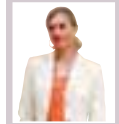


Weekend REVIEW

Weekly GulfTimes, Friday, July 13, 2007

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Tips for office fashion



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Lawyer drives ahead



French President Nicolas Sarkozy is among those world leaders who start the day with a bang, with a daily jog in public.



The 52-year-old German Chancellor Angela Merkel prefers to ramble in the countryside.



US President George W. Bush (left) says keeping fit helps him think clearly, while Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) is a deft hand at table tennis.



Alvaro Uribe of Colombia (above) reserves his flexibility for his yoga workout, while Japan's Shinzo Abe (left) is a keen archer. China's secretive leader Hu Jintao (right), is a deft hand at table tennis.



President John Howard, seen here with wife Sandra, is held up as a role model for Australians of a certain age because of his discipline and consistency in his physical activity.



It's softball for Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez (left) and football for Bolivia's Evo Morales (right).

How do they shape up?

WHEN a head of state makes more headlines for running round the block than running the country, it brings a new meaning to "fit for office". The French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, is seen so often pounding the pavement that statisticians call him "Niko-ola". But some voters do not appreciate the image of an energetic president in a hurry. Although running is increasingly popular in France, some see it as anathema to French culture and Western civilisation, which are steeped in the more spiritual "promenade". Others see it as a pastime imported from America.

Sarkozy is not the only world leader to start the day with a bang. Yet most of his peers tend to opt for something more discreet, or more in keeping with the national esprit.

Gordon Brown, UK
GORDON Brown used to be an early-morning regular in the Westminster gym but it is not known whether he has copied Tony Blair by getting a prime ministerial exercise bike. "I haven't asked him," said his spokesman.

Brown was a champion tennis player in his youth and he told the BBC last week that he would play on holiday this summer. Contact sports were curtailed when he lost the sight in one eye during a rugby match.

"I used to play football, rugby and sometimes tennis, but now it's running or swimming - easy things," he told the *Daily Mirror* last month. "I try to exercise in the mornings, but sometimes it's not so easy when you've got meetings first thing and young children. The treadmill is what you do if you can't run around the town."

George W. Bush US
ONCE a heavy drinker, Bush is a reformed character. Unlike Bill Clinton, who jogged occasionally, Bush is fit. He takes a break at about 4.30pm each day for a 60-minute workout. His knees began to give him trouble in 2004 so he tends to run on treadmills rather than outside.

He has a bike that hooks on to a stationary trainer and also uses it aboard Air Force One. He says that being fit makes him think more clearly.

At weekends, he often takes his mountain bike to the extensive Secret Service grounds at Beltsville, Maryland, where he rides with friends and White House staff, or at his ranch in Texas.

"It brings out the child in you," he said. "I think it's OK ... to still seek that youth, chase that fountain of youth." The public tends not to be snide about his cycling apparel (shorts, tight-fitting vest, helmet, bike shoes, iPod and £1,700 Trek bike) but there is more scepticism about his tendency for brush-cutting, a rugged Texas pastime for anyone with a ranch big enough.

The White House in 2001 published pictures of Bush in cowboy hat and T-shirt lugging around cut branches.

Marlboro Man it was not.

Vladimir Putin Russia
RUSSIA'S president, Vladimir Putin, is probably the nearest thing among international leaders to Action Man, and his public love him for it. For a start there is his love affair with judo, which he took up as a child to compensate for a lack of height. By 18 he was a black belt.

These days, he swims - 1,000m a day in the presidential dacha pool - and works out for 30-40 minutes. He's also a handy skier, testing the slopes to be used for the 2014 Winter games, awarded last week to the Russian city of Sochi.

The Guardian's reporters check out the exercise schedules of world leaders and see if they are 'fit for office'

"He's a good skier. I'm not in a position to say just how good," a spokeswoman for Russia's Federal Agency for Mountain Skiing said diplomatically.

Angela Merkel Germany
SPORT is not high on Angela Merkel's agenda. Opera, cooking and reading are her favoured forms of relaxation. But the 52-year-old German chancellor is a keen rambler, making good use of the paths in the nature reserve where she and husband have a weekend home, north of Berlin. "At least once a week I try to go on a long walk in the countryside so that I can take my mind off politics for a few minutes," she has said.

Last summer she went to the Italian Dolomites and hiked on Monte Rite with the explorer Reinhold Messner. Merkel also sought to improve relations with the Polish prime minister, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, by taking him and his wife for a brisk stroll along Germany's Baltic coast this year.

John Howard Australia
THEY may mock his daggly trackuits, but Australians are full of admiration for their leader's fitness regime. Aged 67, John Howard power-walks every day and is often seen striding out pre-dawn in Sydney or Canberra. He keeps up the same routine while abroad and has conducted interviews while running, with the media struggling to keep up.

The father of three, who does not smoke and drinks in moderation, was recently held up as a role model for Australians of a certain age because of his discipline and consistency in his physical activity. It is a far cry from one of his predecessors, Bob Hawke, who was well-known for his drinking and once held the world record for the speed at which he donned a yard of ale.

Evo Morales Bolivia
EVO Morales has been a keen footballer since boyhood and being president has not stopped his kickabouts. He is often photographed in shorts taking aim at a ball. The president also plays squash and opponents testify to his stamina.

He has led a revolt against a decision by FIFA to ban international matches at more than 2,500m (8,200ft) above sea level, which the football body says is dangerous to health. To prove his point last month the president played a 30-minute game (during which he scored) on top of Chacaltaya mountain - 5,270m above sea-level. FIFA reduced the limit to 3,000m but Morales rejected the compromise.

Hugo Chavez Venezuela
WHEN not hurling insults at George Bush, the Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez likes to pitch fast balls to batters in midnight games of softball. The games, often spontaneously ordered by Chavez after a long working day, are held at an arena beside the presidential palace, Miraflores, and often involve ministers, officials and guards. Despite the name the ball is hard and in the tropical night players are left sweating.

