

TIMING OUT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

The Gulf Today



IN FULL BLOOM

Rose Byrne puts her creative skills to the test in 'Peter Rabbit'

Design: Anser Saleem

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TALKING POINT

Making Hayy while art shines

Muhammad Yusuf has the details on an art hub soon to be unveiled in Saudi Arabia



Art Jameel, the organisation that supports heritage, education and the arts, has announced its new 17,000-square-metre development in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. 'Hayy: Creative Hub', as it will be known, is located in north Jeddah; construction started last year and the complex is due to open next year.

The name is derived from the Arabic word for neighbourhood – referring to the community-oriented nature of the complex,

and the ways in which the partner organisations, which include art galleries, digital entrepreneurs, comedy clubs, cafes and more, will work together to present the full diversity of the arts.

The three-storey, dynamic, contemporary complex features open internal courtyards surrounded by shaded terraces and walkways. Shared facilities include a theatre and events spaces designed for a range of activities, from performances and exhibitions to conferences and community markets. Art Jameel commissioned ibda design to make the hub a major destination for Jeddah's cultural community, bringing together a

range of cultural experiences in one neighbourhood.

The centre, it is visualised, will act as incubator for creatives and entrepreneurs; it will bring together and nurture Saudi Arabian artists, playwrights, photographers, filmmakers, entrepreneurs and others, along with the enthusiastic audiences that support them.

Programming includes world-class local and international exhibitions of modern and contemporary art; a digital hub for upcoming Saudi Arabian producers and directors; a professional theatre plus performance spaces; and a rolling programme of educational events for all ages.

Fady Mohammed Jameel, Art Jameel President, said: "We are delighted to support our home, Saudi Arabia, and its fast-growing cultural scene through the development of Hayy: Creative Hub, which is set to become a base for Saudi Arabian talent, and help nurture a new generation of creatives, in addition to providing job opportunities and training."

"The concept has been honed over many years: the team at Art Jameel has worked not only with the brilliant architects ibda design, but also a range of community partners to develop the Hub as a truly innovative destination.

"Hayy: Creative Hub reflects



Central courtyard, top view.

Art Jameel and Community Jameel's commitment to supporting creativity and entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia and beyond, and we look forward to opening the Hub in spring 2019 with our partners in this community-wide initiative".

It should be remembered that in 2017, Art Jameel announced to the media in Saudi Arabia that it was breaking ground on a creative hub. Makkah Municipality, Jeddah Municipality, the General Entertainment Authority and other government authorities are supporting the new initiative and have played major roles in bringing to fruition the landmark project. Art Jameel has also revealed the

architectural design and details of the project, and updates on its construction. Over the coming months, further details will be released of the partners joining the 'Hayy: Creative Hub' community. Also on offer will be details of the programmes being readied for the grand opening next year.

Art Jameel supports artists and creative communities. Its current initiatives include running heritage institutes and restoration programmes, and a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages.

It tries to foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities. "At a time of flux



Hayy: Creative Hub.



Hayy: Creative Hub, gallery.

and dramatic societal shifts, this role is understood as more crucial than ever", it says.

Art Jameel's major institutional partners include the Victoria & Albert Museum; the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Locally, it works with individuals and institutions to develop innovative programming that embraces both ancient and new technologies, and encourages entrepreneurship and the development of cultural networks.

Bonus: In 2018-2019, Art Jameel is also set to open the Jameel Arts Centre, a contemporary arts institution in Dubai, UAE.

Art Jameel is positioned alongside Community Jameel, and its broader mandate complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey.

Community Jameel is an organisation set up to continue the Jameel family's tradition of supporting the community — a tradition started in the 1940s by the late Abdul Latif Jameel, founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel business, who helped tens of thousands of disadvantaged people in the fields of healthcare, education and improving livelihoods.

TIME OUT

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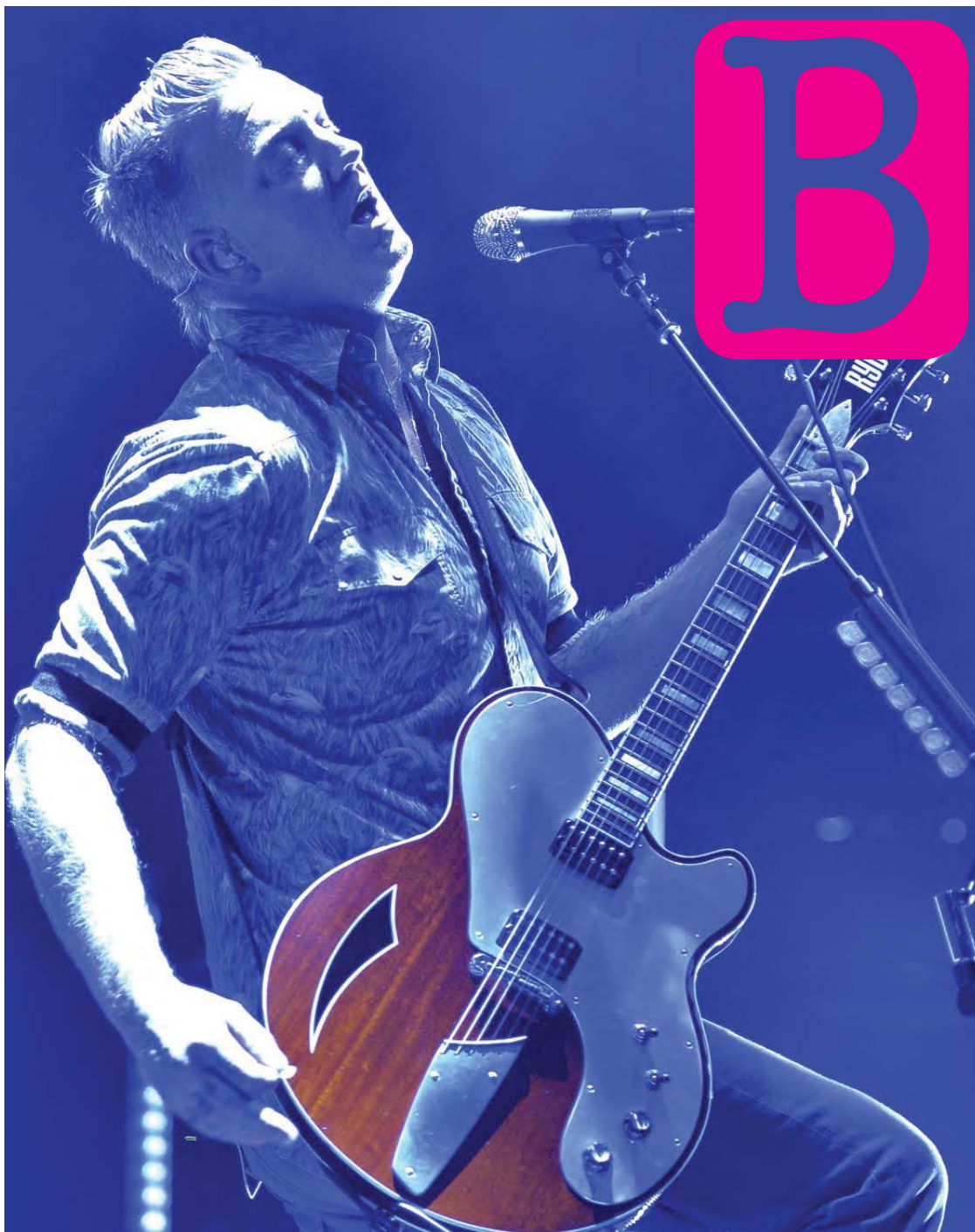
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FITTING IN PERFECTLY

ROCKER JOSH HOMME TELLS LAURENCE THOMANN THAT COMPOSING THE SCORES FOR 'IN THE FADE' GAVE HIM THE CREATIVE SPACE HE WAS LOOKING FOR



est known for his rugged guitar rock with Queens of the Stone Age, Josh Homme unexpectedly found a new creative freedom when he composed the score for the thriller "In the Fade."

The German movie about neo-Nazi violence, which won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language film, is named after a 2000 song by Queens of the Stone Age. Director Fatih Akin is a fan of the California rockers and approached Homme to tell him that he had been listening to the band as he wrote the script.

Homme, who at the time was mixing the band's last album "Villains," was surprised by the proposal but agreed -- and wound up delighted with the chance to release more experimental music.

The rocker said he had pulled out of projects in the past when too many people got involved. But on "In the Fade," he realised that Akin was giving him full control, even telling him, "I am not worried about the music. I know it is going to be great."

"I was very relieved," Homme said. "I felt that it was a movie made passionately and under the control of Fatih."

Diane Kruger, who won the best actress award at Cannes for the movie, had made the original suggestion that Akin contact Homme. Kruger in the film plays a native German who seeks answers about the killings of her Turkish-born husband and son.

"I was so pleased it wasn't an American-style blockbuster movie because in America everything ends on everyone living happily ever after. It took a very honest look at one woman's pain, and also Diane Kruger was so good," Homme said.

"I am not sure if Fatih realised how contemporary this could be. It is almost a shame that the subject is so contemporary."

Homme was obliged to write the score in less than a week. He maintains a hectic schedule and frequently works as a producer

and collaborator, notably for punk legend Iggy Pop. Homme is also a member of Eagles of Death Metal, although he was not present when the group's concert was attacked in the bloody 2015 siege of Paris.

Working out of the celebrated Rancho de la Luna studio in the California desert, Homme spoke remotely with Akin and felt he had a green light to pursue fresh directions.

"You know, people believe, 'Well, you play rock 'n' roll -- that's all you can do.' I've heard this before, you know. This was a chance because Fatih said you can create whatever you think is right," Homme said.

Homme decided to use "instruments that are not really instruments." Among them is a 200-litre oil drum outside the studio and heartbeats from his son's sonogram -- which dramatised the journey of Kruger's character Katja.

"It's all inside her, so I tried to use biorhythms, heartbeats and things that represent stress inside the body so all the music in the movie represents the all-internal struggle," he said.

The score, while also bringing in Queens of the Stone Age rock, relies heavily on strings which create an ominous feeling to match the plot.

Homme doubted he would have enjoyed so much freedom with a major movie.

"In a way, the bigger the budget, the worse off I would be," he said.

He met Akin only after "In the Fade" was completed -- because the director presented it at the film festival in Palm Springs, California, where Homme's family lives. He invited Akin for a drink afterwards in Los Angeles, where Homme spends most of his time.

"It was very strange because it was a really full circle and my family went to the screening," he said.

Agence France-Presse



I

n a musical age when so many listeners flip at a moment's notice from artist to artist, Jorge Drexler wanted to make an album of depth -- with no other instruments but guitars.

Uruguay's most successful musical export, who has won an Oscar and been nominated for five Grammys, sold only 33 copies of his first album, which he distributed on cassette.

But the 53-year-old -- who gave up an early career as an ear, nose and throat doctor to make music in Madrid -- proudly acknowledges that "life has been very generous to me" as he embarks on a 28-city world tour that includes a stop at New York's celebrated Beacon Theatre this month.

"Salvavidas de Hielo" ("Life-Jackets of Ice"), his 16th full-length album and the latest to be nominated at the Grammys for the best Latin rock album, explores the ephemeral -- the wonders of communication, the need for silence and the magic of music.

"I wanted to dig deep into one thing and for that reason the album has no instruments other than guitars," Drexler said at his hotel near Central Park.

Yet there is percussion -- performed by five musicians who hit the bodies of guitars.

"It's my most capricious album," he said, but added: "It's not an exercise in musical asceticism."

"It's one of the most loaded albums I've ever made, with many layers of sound."

He also brings in prominent singers including Mexico's Julieta Venegas and Natalia Lafourcade, as well as Chile's Mon Laferte on the sensual "Asilo" ("Refuge").

