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STEPHEN BURGEN

Primitive erotic art goes on show at Barcelona's La Virreina

Statues of women grasping their breasts or posing with their legs open, phallic receptacles and sculptures of hermaphrodites are just some of the exotic exhibits on show at the Palau de la Virreina in Barcelona. The exhibition, which opened yesterday, is comprised of 124 objects from African, American and Oceanic cultures, all of which have distinct erotic or sexual connotations. One of the most outstanding pieces is the statue from Cameroon entitled "Commemorative Sculpture of a Princess", which has also been called the "Black Venus".



The new exhibition brings together erotic art from numerous indigenous cultures around the world

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Om, Inshallah, Shalom and Hallelujah



WALL CONDEMNED: According to a leaked document the United Nations court ruled yesterday that Israel's notorious West Bank barrier violates international law and should be pulled down. The court has recognised Israel's duty to protect its citizens but said that it must do so within the law. It also said that Israel should compensate Palestinians for any homes or land that had been lost or damaged as a result of the building of the 100-metre section of walls, ditches and fences. Only American judge Thomas Buergenthal disagreed with the opinion of his 14 international colleagues, the document showed. The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat hailed the UN ruling as a victory for the Palestinian people.



The beer will be relaunched in tandem with an ambitious cultural project

Cerveses Moritz returns after 30-year drought

The emblematic brand of Catalan beer Cerveses Moritz is to be brewed again in Barcelona after having disappeared from the market 30 years ago. The Moritz family have also decided to reopen the company's old headquarters as a huge gastronomic and cultural centre, which will be designed by the French architect Jean Nouvel. In addition, the film director Bigas Luna will be making a short film about Barcelona's past as part of the relaunch of the popular brand of beer.

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Guided tours of Sitges' faded colonial glory



Cerveses Moritz to be brewed in Barcelona after a 30-year absence

The relaunch project also involves the creation of an enormous leisure-cum-cultural centre

MICHAEL BUNN

Cervesa Moritz - that emblematic brand of Catalan beer - has made an appearance in Barcelona again, in tandem with an ambitious cultural and architectural project. Almost 30 years after disappearing from the market, Moritz beer will soon be available once more in Barcelona's bars and restaurants.

However, the return of this brand goes beyond mere brewing. On Wednesday the Moritz family presented their relaunch project, which will be accompanied by the creation of a large gastronomic and cultural centre at the company's old headquarters on Ronda Sant Antoni in Barcelona, and which is to be renovated by French architect Jean Nouvel. The cultural side of the project will be emphasised by the participation by film director Bigas Luna, who is currently making a short film about old and new Barcelona.

The Moritz headquarters, which is expected to open in early 2005, will include a restaurant, a bar and several areas set aside for cultural and leisure purposes, making a total of 45,000 square meters of multiuse space. The project is being sponsored by the heirs of the company's founder, Louis Moritz, an Alsatian who arrived in Barcelona in 1851.



One of the original logos for the beer Cerveses Moritz, which was put on display for the presentation of the relaunch project

Albert Castellón, the manager of the project, insisted on keeping the traditional roots of Cerveses Moritz and stressed that the relaunch is being completely funded with family capital. The project to renovate and fit out the headquarters, which is located at Ronda Sant Antoni between

Carrer Muntaner and Carrer Casanova, is estimated to cost 15 million euros, though a further 15 million will also be invested to finance the beer relaunch project, which will include the creation of the short film by Bigas Luna on the city of Barcelona and its cultural heritage. The

beer will not be mentioned in the film, which will be purely a reflection on past and future Barcelona.

Tradition and modernity are important features of the project, and the bottle and the logo have been redesigned, while maintaining the brand's distinctive features.



Pesticides containing methyl bromide are harmful to the environment

Brussels slams Spain over pesticide reports

The European Commission has opened disciplinary proceedings against Spain and eight other member countries for not having given notification, of having provided insufficient information on the limitation of pesticides containing methyl bromide, which have been found to be harmful to the environ-

ment, especially to the ozone layer. The EC has sent the first warning letters to Spain and eight other countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom) for not having submitted reports on the amount of methyl bromide that is used in their countries.

Mas to assume power at Convergència congress

MICHAEL BUNN

Yesterday Convergència i Unió opened its first annual congress since Artur Mas took over from Jordi Pujol as party candidate last year, and which led to CiU losing a significant share of the votes during the last Catalan elections.

"The New Convergència" is the slogan the party has chosen for this year's annual congress, during which Artur Mas will be officially assuming all the political power from Jordi Pujol, who will be carrying on as Convergència i Unió president. The most striking feature of this handover is that Pujol has apparently given Mas free rein to change the party administration, and in the next few days the new secretary general will be submitting his plans for renovating the party to the 1,898 conference delegates with one aim in mind - to consolidate his leadership in order for CiU to win back the



Artur Mas, Convergència's new head

presidency of the Catalan government in the 2007 elections.

At this congress, Pujol will merely be presenting the management report, and this will inevitably be Jordi Pujol's last appearance in this capacity at a Convergència i Unió conference.

SAN FERMÍN

Youth injured at fiesta

A 23 year old man from Sabadell, Joan Vallbona Serra has been injured by a bull during the annual festival of San Fermín in Pamplona. Joan Vallbona Serra, suffered a 15 centimetre slash to his face, after participating in the third day of the dangerous bull running through the town. He was taken to the hospital of Navarra, according to the government of Navarra. Two other revelers at the festival had to be transferred to the Virgen of the Road hospital, when they also suffered injuries inflicted by bulls during the run. One is a 22 year old man from the United States, who damaged his left knee, and a 58 year old man from Málaga, who injured his forearm. Four other people have also been taken to hospital after receiving injuries in the bull run.

HOUSING

Price soar for inner city flats

Flats in a prestigious part of Barcelona are selling for between 8,500 and 14,000 euros per square metro. Offices in the paseo de Gràcia have been converted into luxury flats with the lowest prices limited to those flats that face the interior of the block. Currently there are three sales promotions ongoing and real estate companies have already bought five properties, while two other blocks have yet to be sold as the prices are "so astronomical". A spokeswoman for the company behind the sales said that property prices in paseo de Gràcia have exceeded even those that are the highest in the city, because this street is the most desired in Barcelona.

HEALTH

Plan to deal with heat wave

The Catalan Institute of Medicine Legal and the department of Justice have jointly agreed a plan to tackle the effects on the health due to the high temperatures, with help from the Catalan health service and the Generalitat. The aim of the plan is to forecast weather situations in a bid to minimise the effects of a heat wave on a person's health across the whole population of Catalonia, especially amongst the vulnerable. It follows a study of the incident of deaths caused by deaths from the heat from previous years, which showed that between 15 July and 15 August 2003 a total of five people in Catalonia died as a result of the heat.

EDUCATION

Catalan language boost

The Generalitat will set up five linguistic offices that will help preserve and increase the use of Catalan language amongst residents. The offices will be set up in Barcelona, Girona, Tarragona, Lleida and Tortosa, so that residents can make enquiries or seek help about linguistic matters, as part of a linguistic plan by the Generalitat.

Alarming number of Barcelona's pupils fail in substandard schools

Report criticises social duality of educational system and inferior language instruction

FRANCESC SANTIAGO/NEIL STOKES

An alarmingly high number of pupils in the greater Barcelona area are failing at schools which are incapable of meeting educational standards, according to a study presented at a board meeting of the Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona this week. The report, headed by academic Joaquim Prats, also criticised the duality of the educational system and accused educators of lacking initiative, ability and training.