The young Hugo was a champion baseball pitcher in the army and later a sports instructor at a military academy. Since becoming president he has piled on the pounds rather.

Alvaro Uribe Colombia
HIS politics can be inflexible but Alvaro Uribe, the president of Colombia, can certainly stretch. He is South America's most famous yoga fan. It is a form of yoga *nidra*, a mix of exercise and meditation credited with inducing complete physical, mental and emotional relaxation while maintaining consciousness.

"He hardly fits the stereotype of a tough, rightwing leader, and Uribe is known for losing his temper, so the question is how much groucher he would be without the yoga."

"He loves it. Every day at midday he disappears to do his yoga for 30 minutes," said Bernardo Moreno, secretary general to the presidency. "He's very disciplined about it."

Hu Jintao China
MAO famously loved to swim, but Hu's recreational activities remain a secret, though he was spotted recently showing a deft touch at the table tennis table during a visit to Hong Kong.

It's an image that is unlikely to do him any harm in a country where ping pong is so popular that some workplaces even have tables installed for a bit of R&R in the middle of the working day.

His prime minister, Wen Jiabao, is thought to be in better shape, part of the fraternity of world leaders who like to start the day with an early morning jog.

Shinzo Abe Japan
ABE'S only public displays of athleticism to date have been an archery demonstration on TV and the opening ceremonial pitch at last November's Japan v US all-star baseball series in Tokyo. "The ball failed to go in the direction I had envisioned," he later wrote in his e-mail magazine. Abe has been a keen archer since university and is president of the All Japan Archery Federation.

Nicolas Sarkozy France
BACK to Sarko then. France's youngest president in years has been keen to demonstrate his vigour. During the election campaign, he posed as a cowboy herding bulls, and he likes to appear on a bike - another key French sport. Sarkozy, whose motto is "the France that gets up early", wants to set himself apart from grandpère Jacques Chirac, who liked to watch sumo wrestling but barely stretched his legs. Sarkozy shows no sign of quitting his public jogging, despite one of France's top coaches telling *L'Equipe* sports paper that his style was appalling.

"It's a way of showing he's a man of the people, doing what ordinary people do," said Denis Muzet, head of the Institut Mediascope, which dissects the media strategies of politicians. "He is trying to provide a metaphor for France as a nation of movement, energy, physical performance."

"It's a message that he's young and healthy," sports sociologist Patrick Mignon said. "Jogging is a sport that France picked up from America in the 1980s, when it stood for the values of enterprise, individualism, dynamism and a drive to succeed."

Reports by Angelique Christoff in Paris, Ewen Macaskill in Washington, Will Woodward in London, Luke Harding in Moscow, Rory Carroll in Caracas, Kate Connolly in Berlin, Justin McCurry in Tokyo, Jonathan Watts in Beijing, and Barbara McMahon in Sydney - Guardian News & Media

▶ British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was a champion tennis player in his youth.



2 Variety

Violent killing began with a cat-fight

IT HAD all the ingredients of a classic Agatha Christie whodunit: two jealous middle-aged spinsters vying for the control of a cat protection society, a timid spiritualist who ran a tea-shop and a violent murder which seemed utterly without motive.

But what happened in the Australian city of Brisbane in March 1998 was no escapist fiction, but a brutal murder which, nearly a decade later is still surrounded by mystery and doubt.

It all started harmlessly enough in the summer of 1996 when Virginia Houston, treasurer and a director of the Brisbane Cat Protection Society, struck up a tea-shop conversation with Dr Kathleen Marshall, who ran a veterinary practice in the city.

It turned out that both women were mad about cats – Dr Marshall had 26 – and Virginia Houston began to talk about the cat protection society.

She said it received regular large bequests – sometimes more than a quarter-of-a-million dollars – and she wasn't happy about the efficiency of the organisation.

"You should become a member," she told Dr Marshall. "We could do with someone like you to help us run things properly. I'll put you forward for membership."

She did, and the energetic Dr Marshall was soon putting the organisation to rights with such effect that when the presidency of the Brisbane Cat Protection Society came up in January, 1997, she was unanimously voted in.

Virginia Houston was delighted. The two women had now become close friends and

From the best of friends, Virginia and Kathleen became the worst enemies till the latter was found murdered in a most brutal manner

Virginia was the new president's closest ally ... until at a board meeting a few months later, Dr Marshall suddenly announced that one director wasn't pulling her weight and should step down.

The director was Virginia Houston. She was hurt, bewildered and furious and many of the 200-strong membership felt the same. Soon the society was divided into two camps and the two women who had been such good friends now disliked and despised each other.

But worse was to follow: at the next AGM it was agreed with a narrow majority to transfer the society's headquarters to Dr Marshall's veterinary surgery which meant she had complete control on who was allowed in.

It soon became clear that those who weren't, included Virginia Houston. When she called at the surgery in February 1998 she was told she would not be admitted.

"You have no right to call at this office unless there is a general meeting," she was told sternly. "You are not a director and have no business here. If you don't leave at once I'll call the police."

"I have every right to be here," Virginia replied. "This is the registered office of the society and I'm a past member." Then followed a scuffle, witnessed by passers-by, during which the women punched, kicked and pulled each other's hair.

That night Virginia Houston wrote to the Australian Securities and Investment

commission asking for a full investigation into the cat society's accounts. "I am sure there is corruption there," she claimed, but the commission could not find any evidence of wrongdoing.

Now the feud was beyond repair. "I'm sure that dreadful woman is stalking me," Dr Marshall told friends. "She hates me so much that I don't doubt that she would take a knife to me if she could. But there's no place for her in the cat society. I will stake my life on that."

Still seething with anger, Virginia Houston turned to her other interest in life – spiritualism. She started going regularly to a cafe in downtown Brisbane owned by fellow-spiritualist Andrew Fitzherbert and his partner Ruth Bennett. They were cat-lovers, too and it was natural that Virginia should talk to them about her problems with the cat society and, particularly, with Kathleen Marshall.