The album opens with "Movimiento" ("Movement"), which is based on a TED talk he delivered last year in Vancouver that

won widespread attention for his passionate defense of immigration in the face of US President Donald Trump.

"We are alive because we are in a movement," sings Drexler, the son and grandson of Germans who fled the Nazis, the great-grandson of a Polish immigrant and himself an immigrant for more than 20 years in Spain.

While saying he is not interested in "the concept of a protest song," the track carries an unambiguous message.

A video for "Movimiento" features champion runner Lorena Ramirez, a member of Mexico's Raramuri indigenous people, as she crosses the vast Tarahumara mountains in traditional dress and plastic sandals.

"It's not about protest and it's not feminist either, but it's about a woman who is in a strong position," he said.

On "Telefonia," Drexler celebrates the evolving ways of communication such as writing down messages on napkins in cafes.

"There aren't many stories that people tell; there are only a few," he said. "It seems that everything changes but we keep saying the same things."

Drexler is perhaps best known for his protest of sorts when he won the Oscar in 2005 for Best Original Song for "Al Otro Lado Del Rio" ("The Other Side of the River"), which he wrote for the Che Guevara biopic "The Motorcycle Diaries."

After the Oscars' producers, ever concerned about television ratings, enlisted the better-known Antonio Banderas and Carlos Santana to perform the song during the awards, Drexler -- who was handed his statuette by Prince -- devoted his brief speech time to singing his song a cappella.

Agence France-Presse

Jorge Drexler finds new depth by sticking to guitar, writes Laura Bonilla

MAGIC OF

MUSIC

STRINGS

DRAWN INTO REALITY

**Rose Byrne
tells Lindsey Bahr
that she found
the greatest
technical
challenge of
her career in
'Peter Rabbit'**

Rose Byrne has done nearly every type of film — physical comedy ("Bridesmaids," "Neighbors"), horror ("Insidious"), sci-fi ("Sunshine"), period ("Marie Antoinette"), action ("Troy"), musical ("Annie") and superhero ("X-Men: First Class") — so it might come as a surprise that she met her technical match on "Peter Rabbit."

"I've never done anything this technical!" Byrne says of the film, now playing in theatres. "It's such a production with the CGI. It's just like a guy in a blue suit. It's kind of a surreal and strange. You have to dig deep in your imagination."

Byrne plays Bea in this modern day spin on author and illustrator Beatrix Potter's mischievous rabbit and Mr McGregor's garden from writer-director Will Gluck ("Easy A," "Annie"). In the film Bea is an artist who illustrates the rabbits (voiced by the likes of James Corden, Margot Robbie, Daisy Ridley and Elizabeth Debicki) in her backyard and often saves them from the cranky Mr. McGregor (Sam Neill). Things take a turn, however, when old Mr. McGregor dies and his nephew (Domhnall Gleeson) comes to town. Although he's none too happy about the destructive bunnies, he and Bea also start to fall for each other.

"Rose has a very hard part in this movie," Gluck said. "She has to be very funny, she has to be very emotional, she has to be very doting on the rabbits yet I was very conscious, as I am in all my movies, not to make her just a prop."



Actors Elizabeth Debicki (left), Margot Robbie, James Corden, Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson and director Will Gluck attend a photo call at the London Hotel.



She can't just be there in support of the rabbits or in support of Mr. McGregor. She had to have her own thing and Rose is just a force of nature. You believe everything she does whether it's funny, emotional, sad, goofy or pathetic. And she can't be perfect either."

While the process of capturing the rabbit and human interaction was slow and sometimes tedious in the filming, the result is a seamless blend of technology and reality, with physical comedy and cuteness for the kids and a pretty decent rom-com for the parents. Plus, Gluck shot the film in Australia, which meant work was only 10 minutes from Byrne's home and her parents, who could help watch her young son Rocco while she was on set.

Byrne, 38, and her partner actor Bobby Cannavale, 47, just recently welcomed another son, Rafa, in November — and as any working parent of two children under two would be, she's pretty tired and she's not slowing down her output. She recently stopped over at the Sundance Film Festival to debut her new indie "Juliet, Naked" a rom-com based on the

Nick Hornby novel in which she stars in alongside Ethan Hawke and Chris O'Dowd and soon will be gearing up to start production on the adoption comedy "Instant Family" with Mark Wahlberg.

She's also started a production company with some of her female friends in Australia. They're currently working on a project about a Dolly Parton impersonator who fulfills her dream and then has an identity crisis and wants to be taken seriously.

"There is a whole kind of movement in general in the business with female empowerment and female bravery," Byrne said. "It feels like the walls are coming down finally. And I hope we see results in terms of actual films being made and people being removed from power who shouldn't be there. It's exciting and a watershed moment."

One of the casualties of the #MeToo moment involved a film that Byrne co-starred in — Louis C.K.'s "I Love You Daddy" which was pulled from release at the last minute after the comedian and director was accused of sexual misconduct last fall.

"I stand in total solidarity with the women who came forward. It's so brave to do that. I have no idea how hard that would be," she said. "And I'm disappointed and shocked that it all came to that. I haven't seen the film but I've spoken to Chloe Grace Moretz and I think we all felt really sad about it... I'm a huge fan of Louis and wanted to be part of it as an actress and then not knowing the stuff going on behind the scenes. It's a real shame."

Byrne does see hope for change, though, and points to the set of "Neighbors" and its sequel for a film that had a primarily male cast and crew, and was a raunchy comedy at that, as a good example of how to create a safe and inviting and even fun atmosphere for women on set. She credits Seth Rogen (who starred and produced) and director Nick Stoller for setting a "normal" tone.

"The answer is it comes from the top: Who's directing and who's producing, they are steering the ship. They set the tone at the workplace," she said. "They have to be held accountable."

Associated Press

Trip of a lifetime

Clint Eastwood's 'The 15:17 to Paris' recreates the foiled terrorist attack on a 2015 Paris-bound train from Brussels, writes Fiachra Gibbons



They were hailed as all-American heroes when they pummeled a heavily-armed gunman with their bare hands to foil the Thalys train terror attack in France in 2015.

But the three childhood friends who play themselves in Clint Eastwood's Hollywood reconstruction of the drama took a battering from critics when the film opened in France recently.

"We thought the projectionist had put on the wrong film for the first quarter of an hour," said the Parisien newspaper, which bemoaned how the veteran director took an hour and 15 minutes to recount the friends' "tedious" childhoods as devout Catholics in California.

Only in the final "incredible, hyper-tense 10 minutes" does "The 15:17 to Paris" take off, said critic Renaud Baronian when Spencer Stone, Alek Skarlatos and Anthony Sadler overpower a Moroccan gunman armed with an AK-47 on the Paris-bound train from Amsterdam carrying more than 500 passengers.

Others were slightly less damning, with one critic lamenting that "an incredible story does not make a good film" and that "the movie gets stuck in the station," while Culturebox said with biting irony that "it was not going to revolutionise cinema."

The Figaro newspaper, however, praised it, although it admitted it "does not play the suspense card".

Warner Brothers had not shown

the film to critics in advance, as is the usual practice, "which is generally a sign that it is a bad film," Nick James, editor of Britain's Sight & Sound magazine, said.

The movie's trio of friends were reunited with members of the emergency services crews who tended the injured after the attack at a special screening in Paris last week.

Some of them were also recruited by Eastwood, 84, to play themselves in the drama.

"I hope you like the film. We wanted to be exact about what happened," said Skarlatos, 25, an Oregon National Guardsman who served in Afghanistan.

US Air Force Airman Spencer Stone charged at Ayoub El Khazzan after he wounded another passenger and managed to disarm him of the AK-47 and of a pistol which jammed as El Khazzan tried to shoot him.

Stone was slashed with a bolt cutter around the neck as Skarlatos and Sadler knocked the attacker unconscious and then "hog-tied" him.

The three were hailed as heroes both in the United States and in France, where they were awarded the Legion of Honour, the country's highest decoration.

But the film has raised the hackles of El Khazzan's lawyers, with judges yet to deliver their verdict.

"That Hollywood has delivered its 'truth' before the judges is at the very least worrying," Sarah Mauger-Poliak told French radio.

US film director Clint Eastwood (centre) stands on a platform of the Arras railway station, northern France, during the shooting of his new movie.



Actors Jenna Fischer (left), Alek Skarlatos, Spencer Stone, director Clint Eastwood, and Anthony Sadler arrive at the premiere.

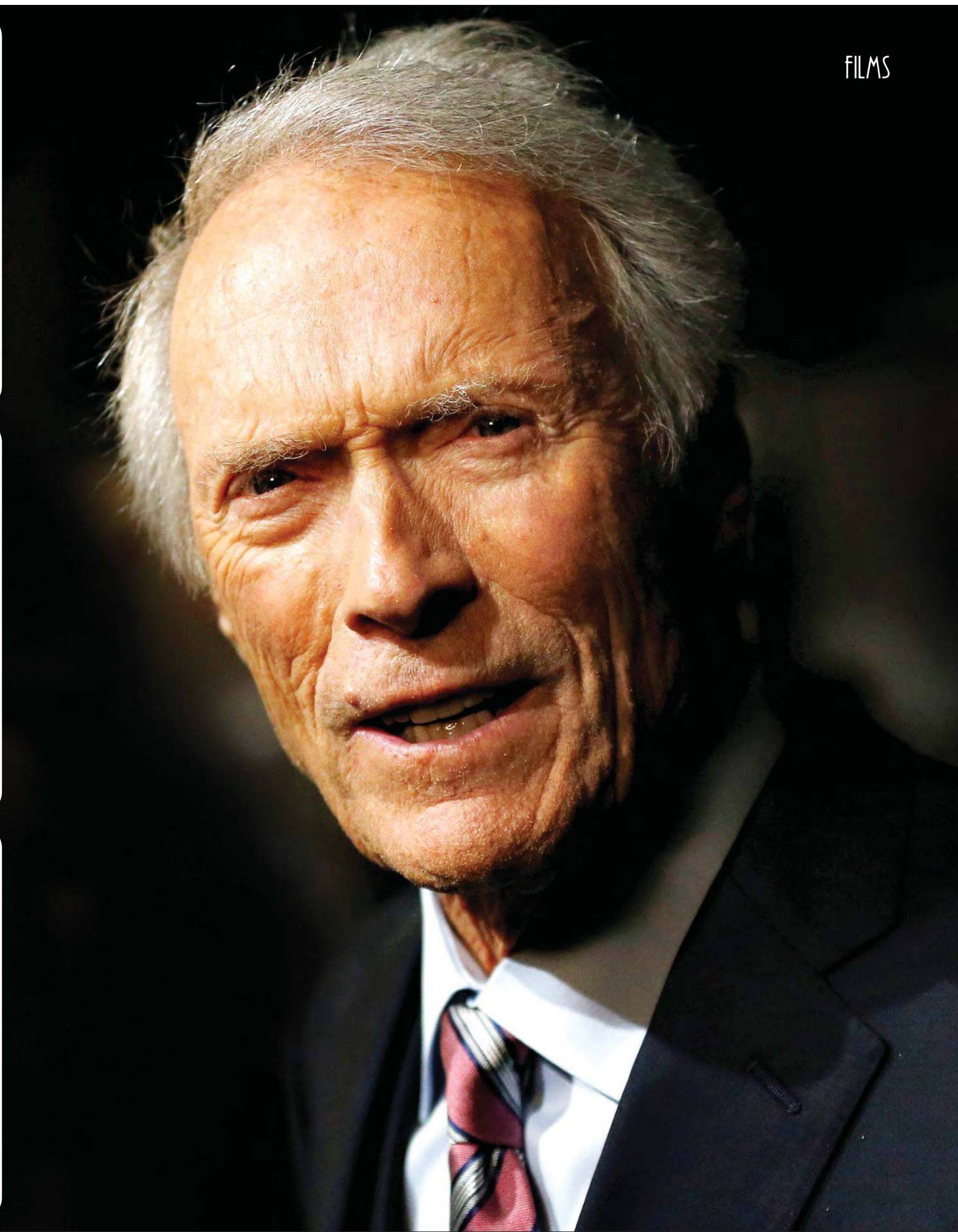
Spencer Stone, (left) Anthony Sadler and Alex Skarlatos in a scene from 'The 15:17' To Paris.'



