

## Woman survives fall from 23rd floor

**BUENOS AIRES, Jan 29 (Reuters):** An Argentine woman survived after jumping from the 23rd floor of a downtown Buenos Aires hotel on Monday, landing on a taxi moments after the driver dashed to safety, the state news agency reported.

The 33-year-old woman was in the intensive care ward of a Buenos Aires hospital after the suicide attempt, the Telam agency said.

Taxi driver Miguel Cajal said he got out of his parked taxi and ran for safety when he saw a policeman looking up at the woman, who was on an upper floor of the Panamericano hotel.

"If I hadn't got out, I'd be dead," Cajal, 39, told local television, which showed pictures of his mangled vehicle, its windshield and roof crushed by the impact of the woman's fall.



## Texting is the No. 1 way lovers stay in touch

**(Reuters Life!)** - Nearly four out of five women and three of five men say they believe texting, Facebook and other social networking tools cause new couples to jump into bed faster, a survey released on Monday showed.

But only 38 percent of women say they have actually slept with a date any sooner because of digital intimacy, according to the 1,200 women and men who participated in the third annual sex survey by Shape and Men's Fitness magazines.

Smart phones and laptops are the new toys that lead to the bedroom, it said, with nearly 80 percent of women and 58 percent of men saying social media tools leads to sex faster.

Texting is the No. 1 way lovers stay in touch, the survey found, with men texting 39 percent more often than phoning and women 150 percent more.

Even before the magic begins, 70 percent of women and 63 percent of men use Google and other online tools to screen potential dates.

Sixty-five percent of those polled said they had been asked out by text and 49 percent through a Facebook message.

Once the relationship clicks, 72 percent of women report scouring a current partner's ex-girlfriends' Facebook pages.

Even in the heat of passion, some people just can't get enough of their digital devices, the survey found. When a call or text comes in during sex, 5 percent of respondents said they glance to see who is calling and 1 percent say they stop to answer the phone.

And when the spark is extinguished, digital dumping is the new way to break up, with 43 percent of women and 27 percent of men reporting getting a text along the lines of "It's not you, it's me."

For the heartbroken, the Internet keeps hope alive, with 81 percent of all respondents saying they won't de-friend an ex on Facebook and 75 percent admitting to constantly checking a former sweetheart's page.



## U.S. town demolished over lead contamination

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Reuters):** Most of its residents left, the school closed, the city government was disbanded and starting this week nearly every commercial building in Picher, Oklahoma, will be demolished.

But the owner of the last-remaining open business in Picher, which has been vacated over the years because of lead contamination, is not ready to go.

"It's not time for me to leave yet," said Gary Linderman, owner of Old Miner's Pharmacy in what is left of central Picher, located in the northeast corner of the state.

"I have an obligation to people. We are all creatures of habit and closing might throw them off."

In addition to providing prescriptions, the pharmacy is the only place left in town to buy snack food, beverages, over-the-counter medicine and other necessities.

Linderman declined a buyout from the federal government, which declared Picher a hazardous waste site in 1981 and has bought out about 900 homeowners and businesses. Crews demolished a funeral home, restaurant, thrift shop, apartment building and other structures this week, with more to come.

Besides lead contamination, Picher has suffered in recent years from sinkholes from old mines that threaten to swallow the community. Three years ago, a tornado destroyed about 150 homes, chasing more people away.

Picher's population has shrunk from 1,640 in 2000 to only a handful of residents today. The school district and city government dissolved in 2009 and the post office closed.

The town had more than 14,000 residents in the 1920s.

Because of historic significance, a church, mining museum, auction house and a building where mining equipment was sold will remain standing, though they are abandoned. Linderman's building will be surrounded by vacant lots in what used to be downtown, but he doesn't seem to mind.

"I'm a farm boy," he said. "I'm used to the wide open spaces."



## Hitler's last bodyguard gives up on fan mail

come from Korea, from Knoxville, Tennessee, from Finland and Iceland — and not one has a bad word to say," said Misch, who is believed to be the last man alive to have seen Hitler and other top-ranking Nazis in the flesh.

In the past Misch used to send fans autographed copies of wartime photos of himself in a neatly pressed SS uniform. Now the incoming fan mail, including letters and packages, piles up in his flat in south Berlin's leafy Rudow neighborhood.

Misch also served as Hitler's telephone operator and courier. His memoirs, "The Last Witness," were published in 2008 in Germany and are in the works to become a feature film.

**BERLIN, Jan 29 (Reuters):** More than 65 years after World War Two, Adolf Hitler's last surviving bodyguard says that he can no longer respond to the continuous deluge of fan mail he receives from around the world, because of his advanced age.

Rochus Misch is 93 and uses a walking frame to move around his apartment. He told the Berliner Kurier tabloid that, with most of the letters he receives asking for autographs, it was "no longer possible" to reply because of his age. "They (letters)



## Girl with girl cheating OK, half of boyfriends say

**NEW YORK, Jan 29 (Reuters):** Half of men would forgive their female partner's infidelity, as long as it was with another woman, according to a new study on cheating.

