

PUBLIC
POOLS
OPEN
ON
MAY 1



P7



GROUP TOURS SLUMP

Visitors on package
tours totaled 564,000
in March, down by 36.2
percent year-on-year

P8



BRITISH FAMILY ATTACKED IN HUA HIN

A British couple and their son
were savagely beaten during a
family vacation in Thailand. The
four attackers were arrested

P12

FRI.29

Apr 2016

T. 22°/ 28° C

H. 70/ 90%

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing said it will send a warship and special forces for a multinational exercise next month that is also expected to include troops from the Philippines and other rival claimants in the South China Sea. The May 2-12 maritime security and counterterrorism exercise will feature the militaries of the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with those of the U.S., India and six other dialogue partners.

CHINA For the second time in a week, a Chinese city announces it will halt plans for a garbage incinerator project following angry protests by residents that underscore growing concern over threats to public health. The government of Nanxian, Hunan said that it would cease all work related to the project and would not start up again without public support.

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES Manny Pacquiao pressed on with his campaign for a seat in the Philippine Senate yesterday, in a province south of Manila despite a reported militant plot to kidnap him. Pacquiao had few visible security escorts as he campaigned in Laguna province, shaking hands and allowing mobs of villagers to take selfies with him. “I doubt [the threat], but I’m not ignoring it,” he told reporters. **More on p12**

More on backpage



More cars being abandoned across Macau

P2

António Ramirez exclusive: ‘First we look at Sands, then Macau’

P4,5

RENATO MARQUES



More cars being abandoned across Macau

Renato Marques

A large number of abandoned vehicles are increasingly being seen in several locations across Macau. The phenomenon is apparently growing, affecting more locations both in the peninsula and the islands.

Some of the region's secluded areas are being invaded by a large number of vehicles, some of which are completely abandoned and others which are just in long-term parking. The cars seem abandoned, semi-abandoned or just illegally parked for free.

Local resident Lúcia Lemos recently posted pictures of vehicles parked on the side of the road, some of them already with plants growing around them on social media.

The photos were taken near the entrance of the Taipa Pequena Trail in one area beside the trail walking area were, as she mentioned, "in the 'old days' it was not even possible

RENATO MARQUES



to reach there by car."

"It is sad and creates visual pollution in a natural place," she added. "In some cases

people are even joking about it as being like sitting a teddy bear on a car," a situation she considers degrading.

Lemos also noted that "not all vehicles look abandoned. Some are still well kept and look like they are just parked there due to a lack of any other place to park them."

The Taipa trail is one of the three venues suggested on the website of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) as places to visit for tourists interested in sports and recreational activities.

In a different location the Times found a similar situation. At the top of Penha Hill the old access road (Rampa da Penha) to the communications trans-

mitter has also been transformed into a cemetery for the cars filling the area.

There the Times spoke with a street cleaner who said, that "the cars had been there already for a very long time," although he was unable to say exactly for how long. He added that most of them are not exactly parked by their owners but instead by car workshop workers who use the street for temporary parking.

The cars are to be fixed by the workshops. They park them here until they need, and then they come and take one and leave another in the same place.

"The cars are to be fixed by the workshops. They park them here until they are needed and then they come and take one and leave another in the same place," he explained.

Curiously, while visiting the location, the Times found a truck and three staff members of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) on site, although they were apparently not performing any task related to these vehicles.

The Times contacted DSAT regarding the number of abandoned cars, but the bureau did not provide any reply by press time.

Hac Sa car dumping solved with meters

A similar situation of car dumping was reported in December 2014, when it was evident that Hac Sa beach's public car park was being used by people who wish to dispose of their vehicles.

Many cars could be seen at the car park; some of them were covered in pine needles, others were wrecked cars, and there were even vehicles with DSAT notices on the

windshields.

After being questioned by the Times at the time, DSAT said it was verifying car park spaces that had been occupied by the same vehicle for a long period of time, and was planning to install parking meters.

The meters were later installed for most of the car park, and the vehicles stranded there were moved elsewhere.

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Times

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Daniel Beitler

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' opens Arts Festival

TOMORROW night and Sunday night, the Shakespeare Theatre Company will perform productions of the playwright's famous "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as part of the kick-off for the Macao Arts Festival.

Five guests from the Shakespeare Theatre Company spoke with the media yesterday to share their excitement over what is the company's first production in China.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a comedy portraying the events surrounding the marriage of Theseus, Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta. The events that unfold include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors, known as the mechanicals, who are controlled and manipulated by fairies. It remains one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage and is widely performed around the world.

"The play has three themes, or worlds," said Ethan McSweeney, the director of the production. "The world of fairies, the world of lovers and the court, [along with] the world of the mechanicals, including the working class people who [in the play] are preparing an amateur theater production. My goal was to make the show



Standing left to right: Adam Green, Sara Topham, Dion Johnstone. Seated: Michael Kahn (left) and Ethan McSweeney

work well across all three rings of the circus," he explained.

Canadian performers Sara Topham and Dion Johnstone, who portray the characters of Titania and Oberon respectively, were present at the meeting. American actor Adam Green, who plays the notorious and mischievous character, Puck, and is described by McSweeney as "absolutely irreplaceable" in the

role, also attended. "This [invitation] is an incredibly exciting opportunity for us," said Green.

Coinciding with the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death this year, the performance tomorrow night will mark the company's debut in China.

"Macau is so multicultural and our production will be translated into Cantonese and Portuguese," said McSweeney in response to a

question about the accessibility of the play to non-native English speakers. "Shakespeare's plays are universal so it's our job to just perform them and not to try to adapt it for the local culture."

"There is a universality of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and there are some comic aspects that I think you don't need to speak English to understand. You could watch it on mute and understand what is going on. To be able to watch it with the sound off is very possible," said actor Adam Green.

Speaking in response to the same question, Sara Topham said: "I think the reason that we keep doing Shakespeare across cultures is because every girl has had the experience of having a boy not love her back. This is true of girls in Canada, China and Washington D.C. Unrequited love is the same around the world."

But whether the performers will get the same reactions from the play's humor in Macau as they

do in the United States remains to be seen, McSweeney said.

"I think on Saturday we will learn a lot. Maybe some things that we thought were funny might turn out not to be..." he joked.

Recipient of the 2012 Regional Theatre Tony Award, the Shakespeare Theatre Company is a leading classical production house in the U.S. Today it is synonymous with artistic excellence, according to a statement from the IC, and renowned for making classical theatre more accessible to audiences around Washington D.C., where the company is based.

The company performs through 48 weeks of the year from late-August to mid-July, annually producing three Shakespeare plays and four adaptations by American writers of European plays and historical plays from around the world.

IC representatives say that the show has been sold out during the "early period, within the first week or so."

AD



BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast on Tuesday 10th May

Guest Speaker: Andrew Scott
President of Macau Taxi Passengers Association
Macau Taxi Driver Shame:
the movement which led to change

The Facebook group "Macau Taxi Driver Shame" was established on 30 June 2014 in response to atrocious behaviour by numerous rogue taxi drivers in Macau. It quickly went viral and today has over 5,500 members.

The presentation will cover Macau Taxis 101: the effect of taxis on business; where we are now; government actions being (or not being) taken, including the proposed new taxi regulation; a discussion of Uber's launch in Macau; and a Q&A session.



Venue: Amber Room I, 5/F, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai
7.45 am: Registration

8 am: Sit-down and breakfast

8.15: Presentation and Q&A session

9 am: Close

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BBAM Members: Free of charge

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Paulo Coutinho

JUST ahead of Labor Day, Macau Daily Times was given a rare insight into what is going on behind those paper walls of Venice, Cotai – where, among other career developments, baccarat dealers are turned into repairmen.

We went on a guided tour of the staff quarters of the 26,000-strong team – where the workers are treated with a range of free treats 24 hours a day: meals at the canteen or at McDonalds outlets, medical assistance, a gym and a robot-guided rolling wardrobe that keeps their uniforms immaculate. Over fifteen-thousand meals had already been served that day, and it was still shy of 12-noon. We were guided further into the depths, to where workers can enhance their careers or even change careers within the Sands China gaming, hospitality and entertainment empire.

The Adelson Advanced Education Center (AAEC) is just the beginning of it, it doesn't tell the whole story of the intense, broad

and forward-thinking training and recycling of human resources (HR) going on everyday non-stop at the Venetian.

Leading the Sands China HR team and strategy – as well as our tour – is Antonio Ramirez, a Portuguese lawyer who started with the gaming operator in 2004 as legal counsel, and in 2009 was appointed to head HR.

“The company asked me to do it for a short period of time actually, but I had this belief in human resources. I had

At first we had mostly 40-plus-year-old trainees. But now we are seeing younger people, dealers in their twenties.

VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL CAREERS AT SANDS CHINA

From dealer to handyman



the strong belief that it is people that makes a difference to the business, any business. Also, I

wanted to be part of this journey [in growing into] this huge corporation and put all the training programs in place. And I thought I had the ability to help and to contribute to how to move HR from a personnel department into a more strategic department,” the senior vice-president for human resources told the Times in an exclusive interview.

Indeed, Ramirez jumped into new waters and embarked upon studies in the field he was enticed into and, what's more, to lead. Giving the strategic importance of human resources at Sands, he has sat on the executive board since 2009. “In fact right now, I am the member with the most years [experience on] the

executive committee [of SCL].”

The HR division currently has 120 staff to attend to the recruitment and training of a workforce of more than 26 thousand at all the properties in Macau. But it goes way beyond that if you take into consideration that at Sands, “everyone is taking care of everyone,” Ramirez points out.