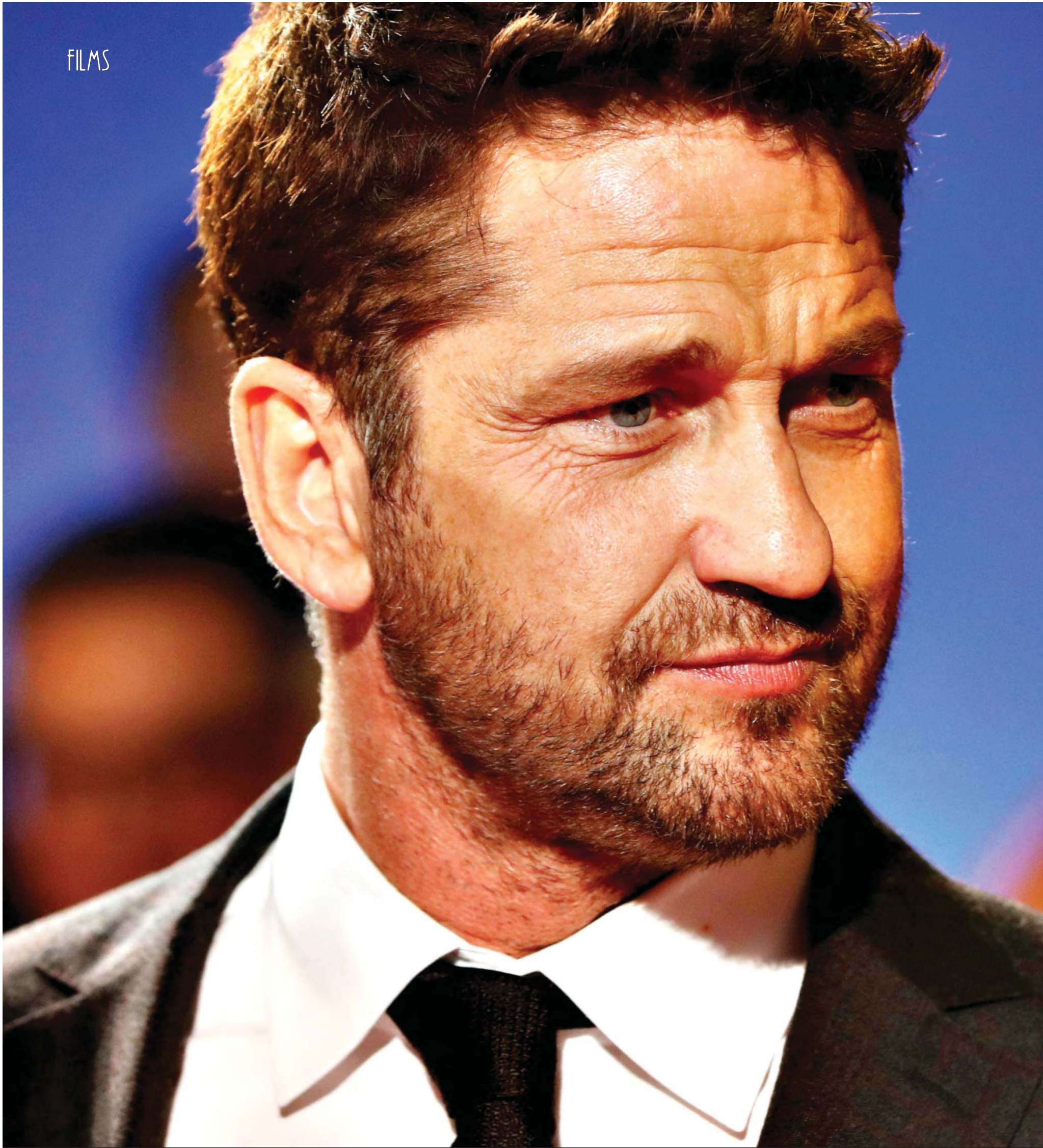
Ray Corasani in a scene



Agence France-Presse



FILMS



UPHILL TASK

MOTORBIKE
CRASH
CASUALTY
GERARD
BUTLER TALKS
TO FRANKIE TAGGART
ON A YEAR
OF PAIN AND
COMMITMENTS



He has cultivated an image as a tough guy over two decades of starring in action thrillers but no role could have prepared Gerard Butler for his excruciating motorbike crash.

The 48-year-old Scot — best known as hard-as-nails Spartan leader Leonidas in 2006 action fantasy “300” — was riding in Los Angeles in October when his motorbike and a car collided, sending him somersaulting into the air.

“I fractured five bones in my right foot and had a microfracture in each foot and a pinched nerve and a bruised bone, and injured my ankle and both knees,” he said.

The damage couldn’t have come at a worse time, as he was in the middle of publicizing climate thriller “Geostorm” while also shooting scenes for heist movie “Den of Thieves” and military actioner “Hunter Killer.”

“I was in seven countries over five weeks and I could barely walk, and it was maybe the toughest period of my life — going on talk shows, pretending you’re good,” he recalls with a grimace.

In terms of aches and scrapes, last year was a doozy, the actor said in a recent interview in Beverly Hills to promote his role as an elite cop in “Den of Thieves.”

“I put on 11 kilograms — at one point I was 30 pounds heavier — just to play that character and in the final day of shooting I hurt my knee during an action scene,” he said.

“Unfortunately I’d already committed to starring in another movie eight days later — ‘Keepers,’ in Scotland — which, when I arrived, I realised was all on the side of a mountain — six weeks walking up and down a mountain.

“By the time I’d finished that both knees were screwed. And then I had a motorbike accident where I landed on my knees, so it’s been an interesting year of challenges.”

Born in Paisley, on the outskirts of Glasgow, Butler broke Hollywood with his legendary rippling washboard abs — some critics unkindly and inaccurately suggested they were digitally-enhanced — as marauding King Leonidas in Zack Snyder’s “300.”

His more than two dozen roles since have included a gangster in Guy Ritchie’s “RocknRolla” (2009), a vigilante killer in “Law Abiding Citizen” (2009) and an alcoholic drug-abusing biker in “Machine Gun Preacher” (2011).

He has also shown his soft side in romantic comedies like 2007’s “P.S. I Love You,” “The Ugly Truth” in 2009 and opposite Jennifer Aniston in “The Bounty Hunter” (2010).

He can be still periodically be found saving the president or the planet from befalling calamity of varying degrees of ludicrousness in big, brainless actioners like “Olympus Has Fallen” and its sequels.

His latest project, Christian Gudegast’s “Den of Thieves,” opened two weeks ago to lukewarm reviews but has matched its production budget with a respectable \$30 million box office.

His 48th movie, it follows the intersecting lives of the major crimes unit of the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department — known as the “Regulators” — and the “Outlaws,” an elite band of robbers.

With an ensemble cast that includes hip hop star Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, rapper Ice Cube’s son O’Shea Jackson Jr and a particularly buff looking Pablo Schreiber (“The Wire,” “Lords of Dogtown”), it may be the first movie in which Butler has had serious competition for the position of Alpha Male.

“I haven’t seen that amount of testosterone and kind of alpha, predator, apex energy since ‘300’ — and even then not as much among the lead characters,” he joked.

He admitted there was a “healthy sizing each other up” on set but added that it was nice to work with “a bunch of good dudes with good hearts.”

No movie is above scrutiny from the Hollywood press when it comes to gender and racial diversity, and not even a self-consciously macho heist movie gets a pass.

Butler and his co-stars were asked at a recent press conference why there weren’t more women in lead roles in “Den of Thieves” and batted the question politely into the long grass.

AFP asked Butler afterwards if he thought the pressure for every movie to tick diversity boxes was unrealistic and he paused as he measured the tone of his response.

“I think sometimes that pressure is fair. It’s a movement I can get behind and I understand it,” he ventured.

“But then when people try and apply it to everything, including a movie about a bunch of male undercover cops and a gang of ex-military and say, ‘Shouldn’t you have some women in there?’ — then no.

“You pay lip service to the question and you smile and move on.”

Agence France-Presse



EDITOR'S CUT

Canadian director XAVIER DOLAN announced he had cut American actress JESSICA CHASTAIN's character from upcoming drama "The Death and Life of John F. Donovan."

In Instagram posts shared, Dolan said he had to rework the first cut of the film, which lasted over four hours. "What you need to hear from me is that Jessica Chastain's character, after what was a long period of reflection, had to be cut from the film," he said, adding that the decision was "editorial" and not reflective of Chastain's performance in the drama.

Instead, Dolan explained, Chastain's "villain" character "did not feel like it belonged to the rest of the story."

"I am disappointed that we didn't get to reveal the exciting things we crafted together on this one adventure," he said, adding he wanted fans to hear the news from him.



BAD DECISION

Hollywood director QUENTIN TARANTINO says persuading actress UMA THURMAN to perform a car-driving scene on the set of "Kill Bill" — which ended with her in the hospital — is the "biggest regret" of his life.

Thurman, 47, in an interview with The New York Times published recently, said she had an enormous fight with Tarantino after the car crashed and accused him of trying to kill her.

She walked back her criticism of Tarantino somewhat in an Instagram post on Monday, saying she does not believe now that he acted with "malicious intent."

Tarantino delivered his account of the incident which occurred on set in Mexico in an interview published on Monday in Deadline Hollywood.

"None of us ever considered it a stunt," the 54-year-old director said. "Maybe we should have, but we didn't."



PROUD FEMINIST

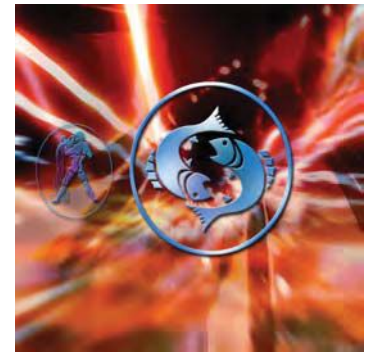
Actress CHARLIZE THERON says she used to shy away from the term feminist, but she can now admit it proudly.

"I'm proud to say that I am a proud feminist," hollywoodreporter.com quoted Theron as saying.

Theron, a South African native, was addressing a fundraiser at the Geffen Playhouse.

She added: "I remember always saying being a feminist meant a different thing to everybody. And I would apologise for it. And I had to ask, why was that? Why couldn't I just say, 'Yes, I'm a feminist?'" Theron mentioned the flap over "The Huntsman: Winter's War," for which she demanded and got equal pay (over \$10 million) to co-star Chris Hemsworth.

The actress feels it is easy to link the demand for equal pay and movements like #MeToo directly to Nelson Mandela's legacy.



AQUARIUS ANEW

YOUR FRIENDLY ASTROLOGER MEL

Last week Venus moved into Pisces bringing a new zone to relationships and finances that could be very romantic or just pure deception. These matters are currently being painted in rosy hues and often lack practical foundation. But with Pluto and Saturn in Capricorn, this time there is some stable ground even as these matters are being discussed. Now to add to this rosy picture, the Sun and Mercury move into Pisces this week strengthening the themes of compassion, imagination, mysticism and romance. Remember, in the negative it means delusion and deception – a load of lies in simple language. So, stay firm and be practical even as you envision or hear of impossible dreams – they quite likely are! The New Moon in Aquarius brings change and the emotional need to be different. Let's walk through the zodiac to see how each are affected.



