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# CATALONIA TODAY

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DISCOVER NEW HIV  
TREATMENT**

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**OPPOSITION CRIES  
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## Catalan bullrings flout law banning children under 14 from spectacle

*Girona arena faces closure after allowing minors into weekend bullfights*

Barcelona's Monumental bullring began strictly enforcing the law at the weekend after it was revealed that children under 14 were routinely allowed to watch bullfights, despite it being illegal. Police and ticket collectors kept a close eye on hopeful spectators and several young people were

turned away, even if they were accompanied by their parents. Meanwhile, members of a pro-bullfighting organisation who fear a total ban on the sport could be introduced in Catalonia, collected signatures outside the arena. It also emerged that the Catalan government is investigating claims

that as many as 20 minors were allowed into the Girona bullring at the weekend. Any future non-compliance could lead to the arena's closure. Tarragona said that children were barred from bullfights but were not required to show identification to prove their age.

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*Recalling the  
Liberation of  
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vie for coveted  
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"Barcelona is one of the must-see cities of the world"



## "Race of the century" ends with new Olympic record

*Thorpe ends American rival's dream of overtaking Mark Spitz's haul of seven gold medals*

# Poblenou factories offered for conversion to loft living in 22@

*City lays down strict rules for factory conversions to preserve part of industrial heritage*

**DAVID MARÍN/NEIL STOKES**

Since the run-up to the 1992 Olympics, Barcelona's never-ending face-lift may have regenerated the city but often at the cost of its architectural heritage. As the urban landscape of the up and coming Barcelona district of Poblenou goes beneath the bulldozer, the city council has placed a stay of execution on a score of disused factories at the heart of the area's industrial zone. But the amnesty is conditional on whether owners can convert the buildings into loft dwellings with only the minimum of structural changes while maintaining the façades intact. So far very few in the 22@ technology park have been tempted by the offer.

It all began with the old Vapor Lluï building in Poblenou when the whole concept of technology parks or loft conversions were just rumours. Nowadays, the occupants of the Lluï building are mainly small offices with only a sprinkling of family homes. The conversion has not been easy and the local authority has still not granted planning permission. The occupants also have to pay unforeseen charges related to the conversion that were not settled at the time, totalling half a million euros.

After this experience, the city council has decided to put the lessons learned to good use and much of the old industrial area will be turned into dwellings. Apart from 4,000 normal homes, the council has decided to promote the conversion of factory buildings into lofts to help conserve the industrial heritage, while stimulating the private sector into investing in this type of highly profitable accommodation.

In 2001 the municipal society 22@bcn came up with a list of 18 industrial buildings that could be converted into living spaces. Later on, three more were added. According to a director of the 22@bcn society, Juan Carlos Montiel, these were buildings not listed by the city council but that showed potential for conversion. Property owners would be allowed to redevelop them as dwellings as long as they agreed to maintain them.

However, it seems that the owners are in no rush to take up the offer. The company, Auna, for example, prefers to keep its building as offices. Only in the flour factory Can Gili Vell and in the Compañía de Industrias Agrícolas have any plans for future housing redevelopment been announced.



The Vapor Lluï factory, which has already been converted, and Can Gili Vell in the old industrial district Poblenou. / GABRIEL MASSANA

## Residents take dim view of trendy development

Local residents in Poblenou don't look kindly on the idea of re-using old buildings for expensive loft conversions. It is generally seen as a new form of urban elitism that has become fashionable at a moment when house prices have shot up in Barcelona. Residents' associations in Poblenou and Vila Olímpica accuse the city council of allowing the conversion of old buildings into trendy housing without insisting on the completion of the required legal process, leaving the local areas without any form of compensation. Besides this, some cases in the Vila Olímpica have become problematic

because the tenants of the converted buildings, bought at the market price, have then had to take on further expenses that the developer omitted to pay when the buildings were first adapted. In the US and Britain in the 1980s it became fashionable for wealthy professionals to convert disused industrial spaces into loft apartments and offices. Usually far larger than average flats and with high ceilings, they took advantage of the excellent light and ventilation of the old factory. All the factors, plus high heating costs, make these dwellings far more expensive than a conventional flat.

### BARCELONA

#### 22 people infected with legionnaires' disease

Three new cases of Legionnaires' disease have been discovered in Barcelona's quarter of Vallcarca during the last weekend, which brings to 22 the total of people with the disease. The Public Health Agency of Barcelona reported that the latest patients were infected after 3 August, unlike the previous cases, who had all caught the disease before that date. The three people infected are two women, both of 45 years old, and a man aged 72, who started noticing symptoms between 9-13 August.

### ROAD ACCIDENTS

#### 29 people die on the road

29 people died during the last weekend in 25 car accidents, according to the General Traffic Service. The same sources reported that three accidents occurred from Saturday at 12:00 am to Sunday 10:00. Three people died, five people were seriously injured and nine were transported to hospital to receive medical treatment, with no serious injuries. Three other accidents occurred last Sunday in Terrassa (Barcelona), when two people were taken to hospital with major injuries. Another accident happened in Espejo (Córdoba) and one person was killed in another car crash in L'Ametlla (Tarragona), with three more people in hospital with serious injuries.

### FORUM 2004

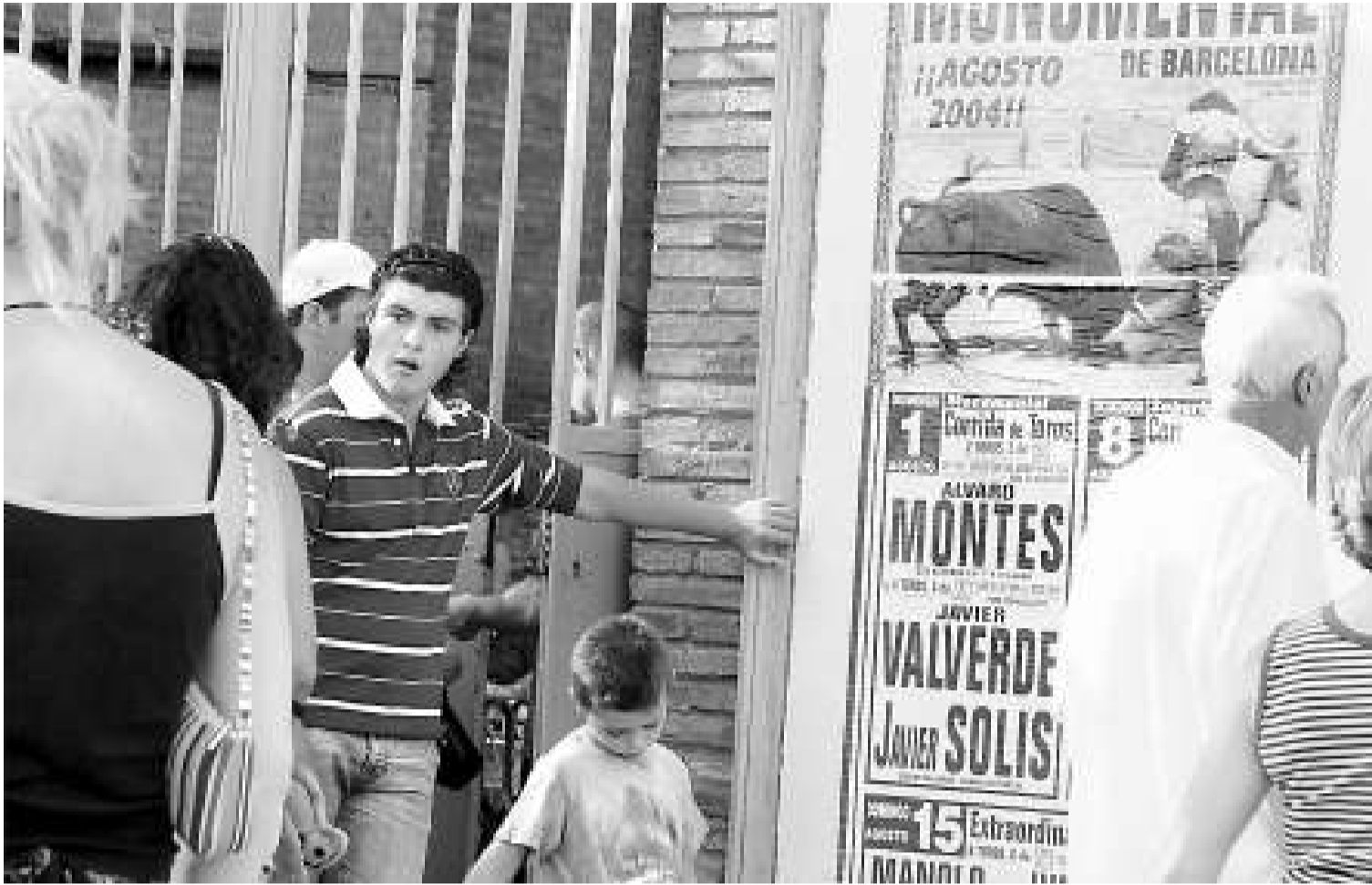
#### Record of visitors at the Forum

Last week 184,637 people visited the Forum site, which represents an accumulated figure of nearly two million visitors, said yesterday morning Oleguer Sarsanedes, the Forum's spokesperson. The day with the best attendance was Saturday, 14 August, when 48,312 people visited the site. Sarsanedes adds that since the Forum opened 14 weeks ago, 4 million people attended the performances and exhibits in The Forum site and Forum in the City.

### PRESTIGE

#### Fuel from Prestige will be recovered by September

The complex operation of recuperating the 13,000 tons of fuel that still remain inside Prestige will be finished by mid-October, according to Miguel Ángel Ramón, vice president of the Exploration and Production department of Repsol YPF, the private Spanish oil company. Using an innovative technology it invented, Repsol has already removed 9,400 tons of fuel from the wreck, by perforating the tanker and allowing the oil to rise, and then capturing it in plastic bags. The cost of the project, which is paid by the Government, is about 100 million. The operation will be finished two years after the Prestige sank on the Galician coast on 19 November, 2002, which was Spain's worst environmental disaster.



