



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June 2023 edition. Issue No.187

Even though we have had a number of heavy rain showers in recent days, these were not *Gota Frias*, although there was some flooding in Murcia and Alicante. However, this has still been **the driest Spring on record for Spain**, with rainfall since October '23 down 28% on normal. Spain is requesting emergency funds from the European Union to support farmers and growers amid extreme drought conditions in its agricultural heartlands.

With the warm weather encouraging swimmers, the **'drowning toll'** has already started. A 70-year-old man drowned in Playa Flamenca and an 18-month-old baby drowned in the pool of a villa in La Nucía. The mother, British, was inside the house with three other children when the accident occurred. 393 bathers died from unintentional drowning in Spain last year according to the Royal Spanish Federation of Rescue and Lifeguards. The highest number of deaths were in the Valencian Community with 67, followed by 63 in the Canary Islands, and 56 in Andalucia. Older bathers were the most vulnerable with 58 deaths in the 65 to 74 year age bracket, followed by 55 deaths among those aged 75 years and older.

The number of **Spanish nationals has decreased** by 12,614 during this year's first quarter, according to the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE). These figures contrast with the number of foreigners now living in Spain, which increased by 149,530 between January 1 and April 1. The three main groups of immigrants arriving in Spain in the 2023 first quarter are Colombian (44,300), Moroccan (23,200) and Venezuelan (21,500). Overall, the population in Spain has grown by 136,916

during this period. Spain's current population is 48.2 million, of which 6.22 million, almost 13%, are of foreign origin.

Families in need **face a three-month wait** before being granted access to a food bank in Alicante. Local NGO Colonia Requena has sent a letter to the Ombudsman exposing the situation, for which it holds Alicante City Council responsible. Deprived families have to get a certificate of vulnerability to be given resources from local food banks. But the evaluation and processing of this crucial document by the municipal authorities is taking much longer than it should. Colonia Requena has said that this issue is affecting around 200 families in the north of the city alone. Around 80,000 people in Alicante province are said to be in need of access to food banks. The bureaucracy in Spain can be lunatic.

Thanks to Dave & Justina for their kind donation.

Have a great month. Mick, Tid and  
The Dream Scene Team



**"I've found a good job for the summer.  
I'm a grief counsellor in a swimsuit store."**

*My local is a bit rough. First question in the quiz last night was  
'What the fuck are you lookin' at?'*

Unfortunately the latest copy of The Dream Scene, June's, was at the printers **before the results of the local and regional elections were announced.** I promise to include information on the results in the July issue.

Orihuela once again is the Alicante province municipality with **most Blue Flags**(11) keeping its total intact for six consecutive years. The Alicante total of 85 flags is 27 more than second-placed Pontevedra, with Malaga third with 39. By regions, the Valencian Community just pips Andalusia to top spot 153 flags to 148.

(Although Andalusia has more criminal gangs!!)

#### **Orihuela Blue Flags:**

Aguamarina, Barranco Rubio, Cabo Roig -La Caleta, Cala Capitán, Cala Cerrada, Cala Estaca, Cala Mosca, Campoamor-La Glea, La Zenia-Cala Bosque, Mil Palmeras, Punta Prima.

#### **Torrevieja Blue Flags:**

Cabo Cervera, Cala de las Piteras, El Cura, Los Locos, Los Náufragos, Torrelamata-Sur.

**Seven cannabis clubs have been closed down in Torrevieja** and 19 people aged between 25 and 69 arrested in a major operation by the Guardia Civil. Four of the clubs were not even registered. Three homes and seven premises were raided with British and Irish citizens detained as well as nationals from Spain, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Lithuania and Chile. Seizures included 9.3 kilos of marijuana, 1.2 kilos of hashish, 30 grams of cocaine, 32 litres of liquid cannabis, 42 marijuana plants, 60 canisters with liquid cannabis, a number of prohibited weapons and over €10,000 in cash.

A study by IE University and the Spanish Golf Courses Association has shown that **golf tourists have invested €4.2 billion in Spanish property**, purchasing more than 280,000 homes. Britons top the list of foreigners taking to the fairways in Spain, while Irish golfers are the ones who spend most per day while holidaying here. In total, the study found that over a quarter of all of Europe's 4.2 million registered golfers choose to play in Spain, with Andalusia being both the main area for golf tourism and for associated property ownership.

The Provincial Court has sentenced the owner of a **now-defunct travel agency**, Agur Viajes, in Alicante to three years in prison who defrauded just over **200,000 euros from 162 clients** who paid him for plane flights to the American continent.

He never paid the money to the airlines, as stated in a sentence handed down by the First Section in accordance with the agreement agreed by the Prosecutor's Office, the prosecution and the defendant's defence. The amounts defrauded range between 300 and 4,462 euros that a woman paid for several plane tickets. The defendant must compensate the scammed.....and good luck with that!

**In the local elections in Orihuela, none of the top two political parties, (PP & PSOE), had any non-Spanish candidates on their candidate list!**

A blind man is walking down the street with his guide dog when it leads him smack into a post. BANG!

Once he's recovered, the blind man feels in his pocket and fetches out a treat to feed the dog.

A passer-by remarks, 'That's marvellous. Even after he's made a mistake like that you're giving him a treat.'

'Not really,' says the blind man. 'I'm just trying to find which end's which so I can kick him in the bollocks.'