Participants at Thursday's board meeting, including Barcelona mayor, Joan Clos and president of the strategic plan for Barcelona's metropolitan area, Didac Pestaña, were faced with statistics indicating that 30% of schools fail to reach objectives compared with 19% in the EU as a whole. In addition, a lack of flexibility in the system is seen as the culprit in the failure to meet society's needs for specialisation in subjects such as English learning. The level of foreign language studies in Catalonia has been ranked as the second worst in Europe, after Great Britain.

Even more worrying are the figures highlighting a system that has failed to balance private and public education. More than 78% of pupils in state schools are from lower class families, while the private sector is almost entirely made up of the middle and upper classes. "The social segregation is fragmenting the system with serious social consequences," said the report. P

Perhaps the most alarming repercussion is the appearance of a phenomenon that has so far been absent in Catalan and Spanish schools: violence and conflict, particularly in the poorest areas favoured by immigrants.

Among the ten proposed improvements suggested in the report is the reorganisation of the administration with local authorities sharing responsibility with the Catalan



Mayor Joan Clos, strategic plan head Didac Pestaña and Catalan economic and finance minister Antoni Castells / GABRIEL MASSANA

government. Additional investment is also required, with a call for raising the present tax contribution to the 3.1% of GDP seen in the rest of Spain.

Meanwhile, investment was also

a key word in discussions about the Barcelona metropolitan area's strategic plan launched last year. At the board meeting, participants were warned that without further investment, the metropolitan area would

find itself playing catch-up with the rest of Europe. The development of the strategic plan is, "the most complex phase that will mean either success or failure," warned Didac Pestaña.

Co-operation needed to solve city's traffic woes

"Catalonia and Barcelona are only strong if they stick together," Antoni Castells, Catalan minister of economy and finance, told the board of the metropolitan area of Barcelona at their meeting this week. The minister was referring to the need for co-operation of the 36 members with the Catalan government in implementing projects included in the strategic plan. One of the principal challenges presented by the plan is the pressing need to solve the area's chronic traffic problems. In a report by Barcelona Regional presented at the meeting, members were told that by 2010 the local road networks will be choked with a rise of 155% in the number of lorries. The study proposes to widen carefully selected sections of the road network, encourage more rail use for the

transportation of goods, improve public transport and take more advantage of hours when road use is less. Once the various measures have been carried out, it is envisaged that the 2010 road network will be coping with more than a million vehicles a day. Specific planned improvements will include widening parts of the AP-7 and B-30 corridor linking the Vallès with Barcelona as well as limiting entry to the city along this route. The currently postponed linking of the A-2 and AP-7 motorways is also seen as essential in bettering access to the port. As for the Llobregat with its new business park attracting a predicted 58,000 lorries a day by 2010, the complexity of widening the AP-2 and A-2 motorways in this area was reported as requiring further study.

Girona University to start 18 new master courses

AGENCIES

The University of Girona is expanding its post graduate courses in line with European standards for higher education. The new 18 international masters courses include subjects ranging from the sciences, engineering and tourism studies. The university predicts that they will attract 450 students when the courses start later this year. One third of the intake are expected to be from abroad. The tourism management course is the first in Spain to have a unique curriculum.

"We will be offering courses that are strong in quality and consistent," said the vicerector of the master's department, Blanca Palmada. "Some of the masters courses are totally new but others have been adapted to European standards, from courses we already offer in the university," he added. New courses include sport medicine, tourism management, innovation management, R&D and technology evaluation, geographic information science and systems and science and technology of water, automation engineering and intelligent systems and technology of plastic materials.

Amongst the courses that have been modified from existing studies at the university are clinical psychology, business studies, pedagogy therapy, diagnostic and intervention in neuropsychology. The courses will last between one and two years and will be taught in different faculties of the university. English, Catalan and Castilian will be used as part of the courses. "All our new masters courses will be in a format adapted to Europe. The universities territorial, with an average dimension like the University of Girona, run the risk of being outside the masters map, which is why we have given such emphasis to these new courses," added Palmada. He said that the university would be the leader in tourism training throughout Spain.

A funny thing happened on the way to the World Religion Parliament

ALEX LEFF

Thousands of believers have overrun the Forum this week. The Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR) is the only event so far that has come close to colouring in that tiresome logo of the converging hands. It's the cultural diversity they promised us, at last. Forum conference spaces have become chapels, synagogues, mosques and ashrams full of vibrantly dressed Africans, Tibetans, Indians Europeans and Americans, and the blistering pavement is alive with the sounds of

Ohm, Allah, Shalom, and Halleluiah.

The significance of a peaceful interfaith conference of this size in Barcelona should not be taken lightly. Centuries ago, a learned Gironi Jew called Moses ben Nahman (known as Rambam) was exiled from these very paisos for participating in a Mediaeval, and much less harmonious, version of an inter-religious parliament. The Dispute of Barcelona in 1263 was the result of a campaign led by Dominican friars to force Jews to abjure their faith.

Rambam simply would not have it that way, but as Spanish Jews would soon learn, for the Church it was simply their way or the highway. Sephardim (and later Spanish Muslims), were expelled just in time for their belongings and taxes to help fund a certain exploration for a westward passage to the East.

It was thrilling to see they had chosen a Native American to help the lot embark on their proclaimed "pathways to peace". A descendant of the "discovered" people, hief Jake Swamp, planted a tree on a small

patch in one of Forum's scarce grassy nulls. All of the interfaith parliamentarians were there and I couldn't see a thing. But the crowd cleared and I found a puny, wilted weed that an on-looking Sikh said was The Tree. "Good Lord", I thought. It is a symbol, for me it means things can only get better.

Of all the PWR participants, one group in particular certainly know the way to a believer's heart. In the pressroom you can overhear the new name of the Parliament by the Sea as "Parliament by the Sikhs."

There is something refreshing about being around so many believers, whatever they believe in. One thing is they offer a whole new take on things, expressing Forum woes, for example, but with a holy slant. Waiting forever for a veggie-burger at

a food stand, one woman chucked to her faithful female mates, "Gosh! We'll just have to pray that it goes faster." Another moment in holy humour went like this: "I've missed the opportunity to see not one, but two bodhisattvas (enlightened ones)," a young American Buddhist disciple said upon hearing the doubly crippling news of the cancellation by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the selling out of tickets for the concert by His Righteousness the Bob Dylan. Forum organisers made no apology about the Dalai Lama cancellation, nor did they offer any explanations when Iranian Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi vanished until her conference had begun. As one organiser confessed to me, "The pathways to peace, like the Lord, are inscrutable."

ISRAEL

Court to rule that a wall in the West Bank is illegal

The World Court will rule on Friday that Israel's West Bank barrier, which has caused hardship for thousands of Palestinians, violates international law and should be torn down, a leaked copy of the ruling showed, Reuters reports. A spokesman for the European Commission said the decision seemed to confirm the European Union's view that the barrier was illegal and urged Israel to remove it from occupied territory. Israel has said it will disregard the court's non-binding advisory decision, calling its barrier a vital security bulwark against infiltrations by Palestinian suicide bombers. The court acknowledged Israel's duty to protect its citizens but said it must do so within the law and should compensate Palestinians for homes and land lost or damaged by the building of the 100-meter (yard) wide strip of walls, ditches and fences. Palestinians brand the barrier a precursor to annexation of land Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and where they seek a viable state under a U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan. Only American judge Thomas Buergenthal dissented from his 14 international colleagues' opinion, the leaked document showed. The leaked document said the court would declare fences and walls infringed the rights of Palestinians that take it around Jewish settlements. "The construction of the wall is contrary to international law," it said.