Disappointment radiated this Sunday when children were denied access to Barcelona's Monumental bullring after a recent law passed in Catalan Parliament / JOSUÉ GARCÍA

## Barcelona arena clamps down on underaged bullfight enthusiasts

*Government has ruled children under 14 may not be admitted but only some have complied*

J. GARCIA / S. SAGUÉS

Children under the age of 14 were not allowed to enter Barcelona's Monumental bullring for the first time this past weekend. Under the supervision of both the national and city police, ticket collectors also denied access to teenagers over 14 who did not have special permission to enter. In fact, inside the stadium, not a single child could be seen. Monumental management have shown a full obedience to a law passed in Catalan Parliament last week concerning bullfighting.

A number of families could not enjoy Sunday's spectacle on display in Barcelona. Private security guards followed the prohibition to a tee, refusing entry to any child under 14, even if they came accompanied by an adult. A tense atmosphere began to radiate from outside Monumental's gates, coming from families and mostly their youngest members.

Moments before the start of the *corrida*, queues tailed around the corner. Young and hopeful bullfight spectators were asked to show proper identification in order to verify their age, an impossible request in other countries where citizens are not obliged to carry national ID cards. Tourists were baffled, parents were annoyed. Particular irritation came from the utter absence of any indication of the new prohibition at booths selling tickets, which cost



Bullfighter Ivan Vicente during his spectacle on Sunday in Barcelona / EFE

### "Bullfighting may be archaic, but it's also entrancing"

ALEX LEFF

"My feeling about it is very mixed," Brighton native Martin Snell (32) says after visiting Barcelona's bullring at the weekend. "What you've got is something that is terribly savage, archaic even, but at the same time, the bullfighter's gracefulness is entrancing," he says. Snell's reaction is not uncommon. For many foreign spectators whose stomachs can handle a bit of blood

and who do not mind a sporting event where a gradual killing of a large animal is the main focus, a *matador* fulfills their dreams of an ancient Spanish ritual. "I did begin to gag, though, when I heard the death toll was six bulls," Snell says, adding that "it was by far the bloodiest event I have ever witnessed." Is there an ethical problem with this spectacle? "I'm ashamed to say it. Yes it was horrible, and yes I loved it."

anywhere between 18 and 66 euros. Monumental management—Balança—put itself in the prickly predicament by waiting for the moment of entry to break the news and giving a refund.

Just outside the main entrance, seated at a picnic table were two members of the Federation of Bull Organisations of Catalonia (FETC) collecting signatures calling for greater support for the centuries-old spectacle. Controversy stirred throughout the sector when a commission declared Barcelona was an anti-bullfighting city, presenting a petition signed by people all over Spain and in Latin America. "This has only happened here in Catalonia," one of the FETC representatives complained.

Other areas in Catalonia, however, were not so obedient. The Catalan government has announced it is filing an investigative report on Girona's bullring, which allowed around twenty minors to watch Sunday's spectacle. The measure could mean that the ring would be shut down if it should not comply with the new law in the future. The Sarot bullring in Tarragona assured that children would be barred from entering, but did not require ID cards to be shown. Sarot's manager, Joan Lluís Olesti, told reporters his company had followed government orders, though he believes the law to be unconstitutional.

## Classes begin at Prada de Conflent summer school

A summer course program in Prada de Conflent, Universitat Catalana d'Estiu (UCE), was inaugurated yesterday by Catalan deputy president Josep Bargalló. This year, the institution's thirty-sixth season, around 1,700 students are expected to attend. Until 25 August, UCE will be offering classes in areas such as social science and philosophy. Plans for its closing include a speech by Catalan president Pasqual Maragall. Other Catalan personalities such as the former Catalan president, Jordi Pujol, will be present, along with a tribute to late statesmen and Catalan separatist, Lluís Maria Xirinachs. Today's program consists of an exploration of the linguistic policy that the Catalan government has enforced, touching upon the statistical results of studies showing the usage of language, coordinated by Antoni Mir, secretary of linguistic policy. Tomorrow will include a 25-year commemoration of the Encyclopaedia of Menorca, with leading figures from the the Balearic Islands.

## Two suspects in Gràcia festival scuffle go free

Two of the eight youths arrested for their alleged involvement in a fight between skinheads and squatters late Sunday night during the festival in Gràcia (Barcelona) have been released after giving their statements to the police. The other six, still under police custody, are due to stand before a Barcelona judge today. One of them is accused of having stabbed a young man the opening night of the neighbourhood's age-old festival. The victim is in serious condition in Barcelona's Vall d'Hebron hospital. The incident occurred in the area of Gran de Gràcia and carrer Príncipe de Asturias, when a member of the *okupa* movement was stabbed in the neck, causing major blood loss, the victim's friend says.

## Fireworks show in Vilanova burns 11

A total of 11 people suffered burns Sunday during street performances in a neighbourhood of Vilanova i la Geltrú (Barcelona) in a fireworks accident. Among them was a four-year-old girl. All the burn victims were treated in the emergency unit of Vall d'Hebron hospital in Barcelona. The young girl, however, was admitted into the hospital for further care on burns on her hands and legs. She is "alright", in "favourable" conditions, a health official says.

# Map puts gardens and parks within easier reach

The Barcelona city council has published a map with information about green spaces

## ROSADÍAZ

There's no longer any excuse for not visiting Barcelona's wide variety of parks and gardens. The city council has seen to it that the city's residents and visitors have all the information they need at hand to enjoy the green spaces that the city has to offer in the form of a map that clearly indicates the location of 67 parks and how to reach them by public transport. The map clearly shows that there are more than 1,000 hectares of green areas. Left out have been tree-lined streets and public squares (the city is home to more than 152,000 such trees).

The parks are classified into four categories: historic parks, themed parks, urban parks and natural parks. The maps are available in Catalan, Spanish and English. The city council's Department of Parks and Gardens has made this map available to everyone, with information about how to get to each of the parks by underground, train, bus or tram.

The guide will automatically be sent to all citizens who normally receive its monthly publication about the city called *Barcelona Informació*. Copies of it have been left at all points for information about the city, and at the city's tourist offices. During this month of August a special distribution is being made at hotels, museums and at the Barcelona airport.

## SHOW-OFF

In the nineteenth century, Barcelona only had two public green spaces, Montjuïc and the Ciutadella park, which historically has been considered a park belonging to the city, firstly because it was the only one and later because its size made it a natural candidate for a kind of central park that other cities have. Currently, however, Barcelona can show off with pride a great variety of green spaces.

It can take pride in a number of top tourist spots, but it can also point to a number of areas that are not very often seen by visitors, such as the Central Park in Nou Barris, one of the largest green spaces built in the city with thirty species of trees and a restored aqueduct from the nineteenth century.

## Above average

Barcelona residents can lay claim to 6.6 square metres of urban green space per capita.

If you include the Collserola area, this average goes up to 18 square metres per person

## Architect's delight

Park Güell, designed by Antonio Gaudí, is the city's most famous and is never at a loss for tourists.

It became a public park in 1922 after having first been a private estate

It has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

## Central park

The Ciutadella park has 130 hectares of woodland and more than 15,000 trees

The park has a beautiful rose garden as well as a variety of other kinds of gardens

The maps are available at popular tourist locations and printed in English, Catalan and Spanish

The park has two large buildings, the Velázquez Palace and the Central Palace, for holding art exhibitions

## Green jewel

The Parc del Laberint is the only park in the city that has a direct relationship with the large trends in the history of European gardens

In 1791 Joan Anton Desvalls and Domenico Bagutti started the park in 1791 following a neoclassic design.

In 1853 Joaquim Desvalls continued with a Romantic style

## Internationally acclaimed

The Mossèn Costa i Llobera garden, located on the coastal side of Montjuïc, was created in 1970 as part of the city council's Pallanca collection