### **AUCTION OF PROMISES AND SUPPER**

**EL CAPITAN, LAGO JARDIN 2  
JUNE 9, 4PM**

**This is in aid of Sense  
(A charity for children who are  
both blind and deaf)**

**Entry €3 at the door.**

**Please bring some money if you  
wish to bid in the auction.**

**For further details contact Judith  
on 966 798 517**

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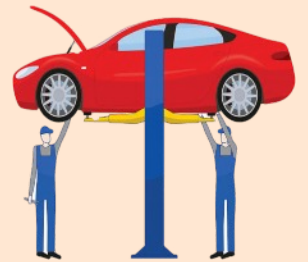
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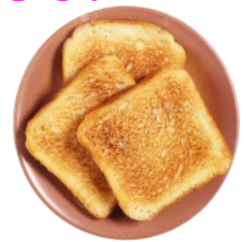
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## PROPERTY QUICKIES

The Spanish government is looking at reining in so-called 'Golden Visa' investments by raising the investment threshold to one million euros, or even eliminating the scheme entirely, as Ireland and Portugal are doing.

The IMF has warned that house prices are overvalued by 15% to 20% in the majority of European countries and could fall by 7% in developed countries over the next three years, and 19% in emerging economies.

The regional government of Catalonia has passed a decree to expropriate empty homes of owners with more than five properties and turn them over to social housing.

The Spanish government has announced a type of 'help to buy' scheme for young first-time buyers that guarantees 20% of a mortgage. "We are going to put housing at the centre of our priorities," said Spanish President Pedro Sánchez, but the move was criticised by the leader of the hard-left Podemos party and government minister Ione Belarra, who said it would "encourage a mortgage spiral" and "lead families into debt."

## New Traffic Fines

During the year 2022, the country experienced a 5% increase in the number of accidents compared to the previous year, which led to the implementation of the new Traffic Law in 2023. The main objective of the DGT is to reduce the number of accidents on Spanish roads by 50%.

### Minor infractions: fine of 100 euros

Ignoring road rules relating to cyclists.

Not being able to drive a vehicle, either due to being on leave from work or illness, since other drivers are endangered.

### Serious offences: fine of 200 euros

Use mobile radar detection devices or similar.

Park or block a bicycle track.

Driving with a suspended driving license.

Using electronic devices while we are behind the wheel or on the motorbike.

### Very serious offences: fine of 500 euros

Throwing objects onto the roads that could be a serious danger to other drivers.

Using unauthorized intercom devices during a license exam.

Breaking the laws governing roadside assistance and using anti-start breathalyzers.

In addition to violations, drivers should pay attention to the mandatory documents they must carry in the vehicle. Traffic agents can request the circulation permit, the driving license and the Vehicle Technical Inspection (ITV) card/chit.

These documents are essential and must always be in the vehicle. Otherwise, drivers could face financial penalties.

## DREAM HILLS BOOK SWAP

LA CASITA,

DREAM HILLS

Bring a book, swop a book!

Bring several, swop several!

1,000'S AVAILABLE!

OPEN THURSDAYS

10:30am - 12:30pm

## Does a Passport Renewal Restart the 90-day Clock for Visiting Spain?

7

The 90-day 'clock' covers all EU and Schengen zone countries. Passports are stamped on entry and exit to the EU/Schengen zone, with dates of entry and exit.

However, **getting a new passport does not reset the clock** – some have suggested that a new passport could be a work-around, as it would not show previous entry/exit stamps which are used to calculate the amount of time a non-EU national person has spent in the Schengen zone.

The primary reason is that passports are in most cases automatically scanned when you enter and leave the Bloc, which makes it easy to spot overstayers and for border forces to enforce the 90-day rule. This means that border forces do not only rely on the physical stamps in your passport.

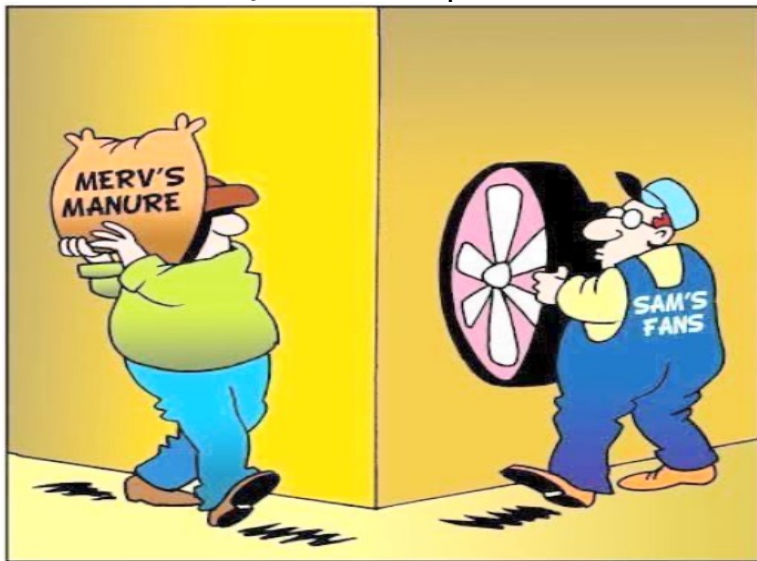
The EU's new EES – Entry and Exit System – will tighten up the scanning process, but its entry has been delayed with officials in Paris pushing for a delay until after the Olympics in the summer of 2024. Paris expects to welcome

10 million visitors during the Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2024 and French officials are alarmed at the idea of travel delays, which would increase, as EES becomes effective.

The EU has been due to implement two new systems – EES which tightens security at the border and ETIAS which requires tourists to have a €7 visa for entry to the bloc. A formal announcement is expected in June.

While Spain generally has a reputation for being less strict than some other EU countries, if you are caught overstaying your allocated 90 days you can end up with an 'overstay' flag on your passport which can make it difficult to enter any other country, not just Spain, and is likely to make any future attempts at getting visas or residency a lot more difficult.

