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MARCH 25-31, 2012 | Issue 41

Read



FAIREST OF ALL

The latest offering from the big book of Hollywood fairytales, *Mirror Mirror* revisits an old childhood classic

DAYS LIKE THESE



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Read. Poll

How many countries have you visited?

- 1-10
- 11-20
- 21+

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LAST READ. POLL RESULTS

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101-200	16%
201-300	12%
301-400	9%
401-500+	48%

Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

A selection of the letters we've received this week. Write in to have your say.

✉ **Dear Read.**, My sister is coming out to Dubai in a couple of weeks and I want to do something special as it will be her birthday while she is here. She was here last year, so I've already done the usual touristy things like the Burj and dune bashing. I'd really like to incorporate The Palm or The World in some form or another. Any suggestions?

Dan Yu

You should keep an eye on deal-of-the-day websites. They have good offers, and, of course, save you money. There have been chartered catamaran trips with limo pick-ups recently on offer, which give you four hours sailing in the Arabian Gulf. What better way to spend a birthday afternoon than taking in the wonders of Dubai from the deck? Before long, new commercial water routes to Lebanon Island at The World will be open.

✉ **Dear Read.**, My cat has gone missing. I know cats are a dirham a dozen over here, but you obviously grow attached to the one you form a bond with and feed daily. I love coming home to the creature purring on my chest. Her name is Bunny—because she's got a white nose—and is typical of a lot of the cats here in Dubai with a brownish/black coat with dark spots along the body. She went missing from the Al Barsha



THE WORLD, DUBAI

2 area a week ago. She had a name tag with my number on it, but that could have been lost. I'm not sure what else to do. If you could please print this letter and maybe someone who had seen Bunny can help me track her down. Thanks Read.

Holladie Kessel

Cats offer great companionship and we really hope that Bunny comes back to you at the earliest. You should check out Feline Friends Dubai's lost and found page to see if someone has posted a picture of your cat. If you do get her back, be sure to get her micro-chipped, too.

My Metro life

M. Salman Ali
IT specialist, Deira



I have been in Dubai for about two years and I very much like the Metro service. I would like to share some facts about the Metro which I like and for which I appreciate the Metro management. The first and most important thing is the Metro timing—it's marvellous. Whenever I reach the platform, either I find a train waiting for me or, within a few minutes, the train is there. The second thing is the extraordinary services and facilities provided, like I find the Metro stations are always shiny and clean, including the train,

seats, platform, rest room, lifts and the floor. This thing always motivates me to select the Metro for my primary medium of transport. Third, the weather luckily does not affect the Metro. There is always standard cooling inside the stations and trains. The lifts and escalators are always in working condition and prompt and accurate information for commuters is given using LCD screens and speakers. Lastly, I believe that the Metro train fares are economical for every common person.

I would like to pray for the management and the owners for their growth. As well, I would like to draw

attention to one area. Many of my friends are coming from Sharjah to Dubai using the road and they are always stuck in traffic for about two hours in the morning and evening. If it is possible for the Metro to extend its stations to Sharjah to provide the same facility, this will help many people. A Metro station in Sharjah connecting it to Dubai could help a lot of people and ease their life. Wishing you good luck.

Tell us about your experiences on Dubai Metro. Send your story to mymetrolife@readme.ae for a chance to appear in next week's Read.

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SURYA SANDEEP



ANURAG DOGRA



JANE CABARRUBIAS



ADONIS TIVIDAD



SAMER ALRAWAS



MOHMADRAFI ANSARI



MARK ANTHONY R. PUENTESFINA



MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Station by station guide

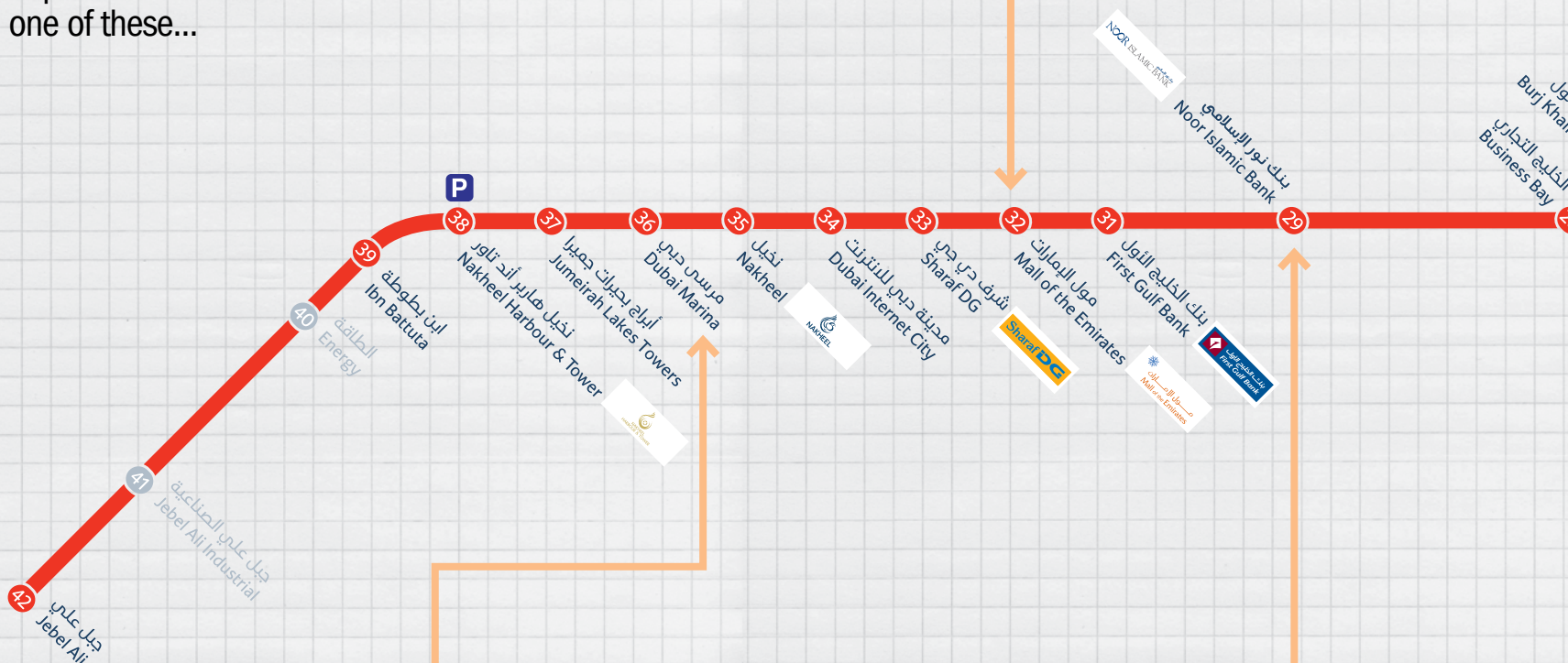
Looking for something to do? You could always hop off the train and visit one of these...



Volkswagen Middle East roadshow

MARCH 28-31, MOE, 10AM ONWARDS

Volkswagen Middle East, in cooperation with Al Nabooda Automobiles, has brought its GCC roadshow to Dubai. The Dubai event offers the public an opportunity to test drive a wide range of Volkswagen models. Singing sensation, Therése Neaimé, brand ambassador of Volkswagen Middle East, is seen with a VW Touareg.



Farmers' Market

FRIDAYS 9AM-3PM, DUBAI MARINA

Now is the ideal time to spend a lazy morning browsing around an outdoor food market and picking up some delicious fresh produce, grown by local farmers from the UAE. The newly opened 'Market on the Terrace' in Dubai Marina is the perfect place to do so, with a tempting selection of delicacies and a buzzing, community atmosphere to make it all the more enjoyable. Free from 9am-3pm, behind Marina Promenade.



Anniversary celebration

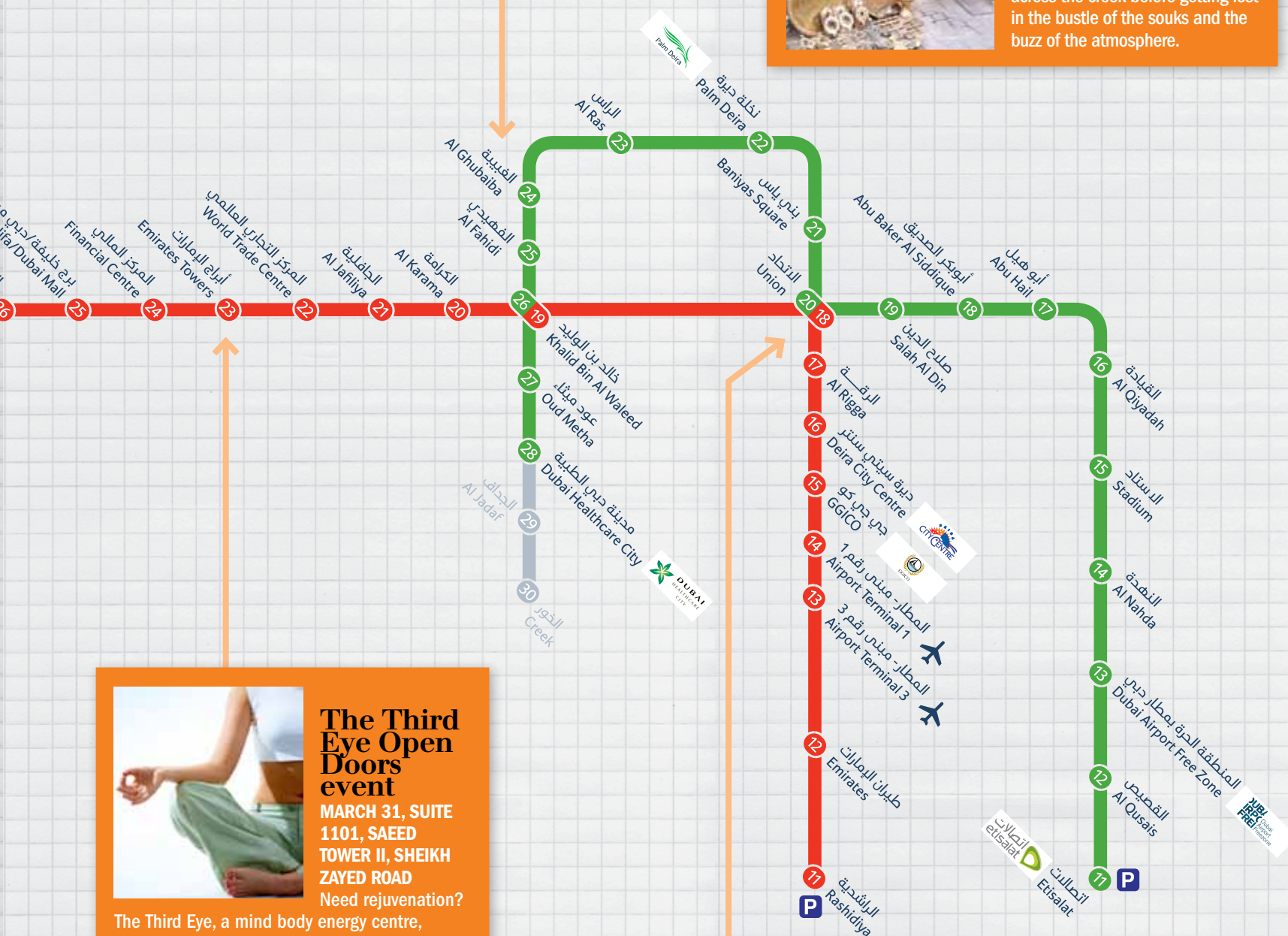
MARCH 29 OASIS CENTRE

Oasis Centre is celebrating its third anniversary on March 29 with exciting discounts and offers for shoppers at key stores across the mall from 10am onwards. The mall will also host a range of activities that will extend until April 14. As part of the festivities, popular outlets at Oasis Centre, such as Max, Emax, Balance Cafe, QHome Décor, Brands, Babyshop, Balance Wellness Club and Home Centre will host attractive

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
EMAIL EDITORIAL@README.AE

DAILY. DEIRA SOUKS

To transport yourself back to days gone by, there is no better way than simply spending a day wandering around Deira, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of the souks. By taking the Metro to Al Ghubaiba, you can also incorporate an authentic abra ride across the creek before getting lost in the bustle of the souks and the buzz of the atmosphere.



The Third Eye Open Doors event

**MARCH 31, SUITE
1101, SAEED
TOWER II, SHEIKH
ZAYED ROAD**

Need rejuvenation?

The Third Eye, a mind body energy centre, will host a special event encompassing yoga, meditation, power of the mind, as well as fun wellness and spiritual activities including demos, mini-talks, workshops and numerology readings from 11am to 5pm on March 31. All the activities are free, except for readings at Dh50 per reading. The sessions will be led by founder of The Third Eye, Milan. Contact 04 326 6539 or visit www.thirdeyeonline.com for more information.



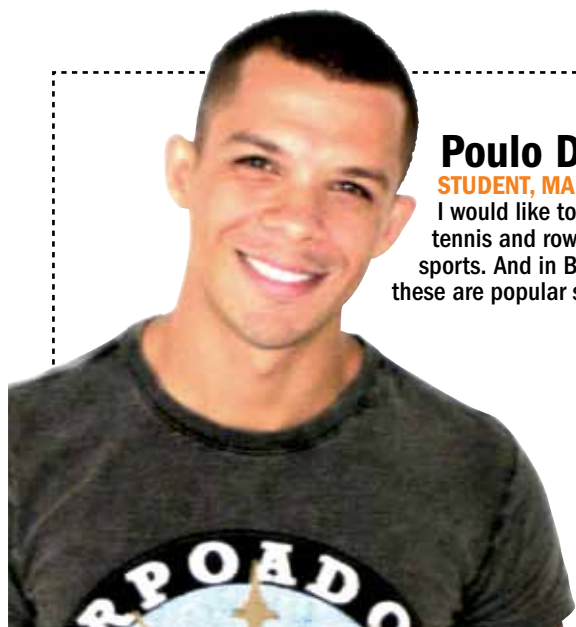
Al Ghurair Styling Event

UNTIL MARCH 31, AL GHURAIR CENTRE

Women are being given the opportunity to mingle and chat, exchange fashion tips, and get insider styling ideas from top fashion stylist Farah Kabir at Al Ghurair Centre, as part of the mall's signature styling event. The free-to-attend sessions cover a range of fashion and styling hot topics, including opportunities to win exciting makeovers through a 'Visit and Win' promotion. Farah has styled for big-budget Hollywood movies such as the *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* blockbuster and world-class brands. The style sessions are scheduled on March 25, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 (11am, 4pm and 7pm

The Burning Question

O A new batch of tickets to the London 2012 games will be released to those who missed out first time—what Olympic event would you most like to be in the crowd for and why?



Poulo Daltro

STUDENT, MARINA

I would like to watch swimming, tennis and rowing as I enjoy these sports. And in Brazil, where I am from, these are popular sports.

Reizenvie Ocampo

RECEPTIONIST, AL BARSHA

I would like to go to the Olympics to watch the swimming events. I cannot swim but I enjoy watching the different types of swimming and divers.



Ziad Alsoufi

BANKER, MARINA

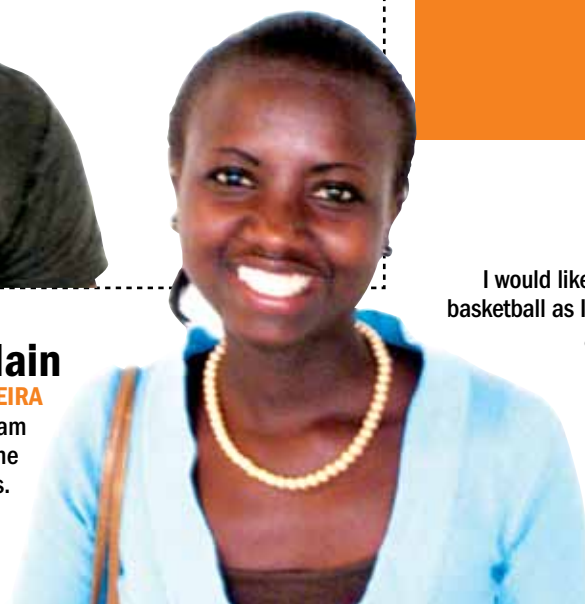
I would like to watch the tennis and basketball as I play both of these sports and it would be good to see.