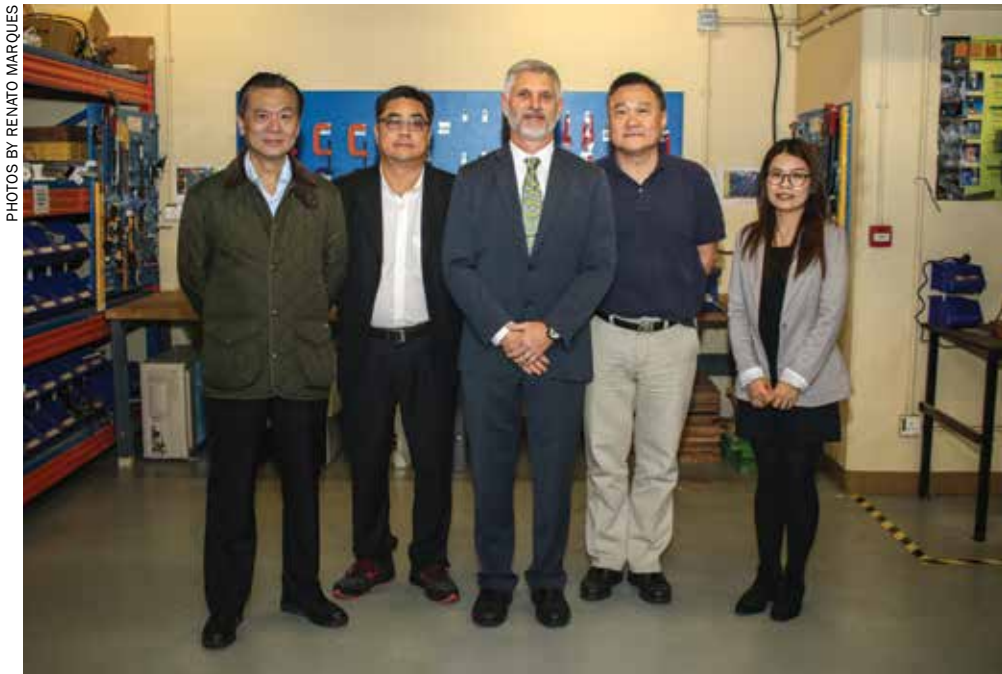
When it comes to training, both tutors and trainees are mostly Sands employees – managers, supervisors, professionals more or less up or down the “food-chain” in every area of business, in every inch of activity.

Downstairs from the Adelson Center, at the parking lot level, just behind the public car-

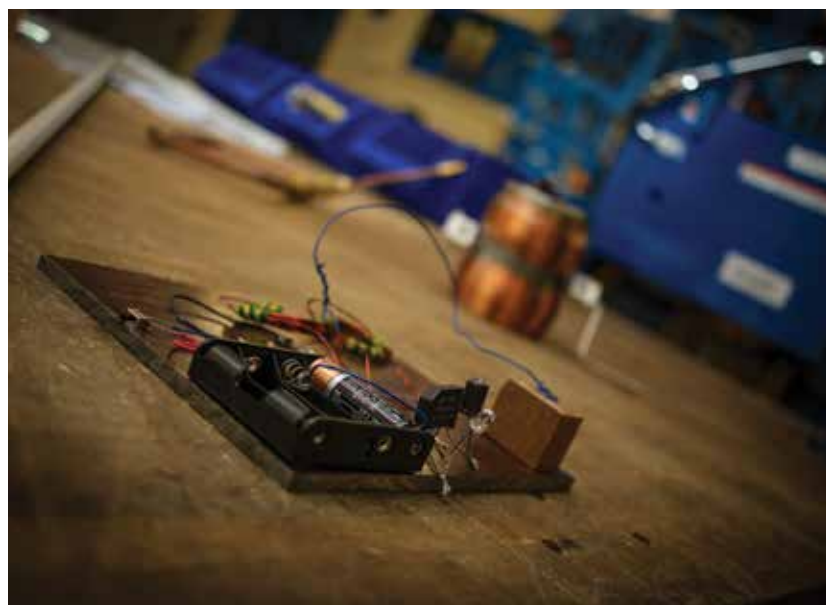
wash, is the training room for a wide range of technical skills in building repairs and maintenance: electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, painters and restorers, you name it.

“This is specific and unique to Macau and to all LVS properties in the world,” explains Ramirez. The universal problem of the lack of critical mass in Macau was the driving force behind the initiative.

The Facilities Academy at the Venetian started out of sheer need about three years ago. “We needed people to do this job which requires some expertise and we just couldn't hire anyone in Macau because people with these skills are rare. So, we thought, where



Michael Naylor, vice-president of facilities management (center) and academy instructors



can we find them? The answer was right in front of us – inside the company.”

The academy is run by engineers from SCL in charge of building maintenance. It adopted Australian textbooks for the theoretical part of the training and it is equipped with all sorts of tools and equipment mimicking real environments: here's a wall with tubes and taps; there's one with wires, switches and sockets; yet another to paint or decorate; then to more complex mechanisms, like air-conditioner turbines or power generators.

When we visited the premises, classes were taking place and the attendees were mostly men from diverse age groups.

One sector, though, seems to have taken a special interest in this training lately: table dealers.

“At first we had mostly 40-plus-year-old trainees. You know, people who were already used to doing the occasional domestic repair and already had some skills and experience at that level. But now we are seeing younger people, dealers in their twenties taking more and more interest,” says our guide, reflecting on this ‘brave new world’ where non-gaming politics also plays its role.

“These young people were maybe influenced by the decline in gambling revenues - they actually see it happening first-hand - and started to look for opportunities to make a career change when the time was right.”

The pioneering example of this school of tradesmen matches SCL's overall human resources' policy in terms of mobility.

“We offer a career path that only a few companies in the world are

We still want to attract locals to work in [file & rank] areas: we do that by putting in front of them a clear career path depending upon their ability to grow in that career.

in a position to offer people. Anyone that comes and joins and works with us, for instance in hospitality, the hotel industry, will have a résumé in a short number of years that would ordinarily take a lifetime.”

Moreover, workers at

SCL are encouraged to experience things outside their job and try other professional areas for one or two week stints all over the properties at every level and area of activity. “They can then decide to return to their initial positions or start the new job,” says Ramirez.

When “Macau Loves Locals,” the priority for recruitment is strictly in this order: Sands, Macau, external.

“The large majority of blue card [quotas] we have at Sands China are for rank-and-file positions that at this stage are not very popular among the Macau population, such as F&B or cleaning. We still want to attract locals to work in these areas: we do that by putting in front of them a clear career path depending upon their ability to grow in that career.”

With the Parisian opening around the corner, this HR mobility may help the company to overcome the proverbial lack of human resources and imported labor restrictions.

CRUNCHING HR NUMBERS

Training

1,004,949 Total training hours

204,249 Participants

80% of the participants are locals

Workforce

26,000+ Total workers

9,700 8+ years

50% 11+ years (SCL founders)

84% of 2,058 mid management promoted from rank & file

70% received 2+ times promotions



ANTÓNIO RAMIREZ

‘First we look at Sands, then Macau’



MDT - With new properties on the horizon, do you think there will be an HR war for local human capital?

AR - Listen, the Macau market has 1.7 percent unemployment rate. So there is always a scarcity in terms of talent. But that's why, actually, we put so much effort in the training and development and that's why we put so much effort, for example, to make sure that the first opportunities go to our internal team members, who work at Sands China. Who has the need to go and work for a competitor when the opportunities are here? They know that we will put the tools in place, we will provide them the career path to grow with the company. Fortunately for us, we opened the first property in 2004 and then in 2007 and then in 2008 and then in 2012 and now we're going to open in 2016. That's a lot of opportunities. That's a lot of career paths.

MDT - More emphasis on non-gaming activities, in terms of human resources creates a need of more skilled people and more people.

AR - It does. We basically work at two levels: First we look at Sands, then Macau. The first one, is to make sure that we give the opportunities to the local team members that are already working in our company and secondly, working with all the different forces in Macau, from the government to the job fairs that we put in, to the media, to everything that we do in order to attract people to come and work with us and then only after, we will consider to recruit outside of Macau.

MDT - What qualities are most required to lead HR in a company?

AR - I think that it's to have a belief that people impact the business. If I really believe that people impact a business, then we can invest in people, we can be passionate about it. If on the contrary I think that people are just employees that come here and do their tasks and it doesn't matter if it's John or Mary, then HR is probably not the best place for one to work. You need to believe that people can change, people can acquire new capabilities and people actually are the ones who develop the business, are the ones who create this experience.

MDT - Being in this position for already seven years, and before as legal counsel, what can you say about the evolution of HR in Macau?

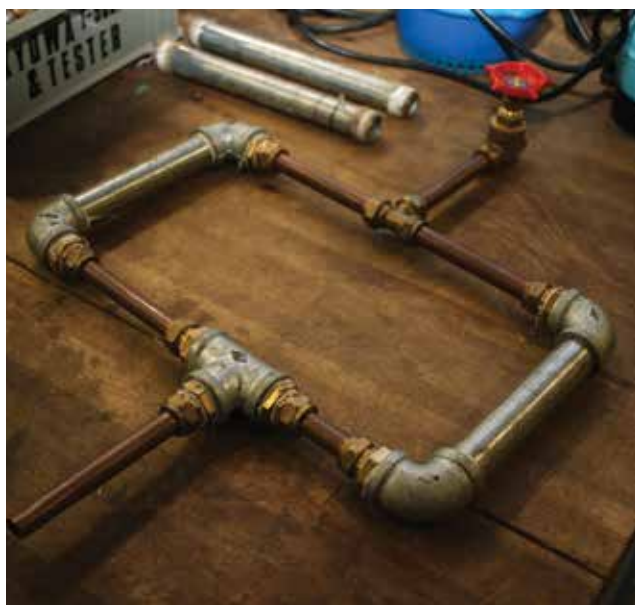
AR - In terms of HR it's been great. I would say that a few years ago the large majority of the HR departments, and I'm not talking about only Sands China, but the large majority of the HR departments inside the gaming industry and outside the gaming industry, tended to be pure personnel departments and I would say that today, they are really human resources departments: Departments that help to develop the business, create the strategies, not only with the workforce, not only hiring and firing people, but really [think about] how we can [improve] the capabilities. How we can give tools to the workforce. Not only the workforce today, but how the market is going to look two years from now and what capabilities will that workforce require. If the market is going to change two years from today, what are the things that I need to start to do today so that two years from now the workforce will be better to offer them? So I would say that Macau starts to have a lot of highly qualified people and good HR departments. We still have room to improve, yes, every single day.

