



TOURIST PRICE INDEX DECLINES
The TPI reflects the changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by tourists

P3



UM ON THE LIST OF MOST INT'L UNIVERSITIES

P5



IS CLAIMS JAKARTA ATTACKS
All five attackers and two bystanders — a Canadian and an Indonesian — died in yesterday's midmorning explosions and gunfire

P13



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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Authorities in central China say five people have been killed and seven injured in an explosion at a fireworks factory, just weeks ahead of the Chinese New Year. The Tongxu county government in Henan province said yesterday that a team was set up to investigate the blast. Its cause was not immediately clear. Often, there are reports of fireworks-related incidents at factories in the weeks leading to the holiday.

TAIWAN China isn't going to be happy with the likely victory for Taiwan's pro-independence opposition in this weekend's presidential election, but it has limited options to respond: any angry reaction could further alienate the island's public, while a passive response could weaken Beijing's influence there. [More on p8](#)

PHILIPPINES The military went on "heightened alert" following the attacks in neighboring Indonesia, although it said no specific terrorist threats had been monitored. Police also beefed up security in train stations, bus terminals, airports and shopping malls and asked for public vigilance. The Philippine government condemned the attacks. "We stand by in solidarity with our Indonesian brothers and sisters in this time of tragedy," the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

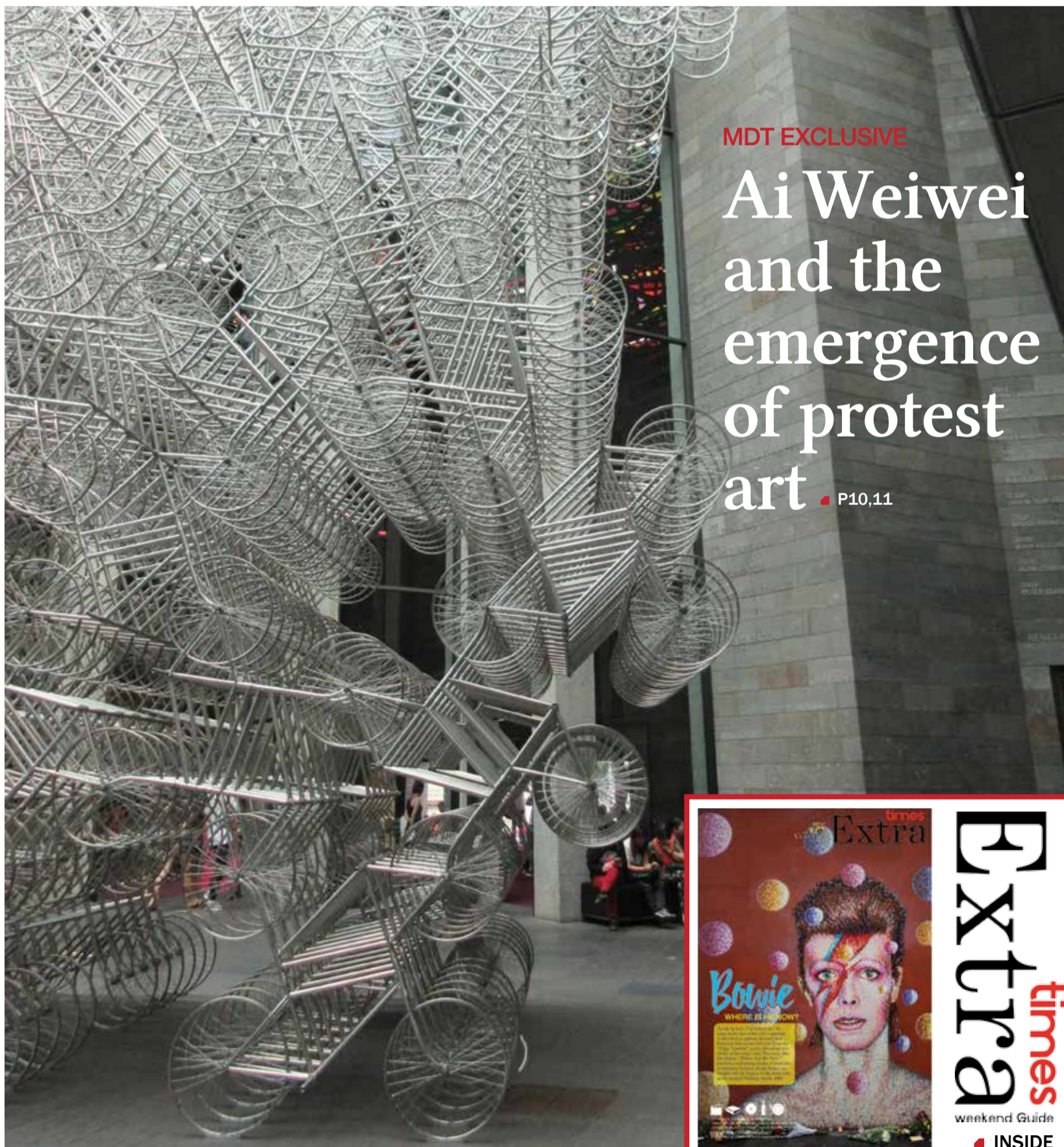
AUSTRALIA says it was among 40 countries urged by the United States to increase their military contributions in Iraq and Syria following the Paris attacks in November. But Australia told the U.S. that its commitment would remain largely unchanged.

[More on backpage](#)

Gov't trails private sector in information security

P5

ANGUS TONKIN



MDT EXCLUSIVE

Ai Weiwei and the emergence of protest art

P10,11



Extra
times
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INSIDE

A new painting exhibition opened at Creative Macau this week, featuring the works of Macau-based artist Grace Yeu. The collection, known as "Fantasy," depicts a world in which animals of different species can talk and understand each other, just as human beings are able to communicate with one another.

Speaking to the Times, Yeu explains that she is increasingly concerned that the natural environments of animals are being "encroached upon by the so-called 'civilization' of man."

This is the primary theme that informs many of the pieces in her exhibition. The paintings show animals, often of differing species, in what appear to be urban settings.

The animals, which tend to be represented in one or a few shades, stand out against the urban backdrops that are often exceptionally diverse in color.

"I love colors and enjoy mixing and matching them, trying to explore and express my imagination through them, and using them to express and communicate my themes and ideas," Yeu wrote in a catalogue detailing her works.

Observing her productions, one cannot help but be drawn immediately to the subjects of her paintings – whether they be an elephant in subtle shades of yellow and light green, or a dazzle of zebra silhouettes with their stripes accentuated in bright colors.

She says that her love for animals began early, but was heightened by a vacation in Africa where she was stunned by the beauty of the wild animals. A trip to Sri Lanka some years later mesmerized Yeu, as she watched with tranquil fascina-

ARTS

Exhibition focuses on human invasion of animal habitats



Grace Yeu

tion as elephants played at an orphanage.

It is no surprise then, that the artist's husband revealed that she despises zoos and en-

losures – particularly birds in cages, which she thinks "should be free to fly."

In drawing comparisons between human beings and ani-

mals, she finds that animal communication – even interspecies communication – lacks something that humans are seemingly reluctant to for-

sake in our dialogue. "Fear," she says, "human beings hide behind a mask."

But in her "Fantasy" exhibition, Yeu imagines that she can converse with the animals, particularly penguins, for which she has an affinity.

■ In her 'Fantasy' exhibition, Yeu imagines that she can converse with the animals

"Every time that I placed the penguins in my painting, I seemed to ask them 'what are your views?'" she explained, adding that "their curiosity and cute movements just inspire and amuse me."

A key part of the message behind the exhibition appears to use interspecies animal communication as a reflection on human beings as a species, highlighting our potential to better understand and respect animals. If animals are willing to make the effort, then so can we, Yeu appears to say.

Her exhibition will run in Creative Macau's gallery until February 13. Admission is free. **Saffr reporter**

Portuguese School holds 'Open Day' tomorrow

Renato Marques

The Portuguese School of Macau (EPM) is holding its Open Day tomorrow "with several kinds of activities available, from culture to arts and even passing through sports," the vice-president of the school, Zélia Mieiro, told the Times. The event is being held to show all of the interested parties the types

of activities that are being developed by the school.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the EPM's doors will be open and offering many activities. Special highlights will include "open classes" in the areas of Mathematics, English and Mandarin, while additional classes in the laboratories of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology will give a real insight into the school curriculum, ca-

pabilities and equipment.

In sports, the "wall climbing" activity is very popular, being one of the school's most recent additions to the sports facilities.

As for the moment of the day that is "not to be missed," Zélia Mieiro elected the "Cultural Show," an activity that will take place in the school's gymnasium from noon until 1 p.m. This activity includes an act by a spe-

cial group of singing teachers who call themselves "Canto Cantonense," who will perform a song by famous Taiwanese pop singer Teresa Teng.

According to EPM's vice-president, this is a very important moment every year and this time will be no exception.

"We are visited by many of the parents of our students who want to know more and interact with



RENATO MARQUES

the school activities, but [we have] also in recent years [been approached] by parents of students who speak the Chinese

mother tongue, and who take this opportunity to get to know the whole school, its curriculum, and its activities."

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Nine Uber related cases under prosecution

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) announced that there are nine court cases currently being prosecuted involving the ride-sharing application Uber. All About Macau reported that 357 drivers were notified, the cases of which all occurred over the course of the last year.

