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JANUARY 12-18, 2014 | Issue 135

Read.



FLOWER POWER

Always a big hit on the spring/summer catwalks, floral prints are looking set to be a top trend yet again

BORNEO DISCOVERY



TRUTH BE TOLD

The real-life story of one man's horrific experience, new flick *12 Years a Slave* is a hard-hitting and moving masterpiece



SLOW PROGRESS

It may not be the cure that millions are hoping for, but could Vitamin E slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease?



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Shaping the future

The ongoing battle between nature vs nurture

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Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

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

✉ SLEEPING SOUNDLY?

A good night's sleep is turning into a privilege in a city as fast as ours, but long working hours and little personal time leads to poor health. Half of my day is already dedicated to work (including travel time to and from work), while only a meagre two or three hours are all I have for myself to enjoy as personal

time. Even more troubling is the fact that I can't put myself to sleep on time. It is a sad irony how we make ourselves suffer just to lead 'comfortable' lives.

Donna Albright

✉ NO JUDGEMENT

We are aware that it is bad to judge a person based on gender and heritage, but why do we still keep hearing news of this type of unruly judgment? People have a tendency to be very discriminating and have a feeling of superiority towards another person—be it based on gender, skin colour or wealth. It just goes to show that some of us haven't completely moved into the 21st century, where equality is the trend and discrimination should be dead.

Jergen van Eimeren



MISSING THE LUXURY OF A LIE-IN

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LAST READ. POLL RESULTS

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SMS	12%
Facebook message	30%
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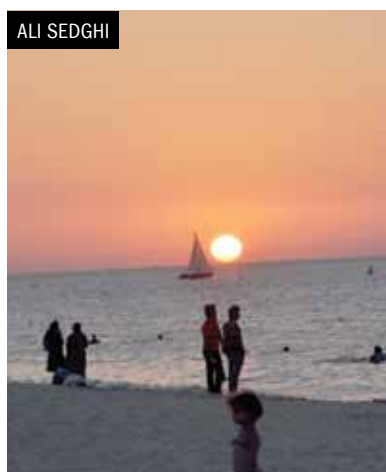
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What's happening this week on **readme.ae?**

Make sure you check out our website 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

A short, documentary-type video about the Hövding, known by most as the 'invisible bike helmet' garnered worldwide praise when it went online in November. The Swedish invention comes with years of research behind it and a fairly hefty price tag, but for cyclists across the globe it could mean the end of clunky, cumbersome helmets, without sacrificing safety.



MONDAY

After the recent bout of natural rain that Dubai residents have enjoyed, it seems hard to imagine that every now and then cloud seeding is needed to start a shower over the city. What is this strange-sounding process?



TUESDAY

While you may think you're talking the talk, your body could be sending out a completely different signal. Check out some of the ways that powerful yet unconscious body language could be giving away your secrets.



WEDNESDAY

After his recent visit to Dubai, it seems as though the whole city has fallen in love with Will Smith. Take a look back at the Hollywood superstar's varied and decade-spanning career.



THURSDAY

Although many New Year's resolutions have already fallen by the wayside, a wealth of people are managing to stay smoke-free. Here's a reminder of just some of the benefits of quitting.



FRIDAY

The Read. Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily 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)

Do you know how to act in case of a medical emergency or do you think your first aid skills could do with some improvement?

No, but I think if your not in your own country even you know first aid you will hesitate to do anything.

— **Ehnye Alejandro**

Learnt while I was in School, but definitely need some brushing up and improvement!

— **Mahe Ram**

In fact yes, I've did an emergency first aid course with HSS Health & Safety Solutions and they have

increased my confidence in dealing with first aid.

— **Illumination Seventyseven**

Do you have any home remedies that work to relieve a cold or flu?

Honey, lemon, Ginger tea... it great for common cold.

— **Rachel John**



SURVIVAL SKILLS

Hot milk with a pinch of turmeric at bedtime, can add honey too.... also take steam twice a day with medicinal oil like eucalyptus.

— **Cerin Xavier**

The best remedy is not to use any medicine whether homemade or outside... cold and flu will automatically go after 3-4 days.

— **Duas Azmi**

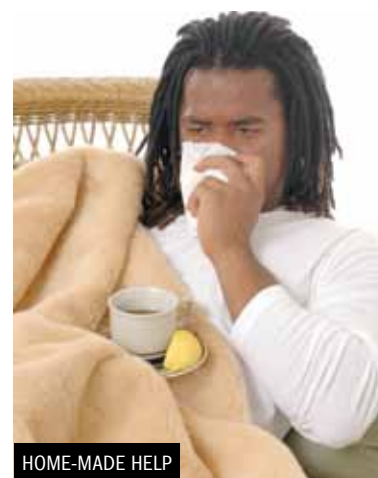
Warm water mixed with lemon juice works wonders!

— **Khaiser Ahmed**

If a product or item you regularly use is on special offer, do you stock up or just continue to buy the amount you require?

I really stock up... I have been doing this actually everytime my brand is on sale.

— **Easter Daileg Pallares**



HOME-MADE HELP

Yes! I stock up on things that I like, like clothing and shoes.

— **Arman Hossen**

Don't care if onsale, just buy the amount I need.

— **Harry Senatin**

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Vitamin E might delay Alzheimer's progression

New research suggests the compound could provide one of the first breakthroughs for this incurable disease.

As any friend or relative or an Alzheimer's sufferer knows, it is a nasty disease that has little mercy. What's more, it has no known cure, so preventing or delaying its symptoms and progression is crucial for anyone diagnosed with it.

Around 35 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's is the most common form, robbing the brain of its memory. Usually found in people over the age of 65, it gradually gets worse as it progresses and eventually leads to death.

But there is hope for those with the onset of Alzheimers, following signs that high doses of vitamin E could lengthen the time it takes for the disease to gain a hold on its patients.

Vitamin E refers to a group of eight fat-soluble compounds that are commonly found in many of our diets, from items such as margarine and a range of oils, including sunflower and nuts.

It has many biological functions, with anti-oxidation—which rids the body of the harmful free radicals that cause ageing—being the best known. It also plays a role in smooth muscle growth and prevents the oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids.

A study sponsored by the US Department of Veteran Affairs, published recently in the



A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



FINALLY FULFILLING ITS POTENTIAL?

Journal of the American Medical Association, suggests vitamin E might slow the progression of mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease. This is the first time that any treatment whatsoever has been shown to alter the course of dementia.

The research involved over 600 subjects with an average age of 79, who had mild to moderate Alzheimer's. They were randomly assigned one of four daily treatments, including vitamin E, and the decline of their condition was measured over the course of more than two years.

Those taking the vitamin experienced progression of the disease at a rate of 19 per cent slower than those from a placebo group. This equated to around a six-month delay in the decline of living skills, including making meals, getting dressed and holding a conversation.

"It's not a miracle or, obviously, a cure," said Dr Maurice Dysken of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, and the study leader. "The best we can do at this point is slow down the rate of progression."

It does, however, show a possible beneficial property of vitamin E, which has still not yet achieved the

massive potential it has promised to medical science, even in spite of the number of modern breakthroughs. Testing is still only at an early stage, so more research is needed to prove its ability to delay the development of Alzheimer's, but it does look to be a step in the right direction. ●

Did you know?

In high doses, vitamin E acts as an anticoagulant, which increases the risk of excess bleeding, especially when taken in combination with aspirin, so it should only be taken under medical supervision. This is the case especially among those who have the onset of dementia and might want to self-medicate.

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae

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4 Lulu Center & Supermarket Karama	Al Karama		
5 Lulu Hypermarket Arabian Center	Al Rashidiya		

Red Line Green Line

TRAVEL NEWS

Top golfers make a beeline for Saadiyat Island

The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi will be the platinum sponsor for the ninth annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship taking place from January 16 to 19, 2014. Golfing heavyweights such as Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, Luke Donald and Matteo Manassero will converge on Abu Dhabi's idyllic island getaway, as The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort conveys its passion for the sport of golf.



The Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship is one of the biggest events on the European Tour, regularly attracting some of golf's most famous names, and, since its inception in 2006 by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, it has taken place at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club as part of the Tour's 'Gulf Swing'.

Stewart Selbie, General Manager of the resort, said: "We are delighted to be the platinum sponsor of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, as Saadiyat Island continues to draw avid golfers and discerning travellers to its shores. Being almost on the green of a Gary Player masterpiece golf course at Saadiyat Beach Golf Club is one of our unique assets, and we are thrilled to be a prominent part of Abu Dhabi's golfing community.

"Abu Dhabi has emerged as an elite international golfing address and, in line with our passion for the sport; our bespoke golfing experiences are certainly world-class. We look forward to welcoming players, spectators and guests this year," Selbie added.

Guests staying at the resort during the championship will receive complimentary tickets to the golf tournament.

