

# Gringo Times

*the indupitable*

October 2007

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## UNITED STATES BAN COCONUTS

Pineapples Could Be Next...

THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) announced yesterday that coconuts are to be prohibited from being imported into the US as of October 20th 2007, and raised a Category 3 alert...

*continued on page 10*

### What people are saying about the Gringo Times

"It's not just good - it's sonic good!" - Some bloke on the TV

"To read the Gringo Times, as with life, is so startling it leaves little time for anything else." - Emily Dickinson

"A waste of paper if there ever was one." - Mr Humorless

"The life of all of mankind is in danger because of the global warming resulting to a large degree from the Gringo Times." - Osama Bin Laden

"Sex on a Stick!"

- Jessica Simpson



### Meanwhile - Back in the Real World!

Santo Domingo Metro Budget Update - Page 3

*Too expensive - or should we just stick with motos?*

Bin Laden - New Tapes - Page 3

*There's a war in Iraq and Osama threatens with videos...*

International Monetary Fund Positive on DR - Page 4

*Buy high, sell low (or something like that)...*

New National Health Care Plan in Chaos - Page 5

*6 years in the planning, but no-one will agree...*

Scotiabank Expands in the DR - Page 6

*They're buying up everything.*

*Can we stop these blasted spend-happy Canucks?*

Running Red Traffic Lights may get you famous - Page 9

*or dead...*

World News - Page 2

*Quirky, but true news snippets from other countries...*

### INSIDE

Local News  
International News  
Real Estate  
Crosswords  
Sudoku  
Word Search  
Humor  
Articles  
Classified Ads

**The Gringo Times**  
"...rhinos are people too!"



## Editorial

Is it true - are the United States banning coconuts? No they aren't, at least not as far as we know.

It looks like an apology is in order. It seems last month our lead story about Disney coming to Puerto Plata wasn't spoof enough. We actually had a number of people telephone us to ask if it was true. Was it that realistic? We don't think so. It was a spoof story, (gua-gua simulation, live hotdogs, Lyon King, cartoon shareholders, stupid pictures, \$300 entry tickets, real pirates) come on guys??

Maybe real news nowadays is just too far fetched, and fake, daft news is more believable?

As far as we know Disney have no plans to open up in the DR. Having said that, by the apparent interest, maybe Disney should consider opening a Dominican Disneyland. So Disney - if you're reading this -

how about it?

And please don't sue us. We're all just homeless hobgoblins making an honest peso to pay for our dried snail collections and butterfly sandwiches.

On another entirely unrelated matter - It's been drawn to my attention that a couple of people don't like the Gringo Times.

That's ok - we can't and never will be able to please everybody. But can I ask those people - please don't pick up a copy each month. The stands run empty well before the end of the month now, so by picking up a copy of something you don't like, you're depriving somebody else of hours of blissfully indulgent pleasure.

Just think about the irreparable damage you are inflicting on those poor unfortunate souls who drive

hundreds, possible thousands of miles across the country, maybe through the Jarabacoa mountains, swim lakes and buy 185 pounds of bananas on the way to collect their longed-for copy of the Gringo Times.

You may have selfishly taken away their one reason to live for that month. Proud of yourself?

Actually, that only means an extra two people will see the Gringo Times. On second thoughts - no problem - go ahead and take one. Just make sure you put it back afterwards!

On third thoughts, we'll just print more. The printing press was giving me sly look the other day. I'll give it a thrashing this month - we'll print 6000!

*Editor in Chief and Assistant to the Assistant Marketing Director: Gringo Muttley*

## World News

### Italians Proud of Ugly People

An Italian association, Club dei Brutti is in the news again for erecting a monument in honour of ugly people, in the northern town of Piobbico.

The monument, depicts an unknown person looking at their own reflection in the mirror.

Telesforo Iacobelli, the president of the Association said, "The motto of our association is that a person is what he is and not what he



looks like. Hence our monument. It is not a monument to a good looking film star or dashing war hero, but to a person who is just as

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# Santo Domingo Metro Raises Temperatures

The Santo Domingo Metro project is brewing controversy as costs continue to escalate.

So far around RD\$2.8 billion (US\$86 million) has been spent this year on the metro, but some estimates are putting the final bill at RD\$25 billion (US\$700 million), twice the original budget.

The project was originally announced in 2004, as a solution to Santo Domingo's growing congestion problems. As the largest city in the Dominican Republic and home to most governmental offices, the capital is home to more than 2 million people and also plays host to many thousands of international visitors each year.

The Dominican Republic has no above ground rail network and no underground network until the metro project is completed. Santo Domingo's roads are clogged up with traffic, and many people complain they spend most of their day just sitting in traffic jams.

It's uncontested that something could do with being done to rectify the situation, but many people are criticizing the way the project is continuing and even its existence. Some feel that the project was forced through too quickly, with little foresight and no real understanding of the problem. There is also suggestion from some that the Metro's growing budget would have been better spent elsewhere, in areas such as education, health, a better road system, a nationwide rail network or fixing the well-documented electricity supply problems.

Whatever your opinions on the matter, and many are voicing them quite strongly, the Dominican Republic hopes soon to have a modern, underground transport system to prepare Santo Domingo for more future growth. Nine miles (14km) of track, much of it underground will connect the northern part of the city with the city center near the coast. Many are proud that their city will have such a modern transport system, in common with many other large cities such as New York and Paris. Others doubt the project will make it's claimed early 2008 completion date, and expect the metro to be as reliable as the current electricity supply.

Meanwhile, what it will eventually cost, and whether it will finally be worth it, is the subject on many Dominican's lips.

## Bin Laden 9-11 Anniversary Video

September saw heightened security, longer queues and more frustrated passengers at airports in the Dominican Republic and other countries. A 30 minute video released on 7th September, purportedly by Osama Bin Laden marked the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, and as President Bush said, was "a reminder of the dangerous world in which we live."