IRAQ

Oil deals by end of August

Iraq's interim government is expected to award the first three post-war oil production contracts by the end of August, industry sources say. Irish firm Petrel has confirmed it has put in bids for all three contracts on offer so far, making the final lists. However, Shell told the BBC it had declined to enter the tendering process for at least the first of the three. The big firms are said to be put off by the small size of the current deals, and the ongoing security situation. Jim Finn, company secretary at Petrel, said the firm had submitted its three tenders between March and mid-May.

GEORGIA

Georgian troops released by rebels in South Ossetia

Georgian troops freed in South Ossetia Georgia says rebels in the breakaway region of South Ossetia have released a group of more than 40 Georgian soldiers captured in a raid on Thursday, reports the BBC. Georgia's Minister of Conflict Resolution Georgi Khaindrava said the soldiers were freed on Friday morning into the hands of Russian peacekeepers. They were handed over to the Georgian authorities shortly afterwards. Georgia said the incident was a provocation - the troops were made to kneel in front of TV cameras. The release came amid reports of fresh clashes.



SHOW BUSINESS

Rock legend David Bowie in heart operation

David Bowie underwent emergency heart surgery for a blocked artery last month but is now recovering and hopes to return to work in August, his publicist said on Thursday, according to Reuters. Bowie, 57, sought treatment in a German hospital on June 25 after complaining of a pinched nerve during a European concert tour, publicist Mitch Schneider said in a statement. He underwent an angioplasty operation for an acutely blocked artery and was able to leave the clinic earlier this week. He is now convalescing at home with his family and hopes to start work next month.



US Senator Pat Roberts, left, presents the report. On his left is Senator Jay Rockefeller / EFE

CIA braced for damning report concerning pre-war intelligence

400-page report is particularly critical of Iraqi weapons assessments

A group of US senators issued today a highly-critical report on pre-war intelligence about Iraq, according to the BBC.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has been working on the document for more than a year. The 400-page report is said to be particularly scathing about the CIA's assessments of Iraqi weapons. However, it does not address the issue of whether the administration exaggerated the case for war in Iraq which is being investigated separately.

Officials who have seen the report say it accuses the CIA of inadequate collection of intelligence and sloppy analysis. "It is an accurate, hard-hitting and well-deserved critique of the CIA," Democratic Senator Carl Levin, a member of the panel, said on Thursday. The agency has been severely censured over "its intelligence failures and mischaracterisations regarding Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction", Levin added. Open question

The committee chairman, Republican Senator Pat Roberts, said there had been a worldwide intelligence failure. My only wish is that those whose job it is to help us do better show the same balance and care in recognising how far we have come. George Tenet, outgoing CIA director, said the report also looks into Iraq's alleged ties with terror groups, whether it posed a threat to Middle East stability, and its human rights record, officials said. The senators reportedly found no evidence that intelligence officials were put under pressure to reach particular conclusions by the White House. Correspondents say that the question of whether the administration misused the intelligence reports it received is still an open one. The intelligence community is to investigate that matter separately later in the year. BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera says there may be some dissent, and Democrats on the committee may publish a minority report focusing on the idea

that there was some kind of pressure and calling for more investigation of the White House use of the intelligence. 'People will judge' The report could also have implications for Lord Butler's UK report, to be published in a few days' time, our correspondent says, increasing pressure for a strong examination of what happened in British intelligence. It may also address specific instances of intelligence sharing, such as the former Iraqi government's alleged procurement of uranium from Niger which London still says may have happened. Outgoing CIA director George Tenet has denied charges that the agency had been under political pressure to conclude that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. On Thursday, he told employees that the American people would judge where intelligence has done well and where the CIA has fallen short. Tenet said that he hoped those involved with the inquiry recognised the difficulties the agency faced.

Erotic James Joyce letter sells for 240,000 pounds at London auction

An erotic letter sent by author James Joyce to his wife has fetched a record 240,800 pounds at auction in London. The correspondence to Nora Barnacle made the highest price ever reached for a 20th Century autographed letter, Sotheby's said. Smashing its 60,000 pound estimate, the letter in which Joyce describes Nora as a "wild-eyed whore" was bought by an anonymous bidder, according to a BBC report.

Together with other letters and Joyce memorabilia, the sale reached

721,620. The sexually explicit letter is said to be remarkable because of Joyce's hatred of obscene jokes and swearing. It was written in the winter of 1909 after Joyce's return to Dublin without Nora for the first time since the couple's elopement from Dublin to Trieste, Italy five years earlier. The letter testifies to Joyce's "ungovernable lust" and describes various ways in which he wishes to satisfy his desires. Peter Selley, Sotheby's English literature specialist, said: "The sale was extra-

ordinarily well-attended by all the major collectors. "The high price achieved for the erotic letter from Joyce to Nora Barnacle fully reflects the importance of the couple's relationship. "It was their relationship that was the source of so much of Joyce's creativity, and this is clearly evident throughout Joyce's work especially in (his novel) Ulysses." The collection, formerly owned by Joyce's brother Stanislaus, included one of the earliest presentation copies of his novel Ulysses.



Visitors to the exhibition can see sculptures and art from the four continents / ANDREU PUIG

The first Eros - new exhibition shows ancient myths of eroticism

Eroticism is in the eye of the beholder, say the exhibition organisers

XAVI AGUILAR/RICARD VIÑAS

Representations of women touching their breasts or spreading their legs, phallic-shaped containers and hermaphrodite sculptures are on show at the *El primer Eros (The first Eros)* exhibition which opened yesterday at the Palau de la Virreina in Barcelona. It is a collection of 124 objects from African, American and Australasian cultures with clear erotic or sexual connotations.

However the exhibition points out from the start that, what is erotic for Westerners, unused as we are to nudity, may not be others. In their places of origin, the objects exhibited lack all sexual connotations and are only related to some rituals, such as fertility rituals. Thus, these are the other erotic myths.

The exhibition, which takes visitors on a ride through the different cultures represented, starts in Africa with a series of small sculptures of women holding their breasts. Similar sculptures to these were what inspired this exhibition. "When I saw them in an exhibition of a French collector along with some Renaissance sculptures, I realised that what is filled with eroticism in the eyes of a Western audience does not have the same connotations for an African, because in African culture the images of women holding their breasts are symbols of fertility, welcome or protection," says Victòria Combalia, exhibition organiser.

Africa is the continent with more



The exhibition opened yesterday at Palau de la Virreina / ANDREU PUIG

obvious sexual nuances, mainly due to the big breasts and genitals of the figures. The *Commemorative sculpture of a princess*, from Cameroon is one of the more important works of the exhibition. The sculpture, also known as *the Black Venus* and compared to the famous *Venus di Milo*, belonged to Helena Rubinstein and is shown next to a photograph taken by Man Ray in 1937 with a white female model posing naked in front of it. Another important exhibit from Africa is a fetish with an explicit phallus, which represents a creature that goes out at night to catch thieves, magicians and adulterers. Latin America is a more chaste

land, with the exception of the collection of Peruvian *mochica* pottery, shown for the first time in Spain. This features people and animals in all kinds of sexual positions, but was made for use in fertility rites and signifies the passing of time.