Currently it has the world's most important collection of succulent plants



Historic Parks	City Parks	Woodland Parks
<p><b>1</b> Jardí de Can Sentmenat • Bus: 22, 34, 64, 66, 75</p> <p><b>2</b> Jardins de la Universitat Central • Bus: 9, 14, 24, 41, 50, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 91, 141 • Metro: L1 i L2 Universitat</p> <p><b>3</b> Jardins Laribal • Bus: 50, 55, PM</p> <p><b>4</b> Jardins del Palau de les Hores • Bus: 10, 27, 60, 73, 76, 173, B19 • Metro: L3 Palau Reial</p> <p><b>5</b> Jardins del Palau de Pedralbes • Bus: 7, 33, 63, 67, 68, 74, 75, 78, L14 • Metro: L3 Palau Reial • Tram: T1, T2, T3</p> <p><b>6</b> Jardins del Palau Robert • Bus: 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 28, 31, 33, 34, 39 • Metro: L3 i L5 Diagonal • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L6 i L7 Provença</p> <p><b>7</b> Jardins del Teatre Grec • Bus: 50, 55, PM</p> <p><b>8</b> Jardins de Joan Maragall • Bus: 50, 55, PM • Funicular de Montjuïc</p> <p><b>9</b> Parc de la Ciutadella • Bus: 14, 39, 40, 41, 42, 51, 141, B25 • Metro: L1 Arc de Triomf/Zoo i L4 Vila Olímpica</p> <p><b>10</b> Parc del Laberint • Bus: 10, 27, 60, 73, 76, 173, B19 • Metro: L3 Mundet</p> <p><b>11</b> Parc Güell • Bus: 24, 31, 32, 74, 92, 116 • Metro: L3 Vallcarca</p> <p><b>12</b> Turó Parc • Bus: 6, 7, 14, 15, 27, 32, 33, 34, 63, 67, 68, Tombus • Tram: T1, T2, T3 Francesc Macià</p>	<p><b>18</b> Jardí de les Tres Xemeneies • Bus: 20, 36, 57, 64, 121, 157 • Metro: L2 i L3 Paral·lel</p> <p><b>19</b> Jardí del Príncep Girona • Bus: 10, 92, 15, 20, 45, 47 • Metro: L4 Alfons X</p> <p><b>20</b> Jardins de Ca n'Altimira • Bus: 70, 72, 22, 64, 75</p> <p><b>21</b> Jardins de Joan Brossa • Bus: 50, 55, PM • Funicular de Montjuïc</p> <p><b>22</b> Jardins de la Matemàtica • Bus: 15, 43, 59, 70, 72, 75, 113 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L12 • Tram: T1, T2, T3 Plus XII</p> <p><b>23</b> Jardins de la Tamarita • Bus: 17, 22, 58, 73, 75 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L7 Tibidabo</p> <p><b>24</b> Jardins de Rosa Luxemburg • Bus: 10, 45, 102</p> <p><b>25</b> Jardins de Sant Pau del Camp • Bus: 20, 24, 36, 64, 91, 57, 120, 157 • Metro: L3 i L2 Paral·lel</p> <p><b>26</b> Jardins de Vil·la Amèlia • Bus: 34, 66, 16</p> <p><b>27</b> Jardins de Vil·la Sicília • Bus: 34, 66, 17</p> <p><b>28</b> Jardins del Bosquet dels Encants • Bus: 7, 56, 60, 92, B21 • Metro: L1 Glòries • Tram: T4 Glòries</p> <p><b>29</b> Jardins del Mirador • Bus: PM • Telefèric de Montjuïc</p> <p><b>30</b> Parc Central de Nou Barris • Bus: 31, 47, 73, 76, 82, 122, 173, B19 • Metro: L4 Lluçmajor</p> <p><b>31</b> Parc de Can Castelló • Bus: 14, 58, 64 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L6 Muntaner</p> <p><b>32</b> Parc de Can Sabaté • Bus: 9, 37, 72, 125, L16 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L8 Magòria-la Campana</p> <p><b>33</b> Parc de Carles I • Bus: 10, 36, 41, 71, 92 • Metro: L4 Vila Olímpica</p> <p><b>34</b> Parc de Diagonal Mar • Bus: 7, 36, 41, 141 • Metro: L4 Selva de Mar i Maresme Fòrum</p> <p><b>35</b> Parc de Joan Miró • Bus: 9, 27, 30, 37, 65, 79, 91, 109, 115, 165, L70, L95 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L8 Espanya • Metro: L3 Tarragona i Espanya, L1 Espanya</p>	<p><b>36</b> Parc de la Barceloneta • Bus: 36, 45, 57, 59, 157 • Metro: L4 Barceloneta i Vila Olímpica</p> <p><b>37</b> Parc de la Creueta del Coll • Bus: 28, 87, 92, 119</p> <p><b>38</b> Parc de la Font Florida • Bus: 9, 37, 65, 79, 109, 125, 165, L70, L82 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L8 Magòria-la Campana</p> <p><b>39</b> Parc de la Guineueta • Bus: 11, 31, 32, 47, 50, 51, 60, 73, 76, 81, 82, 127, 173, B19 • Metro: L3 Canyelles i L4 Lluçmajor</p> <p><b>40</b> Parc de la Maquinista de Sant Andreu • Bus: 11, 42, 73, B22 • Metro: L2 Sant Andreu • Rodalies Renfe: C2 Sant Andreu Comtal</p> <p><b>41</b> Parc de la Pegaso • Bus: 11, 34, 35, 36, 40, 62, 96, 126, B20, B22 • Metro: L1 i L5 Fabra i Puig i Sagrera</p> <p><b>42</b> Parc de la Trinitat • Bus: 11, 35, 40, 76, 42, B19, B20 • Metro: L1 Trinitat Vella</p> <p><b>43</b> Parc de la Vall d'Hebron • Bus: 27, 60, 73, 76, 112, 173, B19 • Metro: L3 Vall d'Hebron i Montbau</p> <p><b>44</b> Parc de les Aigües del Guinardó • Bus: 31, 32, 39, 55, 74, 92, 114 • Metro: L4 Alfons X</p> <p><b>45</b> Parc de les Cascades • Bus: 10, 36, 41, 71, 92 • Metro: L4 Vila Olímpica</p> <p><b>46</b> Parc de les Cortes • Bus: 15, 30, 43, 59, 66, 78, 54</p> <p><b>47</b> Parc de l'Espanya Industrial • Bus: 27, 30, 32, 44, 78, 109, 115 • Metro: L3 i L5 Sants-estació • Rodalies Renfe: C1, C2, C3 i C4 Sants estació</p> <p><b>48</b> Parc de l'Estació del Nord • Bus: 10, 40, 42, 54, 141, B25 • Metro: L1 Arc de Triomf • Rodalies Renfe: C1, C2 i C4 Arc de Triomf</p> <p><b>49</b> Parc de Monterols • Bus: 58, 64 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L7 Pàdua</p> <p><b>50</b> Parc de Moragas • Bus: 58, 64 • Ferrocarrils Catalans: L6 Muntaner</p> <p><b>51</b> Parc de la Nova Icaria • Bus: 10, 36, 41, 71, 92 • Metro: L4 Vila Olímpica</p> <p><b>52</b> Parc de Sant Martí • Bus: 33, 40, 43, 44, 71, B24 • Metro: L2 Bac de Roda i Sant Martí</p>



# Costa Brava remains top holiday spot for the filthy rich and famous

*Artists, politicians and sports stars cannot keep away from coastline*

EL PUNT/NEIL STOKES

With all the talk of crisis in Catalan tourism, many predict the end of a boom that has provided Catalonia with its bread and butter for the last 25 years. Yet while the everyday tourist may now be looking towards Turkey or Eastern Europe, more illustrious visitors are flocking to Catalonia looking for a break from the high life. For politicians, sports people and artists, the Costa Brava has lost none of its appeal. Tourism on the Costa Brava began more than 40 years ago with the likes of Ava Gardner, Rock Hudson and Liz Taylor making the little-known beauty spot fashionable. Despite the glamorous world of the papparazzi failing to take root in the way it has in the south of France, or perhaps precisely for this reason, the Costa Brava has become a favourite hide-away for those in the public eye.

L'Alt Empordà has a particular attraction for politicians and business people. Cadaqués is the perfect example, hosting high-fliers of the business world, such as the top bosses of the snack companies, Matutano and Mars, and the jewellery chain Tous. Salvador Tous and his wife Rosa Oriol are currently tenants of the Defence Minister José Bono. Cadaqués also provides homes for the president of the International Olympic Committee the Belgian Jacques Rogge and the vice-president of Barcelona football club Albert Vincens, who is this year host to club president, Joan Laporta.

More politicians can be found in Port de la Selva, where high-ranking



Rock Hudson is pictured visiting the Costa Brava / EFE

Catalan politicians such as Joan Saura, Miquel Roca or Jaume Camps spend their summers rubbing shoulders with more glamorous holidaymakers, such as the model Judith Mascó. This summer, nearby Roses saw a visit from the

Saudi prince, Salman Ben Abdalaziz, who reportedly roamed the seaside town inognito. Golf has lured a number of sportsmen to Peralada, including football manager Javier Clemente and ex-Barcelona player Hristo Stoitskov.



## Pakistani community celebrate independence

Pictured are thousands of revellers who packed Rambla de Raval to celebrate Pakistan's independence day. The event was organised by the Pakistani immigrant collective, who put on a music festival—Super Masti—which featured traditional Muslim songs. In a bid to encourage visitors to join in the party, a 1000 boxes of traditional Pakistani food was distributed including sweet

ham and tandoori chicken. Rambla de Raval is an area with a high presence of Pakistani immigrants, many of whom have set up businesses in the area. Mohamed Iqbal, has worked for 15 years to help his fellow Pakistani's integrate into Catalonia. "Many Pakistanis cannot speak Spanish or Catalan and it makes it difficult to relate to other people from here." (pic Gabriel Massana)

### Arts festival to help third world projects

Artists from 27 countries are taking part in this year's "Art and Life" based in Mataró. The aim of the event is to embrace artists, including painters, sculptors and photographers from different parts of the globe. They must donate a piece of work that can be sold or used to obtain money to finance projects in the third world. This year the organisers have received about 600 original pieces of art work for the project, which is more than last year. The majority of works were from America and Europe but also other countries such as Israel, India and South Africa. This year the event is promoting photography and it has received important works from artists such as Toni Catany, Chema Madoz and Manuel Trillo amongst others. Event co-ordinator, Elena O'Callaghan said they had received many different types of art works. "works from countries with very different cultures," she said.

### Police search for family to return ashes

The national police force are searching for the family of a woman, whose ashes were found in an urn on a beach on El Vendrell, near Tarragona. Swimmers using the beach found the urn inside a bag in the area. According to the police the ashes belong to a family of a woman named "Francisca" who died on 8 July 2002. So far they are unable to locate the family.



### Forum website a big hit

Pictured is Victor Sala, responsible for the Forum website, which has attracted nearly 48 million hits up to the end of July. This represents 6 million visitors. Victor said web surfers spend an average of four and half minutes browsing information at the site. "If we bear in mind that the average on-line connection to a page lasts 15 minutes, a fact that they spend a third of that time with us is good," he said. 60% of visitors read the website in Spanish, 31% in Catalan, 8% in English, and 1% in French. 70% of the virtual visitors come from Spain, the United States, Mexico and countries from South America.

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## Spanish scientists discover cheap and effective Aids treatment

*Popular cholesterol drug is new weapon in fight against HIV and Aids*

MADELEINE SHEAHAN

Spanish scientists claim to have discovered a low-cost medication to treat HIV and Aids. The scientists, working in the Department of Immunology and Oncology at the National Centre of Biotechnology, have found that "statins", a group of drugs already used by millions of people throughout the world to reduce cholesterol levels, are an efficient weapon in the battle against Aids. They describe their findings as a "very important advance" towards establishing new therapies against HIV and Aids that are not only cheaper and simpler but also less toxic and less likely to create a resistance in the patient than current treatments.