ARIES
MAR 21
APR 20

The New Moon in Aquarius brings emotional support via social groups and friends that encourage a new beginning with new friends in one's life. This is a good period to socialize and meet kindred souls who are willing to help you and who are unique and different in ways that complement you. So, begin a new social life, join a new circle of friends and find new social goals to boost the humanitarian in you. But do get your rest as well. With the Sun and Mercury also in Pisces there is indication of a life of rest and retreat, quiet contemplation, reflection and less work, if any. Secretive happenings are on the agenda but just make sure it's not fantasy.



TAURUS
APR 21
MAY 20

The New Moon in Aquarius is about new beginnings in your professional and public life. Your professional and public status may change, often suddenly. Begin anew. While it can be very frustrating and challenging, you are a different person in your profession and you have visions that few see. So, make the changes, avoid resistance and begin anew. Sun and Mercury enter Pisces to join Venus and that means a great social life with dreams and goals being helped by friends are at hand. Socialize but keep things real using Taurus logic.



GEMINI
MAY 21
JUN 20

The New Moon in Aquarius favours you for new beginnings related to overseas. This is a chance to travel and begin anew on different shores. It can happen suddenly, but it is exciting. It invokes change and being different – two qualities that never fail to interest you. However, with the shift of the Sun and Mercury into Pisces, joining Venus, it is also great focus and a big shift in terms of your professional and public life. You must be wary of your reputation and the dreams involved in this profession or public status for they could well be a fantasy and so unrealistic that they fall through leaving you in the lurch! So, ask questions and be analytic.



CANCER
JUN 21
JUL 20

The New Moon in Aquarius has new beginnings for you related to joint financial ventures of a personal or business kind. It calls for making changes that are often sudden as well as doing things differently with partner's resources. It can be a difficult period as you are uncomfortable with this new emotional energy, but changes are in tow. However, the Sun and Mercury moving into Pisces to join Venus speaks of fun and dreamy tours overseas that lighten up your life and encourages romance, interaction and personality promotion. It's a great period to travel and even meet the one in your dreams.



LEO
JUL 21
AUG 20

The New Moon in Aquarius brings new emotional beginnings to your significant relationship and it could mean a new relationship and it could also mean you being single again. Whatever this New Moon brings, it seeks a different, unique and equal partnership that has humanitarian goals and visions for the two of you. Arrogance, pride and lectures may be left out for now. The Sun and Mercury moving into Pisces to join Venus indicates more focus on joint financial ventures but as there are many dreams, it is best to study these new ventures and see the reality and not the fantasy.



VIRGO
AUG 21
SEP 20

The New Moon in Aquarius brings new emotional beginnings linked to work, health, daily routines, animal companions and one's colleagues. It could mean a sudden change to any of these matters and seeing or doing things differently. Look at creating new routines, making changes in diet for health purposes and taking up a new job or working differently. The Sun and Mercury moving into Pisces and joining Venus and Neptune shows strong potential for a new long-lasting relationship that appears dreamy, but it is best to stay balanced to avoid a fantasy trip.



LIBRA
SEP 21
OCT 20

The New Moon in Aquarius is favourable for your new beginnings related to children, romance, creative pursuits and recreational activities. Sudden plans make for exciting times and this period has more than its fair share of surprises. The Sun and Mercury have also entered Pisces, joining Venus and Neptune to bring a whole new world to health, work, animal companion and colleague matters. This could be the time for changes in routines, in work and in health and you will need to be realistic if you are to fulfill your dreams related to these spheres of life.



SCORPIO
OCT 21
NOV 20

The New Moon in Aquarius brings new and sudden beginnings related to home and family. It brings challenges which means that changes are in the offing. It is an emotional period because people and emotions involved appear to be detached and cold. It can be hurtful, but acceptance and change are the best approaches during this period. However, with Mercury and the Sun entering Pisces and joining Venus and Neptune, this could be the best time of the year to relax, unwind, enjoy, romance and have fun with children. All of this is magical but be aware that this period could be a fantasy too – that is if the dreams are unrealistic.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 21
DEC 20

The New Moon in Aquarius brings supportive change and new beginnings to one's current environment, with those around, communication, commutation and education. So, circulate and communicate. It eases the weariness that you may be facing now from home and family matters especially as the Sun and Mercury enter Pisces joining Venus and Neptune to give high importance to the change needed in this sphere of life. However, be wary of related dreams for they just may be unrealistic fantasies that can wreak emotional havoc.



CAPRICORN
DEC 21
JAN 20

The New Moon in Aquarius signifies new beginnings in personal finances, values, beliefs and resources. It's an exciting time for change in the approach and dealings with your finances and you could receive advice from financiers that have your vision at heart. In the meantime, the Sun and Mercury move into Pisces joining Venus and Neptune creating a huge stir in your current environment, with those around, for communication and commutation as well as education. This is the ideal time to communicate and circulate and even take up education for your mind has a billion creative ideas and imagination that softens the toughest heart. So, communicate.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21
FEB 20

The New Moon in your own sign means new emotional beginnings related to self. You may begin anew and connect with likeminded people who understand your vision and why you are different. It can be very emotional. Sun and Mercury move into Pisces indicating that added focus on personal finances is now at hand and this would be the time to negotiate and seek financiers who could be of monetary help and advice. However, be aware that the professional expansion may take its toll on your personal finances especially when you are dreaming big without sound backing.



PISCES
FEB 21
MAR 20

The New Moon in Aquarius speaks of new beginnings that may have you wanting more rest and retreat from the outer world. This is a new emotional beginning to connect with your inner self and rest is most needed over the next 6 months. Growing The Sun and Mercury now join forces with Venus and Neptune in your own sign bringing you the best of all four energies that make you a powerhouse on your own. This would be the ideal time to promote self especially in relation to overseas ventures. With the retreat period at hand and the need to promote self, balance is needed. Just be aware that there may be many professional challenges that can hamper your personal life and seek change as well as solutions.

ASTRO TIP FOR THE WEEK

NEW BEGINNINGS MAY BE APPROACHED WITH ACCEPTANCE AND CURIOSITY TO ENVISION SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT AS WELL AS UNIQUE AND WITH OBJECTIVITY. BEING COMPASSIONATE, IDEALISTIC, ROMANTIC AND UNDERSTANDING ESPECIALLY TO SELF AND OTHERS IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED WILL MOST LIKELY SEE SUCCESS IN ANY ENDEAVOUR DURING THIS PERIOD. ACCEPT CHANGE AND STAY HUMANITARIAN WHILE DOING SO!

FASHION



BOTTEGA VENETA FALL-WINTER
2018 COLLECTION AT NEW YORK
FASHION WEEK

JEWEL TONES

Bottega Veneta immersed New York in the art of Italian living, transforming the American Stock Exchange Building into a chic home with a roaring fire, as models sashayed down the runway in pajamas.

The Italian luxury label's Big Apple show, to celebrate the opening of its largest boutique in the world on Madison Avenue, was one of the most coveted tickets in an otherwise flailing Fashion Week as top US talent decamps to Europe.

It was the first runway show in the historic Renaissance Revival building, the ex-headquarters of the American Stock Exchange, reimagined as a cozy chic luxury apartment that advertised understated Italian elegance -- precisely the wares now on sale on Madison.

"The Italian art of living begins and ends in the home," advised the programme notes. Guests were given a fake newspaper feting the new store, referred to as "Maison," just to make sure they got the point.

The set was complete with fireplace, easy chairs and elegant dining room, where at the end of the show, models poured into the living area, chatting.

The show itself pulled out all the stops, sending out 65 models in different looks, headlined by Kaia Gerber and Gigi Hadid.

The fall/winter 2018 collection was very sleek, sophisticated and luxurious -- a masterclass in understated European elegance at the expense of headline-grabbing bling with not a puffer coat in sight.

There were silk pajamas in sumptuous jewel colours worn under exquisitely tailored winter coats. There was animal print and patchworks of colour blocks, yet it was never gaudy, never kitsch.

It was an explosion of colour -- warm tones for winter, yellow, red and orange, with pointy ankle boots and a copious amount of bags to highlight a mainstay of their global business empire.

CEO Claus-Dietrich Lahrs played down talk of any crisis at Fashion Week, although the relocation to New York was one-time only.

"New York has its place, Milan has its place and Paris has its place," he said.

With 270 shops around the world and another due to open later this year in Tokyo, Lahrs was also confident that bricks-and-mortar shops would survive the e-commerce revolution.

"In the luxury market, the client wants to be known personally," he explained.

Agence France-Presse



SMOOTH SAILING

Anne Z. Cooke takes us on cruises along seas where the Vikings once sailed

“Looks like you’re going cruising,” I asked the ladies sitting across from me in the airport lounge. With their carry-on bags piled between us, I couldn’t help spotting the Viking River Cruise tags on the handles. “Your first time?” I asked, thinking about my own recent river cruise and feeling very wise and experienced. “How exciting! What a wonderful way to travel.”

The brunette in the group, swaddled in a bulky sweater and turban, smiled smugly, the cat

the Garonne River, in Bordeaux, France. The mini-cruise was a wrap-up to Viking River Cruise’s recent christening ceremony, a major bash during which the company named 18 new ships at three locations in five days, setting a Guinness world record.

The event, held in Avignon, France, for friends, partners and the media, also inaugurated VRC’s “Portraits of Southern France” itineraries, sailing on the Rhone and Saone Rivers, just two of the European rivers the Vikings explored a thousand years ago.

Sallying forth on uncharted seas,



Viking River Cruise’s Buri, docked in Avignon, France.

who ate the canary. “I couldn’t agree more. But this isn’t our first river cruise with Viking,” she said. “It’s our third. We did the Volga, in Russia, five years ago, and the Danube last December, to see the Christmas Markets. This time we’re sailing on the Rhone, in southern France.”

Touche. So much for thinking I was the only one who’d noticed the Vikings are back, re-conquering Europe with their newest weapons, 443-foot-long “Longships.” If you haven’t followed Viking River Cruise’s yearlong advertising blitz, highlighting the Longships, tune into PBS’s *Downton Abbey* or *Masterpiece Mystery* to see what I’m talking about.

I sampled a Longship myself last March, on an overnight sail on

the Norsemen arrived in 792AD. Raiding and trading up passable rivers, they landed on coasts from France to Newfoundland and east to the Mediterranean and Turkey. And everywhere they went, they left their leather-working, wood carving, metal working, weaving and ship-building techniques.

Though most Vikings sailed home, a few found southern climes more hospitable and stayed on, leaving their language, artifacts and DNA for archaeologists to unearth. By 1066, the Viking era was over. Then, in 1997, that latter-day Viking, VRC Chairman Torstein Hagen, formerly the CEO of Royal Viking Cruise Line, took a second look at river cruises and found them promising.

Partnering with investors and

Inside its walls, Avignon’s narrow streets, designed for foot traffic, invite river cruise passengers to explore.





The Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct near Avignon, France, is a high point on Viking River Cruise tours.



Midnight in the garden, at La Place Saint Pierre, where street life lasts until the wee hours in Bordeaux, France.



Visitors dry their feet at the Water Mirror fountain, Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux, France.

with Karine Hagen, his daughter, an economist and Russia scholar, Hagen bought and renovated four Russian-owned riverboats. But the company's growth was glacial. When VRC came through the last recession intact, the burly, take-no-prisoners Hagen made his move.

"When we were still alive in 2009 we decided to take the risk and build a lot more ships," he said, speaking at the christening. "We introduced 10 new ships last year and will christen 18 more this week. And 10 more are due to come on line in 2015." By the end of next year, he says, the company will have 60 ships on rivers in Europe, Russia, Egypt, China and Southeast Asia. By 2020 Hagen expects the fleet to grow to 100 ships.