MDT - With a whole career and background in legal, are you happier doing this job?

AR - I am happier doing this job, I like this job. I think it's a great company, a lot of opportunities and really create an impact in people's lives. I think that at the end of the day, going home, I think that we provide all this training, we provide all these real opportunities, we help the company to be more efficient, we help the company to identify new opportunities. I think it's very rewarding.

MDT - You have a slogan there on the wall, promoting a balance between work and life. How many hours a day do you put at work?

AR - [Smiles] I work a few hours, but I have a lot of time. Think about this, I have two daughters, a wife, I have lots of friends and a dog. I'm doing an MBA, which I have not finished yet. I'm writing the thesis for the MBA about neuroscience and how to apply that in the management of companies. The more we know about the brain, the more we can manage people. **PC**



Event marks International Jazz Day

The Cultural Events Promotion Association is celebrating International Jazz Day tomorrow with several events held at the Casa Garden. The program will start at 2 p.m. with a workshop conducted by Ines Trickovic entitled "Introduction to Jazz singing." At 8 p.m. there will be a video projection of the "Global Concert" that was held in 2015 in Paris and featured musicians from around the world. A concert with the Japanese trio T-Trip will be held at 9.20 p.m., followed by a jam session.

Non-resident workers application gets upgrade

The Immigration Department of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) will introduce the second phase of its online application service for Non-resident Worker's Authorization (for non-professional category), the PSP said in a statement. The measure to be introduced on May 3 aims to comply with the development of e-government services and to enhance administrative efficiency, allowing for a reduction in processing time to four working days (a reduction of one day). The service, first introduced in November last year, has received and processed so far a total of 48,802 applications. This accounts for 70.3 percent of the total number of applications for this category, the same source stated. According to PSP, the figures that have been achieved reflect good usage and recognition of the utility of the service.

RETAIL | ANALYSIS

Macau needs to infuse its culture into the luxury market

It has become a recent trend for affluent Chinese to travel overseas more often and now the luxury goods market has to keep its fashion offerings up to date, according to Andy Hou, general manager of Chanel Limited Hong Kong and Macau.

Hou conducted a seminar titled "Will the luxury goods industry thrive again?" as part of the third France Macau Business Association's (FMBA) monthly meeting, which was held at the Sofitel Hotel this week.

"What we can do as a brand is to equip our staff and have the best of services, and personalization will be the key," commented Hou on the sidelines of the seminar.

The speaker emphasized that Macau is a remarkable cultural destination, however, the city still has to learn how to "infuse this culture" into the luxury brand offerings.

"The risk is not to be connected in the industry and to be



Andy Hou

left out. Fashion goes so fast and we have to always [...] be on the ball," he cautioned.

Meanwhile, Hou admitted that Hong Kong and Macau retail trends are likely to continue to deteriorate due to weak visitor arrivals.

He mentioned that depreciating currencies in different countries have enticed affluent Chinese customers to travel to other destinations, adding that the changes in China's consumption taxes could further decrease Hong Kong's pricing advantage over China.

Raising the brand Chanel as

an example, the expert said that the Chinese are its main consumers worldwide, accounting for 35 percent of sales. However, only 8 percent of such clients purchase the products in China due to the country's price discrepancy.

Increased online competition has also weakened luxury sales in the two SARs, however Hou said the market is striving to improve its product quality and customer service.

"Of course, there's a downturn but it will come back. I would say people will spend money on brands they think

are valuable, so each brand has to work harder; which is good for the industry," the speaker explained.


Hou admitted that the industry should also aim to equip local employees in retail industry in Macau with "communication and empowerment."

Moreover, there is no difference in terms of spending between Hong Kong and Macau consumers of luxury goods, claimed the expert, emphasizing that residents have enormous spending power.

Despite the recent recession in Macau, Hou revealed Chanel is expecting more retail outlets to come with the introduction of the new hotels and casinos opening in 2017.

"It's a transition period for all [industries]. There's a very good opportunity for an industry like us to retain, to develop, and to go further to prepare for the next openings in 2017," he said. "So we have to equip ourselves first before we go to the next level." **Staff reporter**

AD



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ART | PHOTOGRAPHY

‘La Vie en Macau’ unveiled



Antonio Leong

Daniel Beittler

THE opening ceremony of a photography exhibition was held this week at the Albergue SCM, showcasing the latest works of Macau local Antonio Leong.

Entitled, “La Vie en Macau” (Life in Macau), the exhibition divides approximately three-dozen works into subtopics of “Life in Macau” and “This is Macau,” which showcase ordinary people living their lives in the MSAR and interesting scenes from around the city respectively.

What binds these two categories together, both of which are intended for local audiences, is that it is nearly impossible to identify any of the subjects in his photographs and it is almost as difficult to pin down the exact location of any of the scenes.

“I don’t want to identify anyone in my photos,” revealed Leong. “I just want people to see that this is how we live. I want the reader to ‘feel’ the story in the photographs [...] in fact I

refused to caption the photos [for this reason].”

“The message throughout my works is that there are many moments and memories, pre-gaming and even after the gaming came, that people who grew up here will relate to,” Leong told the Times.

“And I want to show people that we can still preserve our culture and history. We are more than just a gambling city,” he added.

Asked about the vibrancy of the colors in his photographs, Leong said that he edits them to fine-tune the colors and make them stand out more.

“Personally I am a fan of Western-style oil paintings, so I really want to bring out some of those colors,” he said.

The colors of yellow, red and green can even be used to represent Macau, the artist added. “It reminds them [locals] that our city is beautiful – that there is inner beauty here,” added Leong.

The exhibition will be open to the public until June 11. Admission is free.

‘Bathing season’ opens

THE “bathing season” for the public swimming pools is set to start this coming Sunday, with all pools now under Sports Bureau (ID) management.

Dr Sun Yat Sen, Taipa Central Park, Hac Sa Park and Cheoc Van pools will all be operating this summer season from May 1 to October 31 each week from Monday afternoon (1 p.m.) to Sunday evening (8 p.m. for Dr Sun Yat Sen Pool and 9 p.m. to all the others).

From Tuesday to Sunday the opening time is 7 a.m. for the Dr Sun Yat Sen and Taipa Central Park pools and 8 a.m. for both Hac Sa Park and Cheoc Van pools.

The tickets continue to cost MOP15 per adult with discounts applicable for both children and senior citizens (aged over 65).

The Dr Sun Yat Sen, Hac Sa Park and Cheoc Van pools will also sell monthly passes with prices ranging from MOP180 to MOP260 for adults.

This will be the first year that all the public swimming facilities will be operating under the ID after the administrative revamp. Previously, public pools were under Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau management.



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TOURISM | STATISTICS

Group tours slump



VISITORS on package tours totaled 564,000 in March, down by 36.2 percent (pct) year-on-year and down slightly by 0.6 pct month-to-month. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), package tour visitors from mainland China (446,000) decreased by 37.4 pct year-on-year, and those from the Republic of Korea (20,000) and Taiwan (31,000) declined by 44.3 pct and 38.9 pct respectively. In the first quarter of 2016, visitors on package tours totaled 1,701,000, down by 34.3 pct year-on-year.

DSEC indicated that outbound residents using travel agency services totaled 108,000 in March, down by 18.3 pct year-on-year. Residents traveling on package tours decreased by 20.3 pct year-on-year to 45,000. Those traveling to mainland China dropped by

35.6 pct, while those to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan soared. In the first quarter of 2016, outbound residents using travel agency services totaled 314,000, down by 17.6 pct year-on-year.

Statistics also indicate there were 106 hotels and guesthouses operating in Macau at the end of March 2016, an increase of 7 year-on-year. The number of guest rooms totaled 32,000, up by 4,000 (+13.6 pct) year-on-year, with rooms of 5-star hotels (20,000) and 4-star hotels (8,000) rising by 11.7 pct and 28.4 pct respectively.

A total of 893,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in March, up by 12.7 pct year-on-year. Guests from mainland China (557,000) increased by 9.8 pct, while those from Hong Kong (145,000) surged by 44.7 pct. The average length of stay of guests held stable at 1.4 nights, as it was in March 2015. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses was 76.5 pct, down by 0.9 percentage points year-on-year.

In the first quarter of the year, guests staying in hotels and guesthouses totaled 2,660,000, up by 13.4 pct year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses stood at 77.2 pct and the average length of stay of guests was 1.4 nights.

Casino workers to host a demonstration on Labor Day

REPRESENTATIVES of Love Macau, the Macau Gaining Industry Frontline Workers' Union and the Association of Rights of Gaming Industry Employees (新澳門博彩員工權益會) announced yesterday at the office of lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San, that the three entities will make a demonstration on May 1.

According to Lei Man Chao, vice president of Love Macau, the aim of the demonstration is to represent the demands of local employees, especially those working for casinos. "A large number of facts are telling us that workers are facing, or will face, unfair employment treatment," said Lei, adding that "we appeal to gaming companies to increase salaries, to



largely reduce the number of expat workers, as well as to prohibit smoking everywhere in the casinos." The representative further explained that casinos allow smoking in VIP rooms, which share the same ventilation system as the rest of the rooms in the casino.

Around 500 members from the three organizations will participate.

SEMINAR

Government urged to foster sustainable development

PRESENTED this week, Macau's first ever MSAR five-year plan aims at building a "smart city." But what does that exactly mean? Experts from Hong Kong, Shanghai, Barcelona and London debated the concept yesterday during a seminar organized by the Science and Technology Development Fund. On the sidelines of the event which took place at the Macau Science Center, the president of the fund, Frederico Ma, said that the region's development should feature "smart tourism, smart traffic, smart government and smart medicine."