In Australasia the relationship with sex is much more metaphorical and even violent. Dilukai female sculptures with spread legs, usually placed over the threshold, were actually a welcome sign to the visitor. However, there are similar sculptures which feature hooks to hang the heads of the defeated enemy warriors, a clear sign of the links between war and sex.

New releases ▶

APEIRON

GANYAHMUN

Label: DRO

Genre: Reggae-funk

Playing time: 68 min.

Ganyahmun is a six-member band from Madrid who were formed 5 years ago by vocalist



Rodrigo Mercado, who is no less than the son of Rosendo. Rodrigo and his band don't play rock so much as an original blend of reggae and funk. As they say in their promotional material, "Jamaica and Carabanchel are closer than they might seem". Are they the first rockers to venture in to this territory, where reggae is a cure-all tonic used to spice up another sound. Hardly, but the results in this case are worth a listen. All in all, this turns out to be a very interesting first album.

THE HITS: RELOADED

KOOL & THE GANG

Label: Edel-Warner Genre: Funk

Playing time: 115 mins.

They may be most well-known for their very energetic contributions to disco-era 70's music, but this band has real staying power. To prove it, Kool & the Gang celebrate 40



years in the music business with a double anthology album where they have re-recorded some of their most famous hits, such as "Ladies night", "Get down on it", "Celebration", and "(Ohh la la la) Let's go dancin'". They have done the re-recording with a little help from some of their most talented friends, such as Lisa Stansfield, Jamiroquai, Blackstreet, Atomic Kitten, Jameila, Youssou N'Dour, among others. This is great disc for remembering old times, or for dancing the night away.

SO-CALLED CHAOS

ALANIS MORISSETTE

Label: Maverick-Warner

Genre: Pop

Playing time: 41 mins.

This Canadian singer who has just turned 30 has embarked on her most reflective phase to



date with this new album. It is full of themes of "interior chaos", and the kinds of things that remind a person of their own mortality. Also, on this album Alanis speaks openly about her relationship with the Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds. At the end of the day, this is a very heartfelt record which at the same time displays a lot of pop sensibility. (What else would you expect from her?). There is also an interactive channel which is worth checking out.

BEST KEPT SECRET

LAMB

Label: Mercury-Universal

Genre: Electronic pop

Playing time: 71 mins.

Subtitled *The Best of the Lamb 1996-2004*, this is an exhaustive collection music put out



during the career of this duo from Manchester. There is a 16-song CD and a DVD with seven video-clips. Singer Louise Rhodes and producer Andy Barlow have developed a very personal way of working together over the last decade, and it really shows in their music. They offer a wide-variety of sounds, from hard-driving drum & bass pop to the most elegant and delicate sounds. Choice tracks include "Gabriel", "Gorecki", "Lullaby", "One", and "Cottonwool".

PLATFORM

STEPHEN BURGEN

More than a touch of spit and Polish

For the first time, the new edition of the Collins Spanish-English dictionary has included "Catalan" as one of the meanings for *polaco*. In general a *polaco* is someone from Poland, but in Spain it also means a Catalan, the implication being that they are as difficult to understand as a Pole. Make no mistake, *polaco* is an insult, and oddly enough Catalans have no equivalent riposte for Spaniards, although *xarnego*, once an insulting term for someone of mixed Catalan and Spanish parentage, is now used pejoratively about Spaniards living in Catalonia in general.

However, Catalans have plenty of put-downs for each other. For example, people from Girona dismiss those from Barcelona as *xaves*, thought to be a reference to their open-mouthed manner of pronouncing Catalan, and people from rural areas generally call the Barceloneses *camacos*, from their habit of exclaiming *que maco!* (how nice) at every opportunity. On the Costa Brava they still call people from the capital *cul blancs* from the days when it was considered de rigeur for citydwellers to wear white shorts to the beach. For people in Lleida, those from Barcelona are *pixapins* (pee on a pine), from the alleged tendency of the Barcelonès to stop their cars and urinate on the first available tree.

Insults of the *polaco* type are typical of uneasy federations such as the Spanish state or the not very United Kingdom where the English deride their neighbours as jocks, micks or taffies (a corruption of the name Dafyd). However, the Scots, Irish and Welsh don't



The web page of e-noticias.com who revealed the inclusion of *polaco* in the new Collins dictionary

lower themselves to come up with an epithet for the English.

The English seem to need a pejorative for everyone while the rest of the world is content with calling them the English, except for the French, who call them *les ros-bifs*. At the time of the battle of Agincourt in the 15th century the French - or frogs as the English would have it - referred to the habitually blasphemous English as *les goddams*, an expression since up-

dated to *les fuckoffs*. The English appear to be preoccupied with matters French, as in the expressions French letters, French leave, French kisses and just plain French to denote oral sex although they, in common with many other cultures have burdened the Greeks with the synonym for anal sex. The French retort by calling a French letter and English one and a French horn a *cor anglais*. There is in general an English predilection for attributing cus-

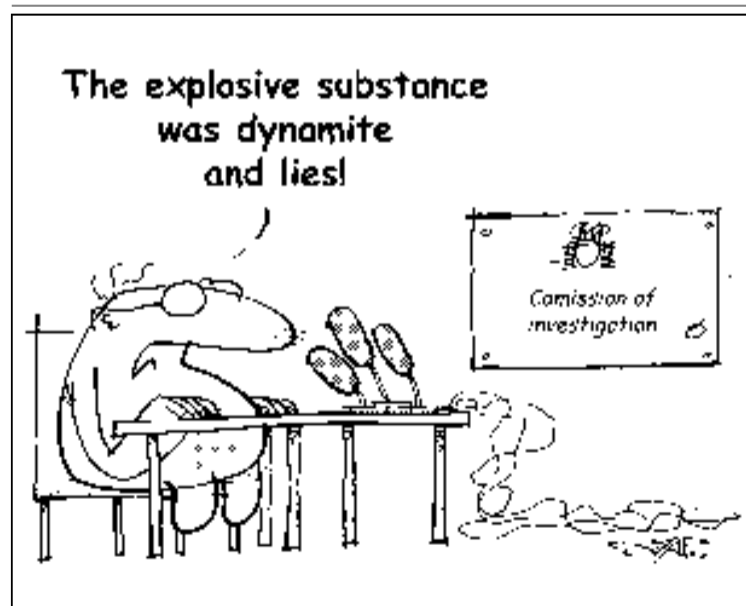
oms to other nations, such as Russian roulette, Spanish practices, Chinese whispers, Mexican wave, Dutch auction and Dutch uncle. By contrast, in Spain *el humor inglés* refers to the English fondness for deadpan humour.

The English have picked up a few monickers themselves, such as the Australian pom, typically expressed as whingeing pom. The origin of pom has never been satisfactorily explained, although the whingeing bit speaks for itself. In Cantonese the word for a white person, *megworan*, also means foreign devil, which conveys some idea of the sort of impression the English made in the Far East.

Often, as with mick or paddy, the insult merely seizes on a common name, as is also the case with hymie (Hyman) for a Jew, dago (Diego) for an Hispanic and yankee, derived from Jan and the days when New York was still New Amsterdam. Others refer to cultural habits, such as limey which originates in the British Navy's discovery that citrus fruits prevented the onset of scurvy, or kraut from sauerkraut or herring choker, American slang for a Norwegian.

