

PENSIONS ON THE MIND

Italy is the European country where the future of the pension system is most uncertain. According to a "Financial Times" study, no fewer than **72%** of Italians are pessimistic about the fate of their pensions. Next come the Germans (**45%**), the Spanish (**44.8%**), the British (**41%**) and the French (**36.5%**). The survey, carried out via 10,000 telephone interviews, also reveals that the British are the ones most willing to work beyond pensionable age **72%**, against **67%** of Italians and **56%** of Germans.

Source: "Financial Times"

CARS WORTHY OF NABOBS

"Forbes" magazine has drawn up a list of the world's 10 most expensive cars. The French top the list, having produced a "utilitarian" worth US\$ 1 million.

1. Bugatti Veyron 16.4 **\$1,192,057**
2. Pagani Zonda Roadster F C126 7.3 Clubster **\$667,321**
3. SSC Ultimate Aero **\$654,000**
4. Leblanc Mirabeau **\$645,084**
5. Saleen S7 Twin Turbo **\$637,723**
6. Koenigsegg CCR **\$545,568**
7. Mercedes-Benz Slr McLaren **\$452,750**
8. Maybach 62 **\$448,153**
9. Porsche Carrera GT **\$440,000**
10. Maybach 57 **\$430,355**

Source: "Forbes"

DENTAL EUROPE

What's the European dental capital? Judging by the numbers, it's Germany, followed by England and Russia. Predictably enough, San Marino

comes in last with only **8** denture and bridgework specialists. Albania **1,390**, Armenia **802**, Austria **4,037**, Belgium **8,322**, Bosnia-Herzegovina **690**, Bulgaria **6,475**, Croatia **3,085**, Czech Republic **6,737**, Denmark **4,437**, Estonia **1,747**, Finland **6,674**, France **40,904**, Germany **64,609**, Hungary **5,364**, England **58,729**, Ireland **2,237**, Italy **33,000**, Netherlands **7,759**, Norway **3,733**, Poland **11,451**, Portugal **5,510**, Romania **4,919**, Russia **45,972**, San Marino **8**, Slovenia **1,199**, Spain **20,005**, Sweden **7,270**, Turkey **17,200**, Ukraine **19,354**.

Source: World Health Organization

TERROR AND TERRORISTS

Despite the events of the summer, fear of terrorist attacks has not risen: according to an AC Nielsen survey, only **14%** of 22,780 consumers surveyed expressed concern in this regard.

North America **19%**, Europe **15%**, Asia-Pacific **8%**, Other **10%**, Total average **14%**.

Countries with the most people concerned about terrorism: Denmark **27%**, Switzerland **23%**, Turkey **23%**, England **21%**, United States **20%**.

Source: AC Nielsen

THE BEAUTIES OF THE "BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY"

Italian women might not top the list when it comes to I.Q. but they're certainly on top of things when it comes to the Wellbeing Quotient. A survey by multinational Calypso reveals that Italian women spend **40** to **50** minutes a day on average on

their wellbeing against an average **55** minutes for French women, **35** minutes for Spanish and Dutch women, **33** for Austrian women, **28** for German women, **25** for Russian women and a mere **14** minutes for Englishwomen. Other key factors by which wellbeing is judged are lifestyle and food habits: getting enough sleep, playing sport without being obsessive about it, not drinking or smoking to excess and healthy eating. Wellbeing Quotient: Italians **74**, French **71**, Spanish **67**, Austrians **63**, Germans **60**, English **51**, Swedes **48**, Russians **45**, Swiss **40**, Danes **39**.

Source: Calypso

GAY CONFETTI

With South Africa expected to legalise gay marriages in the near future, five countries currently allow same-sex marriages. They are the following: Spain: **1,275** same-sex weddings in 2005 (**0.6%** of the **209,125** total). The Netherlands: **8,127** weddings since 2001. Belgium: **2,204** since 2003. Canada: **2,531** since 2003. U.K.: **3,250** weddings since 2005. Massachusetts: **7,341** since 2004 (annulled the following year); San Francisco: **4,037** in 2005 (subsequently annulled by the State of California).

Source: Timesonline

MEGA MALLS

The Far East has replaced America as the home of malls, those mega shopping centres where unchecked consumerism flourishes. 5 of the 11 biggest malls in the world are located in China:

1. South China Mall (Dongguan, China): **9.6** million sq.m. –

1,500 shops

2. Golden Resources (Beijing, China): **7.3** million sq.m. – **1,000** shops
3. West Edmonton Mall (Alberta, Canada): **5.3** million sq.m. – **800** shops
4. Beijing Mall (Beijing, China): **4.7** million sq.m. – **600** shops
5. Grandview Mall (Guangzhou, China): **4.5** million sq.m. – n/a
6. South Coast Plaza (Costa Mesa, California): **3.7** million sq.m. – **280** shops
7. Aricanduva Mall (San Paolo, Brazil): **3.7** million sq.m. – **535** shops
8. Mall of America (Bloomington, Minnesota): **4.2** million sq.m. – **520** shops
9. Oriental Plaza (Foshan, China): **2.5** million sq.m. – n/a
10. Del Amo Fashion (Los Angeles, California): **2.5** million sq.m. – **300** shops
11. Mall of the Emirates (Dubai, Arab Emirates): **2.4** million sq.m. – **350** shops

Source: American Studies at Eastern Connecticut State University

ROOMS WITH A VISA

The most expensive destination for business travel is undoubtedly Moscow, where a manager on a business trip can expect to spend US\$ **305** a night for a hotel room. However, according to a corporate traveller survey by Business Travel International, which has drawn up a list of the most expensive corporate hotels in the world, Rome and Milan are not far behind. Moscow **\$305**, New York **\$281**, Bangalore **\$271**, Rome **\$268**, Paris **\$256**, Milan **\$246**, London **\$240**, Geneva **\$238**, Dubai **\$233**, Zurich **\$229**.

Source: Business Travel International