Barbara Modain

PALM DEIRA

I am from Kenya and we have a good team of runners, so I would like to watch the running events.



Dayani Dissandyaki

JUMEIRAH, SERVICE

I would like to watch cricket as it is very popular in Sri Lanka where I am from and I enjoy watching it.



Ahmad Raza

SERVICE, AL QUOZ

If I had the chance to go to the Olympics, I would watch gymnastics as it is one of the great games and it would be a good experience to go to London to see it.



Yazeed Khalid

VISITOR, SAUDI ARABIA

I would like to watch the football as I love the sport and I want to support the Arab teams.



What's happening this week on **readme.ae?**

Make sure you check out our web site for these daily specials, which appear online every afternoon. 'Like' us on Facebook so that we can keep you up to date with our latest online features and fun.

Coming up this week



TODAY

We've all seen the colourful chutes sail through the air over The Palm as Dubai's thrill-seekers get their adrenaline fix. Now imagine falling out of a plane and heading toward the ground at 587 km/h. That's what daredevil Felix Baumgartner has done in preparation for his jump from the edge of space to Earth in the world's longest free fall. Find out the logistics involved in falling from the sky.



MONDAY

From the 300 Spartans at the Battle of Thermopylae, to Roman Emperor Commodus dying at the hands of a gladiator, which historical liberties have Hollywood taken to keep the audience engrossed?



TUESDAY

In January, 2012, we knew of more than 700 confirmed exoplanets, a small number considering the billions of stars in our galaxy alone. Find out what we know about what's beyond our solar system.



WEDNESDAY

Sure, we may need a car to get from point A to point B, but do we need our cars to have bejeweled fuel caps or leather ceilings? Readme.ae has a look at the most extravagant car amenities.



THURSDAY

In 1777, Irish statesmen met at Clonmel and drew up a Code Duello. The Code Duello was a dueling code which was popularly used in Ireland and Britain. Get a history lesson in famous duels today.



FRIDAY

Once again our Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily Burning Question. We find the best responses from our Facebook fans and bring you the answers that matter most to the people of Dubai.

Facebook chatter

Here's what you have been saying on the *Read. Facebook* page.

(Responses only edited for length)

Are you aware of the risks that sand storms pose?

I am working near Business bay metro station..i have to work 15 minutes from there to reach my office..here it is lots of road construction going on..The day when sand storms there i really struggle lots..

—Ashker Ch

Sandstorm is really unpredictable for me, I am just making sure that I always have a scarf with me so I could keep my eyes, mouth & nose protected from the dust...and also lip-gloss so I could keep my lips hydrated...hehehe...

—April Rose Liwag Jacinto

People are generally unaware of the health problems that result from Sand Storms. Breathing related problems are the most prominent but affected Eyes, Skin and hair damage are some hazards usually overlooked.

—Omer Chauhan

What do you think President Obama's re-election campaign



HOW GOOD A DRIVER ARE YOU?

money should be spent on?

I think that the money is being spent on something tangible to his political career.I shouldn't mind though as long as he does a good job in leading the U.S.A.But if my opinion matters,I think that the money should be spent on educating and feeding the children,especially those of depressed area.

—Ferdie Salas Santiago Jr.

Its all presidents crave n he's leading in afghanistan as conducting d business of stuffing millions into war chest to bankroll his own political career..

—Angel Dallu Dipti

Do you think you're a good enough driver to earn a reward?

ofcorzz am a good driver..thats y they still didnt give me a chance



BARACK OBAMA

to acheive my license thou i failed 3times till now... :) :))

—Nouman Owaize

I believe I am, I always fasten my seat belt. I mind the road speed, never violated radar or red light signal or got a black point.

—Sara Ameer

Dare to save the planet

Dubai prepares to turn off the lights to show support for Earth Hour 2012.

On Saturday, March 31, at 8.30pm, many of Dubai's glittering lights will go out. For one hour, those with an environmental conscience will take part in the annual Earth Hour campaign by turning off all unnecessary lights to acknowledge the need to take global action on climate change. This year, however, many will challenge themselves to do even more as part of the new I Will If You Will campaign.

For Earth Hour 2012, participants are encouraged to take their sustainability actions beyond the hour and combine their efforts via social media networks. People are encouraged to share a personal dare with the world by asking, "What are you willing to do to save the planet?"

I Will If You Will is a digital platform created by global advertising agency, Leo Burnett in collaboration with YouTube. This is the first time that Earth Hour organisers have gone beyond the annual lights out event to offer participants the chance to play a more active and substantial role.

Executive Director and Co-Founder Andy Ridley said, "Earth Hour's challenge is no longer to connect people; the challenge is to offer a reason to connect. Any movement of change begins with symbolism—

it's a needed step to prove enough people care about an issue. Earth Hour is past the beginning now, and lots of people are switching their lights off every year in March. We're now at the stage of taking it beyond the hour."

The concept of I Will If You Will makes Earth Hour personal. The idea is to encourage participants to create social contracts by setting themselves a united challenge. This can be anything that will have a positive impact on the environment from recycling and switching to energy efficient light bulbs to turning off your mobile phone charger or signing up for paperless banking.

In one challenge featured on the Earth Hour website, Elissa Sur-sara has promised to join the Cove Guardians in Taiji, Japan, to promote awareness of dolphin killing if 1000 people pledge to buy dolphin safe products. In another challenge, American singer-songwriter, Anthony Hamilton pledges to perform a

"Last year was the biggest event in the campaign's history."

three-song show live on Google Hangout if 2,000 of his fans promise to recycle. In the UAE, Oliver Kerr has sworn to refrain from speaking for two weeks if 10,000 people promise not to use their cars for one week. In another UAE challenge, Ali Al Saloom has promised that if 10,000 people switch from plastic to eco-friendly bags he won't use any of his three

mobile phones for 72 hours. The UAE first began taking part in Earth Hour in 2008 and since then the increasing popularity of the event has been apparent as more landmarks and residential areas plunge themselves into darkness each year. In 2011, all seven emirates saw official participation from key landmarks, including the Burj Khalifa, Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Al Qasba and Fujairah Fort.

Last year Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) announced that Earth Hour 2011 saved a record 204,000kW/h of electricity and 122,000 kg of carbon emissions. Festivities held in Burj Plaza attracted over 6,000 people and a similar event is planned this year.

For 2012, Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) plans to make Earth Hour the biggest it has ever been in the UAE by getting more people involved in the global movement. Ida Tillisch, acting director general of EWS-WWF said, "We call on all UAE residents to participate in Earth Hour and in the I Will If You Will challenge. We all have the power to make a change. It is only through the collective action of every individual, business and government throughout the world that we can make an impact."

The first Earth Hour was held in 2007, when the WWF joined forces with the *Sydney Morning Herald* in a campaign that saw 2.2 million residents in Sydney switch off their lights for one hour.

Since then, the event has grown to become the largest voluntary action for the environment.

Last year was the biggest event in the campaign's history with an estimated reach of 1.8 billion people. A record 5,251 towns in 135 countries on all seven continents participated and the campaign's digital footprint grew to 91 million. This year, the organisers hope to achieve even greater numbers through the I Will If You Will campaign. The Earth Hour YouTube platform features a global library of I Will If You Will challenges. Visit www.youtube.com/user/earthhour/iwiyw to post or join a challenge that will help protect the environment. ●



FAMOUS LANDMARKS WILL BE BLACKED OUT ON MARCH 31



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Suspicious salaries

In 2010, Private First Class Bradley Manning purportedly leaked Secret US State department cables to the open source online intelligence website Wikileaks.

In turn, Wikileaks revealed the confidential and classified tidbits of foreign policy communications from senior United States diplomats to the world. Thoughts, opinions and secretive facts on many sensitive subjects. Those were supposed to remain hidden from the eyes of the rest of the world. Intriguing as many of the cables were, my attention recently

"The police officers thought they had received a handsome \$200 raise"

was brought to one in particular that spoke about a new technology which helped reveal wide scale corruption in Afghanistan and how it

solved the problem.

If you haven't heard of mobile payment before, it's the simple process of handling payments using your mobile device, a method that is remarkably more secure than handling cash and, more importantly, allows for immense accountability and traceability of funds. Building the infrastructure for such services is complicated and requires smart and dedicated people.

A platform leased from Vodafone, developed and built for use in Kenya (M Pesa) was customised for Afghanistan (M Paisa). In 2009—as it was launched—police officers in a remote region received their monthly salaries through their mobile phones, and thought they received a handsome \$200 raise. In fact, they had just discovered what their real salaries were. Apparently, their superiors skimmed up to 30 per cent when salaries were given as cash!



Making geek chic

How one small gadget is making IT lessons cool again.

For those of us hoping that, whenever a serious computer problem occurs, there will always be a technology whizz-kid on hand to help, the future may hold some disappointment. According to recent statistics, the number of kids taking computing lessons at secondary school level has dropped globally over the past 10 years, and many experts put this decline down to how information technology (IT) is taught in schools.

Recently, schools around the world have come under fire for focusing too much on the applications of computing rather than the basics of it. This means that, to all intents and purposes, many students are learning how to use Microsoft Office, creating spreadsheets on Excel or

presentations on PowerPoint. Needless to say, activities such as these do not exactly capture the imagination of bored teenagers.

This is because it can generally be assumed that anyone raised within the last 20 years will likely be able to find their way around a computer without much hassle. Most programmes, aside from specialist industry ones, can be worked out relatively quickly by trial and error, and most employers expect their workers to be able to use standard Office tools and email functions. The problem is that not many people are going much deeper than that.

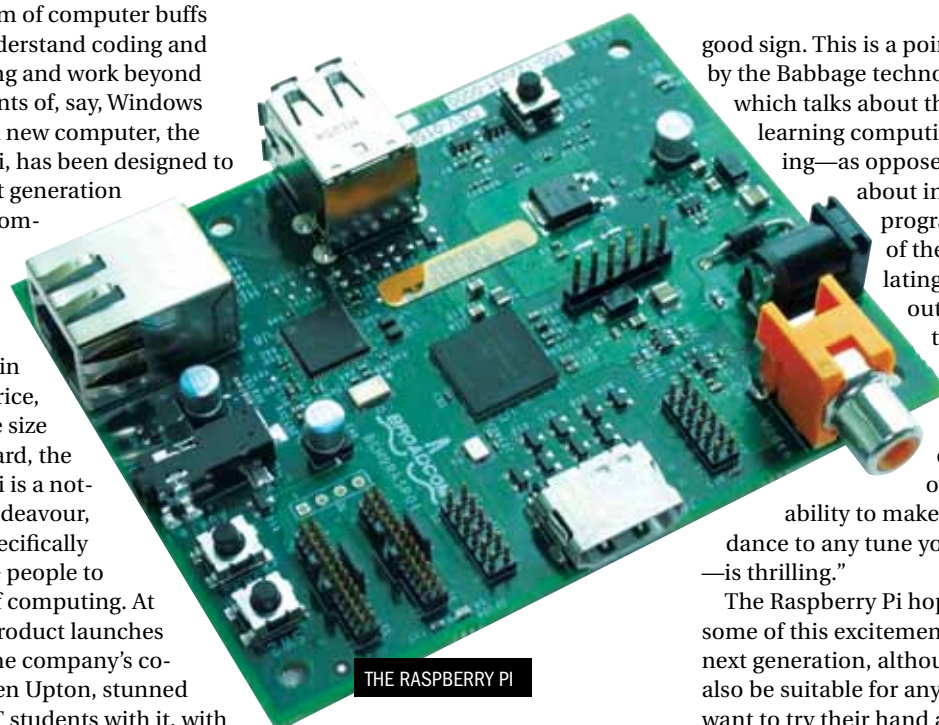
But what can be done about it? Something has to change, as the world has a consistent need for a steady stream of computer buffs who can understand coding and programming and work beyond the constraints of, say, Windows 7. Happily, a new computer, the Raspberry Pi, has been designed to give the next generation of kids the computing skills they may need for the future.

At a bargain basement price, and only the size of a credit card, the Raspberry Pi is a not-for-profit endeavour, designed specifically to introduce people to the basics of computing. At one of the product launches in the UK, the company's co-founder, Eben Upton, stunned Year Eight IT students with it, with

many exclaiming that they couldn't believe the small unit was indeed a computer. Upton then had the students re-programme the classic mobile phone game, Snake, using the Python language. When 13-year-old students are excited about the prospect of being able to manipulate old games, it certainly seems like a

Dh91

The surprisingly low cost of the most basic Raspberry Pi



THE RASPBERRY PI



THE END OF 'BORING' IT CLASSES?

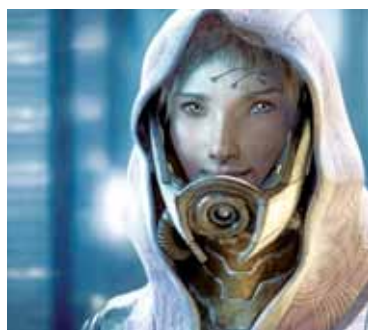
good sign. This is a point echoed by the Babbage technology blog, which talks about the joys of learning computing. "Computing—as opposed to learning about individual programs—is one of the most stimulating subjects out there," says the writer, identified only as T.C. "The sense of freedom on offer—the ability to make the machine dance to any tune you care to play—is thrilling."

The Raspberry Pi hopes to instil some of this excitement into the next generation, although it would also be suitable for any adults who want to try their hand at basic

computing. There are two versions, one costing \$25 (Dh91) and one costing \$35 (Dh129). They are mostly similar, though the more expensive version sports an extra USB 2.0 port and supports Ethernet connections. The operating systems it uses are Linux kernel-based, and the computer can support a number of languages.

This might make the little Pi seem overly complicated, but its simplicity is what makes it so attractive. With some coaching, there are plenty of things that students can use it for, meaning that afterwards, they will be able to move onto more powerful machines with an idea about what they're doing. More than this, though, it allows them to be creative with their machines, rather than simply with software. And surely this can only be a good thing. ●

Tech beat



ANGER OVER MASS EFFECT 3

Angry gamers incensed by the ending to the popular *Mass Effect 3* have set up a campaign to rewrite the ending, raising over \$70,000 (Dh257,000) for charity in the process. Players have complained that steps taken during the game have little bearing on the end sequence, despite this being a main selling point of the series.

APPLE TO SPEND CASH

Apple has announced that it will begin to spend its huge reserves of cash in September, by buying back up to \$10 billion (Dh36.7 billion) of its own shares. At the end of 2011 the firm claimed it had \$97.6 billion (Dh358.4 billion) in cash reserves, and that it expects to spend around \$45 billion (Dh165.2 billion) over the next three years.



ANGRY BIRDS TO BUILD PARKS

The maker of popular mobile phone game *Angry Birds* has announced that it will construct a number of game-themed activity parks for children around the world. The smash hit game's developer Rovio revealed that it has paired up with playground specialist Lappset Group to build and maintain the parks. The first parks will be built in Finland this summer, with more popping up over Europe later.



FREE APPS DRAIN BATTERY

A recent study suggests that free mobile phone apps that make use of third-party services in order to bring up adverts could drain battery life more quickly. Researchers said that, in one case, 75 per cent of a smartphone's battery was being used to power advertising on free apps. The research was done with a special tool for Android and Windows phones.