Pejoratives come and go. *Moro*, now a widely-used racist insult in Spain roughly equivalent to darkie, once merely meant Moor while nigger, derived from the relatively neutral negro, has been reclaimed as a badge of pride by a young generation of black Americans. Now that Poland has joined the European Union and real Poles are free to come and live here, the whole issue of *polacos* may become very confusing indeed.

THE STING BY JAP



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MISTRANSLATIONS

I couldn't agree more with the Stephen Burgen's editorial "The English as she is wrote" (CT-8/7). The examples of mistranslations quoted are more than familiar to me. Who is to blame? The world of translation has a reputation for being a closed circle which is very difficult to get into. I tried to get in touch with the Forum's translation department and was told there wasn't such a department and that they had their own freelance translators and no more staff was needed. In view of all this, I can't help feeling frustrated when I see those neglected translations which are being given to someone who doesn't even care to have

them checked by an English native speaker. I'm not suggesting that I would do better but one thing is for sure: I would at least make sure those messages wouldn't strike any British tourist when they read them. So Ajuntament and Generalitat, isn't it high time you dealt with the problem seriously?

H. López

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

In 2002 Forum 2004 managers were offered a new invention using telecom high-tech to let the Forum visitors understand different languages using an automatic translator through mobile phones. With some languages and for some pur-

poses the translator was human, but after some R+D we started to develop an automatic one for English to Spanish. The users were enthusiastic. Of course, the automatic translator was not perfect, but we also had human interpreters. Finally somebody from marketing tested it but told us that the Forum had no money to spend. In August 2003, the company was sold to a US competitor and that was the end of an innovative telecom and software development that is now being developed outside Spain. So please, as I was the founder of that company, you can see that Barcelona has no interest in offering quality to their tourists and don't even care.

Manel Hernández



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A history of rice - that wonderful Catalan staple

The first of a series that looks at the fundamental ingredients of Catalan cuisine

MICHAEL BUNN

Rice is the cereal crop that is most commonly grown around the world, and particularly in Asian countries, where over the centuries it has taken on an important role in social, civil and religious life. In fact, for a long time rice was used as a form of currency in some countries in the Far East, while the custom of throwing rice over the bride and groom actually comes from Hindu tradition, which considers rice to be a symbol of fertility. Rice has even become rooted in linguistic concepts - in Thailand, when they ask "How are you?", the literal translation is "Have you eaten rice today?"

Rice reached Spain with the invasion of the Moors in 711, who proceeded to sow it along all of Spain's river basins. However, when King Jaume I of Aragon won back Valencia from the Arabs in 1238 he forbade people to grow it near towns and cities because rice fields encouraged the proliferation of mosquitoes, as a result of which rice fields became limited to the area of the Albufera lagoon, which developed its

own special variety of short-grain rice that has been used for Catalan rice dishes to this day. Since then, the city of Valencia has expanded to the edge of the Albufera lake; this flat marshland criss-crossed with channels is one of the most famous rice-growing areas in Europe, and is regarded as the birthplace of paella - that classic Catalan-Valencian dish which has come to define Spanish Mediterranean cooking, and which we will be dealing with in the next of our special articles next week.

The word *arroz* (rice) first appeared in Spanish in 1250, in a translation of a work on Hispano-Arab cuisine, though most of the recipes included in the work were sweet dishes in which rice was cooked together with milk and sugar or honey.

It was not for a couple of hundred years before savoury rice recipes began to appear, which were usually comprised of rice with offal and stock. By late mediaeval times, rice had become a staple of the Catalan diet and in 1520, the *Libre del coch* (Cook book) was published, one of the oldest cookery books to



Arròs negre - a Catalan dish made with cuttlefish ink and rice - is as delicious as it is dramatic in its appearance

appear on the Iberian peninsula, and which contained a recipe for *Arros en cassola al forn* (Oven-cooked rice in a casserole dish), which is in fact very similar to the popular Alicante speciality *Arròs amb crosta* (Rice with egg crust).

From the 18th century onwards, rice recipes began to multiply through the country, but especially along the Mediterranean coast. Two of the most renowned and the most delicious of these - are *Arròs Negre* and *Arròs a Banda*, and we have in-

cluded the recipes for both these dishes below, taken from Colman Andrew's classic work *Catalan cuisine*, which was published in 1988, claiming to be the definitive work on the last great undiscovered European cuisine.

Colman Andrews' recipes for Arròs negre and Arròs a banda - two delicious rice dishes

ARRÒS NEGRE

(Black rice)

This is Catalonia's great rice dish - a dark, rich, briny seafood speciality, blackened (and transported to a higher plane of flavour) with the ink of cuttlefish. It is a dramatic dish to look at and wonderful to taste. It takes a bit of hard work, but the results are worth it.

Arròs negre is a speciality of the Costa Brava, and I must have tasted it in a dozen private homes and restaurants in the region, though the best I've ever had was in Barcelona, at a superb little place called Els Perols de l'Empordà. Proprietors Reynaldo and Juli Serrat have been kind enough to offer me their great recipe, which I hereby pass along. The great success of the dish at their restaurant, of course, depends largely on the hours-old fish and shellfish they obtain from the fish markets, and on the use of fresh cuttlefish, both for its flesh and for its ink. This is a recipe, then, for which you should splurge on the best and the freshest seafood. Cuttlefish is not the same as squid, exactly. Its flesh

is thicker and sweeter, and its ink is richer in flavour. Nonetheless, fresh squid (and squid ink) may be substituted.

TO SERVE 6 (AS MAIN COURSE)

1 medium-sized cuttlefish (about a quarter of a kilo) or 2-3 large squid, cleaned and cut into small pieces, with ink sac(s) set aside (see note).

Olive oil

2 onions, chopped

2 tomatoes, seeded and grated, or peeled, seeded and chopped

Half a kilo of monkfish, cut into six pieces

12 mussels, cleaned

6 large shrimp, shells on

3 cups short-grain rice

5-6 cups fish stock

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 sprigs parsley, minced

Salt

Cook the cuttlefish or squid in a *cassola* (earthenware casserole dish) or large pan in a small amount of olive oil until just done (about 2-3 minutes).

Add the onion, with more oil if necessary, and cook until soft, then add the

tomato and cook, stirring well, until it has almost dissolved.

Add the remaining fish and shellfish to the *cassola* and mix in well.

Place the ink sac(s) in a sieve, hold it over the *cassola*, and crush sac(s) with the back of a spoon. Pour a few tablespoons of water through the sieve to extract more ink.

Bring the fish stock to the boil, then reduce and simmer.

Meanwhile, add the rice to the *cassola* and stir well so that all the grains are coated with oil and ink.

Slowly add the fish stock, stir well and bring to the boil. Add the garlic, parsley and salt to taste, then reduce the heat and cook on a very low heat, uncovered, for about 15-20 minutes or until all the liquid is absorbed by the rice is still creamy (do not stir).

When the dish is finished, let it stand 5-10 minutes off the heat before serving.

Note: The ink sac in both cuttlefish and squid is a little silver-grey pouch located beneath the tentacles. It is very

easy to find, but treat it gently so that it doesn't break.