Dividing my week between Avignon and Bordeaux, I had a chance to see and stay on two nearly identical Longships, the Heimdal and the Forseti. Both were light and bright, lovely examples of uncluttered Scandinavian design, highlighted by a soft tan-and-ivory color scheme. Natural light streamed through floor-to-ceiling glass walls in the dining room, lounge and the reception areas and poured down through a skylight. Outdoor decks included the Aquavit Restaurant, on the stern deck, an ideal spot for breakfast coffee or an afternoon tea; and the roof-top Sun Deck, the place to watch the scenery pass by.

Meals, served buffet style at breakfast and lunch, and at round, square and long tables for dinner, were excellent, with fresh vegetables and fruit, baked goods, a choice of entrees and desserts or cheeses. My middle deck stateroom on the Heimdal was brand new, with a king bed, fine linens, a chair, a tiny but efficient bathroom, ample closet and shelf space, a large television screen and a French balcony (sliding glass doors with exterior railings.)

It would have been perfect except for the overall cabin size. Mine was so cramped (not really designed for a king bed) that walking from the door to the French Balcony was a squeeze. After levering my suitcase under the bed, I could barely retrieve it.

During the event, some attendees raised the issue of the Longships' ambitious design, at 443 feet, one-third longer than the typical river ship. Suggesting that it had already proved unwieldy, they cited rivers infamous for swift currents, shifting sandbars, low bridges and — most hazardous — annual flooding. With so many ships coming on line at once, most staffed by inexperienced new hires, wouldn't employees have difficulty handling the inevitable disruptions?

Asked about the challenges of hiring and training 1000 new employees overnight, Viking Forseti Manager Thomas Koessler agreed that it was a tall order. "But this company gives people the tools they need to do the job," he said. "The staff are willing, hard-working and happy team members."

The flooding in Europe was the worst seen in the region in centuries, Viking River Cruise said. Even so, of the more than 1,000 Viking sailings that season, only a handful experienced a situation where sailing was not possible, the company said. Compensation offered in those situations was fair and equitable, VRC said.

If the company succeeds, Viking River Cruises may yet outdo its competitors, not with big hardware but simply by upping the cultural thrill factor. For now, the Vikings are in mid-stream and steering by the stars. What they need is clear skies ahead.

Tribune News Service



PROMISING NEW TESTS

A recent report regarding a blood test for Alzheimer's disease is exciting news in this extremely vexing disease. Alzheimer's disease is the name given to dementia which usually occurs in the elderly but sometimes may affect younger people also. The disease is quite common in the elderly. For instance, in the USA alone it affects about 6 million people and has a similar prevalence rate in other developed countries too. The prevalence in developing countries is more difficult to assess but Alzheimer's is quite common in them also. Most affected individuals are above 60 years of age and it becomes commoner with increase in age. Alzheimer's has become a major public health as well as social problem. It is projected that the number of cases of Alzheimer's will increase substantially over time largely due to increasing longevity. Memory, intellect, judgment and behaviour are affected and these go on deteriorating over time. In initial stages changes are minor and easy to miss unless he or she holds a critical post. As the disease progresses, as it inevitably does, the person is not able to look after himself and requires assistance for even basic activities such as feeding, bathing, using the toilet, etc. A person with Alzheimer's may be otherwise healthy and may live for many years after the onset of dementia. It is a major burden on the family in terms of time, money, quality of life and the memories that one has of the affected family member.

What causes Alzheimer's disease is not known. In a small percentage it is familial in origin and such cases tend to appear

symptoms and which may be much more amenable to treatment. Definitive diagnosis of Alzheimer's requires a brain biopsy which is not really a practical option. A sample of the cerebrospinal fluid which normally bathes the brain may be obtained by lumbar puncture and this shows elevated tau and phosphorylated tau along with low amyloid levels and this has about 80% sensitivity and specificity. Sensitivity in this context means the percentage of cases of the disease detected by the test while specificity means the percentage of true positives. In effect this test is negative in 20% of Alzheimer's patients and is also positive in about 20% of people without Alzheimer's. The test is an invasive one and in view of its limited usefulness is not routinely recommended and main applicability is in research and trials. Imaging tests such as CT scan, MRI scan and PET scan show atrophy of the brain and are generally indicated more to exclude other causes of dementia, some of which may be treatable.

There is currently no specific treatment for Alzheimer's. Many proponents of different types of therapies, dietary supplements, etc claim that progression of the disease is slowed by their use. However, no convincing benefit has been established for any of them and regulatory bodies such as the FDA have not approved any therapy to treat Alzheimer's directly. At present only supportive therapy including drugs to reduce or control behavioural problems is recommended. It is possible that by the time Alzheimer's disease is clinically evident changes in the brain are already far advanced and hence not likely to halt or reverse

In the absence of specific treatment being available most people may prefer not to know whether they are going to develop Alzheimer's in the future. However, lifestyle changes such as more fruits and vegetables in diet, regular exercise, avoidance of obesity and adequate sleep may reduce risk or slow progression and these could be vigorously adopted in people identified at risk by the blood test. The test would obviously be of great help in confirming diagnosis in people with symptoms. The greatest applicability of the test currently will however be in trials of therapies to prevent or treat Alzheimer's.

Another remarkable test that was in the news last month is a blood test to detect 8 different cancers. Cancer continues to be a major cause of death in spite of much better survival rates for many of them. Although we tend to speak of cancer as a single disease each cancer is a separate entity. Each different type of cancer currently needs to be screened for separately. Most cancers, with the notable exception of leukaemias, are not possible to screen for effectively by means of blood tests. Tumour markers such as PSA for prostate cancer and AFP for liver cancer are blood tests that are useful in detecting specific cancers but these tests usually become positive only when the cancer breaches the limits of the organ in which it develops. It is well known that results of cancer treatment are much more favourable when cancer is detected and treated in its early stages. A preliminary report on a blood test that detects 8 different cancers was published last month. The cancers which it detects are those of the ovary, breast, stomach, liver, oesophagus, colon & rectum, pancreas and lung. Some of them are among the commonest cancers. The test measures levels of eight different proteins in blood and also checks for mutations in cell-free DNA in blood. The test carried out in people known to have any of these cancers was positive in about 70% of them. In a large percentage of these individuals tested the test was able to identify the site of cancer. Also, in controls without cancer the test was positive in less than 1% of individuals. It is true that the individuals already known to have cancer probably had significant abnormal levels of the proteins and DNA mutations tested. Whether the test will give similarly reliable results in people with early cancer is obviously the important issue. The results reported are preliminary ones and it will take a few years for the test to undergo much wider testing for confirmation of its findings. It is to be hoped that modifications of the test will achieve better than the 70% positive rates found in the preliminary study. Also, whether the test can be extended to include other types of cancers needs to be studied. Or maybe a similar test complementary to this one could be developed to detect other types of cancers. An indicative cost of less than US\$ 500 has been mentioned for the test as and when it is approved and available for general use. This seems to be a fairly reasonable figure considering that screening individually for each of the 8 cancers would cost much more. Also, some of these cancers, notably pancreatic and oesophageal cancer often present very late and any simple screening test for them would be really worthwhile.

What causes Alzheimer's disease is not known. In a small percentage it is familial in origin and such cases tend to appear at an earlier age. Factors such as obesity, high blood pressure and insulin resistance increase the risk but these cannot be considered the cause

at an earlier age. Factors such as obesity, high blood pressure and insulin resistance increase the risk but these cannot be considered the cause. The most prominent finding in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease is the presence of beta-amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. Amyloid is an abnormal type of protein that accumulates or gets deposited in certain types of diseases. These are fairly characteristic changes of Alzheimer's but may also be found to a much lesser extent as accompaniments of age in people without dementia. Whether these changes lead to Alzheimer's or whether they occur as a consequence of the disease are not too clear. The diagnosis of Alzheimer's is essentially based on clinical findings. There is no simple test as yet that can confirm the diagnosis. Investigations are mainly recommended to exclude other conditions causing similar

with any type of therapy. A clinically practical test that allows Alzheimer's disease to be definitively diagnosed especially in its early stages is long overdue. It is possible that no treatment is effective because it is directed against well established disease when it is no longer reversible. Maybe if the diagnosis could be established very early in the development of the disease some types of therapy would halt further progression or even reverse the illness. Also, a simple confirmatory test will allow patients and their relatives to know whether it is really Alzheimer's and plan appropriately for the future.

A preliminary report from researchers in Japan and Australia describes a blood test that is able to detect Alzheimer's development up to 30 years before it becomes clinically apparent. The results obviously need to be confirmed in wider testing before the test is considered acceptable for general use.

Dr Asheesh Mehta
Internal Medicine Specialist



AMAZING DEVICE

THE REVOLUTIONARY
NANOHD PROJECTOR
WILL MAKE YOU RETHINK
THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF
WATCHING TV!
RYAN BISHOP WRITES



Want a new expensive 4K TV? Check out this product first — It will save you thousands of dollars...

Modern 4K TVs are a good choice for home theatres, but they are not portable and can cost months of your salary for a good one. We've all got bills to pay and can't really afford that!

Having an expensive TV sat only in one room is a huge drawback for people who lead an active lifestyle and are always on the go.

If you want to replace your ageing TV, making presentations in the office, put on cartoons anywhere for the kids or play films on an outside wall in the summer months — then read on.

WHAT IS IT?

It's called NanoHD. The NanoHD is a premium HD projector that's as big and portable as a book!

Design engineers in Japan have crammed all the power, brightness and awesomeness of an expensive projector into this tiny book-sized box!

Now you can project your favourite movies, phones or watch TV on any wall, anywhere and in high-quality 1080p.

The NanoHD can handle inputs of from HDMI, AV, CVBS and even USB — meaning you can project literally anything on it!

Its brightness is a stunning 800 Lumens. Not only surprising for a unit so small but 800 lumens is also considered by many the 'sweet spot' — not too bright that it hurts the eyes and causes headaches, but easily bright enough to use during daytime in the shade.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1) Plug it in and face it at a wall, ceiling, blinds, garage door — whatever!

2) Simply focus the picture using the lens dial — No professionals

needed here. Anyone can do it, it takes 10 seconds!

3) Press Play — just like that, you can relax and get immersed in a film or start your presentation.

Congratulations, you've now saved a ton of money on that expensive 4K TV you were going to buy!

THE BEST PART:

The biggest 4K TV is only 100 inches and costs a ridiculous \$539,000 to buy and then another \$40,000 to install...

Meanwhile, the NanoHD portable projector will turn YOUR LIVINGROOM into a COMPLETE Home Theater, blasting up to 220 inches screen size on your wall, in full HD, for a fraction of the price!

HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST ME?

With all the power, technology and innovation NanoHD provides, you'd think it would cost a few thousand dollars like most other projectors, right?

Wrong! The company behind NanoHD made it both incredibly tiny and affordable.

HERE'S THE CATCH:

Part of the reason the price can be this low is that they store NanoHD stock in China. You order and they ship directly to your door. This cuts out expensive middlemen, storage fees, handling costs and is a big reason the Nano costs under \$120 and not \$1-2k like all other projectors.

But, you'll need to wait up to 30 days for yours to arrive. (Arrives typically between 7-11 days for US, UK or EU orders. Worldwide orders can take up to 30 days.)

It retails at the 50% discount only online and you can purchase it on their official website here.

Don't wait till it's too late! Xmas is coming and the Nano is a VERY popular product selling out quick!

WHERE CAN I BUY ONE?

We'd strongly recommend using the Official Discount Page Here. It has fantastic deals like 34% off (when ordering a few)

If you want just a 1 NanoHD, You can buy it directly from the company's website by clicking here. They have 50% Off online sales which is the lowest price we found (Normally \$219.99 in shops).

The Independent



Flask, Iran, 17th century.