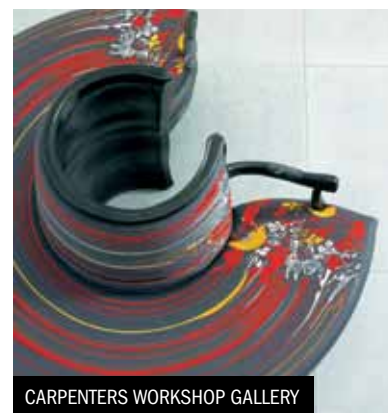
Design Days

The art of investing

Local art event provides a spotlight on design, consolidating Dubai's position as a hub of creativity.



KWANGHO LEE



CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

DESIGN

Dubai has established itself as a centre of innovation and creativity, as proved with the recent hosting of the first international design fair in the Middle East and South Asia.

Taking place at a spectacular purpose built venue at the foot of the world's tallest tower, Design Days Dubai exhibited 22 of the world's leading design galleries entirely dedicated to collectible and limited edition furniture and objects ranging from prototypes to 20th century classics. The works ranged in price from Dh2,400 to Dh1.45 million.

The fair showcased an unmatched collection of more than 400 rare design masterpieces, bringing together collectors, makers and lovers of design from the region and beyond. Catering to art lovers as well as contemporary design enthusiasts, Design Days Dubai aimed to boost design as a collectible art form, and to convey the investment

“The event helps to define the role of the Middle East in the global design stage.”

value of high-quality design works. Cyril Zammit, fair director of Design Days Dubai, said: “The appetite for high-end design in Dubai and the Gulf region, as demonstrated by the support to the inaugural Design Days Dubai, marks the maturing of the arts scene in the city. While internation-

ally, high-end design concepts have established a definite niche for itself, Dubai is now breaking the mould with the new initiative.”

The fair featured ‘Bespoke Design,’ a platform showcasing the production-aspect of design, comprising works by French-design brand Moissonnier and PF Emirates, who showcased iconic collector pieces by Cassina, Cappellini and Poltrona Frau. These masterpieces featured the signatures of influential designers such as Le Corbusier, Jean-Marie Massaud, Tom Dixon, Alessandro Mendini and Franco Albini.

Zammit added: “Design Days Dubai aims to set the basis for a new

design culture in the region by providing a platform for designers here to understand the shifting trends in high-end design. The fair offers the opportunity for the participating galleries to bond with local manufacturers, and potentially reach out to the growing audience for high-end design pieces.”

Some of the world's top-tier galleries from over 14 countries, took part in the high-end fair, serving as a testament to its fundamental goal of drawing influential clients and collectors as well as industry luminaries from across the world to Dubai.

The innovative event, a vibrant addition to the region's cultural scene, enabled visitors to interact with international designers and experts allowing them to make informed decisions on choosing unique collectibles and limited edition pieces that are a valuable investment or simply for adorning their homes or workplace.

A series of workshops were held every day throughout the fair, providing opportunities for local designers to integrate with some of the world's leading designers. The Khatt Foundation explored the link between Arabic lettering and product design while Korean designer Kwangho Lee shared his skills in weaving with Emirati products and Brazilian designers Leo Capote and Amaury teamed up with design students in producing objects.

Salem Al-Qassimi, the founder of Fikra said: “By offering direct access to designers, collectors, and galleries, it invites conversation and questions, encourages discussion, and stimulates debate. In doing so, the event provides some clues about the future of design in the UAE as well as the wider Middle East and hopefully it helps to define the role of the Middle East on the global design stage.”



CARWAN GALLERY



A gallery of delights

The newly-opened Ansar Gallery in Deira aims to become the centre of choice for Dubai's shoppers.



ANSAR GALLERY OFFERS MORE THAN 60,000 SQUARE FEET OF SHOPPING

LAUNCH

Ansar Group's latest attraction in the UAE, the Ansar Gallery in Deira, opened its doors on March 4, 2012, to much excitement from shopping fans.

Its geographical location is very privileged, sitting right in the heart of Salah Al Din Road, next to the Salah Al Din Metro Station.

The new Ansar Gallery facility has been designed to offer shoppers a wide array of quality products that fall within varied price ranges so that there is something for everyone.

A luxurious shopping experience awaits all customers that Ansar Gallery—with more than 60,000 square feet of shopping and ample parking—expect to see through their doors.

With plenty of shops offering an elaborate array of electronic and home appliances ranging from laptops and mobile phones, to a world-class line of fashion wear, traditional abayas, footwear, children's toys, cosmetics, perfumery, watches, sun glasses, fun gifts, everyday household items, travel bags, sports equipment, comforters and carpets, and a wide range of other necessities, one

can truly get everything one needs right under one roof.

Within its first week of operation Ansar Gallery attained plaudits for offering shoppers an unmatched choice of affordable products and service, including covered parking spaces and prayer rooms.

With an enormous daily foot-fall, Ansar Gallery is on its way to becoming one of the city's most popular shopping centres.

As a new launch bonus for shoppers, Ansar Gallery announced that it will be giving away a brand new BMW 2012 model to four lucky winners.

Another bonus for shoppers who spend Dh160 at Ansar Gallery is a free Etisalat sim card with 160 minutes of free talk time pre-loaded, as Ansar Gallery strives to provide all necessities of life in a fast paced city. ●

“A luxurious shopping experience awaits all customers at Ansar Gallery.”



THE OPENING CEREMONY



SHOPPERS FLOCK TO THE NEW MALL



A HUGE VARIETY OF QUALITY PRODUCTS

Turkish luxury enters UAE

One of the world's premier luxury hotel chains has opened its first property in Dubai overlooking the ocean.

HOTELS

Located on the tip of the Palm, otherwise known as the eighth wonder of the world, the newly opened Rixos The Palm Dubai salutes the daylight under astonishing 360 degree ocean views bearing the signature of renowned architect Haldun Kilit.

The exterior is dedicated to landscaped gardens, along with a stunning beach promenade area featuring the White X beach and lounge for lunch and tapas, Nar Beach for shows, music recitals and big screen movie viewings, Suite beach, which is a haven of privacy, while the family beach caters to those who seek a welcoming environment to be with their loved ones.

The hotel's interiors entail a modern minimalist approach blended with exclusive high-tech innovative design elements featured in all aspects of the rooms and residences striking a balance between modern design



MODERN DESIGN AND COMFORTABLE FURNISHINGS ARE THE HALLMARK OF THE NEW RIXOS THE PALM DUBAI

and comfortable furnishings. A La Turca is the hotel's authentic Turkish restaurant. With its cutting edge design and versatility moving well beyond the traditional hotel dining experience, it reflects the essence of Turkish cuisine and all meals display a range of genuine dishes from the Aegean and

the Black Sea, as well as from Eastern Anatolia.

The hotel is home to the world renowned Rixos Royal Spa consisting of several treatment rooms and rituals, its signature being the Turkish Hamam, delivered with great authenticity deriving from true Rixos Turkish heritage.

The launch of this new hotel is strategically important for the Antalya based company's development in the Middle East, which already enjoys an established presence in other major regions including Turkey, Southeast Europe, CIS countries, and North Africa.

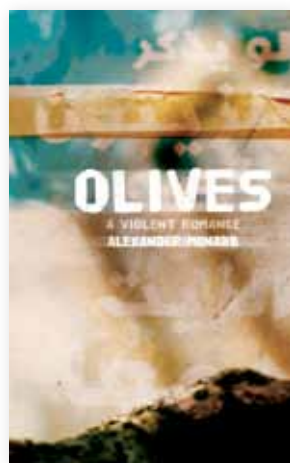
Olives: A Violent Romance

by Alexander McNabb

BOOKS

When an author self-publishes his or her first novel, there's a sense of apprehension when choosing to read it. If it wasn't picked up by the publishing houses, it can't be that good, can it? Happily, though, Dubai-based author Alexander McNabb puts those fears to rest with his first novel, *Olives*.

The extremely well-written story follows Paul Stokes, an English journalist sent to Jordan to work on a government magazine. Immediately, he's plunged into trouble, though he's promised help by his friends at the



ministry, including love interest Aisha and her family, and shady British embassy agent Gerald Lynch.

The story twists and turns as both sides vie to influence Stokes, but what really impresses is McNabb's ability to offer a balanced view on the tensions in Jordan following the war—he really has done his research. This makes *Olives* an educational read as well as an enthralling and entertaining one.

Wrecking Ball

Artist Bruce Springsteen

Label Columbia ★★★★★

ALBUM

The release of *Wrecking Ball* ushers in another remarkable notion: that when married to its two predecessors—2007's *Magic* and *Working on a Dream*, released two years later—Springsteen currently finds himself in a vein of form equally as rich as that mined in the period between 1975 and 1980, covering the classic albums *Born to Run*, *Darkness on the Edge of Town* and *The River*.

But while the emotional parameters are here the same as they ever were—characters in pursuit of love and justice told from a viewpoint of instinctive moral alliance with the underdog—musically this is a work that is as varied and surprising as any to which its author has placed his name.

It may be odd that despite his worldwide appeal, and his experience of this world, Bruce Springsteen never takes his stories outside of the USA. Taking his cues from the Celtic feel of *We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions*, as well as heartland

rock and the soul music of urban America, this is the sound of disparate compositions that somehow exist in a unified setting.

Featuring contributions from (among others) Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello, as well as the late Clarence Clemons, by way of the Victorious Gospel Choir, *Wrecking Ball* is a work of commanding range and masterful execution. The fact that it comes from a man who exclusively seems to become more commanding with age only adds to its magnificent appeal.

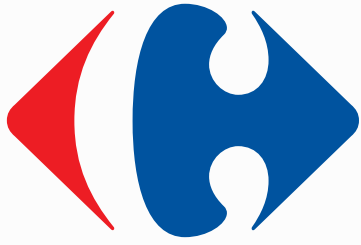


If you like this then you could try...

House of Stone by Anthony Shadid

In 2011, Anthony Shadid was one of four *New York Times* reporters captured in Libya as the country was rocked by revolution. After being freed, he returned not to America, or even his native Beirut, but to rebuild his grandfather's old estate, which had fallen into disrepair over the years. Meanwhile, he meditates on the volatile state of the Middle East.

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Language is something that many of us take for granted. In a multi-national culture as diverse as the one we have here in Dubai, many people are often capable of speaking more than one language, and simply taking a minute to listen to other people chatting around you in the mall or on the Metro reveals the rich melting pot of words that surround us.

But imagine that you were unable to converse with others vocally.

For those who are hard of hearing or deaf, sign language is the tool that bridges the gap. A variety of hand symbols and gestures can be understood by those who speak sign language and allow the deaf to communicate as quickly and efficiently

as those who are able to hear and speak.

Spoken language involves words in sequence, one following another, and lots of them. The grammar we use when speaking forms an important part of how we communicate what we mean. Through the ear, the brain processes and decodes this information, piece by piece, hence why good communicators tend to express their thoughts in digestible 'chunks' rather than long, convoluted sentences.

Words can be spoken at roughly double the rate at which sign language can be produced, yet it is possible to say the same thing, in the same space of time. How can this be? The answer is simple yet quite amazing. Sign language relies less on 'words' and more on the inventive use of space and movement. The location of signs within a space, the speed, direction, type of movement

THE LETTER G

THE LETTER F

Following • the signs

The intricate nature of sign language involves more than simply hand movements.



American Sign Language (ASL)

American Sign Language (ASL) uses a variety of signs made by moving the hands combined with facial expressions and postures of the body. The exact beginnings of ASL are not clear, but some people suggest that it was created more than 200 years ago, when local sign languages were mixed with French Sign Language (LSF, or *Lange des Signes Française*).

The ASL used today includes some elements of LSF plus the original local sign languages, which over the years have developed and

changed into a rich, complex, and mature language. ASL is not solely used in America however, with other countries such as Canada and the Philippines, adopting it as the main form of communication for the deaf community, often interweaving signs from their own native sign language. One of the most universally understood symbols from ASL is the sign for "I love you", which involves pointing the thumb, forefinger and pinky straight, while tucking down the middle two fingers.

THE LETTER A

and the hand symbols used, combined with information carried by the head, face and body, can all be taken in by the eye at the same time. Things can happen simultaneously in a visual language, concentrating the details needed to understand the message in an economic and effective way.

There are many different types of sign language across the world. Each region has its own unique variation, however two of the most commonly used and widely understood are American Sign Language (ASL) and British Sign Language (BSL). While some of the gestures can overlap or prove similar, the two are effectively different languages—the main difference being that ASL is often spoken using one hand while BSL mainly uses both.

This has raised the question of whether an international sign language can exist. Like the spoken language Esperanto, which is intended to be an international auxiliary language that people from all over the world can learn and communicate with, an attempt at International Sign Language (ISL), also known as Gestuno, was created in 1973.

This constructed sign language was created when a committee created and standardised a system of international signs. They tried to choose the most understandable signs from a diverse selection of globally used sign languages to make the language easy to learn for both deaf and hearing people.

Once the commonly understood gestures and signs had been agreed, a book was published containing around 1500 signs in total. However, the language was not an instant hit, with many claiming that because it does not have concrete gram-

mar underlining it, Gestuno itself cannot be deemed a real language. At present, some deaf people use Gestuno at the World Games for the Deaf and the Deaf Way Conference and Festival in the United States, but besides that its use is very limited and it does not appear to be growing with younger generations of sign speakers. ●

British Sign Language (BSL)

Within Britain, the most common form of sign language is called British Sign Language (BSL). BSL has its own grammatical structure and syntax, varying from region to region as you travel across the country. As an actual language, BSL is not strongly related to spoken English, however its relative easiness to learn makes it the preferred language of between 50,000 to 70,000 people within the UK.

Another form of sign language quite commonly used in Britain is known as Sign Supported English (SSE). SSE is not a language in itself so to speak; it uses the same signs as BSL but in the same order as spoken English. SSE is commonly used within schools where children with hearing impairments learn English grammar alongside signing, or by people who mix mainly with hearing people.

THE LETTER K

Sofia: Eastern Europe's rising star

Bulgaria's largest city offers an attractive destination, worlds away from the crowded European hotspots.

As yet a relatively unfrequented stop on the tourist trail, Sofia is rapidly emerging as one of Eastern Europe's most attractive

holiday destinations. Although by far Bulgaria's largest city, this is one of the most compact and walkable cities on the continent with a diverse range of attractions ranging from the cultural to the athletic.

It's remarkably green for a European capital, with huge areas of parkland within the city boundaries, including the picturesque Borissova Gardens, the historic City Garden and the Botanical Garden, with the richest greenhouses on the Balkan Peninsula containing over 3000 types of plant.

Sofia is a haven for nature enthusiasts. The mighty Vitosha mountain towers over the city, offering easy access for hikers and skiers. When it comes to easy access to the slopes from the city, Sofia is a clear winner, with a fully-developed ski resort just six miles from the centre.

The Vitosha and Lyulin mountains can be seen wherever you are in Sofia. In the winter, the resorts are packed



with skiers, but there is still plenty to do when the snow melts in the summer. Rock climbers, hill walkers and mountain bikers all come in hordes to enjoy the stunning scenery and spectacular views of the capital.

In addition to its natural beauties, Sofia boasts numerous cultural highlights from historic churches to glitzy shopping centres. Relics of its Soviet days are still abound, with Red Army monuments and onion-domed churches scattered around the city, but they are very much part of the history rather than the future of Sofia.

Today, the city's broad avenues are lined with five star hotels, swanky restaurants and designer shops. Retail hotspots include the Central Market, which has been converted into a mall with cafes and boutiques, and Vitosha Boulevard, the city's main shopping street.

This is also where some of the best, and smartest, restaurants in Sofia are to be found. Bulgaria has never been known for excellent cuisine, but its reputation in this area is developing all the time as a growing number of posh eateries set new standards for the local culinary scene.