Journey to the world's oldest jungle

Indonesian Borneo gives intrepid travellers a glimpse of how the world was 130 million years ago.

Just the sound of the word Borneo holds a dreamy appeal, conjuring up images of lush, virgin jungle and misty hilltops shrouded by rainforest canopy. The reality hardly differs from the imagery.

Kalimantan is the Indonesian part of this island—the third biggest in the world—which the country shares with the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah to the north. But in spite of Borneo's vast size, Kalimantan is home to only 12 million people, making sure that vast swathes of it are unspoilt and ripe for discovery.

The rainforest is 130 million years old, making it 70 million years older than its Amazonian counterpart in Latin America. As a result, no place

else in the world has such stunning biodiversity, with around 15,000 species of flowering plants, over 220 animal species and 420 different types of birds.

It is also the only remaining natural habitat for the endangered

Bornean orangutan, while the Asian elephant, the Sumatran rhinoceros, the Bornean clouded leopard and the dayak fruit bat each call the Kalimantan jungle home.

Those who like their holidays easy and pre-arranged should consider the Malaysian third of the island, which has a much more developed infrastructure; but those travellers who relish adventure will find a world of wonder in Kalimantan.

Located in central Kalimantan, over an area of 4,150 square kilometres, Tanjung Puting is one of Indonesian Borneo's top tourist draws. As well as being home to Indonesia's first orangutan rehabilitation centre,

MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN NATURE



it offers the opportunity to board a *klotok* houseboat and float down the Sungai Sekonyer river for a few days.

Klotoks are traditional, simple vessels that offer the nature lover everything he or she needs. A rental will come with a skipper, a cook and

a nature guide to help find and identify species along the way. Those who prefer luxury should look elsewhere, though, as it is traditional to sleep on deck under a mosquito net, immersed in the night-time sounds of the jungle.

During your voyage, not only might you see wild orangutan nests, but also many other exotic species such as gibbons, hornbills, sambar deer, flying squirrels and crocodiles, as well as Borneo's strangest inhabitant, the proboscis monkey, which can be identified thanks to its pot-belly and bulbous nose.

Given the remote nature of the island, there are no direct flights from Dubai, but jungle explorers can fly to Kuala Lumpur and then take a connection to Balikpapan, Pontianak or Banjarmasin airports. ●

Fast facts

The Indonesian archipelago is comprised of over 17,500 islands, and with a population of more than 238 million people, it is the world's fourth most populous country—and most populated Islamic nation. There are 74 living languages spoken amid the Kalimantan rainforest, although Bahasa Indonesia is the lingua franca of the region.



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NEWS ON WHEELS

New 2014 Nissan Patrol pickup set for rugged terrain

Arabian Automobiles has launched the 2014 Nissan Patrol pickup with an optional accessory package, unique to the exclusive distributor of Nissan in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. Arabian Automobiles is extending the new introduction's appeal with an accessory package offering enhanced looks and extra functionality.



The offering includes a new design alloy wheels, front winch and a skid plate, 50" LED roof mounted lights, rear LED lights, and a jerry can. Ready for any challenge, the Patrol Pickup has the perfect mix of style and strength to make light work of daunting terrain. With unique off-road performance and impressive torque, the new pickup is available with 5-speed automatic or 5-speed manual transmission.

Capable of tackling tough off-road driving conditions, the new Nissan Patrol Pickup is equipped with ferocious power and has carved its own niche in the local community.

"Arabian Automobiles has consistently delivered an enriched Nissan experience to its customers for 40 years," said Salah Yamout, Sales and Marketing Director, Arabian Automobiles.

"Our close link with the communities which we are proud to serve gives us unparalleled insight into their automotive needs. We have once again demonstrated with a desirable and practical accessory package for the dependable Nissan Patrol Pickup in line with our customers' needs and wants.

"We are confident that this uniquely packaged Patrol pickup will find a strong demand in our territory," added Yamout.

Evolution, not revolution

By fine-tuning the highly successful R8, Audi's supercar just keeps getting better.



When Audi pitted its brand new supercar directly at the Lamborghini Gallardo (a company Audi owns) back in 2007 the world thought it had gone mad, but time has told that there was method in its madness.

Once launched it was clear the original Audi R8 simply wasn't a Gallardo. It wasn't as fast or as involving to drive and didn't punch you in the back. Despite having a 4.2 V8 under the rear engine cover and 414hp, just didn't feel fast enough. It was also a lot less expensive, so clearly aimed at a different market segment.

Audi soon addressed the power issue at the end of 2008, by shoehorning a Lamborghini sourced 5.2 litre V10 into the R8. Suddenly the R8 had the oomph to match the looks. Oddly, they didn't then call it the R10.

But Audi continued with the V8, and for 2013 introduced the re-vamped R8 V8, along with a host of other additions to the R8 line up. The main change is that they've pumped up the power to 430hp. This increase, coupled with the new seven-speed

S tronic gearbox, has changed the smaller-engined R8 into the car it always should have been. Amazingly, although the 0-100 km/h time has dropped by 0.3 of a second, Audi have still managed to reduce fuel consumption by 0.9 litres per 100km.

The extra power seems to have been added to the mid-range, which gives it that supercar kick and makes it feel close to the cars it was always intended to compete against. It may only be an extra 16hp, but it makes all the difference. According to Audi the slightly irrelevant top speed has remained about the same.

The new gearbox, which is optional on the V8, is an engineering marvel, with its dual-clutch technology allowing drivers ultra fast shifts on the move and launch control when a fast getaway is needed.

Power is transmitted to the road via Audi's excellent quattro permanent all-wheel drive system. Add in adaptive damping and the R8 is solid on the

road, avoiding squirrely theatrics when you give it too much throttle.

What Audi haven't changed is the slightly odd looks, which for some reason work wonderfully. The design is off balance, cut in half by the side panel and the nose is too short and too wide. But it's stunning to look at.

Inside, it remains pretty much unchanged, but then there was very little wrong with the original interior.

The Audi R8 does pose the question of why you need a Ferrari or Lamborghini, when you can get this sort of performance at such a reasonable price (for this end of the market). Rather than reinventing it every few years, Audi have chosen to hone the car bit by bit.

For car lovers it means they can finally drive the car the R8 always should have been. ●

SPECS

(as tested)

Engine: 4.2 litre V8

Power: 430hp@7,900rpm

Torque: 430Nm@4,500-6,000rpm

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TECH NEWS

Sony introduces splash-proof wireless speakers

Sony has launched the SRS-BTS50 ultra-portable Bluetooth speaker featuring Near Field Communication (NFC) technology designed to stream powerful, dynamic sound experiences from compatible smartphones, tablets and computers on the go.



With Sony's One-Touch Listening, the speakers use NFC technology to easily pair and connect a NFC-enabled smartphone or tablet with a simple touch to eliminate the complex pairing process. Once paired, NFC makes connect or disconnect a breeze. The new speaker can also stream music wirelessly from iPhones and iPads as well as Android smartphones and tablets that are not NFC equipped, via the traditional Bluetooth pairing method.

Lightweight yet durable, the new SRS-BTS50 portable Bluetooth speaker with an internal rechargeable battery that lasts up to 10 hours on the single charge is the perfect complement to outdoor activities. Whether hiking with friends, spending the day at the beach or enjoying an outdoor party, the SRS-BTS50 speaker's splashproof design that can weather water splashes such as sudden rain gives music lovers the freedom to enjoy their favourite tunes anytime and anywhere.

The SRS-BTS50 speaker is perfect for sharing music. By simply rotating the speaker to lay flat on any surface, the Surround Mode automatically creates an expansive and enjoyable listening experience.

The splash-proof SRS-BTS50 ultra-portable wireless speaker is available at select electronics stores in the UAE.



Tech's global gathering

The tech world looked once again to International CES last week.

The world's biggest and most important consumer electronics show, International CES, came to a close last week in Las Vegas with more than 3,200 exhibitors showing off their latest designs and inventions at this enormous global gathering.

CES has served as the proving ground for innovators and breakthrough technologies for more than 40 years, and serves as a global stage where next-generation innovations are introduced to the market.

As the largest hands-on event of its kind, CES features all aspects of the industry. And because it is owned and produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), the technology



Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae

History of innovation

The first CES was held in New York in 1967 with 100 exhibitors and 17,500 delegates. First held in Las Vegas in 1978, it is now one of the biggest shows of its kind, and the exhibition takes up to 18 days to be set up beforehand and taken down afterwards.

“CES is the world's gathering place for all who thrive on the business of consumer technologies.”

trade association representing the \$208 billion US consumer electronics industry, it attracts the world's business leaders and pioneering thinkers to a forum where the industry's most relevant issues are addressed.

Innovation and potential drove this year's event, said Gary Shapiro, chief executive of the CEA.

“CES is the world's gathering place for all who thrive on the business of consumer technologies and features the largest showcase of innovation on the planet.”

