



OX WAREHOUSE OPENS NEW BASE

Alternative art gallery Ox Warehouse is holding an exhibition that explores the theme of space and echoes its relocation

P2 MDT REPORT



JOLLIBEE EXPANDS FOREIGN SALES

Jollibee founder Tony Tan Caktiong continues to expand his fast-food chain that recently opened a restaurant in Macau

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HK SCHOLAR CHARGED WITH MURDER

A scholar was charged with his wife's murder yesterday, a day after her decomposing body was found inside a suitcase

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WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES A bomber who killed two people and wounded 35 at a town festival in the southern Philippines offered fruit to people in hopes of evading suspicion when he abandoned the bag that also contained the bomb, a Philippine military commander said.



CAMBODIA Fourteen Cambodian opposition activists have been freed from long prison terms, their pardons coming as the latest in a series of releases engineered by Prime Minister Hun Sen after his party's election sweep last month.

JAPAN Police are investigating the deaths of four elderly patients at a hospital in heat-struck central Japan after the air conditioning failed in their rooms.
More on p12



RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin yesterday scaled back plans to lift women's retirement age by eight years to 63 as he offered concessions to a package of pension reforms that have hit his approval ratings.

IRAN's intelligence minister has boasted on state television about his country's successful recruitment of a former Cabinet-level official from a "hostile" country, signaling Tehran's first acknowledgment of compromising an arrested Israeli official.

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PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU

Most of Canidrome to be used for sports

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Rights groups urge no censored Google search for China

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Ox Warehouse opens with exhibition that echoes its relocation

To inaugurate its new base situated on Rua do Volong, alternative art gallery Ox Warehouse is holding an exhibition that explores the theme of space, echoing its relocation from its former site on Avenida do Coronel Mesquita.

Ox Warehouse was evicted from its former site last year after the building's operator, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), deemed it to be in a run-down state. Having moved to a new site near Rua do Campo, the association has now entered what it describes as the "post-Ox Warehouse" period.

To mark the reopening of the alternative art gallery, Ox Warehouse is holding its first exhibition at the new site, titled the Post-Ox Warehouse Experimental Site. Artists from five cities – namely Macau, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Shenzhen – have been invited to present their works in art forms ranging from paintings and "conceptual documents" to photography and video installations.

The exhibition explores the concept of space and location, in semblance to the physical move of Ox Warehouse.

One of the most striking pieces in the exhibition is a large mixed media installation of a horned beetle, suspended by metal wires and holding a game and television remote control. The 2018 artwork by Wong Iek is titled "A Bug That's Controlling a Bug That's Controlling a Bug That's Controlling".



The new Ox Warehouse facilities

On the ground floor of the exhibition is a white-painted canvas, torn in the center to reveal an artificial wall of white-painted bricks behind. It is the first time that Bianca Lei's 2012 piece titled "Painting is painting is painting is painting is?" has been exhibited in Macau, though it was previously on display in both Beijing and Shenzhen.

In an interview with the Times, Lei said that she is "challenging the conservative definition of art media."

"There are still a lot of people in Macau who have a conservative view of artworks; that painting is a painting and sculpture is a sculpture. I want to blur the boundary between the definitions," she said.

"I had the idea quite a long time ago. I realized that [artists in Macau] were quite concerned with

the media [of art]. Some would say, 'let's do a painting exhibition' or 'let's do a sculpture exhibition'. Then, the art education was still narrow, forcing students to study [one discipline]. You study painting and then become a painter," explained

“There are still a lot of people in Macau who have a conservative view of artworks.”

BIANCA LEI



Bianca Lei

Lei. "But why do we need to draw a line between painting and sculpture?"

A second exhibit by Lei can be located on the uppermost floor of the gallery.

A 2018 video installation titled "Faith in Fake ix – The shadow said: '...'", the piece comprises two television screens perpendicular to each other that loop a montage of shadowy projections and shapes, accompanied by different sets of music, which produce two distinct atmospheres.

"When you look at a shadow, you know that it is because of light," said Lei. "The shape of the shadow depends on the light quality, intensity and angle, and that produces [variations]. If shadows exist only because of the light, this symbolizes that there is another side to our reality. I want to emphasize that the

shadow only shows part of the reality."

Celebrated Taiwanese artist Cai Guo Jie is also participating in the exhibition in the form of an urban planning map of a Macau district. Cai is inspired by the philosophical notion that each division of two areas produces not a single area of two parts, but rather two distinct spaces, "not intersected, but separated and part of their own land."

"Therefore, the space between land A and land B is not equal to zero, but tends to zero," he notes in an introduction panel that accompanies the conceptual document. "Every time we divide the land, this kind of space [in between] will appear at the same time."

The exhibition is open until October 7, except on Mondays, and admission is free. **DB**

A system that reportedly provides accurate air quality forecasts to inform users of upcoming air quality is underway.

By the fourth quarter of this year, a mobile app called "Praise-HK" will be launched, providing accurate air quality forecasts up to 72 hours in advance.

Coverage extends across mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, as cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post.

The app aims to reduce users' exposure to unhealthy air by informing them of air quality in advance.

The system that helps

ENVIRONMENT

Accurately forecasting air quality app under development in HK

provide the advanced, accurate predictions is called the Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS), which Dr. Alexis Lau Kai-hon from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology helped develop.

According to him, the system takes into account anything that affects air pollution.

The system consi-

ders emissions sources, vehicle fleet composition and real-time traffic flow across 30,000 roads and streets. However, the entire East Asian weather system is also considered.

"Our model actually considers pollution from the whole Greater China region. Sometimes pollutants in [mainland] China or the Pearl River Delta

region will affect us [and vice versa] so we cannot just look at Hong Kong," said the scientist.

"It is a clear spatial map showing what air pollution is and information about its evolution," Lau added.

Users can see wind directions with the app, making them aware of when northerly winds will prevail and when

transboundary pollution from the mainland is more likely.

If there are winds from the south, which usually occur in summer, Hong Kong generally sees cleaner air.

As cited in the report, color-mapping will reveal high pollution spots in Hong Kong, such as the entrances of tunnels during rush hour.

The scientist notes that the app will also help users understand air pollution better. According to Dr. Kenneth Wu Wing-cheung from the Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine, the app will tell users to avoid highly polluted areas, particularly areas that are not accurately captured by the government's air quality monitoring stations. "I believe the app will be helpful for those with chronic illnesses or respiratory problems and reduce their exposure to heavy pollution," he said. "But this also depends on its accuracy."

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Times

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65.5 percent of Canidrome land to become sports facilities

Julie Zhu

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) revealed yesterday the plans for the Yat Yuen Canidrome land, having disclosed that 65.5 percent, or approximately 26,500 square meters, of the land will be used to build sports facilities. The DSSOPT's plan was revealed during this year's sixth meeting of the Urban Planning Committee.

Some 20 percent, or 8,000 square meters, will be for education facilities, 9.7 percent, or 3,900 square meters, will be for social services and government facilities, while the remaining 5 percent (2,000 square meters) will be for pedestrians.

Currently, the land includes the Lin Fong Sports Center, a 400-meter athletics track, two swimming pools, one activity center and one gym.

The DSSOPT proposed keeping the Lin Fong Sports Center and the football court and building a new sports complex, a pool, a running track and a field training court.

There are approximately 15 schools in the surrounding area.

The land designated for education facilities is located next to the Avenida do Conselheiro Borja. The sports facilities are to be situated in the middle of the plot, and the social services and government facilities are to be located in the south area of the land.

Pedestrian facilities will be located at the border of the education and sports facilities, and at the border of the sports and government facilities.



According to the plan, an underground storm water storage tank will be situated below the sports facilities for disaster prevention.

An expansion of Avenida do Almirante Lacerda has also been proposed, in order to increase the avenue's traffic capacity.

The bureau also recommended adding a minimum of 400 parking spaces at the sports facilities.

According to data released by DSSOPT, currently, the population density of the immediate region is 90,000 people per square kilometer.

The region neighboring the Yat Yuen land consists mainly of residential land plots.

Some schools need to provide Physical Education classes to students at the Lin Fong Sports Center, instead of on campus. The Lin Fong Sports Center is the only largescale sports facility in the district.

There are around 20 social ser-

vice facilities in the district, including children's facilities and elderly nursing homes, and community centers.

Of governmental offices, only the Housing Bureau office and one Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau service center are available in the neighborhood.

There are also four parking lots in the vicinity, providing a total of approximately 4,000 parking spots.

The DSSOPT expects the district to increase its population by 13,000 residents.

The plan was applauded by most members of the committee. However, several of them voiced opinions on transportation as an issue, concerned with parking lots, sidewalks, as well as the storm water storage tank in particular.

In general, the members believe that more parking spaces should be provided, not just the 400 parking spaces proposed.

Some members also suggested a foot bridge, since the complicated transportation scenario and the dense population might pose a safety risk to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

The members also want further consideration of the storm water storage tank, as some of them believe that the facility is indeed needed in the district for disaster prevention, whereas other members believe that the land would better be used for additional parking spaces. Nevertheless, some members believe that the storm water storage tank and additional parking lots can be considered simultaneously.

DSSOPT director Li Canfeng said, "The people-flow will become a lot bigger in the area." Regarding the storm water storage tank, Li noted that the bureau will find people who are professional and expert in the area to formulate the plan.

Mi Jian appointed new policy research bureau head

Mi Jian has been appointed the new director of the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, according to a dispatch published in the government's Official Gazette yesterday. Mi will step into his new position on September 1 for a two-year term. Mi is currently the director of the Policy Research Office. The CE also appointed two department heads and four division heads to DSEDPR. DSEDPR will be established on September 1, formed by the Policy Research Office and the Mainland Work Team of the CE Office.

Housing policy not specifically for Pearl Horizon owners

The city's policy on temporary housing was not established specifically for Pearl Horizon buyers, according to the head of the Administration Appeal Bureau and deputy commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption, Lam Chi Long. Yesterday during Forum Macau, Lam said that despite Pearl Horizon buyers being the first batch of candidates eligible for the city's temporary housing policies, that does not mean the policy was made deliberately for the group. Lam claimed that the temporary housing policies could provide property owners with more options.

Hong Kong man broke into military camp

A middle-aged Hong Kong resident has been sent to the prosecution authority after breaking into the Taipa Military Camp. When the man first attempted to enter the camp, he was stopped by a soldier who was on-duty. Upon being warned by the soldier, the 50-year-old Hong Kong resident refused to leave the scene and broke into a prohibited area of the camp. The man showed no signs of physical resistance afterwards, when the soldier stopped him from stepping forward. The soldier reported the case to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). According to the PSP, the Hong Kong man claimed he wanted to seek help from the military.