The research project, which is funded by the Ministry of Education and Science with the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, started five years ago with a brief to study the molecular mechanisms used by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) to enter the cells known as T cells which protect against pathological infections.

What the scientists have now found is that a month-long course of treatment with statins reduces levels of HIV in zero-positive patients.



Existing Aids treatments are inaccessible to nine out of ten of those most in need / EFE

At present, the most effective treatment for HIV and Aids is a combination of drugs known as highly-active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) which, while it has had a dramatic and positive impact on life expectancy and survival rates of people with Aids, can become in-

effective in the longer term and is not particularly accessible. Nine out of ten people requiring urgent treatment have no access to HAART, which is expensive and can only be administered by specialists. HAART can also have potentially life-threatening side effects.

## "Catalan model would be better for Euskadi than Ibarretxe Plan"

AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN

The Catalan model of statutory reform should be applied to Euskadi instead of the Ibarretxe Plan, according to the PSOE spokesman on constitutional reform, Ramón Jáuregui. In an interview with the EFE press agency, Jáuregui said the controversial plan proposed by the Basque president Juan José Ibarretxe was "dead" and that "the Catalan model of statutory reform is a valid model for the Basque Country". Ibarretxe's plan is to hold a referendum on turning Euskadi into a "free associate" of Spain. Given that the proposal would in any event require approval from the Spanish government and subsequent amendment to the Spanish Constitution, it has never looked particularly likely to succeed. The former PP government was unequivocally hostile to the proposal but the current president, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, recently broke the deadlock by meeting with Ibarretxe in Madrid.

Jáuregui told EFE that a solution to the political problems of Euskadi was unlikely to emerge until after the regional elections, expected to take place in May 2005.

Esquerra Republicana de Catalu-

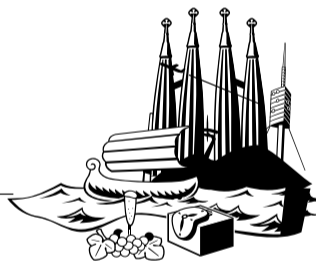
nya (ERC) disagreed that the Catalan model should be applied to Euskadi. Party secretary Joan Puigcercós said: "It is not good for Catalonia to be the model for the Basque Country, or vice versa." His party would continue to insist that Catalonia figured in any new version of the constitution as a "national community". He rejected the proposal by Catalan regional president Pasqual Maragall that the constitution recognise Catalonia as a "historic nationality".

"Historical means everybody, Murcia too, or Castille-La-Mancha," Puigcercós claimed.

Jáuregui also rejected the Maragall proposal, which he thought was entering "dangerous ground".

"Each community has its history and none of them is superior to any of the others. The distinction between nationalities and regions, and rights and privileges, differs greatly from one to another," he said.

Maragall said the mention of Catalonia as a "historic nationality" was a question of "self esteem" for Catalans and would reassure them that change was inevitable and that "one of the things that would change most was the PP".



## Vox Pop

By RICHARD MCCRANN

Elke Vanrossen AUDITOR FROM BELGIUM

## "Barcelona is a must see city"

"Barcelona is a city that people must see at least one in their life time. It ranks alongside London and other major cities of the world," said Elke. She was visiting Barcelona with her boyfriend Tom Debruyne, for a three day holiday, to relax and take photographs of the varied architecture in the city. They will also take advantage of visiting other attractions in Catalonia and generally enjoying themselves away from their hectic schedule in Belgium. "Barcelona certainly lived up to our expectations. It is a very beautiful city with plenty of things to see," said Elke. They loved walking through the narrow streets of Barri Gòtic and browsing through the museums. "We love the culture in Barcelona, especially the museums, and the influence of Gaudi across the city," they said. There was nothing

they had to criticise about the city and thought it was well organised for tourists. "It's a city that caters for the tourists in all aspects from the many hotels to the bars and restaurants," said Elke. They arrived in Barcelona with a holiday budget of a 1000 euros which they hope will last them during their two week vacation, which will take them to the Costa Brava and other parts of Catalonia. They are determined to return to Barcelona within the next few years. "We've been here before and I'm sure it won't be the last time that we visit this beautiful and magnificent city," said Elke. And when they return home they will recommend Barcelona to their friends as a worth while place to visit. "There are certain cities across the world that people must see and Barcelona ranks in this category," they said.



Elke and boyfriend Tom Debruyne enjoyed relaxing in the city museums.

## Couple lured back to city

Elke Vanrossen, 24, and her boyfriend Tom Debruyne, 26, come from the town of Dendermonde in Belgium. They travelled by car and spent three days in Barcelona and are now touring other parts of Catalonia visiting the Costa Brava and the Dalí Museum in Figueres. In her home town Elke is an auditor and Tom a graphic designer. They have both visited Barcelona previously when they were younger but the lure of the Catalan way of life and its culture was so strong they had to return this summer, armed with camera, guide book and walking boots.

### ELKE'S RATING FROM ZERO TO TEN

Cleanliness of city	9
Value for money of services	8
Noise levels	5
Public safety	7
Information	8
Treatment of tourists	8
Friendliness of local people	9



A victorious duo, President Hugo Chávez and his Vice-President José Vicente Rangel / EFE

## Chávez presidency endorsed by Venezuelans in massive turnout

*Chávez claims 58 per cent of vote while opposition cries foul*

**AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN**

The presidency of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez has been confirmed by Sunday's referendum. Chávez won 58 per cent of the vote in what he described as a "victory for the Venezuelan people". His opponents, meanwhile, continued to cry foul, accusing the president and his supporters of fraud and claiming to have won 60 per cent of the vote according to their own exit polls.

A huge turnout caused massive queues at polling stations and twice forced authorities to extend voting hours. The referendum asked Venezuelans if they wanted Chávez to serve out the remaining two-and-a-

half years of his term which began with his shock victory in presidential elections in 1998. He was the country's first president with an indigenous background and has faced staunch opposition from mostly white and middle-class Venezuelans.

In Spain, half of the 10,000 Venezuelan's legally resident here exercised their right to vote in the referendum, 95 per cent of them voting against Chávez.

Had he lost on Sunday, fresh presidential elections would have been called within 30 days. By early Monday morning the National Electoral Council had announced a

16-point lead for Chávez, which meant he should remain in office until January 2007.

Preliminary results saw an immediate drop in oil prices as Chávez pledged to guarantee stability in the market. In the USA, opinions had been divided on which result would be more disruptive. Chávez has a notoriously difficult relationship with the Bush administration. He alleges American interference and complains about US funding for members of the opposition. On the other hand, it is likely that the turmoil following an opposition victory would have caused unwelcome disruption in oil supplies.

## Fighting in holy city of Najaf threatens to derail political process

**AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN**

Fighting in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, has cast a pall over the National Conference in Baghdad which is supposed to be an important step towards democracy. The conference, which has brought together 1,300 religious, tribal and political leaders from across the country, yesterday voted to send a negotiating team to try to break the stand-off between US forces and militias led by the Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Three Americans were killed in clashes in Najaf on Sunday after negotiations and a cease-fire collapsed. Journalists have been ordered by police to leave the city.

Some delegates to the National Conference threatened to walk out unless the crisis was resolved. The conference voted to send a delegation to Najaf and to ask Sadr to urge his followers to drop their weapons



Al-Sadr's Mehdi army is clashing violently with US troops / EFE

and join the political process. One of al-Sadr's aides, Ahmed al-Shaibany, said the faction was "ready to accept any mediation for a peaceful solution". But, at the same time, he called on tribal chiefs throughout Iraq to travel to the city to form a hu-

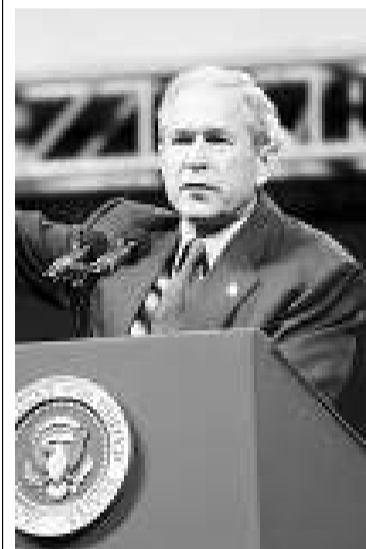
man shield to help al-Sadr's Mehdi army to defend the city's holy shrine. Al-Sadr has drawn support for his denunciations of continued US domination of Iraq and depicts his fight as a campaign against occupation.

### Mass burial for refugees slain at Burundi

A mass funeral ceremony was held in Burundi yesterday for the more than 150 refugees killed at the weekend. The refugees, mostly ethnic Tutsis who had fled Democratic Republic of Congo, were allegedly killed by armed groups from Burundi, DR Congo and Rwanda. The AP news agency reported that relatives were wailing as the dead were placed in body bags and then sealed in coffins which were laid out in rows for burial in a mass grave near the refugee camp. The UN Security Council condemned the killings with "utmost firmness".

### Israel holds firm against Palestinian hunger strikers

The Israeli government has responded to a hunger strike by some 1600 Palestinian prisoners by further tightening the regulations which have provoked the action. Another 6,000 prisoners are expected to join the strike this week to press for greater access to phones, an end to strip searches and more family visits. The prisoners are among the many thousands of Palestinians rounded up by Israeli troops during the past four years on suspicion of involvement with bombing and shooting attacks which have killed about 1000 Israelis. Public Security Minister, Tsachi Hanegbi, was unmoved, saying that prisoners could "strike for a day, a month, even starve to death, as far as I am concerned".



### US troops heading home

US President George Bush proposes to bring tens of thousands of troops home from Europe and Asia as part of a major realignment of forces aimed to boost the fight against terrorism. The changes would take several years to come into effect but would represent a major shift in long-standing arrangements with allies. More US troops would be deployed on home ground. About 70,000 troops would be withdrawn from Europe and Asia, two regions where the USA has maintained a strong presence since the end of the Second World War. Reduced manpower would be balanced by more sophisticated weaponry.