“We couldn't be more excited to see the magic, wonder and energy of consumer technology come to life as leaders from a broad array of industries come together to survey and transact,” he added.

Out of all the big announcements on the opening day, perhaps the biggest involved wearable technology.

Indeed, the keynote address by Intel chief execu-

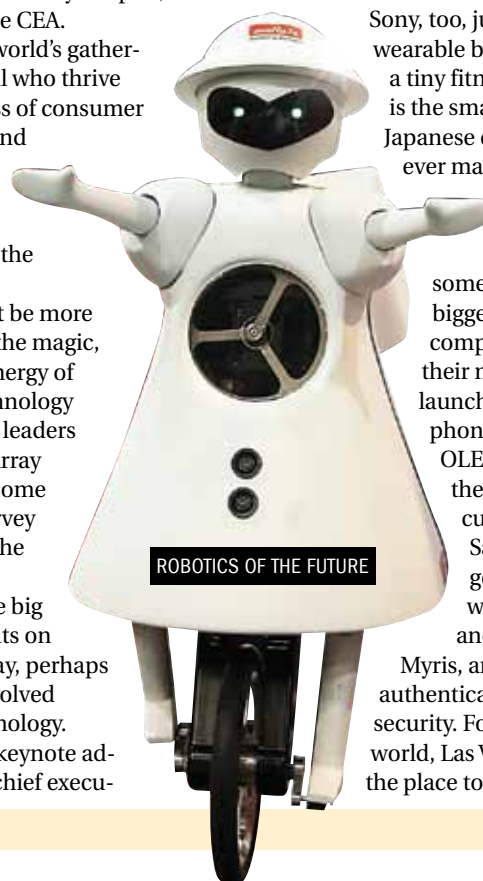
tive Brian Krzanich outlined the chip major's vision for potential wearable uses, including a smart onesie for babies, a headset called Jarvis that can integrate with a smartphone's personal assistant, earbuds with biometric capabilities, and a smartwatch with geofencing.

Meanwhile, start-up darling Pebble, which last year saw unexpected success through successful Kickstarter funding, matured from a manufacturer of geeky watches that are linked to smartphones to a maker of stylish smart watches with the introduction of Pebble Steel.

Sony, too, jumped on the wearable bandwagon with a tiny fitness tracker that is the smallest device the Japanese company has ever made.

But aside from wearable devices, some of the world's biggest technology companies revealed their new releases. LG launched a smartphone with a curved OLED display and the world's first curved battery; Samsung, too, generated buzz with a curved TV, and Voxx debuted

Myris, an Iris identifying authenticator for online security. For the tech world, Las Vegas really was the place to be seen at. ●



The signs of low trust

Getting the most from your employees often comes down to building a solid foundation of company trust.



MANAGEMENT

It comes as no surprise that in order for people to follow, they need to trust their leaders. Employees just want the truth more than ever and they need their leaders to have their backs. If this is so, why is it that so many organisations struggle to achieve and maintain trust, yet fail to achieve commitment from their staff? Sadly, throughout the world, many people have real trust issues with their management, but what are the warning signs? Akhtaboot lists the warning signs of low trust to look out for in an organisation.

AVOIDING CONFLICT

Many employees choose not to stand up for what they believe in and try to avoid conflict at all costs. They prefer not to voice their opinions as they are afraid to fail. These are all signs for a lack of trust. Employees who try to avoid conflict hesitate to ask for help or to provide constructive feedback. This creates an environment where back-channel politics and personal attacks thrive. Another enemy of trust is selective communication. This occurs when only information that makes employees look good is communicated, while 'bad news' is delayed or avoided altogether. When employees lack the courage to try to unleash their full potential and that of others, it often becomes a chal-

lenge to trust their judgment and overall capabilities.

HOARDING INFORMATION

An evident sign of having trust issues is when employees act secretive, territorial, and cautious around other team members. Information hoarding can be a result of personal insecurity or from past dealings with unethical or discriminatory management. It should be a leader's top priority to make communication a commitment for each team member and assess them on this as part of the annual review. Make sure that the team is recognised for collaborative results and not just individual achievements and ensure that all members know that team success is their priority.

HIGH TURNOVER

Turnover is a major issue impacting the performance and profitability of many companies and it is a result of lack of trust. Organisations are increasingly taking proactive steps to build high-trust cultures because it helps improve turnover rates. By extending trust to their employees, leaders can

demonstrate their willingness to support them, which eventually leads to lower turnover rates.

JOB BURNOUT

Lack of trust leads to job burnout, exhaustion, depersonalisation and feelings of being ineffective at work. If leaders do not strive to change that by creating a positive culture that energises people, there will be consequences. To improve your employee's morale you need to get inside their heads. Make transparency the norm; the more you communicate, the more you foster trust and the more loyalty is built. Host frequent town hall meetings in which you listen to employees' fears, concerns and ideas and share your vision for the future.

THEY DON'T LISTEN

In order for employees to trust their company, they expect management to deliver on their promises and to be honest and open in all communications. If you fail to do that, they will stop listening to you.

Be clear in letting employees know what you expect from them, and what they can expect of you in return. Put new policies in writing, and if you are changing standard operating procedures, be specific when you tell employees what the changes mean. Ask for input to show you are listening to their needs, which will set the stage for insisting they listen to you as well. ●

By Akhtaboot—the career network (www.akhtaboot.com).

TRUSTING IN A BETTER FUTURE

Nature or nurture?

The millennia-old debate has found new evidence that nature beats nurture, at least in terms of childrens' education.

For years it has been argued by psychologists, psychiatrists, philosophers and parents, but until last month it had never gone further than theoretical debate: the conflict between nature and nurture.

The nature versus nurture debate revolves around the relative contributions to one's being of genetic inheritance compared to environmental factors. Some of the best known opinions have come from great philosophers like Plato and Descartes, who suggested that some elements of human development occur naturally, regardless of the influence of parents, location and wealth. Those who take this position are known as 'nativists'.

However, the flip-side to the debate has been argued by such great thinkers as John Locke, who believed that the mind opens as a blank slate after birth—a theory that is known as *tabula rasa*—meaning that everything we become, from our personality to our intelligence, is determined by our experience. Those who follow this school of thought are known as 'empiricists'.

The popular debate over whether someone who achieves tremendous academic success has done so because they were genetically predisposed in this

NURTURING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

regard, or because they were given the means through the level of their education and encouragement, has fascinated thinkers for generations.

These days, most experts on the subject believe that behaviour and development are influenced by a combination of both nature and nurture, but the issue still rages on. While few people take the extreme nativist or extreme empiricist approach, researchers and experts still debate the degree to which biology and environment influence behaviour.

“These days, most experts on the subject believe that behaviour and development are influenced by a combination of both nature and nurture.”

A study published in December suggests that nature is more important than nurture when it comes to exam success, and that genes are



In-built sensitivity

Researchers have been getting closer to understanding how genes work with the environment to shape behaviour by finding that sensitivity to the environment resides in the biology of the nervous system. It turns out that some people, because of their genetic makeup and life experiences, are more sensitive to outside influences than others.

than nurture," claimed the study leader Nicholas Shakeshaft, from the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London.

"We suggest that one possible implication is that a system of teaching which effectively treats children as though they're all the same is less likely to get the best out of everyone than a system which acknowledges that children are different."

The study of more than 11,000

LEARNING WITH LOVE

identical and non-identical 16-year-old twins found that 60 per cent of the variation of exam results in English, maths and science was down to individual DNA. In contrast, just 29 per cent of the difference was the result of shared environmental factors, such as schools, neighbourhoods and households.

The findings call on ongoing research from King's College's Twins Early Development Study, which continues to track twins who were born between 1994 and 1996.

While non-identical twins may grow up in the same environment, within the same family, at the same school and as part of the same neighbourhood, only half of their genes are the same.

On the other hand, identical twins share all these same environments, as well as all of their genes. As a re-

sult, comparing the two sets of twins can help disentangle the effects of nature and nurture on exam grades.

The new study suggests that genetics have a bigger influence on exam results for science studies, with 58 per cent of the variation coming from sciences, compared with 42 per cent from humanities, such as art, music and history.

If this is the case, then the common belief that we are born with arts abilities from birth, whereas the sciences are learned through teaching, will come into question.

This is all just the tip of the iceberg, though, with many more areas of research into the self being pursued by scientists across the world. For example, another study by the University of Pennsylvania found significant differences between how the male and female brains are hard-wired, with males tending to have stronger links between perception and action, and women having stronger links between reasoning and intuition.

The results add further weight to building evidence that humans have formed strong adaptive complementarity, suggesting that biological evolution predisposes the species to divide gender roles. However, this implication is bound to fuel debate over the roles of nature versus nurture and the interplay of function and structure within the human brain.