The consequences for staying over can also include being fined upon exit if they are found to have spent more than 90 days in the Schengen zone.



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People are usually shocked when they find out  
I am not a good electrician.

The new housing law that will see rents controlled and new limits on evictions. The text of the bill contains a number of measures aimed at protecting tenants from abusive rent rises, introducing a limit on such hikes of 3% during 2024, up from the current 2% limit.

The legislation also introduces new definitions for *zonas tensionadas*, or 'high rent zones', and in these areas rents will be regulated and capped. The legislation will make a change to the number of properties owned for someone to be considered a large landlord, **down from 10 properties to five**. When these landlords have tenants in high-rent zones, they will be subject to a new index of rents they can charge. The new law establishes that new tenants will no longer have to pay an estate agent or property agency a fee when they sign a new rental contract. Currently, such businesses can charge both the new tenant and the landlord a fee on completion of the deal. When the new law passes, just the landlord will have to pay. The law will also see eviction dates communicated to tenants in advance, rather than them being unexpectedly carried out.

**The new law does nothing to ease the plight of property owners from squatters.** Here once again, the law is an absolute failure and favours squatters.

The first change that came with the housing reform is aimed at protecting squatters **"in situations of vulnerability"** and stipulates that owners must select an exact time and date for the proposed eviction before starting legal proceedings. This will supposedly allow the 'tenants' and landlords time to come to a resolution, outside of the courts. In order to start the basic legal procedure, the owner must first be able to prove that he is not a large holder, that is, a landlord that owns five or more urban properties. Once the lawsuit is filed, the owner must also determine if the property is the habitual residence of the squatter. In the event that the landlord is a large holder, he must also include in his eviction

demand whether the squatter who is in his property is a person who is in a vulnerable situation or not, since the new law is intends to protect "dependent persons, victims of violence against women or minors."

Once the law suit requesting eviction is filed, if vulnerability is proven then the court will carefully assess the case. The new law allows the process to be suspended for two months in the case of private landlords and four months in the case of legal persons, to allow the regional and local Public Administrations more time to present different alternatives to eviction to the court.

Over the past five years, **squatting in Spain has skyrocketed** by 63%, going from 10,619 occupied properties in 2017 to the current 17,274.

A left-wing political organisation from the Valencian region called Compromís, which is represented in the region and Spanish parliament, has called for an amendment to the new housing-bill to **exclude foreign buyers from the housing market** for three years, pointing to Canada as a role-model. As expected, the amendment was rejected.

Podemos - the hard-left junior partner in Spain's governing coalition - **will propose a new law to prosecute anti-squatter outfits** that claim to get squatters out faster and/or cheaper than going down the judicial route. "We are going to register a law to criminally prosecute this trash (*gentuza*) that profits from persecuting the vulnerable," said Podemos Minister of Social Rights Ione Belarra about squatter-eviction companies, quoted in the Spanish press.

**However, given that the country's regions hold certain powers in areas of housing their governments may choose to ignore the new laws if run by opposition parties.** For the regions who do adopt the measures, however, they will now have a legal framework to do so.

We're against bureaucracy, hypocrisy and anything ending in 'y'.

Johnny Rotten



# Helen's Bar



(Formerly JJ's Cafe/Bar)

VIA PARK V

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SUNDAY 2pm - 7pm



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**WITH HEIDI 6pm**

**WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm**



**THURSDAY WITH ASHLEY**

**STEAK NIGHT 6pm**

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**FROM 6.00pm**

**SUNDAY**

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**with John - 3pm start.**



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Someone who stays up all night wondering if there is a dog!

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VIA PARK V

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Only in Britain could it be thought a defect to be 'too clever by half.'  
The probability is that too many people are too stupid by three-quarters.

John Major



## **HELP Vega Baja Professional Trade Directory**

HELP Vega Baja (registered CV-O4-047761-A) is establishing a local professional Trade Directory.

We are inviting local businesses who wish to be included within the directory, to contact HELP Vega Baja at [president@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:president@helpvegabaja.com) Only those businesses (carers, builders, plumbers, gardeners, electricians etc.) able to demonstrate their business is legal with appropriate insurance need apply. There is no charge to be included within the directory, however, if any business wishes to donate to this charity, we are happy to put donations towards supporting families within the community.

For more information, call Michele Masson,  
President on 966 723 733.

**Help Vega Baja – supporting people in the community for over 40 years**  
[www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com)

### **FAIR COMMENT!**

A large number of Britons were ordered to leave Sweden following Brexit and scores were subsequently deported for failing to meet a Brexit residency deadline.

"Some people just didn't care to take the measures that they had to do." These were the words of the outgoing boss of Sweden's migration agency who accused some Brits in Sweden of not taking enough care to ensure they acted to ensure they could stay in the country after Brexit.

"I think it's just a massive case of underestimation for some people who just assumed 'I don't have to do anything, said agency boss Mikael Ribbenvik. "I don't want to sound like a total evil person here, but I don't know. If I lived in another country and something changed, I'd check it.

If you go 'well, I thought there was no problem and nobody told me', you're a bit oblivious!"

### **Phew! Close Shave!**

I phoned the radio station today. The presenter answered and said, "Well done on being our first caller. All you need to do is answer the following question correctly, to win our grand prize!"

"That's fantastic!" I shouted in delight. The presenter said, "Its a maths question." "Well, I've got a degree in maths," I proudly replied, "and teach it at my local school."

"Ok then, to win our grand prize of 2 front row seats to a Justin Beiber concert and to meet him back stage, what is 2+2?"

"7" I replied.

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towards the sea

- Av de Las Olas -

And we are about

150 metres on the left!