"I could do with some allies among the members," she said. "Can I propose you both for membership?" Fitzherbert and his partner agreed and subsequently attended one

They were hardly the vociferous supporters Virginia was looking for – Andrew was an Englishman who had come to Australia as a child, was a timid nervous man who would do anything to avoid confrontation and to whom violence appeared to be unthinkable. He was totally absorbed in spiritualism and also augmented his meagre

income by doing palmist readings. Society members later reported that at the meeting he attended "he sat in the corner and said nothing all night."

On a Sunday afternoon in March 1998, four members of the committee arrived at Dr Marshall's house for a meeting and found the place locked. When someone spotted what looked like streaks of blood on the door, the police were called.

The door was broken down to reveal Dr Marshall dead from over 50 stab wounds. Broken furniture and pools of blood testified to the desperate fight for life she had put up. As the society committee members stood huddled near the door, wondering what to do, Virginia Houston drove past. One woman told police: "There's your murderer!" She and Kathleen hated each other."

But before anyone could be accused of the brutal killing, there was forensic work to do and DNA samples to be collected. Because nothing valuable had been taken and entry was not forced, detectives assumed that Dr Marshall must have let the killer in.

And who was responsible for a particularly macabre Agatha Christie touch: the sheet music of the *Death March* left open on the piano?

Checking Dr Marshall's phone calls and diary police found that on the afternoon of her death she was due to treat a cat owned by a John Wilson. But a widespread appeal for Wilson to come forward yielded nothing.

Meanwhile, detectives had searched Virginia Houston's house and found nothing incriminating. She also had an alibi for the estimated time when Dr Marshall was murdered.

In fact police were now convinced the killer was a man. Excessive force would have been needed to inflict such savage wounds, and the theory was reinforced when bloodstains in the house were found to be male. But whose were they? No one knew.

There were no developments for over three months. Then in June 1998 police spotted a photograph in a local newspaper which would prove to provide vital clues. The picture was of Ruth Bennett holding a female Siamese cat in her arms. The paper reported that the cat had been missing since it was taken to a vet in February – the day Dr Marshall was murdered.

Police knew that Ruth Bennett was a friend of Virginia Houston and had a long-term partner – Andrew Fitzherbert.

So when the witness came forward saying that on the day of the murder she had seen a man carrying a cat up to the police station, she was shown a range of photographs. Detectives had included one of Andrew Fitzherbert – "just to make the numbers".

The woman leaped through the pictures, looked hard at one and said: "That's the man I saw carrying the cat" and passed over a photograph labelled No.9. It was of Andrew Fitzherbert.

He was taken in for question and while he was in police headquarters detectives searched his house and took DNA samples. They matched those found at the murder scene.

Stubbornly denying that he had anything to do with the crime, Fitzherbert appeared before Queensland Supreme Court in July 1999 accused of murder, mainly on the DNA evidence and the testimony of the woman who claimed to



Clockwise from top: Dr Kathleen Marshall with her army of cats; Virginia Houston and prime accused Andrew Fitzherbert.

have seen him carrying a cat. But he is currently campaigning for his protest in the witness box that he hadn't been near the vet's house, had no motive, and had no idea how his blood came to be at the murder scene, Andrew Fitzherbert was found guilty and jailed for life.

He has since made three appeals arguing that forensic scientist identified his blood in error and that DNA evidence was falsified.

The appeals were rejected but he is currently campaigning for another hearing.

Says a lawyer for Fitzherbert: "There was no evidence that he took a cat to the vet, no weapon was ever found. In fact only the suspect DNA evidence links him to the crime."

"I've never come across such a miscarriage of justice on an innocent man" – Tony James Syndication

STYLE

Mixing business with cool, casual comfort

By Jean Patteson



FASHION police, brace yourselves. Here comes summer – and with it, a heat rash of inappropriate office attire. As the mercury rises so do dress-code violations. Suits, ties and dress shoes are abandoned in favour of more skin-baring garb.

"It's hot. People want to be comfortable," said Diane Schwartz, a certified image consultant from Delray Beach, Florida. "But you've still got to dress for business first."

But how to combine cool, casual comfort with a sharp business vibe? That question has been giving headaches to bosses ever since "dress-down Friday" and "business-casual" entered the lexicon in the early 1990s.

Almost two decades later, "business-casual" is still a misunderstood and much-abused concept. "Casual" has become "sloppy" and business leaders have had enough.

"Business-casual has its place," Schwartz said. "But guidelines have been very vague, and managers haven't known how to enforce it. So there's been this knee-jerk reaction back to formal business attire."

Dress codes are being rewritten, she said, enforcement measures discussed and image professionals hired to help define what attire is business-appropriate.

No one enjoys the role of fashion police, she said, which is why a comprehensive dress code – with the dos and don'ts and penalties for noncompliance clearly spelled out – is essential.

Dress does matter because how you dress sends a message "about you and about the business you work for," said Lisa Male, an image consultant in Winter Park, Florida. A too-casual wardrobe suggests an uncaring attitude. Dressier attire suggests "competence, a focus on business professionalism."

Dress codes aside, common sense is the key to choosing workplace attire, Schwartz said. "Wardrobe is a big part of your business arsenal," she said. "When you get dressed in the morning, think about where you're going, what you're doing, who you're meeting, what message you want to send and what you want to achieve – and then dress accordingly."

Martina Shaw is in the process of rewriting the dress code for the Orlando, Florida, law firm where she is the office administrator.

"I feel like everyone should know what business-professional and business-casual mean, but everyone interprets it differently," said

Shaw, who works at Broussard, Cullen, DeGaller & Egner.

"We used to have casual Fridays, but a few people went way beyond the realm of casual. They were wearing spandex leggings and bike shorts. And lately we've had issues with people wearing what I consider flip-flops," Shaw said. "Just because they have little glitzy stones on them, doesn't mean they're not flip-flops."

Shaw is working with the firm's partners to draw up the new code. "They just don't want casual," she said. She plans to be very specific about what is, and is not, allowed. It's easier to enforce if it's all spelled out in writing, she said. "I have a hard time telling someone, 'You're not dressed appropriately.' Feelings get hurt, people take offence – it's human nature to defend yourself."