THE BLUE ROAD TO HONG KONG

Muhammad Yusuf writes on a Hong Kong exhibition which will explore the importance of the blue colour in Persian civilisation

Liang Yi Museum, Hong Kong, is hosting 'The Blue Road: Mastercrafts from Persia', the first, most dedicated and comprehensive exhibition surveying different aspects of the colour blue in Persian art and history, in Hong Kong.

Opening Mar. 20 and running June 24, the event coincides with the sixth edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong, which will also see the first-ever gallery from Iran participating in the art fair.

Curated by Dr Yuka Kadoi, 'The Blue Road: Mastercrafts from Persia', is collaborating with eleven major institutions worldwide, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, UK; David Collection, Denmark; Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore and the Freer and Sackler Gallery Archives, USA, for the exhibition. Complementing this are also objects loaned from private collectors in Hong Kong.

With materials and categories ranging from glass, ceramic, textiles, painting and manuscripts and set across different media and time spans, the display of 94 artefacts will illuminate the significant role of blue in the visual and material culture of Iran. The colour personifies a timeless quality in Persian history and has impacted the shaping of other artistic traditions in Asia and beyond.

'The Blue Road: Mastercrafts from Persia' has been divided into six thematic sections, showcasing and examining how blue became an essential element in the arts of pre-contemporary Middle East. A series of talks, tours, short courses and lectures takes place during the exhibition.

Opened in 2014, Liang Yi Museum is Hong Kong's largest private museum, located on Hollywood Road, in the heart of the historic district. Housing a world-class collection of Chinese antique furniture from the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as the world's most extensive collection of European vanities, it is considered a significant addition to the arts, heritage and cultural landscape of the city.

Lynn Fung, Liang Yi Museum Director, speaks to Time Out on colours, civilisations and collaborations and about the exhibition

*** WHEN DID YOU TRAVEL TO IRAN?**

I was in Iran at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. I spent about eight days in the country, visiting the museums in Tehran; then visiting the historic houses of Kashan; I spent a few days in Isfahan, admiring the beautiful mosques around Naqsh-e-Jahan Square, before finishing my trip in Shiraz.

*** IF BLUE IS THE PRIMARY COLOUR OF IRANIAN ART, WHAT IS THE MAIN COLOUR IN WHICH CHINESE ART IS EXPRESSED?**

It is hard to say: obviously blue and white are also very central to

Chinese porcelain and ceramics, while red is what most people would think of when they think of Chinese lacquer, particularly lacquered furniture.

At the same time, if you are mostly thinking of ink paintings, then black and white would be the palette you would associate with that medium. And then of course, there is the light-green shade of celadon ceramics. So I think it

the colour blue can be was of course when I first laid eyes on the Blue Mosque in Istanbul; and standing under one of the blue mosaic domes of the Shah Mosque in Isfahan, it really made me understand viscerally how the colour blue could denote heaven for many people.

*** DOES COLOUR PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN A CIVILISATION'S ETHOS?**

to think of it as a colour, would only be blue-green - is too narrow a description for the objects in this exhibition.

*** HOW ARE ISLAM AND MUSLIMS PERCEIVED IN HONG KONG? ARE HK-ERS FAMILIAR WITH ISLAMIC ART?**

I think there is a familiarity with Islam in Hong Kong as there are 10 million Hui people (ethnic-Chinese Muslims) in China; so it

*** WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE GENRE AMONG GLASS, CERAMIC, TEXTILES, PAINTING AND MANUSCRIPTS, BEING SHOWN IN THE EXHIBITION?**

It's difficult to say! I have favourite objects definitely, but they range across all the different genres. I love the 19th century bronze lamp from the Enamel section of the exhibition on loan to us from the David Collection; but I also love a lot of the objects from the Manuscripts section; including 17th century painted seal of the Emperor Aurangzeb, on loan to us from the Wellcome Collection.

*** WHAT ROLE HAS YOUR FATHER, MUSEUM FOUNDER PETER FUNG YIU-FAI, PLAYED IN THE MAKING OF THIS EXHIBITION?**

Apart from providing his moral support, he has mainly stayed in the background!

*** HAVE YOU TRAVELLED IN ARAB LANDS? THE REGION TOO HAS A SPLENDID ARTISTIC HISTORY - YOU COULD SOON SHOWCASE ART AND ARTEFACTS FROM HERE!**

I have only been to Dubai; but would love to see more of the region, especially Oman and Abu Dhabi.

*** YOU HAVE LINKS WITH MAJOR ART MUSEUMS LIKE V&A AND FREER AND SACKLER. WHY NOT COLLABORATE WITH INSTITUTIONS IN THE UAE OR THE REGION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SHARJAH MUSEUMS AUTHORITY?**

Again, we would love to in the future. However, for 'The Blue Road', most of the decisions about which objects to borrow were left up to our curator, Dr Yuka Kadoi.

Curator, researcher, author and authority on Islamic Arts Kadoi talks about the exhibition

*** DOES YOUR INTEREST IN THE MONGOLS LIE IN THEIR ROLE AS BRIDGE BUILDERS BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC AND CHINESE WORLDS?**

Yes, I have a long-term research interest in the cross-cultural dialogues between the Middle East and East Asia during the time of the Mongol Empire (13th-14th centuries). By looking at the material culture of Mongol Eurasia, we can learn one of the important patterns of globalisation in pre-modern times.

*** WHAT DID YOU FIND IN THE 94 ART PIECES THAT YOU ARE SHOWCASING THEM?**

Each piece can stand alone, but as a group of exhibits, they are interrelated with each other so as to narrate different phases of cultural interaction along the Blue Road.

*** WHY DID YOU FOCUS ON BLUE?**

Blue is not only visually attractive but also symbolically important. Moreover, it is a key colour component of tracing the pathway of cultural and artistic communication between East and West.



Lynn Fung



Brush rest, China, 16th century.

really depends on the medium!

*** WHY DID BLUE NOT TOUCH HAN CHINESE CIVILISATION DEEPLY ("ONE BLUE OVER THE CHINESE NEST") - THOUGH IT HAS OBVIOUSLY AFFECTED YOU?**

I think most people associate Chinese culture with red and gold, and in a sense, I think because those colours are seen as so auspicious that they are what immediately jump to mind when we think of the Han Chinese civilisation.

To me, I have always loved the colour blue: I find it tranquil and calming. I think one of my first real memories of how striking

Speaking from a Chinese perspective, I would say yes, absolutely.

*** WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED THE WORD "TURQUOISE"? WHY DO YOU USE THE Milder "BLUE"?**

To me, turquoise is a material, a stone. While in this exhibition, we have objects made of turquoise, we also have materials including glass, ceramic, textiles, manuscripts, etc; as well as all different shades of blue from the most vivid navy to a light sky-blue.

To have used the word "turquoise" - which even if I were



Tile, Iran, 17th century.



Bottle, Iran, 18-19th century.

is not a totally foreign concept or religion.

As for Islamic art, it is a very hot topic in the art world, and I think for those who do travel outside of Hong Kong, they would have some familiarity with Islamic art.

However, I must say that I don't think overall there is a huge exposure to Persian art in Hong Kong, and that was one of our goals in staging this exhibition; to allow people who may not have the chance to travel to the Middle East, or Iran, to be able to enjoy some of these amazing objects.



For that extra taste

Leah Eskin shares tips on how to make **gnocchi extra — with arugula, mushrooms and truffle salt**



Extra means more, as well as more than more.

Tired of sidekick duty, chiming in on extra special and extra clean, extra is going solo. “She’s extra,” adults should note, means excessive. Snide isn’t a full-time gig. Extra still works its day job, cheering on adjectives, redoubling the efforts of nouns. It notes that gnocchi, delicious solo, are extra delicious paired with extra elements, like spicy greens, toasted mushrooms and truffle salt. The combo adds up to more than the sum of its parts. In a word, it’s extraordinary.

GNOCCHI WITH GREENS

PREP: 30 MINUTES
COOK: 1 MINUTE
MAKES: 3 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS

GNOCCHI:

1 LARGE (3/4 POUND) RUSSET POTATO, SCRUBBED
1 EGG YOLK
1/2 TEASPOON KOSHER SALT
FRESHLY GROUND NUTMEG
UP TO 1/2 CUP CAKE FLOUR

FOR TOASTING:

2 TABLESPOONS UNSALTED BUTTER
2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
1 CUP SLICED WHITE MUSHROOMS
2 TEASPOONS ROSEMARY, FRESH OR DRIED, CHOPPED

TO FINISH:

3 OUNCES BABY ARUGULA
VINAIGRETTE (RECIPE FOLLOWS)
TRUFFLE SALT
PARMESAN CHEESE, IN A CHUNK

METHOD

1. Bake: Stab potato twice with a sharp knife. Bake at 425 degrees until tender when squeezed, 55-60 minutes. Alternatively, zap tender 5-6 minutes. Halve baked potato and press through a potato ricer. Discard skin.
 2. Mix: Drop yolk onto potatoes, scatter on 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grates of nutmeg. Stir with a fork, just to combine. Sprinkle on 2 or 3 tablespoons flour, and mix gently to form a soft dough, adding flour as needed you may only need half the flour.
 3. Roll: Divide dough in four. On a floured surface, roll each portion into a 3/4-inch-thick rope. Slice crosswise into 1-inch segments. Flip pieces over a fork, tines resting on table. Roll each gnocco down the back of the fork, pressing lightly, to imprint grooves.
 4. Boil: Drop gnocchi into simmering salted water in batches. Gnocchi will sink, then, in about 1 minute, float. Count 10 seconds. Scoop out with a slotted spoon and cool on a kitchen towel.
 5. Sizzle: In a wide skillet, heat butter and oil over medium. Slide in gnocchi and mushrooms; sprinkle with rosemary. Toss until golden brown, 3-4 minutes. Pull out with a slotted spoon, and toss with half the vinaigrette.
 6. Plate: Toss greens with vinaigrette to taste. Heap on each of three plates. Spoon gnocchi and mushrooms on top. Sprinkle with truffle salt. Carve on some Parmesan curls. Enjoy.
- Vinaigrette: Let two tablespoons chopped red onion mellow in one 1/2 tablespoons vinegar for 20 minutes. Whisk in 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil, 3/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard, 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes and a little garlic mashed with salt.

Tribune News Service

BAG OF 10 GENERAL



QUIZ MASTER
STANLEY DAVID
IS THE AUTHOR OF THE PENGUIN INDIA QUIZ BOOK

Where in London is the largest covered public square in Europe?

1

In 1791, a theatre owner, James Daly made a bet that he could introduce a word into the English language within twenty-four hours. He then hired a group of urchins and made them write the word all over the city walls. When the city dwellers woke up the next morning, they found that every nook and corner of the city sported a bizarre word whose meaning they did not know. Hence Daly won the bet. What's the good word?

2

It literally means 'Mound of the Dead' in Sindhi. Which city, abandoned in 19th century BC and not rediscovered until 1922, is known for its elaborate bathing complex?

3

Competitive table tennis players grip their rackets in a variety of ways. The manner in which players grip their rackets can be classified into two major families of styles, with the names of these styles based on the way the players hold the rackets. What are these two styles called?

4

It originated in Ireland in the 18th century when horses and riders raced from one town's church tower to another one. The name by which these towers are known lead to the name of the event, with the towers used as markers due to their visibility over long distances. Along the way, participants inevitably had to jump streams and low stone walls separating estates. What event is this, which has been an Olympic event since the inception of the modern Olympics?

5

The Guinness Book has recently crowned him as the actor with most career earnings, so far. Interestingly, he is the only actor to win a Best Supporting Actor Award in Cannes (the category was created only for him in that year). Who?

6

Its habitat once extended from eastern reaches of India to the coast of Senegal. Their numbers have stabilized in parts of southern Africa but they have practically disappeared in Asia. The Asian subspecies *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* is critically endangered and Iran is the last Asian country to have about 50 of them largely due to their National Protection Project. Which animal?

