation and utility bills, prompted by February's Russian invasion of Ukraine. Not surprisingly, Spanish banking shares fell dramatically in the wake of the announcement.

A €9 billion package was approved last month to extend current measures including reduced taxes on domestic energy bills and a 20 cents per litre subsidy on petrol pump prices. The total cost of anti-crisis measures so far this year amounts to €15 billion.

Sanchez also announced free commuter rail passes between September and December and discounts for urban mass transit services. Students aged over age 16 who receive grants/scholarships, will also each get a €100 top-up.

Socialist Sanchez faces a general election before the end of 2023 with polls showing a potentially tight race with the conservative Partido Popular. The socialists remain in power with the support of a number of nationalist and far-left parties.

(The following is a translated extract from the online Spanish newsletter, El Mundo 14/07/22. El Mundo in Spain would compare to The Times in the UK.)

The other day a kind reader of this newsletter reminded me of the “Polka Frutera” by the group Los Sabandeños, that dialogue song from 1973 in which a voice asks what are the several possessions typical of a multimillionaire and the song replies: “That's from **an intermediary, in the fruit business**”. I highly recommend listening to this pearl of Canarian folklore, popularly known as "the intermediary", who you can find without much trouble on Google and who is very current, despite the fact that she is almost 50 years old. There are things that do not change.

However, the trigger for this highly topical story was not the banana, as in the song by the group from Tenerife, but rather a watermelon that the well-known researcher from the University of Alicante, Fernando Maestre, **located in the German town of Leipzig for 0.77 euros per kilo, a third of the 2.20 euros that we pay here** for the aforementioned fruit. With more reason than a saint, the biologist from Sax wondered on his social networks: “How is it possible that a watermelon grown in Spain (surely in Murcia or Almería) is cheaper in Leipzig than in Alicante?” The Sabandeños have the key: intermediaries. Let's see the itinerary that that innocent watermelon that we are going to pay for as if it had sterling gold

nuggets inside it makes from the bush. The farmer, whose situation has not changed much from that of the poor country man who planted bananas in the song of Los Sabandeños half a century ago and asked for five pesos “to eat”, they pay him **a kilo of watermelon at 0.36 euros**; when it passes through the murky hands of intermediaries, the seeds begin to brown and the price triples: 0.93% euros per kilo; When it finally reaches your hands via markets, supermarkets or department stores, the watermelon will definitely only be suitable for the pocket of an Elon Musk: between 1.79 and **2.20 per kilo**. A 611% increase in price if we take the minimum price received by the farmer and the maximum sale price. The same will come out if you do the calculation with a nectarine (more than 500% increase in the field at your hands) or even more brutal when you calculate what **the price of a kilo of oranges can grow: 1,354%**. A server can only think of one comment, since we are musical, precisely with another song, this one by Raphael: "It's a scandal."

Why does a man take it for granted that a girl who flirts with him wants him to kiss her - when, nine times out of ten, she only *wants* him to want to kiss her?

Helen Rowland



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Antonio
LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)



I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT CATWOMAN...



YOU'RE NOT QUITE WHAT I EXPECTED.

National holidays across all of Spain in 2022

- Saturday, January 1st (New Year's Day)
- Thursday, January 6th (Epiphany)
- Friday, April 15th (Good Friday)
- Monday, August 15th (Assumption of the Virgin)
- Wednesday, October 12th (National Day of Spain)
- Tuesday, November 1st (All Saints' Day)
- Tuesday, December 6th (Spanish Constitution Day)
- Thursday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception Day)
- Valencian Region Holidays: March 19th, April 14th, April 18th and June 24th.

Walking over the Tyne Bridge today, I spotted a gorgeous lass about to jump, and land on the Quayside below.

I said to her, "Look, since you will be dead in a few minutes, it won't really matter to you. So how about a quickie before you go?"

She screamed, "No! Piss off, you dirty fcuking bastard!"

"No problem," I said, turning away, "I'm just gonna wait for you down there."

She never jumped.....

See, counselling can work!!!

Dinner with a partner;

Me: "Waitress is flirting with me."

Partner: "The waitress obviously has COVID"

Me: "Why?"

Partner: "Because she has no taste"



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A box of 15 Juno Heart cherries, a variety developed in Aomori, Japan, fetched 600,000 yen (\$4,420) at auction, photo.