In spite of all the debate covering two millennia, the nature-nurture question is still only at its early stages, given its complexity and seemingly impossibility to prove. There is still much more for science to learn and for philosophers to cogitate before we can get any closer to knowing for sure if we are what we are born, or we become what the world allows us to be. ●

much more responsible for explaining a gulf in educational standards than solely teaching or upbringing.

The findings could help education authorities to tailor their programmes to the individual needs of each child, rather than delivering a wholesale approach to entire classes, which is usually currently the case in many countries.

"Our research shows that differences in students' educational achievement owe more to nature

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae

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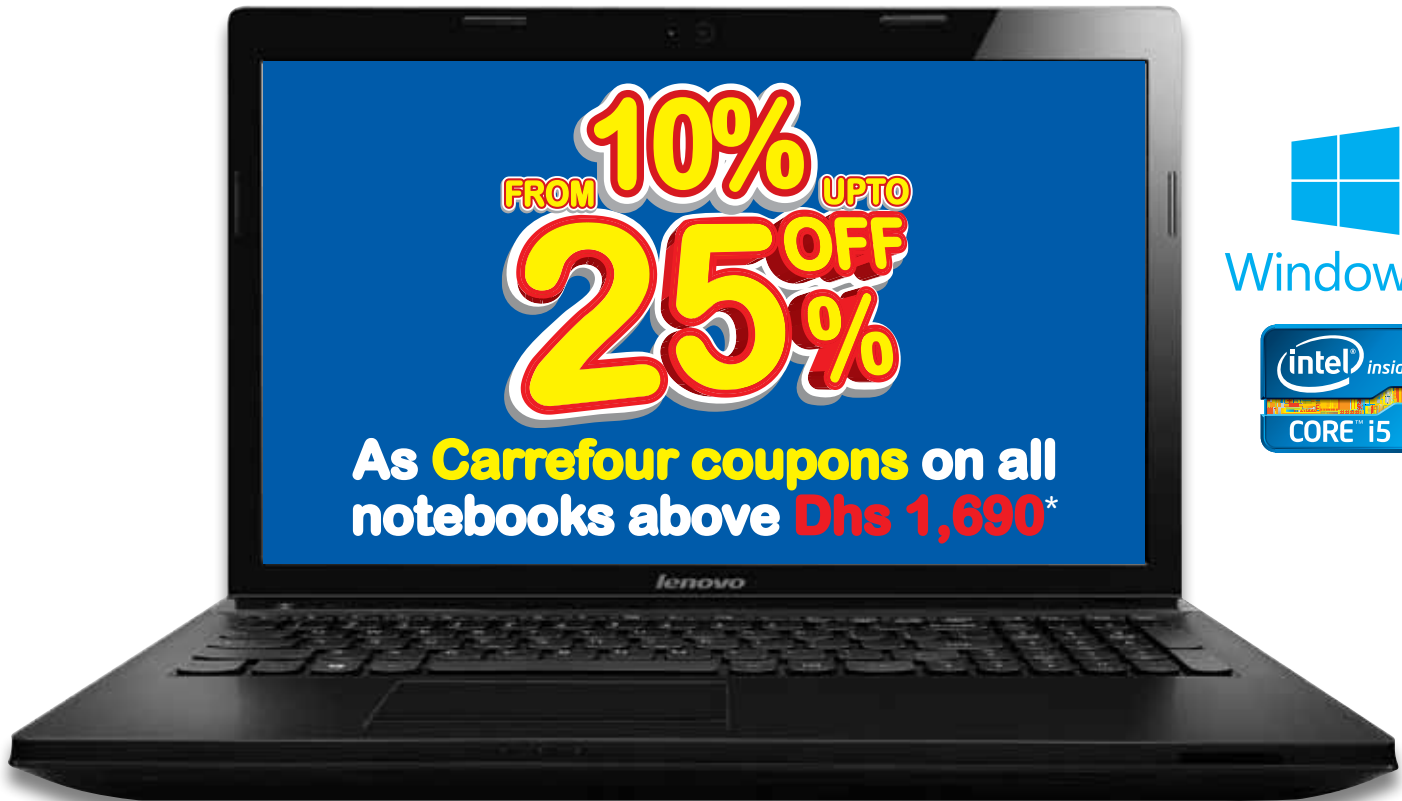
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Fancy florals

Traditional blooms are always an essential part of any spring runway.

Big and bold

Step into spring in style and make a statement in a stunning black, floral-print pencil skirt. The modest length and flattering shape will compliment most figures. Pair it with a crisp white shirt and a black, chunky necklace for a sassy and sophisticated work outfit.

A daring floral jumpsuit can take you straight from work to an evening in the town. This Marks & Spencer navy blue version is ultra chic with wide-leg trousers and fitted sleeves. Gold accessories will add an opulent touch to the look. Accessorise with a pair of eye-catching, long earrings and a thin, long necklace. Match with a pair of pointed court shoes with strappy ankle detailing, as this style always works well with jumpsuits.

Sheer romance

A simple, chic sundress is the best way to adapt pretty florals into your wardrobe. This delicate Miss Selfridge dress is ultra romantic with a pink and green floral print. It also provides the perfect amount of coverage with its flattering high neck line and knee length.

Forget classic office attire such as stiff shirts and a boring pantsuit, we love this vibrant full-sleeve, maxi dress from Dorothy Perkins. Channel the 1970s with the oversized floral print design and button-up shirt style. The tie waist will accentuate your shape while the full length keeps the dress from looking too playful for a professional environment.

For those who don't want to don a bold floral print outfit, go flowery with the accessories. Pick colours from your outfit and choose a matching floral clutch bag to keep your look modern and fun.

M&CO.

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EVANS

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MARKS & SPENCER

MISS SELFIDGE

DOROTHY PERKINS

Fresh and playful

Focus on having fun with the more grown up side of florals. Opt for more classic pieces that you'll wear time and time again. We love this three piece set from Debenhams, you can wear the pencil skirt, crop top and jacket as one look, or choose individual pieces and mix and match with neutral hues. You'll be able to infuse your wardrobe with a bit of flower power without overhauling your whole look.

A pair of patterned floral pumps are an easy way to add a pop of colour to a neutral, solid-colour outfit



Land in Dubai, take-off on the Metro.

Once you've landed in Dubai, the Metro is a quick, convenient and inexpensive way to reach your desired destination. The Metro departs from Airport Terminals 1 and 3 every 3 minutes at peak hours and 4.5 to 8 minutes at off peak hours daily stopping at 47 stations around the city. If you're worried about your luggage, don't be, you can carry up to two suitcases with you on the Dubai Metro. Suitcases should not exceed (81cm x 58cm x 30 cm) and (55cm x 38cm x 20cm).

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A story that needed to be told

Steve McQueen's new masterpiece, **12 Years a Slave**, could become the most important film release of the year.

NEW RELEASE

It is difficult to leave the movie theatre after seeing *12 Years a Slave* and not feel overwhelmed by the 134 previous minutes of gorgeous cinematography that contrast starkly with the film's violently ugly themes.

The fact that it is a faithful recreation of a heart-wrenching book of the same name, written as an autobiography in 1853 by Solomon Northrup, a freed slave from New York state, just adds even more to the sense of solemnity one feels.

In a performance of considerable majesty, British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (*Children of Men*) brings sensitivity and poignancy to a complex character who wakes up in shackles and finds he has been sold into slavery—a lifestyle he must endure for over a decade.

Northrup is a carpenter and part-time violinist who joins a circus troupe in the belief that his new career will bring wealth for his family back in New York. But after a performance, he is drugged by his unscrupulous colleagues and transported to the South to work for a series of unwholesome masters.

The first, William Ford (played excellently by Benedict Cumberbatch of *Sherlock* fame) is a pious hypocrite who, although well meaning, helps illustrate the sense of hopelessness with which a slave is faced.

Next comes the villainous John Tibbeats (played by the beautifully cast Paul Dano), a racist carpenter, who is placed in charge of Northrup by Ford. The master and the slave immediately come to blows, leading to Ford selling Northrup on to Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender), a cruel planter who uses religion to reconcile what

“British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor brings sensitivity and poignancy to a complex character who wakes up in shackles and finds he has been sold into slavery.”

he believes is his right to abuse his slaves.

The movie provides a third outing for director Steve McQueen, who is also a Turner Prize-winning artist, and his direction will no doubt be recognised at many award ceremonies this year. By being unflinchingly faithful to the cruelties of

Did you know?

Director Steve McQueen won the Turner Prize—Britain's highest award for art—in 1999. In 2006, he travelled to Iraq as Britain's official war artist and returned with *Queen And Country*, a piece which commemorated the deaths of British soldiers by presenting their portraits as a sheet of stamps.



A FRONTRUNNER FOR AWARDS SEASON?

A HAUNTING TALE

Northrup's painful new existence and mixing the barbarity of life on a slave plantation with the beauty of a Louisiana backdrop, he deftly drains all possible hope the audience might feel and replaces it with emptiness.