It's certainly a good idea to eat well here as most visitors find they spend the majority of any day in Sofia on their feet. The city is designed for walking and, in addition to the mountain attractions nearby, there is much to do and see on foot in and around the centre.

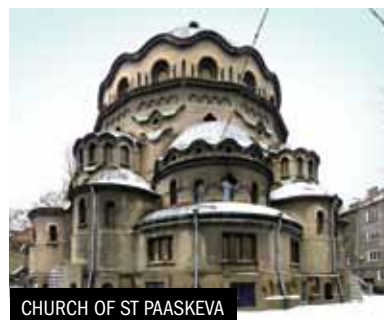
To get a taste of the city's Soviet-era days, begin at the National History Museum, formerly the Presidential Palace and now home to an odd but

interesting collection of Soviet relics and political memorabilia in addition to a stunning display of Thracian treasures. It is among the largest museums in Eastern Europe and contains more than 650,000 artefacts.

Also occupying a former palace is the vast National Art Gallery, which contains many fine examples of Bulgarian art, including the country's largest collection of medieval paintings. Another place to admire medieval art in Sofia is in its churches. The crumbling dome at the Church of St George, believed to be the oldest building in Sofia, contains some beautiful frescoes dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries and more can be found in the Church of St Petka, a tiny edifice dating from the 11th century.

Other places to visit in Bulgaria

- **Veliko Turnovo:** The beautiful former capital of Bulgaria
- **Plovdiv:** Wander round Roman ruins in the historical centre of Bulgaria's second-largest city
- **Rila Monastery:** The country's most famous monastery, situated in the enormous Rila Massive
- **Sunny Beach:** Bulgaria's main seaside resort
- **Bansko:** Popular mountain resort at the base of the Pirin Mountains



CHURCH OF ST PAASKEVA

Interesting as these sites are, Sofia's charm lies less in its historical relics and more in its modern culture. To get the most out of the Bulgarian capital, you don't need to tick-off the stops on a lengthy itinerary of churches, museums and monuments, you simply need to wander the streets and drink in the young and dynamic vibe that increasingly characterises this up-and-coming city. ●



THE BROAD AVENUES OF SOFIA

Taking in the historical Kingdom

The tourist trail is beginning to branch out, with the capital of Saudi Arabia, **Riyadh**, proving a cultural hit.

AN OLD FORT IN RIYADH



LOCAL TRAVEL

The Saudi capital is up-and-coming on the tourist scene. Once little more than a dusty outpost in the desert, today, Riyadh is one of the fastest growing cities in the world with attractions and tourist facilities to match.

The Saudis take great pride in their national heritage and the impressive National Museum is a great place to start for an insight into the Kingdom's history and culture. The exhibits are organised into eight galleries, which cover everything from the solar system, early Arabia and the first and second Saudi states.

The most striking aspect of Riyadh is its architecture, which is a vibrant juxtaposition of the old and the new.

Wander round the old quarter and see the historic mud-brick homes then take a stroll through the bustling Olaya district with its state-of-the-art shopping centres and skyscrapers.

One of the best ways to get an overview of Riyadh is on the city tour bus, which takes in many major attractions, including Musmak Castle, Souk Al Zul, Al Faisalia Tower, the Kingdom Tower and Wadi Hanifa Bridge.

A number of attractions are located just outside the city and it's well worth taking a drive out to see them. Head to Edge of the World, a beautiful mountain with stunning views of the desert and spend a day enjoying the scenery at the Thumamah Park, which offers numerous recreational facilities to entertain families.

Colour popping

Stand out from the crowd this spring in fabulous bright colours. Everyone from Diane Von Furstenberg and Versace to Elie Saab are donning citrus hues and eye catching shades on the runway. Follow in their footsteps and get the catwalk look for less with our high street favourites.

Pretty in pink

This gorgeous little combo from Misguided is perfect for a night out with the girls. Pair high-waisted shorts in Barbie pink with this season's favourite trend, prints.

This fitted, printed bustier will add glamour to shorts and looks great with a lantern or pleated skirt. Smoky eyes and a swish of hot pink lipstick complete this girly look.



MISGUIDED

Her

Hottest colours

Orange and royal blue are this season's hottest colours. Wearing both together will put you top of the style stakes. Opt for a cool cardie in orange paired with blue skinny jeans or fitted chinos and wedges with a dash of colour to stay on the fashion radar. To complete the look, opt for a satchel styled bag for a laid-back yet sophisticated look.

Hot picks

Stay stylish this spring in a funky blazer in assorted colours. Pair with skinny jeans, a tank top and heels for a trendy look. Opt for a fun, coloured t-shirt to take your look from dreary to fab in an instant. Stick to one key coloured item and pair your look with denim jeans or neutral colours for a casual look.

MONSOON

MISS SELFLEDGE

NEW LOOK

RIVER ISLAND

Colour block

Bright colours look great mixed with simple neutral shades and stop you from a neon overload. The spaghetti straps on this Miss Selfridge dress are bang on trend and add to this season's 'twenties feel. Add a skinny belt to nip in your waist and a pair of coloured pumps to bring out the pink shades on the dress.

Bright colours are not just for the ladies this season. Designers such as Taylor Hill and Enrico Coveri are using bright shades in menswear for spring.

Embrace colour

Don't be afraid to add a little colour to your wardrobe. Pair a white printed t-shirt with board shorts in shades of pink and purple for a fun, trendy look. Adding a coloured denim jacket with jeans looks great for sunny days. These subtle hints of colour will have you on trend whilst still maintaining a masculine look.



MATALAN

Him



NEW LOOK

Mix and match

Prints, colours and sportswear are all key trends this season. Why not combine all three trends if you're feeling brave? Alternatively, opt for a pair of coloured chinos in mint green, a coloured checked shirt and hooded jacket in block colours for a casual, youthful style. If you don't want to don all these trends at once, stick to coloured shirts and a varsity jacket for a trendy look.

FASHION OPINION

RACHEL DUGGAN

FOUNDER AND EDITOR
CLASSICWITHCOLOUR.COM



Fashion on the block

Each season there are key fashion trends lead by celebrities, stylists and fashionistas which are emulated by fashion followers around the world.

A trend that has walked the catwalk for another season, colour blocking is one of the easiest and transferable looks for SS12. Solid colours in a combination of your choice can create this look effortlessly.

With a choice of pastels and muted tones amongst the trend, using bold bright colours is one of the best ways to enjoy it. Sometimes less is more, but in this case, it is the contrary. Think bold, bright and clashing colours for impact. Electric blue with citrus lime; turquoise with magenta and orange.

Two pieces essential to rock the colour block look: a jacket and trousers. Living by the style mantra "bolder is better", a statement jacket is a must. Zara's neon jackets are perfect. Paired with an oversized white casual top and electric blue trousers, it is a colour block ensemble which will allow you to go from a day to night.

"Sometimes less is more, but in this case it is the contrary—think bold, bright and clashing"

Jeans, leggings, jeggings or any style of trouser you wish are coming in bold colours with designers and high street stores obsessed with the trend. River Island, New Look and Topshop offer great ranges.

Street style to red carpet, the trend is everywhere. Michael Kors cut beautiful silhouettes in neon and black, Victoria Beckham presented orange in her SS12 sport luxe collection, and Lady Gaga colour blocked in a demure Roksanda Illincic dress. A perfect trend to show your true colours!

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Retinopathy



Looking at the back of the eye may offer an insight into the health of someone's brain, according to researchers.

A study, published in the *Journal of Neurology*, linked damage to the retina with declining brain function. They believe issues with the blood supply may be damaging both the eye and the brain.

The eye condition the researchers were looking at was retinopathy, which is common in patients with Type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure, something not uncommon in the UAE. Those with the eye condition tended to have lower scores in tests of brain function, including memory and abstract reasoning exams.

Brain scans also showed more areas of damaged brain tissue—*ischemic lesions*—in those with retinopathy. Problems with the tiny blood vessels in the eye may be a sign that there are also problems with the blood vessels in the brain that can lead to cognitive problems.

This could be very useful if simple eye screening could give us an early indication that people might be at risk of problems with brain health and functioning. Accurate early detection of the cognitive decline that can be associated with dementia could unlock our ability to treat it.

The study also adds to mounting evidence linking vascular health to cognitive decline, and underlines the importance of looking after our hearts. Early detection and future prevention is only a wink away.

You have heard about BMI, but do you know what yours is, and why it is important?

A weighty issue



B

MI

stands for Body Mass Index and it's a simple way to calculate whether you need to lose or put on weight.

It's easy to calculate your BMI: weight (in kilograms) divided by height (in metres) then squared.

Nutritional consultants and doctors may use more complex methods and some bathroom scales can now calculate it for you, but this simple method will give you enough information for you to decide whether you need to take action or not.

So what sort of numbers should you be looking out for?

BMI scores and calculations vary between men, women and children but here's a simple guide:

Underweight: below 18.5

Normal: 18.5 to 24.9

Overweight: 25 to 29.9

Obese: 30 and above

The super fit may have a slightly higher BMI but still be in great shape, but most people with a BMI over 25

should be looking at losing weight for optimal health.

Why use BMI?

Your weight alone won't really give a true picture of what's happening with your body.

BMI is accepted by the WHO (World Health Organisation) and the NIH (National Institutes of Health) as a way to define obesity, as it tells you how much fat is in your body.

A high BMI can lead to chronic health problems such as increased blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, or higher risk for cancer.

Obesity is increasing at an alarming rate throughout the GCC, and it is particularly worrying in children. Overweight children are more likely to be overweight adults so it's worth tackling the problem early. Seden-

tary lifestyles, poor food choices and stress all contribute to weight gain and the only real solution is a total lifestyle change which banishes junk food and incorporates daily exercise. Julie Meer, managing director of Body Balancers in Dubai says eating a well-balanced diet to help correct hormonal imbalances within the body is vital. With regular exercise, it is important in order to reduce your risk of disease and improve your overall health.

Balancing hormone levels is the secret to losing weight, sleeping, being more energised, stress-free and feeling better. And if you can do all of those things, losing weight will be much easier, you will be more likely to stick to a plan and keep the weight off long term.

There are other ways to measure body fat composition. Waist size measurement is useful as it focuses on abdominal weight gain and studies have shown that on its own abdominal fat can increase the chances of heart disease and diabetes.

And while we tend to focus on excess weight, let's not forget that being considerably underweight can pose its own problems

It's possible to have too little body fat. Athletes involved in high performance sports that emphasise low body weight and extremely low body fat percentage often experience a decrease in hormones that causes an interruption in the menstrual cycle. Over an extended period of time, low body fat can lead to other health risks such as the loss of bone mass. ●

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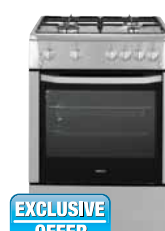
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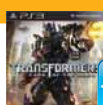
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FITNESS FIXES

Too fit to function



Most people associate heart problems—and cardiac arrest in particular—with older people. But there are about 500 deaths a year in the UK from cardiac arrest among the under-30s.

It shocks us when it affects a sports star like 23-year-old Fabrice Muamba from Bolton Wanderers. The same sentiments were expressed about Marc-Vivien Foe, the Cameroon footballer who collapsed and died during an international match in 2003. But the underlying cause of such deaths is likely to be inherited rather than a reflection on their fitness. Genetic abnormalities are usually associated with arrhythmias—irregular heart beats—or cardiomyopathies, which is a disease of the heart muscle. Research has suggested that those with inherited conditions are twice as likely to suffer a cardiac arrest if they play sport at a high level.

The question asked after such events is whether anything can

“The underlying cause of such deaths is likely to be inherited.”

be done to prevent them. Many sports regularly screen top athletes, although it is not mandatory

in many countries. They do not guarantee that an abnormality will be picked up, which can come and go—as the Muamba case suggests.

Back to bending basics



The work-out programme that's easy to learn, requires little or no equipment, and soothes your soul while toning your body.

Yoga is considered a mind-body type of complementary and alternative medicine practice. It brings together physical and mental disciplines to achieve peacefulness of body and mind, helping you relax and manage stress and anxiety.

Traditional yoga philosophy requires that students adhere to this mission through behavior, diet and meditation. But if you're just looking for better stress management—whether because of life's daily hassles or a health problem you're facing—and not an entire lifestyle change or way of life, yoga can help.

Yoga has many styles, forms and intensities. Hatha yoga, in particular, may be a

good choice for stress management. Hatha is one of the most common styles of yoga, and some beginners find it easier to practice because of its slower pace and easier movements. But most people can benefit from any style of yoga—it's all about your personal preferences.

Though most associate yoga with the practice of yoga poses (*asanas*), there are many different paths of yoga, some of which do not involve the practice of *asanas* at all. If practicing yoga poses does not appeal to you but you are interested in other paths to enlightenment, perhaps a different form of yoga is the right path for you.

Hatha is an easy-to-learn basic form of yoga that has become very popular the world over. Hatha Yoga is the foundation of all Yoga styles. It incorporates *asanas*, *pranayama* (regulated breathing), meditation (*dharana* and *dhyana*) and *kundalini* (Laya Yoga) into a complete system that can be used to achieve enlightenment or self-realisation. It has become very popular as a

Health Benefits of Yoga

- **Stress reduction** - With its quiet, precise movements, yoga draws your focus away from your busy, chaotic day and toward calm as you move your body through poses that require balance and concentration.
- **Increased fitness** - As you learn and refine new poses, you may enjoy improved balance, flexibility, range of motion and strength. And this means you're less likely to injure yourself in other physical endeavours or in your daily activities.
- **Management of chronic health conditions** - Yoga might help with a variety of health conditions, such as cancer, depression, pain, anxiety and insomnia, by helping with sleep problems, fatigue and mood. Yoga can also help reduce heart rate and blood pressure.



● **Weight loss** - If you're overweight or have binge-eating disorder, yoga may help you make the healthy lifestyle changes necessary to gain control of your eating and drop those extra pounds.

source of exercise and stress management. The ideal way to practice the Hatha Yoga poses is to approach the practice session in a calm, meditative mood. Sit quietly for a few moments, then begin the series slowly, with control and grace, being inwardly aware as the body performs the various poses selected for the practice session. Do not overdo the *asanas* or try to compete with others. Take it easy and enjoy.

Ashtanga (or Astanga) Yoga is the name given to the system of yoga

taught by Sri K. Pattabhi Jois. This style of yoga is physically demanding as it involves synchronising breathing with a progressive and continuous series of postures—a process producing intense internal heat and a profuse, purifying sweat that detoxifies muscles and organs. The result is improved circulation, flexibility, stamina, a light and strong body and a calm mind. Ashtanga is an athletic yoga practice and is not for beginners.