ARRÒS A BANDA

(Rice and scorpionfish)

In Valencia and vicinity, near the vast rice fields of La Albufera, a delicious *a banda* dish is made with rice instead of *fideus* (spaghetti noodles). It is prepared virtually identically to its pasta counterpart, except that saffron is usually added - but Valencian connoisseurs sometimes claim that their version is superior because rice absorbs the stock, and thus the flavour of the fish, more fully than *fideus* do.

TO SERVE 6

2 onions, chopped

4 tomatoes, seeded and grated, or peeled, seeded and chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

2 sprigs parsley, minced

Olive oil

6-8 threads saffron, lightly toasted

three-quarter kilo of scorpionfish.

Cut into 6 pieces

4 cups fish stock

6 cups short-grain rice

Salt and pepper

Using a *cassola*, lightly fry onions, tomatoes, garlic and parsley in oil, making a sauce. Crumble saffron in when sauce is cooked.

Add the fish to the *cassola* and coat well with the sauce.

Add the stock and simmer, covered, for about 30 minutes, removing the fish (if added) after 10 minutes and setting it aside.

In another *cassola*, sauté the rice in a small amount of oil over medium-low heat, stirring constantly.

When the stock has finished simmering, strain and discard solids. Take a saucepan, boil the stock down to about 6 cups over medium heat.

Reheat the *fideus* in the *cassola* and add 1 cup stock. Stir well till liquid is absorbed, then repeat till all but 1 cup stock has been used up and *fideus* are cooked.

Serve with *alloli* (garlic mayonnaise), and reheat the fish if you are also going to serve it together with the rice.

Ros calls for an end to the "fettters" restricting Telefonica's freedom.

Telefónica should be granted "a greater amount of freedom", State Secretary Ros claims

MICHAEL BUNN

Francisco Ros, the State Secretary for Communications and for the Information Society said yesterday that greater efforts should be made to get rid of the "fettters" which were initially imposed on Telefónica when the telecommunications sector was first liberalised and to give the company "a greater amount of freedom" so as not to hinder the development in Spain of the Information Society.

Ros, who was speaking at the end of course conference at Madrid's Universidad Complutense entitled

"Telecommunications, a challenge for law", said that "we have to loosen the ties with respect to the fettters which were originally placed on the main operator so that alternative companies can enter the market.

Ros went on to say that given the fact that some of the aims that had been set at the beginning of the liberalisation process, Telefónica should be given "a greater amount of freedom", because the limitations that the company is currently suffering from may end up damaging the development of the telecommunications and the Information Soci-

ety markets.

As for the possible support which might be provided by the government to business mergers and, specifically, to the possible merging to Auna and Ono, Ros pointed out that the government will not be intervening to promote this type of transactions, and in the event that such a merger be planned that affects licences, it will be duly examined "with the greatest flexibility" in order to minimise the amount of interference in business movement, "providing that it does not adversely affect society".

Nonetheless, the State Secretary claimed that a process of selection and concentration is taking place in the sector, though he insisted that it is the firms that must decide whether they are large enough to be "profitable and competitive", or if they need an increase in size, which would lead to mergers.

Concerning the measures which the government might take to fight pre-allocation fraud, Ros said that the rules in the coming General Telecommunications Law would pay special attention to quality and user's rights.

POLITICS

Quit call over public funds

The secretary general of the Popular Party, Carmelo Barrio, has called for the resignation of the person responsible for giving public funds to El Periódico de Alava from the Basque Government because "they have shown their inability to maintain their post," Barrio said. "Once again public money has been used badly, as it appears evident that they have given help without having sufficient guarantees to the viability of the project. It is an example of bad management, of public help given to projects without a future that is clearly bankrupt," Barrio added. It follows the PP party asking for more details about the financial help given from the Basque government department of industry to the project which has now declared itself bankrupt.

AUDIOVISUAL

Terrassa to be video city

The Generalitat and the town hall of Terrassa will sign an agreement for the development of an audiovisual park in Terrassa. The project called Terrassa Audiovisual City is a bid by the town hall to gain a national and international reputation in this field. The project will include setting up centres of training and activities related to television, the cinema and multimedia technologies. It will concentrate its training activities around the Centre Multimèdia and Imatge-UPC, Escola Universitària de Fotografia-UPC amongst others. Thirty companies are also involved in the project and have reserved spaces in the video park.

STANDARDS

Generalitat gets top award

The Generalitat has been awarded a top standards award for its handling of the public purse strings. The international agency the Standard & Poor's gave it a AA rating for its financial performance. "It shows we are a solid institution and it shows the public finances are in good hands," said a minister.

Luxury sports car only a snip at half-a-million euros

IMMA BOSCH/RICHARD MCCRANN

The Tramuntana car company is developing a luxury sports vehicle specifically for the collectors market. Production on the car will start at the end of next year, and will come with a price tag of half-a-million euros. It will be shown at the Geneva car show next year. The manufacturer, with its headquarters based in Garrigàs, will only make 12 cars each year in a bid to "promote the waiting list." It will be two-seater model with a V12 engine capable of 500 horse power. The car is focused towards a collectors market with plenty of money who are seeking a car with "lots of personality and character."



Tests show silver provides health and sanitary care in baby clothes

RICHARD MCCRANN

Boffins have shown in tests that silver provides the most suitable material to provide baby clothes with a form of air conditioning and to prevent infection. The results will be used by a Spanish company who will manufacture underwear for babies and infants using the new material in their products.

Scientists from the Institute of Textile Technology, based in Alcoy, (AITEX) carried out tests to find a material that would provide baby

clothes with hygienic qualities and thermal properties to protect against different climate conditions, in a bid to create a form of air conditioning in clothes. They discovered that threads containing silver maintained hygiene and thermal qualities to a high standard in baby clothes.

"The findings will permit us to make fabric that will be suitable for applications of the type medical, therapeutic and technical for care of the skin and the protection against

microbes and bacteria that cause ba smells, allergies and infections," said the director of AITEX, Vincente Blanes. "Silver is also better than traditional fabric as tests have shown it has the best thermal, hygiene and antistatic properties," he added. He is convinced that the results of the study will benefit to the textile industry and clothes firms so that they can "produce textiles with a sanitary application and protection and care of the health which is fundamental particularly for skin care."

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Cigarette giant to payout \$1.25bn over smuggling row with EU

Tobacco company Philip Morris has agreed the deal after a legal battle with the EU ended

REUTERS

The maker of Marlboro cigarettes, is to pay \$1.25bn to settle a dispute with the European Union over accusations of cigarette smuggling. The EU had accused Philip Morris of colluding with smugglers, thus evading European taxes and customs duties. The firm has denied the accusations, but will pay the money over 12 years to help fight against contraband and counterfeit tobacco products in the EU. In return, the EU has agreed to drop all legal action against the firm. The deal between Philip Morris, part of the food and tobacco group Altria, involved no admission of liability, but ended all legal battles between the two sides.

The amount was slightly higher than a \$1 billion settlement aired in April. European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer said the agreement "represents a major step forward in the battle against contraband and counterfeit cigarettes". Analysts have said that a well-funded crackdown on smuggling could yield results. Big tobacco firms are alleged to have shipped large quantities of cigarettes to countries that could not absorb them all, knowing that the excess would then be smuggled into the EU. In 2000, the EU is estimated to have lost about 1m euros (\$1.2m; £660,000) in duties per truckload of tobacco, leading to an annual loss of more than 1bn euros.