Following the launch of the application last October, the police issued fines to a large number of Uber cars. The PSP has maintained the stance that the application is illegal in Macau, since a vehicle must be duly registered as a taxi before a driver can offer someone a ride in exchange for the payment of a fee.

However, in a press conference held in November, Uber representatives said that the service that local travel agencies and their drivers are providing to the consumers in Macau through Uber is in full compliance with the law. The company said that it would file a complaint to the police and



Applicants stand inside an Uber Technologies Inc. office during a driver recruitment event in Hong Kong

to the Commission Against Corruption over the “unjustified fines and impounding of their cars.” Uber is still operating, apparently against the will of local authorities.

When questioned by the media organization Jornal Do Cidadão, the head of the division of Transportation Management of the Transport Bureau, Tsang Cheung Hin said that the Transport Bureau (DSAT) will cooperate with the police to identify drivers providing illegal services.

Tourist prices decline for first time since records began

THE average Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the entirety of 2015 decreased by 0.86 percent year-on-year to 138.39, marking the first annual decline recorded since the inception of the index in Macau.

The TPI reflects the changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by visitors, which are separated into a number of popular categories including “Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco”, “Accommodation”, “Restaurant Services”, and “Entertainment & Cultural Activities.”

According to the data, which was released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the TPI for the fourth quarter of 2015 decreased by 3.03 percent year-on-year to 141.29, bringing down the yearly average. The drop may be attributed to lower costs for hotel accommodation in the third quarter, DSEC proposed in a statement.

Over the course of 2015, the price indexes for “Food, Alcoholic Drinks & Tobacco”, “Entertainment & Cultural Ac-



“Restaurant Services” increased by 4.53 percent, 4.22 percent and 4.02 percent respectively.

This could not offset the falling price index for “Accommodation,” which tumbled 7.08 percent year-on-year.

While the price index for “Accommodation” for the fourth quarter was down by more than 10 percent year-on-year, it showed considerable price growth from the previous quarter (Q3).

The TPI for the fourth quarter

of 2015 increased quarter-to-quarter by 7.48 percent, led by “Accommodation” which rose by 25.19 percent due to higher hotel room rates during the National Day holidays, the Macao Grand Prix and Christmas Holidays.

Meanwhile, “Clothing & Footwear” also saw a significant rise in the Tourist Price Index for the fourth quarter, compared with the previous quarters. The 9.5 percent upswing was accredited by DSEC to the arrival of new winter clothing.

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Gov't says infectious diseases building will not affect neighborhood

THE building expected to be constructed for the Health Bureau's division for treatment of infectious diseases will include several effective infection prevention and control measures to safeguard the health and safety of those living in the vicinity of the building, according to a government announcement.

Authorities plan to erect the new building close to the Conde S. Januário Hospital, a decision that is not being well-received by nearby residents. Construction is planned to start in the third quarter of 2016. In order to build the facility, two buildings that were previously being used by the Social Welfare Bureau as a drug rehab facility and as a storage unit for the hospital will be demolished.

The government says that the location will allow health services to act promptly and effectively in case of an outbreak of an infectious disease, and would help to prevent further spreads or recurrences.

The decision to construct the building close to the city's main public medical facility was made after assessing several factors. Given that



Representatives of the Health Bureau pictured yesterday during a press conference about the infectious diseases building plan

most cases of infectious disease in Macau are reported to the Conde S. Januário Hospital, the risk to public health would be lower if the infected patients were to be transferred to a nearby medical facility for treatment, thereby minimizing the risk of exposure to the public, stated the Health Bureau (SSM).

In addition, the treatment of infected patients also requires support from medical specialist teams from the hospital. SSM says that Macau needs a specialized facility to effectively treat infectious diseases as the world grapples with

increasing outbreaks of such diseases.

Plans to build a facility of this nature were initially discussed after the outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in neighboring regions in 2003.

The planned building for the treatment of infectious diseases will have an area of 5,565 square meters. The 12-storey building will include 120 wards specially equipped for infection control and treatment of patients, and a number of world-class medical facilities.

SURVEY

Students consider sports betting a leisure activity

A survey conducted by Bosco Youth Service Network has revealed that more than half of the Macau youth population sees sports gambling as a source of regular entertainment, while 32 percent of the parents avoid talking to their children about gambling, Jornal Va Kio reported.

Regarding parents' reactions to their children's gambling habits, the survey also reveals that 12 percent of the interviewees believe that their families were unaware of their gambling habits, 37 percent acknowledged that their parents showed little interest, and that 32 percent of the respondents obtained their gambling money from their families. Nevertheless, only 1.9 percent of the parents surveyed had reprimanded their children for gambling. Still, 32 percent of the parents have no opinions, or prefer to avoid conversations concerning their children's gambling behavior.



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ACCORDING to the results of the “Macau Information Security Survey 2015” conducted by the Macau New Technologies Incubator Center (Manetic), the government sector continues to lag behind the private sector in terms of information security.

Organized by Manetic, in coordination with the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association and the Macau Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center, the survey concluded that the private sector has marginally increased its lead over the public sector since 2013.

However, in terms of broader cyber security strategies, Manetic notes that the government’s plans are far more comprehensive – better addressing what the organization deems to be the six key areas of IT security: “policy”; “control”; “incident”; “effectiveness”; “cloud adoption”; and “web server adoption.”

The executive director of Manetic, Gilbert Chan, presented the findings of this year’s survey to a press briefing yesterday. He explained that the survey results comprised data gathered from a total of 95 organizations in Macau between October 12 and November 5 last year.

Approximately 55 percent of the entities surveyed were government-sector organizations, while the remaining were from various sectors in the private sphere, including ICT, public utilities, banking, retail, gaming

Public sector lags behind private in information security



Gilbert Chan, Executive director of Manetic, presents the findings of the “Macau Information Security Survey 2015”

and educational institutions.

One of the major findings of the survey concerned the proportion of the IT budget of organizations that is intended for information security purposes, which Manetic says has “increased significantly in the past six years.”

Manetic believes that most organizations spent around 6–10 percent of their IT budget on

security, indicating a growing interest.

In 2015, 11 percent of those surveyed spent more than 20 percent of their budget on security-related projects, compared with 9 percent in 2010. While 29 percent spent between 2 and 5 percent of their budget on their information security in 2010, the figure for that category had dropped last

■ **Around 40 percent of webservers were deemed to be outdated or unpatched, representing potential security threats**

year with only around 15 percent of organizations making that investment.

In addition, organizations are reportedly moving away from hiring “part-time” or “ad hoc” employees for information security. They instead prefer to hire “full-time” or “dedicated” staff. This represents a shift in perception among management personnel about the importance of information security.

While 19 percent of non-government-sector organizations have not implemented training programs for employees to update information security skills for IT staff in the past 12 months, the figure stands at 25 percent for the go-

vernment sector.

The government sector was also lagging slightly behind the private sector in terms of the use of safe webservers. The report found that a higher proportion of government-sector organisations were operating on outdated or unpatched servers, representing a potential cyber security threat.

Across both the private and public spheres, around 40 percent of webservers in the 2015 survey were deemed to be outdated or unpatched, marking significant growth in recent years from 2014 (35 percent) and 2013 (31 percent).

Another major finding concerned the adoption of cloud computing by organizations – or the storage of data on remote servers. Around 35 percent of respondents said that they use cloud-based services for IT-related projects.

However, only 8 percent of those surveyed identified “security issues” as a reason for not adopting cloud-based services. Respondents explained their non-adoption by citing concerns over the reliability of cloud services (31 percent), lack of knowledge of the technology (22 percent) and concerns over loss of data (19 percent).

UM on the list of most international universities

THE University of Macau (UM) made it on the list of the world’s most international universities in 2016, ranking sixth among the top 200 universities across the globe.

The university is one of three from the Southeast Asia countries and regions that were included in this year’s top international university rankings. Six universities in Hong Kong and two in Singapore were among the top 200 institutions. The University of Hong Kong achieved third in the rankings.

The rankings, published yesterday by The Times Higher Education, a weekly magazine based in London, showed that a total of 15 universities in London are named in the rankings, revealing that London has more top international universities than the whole of

USA, Canada and France combined. The UK has almost a third of entries in the top 200, 39 of which made the top 100.

The Telegraph Online claimed that in terms of the numbers of foreign staff and students, UK faces competition from

“**The top institutions hire staff from all over the world and attract students from a global market of top talent.**”

PHIL BATY



UM students at the Hengqin campus

countries including Switzerland, the US and Australia, the last of which has the second-highest number of entries. However, experts warned that the UK could lose its rankings as competitors in Europe become savvier in attracting candidates from different parts of the world.

The rankings are compiled through analysis of the proportion of the institutions’ international staff

and international students at each university, also taking into account the number of research papers published with at least one co-author from another country.

“An institution’s global outlook is one of the key markers of a prestigious university. The top institutions hire staff from all over the world, attract students from a global market of top talent, and collaborate with leading

departments wherever they happen to be based,” said Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

He added that the UK had fantastic assets and was one of the world’s most attractive destinations for international students. Mr Baty emphasized that countries like China, which traditionally send a large number of international students to the UK, were able to

retain more students.

The most international institution is Qatar University – the first time that a Middle Eastern university has topped the list – beating the five-time rankings leader École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland, which came fourth this year.

The University of Luxembourg came second and the University of Geneva rounded out the top five most global universities.

