

# ATENAS TODAY



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***ATENAS TODAY** is a free English language newsletter for the residents and potential residents of Atenas, Costa Rica. It contains informative articles and creative compositions submitted by our readers, and is distributed via email approximately once a month to over 350 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Fred Macdonald at [fredmac222@yahoo.com](mailto:fredmac222@yahoo.com).*

*Compositions from back issues are archived by category on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, [www.atenascatuca.com](http://www.atenascatuca.com). Click on the English version and then [Atenas Today](#) on the business page.*

## **Some Rules for Living**

*by Diane Holman*

You have to live in a place where happiness is possible.

You have to be with people with whom happiness is possible.

Your thoughts have to reach the sky, and your feet have to pull the earth  
up into your body.

You have to look upon each child as a promise.

You have to feel the sun on your face and on your arms every day,  
and greet the wind as a messenger from faraway places.

Everywhere the sky is blue. Leaves rustle and spin everywhere the same.

You have to know in your being that each is equal to each.

You have been given this earth and this time. You have only to learn the art  
of savoring.

# The Guzzler

*by Ruth Thumm*

That's the name we gave our '99 4-runner that we had shipped in from Canada, in year 2000.

In June 2004 Don passed away, in Canada. His vehicles among other chattels were left to me in a Canadian Will...The lawyer had advised us that was adequate.

And now the fun begins.

Over 2 years ago, the car was in an accident, in which the license plate was somewhat damaged.. Upon going to the reteve , they told me that all was fine, but because of the license plate they couldn't give me a pass. The advice they gave me, was to come back with a new license plate. But that's not so easy, if you don't own the car, so I found out.

As this will take some time, I took an undamaged license plate to reteve saying nothing but just showing it to them. This satisfied them.

In the meantime, I started to look for a lawyer that could put the Guzzler in my name. I took the Will to Canada, had it certified and then properly stamped and certified again by the C.R. embassy in Ottawa. In CR it had to be properly translated and then certified, & stamped at the Casa Amarilla. (Yellow house). I then took it to the lawyer but he told me after checking with the Judge that now I had to get the Death Certificate and go thru the whole process again. Apparently the Will, which was notarized indicating that the person making the Will had passed away, was not enough.

By this time another year had passed, so I had to go to Reteve again, and it seems they were a bit stricter this time. Even though I had modified the license plate a bit to look better (they noticed the paint job), it didn't work.

By this time I had visited 5 lawyers in total, all declaring that I needed my step-son's co-operation in one way or another as he was the "Executor of the Will.. I already knew this wouldn't work.

Then I met 2 lady lawyers in a meeting at the Gringo Coffee Shop. Monica said that she could help me. But it would take at least 6 months.

I could not picture myself without a car. Obviously I had to find another way.

So then I was put in touch with a Chorizo. A Chorizo is a sausage but is also a person who will do something a little illegal for you, for a price of course.

First he drove my car to Reteve, and somehow he came back with the coveted stamp and sticker. Hoorah. Then he informed me that he could get new license plates for me too. This he did in record time (less than a week went by) and I was laughing.

Now I could pay my Marchamo and get the sticker.

About 2 weeks ago, Monica informed me that I now was the executor of the Will, and that the Judge apparently was satisfied with my combined paperwork. Now it will take just a little more time. For starters, an advertisement has to go in the paper, over the period of 1 month, to see if there is someone out there wants to lay claim to the car. At this date, I am waiting for progress (in Spanish...."progreso"). I am hoping for the best.

.If you don't "own" the car you are driving, you can't get insurance, you can't take the car out of the country and you can't sell it or replace a license plate. But you can get the reteve and pay the Marchamo, and for now that will keep me driving.

*Editor's comment: The morale of this story is that you had better have a Costa Rican Will.*

# Human Geography

*By Anonymous*

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF A WOMAN

Between 18 and 22, a woman is like Africa, half discovered, half wild, fertile and naturally beautiful!

Between 23 and 30, a woman is like Europe, well developed and open to trade, especially for someone with cash.

Between 31 and 35, a woman is like Spain, very hot, relaxed and convinced of her own beauty.

Between 36 and 40, a woman is like Greece, gently aging but still a warm and desirable place to visit.

Between 41 and 50, a woman is like Great Britain, with a glorious and all conquering past.

Between 51 and 60, a woman is like Israel, has been through war and doesn't make the same mistakes twice, takes care of business.

Between 61 and 70, a woman is like Canada, self-preserving, but open to meeting new people.

After 70, she becomes Tibet, wildly beautiful, with a mysterious past and the wisdom of the ages...only those with an adventurous spirit and a thirst for spiritual knowledge visit there.

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF A MAN

Between 1 and 70, a man is like Iran,  
Ruled by Nuts.

## Beware of the New Traffic Laws

*by Atenas Today staff reporter*

President Oscar Arias has just signed a tough new traffic law. It will take effect in mid January, ten days after it is published in the official newspaper. Funds have been made available to hire 400 new Transito officers. It seems Costa Rica is finally getting serious about reducing traffic accidents.

Atenas Today has gathered information from several sources to give you a summary. It may not be complete or totally accurate, but it will give you the idea.

Some offenses charge points against your license, in addition to the fine. After you get to 50 points, you loose your license for two years. Other offenses result in jail time.

A significant feature of the new law is a fine of 227,000 colones for attempting to bribe a policeman not to give you a ticket. In the future it will be safer just to pay the fine, which you can do at most banks.

Here are some of the penalties for various offenses:

Causing a fatal accident	.5 – 8 years in jail
Causing a fatal accident while drunk	3 – 15 years in jail
Racing against other drivers	1 – 3 years in jail
Driving drunk (BAC 0.75 g/l) *	1 – 3 years in jail
Driving faster than 150 km/hr (90 mph)	1 - 3 years in jail
Driving faster than 120 km/hr (72 mph)	227,000 colones and 20 points
Driving 20 km /hr over the speed limit	227,000 colones and 20 points
Driving tipsy (BAC 0.5 g/l)	227,000 colones and 20 points
Driving without a license	227,000 colones and 25 points
Running a red light or stop sign	165,000 colones and 20 points
Holding your cell phone while driving	165,000 colones and 20 points
Making an illegal U turn	165,000 colones and 10 points
Driving without everyone wearing seat belts	165,000 colones
Ignoring traffic signs	165,000 colones
Driving without having your license with you	45,400 colones
Driving without having your car papers with you	45,400 colones
Failing to pay a toll	45,400 colones

*\* A 155 pound man could reach this level by drinking 3 or 4 beers over the course of an hour*