According to some of the experts, developing a "smart city" could involve big data analysis – i.e. data sets that are analyzed computationally to assess patterns and trends, especially those relating to human behavior and communication – by

government departments. However, Frederico Ma noted that authorities are concerned that this involves rules and regulations related to privacy.

The president claimed that open data is the backbone of the construction of a smart city and stressed that as technology develops, data assessment could release "anonymous data."

"So we can know the flow of the people but not identify them. [...] We just want the quantity," he explains.

Representing London's Urban DNA Solutions, Graham Colclough said that a smart city should be described as one that dramatically increases the pace at which it improves its sustainability and resilience.

"It should improve how it engages in society, how it applies collaborati-

This group will assemble at the Iao Hon Park at four in the afternoon, and will depart to the government headquarters at 4.30 p.m. A gathering might take place after the demonstration, according to Cloee Chao, from the Association of Rights of Gaming Industry Employees. She said that not all members will join the demonstration due to work shifts. Three letters will be delivered to the Chief Executive.

Chao, who is also a casino dealer, noted that expat workers haven't been hired as dealers so far as a consequence of a promise made by the government, which assured the public that only locals would work in those positions.

Leong Lei Kan, an engineer representative, noted that half of his co-workers are not local residents. Moreover, "lack of experience, of degrees or qualifications" has been the reasons companies use in order to explain why their employees were not promoted, according to Leong.

ve leadership methods, how it works across disciplines and city systems," Mr Colclough stated, "in order to transform services and quality of life to those involved in the city."

Mr Ma admitted that there is still no master plan for the smart city development, but he did say he may cooperate with institutions in Macau to develop a feasibility study in the second half of the year.

The plan will not only focus on the infrastructure of the city but will pursue the development of the public's living standards.

"We need to focus on the people, the 'smart citizen.' How could we also serve the best purpose for them and not only on infrastructure?" he asked.

Cheng Dazhang, from Tongji University in Shanghai, discussed the topic of "Smart Mobility," claiming that a smart city will take advantage of technology to solve problems including transportation.

"We don't only need to use information technology, but we also need each individual's intelligence," he insisted. **Staff reporter**

corporate bits

CITY OF DREAMS 5TH TOWER WINS CONSTRUCTION AWARDS



Melco Crown Entertainment yesterday announced that the Fifth Hotel Tower of City of Dreams in Macau collected four gold awards and three silver

awards at the 5th Macau Construction Safety Award Scheme, organized by the Labor Affairs Bureau.

"Melco Crown Entertainment

is committed to maintaining the very highest standards of Occupational Health and Safety practice," said Lawrence Ho, Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "We work closely with our contractors to stay at the forefront of construction safety."

"The Fifth Hotel Tower of City of Dreams is going to be one of Macau's iconic landmarks, and will underscore our commitment to playing our part in supporting the development of Macau into the World Center of Tourism and Leisure," added Ho.

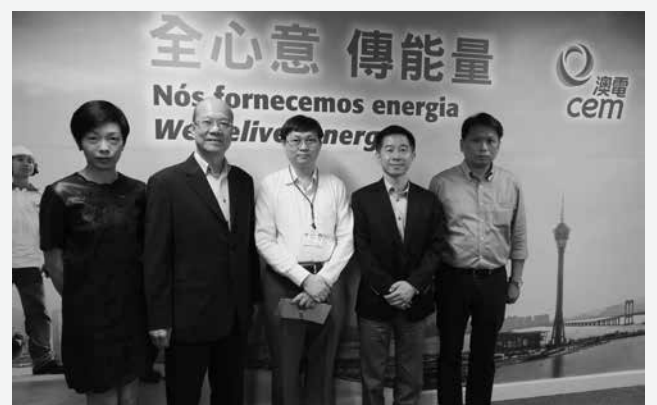
According to a statement from the company, last year the resort became the first and only hotel in Macau to receive the OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Certification from the British Standards Institute.

CEM ANNOUNCES 'E-BILL GRAND LUCKY DRAW' WINNERS

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau – CEM, S.A. (CEM) recently held a presentation ceremony for the prizewinners from the "E-bill Grand Lucky Draw," which was held from last September to March 18, 2016, to encourage citizens to receive electricity bills via the e-bill service.

According to a statement issued by CEM, over 1,000 residential customers switched from paper bills to e-bills during this time.

The lucky draw featured prizes such as Apple sport watches, single-day tickets for Hong Kong Disneyland, round-trip jetfoil tickets for four persons, Fujifilm Instax SHARE SP-1 wireless photo printers and supermarket cash



coupons.

The firm hopes that citizens will continue to use the e-bill service since most of them have smartphones and can download the CEM e-Service app to check their bills any

time.

Through this campaign, CEM aims to enhance the public's environmental awareness and encourage citizens to conserve electricity and paper resources.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The best places to live in Macau Part 4

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

Welcome back to the fourth and final part of our article on the most popular places to live in Macau for expatriates. Of course there will always be pros and cons in any property and location, so its good to know what is essential and what is desirable to make it a good choice for you.

Last week we highlighted Nova City, Ocean Gardens v Supreme Flower City and all situated in Taipa.

This week we will take a look at the historic and quaint areas of Old Taipa, St Paul's in Macau and Houston Court in Coloane Village. We also touch on area's that are new and developing.

OLD TAIPA – VA NAM, VA FAT, NAM LONG

Area: Old Taipa, low-rise residential buildings that are quaint and historic. The area is under going some renovations.

Amenities: Walking distance to restaurants, shops, banks, medical care, cafes. Bus Stops are walking distance. All the convenience of Taipa on the doorstep.

Building facilities: Usually

none and stairs rather than lift and this is reflected in the reasonable rental prices.

Property Features: Characterful open living area apartments and Studios. Offers the opportunity to live among the local community.

Rental Prices: Budget / Mid-range.

Advantages: Excellent location

Drawbacks: No club facility and older communal areas.

THE HERITAGE AREA (ST PAUL'S RUINS), MACAU

Area: Macau, near to St Malo Square.

Amenities: Walking distance to Ruins of St Pauls, local furniture shops, fast food restaurants, museum, banks, high street shops and main Post Office. Tourist shops and facilities are also nearby.

Building facilities: None but this is reflected in the relatively reasonable rental prices. Stairs rather than lifts are a feature in these older buildings.

Property Features: Characterful open living area apartments often recently

renovated.

Rental Prices: Budget.

Advantages: You are already in the centre of everything.

Drawbacks: Getting out of the centre of everything.

COLOANE VILLAGE - HOUSTON COURT

Area: Old Village Coloane, pretty and historic. Low-rise – only three stories high.

Amenities: Walking distance to restaurants, local grocers, banks, medical center, Post Office and bakeries. Bus Stops are walking distance. Local walks and beaches are also easily accessed.

Building facilities: None but this is reflected in the relatively reasonable rental prices. There is a roof terrace for the use of the residents.

Property Features: Characterful open living area apartments.

Rental Prices: Budget / Mid-range.

Advantages: The village life and local shops.

Drawbacks: Parking & Egg tarts accessible enough to ruin any diet.

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SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC



SATURDAY SUPER STACK

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Japan central bank holds fire on fresh monetary stimulus



JAPAN'S central bank stunned financial markets yesterday with a decision not to splash out still more monetary stimulus for the ailing economy — apart from zero-interest loans for an earthquake zone.

Share prices tumbled after the Bank of Japan ended its policy meeting without stepping up asset purchases or cutting interest rates further into negative territory. The Nikkei 225 stock index gave up early gains to close down 3.6 percent. The Japanese yen surged by nearly 3 percent.

"The BOJ never fails to surprise us. It is probable that the central bank is temporarily running out of tools to stimulate the economy, or they need more time to observe and assess the impact of negative interest rates," said Margaret Yang of CMC Markets.

But while markets were disappointed, analysts said the Bank of Japan could be biding its time out of both domestic and diplomatic considerations.

Japan is the host country for the Group of Seven wealthy nations' summit, due to take place May 26-27. Stimulus that would help weaken the Japanese yen could irk some trading partners.

Later moves by the BOJ could benefit from a boost to government spending ahead of an upper house parliamentary election in July.

For now, the central bank is biding its time, despite having downgraded its outlook for the economy and pushed back its timeframe for achieving a 2 percent inflation target.

The BOJ's biggest move this year has been to adopt a "negative interest rate" policy, imposing a 0.1 percent fee on some money it holds for commercial banks, beyond required reserves.

That policy, imposed in February, so far appears not to be spurring any major increases in bank lending.

The earthquakes that struck two weeks ago in Kyushu, southwestern Japan, killing 49 people are among many factors clouding the economic outlook, due to disruptions to tourism, logistics and manufacturing.

The Bank of Japan said yesterday that it would provide 300 billion yen (USD2.75 billion) in zero-interest rate loans to financial institutions in the disaster-affected areas. It also expanded the amount of reserves that can be held at zero percent interest at the BOJ.

But it left other aspects of its asset purchases and interest rate policies intact.

The BOJ announcement followed news that factory output rose 3.6 percent from a year earlier in March while core inflation and consumer spending fell, underscoring a lack of confidence among households whose buying power remains the key to sustained growth. **AP**

LUXURY

Hermes sales buoyed by bags after boosting leather output

Andrew Roberts

HERMES International SCA reported first-quarter leather-goods sales that beat analysts' estimates as the French luxury company boosted purse production and the aftershock of November's Paris terror attacks eased.

Revenue reached 1.19 billion euros (USD1.35 billion), Hermes said yesterday, matching the median analyst estimate. Sales rose 6.2 percent, excluding currency fluctuations, slightly ahead of the 5.8 percent estimate. The stock gained as much as 2.7 percent in Paris.