TOP 100 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

1. Qatar University
2. University of Luxembourg
3. University of Hong Kong
4. École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
5. University of Geneva, Switzerland
6. University of Macau
7. ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
8. University of St Gallen, Switzerland
9. National University of Singapore
10. Imperial College London, UK

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Macau Property Review 2015

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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Once again, the past year has been an interesting one for Macau and its Property.

The beginning of the year saw property prices dropping under the record highs of 2014 where property values had climbed between 40% and 60% (dependent on the property, where it is located, size etc).

Rental prices had also been on the increase from the previous year, and again the increment varied depending on which building and development you were in.

The biggest demand for rental property was in Taipa, where migrant workers flocked to try and avoid the logistical issues of buying a car or the horror of catching a bus.

At the beginning of the year, a nicely appointed 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa that does not have access to any facilities carried an asking price of \$5,000,000 with a rental price range of \$12,000 - \$16,000.

Now that same 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa has an asking price of around \$3,800,000 - \$4,000,000 with a rental range of \$9,500 - \$13,500. In both cases a drop of around 25%

The same holds true for a 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa in a complex with common facilities such as a gym, swimming pool etc, the current

asking prices are 25% - 30% lower than the same time last year.

As we go 'up the ladder' the more spacious and 'luxury' apartments have been affected to a somewhat larger extent, in some cases asking prices have changed by as much as 35%.

Here is a quick recap of the year in case you have been traveling on a spaceship or crossing a desert for 12 months;

- The 8,649 low cost housing units (in a prime location) started to fill up as people took possession and moved to Coloane with their families.
- Meanwhile the supply of new apartments into the market was around 2,000 many of which were located in One Oasis (Coloane).
- The Population in Macau at the beginning of the year was approx 620,000. By the end of 2015 the government estimate is around 645,000. That's an increase of up to 25,000 people.
- Rental prices dropped by 15% - 30% from the start of the year.
- Whilst the reduction in rents may appear to be in line with the general drop in property prices, it should be noted (especially by government

officials!) that the root cause of the drop was simple supply and demand. The release of One Oasis and other projects onto the market meant that supply levels were high for once.

- Property values dropped by 20% - 30% over the course of the year
- The government announced a discussion on 'rent control' procedures despite past experience, when interfering with the free market had negative unforeseen and long lasting consequences.

Did the government get it right this year?

Well the free market corrected property prices whilst the government is still talking about rent control, delayed border openings, a Taipa Ferry Terminal who's opening date seems to get further away each year and a light rail system that has NO opening date, so you be the judge.

Advice offered in these articles are the opinion of the individual author. Readers should consult with qualified and experienced lawyers familiar with Macau Law on legal matters, and independent investment advisors on financial matters.

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RETAIL

Burberry Christmas sales miss expectations in Macau, Hong Kong

BRITISH trenchcoat maker Burberry Group Plc reported Christmas revenue that trailed its own forecast, hurt by a slump in demand in Macau and Hong Kong.

Retail revenue fell to 603 million pounds (USD869 million) in the three months through December, London-based Burberry said yesterday in a statement. Analysts predicted 606 million pounds, based on the median of estimates compiled by Bloomberg. Sales were unchanged on a comparable basis, missing internal expectations, compared with a 4 percent decline in the second quarter, Burberry said.



Hong Kong sales fell more than 20 percent. The U.K.'s largest luxury-goods maker is scaling back stores, cutting bonuses and consolidating products under one label after forecasting earnings will probably fall for a second straight year. Richemont reported Christmas season sales declined for the first time

since 2008. Tourist bookings to Europe have declined following the terror attacks in Paris and an unseasonably warm winter has added to challenges facing luxury companies. Burberry is also more exposed than peers to spending by Chinese clients, which is cooling as that country's stock market slumps.

The company anticipated in October a return to growth in last part of 2015, driven in part by new products such as lightweight cashmere trenchcoats and ponchos, and new styles of scarves. **Bloomberg**

UEFA signs Chinese electronics firm Hisense for Euro 2016


UEFA says it has signed a deal with consumer electronics firm Hisense as the first Chinese sponsor of the European Championship.

UEFA says Hisense completes the lineup of 10 top-tier commercial partners for the June 10-July 10 soccer tournament in France.

The value of the deal, which includes other UEFA national-team competitions through 2017, was not disclosed.


Hisense adds European soccer to a growing sports marketing portfolio with includes the NASCAR. The Chinese firm began title sponsorship last year of a NASCAR race at Atlanta.

AD




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21 January 2016 (Thursday)
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Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA isn't going to be happy with the likely victory for Taiwan's pro-independence opposition in this weekend's presidential election, but it has limited options to respond: Any angry reaction could further alienate the island's public, while a passive response could weaken Beijing's influence there.

Beijing may wait and see, and impose economic and diplomatic pressure gradually if a new Taiwanese administration does too much to carve out an identity separate from the mainland. China views the island, which split from the mainland in 1949 amid civil war, as part of its territory that must be reclaimed, by force if necessary.

The two sides have grown closer in recent years amid increased travel, communication and trade under the outgoing Nationalist President Ma Ying-jeou, who pushed for warmer ties.

But fears about the economic threat posed by China, from the mainland's rising technology capabilities to its large pool of college graduates willing to work for less, have pushed many Taiwanese voters toward the opposition Democratic Progressive Party and fueled a "Sunflower Movement" of student protesters who oppose closer relations with the mainland.

Although DPP candidate Tsai Ing-wen has pledged to maintain the status quo, she has refused to endorse a previous consensus between her predecessor and Beijing that considers Taiwan to be a part of China — something Beijing insists is a bottom line to talks between the sides.

Beijing seems resigned to Tsai's victory, and is not likely to take any drastic action initially.

"There will be an observation period," said Dali Yang, an expert on Chinese politics at the University of Chicago.

Most surveys on the island show Tsai holding a commanding lead over the Nationalist Party's Eric Chu.

China has largely kept quiet during the campaign, although its chief official for Taiwan affairs spoke this month of "new challenges" in the year ahead. Beijing's reticence is a tacit acknowledgement that it has little sway over electoral realities in Taiwan, including the Nationalists' weakness and the newly emboldened youth movement.

Tsai has also been careful not to push Beijing's buttons with inflammatory rhetoric. In fact, she has avoided making Taiwan's national identity a key issue in the

AP PHOTO



Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen

Beijing faces few good options in Taiwan electoral outcome

■ DPP candidate Tsai Ing-wen has pledged to maintain the status quo, [but] she has refused to endorse a previous consensus... that considers Taiwan to be a part of China

election, leaving herself room for post-election adjustments, said Peking University China expert Niu Jun.

The election comes barely two months after a historic meeting in Singapore between Ma, the outgoing president, and China's Xi Jinping, the first face-to-face encounter between the sides' heads of state since they split in

1949 amid a bitter civil war.

The symbolic meeting was widely seen as an attempt by Beijing to elevate the status of the presidential office and lock-in high-level contacts between the sides before a change of administration.

China hoped that would set an important precedent and offered extraordinary concessions to make it happen, including agreeing not to use formal titles or have Chinese flags in the room. A major meltdown in relations could scupper hopes for another such encounter while making Xi's flexibility look ill-advised, said University of Virginia China scholar Brantly Womack.

Beijing "will lose face if the handshake proves to (have been) a mistake," Womack said.

China isn't spoiling for yet another crisis, with a stock market in free-fall, sharpening maritime disputes, an ongoing campaign against corruption and unrest among Uighur Muslims in the northwestern Xinjiang region. China this year will also undertake an ambitious streamlining of the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army that will see hundreds of thousands of jobs cut.

Still, China can't afford to be wholly passive and see its relevance to Taiwan erode. If Tsai continues to reject the so-called "One China Policy," roll-back Ma's pro-China agenda or aggressively seek to expand Taiwan's international presence, a response could be in the offing.

Beijing could initially suspend contacts between the bodies tasked with negotiating trade and travel agreements. Or it could exclude Taiwan or restricting its participation in international organizations, especially China's newly established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China might also start pressuring countries that have diplomatic ties with Taiwan — 22 at present — to sever relations.

Beijing will "test Tsai and if it concludes that Tsai is 'responding inappropriately,' it will get more negative," said Steve Tsang, senior fellow at the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute.

Chinese authorities could also reduce the number of mainland tourists it allows to visit Taiwan, or shift some of its state companies' large orders to firms from other

countries, although most observers say economic measures are unlikely. Taiwan relies on the mainland market to absorb about 30 percent of its exports, while Chinese companies, including some with ties to the military, are hotly pursuing stakes in Taiwanese high-tech firms.

Even less likely is that Beijing would mobilize its army in an attempt to intimidate Tsai and the Taiwanese public. Previous attempts to do this have backfired, including missile launches during the run-up to a 1996 election that were widely seen as solidifying support for the candidate Beijing opposed.

While China continues to point more than 1,000 missiles at the island, the military hasn't been openly deployed in such a role in almost two decades.

"I do not expect any sort of security crisis," said Alan Romberg, East Asia Program director at the Stimson Center think tank in Washington D.C. "I suppose both sides could mismanage things too badly that there could be a vicious downward cycle of action and reaction, but I frankly don't foresee that." AP

Scholar pleads guilty to smuggling ivory from US to China



A college professor pleaded guilty yesterday to illegally smuggling items made of elephant ivory and agreed to pay a USD500,000 fine that prosecutors say should be a deterrent to such activity.