Traditional business attire is a no-brainer, she said. Anyone can do a suit and dress shoes. But there's a very fine line between casual enough and too casual.

There's a fine line between reasonably conservative and downright repressive, said Lydia Gardner, Orange County, Florida, clerk of courts.

At one time, female employees at the

courthouse had to wear skirts, she said, and they were actually made to kneel down to make sure the hems were hitting the floor. To me that sounded ludicrous.

Soon after she introduced business-casual dressing to her department, however, "people got carried away. Some were wearing flip-flops, jeans, capri pants," she recalls. "It showed a very casual respect for the cat, and kind of work we do here at the courthouse."

To more clearly illustrate the concept of business-casual, she had a fashion ordinator from Stein Mart present a "do and don'ts" fashion show for her employees.

"They really got the message from that," said Gardner. "But the best way to ensure employees dress appropriately," she said, is for managers to set an outstanding example.

Policing employee attire is a thankless task, said Sherry Meadows Lewis, director of marketing and public relations at the Orange County Regional History Center.

"People can take it very personally, being told they have too much cleavage or midriff showing," said Lewis, who has had to address both problems in previous jobs.

To avoid possible charges of sexual harassment when dealing with sexist or dress-code violations, supervisors should invite another manager or a human-resources representative to be present, said Jamie Yaw, director of an image consultant from Casselberry, Florida.

Another option is to have violations handled by a small committee comprised of supervisors and peers, both male and female.

Legally, employers do have the right to impose a dress code, and in most cases, they can require separate grooming standards, such as allowing long hair for women but not for men, said Yawko-Mangum.

The role of fashion police is overrated, said Nancy Cole-Odom, vice-president for human resources at the AAA Auto Club South in Tampa, Florida.

"Most people know when they're dressed inappropriately. Peer pressure usually takes care of that," said Cole-Odom. Her dress-for-success advice is simple: "If in doubt, don't wear it!" – Orlando Sentinel/MCT

Women can have a jacket or cardigan sweater handy. Limit jewellery to one or two bold pieces. Choose tailored city shorts, capri pants or slacks in fabric with structure. Avoid low-rise styles.

For men, have a blazer or sport coat handy, an unscruffed belt that matches shoe colour and a casual watch.

PARENTING

Do-it-yourself dads build their own childcare model

By Heidi Stevens

BRIAN Reid isn't one of those guys who can't take a compliment. Still, you can't blame a fellow for taking umbrage at the following Mother's Day e-mail he received from Pamperz.

"Dear Brian: From the moment you first held your newborn baby in your arms, you knew that things would never be the same again. Suddenly, you've become a teacher, a nurse, a coach, a playmate and a friend.

"But, above all, you are a mother!"

News to him.

Sure, Reid buys diapers. And changes them. He also cooks and cleans and plays with his two kids. He has worked part time, he's worked full time. He has done the stay-at-home thing.

To a diaper company, that might make him look like a mother. In reality, it makes him look like a lot of modern fathers, a group that could fairly be labeled Do-It-Yourself Dads. Dissatisfied with the traditional model for fathering, DIY Dads alter their careers to fit their family life, rather than the other way around. Fewer hours in the office, more hours at Gymboree. Less pay, more play.

"What we're going to see over the next decade is a much better spectrum of choices for fathers," said Reid, known as "rebeldad" to those who follow his parenting blog (rebeldad.com) and his regular contributions to The Washington Post's On Balance site (washingpost.com/onbalance).

"Some fathers are still going to work 80 hours a week," he said. "But with modern technology and more flexible workplaces, a lot more guys have the possibility of being at play group on Tuesday morning. Working fathers, stay-at-home fathers or some sort of combination – what unifies us all is wanting to play an active role in our children's lives."

According to the 2004 census, about 147,000 dads in the US stay home full time, up from about 98,000 in 2003 – an almost 50% increase.

Mark Smithivas of Logan Square is one of them. Smithivas, 39, began staying home last year after juggling his job as an administrative assistant at Northwestern University, his wife's job as an environmental consultant and a host of less-than-appealing day-care options for their three-year-old daughter, Amanda.

"I enjoyed my job," Smithivas said. "It was very fulfilling, and I enjoyed being at a university. But we got to a point where because of our values and how we feel about raising kids – we're very much attachment-focused – the idea of putting our daughter into full-time day care just wasn't what we wanted."

Being with Amanda full time is fulfilling as well, Smithivas said. And it hasn't hurt things in the marriage department either. "We've struck a good balance," he said. "I like to cook, she still does a lot of the cleaning. We try to do more of a model of shared parenting so it's not just a traditional inversion of roles. It's both of us trying to spend as much time as possible with our daughter."

Other DIY Dads opt to hold on to their careers but in a dramatically reduced capacity. Uptown dad Josh Eisenberg, 32, left his job as a tour co-ordinator at the Chicago History Museum when his son, Andrew, was six months old. He still conducts history tours throughout the city, but he sets his own schedule and rarely works more than one full day per week.

"I get to see him speak, I get to see him walk," Eisenberg said of Andrew, now two. "I get to do all the things that dad upon dad wanted to and didn't get to – or did get to – for centuries."


DIY Dads make up a growing presence on the Web. Locally, chigadad.com provides an online community for men looking for a place to chat about sports, arrange a play date or plan a Dad's Night Out.

Reid's rebeldad.com provides links to more than 100 other dad-specific websites and blogs. The publishing world, however, is a little late to the game, with the majority of parenting magazines and books still aimed specifically at mothers. Reid hopes to see this change during the next few years. "A reasonable goal is for the resources already out there to be a little more gender neutral, so if you're a man, you don't get the sense that parenthood is not for you," he said. – Chicago Tribune/MCT

Friday, July 13, 2007


BIRTHDAYS FROM JULY 7 - 13, 2007

WEEKLY




Ahmed Khalid
13.7.1997

WINNER




Keon Kuve Menezes
12.7.2005



FIND THE SUNSCREEN

Can you find your way through the maze to the sunscreen?




