

# *el nuevo* **Gringo Times**

RD\$20

Issue 2- May 2007

Emasculating The Gringo Enquirer

Cabarete - Sosua - Puerto Plata - Costambar - Cofresi

*Gringo Enquirer*  
**EXCLUSIVE**



# KRYPTONITE FOUND ON CABARETE BEACH

**No tourists  
injured**

ANALYSTS CONFIRMED yesterday that at least one small rock containing Kryptonite had

been found at an unidentified beach in Cabarete. They indicated that other rocks had been

found in the same location, but these comprised mostly of plain average - continued on page 24

## INSIDE

Local News  
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What people are saying about  
the Gringo Times

"It's news Jim - but not as we  
know it." - Mr L.Nimoy

"We can make history and  
remake our country's future. We  
can elect the first woman  
president, but do not read the  
Gringo Times!" - Hillary Clinton

"If The Gringo Times has taught  
us anything, it's that pelicans can  
be used to mix cement."



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## Editorial

The Gringo Times is back again, this time with a few extra bits.

I'd like to announce myself as the brand new editor of the Gringo Times as the last one was asked to stand down last week. Let's face it, I don't like to kick a man when he's down, but he was pretty crap!

All this stuff about the Dominican Space Launch caused a bit of a hoo-haa in the local and international community. Leonel's chief of staff and a bunch of other governmental big-wigs were on the phone the day after we launched and gave us a pretty good drubbing. Apparently there is a Dominican Space program in operation, and now the Gringo Times has alerted the world at large, the government has some explaining to do. So Leonel, if you are reading this, I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise on behalf of the

previous editor and all the staff (and all the people who found it funny), and I promise it won't happen again!

I don't actually know what 's happened to the old editor, Gringo Bailey. Last time I saw him he was sitting at a beach bar, drowning his sorrows in a three pint alcohol-free pina-colada. I don't think he was aware it had no alcohol in. If anyone out there has a job for a tired out, useless old hack, then you may want to consider him.

Anyway enough dwelling him - in this issue, the lead story on the new discovery in Cabarete might look like another joke - but it is in fact true! The only reason you won't see it any of the nationals is that the local Ministry for Tourism managed to cover it up pretty well. It's just lucky that our photographer happened to be waxing his board, and posing for the ladies in the vicinity when the team led by Mr Lark obtained the rare mineral.

The 'wrap-up' guys from the Ministry of Defence did attempt to confiscate the camera, but our man at the scene got away clean.

So if there are any budding reporters or photographers out there, and you'd like to link up with the elite members of the Gringo Times, please contact us. Being a reporter here takes a pretty dedicated type of individual, and it's not for everyone. It's crucial to remain incognito as

### THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder & YOU



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you rush down your tenth cubra libre before happy hour ends.

Editor: Gringo Muttley

PS. If you haven't bought your own copy of Gringo Times - shame on you! Thousands of workers toiled for many years to create this edition, and all they ask for is a little bit of love and respect - and 20 pesos. So drop everything now, and saunter off down to your local supermarket, or any of the other shops and bars that are selling the Gringo Times, and use your 20 pesos to make someone happy!

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• A harp is a nude •  
• piano. •  
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## News of the World

### Dog-sized Toad Found in Australia

We're used to seeing small frogs out and about especially when it's raining, but spare a thought for those living in Oz. 'Toadzilla', weighing just under 2 pounds and measuring 8 inches, roughly the size of a small dog was recently captured in Northern Australia. Cane Toads there are viewed as pests due to their prolific breeding and are frequently hunted. Some estimates put their number as high as 200 million. They are poisonous and have had a destructive influence on many other animals such as snakes, lizards, small marsupials, and even crocodiles - who have died after eating the toads! A local MP suggested that people should attack them with golf clubs. So next time you rescue that harmless looking frog from the pool - watch out!

### Potatoes not as good as Computers

In Germany, police are investigating a man who returned a newly purchased computer to the shop, saying it was filled with potatoes instead of computer parts. The store replaced the computer free of charge but became suspicious when the man returned later with the new computer again filled with potatoes. The second time, the man didn't want a replacement but just asked for his money back. Police are treating it as fraud.

Ed - What we want to know is, would the potato powered computer run Windows Vista?

### Better Alternative to Drugs for Premature Ejaculation?

A Belgrade man, Zoran Nikolovic needed emergency surgery after taking his witchdoctor's advice and having sex with a hedgehog. Apparently the witchdoctor

*continued on next page*



# Santiago to get Trams



A new street car system is planned for Santiago, with construction to start in August.

The Spanish railways construction company, FEVE will be teaming up with Dominican company, Consulting APD in the project, planned to benefit more than 200,000 people who travel in the city daily.

The announcement was made at a recent press conference by Santiago's Mayor Jose Enrique Sued and FEVE's president, Dimas Sañudo.

Sañudo said that preliminary technical feasibility studies indicated that the project was viable and feasible.

Sued said that the project would be built via concession and foreign investment and therefore would not economically jeopardize Santiago's nor the Dominican State's treasuries.

# Fernandez Leading the Polls

According to a new Gallup survey conducted in early April, President Leonel Fernandez is favoured by 45% of the country's voters for the PLD presidential candidate. This is up from 35% last November.

The other key runners are Danilo Medina at 23% and Jose Tomas Perez with 5%.

Amongst PLD supporters, the percentage is even more skewed in the president's direction with 73% in support of Fernandez, 17% for Medina and 2.4% for Perez. Over 1200 adults were interviewed, of which 27.1% said they didn't know or just didn't respond. It is thought that Fernandez's support comes mostly from the large cities, whereas Medina and Perez have theirs in the interior.

## New Cap Cana Marina

Another tourism boost in April, with the famous Cap Cana resort group's inauguration of the first stage of an exclusive marina on the East Coast. The marina will be able to cope with up to 72, 60 foot long yachts. President Leonel Fernandez is expected to head the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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had recommended this as a cure for premature ejaculation. Unsurprisingly, the 35 year old man ended up in the operating theatre with a severely lacerated penis.

*Ed - Thankfully, the hedgehog survived physically, but was rather embarrassed by the whole episode.*

## Man Sells Wife to Pay off Debts

I know we've all been tempted when the credit card bills are mounting up, but Emil Iancu, living in Romania actually did hand over his wife in lieu of his debt worth approximately \$3500, to his 72 year old creditor, Jozef Justien Lostrie when he turned up on his doorstep. "I had no money, and I was scared," said Iancu. "So I signed a document giving Daniela to him."

His wife, Daniela is apparently happy with the whole deal. "Before I had to clean the house and look after our three children, but now I live like a guest and hardly do a thing," she reportedly said.

## Wedding Joke Stops Marriage

A joke backfired for Tina Albrecht, 27 in Austria at her wedding to fiancé Dietmar Koch aged 29. To the key question, she replied "I don't", as a joke, before correctly herself. The registrar then refused to continue with the ceremony, as under Austrian law, if either party replies to the question in the negative, the wedding must be cancelled and cannot take place for a further 10 weeks, to stop forced marriages. Ms Albrecht and her fiancé were forced to send all their wedding guests home from the castle in Steyr. "In retrospect it was probably not so funny," she said.

*Ed - Oh, but it is! Try it again...*

## Husband Brands Wife's Bum

A jealous 54 year old man is being questioned by police for allegedly branding his initials on his 22 year old wife's bottom. The incident took place on their wedding night

*continued on next page*

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# More Flights Planned for DR

American Airlines has indicated recently that it has officially requested the permits from the Dominican Civil Aviation Board to operate new routes, from Las Americas and El Catey (Samana).

Spokesperson for AA, Eduardo del Pozo said that the company was building on its 30 year commitment to the Dominican Republic, which he



called, "a great tourism destination." He also indicated that the

expansion plans clearly show AA's confidence in the country's stability and in its present and future potential, as part of the possibilities which the DR-CAFTA trade deal with the United States and Central America offers.

The new routes to be operated by American Eagle are Samaná - Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo - Port Prince, Santo Domingo - Curaçao and Santo Domingo-Caracas.

The new flights will bring a further 150,000 passengers into the Dominican Republic during the first year and are hoped to commence from next July.

## Brad and Angelina to Wed in the DR?



According to George Nader, a close friend of Pitt and Jolie, they are considering the possibility of getting married in the Dominican Republic. Nader said that Pitt e-mailed him asking for information regarding Dominican marriage laws for foreigners. Nader stated that Pitt did not elaborate on any firm plans.

Britain's OK! magazine also reported that the couple plan to wed in the Dominican Republic.

Spokesperson for Pitt, Cindy Guagenti denied the rumours.

Both Pitt and Jolie spent some time in the DR last year while Jolie was working on the movie "The Good Shepherd" along with Robert De Niro.

Nader had recently assisted Pitt in looking for real-estate in the DR. If the couple do tie the knot, it will be Pitt's second marriage, and Jolie's third.

## Clinton Visits Fernandez

The president, Leonel Fernandez met with Bill and Hillary Clinton in La Romana over Easter. The current senator for the State of New York and former US president has visited the Dominican Republic 7 times. On this visit, the Clintons stayed with their friend Oscar de la Renta in Punta Cana along with Alan Greenspan and other friends.

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and became public when his new wife contacted a local women's rights organisation. According to the man, he just wanted to make sure that other men know that she was 'his'!

*Ed - If they get that far, she's probably not.*

## Wife Locked in Chicken Coop

From Romania again, a 72 year old man is being investigated for locking his allegedly unfaithful wife in a chicken coop for a week. He said: "I knew she was cheating on me and I locked her there in the coop so she wouldn't be tempted to do bad things." Police rescued the 70 year old woman after neighbours heard strange noises coming from the coop at night. The man is being investigated for false imprisonment and beatings.

## Klingon Voters Anywhere?

In Finland, incumbent parliamentary candidate Jyrki Kasvi launched his new campaign website written entirely in Klingon. Kasvi, an ardent Star Trek fan, said his politics posed some translation difficulties, since Klingon does not have words for matters such as tolerance, or for many colours, including green -- the party under whose banner he is running in the national elections on March 18.

*Ed - Useful if you need a few extra votes, I guess!*

## Ban 'Mother's Day'

In the UK in February, the head teacher of Johnstown Primary School in Carmarthen, Wales banned 'Mother's Day' this year, on the basis that it might be 'upsetting' to students without mothers.

## Don't call me Dad!

Again in the UK, a government funded advisory committee advised the National Health Service not to use terms such as 'mum' or 'dad', as this might be confusing or alienate children of gay couples. Instead, medical staff were advised to use terms

*continued on next page*

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# Tourist Resorts to Drop Alcohol Ban?

The Tourism Minister, Felix Jimenez has indicated that the recently introduced ban on selling alcohol after certain times, may soon be lifted in tourist areas. Apparently, when the new laws, limiting alcohol sales after midnight were brought in last year, the President didn't realise that the ban would have a detrimental effect on tourism. According to Jimenez, the ban was not originally designed to encompass the tourism areas.

The ban came into effect last year in order to curb the increase in violence which it was felt was due largely to late night drinking. The decree currently in effect forces establishments such

as bars, clubs and shops to stop selling alcohol after 1am on weekdays and 2am at weekends (Fri-Sat). In most cases, this forces bars to close in order to avoid being 'visited' by the police. Understandably, many business owners are complaining about the loss of business.