The tape shows Bin Laden criticizing the US, the Bush administration and the US's continuance of the war in Iraq. He talks about his reasons for launching the 9-11 attacks and derides democracy and capitalism, while at the same time not threatening any further action.

His verbal attacks don't just stop at the Bush regime. "The

leaders of the West - especially Bush, Blair, Sarkozy and Brown- still talk about freedom and human rights with a flagrant disregard for the intellects of human beings. So is there a form of terrorism stronger, clearer and more dangerous than this? This is why I tell you: as you liberated yourselves before from the slavery of monks, kings, and feudalism, you should liberate yourselves from the deception, shackles and attrition of the capitalist system," he says.

He also mentions the Kyoto Protocol and says that large corporations protected by the US government are the reasons behind global warming.

Regarding the war in Iraq, he said, "There are two solutions to stopping it. One is from our side, and it is to escalate the fighting and killing against you. This is our duty, and our brothers are

carrying it out."

"The second solution is from your side," he continues and later ends with, "I invite you to embrace Islam," he said. "It will also achieve your desire to stop the war as a consequence, because as soon as the warmongering owners of the major corporations realize that you have lost confidence in your democratic system and have begun to look for an alternative, and this alternative is Islam, they will run after you to please you and achieve what you want to steer you away from Islam."

He also mentioned a book by CIA veteran Michael Scheuer, saying, "If you want to understand what's going on and if you would like to get to know some of the reasons for your losing the war against us, then read the book of Michael Scheuer."

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beautiful - but only on the inside."

The club, roughly translated as the "ugly faces club", or more commonly known as the World Association of Ugly People, was started by Iacobelli in 1960 to support and



encourage the less attractive people in the town with 2000 inhabitants.

Now the club has over 25,000 members around the world, and welcomes new

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members, ugly or not.

"It is important to say that we are not against the beautiful," Iacobelli said. "We instead come together to speak of the problems the ugly face."

Each year the club holds a meeting and dishes out award to members. You can find out more at [www.clubdeibrutti.com](http://www.clubdeibrutti.com).

## New School Run by Students

A small group of nine German pupils have started their own school in the town of Feiburg in Germany. Unhappy with their teachers and the way they were being taught, the 18 year olds rented rooms, employed ten teachers, founded a society, got a budget going and started the Methodos School.

The group will bear the total costs for the school year of the equivalent of around \$70,000. Their parents have agreed to chip in \$20,000, and the pupils hope to find

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# IMF Positive on the DR

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently completed its seventh review and on 7th September approved the disbursement of US\$118.3 million to the Dominican Republic under a \$672.2 million IMF loan program. The IMF was bullish on the future financial outlook for the DR, saying that the country's economic performance was "commendable", and the policies were "prudent".

The IMF's loan program for the DR was started in January 2005 to assist the country get out of an economic slump triggered in part by the collapse in 2003 of Baninter, one of the largest Dominican banks, and the subsequent political scandal and monetary loss for the Central Bank who was obligated to bail out all those who lost money.

While the Baninter court case is still ongoing, IMF Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chairman Murilo Portugal said of the Dominican Republic, "Prudent policies in a generally favorable external environment have restored

confidence and resulted in high growth, single-digit inflation, declining public debt ratios, and a robust external position."

In a press release on the 7th September, Portugal also stated that, "Progress is being made in reducing the electricity sector's need for budgetary support. The criminalization of electricity theft and fraud and the recently-completed renegotiation of some long-term contracts are important in this regard. The new legal framework should be firmly enforced, and electricity prices should be allowed to adjust with cost conditions to keep the sector operating on a sound commercial basis."

"Monetary policy has successfully contained inflation within single digits, despite significant oil price increases. The central bank will need to remain vigilant and tighten monetary policy if signs of overheating appear. The recapitalization of the central bank will strengthen its financial independence, accountability, and credibility."

"The legal framework is now

in place for the reorganization of fiscal institutions and management.

Strong coordination among the leaders of the new institutions will ensure the successful implementation of this restructuring. Making the single treasury account operational will enhance the institutional framework for public financial management by centralizing budgetary control under a single ministry."

"Financial sector risks have substantially decreased, and the banking system has been significantly strengthened. Prudential regulation has broadened to cover financial groups, and financial supervision is appropriately emphasizing risk management. Plans for an international financial center should be consistent with international standards on both consolidated banking supervision and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing," Portugal said.



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## National Health Care Plan in Chaos

Squabbles between the new nationwide Family Health Plan (SFS) and the private Health Plan Administrators (ARS) are escalating.

Difficulties agreeing tariffs for medical expenses are at the root of the problem between the SFS, the ARS's and the National Association of Private Clinics.

The Dominican Medical College recently accused the four leading Health Plan Administrators (roughly 85% of the market), Humano, Universal, SDS and another unnamed of trying to sabotage the SFS through a series of manoeuvres designed to cause chaos among the clients.

Manuel Escarraman, a physician and president of the Dominican College of Surgeons pointed out that ARS's had been paying around RD\$5,295 for an appendix surgery, but now under the SFS they would only pay RD\$4,200.

Escarraman suggested that patients would lose out if physicians refuse to treat them under the lower ARS fee structure. This could lead to more patients paying higher fees for private consultations.

At a recent Dominican Medical College press conference, Dr. Rosalda Damiano, president of the Society of Pediatrics, also drew attention to the fee differences and urged physicians not to sign ARS contracts until the matter has been resolved.

The National Association of Private Clinics (ANDECLIP) representing 237 clinics countrywide, has also given the ARS's an ultimatum of one week to agree on the tariffs for medical expenses.

Rafael Mena, the association's president, announced that if an agreement is not reached by this time, they will be forced to suspend the basic health plan services.