AMERICAN actor, director and producer Nicolas Cage will feature as a talent ambassador at this year's International Film Festival and Awards - Macau (IFFAM), the Hollywood Reporter has revealed.

Hong Kong's Aaron Kwok joins Cage this year to make the celebrity pair of festival ambassadors. Organizers described the pairing as reflective of the festival's "ambition to bring together local and international industry professionals, to highlight Macau's East-meets-West culture and to introduce local audiences to the best in international cinema."

The IFFAM, now in its third edition, is due to be

Nicolas Cage announced as IFFAM talent ambassador

held between December 8 and 14.

While in Macau, Cage is expected to walk the red carpet as well as participate in a master class on December 9.

"Nicolas Cage is a brilliant, iconic actor and a star for the ages," Macau artistic director Mike Goodridge told the Hollywood Reporter. "We are proud and delighted to welcome him to Macau this year as our talent ambassador, and to show his extraordinary new film, Mandy."

Cage's latest film, Mandy had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May and is to have a special screening in Macau in December.

Last year's talent ambassador team comprised U.S. actor Jeremy Renner, famed Hong Kong actress Miriam Yeung and Korean pop star Doh Kyung-soo. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, presented Renner with the Macau East West Actor of the Year Award.



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News At Hand



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386 locations available for mainland residence permit applications

THE Guangdong Security Department has announced that SAR residents can apply for their residence permit at 386 locations in Guangdong province.

Every qualified SAR resident can bring relevant documents to these locations to apply for a residence permit in mainland China. The process reportedly takes 20 days, upon which time applicants can retrieve their residence permits.

Earlier this month, the State Council Information Office issued a new regulation allowing residents of Hong Kong, Ma-

cau, and Taiwan to apply for residential permits in mainland China.

A document issued at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office said that the regulation, to be promulgated later by the State Council General Office, will take effect from September 1.

With a residential permit, residents from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan will enjoy more rights, basic public services and other conveniences on the mainland, relating to their study, work, business operation and living, the document reads.

THE opening ceremony of the 2018/2019 academic year of the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) was held in the afternoon of August 29 at the IPM Sports Pavilion, with more than 900 new students joining the Institute.

Two thousand participants including community leaders, representatives of scholarship donors, representatives from overseas universities, IPM teachers and students, alumni, and parents attended in total.

As per the Institute's tradition, the incoming students swore their oath at the ceremony of "IPM's heart, our new start".

Im Sio Kei, the acting president of IPM, presided over the opening ceremony and welcomed new students to the university. According to a statement from the university, Im encouraged the newcomers to carry on IPM's tradition of academic excellence, broaden their horizon to the world, and be ready for future contributions to regional or national development.

To assist new students in adapting to campus life, IPM started a series of orientation activities after the opening ceremony, in-



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EDUCATION

New academic year ceremony held at IPM

cluding campus orientation, welcome receptions for different majors, library survival skills workshops, a "personality training camp", and a physical and mental fitness

education workshop, as well as other activities organized by the Student Union.

IPM regularly receives the largest number of applications from Macau students.

It has successfully passed a rigorous international institutional review, and it is ranked as a "4-star high-standard university" in the greater China region.

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Number of MICE events stable

A total of 327 MICE events was held in the second quarter of 2018, including 316 meetings and conferences, nine exhibitions and two incentives. The total number of events decreased by six year-on-year, while the number of participants and attendees increased by 1.7 percent to 411,000. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service, the number of meetings and conferences held in the second quarter of 2018 increased by eight year-on-year; the number of participants soared by 121 percent to 98,000, which is attributable to an upsurge of 171.3 percent in participants (85,000) attending meetings & conferences with 200 participants or more (69). The number of exhibitions held in the second quarter decreased by two year-on-year, with the number of attendees dropping by 12.4 percent to 308,000. Exhibitions organized by non-government organizations totaled seven and number of attendees dropped by 24.7 percent to 258,000.

Experts gather at UM to discuss smart grid technologies

The University of Macau (UM) State Key Laboratory of Internet of Things for Smart City recently held a seminar on smart grid technologies for smart cities. This is the first event organized by the lab since UM received approval from the central government to establish it. The event received assistance from Companhia de Electricidade de Macau, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) of Macau, and the IEEE Macau Power and Energy Society/Power Electronics Society Joint Chapter. Experts and scholars from Macau, mainland China, and overseas attended the seminar and discussed the latest developments of technologies in sustainable energy, energy internet, electricity market, and the dispatch of smart grid equipment.

Jollibee aims to expand foreign sales

SEEING Philippines fast food giant Jollibee abroad always brings overseas Filipino workers a "sense of home." Thus the community is willing to line up for hours whenever an outlet opens for the first time in their region.

In Macau, Jollibee commenced its operations on June 27 at 11 a.m., where it drew large Filipino crowds lining up as early as 8 a.m.

This scene is common across the Philippines, where Jollibee outsells all other fast-food chains, including Western giants like McDonald's and KFC.

However, it is the same crowd that also makes it challenging for Jollibee founder and chairman Tony Tan Caktiong, who aims to include his fast food chain giant in the ranks of McDonalds and Yum Brands (including KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell), when the food mainly appeals to Filipinos.

As cited in a report issued



by Nikkei Asian Review, Jollibee's sales from its 13 restaurant brands and 3,000 plus outlets worldwide rose 15.2 percent to USD3.4 billion last year.

Euromonitor ranked it as the 16th largest restaurant in the world by sales, excluding convenience stores that also sell cooked meals.

"Since the start of Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) 40 years ago, I have always dreamed it to be the lar-

gest food company in the world," Tan said, in a press statement on June 29 at the company's annual shareholder meeting.

In the Philippines, JFC operates the largest food service network, operating 2,967 restaurant outlets.

For Tan, the game plan is to keep growing in the Philippines, where around 300 new stores are to be opened every year, and to ramp up expansion in the U.S. and

China to bring the share of foreign sales to half of the total from 30 percent currently.

It is reported that a USD1 billion war chest for acquisitions (built from internally generated cash and loans) has been earmarked to accelerate growth.

While the U.S. and China are seen as the company's growth engines, Jollibee is still focusing on Southeast Asia.

To bankroll its expansion in Asia, next year Jollibee plans to take the company public in Vietnam, Jollibee's fastest-growing foreign market.

It is also keen on offering its own dishes in new markets across Southeast Asia, such as its signature Chickenjoy fried chicken dish.

Aside from fast food outlet expansion, last year they acquired a majority stake in Super Foods, a Vietnamese company that operates Pho24 restaurants, the Highlands Coffee chain and Hard Rock Cafes mainly in Southeast Asia.

As reported, new Jollibee locations are planned to open everywhere from Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia to London later this year.

AD

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Expert praises gamification techniques to train employees

Lynzy Valles

HAVING adequate employee training resources remains a challenge for businesses in Macau, along with increasing sales competition from the many large companies in the region.



Tom Abbott

Tom Abbott, founder and director of Soco/Sales Training, a sales optimization company in Singapore, said that his company has increased their volume of work in Macau, assisting companies optimize their sales processes.

"We also hold sessions on improving and measuring the ROI of training. There's definitely a gap there," he said, speaking on the sidelines of his presentation.

Yesterday, Abbott spoke on how to plan and implement a holistic training system to reduce costs and optimize results at a breakfast meeting held by

the France Macau Chamber of Commerce.

According to Abbott, making required training available on mobile devices for employees leads to a 40 percent increase in productivity, adding that some 48 percent of online training on TrainTool occurred outside of office hours in 2016.

Abbott then suggested that companies should learn how to motivate their team members by making them feel that

what they do at work matters, making them feel competent and giving them a sense of autonomy.

According to his data, by using gamification, learners scored 15 percent higher in skill-based knowledge and 9 percent higher than using traditional methods.

"Using gamification, for example, increases retention and engagement," he said, noting that the use of e-learning could also boost both factors from 10 to 60 percent.

Abbott noted that there was nothing preventing Macau from using e-learning infrastructure. Thus, he suggested that companies either design their own programs, or work with external parties that have something established, using plug and play materials.

"[However] gaming can be a bit of a challenge. Gaming may have some firewall issues but there are different ways whe-

re you can host those videos on different platforms that we have found quite successful," Abbott said.

"If you have the will and the mindset to adopt e-learning, there is a way," he emphasized.

However, Abbott, who has clients in the SAR, including gaming operators, observed that there are still companies who refuse to use technology to train their employees.

"There's going to be winners and losers when it comes to performance here in Macau. The sooner you get on board, the sooner you'll reap those rewards," he said. "Those that lag behind will lose."

In training employees, Abbott shared that companies should determine how much trainees learn in the form of increased knowledge and understanding, and measure changes in the on-the-job behavior of trainees.

Gov't approves tax pact with Vietnam

The Macau government has reached an agreement with the state authorities of Vietnam to share tax-related information in order to deter both tax evasion and double taxation in the two jurisdictions. According to Viet Nam Plus, Vietnam's Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordinating the two sides' relevant agencies to implement the agreement, and for making announcements on its progress.

Solomon Islands sees match against Macau as warm up

The Solomon Islands defeated Macau 4-1 last night. The national football team said it used yesterday's friendly match held in Macau to warm up for their upcoming game against Fiji. According to Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC), coach Moses Toata said that their game against Macau would give them ideas as to how to counter Fiji. "A positive result against Macau will definitely put us in a good shape ahead of the game with Fiji," he said, according to FBC. The Solomon Islands will face Fiji next Wednesday.

Fitch Ratings assigns BB- to China Aoyuan's US, Singapore notes

Fitch Ratings has assigned China Aoyuan Property Group's proposed US dollar and Singapore dollar senior notes an expected 'BB-(EXP)' rating, the same as the company's senior unsecured rating, because they constitute its direct and senior unsecured obligations. The basis for the grading, according to Fitch Ratings, is due to the company's exposure to industry downside risk, given its deeper penetration into China's lower-tier cities and its higher commercial property exposure than its 'BB-' peers. Most of Aoyuan's lower-tier cities are satellite cities, which benefit from spillover from Tier 1 cities with home-purchase restrictions. However, Fitch sees lower-tier city housing markets as more vulnerable than higher-tier cities, due to unexpected policy-making and industry downturn. China Aoyuan Property Group is one of the largest-scale property developers in China, headquartered in Guangzhou and in Hong Kong.