Iyengar Yoga, developed by yoga master B.K.S. Iyengar more than 60 years ago, promotes strength, flexibility, endurance and balance through coordinated breathing and poses that require precise body alignment. The poses are generally held longer than in other styles of yoga. In Iyengar, you slowly move into a pose, hold it for a minute or so, and then rest for a few breaths before stretching into another. Equipment like cushions, blankets, straps, and blocks to help the less flexible also distinguishes Iyengar

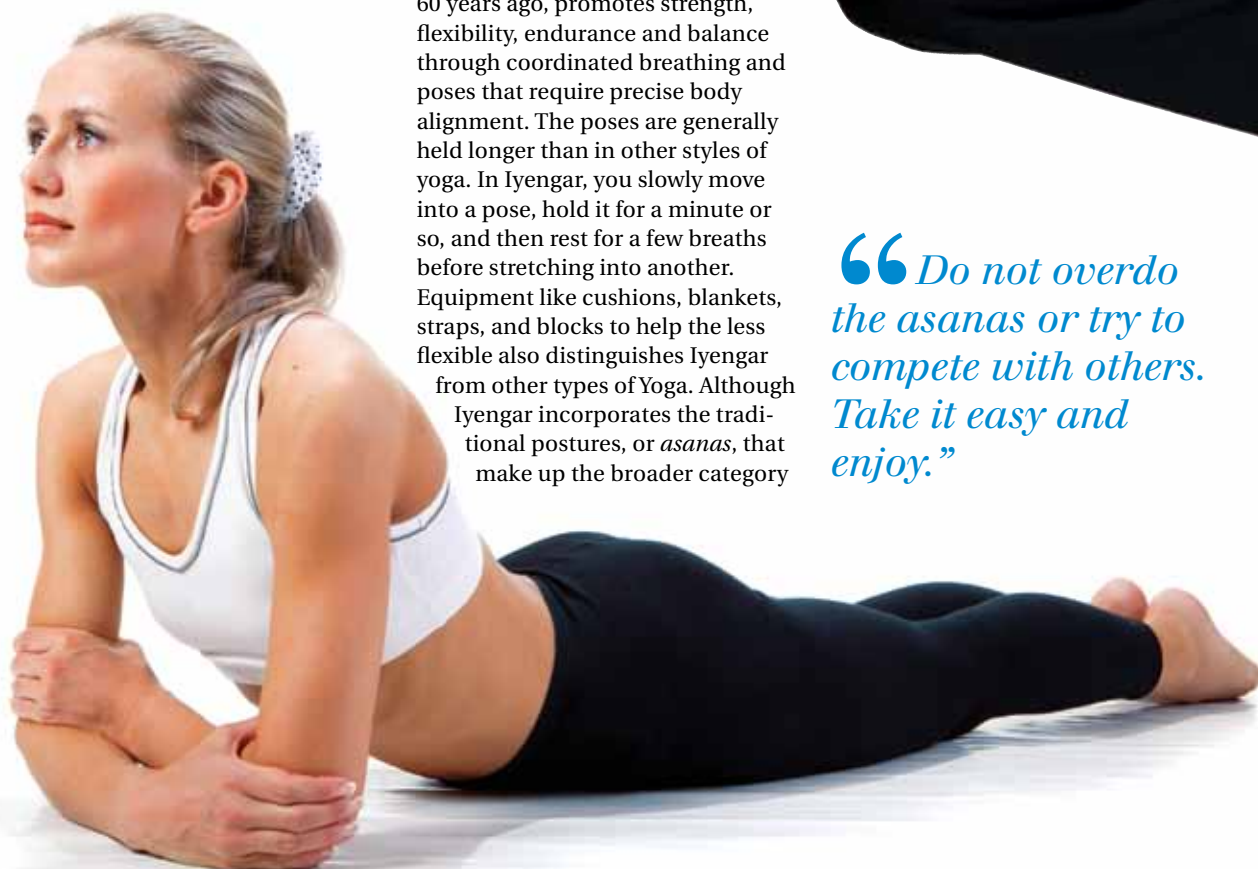
from other types of Yoga. Although Iyengar incorporates the traditional postures, or *asanas*, that make up the broader category

of Hatha Yoga, the cushions and other props revolutionised Yoga by enabling everyone—even the elderly, sick and disabled—to practice. Because of its slow pace, attention to detail, and use of props, Iyengar Yoga can be especially good if you're recovering from an injury. Iyengar remains one of the most popular types of Yoga taught today. ●

YOGA OFFERS IMPROVED CIRCULATION, FLEXIBILITY, STAMINA AND STRENGTH



“Do not overdo the *asanas* or try to compete with others. Take it easy and enjoy.”



Fairest of them all

Evil griminess teamed with majestic beauty make *Mirror Mirror* a fun family flick.



to teach her everything she needs to know, he decides to remarry. The king is bewitched by the dazzling beauty and charm of a woman—the Evil Queen (Julia Roberts) compliments herself plenty—and they wed. But a dark magic sweeps the land and the king is forced to leave and save his kingdom, never to be seen or heard from again.

The Evil Queen tries to keep the girl at bay, safely tucked away in the castle. But the Evil Queen knows that there will come a time when Snow must do what snow does best—fall.

Roberts is riveting as the Evil Queen. Even though the movie is not really her story, she manages to make it all about her and she pulls it off remarkably.

Whenever she's on screen, she dominates—be it with her charm or uncanny ability to fool you with an innocent-looking smile.

The rest of the cast, even Snow White (Lily Collins), do very well with the characters they're given. Acting-wise, *Mirror Mirror* is simply charming and fun to watch, especially with the interactions of

Snow White with the dwarves or the Evil Queen with her minion. The in-

NEW RELEASE

When a story as legendary as *Snow White* comes to life (twice in 2012), the stakes are pretty high to make it entertaining yet keep that fairytale feel children love so much, that air of wonder, with the quiet rustle of pages for soundtrack.

This adaptation of the famous fairytale strives to balance comedy with drama—it seeks out light-hearted moments and intersperses them among the storyline's darker elements, giving a rather refreshing approach to the story we all know. There is nothing scary in *Mirror Mirror*, nothing sinister or dark, and the viewer knows it from the first few seconds of screen time. There are a few meta-jokes for the parents but nothing as transcending generational boundaries or as universal as *Shrek* or *Up*.

As Snow White grows and her father, the king, realises he is unable

Did you know?

- Saoirse Ronan was considered for the role of Snow White, but the age difference between her and Armie Hammer was too big.
- Lily Collins admitted in an interview that she originally auditioned for the role of Snow White in *Snow White and the Huntsman*, losing to Kristen Stewart.
- Throughout the film, Julia Roberts wears enormous ball gowns. On the set, her children hid underneath her skirt without anyone knowing. In between takes, Roberts had her children removed from the set because she was concerned about them hearing her "vile" dialogue.



LILY COLLINS PORTRAYS THE FAMOUS CHARACTER BEAUTIFULLY



THE FILM DELIVERS WHEN IT COMES TO AESTHETICS

interesting thing about *Mirror Mirror* is that it doesn't go along the typical Snow White storyline we all know. The whole poisoned apple storyline is downplayed, the Evil Queen doesn't want to kill Snow White because of her ethereal beauty, but because she becomes active in the affairs of the kingdom. The band of dwarves, usually thought of as kind, happy, grumpy or sleepy or whatever their names are, are not like those in director Tarsem Singh's re-imagining of the classic tale—they are a band of thieves who pry on unsuspecting strangers passing along their path. These little detours from the fairytale we've all memorised are what keep *Mirror Mirror* an interesting movie to watch.

The film doesn't fail to deliver on the promise of irresistible eye-candy with beautifully choreographed action scenes, swooping landscapes, lavish set designs, colourful costumes and fun special effects. There is some playing with the viewer's

expectations too; a monster that isn't scary for all the right reasons; a wedding dance that is a mood booster and an instant reminder of the director's Indian roots; a kiss of love, but totally reversed; a luscious red apple, but with a twist.

Mirror Mirror is a fun and entertaining movie, be it with its plentiful humour, Roberts' sarcasm, Collins' innocence or Prince Alcott's (Armie Hammer) facial expressions. As the title implies, the movie has two sides; one is comedy, the other is a fairytale and both work comfortably juxtaposed. The happy ending doesn't feel forced, the movie builds to it—what it doesn't build to, however, is the Bollywood dance scene it concludes with. But even that ridiculously out-of-place ending sequence cannot derail what is a strong movie from being bogged down.

Mirror Mirror is innocuous family entertainment with some easy laughs and pretty images, simple romance and old school adventures. ●

SILVER SCREEN

CHRIS KINSVILLE-HEYNE
FILM CRITIC



“A” for the art of Akira



Before colour films became the norm, directors needed to use the power of creative lighting in order to convey the emotion of a scene. Academy Award-winning director Akira Kurosawa had a distinctive technique. One trademark was the use of weather elements, for example, the heavy rain in the final battle in *Seven Samurai*. He dyed the rain water black with ink to achieve the effect of heavy rain, using up the entire water supply of the local area.

Other stories include reversing the flow of a stream in order to get a better visual effect, and having the roof of a house removed as he felt the roof was “unattractive”.

He was known as *Tenno*, literally “Emperor”, for his strict directing style. In the final scene in which an actor is shot by arrows, Kurosawa used real arrows shot by expert archers, landing inches from the actor's body.

His perfectionism also included costumes; he said giving an actor a new costume made the character look less authentic. He often gave his cast their costumes weeks before shooting and required them to wear them on a daily basis. In *Seven Samurai*, where most of the cast portrayed poor farmers, the actors were told to make sure the costumes were worn down and tattered before shooting started.

Bollywood news

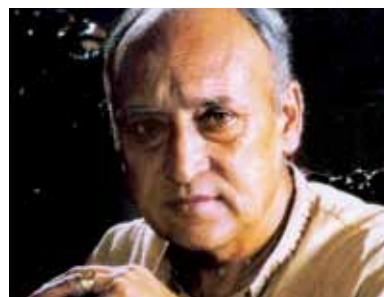
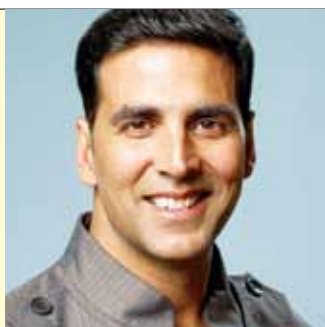


Big B to host IPL event

Even though legend Amitabh Bachchan has been avoiding any film roles or brand endorsements since his recent abdominal surgery, it seems the star simply couldn't refuse the Indian Premier League (IPL), recently revealing he will be hosting the IPL opening ceremony on April 3.

Kumar vs litter

Akshay Kumar has launched an anti-littering campaign to keep Juhu beach clean. Kumar, who lives in a sea-facing bungalow on the beach, is fed up of seeing the beach being trashed on a daily basis and swamped with garbage. The actor stated that he would personally drag littering offenders to the nearest police station.



Banerjee lashes out

Victor Banerjee has unleashed his wrath on this year's National Award jury with a torrent of furious words. His anger is directed towards the jury for rejecting the Assamese director Bidyut Kotoki's film, *As The River Flows*, in which Banerjee has a central role, for apparently not being Assamese.

Listings

THE READ. WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE MOVIES.



THE LORAX

MOVIE GUIDE

Grand Cineplex - Wafi

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Agent Vinod - 10:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30, 18:00, 19:30, 21:00, 22:30, 00:00

Battle For Terra (3D) - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00

Devil's Double - 19:15, 21:30, 23:40

Extremely Loud - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:25, 23:50

Frozen - 19:15, 21:30, 23:45

The Hunger Games - 10:40, 11:00, 12:00, 13:20, 13:40, 14:40, 16:00, 16:30, 17:20, 18:40, 19:20, 20:00, 21:20, 22:10, 22:40, 00:00, 01:20

John Carter - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55

Kahaani - 10:45, 13:15, 15:45, 18:15, 20:45, 23:15

The Lorax - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00
Mirror Mirror - 10:40, 12:50, 15:00, 17:10, 19:20, 21:30, 23:40

Grand Megaplex - Ibn Battuta

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 00:00

Act Of Valor - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Agent Vinod - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30

Battle For Terra (3D) - 11:00, 12:50, 14:40, 16:30, 18:20, 20:10, 22:00, 23:50

Devil's Double - 10:30, 12:45, 15:00,

17:20, 19:35, 21:55, 00:10

Extremely Loud - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:25, 23:50

Frozen - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45

Ghost Rider 2 - 19:40, 21:40, 23:40

The Hunger Games - 10:40, 11:20,

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John Carter - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55

Kahaani - 10:45, 13:15, 15:45, 18:15, 20:45, 23:15

The Lorax (3D) - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30

Manolete - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00,

18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Midnight in Paris - 20:30, 23:00

Mirror Mirror - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:00

Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00

Paan Singh Tomar - 12:00, 14:30, 17:00

Project X - 19:30, 21:30, 23:30

Safe House - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Tucker And Dale vs Evil - 10:20, 12:40, 15:00, 17:20

Young Adult - 10:30, 13:00, 15:30, 18:00

Grand Cinemas - Festival City

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Agent Vinod - 10:30, 13:30, 16:00, 18:40, 21:20, 00:00

Battle For Terra (3D) - 10:30, 12:15, 14:00, 15:45, 17:30

Devil's Double - 22:00, 00:00

Extremely Loud - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:25, 23:50

Frozen - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45

The Hunger Games - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 17:20, 18:40, 20:00, 21:20, 22:40, 00:00

John Carter - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55

Kahaani - 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30

The Lorax (3D) - 10:00, 11:50, 13:40, 15:30

Manolete - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Mirror Mirror - 10:40, 12:50, 15:00, 17:10, 19:20, 21:30, 23:40

Project X - 19:15, 21:30, 23:45

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Battle For Terra (3D) - 11:15, 13:00, 14:45, 16:30

Extremely Loud - 19:20, 21:50, 00:20

The Hunger Games - 10:40, 12:00, 13:20, 14:40, 16:00, 17:20, 18:40, 20:00, 21:20, 22:40, 00:00, 01:20

John Carter - 18:20, 21:00, 23:40

Kahaani - 10:45, 13:15, 15:45, 18:15, 20:45, 23:15

Mirror Mirror - 10:40, 12:50, 15:00, 17:10

Grand Mercato

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Agent Vinod - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30

Battle For Terra (3D) - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30

Extremely Loud - 18:15, 20:45, 23:15

The Hunger Games - 10:40, 12:00,

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John Carter - 18:20, 21:00, 23:40

The Lorax - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15

Mirror Mirror - 10:40, 12:50, 15:00, 17:10, 19:20, 21:30, 23:40

Vox Cinemas - Deira City Centre

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Agent Vinod - 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 13:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:45, 17:45, 18:45, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:15, 00:15

Battle For Terra (3D) - 10:15, 12:15

Frozen - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15

The Hunger Games - 10:30, 11:45,

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John Carter - 11:45, 14:30, 17:15, 20:00, 22:45

John Carter (3D) - 18:15, 21:00, 23:45

Kahaani - 12:30, 15:15, 18:00, 20:45, 23:30

La Nuit De La Glisse - 14:15, 16:15

Mirror Mirror - 11:00, 13:15, 17:30, 21:45

Project X - 10:15, 15:30, 19:45, 00:00

Vox Cinemas - Moe

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Agent Vinod - 10:15, 13:30, 16:45, 20:00, 21:00, 23:15

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 09:45, 11:45

Battle For Terra (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15

Extremely Loud - 12:00, 14:45, 17:30, 20:15, 23:00

Frozen - 13:45, 15:45, 17:45, 19:45, 21:45, 23:45

The Hunger Games - 10:30, 11:30, 13:15, 14:30, 16:15, 17:30, 18:00, 19:15, 20:30, 22:15, 23:30, 00:15

John Carter (3D) - 09:45, 12:30, 15:15, 18:15, 21:00, 22:30, 23:45

La Nuit De La Glisse - 16:30, 18:30, 20:30

The Lorax (3D) - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30

Mirror Mirror - 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 20:45, 23:00

Project X - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Vox Cinemas - Mirdif City



THE HUNGER GAMES

SCHEDULE CORRECT AT TIME OF
GOING TO PRESS; HOWEVER, PLEASE
NOTE THAT THEATRES CAN CHANGE
SCHEDULES WITHOUT NOTICE



AGENT VINOD

Centre

A Thousand Words - 10:00, 10:45, 12:45, 14:45, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Agent Vinod - 10:15, 13:30, 16:45, 20:00, 22:00, 23:15
Battle For Terra (3D) - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00
Extremely Loud - 12:00, 14:45, 17:30, 20:15, 23:00
The Hunger Games - 10:00, 11:30, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00, 17:30, 19:00, 20:30, 22:15, 23:30
John Carter - 10:15, 13:00
John Carter (3D) - 18:30, 21:15, 00:00
La Nuit De La Glisse - 14:30, 16:30
The Lorax (3D) - 10:30, 12:30
Mirror Mirror - 16:45, 19:00, 21:15, 23:30
Project X - 15:45, 17:45, 19:45, 21:45, 23:45

