



Editorial

Fortunately for me, the editor was 'indisposed' today, so it fell to me (his wife) to write the editorial. This month we have lots of lovely articles and funnies for you to read. If you like sudoku and crosswords (like I do), then there's plenty here.

I've also managed to include a lovely recipe for my favourite dish - mondongo. I'm actually considering starting a little food bar in Sosua specialising in mondongo. 250 pesos with a free glass of chianti. Let me know what you think. If there are any investors out there, drop me a line and maybe we could get a chain of mondongo food bars across the country.

On another subject, it looks like cricket is taking off on the North Coast - who'd have thought it. From what we hear, they already have a team, and coaching is starting this month. I'd go and join myself - but I'm a lady. Anyone for ladies' cricket?

Under-arm bowling of course!

Well, it's goodbye from me, and I hope you enjoy this month's edition. As always, we welcome your views and of course if you fancy writing something or have some news, let us know.

Editor's stand-in and general dogsbody: Mrs. Gringa Muttley

Appendicitis is caused by information in the appendix.

Observations

Is it just me or is Puerto Plata changing before my eyes? The main road through Puerto Plata has finally been finished after more than a year of traffic halting road works. And what a difference it makes? Over the last year, there have been many days when it's taken half an hour to get two miles while 4 lanes of traffic fight to get through the single available lane.

I still haven't got my air-conditioning working properly, so most days I just perspire gently with my window down and a burnt arm. I got the closest ever to buying a moto whilst watching hundreds of them squeeze past, riding over heaps of sand and gravel, and getting to

their destination a lot quicker than I was. But I'm usually transporting something, and I haven't quite got to the point where I'll casually load up a moto with a kitchen sink, bottle of propane and 4 kids. Maybe I never will.

While we're on the subject, have you noticed how many more moto drivers over the last few months are wearing their official vests? Legally, from what I've been told, all moto taxi drivers have to be registered and wear an over-vest to indicate such.

The AMET police routinely pull moto's over if they aren't wearing one. But how do they know if the guy on a moto is carrying a paying passenger, or just a friend?

Police officer to moto driver: "Are you operating as an unlicensed taxi, senior?"

Moto driver: "Er, no, she's just a friend."

Police officer to passenger: "Madam, do you know this guy?" (pointing at moto driver)

Lady passenger: "Yes, he's a friend."

Police officer to passenger: "What's his name then?"

Lady passenger: "Er, Carlos."

Police officer to moto driver: "What's is your name, senior?"

Moto driver: "Er, Carlos."

Police officer to moto driver: "Can I see your driving license, senior?"

The number of car dealers in the city has grown quite a bit

over the last year too. Always worth a look even if you're not ready to buy. Some of them even seem to have a few decent cars. What will be really nice is when they start putting a price on all the cars in their forecourt. I won't hold my breath though.

Whenever I ask the price, they're always keen to tell me the year of registration, even the alleged mileage. But the price is always last, and often accompanied with the words, "Bueno precio" ("Good price"), which it usually isn't!

Not that car dealers here are that much different to anywhere else in the world. I always preferred buying from an auction. The way I saw it - it was still the same risk, but it cost you less. And you never quite knew what you were going to go home with until the auction had ended!

But here I quite enjoy going round the car forecourts. If you've got a couple of hours spare, I highly recommend it. Great place to practice your Spanish!

On another matter, it looks like Puerto Plata's tourist port may in fact get redeveloped quite soon. There are some big consortiums bidding for the project, which will be a massive plus for the area and also for the country. (More news about this on page 3).

Submitted by Gringo Brian

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Another name for kettle drums is timpani. But I think I will just stick with the first name and learn it good.

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