Of course, as a picture it is not easy to watch and its content stays with the viewer long after the credits roll, but it is an important work, just like the novel from which it is derived. But unlike the book, it has a mainstream audience, and the movie has prompted American thinkers to ask why not more people are aware of Northrup's existence.

By touching on a painful subject from American history, McQueen and his largely British cast have finally succeeded in bringing the wider movie-watching public some much-needed soul searching. ●



Listings

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

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



Grand Cineplex - Wafi

388 Arletta Avenue - 20:00, 21:55, 23:55
47 Ronin - 12:00, 14:20, 16:40, 19:00, 21:25, 23:45
Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Dhoom 3 - 10:00, 11:00, 13:10, 14:10, 16:20, 17:20, 19:30, 20:30, 22:40, 23:40
Free Birds - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00
Frozen - 10:00, 12:30, 14:40, 16:50
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00
Mr Go - 10:00, 12:30, 15:00, 17:30
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:50, 19:10, 21:30, 23:50
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
The Past - 19:00, 21:30, 00:00
Police Story - 23:00, 01:00
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 10:30, 12:10, 13:10, 14:50, 15:50, 17:30, 18:30, 20:20, 21:20, 23:00, 00:00
Yaariyan - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

Grand Megaplex - Ibn Battuta

388 Arletta Avenue - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
47 Ronin - 12:00, 14:20, 16:40, 19:00, 21:25, 23:45
Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Dhoom 3 - 10:00, 11:00, 13:10, 14:10, 16:00, 16:20, 17:20, 19:30, 20:30, 22:40, 23:40
Drishyam - 11:00, 14:10, 17:20, 20:30, 23:40
Free Birds - 11:15, 13:15, 15:15
Frozen - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:00, 16:00
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 13:15, 19:30, 22:30
Homefront - 17:15, 19:00, 21:15, 23:30
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:50, 15:40, 18:30, 21:20, 00:00
Jilla - 11:00, 17:20, 23:40

Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00
Khumba - 10:45, 12:40, 14:35, 16:25
Last Vegas - 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Mandela - 21:00, 23:40
Mr Go - 11:00, 14:30, 16:00, 18:30
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:50, 19:10, 21:30, 23:50
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 30:00
Parkland - 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 20:30
The Past - 19:00, 21:30, 20:00
Police Story - 22:00, 00:10
Veeram - 14:20, 20:40
Walking With Dinosaurs - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 10:30, 12:10, 13:10, 14:50, 15:50, 17:30, 18:30, 20:20, 21:20, 23:00, 00:00
Yaariyan - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

Grand Cinemas - Festival City

388 Arletta Avenue - 20:00, 21:55, 23:55
47 Ronin - 12:00, 14:20, 16:40, 19:00, 21:25, 23:45
Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Dhoom 3 - 11:00, 14:10, 17:20, 20:30, 22:30, 23:40
Free Birds - 11:15, 13:15, 15:15, 17:15
Frozen - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00
Khumba - 10:45, 12:40, 14:35, 16:25
Mr Go - 10:00, 12:30, 15:00, 17:30
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:50, 19:10, 21:30, 23:50
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Parkland - 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
The Past - 19:15, 21:35, 00:00
Police Story - 23:00, 01:00
Walking With Dinosaurs - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 10:30, 12:10, 13:10, 14:50, 15:50, 17:30, 18:30, 20:20, 21:20, 23:00, 00:00

Grand Cinecity - Al Ghurair

Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Dhoom 3 - 10:00, 13:10, 16:20, 19:30, 22:40
Drishyam - 11:00, 14:10, 17:20, 20:30, 23:40
Jilla - 11:00, 17:20, 23:40
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:50, 19:10, 21:30, 23:50
The Past - 22:00, 00:00
Veeram - 14:20, 20:40
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 10:30, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:20, 00:00
Yaariyan - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

Reel Cinemas - Dubai Mall

47 Ronin - 11:05, 13:30, 15:55, 18:25, 20:55, 23:20, 01:50
Frozen - 11:00, 15:35, 20:15
Frozen (3D) - 13:15, 17:55, 22:30
Khumba - 13:00, 16:50, 20:40
Khumba (3D) - 11:05, 14:55, 18:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 12:05, 15:15, 18:25, 21:40, 00:50
Mr Go (3D) - 11:20, 14:00, 16:40, 19:20, 22:00, 00:40
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 22:35, 01:25
Out Of The Furnace - 11:25, 13:45, 16:10, 18:35, 21:00, 23:25, 01:50
Parkland - 11:10, 13:10, 15:15, 17:20, 19:25, 21:30, 23:35, 01:40
Police Story - 11:35, 13:50, 16:10, 18:30, 20:50, 23:10, 01:30
The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty - 11:25, 13:50, 16:15, 18:40, 21:05, 23:25, 01:45
Thor 2: The Dark World - 00:50
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45, 22:30, 01:15

Reel Cinemas - Marina Mall

47 Ronin - 11:50, 14:20, 16:50, 19:20, 21:50, 00:20
Frozen (3D) - 11:20, 11:45, 13:35, 14:00, 15:50, 16:15, 18:05, 18:30, 20:20, 20:45
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00,

11:20, 12:55, 13:15, 14:50, 15:10, 16:45, 17:05, 18:40, 20:35, 22:55, 01:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 11:30, 14:35, 17:45, 20:55, 00:05
Out Of The Furnace - 13:40, 18:05, 19:00, 20:55, 23:15
Parkland - 11:40, 16:05, 20:30, 22:35, 00:35
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:10, 13:50, 16:35, 19:20, 22:05, 22:35, 23:00, 01:15, 00:45

Vox Cinemas - Deira City Centre

47 Ronin (3D) - 12:30, 20:45, 21:15, 23:15
Dedh Ishqiya - 10:30, 11:30, 13:30, 14:30, 16:30, 17:30, 19:30, 20:30, 22:30, 23:30, 00:30, 01:45
Dhoom 3 - 09:45, 13:15, 16:45, 20:15, 23:45, 01:30
Drishyam - 10:15, 11:00, 13:30, 16:45, 17:45, 20:00, 23:15, 00:15
Fast And Furious 6 (4D) - 15:15, 21:15
Frozen - 09:30, 12:00, 14:30
Frozen (3D) - 16:30, 19:00
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 21:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 17:00, 20:15, 23:30
Hunger Games: Catching Fire (4D) - 18:15
Jilla - 10:00, 13:30, 17:00, 20:30, 00:00
Justin And The Knights Of Valour (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15
Mr Joe B Carvalho - 14:45, 21:15
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (4D) - 00:00, 00:15
Tarzan (4D) - 12:45
Thor 2: The Dark World (4D) - 10:00
Veeram - 10:00, 13:15, 16:30, 19:45, 23:00
Yaariyan - 11:15, 00:00, 14:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

Vox Cinemas - Mall of the Emirates

Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30, 01:00
Dhoom 3 - 10:00, 13:30, 17:00, 20:30, 00:00
Frozen (3D) - 09:45, 12:15, 14:45, 17:15, 19:45, 22:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:15, 16:30, 19:45, 23:00
Justin And The Knights Of Valour (3D) -

10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Khumba - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Mr Go (3D) - 09:45, 12:30, 15:15, 18:00, 21:00, 23:45
Out Of The Furnace - 11:15, 13:45, 16:15, 18:45, 21:15, 23:45, 14:30
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Parkland - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00
Tarzan - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45
The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty - 15:40, 18:10, 20:45, 23:15
Walking With Dinosaurs - 09:30, 11:30, 13:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 09:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:15, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:15, 17:00, 17:15, 18:00, 18:15, 20:00, 20:15, 21:00, 21:15, 23:00, 23:15, 00:00, 00:15, 00:45

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47 Ronin - 00:30
47 Ronin (4D) - 19:00
Dhoom 3 - 09:45, 13:15, 16:45, 20:15, 23:45
Fast And Furious 6 (4D) - 16:00, 18:15
Frozen (3D) - 10:00, 12:30, 15:00, 17:30, 20:00, 22:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:15, 16:30, 19:45, 23:00
Hunger Games: Catching Fire (4D) - 12:45, 15:00, 16:00
Justin And The Knights Of Valour (3D) - 09:30, 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Khumba - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Out Of The Furnace - 10:15, 10:45, 13:15, 15:45, 16:15, 17:45, 18:15, 19:15, 20:45, 22:15, 23:15, 01:00
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 20:00, 22:00, 00:30, 00:45
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (4D) - 21:15, 21:45, 23:30, 23:45
Tarzan (4D) - 09:45
Thor 2: The Dark World (4D) - 10:00, 12:15
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 09:30, 10:00, 11:45, 13:00, 14:45, 16:00, 19:00, 20:15, 22:00, 23:15, 01:00

What's happening this week in the UAE

Omar Khairat live



The famous pianist, composer, conductor and founder of the Omar Khairat's Group is back in Dubai.