Yiwei Zheng, a philosophy professor at St. Cloud State University, acknowledged smuggling ivory carvings of potted flowers and other items from the U.S. to China in April 2011. He also admitted to illegally exporting two rhinoceros horns to China in July 2010 in violation of the U.S. Lacey Act, which bans trade in wildlife that has been illegally taken, transported or sold.

In addition to the steep fine, the 43-year-old could face about three years in prison when sentenced in May. A federal judge will make the final decision on the fine and sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Provinzino said that when ivory and rhinoceros horns enter the market, it fuels demand for the products and leads to poaching

of critically endangered animals.

"We want to make sure people know they can't profit from this," Provinzino said after this week's hearing in federal court in Minneapolis.

Zheng's attorney, Tim Webb, said his client has long traded in historical Chinese artifacts and authored books on Chinese trinkets. Webb said most of the items Zheng had were antiques and weren't illegal in and of themselves, but that Zheng knowingly didn't follow regulatory and permitting requirements to buy and transport some items. Webb said his client is remorseful and regrets his actions.

Zheng would not have been granted a permit if he would have applied for one, according to Pat Lund, resident agent in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Minnesota. The ivory items were seized by Fish and Wildlife inspectors in Chicago, and several more were seized during a search of Zheng's home.

Zheng, who has taught at St. Cloud State since 1999, was indicted last year on several charges, including conspiracy. He has been free on bond and has continued to teach at the university in St. Cloud. Prosecutors said the ivory and rhinoceros-horn items documented in Zheng's case had a fair market value of between \$550,000 and \$1.5 million. AP

Conservationists welcome Hong Kong move to ban ivory trade

A pledge by Hong Kong to ban its ivory trade has been welcomed by conservationists who describe it as a key step toward curbing the slaughter of African elephants.

Hong Kong's leader, Leung Chun-ying, said this week that the semi-autonomous Chinese city will take legislative steps as soon as possible to completely ban the sale of ivory.

Peter Knights, executive director of San Francisco-based WildAid, has congratulated Hong Kong for its announcement. His organization has cited reports that most of the ivory sold in Hong Kong was being smuggled to the Chinese mainland.

China is the world's largest market for illegal ivory, which has been thriving under the cover of legal ivory sales. In September, the United States and China agreed to implement nearly complete bans on the ivory trade.

ADVERTORIAL

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Shop 516, Bridge Street, Level 3, Shoppes at Venetian



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K6, Level 2, Shoppes at Four Seasons

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Angus Tonkin
MDT Correspondent, Melbourne

EXCLUSIVE | NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA SHOWS

Ai Weiwei and the emergence of

ON face value, you might assume that artists Ai Weiwei and Andy Warhol have very little in common, save for their initials and occupations. The former has defied Chinese censors for decades as a vocal advocate for democracy and freedom of speech. The latter moved in high-flung artistic circles, casting a sharp eye on the nature of celebrity and artistic authenticity. The decision by the National Museum of Victoria/NGV in Australia to merge their portfolios in the exhibition “Andy Warhol — Ai Weiwei” (December 11, 2015–April 24, 2016) is an interesting choice.

While Warhol’s name may be the more famous in Western circles, centre stage is here reserved for Weiwei and his unique catalogue of ‘protest art’. In the foyer, we are treated to the fragile industrial magnificence of “Forever Bicycles”, a vast network of interconnected bike frames arching high within the gallery’s airy interior. This is a taster of Ai Weiwei’s masterful grasp of space and performance.

Weiwei’s installations, some of them created especially for the exhibition, drive the narrative through this exhibition. “Andy Warhol — Ai Weiwei” balances Weiwei’s forceful moral fortitude ahead of what is tipped to be the Chinese 21st Century, against the cynicism of Warhol’s dissection of the American 20th Century. With the artists exhibited in direct comparison throughout, together they provide pertinent and complementary statements on the world’s transformation – on scales large and small.

When surveying their contribution to society and political



National Gallery of Victoria Exterior



Coloured Vases, Ai Weiwei, ceramic and paint

discourse, to call these men ‘artists’ seems too meagre a description. At times, ‘documentarian’ is more accurate for Warhol, while Weiwei’s actions are often closer to ‘activism’ than to art. But this is a large part of their success, and one of the most engaging aspects of this exhibition. Their art is defined by its ability to push boundaries, introducing new media and new conversations to the gallery space.

Ai Weiwei clearly owes a debt

The installation balances Weiwei’s forceful moral fortitude ahead of the Chinese 21st Century, against the cynicism of Warhol’s dissection of the American 20th Century

to his forebear. Marcel Duchamp’s legacy of the ‘readymade’, in which ideas are championed over craftsmanship, is inescapable in the installation-heavy gallery space. Also, Warhol paved the path towards modern ‘protest art’ through iconographic prints such as the “Electric Chair” series and “Vote McGovern”, which simultaneously captured and critiqued a period of commercial temptation and unchecked celebrity cultivation. Still today, easy parallels can be drawn from Warhol’s lurid prints and portraits to hot-topic issues of personality politics, gun violence and capital punishment de-

bates. However, while Warhol’s work can convey a level of indifference toward his subjects (“You’d be surprised how many people want to hang an electric chair on their living-room wall. Specially if the background color matches the drapes”), Weiwei distinguishes himself in this exhibition as a man more conscious of his motives and his humanitarian goals.

In a time when obfuscation from the political elite hinders progress on major issues, these clear statements of intent – to inspire change from the individual up, rather than the state down – can be everything from refreshing to demoralising.

The refreshing aspects manifest in the form of the well-publicised “Letgo Room”, a new walk-in exhibit furnished in Lego-like bricks depicting quotes from various Australian activists. It is an intimate and bright showcase of the best parts of democratic process, and upon entry it transfers the viewer to a state of cautious optimism. On the other hand, the exhibit also carries the weight of Lego’s original refusal to be implicated with the “Letgo Room” on political grounds. This policy has now been reversed by Lego after significant pressure, but Weiwei’s point on institutional censorship has already been proven. There is still much work to be done.

Weiwei’s confronting childhood has provided a steely, direct edge to his exploits, and one quote featured in the

“Letgo Room” from Tim Soutphommasane, Australia’s Race Discrimination Commissioner, rings particularly loud in the



Ai Weiwei’s “Bird Balloon and Caonima Balloon”, 2015
Andy Warhol’s “Cow Wallpaper and Silver Clouds”

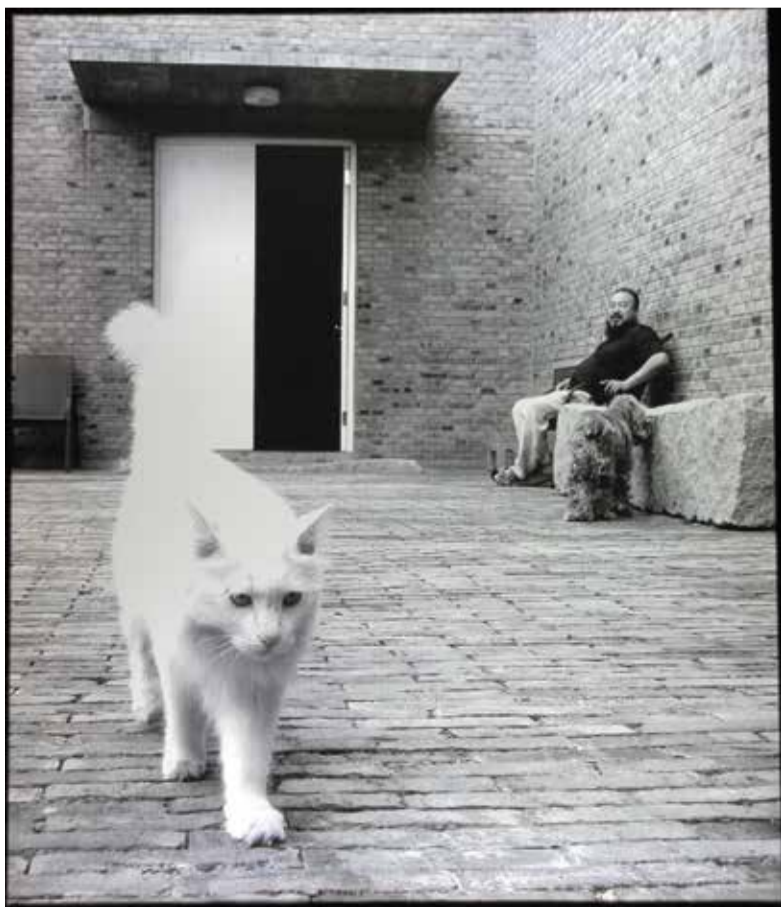


Image of Ai Weiwei and cat from exhibition

protest art



ANGUS TONKIN



"Letgo Room", 2015, Ai Weiwei

ANGUS TONKIN



"The Animal that Looks like a Llama but is Really an Alpaca", 2015, digital print on wallpaper, Ai Weiwei

ANGUS TONKIN



"With Flowers", 2013-5, digital print on wallpaper, bicycle and plastic, Ai Weiwei

context of Weiwei's struggle with the Chinese state: "To love your country means being prepared to criticise it."

From a young age, Weiwei looked on as his father, famous poet Ai Qing, was sentenced to 19 years of 're-education' through labour, as punishment for speaking out in support of communism during China's Cultural Revolution. Weiwei emerged from this oppressive environment to become involved with pro-democracy groups, and you can see how the work of Warhol would have appealed – if not for its message, then for its uncompromising and challenging approaches to addressing social faults.