### Going to the Doc's.

It was early morning and Bill, an old man in his eighties was putting on his coat. His significant

other Claudia asked, "Where are you going?"

Bill replied, "I'm going to the doctor."

Claudia said, "Why, are you sick?"

"No" Bill said, "I'm going to get some of those Viagra pills."

So, Claudia got out of her rocker and started putting her sweater on.

Bill said, "Where are YOU going?"

Claudia replied, "I'm going to the doctor, too."

Bill asks, "Why?"

Claudia replied, "If you're going to start using that rusty old thing again then I'm going to get a tetanus shot!

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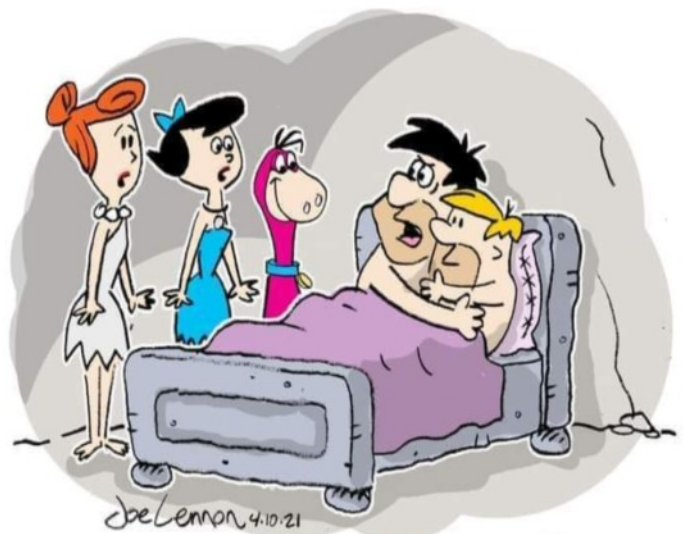
14:00 16:00 18:00 20:00

Airport to Torrevieja :

8:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 13:00 14:00

17:00 19:00 21:00

There may be adjustments  
for the winter period.



OH, DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED, IT'S  
RIGHT THERE IN OUR THEME SONG.



# WALKING FOOTBALL



**Love Football ?  
Too Old ?**



**If you are over 50, come and try  
Walking Football at the CDM,  
El Centro Deportivo Municipal,  
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Mondays at 3.45pm for a warm up  
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*Playa Flamenca  
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## BOOZE!

Okay, these deserve to go in the Idiot's Page but that is already full!

A drunk driver has been arrested after crashing into a police station in Sevilla. The 23-year-old was allegedly driving with his arm in a sling, four times the legal alcohol limit and under the influence of drugs. He is said to have first hit a van, injuring the driver inside the vehicle. An off-duty Policia Nacional identified himself to the accused, who then attempted to flee the scene, but lost control of the vehicle again, crashing into a nearby police station. He was quickly arrested by the agent with help from the local police officers that were inside the station. The vehicle has been identified as his father's car, which the arrested man is believed to have been driving without permission. Officers detained him and took him to another, undamaged, police station.

Almost matched by the 40-year-old who crashed into a wall in Gibraltar during May and was almost four times over the limit when arrested. Another problem was he was already banned from driving for five years after being found to be five times over the limit following a road side test in July 2022!



A woman calls her husband at work to share some news. "I'm kind of busy right now, babe, can't it wait until I get home?"

"Not really," she replies. "I've got to have some good news and some bad news.." "All right," he replies, playing along. "I'm in a rush, so give me the good news."

"Well," she sighs, "the good news is that the airbags on the car work."

## LOCKSMITH

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LOCAL**



## INVASIVE SEAWEED LOCALLY

Alicante University marine scientists have logged the first sightings of an invasive type of algae in Costa Blanca waters as well as on beaches.

Known as 'Rugulopteryx okamurae,' photo, it has been dubbed as 'Asian algae' because it is prominent in the Asian Pacific area. It first appeared on the beaches of Ceuta at the end of 2015 and has spread



throughout the Alboran Sea (the westernmost portion of the Mediterranean Sea, lying between the Iberian Peninsula and the north of Africa), where experts say it has shown a great colonising capacity, negatively affecting native marine species, as well as on fishing and tourism.

Alicante scientists say it can form large accumulations on beaches, which can be difficult to manage and remove, photo.

The Asian algae was detected in Alicante



area waters in March and in great abundance

in the centre of the bay of Alicante as it grows mainly on the dead forest of 'Posidonia oceanica' that abounds in the area.

In a statement, the marine experts said: "We have found large quantities of the algae accumulating on some nearby beaches such as San Gabriel and Urbanova in Alicante but also on other tourist beaches further away, such as Arenales del Sol and coves of Cabo de Santa Pola, as it has been dispersed by waves and sea currents."

Although the invasive species was detected seven years ago nothing was done to address or limit the problem. The Alicante University team says more research is needed to evaluate its potential effect on the native species of the coast and to quickly implement measures to control its expansion.



"Remember when I advised you to make some better health choices? Drop your drawers and think pleasant thoughts."

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## TERRORIST CANDIDATES.

There has been shock and condemnation across Spain after EH Bildu, a Basque political party, presented candidate lists for upcoming local and regional elections that included 44 people convicted of belonging to or assisting the Basque separatist terror group ETA.

Among them, seven were convicted for murder, and each of the 44 has served a prison sentence.

EH Bildu is a Basque nationalist, pro-separatist political party active in Basque Country, Navarre, and Burgos. Among the candidates are former leaders of Batasuna, a separatist party banned in 2003 after a court found they were financing ETA activity.

Seven candidates were convicted for their roles in several murders committed by ETA between 1978 and 2001.