That's **\$US296 for just one cherry!**

Of the Juno Heart, only those measuring at least 3.1 cm across are called Aomori Heartbeat, making them the pick of the crop. Japan does seem to have cornered the market in the most expensive fruit varieties, for example, a single string of Ruby Roman Grapes sold at auction for \$US 9,350.

“NEWBrew” is no ordinary beer. The new Singapore blond ale is made **with recycled sewage.**



The alcoholic beverage is a collaboration between the country's national water agency, PUB, and local craft brewery Brewerkz. First unveiled at a water conference in 2018, NEWBrew went on sale in supermarkets and at Brewerkz outlets in April.

PUB says the new beer is part of an effort to educate Singaporeans on the importance of sustainable water use and recycling. Advanced economies such as Israel and Singapore that have limited fresh water resources have already incorporated the technology into their supplies. Cities such as Los Angeles and London are examining plans to follow suit. Gee, thanks!

A **naked drunk driver** has been arrested after police in Crevillente caught him receiving oral sex from a female passenger, also naked, whilst **the vehicle was still in motion.** Local Police stopped the car after it was driven through a traffic control in Paseo de la Estación "swerving" with the "horn honking." Officers followed the vehicle, and at first thought the driver was alone in the car as they could only see "one silhouette". But when they stopped the driver, they discovered two occupants, both completely naked and the woman in the front passenger seat was bent over performing a sex

act on the driver. According to police sources, the driver showed "obvious signs of being under the influence of alcohol," and gave a positive result of 0.75 mg/litre in a breathalyser test, well above the permitted blood alcohol levels. The pair from Elche were pulled over on Sunday night, July 3, and told police they were heading from a night out at a concert and party.

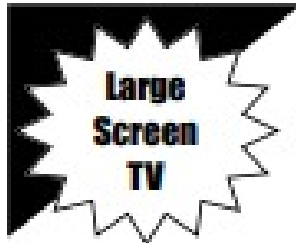
The vehicle was seized and the driver was charged with reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol and faces a maximum of two-years in prison. Sorry, no photos!

Two Swiss brothers have created a **“zero-star hotel”** where the rooms have no walls, ceiling or doors – and guests sleep on a double bed on a platform next to a petrol station. The Riklin brothers, who are conceptual artists, say that guests are invited to “half sleep”, but are mainly encouraged to spend the night reflecting on the world. “Sleep is not the point,” said Frank Riklin. “Staying here is a statement about the need for urgent changes in society.” They charge 325 Swiss francs (£280) per room.

Geese on Ullswater in the Lake District in the UK **are being pulled underwater** to their deaths by unseen forces. Wayne Owens, from Howton, said he'd seen a number of geese dragged backwards “at speed”, then disappear; he thinks a crocodile may be on the loose. Other witnesses have seen geese suffer a similar fate. Experts suggested the most likely culprit was a catfish, an otter or a pike – but the Lake District National Park Authority has promised to “keep an eye” out in case it's something more sinister. Why not go in for a swim, lads, to check it out?

A **fire-walking team-building exercise** in Switzerland **left 25 people injured** during late June. Medics were called to a site near Zurich, where a group had walked over a bed of hot coals barefoot. Goldbach, the advertising agency that organised the event, said it was a “voluntary team activity”.

“No one was injured in a life-threatening manner,” added a spokeswoman, “But I don't know how many are still hospitalised.”!!



Come down & relax on our sunny terrace or newly refurbished interior. Enjoy a cool crisp beer, a glass of wine, or simply a frothy coffee with a bite to eat from our improved snack menu!!



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A man walks into a bar and tells the bartender he'd like something tall, icy and full of vodka. The bartender holds up his finger for the man to wait a minute and yells into the back room, "Hey Tiffany, someone is here looking for you!"

Okay, I'm assuming you already have an SIP card from one of the municipal health authorities in the region of Valencia. This will also probably mean that your mobile phone number is also known to them as this you would have provided in relation to the Covid EU passport scheme.

Go online, with whatever internet device you prefer, to san.gva.es

This is the main Valencian Health Authority website but is available only in Valenciano and Castellano. However, if you have something similar to Google Translate, translating should be no problem, but navigating it may not be a problem to you anyway.

On the opening page click on **Portal del Pacient**. The next page will give you a list of 12 options. Choose **Cites mèdiques**.