This is most evident in the striking "With Flowers", which references his famous 600-day protest carried out through 2013 and 2014 outside his Caochangdi studio. The exhibit consists of a bicycle adorned with a bouquet of flowers, backgrounded by photos of alternative arrangements. These he changed every day in protest against the Chinese government's confiscation of his passport up until it was returned on September 27, 2014. The effect is simple but empowering.

What Warhol and Weiwei have done, and which this exhibition explores exhaustively, is to redefine what art can be and is capable of. Spanning painting, film, photography and the readymade, their briefly overlapping portfolios represent a changing of the guard in modern art. Now, we look on with interest to see what becomes of Weiwei's battle against those who would silence him.



15, metalised polyester film, helium, in response to

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Niniek Karmini and Ali Kotarumalos, Jakarta

INDONESIA

IS claims Jakarta attacks that left 5 gunmen, 2 others dead

ATTACKERS set off suicide bombs and exchanged gunfire outside a Starbucks cafe in Indonesia's capital in a brazen assault yesterday that police said "imitated" the recent Paris attacks. Backers of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

All five attackers and two bystanders — a Canadian and an Indonesian — died in the midmorning explosions and gunfire that were watched by office workers from high-rise buildings on Thamrin Street in Jakarta, not far from the presidential palace and the U.S. Embassy, police said. Twenty people were injured.

When the area was finally secured a few hours later, bodies were sprawled on sidewalks. But given the firepower the attackers carried — handguns, grenades and homemade bombs — and the soft targets they picked in a bustling, crowded area, the casualties were relatively few compared to the mayhem and carnage caused by the Paris attacks.

"We have identified all attackers ... we can say that the attackers were affiliated with the ISIS group," national police spokesman Maj. Gen. Anton Charilyan told reporters, referring to the Islamic State group.

Islamic State group backers

The state, the nation and the people should not be afraid of, and be defeated by such terror acts.

PRESIDENT WIDODO



Bodies lie in front of a damaged police post after an explosion in Jakarta, Indonesia

circulated a claim of responsibility for the attacks resembling the extremist group's previous messages.

The claim was shared on Twitter late yesterday. The U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group said it also circulated among pro-Islamic State groups on the message app Telegram.

The message said attackers carried out the assault in Jakarta and had planted several bombs with timers. It differed from Indonesian police on the number of attackers, saying there were four. It said they wore suicide belts and carried light weaponry.

The statement could not be

independently verified by The Associated Press, though it resembled previous claims made by the group, which controls territory in both Iraq and Syria.

Jakarta police chief Maj. Gen. Tito Karnavian told a news conference that the first suicide bombing happened at a Starbucks restaurant, causing customers to run out. Outside, two gunmen opened fire, killing a Canadian and wounding an Indonesian, he said.

A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokeswoman in the Netherlands said a Dutch man was seriously injured and was undergoing surgery.

At about the same time two other suicide bombers attacked a nearby traffic police booth, killing themselves and an Indonesian man. Karnavian said that minutes later a group of policemen was attacked by the remaining two gunmen, using homemade bombs. This led to a 15-minute gunfight in which both attackers were killed, he said.

Police then combed the building housing the Starbucks and another nearby building where they discovered six homemade bombs — five small ones and a big one.

"So we think ... their plan was to attack people and follow

Police said they imitated the recent 'terror acts' in Paris

it up with a larger explosion when more people gathered. But thank God it didn't happen," Charilyan said.

He said the attackers imitated the recent "terror acts" in Paris and were likely from the Islamic State group, but gave no evidence.

Karnavian also said the attackers had links with IS and were part of a group led by Bahrum Naim, an Indonesian militant who is now in Syria.

It was the first major attack in Indonesia's capital since the 2009 bombings of two hotels that killed seven people and injured more than 50. Before that, bombings at nightclubs on the resort island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreigners.

Charilyan said police had received information in late November about a warning from the Islamic State group that "there will be a concert" in Indonesia, meaning an attack.

"This act is clearly aimed at disturbing public order and spreading terror among people," President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said in a statement on television.

"The state, the nation and the people should not be afraid of, and be defeated by, such terror acts," he said. AP

AP PHOTO



THE OSCARS

'Revenant' leads nominations with 12, only white actors again

Jake Coyle, Film Writer

THE brutal frontier saga "The Revenant" landed a leading 12 nominations for the 88th annual Academy, while the acting categories were again filled entirely by white performers.

The strong showing for "The Revenant," including a best actor nod for Leonardo DiCaprio, follows its win at the Golden Globes. It sets director Alejandro Inarritu for a possible back-to-back win following his sweep for best picture, director and screenplay for "Birdman" last year.

"We gave it our all on this film and this appreciation from the Academy means a lot to me and my colleagues who made it possible," said Inarritu in a statement. "Champagne and mezcal will run tonight!"

George Miller's post-apocalyptic sequel "Mad Max: Fury Road" followed with 10 nominations, including best picture and best director for Miller. Ridley Scott's sci-fi epic "The Martian" landed 7 nominations, including best picture and best actor for Matt Damon, but, surprisingly, no best director nod for Scott.

Eight films were nominated for best picture. The other five were: Tom McCarthy's investigative journalistic procedural "Spotlight," Steven Spielberg's Cold War thriller "Bridge of Spies," Adam McKay's Michael Lewis adaptation "The Big Short," the mother-son captive drama "Room" and the '50s Irish immigrant tale "Brooklyn."

Left on the outside were



Leonardo DiCaprio as Hugh Glass, in a scene from the film, "The Revenant," directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

Todd Haynes' lesbian romance "Carol" and the N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton." The miss for "Carol" meant one usual Oscar heavyweight — Harvey Weinstein — won't have a horse in the best picture race for the first time since 2007.

The acting nominees, which notably omitted Idris Elba for "Beasts of No Nation" and Benicio Del Toro for "Sicario," gave the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences an awkward repeat of the "OscarsSoWhite" backlash that followed last year's acting nominees.

Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs has since redoubled efforts to diversify the academy's membership, and slated Chris Rock — who a year ago labeled Hollywood a "white industry" — to host this year's Feb. 28 ceremony.

Alongside DiCaprio, the nominees for best actor are: Matt Damon ("The Martian"), Michael Fassbender ("Steve Jobs"), Eddie Redmayne ("The Danish Girl") and Bryan Cranston ("Trumbo"). One big name

omitted was Johnny Depp for his icy Whitey Bulger in "Black Mass."

The best actress field is led by favorite Brie Larson for "Room," along with Jennifer Lawrence (for "Joy," making her, at 25, the youngest four-time nominee), Cate Blanchett (her seventh nod, for "Carol"), Saoirse Ronan ("Brooklyn") and Charlotte Rampling ("45 Years").

After seemingly slipping in an unpredictable awards season, "Spotlight" showed particularly strength yesterday, landing six nominations including best director for McCarthy, best screenplay for McCarthy and Josh Singer, best supporting actress for Rachel McAdams and best supporting actor for Mark Ruffalo.

Sylvester Stallone, reprising his role as Rocky Balboa in "Creed," looms large in the supporting actor category. His stiffest competition is seen as Mark Rylance, best known for his legendary stage work, for "Bridge of Spies." Also nominated were Tom Hardy ("The Revenant") and Christian Bale

("The Big Short").

"I am incredibly humbled by this honor," Stallone, first nominated for the role in 1976 for "Rocky," wrote in an email. "I was not expecting it ... especially at this time in my life. I am certainly grateful to the artists and collaborators who helped make it possible."

Nominees for best director shunned not just one filmmaking legend in Scott, but also Spielberg. Instead, Lenny Abrahamson for "Room" was the unexpected addition along with Adam McKay, former known for his broader Will Ferrell comedies, for "The Big Short."

As expected, Pixar's "Inside Out" landed a best animated feature nod, as did the Charlie Kaufman-penned "Anomalisa," "Shaun the Sheep Movie," "Boy and the World" and "When Marnie Was There."

The foreign language category drew films from Hungary ("Son of Saul"), France ("Mustang"), Jordan ("Theeb"), Denmark ("A War") and Colombia ("Embrace the Serpent").

Though some fans had hoped

for a better showing, the box-office behemoth "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" failed to land a best picture nomination. It instead scored five technical nods for editing, score, visual effects, sound mixing and sound editing.

Since the best picture field was expanded from five nominees to up to 10, in 2010, every year has delivered nine nominations until this year's eight. The original reasoning was partly to make room for bigger, more populist films like Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight" alongside acclaimed independent releases.

But the chances for "The Force Awakens" were hurt because the category already has one sci-fi blockbuster ("The Martian"), as well as a number of major studio releases. 20th Century Fox had an especially good day, led by "The Revenant" and "The Martian."

Netflix, which has previously scored nominations for documentaries, fell short in its first bid for fiction film nods. Its first original feature, Cary Fukunaga's West African child war film "Beasts of No Nation," was shut out.

Netflix did, however, again break into the documentary category with "What Happened, Miss Simone" and "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom." The other nominees were "Amy," "Cartel Land" and "The Look of Silence."