McDonald's Gulf Times BIRTHDAYS CLUB

Is your birthday coming soon? If so, we'll help you celebrate with a cool collection of awards and prizes.



For further details, contact McDonald's Restaurant at Suhaim bin Hamad St on Friday, between 6-6.30pm. Please submit coupons by Sunday. Entries without the coupon will be disqualified.

MANY happy returns of the day to all the Young Gullters who have celebrated their birthdays this week. We hope to add a little to the cheer with great prizes and giveaways courtesy of McDonald's.

Congrats to weekly winner **Ahmed Khalid**. The weekly winner gets coupons for four Happy Meals and four Value Meals from McDonald's. The monthly winner can host a free birthday party for up to 15 guests at McDonald's. The coupons can be collected from the McDonald's head office, from Ms. Dona (Tel:436033/32). The winner of McDonald's collectibles for this week is **Keon Kuve Menezes**.

For further details, contact McDonald's Restaurant at Suhaim bin Hamad St on Friday, between 6-6.30pm. Please submit coupons by Sunday. Entries without the coupon will be disqualified.

McDonald's Head Office - 436033/32	Souq restaurant - 4417691
Suhaim bin Hamad St restaurant - 435540/431	Markhiya restaurant - 4863703
Rayyan restaurant - 4815779	Landmark Mall restaurant - 4862543
The Mall restaurant - 4878111	City Center restaurant - 4854706

YOUR STARS

IF YOUR birthday falls this week, you will be able to make the best of a delay in banking matters. A reunion is likely, especially with school friends. If a deal looks too good to be true, consult a wiser mate before signing on the dotted line.

Aries Mar 21-Apr 20

TRAVEL will result in new romantic attractions. Sudden changes could result in estrangements. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Don't get taken in by smooth talk.

Lucky day this week: Tuesday.

Libra Sep 24-Oct 23

PLEASURE trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. Try to spend some time on your own. Your determination may make you a little overbearing. Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in.

Lucky day this week: Sunday.

Taurus Apr 21-May 21

MINOR accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. Make sure to arrange in advance to spend quality time together. Your self-esteem will benefit. Friends will be loyal and caring. There will be hidden matters that you may find disturbing.

Lucky day this week: Saturday.

Scorpio Oct 24-Nov 22

DON'T let children or elders put demands on your time. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Family members are lazy.

Lucky day this week: Sunday.

Gemini May 22-June 21

YOU can get ready to celebrate your new direction. Encourage the youngsters in your family to help out with home chores. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. The knowledge you have will enhance your reputation.

Lucky day this week: Wednesday.

Sagittarius Nov 23-Dec 21

YOU might find it difficult to control your emotions. Put your efforts into job advancement. You may not have the same ideas when it comes to what you both enjoy. Social events will lead to a strong and stable relationship.

Lucky day this week: Thursday.

Cancer June 22-July 23

SEMINARS will provide you with knowledge and amusement. You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. Major moves will be emotional. Don't ask for favours.

Lucky day this week: Sunday.

Capricorn Dec 22-Jan 20

YOU need to fulfill your needs and present your talents. Don't be afraid to make additions to your house. You have the ability to motivate others. Make alternate plans just in case you need to make a career shift.

Lucky day this week: Thursday.

Leo July 24-Aug 23

YOUR knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Compromise may be necessary. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. But don't give up the fight mid-way.

Lucky day this week: Tuesday.

Aquarius Jan 21-Feb 19

HOLD on; your time will come. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Get friends to help you with the preparations. Don't be too quick to react. But make sure you are in the right before you accuse anyone of wrong-doing.

Lucky day this week: Monday.

Virgo Aug 24-Sep 23

YOU can make money but not through hare-brained schemes or gambling. Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends.

Lucky day this week: Saturday.

Pisces Feb 20-Mar 20

DON'T make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Overindulgence will mean poor health. You can make headway in the workforce if you put your mind to it. Take your time before making personal decisions.

Lucky day this week: Monday.

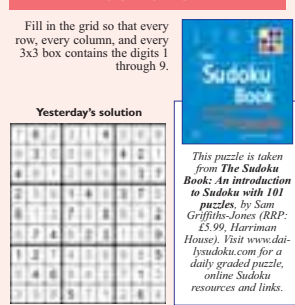
GARFIELD



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Yesterday's solution



This puzzle is taken from *The Sudoku Book: An introduction to Sudoku with 101 puzzles*, by Sam Griffiths-Jones (RRP: £5.99, Harriman House). Visit www.daily-sudoku.com for a daily graded puzzle, online Sudoku resources and links.

POOCH CAFE BY PAUL GILLIGAN



DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Lift up beans, say (5)
- Viewpoint with unfashionable appearance (7)
- Runner allowed in different heat (7)
- Laser built by noblemen (5)
- Thriftily result of revising coal income (10)
- Used watch part (6,4)
- Infers on retail outlets (5)
- Putting your head down on a stool (7)
- Business enterprise produces anxiety (7)
- Sumptuous meal of eastern origin (5)

