

# *The D&B Times*



*October 2008*

*Editor: Carla Kerr*

*Happy Hallowe'en!*

## Culture

In general, some people who were born in Europe, Asia, or Africa don't understand why Brazilians have a lot of different faces. Brazil has a rich culture, because many years ago, a lot of different immigrants (from Portugal, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan...) decided to restart their lives in this country. They brought their culture and enriched our country with a big diversity of food and beverage, interesting celebrations and festivals, good music and dance, and the most important thing, an incredible mixture of races and ethnicities.

Every year, a lot of Europeans visit the northeast of Brazil, because it has the most beautiful beaches in Brazil, hoteest weather, and a lot of entertainment, like places to enjoy the traditional food and the music of northeast Brazil.

In each part of our country, we have different cultures. This happens because of the weather (some places are colder than others), and the influence of immigration, for example, if you go to the south, there is traditional German food and music, because there are a lot of Germans living there.

If you really like to enjoy big parties, don't miss the "Carnival". IT's a wonderful traditional festival in Brazil with a big parade and everybody wears coloured costumes. In this festival there are a lot of groups and each one chooses a theme to create a song about it and go to the parade where thousands of people will watch the show.

If you have a chance to plan a long holiday, think about Brazil. You will discover why the Brazilians are always happy, kind and generous – the main reason is: we've a rich and incredible country to live in and preserve. CAROLINE

*China won 51 gold medals in the 2008 Olympic Games. We won the most gold medals. Do you know when China won the first gold medal in the Olympics? That was in 1984. A man called Xu Hai Feng won a medal for shooting.*

*In 2004, Liu Xiang won the first gold medal in track and field sports.*

*Anyway, the most popular sport in China is pingpong. Most people played it when they were teenagers. Compared to pingpong, Chinese people are terrible at football. They play badly and they never improve. They were happy because they were seen during the World Cup in 2002, but in most things they have improved. They are getting better.*

*So I think China will be the strongest country in the world. JUN*

To describe our culture is a little bit difficult before you experience some different places in the world. Now, living here in Dublin, I can see these two cultures are different - the food, the customs and the way to live – but I think that's very interesting.

Now regarding the culture of my country, Brazil, I can talk about the weather. It's quite amazing with all seasons very defined. Regarding the food and the drink in Brazil, we have a lot of varieties from north to south. I want to explain about feijoada. It's black beans with some meat, and it is tasty. There's a famous drink called caipirinha with caxaca, lemon, and sugar – the best one! About the people: they're hospitable and friendly, so I like my country, and when I go back I'll enjoy it a lot! RENATA

## ***Important Festivals***

*We're celebrating Hallowe'en in Ireland this month. Some students tell us about important festivals where they come from.*

### Spring Festival by Hans

Spring Festival is on the first day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar. China was an agricultural nation thousands of years ago. As a part of the culture of Chinese agriculture and civilization, Spring Festival has existed for thousands of years. The reason that people celebrate it is that the Spring Festival is the first day of Chinese New Year. The day of Spring Festival means that the new year has come and winter has finished. People celebrate on this day to enjoy the fruits of hard work last year, and to place a hope for next year.

### Valentine's Day by Sheng

On the autumn Chinese calendar, 7/7 is Valentine's Day. It's so romantic. It's the same as 2/14 – we go to a restaurant for dinner and buy flowers and chocolates. It's very sweet, but there's a long time to go!

### Middle Autumn Day by David

15<sup>th</sup> of August is Middle Autumn Day. That's the most famous festival after the New Year. On that day, most people work outside. They go home to celebrate the festival with the whole family. They eat mooncake and some delicious dishes, and the moon on that night is the roundest in the year. Some people say that the moon looks like a beautiful girl who is holding a rabbit in her hands. They call the girl "Chan Er" in Chinese. Every family puts a table outdoors with some fruit, mooncake, beans and water on it and wait for the rabbit to come down from the moon to eat the dishes on the table. That means that the moon god is going to protect the family and give the family good luck.