### Danish athlete facing manslaughter charges will compete

Denmark's Olympic sailing hopeful, Niklas Holm, will compete in the star class competition which starts on Saturday in spite of facing manslaughter charges after a Briton, Errol Strachan (45), was killed when he was hit by a car while using a pedestrian crossing in Athens on Sunday.

### Strike action threatens August bank holiday chaos

A strike by British Airways workers promises to bring travel chaos for air passengers over the UK bank holiday. The 24-hour walkout, over a long running pay dispute, is planned for August 27, 28, 29 or 30..



### Help comes to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Charley

Aid is pouring into hurricane-battered Florida in the wake of Hurricane Charley which has claimed at least 17 lives and caused some eleven billion dollars worth of damage. Urban rescue teams, insurance adjusters and troops of the National Guard spread across the state yesterday to help residents rally from the brunt of the worst storm to hit Florida in twelve years. About one million Floridians were still without power last night and 2,300 people had taken refuge in emergency shelters. "A lot of people's lives are turned upside down," said President George Bush, surveying the scene from a helicopter.

# Concerns over Irak and YUKOS keep oil prices near record levels

*Chávez victory in Venezuela not enough to bring prices below 46 dollar per barrel mark*

## REUTERS, LONDON

Oil prices simmered near new record highs yesterday even though early reports of victory for Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez in a referendum on his rule eased fears that unrest could upset the country's oil exports. Fresh disruption to Iraq's oil exports and warnings that YUKOS' financial crisis could ultimately cut into oil shipments bolstered prices, which have set new records in all but one of the last 12 trading sessions.

US light crude oil for September eased 23 cents to \$46.35 a barrel, down from an early peak of \$46.91 a barrel which was the highest since the New York Mercantile Exchange launched oil futures 21 years ago. London Brent was down 52 cents to \$43.36 a barrel. Prices made only modest falls after results released by Venezuelan electoral authorities with 94 per cent of the vote counted showed Chávez survived a referendum to recall him.

Energy markets have been worried about disruptions to the country's 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) oil production if a disputed result sparked social unrest. Shipping sources had said shipments from Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest crude exporter, were running smoothly.

Iraq's oil exports were cut by about half to around 900,000 bpd as a US offensive against followers of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr spread to several southern cities. And concern



Near-record high oil prices are reflected at the petrol pump, where prices surpassed \$2 per gallon in California yesterday / EFE

lingered that supplies from Russia's biggest producer YUKOS will suffer as the authorities pursue payment of multi-billion dollar tax arrears. YUKOS chairman Viktor Gerashchenko told Reuters that the company will be allowed to produce and sell

oil until the end of September and will try to avoid bankruptcy for as long as possible. Volgotanker, the company which ships YUKOS' oil by river, said yesterday it was not prepared to ship crude on credit, although transport fees have been

paid until the end of August. Oil is up more than \$10 a barrel since the start of the year.

In real terms, adjusted for inflation, prices are still well below 1980's peak of \$80, following the Iranian revolution.

## Telefónica to lose mobile telecommunication licenses that cost 6.5 billion euros

### AGENCIES

Telefónica mobile phone subsidiary, Telefónica Móviles, is desperately trying to sell the UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) licenses it acquired in 2000 for 6.485 billion euros to operate in Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Germany. After selling the frequencies in Austria for 13.65 million euros in December 2003 (the company had invested 117 million euros to buy the Austrian license in the year 2000), the holding announced its intention to give up any business project in the other three countries.

In Switzerland, Telefónica Móviles is negotiating the sale of its subsidiary in the country, 3G Mobile, to

one of the other three UMTS license owners (Orange, TDC Switzerland and Swisscom). As for Italy, Ipet consortium, of which Telefónica owns 45.6%, bought a UMTS license in October 2000 for 4.73 billion euros. Telefónica Móviles estimates Ipet assets are now worth 300 million euros and is negotiating its sale either to TIM or to Omnitel. In Germany things are no better: Telefónica invested 4.845 billion euros to acquire a license in a joint venture with Dutch company KPN. A project was launched under Quam brand in November 2001, but it was halted seven months later due to a lack of profitability in a highly saturated German market.



Despite some failures, Telefónica Móviles is a highly profitable company / EFE

### TOURISM

#### Spanish chains not to buy TUI

The Hotel chains Barceló and Sol Mellá will not attempt to buy 31 per cent of the stock in the German TUI AG, Europe's largest travel company, sources from both companies told Efe yesterday. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that the Spanish hotel chains had expressed an interest in buying the share of TUI owned by the German state bank WestLB. The article in the magazine that carried the report cited no one as having given the information. Nonetheless, shares for the German tour company rose by 4.5 per cent after the rumour about the supposed buyout had spread.

### EUROPEAN INSURANCE

#### Hurricane hits reinsurers

Shares in European reinsurers fell yesterday as assessors count the cost of a hurricane that hit Florida on Friday, but analysts say industry changes mean the impact will be far less damaging than Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Hurricane Charley killed 16 people and left thousands homeless as it swept over south west Florida on Friday with winds of up to 233 km per hour. Hurricane Andrew caused losses of at least \$22 billion 12 years ago and since then government funding pools have been set aside to reduce the exposure insurers face. Germany's Munich Re, the world's largest supplier of insurance to insurers, was down 0.45 per cent at 74.74 euros at midday yesterday. Total industry exposure was likely to be between \$7-\$14 billion, it added. Listed insurers operating in the Lloyd's of London market were also down on fears of large claims arising from the hurricane. While some insurers and reinsurers were likely to suffer losses in the short-term, the longer-term impact may be good, analysts said. "There will be a negative impact on the second half earnings, but the effect on the insurance industry for next year should be to hold rates at a higher level than would otherwise prove to be the case," British stockbrokers Bridge-well said in a note.

### GOVERNMENT

#### Regions hire more

The number of employees in the General Administration of the Spanish State has decreased by 35 per cent in the last five years while the number the number of public employees working for government administrations in the autonomous communities has increased by 68 per cent in the same period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Public Administrations. There are currently 541,246 people employed by the General Administration of the State, 112,103 of which form part of the law enforcement and public safety agencies, while 115,942 are in the armed forces and 22,475 are employed by the justice department.



# Abbey investors demand reform of Santander structure pending deal

*Accusations include nepotism and payoff irregularities amongst other shareholder concerns*

## AGENCIES/RICHARD MCCRANN

Leading shareholders in the Abbey National are very concerned about any take over by Banco Santander Central Hispano. They want Spain's biggest bank to change its corporate governance before the 8.1 billion pound merger gets the green light. Shareholders including the Morley Fund Management, part of Aviva, the insurer, have reservations about Banco Santander's executive pay and bonuses, the make-up of the board and the lack of automatic retirement date for the directors. In July, the Abbey National agreed to be taken over by Banco Santander, but the plan has already met with controversy, with reports that there will be huge job losses at the Abbey National.

In the latest row, the Spanish bank has also been tarnished with allegations of nepotism, after it was disclosed that the family of the executive chairman, Emilio Botín owns 2.8% of the bank's shares, and three of his children are board members. "If Santander wants to play in the big wide world it needs to pay more than lip service to grown up corporate



Banco Santander must improve corporate governance before any merger say Abbey shareholders / EFE

governance behaviour. That means no nepotism and we would want more transparency on pay, bonuses and reforms on service contracts," said David Lis, a senior fund manager at Morley, which holds a 1.5%

stake in Abbey. Documents filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, show pay off practices that are not in line with UK procedure. They reveal that some Santander directors might receive up to five

times their basic salary if they are forced to leave or three times their total pay, including salary and bonuses, but they would go without their pension rights. In the UK they get payoffs of six to 12 months.

# Generalitat highlights growth for air industry

## AGENCIES

An annual report by the Catalan government into industry shows that more emphasis will be placed on the aviation industry in a bid to revitalise the sector that make components for cars. The report says that this sector has been badly affected by the move to relocate factories abroad and that it faces many problems in Catalonia particularly to do with overcapacity. However, a plan by the Generalitat is aiming to diversify the sector for car components into making parts for aviation.

"Catalonia is in a good position to specialise in design of components because it has the experience from the auxiliary industries of the car sector," says the report. The report highlights the growth and the importance of the aeronautical industry in Catalonia and Spain, which employs more than 22,000 people, which is 4,300 more workers compared to six years ago. The Generalitat sees the aeronautics sector as "strategically" important, specially projects like the Airbus. In its plan it wants the diversification of the car components sector to provide products for the aviation sector in Catalonia.



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# OPINION

WHAT THE EUROPEAN PAPERS SAY

FREDERIC BARBERÀ

## Remembering the Liberation of Europe

I spent this past weekend in Bonn and Cologne, where I was able to see a new phenomenon among Germans in their approach to World War II. Now, beyond the feeling of historical guilt held among the older generations (the publication of *Die Holocaust Chronik*, Droemer 2004, is a renewed example), there has appeared a need to acknowledge the suffering of the German civilian population during that war. Richter's compelling photo-compositions on the severe bombings of Bonn in the Museum of Modern Art of this city and the recent publication of Tony Vaccaro's *Entering Germany* (Taschen 2004), a photographic chronicle of the Ally liberation of Germany, are illustrative of this new trend.

This book contains striking pictures of American soldiers approaching very young German prostitutes and a long string of snapshots taken from the air of cities that had been levelled by bombing. In my walk around Cologne's city centre, I see only new buildings surrounding some of the historical remains (mostly rebuilt) of what before the war had been one of the essential jewels of Romanesque and Gothic architecture in Europe. In the evening, in my hotel room in Bonn, browsing through the European papers, I find evidence of a parallel phenomenon in the French perception of the end of the war on their soil. Thus the daily *Libération* dedicates 2 pages weekly to the liberation of France 60 years ago under the heading "Un Été 1944".

