

Newsletter May 2010



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They say that “April showers bring May flowers”, so in theory we should be firmly and finally in Spring this month! The end of the school year is looming and we here at Clever Pants are already getting excited about the summer holidays. Our actors are still out on tour all around Spain and Portugal and we’re getting tip top reports from here, there and everywhere!

It’s been a mad month with sun, rain, erupting volcanoes and disrupted skies, but at least there’s one thing you can rely on in this increasingly chaotic world – your Clever Pants monthly newsletter!

See you in June!

May around the world

- In Ireland, the first day of summer and a public holiday is held on the first Monday in May.
- In many countries, May Day is on May the 1st.
- In Germany it is an old custom to plant a Maypole to honour someone. ❶
Often young men set up a decorated tree in front of their girlfriend's house the night before May 1.
- In Japan the period from April 29th to May 5th, which includes four different holidays, is called “Golden Week”. Many workers have up to 10 days off. There is also “May sickness” where new students or workers start to be tired of their new routine (in Japan the school year starts on April 1st).
- May 3rd: the Polish Constitution Day is celebrated in Poland.
- May 5th is Children’s Day in Japan and North Korea. ❷
- Finland's Day is on the 12th of May.
- On May 17, the Norwegian Constitution Day is celebrated.
- In Argentina, the May Revolution (or “Revolución de Mayo”), a national holiday, is on May 25th.
- Each year in May, the Eurovision Song Contest is held (more about this later!).



May one liners

Borrow money from pessimists – they don't expect it back.

A thing not worth doing isn't worth doing well.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

If a thing is worth doing, it would have been done already.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