Women, however, were less likely to forgive and forget if their boyfriend had been with another man, the University of Texas at Austin study showed.

Researchers asked 718 college students to imagine being in a long-term relationship and what their reactions would be to several different cheating scenarios.

They found that overall, 50 percent of men would likely continue a relationship with a woman who had a dalliance with another woman, while 22 percent said they could forgive betrayal with another man.

For women, the results were reversed. If their boyfriend cheated with another woman, 28 percent said they'd keep him around, but only 21 percent said they would if he cheated with another man.

Published this month in the journal "Personality and Individual Differences," the study concluded the participant's reactions were based on basic jealousy instincts.

"A robust jealousy mechanism is activated in men and women by different types of cues — those that threaten paternity in men and those that threaten abandonment in women," said Jaime Confer, the study's lead author and a PhD candidate in evolutionary psychology.

Men, they said, felt more threatened by a rival male because of paternity uncertainty, whereas they saw a female partner's homosexual affair as "an opportunity to mate with more than one woman simultaneously, satisfying men's greater desire for more partners."

Mark Cloud, one of the study co-authors, stressed in an interview that the homosexual infidelity scenario they asked participants to imagine was very rare in reality.

So, the researchers asked participants about their real experiences with cheating. There again, men showed less tolerance of cheating than women.

"Men were significantly more likely than women to have ended their actual relationships following a partner's affair," according to the study.

## University awards first Beatles degree

**LONDON, Jan 29 (Reuters):** A Canadian woman has become the first person in the world to graduate with a Masters degree in Beatles studies.

Former Miss Canada finalist, Mary-Lu Zahalan-Kennedy was one of the first 12 students to sign up for the Liverpool Hope University course on the Fab Four when it began in 2009 and was the first to graduate, the university said on Wednesday.

"I am so proud of my achievement," Zahalan-Kennedy said. "The course was challenging, enjoyable and it provided a great insight into the impact the Beatles had and still have to this day across all aspects of life."

The launch of the unique MA in Beatles, Popular Music and Society was a world first when it took its first class. Zahalan-Kennedy was the first to accept her degree in person from the university.

The course looks at the studio sound and composition of the Beatles and how Liverpool helped to shape their music. The MA examines the significance of their music and how it helped to define identities, culture and society.

Mike Brocken, founder and leader of the Beatles MA at Liverpool Hope University, said the postgraduate degree makes Zahalan-Kennedy a member of a select group of popular music experts.

"Mary-Lu now joins an internationally recognized group of scholars of Popular Music Studies who are able to offer fresh and thought-provoking insights into the discipline of musicology."



## Intimate Swift letters reproduced "baby talk"

**LONDON (Reuters):** New analysis of a series of love letters from Anglo-Irish satirist and "Gulliver's Travels" author Jonathan Swift to two women shows that the strange, juvenile language he employed reflects the way babies talk.

Abigail Williams of St. Peter's College, Oxford, who has been editing the early 18th century letters which constitute "The Journal to Stella," said that her own three-year-old son had helped her solve some of the mysteries of Swift's text.

"If I am really struggling to understand a phrase, I ask my three-year-old son — who has an excellent lisp — to say it aloud for me!" she said.

Williams argued that the letters could only fully be understood if they were read out loud, because Swift developed a special baby language with which to address the two women. In this "little language" he attempted to imitate the speech of small children by changing the consonants in familiar words.

For example, he wrote: "I expect a Rettle vely soon; & that MD is vely werr, and so Nite dee MD" which trans-

lates as "I expect a letter very soon, and that my dears are very well, and so night dear my dears."

Alternatively, he wrote: "I am sorry for poo poo ppt, pray walk hen oo can," meaning "I am sorry for poor poor poppet, pray walk when you can." The bizarre style appears in letters from Swift to "MD," or "my dears," meaning Esther Johnson ("Stella") and her companion Rebecca Dingley.

According to Oxford University, the author and clergyman usually met the women together, and his contemporaries claimed that he was never once in his life alone in a room with Stella. But since the 18th century, many scholars and readers of his works have also claimed that Stella and Swift were secretly married, and debate continues over whether that marriage was consummated or not.

Some of his letters are sexually charged. In a letter dated February 5, 1711, he wrote: "tis still terribly cold. I wish my cold hand was in the warmest place about you, young women." And along with the pet baby language, he employed less-than-flattering descriptions of

the women, including "saucy sluts," "agreeable bitches" and "rogues."

Although Swift is known today as the author of sophisticated satires like Gulliver's Travels, for much of the 18th and 19th century he was most famous for being an Irish clergyman who had a secret relationship with two women simultaneously.

That was not Johnson and Dingley, but Johnson and a third woman.

Williams, who is working on the letters as part of the Cambridge University Press edition of his collected works, also discovered that Swift himself crossed out some of the most intimate phrases before sending them as a kind of game. "Until now, scholars thought that prudish 18th century editors had crossed out the most intimate parts of Swift's letters to preserve his reputation," she said.

"The women he was writing to needed to undress the text before they could fully enjoy it. This disguising of affectionate endearments is clearly part of a secret code of intimacy that characterises the Journal as a whole."