Beyond the commonplace stories of a tri-



The liberation of Paris in August 1944 / ELPUNT

umphant Ally liberation with the assistance of a brave *résistance*, the daily unearths the reality of 20,000 French women accused of collaboration whose heads were shaved in public across France by male *résistants* as the liberation advanced. Mylène, daughter of a German soldier and Renée L., had ignored for 50 years that her mother, now 79, had had her head shaved in the summer of 1944. Mylène's view on those in charge of carrying out the

punishment is unambiguous: "All those who did that, who could they be but some individuals who wanted to reconstruct a sort of virginity? I find it difficult to see a real *résistance* member degrading himself in such a way". For Fabrice Virgili, author of *France virile* (2000), now interviewed in *Libération*, the shaving of women's heads was the "rite de la Libération" and "those men in charge carried almost always an attribute of authority: a hel-

met, a uniform, a gun". It was ultimately a matter of "destroying women's instrument of seduction, of de-sexualising them by shaving their heads". Virgili explains that this punishment was also used in the Ally liberation of Tuscany, Northern Italy, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Greece, Poland, etc. and that it had already become common practice among the Nazis (with German women involved with Jews; foreign and Jewish women in the camps) and the *Francistas*, with Republican women. Virgili doesn't mention that in the early 1960s this practice was also applied in Asturias in the repression against the striking miners. At the time, when the current Home Secretary was asked by a British daily whether this punishment was carried out on the strikers' wives, he replied: "Only on the wives of the Communists". Antònia C., now 92, with whom my mother plays cards every afternoon in a small town 10 miles south east of Lleida, also had her head shaved in 1939 when that village was "liberated" by Franco's troops including Italian volunteers and Moroccan mercenaries.

From my hotel window in Bad Godesberg, once the diplomatic district of what used to be the capital city of Western Germany, I can see the building of a ministry now privatised where Antònia's pension used to be issued. Her husband, a Republican soldier captured in France by the Gestapo, died in the concentration camp of Auschwitz.

Frederic Barberà is a lecturer in the Department of European Cultures at Lancaster University (f.barbera@lancaster.ac.uk)

### THE STING BY JAP



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### NOISY NEIGHBOURHOOD

If you ever consider buying an apartment in Barcelona, be aware of one thing: THE NOISE. I have lived in Amsterdam, Florence and New York, but never have I had as much trouble with noise as here. I am not talking about neighbours; loud neighbours you can find everywhere, no, I am talking about concerts and street parties. We moved to the Raval (Rambla del Raval) not so long ago, it is a nice neighbourhood, lively as they say. But lately a little too lively. It all started with the Saturday market. They say it is not a normal market; it is a "fira" market which means, that apart from selling things, the market has an illegal bar

and amplified music to attract people. And they were really trying very hard and loud. We talked several times to the organisers, but we needed to talk to the police and city hall before they understood that the street is not theirs and theirs alone. A few weeks ago almost everything seemed to be going well. Almost, meaning that three Saturdays ago there was the Festa Mayor number 2, a strange phenomenon, one would say that a neighbourhood has just one Festa Mayor a year, the Raval seems to be a very special neighbourhood. We called the police to get informed about until how late they had a licence to make music. We felt secured, they had to stop at 10 pm. Needless to say that the con-

cert lasted until midnight. We of course called the police again, this time also because we saw that next to the stage some people had put up a big stereo for an illegal rave party. This Saturday there was the Pakistan Party, they had a permit to make music until 10 pm, but it lasted until 11 pm and the police did nothing about it. We will try to get the neighbourhood organised, we want to stay here, because it really is a nice place to live apart from the noise. And we expect that once the 4 star hotel is here, the police will be more responsive. But in the meantime; if you want an apartment, buy it in the Sagrada Familia area or in San Cugat.

**Bert van Zelm**



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# Gràcia turns wonderland

*Festivities in the Barcelona village continue while the winner of the street decoration contest is to be announced today*

IVAN VILA / ALEXLEFF

The streets of Gràcia awakened Sunday to the pounding of firecrackers, drumming and the brightly coloured adornments that have turned the village this week into the centre of Barcelona. A total of 23 streets aspire to be awarded the prize for best decoration, to be announced today.

Jungles, music and fairytales have taken over the village. Verdi del Mig (the mid-carrer Verdi area), the winner of last year's contest, is decorated to look like a prehistoric world. It is a colourful wonderland, with yellow and red dinosaurs made of chicken wire and papier-mâché. At night, the creatures come to life with built-in lights, lending an unusual glow to Verdi, a street foreigners and locals have grown fond of for its original version cinema and eclectic restaurants. To complete the archaic atmosphere, dinosaur eggs have been laid, and prehistoric insects made of dyed plastic bottles and hypodermic needles hang from wires above the street.

By the afternoon, many of the residents that had spent the whole night before adding the finishing touches to their collective fantasy land had to take a break. If so, they may have missed the induction of a new member to the cast of creatures in the Gràcia festival—the baby dragon. He made his debut during the



The young dragon was christened in Gràcia's Plaça Rius i Taulet, and there was a traditional *Bastoners* performance where people bang sticks together / ORIOLDURAN



Sunday afternoon parade, weighing in at around 60 kilos, a little more than half the weight of his big brother. He, too, woos crowds with sparks that shoot off from both sides of his

mouth.

Gràcia by night was virtually on fire as well. Teams of visitors clogged the neighbourhoods usually free-flowing arteries, which led to *places*

and *carrers* ringing with rock, folk, dance, or pop music. Plaça Diamant was turned into a head-bangers ball with raucous punk rock. Actually, in retrospect, the violent energy and

groups of skinheads seemed to foreshadow the events that were to occur later in the evening when there was a scuffle between *skins* and *okupas* that left one squatter stabbed.



## Placeta de Sant Miquel

Located at the meeting point of carrer Lluís Antunez and the little Sant Miquel square, *El corralet de Gràcia*, or the Little Coral of Gràcia, displays a collection of friendly members from the animal kingdom including this enormous cat. The exhibit it is 70 metres long and 7.5 metres wide, which amounts to 525 square metres. Chickens and ducks are among the Gràcia farm life, consisting of different forms using papier-mâché and plastic. / ORIOLDURAN



## The world of nymphs

Carrer Puigmartí has been turned into a fairytale—*El món de les ninfes*. The street is a veritable garden of Eden. One of the elements that exhibit utilises is its floral arrangements and water pools make it difficult to leave. The trees on Puigmartí, just like on all the streets of Gràcia, have been used as a tool for designing the fantasy world. Other street and square decorations involved hand-made trees, which became the central focus of plaça Rius i Taulet. / ORIOLDURAN



## The garden of Camprodon

Carrer Camprodon, the street that won seventh place last year, is now *El jardí de Camprodon*. The exhibit is 140 metres long and five and a half metres wide, occupying 600 square metres. All sorts of joyous garden life are buzzing around the Camprodon stretch. The landscape architects of this flowery arrangement consisted of just four children and four adults. Bees, dragonflies, butterflies are among the colourful bugs flying around the garden. / ORIOLDURAN

# Thorpe takes gold and sets Olympic record

*Australian sets sights to walk away with gold in 100, 200 and 400 freestyle at Athens Games*

Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe beat arch-rival Michael Phelps in the men's 200-meter freestyle yesterday as the United States pursued China, Australia and Japan in the medals table on day three of the Olympic Games.

In a nail-biting race between the four fastest swimmers in history, world record holder Thorpe took the gold, just ahead of Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband. Phelps, a 19-year-old American who arrived in Athens with a big build-up, was a distant third.

The delighted Australian whipped off his rubber cap and punched the air three times in triumph, flashing a smile. "It was tough," said Thorpe, who won the 400 freestyle gold at the weekend.

"But I was able to produce a

pretty good performance and I'm ecstatic about the result." Van den Hoogenband, who won gold four years ago, led through 150 meters but Thorpe caught him in a pulsating finish. "I knew Pieter would go out quick and I just wanted to stay with him," said Thorpe. "It was a great result." The bronze finish in Thorpe's wake ended Phelps' hopes of equaling Mark Spitz's 1976 record of seven gold medals.

Also yesterday, Aaron Peirsol (USA), who had accused Kosuke Kitajima (Japan) of cheating in his upset win in the 100 breaststroke on Sunday, claimed the gold medal in the men's 100 metre backstroke, with a time of 54.06 seconds. Markus Rogan (Aut) won the silver medal with a time of 54.35, while Tomomi Morita (Japan) took the bronze in 54.36.



Peter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands (left) congratulates Ian Thorpe on his zoom freestyle win yesterday / REUTERS



## Spain's first medal

The sharpshooter shooter Maria Quintanal won Spain's first Olympic medal yesterday, picking up the silver in the trap shooting final. Australia's Suzanne Balogh, once called "too old and too talentless" by a former coach, won the gold, breaking 88 of 100 targets. Quintanal, a native of the Basque Country, broke 84. Lee Bo-na of South Korea won the bronze medal with a score of 83.



## Chinese weightlifting gold

Yangling Chen of China won the gold medal in the woman's 53-58 kilogramme category of weightlifting yesterday. She lifted 107.5 kilogrammes in the snatch, setting an Olympic record and went on to lift 237.5, beating silver medal of Son Hui Ri of North Korea by five kilogrammes. The bronze was won by Wandee Kameaim of Thailand, who lifted 230 kilogrammes.



## German wins in judo

Yvonne Boenisch of Germany overpowered Kye Sun-hui of North Korea to win the gold medal in the 57 kilogramme weight class yesterday. Boenisch ended Kye's bid to win three medals in three different weight categories. The 23-year-old avenged her world championship defeat to Kye last year. Kye struggled unsuccessfully to pin down the German with several throw attempts.

## Barça wrap up summer signings and tell "rabbit" to look for new patch

### STEPHEN BURGEN

Barcelona are to loan out their Argentina striker Javier Saviola this season now that they appear to have solved their goal-scoring problem with the signing of the Cameroon player Samuel Eto'o.