The next screen will say **Les meues cites mèdiques** (Your medical appointments), with three options. If you want to arrange an appointment with your G.P. Click on the first choice **Cita en línia en Atenció**

Primària. The next screen will ask you to enter your SIP card number and your date of birth. Do this and press **Validar**.

The next screen will display your SIP number and name and will give you three options - for an appointment, choose the first **Demandar Cita**. The next screen, **SERVEIS DISPONIBLES**, will give you four options.

For an appointment with your GP, **choose the first**, (which will also list the name of your doctor) and press **Seleccionar servei**.

The next screen will again give your doctor's name, today's date. Fill in the date you want the appointment and then in the remaining two boxes put in the preferred time within a two-hour gap, i.e. 10:00 and 12:00 or say 18:00 and 20:00. Then press **Demandar Cita**.

(You will rarely get the date you want and you may have to adjust the two hour times for

various parts of the day, depending on the shifts that your particular doctor works that day.)

Eventually you will be offered a date and a number of optional times for the appointment. Select the preferred option and confirm it. You will also be able to print appointment details. If, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to get a cita, you will probably be getting the following message in Spanish - "An error has occurred. It is not possible to manage your appointment for the desired date. Please contact your Health Center. Press the "Continue" button to return to the previous step. If you continue the error for a long period of time, you can write an email to cita_previa@gva.es or contact your health center by telephone."

However, if you want to check **your existing appointments** with either your GP and a **specialist**, the system is slightly different.

Go to the **Les meues cites mèdiques** stage of the process and choose the second option, **Consulta les teues cites pendents en Atenció Primària i Especialitzada**.

Once again you will be asked for your SIP number, your date of birth and the date your SIP card was issued. This is on the front of your card. You then have to type in the code they give you, IN CAPITALS, and press **Validar**.

They will respond saying they will send you an SMS message and quote part of your mobile number. If this is correct, press **Enviar SMS**. Now enter the code they sent to you, press **Consultar** and your various appointment details will be displayed.

Sure, it all sounds like a bit of a palaver, but once you do it a few times it is very simple. Or, you can always phone the *salud* for appointments but you will have little control over the timing of them.



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AN AUTUMN OF DISCONTENT?

During early July, two of Spain's biggest national trade unions, the CCOO and UGT, demonstrated in major cities across the country. They demand new collective agreements that guarantee the purchasing power of wages and the inclusion of pay guarantees amid skyrocketing inflation rising the prices of everything from fuel bills to olive oil. Both unions alluded to "great mobilisations" during the autumn if the situation is not resolved.

Unions are calling for a 3.5% increase now, 2.5% by 2023 and 2% by 2024, including a salary review clause to allow unions to reassess wage demands as the economic situation develops.

Both CCOO. and UGT have long been calling for salary hikes to deal with the effects of inflation, which in June reached 10.2% with the underlying rate at 5.5% – the highest since 1993.

But it's not just Spain's general unions demanding better wages. Civil servants are also demanding a bigger increase than the 2% wage offered to them in the 2022 budget, again mainly due to a loss of purchasing power within the current economic climate. The Independent Trade Union and Civil Servants' Central (CSIF) claims the proposed 2% increase is insufficient not only due to spiraling inflation, but because civil servants have, they say, experienced a 20% fall in purchasing power since 2010.

Civil servant representatives have also threatened a 'hot autumn' of action if negotiations do not begin quickly. So the already laden bureaucracy could get even slower!

Spain's Second Vice President and Minister of Labour, Yolanda Díaz of the Communist Party of Spain, **has supported union demands** for wage increases and as workers demonstrated on Wednesday made "a clear call" for the salary increase in line with the impact of inflation. (Her comments did not sit well with the main socialist party, the PSOE.)