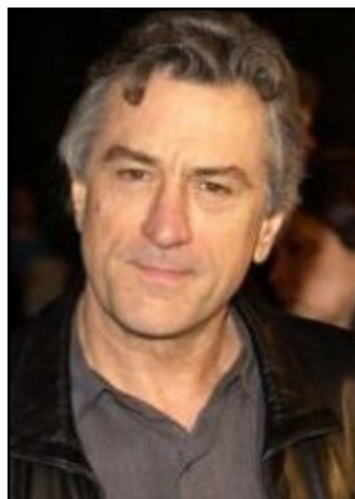
Over the last few months, tourism operators have complained to the Tourism Minister regarding the ban, but also pointing out the fact that tourists were actually more at risk from hold-ups and assaults if the operators are forced to suspend their tours.

On a TV interview for Colorvision Channel 9, Jimenez stated that, "2.4 million tourists don't come here for a church life. They come to sing, dance and have fun." He indicated that the tourist industry has to follow a different plan with regards to the restriction on alcohol sales.

Jimenez has not yet given a definite answer as to if/when the ban will be lifted, but says that they are studying the results of a pilot plan now in effect, and anticipates the ban will soon be lifted in the tourist areas.

# De Niro Plans Investment in the DR

Robert De Niro has been in talks with the Dominican Tourism Minister, Felix Jimenez



in which he declared his plans to invest in tourism here. Last year, De Niro was in the country making the film, Good Shepherd, a drama about the CIA.

Apparently, De Niro was impressed by the country and plans to invest either in Pedernales (Southwest) or Montecristi (Northwest).

According to Jimenez, the Dominican Tourism Ministry is keen to encourage investment from foreign groups or personalities in the local tourism industry. The DR is increasingly becoming popular with celebrities seeking a site either for a second home or for a tourism investment. Other recent celebrities to have invested in the DR are Charlie Rose, Oscar de la Renta, Julio Iglesias and Moby.

*continued from previous page*  
such as 'guardians' or 'car-cars'!

# Injuries from Books

Mark Sutton, an English author was told by a tourist information center in Swindon, UK, that they would not sell his book unless he had liability insurance. The reason had nothing to do with the content of his book about World War 1, but was in case readers suffered paper cuts turning the pages. Spokesman for Swindon Borough Council, Richard Freeman indicated that, "We have to cover every eventuality."

*Ed - If you cut your finger reading this - tough!*

# Feng Sui Au Naturale

If moving the furniture around, adding some mirrors and chime bars doesn't do the trick, take a leaf out of the government of southwestern China's Fumin county. In order to Feng Shui the villagers living next to the mined-out Laoshou mountain, the forestry department were ordered to spray-paint the mountainside green.

*Ed - I guess it's quicker than planting trees?*

# Relaxed Burglar makes himself at home.

The Shanghai Daily newspaper reported the story of a Beijing thief's unusual modus operandi. Rather than escaping with the valuables after breaking into luxury villas, the man would try on clothes, have a shower and sleep in the bed, even while the owners were at home. On one occasion, Ye, on finding a woman at the house, simply took a carton of milk from the fridge and went to bed on a different floor. The woman went to work the next morning while Ye stayed in the house. When she returned in the evening, Ye managed to keep avoiding her and slept on whichever of the two floors she wasn't on. Police were finally alerted on his fifth break-in, when the villa's owner returned at 2am and found Ye, freshly bathed,

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# Exports of illegally aquired metals up

Even though the Dominican Republic does not produce copper, it is exporting the metal to other countries such as China, where in the last 3 months alone, 145,421 kilos, approx US\$100,000 of copper was sent.

Compare this to the 20.44 million kilos of ferrous-nickel, worth US\$109.12 million, that was exported in 2006, and the 107.51 million kilos (US\$39.82 million) of steel in a 3 month period.

The high level of export of a metal not even mined here has raised concern at the DGA (Customs Agency).

According to some reports, this exported metal is derived from the repeated thefts of electrical and telephone cables as

reported in the Gringo Times last month. Also bolstering the exports are stolen manhole covers, fences, monuments, plaques and other items.

These thefts are fuelling the lucrative copper export business which is sustaining the rise in drug trafficking and street crime in the barrios. Some reports are suggesting that copper is being bartered by drug addicts in the barrios for drugs and food, and that it's competing with cocaine, crack and marijuana for the 'underworld's' money. The stolen copper is worth up to 70 pesos per pound on the export market.

The power utility companies are reporting RD\$600 million worth of thefts from their transformers, networks and lighting posts during 2006, and the telephone companies have reported a further RD\$200 million.

The thieves' main targets so far have been the Juan Bosche and Duarte bridges in Santo Domingo, the avenues Las Américas, Jacobo Majluta, 27



*A length of copper cable as it may appear. If someone offers to sell you some cable like this, please get in contact with the police or email us at the Gringo Times - er, unless it's not stolen cable.*

de Febrero, and the Duarte highway and others in Santiago, San Cristóbal, Baní, Azua and Monte Plata provinces.

## Occidental Sale as Foriegn Investment Grows

The Occidental hotels chain has recently been bought out by a Spanish investment bank bolstering the number of foriegn investors *continued on next page*

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relaxing in his house, wearing his clothes and watching his TV.

## Parents leave 3 year old on plane alone

A 3 year old boy was left by his parents on a China Southern Airlines flight from Guangzhou to Dalian city after it landed. The parents had apparently forgotten the child and only remembered when they heard other people in the airport relating the tannoy announcement enquiring after the parents whereabouts. "We were in such a rush to meet our relatives that we didn't realise we were going without him," said the father.

## Crocodile Undercoat

A woman was stopped by guards at the Gaza-Egypt border as she looked "strangely fat". The reason? She had three crocodiles strapped to her waist! Even though she was veiled and covered with clothing, her appearance drew attention and she was searched by a female border guard. The finding sparked panic at the border crossing. The female guard screamed and ran out of the room, and then other women began screaming. But after the hysteria died down, everybody was admiring a woman who was prepared to tie crocodiles to her body. The 20" reptiles had their jaws tied shut with string and were probably destined for sale in Gaza.

## Illegal Immigrants

We're used to hearing about illegal immigration, but have you ever thought of giving it a go yourself? Well now, Parque EcoAlberta, a new theme park in Hidalgo, Mexico is giving everybody the opportunity to pretend to be a Mexican attempting to illegally cross the border into the US. For around \$20, you get to hike through undergrowth, run up and down steep hills, across rivers and through barbed wire fences, whilst avoiding the crossfire of border guards. The park is actually 700 miles from the border, but so far, more than 3000

*continued on page 8*

## Cruise Passengers Surge Ahead

The news is positive on the cruise ship front. More than 25,000 tourists visited the



*Legend of the Sea*

country on cruise ships during the last season ending March 2007 bringing around RD\$3 million into the country, announced Sans Souci Holdings who are developing the new terminal in the Santo Domingo port. Up to 40 ships a month have been docking at the port.

The intention, according to Sans Souci Holdings director, Luis Molina, is to expand their operations and lengthen the current 6 month season to a year round operation.

More construction is planned to provide a new tourist marina and a residential development. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's famous 'Legend of the Sea' is expected to use the Santo Domingo port during the new 2007-2008 season.



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keen to invest in the Dominican Republic. The profitable Occidental chain owns hotels in Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Spain and 15 hotels in the Dominican Republic in Puerto Plata, Santiago, Santo Domingo, San Jose de las Matas and Barahona.

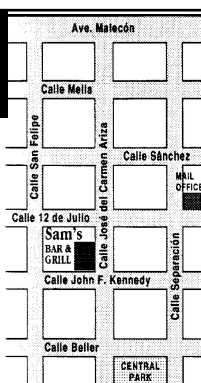
The negotiations have been going on for the past year in secret, although certain parties did learn of the intentions some time

ago.

Heading up the Dominican operation is Mr Ventura Serra who has previously occupied various management positions in the company, and in charge of the Puerto Plata division is José María Spart who will front the Hotel Grand Flamenco along with Freddy Cabrera. It is expected that most of the currently employed executives will remain with the company, although not necessarily in the same roles.

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## Americans to buy Montellano Sugar Refinery

Amongst the bidders vying for the Montellano Sugar Refinery, the US team with shareholders based in Illinois and Chicago are the current favorites. All bidders were evaluated by the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic as to their ability to run the operation. Over the past few years, there have been a number of companies, both local and international who have expressed an interest in buying the State Sugar Board owned refinery.

Once a busy operation, employing over 4000 workers, the refinery has been in economic crisis for the last few years until it stopped production three years ago.

The Central Bank has been in control since the previous lessee Cañabrava defaulted on payments to the bank Baninter, which was discovered during Baninter's well-publicised liquidation and subsequent fraud investigation.

Sugar production used to be the principal export for the Dominican Republic, but over the last couple of decade has deteriorated in importance due to world sugar prices and various local issues relating to the production.



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# It's Official : Beer is good for you

Two separate studies in Holland and the UK have shown that drinking beer can actually be



beneficial to your health. Apparently, the best strategy is to drink up to a litre of beer a day. Many previous studies have shown a link between alcohol consumption and reduced levels

of coronary heart disease, and it's commonly thought that red wine is good for the digestion.

In the recent study, Dr Henk Hendriks with colleagues from the TNO Nutrition and Food Research Institute, studied 111 healthy men who each drank beer, red wine, spirits, and water, for three weeks, with dinner. They found that homocysteine levels did not increase after beer consumption, but rose after drinking wine and spirits. Beer drinkers had a 30% increase of vitamin B6 in blood plasma. Levels of B6 also rose in people who had drunk wine and spirits, although not by the same amount. Dr Hendriks' team suggests that beer may contain other ingredients that help protect against heart disease. He also stated that "Moderate alcohol consumption affects many processes in the body, one of which is the significant increase in HDL cholesterol - the good cholesterol.

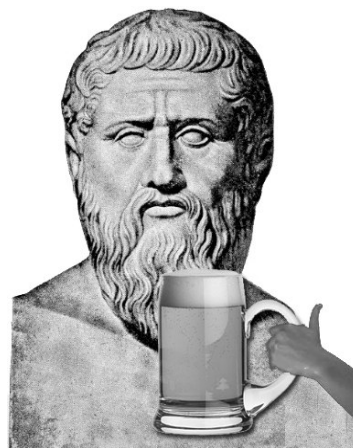
In another study, Dr Martin

Bobak and colleagues from the International Centre for Health and Society, University College, London, examined whether beer could protect against heart disease in the Czech Republic - a country where beer is almost universally the drink of choice. They compared men who had suffered heart attacks with healthy men of the same age. They found that the best way to protect against heart disease was to drink beer daily, or almost daily, but to limit consumption to between half a litre and one litre a day. Men who drank twice a day or more were less likely to be protected from heart disease. Bobak concluded that "The results suggest that the protective effect is due to alcohol itself; the myth about special qualities of wine is, in my view, wrong."

On the other side, Andrew Varley, of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, warned against people using the research as an excuse to drink more beer. He said: "Any research about the various health-giving properties of different types of alcohol is a bit of a red herring as the effect is usually marginal and restricted to a very small group of people under certain circumstances.

"There are damn sight better ways to protect against heart disease than by drinking beer, but people love this sort of thing because it gives them an excuse." Mr Varley said that drinking large quantities of beer would create far more health problems than it would solve. A spokesman for the British Heart Foundation said: "At the moment we should all stick to the known facts: one or two units of alcohol a day may have a protective affect on the heart but more than this could do more harm than good.

As the philosopher Plato said



a long time ago - "He was a wise man who invented beer."

*continued from page 6*  
people have paid for the thrill.