7

Ruth Katherina Martha Pfau moved from Germany to Pakistan and spent more than 50 years of her life fighting leprosy. She is more famous by her nickname. What is it?

8

On whose grave would you have found this litany of his conquests? "Turan, Iran, Rum, Magrib, Shom, Misr, Iraq, Mizandaran, Gilon, Shirbon, Azerbaijan, Fars, Khorson, Jete, Dashti, Khorezm, Khotan, Kabulistan, Bakhtarzamin and Hindustan".

9

What is Iceland's only native land mammal?

10

Where in London is the largest covered public square in Europe?

ANSWERS

1. THE WORD WAS "QUIZ"

2. MOHENJO-DARO EXCAVATIONS

3. SHAKEHAND: PENHOLD

4. STEEPLECHASE

5. SAMUEL L. JACKSON

6. CHEETAH

7. PAKISTAN'S "MOTHER THERESA"

8. TIMUR, OR TAMERLANE

9. THE ARCTIC FOX

10. THE BRITISH MUSEUM

RUTH KATHERINA MARTHA PFAU



On a mission

‘They’re throwing us back into the shadows’: Teen dreamers advocate for undocumented immigrants



From left, Alejandra Garcia Chavez, Joanna Sanchez and Giselle Gonzalez are looking to raise awareness about undocumented students and DACA program beneficiaries.



Amid turbulence in national immigration policy, three teens are setting out to advocate for young, undocumented immigrants.

Alejandra Garcia Chavez, Joanna Sanchez, and Giselle Gonzalez have worked with others to raise awareness about immigration issues on the campus of Waubensee Community College, they said. They are looking to expand their advocacy to adults in the Aurora area.

The work is personal for the teens. Chavez, 19, and Sanchez, 18, said they are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, an Obama-era program that shields undocumented immigrants who were brought to this country as children. Gonzalez, 18, said she is a citizen but her parents are undocumented.

"It's hard to believe that somebody is holding my life and thousands of other peoples' lives in their hands," Sanchez said.

Their work comes amid uncertainty for some undocumented immigrants and DACA recipients about their status and futures in this country. President Donald Trump's administration moved to dissolve the DACA program in September, though a federal judge in California ordered the White House to keep DACA in place while a lawsuit is pending. Justice Department lawyers have asked the Supreme Court to review and repeal that ruling.

Illinois has the fourth largest number of DACA recipients in the country, with more than 35,600.

Congress and the White House continue to review various immigration measures. Trump proposed a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million young, undocumented immigrants, more than twice as many "dreamers" than were DACA recipients.

The proposal also included funding for a border wall, additional security upgrades at the southwestern and northern US borders, and ending US citizens' ability to petition for permanent legal residency for parents and siblings. Family visas would be limited to spouses and minor children.

Chavez was one of 125 "dreamers" who travelled to Washington, DC, in early January with the organisation FWD.us to meet with members of Congress or their staffers and push for legislation. She said they were urging a permanent solution, and a path to citizenship for both current DACA beneficiaries and a larger undocumented population — people with a high school diploma or GED, who are working toward a bachelor's degree or who have served at least two years in the military, she said.

Without such immigration legislation, her dreams could be

in peril, she said. She hopes to go to Northern Illinois University after graduating from Waubensee Community College and pursue a career as a math educator. Without legislation, it could be tough to get a job to help pay for education expenses, she said.

Sanchez has already faced obstacles because of her immigration status. She intended to go to Aurora University after graduating from high school, but an unexpected family situation arose and her mother could no longer work, she said. Undocumented students aren't eligible for federal financial aid.

She enrolled part-time at Waubensee for fall semester, but is not enrolled this semester. Citizenship would not only have allowed her to apply for federal aid and possibly move forward with her plans for Aurora University, but it would also provide more certainty, she said.

"I would know that I wouldn't be worrying about my status," she said. "I wouldn't be worried that once my days run out from being protected under DACA, I would know that I could be here with my parents taking care of them if anything happened. But now it's uncertain."

The teens began working with other Waubensee students during fall semester to spread word on campus, advocate for protecting DACA and promote legislation for undocumented young people, they said. In January they gave a presentation to faculty on supporting DACA and undocumented students.

They felt Waubensee wasn't doing enough to support undocumented students, they said.

Waubensee spokeswoman Amanda Geist said in a statement the college "empathises" with students affected by changes to the DACA programme, and has formed a DACA Response Team to "examine the college's understanding of those needs of students impacted by DACA, as well as the college's ability to address those needs." The team has sponsored and attended events, she said.

"Waubensee Community College is, and will remain, a place for everyone to experience a full range of quality educational opportunities," she said.

The teens also want to expand their work to undocumented adults in the community, they said. They want to inform them of their rights and resources, they said.

Growing up, they said their lives were different than other teens. While her parents worked multiple jobs, Gonzalez used to pick up her younger brother after school and cook food. She now goes to work as a medical scribe after she cooks and cleans up from dinner, she said.

Sarah Freishtat/Tribune News Service



GLITTERING GAME

'POKÉMON CRYSTAL,' SHIMMERING BRILLIANTLY



If you grew up on Pokémon Red and Blue, rising through the ranks with Yellow and then Gold and Silver, you inevitably spent time with Pokémon Crystal. The amalgam of everything excellent about Pokémon Gold and Silver, with a glittery teal cartridge and a new Pokémon in the form of Suicune on the front, it was the Cadillac of the Pokémon series and the last that the handheld would see.

It let the Pokémon era on the Game Boy Color end with a bang, naturally, and now it's back to rediscover on your 3DS through the Virtual Console and Nintendo eShop. If you missed out on it when it made its original debut back in 2001, it's a great time to dig in right now, whether you're reminiscing about the old days or just looking to start your Pokémon journey from an earlier point in the series.

Pokémon Crystal took the established conventions of games like Pokémon Gold and Silver and augmented them further with additional features, new game content, and other options. Obviously all those are still here for you to check out as you step into the classic era with your 3DS, and it all feels just as fresh as it did when the game first debuted.

It's still rocking its own set of firsts, which were important for the series. You could choose to be a female trainer for once, which marked the first time you were able to do this in the Pokémon games. It also added special quirks like new animations for each individual Pokémon as well as a massively tweaked user interface that simply felt way better than what you might have been used to with the older games. Even encountering

Pokémon in the overworld was improved with newer sprites and cooler-looking, more individualized character models. If you cut your teeth on Red and Blue to begin with, you'll appreciate all the subtle (and not-so-subtle) changes.

The game finds you encountering the Legendary Pokémon Suicune on your journey as you follow it through several different plot threads as you head out to track it down. The other two Legendary Pokémon Entei and Raikou make appearances as well, but Suicune is the main focus and as such a more interesting Pokémon to trail throughout the game. You can even nab a Celebi from an additional quest, which previously wasn't even an option unless you had access to a special event or item. It's all here, as you remember it, too, or it's all there for you to discover. There's just plenty of new stuff, too.

Pokémon Crystal's swath of different content includes several new subplots, Pokémon, activities, and plenty of other goodies beyond the fact that it got a new shiny cartridge and Legendary Pokémon. For instance, the creepy Ruins of Alph return with a more significant storyline to explore, and the NPCs you may have disregarded previously have more unique and engaging personalities.

You can also head to the Move Tutor to switch up the moves your Pokémon know and head to the Battle Tower to test your might against other trainers. Both have appeared in several newer Pokémon titles over the years, and you can see where they got their humble beginnings here.

Brittany Vincent/Tribune News Service

Call to build better cities

BY MEENA S. JANARDHAN



As urban areas around the world continue to grow, cities are placing an increasingly heavy burden on our environment. Policymakers should therefore treat resource efficiency as equal in importance to climate policy if they want to move towards a sustainable future, according to a new report from the International Resource Panel.

'The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future Urbanization' calls for a new strategy to meet the needs of 21st-century urbanization, one that would result in cities that are low carbon, resource efficient, socially just, and in which people can live healthy lives. It points out that:

- 2.4 billion people likely to move to urban areas globally before 2050,
- at least 200 new cities will be built in Asia in the next 30 years, and
- urban demand for resources could rise by 125 per cent without intervention

Unless the world's urban areas make optimal use of their resources, cities will soon demand far more resources than our planet can sustainably provide, placing a huge burden on agriculture, energy, industry and transport. In the next 30 years, 2.4 billion people are likely to move to urban areas, bringing the proportion of the global population living in cities by 2050 to 66 per cent.

The annual amount of natural resources used by urban areas could grow from 40 billion tonnes of raw materials in 2010 to 90 billion tonnes by 2050, an increase of 125 per cent, if changes are not made to

how cities are built and designed.

The report, the 25th from the International Resource Panel, an eminent group of experts set up by UN Environment in 2007 to examine natural resource use, was one of two summary reports to be launched at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Urgent requirements Slightly more than a third of urban growth is expected to come from three countries: India (expected to contribute 404 million new city-dwellers), China (292 million) and Nigeria (212 million). At the same time, currently one in three urban residents lives in a slum or informal settlement, often without access to proper housing or basic services.

The increase in urban population will require the building of new cities and the expansion of existing ones. Building and operating these new cities, and supporting the urban lifestyles of those who live in them, requires billions of tonnes of raw materials, such as fossil fuels, sand, gravel, iron ore, wood and food.

Historically, existing cities have been spreading at a rate of two per cent a year, increasing global urban land use from just below one million square kilometres to 2.5 million in 2050, and putting agricultural land and food supplies at risk.

To achieve a transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient, socially just cities, the report recommends:

- monitoring the flow of resources entering and leaving the cities to understand the local situation and to help develop resource-efficient strategies;
- planning cities to have:
 - o compact growth, to avoid urban

sprawl and so economize on the square kilometres of asphalt, the concrete, the electricity and the water wasted in spread-out cities,

- o better connections by efficient and affordable public transport (e.g., light rail, bus rapid transit), and
- o liveable neighbourhoods where design encourages people to walk or cycle;
- resource-efficient urban components, such as car sharing, electric vehicles and charging point networks, efficient energy, efficient waste and water systems, smart grids, cycle paths, energy-efficient buildings, new heating, cooling and lighting technology, etc.;
- infrastructure for cross-sector efficiency, such as using waste heat from industry in district energy systems and industrial waste materials in construction, such as fly-ash bricks; and
- establishing a new model for city governance and politics that supports imaginative business propositions and experimentation.

FUTURE URBANIZATION

The second report 'Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region: A Resource Perspective', was produced by UN Environment with scientific input from International Resource Panel member Dr Anu Ramaswami.

It examines future urbanization in the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore and Brunei – where

205 million people are expected to move to cities by 2050, resulting in the rapid rise of 200 new small cities or urban areas with populations of fewer than 500,000. This is likely to take place against a backdrop of increasing air pollution and climate risks, and in a region where 73 million people live in slums, 120 million lack access to electricity and 280 million lack clean cooking fuels.

The report says that collaborative governance, at all levels, and long-range planning will be needed to transform the region's cities. Strategies suggested include those listed below.

- Undertaking national and cross-ASEAN urbanization planning to balance economic growth across a range of city sizes and to preserve high-value agricultural land and ecosystem services.
- Promoting compact, mixed-use, accessible and inclusive cities through regional and city planning to reduce land-use planning, streamline infrastructure provisions and promote sustainable mobility (such as public transport, car-sharing, walking and cycling).
- Developing zero-slum cities through land-use planning that prevents slum formation and rehabilitating existing slums in resource-efficient, disaster-resistant, multistorey buildings.
- Promoting resource-efficient, resilient buildings and electricity grids.
- Promoting resource efficiency at the systems level across the city through innovative and profitable exchanges of "waste" energy and materials.