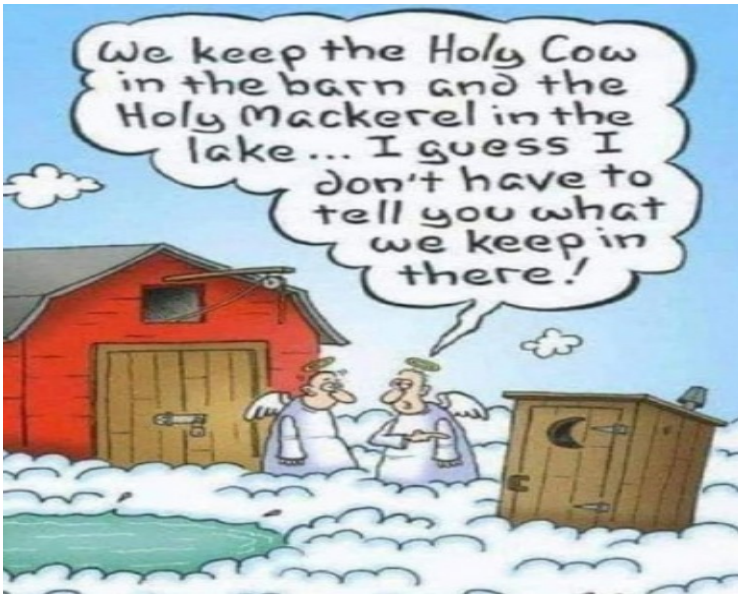


"I'm home...What a terrible day...I took your ladyshaver to work instead of my taser!"

Rail Link to Alicante-Elche Airport?

Despite being the fifth largest airport in Spain, our local airport does not have a rail link to the city of Alicante. €50,000 was spent on a feasibility study two years ago to try and add some impetus to a need for a service that was originally requested 22 years ago. The Spanish Government has now promised that it will put the drafting of the project for phase 1 out to tender this year.

The airport has been in operation for 55 years and the surrounding area is now covered with a score of car parking and rental companies.



Which nationalities spend the most on property in Spain.

Looking just at buyers from wealthy western countries who tend to buy second-homes in Spain, though some also relocate to live in Spain, the latest figures from the association of Spanish notaries for last year show that Swedes had the biggest budgets, spending an average of 2,760 €/m², followed by Denmark (2,714 €/m²) and Germany (2,708 €/m²), whilst the British spent the least with just 1,887 €/m² on average.

So, although the British are the biggest group of foreign buyers in Spain with a total of 12,186 purchases in 2021 compared to 10,868 from Germany, given that German budgets were almost 50% higher than British budgets, it's almost certain that Germany was the biggest market for Spanish property in value terms last year, if not in volume. Put another way, Germans spent more money on property in Spain last year than the British did. You can find a full breakdown of what foreigners spend per square metre here - <https://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/2022/06/26/market-snapshot-which-nationality-spends-the-most-on-property-in-spain-and-which-the-least/>

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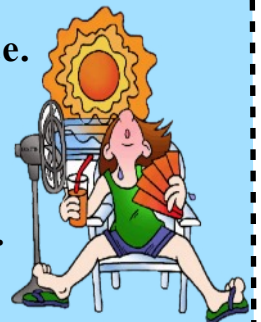


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Bloody covid! I tested positive in mid-June, but God knows where I picked it up from. I tried to trace back where I had been, but came up blank. Needless to say, I infected the better half (sharing is caring) which meant we were isolating for 10 days. I know you don't have to isolate now, but it is better to be safe than sorry. I had withdrawal symptoms and needed to get out on the bank!

Just John ran another quick monthly meeting where we again decided to fish the match at El Bosquet. After last month's record weights, we knew it would be harder this time around. We used the same pegs as the June match, but the draw swapped the anglers about. The Cat was swapped onto the narrow canal and I ended up on the wide one, the reverse of last month. We had 11 anglers on the bank in 36°C with a light breeze.

As the Cat & BFC had done so well on the far bank of the wide canal last month, that is where I started using their grenade method feeder tactics. I was in peg 13, 3 Rods was next to me in 12 & BFC was 2 pegs away in the favoured peg 16. All 3 of us had fish on the 1st cast and it carried on intermittently from there. The area is wide open so you can see how many your mates are catching. After an hour, I had about 10 carp in the net but they were all in the 0.5-1 kg range. I decided to try the near bank using paste. It ended up being a good tactical move, as the fish were all larger and came to the net quicker. 3 Rods was watching me but continued on the far bank. He was now also catching larger fish but he was also losing a few just before the landing net, he was chuntering away to anyone that would listen. To add to his woes, he landed a carp of about 1.5 kg, unhooked it, went to put it in the keepnet, but it wriggled and he dropped it back in the water. DOH! Meanwhile on the narrow canal, the Cat carried on where he left off last month. It didn't seem to matter where he cast his grenade feeder, the carp were straight onto it. He did feed the near bank during the day, but didn't need to swap as the fish kept coming from anywhere he cast.