ETA was responsible for the killing of at least 853 people between 1968 and 2010.

Following a wave of disgust felt throughout Spain, the seven said that if they were elected, they would not take their seats.

Victims group El Colectivo de Víctimas del Terrorismo (Covite) has denounced the candidates, who appear on 300 electoral lists at various level, and suggest it is "a danger to democracy" that people with "criminal and terrorist history" are running for public office.

PM Pedro Sánchez's PSOE-led government has at times relied on votes from EH Bildu to pass legislation in the Spanish parliament.

As a *quid-pro-quo*, Sanchez arranged for several jailed ETA terrorists to be moved to prisons closer to their home region.

Sanchez called the inclusion of these candidates 'legal but indecent.' I bet that really hurt the terrorists - NOT!



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**June 14, Simon Jackson**

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**LIVE AID DAY Thurs July 13.**

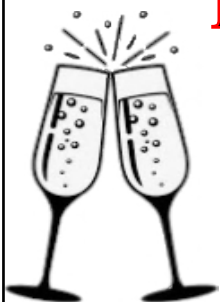
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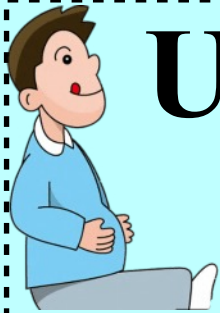
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Two aides of former President Trump were having coffee in a back room at the White House.

"Sometimes I wish we worked for the pope and not the president" one of them says.

"Why?" asks the second aide. "Because then we'd only have to kiss his ring."



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*P.J. O'Rourke*

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## The International Corruption Index

Spain has fallen for a second consecutive year in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by NGO Transparency International, a global ranking of countries based on their perceived corruption.

The CPI uses a 0-100 rating system, with 100 being 'very clean' and 0 being 'highly corrupt'. Spain dropped one point in 2022, from 61 to 60, and it now sits in 35th place in the world, behind countries such as Botswana and Cape Verde. Spain's score represents a three-point decrease from its 2020 score.

Leading Europe (and the world) were Denmark (90/100), who took the top spot in the global ranking, followed by Finland (87/100), New Zealand (87/100), Norway (84/100), Iceland (74/100) and Sweden (83/100).

The European countries with the lowest scores were Romania (46/100), Bulgaria (43/100) and Hungary (42/100).

Comparing Spain to its neighbours, France received a score of 72/100, Portugal 62/100, and Italy 56/100. Morocco scored 38/100.

Ten countries recorded the lowest score in their history, including the United Kingdom (73/100), which has fallen five points since last year. The countries with the lowest scores in the ranking were Somalia (12/100), Syria (13/100), and South Sudan (13/100).

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

### Benefit Rates 2023/2024

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £101.75.  
Low Rate - £68.10



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SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch*

*David visited us in Catral. We couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for.  
No such thing as a free lunch as they say. 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.*



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker. Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK and Spanish welfare support.

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 (Autonimo) social worker in Spain I am also 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???**

## YOUR LOCAL TAXES

Politics in Spain is incredibly regional and localised, with governments at the regional (known as autonomous community) and local level (municipality) wielding significant amounts of power over how things are done. Local governments also have a significant amount of power over how and where your money is spent and on what.

Municipalities in Spain generally receive money in three ways: from the government, from the regional government, and, of course, from its residents: that is, the local taxes they levy and the fees they charge for providing public services such as rubbish collection.

money from the national and regional governments combined makes up around a third of municipal income (35%) on average across the country. But it's municipal taxes that generate the most money for town halls, often 50 or 60% of the total income they receive.

Municipalities charge their citizens three taxes: a property tax, known as IBI; a road tax, known as VTM; and the Economic Activities Tax, called the IAE. There are also two optional taxes that can be levied at a local level: the IIVTNU, which taxes the surplus value of a property when it is sold, and a tax on construction and buildings works that effectively functions as a licence to be able to build in the municipality.

Generally speaking, the tax that costs inhabitants the most (and brings in the most for town halls) is the Impuesto sobre bienes inmuebles or IBI, which is the property tax. According to statistics from the Spanish treasury, on average it contributes over a quarter (27.5%) of the non-financial income to municipal governments and councils.

Average IBI in tourist areas of Spain:

Alicante - €275.54, Málaga - €241.76,  
Madrid - €459.38,  
Palma de Mallorca - €275.71,  
Valencia - €299.99 & Barcelona - €421.83

## Problem Getting an Appointment?

The national Spanish police have arrested 69 people on suspicion of using a computer bot to book up all the available appointments needed to obtain foreign residency documents and carry out other official administrative tasks.

The national Spanish police announced on Friday, May 12th that they have arrested 69 people in different provinces throughout Spain, investigated another 25 and dismantled a network that blocked foreigners from obtaining a 'cita previa' or prior appointment.

The suspects have been accused of booking up all the available appointments through a computer bot to later resell them to foreigners, despite the fact that this process should be free.

**Foreigners in Spain typically need these types of appointments in order to apply for a Foreign Identity Number (NIE ) or residency card such as a TIE or Identidad de Extranjero.**

It's a recurring problem that foreigners in Spain are unable to get these appointments. Some people have to wait weeks or even months to get one to even start their administrative processes. Out of sheer frustration, they typically turn to companies that can guarantee an appointment for them for a fee.

A new phase of the investigation has culminated in arrests in Madrid, Albacete, Alicante, Almería, Badajoz, Barcelona, Vizcaya, Burgos, Cádiz, Córdoba, the Balearic Islands, Marbella, Murcia, Tarragona, Tenerife, Toledo and Valencia.