## Tax Breaks for Drug Running

In Holland, a court recently ruled that a fisherman convicted of smuggling hashish could deduct the cost of buying and shipping the drug from his income on his tax return. The smuggler was originally issued with a 3.3 million euro fine, but appealed to the court. They ruled that because he had only been convicted of drug running and not trading in drugs he could deduct the cost of buying and transporting the drugs on his tax form. That cut his tax bill to 1.8 million euros - a saving of 1.5 million.

"We disagree with the local court, so we will go to the Supreme Court to appeal," said Tax Service spokesman Marcel Homan.

The case isn't the first time a court's ruling on taxes has raised Dutch eyebrows. In 2005, judges in the northern city of Leeuwarden ruled that witches can write off the cost of schooling in witchcraft against their tax bills if it increases the likelihood of employment and personal income.

## Parking Ticket Paid - After 26 years!

In Wisconsin, a \$1 parking ticket issued in 1980 was finally paid off, along with the \$3 late fee. The offender omitted to include their name, but Police Captain Mike Babe said, "It's kind of cool that someone took the time to take care of their obligation after 26 years. Maybe their conscience got to them."

*Ed - If my parking tickets were only a dollar, I'd be happy to pay them too!*

## A man meets a genie

A man meets a genie. The genie tells him he can have whatever he wants, provided that his mother-in-law gets double.

The man thinks for a moment and then says, "OK, give me a million dollars and beat me half to death."

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# Police to use new speed guns



## A Gringo Enquirer Exclusive

LOCAL TRAFFIC POLICE are to start utilising new speed gun technology in order to reduce road congestion.

Our reporter was able to gain exclusive footage of the police using the new devices in a pilot test just outside Puerto Plata.

Unlike other countries, the Dominican Republic has a different set of traffic issues to contend with. The Ministry of Transport have identified that one of the made causes for the traffic congestion are the potholes that are appearing on all the major roads. The chief reason for all the holes is not the weight of motorised traffic, or the weakness of the roads, or the drainage problems, but rather the donkeys, asses and mules that are still being used - despite warnings - to transport items around the cities.

Clearly, most of the motorised traffic currently around has carefully designed tyres made from various rubber compounds. As we understand it, rubber is a soft material, and unlikely to have any effect on the hard tarmac that makes up the road surface. On the other hand, donkeys' hooves are extremely hard, and some donkeys have been seen to be scraping their hooves in a deliberate attempt to gouge into the road surface.

The Ministry of Transport have come up with a plan to get donkeys off the roads, and into the fields where they belong. The new speed guns will actually be used to identify culprits who are travelling too slowly for

the road conditions. As donkeys rarely travel above 30 mph, they should be easy to identify with the Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) guns.

The new technology has been imported from the UK, where speed guns have been used to annoy motorists effectively for years, although they had to undergo several modifications in order to work correctly here.

Instead of measuring the vehicle's speed by testing how long it takes the gun's signal to return, the modified devices send out several small bursts of infra red light at short intervals to measure the distance between the donkey's ears. As the rider will usually have quite different ears to the donkey, the measurement can be quite precise.

The information is then compared with how fast the donkey thinks it should be going in rela-

tion to how fast a 'moto' driver laden up with an adult passenger, 2 children and a fridge-freezer would normally be expected to travel, according to Feynmann's 'Integral all over paths' law on quantum mechanics.

Unlike the typical speed gun, the algorithm processing is not done in the gun itself, but instead, the data is sent back to HQ where culprits are identified, photos compared with the MOT's database of known offenders and tickets later issued.

It is hoped that the police will be able to successfully deter donkey owners from recklessly endangering other road users with their outdated and unsuitable mode of transport. This should encourage the uptake amongst the younger generation of the new efficient, quiet and emissionless 'motos', which have started to appear on the roads.

$$\frac{1}{N(t-t_0)} \int_{x_0, t_0 \rightarrow x, t} \exp \left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\dot{x}(t'), x(t')) dt' \right) d(\text{paths})$$

Feynmann's 'Integral all over paths'

Police have also been issued with canisters of 'pepper spray', although it's not confirmed whether these were for use on the donkeys or their riders.

Story by Gringo Mack B. Leave

.....  
 • An opera is a song •  
 • of bigly size. •  
 •.....



The future of transportation - Photo by Gringo Potluck

## Government to invest millions in Puerto Plata

The Dominican government has announced that it is to spend thousands of millions of pesos further developing the Puerto Plata region, particularly Sosúa, Cabarete, Puerto Plata, Imbert, Luperón, and Villa Isabela.

This announcement was made by President Leonel Fernandez who also stated that "he loves the area". The importance of the area as a tourism center has prompted new moves to add further attractions and improve existing facilities.

The Secretary of Tourism, Félix Jiménez, said that the investment in Sosúa and Cabarete is "enormous". Construction is planned for the Villa Liberación housing complex in La Unión Sosúa, that seeks to improve the quality of life for hundreds of families in the barrio of El Tablón, and also a modern botanical gardens is planned to increase the attractions for tourists in Sosua.

A modern hospital is to be built in Sosua to improve the medical facilities both for residents and visiting tourists.

The government also has plans for Cabarete, specifically the regeneration its beach, improvements to the roads and conservation work on its lake.

Jiménez recently appeared in the Perspectivas del Circuito Musa program and mentioned that they intended to construct a line of restaurants in the Cosita Rica area around the regenerated beach. Also, a boat jetty and a wharf for the tourist, with the intention of improving the whole ambience of the area.

The ancient colonial fortress San Felipe in Puerto Plata will also be improved with the construction of an amphitheater.

The Tourism Secretary also criticized the "rich of Puerto Plata", when he said that they are not investing their money in the area enough. He indicated that many would prefer to invest abroad before their own country and then criticize the foreigners who do invest here.

The government also intends to construct a main road connecting the North-East with the North region.



## focus on

# Cabarete

*Once* a sleepy laid-back beach village, Cabarete is now

easterly tradewinds and thermals which provide consistently ideal conditions for the sport.



**Laid-back Cabarete Beach**

Photo by Eric Hertsens

the thriving center of water sports for the North Coast and ranked in the top five kiteboarding and windsurfing destinations in the world primarily due to its

International kiteboarding tournaments are held here, where kite-boarders flock from around the world to take part in the prestigious competitions.



**Windsurfing**

Photo by Eric Hertsens

This sporting attraction has brought Cabarete a lot of attention from sports minded people and real-estate developers keen to invest in this up-and-coming beach town.

As you'd expect from a town bustling with windsurfers and kiteboarders, the nightlife plays hard to catch up. There are a

number of busy bars and restaurants along the main road where you can eat, drink and party until the early hours of the morning. Music tends to vary from modern European and American dance music to Dominican meringue and salsa. It all depends on your mood. There's a variety of cuisine from local favourite Dominican chicken and rice, to French, Chinese, Italian and a variety of other flavors.

If you're more in the mood for a relaxed or romantic dinner, try one of the restaurants with candlelit tables actually on the beach.

It's not difficult to find your way around the town. Cabarete is strung out along one main road which parallels the beaches that make up Cabarete as a whole. The beaches are not too far apart and have easy to

remember names such as Kite Beach, Bozo and more of a mouthful, Encuentro. The center of Cabarete can get quite busy in peak season, and trying to park your car there can seem nigh on impossible. Many visitors and residents prefer to hire a motorbike or scooter – easy to zip past



Photo by Eric Hertsens

traffic, and easy to find somewhere to park. From one end of Cabarete is quite a walk, so if you don't have transport, it's



**Surfing**

Photo by Eric Hertsens

easy to take a motoconcho from any point. Motoconcho's (or moto's) are the local term for a small motorbike taxi - usually 100cc. Simply look in the direction of a moto rider, and most likely they will ask if you want a lift. Prices for a short journey



**Another busy day in the bay**

Photo by Eric Hertsens



**Kiteboarders**

Photo by Eric Hertsens



## Gringo Times



### Kiteboarding Aerial Acrobatics

Photo by Eric Hertsens

will usually be 10-20 pesos, less than US\$1, and you can always test your bartering skills!

The town has so far kept its Caribbean flavour, and has not been spoiled by hoards of tourists looking for the next Costa del Sol. If you are looking for a lively place to spend a couple of weeks or maybe longer, Cabarete has a lot to offer. You are not forced to go kiteboarding, but if you've ever fancied a go, here is the best place to try it! There are quite a few good instructors teaching both kiteboarding and windsurfing, and beginners are welcomed. For the more advanced, some schools offer training by world-class instructors on the advanced techniques.

If you want a change of activities there are local companies offering mountain biking, hiking, rock-climbing, kayaking, horse-back riding, canyoning, white-water rafting, scuba diving and golf.

The winter season is typically the busiest, from November to March, when the Dominican Republic has plenty of sunshine compared to the cold wintry days in Europe and North America. The conditions for kiteboarding do vary from month to month, but Cabarete consistently has over 250 good kiteboarding days a year, so whenever you come, you shouldn't miss out.

Even if you don't come here to stay on the beach, Cabarete makes an ideal base to explore other nearby towns and cities. 10 minutes away is the tourist town of Sosua, and 40 minutes away is the main city of the North Coast,

Puerto Plata. Visiting each of these places, you will notice quite a difference in atmosphere, as Puerto Plata is very much a Dominican working city as opposed to Cabarete with its upfront international sports and entertainment scene. If you want to travel a bit further, the second largest city, Santiago is less than one and a half hours away by car.

More and more companies are showing an interest in investing in Cabarete with real-estate and tourism developments. The Dominican Secretary of State of Tourism, Félix Jiménez recently announced that more low cost houses are soon to be built to provide for the thousands of hotel and tourism workers the area requires.

The Secretary of State of the Interior and Police for the Dominican Republic, Franklin Almeyda Rancier has also promised to liberate the late night restrictions for Cabarete, in agreement with Jiménez, meaning that Cabarete will be the place for those wishing to party that little bit later!



Dining on the beach



Cabarete Main Street

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# Two Days Behind The Wheel

Story by Paul Tagliavia

I am a yacht captain from Ft. Lauderdale Florida. My mate Kieth (Cheese) Evans and I arrived in the Dominican Republic at Ocean World Marina around the end of March. After nearly two weeks of detailing the boat getting ready for the boss, we received a phone call saying he would not be able to come down for another week. So, against all advice I rented a car and we took a drive up into the mountains in the Jarabacoa area. I had been told that driving was different in the DR. What I had not realized is there is no rule of law. Stop signs are not obeyed. Traffic lights are a complex relationship between the light color, the size of the vehicle and the courage of the driver. In other words, after a light turns red, cars continue to go through the intersection until the group of cars inching out on the green light can intimidate and dominate the intersection. This of course then continues as the light changes once again, so that traffic flows in any one direction, one half on green and one half on red. The only distortion to this pattern is the presence of some exceptionally brave drivers, or a very large truck whom define the rules in their favor at will. Of course, this is all accomplished with feigns, horn blowing, fist shaking and shouts in Spanish beyond my meager vocabulary.

However, there are rules that the tourist may start to figure out in time. The food chain starts

with and is dominated by the very large trucks, these big rigs, whether tankers or dumpers or 18 wheelers pronounce their dominance with bold action and the lack of mufflers. They seem only to respect one another and are only slightly fazed by children selling cellular phones and battery chargers in bandoleers reminiscent of Che Guavara.