"We believe that it will enhance the ability of the European Commission and the member states to combat the illegal trade in cigarettes



The giant cigarette company will make the payments to the EU over the next three years in return for anti smuggling operations

which results in the loss of substantial tax and customs revenues each year," Schreyer said. "The payments could, subject to several variable factors, total approximately \$1.25 billion over 12 years, and would be payable over those years in varying amounts," the company said. Altria said in a filing to the US stock exchange that it had recorded a pre-tax charge in the second quarter of \$250

million for the initial payment. It will pay make additional payments of \$150 million on the first anniversary of the deal, \$100 million on the second anniversary and \$75 million each year for the next ten years. The funds from Philip Morris, maker of the Marlboro, L&M and Chesterfield brands, would be used by the Commission and EU states. No decision has been taken on how to

share them out. The accord involves Philip Morris keeping a close eye on customers to ensure that are not involved in smuggling or faking cigarettes. It will continue its system of selling only so much to a particular market as is needed to meet legitimate demand. There will be a system to track shipments to see where genuine goods slip out of the authorised sales networks.

RUSSIA

Yukos extension denied

Russian authorities Friday refused to give YUKOS an extension on paying its 3.4 billion dollar tax bill as bailiffs started to move in on the beleaguered oil firm. Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin said the firm had enough assets to sell to cover the bill but it was not clear whether he expected YUKOS itself or bailiffs to raise the money. The legal battle against YUKOS has led to fears that one of Russia's most profitable firms could be driven into bankruptcy, which according to analysts could undermine Russia's economy.

PHARMACEUTICAL

HIV drug price cut

Gilead Sciences Inc. on Friday said it cut the price of its drug to treat HIV by 37 percent in the developing world. Gilead's drug Viread is a once-a-day antiretroviral medication for HIV to be used in combination therapy. The company said it will sell the drug in 68 nations for just under 25 dollars for a 30-day supply, or 82 cents per day. The price will be applied in every country in Africa and in 15 additional countries in other parts of the world classified as "least developed" by the United Nations.

CHINA

Viagra patent overturned

Officials in China have defended their decision to overturn a patent on the anti-impotence drug Viagra. The drug is made by Pfizer, the world's largest drug company. US business groups have condemned the decision, which they say has far-reaching implications, but some Aids activists are hoping that it might spell good news for Chinese people with HIV/Aids. China's state intellectual property office said several Chinese companies have filed complaints and the authorities had now ruled in favour of allowing them to copy the drug.

STOCK MARKET ANALYSIS

Wall Street gains help European shares narrow declines

MARIEMAITRE
Reuters

Opening gains on Wall Street helped European shares narrow their declines on Friday afternoon, though doubts over the quality of upcoming company results were underscored by disappointing sales at cosmetics maker L'Oréal. Technology stocks such as mobile phone maker Nokia and German software firm SAP rebounded following a spate of profit warnings this week from U.S. firms such as Veritas and Yahoo. By 2 p.m. yesterday, the FTSE Eurotop 300 index of large European companies was down 0.16 percent at 983.79 points, above an earlier session low of 976.99. The narrower DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index was flat at 2,775.76 points. Recent signs that growth in the world's largest economy may be close to peaking kept investors cautious on equities. "The slowdown has begun,"



The UK's FTSE was 0.1 percent higher and Frankfurt's DAX was down 0.1 percent

said Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein strategist Albert Edwards, who said he did not believe the equity bear market that followed the tech bubble of 1999 to 2001 was over. "After initial impact of huge monetary and fiscal stimulus

Technology stocks such as Nokia and software maker SAP regained value

wears off, the economy would move to a sub-trend growth rate because of the persistence of post-bubble problems that have not been addressed," he added. Around Europe, the UK's FTSE was 0.1 percent higher and Frankfurt's DAX was down 0.1 percent.

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Film piracy expected to rise

One in four people using the internet have illegally downloaded a film and the problem is expected to get worse, according to the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the film industry's trade body. The industry, which grossed a record 10.8 billion dollars last year, claims that piracy has cost them billions of dollars. For the study, the MPAA surveyed 3,600 internet users who were also regular cinema-goers. A quarter of them admitted to have downloaded a film from the internet, and many downloaders said they had made fewer trips to the cinema and were buying fewer DVDs.


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STOCK MARKET

INVESTMENT FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund, NAV, M.Yld%, YTD%. Sections include AHORRO CORPORACIÓN, BANCO POPULAR, BANCO SABADELL, BANKINTER, BANKPYME, BBVA, CAIXA CATALUNYA, CAIXA GIRONA.

Table with columns: Fund, NAV, M.Yld%, YTD%. Sections include CAIXA LAIETANA, CAIXA PENEDES, CAIXA TARRAGONA, CAIXA TERRASA, CAJA MADRID, CAJA MANRESA, CAM (CAJA DEL MEDITERRANEO), DEUTSCHE BANK, GAESCO, IBERCAJA, LA CAIXA.

Table with columns: Fund, NAV, M.Yld%, YTD%. Sections include FONCAIXA, MAPFRE, MORGAN STANLEY, SCH.

EURO STOXX 50

Table with columns: Stock, Euros, Chg.%. Lists various companies like Abn Amro, Aegon, Air Liquide, Alcatel Altsom, Allianz AG, etc.

Chg: -0,04%

Table with columns: Stock, Euros, Chg.%. Lists various companies like Koniinklijke Ahold, Konin Philips, L'Oreal, L.V.M.H., etc.

CURRENCIES AND INTEREST RATES

Table with columns: Currency per Euro, Mortgages Interest Rate.

Table with columns: Terminals, Mitja, Maxim, Minim.

SPANISH STOCKS IN THE WORLD

Table with columns: Stock, Last, Min.Year, Max.Year, Prev.Close. Sections include New York, Paris, Frankfurt.

METALS

Table with columns: Basic Metals \$/Tm., Market, Price. Lists Aluminum, Copper, Tin, Nickel, Lead, Zinc, etc.

Source: Morgan Stanley. Tel.: 901 11 64 31

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EL PUNT
DIGITAL



The centre of Sitges and the seafront show many fine examples of Americans' houses. These were people who emigrated to the Americas, made their fortunes and returned to Sitges to spend them, often by building fine houses such as those above

“American” power turned Sitges into an architectural gem

Guided tours of these historic buildings are available once a month

Sitges has much more to offer the tourist than just sun, sand and sangria. Proof of this can be found in its rich architectural heritage, in part thanks to the effort and adventurous spirit of those who made their fortune in America and returned to spend it in their native town. Sitges is just the sort of place to stroll around, knowing that wherever you stop, looking up will reveal artistic architecture of the highest order, mostly propagated by the wealth of these so-called *Americans*. A guided visit would be needed to really get to know the immense legacy that embraces such architectural styles as modernism, eclecticism and *noucentisme*, a homegrown movement in Catalonia from the beginning of the 19th Century. Guided tours cost 7 euros and start from Plaça de l'Estació every third Sunday of the month at 11am, but large groups can arrange for a visit at any time. Tours normally last about two hours, visiting around a hundred *American* houses and ending in a free drink.