22:50, 23:50
John Carter - 12:25, 15:20, 18:20, 21:20, 00:20
John Carter (3D) - 11:35, 14:25, 17:25, 20:25, 23:25
Kahaani - 21:25, 00:15
The Lorax - 11:10, 13:20, 15:35, 17:50, 20:05, 22:20, 00:40
Manolete - 20:10, 22:15, 00:35
Midnight in Paris - 14:10, 16:20, 18:30, 21:30, 00:10
Mirror Mirror - 12:15, 14:45, 17:15, 19:45, 22:15, 00:45
Project X - 13:50, 15:50, 17:50, 19:50, 21:50, 23:50
Safe House - 19:35, 22:00, 00:35
The Secret World Of Arrietty - 14:00, 16:10
This Means War - 19:00, 21:20, 23:45
Tucker And Dale vs Evil - 19:25, 21:25, 23:35
We Bought A Zoo - 14:25, 17:00

Reel Cinemas - Dubai Mall

5 Days of War - 11:25, 13:50, 16:25, 19:00
A Thousand Words - 18:20, 20:30, 22:40, 00:55
Act Of Valor - 14:00, 16:30
Agent Vinod - 11:00, 14:20, 17:30, 20:40, 00:05
Battle For Terra (3D) - 11:45, 13:45, 15:50, 18:05
Devil's Double - 24:25, 16:45, 19:05, 21:25, 23:55
El Markab - 14:35, 17:00
Extremely Loud - 11:15, 13:45, 16:25, 19:05, 21:40, 00:25
Frozen - 11:50, 13:55, 16:00, 18:05, 20:10, 22:25, 00:40
The Hunger Games - 11:00, 13:55, 14:20, 16:50, 17:55, 19:50, 20:50,

Reel Cinemas - Marina Mall

A Thousand Words - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:40
Extremely Loud - 11:05, 13:45, 16:25, 19:05, 21:50, 00:30
John Carter - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
John Carter (3D) - 18:45, 21:45, 00:45
The Lorax (3D) - 11:55, 14:15, 16:30
Project X - 11:20, 13:20, 15:20, 17:20, 19:20, 21:20, 23:30
This Means War - 17:25, 19:30, 21:40, 00:05
We Bought A Zoo - 12:15, 14:50

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
EMAIL EDITORIAL@README.AE

What's happening this week in Dubai



www.dubaicalendar.ae



The Desert Monologues acting workshop for adults



Display your acting talent through The Desert Monologues' acting workshops.

Date: March 15 - April 28
Duration: 1 month 15 days
Audience: Adults
Category: Arts and culture
Venue: DUCTAC
Admission: Dh1,500
Telephone: 050 986 1761

Art Week 2012

Take in some culture and art during the annual Art Week held in the Gulf region.
Date: March 15 - 25
Duration: 11 days
Audience: Public
Category: Arts and culture, festivals
Telephone: 04 384 2000



Dubai Marina Street Festival

The Dubai Marina street festival welcomes the world's best street theatre artists to the Dubai Marina Mall.
Date: March 22 - 31
Duration: 10 days
Audience: Public
Category: Entertainment, festivals
Venue: The Promenade, Dubai Marina Mall
Admission: Free
Telephone: 04 309 7947



SIKKA 2012

An artist-led fair of commissioned work in the heart of Dubai.
Date: March 15 - 25
Duration: 11 days
Audience: Public
Category: Arts and Culture
Venue: Bastakiya, Old Town
Telephone: 04 384 2000

Dubai World Cup 2012

Join the fun and excitement at the Dubai World Cup 2012.
Date: March 31
Duration: 1 day
Timings: 4:30pm
Audience: Public
Category: Sports
Venue: Meydan Racecourse
Admission: Buy tickets online
Telephone: 04 327 0077



World Arab Boxing Championship Dubai 2012



Watch the toughest boxing champions around the world compete for the prestigious World Arab Boxing Championship title.
Date: March 31 - April 1
Duration: 2 days
Timings: 6:30pm
Audience: Public
Category: Sports
Venue: Dubai Aviation Club - Tennis Stadium
Admission: Bronze Dh200, Silver Dh300, Gold Dh500
Telephone: 050 717 5684

Meet my little brother



★★★★★ It seems as if Mercedes simply put a shrink ray to the SL to create the SLK, but this is no bad thing at all.

You've got to feel a bit sorry for small convertible cars. Despite the best attempts of all the manufacturers, the small, two-seater roofless sports car always seems to get labelled as a "girl's car", or the more unfortunate term of a "hairdresser's car". Not that there's anything wrong with hairdressers, most of whom according to the myth seem to have excellent taste in cars.

Cars such as the Z4, Porsche Boxster and a whole dearth of French folding tin tops have suffered from this often unwarranted label. Even the normally untouchable Ferrari, which usually seem immune from any kind of automotive criticism, has found its California labelled as "a bit soft" and "too girly".

But it wasn't always like this. When the British ruled the sports car market, two-seater Morgans, Triumphs and

Healeys were the stuff of roguish males, quick with wit and a keen eye for the ladies. The girly badge seems to have only come about ironically after women started buying nice cars for themselves.

But it isn't all set in stone. Mercedes seems to have come up with a neat solution to the problem. Rather than produce a model destined to be bought by a large number of the fairer sex, the German giant simply took its top-of-the-range SL and pointed a shrink ray at it. The result is the new SLK, which, unlike its very girly predecessors, actually looks like a tough, muscular, soft-top GT.

From a distance, your average man in the street will struggle to tell the two apart. It's only as you get closer that you realise that this is a far smaller car than its sister model. It has the same angry nose, pumped

up sides and svelte rear end. Just like the SL, the SLK really is a very good-looking car.

In the eyes of many, Mercedes is currently building some of the best-looking cars it's ever produced and the SLK looks set to continue in this well-tapped vein.

Inside, the cabin is tight,

“In the eyes of many, Mercedes is currently building some of the best-looking cars it's ever produced.”



5.6

The number of seconds it takes for the nippy SLK to reach 100 km/h.

current Mercedes, in the wrong place, as you find yourself switching it on, rather than indicating. This can lead to some interesting moments, as you brake for a corner. The gearbox also takes some getting used to, especially when shifting into reverse. These few niggles aside, the interior is very user-friendly.

On the move, just as with all smaller Mercedes, the car can only truly be enjoyed in 'sport'. In 'economy' mode, it's sluggish and unresponsive. Press the 'S' button and it all comes together. You'd only really use the other setting in the wet (not exactly much use in the UAE) or on a long highway drive.

The roof itself artfully folds itself away in seconds and leaves you with an airy but long-slung, open-top cabin. It can be a little blustery at highway speeds, but then that wind-in-the-hair experience is all part of the fun.

It's hard to find much to fault with the SLK, apart from the few niggles already mentioned. But these are more Mercedes traits than SLK traits. The car is great fun to drive, has a great interior and looks amazing.

The main question the SLK poses is, "Does anybody really need an SLK?" ●

but beautifully crafted and the seats grip you without being too race-bred, a term often used to disguise the word "uncomfortable".

The dash is really well laid out and thankfully hooking up your phone to the Bluetooth system is one of the easiest you're likely to encounter. The cruise control stalk is, as with all

SPECS
(as tested)
Engine: 3.5-litre V6
Power: 306hp@6,500 rpm
Torque: 225Nm@6,500 rpm
0-100km/h: 5.6 seconds
Top speed: 250 km/h (Limited)
Price: Dhs250,000 (as tested)

THE CABIN IS VERY WELL LAID OUT

Six continents collide in the sands

RALLYING

The 2012 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge (March 30 to April 6) is set to feature an even more varied line-up than ever before, with some 35 different nationalities and a record number of female competitors signed up to tackle the towering dunes and spectacular terrain of the formidable Liwa Desert.

Among the contestants battling it out across the breathtaking dunes and stunning scenery of the Empty Quarter, there will once again be a strong contingent from right across the Middle East. Notably, the UAE's entrants include two of the region's most famous rally drivers, Sheikh Abdullah Al Qassimi and 2004 FIA World Cup champion Khalifa Al-Mutaiwei.

Al-Mutaiwei, who recently an-



nounced his return to international cross-country rallying after an eight-year absence, will race with the cele-

brated German X-Raid team. Another of the region's most experienced rally drivers, Sheikh Abdullah Al Qassimi,

will take on the Desert Challenge in a Powertech Buggy, having claimed podium places for the past two years in the Middle East Rally Championship.

During the challenge, competitors face two days of documentation and scrutinising before a Super Special Stage which decides the starting order. Competitors then brave the Liwa Desert and the Moreeb area of the Empty Quarter for five days.

This year it serves as the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship season-opener and the second round of the FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup. It offers spectators unrivalled free access to top-class motorsport in a number of breathtaking settings, with dedicated, easy-to-access viewing points in the beautiful desert of Al Gharbia.

The boss from hell

Unfortunately, there are some bosses out there who drive their employees to the brink. Are you dealing with one?



WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD BOSS?

CAREER ADVICE

Conflict between a boss and an employee can be both exhausting and intimidating, yet it is bound to happen in any workplace. Difficult bosses vary in personality from being somewhat controlling and aggressive to being straight up abusive. The way employees handle their difficult bosses may determine their position in the company as well as their long term career success. Akhtaboot presents four types of difficult bosses and the way to deal with each one of them.

The Control Freak

Control freak bosses always consider themselves to be overwhelmed and burdened with the task of protecting the ungrateful world from their own mistakes. They are convinced that no one can do things the right way unless they dictate the exact steps of doing it. Their behaviour is definitely annoying, yet confronting them would only make the situation even worse. A good way to deal with a control freak boss would be to reassure him that you are taking your tasks seriously, and that

he can count on you in handling your own responsibilities effectively and efficiently. Hand over all your deliverables on time and make sure not to miss out on any single detail.

The Absent Boss

If you rarely see your boss and most of your conversations with him are a quick chat in the hallway, then most probably you are dealing with an absent boss. The worst part about working with an absent boss is that he is rarely aware of the problems caused by his absence. Absent bosses are rarely present when their approval is required or when a procedure is unclear and their guidance is needed. The secret to getting your boss's attention is stressing the importance of your work and how your boss's input is crucial to the project at hand. Once you get his attention, talk in headlines by summing up what decisions he needs to make or directions he needs to give.

The Whip Cracker

Most whip crackers are workaholics who don't have a life and they assume

that their employees don't have a life either. They push their employees to the extreme and are never satisfied with their output. They think that employees are irresponsible slaves who wouldn't want to work unless they are forced to do so. In order to get the whip cracker off your back, work hard and do not let your work go unnoticed. Demand acknowledgment by showing initiative and introducing new ideas that would benefit the firm. Show your boss that you consider yourself a partner of the firm rather than an employee who only works for a living.

The Busy Boss

This type of boss is always impatient with lots of things on his mind, yet he respects all of his employees. He expects everything to be done the instant he asks for it. He may not be fully focused when talking to him and may even surprise you with a "you didn't tell me that" the next day. When talking to this type of boss, try to repeat important issues and make sure that he has grasped it and agreed to it by asking: "so this is what we have agreed

“Show your boss that you consider yourself a partner of the firm rather than an employee who only works for a living.”

upon, right?”. Moreover, keep evidence of your communications by sending official emails about each decision taken by you or your boss.

It is often said that people do not quit a job, they quit a boss. While it is frustrating to work with one of the above bosses, it's quite possible to be able to manage your relationship with them so that none of you would kill the other. Always remember that your boss is someone who is highly experienced with a lot of wisdom to share on how to reach the position he is in now. Keep in mind that bosses aren't from another planet, although sometimes they may seem to be! ●

Post-it

To place your ad please email
advertising@readme.ae

JOBS AVAILABLE

Female telemarketer staff required for an insurance company in Dubai. Indians only. Good salary package. Call 0507369196/email farha@ngiuae.com.

Sales executive urgently required for an insurance company. Male/female. Full/part-time, any nationality. Salary 3000AED+ commission, visa provided. Call 0509744836.

Waitress required for a full-time job. Filipinas only. Restaurant located next to Crowne Plaza Hotel on Sheikh Zayed Road. Call 3329800/Email kodakphotofst@yahoo.com.

Administrative assistant required for a company. Filipinas only. Should have 1-2 yrs experience. Call 0508836076.

Marketing executive required for a leading transport company. Should be ambitious, career oriented individual and experienced in the marketing field. Send CV with attached photo to azimuomer@gmail.com.

Marketing researcher required for a British MNC. Thai, Portuguese and Afrikaans speakers only. Email CV with photo to arya.vijayan@listerpettergroup.com.

Commissioned engineer required for a leading ship-building company. Should have minimum 2 yrs experience. Send CV to bagya@hineright.com.

GP doctor with DHA licence required for a well established polyclinic in Deira, Dubai. Attractive salary and benefits. Call 0557100542/email sanjaydoc@yhoo.com.

Lab technician with DHA licence required for a well established polyclinic in Deira, Dubai. Should have experience. Call 0557100542/email sanjaydoc@yhoo.com.

2 Filipina females, video editor/IT required for company. Experience in editing/EDIUS software is a must. Send CV to jewel@aecdubai.com/call 043518840.

Light vehicle driver urgently required for a company in Al Quoz. Must have a valid UAE licence. Send CV to rajan.mathew@ase.ae.

JOBS WANTED

Indian male seeks job. 5+ yrs experience in retail industry as sales assistant. Owns UAE driving licence. Call 0551663540/email avtarsingh090@yahoo.com.

Male, MBA, BCom seeks job in accounting/ administration. 3 yrs experience in Dubai. Call 0558476954/email hakkeem1985@gmail.com.

Indian male, B.Tech seeks full-time job. 4 yrs experience. Skilled in VB.Net, MS-Office MS-SQL, MacroMedia Flash. Call 0555420693/email Hashimit03@gmail.com.

Male, 30, MBS, BCom seeks job. 5+ yrs experience in basic accounts. Familiar with all accounts software. Call 0557974708/email wwwtipuuk@live.com.

Pakistani, male 27, LLB, MBA and BBA seeks job. 5 yrs experience in banking/ operation/customer service/management/administration and marketing experience. Call 0552825289/email asfandyarmemon@hotmail.com.

Graphic designer seeks part-time job. Proficient in Illustrator, Corel Draw, Photoshop, etc. Familiar with graphic de-

signing, artworks and drawing, etc. Call 0556886265/email mahenkevin30_5@yahoo.com.

Male, DAE & B.Tech electronics engineer seeks job in UAE. 3 yrs experience. Call 0558443510.

Filipina, registered pharmacist seeks job. 5+ yrs experience in retail and hospital pharmacy. Call 0557065425/email dianadancel98@yahoo.com.

Ethiopian male seeks job. 3 yrs experience as a sales representative in an electronics company. Owns UAE driving licence. Email meteka_mamo@yahoo.com/call 0553375124.

IT Professional seeks job. 10 yrs experience in the same field. Call 0552065773.

Filipino seeks job as storekeeper, helper in fashion industry or music shop. Speaks Italian, can read French. Fluent in English. 4 yrs experience in Dubai. Knowledgeable in music and can play instruments. Email dogsofmay1634@yahoo.com.

Male, B.Tech (IT) with degree seeks job. Young and energetic. Call 0501763176/043377273/email jinuroy23@gmail.com.

Indian male, MCom + GNIIT seeks jobs in financial accounting. 8+ yrs experience. Call 0557592158/email saijuthomas@hotmail.com.