Next down the chain comes the largest and most expensive of the SUV's. Since they are double the price they are in the States a large Lexus SUV is well over 100 thousand US and is undoubtedly driven by someone who can have you imprisoned for life or worse, if you dare scratch their fender. After this comes the vast horde of everyday private cars of all shapes, sizes and vintages. However, in this group there is a sub-set of vehicles which are slightly more dominant. They are the public cars or public transportation. These are ordinary cars that act as freelance busses. These cars can always be recognized by the cardboard boxes they have taped to the drivers side window directing massive airflow onto the driver and their general appearance which is a vehicle that has been in 15 to 20 accidents and has been beaten with baseball bats until no panel or glass has been unaffected. They dominate the right lane and may stop at any time to discharge and pick up passengers regardless of the speed of traffic.

Next are the busses, large and mid-sized which are remarkably dent-free and seem to have some accountability to everyone except the lowest castes which of course, are the motor bikes and the tourist rental vehicle. Motorbike may be divided into two categories, private ad moto-taxi. Since motor bikes make up well over 50% of the traffic, this seething horde fills in all the gaps on the road, between lanes and on both shoulders on the road, if there are any. This can lead to a phenomenal traffic density and a NASCAR-like separation until their maximum speed of 50 miles per hour is exceeded. The courage of this segment of the population can not be underestimated. Very often they are the first to move and set the trend and mood in traffic. Very few of these free spirits wear any protection, helmets are rare, three on a bike is common and can be far exceeded "although the record is still at 8 and held by an extended family in Cozumel, Mexico".

The most fascinating aspect of the moto-bike rider is the vast variety of cargo that is carried. It seems anything is possible. One hundred pound cylinders of compressed propane gas is not a problem for these brave riders. This also seems to get them a small degree of respect from other drivers. You might think a 4x8ft sheet of plywood is beyond an individual on a 50cc moto. Not so, I watched 10 or 12 fifteen yr old boys run a red light right in front of me, each carrying a full sheet. And once you get into the country a fabulous array of livestock can be seen strapped to these versatile vehicles.

By far the bravest and most skilled individuals though are the moto-taxi drivers. These indi-

viduals will go to any length, take any risk to get their patrons to where they want to go. For a mere 20 pesos their complete and selfless loyalty can be purchased with no thought to themselves, they will take incredible risks, no danger too great or odds too high to perform the tasks at hand. These fearless taxi-men will take their slight machines and you into almost impossible situations, achieving feats of driving heroism all in the course of a small everyday fare. This happens innumerable times every hour of every day across this great country.

At the very bottom of this pecking order is the tourist rental vehicle. It is not the vehicle itself but fundamental flaws in the mind of the foreign driver. Because of the high import duties on cars and uncertain confidence in the performance of insurance policies the renter is at an extreme disadvantage. Because in the back of his or her mind lingers the fact that if the rental car is damaged or totaled the bargain vacation could now cost an entire annual income of an average couple after taxes. Also, stacked against them is the probability of a misguided strategy of following traffic rules as they undoubtedly have been trained to do in their home country. This wicked handicap is further exacerbated by a high value associated with human life. This weakness will be spotted by even small children and exploited by all moto-taxi drivers. It all adds up to a crushing disadvantage out on the road.

Upon returning to Ocean World after twice transiting Santiago, I pulled up proudly to the rental return area and watched a drama unfold. A group of tourists, two couples, were carefully inspecting their just rented vehicle with the rental representative. Carefully they noted the smallest scratches and the tiniest door-dings as they repeatedly circled the car. I could not help chuckling to myself, for I had done the same thing just two days before. Now, all that seemed inconsequential, I had safely returned, perhaps like a soldier from the front lines of battle, my priorities had been altered.



.....  
● Henry Purcell is a  
● well-known composer  
● few people have ever  
● heard of.  
● .....



# Topiary Joe

## Topiary's Construcccion

Living  
Logo Art and  
steel wire sculpture  
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their own. My job is to cre-  
ate largescale topiary and  
mosaiculture planted  
Corporate Logos Olympic  
Interpretive Signs  
Animals and Dragons  
around the World - build-  
ing many larger pieces  
on the job site.



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hand bending  
and welding steel into  
garden sculpture -Topiary  
Joe creates memorable art  
that can be planted as topi-  
ary or stand alone as perma-  
nent sculpture. Flowing  
lines for simple pleasure  
give and take when it  
comes to measure.



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# 32!**



The community is connected to the sewage system of Sosúa. Vast green areas with lush tropical landscaping, jogging trails, low density housing - all of these factors contribute to making your life in Sosúa Ocean Village comfortable and luxurious.

As a resident of Sosúa Ocean Village you will have the privilege and convenience of enjoying many indulgent recreational enticements of a deluxe community lifestyle in the Club House: casual and fine dining both indoors and outdoors, billiards, Gold Gym, Spa Sanctuary, a mini-aquapark for kids including the youngest ones, a video games salon, and a huge swimming-pool with an ocean view. All of these superb amenities are in one place just a stroll from your home and several steps from a semi-private beach.

Sosúa Ocean Village was designed by the renowned Echenique-Subervi associated architects of Santo Domingo. Their background spans urban planning, design and execution of major projects throughout the country including five star hotels and many of the private residences of most prominent families in the Dominican Republic.

The construction started in 2006 and is full steam ahead with the first condominiums located near the Club House to be completed in August 2007.

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 **Sosua  
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TOSTONES are a favourite side-dish in the Dominican Republic, made from green (unripe) or slightly yellow (barely ripe) plantain. Plantains are cheap and easily available in the DR and you'll often see trucks piled high delivering them to the colmados (local shops). They look pretty much like big green bananas and you can often find them in larger supermarkets in North America and Europe as well.

This is an easy recipe, so there's no excuse for not trying this one!

#### Ingredients required:

1. 3 or 4 plantains
2. Enough olive or vegetable oil to one-third fill a pan
3. Salt (or maple syrup) to taste

#### The steps in sequence are:

1. Cut into 1" slices
2. Fry both sides until golden brown
3. Take out and flatten
4. Fry again for a couple of minutes
5. Take, out, season and eat

#### The process in detail:

1. To prepare the plantain, you need to peel them and cut



into 1" slices. If the plantains are very green, the easiest way is to make a cut lengthways down the plantain with a sharp knife. Then cut each plantain into 1" slices before peeling (or breaking) off the skin from each slice. You



could also try cutting the slices diagonally in order to make the slices wider.

2. Heat the oil in a heavy pan or skillet over a medium high heat, and add the plantain slices when the oil is hot enough to sizzle. Fry in batches to avoid crowding the pan. Turn each slice after 2-3 minutes or when golden brown. When both sides



are golden, transfer the plantains to paper towels to drain.

3. Here's the fun bit! With the

# Gringo Cuisine

Recipe of the Week

## "Tostones"

plantains on a flat surface, squash each slice down to 1/3" thick with a flat-bottomed glass



or similar.

4. Now bring the temperature of the oil up again, and transfer the plantains back into the oil. Fry on a slightly higher tempera-



ture, turning occasionally for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown on both sides.

5. Remove and drain on paper towels

Sprinkle with salt to taste.

As an interesting alternative,



you can turn this dish into a tasty desert, simply by using slightly more ripe plantains (yellowier), and then adding maple syrup to serve instead of salt. The riper plantains have a much sweeter flavour.

*Recipe kindly provided by Gringa Altamita.*

Note: The Gringo Times cannot take any responsibility if your tostones don't turn out as well as our's did. The lovely Gringa Altamita who provided this information doesn't like cooking much and was rail-roaded into providing this recipe. We hope you enjoy it!

If you'd like to submit a recipe, email it to [editor@gringo-times.com](mailto:editor@gringo-times.com). In order to ensure it gets published, it helps if you can provide a ready cooked sample for the editor to try out - and a crate of beer to wash it down with.



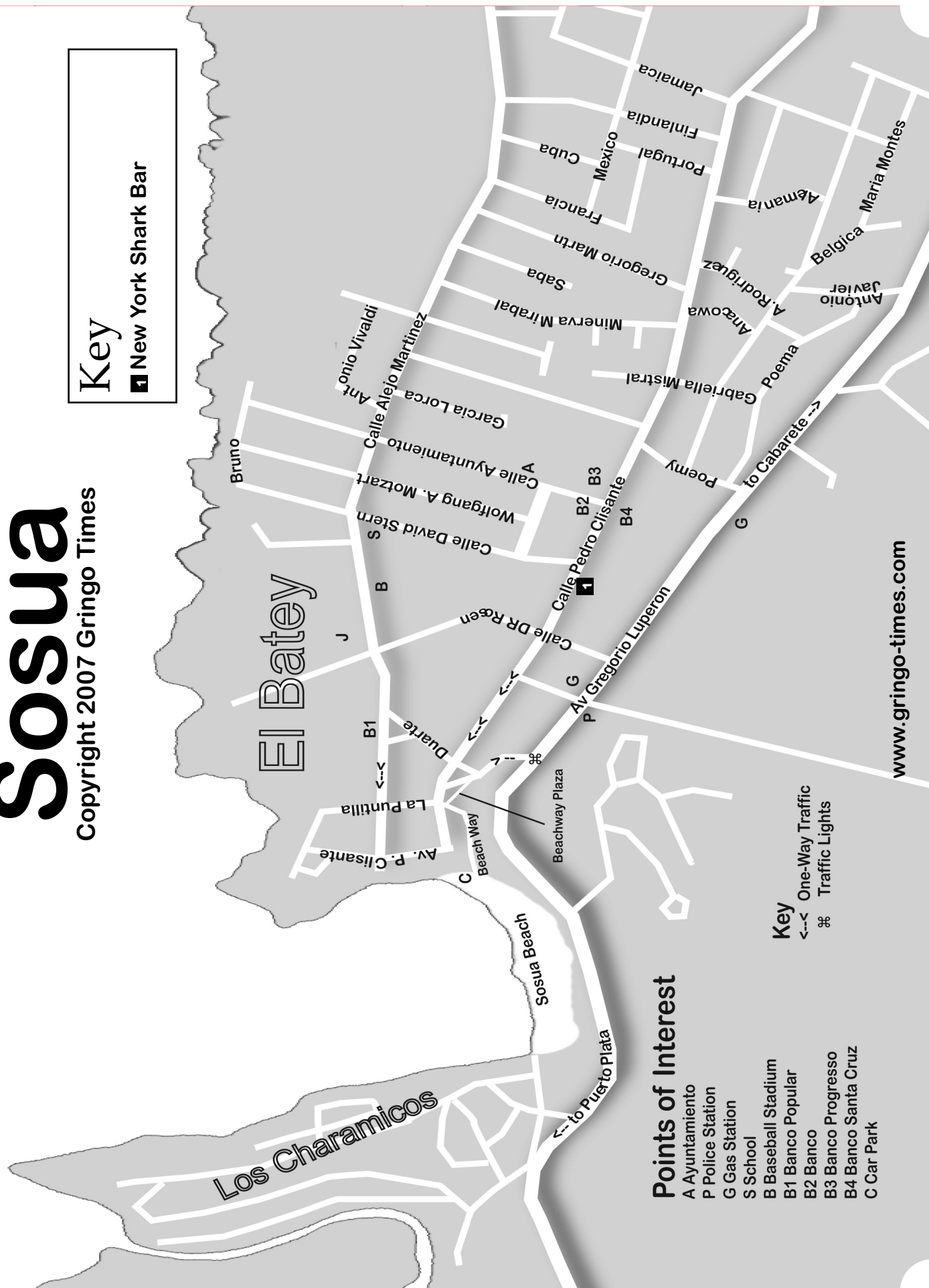


# Sosua

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## Key

1 New York Shark Bar



# Absence Notes

Excuses, excuses, excuses... Who ever likes those? Especially haggled, underpaid teachers who have to keep track of 30 little dum-mies every class, make sure that they don't shoot each other - and become literate in the process. And if the excuses that come from par-ents are themselves illiterate...