HERITAGE

Second phase of Chapas Sínicas launches

THE second phase of the "Chapas Sínicas" exhibition will be held at the Archives of Macao from August 21 to December 7, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). An auxiliary exhibition featuring pieces from the first phase is to be hosted by the University Gallery at the University of Macau from September 5 to October 31.

A series of lectures delivered by the director of the Archives of Macao, Lau Fong, will be held in association with the auxiliary exhibition, focusing on the inclusion of the collection in the Memory of the World Register.

"Chapas Sínicas" is a collection of Qing dynasty records of Macau. Preserved in Portugal's National Archive of Torre do Tombo, the collection comprises over 3,600



documents, including official letters written in Chinese, the translated Portuguese-translated copies of letters and other miscellaneous documents. The collection

was titled "Official Records of Macao During the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886)" in its nomination for the Memory of the World Register.

The records are reflec-

tions of the conditions of the society, people's lives, urban development, and the trade and commerce of Macau during the Qing dynasty.

According to the IC, they represent the significance of Macau to the world and tell stories which, though they took place in Macau, are of historical relevance to China, Portugal and even major developments in world history.

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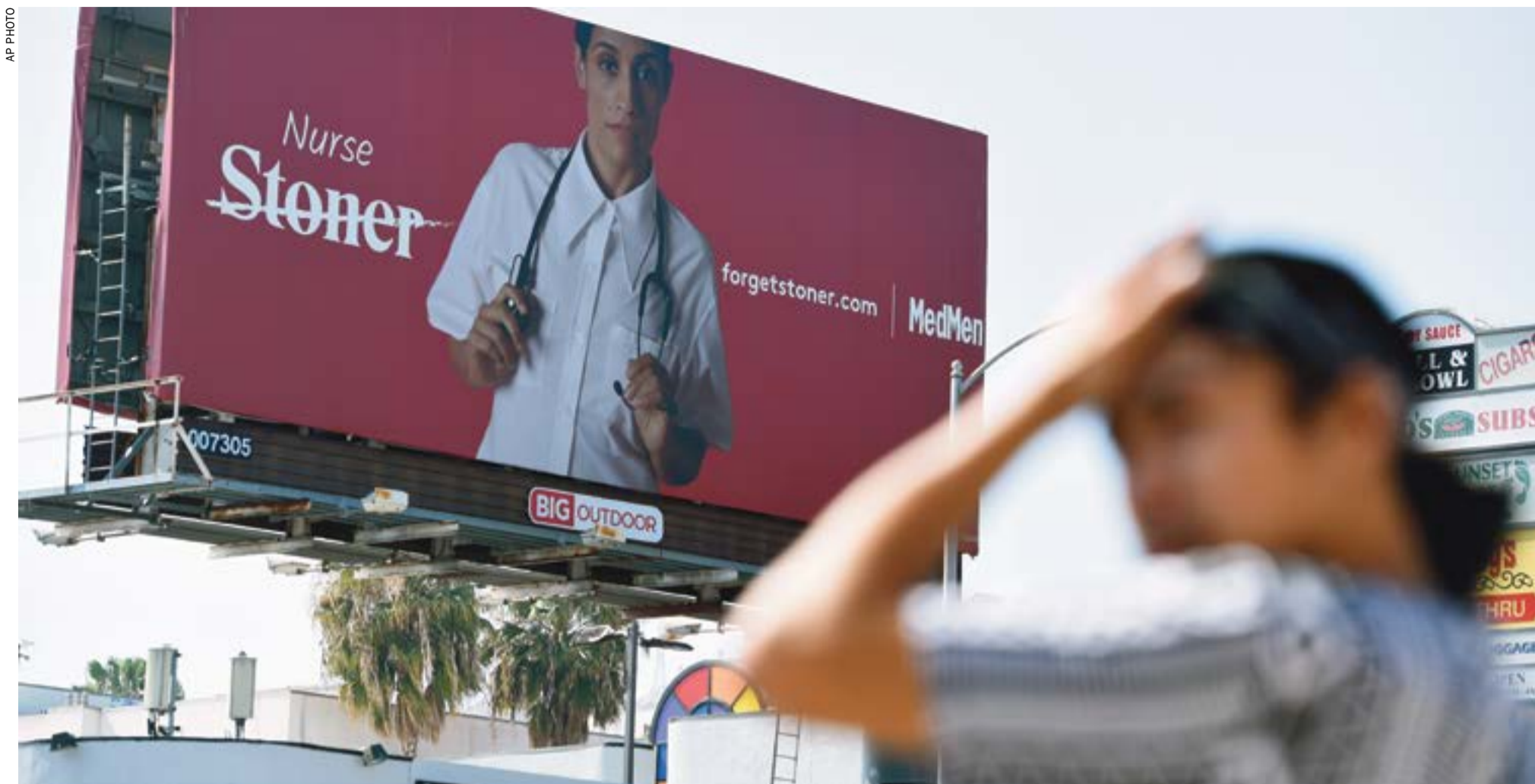
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Legal marijuana industry tries to shake 'stoner' stereotypes

John Rogers, Krysta Fauria

MICHELLE Janikian, who writes about marijuana for publications like Herb, Playboy and Rolling Stone, says after she tells someone what she does for a living, she usually spends the rest of the conversation "trying to act so friendly and mainstream" so they don't think she's stoned.

Adam Salcido relates that after he went to work a couple of years ago for a Southern California company that helps organize weed-infused events like Hempfest and Cannabis Cup, he had to reassure his family he wouldn't turn into a drug addict. Stoner stereotypes die hard.

But with a multibillion-dollar industry beginning to flower — marijuana is now legal in some form in 30 states — cannabis advocates are pushing to dispel the idea that people who toke up still live on the couches in their parents' basements and spend their waking hours eating Cheetos and playing video games.

MedMen, a flashy, upscale chain of dispensaries that brands itself as the Apple store of pot shops, recently rolled out a USD2 million ad campaign that, for lack of a better description, might be called the "anti-stoner offensive."

Photos of 17 people — including a white-haired grandmother, a schoolteacher, a busi-

ness executive, a former pro football player and a nurse — are being splashed across billboards, buses and the web by the company that has dispensaries in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York. Each photo has the word "stoner" crossed out and in its place a description of their job.

People can find their biographies on the website www.forgetstoner.com, where they can also learn why they use weed. Reasons range from treatment of medical conditions like migraines and anxiety to simply enjoying the high.

"What we're saying is the very definition of a stereotype is defining a person by one bad mention," says Daniel Yi, MedMen's senior vice president of communications and a former Los Angeles Times reporter. "They're also a grandmother. They're also a father, a son, a brother."

Judd Weiss, CEO and founder of cannabis company Lit. Club, believes the industry needs to do still more. He suggests marketing products in a way that makes them look more than just respectable, but as the herbal equivalent of a fine bourbon or scotch.

Thus, he says, Lit.Club's vape pens are packaged in a way "that won't embarrass you at the opera." They look sleek and stylish, with inspirational phrases like "Light A Path" printed on each one. He com-

pares the aroma and flavor of his company's pre-rolled joints to something similar to a fine brandy.

"Very much like the Tesla, we want to be seen as luxury quality but affordable," he said.

Very much like the Tesla, we want to be seen as luxury quality but affordable.

JUDD WEISS
LIT.CLUB CEO

The website Leafly, which is sometimes called a Yelp for discerning potheads, has taken out ads in The New York Times and staged promotional events at gatherings like the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, to extol the virtues of marijuana. Better sex and better health are two claims it focuses on.

Still there is pushback from some who believe realities about pot are being glossed over by slick marketing.

"It is not a controversial claim to say that marijuana could be addictive for some people, that it could produce mental illness, that it's tied

to impaired driving, that it makes you not motivated, that you're more likely to drop out of school if you're a kid using," said Kevin Sabet, president of the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana and a former drug policy adviser to presidents Clinton, Obama and George W. Bush.

Sabet accuses the cannabis industry of enticing children with edibles and cookies in an attempt to become another "Big Tobacco," although he also acknowledges there is evidence that marijuana has some medicinal value.

It was edibles that brought Cindy Paul of Billings, Montana, to a Portland, Oregon, pot shop a few weeks ago to sample marijuana for the first time in 25 years. A casual if closeted smoker during her school days, Paul, 55, said she decided to indulge again while vacationing with her daughter in a state where it's legal and where she can acquire it in a form she doesn't have to inhale.

"I do think it has medicinal qualities," she said, adding, "I'm not using it for that. I'm using it to have a good time. I don't think it's any different than having a beer."

To bring more people like Paul into the fold, branding expert Robert Miner says the marijuana industry needs to use movies and TV shows to change negative perceptions.

Those lovable stoners Chee-

ch and Chong were fine back in the day when it came to re-buffing the idea that anybody who smoked pot was headed for Reefer Madness. But the mainstreaming of marijuana, he said, demands a new message.

"For that larger portion of the cannabis-consuming population, that same silly bumbling stereotype that led to a wider acceptance is now an impediment to their being open about their cannabis consumption," said Miner, whose firm, Miner & Co. Studio, works with TV networks and other media in image building.

One show that presents a more modern take on marijuana is HBO's "High Maintenance." It features a bicycle-riding pot dealer who interacts with a variety of average New Yorkers, from empty-nesting Boomers to workaholic Millennials. The only thing any have in common is they buy marijuana from him and, as they do, pull him into their daily lives.

It's one of Janikian's favorite shows, and she'd like to see more like it. But for now the writer who divides her time between New York and Mexico will continue to remain circumspect about her marijuana use.

She sometimes uses a topical cream to curb anxiety and after a hard day's work she likes to smoke a joint to unwind like any "random normal person" would have a glass of wine.

But she knows those random normal people are often skeptical.

"It's like, 'Oh, you just want to smoke weed,'" she says, laughing. "Stop lying." AP

Catherine Bosley

WHEN Switzerland pushes the button to send data on offshore bank accounts to foreign tax agencies this fall, it will be doing what was once virtually unthinkable: abandoning the absolute secrecy once afforded to anyone parking their cash in Zurich or Geneva.