HOT RAP SONGS

- GOD'S PLAN
DRAKE
- ROCKSTAR
POST MALONE FEATURING 21 SAVAGE
- DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY
DRAKE
- NO LIMIT
G-EAZY FEATURING ASAP ROCKY & CARDI B
- MOTORSPORT
MIGOS, NICKI MINAJ & CARDI B

LET YOU DOWN
NF

LOVE.
KENDRICK LAMAR FEATURING ZACARI

HIM & I
G-EAZY & HALSEY

GUCCI GANG
LIL PUMP

GUMMO
6IX9INE

HOT DANCE CLUB/ PLAY SONGS

TOO MUCH TO ASK
NIALL HORAN

COPING
TONI BRAXTON

MEET IN THE MIDDLE
STONEBRIDGE FEATURING HALEY JOELLE

ALL FALLS DOWN
ALAN WALKER, NOAH CYRUS & DIGITAL FARM ANIMALS

CONSIDERATION
RIHANNA FEATURING SZA

TO THE DANCEFLOOR
DIRTY DISCO FEATURING CELEDA

AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH 2017
DIANA ROSS

DREAMER
AXWELL & INGROSSO FEATURING TREVOR GUTHRIE

STARS
KRISTINE W

I DON'T KNOW
E.J.



HELLO YOUNG ARTISTS

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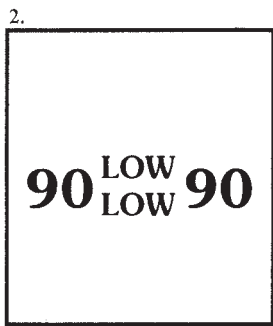
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Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

1. Water shortage
2. Lows in the nineties

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzleking.com

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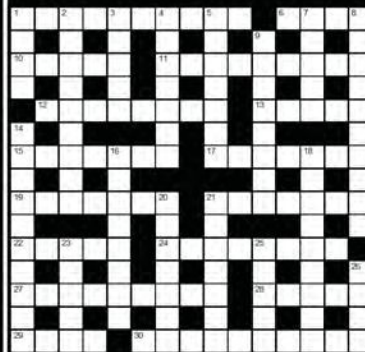
Answers

1. Water shortage
2. Lows in the nineties

8-15

CROSSWORD

Ahamed Mohideen.K.A ADMA Abu Dhabi



Down

- 1 Rounded subdivision of a bodily organ (4)
- 2 Circular conveyor on which objects are displayed or rotated in airport (9)
- 3 Unit of weight equal to one sixteenth of a pound (5)
- 4 Daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra in Greek mythology (7)
- 5 Arch of hair above each eye (7)
- 7 White or red grapes grown in California and France (5)
- 8 Piece of writing in code (10)
- 9 Application of soil and plant sciences to land management and crop production (8)
- 14 Breed of dog having a long silky white coat (7,3)
- 16 Charity in war is the motto of (3,5)
- 18 Force that moves something along (9)
- 20 Sort of triangle, with all sides of unequal length (7)
- 21 Cactuses native to America having prickly pears (7)
- 23 Extended fictional work in prose, in the form of a story (5)
- 25 Largest internal organ of vertebrates, found in the right upper portion of the abdomen (5)
- 26 Wife of Hercules (4)

Across

- 1 Instrument for measuring the specific gravity and the richness of milk (10)
- 6 Organization of oil exporting countries (4)
- 10 British romantic poet notorious for his rebellious and unconventional lifestyle (5)
- 11 Sudden unforeseen crisis that requires immediate action (9)
- 12 Brightest star in Ursa Minor (8)
- 13 Unit of data that consists of exactly eight bits in computer (5)
- 15 Landlocked country of central Europe, Vienna is the capital (7)
- 17 State in United States, is known as the Cowboy State (7)
- 19 City in central Spain on the Tagus river, famous for steel and swords (7)
- 21 Site of the first great Games in Greece (7)
- 22 Underwater target-detection device (5)
- 24 South African plant cultivated for its showy white flowers (4,4)
- 27 Katherine Mansfield, New Zealand-born British writer her best known short story (5,4)
- 28 Sound produced by the vocal organs (5)
- 29 Walker cup is associated with (4)
- 30 British soldier and writer who wrote *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (1,1,8)

Last week's solutions



CROSSWORD NO. 791

POPULAR PARADE



Revellers from the Tom Maior Samba School take part in a carnival celebration at Anhembi Sambadrome in Sao Paulo.

Reuters

WORD SLEUTH

WORDS HAVING A BALL

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

Ballad
Ballgame
Ballpoint
Ballroom

Bean ball
Cornball
Dead ball
Highball

Mothball
Oddball
Paintball
Pinball

Puffball
Snowball
Sourball

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8/19

Back to impress

The Sentra NISMO looks good, thanks to its aggressive exterior styling.

G. Chambers Williams Iii has got the details



Nissan's compact Sentra sedan, which got extensive updates two years ago and the addition of a NISMO motorsports version just last year, returns for 2018 with a few enhancements. Trim levels for the 2018 model year include the Sentra S six-speed manual (\$16,990) or Xtronic automatic (\$18,275); SV Xtronic (\$19,085); SR 1.8 Xtronic (\$20,500); SL Xtronic (\$23,440); SR 1.6 Turbo manual (\$22,200) and Xtronic (\$22,490); and NISMO manual or Xtronic (\$25,790). Those prices do not include the \$885 freight charge.

Also continuing for 2018 is the SR Midnight Edition Package introduced in the middle of the 2017 model year.

Changes for 2018 include making Automatic Emergency Braking standard on all but the manual-transmission and NISMO models; the Rear View Monitor and five-inch colour display with streaming audio and Siri Eyes-Free are now included on base S models; 16-inch aluminum-alloy wheels are standard on the SV; dual-zone automatic climate control is

included on SV models and higher; and radar cruise control is standard on SR 1.8L and SL models. Also the items from the previous SL Premium Tech Package are now standard on SL models, including the moon roof, Bose Premium Audio System and Nissan Connect Services powered by Sirius XM.

And the previous NISMO Premium Package features are now standard on the NISMO models, included in the base price. For 2018, the Sentra SR Midnight Edition Package (\$495) includes 17-inch black aluminum-alloy wheels, black heated outside mirrors, and black rear spoiler, license plate finisher, V-motion grille, fog light trim, exterior name/grade badges and Midnight Edition badge.

The base engine remains the normally aspirated 1.8-litre inline four-cylinder with 130 horsepower and 128 foot-pounds of torque, with either the six-speed manual or continuously variable (Xtronic) automatic transmission. The Sentra NISMO comes with a turbocharged 188-horsepower 1.6-litre direct-injection four-

cylinder engine with 177 foot-pounds of torque and the choice of either a six-speed manual or sport-tuned Xtronic transmission at no extra charge. We had the automatic on our tester.

Special features of the turbo engine are a 10.5:1 compression ratio, Continuously Variable Valve Timing Control System, spray-coated and mirror-finish cylinder bores, a variable-pressure oil pump, and a low-pressure EGR system, which helps lower exhaust gas temperature and improve knock sensitivity.

Sentra NISMO – short for “Nissan Motorsports” – is the most-expensive model in the lineup, but you can get the same engine from the NISMO in the SR Turbo version, also new last year, for about \$3,500 less.

This engine adds significant power to the Sentra, making it a lot more fun to drive. The turbo boost is very smoothly applied, with no turbo lag and no sign of torque steer in the standard front-wheel drive. Passing on two-lane country roads is a breeze in this car. This was the first NISMO application

for a mass-market Nissan sedan, joining an elite group that also includes NISMO versions of the GT-R and 370Z sports cars, as well as the Juke NISMO and Juke NISMO RS subcompact crossover utility vehicles.

That 188 horsepower doesn't come close to putting the Sentra NISMO in the same class as the Nissan sports cars, but it does spice up an otherwise sedate small sedan. That gives the Sentra a boost over key competitors such as the Toyota Corolla and Hyundai Elantra. The Sentra NISMO looks good, too, thanks to its aggressive exterior styling. It has the signature NISMO “layered double wing” design in the front, side and rear lower body panels. There is a thin red stripe that runs along the lower body panels.

Nissan says the Sentra NISMO's body was designed to hold to the ground 30 percent better than the regular Sentra, thanks to the unique rear spoiler and rear bumper design.

The unique front end includes standard LED daytime running lights; a dark chrome V-Motion

grille; and NISMO badges. Other touches include unique side sills, a NISMO rear fascia and exhaust finisher, dark chrome door handles and trunk finisher, and black NISMO outside mirror caps with integrated turn signals and the signature NISMO red stripe. The car rides on 18-inch, 10-spoke aluminum-alloy wheels with 215/45R18 Michelin Pilot Sport all-season tires. High-performance 215/45WR18 Bridgestone Potenza RE-71R summer tires are available through Nissan dealers.

Included is a unique four-wheel disc brake system with 11.7-inch vented front discs and 11.5-inch solid rear discs. Four exterior colours are available – Brilliant Silver, Gun Metallic, Super Black and Aspen White. Our tester came in Gun Metallic, which is a pleasant medium-dark blue-gray hue. This car looks great inside, too, thanks to its performance-oriented interior, and it has unique suspension tuning for sportier handling – but at the expense of a smoother ride for the passengers.

Tribune News Service



talkings point



WILD AND WONDER

Singer, whose “Bodak Yellow” music video is a hit, had a scary moment as she was nearly mauled by a cheetah while filming it.

The video’s director Picture Perfect has made the revelation in an interview, reports people.com.

“We actually got this cheetah from a Sultan out there. I didn’t know how hard it was gonna be to get a cheetah out there. We shot this scene (which) we didn’t use, and he attacked Cardi in that scene,” Picture Perfect said.

In the raw footage, the rapper can be seen standing a few feet away from the cheetah, holding him on a leash and rapping her verse. Then, the animal turns its head and hisses at her.

“No no no, come hold him,” Cardi B is seen telling the crew as she appears to be frightened.

Nevertheless, Cardi B and the director found a way to film a cheetah scene for the final cut.

“We got her spirits back up... and this cheetah right here is not the other cheetah from the other scene,” Picture Perfect said.

“This cheetah right here he’s eaten about six pounds of deer meat at this time, and he’s just calm,” he said.

Indo-Asian News Service

HOLLYWOOD & BOLLYWOOD at CINEMAS in U.A.E. & G.C.C.

MARGOT ROBBIE IN

I, TONYA

FEBRUARY 22

ROBERT ROSEMAN MICHELLE JORDAN DANIEL NYONG'O IAN GURIRA DANIEL FREEMAN WITH BASSETT WITH WHITAKER AND SERKIS

Marvel Studios
BLACK PANTHER

NOW SHOWING

FROM THE STUDIOS THAT BROUGHT YOU "THE AVENGERS"

AIYAARY

NOW SHOWING

PRANAV MOHANLAL IN

AARDHI

a JEETHU JOSEPH film

NOW SHOWING

PUJA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

WELCOME TO NEW YORK

INDIA'S FIRST COMEDY IN 3D

22ND FEB

BRING ON THE MADNESS!!

SONAMSHI SIMHA, DILIP DOGRA, KARAN JHAH

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PYAAR KA PUNCHNAMA & PYAAR KA PUNCHNAMA 2

SONUKE TITUKI SWEETY

22ND FEBRUARY 2018

MENON AVASARALA CASSANDRA PULKONDA REEBA SHARMA MELLETI

WALL POSTER CINEMA NANI PRESENTS

AWE

FEBRUARY 16

8 STUDIOS PRESENTS

NAACHIYAAR...

ILAYARAJA

ESWAR • SATHISH SURIYA • C.S. BALACHANDAR

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Nivin Pauly - Trisha

HEY JUDE

A Shyamaprasad film

Produced by Anil Ambalakkara

FEBRUARY 22