The following are actual excus-es written by parents on behalf of their children in the Albuquerque Public Schools system.

***Dear School: Please excuse John from being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.***

***Please excuse Diane from being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.***

***Please excuse Johnie for being . It was his father's fault.***

***Chris will not be in school because he has an acre in his side.***

***John has been absent because he had two teeth taken off his face.***

***Excuse Gloria. She has been under the doctor.***

***Lillie was absent from school yewaterday because she had a going over.***

***My son is under the doctor's care and shouldn't be taking fizical ed. Please execute him.***

***Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hit in the growing part.***

***My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent this weekend with the Marines.***

***Please excuse Joyce from***

## Deep Thoughts

From an actual newspa-per contest where entrants age 4 to 15 were asked to imitate "DEEP THOUGHTS by JACK HANDEY":

"My young brother asked me what happens after we die. I told him we get buried under a bunch of dirt and worms eat our bod-ies. I guess I should have told him the truth--that most of us go to Hell and burn eternally--but I didn't want to upset him." -Age 10

"When I go to heaven, I want to see my grandpa again. But he better have lost the nose hair and the old-man smell." -Age 5

"I once heard the voice of God. It said "Vrrrrmmm." Unless it was just a lawn mower." -Age 11

"I don't know about you, but I enjoy watching paint dry. I imagine that the wet paint is a big freshwater lake that is the only source of water for some tiny cities by the lake. As the lake gets drier, the population gets more desperate, and some-

***P.E. for a few days. Yesterday she fell off a tree and misplaced her hip.***

***Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.***

***Maryan was absent Dec. 11-16, because she had a fever, sore throat, headache and upset stomach. Her sis-ter was also sick, fever and sore throat, her brother had a low-grade fever. There must be the flu going around, her father even got hot last night.***

***Please excuse Blanche from jim today. She is administrating.***

***George was absent yesterday because he had a stomach.***

***Ralph was absent yesterday because he had a sore trout.***

times there are water riots. Once there was a big fire and everyone died."-Age 13

"I like to go down to the dog pound and pretend that I've found my dog. Then I tell them to kill it anyway because I already gave away all of his stuff. Dog people sure don't have a sense of humor." -Age 14

"I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life?" -Age 15

"It sure would be nice if we got a day off for the president's birthday, like they do for the queen. Of course, then we would have a lot of people voting for a candidate born on July 3 or December 26, just for the long weekends." -Age 8

"As you make your way through this hectic world of ours, set aside a few min-utes each day. At the end of the year, you'll have a cou-ple of days saved up. "

-Age 7

*continued on next page*

***Please excuse Sara from being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.***

***Please excuse Lupe. She is having problems with her ovals.***

***Please excuse Pedro from being absent yesterday. He had diah diahoah dyah the s\*\*ts.***

## RECIPE CORNER

By KIRA

### CARIBBEAN CHICKEN

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 4 thin slices of smoked ham
- 2 tbsp of honey - (30ml)
- 2 bananas split lengthwise
- 1 tsp of salt - (5ml)
- White pepper to taste
- 3 tbsp of all-purpose flour - (45ml)
- 3 tbsp of shredded unsweetened coconut - (45ml)
- 1/4 cup of bread crumbs - (60ml)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/8 cup of vegetable oil - (30ml)
- 1/8 cup butter - (30ml)

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F- (175°C)
2. Wrap chicken breasts in plastic wrap and pound them flat. Place a slice of ham on each piece of chicken. Drizzle with some honey and place a large piece of a banana slice over the ham. Roll the chicken breast with the banana at the core and refrigerate to firm, about 1 hour. Season the rolled chicken with salt and white pepper and dredge through the flour. Set aside.
3. Combine the coconut with the bread crumbs in a flat bowl and set aside. Dip the floured chicken rolls in the beaten eggs, and coat them with the coconut-and-bread crumb mixture.
4. In a large skillet, sauté the chicken breasts in pre-warmed vegetable oil over medium heat for about 2 min-utes on each side, or until lightly coloured.
5. Place the fried chicken rolls on a buttered cooking sheet and bake in for 35 or 45 minutes, until chicken is cooked through.
6. Serve and enjoy!

Thanks to Carolyn Madge of Oliver, BC Canada. For submitting this favourite recipe!

You can also use mango as a filler- just remember to refrigerate the chicken for at least an hour - as it's a very important step!



The Gringo Times Team - hard at work in the office



# Crossword - Crucigrama

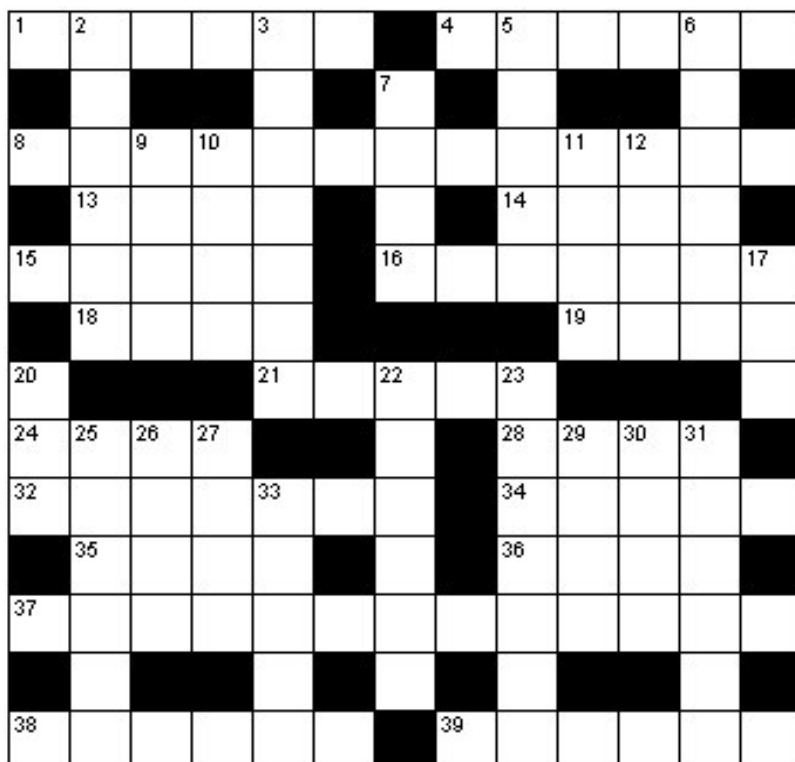
## Across

1. Cease
4. Nape
8. Examine mentally
13. Short-necked duck
14. Canal
15. Go away
16. Son of Agamemnon
18. Warm-up activity
19. Surge
21. Discard
24. Stub
28. Nymph who pined for Narcissus
32. Occupy
34. Mints
35. Low-hemline skirt
36. Coffee bar
37. Expression
38. Jewish girl
39. Represent

## Down

2. Arch of the foot
3. Carries
5. Quit
6. Covered with fluff
7. Alliance
9. Twelvemonth
10. Hole in the ground
11. Crave
12. Legendary monster
17. Stitch
20. G-men
22. Examine again
23. Pig-like wild animal
25. Not ready
26. Comparative conjunction
27. Trundle along the ground
29. Paint
30. Sound system (2-2)
31. One-shot (3-3)
33. Hits

Answers to crossword on page 23



continued from previous page

"Democracy is a beautiful thing, except for that part about letting just any old yokel vote." -Age 10

"Home is where the house is." -Age 6

"Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number." -Age 15

"It would be terrible if the Red Cross Bloodmobile got into an accident. No, wait. That

would be good because if anyone needed it, the blood would be right there." -Age 5

## Dodgy Translations!

These are from the New York magazine competition where they asked competitors to change one letter in a familiar non-English phrase and redefine it.

**Harlez-vous  
français?**

Can you drive a  
French  
motorcycle?

**Ex post facto**  
Lost in the mail

**Idios amigos**  
We're wild and  
crazy guys!

**Veni, VIPi, Vici**  
I came; I'm a very  
important person; I  
conquered

**J'y suis, J'y pestes**  
I can stay for the  
weekend

**Cogito Eggo sum**  
I think; therefore, I  
am a waffle

**Rigor Morris**  
The cat is dead

**Respondez s'il vous  
plaît**  
Honk if you're Scots

**Que sera, serf**  
Life is feudal

**Le roi est mort. Jive  
le roi**  
The King is dead.  
No kidding.

**Posh mortem**  
Death styles of the  
rich and famous

**Pro Bozo publico**  
Support your local  
clown

**Monage a trois**

I am three years old

**Felix navidad**  
Our cat has a boat

**Haste cuisine**  
Fast French food

**Veni, vidi, vice**  
I came, I saw, I par-  
tied

**Quip pro quo**  
A fast retort

**Ich liebe rich**  
I'm really crazy  
about having dough

**Fui generis**  
What's mine is mine

**VISA la France**  
Don't leave chateau  
without it

**Merci rien**  
Thanks for nothin'

## Complain Away!

These are extracts from genuine letters from tenants sent to Manchester City Council (Repairs Division):

I wish to complain that my father hurt his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.

This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.

The lavatory is blocked, this is caused by the boys next door throwing balls on the roof.

The toilet is cracked, where do I stand?

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

I'm still having trouble with the smoke in my built-in drawers.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

Our lavatory seat has broken in half and is now in three pieces.

I want some repairs doing to my cooker, as it has backfired and burnt its knob off.

The toilet is blocked and I can't bath the children until it is mended.

The person next door has a large erection in his back garden which is unsightly and dangerous.

Will you please send someone around to mend our broken path, yesterday my wife tripped and fell on it and now she is pregnant.

Our kitchen floor is very damp, we have two children and would like a third, so will you please send someone round to do something about it.

Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.

# Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

## Welfare Letters

*The following sentences were taken from actual letters received by the Illinois Welfare Department in application for financial support:*

I am forwarding a marriage certificate and six children. I have seven, one died, which are baptised on a half piece of paper.

I am writing the Welfare Department to say that my baby was born two years old. When

do I get the money.

Mrs. Jones has had no clothes for a year, and has been visited regularly by the preacher.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead.

This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it?

Please find out for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am living with can't eat or do anything until he knows.

I am very annoyed to find out you branded my son illiterate.

This is a dirty lie, as I was married a week before he was born.

I answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing 10 pounds. I hope this is satisfactory.

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and 5 children, one of which is a mistake as you can see.

My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago, and I haven't had my relief since.

Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon, I will be forced to lead an immoral life.

You changed my little boy to a girl. Will this make a difference?

I have no children yet as my husband is a truck driver and works day and night.

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

I want money quickly as I can get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks, and he doesn't do any good. If things don't improve I will have to get another doctor to help him.

## Useful New Words

### AQUADEXTROUS

(ak wa deks' trus) adj.

Possessing the ability to turn the bathtub faucet on and off with your toes.

### CARPERPETUATION

(kar' pur pet u a shun) n.

The act, when vacuuming, of running over a string or a piece of lint at least a dozen times, reaching over and picking it up, examining it, then putting it back down to give the vacuum

one more chance.

### DISCONFECT

(dis kon fekt') v.