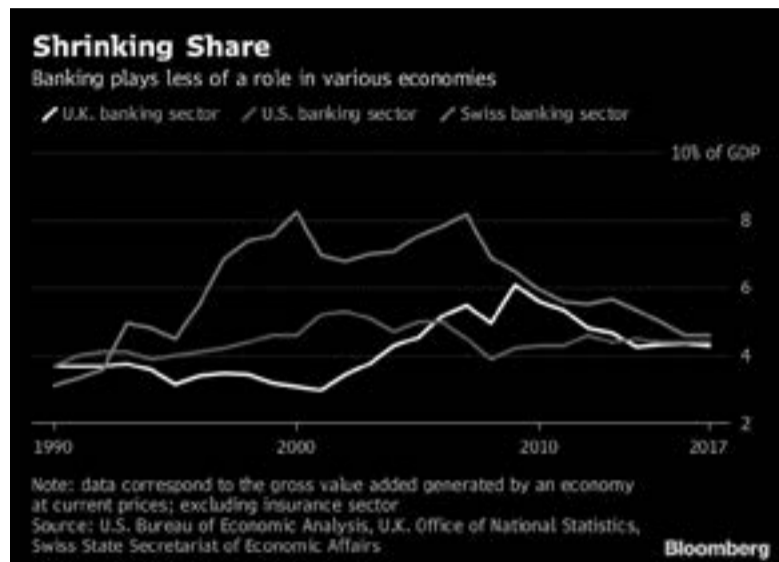
The automatic exchange of account information due to take place with other European countries is the last chapter in a saga that began with the arrest of former UBS Group AG banker Bradley Birkenfeld in 2008, cost Swiss banks more than USD6 billion in fines, and prompted criminal probes and travel bans for bankers.

Of the more than 80 institutions to wind up in the crosshairs of U.S. authorities – among them UBS, Credit Suisse Group AG, and Julius Baer Group Ltd. – Basler Kantonalbank and Zuercher Kantonalbank, are the latest to settle with the Department of Justice. Basler will pay \$60.4 million, while Zuercher agreed to pay \$98.5 million and both publicly owned banks admitted to helping clients conceal income and assets from the U.S. government. Pictet and HSBC Holdings Plc's Swiss unit are still waiting to settle.

While banks have stopped accepting untaxed assets, the "economic war," as UBS CEO Sergio Ermotti referred to the crackdown, ultimately didn't end Switzerland's appeal as a place for the world's wealthy to park their money. It also didn't sink the economy into recession, as a 2012 KOF Economic Institute report warned might happen.

"Supposedly" the end of banking secrecy was going to be "the death knell for Swiss banks – they would've lost their competitive advantage and gone out of business," said Mark T. Williams of Boston University.

Swiss banks survive 'economic war' of global secrecy crackdown



"Ten years later, that is clearly not what happened," he added. "I think Switzerland continues to be very strong in regards to asset management. As a tax haven, not so much."

The secrecy statute, enacted in 1934, clearly helped the financial industry attract foreign money. The law stipulates that any banker found to intentionally disclose "secrets" obtained as part of their role could be jailed for up to three years or fined.

The crackdown started in 2008. Led by the U.S. and soon vigorously pursued by Germany, France, Italy and others, it put the spotlight on how the rich hid money from the tax man with the help of Swiss banks, damaging the sector's reputation.

TRAVEL BAN

For years, some bankers avoided foreign travel for fear they might get arrested, as was former UBS wealth management head Raoul Weil, picked up in Italy, extradited to the U.S.

and subsequently cleared by a Florida jury. After ZKB, the biggest state-backed bank, settled with the DoJ earlier this month, it lifted a ban on some employees' personal travel to the country.

Switzerland still is world's preeminent offshore wealth management hub, as reports by both Deloitte and Boston Consulting Group this year found

"Some bankers were scared. If you had been related to wealth management with U.S. clients

anywhere in the world, there was a moment where you decided to no longer travel," said Matthias Schulthess, a partner at Schulthess Zimmermann Executive Search. Weil's acquittal was a "relief for many people, especially on the senior end."

Parliament in Bern allowed the handing over client data to Washington in 2010 to shield UBS, which had to be saved two years before with a \$59.2 billion government rescue package due to sub prime mortgage writedowns. Financial institutions began regularly sending account details to the U.S. in 2015. Switzerland will now also send details on account holders to countries including Canada, Japan and the European Union's 28 member states.

WEALTH WINNER

Today, Switzerland still is world's preeminent offshore wealth management hub, as reports by both Deloitte and Boston Consulting Group this year found. BCG determined it had \$2.3 trillion of such assets, twice the sum held by runner up Hong Kong. That is in part because, as central bank chief Thomas Jordan noted in 2014, political and financial stability, a well-functioning judiciary, low inflation, and the franc's status as a haven contributed to Switzerland's appeal.

While following the 2008 global financial meltdown banking shrank in relation to the overall size of the Swiss economy, in the U.S. and the U.K. the sector also suffered a decline.

'BIG BLOW'

The end of banking secrecy was a "big blow" to Swiss fi-

nance, especially the smaller banks, which got saddled with high compliance costs, said Nuno Fernandes, dean of Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics. "But it's also true that many people expected it to be worse, and there was no disappearance of the sector."

The number of banks in Switzerland dropped to 253 as of last December, down from more than 300 before the financial crisis, according to central bank data. While most are closely held, the two biggest are listed on the stock exchange.

Profits at Credit Suisse and UBS have been less than half of pre-crisis highs in recent years, but have also become more predictable as their focus shifted from high-risk investment banking to a tamer version of wealth management. Clients whose principle concern was shielding assets from the government have become more price sensitive now that their money is declared.

Still, the global stock market rally has been responsible for about 90 percent of the private banking sector's growth in assets under management last year, according to KPMG. Net new money amounted to only 21 billion francs in 2017, and about half the banks suffered net outflows during the period.

Having lost their "competitive advantage" based on secrecy, banks in Switzerland have "been quite good" at weathering the crisis, said Sebastien Mena, senior lecturer in management at Cass Business School in London. "Of course they had to pay huge fines." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SAM SMITH DEBUTS IN MACAU AT MGM COTAI ON OCTOBER 19, 20



Grammy award-winning British vocalist Sam Smith will perform in Macau for the first time at MGM Theater of MGM Cotai on October 19

and 20.

"The Thrill of It All" Asian leg of his tour sees Smith performing in Singapore, Manila, Seoul, Tokyo,

Osaka, Macau, Shanghai, Beijing and Bangkok throughout the month of October. Tickets for his Macau performance will go on sale 10 a.m. today.

In October 2012, Smith catapulted to fame when he was featured on Disclosure's single, "Latch". Two years later, he released his debut studio album, *In the Lonely Hour*, featuring "Stay with Me" which reached one in the UK, the world is left in the grip of fever by selling over 14 million records worldwide. In 2015, Smith garnered many prestigious accolades, winning four Grammy Awards; a Golden Globe Award and an Academy award for the Spectre theme song, "Writing's on the

Wall"; two accolades from the 2015 Brit Awards and three awards from the 2015 Billboard Music Awards. Smith comes to Macau after the recent release of his second studio album, *The Thrill of It All*.

"We are honored to have Sam Smith perform for the very first time in Macau at our new MGM Theater at MGM Cotai," Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director of MGM China said. "We hope this will be a very personal experience for our guests, as Smith sings his soulful ballads in our theater which offers an intimate setting with exceptional acoustics."

CTM LAUNCHES 'CTM DATA MALL' MOBILE APP

To further cater for growing demand for roaming data services, CTM launched the "CTM Data Mall" mobile app. The service aims to "create a more convenient and affordable roaming data online subscription platform, to better cater [for] customers' need for roaming data service while on business or personal trips," according to a press release issued yesterday.

The mobile app provides customers with more flexible and diversified roaming data packages, covering popular destinations such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand. A data package for Thailand is as low as MOP8 per day, while the price of an unlimited usage package in Taiwan is as low as MOP7 per day, whereas to Hong Kong

it is as low as MOP9 per day.

Customers interested in signing up for the service need perform a simple registration in the "CTM Data Mall" app with a "CTM prepaid card," before subscribing to data packages for different regions. The app supports payment with credit cards, and customers just need to manually select the specified telecom operator before enjoying roaming data, and can easily check on usage through the app.

From today until September 30, customers may approach various CTM shops to learn about the "free" prepaid card offer. Customers successfully registered for "CTM Data Mall" will be qualified to enter a lucky draw to win round-trip ticket to Taipei for two. The result of the lucky draw will be announced on October 4.

AP PHOTO



Prof. Cheung Kie-chung

HONG KONG

Professor charged with murder after wife's body found in office

A Hong Kong university professor was charged with his wife's murder yesterday, a day after her decomposing body was found inside a suitcase in his campus office, reports said.

Hong Kong University mechanical engineering associate professor Cheung Kie-chung was taken away by police on Tuesday, according to the South China Morning Post and other news media.

Cheung, 53, had reported that his 52-year-old wife walked out after an argument on Aug. 17. She was believed to have been dead for several days when her body was found Tuesday dressed only in her underwear with an electric wire around her neck suggesting strangulation, Singapore's Straits Times newspaper reported.

The Post said a post-mortem examination was being conducted to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Despite Cheung's claim, there was no security camera footage showing his wife, who was not named in the reports, leaving the dormitory where she lived with her husband and an adult daughter and son. He was later seen leaving with a wooden box, the reports said, adding that the suitcase containing the body had been encased inside a sealed wooden box.

Cheung's arrest came days after the start of the trial in Hong Kong of an anesthesiologist charged with killing his wife and daughter by placing a leaking yoga ball filled with deadly carbon monoxide in their car.

Malaysian citizen Khaw Kim-sun, 53, was allegedly having an affair and had become estranged from his wife and four children, although they continued to live together. Khaw, who has pleaded not guilty, was arrested in September. AP

Taiwanese exchange student pleads guilty to firearm charge for threat

Claudia Lauer, Philadelphia

A Taiwanese exchange student accused of threatening to carry out a shooting at his suburban Philadelphia high school pleaded guilty to a federal firearms charge yesterday [Macau time].

An-Tso Sun was arraigned in federal court, where he entered the guilty plea. A judge scheduled sentencing for December, but Sun's attorney Robert Keller asked that the date be moved up once the pre-sentencing report is finished.

Sun, 18, has agreed to be deported and to not re-enter the U.S. without permission.