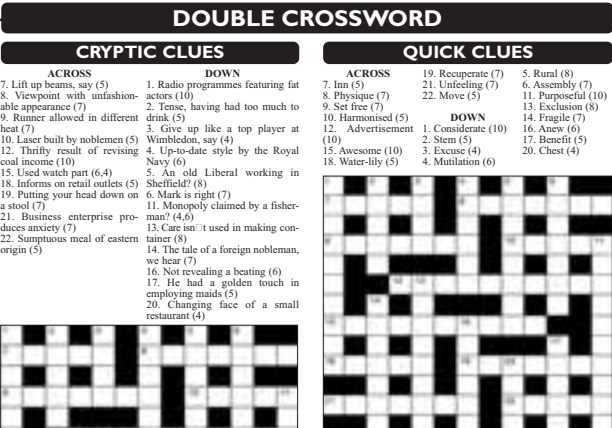
DOWN

- Radio programmes featuring fat actors (10)
- Tense, having had too much to drink (5)
- Give up like a top player at Wimbledon, say (4)
- Up-to-date style by the Royal Navy (6)
- An old Liberal working in Sheffield? (8)
- Mark is right (7)
- Monopoly claimed by a fisherman? (6,4)
- Care isn't used in making container (8)
- The tale of a foreign nobleman, we hear (7)
- Not revealing a beating (6)
- He had a golden touch in employing maids (5)
- Changing face of a small restaurant (4)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Inn (5)
- Physique (7)
- Set free (7)
- Harmonised (5)
- Advertisement (10)
- Awesome (10)
- Water-lily (5)
- Recuperate (7)
- Unfeling (7)
- Move (5)
- Harmonised (5)
- Considerate (10)
- Stem (5)
- Excuse (4)
- Mutilation (6)
- Rural (8)
- Assembly (7)
- Purposeful (10)
- Green-keeper (7)
- Fragile (7)
- Anew (6)
- Benefit (5)
- Chest (4)



Yesterday's solution

QUICK

Across: 1 Syndicate; 8 End; 9 Stimulation; 11 Precede; 12 Taunt; 13 Source; 18 Ardous; Blessedness; 22 Oil; Threesome.

Down: 2 Yet; 3 Inure; 4 Existed; 5 Venturesome; 6 Adeptness; 10 Inequitable; 14 Posterior; 19 Dodge; 21 Sum.

CRYPTIC

Across: 1 Test-cases; 8 Yea; 9 Certainties; 11 Spanker; 12 Piety; 13 Rub out; 15 Shayer; 17 Estol; 18 Ardous; 20 Green-keeper; 22 Owe; 23 Set on fire.

Down: 2 Eye; 3 Crank; 4 Sentry; 5 Snippet; 6 Mystery trip; 7 Fancy-free; 10 Road bridges; 11 Strongbox; 14 Usages; 16 Planet; 19 Clean; 21 Err.



4

Driven to succeed

Tab Turner has won hundreds of millions of dollars suing automakers for clients injured in sport-utility vehicle rollover crashes. Report by HUDSON SANGREE

FLYING from city to city in his private jet, Arkansas lawyer Tab Turner has won hundreds of millions of dollars suing automakers for clients injured in sport-utility vehicle rollover crashes.

His crusade for automotive safety has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *60 Minutes II* and the PBS programme *Frontline*. Actor Michael Douglas has announced plans to play Turner in a movie.

During the past two decades, Turner's main foe, the Ford Motor Co, has settled hundreds of deaths and injury lawsuits involving its Bronco II and Explorer models rather than face him at trial.

"He has built a reputation as Ford wrecker," said Adam Penenberg, the New York journalist who wrote the book about Turner that Douglas is making into a movie.

Now, however, Ford has decided to take out of resale with Turner in a landmark consumer-protection lawsuit being tried in Sacramento Superior Court.

Turner, 47, is the lead attorney in the case in which he and plaintiffs' other lawyers are seeking more than \$220 million in damages. They represent nearly 415,000 California car buyers who owned Ford Explorers built in the 1990s.

The company marketed the Explorers as safe family cars when it knew that its high, narrow build made them likely to roll over in emergency manoeuvres, especially when coupled with faulty Firestone tyres, the lawsuit claims.

After a spate of rollover accidents and a massive recall of Firestone tyres, the value of the Explorers dropped, cheating their owners out of resale and trade-in value in the range of \$1,100 to \$1,300 each, the lawsuit claims.

The plaintiffs are asking the judge to order Ford to set things right, not only by repaying the lost value but also by refunding its profit on the sale. In emergency proceedings, Ford's lawyers have called the consumer-protection lawsuit a case without merit.

Defective Firestone tyres were the problem in the 1991-2001 Explorers were safe vehicles that held their value well, they contend.

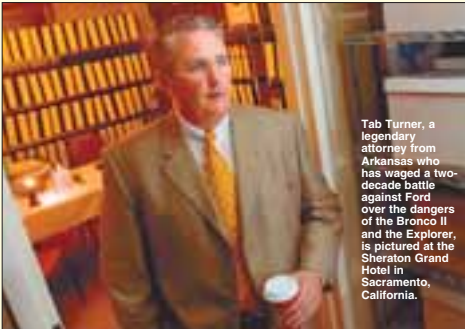
"Because these Explorers are safe, well-designed and honestly advertised vehicles that held their value well, plaintiffs have no legitimate claim to extract any money from Ford in this litigation," Ford defence attorney Malcolm Wheeler of Denver told Judge David DeAlba in his opening statement June 5.

In an interview, however, Turner insisted he is motivated to seek justice against Ford because it killed people through its "conscious misbehaviour" in advertising the Ford Explorer as a safe substitute for the family station wagon.

"They marketed this thing to run up and down the highway at 70 mph when they knew it would flip over at 35," he said, sipping coffee from a takeout cup in the lobby of the Sheraton Grand hotel.

Turner, with his grey hair and glasses, doesn't seem like a plaintiffs' attorney who has spent his career suing carmakers and is on friendly terms with the likes of former first couple Bill and Hillary Clinton.

He speaks in a polite, low-key way and wears off-the-rack sports coats to court instead of hand-tailored suits. Tracy Buck-Walsh, a



Tab Turner, a legendary attorney from Arkansas who has waged a two-decade battle against Ford over the dangers of the Bronco II and the Explorer, is pictured at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, California.

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personality who can't help themselves.

"He believes in taking it to the companies," Penenberg said. "He thinks of himself as a safety czar."

Penenberg, who flew with Turner, described the lawyer's Cosmo jet as "a Pontiac with wings."

"He bought it used with a lot of miles on it," Penenberg said. "It's not a fancy plane at all. It's very pragmatic, like he is."

Turner said he needs the plane because he is constantly on the go, travelling from court dates to news conferences and then home to see his three daughters, ages 17, 15 and 10.