Date: January 16
Time: 8pm
Venue: Emirates Golf Club
Admission: Platinum Dh500, VIP Dh300, Regular Dh200
More info: 04 457 0336

The American Wrestling Show

An intense spectacle, The New Wrestling Entertainment group brings the first American Wrestling Show to Dubai.

Date: January 16
Time: 9pm
Venue: Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium
Admission: Dh5,000, Dh2,000, Dh750, Dh450, Dh225
More info: 056 392 6389



We Are The Champions



A tribute to music legends Elton John, Michael Jackson, Tina Turner and Freddie Mercury, this musical show promises to be memorable.

Date: January 16-18
Time: 7pm
Venue: Madinat Theatre, Souk Madinat Jumeirah
Admission: Stalls Dh250, Balcony Dh200
More info: 04 366 6546

Third International Kite Festival Dubai 2014

The International Kite Festival offers a unique outdoor experience not only to kite enthusiasts but spectators as well.

Date: January 17
Time: 10am-6pm
Venue: Dubai Outlet Mall
Admission: Family Pass Dh80, Couple Pass Dh50, Single Pass Dh30
More info: 055 705 0713



Dubai Shopping Festival 2014



The Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) is a shopping and entertainment paradise.

Date: Until February 2, 2014
Time: Whole day
Venue: Citywide
Admission: Free
More info: www.mydsf.ae/en

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Hollywood news

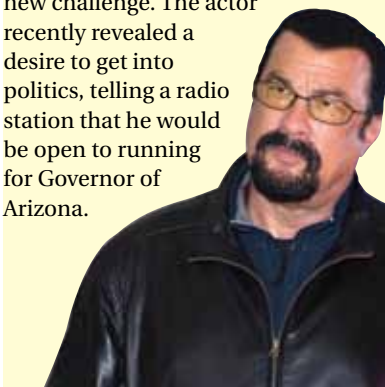
Emma's engagement



Love is in the air for young Hollywood stars Emma Roberts and Evan Peters, who are now engaged. According to sources, Peters proposed to 22-year-old Roberts in New York City during the festive season. The couple was then spotted celebrating the New Year—and their new life adventure—in London.

Governor Seagal

He's best known for being the tough guy, but Steven Seagal is apparently getting ready to take on a whole new challenge. The actor recently revealed a desire to get into politics, telling a radio station that he would be open to running for Governor of Arizona.



A new role cooking for Angelina?



TAKING ON THE TV CHEF?

Towards the end of 2013, TV chef Nigella Lawson became known for more than her delicious dishes and ultra-feminine presenting style. With her marriage and personal life taking a beating from the media, Lawson's year didn't exactly end on a positive note. While she has maintained a dignified public position regarding recent events, a legal battle and other troubles are still affecting the 54-year-old as the New Year surges onwards.

However, with all the personal traumas Lawson has been through lately, it seems that Hollywood producers are now keen to make a film about her life. And, while Lawson may not want to revisit her own experiences in front of the camera, rumours are rife that a certain Angelina Jolie is the hot favourite to fill the shoes of the self-titled 'Domestic Goddess'.

If the whispers are to be believed, Jolie has been inundated with scripts for the speculated movie, with sources claiming that the actress is, "as intrigued by Lawson's story as everybody else is".

Road to recovery

She is most well known for her wacky dress sense, crazy ideas and fun-loving pop songs, but it seems that under the surface life hasn't quite been a party for Ke\$ha recently.

The *Tick Tock* singer recently entered a rehab facility, where it is believed she will remain for up to 30 days. The reason behind her stay at the treatment centre is not the usual 'exhaustion' excuse given by most celebs that choose to check into rehab, but—in an open and honest statement—Ke\$ha revealed that she has in fact been struggling with an eating disorder for some time. In the statement, Ke\$ha admitted, "I'm a crusader for being yourself and loving yourself, but I've found it hard to practice. I'll be unavailable for the next 30 days, seeking treatment for my eating disorder ... to learn to love myself again, exactly as I am." We wish her all the best on what will, hopefully, be a speedy road to recovery.



Bollywood news

Deepika's dub

While dubbing artiste Mona Ghosh has recorded Deepika Padukone's lines for *Kochadaiiyaan*, co-producer Dr Murli Manohar says, "This was done only because Deepika is a very busy actress and could not give us immediate time needed. But we'll get Deepika to do her dubbing before the film releases."



Shruti's surgery

As the shooting for *Welcome Back* rolls on, Shruti Haasan suffered a setback after being taken into hospital last week for emergency appendicitis surgery. She tweeted, "Hello tweeps thank you for all your love and get well soon wishes! appendix out and raring to go :) albeit a bit slowly :)"



In defence

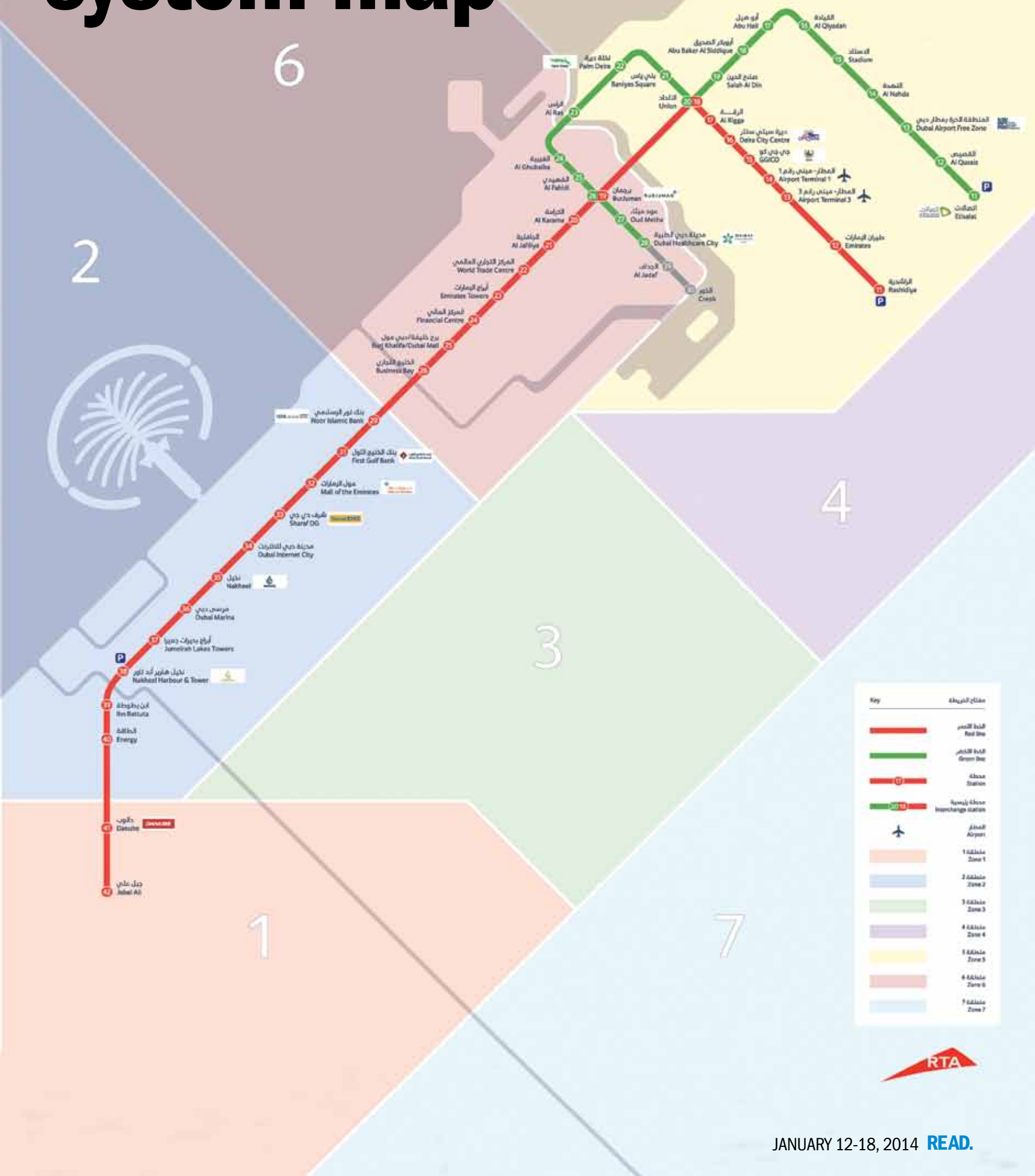
While reports run wild about the success of *Krrish 3*, Hrithik Roshan has made his view clear. In a statement, he said, "Some from the industry and certain sections of the media are hell-bent on putting me, my father and *Krrish 3* down. I have maintained my silence until now but these derogatory manipulations need to stop."

Twice as nice?