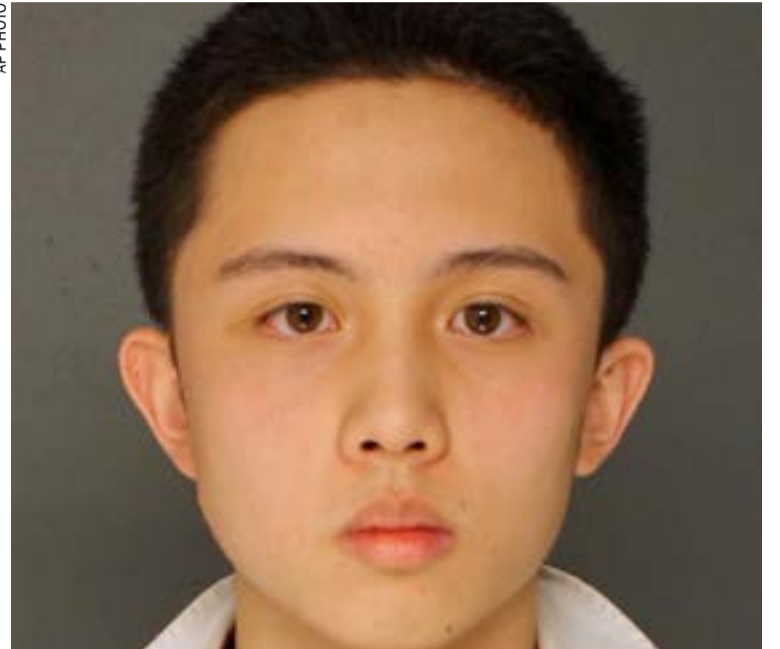
He previously pleaded guilty to state terroristic threat charges and was sentenced to four to 23 months. He was immediately paroled and remanded to federal custody to face a charge of an alien in possession of ammunition.

The judge could sentence Sun to up to 10 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines. Keller said after court Tuesday that he hopes to show up for the sentencing hearing with a plane ticket.

"That's going to be the mantra, the cry, when he gets to sentencing. Let this boy go home," he said.

School authorities were alerted in March that Sun talked about a May 1 shooting at Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast High School in Upper Darby, about 11 kilometers west of Philadelphia. The teen called the talk a joke, but authorities found more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition, as well as weapons, in his home.

AP PHOTO



An-Tso Sun

Keller objected Tuesday to the U.S. Attorney's office including the allegation that Sun had told a classmate not to come to school on May 1 because he was planning a shooting. The judge overruled his objection, but Keller said after court Tuesday that he will raise it again during sentencing. He accused prosecutors of "going overboard" in trying to prove their case.

Keller previously said Sun "had no intention or plans" to commit a school shooting and many items found were what he wore to school for a Halloween costume contest.

A military-style ballistic vest, ammunition clip pouches, a high-powered crossbow and live ammunition were found in Sun's bedroom in Lansdowne, Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood said. A search of his school-issued iPad indicated searches on how

to buy an AK-47 or an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, police said.

Sun's parents are actor and assistant film director Sun Peng and actress Di Ying.

Keller said they were in Philadelphia and had been visiting their son weekly but chose not to come to court Tuesday to try to remove some of the spotlight from their son. He said they have been upset because their son was expelled two months before graduating high school and had been accepted to Temple University.

"We can understand why the government is taking these matters so seriously, and I think the huge mistake that this young child made was he didn't understand the dynamics of what's going on in the United States," Keller said after court. "He now gets it... and it's time for this kid to go home." AP

INDIAN police arrested five rights activists for suspected links to Maoist rebels in raids on their homes and offices in several places in the country.

Police also accused the five of delivering speeches that triggered protests and violence between low-caste Dalits and right-wing groups near the western city of Pune in December. The government says Maoist rebels, who are active in several states, are India's biggest internal security threat.

The rebels, inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, have been fighting the Indian government for more than four decades, demanding

India arrests five rights activists for alleged Maoist links

land and jobs for tenant farmers, the poor and indigenous communities.

Those arrested were Telugu-language poet Varavara Rao in Hyderabad, Vernon Gonzalves and Arun Ferreira in Mumbai, and Gautam Navlakha and Sudha Bhardwaj in New Delhi and a neighbouring town, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

The government crackdown was condemned by Aakar Patel, executive director of Amnesty International India, who said the arrests threatened core human rights values.

"All these people have a history of working to protect the rights of some of India's most poor and marginalized people. Their arrests raise disturbing questions about whether they are being targeted for their activism," Patel said.

Amitabh Behar, CEO of Oxfam India, said the government should protect people's rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly instead of creating an atmosphere of fear.

Police said the five activists arrested incited Dalits, members of Hin-

duism's lowest caste, to counter right-wing groups at a rally on Dec. 31, leading to violent clashes that left one person dead.

In June, police arrested five other activists on suspicion of also inciting the Dalits, who have been marginalized for centuries and forced to perform jobs considered unacceptable by other castes.

Caste prejudice is endemic in Hindu-majority India, even though the constitution outlaws the practice and has made it a crime punishable by up to a year in prison. AP

AP PHOTO



Revolutionary poet Varavara Rao (center) followed by Deepa, niece of Maoist leader Kishenji who was killed

BLOOMBERG



The Chinese government extensively violates the rights to freedom of expression and privacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

MORE than a dozen human rights groups have sent a letter to Google urging the company not to offer censored internet search in China, amid reports it is planning to again provide the service in the giant market.

The joint letter dated yesterday [Macau time] calls on CEO Sundar Pichai to explain what Google is doing to safeguard users from the Chinese government's censorship and surveillance.

It describes the censored search engine service, codenamed "Dragonfly," as representing "an alarming capitulation by Google on human rights."

"The Chinese government extensively violates the rights to freedom of expression and privacy; by accommodating the Chinese authorities' repression of dissent, Google would be actively participating in those

Rights groups urge no censored Google search for China

violations for millions of internet users in China," the letter says.

In a statement, Google said it has "been investing for many years to help Chinese users, from developing Android, through mobile apps such as Google Translate and Files Go, and our developer tools. But our work on search has been exploratory, and we are not close to launching a search product in China."

The expression of concern by the rights groups follows a letter earlier this month signed by more than a thousand Google employees protesting the company's secretive plan to build a search engine that would com-

ply with Chinese censorship. The letter called on executives to review ethics and transparency at the company.

Google had previously complied with censorship controls starting in 2006 as it sought a toehold in the booming Chinese economy. But it exited the Chinese search market in 2010 under unrelenting pressure from human rights groups and some shareholders to leave.

The letter, signed by groups including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, said China's controls over the internet have only strengthened since then amid an overall crackdown on civil liberties

and freedom of expression.

"It is difficult to see how Google would currently be able to relaunch a search engine service in China in a way that would be compatible with the company's human rights responsibilities under international standards, or its own commitments," the letter said.

According to online news site The Intercept, Google created a custom Android app that will automatically filter out sites blocked by China's so-called "Great Firewall."

Google co-founder Sergey Brin was born in the Soviet Union in 1973 and lived there until age 6 when his family fled. He has said his experience with

a repressive regime shaped his and the company's views.

However, Pichai, who became CEO in 2015 when Google became part of parent Alphabet, has said he wants Google to be in China serving Chinese users.

In December, Google announced it was opening an artificial intelligence lab in Beijing, and in June, Google invested \$550 million in JD.com, a Chinese e-commerce platform that is second only to Alibaba in the country. The companies said they would collaborate on retail solutions around the world without mentioning China, where Google services including Gmail and YouTube are blocked. **AP**

Beijing denies Trump's claim it hacked Clinton's emails

CHINA has denied an accusation by U.S. President Donald Trump that it hacked the emails of Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent in the 2016 election.

"We are firmly opposed to all forms of cyberattacks and espionage," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing yesterday. She said China is a staunch defender of cybersecurity.

Trump tweeted shortly

after midnight that China had hacked Clinton's emails, without offering any evidence or further information, and suggested that the FBI and Department of Justice should investigate.

"Hillary Clinton's Emails, many of which are Classified Information, got hacked by China. Next move better be by the FBI & DOJ," he tweeted.

U.S. intelligence agencies have accused Russia of involvement in the

hacking of Democratic emails during the 2016 election campaign. The Justice Department has indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking into Clinton's presidential campaign and the Democratic Party.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating Russia's role in the election and whether there was any collusion between it and Trump's campaign.

Hua also denied on that

China was building a military base in far-eastern Afghanistan after a report published by the South China Morning Post alleged that Beijing was constructing a counter-terrorism-focused facility near its border but inside the war-torn Islamic republic.

The report said China's People Liberation Army could send hundreds of military personnel into Afghanistan after the base is completed. **AP**





KOREAN CRISIS

US ready for talks when it's clear North will denuclearize

THE United States is ready for talks with North Korea when it's clear it will follow through on its commitment to denuclearize, the State Department said yesterday [Macau time] after a planned visit to Pyongyang by top diplomat Mike Pompeo was shelved.

On Friday, President Donald Trump directed Pompeo to delay his trip, which had been slated for early this week, citing insufficient progress on getting the authoritarian regime to abandon its nuclear weapons,

as agreed upon with leader Kim Jong Un in June.

Pompeo's spokeswoman Heather Nauert declined to comment on reports that a tough-worded letter from an aide to Kim had derailed what would have been Pompeo's fourth visit to North Korea this year.

Nauert said the president and his national security team, including Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton, had judged that "now is not the right time to travel." However, she said diplomatic efforts are

"ongoing" though she could not say whether there had been communications between the State Department and North Korea since Friday.

She cited a statement from Pompeo that despite the decision to delay the trip, "America stands ready to engage when it is clear that Chairman Kim stands ready to deliver on the commitments that he made at the Singapore summit with President Trump to completely denuclearize North Korea."

"The world is united behind

the need for Chairman Kim to fulfill that commitment," Nauert said.

Trump, who views the reduction in tensions with North Korea this year as a major foreign policy achievement, still voiced respect for Kim on Friday and said he looked forward to seeing him "soon." He laid unspecified blame on China, North Korea's leading trade partner, for the lack of progress. China is currently embroiled in a trade dispute with the U.S.

But Trump's tweet marked a

shift in his relentlessly upbeat messaging since the Singapore summit, the first ever held between leaders of the U.S. and North Korea. There is growing skepticism in Washington and beyond that Kim intends to denuclearize without first winning concessions such as sanctions relief or a declaration on formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters that the U.S. might carry out military exercises with South Korea next spring after having cancelled a major exercise this year as a gesture toward advancing diplomacy aimed at eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons. Mattis said no decision has been made on when to resume military exercises, but his statements suggested the recent cancellation might not be repeated. **AP**

JAPAN

Police probe four hospital deaths after air-con failed

JAPANESE police are investigating the deaths of four elderly patients at a hospital in heat-struck central Japan after the air conditioning failed in their rooms.