To sterilize the piece of candy you dropped on the floor by blowing on it, assuming this will somehow remove all the germs.

### ELBONICS

(el bon' iks) n.

The actions of two people maneuvering for one armrest in a movie theater.

### FRUST

(frust) n.

The small line of debris that refuses to be swept onto the dust pan and keeps backing a person across the room until he finally decides to give up and sweep it under the rug.

### LACTOMANGULATION

(lak' to man gyu lay' shun) n.  
Manhandling the "open here" spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to the 'illegal' side.

### PEPPIER

(pehp ee ay') n.  
The waiter at a fancy restaurant whose sole purpose seems to be walking around asking diners if they want ground

pepper.

### PHONESIA

(fo nee' zhuh) n.  
The affliction of dialing a phone number and forgetting whom you were calling just as they answer.

### PUPKUS

(pup' kus) n.  
The moist residue left on a window after a dog presses its nose to it.

### TELECRASTINATION

(tel e kras tin ay' shun) n.  
The act of always letting the phone ring at least twice before you pick it up, even when you're only six inches away.



# Quotes

*"Did I really say that?"*

***"I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law."***

David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.

***"They gave me a book of checks. They didn't ask for any deposits."***

Congressman Joe Early (D-Mass) at a press conference to answer questions about the House Bank scandal.

***"He didn't say that. He was reading what was given to him in a speech."***

Richard Darman, director of OMB, explaining why President Bush wasn't following up on his campaign pledge that there would be no loss of wetlands.

***"It depends on your definition of asleep. They were not stretched out. They had their eyes closed. They were seated at their desks with their heads in a nodding position."***

John Hogan, Commonwealth Edison Supervisor of News Information, responding to a charge by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector that two Dresden Nuclear Plant operators were sleeping on the job.

***"I didn't accept it. I received it."***

Richard Allen, National Security Advisor to President Reagan, explaining the \$1000 in cash and two watches he was given by two Japanese journalists after he helped arrange a private interview for them with First Lady Nancy Reagan.

***"I was a pilot flying an airplane and it just so happened that where I was flying made what I was doing spying."***

Francis Gary Power, U-2 reconnaissance pilot held by the Soviets for spying, in an interview after he was returned to the US.

***"I was under medication when I made the decision not to burn the tapes."***

President Richard Nixon

***"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."***

Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign

***"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."***

Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward

***"I support efforts to limit the terms of members of Congress, especially members of the House and members of the Senate."***

Vice-President Dan Quayle

***"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."***

Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, D.C.

***"Sure, it's going to kill a lot of people, but they may be dying of something else anyway."***

Othal Brand, member of a Texas pesticide review board, on chlordane

***"Are you any relation to your brother Marv?"***

Leon Wood, New Jersey Nets guard, to Steve Albert, Nets TV commentator

***"Beginning in February 1976 your assistance benefits will be discontinued. Reason: it has been reported to our office that you expired on January 1, 1976."***

Letter from the Illinois Department of Public Aid

***"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history ... this century's history ... We all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century."***

Dan Quayle, then Indiana senator and Republican vice-presidential candidate during a news conference in which he was asked his opinion of the Holocaust

## Lawyers in action

before you divorced him?  
A: A lot of things I didn't know about.

Lawyers typically aren't funny - unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide. They were compiled by a client of the Salt Lake City law firm of Johnson & Hatch.

Q: What is your brother-in-law's name?

A: Borofkin.

Q: What's his first name?

A: I can't remember.

Q: He's been your brother-in-law for years, and you can't remember his first name?

A: No. I tell you I'm too excited.

(Rising from the witness chair and pointing to Mr. Borofkin.) Nathan, for God's sake, tell them your first name!

Q: And who is this person you are speaking of?

A: My ex-widow said it.

Q: Did you tell your lawyer that your husband had offered you indignities?

A: He didn't offer me nothing; he just said I could have the furniture.

Q: So, after the anaesthesia, when you came out of it, what did you observe with respect to your scalp?

A: I didn't see my scalp the whole time I was in the hospital.

Q: It was covered?

A: Yes, bandaged.

Q: Then, later on... what did you see?

A: I had a skin graft. My whole buttocks and leg were removed and put on top of my head.

Q: What can you tell us about the truthfulness and veracity of this defendant?

A: Oh, she will tell the truth. She said she'd kill that son-of-a-bitch, and she did!

Q: Are you sexually active?

A: No, I just lie there.

Q: What is the meaning of sperm being present?

A: It indicates intercourse.

Q: Male sperm?

A: That is the only kind I know.

Q: What is your name?

A: Ernestine McDowell.

Q: And what is your marital status?

A: Fair

Q: Are you married?

A: No, I'm divorced.

Q: And what did your husband do

Q: Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?

A: Because he was argumentary and he couldn't pronounce his words.

The court: Now, as we begin, I must ask you to banish all present information and prejudice from your minds, if you have any.

Q: Mrs. Jones, is your appearance this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No. This is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Did he pick the dog up by the ears?

A: No.

Q: What was he doing with the dog's ears?

A: Picking them up in the air.

Q: Where was the dog at this time?

A: Attached to the ears.

Q: What is your relationship with the plaintiff?

A: She is my daughter.

Q: Was she your daughter on February 13, 1979?

Q: Now, you have investigated other murders, have you not, where there was a victim?

Q: ...and what did he do then?

A: He came home, and next morning he was dead.

Q: So when he woke up the next morning he was dead?

Q: Could you see him from where you were standing?

A: I could see his head.

Q: And where was his head?

A: Just above his shoulders.

Q: ... any suggestions as to what prevented this from being a murder trial instead of an attempted murder trial?

A: The victim lived.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

A: Yes, I have been since early childhood.

Q: The truth of the matter is that you were not an unbiased, objective witness, isn't it. You, too, were shot in the fracas?

A: No, sir. I was shot midway between the fracas and the naval.

# Pets Corner

Thinking of getting a dog? How do you choose which type? Are Rottweilers vicious attack dogs, or should you play safe and get a poodle?

These are just some of the



questions that crop up when you are considering a dog. This week, we're going to look at some of the popular misconceptions about some dogs, so you can put these out of the way!

First of all, do Rottweilers make good pets, or should they only be used for security?

There are two types of Rottweiler, the German Rottweiler and the American Rottweiler. The German Rottweiler has a slightly heavier build, thicker necks, bigger heads with shorter, broader muzzles, smaller feet and ears, usually the same height as the average American Rottweiler, but weighs approx. 15-20 pounds more. The American Rottweiler has the exact same brown on black pattern, but is of a slimmer build, longer legs, with bigger feet, a longer but not overly so pointed muzzle, and has longer ears. As you'll probably already know, these are strong dogs. They are intelligent and strong-willed. They do make great guard dogs as they are protective of their territory. But they do need a lot of exercise and crave attention. They are extremely popular dogs, particularly in the US, but are increasingly getting a bad name for being aggressive to humans and other dogs. Poor breeding and behavioural problems are cropping up more and more.

Conclusion - if you're careful in your choice, can give your dog plenty of your time, and are pre-

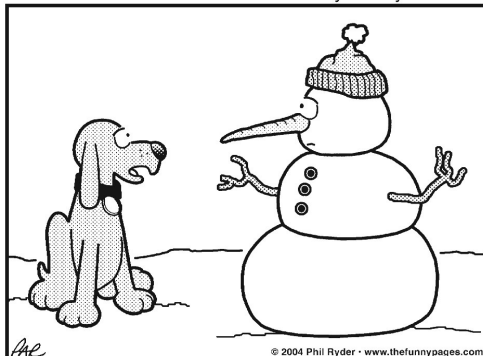
pared to exercise it regularly, the Rottweiler can make a good family pet.

Dobermans are another pop-

ular choice among those wanting a dog to help with security. Officially known as Doberman Pinschers, they originated from the interbreeding of Rottweiler, German Pinscher, Manchester Terrier, English Greyhound and Weimaraner. Dobermans are also intelligent dogs, obedient, hard working, fast and good as guard dogs. Again, they have attracted an increasingly bad reputation due to poor breeding and misuse. They can make great companions, but again, they really need owners who can put in the time and effort to ensure that the dog is trained correctly and doesn't develop any bad habits.

## THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Hey, snowman! Any last words before I 'go'?"

- Tina Halloran • Erie, PA

# Dogs

## Common Myths

German Shepherds have been popular for a long time and are generally calm, obedient and responsive pets. Again, poor breeding in recent years has led to physical problems such as arthritis of the joints, eye disease, gastrointestinal disease and also behavioural problems such as nervousness, fearfulness, timidity, and aggression to other dogs. If you can find a well-bred example, German Shepherds are reliable and obedient pets.

In conclusion, a lot of the dogs you might consider to be unsuitable for a loving pet, can in actual fact make a great companion. It all depends on the particular dog you get, and the way it's treated. Heck, I've even had a poodle snapping round my ankles, jumping up and threatening to nip anything it can reach! Seeing the dog before you buy it, with the dog's parent might give you some clues. Some people purposely keep their dog chained up and 'starve' it of affection believing this will make it a better guard dog. This isn't always the case.

Most experts will agree, that dogs should not be left alone with babies and young children. Even dogs people have had in the family for years, have occasionally turned on a family member with unhappy results.

In the Dominican Republic, there are a lot of stray dogs roaming the streets and even the beaches. So many in fact, that it rumoured that some people set poisoned traps to keep the numbers down. Most of the dogs on first glance seem pretty docile, friendly, attentive, but usually pretty bug ridden.

However, many local residents do adopt one of these dogs with great success! Even if they are not a puppy, it's possible to train one to be a good

## Dodgy Dave's Guide to Spanish

Dave has kindly agreed to offer us the benefit of his lingual skills with some really useful phrases which you can learn. Try to practice saying them out loud to strangers you meet - it's a great way to make new friends and impress people! Note: you've also got to match up the English with the Spanish. Answers at bottom of page

- La cuenta, por favor.
- He perdido mi pollo
- Debo apagado ver al mago
- Yo estoy embarazada
- ¿Puede calentarlo?
- Quédese con el cambio
- No hay corriente
- Es demiasiado caro
- Quisiera un parfait
- Me duele este diente
- ¿Hay una escuela de esquí?
- Necesito una bateria nueva
- Soy un amigo de Al Gore
- ¿Elvis ha estado aquí?

- Keep the change
- Can you warm this up?
- There is no electricity
- That's too expensive
- I'd like a ski pass
- This tooth hurts
- Is there a ski school?
- I am a friend of Al Gore
- The bill, please
- Has Elvis been here?
- I need a new battery
- I'm off to see the wizard
- I have lost my chicken
- I am pregnant

### answers

a9,b13,c12,d14,e2,f1,g3,h4,i5,j6,k7,l11,m8,n10

family pet. If you are considering this, try to find other people in the locality that have already done it and ask their advice. There's no guarantee that the forlorn hound that follows you down the beach will successfully adapt to living in your house.

Dogs make great pets, but choose the right one to suit your lifestyle, and give it the care and attention it needs. Hopefully you'll be one of the millions of happy dog owners.



# GRAMMAR RULES FOR THE UNENLIGHTENED

*Or: How to Write Good*

Don't use no double negatives.

Don't never use no triple negatives.

No sentence fragments

Corollary: Complete sentences: important.

Stamp out and eliminate redundancy.

Avoid cliches like the plague.

All generalizations are bad.

Corollary: All statements must be specific.

Never listen to advice.

Take care that your verb and subject is in agreement.

A preposition is a bad thing to end a sentence with.