A further 25 people are being investigated in the provinces of Madrid and Cádiz. Those arrested are considered presumed responsible for the crimes, as well as belonging to a criminal organisation.

Police have revealed that the people in charge of the bots have been exchanging appointments for fees of between €30 and €200.

Police discovered a criminal network that used a computer bot, which, through repetitive, predefined and automated tasks, booked up practically all the available appointments, which are essential to carry out many residency processes in Spain.





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My hot flight attendant asked me how I liked my coffee.  
 Trying to sound cool I told her "I like my coffee like I like my women."  
 And that's when she told me, "That's cute honey, but the coffee is free.  
 You don't have to pay for it here."

## BANNED PETS

In an effort to reduce and remove invasive species, the Spanish government has now expanded the list of animals banned as pets. These include, hedgehogs, Vietnamese pigs, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rabbits, turtles, parakeets, parrots, agapornis (Love birds), snakes, spiders, iguanas, chameleons, geckos and birds native to other countries.

The new law does not seem to mirror the requirements in the countries of the European Union regarding what should be understood as a companion animal (pet) or not. For example, in Belgium, where an Animal Welfare Law has also just been approved, it is allowed to keep rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, deer, guinea pigs and squirrels.

In the Netherlands, which has a similar law since 2015, the list of permitted species is reduced to 30, including various types of rodents, as well as rabbits and ferrets, as well as wild boar, alpacas or buffaloes!

### The New Labourer.

A couple were getting an extension built and when the builders started working their four-year-old daughter took a great interest. On the second day she started to shift some sand with her little bucket and spade and the workman took a shine to her and made sure she was safe. She even sat with them during their tea breaks and they gave her a biscuit to munch on. On Friday the foreman gave her a shiny new 2 euro coin for her "wages" and she showed it to her parents. They took her along to the bank to open her own children's account. The lady behind the counter asked her where she got the money and she replied "I've been helping the builders and this is my pay."

"Oh that's nice. Are you going to work with them again next week?"

"Only if those arseholes from Leyroy's bring the fucking plaster board."

## Low Emission Zones

According to the Climate Change Law, cities across Spain with populations of more than 50,000 were to introduce Low Emission Zones.' Inhabitants were required to implement Low Emission Zones (ZBEs) by the end of last year. Only 10 cities out of the 149 have managed to comply and now, with the heat of the local and regional elections on May 28, not a single politician in the country was willing to push the matter or impose fines for noncompliance. Nearly six months after the deadline, practically nowhere in Spain has a Low Emissions Zone, with the notable exception of the likes of Madrid and Barcelona. Ecologists, municipal technicians and business associations are all in agreement that the matter won't be touched until the polls close. "There has been neglect by all the local administrations and the Ministry for a purely political issue," complained Cristian Quílez, head of Transport and Mobility at the Ecology and Development Foundation (Ecodes), a non-profit organisation that has been monitoring the non-incorporation of the cities obliged by law to create Low Emissions Zones. The very idea of limiting traffic in city centres is an unpopular one and politicians are understandably nervous about forcing the issue and losing valuable votes as a result. However, part of the EU Recovery Fund has been specifically granted for the creation of the ZBEs, and Europe will demand the money be returned at some point if the initiative isn't followed through.

"It is a matter that will be resolved with the elections, what most of the city councils have done has been to postpone it due to the unpopularity that it can generate, although we believe that it could have been counteracted if it had been explained [to the citizens] throughout the last year," Quílez said.

So, we are waiting to see when it will be introduced in Torrevieja. And, if ZBE's are introduced in the city of Orihuela, will its coastal area be excluded? I hope so!

I've been chased by women before, but never while I was awake.

Bob Hope



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## BREAKING THE SANCTIONS

On February 5, the European Union and the United States prohibited imports of Russian diesel, a veto joined by all the countries that have supported the sanctions regime against the Kremlin. Among them was not Morocco, a country that at the end of 2022 began to collect diesel from Moscow, at an average rate of more than 7 million litres per day. In parallel, Rabat has begun to export diesel to Spain, an unprecedented change in trend that has put authorities and big voices in the energy sector on guard.

Morocco has also changed its list of preferred suppliers. At the end of 2022, Rabat began to import between 50,000 and 100,000 barrels of fuel per day from Russia, according to industry sources, the equivalent of an average of more than 7 million litres of this fuel per day. Moscow, in fact, promptly ousted some of Morocco's leading providers, such as Saudi Arabia, in the final stretch of last year.

## Tipping the Postman

An old postie is doing his round when one of his customers opened the door and invited him in saying "you told me last week that it's your birthday today so I've got a surprise for you"

She leads him upstairs and starts to undress inviting him to do the same. He then has the best sex he's ever had. He says "bloody hell, that was some present!"

She says "it's not over yet, how would you like a big cooked breakfast?"

After a hearty breakfast he stands to go out and she says "one more thing" and hands him a £5 note.

He says "look, the sex was fantastic, the breakfast was great and now this. Why?" Well as my husband was leaving for work today I asked him what I should give you for your birthday. He said "Fück him, give him a fiver. The breakfast was my idea."

## The Lion Tamer

A man told the ringmaster that he was interested in joining the circus as a lion tamer. The ringmaster asked if he had any experience. The man said, "Why, yes. My father was one of the most famous lion tamers in the world, and he taught me everything he knew."

"Really?" said the ringmaster. "Did he teach you how to make a lion jump through a flaming hoop?"

"Yes he did," the man replied.

"And did he teach you how to have six lions form a pyramid?" "Yes, he did," the man replied.

"And have you ever stuck your head in a lion's mouth?" "Just once," the man replied.