The ARS's have immediately rejected the ultimatum, stating that they are taking care of patients, even though the state hasn't paid them fully. They also say that only about one in a thousand of their insured patients have complained about their service.

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sponsors for the remaining amount.

So far the costs are covered by a loan, but "we all carry the risk to have massive debts after our exams," says Alwin Franke, 19, one of the project's organisers.

The Methodos project is not for slackers - Franke explains: "We will study in small groups of four or five from 9am to 5pm, six days a week."

## Internet Spelling Troubles

Three Norwegian tourists who booked flights over the internet spent their Greek holiday in France. Bente, Marit and Knut had intended to fly to the Greek island Rhodes, but due to a keying error, they instead booked to go to the French town of Rodez, north of Toulouse.

The French town is proud of its old city centre which dates back to around 1200, but it is far from the famous white beaches of Rhodes.

It's not known how much they enjoyed their vacation. Let's hope next time they're more careful - there's always Rhode Island in the US!

## Goat Sacrifice for Plane

Nepal Airlines recently sacrificed two goats in front of one of their Boeing 757's at Kathmandu airport. Apparently, there had been persistent technical problems, thought to be electrical, with the aircraft leading to the postponement of a number of flights in recent weeks.

The offering was made to Akash Bhairab, the Hindu god of sky protection, whose symbol is seen on the company's planes.

The airline said that after the ceremony the plane successfully completed a flight to Hong Kong.

"The snag in the plane has now been fixed and the aircraft has resumed its flights," said senior airline official Raju KC.

## Baby Candy Burglars Licked

Italian police were able to track down and arrest a seven-man gang of Romanian thieves after they stole

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lollipops from a house in Alessandria, Italy.

The candy had been bought for a toddler in the house, and was discarded by the burglars after being half-eaten. When police found the lollipops, they managed to match up vital DNA evidence contained in saliva.

A police spokesman said: "Officers found the lollipops just a few yards away from the house they robbed."

It later turned out that the gang had been behind 78 robberies in the area over the previous three months.

## Dead Body in Drinking Spree

A stolen hearse got two South African men in hot water when it turned out they'd stolen the car along with a dead body in the back. They'd taken the car from outside the driver's house in Soweto, intending to visit a few bars, but ran out of gas on route.

They had asked three women they had met at a drinking den to help push the hearse, but the women got cold feet and told the police.

The hearse's driver told The Sowetan newspaper he was shocked at the theft. Siphiso Mkhize said he had parked the hearse outside his house while he went inside to get money to buy fuel.

"It is a shocking thing to realise there are people who could steal a hearse with a dead person inside," he said.

"Going shebeen-hopping with a corpse takes the cake. What kind of people are these?"

John Dlomo from the Community Policing Forum in the township of Soweto said the men appeared to be drunk when they were arrested.

## Swiss Soapy Jail Break

Four convicts were able to break out of a Swiss jail using nothing more than soap.

Bert Bruegger, aged 20, stripped naked and lathered soap all over his body, before squeeze through the food hatch in his cell door.

Once outside he opened the doors for three of his mates in the neighbouring

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# Scotiabank's Dominican Expansion

Scotiabank (owned by Canada's Bank of Nova Scotia) announced in September that it has agreed to buy a controlling interest in Spain's BBVA operations in the Dominican Republic.

BBVA companies in the DR consist of BBVA Crecer AFP, the country's third largest pension manager with 6.23 billion pesos (US\$190 million) assets under management, and BBVA Seguros, the country's fifth largest life insurer.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval.

BBVA Crecer AFP and BBVA Seguros have a total of 99 employees together. BBVA Seguros was formed as recently as 2006 to provide life and disability insurance to BBVA Crecer AFP affiliates.

The Canadian bank will pay around US\$50 million for almost a 100% ownership interest in each company according to a Scotiabank spokesperson.

The Spanish group held a 60% ownership interest in pension manager BBVA Crecer through Provida Internacional (25%) and BBVA (35%), while Schaffer controlled 38.4% as of June 30, according to data from pension regulator Sipen.

BBVA stated that it will be selling its Provida Internacional 25% stake in BBVA Crecer to Scotiabank for US\$11.4mn, in its filing to Chile's securities and insurance regulator SVS.

"The expansion of Scotiabank Group's operations in the Dominican Republic is indicative of the opportunity that we see within this dynamic and growing market," said Oscar Zimmerman, President and CEO Scotia Life Insurance Company.

"As an international financial services provider with more than 175 years of experience, the Scotiabank Group is optimistic about the future in the Dominican Republic and confident this

acquisition will complement the financial services we currently offer our customers," said Nicole Reich de Polignac, Senior Vice-President and Country Manager for Scotiabank in the Dominican Republic. "Scotiabank Group is known throughout the region for our stability, strong customer focus, and our commitment to our employees and to the communities where we live and work."

In press release, BBVA said it was selling its pension unit in the Dominican Republic as it is not strategic for the group.

A Scotiabank spokesperson said that they expect to close the transaction in October.

Are children who act in rated 'R' movies allowed to see them?

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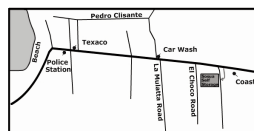
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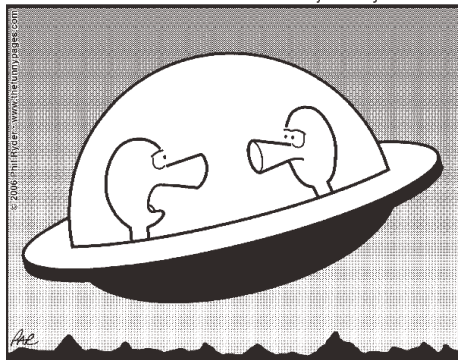
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# Local Jazz & Blues Performance

Saturday 8th September saw a return to performing for local Jazz & Blues singer Retah B at the well-known Ruby's Bar in



Sosua. Alongside Retah was the talented Roberto Santana on the keyboard playing jazz piano.