Police in Gifu confirmed that the patients, all in their 80s, died at Y&M Fujikake Daiichi Hospital on Sunday and Monday, likely due to heat stroke. They were on the third and fourth floors of the hospital in Gifu, where temperatures exceeded 36 degrees

Celsius (96 Fahrenheit) on those days.

Police said they are investigating possible negligence resulting in death by the private hospital, which specializes in elderly care. Public television NHK and other media said police also obtained a search warrant for suspected murder.

Police said the air conditioning problem may also have caused heat stroke symptoms for some other patients who survived.

NHK said an unspecified number of affected patients recovered after being taken to air-conditioned rooms.

Japan has experienced a severe heat wave this summer. The country had 133 heat stroke deaths in July, a single-month record since the government began compiling statistics in 2008, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Hospital officials said they used nine fans in pa-

tients' rooms and other places affected by the air conditioning breakdown, which occurred a week earlier and was being repaired. They said the measures were adequate.

Hospital chief Yosei Fujikake told reporters that the repairs will take a month.

The hospital has 65 beds and has a nurse and a caregiver on duty each night, according to its website. Two of the patients died during the night. **AP**



Y&M Fujikake Daiichi Hospital chief Yosei Fujikake speaks with journalists in Gifu, western Japan

John Pye, Jakarta

SOUTH KOREA

Son's last shot for military exemption at Asian Games

TOTTENHAM forward Son Heung-min will get one more shot at an exemption from military service after helping South Korea reach the final at the Asian Games.

Son took leave from the Premier League to join the South Korea squad in Indonesia in pursuit of an Asian Games title. He figured a short break now could save him two seasons on the sidelines later.

The South Korean government rewards Asian Games gold medals and Olympic medals of any kind with an exemption from the compulsory 21-month national service. Failing that, the 26-year-old Son would have to report for duty within the next couple of years.

Lee Seung-woo scored twice and Hwang Ui-jo added to his tournament tally to give defending champion South Korea a 3-0 lead in Wednesday's semifinals at Pakan Sari Stadium before Tran Minh Vuong pulled one back for Vietnam with a well-taken free kick in the 70th minute.

Son was replaced two minutes later and South Korea hung on for a 3-1 win to advance to Saturday's final against either



South Korea's Lee Seung-woo (left) celebrates his goal with teammate Son Heung-min

Japan or the United Arab Emirates.

Vietnam's run included wins over Bahrain and Syria in the knockout stages and had some South Koreans nervous, particularly with Park Hang-seo — known as the "Korean Hiddink" in charge.

Park, who was a member of Guus Hiddink's coaching staff when South Korea reached the semifinals at the 2002 World Cup, had taken Vietnam to the final of the Asian under-23 championship in January and was acutely aware of the strengths and weaknesses in the

South Korean setup.

But with the South Koreans relying on their World Cup players, the semifinal as a contest was virtually over inside an hour.

Japan and the UAE were playing later yesterday.

In co-host city Palembang, Japanese teenagers Sakura Yosozumi and Kensuke Sasaoko provided a next-generation entree to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with gold medals in skateboarding.

The 16-year-old Yosozumi, an X Games medalist, won the women's park final over Japan teammate Kaya Isa and Zhang Xin of China. Bunga Nyimas, who is 12, placed fourth for Indonesia.

Nyimas upgraded to bronze in the later street final behind Margie Didal of Philippines and Isa.

Skateboarding will debut on the sports program at the Olympics in Tokyo, with street

and park disciplines on the schedule.

Nyimas wasn't even the youngest competitor in Palembang — 9-year-old teammate Aliqqa Novvery placed sixth in the eight-person field for the street competition.

On the men's side, the 19-year-old Sasaoka held off Indonesian teammates Jason Dennis Lijnzaat and Pevi Permana Putra for gold in the park final and World Cup skateboarding bronze medalist Keyaki Ike won the street final for Japan.

There were nine finals in track and field on Wednesday, and China picked up the first two in the walks.

Wang Kaihua won the men's 20-kilometer walk in 1 hour, 22 minutes, 4 seconds. In a tight finish to the women's 20K race, world champion Yang Jiayu held off 2012 Olympic silver medalist Qieyang Shijie to win in a games record 1:29:15. AP

AD



RRC Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

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<p>Maintenance & Service 維修和服務</p>			<p>AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems AV/TV,電話和顯示系統</p>
<p>Risk Assessment & Management 風險評估和管理</p>			<p>Fire Detection & Suppression Systems 火焰偵測和滅火系統</p>
<p>Survey & Troubleshooting Services 檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務</p>			<p>Network & Structure Cable 網絡和綜合佈線</p>

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AP PHOTO



Google denies Trump charge it rigs 'Trump News' searches

Darlene Superville & Barbara Ortutay, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is accusing Google and other U.S. tech companies of rigging search results about him “so that almost all stories & news is BAD” — and though he is offering no evidence, a top adviser says the White House is “taking a look” at whether Google should face federal regulation.

Google is pushing back sharply, saying Trump’s claim simply wasn’t true: “We never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment.”

The president’s tweets yesterday echoed his familiar attacks on the news media — and a conservative talking point that California-based tech companies run by CEOs with liberal leanings don’t give equal weight to opposing political viewpoints. They also revealed anew his deep-seated frustration over not getting the credit he believes he deserves.

The president, who has said he runs on little sleep, jumped onto Twitter before dawn to rehash his recent complaints about alleged suppression of conservative voices and posi-

tive news about him.

He followed that up with vague threats in Oval Office comments.

“I think Google has really taken advantage of a lot of people, and I think that’s a very serious thing. That’s a very serious charge,” Trump said, adding that Google, Twitter, Facebook and others “better be careful, because you can’t do that to people.”

Trump claimed that “we have literally thousands and thousands of complaints coming in. [...] So I think that Google and Twitter and Facebook, they’re really treading on very, very troubled territory and they have to be careful.”

Larry Kudlow, the president’s top economic adviser, told reporters later that the White House is “taking a look” at whether Google searches should be subject to some government regulation. Trump often points proudly to his cutting of government regulations as a spur for economic gains.

In his tweets, Trump said — without offering evidence — that “Google search results for ‘Trump News’ shows only the viewing/reporting of Fake New Media. In other words,

they have it RIGGED, for me & others, so that almost all stories & news is BAD. Fake CNN is prominent. Republican/Conservative & Fair Media is shut out. Illegal?”

He added, again with no evidence, that “96% of results on ‘Trump News’ are from National Left-Wing Media, very dangerous.”

“We never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment.”

GOOGLE

A search query, several hours after the president tweeted, showed stories from CNN, ABC News, Fox News and the MarketWatch business site, among others. A similar search later in the day for “Trump” had Fox News, the president’s favored cable network, among the top results.

Google, based in Mountain View, California, said its aim

is to make sure its search engine users quickly get the most relevant answers.

“Search is not used to set a political agenda and we don’t bias our results toward any political ideology,” the company said in a statement. “Every year, we issue hundreds of improvements to our algorithms to ensure they surface high-quality content in response to users’ queries. We continually work to improve Google Search and we never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment.”

Experts suggested that Trump’s comments showed a misunderstanding of how search engines work.

Google searches aim to surface the most relevant pages in response to a user’s query, even before he or she finishes typing. The answers that appear first are the ones Google’s formulas, with some help from human content reviewers, deem to be the most authoritative, informative and relevant. Many factors help decide the initial results, including how much time people spend on a page, how many other pages link to it, how well it’s designed and more.

Trump and some supporters have long accused Silicon Valley companies of being biased against them. While some company executives may lean liberal, they have long asserted that their products are without political bias.

Media analyst Ken Doctor said it doesn’t make sense for mass-market businesses like Google to lean either way politically. He characterized the complaints as a “sign of our times,” adding that, years ago, if the head of General Electric was supporting a Republican candidate, people who disagreed wouldn’t then go out and boycott GE products.

“The temperature has risen on this,” Doctor said.

Steven Andres, who teaches about management information systems at San Diego State University, said people often assume that if you give a computer the same inputs, no matter where you are, that you “get the same outputs.”

But it doesn’t work that way, he said. “You’re seeing different things every moment of the day and the algorithms are always trying to change the results.”

Trump didn’t say what he based his tweets on. But conservative activist Paula Boylard had said in a weekend blog post that she found “blatant prioritization of left-leaning and anti-Trump media outlets” in search results.

Boylard based her judgments on the political leanings of media outlets on a list by Sharyl Attkisson, host of Sinclair Television’s “Full Measure” and author of “The Smear: How Shady Political Operatives and Fake News Control What You See, Think, and How You Vote.” Sinclair is a significant outlet for conservative views.

Trump began complaining about the issue earlier this month as social media companies moved to ban right-wing “Infowars” conspiracy theorist Alex Jones from their platforms. The president also argues regularly — and falsely — that the news media avoid writing positive stories about him and his administration.

Jones is being sued for saying the 2012 shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School was staged. Jones has since said he believes the shooting did occur and has argued that the lawsuit should be dismissed because he was acting as a journalist.

Trump has praised Jones’ “amazing” reputation.

The issue is also of concern on Capitol Hill, where the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., recently announced that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey is scheduled to testify before the panel on Sept. 5 about the platform’s algorithms and content monitoring. **AP**

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

VATICAN

Pope laments abuse in first post-bombshell appearance

POPE Francis lamented yesterday how Irish church authorities failed to respond to the crimes of sexual abuse, speaking during his first public appearance at the Vatican after bombshell accusations that he himself covered up for an American cardinal's misdeeds.

Francis presided over his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square and spoke about his weekend trip to Ireland, where the abuse scandal has devastated the Catholic Church's credibility. The final day of the trip was overshadowed by release of a document from a retired Holy See diplomat accusing Vatican authorities, including Francis, of covering up for ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick despite knowing for years that he regularly slept with seminarians.

The author of the document — retired Vatican ambassador to the U.S., Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano — said Francis should resign for his complicity in the McCarrick scandal, which has implicated two decades' worth of U.S. and Vatican church leaders.

Francis referred Wednesday to the Irish culture of cover-up, but he omitted from his remarks a line in his prepared text noting

AP PHOTO



Pope Francis gives his speech during his weekly general audience, at the Vatican, yesterday

how he had prayed in Ireland for the Virgin Mary to intervene to give the church strength to "firmly pursue truth and justice" to help victims heal.

U.S. bishops, as well as ran-and-file Catholics, have called for an independent investigation to find out who knew about McCarrick's abuse and when, and how he was

able to rise through the ranks even though it was an open secret that he regularly invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house and into his bed.