"It saves me 150 nights away from home," he said. In Little Rock, Turner drives a Dodge Magnum station wagon, a brawny vehicle he likes because it easily holds his golf clubs.

"My daughters call it the gangster car," he said with a laugh. His offices in North Little Rock are in a low-slung suburban office building where

he has just a few longtime employees and keeps tyres piled in the corner.

Even by 2001, Turner was on track to settle nearly \$1bn in cases against Ford, according to his lawyer.

"He lives modestly for someone of his incredible wealth," the author said.

Douglas has said he will play Turner in a movie based on Penenberg's book, and the actor's production company has signed on to make it.

Jon Furay, who is co-producing the movie, said Turner's story is about "corporate greed and human life."

"It's a story that needs to be told," he said. Turner grew up in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, a town of 10,000 southwest of Little Rock.

His father, Otis Turner, was a prominent small-town lawyer who was later appointed to the Arkansas Supreme Court by then-Governor Bill Clinton.

Turner attended Quachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, where he excelled in football.

Turner attended the law school at the University of Arkansas School of Law. He had planned on going back to Arkadelphia to practice with his father but landed a job in Little Rock with Friday, Eldredge & Clark, the state's largest law firm.

While still in his mid-20s, he began trying dozens of cases for the firm, which mainly defended Corps and represented insurance companies.

Then, in the late 1980s, a former secretary of the firm asked for help. Her brother had been brain-damaged in a rollover involving a Ford Bronco, an SUV that had a rollover rate of one in 500 vehicles.

Turner obtained a large confidential settlement and gained a reputation as a lawyer who could take on Ford.

He said he never set out to be a lawyer who specialised in suing the auto industry, but after his initial success, the cases just snowballed.

"I looked up one day and I had 50 Bronco II cases," he said. Soon, he left the firm and struck out on his own.

Though he has made his name and fortune as a foe of the auto industry, Turner is broadening his legal horizons with several incremental lawsuits.

Turner said he is flattered by the publicity. But he hopes the public will give its attention to the harm done to the plaintiffs in his cases. "The focus should be on them and not the money," he said. — *The Sacramento Bee/MCT*

This is the generation of nature-deficit disorder

By Lori Borgman

THE closest a lot of kids get to nature these days is watching an animated movie about penguins in an air-conditioned theatre while eating buttered popcorn.

Many of them will grow up thinking a worm is something that infects the computer and that a weed is part of the drug education programme.

I just finished a book about rescuing children who suffer from nature-deficit disorder. Nature-deficit disorder isn't an official medical term, but it probably should be.

Richard Louv author of *Last Child in the Woods*, talked with a fourth-grade boy from San Diego who summarised the situation well. He said, "I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are."

"I've always been in the mindset that kids and the outdoors go together. The kids claim I sent them outside every opportunity I had. They will tell you that if there were two feet of snow on the ground and a wind chill of five below, I still sent them outside to play. Maybe I did, but it's not like they were alone. The guy driving the snowplow was outside, too."

Today, more and more schools are cutting back on recess to focus on academics in an attempt to raise test scores. More and more parents are simply afraid to let their kids outside.

With dwindling time for playing outside, I don't know who to pity more, the kids, the parents or the teachers.

We had it made in the neighbourhood where I grew up. The sub-division bordered a large wood with

dense trees, thick underbrush and a winding creek. In some parts, the creek was shallow enough you could jump from rock to rock and cross without getting wet. Further down it ambled along and made a bend where the water stood still and deep and formed a lagoon. The boys dog-paddled in the lagoon, shook themselves dry and then peeled off the leeches stuck to their legs.

We wandered those woods and hop scotched that creek with our imaginations two steps ahead of us. Twigs and leaves from the pioneer days crunched underfoot, ferns the fairies danced among brushed against our calves and carpet moss was royal velvet to the touch.

The woods held delights like trillium and lady's slipper, monarchs possums lumbering across the trail and box turtles nestled along the bank.

Every kid who tramped those paths had the joy of cleaning mud from shoes, picking cockleburrs out of socks and could tell the difference between a water moccasin and a copperhead.

We learned the call of a Bobwhite and the melody of a cardinal, how to spot poison ivy and the burrows where the groundhogs hid.

"We not only witnessed the changing seasons in those woods, we walked right through them, winter, spring, summer and autumn."

Today's nature deficit is exacerbated by technology — laptops, cell phones, iPods, and assorted buds one can plug into the ears. Why listen to crickets and bullfrogs when you can have Radio Disney everywhere you go?

This summer a host of kids will get their allotted nature fix by going to camp. They will have opportunity to lie in the grass and watch the clouds float by.

Maybe they'll watch a fire build a nest, or simply sit, unplugged, and listen to the locust, as the shadows grow long and the mourning doves coo.

The nature thing will happen, but it will be timed, regulated, highly structured and under adult supervision.

The lazy days of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn have gone adrift. — MCT



FILM REVIEWS

Story behind a photo

FILM: *Flags of Our Fathers*
CAST: Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford, Adam Beach
DIRECTION: Clint Eastwood

FLACS of *Our Fathers* is based on the bestselling book of the same name by James Bradley and Ron Powers on the background behind one of the most famous of all World War II photographs in the US, the raising of the American flag by the soldiers on Mt Suribachi at two Jims, the first battle on Japanese soil in the war.

The photograph quickly spread throughout the American media, making heroes out of the soldiers depicted, who were quickly taken out of the battle to head home to begin a tour of the country in an effort to generate interest in buying war bonds. It would be one of the most successful of the money-generating efforts in the history of the country.

Although some have accused the photograph of being staged, as the flag was erected twice in order for the photographer to snap a picture of the participants in the photograph, according to the book and film, were not aware that a picture was being taken.

As none of the soldiers' faces are visible, great speculation as to who the men were was generated, and of the book six, only three of the men survived for the tour back home — Navy man John "Doc" Bradley (Ryan Phillippe), and Marines Ira Hayes (Adam Beach) and Rene Gagnon (Jesse Bradford).