Retah, originally from Denmark but now living in Puerto Plata, has an unusual voice - deep, rich and soulful. If you didn't see her first, you'd naturally assume it was a soulful black voice from somewhere like New Orleans..

Retah spent some time living in Chicago - "Blues capital of the North", and has performed in the States and Europe singing the Blues since 1983. She was part of the Copenhagen Jazz Festival in 1994 & 1995 with her band, "Retah B and the Cats".

In 1999, she released an all Blues CD with her own lyrics, together with the Composer

and Guitar/Harp player Finn Poulsen, featuring the talented Jesper Thilo, Tenorsax on a couple of numbers.

Now Retah's returned to the local scene, singing more Standard Jazz now, and she's looking for more venues to perform in. If you're interested you can contact Retah B on [jazzretahb@yahoo.com](mailto:jazzretahb@yahoo.com), or contact us at the Gringo Times, and we'll forward your details on.

More photos and video clips at: <http://www.gringo-times.com/entertainment/retah/>



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cells at the prison in Kreuzlingen.

Wardens only noticed the next morning and police have so far managed to catch just one of the escapees.

## Police Officer Tasered

In Wales, a senior police officer, Chief Constable, Richard Brunstrom, aged 53 was zapped with 50,000 volts by a Taser electronic stun gun.

The event was voluntary and actually designed to show the effects of the weapon which is now used extensively by law enforcement agencies around the world.

"We're prepared to use this on members of the public when we have to. It's right and proper that the head of the organisation tries it out for himself," he said.

A video of the event was released on the internet and showed him being supported by two officers as he is shot in the back with a Taser by a third officer.

He makes what he described as a "strangled yell" as he is zapped for 1.5 seconds, and tells his officers, "That was long enough, thanks".

Speaking to camera afterwards, Mr Brunstrom -



who recently passed his force's fitness test - said: "What was it like? Not pleasant, is the answer."

He added: "I was completely incapable of movement. I would have fallen if I hadn't been supported by my colleagues."

"I very strongly advise you, if faced by an officer and a Taser, that you follow the instructions of the nice police officer, because you will not enjoy the consequences of disobedience."

## Shark Attacked by Swimmers

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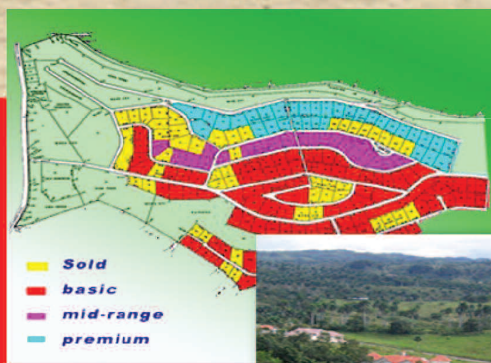
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# Traffic Light Violators to be Infamous

The Metropolitan Transport Authority (AMET) have announced that they intend to publish the names in the national papers of all bus drivers who run red lights.

Speaking on behalf of AMET, its director General Latif Miguel Mahfoud Rodriguez, said that hundreds of similar traffic violations occur every day, getting the perpetrator a fine of

884 pesos, and an obligatory visit to the police station.

Going through red lights and reckless driving are in the top four traffic violations according to the Metropolitan Transport Police (PMT). Mahfoud Rodriguez said that these infractions don't only put the driver's life at risk, but also pedestrians and other innocent people.

He also said that prison sentences of three days to six months, which the law allows would help diminish these types of crimes considerably.

The director of the Transport Technical Office (OTTT), Franklin Beltré, has announced separately that they will assist in creating a national driving school to educate conductors on the transport laws.

*continued from previous page*

A lucky shark was rescued by a lifeguard off a beach on New York's Coney Island after a mob of panicking swimmers set on it.

"There must have been 75 to 100 people circled around the shark in the water and they were bugging out," said Marius Mironescu, aged 39, of Brooklyn.

"They were holding on to it and some people were actually hitting him, smacking his face. Well, I wasn't going to let them hurt the poor thing."

He carried the 2 foot sand shark - a baby and harmless to humans - to a less populated area before backstroking out to sea, dragging the shark with one hand.

"He was making believe like he's dead, then he wiggled his whole body and tried to bite me. He didn't get it," added Mr Mironescu.

## Dangerous Snack

Cheetos were cited as an assault weapon in an official police report filed in Iowa, United States. The bag of Cheetos in question were thrown by 22 year old Patrick Hamman at his father, Michael, during an argument. The bag hit the father on his spectacles, causing a cut to the bridge of his nose.

The police report also said, "Michael's T-shirt was also covered in Cheetos dust."

Frito-Lay were contacted



for a statement but declined to comment.

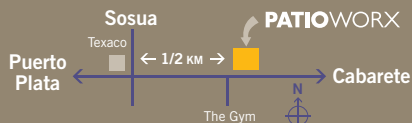
## London Hotspot Transports Drinkers Around the World

A new million pound club opened recently in London, filled with giant video screens and interactive technology, designed to revolutionise the drinking experience. The large

*continued on page 14*

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Next to the La Javilla Roundabout #5 - La Rotunda de La Javilla #5

continued from page 1

issuing a countrywide recall on cococuts currently on retailers' shelves. It is expected that other first world countries will follow the US's lead in banning coconuts.

Major retailer Wal-Mart has



Just say "No!" to coconut milk

already taken coconuts off their shelves in response to the alert, and announced that it would be encouraging any recent coconut buyers to return coconuts to any of their stores for a full 25% refund.

In the bid to remove illegal coconuts from the country, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has also started cutting down palm trees in the Florida Keys. These will be humanely destroyed in a third world country where regulations permit workers to handle dangerous substances without protective clothing.