The rumour mill is churning with speculation that Yash Raj Films will be taking on two more projects with Salman Khan. While no official statement has been made yet, the first movie is said to be the sequel to *Ek Tha Tiger* directed by Kabir Khan, and Shimit Amin will supposedly helm the second film.



Dubai Metro system map



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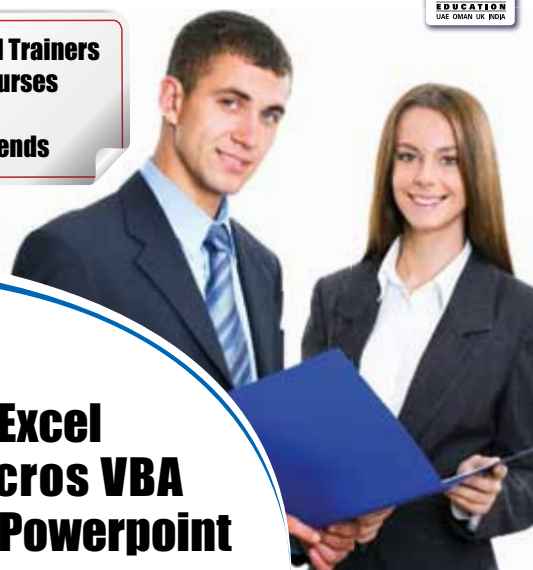
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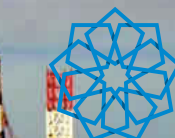
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RTA focus on sustaining assets

The RTA plans to align asset management systems with ISO 55000 while adhering to highest standards.



RTA ASSETS INCLUDE AN EXTENSIVE ROAD-RELATED ASSETS PORTFOLIO

tween various methods of asset purchasing, building or partnership with other entities in order to possess the asset, particularly in dealing with the private sector. It also enables monitoring of the performance efficiency of all RTA assets from an operational point of view as well as the maintenance and scrapping of assets in a sustainable manner based on the prescribed lifetime of assets starting from three years up to 20, 50 or even 100 years."

Udai Al Deesi, Director of RTA Assets, said: "The main task of RTA Asset Management is to ensure the optimal utilisation of all RTA assets while maintaining the quality of service provided. We are very much focused on educating individuals to preserve valuable and vital resources such as land and marine public transit

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Since launching the Asset Management System (Nama) in 2009, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been keen on applying the highest international practices and standards to preserve its road-related assets portfolio, land and marine transit modes, and intelligent systems in Dubai through satellite surveillance and GIS tracking devices operated in cooperation with its IT Department.

In this regard, Abdullah Al Madani, CEO of the RTA Corporate Technical Support Services Sector, said: "The RTA has set asset sustainability as a top strategic goal and is keen in adopting the highest global practices via an integrated asset management system billed 'Nama', through which it seeks to sustain RTA assets over the long run for the benefit of future generations."

"The scale of RTA asset has increased tremendously, amounting to 395,000 assets by the end of 2013, comprising 388 bridges, 64 underpasses, 27 pedestrian crossings,



ABDULLAH AL MADANI

and 636 air-conditioned shelters in addition to 48 lanes crossing the Dubai Creek, and the world's longest driverless metro network of Dubai Metro stretching 74.6km, among others. Nama system was applied throughout RTA sectors and agencies, particularly asset-operating departments as it has immense contribution to cutting operational expenses and augmenting revenues. The substantial results generated

"The RTA IT Department will not settle for a specific end but will make endeavours to upgrade Nama system."

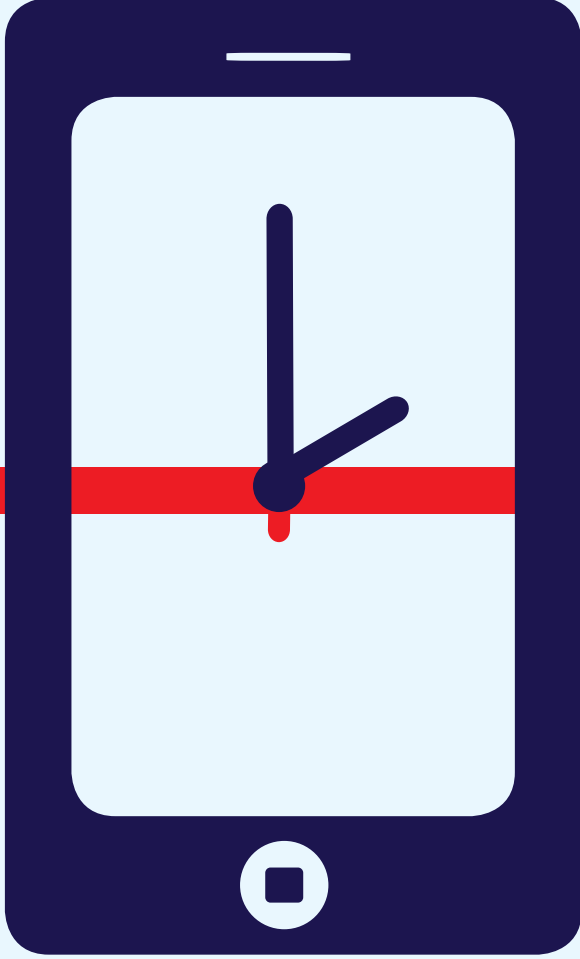
by the system over the past years assisted in slashing operational costs by 15 per cent, especially expenses related to public buses and trains," said Al Madani.

Al Madani added: "Nama system, which was introduced in 2009, is a strategic surveillance system integrated with other operational systems of the RTA and has the potential of assisting decision makers in identifying appropriate measures in each stage of asset lifecycle, starting from the planning phase and moving on to the designing phase, which caters to the efficiency of asset design to ensure its compatibility with the long-term use required for the asset, and continuing through the asset possession phase. The system is helpful in running comparisons be-

means, roads, traffic signals and pavements; which require considerable efforts and collaboration with community members. RTA agencies have already embarked on adopting cutting-edge technological practices of asset management to standardise storage and monitor the condition of all assets in collaboration with the RTA IT Department. Since RTA assets are spread over various areas of Dubai, we were prompted to count on a host of software such as Nama system, dedicated to the management and tracking of tangible assets through GIS."

"The RTA IT Department will not settle for a specific end but will make endeavours to upgrade Nama system through embracing and adopting all new developments, learning from the best international practices, and focusing on smart technologies in managing the assets portfolio—particularly as the RTA is among the leading entities worldwide in preparing for aligning its asset management system with ISO 55000; which is expected to be achieved in January 2014," added Al Deesi. ●

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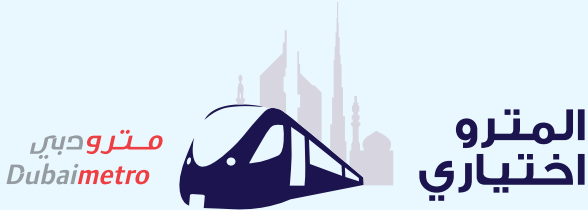
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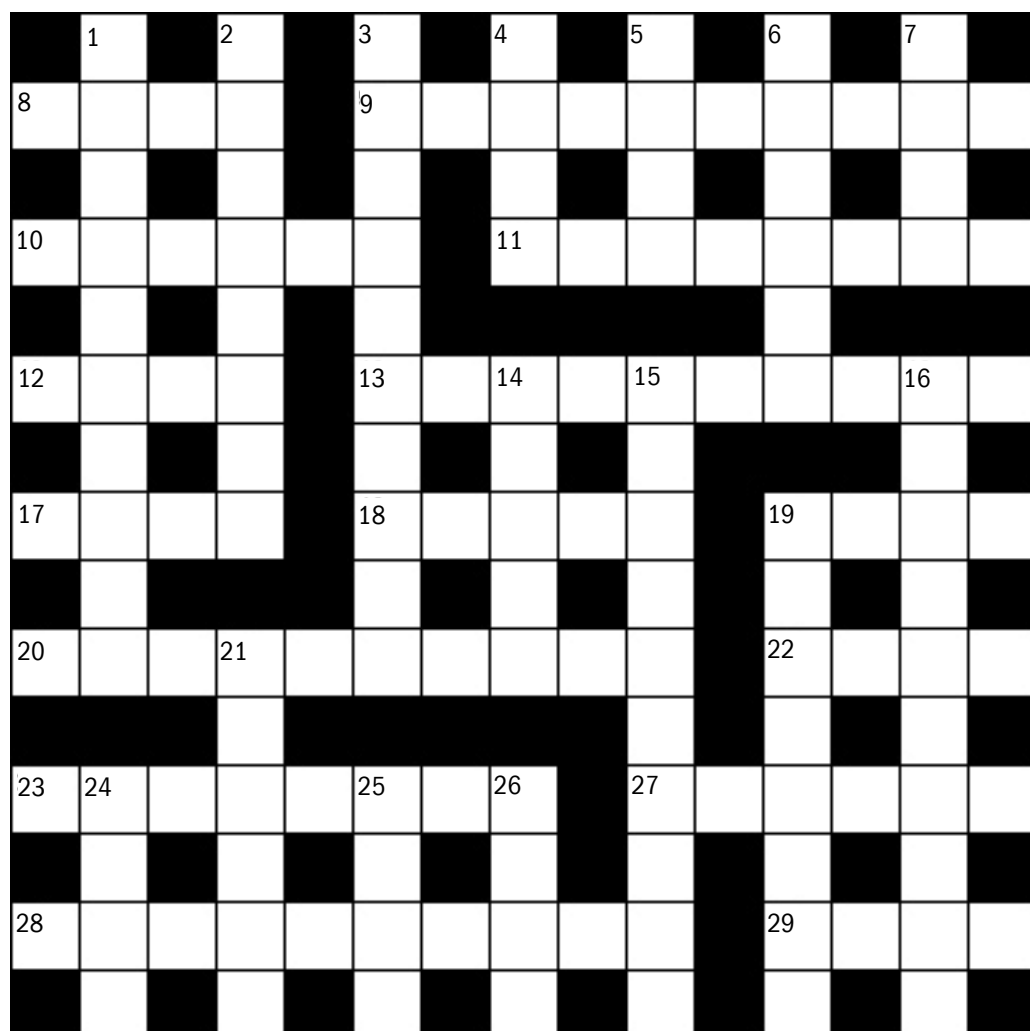
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0.18* فلس / sms