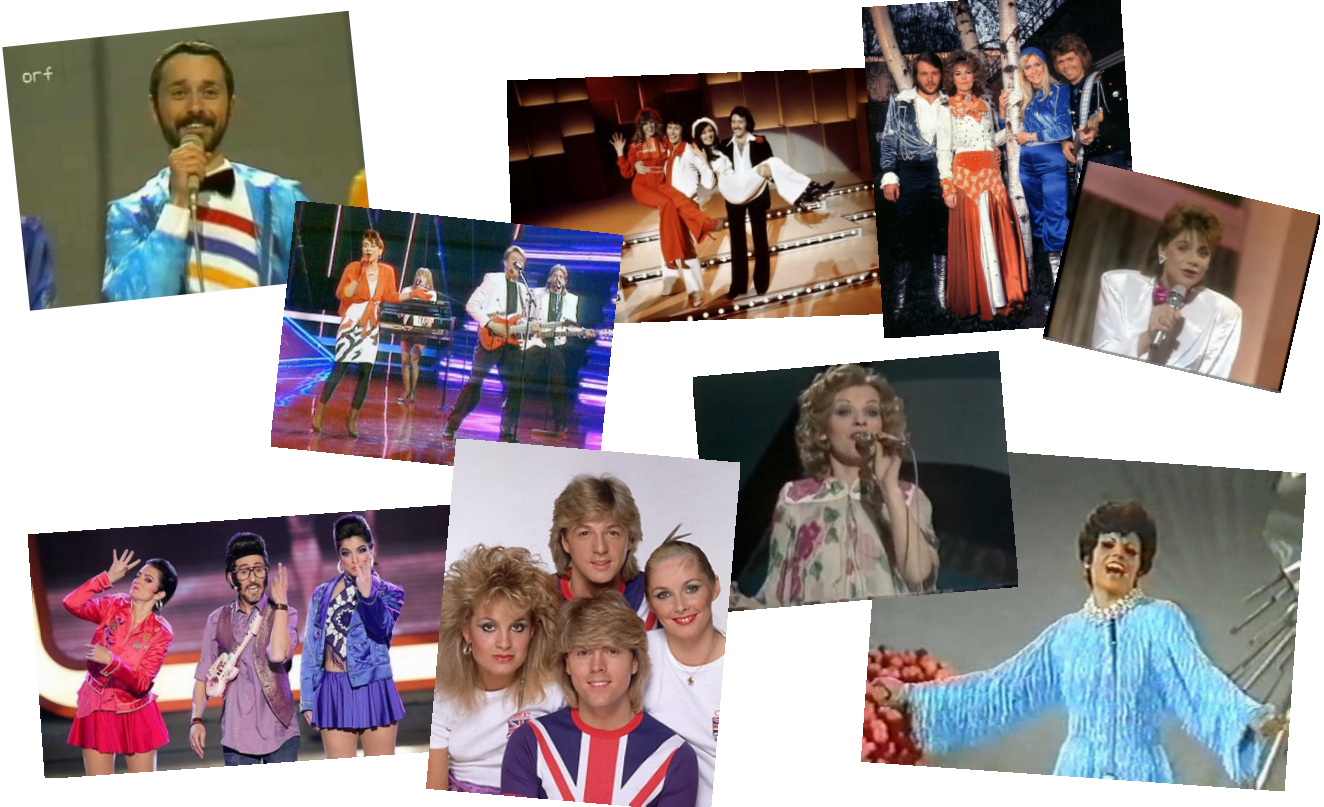


Eurovision

It's that time of year we all wait for again! We don't know about you but here at Clever Pants HQ we have a huge calendar on the wall so that we can count down the days leading up to the next Eurovision Song Contest (James, our supreme overlord, demands that we all dress up as his favourite entries of all time on the day and re-enact various questionable dance routines...).

Love it or hate it, it's hard not to smile just a little at the silliness of Eurovision. It harks back to a more innocent time, when neighbours gave each other twelve points and nobody really took themselves too seriously.

If nothing else though, Eurovision gives us an excuse to do one of our favourite activities here at the Clever Pants bouncy castle – waste hours on youtube finding the best videos for your enjoyment! We've deliberated long and hard and come up with our 10 favourite Eurovision hits, based on both music and fashion! Hope you enjoy them.



Portugal 1981 Carlos Paião "Playback"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao8rQYxQ0WI&feature=fvw>

This is a classic piece of Eurovision fun. We love the dancers outfits. Maybe we could get them into one of our shows... We also like the way Terry Wogan – the English commentator – says "Car-losh".

Spain 1969 Salomé "Vivo Cantando"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sifsSxIPuc>

Salomé had a well deserved hit with this song in 1969. It starts off slow and just gets faster and faster! Full of energy, and extra points for the blue outfit.

UK 1986 Bucks Fizz "Making your mind up"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pACePi441ds&feature=related>

A seminal moment in British music... kind of. At the time, the infamous "skirt trick" was the talk of the tabloids. And obviously Bucks Fizz went on to have enormous success... or did they?

Yugoslavia 1989 Riva "Rock me"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJyds1xzUpU>

More classic Eurovision, with a very catchy chorus (but then, maybe anything is catchy if you repeat it enough...). Riva gets a lot of points for co-ordination.

Sweden 1974 ABBA "Waterloo"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGs7dTjUsXw>

Eurovision gold! Abba in their prime with shiny outfits and smiles and more pop than you can shake a stick at! All together now! "Waterloo, promise to love you for ever more!".

The Netherlands 1975 Teach-In "Ding-a-dong"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF7f38-5pp8>

Ok this one mainly made our top 10 because of the title. Ding-a-dong sounds rather like our Dr. Ding Dong song after all! Also because we've never seen anyone have such a surprised expression on their face for this long.

UK 1976 Brotherhood of Man "Save your kisses"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bKAPVpA46o&feature=related>

This song is just so sweet! And the choreography for this routine is out of this world. And at the end we realize it's a song for a three year old! Aaaaaaws all round.

Belgium 1986 Sandra Kim "J'aime la vie"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chWaLZ1PA4U>

Amazingly Sandra Kim was just 13 years old when she won the Eurovision song contest for Belgium. She's full of energy isn't she?

Ireland 1994 Riverdance

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWyhH5z92ps>

All anyone remembers about Eurovision '94 was being amazed by the traditional Irish dancing or Riverdance, which went on to become a global phenomenon. Weird considering they weren't even in the competition but were the half time break entertainment!

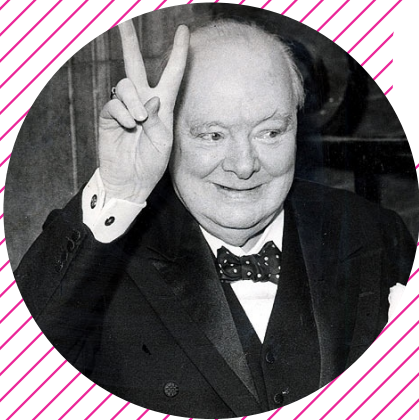
Spain 2008 Rodolfo Chikilicuatre "Chiki-Chiki"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGKEgBym-Dc&feature=related>

It went on to become a massive hit, and annoying as it is it's harder than you think not to find your toe-a-tapping... chiki chiki!