Francis last month removed McCarrick as a cardinal and ordered him to live a lifetime of penance and prayer after a U.S. church investigation determi-

ned that an allegation he groped a teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible.

Vigano's 11-page j'accuse alleges that Francis knew of McCarrick's penchant for adult seminarians starting in 2013, but rehabilitated him from sanctions that Pope Benedict XVI had allegedly imposed on him in 2009 or 2010.

The claims have shaken Francis' five-year papacy.

There is ample evidence, however, that the Vatican under Benedict and St. John Paul II also covered up the information, and that any reported sanctions Benedict imposed were never enforced since McCarrick traveled widely for the church during those years, including to Rome to meet with Benedict and celebrate Mass with other U.S. bishops at the tomb of St. Peter.

Vigano provided no evidence that Francis had lifted the alleged sanctions, saying only that McCarrick announced after a meeting with the pope that he was going to China.

But he said McCarrick had become a close adviser to Francis, who was seeking to appoint more pastorally-minded bishops to the U.S. church, which he believed had become too ideologically driven by right-wingers. AP

AD

HOSPITAL Party
SEPTEMBER 1ST

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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FASHION REJUVENATION – EXHIBITION OF ECO-FRIENDLY AND FUNCTIONAL FASHION

TIME: 10am-8pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2018

VENUE: Macao Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

ART IS PLAY

TIME: 10:30am-10pm (last entry at 9:30pm)

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space, MGM Macau

ADMISSION: MOP120 (free admission for children aged two or under)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 3833

Offbeat

GERMAN CITY REMOVES ERDOGAN STATUE OVER SECURITY CONCERNS



A golden statue of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that was installed at an art festival whose motto is "Bad news" has been taken down after authorities in the German city of Wiesbaden said it was becoming a security issue.

The dpa news agency reported that the 4-meter sculpture depicting Erdogan with a raised right arm, evoking the statue of Saddam Hussein toppled by American forces in Iraq, was removed just after midnight in the central city.

Since its erection earlier this week, authorities said it had become a magnet for pro- and anti-Erdogan speeches and provoked conflict.

Wiesbaden State Theater director Uwe Eric Laufenberg defended that debate as being the installation's purpose, saying "we displayed the statue in order to discuss Erdogan."

He says "in a democracy, one must tolerate all opinions."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Champions League: PAOK x Benfica (Repeated)
18:00	Micellaneous
18:25	Portuguese Soap Opera
19:10	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	You, Me & the Apocalypse
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

30 AUG - 05 SEP



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1

4:45pm

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

ALONG WITH THE GODS:
THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

2:15, 18:30, 9:15pm

Director: Kim Yong-hwa

Starring: HA Jung-woo, JU Ji-hoon, KIM Hyang-gi

Language: Korean (Chinese & English)

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:
NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 2

4:45pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

KILLING FOR THE PROSECUTION

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Masato Harada

Starring: Takuya Kimura, Kazunari Ninomiya

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 123min

L STORM

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kelvin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min



HINDI MEDIUM

ROOM 3

4:30, 7:00pm

Director: Saket Chaudhary

Starring: Irfan Khan, Saba Qamar

Language: Indian Dialect (Chinese & English)

Duration: 132min

this day in history



1976 NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL ENDS IN RIOT

More than 100 police officers had to be taken to hospital after clashes at the Notting Hill Carnival in west London.

Most were released after treatment but at least 26 have been detained overnight for observation or further treatment.

Around 60 carnival-goers also needed hospital treatment after the clashes which led to the arrest of at least 66 people.

The trouble is believed to have started after police tried to arrest a pickpocket near Portobello Road on the main carnival route.

Several black youths went to the pickpocket's aid and within minutes the disturbance escalated.

The police were attacked with stones and other missiles.

They armed themselves with dustbin lids, milk crates and wire fencing and charged the rioters.

At one stage a group of black youths were seen moving up Westbourne Park road smashing windows.

Gangs of white youths were also said to have been involved in the violence.

One witness, Raymond Hunter, who lives in Westbourne Park Road said he saw a police van set alight.

"The two policemen managed to get out of the van and fled. The gang then turned the van over and set fire to it," Mr Hunter said.

The disturbances effectively put an end to the annual celebration of Caribbean culture.

Police sealed off roads and closed pubs in the area as well as shutting down Ladbroke Grove underground station in an attempt to contain the violence.

In the past, the carnival - now in its 10th year - has been largely peaceful in spite of tensions with police.

A member of the Notting Hill Carnival Development Committee, Selwyn Baptiste, said they had been optimistic after the first day of the festival passed off peacefully.

"We had no reason to suppose it would be any different today. This was supposed to be about fun and love - not violence," Mr Baptiste said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In a subsequent trial 17 black youths faced 79 charges.

However, only two were convicted of carnival related offences after the court case which cost a record £250,000.

Sporadic violence continued to mar what is the largest street festival in Europe that began in 1964 with a street party to celebrate Caribbean culture in west London. The 1990s were relatively peaceful - but in 2000 there were two murders during the carnival.

The London district of Notting Hill had a history of racial problems.

In 1958 it was the scene of race riots instigated by the fascist British Union whose "Teddy boys" clashed with local black people.

Relations between the black community and police had also been problematic over the years.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 No one really likes criticism, but from time to time, everyone needs to hear it - including you. Right now, you'll benefit from the feedback of others, so ask around about your latest endeavor.

Taurus April 20-May 20 As if they were a bouquet of red balloons, you have been holding on to wish after colorful wish for years now. Today, one of those balloons might slip past your grasp and sail away from you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's all about the view from the rooftops today - and the whispered conversations that you hear through the walls. Privileged information is the information you should try to seek out right now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Teamwork is important today, but so is doing the right thing. An event or party you are struggling to plan with the help of others is really yours to control and transform.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 When you're making a tough decision, use equal parts good old-fashioned research and good old-fashioned instinct. Facts and feelings are an unbeatable combination that will steer you right every time.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your emotional sensitivity could be running a bit high today, and you could fall into a temporary self-conscious phase. So if you are convinced someone is staring at you.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Jump right in to an intimidating situation today - and prove to yourself that you can do whatever you have the drive to do. You should immediately take control.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 All you have to do today is keep following your instincts - they are rock-solid! Keep going in the direction that feels best and you won't be in danger of going off course.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you can move past this today, you will feel freer faster. Your independence is of key importance right now, and you are going to want to be unencumbered by emotional dramas. Relish this imperfect situation.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The only way your feathers could possibly get ruffled today is if you let them, so don't! Nothing is certain until it happens, so unless it does, put your energy into enjoying life.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 There is a difference between being observant and being whiny. If you see something wrong and can find suggestions on improving it (or can act on your ideas and solve the problem).

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you feed your mind complex ideas, you will encourage the development of more complex emotions. The idea of endurance is extremely important today, so give more attention to concepts that have stood the test of time.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy



Easy+



Medium



Hard



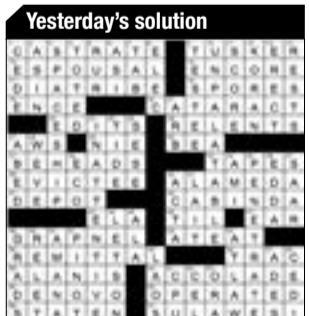
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Emaculate; 9- Elephant or warhog, e.g.; 15- Marriage ceremony; 16- Once more; 17- Harangue; 18- Future ferns; 19- Suffix with exist; 20- Waterfall; 22- Prepares for publication; 26- Becomes less severe; 27- Sympathetic sounds; 29- Never, in Nuremberg; 30- Actress Arthur; 31- Decapitates; 33- Ribbons; 38- Person who is thrown out of house and home; 39- Oakland's county; 41- Station; 42- Exclave of Angola; 43- Guido's high note; 46- Up to, briefly; 47- Musical aptitude; 48- Grapple; 52- Bothered; 54- Remission; 56- ___ II (razor brand); 59- Singer Morissette; 60- Laudatory notice; 64- From the beginning; 65- Performed surgery; 66- ___ Island Ferry; 67- Island in central Indonesia;

DOWN: 1- Give up; 2- Z ___ zebra; 3- Spacecraft; 4- Carried; 5- Capek play; 6- ___ was saying...; 7- Bar bill; 8- Util. bill; 9- Exam taker; 10- Unpleasant to the taste; 11- Cross the goal line; 12- Sacred text of Islam; 13- Set up; 14- Reposes; 21- Short trader?; 23- Negligent; 24- It may turn; 25- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 27- Asleep; 28- ___ Only Just Begun; 32- Environmental prefix; 34- Paris pal; 35- Pierce; 36- Icelandic epic; 37- German river; 39- Official records; 40- Café au ___; 44- Pretends; 45- Pie-mode link; 48- Mortarboard tossers; 49- Sublease; 50- Appliance brand; 51- Wine grape; 53- Attorney-___; 55- Vietnam neighbor; 57- Citrus drinks; 58- Basic monetary unit of Ghana; 61- PC core; 62- Animation unit; 63- ... man ___ mouse?;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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AP PHOTO



ASIAN GAMES

Ramping up Olympic preps: Japan wins 3 skateboarding golds

Japan's Sakura Yosozumi competes in the women's skateboard park final at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang

JAPANESE teenagers Sakura Yosozumi and Kensuke Sasaoka provided a next-generation entree to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with gold medals at the Asian Games. In skateboarding,

The 16-year-old Yosozumi, an X Games and Park Series Pro Tour medalist, won the women's park final at Jakabaring Sport City in Palembang, which is co-hosting the Asian Games with Indonesian

capital, Jakarta.

She beat Japan teammate Kaya Isa, with Zhang Xin of China collecting bronze. The 12-year-old Bunga Nyimas placed fourth for Indonesia.

Nyimas upgraded that later yesterday when she won bronze in the women's street final behind Margie Didal of Philippines and Isa, who took silver for a second time.

And Nyimas wasn't even the

youngest competitor in the field. Her Indonesian teammate, 9-year-old Aliqqa Novvery, placed sixth in the eight-person final, narrowly in front of 33-year-old Chu Pei-yu of Taiwan.

On the men's side, 19-year-old Sasaoka scored enough on his second run to hold out Indonesians Jason Dennis Lijnzaat and Pevi Permuna Putra for gold in the men's park final.

World Cup skateboarding bron-

ze medalist Keyaki Ike won the men's street final for Japan from Sanggoe Darma Tanjung of Indonesia and South Korea's Eun Ju-won.