Nominations were announced yesterday shortly after the passing of Alan Rickman, famed for "Die Hard" and "Harry Potter" but never Oscar-nominated, at 69. AP

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FRIDAY

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|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live |
| 16:50 | Criminal Minds S.7 |
| 18:10 | Trail of Lies (Repeated) |
| 19:00 | TDM Talk Show (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Documentary Serie |
| 21:45 | Miscellaneous |
| 22:10 | Trail of Lies |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Movie |
| 01:15 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:30 | Boonie Bears - Sr.2 |
| 11:35 | Young Adult |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Soap Opera |
| 18:00 | Non-Daily Portuguese News |
| 18:20 | Contest |
| 19:15 | Miscellaneous |
| 19:45 | Documentary Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Drama |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Leave Me Alone |
| 01:10 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

SUNDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:35 | Young Children |
| 11:00 | Sunday Mass |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Zig Zag |
| 16:30 | Young Adult |
| 17:40 | Documentary Serie |
| 18:10 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:55 | Action |
| 19:45 | Comedy |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Contraponto |
| 22:00 | The Long Road : Europe's Border Crisis |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Non-Daily Portuguese News |
| 23:45 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |

offbeat

SMALL PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAY



Motorists got a shock when a small plane made an emergency landing on a Southern California freeway just as the evening commute was getting underway.

The California Highway Patrol says vehicles had to swerve to avoid hitting the two-seat aircraft when it

touched down on State Route 23 in Ventura County this week. Student-pilot Danielle Lagree tells the Ventura County Star she was flying with her instructor when the engine began to sputter. Lagree says the instructor calmly took over and managed to put the single-engine plane down in lanes without hitting any vehicles. Nobody was hurt.

The aircraft had left Van Nuys and was en route to Camarillo Airport. Southbound lanes were briefly blocked while crews towed the plane to the center divider.

The incident is under investigation.

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 JAN - 20 JAN



THE 5H WAVE_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min



STEVE JOBS_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Danny Boyle

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet,

Seth Rogene

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 122min



SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Douglas Mackinnon

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman,

Una Stubbs

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 89min

IP MAN 3_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

14 JAN - 10 FEB

THE 5H WAVE_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

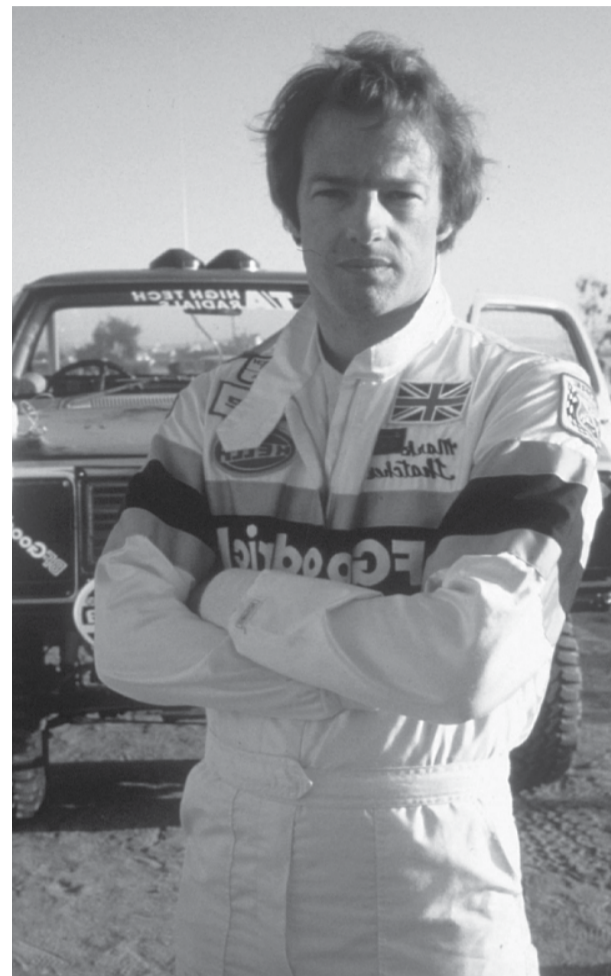
Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1982 MARK THATCHER FOUND SAFE AND WELL

The prime minister's son, Mark Thatcher, is on his way home after being missing in the Sahara for six days.

The 29-year-old and two team-mates were taking part in the Paris-Dakar rally when they lost their way and the car they were driving broke down.

They were last seen on 10 January - but not reported missing until some time later.

A massive search was launched, involving rescuers from four different countries, spotter planes and helicopters. Mark's father, Denis, flew out to Algeria to join the hunt. Mark, his co-driver, Frenchwoman Charlotte Verney, and a mechanic, known simply as Jackie, were eventually spotted yesterday from the air.

They were running short of food but still had plenty of drinking water.

The Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, on hearing the news, said: "It's all alright now and life to me looks totally different personally from what it did two days ago. It puts your other personal worries into perspective."

Mark was reunited with his father, Denis, in the southern Algerian town of Tamanrasset.

He told reporters he'd been more worried about his family than himself: "If you're in London and somebody else is in the middle of the Sahara, one tends to conjure up slightly more imaginative pictures of what is going on than what actually happened."

Denis Thatcher said he had been very impressed with the way the search had been handled: "I found an enormously efficient organisation under the command of a remarkable soldier who quite clearly knew what he was about."

"At least for the first four to six hours I was there, he was concerned with raising my morale and confidence. He said straight away we are going to find him."

Mark and his father are being flown back to the UK in the Algerian presidential plane.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It was Mark Thatcher's first Paris-Dakar rally, and Mrs Thatcher said afterwards she hoped it would be his last. His car was spotted by a C13Q Hercules search plane, belonging to the Algerian army. He was 50km (31 miles) off the route.

The Thatcher team had been travelling in convoy with two other cars but became separated after stopping to repair a steering arm.

At dusk - lost and now also with a shattered rear axle casing - they set up camp and stopped to wait for help.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your thinking can't be constrained by the group — so let yourself roam free! Your terrific mental energy should help you come up with at least four great new ideas to get started on right away.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your philosophical notions are making life a little sweeter today — so make sure that you're spending extra time pondering life's mysteries. You may actually stumble on something practical!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
No amount of cajoling can get you what you need today — so make sure that you're either keeping your mouth shut or finding less intrusive ways of persuading others that you're right.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You need to take care of yourself today — so make sure that you're on top of your own needs. It may feel weird to put yourself first, but sometimes that's just the way it is.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You feel tireless today, so make sure that you're in a position to do something useful (or fun) with all this great energy. You can get almost anything done without too much trouble.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Try to go with the flow today — though you may feel like lashing out at the slightest provocation! It's one of those days when you've got to try to relax, if only to get past the small stuff.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Your communication should be especially expressive today — so much so that you may find it simple to reach out to someone who has shut you out almost entirely. Work your magic!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Things seem pretty good right now — maybe a little too good! Your innate skepticism is worth deploying, because you are sure to find something suspicious at the edges of this deal.

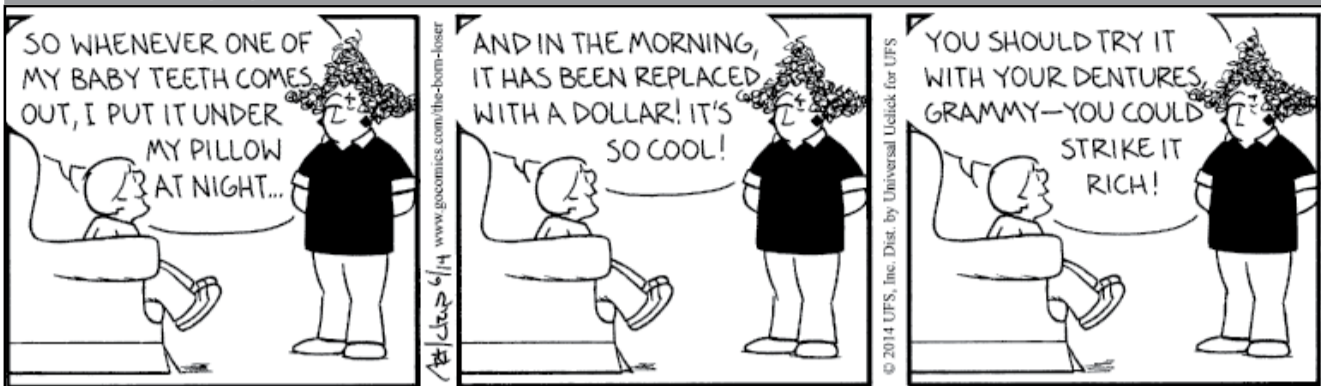
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your admiration for a friend or family member shines brightly today — and it pays off, too! Hand out compliments freely and you may find that the gratitude comes back to you quickly.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
It's one of those days when the clock seems to move faster than usual. Unless you're under a hard deadline, that can be a good thing, as you may plow through lots of work without realizing it.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're the Welcome Wagon today — at work, in the neighborhood or among your friends. Make it easy for new folks to integrate into the group and you should score some much-needed karma.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Try to avoid blunt communication today — if you can give yourself time to craft your message, you should be fine. That could be hard in the heat of the moment, so you're better off retreating for now.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | | | 4 | | |
| 1 | 8 | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | | | 6 | | 5 | | | |
| | | | | 2 | | 8 | | |
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| | 7 | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | | 3 | 4 | | | | | |
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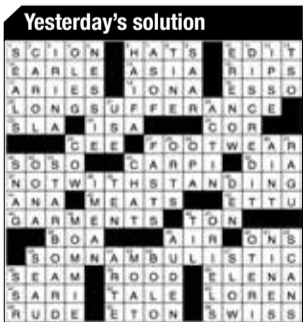
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -7 | 2 | clear/smoggy |
| Harbin | -23 | -16 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | -5 | 3 | clear/smoggy |
| Urumqi | -12 | -6 | clear/cloudy |
| Xi'an | -5 | 6 | clear |
| Lhasa | -8 | 9 | clear |
| Chengdu | 0 | 11 | clear/cloudy |
| Chongqing | 7 | 12 | overcast/cloudy |
| Kunming | 3 | 17 | clear |
| Nanjing | -2 | 9 | cloudy/clear |
| Shanghai | 3 | 10 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | -2 | 11 | cloudy/clear |
| Hangzhou | 3 | 10 | overcast/cloudy |
| Taipei | 12 | 19 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Guangzhou | 12 | 14 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Hong Kong | 15 | 17 | drizzle |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -11 | -8 | flurry |
| Frankfurt | 2 | 4 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Paris | 0 | 7 | drizzle/cloudy |
| London | 0 | 5 | drizzle |
| New York | 0 | 4 | overcast/cloudy |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Take ___ at (try); 6- Central part; 10- Simple rhyme scheme; 14- Goatlike antelope; 15- Employs, consumes; 16- Nike's swoosh, e.g.; 17- Prongs; 18- This, in Tijuana; 19- Jutting rock; 20- Momentarily; 22- Study of correct pronunciation; 24- PBS supporter; 26- Body of work; 27- Rhinoplasty; 31- Hwy.; 32- Hot stuff; 33- Watering hole; 36- Terre Haute sch.; 39- Rifle adjunct; 40- Pale purple; 41- ___ to differ; 42- Snake; 43- Not hollow; 44- Collide; 45- Gun, as an engine; 46- Sticks; 48- Firmly implanted; 51- Paving material; 52- Tapestrylike rug; 54- Sheets and such; 59- Oscar Madison, for one; 60- Dash; 62- French composer Erik; 63- Back part of the foot; 64- Dynamic start; 65- ___ fours (crawling); 66- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 67- Boris Godunov, for one; 68- Highway stop;