The ringmaster asked, "Why only once?"

The man said, "I was looking for my father."

*Cricket is a game which the  
English,  
not being a spiritual people,  
have invented in order to give  
themselves some conception of  
Eternity.*

*Lord Mancroft*

### National holidays in Spain in 2023

- Friday, 7th of April – Viernes Santo (Holy Friday)
- Monday, 1st of May – Día del Trabajo (Labour Day)
- Tuesday, 15th of August – Asunción de la virgen (Assumption of the Virgin)
- Thursday, 12th of October – Día de la Hispanidad (Spain's National day)
- Wednesday, 1st of November – Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day)
- Wednesday, 6th of December – Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day)
- Friday, 8th of December – Inmaculada Concepción (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
- Monday, 25th of December – Navidad

### Valencia Regional Holidays

- Valencia: 6th January (Three Kings Day)
- 10th April (Easter Monday)
- 24th June (Feast of St. John) 9th October (Valencia Day)



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European regulators destroyed thousands of cans of Miller High Life, saying its slogan, “the Champagne of Beers,” violated E.U. rules concerning the word “Champagne.”

Well, it’s not just the Americans who have a problem in securing their intelligence resources.

The Royal Navy is to investigate after official documents about one of its £1.3bn “hunter killer” submarines were reportedly found in the toilets of a Wetherspoon’s pub. Files carrying details about the HMS Anson were left in the Furness Railway in Cumbria. The documents showed the inner workings of the nuclear-powered submarine and were used by submariners learning how to isolate and depressurize elements of its system. A Royal Navy spokesman said: “These are generic training documents that carry no classified information.” Well of course he would!

Cartagena City Council plan to place 17 metal



public toilets throughout the city. The public will be charged 50 cents for each visit which must not last longer than 15 minutes, otherwise an

alarm will sound. As you can see from a photo of the first one, they are robust steel boxes! But I was thinking, what would it be like to be inside one of these ovens during the months of July and August?

Dutch police who arrested a Ukrainian man in connection

with a drink-driving incident were surprised to find that the name

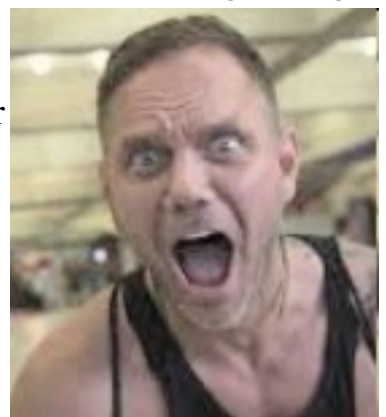


on his driving licence, photo, was Boris Johnson. The driver’s fake licence, photo, complete with the former British prime minister’s picture and correct birth date, was purportedly issued in 2019 and valid until the end of the year 3000!

A Guardia Civil captain has been suspended after getting caught working as a pilot for Vueling Airlines. The high ranking officer was employed from April to August 2020 by the airline while he was a lieutenant stationed at Barcelona-El Prat Airport. It is believed he piloted over 30 commercial flights, mostly domestic, although he also flew to Milan and Paris. The officer has been sentenced to a 5-month suspension. Guardia Civil officers and military personnel are not allowed to have a second employment, unless special permission is granted.

Spain’s biggest porn star is seeking damages

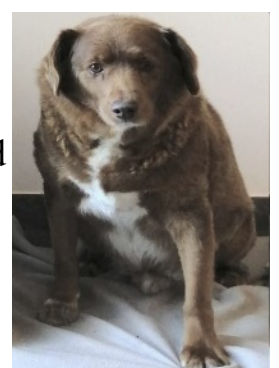
after a doctor allegedly felt his genitals to treat an ear infection. Nacho Vidal, photo, was in Colombia shooting a porn version of the hit Netflix series Narcos when he began suffering from



an extreme earache. He was taken to the elite medical centre Clinica Country in Bogota. But the male consultant who examined the star, ‘asked him to put his pants down and began to touch’ his “meat & two veg”, according to lawyer for Vidal Daniel Mendoza. Nacho has featured in more than 1,500 porn films.

The world’s oldest dog, Bobi turned 31—in human years-- during May this year. Bobi, photo, received a certificate from Guinness World Records.

Bobi is a purebred rafeiro do alentejo, a breed of Portuguese dog.



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***Sundays: Wayne Stewart - 4pm - 7pm***

***See posters at the Bar or ask for details.***

**Keep an eye on our Facebook page for regular updates.**

I just got a new pet, and I've never had a pet before, so I went on a pet group online to get some tips. Someone on there said you should always get your pet a companion as its cruel to keep them in the house all day alone. Well so far I've bought 3 cats, 4 dogs, 2 rabbits and 5 guinea pigs but all my python wants to do is eat them.



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## Organ Compensation?

One day a blind man goes to a restaurant... the male server asked him if he'd like to see the menu.

The blind man says, "No, I am blind, just bring me a dirty fork and I will smell it and order." The server, confused, goes to the kitchen, and brings back a dirty fork.

The blind man smells it and says: "I'll have the beef steak with mash potatoes and gravy and some chocolate brownies for dessert."

The server brings him his food and the blind man enjoys his meal, pays the bill and leaves.

Next week, the blind man returns to the same restaurant.

The server recognizes him and wanting to see how good the blind man's sense of smell is, he goes to the kitchen and asks his wife, Brenda, for a spoon.

The server tells Brenda, to rub the spoon over her private parts and so she does. The server hands the spoon to the blind man, the blind man takes a whiff and says...

"I didn't know Brenda worked here."