Skateboarding will debut on the sports program at the Olympics in Tokyo, with street and park disciplines on the schedule. The street courses contain stairs, rails, ramps and lots of concrete. The park competition is staged in a bowl.

Like other sports including

snowboarding and freestyle skiing at the Winter Olympics, skateboarders are judged on elements including speed and the degree of difficulty and clean landings in their routines and tricks.

More than 11,000 athletes are competing at the Asian Games in 40 sports, ranging from traditional Olympic sports such as track and field and swimming to skateboarding, paragliding and jet-skiing. **AP**

ESPORTS

Execs say don't blame the games, blame US gun laws

John Pye, Jakarta

ESPORTS organizers say don't blame the games.

Executives at the Asian Games have expressed sympathy for the victims of the deadly shooting at a video game tournament in a Florida shopping mall. But Kenneth Fok, president of the Asian Electronic Sports Federation, said the shooting was more a reflection of U.S. gun laws than the gaming community.

U.S. authorities say 24-year-old David Katz of Baltimore killed two people and wounded nine others before fatally shooting himself Sunday at a Madden tournament being held at a riverfront mall in Jacksonville.

"Of course tragedies like

this should never happen. One is already too many," Fok told a news conference Wednesday about the introduction of esports at the Asian Games. "But I think this is a bigger issue of gun control and access to guns.

"This very unfortunate incident happened in a video game arena, but does this mean that it's esports or video games to blame? I don't believe so. It's not esports that caused this. We're really saddened to see this take place."

While several U.S.-based esports organizers have called for better security at events since Sunday's shooting, Indian Gaming League founder and AESF vice-president Lokesh Suji said problems such as the shooting in Florida hadn't occurred in Asia, where the

vast bulk of esports and gaming is focused.

"Tell me about one incident where this has happened in Asia," said Suji, adding that drawing comparisons between gaming and violence "is the wrong perspective."

"We've never had this in this part of the world. Why are things happening in the U.S.?" Suji said. "It's very sad. Every time something like this happens in the U.S., people start blaming the video games. The bigger picture, the bigger problem is gun control."

Esports made its competitive debut this week as a demonstration sport at the Asian Games, which has attracted more than 11,000 athletes in 40 sports. The arena was packed for the

AP PHOTO



esports debut and the reception was good, leading organizers to be positive about being considered as a medal sport for the next Asian Games in China in 2022 and ultimately at the Olympics.

Fok said the gaming community and the burgeoning industry was paying attention to concerns such

as addiction, and believes those can be addressed by education and regulation as competitive gaming edges further into the mainstream.

"It is a high-stress environment. We have to protect athletes as well," Fok said. "As we grow, we have to look at the overall well-being of all

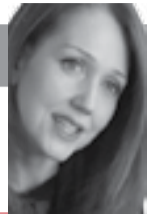
our athletes."

Mike Morhaime, the CEO of Blizzard Entertainment, an American video games developer, told a recent International Olympic Committee forum that esports has 2 billion people worldwide playing electronic games, with 380 million watching esports. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



Do MY CELLS LOOK FAT IN THIS?

'You've lost a trillionth of a gram'. One day, our bathroom scales may report this weight loss goal. And we will be happy.

For years, I've had old scales. I didn't have to sit inside a basin and have balancing brass weights placed on the other side but it wasn't far off.

My scales and me have been together a while. We've been through some ups and downs. Until recently.

I now live in a home which has fancy scales in the bathroom. They measure weight, body fat, mood, sebum presence in facial complexion, chance of rain. Some people might note such scales make weight tracking more acceptable in blokes ('slimming? Course not. This is mass and density tech'). I call them Star Wars scales.

Everything about the person who stands upon them is recorded as a profile. Water. Muscle. Heart rate. All they lack, in my view, is additional female functionality. If it's humid, I'd like to know what percent hair frizz I am.

So, scale-wise, I have stepped up. Or stepped on, which is when I learn that Star Wars scales communicate.

'Hello,' it says on the screen between my feet.

Conversation? I step off, imagining with horror the kind of fat chat ahead.

Scales: 'Did you have a great summer, new profile?'

Me: 'Yes, thanks. And yourself? Did you indulge on holiday? A cheeky wee battery with extra energy?'

Scales: 'No.'

Me: 'Oh.'

Scales: 'So, new profile, what are we dealing with here, in pina colada excess? Two extra pounds? Half a stone?'

But very quickly, I learn Star Wars scales are the new smartphone and social media combined. They're addictive. I check them often. Sometimes I learn I have put on 2% body fat overnight and wonder if I was dreaming of cake. I've heard of the tooth fairy but the fat fairy?

Next night, I wake up at 4am and have lost 2% muscle. I look under the pillow.

I wonder if there are scales with more and better detail. I pass through the bathroom department of a store, and see nothing but digital gauges with names like 'Ultra Slim Glass Analyser Body Fat Scales'.

Is it all an extension of selfie culture? A view of oneself which is more than skin deep?

Or are these scales more like a therapist? Is a 'Body Analyser' really Freud for the physique?

Then I read something which makes me think - yes! - these scales are about to feed our desire for yet more information (which is handily lacking in calories). It is this: researchers have developed a method to weigh individual living cells - normally the kind of discovery to titillate biologists but, given current trends of weight monitoring, could have wider impact. We are all made up of cells. We could learn the weight of our cells! Are we big-celled? Do my cells look big in this?

The researchers, in Switzerland and London, track weight through cell cycles and division. They can measure to a trillionth of a gram. That's a million-millionth.

I don't have much up top (although the weight of my brain cells is within reach) but couldn't manufacturers of scales get in touch with these researchers and add this capability, creating Body Fat And Cell Analyser scales? Who, every day, wouldn't want to learn they'd lost a trillionth of a gram and, come on, that is a weight goal anyone can attain.

For your further information, cells usually weigh two or three nanograms, which are each one thousand-millionth of a gram. Forget fitness gurus. Nanogram loss is going to be all over Instagram.

THE BRITONS SENT ABROAD AS CHILDREN SUE GOVERNMENT OVER ABUSE

Britons who were sent overseas as children under state-approved programs from 1945 to 1970 are suing the British government over the abuse and neglect they suffered.

In March a child abuse inquiry ordered the government compensate 2,000 survivors of programs that sent poor children and orphans to countries including Australia, Canada and Southern Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe.

Many ended up in institutions where they were

physically and sexually abused, or were sent to work as farm laborers.

Lawyer Alan Collins, who represents more than 100 survivors, says he has filed papers at London's High Court because the government has not set up a compensation plan.

Collins said yesterday that he hoped the government would show "common decency and humanity." The government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In Spain, renewed efforts to appease victims of dictatorship



Bones of body's victims are classified following an exhumation of a mass grave at the cemetery of Paterna

Aritz Parra, Paterna

REMEDIOS Ferrer scrutinizes a pit where forensic archaeologists are brushing away dusty soil and white traces of quicklime, unearthing four fractured skulls amid a mass of bones and decaying clothes.

Her anarchist grandfather, Mariano Brines, was summarily executed by a firing squad in Paterna months after Gen. Francisco Franco proclaimed his victory in the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War. According to the family's account, Brines was buried along with 99 other sympathizers of the fallen republican regime just as the dictatorship cemented its authoritarian grip.

Eight decades on, a new center-left government's move to exhume Franco from a controversial shrine also raised attention over an unresolved issue linked to his regime - the hundreds of anonymous mass graves that testify to the dictatorship's brutality.

Such efforts, legally active at least for the past decade, have been erratic, intermittent and led by victims' descendants forced to seek independent, non-state funding, which has raised criticism from United Nations bodies and human rights organizations.

But for descendants of victims like Ferrer, whose parents led her to French

exile as a 2-year-old and died before discovering Brines' burial site, even the changes sought by Spain's new Socialist government are coming too late.

"It makes me sad and angry, because it was heart-breaking for my mom, and before her for my grandmother, to know that grandpa was buried here like an animal," said Ferrer, now 66. "They should be the ones standing here."

Paterna is a town in the outskirts of coastal Valencia that has prospered in the shadow of an infamous execution wall still standing near the cemetery, holes of bullets still visible among flower bouquets and memorials that locals place to remember the atrocities committed at the site.

Military and civil guard firing squads shot dead at least 2,238 prisoners here according to historians' research and the cemetery's records. The remains are believed to have been thrown into 70 different mass graves and covered in the quicklime to seal off the site.

Yesterday [Macau time], graveyard number 112 - where two batches of 50 prisoners were inhumed months after the war ended in April 1939 - was the latest to be opened in Paterna. After days of careful digging underneath a layer of ordinary, casket-burials, piles of skele-

tons emerged.

Alex Calpe, one of the independent archaeologists working at the site on behalf of relatives those killed, says the experts' work must be "thorough" because its goal is "to deliver closure to the victims' families."

Countrywide, the task ahead remains daunting. Mass graves are believed to hold at least 114,000 victims of the Spanish Civil War - in which half a million people are believed to have died on all sides - and the four decades of Francoism that followed.

Exhumation efforts began in earnest in 2007 with a new Historic Memory Law that condemned atrocities committed during Franco's regime, which lasted until 1975. But the law fell short, leaving it up to local and regional governments to fund exhumations and DNA tests - which were often paid for by relatives through crowd-funding. The previous conservative administration declined to allocate any budget.

"This is not a matter of politics, whether left or right-wing this is something that should be done," said Carmen Gomez, who leads the association of 42 relatives who pushed for the opening of graveyard number 112, ultimately paid for by a grant last year from the provincial government of Valencia. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	80-100 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	80-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ Seven people were killed yesterday in a suicide car bombing claimed by the Islamic State group in a former stronghold of the jihadists in western Iraq, a security official said.

YEMEN Security officials say a suspected al-Qaida attack on a checkpoint in a southern province has killed five soldiers and wounded four others.



GREECE A fire broke out on a ferry sailing to the island of Crete from mainland Greece yesterday, forcing hundreds of passengers to don life vests and wait on the deck for hours before they were safely evacuated.

AUSTRIA Judges in Austria say a lower court's authorization for police to raid the offices of the country's domestic intelligence agency was illegal.



BRAZIL President Michel Temer announced that he'll deploy the military to restore order in a state at the heart of the Venezuelan migrant crisis, as new data showed a surge in killings that meant the state now has the highest homicide rate in the country.

MEXICO President Enrique Pena Nieto has again defended the widely criticized original investigation of the 2014 disappearance of 43 students, but concedes that his administration has failed to bring the country peace.