"The biggest and most profitable luxury-goods division saved the day," wrote Rogerio Fujimori, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets. "France was surprisingly resilient, which probably was driven by its loyal local clientele."

Hermes's Parisian stores are still suffering from the fallout of last year's terror attacks, as well as the recent bombings in Brussels, Chief Executive Officer Axel Dumas said on a call with reporters. While store visits in London and Milan are back to normal levels, Paris has yet to recover, he



Sales fell in Macau, though they stabilized in Hong Kong, which remains weak

said, seeking to explain a 9.2 percent drop in sales of silk scarves and ties.

Leather-goods and saddlery revenue rose 15 per-

cent, beating the 12 percent consensus. Hermes expanded leather production facilities in France last year, boosting supplies. The company's 15th leather workshop opened this month and investments in another are continuing, Hermes said.

Sales of every other major product line dropped.

Hermes has served fewer customers in the Middle East due to a drop in tourism and the plunging price of oil, Dumas said. Sales fell in Macau, though they stabilized in Hong Kong,

which remains weak, the CEO said. And Hermes's U.S. retail sales trailed a 4.4 percent gain in the Americas region, he said.

"There's a lot of volatility," Dumas said. "We have to adapt to circumstance."

Hermes warned last month that 2016 will be difficult. If that doesn't change and demand remains subdued in parts of Asia and the U.S., revenue growth could be below 8 percent this year, excluding currency swings, Hermes reiterated yesterday. **Bloomberg**

THE CANADIAN PRESS



HOSPITALITY

HNA to buy Radisson operator Carlson Hotels

presence in the U.S. market and expand our footprint in hospitality internationally."

He added that HNA would "accelerate growth by investing substantially in the business."

The purchase is the latest in a string of global transactions by Chinese companies as they diversify abroad to counter slowing growth at home while also scooping up foreign expertise and technology.

Other deals this year include Haier Group's acquisition of General Electric's home appliance business, conglomerate Wanda Group's purchase of Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment, and state-owned ChemChina's mammoth USD43 billion bid for Swiss pesticide maker Syngenta. It also comes weeks after China's Anbang Insurance Group was thwarted by Marriott International in its

attempt to acquire Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide.

As part of the deal, the Chinese company will also acquire a 51.3 percent stake in Brussels-based Rezidor Hotel Group AB, which operates Carlson hotels in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Under Swedish takeover rules, HNA is required to either buy the remaining shares of Rezidor it doesn't own or sell its stake down to 30 percent.

Carlson has 1,400 hotels in 115 countries and territories and employs about 90,000 staff worldwide.

HNA Group, based in southern Hainan province, operates hotels, airlines, airports and financial services and real estate businesses.

The deal is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2016. **AP**

Beijing passes law tightening controls on foreign nonprofits



Chinese officials pat each other on the back after a press conference about a law regulating overseas non-governmental organizations held at the Great Hall of the People

Didi Tang, Beijing

CHINA passed a law yesterday tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organizations by subjecting them to close police supervision, a move officials say will help the groups but critics charge is the latest attempt by authorities to clamp down on perceived threats to the ruling Communist Party's control.

The law, adopted by the national legislature, states that foreign NGOs must not endanger China's national security and ethnic unity. It grants police the power to question NGO administrators, search residences and facilities and seize files and equipment.

The move to pass such a law has drawn criticism from U.S. and European officials and business and academic organizations. They are concerned it will severely restrict the operations of a wide range of groups, further limiting the growth of civil society in China and hindering exchanges between China and the rest of the world.

The law includes a clause that allows police to blacklist "unwelcome" groups and prevent them from operating in the country. Groups can be blacklisted if they commit violations ranging from illegally obtaining unspecified state secrets to "spreading rumors, slandering or otherwise expressing or disseminating harmful information that endangers state security."

The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders denounced the law as "draconian,"

saying it allows police to exercise "daily supervision and monitoring" of foreign NGOs. The law will have "a profoundly detrimental impact on civil society in China," it said.

The group said the most alarming aspects include the ability of police to end foreign NGO-organized activities that they deem to "endanger national security," a term that is not clearly defined. Police will also be able to more closely monitor foreign organizations' funding sources and expenses, "which has the chilling effect of intimidation," the group said.

The law appears to be an effort to utilize of the resources and expertise of foreign NGOs as China struggles with problems including environmental pollution and mental health, while preventing them from competing with the Communist Party for hearts and minds.

Still, the final version of the law eased many of the restrictions included in an earlier draft, including exempting foreign schools, medical facilities, and academic and research groups in natural sciences and engineering technology.

It also allows foreign NGOs to set up multiple representative offices in China, removes restrictions on hiring volunteers and staff, and eliminates a requirement that they reapply for permission to operate in China every five years.

However, in an apparent attempt to limit their influence, the law bans foreign groups from setting up regional chapters, recruiting members from among the public at large or raising funds within China. It

also subjects them to closer financial scrutiny, requiring that they submit annual reports detailing their sources of financing, spending activities and changes in personnel.

"You are here to do deeds, not to build up your troops," Guo Linmao, a legal inspector for the legislature, said at a news conference following the law's passage.

Guo sought to offer words of assurance, saying the law aims primarily to welcome foreign non-governmental groups, help promote their activities and protect their lawful interests while filtering out those few organizations that may hurt China's national security and interests in the name of NGO work.

And, despite a relentless crackdown on domestic legal aid and civic society groups, Guo said international organizations working on human rights issues are welcome in China, as long as they comply with Chinese laws.

He said the law shifted the authority to register and supervise foreign groups from civil affairs bureaus to the police in part because Chinese police already have responsibility for managing and overseeing foreign nationals.

Many overseas organizations have partnered with Chinese academic and social groups, but still operate in a legal gray area that leaves them vulnerable to crackdowns by security forces.

In one recent example, China in January deported a Swedish man it accused of training and funding unlicensed lawyers in the country. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Chinese forces to join exercises with rival claimants

CHINA said yesterday it will send a warship and special forces for a multinational exercise next month that is also expected to include troops from the Philippines and other rival claimants in the South China Sea.

The May 2-12 maritime security and counterterrorism exercise will feature the militaries of the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with those of the U.S., India and six other dialogue partners.

It will be held in Singapore and Brunei and in nearby waters of the South China Sea.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian said that China would send the missile destroyer Lanzhou, staff officers and a dozen special forces troops.

The exercise will help the militaries to "learn from each other and deepen practical cooperation in the defense and security fields," Wu told reporters at a monthly news briefing.

China claims virtually the entirety of the strategically vital South China Sea and

has attempted to shore up its control by building islands on coral reefs complete with airstrips, harbors and radar stations.

Despite that, China says it wants to resolve differences between the six rival claimants through dialogue and accuses the U.S. of raising tensions by challenging the Chinese actions with what are known as freedom of navigation patrols.

Asked about calls in the U.S. for stepped-up naval activity in the South China Sea, Wu summed up China's hard line on its sovereignty claim in a new formulation claim he called the "Three No's."

"No matter how many and how frequently U.S. ships come to the South China Sea, that would not change the fact that the islands and adjacent islands are China's inherent territory, it would not stop the pace of China's growth and development and even more it would not shake the will of the People's Liberation Army in resolutely safeguarding the sovereignty and security of China," Wu said. **AP**

RELIGION

Revered monk is mummified and covered in gold leaf

A revered Buddhist monk in China has been mummified and covered in gold leaf, a practice reserved for holy men in some areas with strong Buddhist traditions.

The monk, Fu Hou, died in 2012 at age 94 after spending most of his life at the Chongfu Temple on a hill in the city of Quanzhou, in southeastern China, according to the temple's abbot, Li Ren.

The temple decided to mummify Fu Hou to commemorate his devotion to Buddhism — he started practicing at age 17 — and to serve as an inspiration for followers of the religion that was brought from the Indian subcontinent roughly 2,000 years ago.

Immediately following his death, the monk's body was washed, treated by two mummification experts,

and sealed inside a large pottery jar in a sitting position, the abbot said.

When the jar was opened three years later, the monk's body was found intact and sitting upright with little sign of deterioration apart from the skin having dried out, Li Ren said.

The body was then washed with alcohol and covered with layers of gauze, lacquer and finally gold leaf. It was also robed, and a local media report said a glass case had been ordered for the statue, which will be protected with an anti-theft device.

The local Buddhist belief is that only a truly virtuous monk's body would remain intact after being mummified, local media reports said.

"Monk Fu Hou is now being placed on the mountain for people to worship," Li Ren said. **AP**

AP PHOTO



In this April 13 image taken from video released by the Hua Hin Municipality an elderly British couple and their son are on the ground after they were savagely attacked during a family vacation in Hua Hin

THAILAND

Video shows British family getting attacked in Hua Hin

A British couple and their son were savagely attacked during a family vacation in Thailand in the latest blow to the country's image as a welcoming tourist paradise. Police said yesterday they have arrested the four suspected attackers.

A video of the attack, which was captured by overhead security cameras and posted this week on social media, has stirred shock and outrage over its brutality and the ages of the victims, a 65-year-old woman and 68-year-old man from Scotland and their 43-year-old son. The attack is the latest act of violence against tourists in the Southeast Asian country.

In the video the family is seen walking down a crowded street in the beach town of Hua Hin on the evening of April 13, amid festivities for the Thai New Year.

An altercation breaks out with a group of men on the street who punch all three in the face, kick their bodies and stomp on their faces in an attack that lasts about 2 minutes.

Police Col. Chaikorn Sriladecho said it started after "the son accidentally bumped into one of the Thai men."

The attack stops only when all

three victims are seen lying apparently unconscious on the ground. As the Thai gang disappears, bystanders come to their aid.

"We have now arrested all four suspects," Chaikorn said. Three of the men were arrested within days of the incident and the fourth yesterday, he said, identifying them as in their 20s and 30s.

"The men say they are sorry and that they wouldn't have done this if they weren't drunk," he said.