We spoke to Bob Dope of the DEA (US Drug Enforcement Administration) about the announcement and the reasons behind it.

Dope: "The Attorney General wanted to classify coconuts as a class 3 drug under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). But I advised him that if we did that, it would encourage the trafficking of coconuts illegally across the border. Then we'd be up to the eyeballs with illegal aliens acting as drug mules, smuggling coconuts in to pay for their passage. You can imagine how easy it would be to hide a couple of coconuts."

"So coconuts are officially dangerous?"

Dope: "Yes, certainly. The CSA regulates five classes of drugs: narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, and anabolic steroids. Coconuts are capable of producing dependence, both physical and psychological, and they can be abused to alter mood, thought,

and feeling through their actions on the central nervous system. The extent to which a coconut is reliably capable of producing a euphoric condition increases the likelihood of that coconut being abused."

"And how would people do that?"

Dope: "It is possible to inhale coconuts, especially when mixed with tobacco. We just don't want our kids experimenting with them. Coconuts are baaad!"

We next asked Bob Grope from the FDA about the reasons behind the announcement.

Grope: "We've recently noticed a disturbing new trend, particularly amongst people on vacation or just trying to enjoy themselves."

Grope: "Since Cuba Libres were invented in 1765 by Christopher Columbus, people have been mixing rum and coke to make an enjoyable and profitable drink. But disturbingly, some people are being misled into missing out the coke and instead mixing the rum with coconut water. This is causing all sorts of problems, many of which I can't go into for reasons I can't discuss."

"Pina coladas are also off the menu. We're looking into getting pineapples banned too for similarly associated contractually non-disclosable reasons. How many times have you heard somebody say, 'I'll just have one more Pina Colada'? The major beverage companies have promised they will have an FDA approved pineapple replacement drink by January."

"We would advise consumers to only drink manufactured products, as we can control exactly what is put in them and give them an official FDA seal of approval. We can't do that with coconuts, so you can see the danger."

"We've had a lot of problems from the pro-coconut lobbyists. They've been insidiously influencing our kids for years now. We're asking major corporations of conscience such as Philip Morris, Shell, McDonalds, Nike, Wal-Mart, Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola to band together and educate Americans about the potential damage from consumers imbibing natural products such as coconuts. Only buy from big corporations with large, unnavigatable, multi-lingual websites. That way you

can be sure that you are getting the best products in the world. I know Philip Morris has been doing a lot of good work encouraging kids not to smoke. We need to do the same thing with coconuts."

We spoke to Bob Morley, Chief Executive of Coca-Cola about their planned campaign to educate school-kids about the risks involved with coconuts.

"What would you say is the main worry with coconuts?"

Morley: "The problem is, that we don't know exactly what's in them."

Morley: "People are misled into referring to parts of the coconut in incorrect ways. Coconut milk is not milk – it does not come from a breast. Coconut water is not water – it doesn't come from a tap. A coconut is not even a nut – monkeys don't like 'em. And try putting coconut oil in your car engine!"

Morley: "The liquid in a coconut is actually Chlordiazetenintropoxide-enedextro-prolopoxyphelelol in part, which is addictive and causes the release of endorphins into your bloodstream. The other part of the liquid, scientists don't know much about – and that where the problem lies. Scientists can't yet one-hundred percent rule out coconuts as a cause for lung cancer. So you can see the danger."

Morley: "The Government feels, and I agree, that it's much better for our children's health if they drink products that we have made in a controlled environment owned by responsible shareholder citizens who can correctly allocate resources to assist party political campaigns."

"You mean like Coke?"

Morley: "Well yes. Coke is good for kids. We know exactly what is in it. We just won't tell you."

Morley: "And drinking Coke ensures work for hard-

working men and women at the bottle plants. It puts food on their tables, and on their family's tables, and on their grand-parents' tables. It means kids can go to school and get educated. It gives them the strength and vitality to run around inbetween lessons, and even during the lessons. If too many kids drink coconut water, we'll all end up a nation of overweight mindless zombies!"

"Ah, I see your point."

Morley: "For all we know, coconuts could have been created by a vicious alien nation,



One last Pina Colada?

intent on world domination."

"Why would they do that?"

Morley: "Just think about it. They could be filling the coconuts with tiny amounts of mind-altering substances. The more coconuts we eat, the more receptive we will be when they invade and take over our country."

Morley: "Then what will stop them from creating huge experimentation labs, on U.S. soil, and using our bodies and brains to experiment on to satiate their sick whims."

Morley: "And besides, coconuts are full of artery clogging saturated fat. What are we doing to our kids by allowing them to eat or drink the stuff? I know I certainly wouldn't let my kids touch a coconut."

"And what would be the message you would be looking to promote to kids?" we asked.

Morley: "Well, Philip Morris had a lot of success with their 'Don't Wipe Out. Think. Don't



Smoke.” slogan featuring a snowboarder. I think they’ve reduced teenager smoking by nearly 0.32% in just 8 years.”

“We’ll be spending \$100 million over the next few months sending out leaflets with a picture of Britney Spears and the wording, “Don’t be a Coconut Dope. Think Coke. Just do it!”

Other slogans we’re considering are ‘Coconuts - Finger lickin’ bad.’

“The future’s bright. The future’s coconut uncontaminated.”

“Coconuts – We’re not luvin’ it!”

“Coke refreshes the parts other coconuts cannot reach.”

“Don’t die of coconuts.”

“Coconuts – Inhaling may seriously damage your health.”

We spoke to Bob Gonzales of the Dominican Farmers Association about the effect the announcement would have on Dominican farmers.

“Yes, we’re very worried. Across the Dominican Republic we have millions of acres of prime coconut plantations. In one fell swoop a major export market has disappeared.”