Mechanical engineer seeks job. 8 yrs experience in the automobile industry and the engineering industry. Call 0557341920/0505049629.

Indian male seeks job as admin/accounts assistant/cashier/counter staff/salesman. 10+ yrs experience. Excellent knowledge in computers. Fluent in English and Hindi. On visit visa. Call 050 3218986/email pjaghosh@yahoo.com.

Indian pharmacist, BSc/ diploma in pharmacy seeks job. 5 yrs experience in chain of Naft Pharmacies (SITCO Pharma Ltd). Email irfaneforts@gmail.com/call 0559083357.

Driver seeks job. 7+ yrs experience. Fluent in English and Hindi. Call 0503154869/email gopalpriya312@gmail.com.

Female professor, MSc - Zoology/MEd seeks job in the education sector. 10 yrs experience working as biology professor. Email marketingbd@gmail.com /Call 0503767204.

Keralite male, BCom seeks job. 20 yrs experience in admin, secretarial, HR & coordination field. Holds valid UAE driving licence. Call 0552997925.

Male accountant seeks job in accounts. Experienced. Holds valid UAE driving licence. Email burjmail@gmail.com.

IT technical/staff seeks job. 10 yrs experience in IT. Call 0552065773/website www.jotalz.webs.com.

AUTO

Lexus LX570, 2012 model for sale. White, leather interior. 1,000km. 20" wheels, full options. Five years dealer warranty. Price 390,000AED. Call 0504519921.

ITEMS

Items for sale: Double Bed 120"200, for 350AED, Samsung fridge 450 ltrs, for 500AED, gas cylinder with gas stove, for 250AED. Nikai washing machine, for 250AED. All in good condition. Call 0505174357.

Items for sale: Samsung fridge 450 ltrs, for 500AED. Double bed 120"200 with medical mattress for 350AED. Washing machine Nikai, 6.6kg for 250AED. Gas cylinder 75% gas/stove for 300AED. Carpet for 75AED. New comforter for 50AED. Call 0554658779.

Brand new cellphone E-6 available for sale. Silver colour. Barely used. Still in good condition. Call 0559389426.

SERVICES

Travel booking services available. With big discounts to any country. Call 0502758380.

Car lift services available in 4-wheel drive. All mornings beginning at Al Ghurair Centre near Union metro station to Dubai Mall, Al Barsha, Al Quoz, MOE. One way only. Fridays anywhere in Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, etc. Call 0559083357.

Home tutoring lessons available to GV classes. Can teach English, Math, Science, Hindi, Economics and Business Management. With experienced Indian female teacher. Call 0509412332.

Car lift services available from Sharjah to various locations. Call 0552579644.

MISCELLANEOUS

Visa assistance for Kabayans. 1 month and 2 months tourist/visit visa. Installments accepted. For more information call 0501149849/email travelasia43@yahoo.com.

Free for life credit card available. Salary should be 6k and above. Call 0504660164.

ACCOMMODATION

Fully furnished 1 bed room flat available for rent. South Indian families only. In Yarmook, Sharjah near Gold Center. Call 0559279691.

Shared furnished accommodation available for rent. Keralite Muslim families only. Starting from April 15. Near Al Futtaim Mosque, Naif Road, Deira. Call 0554797874.

Four big bedrooms in villa available for rent. With attached bathroom. Keralites only. Near Rashidiya metro station. Rent for 1900AED including DEWA. Call 0552137341.

Bed space available for rent. Kabayans only. Male/Female. Near Karama metro station. For 400AED excluding DEWA. Free internet and TFC. Call 0507076397.

3 furnished bed spaces available for rent in a prime location of Meena Bazaar, Bur Dubai. With Wi-Fi and basic facilities. Call 0503786840.

Furnished single room available for rent. With kitchen/attached bathroom. Muslim families/couples only. Near Al Qusais metro station including DEWA. Rent 1750AED. Call 0505174357.

Room wanted: Indian married male looking for available room in Al Barsha or Al Khail Gate, Al Quoz for no more than 1500AED. Call 0559265403/0561469296.

Bed space available for rent. Executive Keralite bachelors only. Near Al Rigga and Salah Al Din metro station. Walking distance to metro. To be shared with 4/5 people in room. Internet, washing machine, balcony accessible. Call 0557944754/0558067607.

Bed space wanted: Bachelor Keralite male urgently looking for available room in Al Quoz area. Call 0553420442.

2 bed spaces available for rent. Tamil Muslims only. Spacious studio flat. 5 beds in total. On Naif road, Deira near Khalid masjid. Internet connection also available. Call 0555534303/0505534303.

Single furnished room in villa available for rent. With attached bathroom/kitchen, near Al Qusais metro station. Rent for 1750AED. Free DEWA + Wi-Fi. Call 0554658779.

2 bed spaces available for rent. Spacious room with attached bathroom/kitchen. Kabayan ladies only. In Satwa, behind Carrefour, opposite Al Hanaa Center. Call 0505562743/0509236408/0509722731.

Shared accommodation available for rent. To be shared with single family. Executive ladies/ bachelors only. Near Khalid Bin Waleed metro station. Call 0507981219.

Shoreline apartment in Palm Jumeirah, Al Kudrawi Building available for rent. Fully furnished. Maid's room + Laundry + Balcony. Area: 2,250 sq.ft. Direct access to the beach and pool, gym, bar restaurant. For 190,000AED (Three cheques). Call 0509910434.

2 family rooms available for rent. Filipino couple only. In Rashidiya, next to police station. Call 0502447427 or 0505653934.

Room available for rent. Filipinos only. In Al Khail Gate, Phase 2, Al Quoz. Call 0505097432/0508739204.

Furnished single room available for rent. Arab ladies only. In Nahda 2 behind Zulekha Hospital. Call 0501145955.

Furnished bed space available for rent. Keralites only. Near Business Bay metro station. To be shared with 3. With attached bath/kitchen. Car parking, Internet facilities. Call 0555172163.

Partitioned room available for rent. Filipinas only. Near Jesco supermarket Al-Baraha. Rent for 1,050AED including DEWA/Internet. Call 0501619265.

Bed space available for rent. In Satwa near bus station. Rent includes DEWA/ Gas/Internet. Call 0556932581.

Bed space available for rent. South Indian bachelors only. Near Naif Park and Baniyas Square metro station. Internet/ Wi-Fi facilities. Call 0505793940.

Bed space available for rent. Filipinas only. Muteena, Deira, next to bus stop and metro. To be shared with 4. Rent for 650AED + DEWA/Wi-Fi. Call 0502248673.

Bed space available for rent. Kabayan females only. In Al Manama, Sunrise and Lulu hypermarket area. Walking distance to metro station. For 400AED with Free Wi-Fi and TFC. Call 0559294435.

Single room available for rent. Filipinos only. On Rigga St., near Rigga metro station. Free TFC and Wi-Fi. Call 0551748238/0566983769.

Bed space available for rent. Tamil executive bachelors only. In Al Murar, Deira, Dubai. With attached bathroom. Internet, kitchen facilities. Call 0559975439.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Executive, bachelors only. Furnished with all facilities. Near Satwa bus stop. Rent 500AED + DEWA. Call 0502674594/0508787695.

Two bed spaces available for rent. With attached bathroom & kitchen. For Kabayan ladies only. In Satwa, behind Carrefour, opposite Al Hanaa Center. Call 0505562743/0509236408/0509722731.

Bed space available for rent. Keralite ex. bachelors only. Near Al Rigga/Salah Al Din metro station. Internet, kitchen also available. Rent 520/-AED + DEWA. Call 0557017625.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Keralite bachelors only. Starting from April 1st onwards. Reasonable rent including all facilities. In Deira, behind Maktoum Hospital. Call 0506746715.

Bed space available for rent. Indian bachelors only. Near Al Rigga metro station. With attached bath & kitchen. Rent 350AED/- including DEWA & Internet. Call 0505649602/0552210972.

Furnished spacious room available for sale. With separate bathroom. Single/couple, Indian ladies only. In Karama close to metro station. Call 0552348164/0505743656.

Furnished bed space available for rent. Young Indian executive bachelors only. In Al Baraha, Deira. Call 0509147081.

Fully furnished accommodation available for rent. Indian Keralite family only. In Deira near the fish roundabout area. Call 0504958777.

Furnished bed space available for rent. Filipinas only. At Jamal Abdul Naseer street, Sharjah, opposite Megamart supermarket. For 400AED/- . Call 0557647469.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Indian working ladies only. Near Emirates Driving School in Al Qusais. With attached bathroom. Call 0557156378/0509563816.

Two bed spaces available for rent. Female Kabayans only. To be shared with 3 other males. 400AED including DEWA. Bring your own mattress. Near Almaya-Satwa. Call 0556414891/0559691259.

Bed space available for rent. Indian bachelors only. At Al Qusais, behind Dubai Grand Hotel, walking distance to metro station. Free parking/Wi-Fi and kitchen facilities. Call 0551385164.

Single room in villa available for rent. Kabayans only. With attached bathroom. Near Rashidiya metro station. For 2,200AED. Free DEWA + Internet. Call 0559789858.

Fully furnished room available for rent. In Karama, opposite Karama Center. Call 0509615357. Beginning: April 1st. Email santhosheaimpallil@gmail.com.

Single room available for rent. In Al Khail Gate, Phase 2, Al Quoz. Filipinos only. Call 0505097432/0508739204.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Indian couple only. Near Emirates Driving School at Al Qusais. (Bedroom with attached bathroom). Call 0557156378/0509563816.

Bed space available for rent. Indian bachelors only. In Al Qusais, behind Dubai Grand Hotel; walking distance to metro station. Free car parking, Wi-Fi, and kitchen facility. Call 0551385164.

Rooms available for rent. Kabayans only. Beginning of March, near Asiana Hotel, Deira, Salahuddin road. W/Internet/orbit. Call 0555991354/0502878263.

Bed space available for rent. Kabayan female couples only. Near Al Maya, Satwa. 400AED including DEWA. To be shared with three other males. Bring own mattress. Call/Text 055969125.

Bed space/room available for rent. Indian bachelors only. Near Airport Free zone metro station, Al Qusais. With attached bath, central AC+ Wi-Fi. Gym, s/ pool facilities. Call 0551385164.

Veteran employees honoured

Mattar Al Tayer decorates long-serving Dubai Government employees for their meritorious service.



MATTAR AL TAYER STANDS WITH EMPLOYEES WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HONOURS

Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, recently decorated 530 employees who have spent a long time in serving the Dubai Government, including 18 public service veterans who have spent more than 30 years in government service. An event to recognise the efforts and contribution of these individuals in serving the nation over these long years was held in the RTA Auditorium, and attended by RTA CEOs, directors and employees.

Honourees included Ismail Juma Kamal and Baha Uddin Parker Shakeel, who have spent more than 36 years in the service of the Dubai Government. Also decorated were 16 employees whose service duration exceeded 30 years, namely Abdul Salam Amir Bakhsh Miah, Abdul Rahim Tawfiq Kandil, Magdi Abdel Hamid Soliman, Faisal Abdul Qadir Mahmoud, Mohammad Ali Taha, Pelakato Bayour Kutan, Saranj Abdul Majeed Khan, Rajae Abdul Jawad Mahmoud, Mohammed Kamel Albohi, Ghulam Abbas Ghulam, Nadim Caesar Nazar, Ahmed Abbas Al Baluchi, Muhammad Abdullah Ali, Ali Muhammad Ali Al Shammar, Ibrahim Mohammed Al Khamis, and Rida Abdul Rahim Abu Al Hassan. Also featuring in the list of honourees were seven employees who have spent more than 25 years in service, 25 employees who spent more than 20 years in service, 92 staff members who have served more than 15 years, and 388 employees whose service exceeded 10 years.

Al Tayer hailed the meritorious services rendered by the long-serving employees during their period of service at the Dubai Government; where they experienced the early days of the comprehensive development process seen by the emirate, and made huge efforts culminating in several achievements.

"The RTA sets at the forefront of its priority list the career progression of its employees, which is being incorporated into the RTA's strategic objectives, i.e. making the RTA the first choice of qualified human resources. This can be achieved through developing and implementing comprehensive HR policies and legislations to upgrade employee competencies in core jobs, adopting measures to upgrade employee capabilities, attracting and honing the skills of excellent-performing and competent employees, improving the working environment and employee services, upgrading systems to attain

the required job satisfaction, and instituting a comprehensive system for motivating employees to do more and achieve excellence.

"Employees are the most important asset of the RTA and, in this regard, several initiatives have been initiated by the RTA to upgrade its human resources. These include the Qiyadi programme for developing the second and third line of managers, the career path planning programme, the planning of personnel development programme, the knowledge transfer programme, the fresh graduates development programme, the employee honouring and motivating programme (Tamayyaz system), the employee on-job-training and rotation programme, and the identification of talents and transitional training programme. The RTA also instituted the revised employee performance management system, and mapped out the competence frameworks in

the fields of selection, development and progression. It also undertook a programme for training engineers at the British Institute of Civil Engineers to groom them for full membership of the institute, and the programme was kick-started by eight engineers, five from the Rail Agency and three from the Strategic Planning Department, and engineers are currently being assessed to identify the sort of training they need to obtain membership at the institute. Besides that, managers are being qualified and groomed in the Public Transport Agency and Rail Agency," elaborated Al Tayer.

Al Tayer called on the honourees to do more for the development drive and endeavour to bring about a quality shift in the infrastructure of the roads and transportation network in the emirate to keep pace with the comprehensive development in place, and contribute to realising the vision of our prudent government.



"Employees are the most important asset of the RTA and, in this regard, several initiatives have been initiated by the RTA."

DTC orders 200 Nissan Altimas

Dubai Taxi Corporation signs deal with Arabian Automobiles for brand new cars plus maintenance.

TAXIS

The Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) at the RTA has signed an agreement with the Arabian Automobiles Company (AAC) for the purchase of 200 brand new Nissan Altima 2.5 S cars, including maintenance, repairs and genuine spare parts supply, at a special event held in the presence of the Acting CEO of the DTC, Yousef Al Ali, Executive Director of AAC Sales and Marketing Felix Welch, AAC National Fleet Sales Manager Yousef Ali Al Raeesi, DTC Director of Resources and Support Mansour Al Falasi, DTC Director of Fleet Drivers Affairs Ammar bin Tamim, and DTC Acting Director of Fleet Operations Mohammed Yousef in addition to senior officials from both parties.

"The DTC released a tender through the Tejari.com portal for the procurement of 687 sedan cars and the Arabian Automobiles Company has submitted an offer and got an order for 200 vehicles from the tender lot. The company is considered a key supplier of taxicabs to the DTC fleet, which currently amounts to 3,504 vehicles deployed 24 hours a day,



DUBAI TAXI CORPORATION AND ARABIAN AUTOMOBILES OFFICIALS AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY

including holidays, official holidays and Islamic Eids. Currently, there are about 500 Nissan-branded vehicles on the fleet, which accounts for 14.27 per cent of the fleet," said Al Ali.

"As part of its strategic vision, the DTC is seeking to leverage the quality of its service and the facilities on offer to customers, increase operational efficiency, promote and publicise its services and initiatives, and enhance its standing among all community segments to epitomise the DTC's new

vision as pioneers in passenger transport services," he added.

"As per the contract, AAC shall provide support and technical supervision to the DTC at any time, besides the necessary training for the DTC's employees and technicians on all vehicles supplied, which includes maintaining and repairing the main parts such as engine, gearbox and differential gear, AC, repairing electrical faults, providing preventive maintenance procedures, providing the

modus operandi of vehicles supplied under this contract, maintenance and repair manuals to troubleshoot faults along with the spare parts manuals, and providing theoretical and practical training for 10 technicians at the DTC's headquarters, as per the timetable and training courses to be agreed upon. AAC shall also deliver induction courses for 20 DTC employees by delivering courses covering the basics of mechanics on the new vehicles," Al Ali explained.