As these men became overnight national heroes, they were told to give pep speeches in order to get the public to support the war effort, even though they didn't understand why the mere act of raising the flag made them heroic when so many of their fellow men died in service to

English

their country. They didn't feel their honour was justly deserved.

Flags of Our Fathers bounces around in timeline between the battle for two Jims to the national tour of the soldiers to the more modern-day interviews of the survivors by author Bradley (Tom McCarthy), the son of "Doc" Bradley.

Though not necessarily a distant father, Doc never talked about the events of that day much to his son, or of the information about the famous photograph, leaving James to piece the puzzle together through talks with others there that day, as well as those who knew bits and pieces.

He soon discovered that much of the information behind the photograph was erroneous, including just who were the actual soldiers in the picture, as well as the fact that two Jims was far from captured, and not a certainty, at the time of the snapping.

Director Clint Eastwood does an amazing job portraying the time period.

Eastwood has also directed a companion film, told from the Japanese perspective, *Letters From Two Jims*. — *Anubrah* (DVD courtesy: Vanilla Qatar. Tel: 4369305)



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Bad days for superheroes

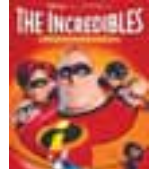
FILM: *The Incredibles*
CAST (voices): Craig T Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L Jackson, Jason Lee
DIRECTION: Brad Bird

SOME critics describe the 2004 animation film *Incredibles* as the best superhero film ever made. The two-disc collector's edition packed with special features just released in Doha, gives one the chance to enjoy this smashing entertaining action comedy once again.

It is obvious that director Brad Bird has composed his film with older children and their parents in mind. *The Incredibles*, the winner of 2004's Oscar for Best Animated Feature, confronts the midlife crisis of a once-popular superhero.

In his prime, Mr Incredible (voice of Craig T Nelson) was beloved by millions. Saving the world wasn't just his job; it was his passion. ("No matter how many times you save the world, it always gets in jeopardy again.")

But things changed. People began filing lawsuits against



the superheroes (starting with a suicide victim rate that his life was saved), driving them underground courtesy of the Superhero Relocation Programme, which offered a new life in return for a promise never to act as a superhero again.

At first, Mr Incredible and his beloved wife, Elastigirl (Holly Hunter), were happy to live as Bob and Helen Parr, and raise their children, speedy Dash (Spencer Fox), shy, shrinking Violet (Sarah Vowell), and baby Jack-Jack.

But, as his job at an insurance company becomes increasingly abrasive, Mr

Incredible yearns for the old days. Some nights, he and his old buddy, Frozone (Samuel L Jackson), listen to the police scanner, then give the cops a little unexpected aid. But it's not enough.

Then along comes a mysterious woman (Elizabeth Pena) with a job offer, and Mr Incredible sees a chance to regain his self-confidence and convince himself that he can once again make a difference.

With its amazing variety of locations (the streets of a city, under the sea, a tropical island, etc), this may be the most visually daring animated film to reach the screen to-date.

Although *The Incredibles* has plenty of action (including chases and battle scenes), its strength is that it makes the characters and their relationships more important than the fights and pyrotechnics.

For the serious animation junkies, the disk's two making-of documentaries are essential viewing. — *Prakash Maroli* (DVDs courtesy: Falcon Home Entertainment. Tel: 4446636)

Inside a video game

FILM: *Gamebox 1.0*
CAST: Nate Richert, Danielle Fishel, Patrick Kilpatrick
DIRECTION: David and Scott Hillenbrand

WHEN video games become films, usually only the plot and characters are taken and that often works, but sometimes a film-maker decides that what the world needs is a movie about playing being inside a video game. And so we have our *Arcades and our Gamebox 1.0's*.

Charlie Nash is an expert at testing video games. His life has become unbearable since the tragic shooting of his girlfriend Kate by a crooked cop, and he spends his days buried in his work. Charlie's life takes on new meaning when he is sent a mysterious package containing a new video game which immerses him in an incredible 3D gaming world. However, it soon becomes apparent that getting back to real life isn't as easy as simply quitting the game.

Directors David and Scott Hillenbrand keep the geeky ideas and the B-grade eye candy coming at a brisk enough pace to keep one from getting bored. Some of the special effects are slick but others need a little more tuning up. — *Prakash Maroli* (DVD courtesy: Falcon Home Entertainment. Tel: 4446636)



Meddling matriarch plays havoc

FILM: *Because I Said So*
CAST: Diane Keaton, Mandy Moore, Gabriel Macht, Tom Everett Scott
DIRECTION: Michael Lehman

ROMANTIC comedy, *Because I Said So* is predictable but still hugely enjoyable.

The screenplay shows intelligence, the characters are appealing, and there's chemistry between the leads.

Mandy Moore plays Milly, a beautiful, desirable young woman who also happens to be a fanatic cook but who can't find Mr Right. Milly's sisters, Maggie (Lauren Graham)

and Mac (Piper Perabo), are happily married and her meddling mother, Daphne (Diane Keaton), is beginning to despair that her third daughter will never find a mate. So she decides to take matters into her own hands.

She runs an Internet classifieds site to help her daughter find a mate. She then screens the candidates.

She finds a clear winner — successful architect Jason (Tom Everett Scott) — and contrives for him to meet Milly. The meeting is successful and they start dating.

At the same time, Milly encounters musician Johnny

(Gabriel Macht) — who also met Daphne but was found wanting — and begins a relationship with him. She is soon involved with both men and can't figure out how to disentangle herself from either relationship. Jason is the better catch but Milly can be more herself around Johnny. His decision time for her now and it's painful either way.

At the same time, Milly has had enough of her mum's interference and their relationship deteriorates. The 61-year-old Keaton performs with the energy of a teenager, which helps ingrate her an otherwise lacklustre

relationship with a job offer, and Mr Incredible sees a chance to regain his self-confidence and convince himself that he can once again make a difference.

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