“We’re looking at what to do with the expected huge excess of coconuts currently in production. We’ve got our top universities and scientists looking into the options right now.”

“I think one thing President Fernandez is expected to push for is an artificial snowboard and ski resort in Puerto Plata, using desiccated coconut for the artificial snow.”

“In fact, desiccated coconut has many potential uses, kitty litter, newsprint, toothpaste enhancer, bleach substitute, pillow stuffing, muffin strengthening, tile bashing, finger slapping, beef whacking, brick laying, celebrity bashing, car production and as a cement additive.”

“We’re also asking for a ban on importing American brands such as Frito Lay, BMW and Daihatsu, but it’s probably more effective to just increase the customs’ autonomy and allow them to charge whatever import duties they feel are fair for each person. That will make ‘em think twice about banning our coconuts.”

At the time of writing, the Dominican Ambassador was in Washington discussing the coconut debacle with President Bush. If we hear any new developments, we’ll be bringing them to you. Meanwhile, in the words of George Orwell, “Four legs good, no legs bad!” Stay off them coconuts!

*Disclaimer: This story is entirely fictional, and all events and people depicted within are the product of a warped imagination. Please do not call us asking if the story is true. It isn't. This should be obvious, but just in case you are still unsure – it really isn't true, honest!!!*

Why are people allowed to put naked statues outside but why can't we run outside naked?

## Word Search

Top 60 brands of 2006 according to Interbrand. Brands are listed according to rank starting from most well-known worldwide. Words can go diagonally forwards and backwards. Why isn't the Gringo Times in there yet and who the hell are Google anyway?

M P E C C H N E S I S Z S A H Z M D B N E  
K F K P H O T Y T P N A Y E H A B U S O L  
E I I H K T E I U E M E W E R O D F I T G  
L Z N I E L C C B S H L S L N W N U T T O  
L E A L G G P S U X E T B C E S L D R I O  
O R L I F N E N V T O O F I A T I M A U G  
G I R P Y D G N T O R R S O O F V D V V H  
G W P S E S Y P E O L E E Y S F E B O S A  
S O F C I L A H Z R R K O X D O Z I N I R  
B H R C A C Y E L N A T S N A G R O M U L  
U E C E K H E I N Z A L R W O T A C J O E  
M U R A S N E M E I S P E P A K C S I L Y  
G O R T S O D N E T N I N L F G C I N M D  
L D B M W N Z E L P P A S C E Y E C T A A  
A M E R I C A N E X P R E S S C N N E L V  
D E L L W P F M C O L G A T E V T M L O I  
G B D W S O J D D J A E Y N O S U R Y C D  
R A M E R R I L L Y N C H O A R O I A S  
B Y P D O N C E K N O C I P H N E Q B C O  
S D L A N O D C M S X G W K A M A K M O N  
J P M O R G A N O R A C L E Y S Z C I C W

Coca-Cola  
Microsoft  
IBM  
General Electric  
Intel  
Nokia  
Toyota  
Disney  
McDonald's  
Mercedes-Benz  
Citi  
Marlboro  
Hewlett-Packard  
American Express  
BMW

Gillette  
Louis Vuitton  
Cisco  
Honda  
Samsung  
Merrill Lynch  
Pepsi  
Nescafe  
Google  
Dell  
Sony  
Budweiser  
HSBC  
Oracle  
Ford

Nike  
UPS  
JPMorgan  
SAP  
Canon  
Morgan Stanley  
Goldman Sachs  
Pfizer  
Apple  
Kellogg's  
Ikea  
UBS  
Novartis  
Siemens  
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Xerox  
Colgate  
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# Sudoku

Fill in the blanks so that each row, column and 3x3 each have all numbers 1 to 9.

Easy

Answers on page 14

Not so easy

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

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

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# Crossword - Crucigrama

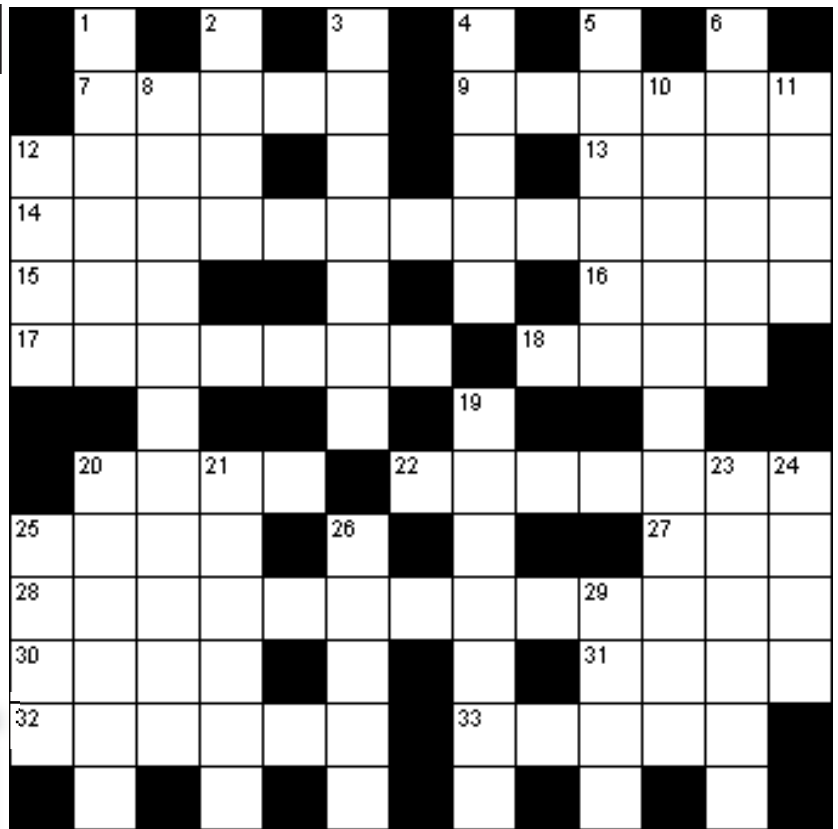
## Across

7. Bring into a line
9. Shelter
12. Pluck
13. Repudiate
14. Peripheral political group
15. Exploit
16. Mousses
17. Swabbing
18. Clotted blood
20. Edges
22. S Texas city
25. Insignificant
27. Male sheep
28. Modern
30. Quick look
31. Male name
32. Story in instalments
33. Person who explores caves