The father and son suffered head injuries requiring stitches, Chaikorn said. The mother received serious eye and head injuries that caused a buildup of fluid in the brain and required an operation, he said.

In March, four French tourists were assaulted on the island of Koh Kut as they walked to dinner. They included a mother and daughter who were both raped.

Two British backpackers were murdered on the island of Koh Tao in 2014. Autopsies showed the couple, a young man and woman, had been severely beaten and the woman raped. Two Myanmar migrants were convicted of the crime based on DNA evidence that rights groups say was questionable. AP

ANALYSIS | TERRORISM

After hostage beheading, is Philippines facing IS threat?

Jim Gomez, Manila

MONTHS before Abu Sayyaf militants beheaded retired Canadian mining executive John Ridsdel in the tropical jungles of the southern Philippines, they showed him pleading for life in a video with three other hostages that demanded a record-high ransom.

The scene was all too familiar in a Southeast Asian nation that has struggled with ransom kidnappings by the Islamic militants for years, except for two things.

In the video that appeared in November, two black flags with Islamic State group symbols were displayed by the heavily armed Abu Sayyaf fighters in the backdrop of lush foliage. Then after a deadline for ransom lapsed on Monday, they killed the 68-year-old Ridsdel — instead of waiting patiently for the money as the mostly impoverished rural fighters have done in the past.

Shocked by the outcome, many in the largest Roman Catholic nation in Asia are asking if this is the same band of militants the government has long dismissed as ransom-seeking bandits. Or, has the Philippines fallen into a growing list of countries that are now grappling with the spread of influence from the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq?

The Philippine government has insisted the IS still has no presence in the country's south, homeland of minority Muslims who rose up to seek a separate state in the early 1970s.

In his first remarks following Ridsdel's killing, President Benigno Aquino III, whose term ends in two months, gave a history of the Abu Sayyaf's brutal attacks, describing it as a group of outlaws and vowing "to devote all my energies toward ensuring that, at the very least, this will be a very seriously degraded problem."

A major offensive is believed to have killed about 14 Abu Sayyaf militants in southern Sulu province this week, the military said.

"Even as it poses as a group of Islamic freedom fighters, the Abu Sayyaf has behaved as criminals focused on enriching themselves by taking hostages

for ransom," Aquino said, describing them as opportunists who want to "align themselves with ISIS to gain access to the funds and resources of ISIS," using a different abbreviation for the Islamic State group.

Terrorism experts, however, believe that a key Abu Sayyaf faction and at least two other small armed groups have gone beyond pledging allegiance to the Middle East-based jihadis on video and have struck a new alliance under the IS flag.

Some foreign militants from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Middle East helped forge the union under an overall leader, Isnlon Hapilon, a senior Abu Sayyaf commander on southern Basilan Island, said Rodolfo Mendoza, a retired police general who helped lead counterterrorism efforts.

It's not yet clear if the foreign militants, three of whom were killed in military offensives last year and this year, were IS fighters or sympathizers who wanted to recruit Filipinos into the IS fold, according to the Philippine military.

In November, Abu Sayyaf gunmen beheaded a Malaysian hostage despite ongoing ransom negotiations. It happened while Manila was hosting an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit attended by world leaders, including President Barack Obama and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Another armed group, which has brandished the IS group's black flag in southern Butig town but is not yet known to have joined Hapilon's alliance, recently posted a picture online of two kidnapped villagers in orange garb before they were beheaded as suspec-

ted military spies. It's the first known instance in which local militants dressed their captives in orange, as IS extremists do.

An unusual surge in kidnappings, including daring attacks on three tugboats in and around the Sulu Sea that captured 18 Indonesian and Malaysian crewmen beginning last month, along with recent beheadings, may be an effort by the emerging bloc of militants to dramatize their capability and brutality and convince the IS group to fully recognize them as an affiliate entitled to funds and training support, Mendoza told The Associated Press.

Earlier this month, an Abu Sayyaf ambush in Basilan killed 18 soldiers in the military's largest single-day combat loss so far this year.

"They're now able to project internationally that they deserve the serious recognition of mother ISIS," Mendoza said. "The kidnappings that they do shouldn't only be seen as plain banditry."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, the militants tried to forge a formal alliance with al-Qaida but those efforts failed. The Abu Sayyaf group tried for years to foster an impression that it was formally allied to al-Qaida for survival, said Abu Muslim, a former Abu Sayyaf ranking member who has been captured and now cooperates with the government.

"There was really no direct connection between the ASG and the al-Qaida then," he said. "But the impression that there was gave the group stature and a veil of notoriety that was important in raising funds." AP

AP PHOTO



This image made from undated militant video, shows Canadians John Ridsdel (right) and Robert Hall

Julie Bykowicz & Chad Day,
Washington

USA | ELECTIONS

Republican donors deny Cruz, Kasich needed funds, data show

It seems like a logical pairing: Republican donors who despise Donald Trump, and two GOP presidential hopefuls sticking it out to keep him from the nomination.

Yet such a financial cavalry never arrived for Ted Cruz and John Kasich, ignoring their impassioned pleas for financial help.

Donors who gave as much as allowed by law to establishment darlings Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio have mostly disappeared from the political landscape, according to an Associated Press analysis of campaign finance records. Less than 3 percent of the nearly 14,600 donors who gave the USD2,700 limit to Bush or Rubio have also ponied up the maximum amount to Kasich or Cruz.

By not writing those checks, they're depriving Cruz and Kasich of as much as \$39 million each in their final push to topple Trump, who has formidably deep pockets and has loaned \$36 million to his own campaign.

Trump trounced his competitors in Tuesday's elections, putting him in a stronger position to win the nomination

There are a significant number of major fundraisers in the Republican Party whose networks are exhausted.

WAYNE BERMAN
REPUBLICAN FUNDRAISER

AP PHOTO



John Kasich



Ted Cruz

outright in the next six weeks of voting.

The quest to stop him has grown so dire that Cruz yesterday took the unusual step of announcing a running mate, Carly Fiorina. Earlier, he and Kasich agreed to divide up some remaining primary states to improve their chances of beating Trump.

But donors' continued shunning of Cruz and Kasich is one reason they haven't had more success.

"There are a significant number of major fundraisers in the Republican Party whose networks are exhausted and donors who are worn thin emotionally from the effort they made for a candidate who is no longer in the race," said Wayne Berman, a longtime Republican fundraiser. "That combination has led to many, many people sitting on the sidelines."

He's speaking from experience. Berman was the national

finance chairman for Rubio and chose not to raise money for any other candidate after the Florida senator dropped out March 15.

Both Kasich and Cruz have feverishly pitched themselves to donors as the candidate best able to unify the party. It has been a particularly tough fit for Cruz, a first-term Texas senator who has made his name as an unrelenting conservative fighter — even against those in his own party.

He's had a healthy core of his own donors, including roughly 3,900 who have given the maximum amount. In fact, Cruz is the best Republican campaign fundraiser of the 2016 cycle, and started April with \$8.8 million cash on hand.

Still, this critical stage of the race has called for extra outreach, particularly with expensive contests such as California coming up and Cruz in need of better primary perfor-

mances to derail Trump. Cruz has stepped up his requests of donors who might not have otherwise considered him. He and his wife, a Goldman Sachs manager on leave, talked to New York financiers last week at the Harvard Club of New York City.

They're seldom responding, AP's analysis shows. Through the end of March, just 186 Bush-Rubio maxed-out donors gave the maximum to Cruz.

Fred Zeidman, a Houston-based fundraiser for Bush's failed bid, is one of them. He said he felt he "owed" the donation to Cruz because of his strong support of Israel, Zeidman's top issue. "I wanted to show him my appreciation for that," Zeidman said.

Still, Zeidman said he can understand why lots of former Bush and Rubio donors are reluctant.

"At this point, many of them feel like the main objective

should be to beat the Democratic nominee, so they're keeping their powder dry until the general election, in effect just letting the primary system sort itself out," he said.

Kasich, the governor of Ohio, has attracted 174 maxed-out donors who also gave the maximum to Bush and Rubio. He's won over some of the party's top female donors, including Anna Mann, Rupert Murdoch's ex-wife; Lynne Walton, a Wal-Mart heiress; and Helen DeVos, wife of Amway founder Richard DeVos.

But Kasich has been in desperate need of more donors willing to give as much as they can. He started April with just \$1.2 million cash on hand.

The AP analysis is based on reports of campaign contributions filed with the Federal Election Commission from the beginning of the 2016 presidential election cycle through the end of March. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:05	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
18:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:00	Soap Opera
19:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
20:30	Documentary Serie
21:15	Miscellaneous
21:45	Helena's Shadow
22:10	TDM News
23:00	Europa League Highlights
23:30	Movie
01:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:30	Young Children
10:55	Drama
11:30	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Nos League: Braga - Vitória Setúbal (Repeated)
16:30	Movie
18:15	Classic Music
18:45	Contest
19:30	Miscellaneous
20:00	Documentary Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Intelligence S.1
22:45	Documentary Series
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Brother's & Sister's S5

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:25	Miscellaneous
16:40	Comedy
17:00	Miscellaneous
17:25	Documentary Series
18:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:10	Documentary Serie
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Millennium Children
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 - Magazine Programme

offbeat

ROTARY CLUB: WINNER OF RUBBER DUCK RACE CAN DINE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

A rotary club in a small Massachusetts town is gearing up for its annual rubber ducky race in which the winner's prize is a free dinner for two anywhere in the world.

The Boston Globe (bit.ly/1QzsN4T) reports that the winner of Harvard's Ducky Wucky River Race will receive free airfare, a two-night stay at a hotel and the fancy dinner.

The Ayer Rotary Club will kick off the festivities on May 7, when a construction vehicle will dump thousands of numbered ducks into the Nashua River to float downstream.

Last year's champion dined in Venice, Italy. Rotary member Jason Kauppi says past winners have traveled as far as Paris, Tokyo and Australia.