New online service for vehicle transfer

VEHICLE LICENSING

The Licensing Agency at the RTA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, recently launched a new service enabling customers to process their transactions related to the transfer of vehicles within the UAE online as part of the second stage of the Online Traffic Link with the federal traffic system.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozyan, CEO of the RTA Licensing Agency, said, "The Licensing Agency is always keen on raising the bar on service offering by means of upgrading the electronic systems in place in order to save customers' time and effort in having their transactions processed in a handy and hassle-free environment.

"The new service enables customers to forego the issuance of transfer plates and suffice by the issuance of a transfer certificate, without temporary

plates as was the case before, since this service has become available to all traffic departments in the UAE, thanks to the online link with the federal traffic system. Accordingly, such vehicle plates will be abolished from the category of private plates in the emirate to which the vehicle is transferred. This improved procedure will simplify the service, slash the costs of issuing transfer plates, enable the tracking of the transaction in the traffic system, and eliminate offences reported against transfer plates," explained Bahrozyan.

"The old system applied for the processing of transactions related to vehicles transfer within the UAE required customers to obtain transfer plates from the RTA to be valid for three days only to process the transaction with the entity to which the transfer was intended to be made. Moreover, such numbers are no longer related to the



AHMED HASHIM BAHROZYAN

traffic file, which constituted a huge difficulty thwarting our efforts as to how to levy offences. Therefore, this new service is better in terms of the express processing and transparency in obtaining information.

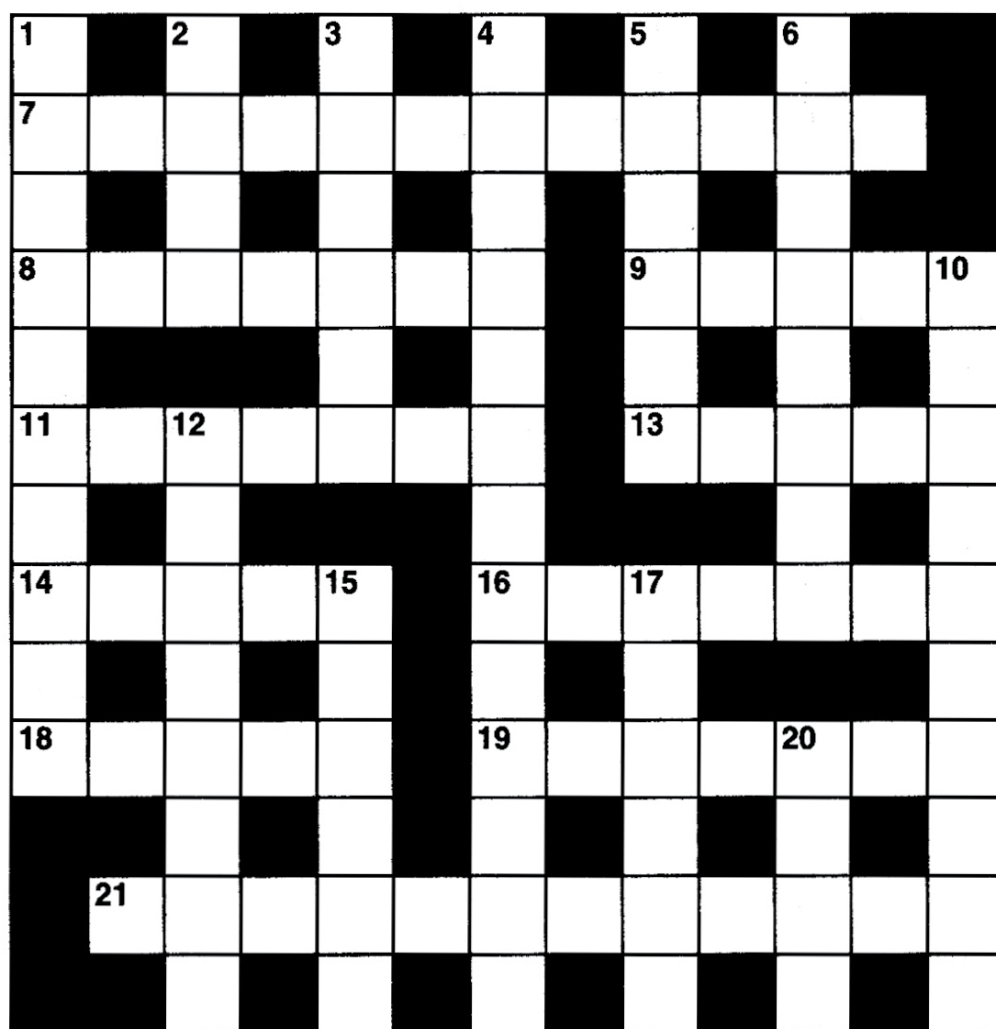
"The agency has plenty of strategic

"The agency has plenty of strategic plans mapped out for this year aimed at improving the electronics systems."

plans mapped out for this year aimed at improving the electronic systems related to customer service experience as we are aware of its importance in upgrading the business process, and keeping pace with the developments taking place in line with the highest global standards to the benefit of all stakeholders," Bahrozyan added.

Taking your time

Test your skills with our puzzles or try something new with a recipe.



Crossword

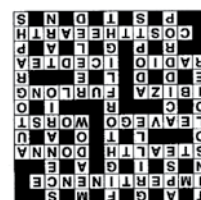
Across

7 Brazen Arrogance (12) 8 Surreptitiousness (7) 9 1972 hit for 10CC (5) 11 Release your hold (5,2) 13 Superlative of 'bad' (5) 14 Island SW of Majorca (5) 16 220 yards (7) 18 Broadcasting medium (5) 19 Chilled drink produced by Lipton (4,3) 21 Be very dear (4,3,5)

Down

1 Metal play figure (3,7) 2 Recessed arch or dome-shape (4) 3 Window grating (6) 4 Response to danger (5,2,6) 5 Unploughed field (6) 6 Projected outline of events (8) 10 Signatures collected by fans (10) 12 Confectionery item (4,4) 15 Chooses, follows (6) 17 Staggered giddily (6) 20 Mountain lake (4)

ANSWERS



Recipe

Perfect potato salad

With the BBQ season in full swing, this potato salad makes a light accompaniment to all that meat.

Ingredients

1 tbsp vinegar
2 tsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp walnut oil
1 tsp honey
Flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
900g washed new potatoes
1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon leaves
1 large shallot, finely chopped
2 tbsp chopped gherkins (optional)

Method

1. Place the measures of vinegar, mustard, oils, honey and salt and pepper into a screw-top jar or in the

bowl of a small hand blender.

Shake or blend well with a mixer until creamy. Add more seasoning to taste if preferred.

2. Cook the potatoes in boiling salted water for about 15-20 minutes until they are just tender.

Drain well and, when the potatoes are just cool enough to handle, cut them into halves, or quarters if they are quite large.

3. Place the potatoes in a mixing bowl with the tarragon, shallots, chopped gherkins (if using), and toss in as much or as little of the dressing as you choose. This dish is all about taste so don't be afraid to try before deciding whether or not

Serves
4

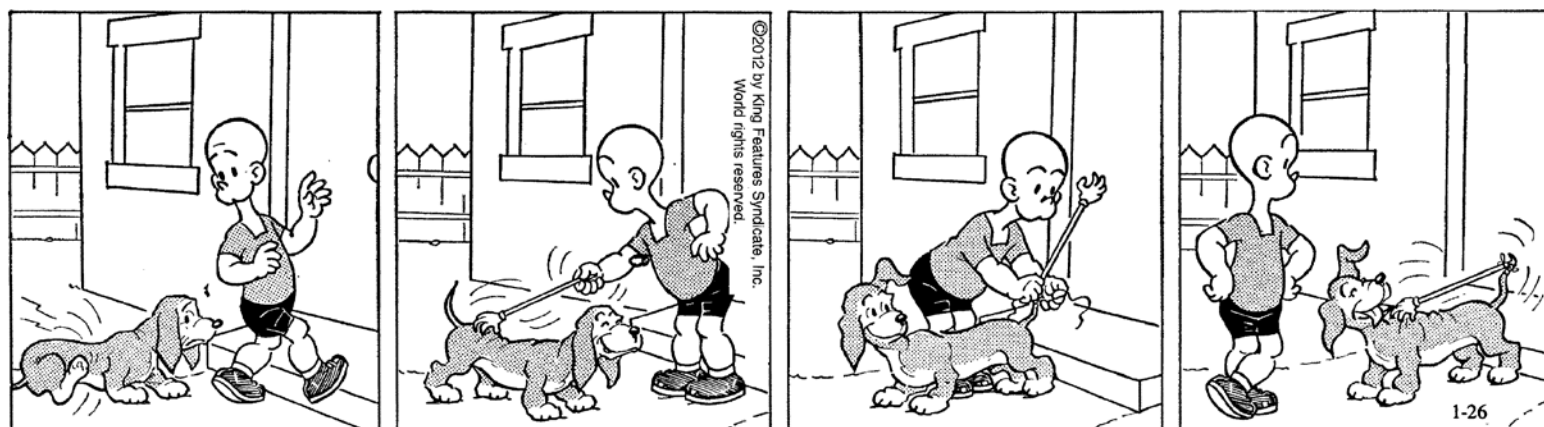


to add more flavour.

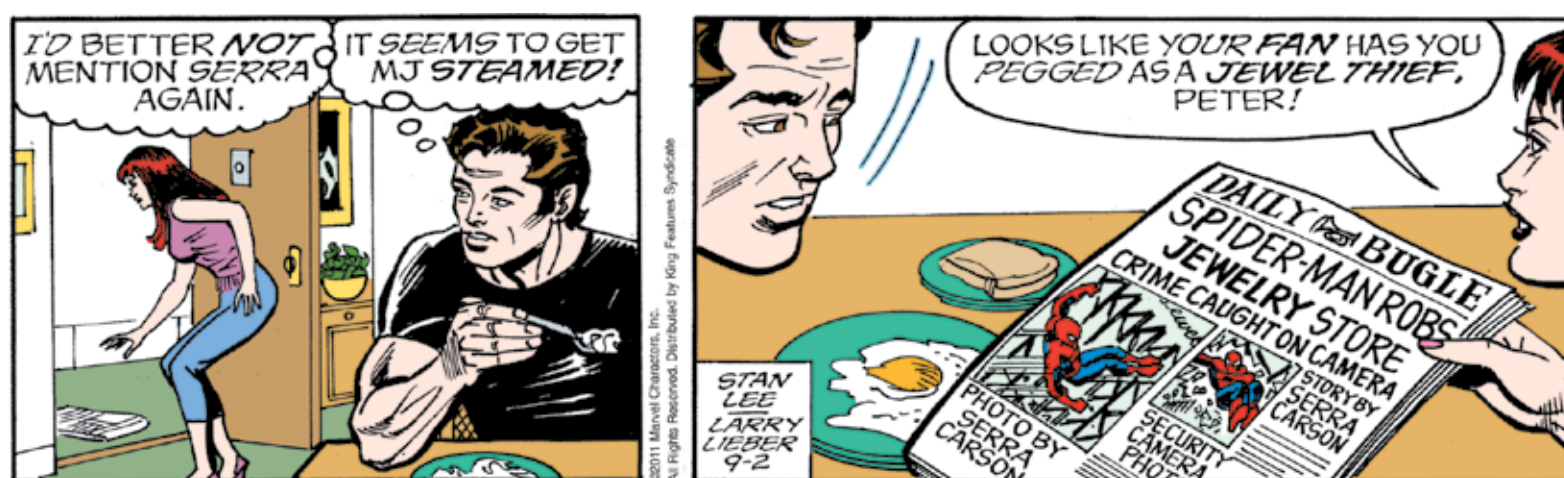
4. Serve the potato salad just warm, or, if you're not planning on eating it

straight away, refrigerate and return the salad to room temperature before eating.

Henry



Spiderman



Dennis the menace



Who's this?

ANSWER ON PAGE 38



Puzzles

Arrowword

Sharp barrier (5,4)		— Monroe, pictured actress		Geniality		Wonder		Less wet	
Exhales audibly		Urges on		Gardening tool		Large musical instrument		Inhales sharply	
					Clothes-line fastener				
Circle of rope					George Gershwin's brother			South Asian garment	
Motorbike make							Kills (a fly)		
					Crab's pinch			— Grande, US river	
Loosened	Take care of (3,2)						Rubbish containers		

Sudoku 1

	2	8					6	4
9	6			3				
		1	2					
	5	6	8					9
		2		9		8		
8					3	2	5	
					5	9		
				1			2	5
5	7					6	4	

Sudoku 2

		6					1	
8	2			6				
		5	9	2		8		
		1	6			7	2	
				5				
	4	8			3	1		
		4		1	8	6		
				4			3	8
	8					9		

ANSWERS



SUDOKU 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

SUDOKU 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

WHO'S THIS? ANSWER - ELTON JOHN

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What's in your stars?

The Read. astrologer tells you exactly what to expect over the next seven days.

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

Your recent pursuit of a new possible love interest may have not gone quite as planned. Don't let this put you off however, this person can still remain a good friend. Some people just aren't supposed to be linked romantically.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

Your new found freedom has given you a new lease of life and a longing for adventure. While there is a big world out there waiting to be explored, please don't forget your own safety. Take care and be cautious, especially when out on the roads.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

If you feel that perhaps it's time for an image change, why not enlist the help of a stylish friend or colleague? They will be more than happy to hit the shops with you and offer their honest style advice. Fresh input could be just what your look needs.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

A recent health scare has given you a fright. Perhaps it's time to start taking your well-being a bit more seriously and cut back on the bad habits. While it's easier to ignore the risks, living life in the fast lane now could cause a sudden crash in the future.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

If there is something that has been niggling at you for some time, why not address it now? A simple chat with a friend or a quick call to the relevant company could answer your questions in a few minutes. Don't speculate; find out the facts.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

Try switching off your mobile every now and then or stopping emails from reaching your phone. Work is work and obviously important to you, but your personal life should be kept separate for family time, not used as extended office hours.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

An old friend may come forward with some very exciting news. While you are happy for them, you can't help but feel as though it should have been you. Use this as an opportunity to make the life changes you have always felt that you should.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Don't sweat the small stuff. A recent spate of bickering at work has caused many people to become over-sensitive and react to the smallest change or comment. If you can realise the bigger picture however, you will sail through this unscathed.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A family member may announce they are expecting a child, which will bring you all closer together than ever before. This is an exciting time for the whole family and could also be the perfect opportunity to heal a few outstanding rifts.



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

You may have felt a little out of sorts recently. Not ill, so to speak, just a little under the weather and down about things in general. Why not treat yourself to something you have always wanted to do, or visit a place you have always wanted to go to?



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

Your artistic side has been gathering pace rapidly and, as a result, many new and exciting opportunities could be opening up to you. Pick and choose your options carefully though, those that seem too good to be true often are, unfortunately.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

A much needed visit from a family member has perked you up no end. At a time when you were perhaps feeling a little alone, their visit has reassured you that those people who matter the most are only ever a plane ride away.



This week's local weather

SUN

25th

SUNNY
HIGH 32C
LOW 26C
HUMIDITY 36%

MON

26th

SUNNY
HIGH 32C
LOW 25C
HUMIDITY 35%

TUE

27th

SUNNY
HIGH 27C
LOW 21C
HUMIDITY 39%

WED

28th

SUNNY
HIGH 29C
LOW 22C
HUMIDITY 42%

THU

29th

SUNNY
HIGH 30C
LOW 22C
HUMIDITY 39%

FRI

30th

SUNNY
HIGH 32C
LOW 25C
HUMIDITY 36%

SAT

31st

SUNNY
HIGH 29C
LOW 23C
HUMIDITY 38%

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