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Ponder over our puzzles, relish a new recipe and catch up with our cartoons.



Crossword

Across

8 Unit of force (4) **9** Dislike for delays (10) **10** Relating to the iris of the eye (6) **11** Hidden from view (8) **12** Devastation (4) **13** Talents (10) **17** A claim on something (slang) (4) **18** Snow hut (5) **19** No longer straight (4) **20** Astonishing (10) **22** Utiliser (4) **23** Client (8) **27** Electronic keyboard instruments (6) **28** Corporate accountant (10) **29** Overthrow (4)

Down

1 Fluid mechanics (10) **2** Sheets and blankets (8) **3** Tact (10) **4** Chooses (4) **5** Relating to the ear (4) **6** Lay bare (6) **7** Dull pain (4) **14** A city in north-central India (5) **15** Criminals (10) **16** Warm compassionate feelings (10) **19** Club (8) **21** Groups of 8 (6) **24** "Once ____ a time" (4) **25** Cow sounds (4) **26** Govern (4)

ANSWERS



Recipe

Niçoise salad

If you're trying to shift a couple of kilos this year, this healthy dish still packs a pretty flavoursome punch.

Ingredients

450g fresh tuna steaks
8 new potatoes, cooked and quartered
4 tomatoes, quartered
115g cooked French beans
4 little gem lettuce hearts, quartered
1 sliced red onion
4 medium-boiled eggs
6 anchovy fillets cut into strips
16 pitted black olives
8 basil leaves

For the dressing:

105ml extra virgin olive oil
3 tbsp vinegar
2 tbsp chopped parsley

2 tbsp chopped chives
2 finely chopped garlic cloves
1 tsp salt
1 tsp ground black pepper

Method

1. Begin by making the dressing. This will stay fresh in the fridge for a day or two in a sealed container if you're preparing early for a barbecue or similar occasion.
2. To prepare the dressing, whisk together the vinegar, olive oil, parsley, chives, garlic, salt and pepper in a medium bowl then leave to chill in the fridge.

Serves
4



3. Lay out the tuna steaks evenly in a shallow dish and pour over half of the dressing. Cover with clingfilm and chill for one to two hours in order to let the fish marinate.
4. Heat a griddle pan on the hob or a hot barbecue and remove the tuna from the marinade. Cook the steaks for a couple of minutes on each side, depending on how rare your own

tastes require it to be.

5. Place the lettuce leaves on dinner plates then break up each tuna steak into bite-sized chunks over the lettuce. Evenly distribute the onion, tomatoes, potato, tuna, beans and anchovies between each serving.
6. Drizzle over the remaining dressing and finish by adding the eggs, olives and ripped basil leaves.

Henry



Spiderman



Dennis the menace



"IT'S A LEFTOVER FROM HALLOWEEN."

Who's this?

ANSWER ON PAGE 34



Puzzles

Arrowword

Dung beetle	▼	Jimmy...., British comedian	▼	Soap star,... Dobson	▼	Prefix meaning "equal"	▼	Alternative	▼	Disorderly	▼	Suffers pain	▼
Partition						Evil, fiendish	▶						
▶													
Personal		Inhabitant (suffix)		Extremely Innocent		Stylish		Throw back light		Actors of equal billing (2-5)		Father...., TV sitcom	
▶		▼		▼		▼	Repeat aloud from memory	▶		▼		▼	
Cacophonous	▶						Wears down	▶					
Town in Japan													
▶			Cut into with the teeth		Sprite	▶			... Little, Large's partner	▶			Fine net
Attach to larger organisation	▼	Andy Capp's wife	Mass of ice	▶	▼		Currency of Latvia	▶			Roman numeral for 12	Lower limb	▼
▶	▼	▼	Affected dandy						Car shaft	▶	▼	▼	
Emulsion	▶						Dental decay	▶					
Oil cartel (1,1,1,1,1)	▶				Tiny child	▶			Audible breath	▶			

Spot the 10 differences



Sudoku

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

ANSWERS

ARROWWORD	H	G	I	S	I	O	I	C	E	P	O
	S	E	I	R	V	C	N	O	I	I	O
	E	T	X	V	E	I	V	I	I	I	A
	W	L	V	L	G	B	E	R	E	R	C
	D	A	S	J	L	E	G	E	B	E	U
	S	E	D	O	R	E	T	V	N	O	I
	L	I	L	I	R	E	C	I	V	A	L
	H	I	C	H	O	I	R	R	V		
	C	I	N	V	I	V	S	N	E	E	R
	V	U	O	I	A	V	N	S			

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

WHO'S THIS? ANSWER
LORDE

Read.

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What's in your stars?

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

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

Trying too hard is not the right approach if you're trying to impress a new colleague. They will be more interested in getting to know the real you and following your usual example in the workplace. You may even strike up a solid out-of-hours friendship.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

We may still only be in January, yet you already feel as though you need a holiday. Perhaps this is a sign that you're taking on too much? If someone is piling on the pressure, try to be firm and tell them you simply cannot manage any more responsibility.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

Catching up with family, friends and loved ones over the recent festive period has given you a much-needed boost for 2014. Channel this energy into both work and play in order to get the most from what looks set to be a great year ahead for you.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

Your mood seems as changeable as the weather right now, but be careful who you choose to bear the brunt of your darker moments. While your loved ones are happy to give a supportive shoulder, putting too much strain on them is simply unfair.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

Don't be too hard on yourself if you've already broken one of your New Year's resolutions. Sometimes things are a lot easier said than done, and it may be that you simply need to dust yourself off and try again. Give it time and you'll get there eventually.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

Taking stock of your finances might be a good idea, as leaving important payments until the end of the month will only see you struggle to meet financial commitments. You may need to tighten your belt for the rest of January but it will be worth it.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

A new relationship is developing nicely and you feel closer to this person on a daily basis. Those around you are happy to see your positivity bloom, but they may also be willing you to exercise a little caution when it comes to matters of the heart.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Someone may have recently given you a gift that you feel you just can't accept. Be careful, though, as the person in question will be more hurt if you return it to them. If they didn't want you to have it, they wouldn't have gifted it to you in the first place.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

In the rush of getting the kids back to school and dealing with important work issues for the year ahead, you may need to take a little time to focus on your own wellbeing. Rushing around at one million miles per hour has left your energy levels dangerously low.



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

A person at work is causing friction between various staff members, but sadly it seems that he or she is enjoying the attention rather than feeling embarrassed. Try not to get involved, as the appropriate authority figure will soon deal with the issue.



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

Don't worry if it feels like things are piling up, there is still time to get organised. It might be worth asking a family member for help; even if it's just an afternoon sorting the wardrobes or shifting furniture, you'll achieve a lot more doing it together.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Something seems to have happened to your personality and, where you previously would have been the life and soul of the party, you now feel like hiding behind others. Try to figure out what's knocking your confidence and change it.



This week's local weather

SUN

12th

CLOUDY
HIGH 22C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 28%

MON

13th

CLOUDY
HIGH 23C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 25%

TUE

14th

WARM
HIGH 24C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 26%

WED

15th

WARM
HIGH 25C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 25%

THU

16th

CLOUDY
HIGH 23C
LOW 19C
HUMIDITY 22%

FRI

17th

CLOUDY
HIGH 23C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 26%

SAT

18th

LIGHT RAIN
HIGH 24C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 30%

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