

GOLDEN SLIPPERS Soccer is anything but child's play. The value of the world's top club teams confirms it. The 2009 net worth rankings in dollars and euro: first **Manchester United \$ 1,870 (€ 1,409)** billion

- 2: Real Madrid \$ 1,353 (€ 1.019 billion)
- 3: Arsenal \$ 1,200 (€ 904 million)
- 4: Bayern Munich \$ 1,110 (€ 836 million)
- 5: Liverpool \$ 1,010 (€ 760 million)
- 6: AC Milan \$ 990 (€ 746 million)
- 7: Barcelona \$ 960 (€ 723 million)
- 8: Chelsea \$ 800 (€ 602 million)
- 9: Juventus \$ 600 (€ 452 million)
- 10: Schalke 04 \$ 510 (€ 384 million)

Source Forbes

HALLOWEEN BUST

Halloween night was a spending let-down in the U.S., with families tightening purse strings. **An average family spent \$ 56.31**, down 18% from 2008 (\$ 66.54). Total spending was \$ 4.8 billion compared to \$ 5.8 last year.

Source National Retail Federation

BERNIE BY-THE-NUMBERS 11: Crimes committed by Madoff. 150: Madoff's prison term in years. 71: Madoff's age. \$ 64.8 billion: Total sum invested by fraud victims. 35: The number of labor union pension plans Madoff siphoned from (worth about \$ 10 million). 13: Years investigators believed Madoff didn't operate, instead collecting money and "producing returns" with new clients' money. 4,800: number of victims of Madoff's Ponzi scheme. 4: Number of benches in Central Park named after Madoff or his relatives.

Source New York Times

VIVE L'ITALIE! 30% Increase in the amount of Italian sparkling wine exported to United States at the expense of French champagne. The U.S. took 11.5 million Italian bottles to 8.9 million French. Blame the crisis or praise Italian bubbles? Your choice.

Source Coldiretti

THE RIGHT SNACK 144 Price in Sterling of most expensive pancakes in the world, served at a Manchester, England restaurant. 98: Price in euro of a truffle sandwich by French chef Michel Ros-tang. 781: Price in dollars for one pack of one-ounce Almas Caviar at London's House of Caviar. 370: Price in dollars for a liter of Kona nigari, water from deep beneath Hawaii. 577: Price in dollars per ounce of chocolate truffles made by Chocopologie.

Source New York Daily News

SLOW-NET Compared to other European countries, Italy lags behind in high-speed Internet access. Here are the latest European figures on high-speed connections available to the population. **United Kingdom 28,4% / France 27,7% / Germany 27,5% / Spain 20,2% Italy 20%** European average 27 22,9%.

Source AgCom 2009

SUPER MEATBALLS

101: Weight in kilos of the largest meatball in history, made at Nonni's Italian Eatery in Concord, New Hampshire and entered into Guinness Book of World Records.

Source Bbc

TEXT AT YOUR OWN RISK 21: Prison term in months for 22-year-old Oxford resident Phillipa Curtis following her conviction for running down and killing Victoria McBryde, 24. At the time of the accident, investigators said Curtis was writing 20 text messages to five friends. Curtis got off lightly. The typical sentence for vehicular manslaughter is four-to-six years.

Source Daily Mail

AIDS 2010 16.000: Number infected daily by HIV globally. Some 50% of the 38.6 million HIV-positive adults are women, while 3.2 million are children under age 15. More than two-thirds of cases are in Africa.

Source Joint United Nations Programme on Hiv/Aids

BRAINS A human's intelligence quotient (**IQ**) based on French psychologist Alfred Binet's 1905 test tops out at around 100 points. Selected readings: **3,5%** of the global population has an **IQ of below 70**. 21.5% runs between 70 and 90 points. 50.0% between 90 and 110. 21.5% between 110 and 130.

Source New Scientist

WORLDBOOK Facebook divides one part of the United States and Europe from the rest of the world. **In North America, 39%** of the population has joined Facebook. **In Europe, the figure is 33%**. Elsewhere it changes, radically. There's only 9% use in South America, 8% in the Middle East and North Africa, 6% in Asia, 3% in Oceania and 1% in Africa. Though Facebook has seen explosive European growth, it hasn't been uniform. The biggest recent leaps: Czech Republic (+144%), Slovakia (+137%), **Italy (+71%)**, Spain and (+66%) and Germany (+48%).

Source O'Reilly Radar