DOWN: 1- Italian wine city; 2- Spahn teammate; 3- Ike's ex; 4- Matures, as wine; 5- Breed of dog unable to bark; 6- Pool tool; 7- ___ buco; 8- Back in; 9- Recondite; 10- Recess; 11- Tree insect; 12- Wide open; 13- A hobgoblin; 21- Corp. bigwig; 23- Rude dwellings; 25- Bubbling; 27- Final Four org.; 28- Resistance units; 29- Fool; 30- "Xanadu" band; 34- Rhyming boxing champ; 35- Begin's co-Nobelists; 36- Support beam; 37- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 38- Sounds of disgust; 40- Chair for two persons; 41- Fury; 43- Tennis matches are divided into these; 44- White baptism robe; 45- Russian money; 47- Lentil and spice dish; 48- Governs; 49- Woodwind section members; 50- Bob and Elizabeth; 52- 1968 U.S. Open champ; 53- Japan's first capital; 55- Second start?; 56- Coup d'___; 57- World's longest river; 58- Put on the market; 61- Neither here ___ there;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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HKD 4,500sq ft
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Houston Court, Coloane Village
1 Bedroom Apartment
Upgraded in Sept 2015
HKD 13,500 / 800 sq ft
Ref: 15090532

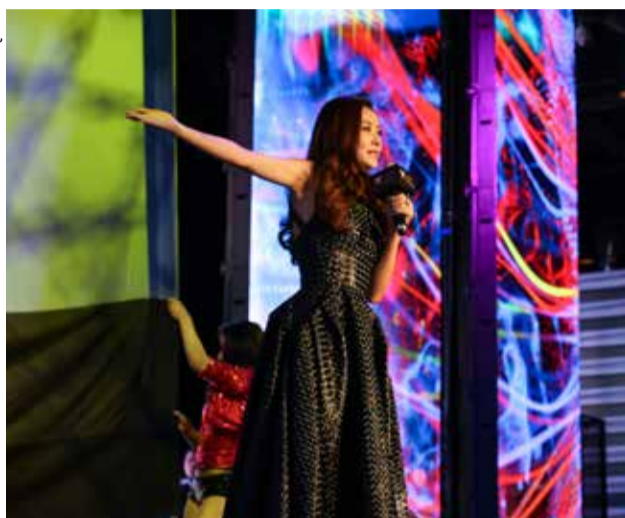
Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau
627sq ft / HKD 3.98M
HKD 6,347sq ft
Renovated Apartment
Ref: 15075447

Lakeview Macau
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Actress Lynn Xiong – Star Ambassador at Studio City

RENATO MARQUES



Lynn Xiong



Golden Reel



Michael Turco



Danny Cole



Luis de Matos



Michael Turco



Michael Turco



Kyle Knight & Mistie



Lynn Xiong

THE FAMOUS HK-based actress Lynn Xiong is the new “Star Ambassador” of the Hollywood-inspired resort, Studio City.

Ms Xiong made her first appearance as “Star Ambassador” yesterday while visiting the resort. She had the opportunity to participate in the final act of the “The House of Magic” show, contributing in the on-stage “pop-up” of a replica of a famous supercar.

The “teleporting” act brought to an end the three-stage show, which included the famous illusionist Xiong and entertainers like Danny Cole, Kyle Knight & Mistie, Luis de Matos and Michael Turco, the last of whom is the man in charge of the main stage of “The House of Magic” by Franz Harary until the end of this month.

Visiting the resort, Lynn said, “As a professional actress, I dedicate myself to the art or movie-making, but it never dawned on me that there could be an integrated resort [like this] right here in Asia. It is marvelous and seemingly real, like a Hollywood movie scene. It was a very exciting surprise.”

Lynn seemed especially impressed with “The House of Magic” and with the fact that she could be a part of it. She said she was “very nervous through the whole act.” However, she also claimed that she felt “honored” to have participated in the show and that she had invested some “extra care” into the rehearsal, hoping that all would run perfectly.

The tour ended with a trip in the “Golden Reel,” the number “8” shaped Ferris wheel that is one of the iconic features of Studio City. This is a place that the actress said she had “read so much about” and that she is “planning to visit with the family” at a later date. RM

Andrew Dampf, Rome

Sunday, 3:45am
Napoli v Sassuolo
H 1.31, D 6, A 13

FOOTBALL | SERIE A PREVIEW

Napoli coach taking pragmatic approach to lead

Diego Maradona has already promised that he will make a splashy arrival by helicopter if Napoli wins its first Serie A title in more than a quarter of a century.

Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri is taking a more pragmatic approach after the southern club claimed Serie A's symbolic "winter title" last weekend.

"I don't attribute any importance to it," Sarri said of Napoli's two-point lead over four-time defending champion Juventus and Inter Milan after 19 of 38 rounds in Serie A.

The halfway champion has gone on to win Serie A nearly seven out of every 10 seasons.

The last time Napoli earned the mid-term honor was in 1990, when the team went on to claim its last title. Maradona was the star of the 1990 team and also helped Napoli to the title in 1987 — the club's only two Serie A championships.

"It's useless to look at statistics from the past," Sarri added. "We've got to imagine ourselves like marathon runners. We've reached the race's hal-



Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri

fway point but we've still got 21 kilometers to go."

The next test comes tomorrow (Sunday, 3:45am) against a Sassuolo lineup that is in sixth place and beat Inter 1-0 last weekend.

Inter can put pressure on Napoli with a win at Atalanta, while Juventus will be seeking its 10th consecutive win at Udi-

nese on Sunday.

Fourth-place Fiorentina, which is three points back, visits struggling AC Milan on Sunday.

Fifth-place Roma, which fired Rudi Garcia on Wednesday, hosts last-place Hellas Verona.

Also this weekend, it's: Torino vs. Frosinone; Genoa vs. Palermo; Bologna vs. Lazio; Carpi

vs. Sampdoria; and Chievo Verona vs. Empoli.

GONZALO'S GOALS. Nobody in Europe's top leagues is scoring at a faster rate than Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain.

The Argentine player has 18 goals in 19 Serie A matches — 20 in 23 appearances in all competitions — for a rate of one goal every 89 minutes.

In Europe, only Alex Teixeira at Shakhtar Donetsk (22 goals) and Nemanja Nikolic at Legia Warsaw (21 goals) have scored more than Higuain this season, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang at Borussia Dortmund also has 18 goals.

Lionel Messi only has nine goals in the Spanish league while Cristiano Ronaldo has 14.

ROMA REVIVAL? With Luciano Spalletti widely expected to be named as the replacement for the fired Rudi Garcia, Roma is hoping the squad can rediscover the form that made it an early season title contender.

With only one win in its last seven Serie A matches, Roma has dropped to fifth place, seven points behind leader Napoli.

Roma never really recovered psychologically from a 6-1 rout by Barcelona in the Champions League in November.

Spalletti coached Roma from 2005-09, winning two Italian Cups and an Italian Super Cup — the Giallorossi's last titles of any kind. He then spent five years with Zenit St. Petersburg before being fired in March 2014.

MARKET MOVES. Forward Ciro Immobile is close to rejoining Torino on loan from Borussia Dortmund, Luiz Adriano appears on his way out at AC Milan — perhaps to a club in China — and Alessandro Diamanti has joined Atalanta on loan from Watford.

Also, former Manchester United defender Nemanja Vidic ended his contract with Inter Milan by mutual consent.

AP / Oddschecker.com

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**THE UK LAWMAKERS SAY AUTHORITIES
 BUZZ 'FAILING' TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

A group of lawmakers say British authorities are failing transgender people, who suffer routine discrimination and are disproportionately likely to attempt suicide.