Anarchy should be the law.

Corollary: I will establish democracy by dictatorial decree.

Everyone should be a non-conformist.

People who insult others are jerks.

Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it.

Death to intolerance.

Down with categorical imperatives.

Avoid those run-on sentences that just go on, and on, and on, they never stop, they just keep rambling, and you really wish the person would just shut up, but no, they just keep going, they're worse than the Energizer Bunny, they babble incessantly, and these sentences, they just never stop, they go on forever...if you get my drift...

Nobody has a right to his opinion.

Never contradict yourself always.

Good people like I are never self-righteous.

You should never use the second person.

The passive voice should never be used.

We Scorpions don't believe in astrology.

When dangling, watch your participles.

Why no, Ossifer, I'm not under the alcofluence of incohol.

Never go off on tangents, which are lines that intersect a curve at only one point and were discovered by Euclid, who lived in the sixth century, which was an era dominated by the Goths, who lived in what we now know as Poland...

Always do what is right, even if it's wrong.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations."

Excessive use of exclamation points can be disastrous!!!!

Remember to end each sentence with a period

Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.

Don't use question marks inappropriately?

Don't be terse.

Don't obfuscate your theses with extraneous verbiage.

Never use that totally cool, radically groovy out-of-date slang.

Stop calling me immature or I'll tell on you.

Avoid tumbling off the cliff of triteness into the black abyss of overused metaphors.

Keep your ear to the grindstone, your nose to the ground, take the bull by the horns of a dilemma, and stop mixing your metaphors.

We will fight to the death for our pacifist aims.

Avoid those abysmally horrible, outrageously repellent exaggerations.

Avoid any awful anachronistic aggravating antediluvian alliterations.

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

## Word Search

Find the following European countries in the grid. Words can go diagonally forwards and backwards

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

Albania	Denmark	Lithuania	San Marino
Andorra	Estonia	Luxembourg	Serbia
Armenia	Finland	Malta	Slovakia
Austria	France	Moldova	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Monaco	Spain
Belarus	Germany	Montenegro	Sweden
Belgium	Greece	Netherlands	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Norway	Turkey
Bulgaria	Iceland	Poland	Ukraine
Croatia	Ireland	Portugal	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Italy	Republic of Macedonia	Vatican City
Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Romania	
	Latvia	Russia	
	Liechtenstein		

When a singer sings, he stirs up the air and makes it hit any passing eardrums. But if he is good, he knows how to keep it from hurting.

answers to crossword on page 19

1	F	I	N	I	S	H	4	S	C	R	U	F	F				
		N			C		7	N		E			U				
8	P	S	9	Y	10	C	H	O	A	N	A	11	L	12	Y	Z	E
			13	T	E	A	L					14	S	U	E	Z	
15	L	E	A	V	E				16	O	R	E	S	T	E	17	S
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## Gringo Times

KRYPTONITE FOUND ON CABARETE BEACH

continued from page 1

rock, that is to say, Kryptonium, Krimson, Krypolite and Unbihexium, and not the rare green Kryptonite that was used to weaken Superman.

The rocks have been handed over to the Dominican government who has indicated that it would be holding on to the rare find for security purposes.

"We never know when it might come in useful", acknowledged spokesperson for the Government, Senor Jose Guzman.

"If Superman were to change sides, it might be the only protection we'd have."

We asked Senor Guzman, why he thought Superman might attack the Dominican Republic, but he declined to comment. We later contacted his office to ask if it was likely, given that the Government had Kryptonite, that Superman would in future lend assistance in the case of an emergency such as a hurricane? His office was unable to comment. Later we tried speaking to an actual person in his office, but apparently I am was 'not a good time to call'.

Meanwhile, rumors have surfaced indicating that Microsoft, Google and DC Comics have expressed an interest in acquiring the mineral. A press officer from DC Comics would only state that "We invented the stuff, so we should be the ones to get it."

Neither Bill Gates or whoever runs Google would confirm or deny the rumours, but top US strategist Martin Bells who provided the rumour was happy to provide an explanation to the reasons behind the rumour.

"I'm pretty sure this rumour wouldn't have started if there wasn't some truth behind it", he stated. "Both Microsoft and

Google are looking for anything that can give them some competitive advantage in the war to dominate the world, and Kryptonite could give them that edge. In Microsoft's case, Windows Vista hasn't yet had the desired effect of reducing all PC users to morons, and Google hasn't yet managed to ensure all online searches end up as half a day's fruitless waste of time."

"So, might other companies such as Yahoo be interested in acquiring it?" we asked Martin.

"Ah... yes....", proffered Martin. "In my opinion, Yahoo would be a fool not to want it. I'll include them in the rumour from now on."

We got in touch with the team who found the rocks in Cabarete, and asked them how they originally discovered the mineral.

"We first considered the possibility, when we heard that lots of people were contracting cancer and exhibiting all the signs of radiation poisoning", said Kent Lark, the team's leader.

"We know that there's no plutonium in the DR, so the only answer was Kryptonite. Then we were contacted by a Cabarete hotelier who had an American guest by the name of 'Luther'. Apparently, this Mr Luther was in a pretty poor state, and kept muttering that he'd lost something down the beach. It didn't take us long to put the two together."

"So is Kryptonite really dangerous to humans", we asked Mr Lark

"Yes indeed it is", he confirmed. "But I'm ok with it because I'm not from round here." Mr Lark was then reportedly seen to be looking for a phone booth.

The Gringo Times will be reporting on any further finds from Cabarete beach in future editions.

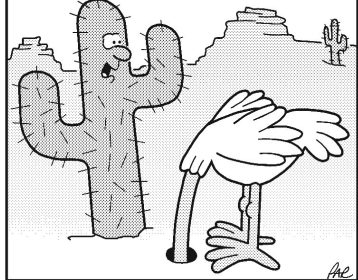
*Note: The Gringo Times suggests that anyone finding glowing green rocks or Sodium lithium boron silicate hydroxide with fluorine in the Cabarete area should contact us immediately as the mineral can be dangerous to both humans, kite-boarders and pollos.*

.....  
 • Just about any animal  
 • skin can be stretched  
 • over a frame to make a  
 • pleasant sound once the  
 • animal is removed.  
 • .....

### THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder & YOU

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"9...10. Ready or not, here I come."

- Jim D. • Indianapolis, IN

## Strange Signs

In a Laundromat:  
 AUTOMATIC WASHING  
 MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE  
 ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN  
 THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

Notice in a dry cleaner's window:  
 ANYONE LEAVING THEIR  
 GARMENTS HERE FOR MORE  
 THAN 30 DAYS WILL BE  
 DISPOSED OF.

Sign on motorway garage:  
 PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE  
 NEAR OUR PETROL PUMPS.  
 YOUR LIFE MAY NOT BE  
 WORTH MUCH, BUT OUR  
 PETROL IS.

In an office:  
 WOULD THE PERSON WHO  
 TOOK THE STEP LADDER  
 YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING  
 IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS  
 WILL BE TAKEN.

Spotted in a toilet of a New York  
 office building:  
 TOILET OUT OF ORDER.  
 PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

Outside a secondhand shop:  
 WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING-  
 BICYCLES, WASHING  
 MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT  
 BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG  
 AND GET A WONDERFUL  
 BARGAIN.

Notice in a health food shop  
 window:  
 CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a National Park:  
 BEARS PLEASE STAY IN  
 YOUR CAR

Outside an electrical store:  
 WHY GO ELSEWHERE TO BE  
 CHEATED WHEN YOU CAN  
 COME IN HERE!

Sign in a laundromat:  
 AUTOMATIC WASHING  
 MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE

ALL YOUR CLOTHES  
 WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a dress shop window:  
 DON'T STAND OUTSIDE AND  
 FAINT - COME IN AND HAVE A  
 FIT!

Sign in a London department  
 store:  
 BARGAIN BASEMENT  
 UPSTAIRS

Outside a farm:  
 HORSE MANURE:  
 50p PER PRE-PACKED BAG.  
 20p DO-IT-YOURSELF.

In the window of a dry cleaner's:  
 SAMEDAY DRY CLEANING -  
 ALL GARMENTS READY IN 48  
 HOURS.

Road sign:  
 TURN RIGHT FOR THE FAIRY  
 GLEN. BEWARE OF HEAVY  
 LORRIES.

In an office:  
 AFTER TEABREAK STAFF  
 SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT  
 AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN  
 ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

On a church door:  
 THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN.  
 ENTER YE ALL BY THIS  
 DOOR.(THIS DOOR IS KEPT  
 LOCKED BECAUSE OF THE  
 DRAUGHT. PLEASE USE SIDE  
 DOOR).

Outside a furniture shop:  
 OUR MOTTO: WE PROMISE  
 YOU THE LOWEST PRICES  
 AND WORKMANSHIP.

Sign in a German cafe:  
 MOTHERS, PLEASE WASH  
 YOUR HANS BEFORE EATING.

Outside a secondhand shop:  
 WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING -  
 BICYCLES, WASHING  
 MACHINES ETC. WHY NOT  
 BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG  
 AND GET A WONDERFUL  
 BARGAIN?

In a grocery  
 shop:  
 TRY OUR  
 LOCAL  
 BUTTER.  
 NOBODY CAN  
 TOUCH IT.





# Fun With English

**These are signs in hotels and other public places in foreign countries where they make the effort to write signs in English but their efforts go astray.**

## In a Vienna hotel:

In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

## A traslated sentence from a Russian chess book:

A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played.

## Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand:

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

## On the tap in a Finnish wash-room:

To stop the drip, turn cock to right.

## In the window of a Swedish furrier:

Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

## On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong:

Guaranted to work throughout its useful life.

## Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan:

Stop: Drive Sideways.

## In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter a woman even foreigner if dressed as a man.

## In a Tokyo bar:

Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

## In a Japanese hotel room:

Please to bathe inside the tub.

## In a Hong Kong supermarket:

For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.

## In an East African newspaper:

A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

## In a Tokyo shop:

Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.

## From a Japanese information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner:

Coolers and Heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

## From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

## Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance:

\* English well talking.

\* Here speeching American.

.....  
• Handel was half German, half Italian.  
• and half English. He was rather large.  
.....

## ANALOGIES

I'm sure you were asked at school to make-up some analogies to illustrate you understood what they were. Here's a list we've compiled of some actually written by high-school school kids in their essays.

**He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.**

Joseph Romm, Washington

**She caught your eye like one of those pointy hook latches that used to dangle from screen doors and would fly up whenever you banged the door open again.**

Rich Murphy, Fairfax Station

**The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.**

Russell Beland, Springfield

**McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty Bag filled with vegetable soup.**

Paul Sabourin, Silver Spring

**From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and "Jeopardy" comes on at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30.**

Roy Ashley, Washington

**Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.**

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

**Her eyes were like two brown circles with big black dots in the center.**

Russell Beland, Springfield

**Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.**

Unknown

**He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.**

Jack Bross, Chevy Chase

**The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots**

**when you fry them in hot grease.**

Gary F. Hevel, Silver Spring

**Her date was pleasant enough, but she knew that if her life was a movie this guy would be buried in the credits as something like "Second Tall Man."**

Russell Beland, Springfield

**Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.**

Jennifer Hart, Arlington

**The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the period after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.**

Wayne Goode, Madison, Ala.

**They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth**

Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.