The first wave of the town's natives making for the Americas coincided with opening up of Catalan



Guided tours once a month

Guided tours of the American houses take place every third Sunday at 11 am. Tours leave from the square in front of the train station. Organised groups are welcome to arrange for tours on any other day as well. The route of the Americans' houses takes a couple of hours to complete. During this time you will visit just some of the hundred or so beautiful houses to be found in Sitges. Cost 7 euros. To book, call 619 793 199

trade with the colonies at the end of the 18th Century. The second wave happened when the crisis in Catalan vineyards in the 19th Century forced even more inhabitants to emigrate. As with most Catalans of the time, Cuba and Puerto Rico were the primary destinations. Not a few of them were little more than 12 or 14 years of age, young people full of hope and potential.

Not all of them made a fortune, of course, and not all of those who did came home. Yet there was no shortage of those who having made something of themselves on the new continent, usually through the export-import business, decided it was time to return. On getting back to Sitges they started with building their great houses around interior gardens full of plants to remind them of the places that had made them rich. However, they also invested in their hometown, which up until that point had relied on fishing and agriculture. This influx of wealth brought a rail line, electricity and urban development of streets. Their contribution was vital for the later success of Sitges, with some of them even ending up as mayor.



A wide range of sporting and leisure activities are planned for the festival / ANNA COSTA

The Baells river festival in Berguedà will put abandoned reservoir to good use

The Baells reservoir in Berguedà is adjusting well to its new role as the protagonist in this year's Festival del Riu. The event first began in 2000 in Sort as a cinema and video festival celebrating rivers as sources of wealth and culture. In 2002 it was moved to Berguedà where all manner of activities related to water were added to the programme.

This year's programme is just as extensive with activities divided into three categories: culture, sport

and hobbies. Anything linked to the subject of water is here from films, conferences and exhibitions, through exhibitions of canoeing, rowing competitions and fishing, to water games, meals and live music concerts.

The event will last for three days opening on Friday at 6pm and finishing with a firework display on Sunday at 7pm. Further information can be found on the festival website: www.festivalriubaells.net.



Fire always has pride of place at the Escaldàrium at Caldes de Montbui / ANNAPADRÓS

An orgy of fire, water and demons will be served up this year at the Escaldàrium at Caldes de Montbui

Nine dances - six of fire, three of water - are intertwined during a night dedicated to the elements. This is the *Escaldàrium* of Caldes de Montbui, a festival which manages to combine fireworks, live music and water and fire, a festival which has been held every year for the past ten and which is sure to serve up fun for all from

midnight onwards when the dance of the demons erupts. Everything begins when people gather around the *Font del Lleó* to await *Termaliot*, the figure who gives the starting signal for all the diabolic creatures to take over the streets. Other activities such as the club dance and the sceptre dance take place from 5pm on.

CT BACK

WEATHER

CROSSWORD

Occasional showers

Mainly sunny in the morning, with occasional clouds in northeastern parts, dying away in the afternoon. Patchy clouds in the Pyrenees, which will bring some occasional showers, especially to western areas. Mostly sunny in Valencia, with showers in northern mountainous areas. Sunny spells in the Balearic Islands, with occasional rain. The temperatures will be higher than yesterday, with light southerly winds.

Tomorrow

Heavy clouds with a chance of showers developing in northeast. Similar temperatures and moderate northern winds.

The sea

There will be choppy seas, and heavy swells in the Gulf of Lleó and northern Balearic Islands. Tomorrow the conditions will deteriorate.

THE SUN
SUNRISE 06.26 h
SUNSET 21.26 h

THE MOON
WAXING 25 July
FULL 31 July
WANING 9 July
NEW 17 July

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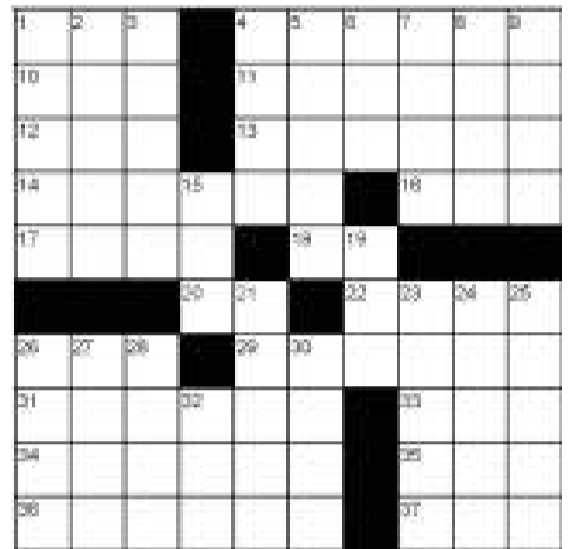
TEMPERATURES

STATION	Max.	Min.
Ampostà	29	20
Banyoles	26	11
Barcelona	24	12
Botarell	26	18
El Perelló	28	15
Falset	27	16
Girona	29	17
Igualada	28	12
La Bisbal d'Empordà	27	14
La Seu d'Urgell	24	12
La Quar de Berguedà	23	7
Lleida	22	8
Manresa	29	13
Montmeló	28	13
Olot	26	14
Roses	24	11
Sant Pau Segúries	23	18
Sta. Coloma de F.	22	6
Tarragona	26	18
Tàrraga	24	12
Vallirana	28	15
Vic	25	11
Vielha	19	4
Vila-rodona	28	15
Vilassar de Mar	26	18
Alacant	27	19
Castelló de la Plana	28	18
Palma	27	14
Madrid	29	10
València	27	18
Andorra	23	7
Berlin	23	17
Brussels	16	14
London	16	12
Paris	16	13
Prague	20	14
Rome	30	25

CATALAN LANDS / TOMORROW

EUROPE / FORECAST FOR MIDDAY TOMORROW

WEATHER INFORMATION 24H
807 012 012
Maximum tariff: Fixed 0.41 euros/min. Mobile: 0.76 euros/min.



ACROSS

1. Mountain Standard Time.
4. Breakfast dish.
10. Snacked.
11. Part of a sentence.
12. Congressional vote.
13. Giver.
14. Spanish explorer.
16. Supersonic transport.
17. Otherwise.
18. Milligram.
20. Raleigh locale.
22. Dash.
26. Bro's sibling.
29. Bind.
31. Baking vegetable.
33. Doze.
34. Waits for.
35. Estimated time of arrival.
36. Macadam.
37. Eastern state.

DOWN

1. Perhaps.
2. Creep away.
3. Small ducks.
4. Repeat.
5. Glitter.
6. Girl.
7. Mugs.
8. Wiolds.
9. Saucy.
15. TV lawyer.
19. Hair stuff.
21. Terra _ (type of clay).
23. Layered.
24. Multi-coloured rock.
25. Asian nation.
26. Lovers quarrel.
27. State.
28. Sky light.
30. Pear type.
32. Place.

ANSWERS

ACROSS

1. MST.
4. Eggcup.
10. Ate.
11. Clause.
12. Yea.
13. Helper.
14. Balboa.
16. SST.
17. Else.
18. MG.
20. NC.
22. Elan.
26. Sis.
29. Oblige.
31. Potato.
33. Nap.
34. Awaits.
35. Eta.
36. Tarmac.
37. Del.

DOWN

1. Maybe.
2. Steal.
3. Teals.
4. Echo.
5. Gleam.
6. Gal.
7. Cups.
8. Uses.
9. Pert.
15. Ben.
19. Gel.
21. Cotta.
23. Lined.
24. Agate.
25. Nepal.
26. Spat.
27. Iowa.
28. Star.
30. Bosc.
32. Aim.

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