## Down

1. Tenor
2. Female name
3. Aged
4. Transfer
5. Blue dye
6. Hang loosely
8. Computer output device
10. Procedural order
11. Cereals
12. Dejected
19. Obnoxious person
20. Indian currency
21. Nearsighted
23. Restaurant
24. State
25. Little dogs
26. Young boy or girl
29. Fleet

Answers to crossword on page 14



## Deep Thoughts

The things kids say

Give me the strength to change the things I can, the grace to accept the things I cannot, and a great big bag of money.  
-Age 13

I bet living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween. -Age 13

For centuries, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. Then the astronauts found that the moon is really a big hard rock. That's what happens to cheese when you leave it out. -Age 6

Think of the biggest number you can. Now add five. Then, imagine if you had that many Twinkies. Wow, that's five more than the biggest number you could come up with! -Age 6

The only stupid question is the one that is never asked, except maybe "Don't you think it is about time you audited my return?" or "Isn't it morally wrong to give me a warning when, in fact, I was speeding?"  
-Age 15

Once, I wept for I had no shoes. Then I came upon a man who had no feet. So I took his shoes.

I mean, it's not like he really needed them, right? -Age 15

I often wonder how come John Tesh isn't as popular a singer as some people think he should be. Then, I remember it's because he sucks. -Age 15

I gaze at the brilliant full moon. The same one, I think to myself, at which Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato gazed. Suddenly, I imagine they appear beside me. I tell Socrates about the national debate over one's right to die and wonder at the constancy of the human condition. I tell Plato that I live in the country that has come the closest to Utopia, and I show him a copy of the Constitution. I tell Aristotle that we have found many more than four basic elements and I show him a periodic table. I get a box of kitchen matches and strike one. They gasp with wonder. We spend the rest of the night lighting farts. -Age 15

If we could just get everyone to close their eyes and visualize world peace for an hour, imagine how serene and quiet it would be until the looting started. -Age 15

## Football Quotes

Actual statements by commentators (who should know better) - the pressure!

"I would also think that the action replay showed it to be worse than it actually was."  
(RON ATKINSON)

"Mirandinha will have more shots this afternoon than both sides put together."  
(MALCOLM McDONALD)

"Newcastle, of course, unbeaten in their last five wins."  
(BRIAN MOORE)

"Football's not like an electric light. You can't just flick the switch and change from quick to slow."  
(JOHN GREIG)

"Certain people are for me and certain people are pro me."  
(TERRY VENABLES)

"I'm going to make a prediction - it could go either way."  
(RON ATKINSON)

"And with 4 minutes gone, the score is already 0-0."  
(IAN DARK)

"Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seemed to hang in the air for even longer."  
(DAVID ACFIELD)

"What I said to them at half time would be unprintable on the radio"  
(GERRY FRANCIS)

"If we played like this every week, we wouldn't be so inconsistent"  
(BRYAN ROBSON)

"If there weren't such a thing as football, we'd all be frustrated footballers."  
(MICK LYONS)

"He's one of those footballers whose brains are in his head."  
(DEREK JOHNSTONE)

"The crowd think that Todd handled the ball.... they must have seen something that nobody else did."  
(BARRY DAVIES)

"I can see the carrot at the end of the tunnel"  
(STUART PEARCE)

"They compare Steve McManaman to Steve Highway and he's nothing like him, but I can see why - it's because he's a bit different."  
(KEVIN KEEGAN)

continued from page 9

# Strange Signs

A sign seen on a restroom dryer at O'Hare Field in Chicago: Do not activate with wet hands.

At a car dealership: The best way to get back on your feet? Miss a car payment.

At A Laundry Shop: How about we refund your money, send you a new one at no charge, close the store and have the manager shot. Would that be satisfactory?

At a Music Store: Out to lunch. Bach at 12:30. Offenbach sooner.

At a number of US military bases: Restricted to unauthorized personnel.

At a pizza shop: 7 days without pizza makes one weak.

At a Santa Fe gas station: We will sell gasoline to anyone in a glass container.

At a tire shop in Milwaukee: Invite us to your next blowout.

At a Towing Company: We

don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows.

At a Used Car Lot: Second Hand cars in first crash condition.

At an Auto Body Shop: May we have the next dents?

At an optometrist's office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

At the electric company: We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be.

At the entrance of the large machinery plant: Warning to young ladies: If you wear loose clothes, beware of the machinery. If you wear tight clothes, beware of the machinist.

Billboard on the side of the road: Keep your eyes on the road and stop reading these signs.

## Church

sign: To remove worry wrinkles, get your faith lifted.

Door of a plastic surgeon's office: Hello. May we pick your nose?

Gym: Merry Fitness and a Happy New Rear!

In a Beauty Shop: Dye now!

In a cafeteria: Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria. Socks can eat any place they want.

In a dentist office: Be true to your teeth or they will be false to you.

In a Florida maternity ward: No children allowed.

In a health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

In a Laundromat: Automatic washing machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

In a Los Angeles clothing store: Wonderful bargains for men with 16 and 17 necks.