The House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee says health-care workers, police, prison staff and teachers all need training on transgender issues.

In a report published yesterday, the committee said gender identity should no longer be treated as a mental health issue, and official recognition of gender should be based on individual self-declaration. It said people should be able to record their gender as "X" rather than male or female on a passport.

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



FAIR AND... COMPETITIVE?

On December 30, the official reports on the latest elections of both the Legislative Assembly (AL) and the Chief Executive (CE) were made public. At long last - as this took a whopping 16 months since the CE selection and no less than 27 months for the AL elections! For the latter, the 39-page report (in Chinese) was penned by the Commission in February 2014 and yet only released publicly more than half-way through the legislature's mandate: how can this be justified, if not for democratic principles, at least for the sake of transparency?

The only time democracy 民主 is mentioned in the Macao Basic Law - no disconcerting mention of universal suffrage in our own BL - it is openly associated with "openness". It furthermore appears, quite ironically, in the Annex dedicated to the selection process of the CE, which reads that the members (300 initially and now 400) of the Election Committee that designates the CE should be chosen according to an electoral law designed "in accordance with the principles of democracy and openness."

Initially, the reports did not attract much attention. Maybe because of the timing: who wants to write (beyond a quasi repeat of the content) or even read about elections on December 31st? Maybe because of the lack of urgency after so many months on the backburner. Maybe because of the content: only six meager "suggestions" for each, with the disproportionate ambition - in the case of the AL - to "improve competitiveness of indirect elections and fairness" in the overall electoral process.

Since then, the debate has flared slightly. On January 4th, Jason Chao, from Macao Conscience and the New Macao Association, denounced the reports as "biased, misleading and unfair." In the case of the AL review, it was decried for disproportionately targeting some cases while downplaying others that were later actually convicted of "vote buying". Furthermore, Jason Chao indicated that the early promotion of some of the outgoing CE's key political proposals - the construction of 28,000 public housing units in particular - could be construed as misuse of public resources. This first salvo was accurately and extensively covered in the Chinese press, including All About Macau and Cheng Pou, with the notable exception of Macao Daily News.

Actually, Macao Daily News presented an excellent idea on January 12th to interview some noteworthy unsuccessful candidates of 2013. Among them Agnès Lam of Civil Watch (5,225 votes), Kuan Vai Lam of Caring for Macao (5,323 votes), Paul Pun of the Betterment of our Community (2,306 votes) and Hong Weng Kuan of the Promotion of the Citizens' Rights (only 848 votes... significant, really?) - but of course no Liberals (3,227 votes) headed by... Jason Chao. Although Agnès Lam explored in more detail certain aspects of the reports - casting doubts on the efficiency of the proposals to tackle some aspects of corruption or emphasizing the problematic absence of a law for political parties - the overall message conveyed by Macao Daily News was one of consensus (how surprising!): the campaign period should not be restricted to 15 days, rather be extended, for the informal part, to the time when lists of candidates are being recognized (at the very least) and possibly up to six months before election day.

I have no doubt that an extended and reconfigured campaign period would help: the debate of ideas requires time and opportunity for reason to have a chance. Breaking away from rather outdated traditional modes of mobilization based on narrow-interest associations - an open door for corruption and populist excesses - supposes it as a precondition. A well-harnessed modernity demands it. A more focused Electoral Commission commands it. But then, what about the other proposals? Is providing the contact details of the members of the CE Electoral Committee enough to encourage competition? At least for the AL, we will have a public consultation. Hopefully, the discussion has just begun.

**Chilean architect
 Alejandro Aravena
 wins Pritzker Prize**



Interior of the Innovation Center in Santiago, Chile, designed by Alejandro Aravena and Juan Cerda

THE Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena has won the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize for work that "epitomizes the revival of a more socially engaged architect."

The award was announced yesterday by Tom Pritzker, chairman and president of the Chicago-based Hyatt Foundation, which sponsors the prize. Aravena, 48, is the first Pritzker laureate from Chile, and the fourth from Latin America.

In its citation, the jury noted that "few have risen to the demands of practicing architecture as an artful endeavor, as well as meeting today's social and economic challenges. Aravena ... has achieved both, and in doing so has meaningfully expanded the

role of the architect." The jury cited, among others, five buildings Aravena has designed for his alma mater, the Universidad Catolica de Chile, including its mathematics school, its medical school and, in 2014, its Angelini Innovation Center, an opaque concrete structure with a light-filled glass atrium inside.

"A powerful structure from a distance, it is remarkably humane and inviting," the jury said, noting that the unique design ensures that energy consumption is minimal. The design also includes "many spaces for spontaneous encounters and transparency that enables viewing activity throughout," it said.

Aravena's resume includes private, public and education-

nal commissions. He has designed in the United States — a residence and dining hall at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas — and in Shanghai, China, a building for the pharmaceutical company Novartis.

Speaking in Santiago, Aravena said he felt "huge gratitude" upon receiving the award, which he said was tantamount to a Nobel Prize in his field. He noted the collaborative nature of architecture.

"Architecture is a collective discipline," he said. "It is done, to begin with, with the hands of others, the workers that build the designs, as opposed to a sculptor that makes it with his own hands."

Aravena mused about what the award would allow him to do in the future. "It gives you a sensation of great freedom," he said.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize was established in 1979 by the late entrepreneur Jay A. Pritzker and his wife, Cindy, to honor "a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture." The winner receives a USD100,000 grant and a bronze medallion. **AP**

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 60-80 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 55-75 Moderate |
| Ambient | 60-80 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN State TV says nuclear experts have finished removing the core of the country's only nuclear heavy water reactor as part of Tehran's obligations under its nuclear deal with world powers. Iran's atomic department announced the completion of the work on the Arak reactor yesterday, saying holes that held the core will be filled with concrete.

INDIA Police say an American tourist died earlier this week after a mob of villagers mistook him for a thief and chased him until he fell into a swampy rice paddy, where he choked on muddy water



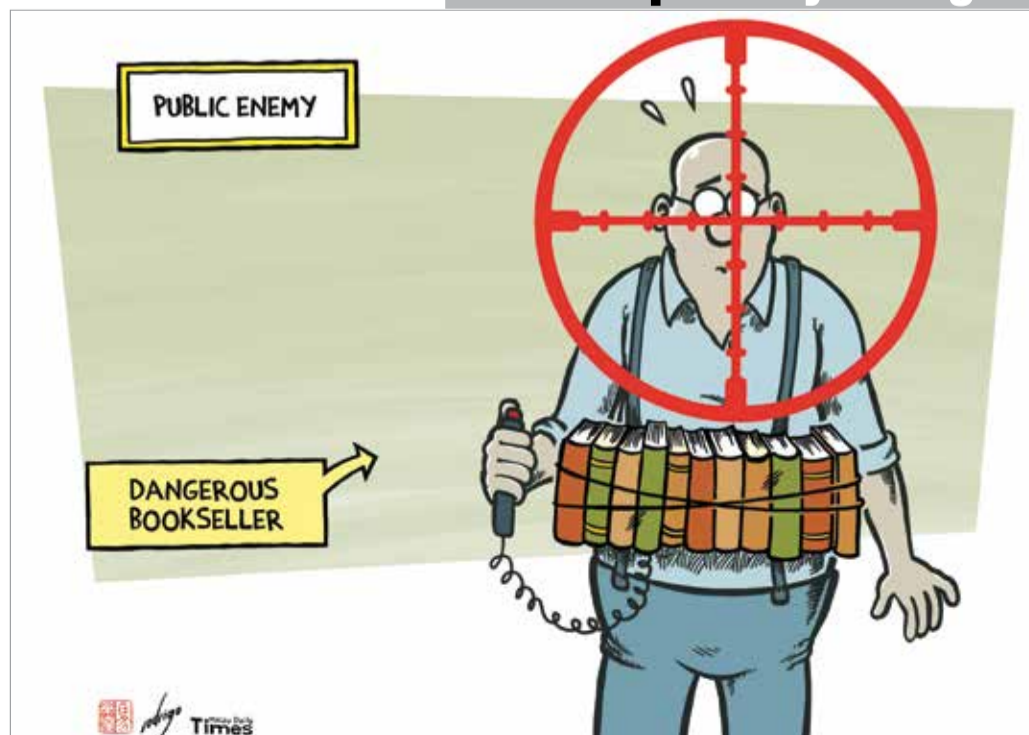
GERMANY Prosecutors in Cologne said yesterday they are offering a reward of 10,000 euros (USD10,920) for information leading to the arrest or identification of those who committed sexual assaults and robberies during New Year's Eve. Prosecutors have so far received 652 criminal complaints from that night, when groups of drunken men described as being mostly of "Arab or North African" origin attacked revelers at the city's main train station.

LEBANON Dozens of Lebanese protesters have clashed with police in downtown Beirut over the country's months-long trash collection crisis. The clash began after a group of protesters entered the environment ministry to stage a sit-in inside. The protest was timed to coincide with a Cabinet meeting to discuss the issue. A proposal to export the waste temporarily has stalled because of disputes.



UK British actor and filmmaker Alan Rickman, a classically trained stage star and sensual screen villain in the "Harry Potter" saga and other films, has died aged 69, after a battle with cancer. **More on p14**

times square by rodrigo



PUBLIC ENEMY

DANGEROUS BOOKSELLER