Saviola, nicknamed the "rabbit" and the club's most expensive signing, when all the "commissions" (backhanders) are taken into account, has never lived up to his billing and has struggled to score more than a dozen goals a season since he signed in 1999. He is also one for-

eigner too many at a club that has signed several non-EU players this summer. According to Barcelona, as many as seven clubs are interested in taking him on loan, among them AS Monaco, Atlético Madrid and newly-promoted Levante who are being managed by Barcelona old boy Bernd Schuster. The French football season is already under way and Didier Deschamps, the Monaco coach, is said to be losing patience. To put pressure on Barça they have revived their interest in Nicolas Anelka, currently with Manchester City.



Javier Saviola, currently in Athens representing Argentina at football, is deemed surplus to requirement at Camp Nou

## WHAT'S ON

13

Tuesday 17 August 2004

TUESDAY

17

## Concerts

## BARCELONA

- **Carrer Bailèn.** Concert by Whiskyn's. At 10:30 pm.
- **Carrer Bailèn.** Concert by Brahms. At 11:45 pm.
- **Carrer Camprodon.** Concert by Frecuencia Spectru. At 11:00 pm.
- **Carrer Ciudad Real.** Concert by Duo Mambo. At 11:00 pm.
- **Carrer Joan Blanques.** Swing concert by Ivanow Jazz Group. At 10:30 pm.
- **Carrer Joan Blanques.** Concert by Christian and Leonor Zayas & Caribe Sound. At 11 pm.
- **Carrer Martínez de la Rosa.** Rock concert by Mr Rodríguez Band and El Sobrino del Diablo. At 10:30 pm.
- **Carrer Martínez de la Rosa.** Rock concert by El Sobrino del Diablo. At 12:00 am.
- **Carrer Progrés.** Rock concert by Stanza, Abadia and Arama Social. At 9:00 pm.
- **IACIDH.** Concert by The Benders. At 11:00 pm. Milà i Fontanals.
- **Jamboree.** Jazz concert by Felipe Cabrera Quintet. At 11:00 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **La Boîte.** Rock, blues concert by Eric Sardinas. At 12:00 am. Diagonal, 477.
- **London Bar.** Jazz concert by Miquel Garces Quartet. At 12:30 am. Nou de la Rambla, 34.
- **Los Tarantos.** Flamenco concert by Juan Cortés and Sara Flores. At 8:30 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **Moog.** Concert by DJ Robert X. At 1:30 am. Arc del Teatre, 3.
- **Oratori de Sant Felip Neri.** Concert by Joan Isaac. At 10:00 pm. Sol, 8.
- **Plaça Rius i Taulet.** Jazz concert by La Vella Dixieland. At 10:30 pm.

## BEGUR

- **Pati de les Escoles Velles.** *Carmen Amaya: la última noche.* Flamenco show by Cia. Eva Santiago. As part of XXVII Festival Internacional de Música de Begur. Agust 19th and 20th. At 10:30 pm.

## BERGA

- **Parròquia de Santa Eulàlia.** Organ concert by Roberto Fresco. As part of XXIV Cicle de Concerts d'Orgues de Catalunya. At 10 pm.

## CASERES

- **Església de Santa Maria Magdalena.** Concert by Dalí string quartet. As part of I Cicle de Concerts d'Estiu a Caseres. At 8:30 pm.

## EL VENDRELL

- **Auditori Pau Casals.** Concert by Coro de Niños de Puerto Rico. At 10:30 pm.

## L'ESCALA

- **Empúries archeological site.** Jazz concert by Carlos Benavent, bass, Di Geraldo, drums, and Pardo, saxophone and flute. At 10:00 pm.

## LA BISBAL D'EMPORDÀ

- **Pati de les Escoles Velles.** Jazz concert by Tandoori Le Noir. At 9:30 pm.

## LLAFRANC

- **Ermita del Far de Sant Sebastià.** Concert by Mònica Orpí, soprano, Carles Puig, violin, and Ester Ramos, piano. At 10:00 pm.

## MOIÀ

- **Parc Municipal.** Concert by Ets i Uts, traditional Catalan songs. As part of XXII Festival Internacional de Música Francesc Viñas. At 11:00 pm.

## PALAFRUGELL

- **Jazz Club La Guitarra.** Concert by Jazzcare Trio and guest artists. At 11:00 pm.

## PERALADA

- **Castell de Peralada.** Concert by Javier Perianes, piano. As part of XVIII Festival Castell de Peralada. At 9:00 pm.

## Recommended | MARCELA TOPOR



## Eastern and western cultures in India at Casa Àsia

● Casa Asia is opening today the exhibition *Oriente y Occidente en la India de los siglos 20 i 21*, which is focused on two great personalities: the musician Alain Daniélou and the Indian poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore, winner of the Nobel Prize in literature and one of the key Hindu personalities of the early 20th century. Based on the central idea

of dialogue between cultures, the exhibition presents Daniélou's work about Asian traditional culture and Tagore's India as well as his relations with the University of Santikinetan. Daniélou's music was strongly influenced by India, and the exhibit presents a selection of his works with a strong ethnic and Asian touch. Avinguda Diagonal, 373. 93 238 73 37

## Streetlight banners exhibition at Espai (b)

● Not long ago, a group of young designers from Barcelona started recycling streetlight banners to make plastic bags. A very original exhibition opened yesterday at the contemporary art gallery Espai (b) in Gràcia, showing banners signed by well-known artists. The selection was made by Espai (b) and the company Marc Martí and visitors can also acquire a copy in its original support. The exhibition will be on until 25 September. Torrent de l'olls, 158. 93 217 10 90

## Piru Gambetta: Argentinian music and poetry

● Piru Gabetta bring to the Forum the tango of Argentina in their passionate show called *Puertos de Tango*. Their music is the synthesis of the Buenos Aires' cultures at the beginning of the 20th century - a city highly influenced by Borges and Júlio Cortázar. Piru Gambetta will move the audience with a vast repertoire, from *canzonettas* to tango and *haveneres*. The show will be running until 22 August on Haima Stage, at 11:35 am, 12:50 and 15:35 pm.

## TARRAGONA

- **Teatre Cafè.** Pop-rock concert by AP40. At 11:30 pm.
- **Torre de Minerva.** Concert by Marta González. As part of *Nits a Minerva*. At 10:00 pm.
- **TORROELLA DE MONTGRÍ**
- **Plaça de la Vila.** Concert by Cabo San Roque. At 8:00 pm.

## TORTOSA

- **Estadi Municipal.** Concert by Alejandro Sanz. At 11:00 pm.

## VILAFRANCA DEL PENEDÈS

- **Claustre dels Trinitaris.** Concert by Notiz Electronic. At 8:30 pm.
- **Claustre dels Trinitaris.** Concert by S'albadia, music from Menorca. At 11:00 pm.

## Dance

## CALELLA DE PALAFRUGELL

- **Jardins de Cap Roig.** *Yerma*, dance show by Cristina Hoyos based on works by García Lorca. As part of *Festival Jardins de Cap Roig*. At 10:00 pm.

## SANTASUSANNA

- **Espai Pati de la Masia Can Ratés.** *Corella and Shakespeare*. As part of *Festival Shakespeare*. At 10:00 pm.

## Children

## BARCELONA

- **Can Fabra.** *Atrapa la paraula*, children's stories. At 7:00 pm. Segre, 24.

## CALONGE

- **Plaça de la Doma.** *Un país de cotó*, children's show. At 7:00 pm.

## GIRONA

- **Museu del Cinema.** Animation film screening *Animac mòbil 2004*. At 5:30 pm.

## MATARÓ

- **Biblioteca Pompeu Fabra.** *Contes de remeis i herbes*, children's stories told by Ada Cosidó. At 6:00 pm.

## Theatre

## BARCELONA

- **Artenbrut Teatre.** *Élvino en un barco*, by Cia. Wai. Thurs to Sat 9 pm. Sun 6 pm. Check for tickets. Until August 29th. Perill, 9.

- **Teatre Nou Tantarantana.** *Diktat*, by Enzo Corman. Wed to Sat 9 pm, Sunday 7 pm. Until August 22nd. Tickets: 13-16 euros. Flors, 22.

- **Versus Teatre.** Play *The backroom* by 4D Productions. Wed to Sat 10:30 pm. Sun 8:30 pm. Until August 29th. Tickets: 16 euros. Castillejos, 179.

## IGUALADA

- **Teatre Municipal l'Ateneu.** *L'illa del tresor*, performed by Cia. La Paparra. At 7:00 pm.

## PALAMÓS

- **Arbreda municipal.** *Rubianes solamente*, with Pepe Rubianes. At 11:00 pm.

## TERRASSA

- **Pati de la Casa Baumann.** *El baile de los perdidos*, play performed by Companyia Artefacto. At 10:00 pm.

## CULTURAL CENTRES

## BARCELONA

- Articket.** [www.articketbcn.es](http://www.articketbcn.es)
- MACBA** (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona). Plaça dels Àngels. Tel. 93 412 08 10. [www.macba.es](http://www.macba.es)
- CCCB.** (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona). Montalegre 5. Tel. 93 306 41 00. [www.cccb.es](http://www.cccb.es)
- Fundació Joan Miró.** Parc de Montjuïc, s/n. Tel. 93 443 94 70. [www.bcn.fimiro.es](http://www.bcn.fimiro.es)
- Fundació Antoni Tàpies.** Aragó 255. Tel. 934 870 315. [www.fundaciontapias.org](http://www.fundaciontapias.org)
- Palau Robert** (Catalan Information Centre) aims to provide all the information needed to enable residents and visitors alike to get to know Catalonia. Passeig de Gràcia, 107. Tel. 93 238 80 91. [www10.gencat.net/probert/angles](http://www10.gencat.net/probert/angles)
- Gran Teatre del Liceu** (Opera House). La Rambla, 51-59. Tel. 93 485 99 00. [www.liceubarcelona.com](http://www.liceubarcelona.com)
- L'Auditori.** Lepant, 150. Tel. 93 247 93 00. L'Auditori, opened in 1999, is the city's new cultural complex in Barcelona and one of the most popular musical venues in the country. [www.auditori.org](http://www.auditori.org)
- Museu Picasso.** Montcada, 15-23. Tel. 933196310. [www.museupicasso.bcn.es](http://www.museupicasso.bcn.es)
- La Pedrera** (Casa Milà). Provença, 261. Tel. 902 400 973.