The event finishes off the Apple Blossom Festival in Harvard, a town of 6,000 residents.

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 APR - 04 MAY



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pm
ROOM 2
(3D) 4.15, 7.00 pm
Director: Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 147min

BUDDY COPS
ROOM 2
2.15, 9.45 pm
Director: Peter Chik
Starring: Bosco Wong, King Kong Li, Charmaine Fong
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min



THE BOY
ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
(30 Apr - 02 May) 2.30, 9.30 pm
Director: William Brent Bell
Starring: Lauren Cohan, Rupert Evans
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 97min

(30 Apr - 02 May) **BOOK OF LOVE**
ROOM 3
4.30 pm
Director: Xue Xiaolu
Starring: Tang Wei, Wu Xiubo
Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 130min

(30 Apr - 02 May) **THE HIMALAYAS**
ROOM 3
7.15 pm
Director: Lee Seok-hoon
Starring: Hwang Jung-min, Jung Woo
Language: korean (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 124min

MACAU TOWER

27 APR - 18 MAY

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 147min



this day in history



1993 QUEEN TO OPEN PALACE DOORS

The public will be allowed inside Buckingham Palace for the first time this summer for an adult entrance fee of £8.

Much of the Palace, including the Queen's private apartments, will remain closed, however, and the Queen herself will not be at home. The Palace will open only during August and September, when she is at her Scottish residence, Balmoral.

The National Heritage Secretary, Peter Brooke, said it was hoped that the profits would pay for 70% of the £40 million cost of restoring Windsor Castle, damaged by fire last November.

The Labour Opposition spokeswoman, Ann Clwyd, however, described the proposals as a climbdown for Mr Brooke, who has until now said the government would pay for repairs.

There has been widespread public opposition to the use of taxpayers' money to fund the work, and an attempt to raise money through a public fund started after the fire has raised only £25,000.

The royal household hopes that about 400,000 visitors will come to Buckingham Palace, much of it designed by John Nash for George IV, during the eight weeks it will be open.

For the first time, the public will be able to see the State Apartments and their priceless collections of paintings, furniture and porcelain.

The route of the tour has yet to be determined, but visitors are expected to be allowed to see the main apartments, including the throne room, the state dining room and the 155 ft (47m) long picture gallery.

They will also be able to look into the famous balcony on which newly-wed royals traditionally kiss.

There has been some criticism of the entry fee, which is higher than for most other major London tourist attractions.

A Palace spokesman, however, described it as "reasonable" for seeing the treasures of the royal collection.

There are also concerns over the security risks posed by opening the Palace to visitors, as well as the effect of the huge increase in traffic along the Mall outside.

The Palace will open each summer for five years, after which the scheme will be reviewed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Within a week, all advance group booking slots to visit Buckingham Palace had been filled for the next three years.

About 380,000 people visited the Palace in the first year. This figure rose above 400,000 for the next two years but then levelled off to about 300,000 a year ever since.

Despite the original decision to accept visitors only until 1997, the Palace has continued to open its doors even after the restoration of Windsor Castle was complete, and remains one of London's top tourist attractions.

A new company, the Royal Collection Trust, was set up to manage visitors to Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Holyrood House in Edinburgh.

In 2001-2002, its income was £16.7 million.

Persistent criticism from tourism reviews of the quality of the Buckingham Palace tour, with some describing it as "sterile", dull and uninformative.

To counter this, the Trust has now opened the Palace ballroom as well as part of the gardens. It has also put £20 million into the development of the Queen's Gallery, which opened in 2001.

In August 2003 Prince Charles also allowed tourists to see his new London residence, Clarence House, the former home of the Queen Mother.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Details start to get pretty irritating today — so make sure that you're ready to deal with them face to face. If you don't, they are sure to pile up and cause real trouble down the line.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21

You need to take better care of your bills — and any other little tasks that may slip through the cracks. It's a great time to make a new system for keeping track of this stuff so it doesn't impede your flow.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Sometimes your social energy needs to recharge before you can hit the party circuit — and today is one of those days. If you've got something scheduled, go for it; otherwise, lie low.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22

Now is a great time for boosting your social life. You can make new friends, have more fun and just breeze through life as long as you mix it up with other people. Enjoy, and share your good energy.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

People are too hard to get along with today, so make sure that you've got easy escape routes. At worst, you may need to make small talk with boring coworkers. Things get better soon.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

People all seem to be wandering off in different directions today — there's no herding them! Don't bother, because they're all focused on different plans anyway. Things should improve in a few days.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Your affectionate nature is out in force today — and the rest of the world had better get ready! You may feel as if someone is pushing back, but your easygoing charm should win the day.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your left brain is working hard today — so feed it with facts and hard, cold information. Your energy is better spent on problems that have yes-or-no answers, so put off the complex stuff for another day.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

It's a great day to spend cleaning or neatening — while that's not the sexiest use of your time, it does scratch an itch that feels good. Better yet, you're set for adventures that are sure to come.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

New information comes your way today — so you need to adjust your plans accordingly. You can do so thanks to your sharp mental energy, but you may need to clue in your friends or colleagues.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It's a good day for long-range communication — email far-flung family members or ring up a friend who's traveling. Your energy is terrific, and you should get some valuable information.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20

People may see you as a spooky poet, but your left brain works just fine. On a day like today, you can use the power of logic to get past almost any problem. Surprise someone with your analysis.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8	6		4	5				
	7		1		8			
1				3	7			
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Easy+

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Hard

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	2							
5							8	4
			6	1				

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Unpleasantly moist; 5- Tale teller; 9- Legendary Greek hero; 14- Elvis's middle name; 15- Reverberate; 16- Yoga posture; 17- About, in memos; 18- Verne captain; 19- Herbert Hoover, for one; 20- Now and then; 22- Caper; 23- ___ roll; 24- "Earth in the Balance" author; 25- Theatrical backdrop; 29- Nabisco's ___ Wafers; 32- Showy shrub; 34- Maintained by the federal government; 39- Appraise, charge per unit; 40- Botch; 42- Clotted blood; 43- Receive an academic degree; 45- Tranquil; 47- Snapshot; 49- Sniggler; 50- Spinning; 54- Building annex; 56- Climbing vine; 57- Country-dance; 63- Zhou ___; 64- Edison's middle name; 65- Shrinking Asian sea; 66- Tumbles; 67- Fruit-filled pie; 68- Auction off; 69- ___ Mio; 70- Baby blues; 71- Little one;

DOWN: 1- Speaker's spot; 2- River under the Ponte Vecchio; 3- Standard; 4- Leg joint; 5- Bolshevik leader; 6- Person with a cool job?; 7- Weary comment; 8- Outback hoppers; 9- Game resembling handball; 10- For ___ (cheap); 11- Took care of; 12- TV studio sign; 13- John ___ Garner; 21- Heavy book; 24- Choir members; 25- Puppeteer Tony; 26- Emperor of Russia; 27- Pro follower; 28- ___ Three Lives; 30- Atlas feature; 31- Boy; 33- ___ and the Night Visitors; 35- Fiend; 36- Christmas carol; 37- "Rule Britannia" composer; 38- Dirty look; 41- Simpson trial judge; 44- Lift; 46- Slippery fish; 48- Body of work; 50- Olds model; 51- Sots; 52- Shout of exultation; 53- Counting everything; 55- Atty.-to-be exams; 57- Crown; 58- Oil of ___; 59- 3:00; 60- Deuce topper; 61- Confer; 62- Fashion mag;

Yesterday's solution

E	L	S	A	M	A	R	C	H	O	N	T	O
R	I	C	H	A	L	O	H	A	B	E	A	M
A	G	H	A	C	T	I	V	I	L	E	O	N
S	A	L	T	L	A	K	E	C	I	T		
E	T	E	A	B	E	R	S	B	E	S	T	O
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P	R	E	D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	E	
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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Sticking to its plan, Atletico Madrid keeps surprising

IT'S getting harder and harder to bet against Atletico Madrid.

Diego Simeone's team continues to succeed against some of Europe's top teams, sticking to a simple formula executed to perfection: Tough defending and effective attacking, from start to finish.

Atletico's latest victim was Bayern Munich, which was beaten 1-0 in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals yesterday.

It was Atletico Madrid at its best.

"We imposed our style of play," Simeone said. "It was a great match with two different teams trying to play their own game. We did our job and this result gives us the chance of going into Munich with possibilities."

The second leg is Tuesday [Wednesday, 2:45 a.m.], when Atletico will be trying to reach its second Champions League final in the last three seasons. On the other side, an offensive-minded Bayern will be looking to make it to the final for the first time since 2013, when it won the last of its five titles.

"We need to think about the team that we are playing against, the team that Atletico

AP PHOTO



is," Bayern coach Pep Guardiola said. "They always defend very well, with many players back. It's not easy."

Guardiola will need to find a way to break through Simeone's defense and score at least a goal next week against a team

that has kept a clean sheet in its last five games in all competitions. Atletico won its last three games 1-0, including yesterday after Saul Niguez scored a sensational early goal and the defense held on for a sixth straight win.

"We wanted to win without conceding a goal and we succeeded," Atletico striker Antoine Griezmann said. "Everyone defended and everyone attacked. This demonstrates our strength and our mentality."

Atletico has become a force since the arrival of Simeone, the motivational former defensive midfielder for Argentina who brought in hard-working players who passionately abide to his team-first attitude. Despite not having the same financial power as Europe's top teams, Atletico has been able to thrive on Simeone's plan.

"The biggest achievement for Atletico is that now it can be compared to Barcelona and

Real Madrid," Guardiola said before the game. "This is Simeone's biggest achievement."

Atletico won the Europa League and the Super Cup in 2012, and in 2014 it won the Spanish league and reached the Champions League final with victories over AC Milan, Barcelona and Chelsea. It eventually lost the final to Real Madrid in a game it was winning until second-half injury time.

This season, Atletico eliminated Barcelona in the quarterfinals of the Champions League and beat Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Spanish league.