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An eight-year-old girl went to the office with her father on "Take Your Child to Work Day." As they were walking around the office, the young girl started crying and getting very cranky. Her father asked what was wrong with her. As the staff gathered around, she sobbed loudly: "Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?"





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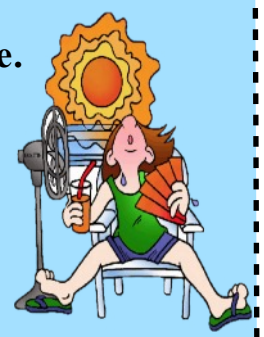


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## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

The monthly meeting went ahead without a hitch, sorting out where we would have the monthly match and drawing for the next round of the KO competition.

As the river has been fishing so patchy recently, by majority decision El Bosquet was the chosen venue again. Different pegs this time though, 26 through to 40. The 2 end pegs (26 & 40) usually fish really well, and for whatever reason are the holding ground for lots of big carp.

Whoever draws these pegs usually win, so to level the playing field, it was decided to leave them out. However, whoever fishes the neighbouring pegs (27 & 39) should be able to draw those fish in. You should have seen 3 Rods' face when he drew the Cat" into peg 39. It was a picture! The forecast was good but we drove up the AP7 in thick fog. I usually use a derelict hotel as my marker for the right exit junction but I couldn't see it. Now was it junction 733 or 730 ??? Luckily, I picked the right one and arrived on time.

There were 10 of us on the bank and just as the whistle went, the fog lifted and the sun was rising just above the far bank, I couldn't see sod all with the glare! At least there were no mossies. I have no idea why but hardly any carp were caught, except for Yorkie Mick. Mick took advantage of being on the end peg (Ball Boy had drawn peg 27 but couldn't make it) and Mick drew the fish from their holding area into his swim. Some carp over shot his peg and visited the Shropshire Lad next door too. The Cat tried the same at the other end peg but the carp wouldn't play, he ended up with just 1 small mullet.

I had drawn peg 34 (right in the middle) so wasn't expecting much. I fished paste and was getting indications at every drop in, but could not keep the paste on long enough the catch anything! Aha, I thought. It must be mullet swooping in, hitting the line & knocking my paste off. Change of tack, and I float fished with maggot, hooking fish at the 1st and 2nd drop in, only to land 2 x sunfish both about the size of a €2 coin. Bigger that, I changed tack again to a bigger hook and a lump of bread.... Nada, not a bite! I then struggled for the rest of the day, eventually landing a few from the far bank on bread.

Yorkie Mick finished with 13 x carp & 2 x mullet for a magnificent 29 kilos, 2 nd was Shropshire Lad in the next peg with 6 fish for 7 kilos & 3 rd was me with 4 x sunfish, 5 x mullet and 1 x carp for a lowly 3.6 kilos. Another terrible match but no blanks, even Just John caught a sunfish!

4 days later, Old Seadog & I fished our KO match at the secret Lake. The carp were thrashing about in the margins spawning, they were so close that they splashed spawn onto my legs! We were sat about 10 yards apart but Seadog only had 1 bite all day for a nice fish of 6.5 lbs. I had bites all day and won but it just goes to show that if you are lucky enough to be in the right spot, you might have a good day. That's fishing!

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 6th June (D Day).

Stay safe  
Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, right up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband." The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband! That's against the law! I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now. That's different. You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

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**Sweet Nothings? Try the Left Ear!**

The next time you whisper sweet-nothings into someone's ear, you might want to target their left side. Neuroscientists at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne University Hospital and the University of Lausanne in Switzerland have discovered a strange bias in our perception of pleasing voices.

According to the brain scans of 13 adults, positive human sounds, like laughter, trigger stronger neural activity in the brain's auditory system when they are heard from the left-hand side, suggesting the human auditory cortex is specially tuned to the direction of sounds that make us happy.

Just why there's a preference at all isn't clear – the experiments focused only on changes in activity in the auditory cortex. How such a change translates into someone's perception of those sounds is unknown and would need to be tested in future research.

That said, previous studies have shown the left ear can more easily identify the emotional tone in someone's voice, hinting at some underlying specialization.

Because the left ear feeds information to the right hemisphere of the auditory cortex first, it was assumed that the right side of the brain must be better at processing emotion than the left side.

When the study's participants listened to happy human vocalizations from three different directions – either the left, centre, or right – both sides of their auditory cortex activated. Recordings heard on the left side alone, however, elicited a much stronger neurological response.

You can read more here - <https://www.sciencealert.com/the-human-brain-shows-a-weird-preference-for-sounds-from-the-left>

If it wasn't for Venetian blinds, it would be curtains for all of us.  
 Eric Morecambe

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## FINDING LUV?

Throughout their 60 years of marriage, Dwight and Barbara have been very happy together.

However, their advanced age came with its downsides – namely, their “romance” was nowhere to be found.

That is, until one night...As they were lying in bed watching TV, Barbara suddenly felt her husband touching her in a way that he hadn't for a long time. It almost tickled as his hand touched her neck, and then slowly wandered across her body. He caressed her neck, grazed her breast, then travelled further down, to rest on her lower belly.

Suddenly he stops! He then continued up along the inside of her arm, along her left side, once again grazing her breast, lightly touching her behind, then her inner thigh, and coming to rest on her upper thigh - pausing so she could feel everything. He then repeated the procedure, this time on her right side.

Suddenly he stopped, rolled over and started watching the TV.

Barbara had become quite aroused by his caressing, and she asked in a loving voice, “That was wonderful, dear. But why did you stop?”

Dwight replied absent-mindedly, “I've found the remote!”

*When I got divorced, I went through the various stages of grieving - anger, denial, and dancing around my settlement cheque.  
Maura Kennedy*



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