- Museu d'Història de Catalunya.** Pl. de Pau Vila, 3 (Palau de Mar). Tel. 93 225 47 00 | 93 225 47 26 | 93 225 47 32. [www.mhcat.net](http://www.mhcat.net)

- Museu Egipci de Barcelona** (Egyptian Museum). Valencia, 284. Tel. 93 488 01 88. [www.fundclos.com](http://www.fundclos.com)

- MNAC** (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya). Palau Nacional, Parc de Montjuïc. 93 622 03 76. [www.mnac.es](http://www.mnac.es)

- Museu Marítim.** Av. de les Drassanes s/n. Tel. 933 429 920. [www.diba.es/mmaritim/english/index.htm](http://www.diba.es/mmaritim/english/index.htm)

- Teatre Nacional de Catalunya.** Pl. de les Arts, 1. Tel. 933 06 57 06. Ticket sales: 902 33 22 11 or [www.servicaixa.com](http://www.servicaixa.com)

- Caixaforum.** Avda. Marqués de Comillas, 6-8. Tel. 93 476 86 00.

- Sagrada família.** [www.sagrafamiliario.org](http://www.sagrafamiliario.org)

- Museu del Ferrocarril** (Railway Museum). Pl. Eduard Maristany, Vilanova i la Geltrú. 93 815 84 91. [www.ffe.es/vilanova](http://www.ffe.es/vilanova)

## GIRONA

- Museu del Cinema.** C/Sèquia, 1, 17001 Girona. Tel. 972 412 777. [www.museudelcinema.org](http://www.museudelcinema.org)

- Museu del Call.** C/Força, 8, 17004 Girona. Tel. 972 21 67 61. [callgirona@ajgirona.org](mailto:callgirona@ajgirona.org)

- Centre Cultural Caixa de Girona.** C/Ciutadans, 19 17004 Girona Tel. 972 20 98 36. [www.fundacioncaixadegirona.org/cultura](http://www.fundacioncaixadegirona.org/cultura)

- Museu Dalí.** Opened in 1974, The Museu Dalí contains the broadest range of the artistic career of Salvador Dalí, from his earliest works and his creations within the Surrealist movement up to his last works. Tel. 972 677 500. [www.salvador-dali.org](http://www.salvador-dali.org)

## TARRAGONA

- Museu Nacional Arqueològic de Tarragona.** Plaça del Rei, 5 (Tarragona). Very important archaeological collection from Tarraco, the capital of Roman Spain. Tel 977 23 62 09. [www.mnat.es](http://www.mnat.es)





# CT BACK

## WEATHER

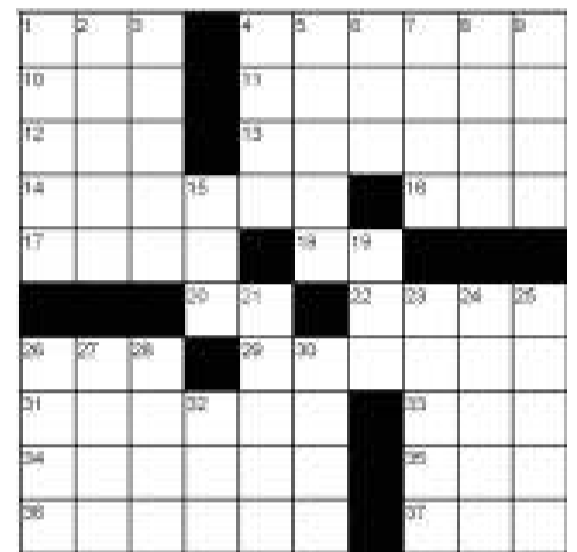
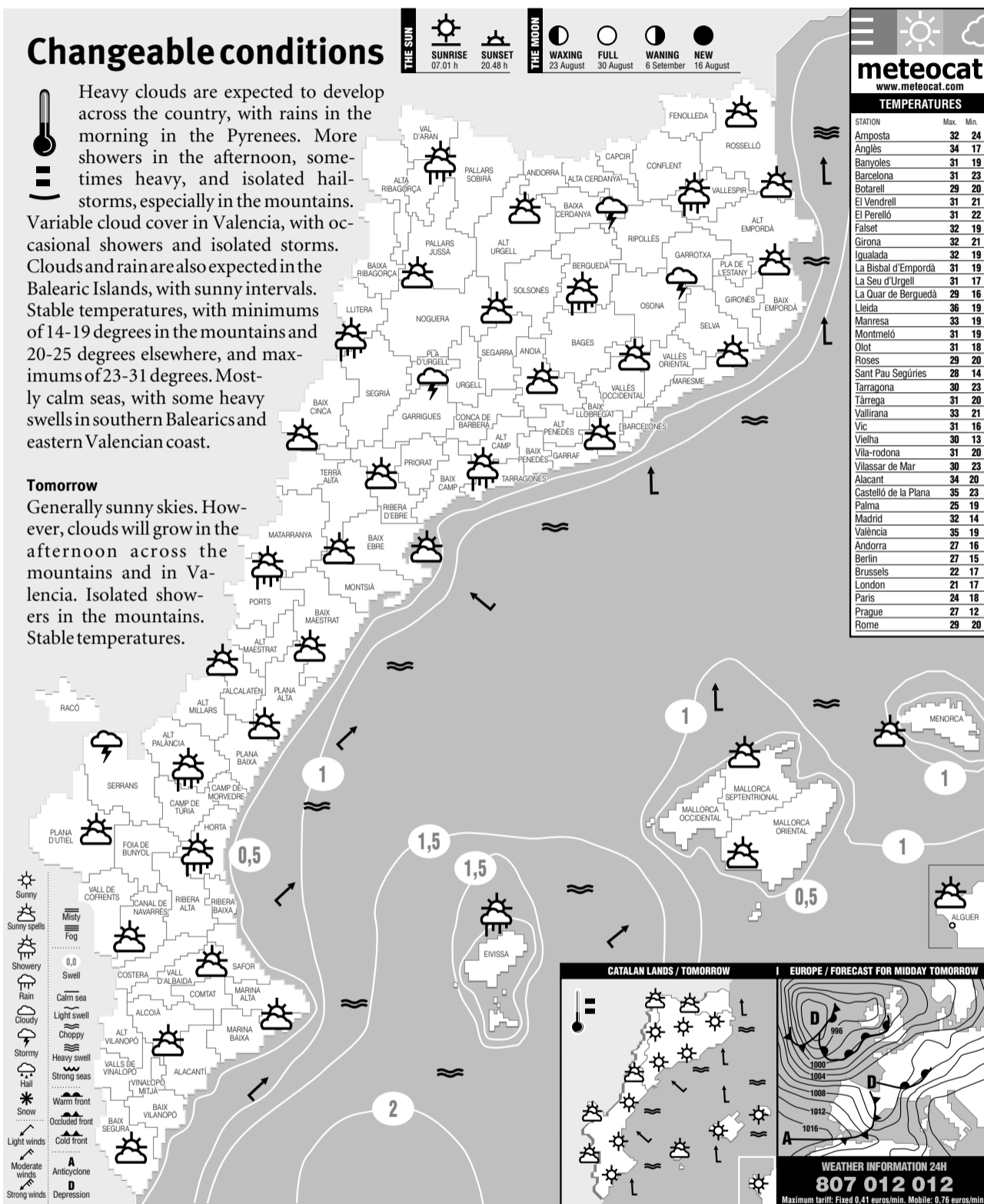
## CROSSWORD

### Changeable conditions

Heavy clouds are expected to develop across the country, with rains in the morning in the Pyrenees. More showers in the afternoon, sometimes heavy, and isolated hailstorms, especially in the mountains. Variable cloud cover in Valencia, with occasional showers and isolated storms. Clouds and rain are also expected in the Balearic Islands, with sunny intervals. Stable temperatures, with minimums of 14-19 degrees in the mountains and 20-25 degrees elsewhere, and maximums of 23-31 degrees. Mostly calm seas, with some heavy swells in southern Balearics and eastern Valencian coast.

### Tomorrow

Generally sunny skies. However, clouds will grow in the afternoon across the mountains and in Valencia. Isolated showers in the mountains. Stable temperatures.



### ACROSS

- Feed.
- Many.
- African antelope.
- Ideal place.
- Yang's partner.
- Nun.
- Blood part.
- Mesh.
- Trial.
- Women's magazine.
- Medium frequency.
- Beat it!
- MI.
- Before ninth.
- At the same time.
- Roberto's eyes.
- Tippets.
- Standard or average.
- Frugality.
- South southeast.

### DOWN

- African nation.
- Senile.
- Canned meats.
- Small island.
- Treed (2 words).
- Throw.
- Commerce.
- Stand up.
- Direction.
- Short-term memory.
- Chinese flavouring.
- Give away a fief.
- Pork cuts.
- Books of facts.
- Not here.
- Have to.
- Type of worm.
- Deceiver.
- Institution (abbr.).
- \_\_\_ Lanka.

### ANSWERS

### ACROSS

- Eat.
- Galore.
- Gnu.
- Utopia.
- Yin.
- Abess.
- Plasma.
- Net.
- Test.
- YM.
- MF.
- Scat.
- Mil.
- Eighth.
- Unison.
- Ole.
- Scarfs.
- Par.
- Thrift.
- SSE.

### DOWN

- Egypt.
- Anile.
- Tunas.
- Guam.
- At bay.
- Lob.
- Open.
- Rise.
- East.
- STM.
- MSG.
- Feoff.
- Chops.
- Atlas.
- There.
- Must.
- Inch.
- Liar.
- Inst.
- Sri.

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