Atletico is battling for the league title again this year, even with Barcelona at the top of the standings with three matches to go. The team plays Rayo Vallecano on Saturday at the Vicente Calderon Stadium.

"We have to keep on fighting," Atletico striker Fernando Torres said. **AP**

AD

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THE VENETIAN
MACAO

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



AN ODE TO SLEEP

I need sleep.

That's the only thing really on my mind these days: how to get more of it at the appropriate moment. Rather than pull the 'I'm so tired' bunting out as a medal of honour of the busy and, by implication, the important and successful person, I raise it as it should be, a warning signal that something is out of control.

Topics like 'sleep: a business case for bed-time' and 'Sleep to be successful' – not to be confused with other forms of 'sleep one's way to the top' – are examples of titles on recent reports and articles that highlight the importance of sleep to individual employees and business-people in their ongoing maintenance of quality performance. Sleep is a business resource.

Some people might not be convinced, but sleep cannot be cheated, not for long. Sleep deprivation and the consequent fatigue impairs judgement and decision making, it decreases motivation and makes us intolerant, not to mention the long-term health effects. There are those that believe that they can make up for lost sleep or that they are the special ones who simply require less sleep. We can do it; it begins to feel normal but peak performance will always suffer.

This lack of energy, motivation, ability to focus enough to make decisions that might change our circumstances can lead to inertia that keeps us staring at computer screens mindlessly picking away at the incessant days' tasks. This is presenteeism: showing up for work when incapacitated. More work is not necessarily better work. Fatigued, we can do little to improve our situation or that of the business. We see the problems, but sleep deprivation leaves us critical, yet defensive; and scared to voice concerns for fear of narkiness of tone and non-responsiveness of others. Bitterness, negativity, damage to relationships (even if only in our own minds) - none of this helps a developing workplace that should thrive on continuous improvement.

Excellence and constant improvement are the hallmarks of highly reliable people and enterprises. Human incapacity in its many forms, however, pulls the rug from underneath desire to initiate change. The five characteristics of what organisational researchers and thought-leaders, Weick and Sutcliffe call High Reliability Organisations (and people) depend upon change.

Although they celebrate success, the highly reliable are preoccupied with failures and encourage reports of mistakes and error, not to blame but to fix them. They actively seek out signs and symptoms of problems, but the sleep-deprived have enough negative talk happening in their own heads to eschew seeking further evidence of external woes that might require too much further effort and action to fix. The highly reliable will also seek alternative views and not be satisfied with the first solution that might be 'good enough', but that takes perseverance. They are also resilient and take the reporting of errors as positive opportunities, not annoying disturbances that get in the way of the day's urgencies. And finally, as Weick and Sutcliffe propose in their tome, 'Managing the unexpected: Assuring high performance in an age of complexity for high performance', highly reliable organisations (and people) defer to expertise, but it takes positive energy to seek this out.

None of these characteristics of high performance sits well with the bitter, inert, negative, guilt-ridden and sleep-deprived bothered individual.

This is a wake-up call to go get some sleep. It's a business imperative.

THE DEFENSE PUBLISHER LEAVING HONG KONG OVER SAFETY CONCERNS

The publisher of a leading magazine on Chinese and regional defense issues says he's leaving Hong Kong out of concern he could be targeted by China's state security bodies, a further sign of how Beijing's growing presence is chilling the political atmosphere in the territory.

Kanwa Asian Defense publisher Andrei Chang said that the suspected abductions to China of booksellers tied to a Hong Kong publisher of tomes about sensitive Chinese political topics had left him shocked and concerned, prompt-

ing him to decide to move to Tokyo next month while continuing to publish his magazine in Hong Kong.

"Once you know someone who'd been kidnapped, you start to wonder if you'll be next," said Chang, a Canadian citizen who was born in China and who knows the men in the case. "We have to think tactically," he said.

Chang is a top authority on the PLA, the world's largest standing military which is fast adding cutting-edge technologies to its arsenal.

Facebook still isn't a mall, but its bots aim to change that

AP PHOTO



David Marcus, Facebook Vice President

Barbara Ortutay, New York

IT'S now possible – though neither easy nor particularly convenient – to buy stuff on Facebook via automated messaging "bots." But it's far from clear that people really want to go shopping on the social network.

Last month, Facebook announced that people can use its Messenger chat service to order flowers, keep up with the news and buy shoes or other goods from participating companies. Only a few have signed on so far, but if the feature takes off, we could all be chatting with artificially intelligent bots to reserve plane tickets, book hotel rooms or order salmon teriyaki before long.

"I would totally shop using message bots for things I know I'm buying" – like soap, shampoo or socks, says Patrick Jones, a software en-

gineer in Washington, D.C. But he doesn't quite see how bots would help with more personal purchases, such as new clothes.

Of course, there are still a lot of ifs around these shopbots, starting with the fact that Facebook has been trying, and largely failing, to launch its own e-commerce efforts for years.

Years ago, there were Facebook stores, a short-lived effort in which a few merchants mostly duplicated their existing e-commerce websites. Then there was Facebook Gifts, shut down in 2014, which let people buy chocolates or wine – later scaled back to gift cards – and send them to friends.

Facebook also offers the "buy" button, which appears in its ads and aims to let people purchase stuff without leaving the social network. But it's unclear how many

people actually use it.

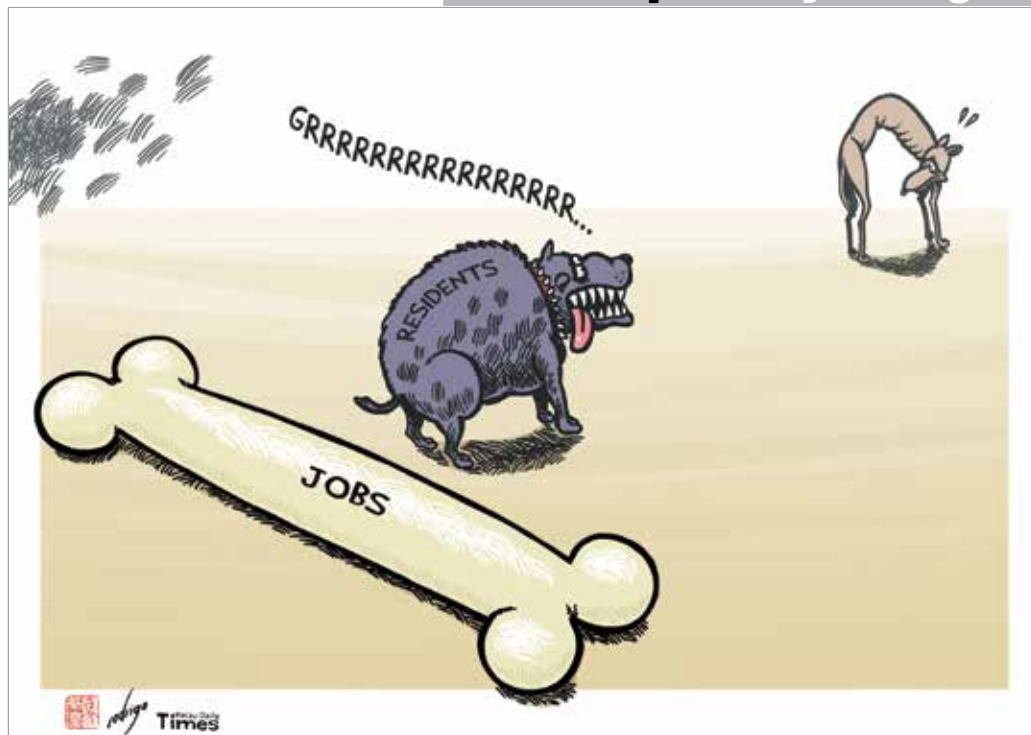
For all Facebook's success at changing the way people interact with one another and expanding their willingness to share personal details in public, it has "struggled with figuring out how to layer on e-commerce," says eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. Facebook didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

The company isn't exactly hurting in the meantime. Yesterday, Facebook Inc. reported earnings of USD1.51 billion, almost triple what it pulled in a year earlier. Its revenue jumped 52 percent to \$5.38 billion, exceeding analyst expectations of \$5.26 billion. Its shares rose 9 percent in after-hours trading.

But can shopbots turn Facebook into a mall? If so, it may still take a while, analysts say.

Artificial intelligence has made big strides recently, but bots are still in no position to replace thinking humans, says Joshua March, CEO of Conversocial, a customer-service software company. Using a bot for general, complicated customer service will only lead to frustrated customers. Special-purpose bots – such as existing models that can book you a hotel room or order flowers – are a much better bet, he says. AP

times square by rodrigo



Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA A member of an elite Cambodian military unit being tried on charges of beating up two opposition lawmakers admits the act but says he was insulted by the victims and did not know they were members of Parliament.

NORTH KOREA A suspected intermediate-range North Korean missile crashes moments after liftoff, South's Defense Ministry says, in what would be the second such embarrassing failure in recent weeks. The report of the launch failure comes ahead of a major ruling party meeting next week at which leader Kim Jong Un is believed to want to place his stamp more forcefully on a government he inherited after his dictator father's death in 2011.

AP PHOTO



PAKISTAN An ancient stone sculpture of Buddha's footprints that was smuggled into the United States and had been expected to sell for more than USD1 million is returned to the government of Pakistan.

AUSTRALIA's prime minister says a review of national gun laws would not weaken strict regulations that have kept Australians safer since 35 people were shot dead by a mass murderer 20 years ago.

GOLF Hennie Otto had seven birdies and an eagle in an opening round of 63 yesterday to lead the China Open at 9 under. The 39-year-old South African started on the 10th and had three birdies before turning in 33, then added birdies at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th before chipping in for eagle on the par-5 8th.

USA Prescription drugs were discovered with Prince when he was found dead in his Paisley Park home in suburban Minneapolis, several news organizations reported yesterday.

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