Inspirational Quotes from the great and good

this month all featuring
the word May



"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things."

– Winston Churchill

"You may not be interested in war,
but war is interested in you."

– Leon Trotsky



"A positive attitude may not solve all your problems,
but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort. "

– Herm Albright

"A man may die, nations may
rise and fall, but an idea lives on."

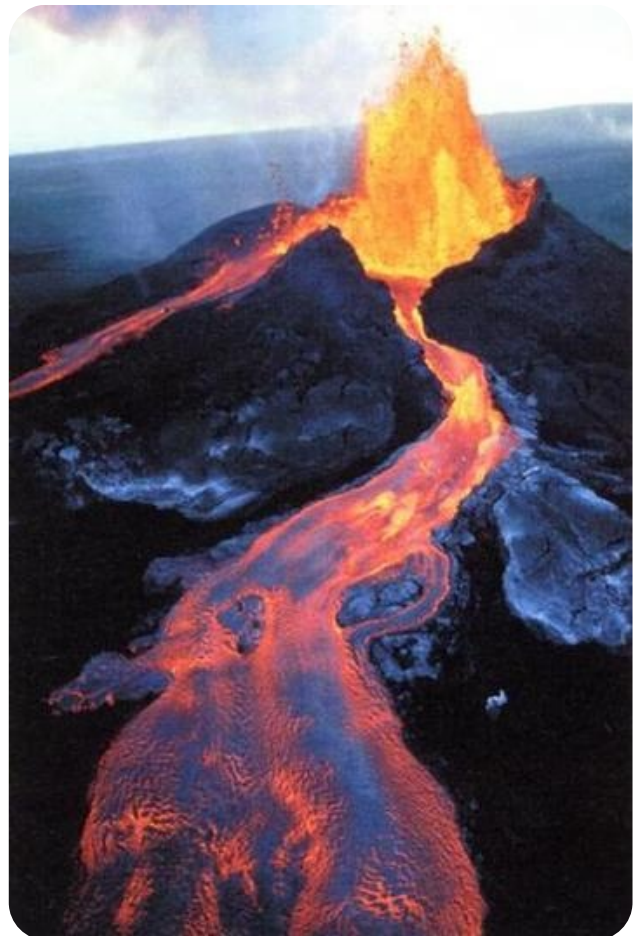
– John F. Kennedy

Fun facts

This month we're being as topical as ever
and bringing you some facts about volcanoes!

Did you know..?

- The name "volcano" has its origin from the name of Vulcan, a god of fire in Roman mythology.
- As pressure in the molten rock builds up it needs to escape somewhere. So it forces its way up "fissures" which are narrow cracks in the earth's crust. Once the magma erupts through the earth's surface it's called lava.
- There are around 1510 'active' volcanoes in the world. We currently know of 80 or more which are under the oceans.
- The Earth's crust is made up of huge slabs called plates, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. These plates sometimes move. Between the Earth's crust and the mantle is a substance called magma which is made of rock and gases. When two plates collide, one section slides on top of the other, the one beneath is pushed down. Magma is squeezed up between two plates.
- Over half of the world's volcanoes arise in a belt around the Pacific Ocean called the Ring of Fire.
- The biggest volcano in the world is Mount Mazama, or "Crater Lake", in Oregon, U.S.A



April recipe: Banana Bread!

This is a moist, buttery banana bread loaded with banana flavour. It's easy to make and really delicious, ideal for breakfast for that extra banenergy to get you through the day!



Ingredients

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cups flour
- 1 large bananas, very ripe, mashed
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans

Method

Cream together butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Sift dry ingredients together; add to creamed mixture. Stir in bananas and chopped pecans.

Pour banana nut bread batter into 2 well-greased loaf pans; bake at 325° for about 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. This banana nut bread recipe makes 2 loaves.

A-CET

This year we will once again be working with the African Children's Educational Trust, donating money for every show we do to helping develop educational projects in Africa.

For more information visit their website at www.a-cet.org

Top eco-tip: if you print the newsletter out, do it in black and white at low resolution to reduce your use of ink

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