## Sudoku Answers

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

## Crossword Answers

1	C	2	V	3	A	4	S	5	I	6	D
7	A	8	L	9	I	10	G	11	N	12	R
13	G	14	R	15	I	16	T	17	C	18	I
19	D	20	E	21	N	22	Y	23	E	24	F
25	L	26	U	27	N	28	A	29	T	30	I
31	C	32	F	33	R	34	I	35	N	36	G
37	E	38	U	39	S	40	E	41	T	42	G
43	E	44	L	45	S	46	M	47	O	48	P
49	P	50	I	51	N	52	G	53	G	54	O
55	R	56	E	57	S	58	A	59	C	60	A
61	L	62	L	63	E	64	N	65	P	66	U
67	N	68	Y	69	C	70	H	71	R	72	A
73	M	74	U	75	T	76	O	77	T	78	H
79	E	80	M	81	I	82	N	83	U	84	T
85	E	86	P	87	E	88	E	89	P	90	I
91	U	92	A	93	L	94	E	95	X	96	S
97	E	98	R	99	I	100	A	101	L	102	C
103	A	104	V	105	E	106	R	107	K	108	Y
109	Y	110	Y	111	Y	112	Y	113	Y	114	Y

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## THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder &amp; YOU



"My cable is messed up, there's a waiting list at the spa, and my steak was cold! I don't know how much more of this place I can take!"

- Pam Watson • Jackson, MS

wall mounted screen show videos of locations around the world from a Hawaii beach to the Grand Canyon.

Using special computer controlled projections each area of the club can be transformed from an innocent heavenly location to a fierier environment.

Infrared sensors can detect when you are in front of a screen, and an interactive bar recognises what you are drinking at the private members bar.

The venue named "24" is the brainchild of Cris Calarco, and his business partner Gavin Hough. Calarco said, "Most clubs tend to be about booths and dark corners, and we really wanted to try something different. At 24 you can even choose what colour you want the décor, so it matches your outfit. You can choose the music, the drinks, even the company you are with if you wish."

"We can transport people to anywhere in the world, or mirror what is going on outside. When you put a glass on the bar, the rim shape is scanned and from that we can tell what the drink is - so we can make it easy to order the same drink."

"We also have heat sensors, so if you touch the bar, a flower grows under the bar wherever you've touched it."

The screen can display a virtual aquarium, with a digital fish that follows customers.

"People can play with the interactive virtual koi carp, or dance and watch as thermal shadows replicate every movement," said Mr Calarco.

## Paying with Fingers

Supermarkets, shop and bars across Germany have begun installing new checkout systems which allow customers to pay using just their fingerprint.

Similar to machines that take credit cards, the new 2000 euro machines scan the customers' fingertip and automatically deduct the bill from their bank account.

All that's required for customers to use the machines, says German supplier, IT Werke, is to have their fingers scanned and provide their address and banking details.

Stefan Sewoester of IT Werke, said, "It is particularly good for elderly clients because they do not have to remember their pin-code to pay with their bank cards, or to scratch around for their glasses or cash."



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## Jobs

Position sought! Extensive off. mgmt. exp. Shirley 404-516-2346 Email: [sabatos@bellsouth.net](mailto:sabatos@bellsouth.net)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classificados Gratis

Professionnal man, english-Spanish-Swedish speaking seeking for a job in Sosua, preference: at night-weekends. call Zanne 809 579-2669

Cabarete. Looking for receptionist, 2 or 3 days a week. Must speak english, french and spanish (very important) Please call: 809-885-8519

## Boats

Catamaran Sailboat Hobie Bravo. Brand New US\$4000. 809-501-8164

## Rentals

Luperon Apartment for rent. Panoramic views of ocean & mountains. 1 Bedroom. Furnt. Quiet. 2 Bcks from beach. Small pool. Esther 809-613-4097

One Bedroom Apartment in Sosua fully furnished. 14000 rds per month Tel 809 571 2477

Studio Apartment in Costambar in gated beachside community with shared pool and off street parking. 24 elec. RD\$4000 per week or RD\$10000 per month. (1) 829 633 1625

1 Bed Apartments Cabarete, Bar and restaurant on the premises. Cable TV, Internet. US\$150 per week or US\$400 per month. (1) 809 884 5766

1+2 Bed Apartment in Gated Beachside Community with shared pool and off street parking. Close to restaurants and beach. RD\$7000 per week or RD\$13000 per month. (1) 809 884 5766

1 Bed Apartment in Complex, Smart apartments in the gated community of Costambar. Fully furnished with communal pool 24 hr elec and walking distance to beach. RD\$10000 per month. (1) 829 633 1625

2 Bed Apartment in gated Beachtown Community, with shared pool and off street parking, close to beach and shops. RD\$ 9000 per week or RD\$14000 per month (1) 809 884 5766

2 Bed Apartment in lush Complex, situated in the beachside town of Costambar. 24 hr elec, Internet, cable available. RD\$ 12000 per month, (1) 829 633 1625

Chic 1 Bed Apartment with Amazing Pool, Sosua, All mod cons including remote control ceiling fans, floor lamps, upgraded in the lighting kitchen, new refrigerator. US\$500 per month. (1) 809 884 5766

Beachfront 2 Bed Apartments, Smart apartment right on the beach in the popular gated community of Costambar. Mezzanine floor. US\$660 per month, (1) 829 633 1625

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## Misc

Acer Laptop 1.4Ghz 512MB RAM, 40Gig HD, DVD combo drive, WIFI 54Mbit/s. 15Inch screen. USD\$700.00 OBO

Fax for sale (Brother) \$2000 rds. Call: 809-885-8519

FOR SALE Commercial frige/freezer worth \$4000 US, asking \$2000 quick sale 809-404-5438

GE side by side ice/water like new condition in santiago \$775/US. Like new fridge water ice on door

Graco Travel System for sale. Baby pram & car seat set. Also misc baby items. Offers. Nicky 809-421-2137

Wanted - Mums with babies or young children interested in meeting other mums in the area. Call Nicky 809-421-2137

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