By lunch time, I asked BFC to weigh me in. He asked, "Why, are you going home"? "No, my net is getting full and I don't want to stress the fish". After weighing in, I already had 20 kilos! The afternoon carried on like the morning with most anglers catching intermittently.

At the weigh in, we were gobsmacked. I had landed 40 fish for 46 kilos, the Cat had 32 fish for 32 kilos and BFC had 21 fish for 20 kilos. 3 Rods had 24 fish in his net for 19 kilos, if he hadn't dropped the carp earlier, he would have pipped BFC by 0.5 of a kilo.

We had 1 blank, but we now have another new club record for combined match weight. 189 kilos! Just a reminder to look after your mates when you go fishing. As the cars were leaving, Appy Bear (Walter) realised his battery was flat. Luckily, BFC & Sweeney had waited to make sure he was OK. We eventually jump started his car and he was on his way.

Sweeney and I had not fished the Secret Lake so we gave it a go. We had a cracking day with both of us landing several large carp. We went back the following week and had 1 tiddler each!

That brought us back to Earth and reminded us that we are fishing, not catching!

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on

Tuesday 2nd August.

Stay safe

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost

There are two distinct kinds of visits to tackle-shops: the visit to buy tackle, and the visit which may be described as platonic when, being for some reason unable to fish, we look for an excuse to go in and waste a tackle dealer's time.

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GENERALITAT VALENCIANA

A man with two buckets of fish was leaving the beach in Punta Marina one night and was stopped by a local police officer. The officer asked the man, "Do you have a license to catch those fish?"

The man replied, "No, sir. These are my pet fish."

"Pet fish?!" the officer replied.

"Yes, sir. Every night I take these fish down to this beach and let them swim around for about a half-hour & when I whistle, they all come back, jump back into my buckets, and I take 'em home. We do this every night."

"That's a bunch of bullshit" said the officer. "Fish can't do that!"

"No, really!" says the man. "Here, I'll show you." And he releases the fish in the ocean.

"Well, I've GOT to see this!" the officer replied.

The 2 men stood and waited. After several minutes, the officer turned to the man and said, "Well?"

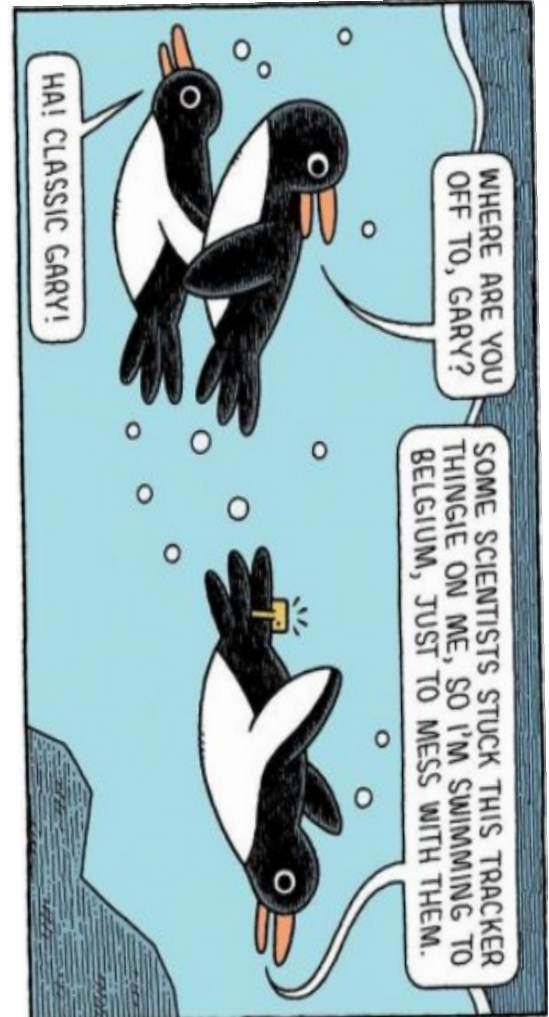
"Well, what?" the man asked.

"When are you going to call them back?" the officer huffs.

"Call who back?" the man asked.

"The FISH."

"What fish?"



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



A parishioner who only attends church on holidays is leaving church after Easter mass. The priest is standing at the door to shake hands. He grabs the parishioner by the hand and pulls him aside.

"You need to join the Army of the Lord!" the priest tells him. The man replies, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, father." The priest questions, "Then how come I only see you in church at Christmas and Easter?" The man whispers, "I'm in the Secret Service."

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