**John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.**

Russell Beland, Springfield

**The thunder was ominous-sounding, much like the sound of a thin sheet of metal being shaken backstage during the storm scene in a play.**

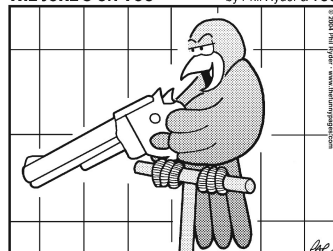
Barbara Fetherolf, Alexandria

**His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free**

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

**The red brick wall was the color of a brick-red Crayola crayon.**

THE JOKE'S ON YOU by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Who are you calling 'yellow bellied'?"  
- Dean Traiger • Locust Valley, NY

## Readers' Letters

If you want to express your opinion, feel free to write to us or email us at [editor@gringo-times.com](mailto:editor@gringo-times.com). If you do not wish your letter to be published, please indicate this. We reserve the right to refuse to publish letters that we deem defamatory, abusive or in any way not keeping with the tone of this paper.

"Fantastic!"

Linda - Sosua

"Keep it going!"

Steven - Sosua

"Love your paper, laughed my ass off, a fresh new creation :-)"

Eric - Cabarete

"Congrats on your first edition, to all of you! We have received many positive comments so keep it up!"

Coleen - Sosua

"Maybe I will mention your narrow-minded attitude in my next book. I have 15 books so far, and maybe 28 with reprintings. I am in Who's Who worldwide and in the US. Thanks for your non-help."

(when we declined to publish his advert - Name withheld to save embarrassment)

"I obtained a copy of Gringo times and enjoyed it very much."

Colin - Sosua

"Dear Times: After reading several blogs and e-mail debates, I've just kept the hell out of them because they tend to become abusive, mindless and tasteless - not worth the space they take up. Nevertheless I enjoyed the tone and general quality of your first edition so I take you at your word when it comes to your inviting exchanges with your readers.

First and please remember this is from memory, I believe the word "Gringo" came into general use during the American/Mexican War. Green was the color of the American military uniform and the Spanish corruption of "Green" became "Gringo". Just think of the "Verde Times". Now for a little more useless information, if you have time to spare. The General in charge of that war was Winfield Scott, who was later fired as Secretary of War by Abraham Lincoln for failing to get anything right. He was replaced by Gen. George C. McClelland, who was also fired for refusing to fight anybody, except Lincoln. The North seemed to have lousy Generals and

the South had some real champions, Lee, Jackson, Forest, Stewart, to name a few - that's life. Serving under Gen McClelland, for a while, was a bright light by the name of George Custer, who later had some tactical problems at the Little Big Horn. (PS He was a Colonel not a General as he boasted and you might have read). By the way Gen. McClelland designed the "McClelland Saddle". In that he did get something right. He also later ran against Lincoln as a Democrat - and lost that fight too.

Ulysses S. Grant served under General Scott in Mexico as did Robert E. Lee. At the time of Lee's surrender to Grant they discovered their previous association. Grant remembered Lee, but Lee couldn't remember Grant - ho hum. Grant later became the President and Lee went back to his farm (some Roman Generals did that. It beat assassination) as the best general who ever lost a war. As President, Grant became known as "Useless" Grant and served only one term. There are tough choices here, a failed President, or a successful General cum farmer. How's that for boring?

I don't want to get "picky" but on Page 8, first paragraph, second line, I think the word might better be "drunk" drivers. And on Page 7, your article on Whales; I believe the whale is called a "Humpback Whale" or Balaenoptera to its intimate friends. OK I did want to get picky - sorry.

Thank you for your patience and if you resent what I wrote, don't get nasty and I promise not to do it again."

Good Luck, Don - Costambar

Editor - Thanks for the history lesson Don, although there seems to be quite a few ideas on where the term Gringo came from - see the online Wikipedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gringo>.

Where I come from the term 'drink drivers' means 'drivers under the influence', not necessarily 'drunk'. You may refer to them as DUI's.

Well spotted on the Humpback Whale, and thanks for pointing it out - it's my first job as chief editor - and will now probably be my last!

## Gringo Health

### "An Apple a Day..."

One of the advantages of living in the Caribbean is the



easy availability of fruit we take for granted. Sure, it's possible to buy them in the supermarkets back home, but very often, much of the goodness is lost due to the length of time it takes to get from the tree to your table. And of course the prices here are much lower.

### Apples or Guavas?

Remember the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away"? In the Dominican Republic, the plentiful guavas have four times more fibre, a bit more potassium and 19 times the amount of vitamin C as the average apple. You may think grapes are better. But no, guavas still outrank them heavily in the previously mentioned aspects.

### Cranberry Juice or Coconut Juice

Another North American favourite is cranberry juice with its well-known benefits to the bladder. But Coconut milk provides the same benefits with less than third of the calories and around eight times the amount of potassium. If you normally imbibe in vitamin enhanced drinks, consider that a glass of

### Local Foods

coconut milk has around 60mg of sodium compared to 700mg in a can of V8 vegetable juice.

Coconut milk also has no cholesterol, as cholesterol is found only in foods of animal origin such as butter.

A tablespoon of coconut milk has only 38 calories and 4g of fat compared to 111 calories in the same amount of margarine and 11.5 g fat. Also, the fat of coconut is healthier for the body than margarine fats.

So next time you opt for the imported fruits, consider the extra benefits to your health (and your purse) provided by locally grown produce.

## Poet's Corner

### We All Make A Difference

We all make a difference  
In someone else's life-  
Maybe it's your Husband  
Maybe it's your Wife

Maybe it's a Friend  
Who's crying out in pain...  
Maybe it's a stranger  
You'll never see again.

You may never know  
What a difference you have made  
They may never tell you-  
They may tell you every day.

So try to make a difference  
In someone's life today  
'Cause there may be no other chance  
To make them feel that way.

This week's poem  
Inspired by Tuesday's With Morrie  
Written by Colleen L. Misner  
February 2007

Gringo Times welcomes submissions by readers. Email [editor@gringo-times.com](mailto:editor@gringo-times.com)



To place your **free advert** up to 3 lines, call 809-970-7680 or email [classifieds@gringo-times.com](mailto:classifieds@gringo-times.com) or visit [www.gringo-times.com](http://www.gringo-times.com) Real-estate and all commercial ads are RD\$100 for three lines, RD\$30 for each extra line

## Motors

GREGS Garage - Automotive repair shop for the newer vehicles [www.greggarage.com](http://www.greggarage.com) 809-571-1998

1998 Daihatsu jeep. Clean in and out, power windows, ac. Great condition. Asking RD\$400,000. Pictures available upon request. 809-594-3734

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HONDA SHADOW, VTX1100cc, Boulevard Cruiser. Excellent Cond. Lots of NEW Chrome. USD 4500 - or best offer. Max. 8298204422

1993 Honda Civic black automatic, A/C, auto windows, in good condition RD \$ 140.000 negotiable. Call 809 961 2233 or 809 982 1239

MITSUBISHI Montero Sport 1998, sun roof electric, auto, black, RD\$300,000. Tel: 829-889-3889

To advertise your vehicle for free in this section, see bottom of page.

## Household

BIG Liquidation: Furnitures, Television, Refrigerator Living-room, Bedroom and more in Puerto Plata For more Information call 1-809-862-4369 or leave a message

To advertise your household items for free in this section, see bottom of page.

## FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free for non-commercial private ads excluding real-estate. To place your ad, call 809-970-7680 or email [classifieds@gringo-times.com](mailto:classifieds@gringo-times.com) or visit [www.gringo-times.com](http://www.gringo-times.com)

Business classified adverts and real-estate adverts are RD\$100 for up to 3 lines (approx 15 words), RD\$30 per extra line.

Boxed advert from RD\$250.

More information inside front cover

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classificados Gratis

## Boats

TRAWLER Yacht for Sale in Luperón - Cruising guru Bruce Van Sant is reluctantly selling his trawler Tidak Apa, which is a bit like selling Elvis' Cadillac. The boat has been both home and research platform for his books on tropical cruising. Luperon Harbor is a perfect location from which to cruise on down island, or initiate a Bahamas cruise back to Florida -- OR, live aboard in the DR as in a modern and efficient condo. Asking \$70,000. This vessel is comparable to the new Island Packet trawler which starts at \$350,000. [www.thornlesspath.com/forsale.htm](http://www.thornlesspath.com/forsale.htm) or 809-821-8239

## Jobs Offered

VENDORS wanted to sell the Gringo Times. Easy part or full-time work. Tel 809-970-7680

SALES Executives required for the Gringo Times. Experience not necessary, but applicants must be personable and professional. Spanish/German speaking an advantage. Tel 809-970-7680

## Car Rental

### Cindy Car Rental

Tel: 809-571-1525

Calle Pedro Clisante No.26  
Next to Hotel Europa, Sosua

## Jobs Wanted

15 year old boy looking for part time work in costambar or cofresi. Has working experience in hotels, (villas Jasmin), and babysitting. call Josh 1-809-676-5063

To advertise for free in this section, see bottom of page

## Wanted

FORWARD facing baby/child car seats for babies 1yr+. Tel 829-876-1151

## Medical

### Dental Clinic

Plaza Medica  
Pedro Clisante #30, Sosua

Tel: 809-571-3007

Cel: 809-854-1633

DOCTOR, General Practitioner, Dr. Freddy Salazar, Plaza Medica, Pedro Clisante No. 30, Sosua. Tel: 809-571-3007, Cel: 809-854-1633

## General

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## Personals

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## Services

### Taxi Sosua - Cabarete

Transport in modern, air-conditioned vehicles  
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Friendly English, Spanish & German speaking drivers

**809-571-3097 or 809-571-2797**

Website: [www.taxisosuaacabarete.com](http://www.taxisosuaacabarete.com)

Email: [taxitourssosua@hotmail.com](mailto:taxitourssosua@hotmail.com)

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## Legal

To advertise in this section, see bottom of page.

## Rentals

LONG TERM Rental, 2 bdrm, 2 bath eceanfront/oceanview. 2nd story balcony. Newly remodeled/furnished. US\$800/wk. long term negotiable 607-674-4763.

## Real Estate



### Charming Spacious Villa in Costambar

- 2 bed/2 bath
- 160m<sup>2</sup> house, 489m<sup>2</sup> plot
- Fully Furnished
- Large 50m<sup>2</sup> terrace overlooking golf course
- Views of hills
- Undercover car parking
- Walking distance (200m) to beach

Separate guest apartment, 35m<sup>2</sup>, 2 rooms & bathroom  
**US\$ 169,000**

**Tel: 829-808-2665**

**advertise your  
stuff here  
it's FREE FOR  
most private ads**



SALES—RENTALS

RESIDENTIAL  
CONDOMINIUM RESORT  
IN THE HEART OF SOSUA



Located on the edge of a quiet National Forest in the La Mulata area of Sosua, LAS CAÑAS features 1 or 2 bedroom, furnished apartments surrounding a huge swimming pool, complete with Island Bar and poolside Restaurant.

Residents enjoy the peaceful, relaxing environment and convenience of the many amenities included in this incredible complex. Owners and renters are treated to the quiet splashing of the island waterfall, free of the noise of motor conchos, street traffic and constant noise of city life.



SALE PRICES FROM

**\$60,900**

RENTALS BY

WEEK OR MONTH



COCO CLUB POOL BAR

## AMENITIES

- HUGE POOL
- ON SITE RESTAURANT
- POOL BAR
- WIRELESS INTERNET
- IN ROOM SAFES
- CABLE TV
- AIR CONDITIONING
- FULLY FURNISHED
- SECURITY
- QUIET, SERENE SETTING
- 1 OR 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