### The Lantern Festival by Jin

The Lantern Festival is an important festival in my country. It is just after Chinese New Year. In the old Chinese calendar, that day is the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. On this day, different parts of China have their own different traditional celebrations. Today I'll tell you about the South of China. How do we celebrate Lantern Festival? The day before, the whole family gets together to make rice balls at night. The rice balls have to be circular. We put them one by one on the tray. In my family there are 4 people, so we put 4 red tangerines on the tray with the rice balls, and then put one rice ball onto each tangerine. In the morning of Lantern Festival, we cook the rice balls and the family has them for breakfast. That means we have a full family.

### Lantern Festival by Meimei

In China, after the Chinese New Year, half a month later we have a big day we call Lantern Festival. This follows a long time ago, maybe 100 years ago, when people carried a lantern to go outside at night. Now we just put a lantern outdoors, and we have a big feast. It's a family day. On the street there are lanterns everywhere. Some lanterns look like flowers, some look like animals. They are very good-looking, and you can go outside after the meal. It's a nice night.

### Chinese New Year by Jing

The first day of the Chinese lunar calendar is Chinese New Year in China. Every year it is different. A long, long time ago, the Chinese New Year meant the end of the winter. The spring was coming, the snow was dissolving, and the trees and grass were growing up. We can buy new shoes and dresses. Everything is changed for new things. We play for 15 days. The children are very happy. We eat nine kinds of food and play with firecrackers.

### Eid by Imran

Every year we have our own Islamic year. First we have Ramadan for one month, and after that we have the first festival, Eid. To celebrate Eid we sacrifice animals like cows and camels. It's 1400 years old and it lasts for 3 days.

### Mid-Autumn Festival by Heidi

The 15<sup>th</sup> of August is a very big feast day. It's named Mid-Autumn. It started 1000 years ago. We think this day everyone will go home to celebrate. Everybody stays at home and has a nice dinner, and after that, we will bring the lanterns out onto the street. People will make some puzzles, and whoever has the answer first will win a nice lantern. Before, people made lots of different kinds of things like monkeys, flowers etc, and some people wore lion's clothes to do shows. We have fireworks everywhere. Everywhere becomes very busy, and children are very happy. After that we will eat some mooncake. There are different kinds of tastes. There is a nice story as well. We will sit together and look at the moon. We think it's the roundest of the whole year, and we have the best luck on this day.

### Spring Festival by Afra

The Spring Festival is an important day in China, at least I think so. It was celebrated in ancient years as a festival of the ending of winter. I like it because I used to get money from my mother as a new year gift and I could finish window shopping.

### Spring Festival by Paul

The Spring Festival is the most important day in China. The Spring Festival is always at the end of January or February. This festival has been in China for over 1000 years. At this time all Chinese, wherever they are, have to go back home to stay with their family. That means your family is all together to welcome the next year. That will give you luck. In these days we just eat, drink, dance, and play games. We don't work, just relax for a week. I love it.

### Ghost Festival by Leo

In my country, we celebrate Ghost Festival. The Ghost Festival is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July every year. Many families believe you should bring fake money to dead people, and also beer and fruit. Then you should bury the money to communicate with the dead person. When we finish celebrating the Ghost Festival, we should eat dinner and tell everybody to have a good day.

### Mid-Autumn Festival by Tian

The Mid-Autumn festival is really important in China. We also call it the Moon Festival. It's on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August on the Chinese calendar. The moon is going to be round and extra-bright at

this time. We think it seems like a family will get together at this moment, wherever they are. So every year, when the Mid-Autumn festival is coming, people would like to go home to celebrate with their families and enjoy a reunion. But some people can't go home that day for some reason. They will be missing their families so much when they watch the bright moon in the sky.

### Diwali by Vedila

Diwali is a light festival. We celebrate Diwali in India and Mauritius. It's every year between October and November. We prepare lots of different cakes at home. One week before Diwali, we start getting ready. We buy firecrackers and get new dresses. For Diwali night, after preparing all the cakes, at around 6pm we light all the lamps, which is beautiful. After that we go to friends and relatives to share the cakes. We also have parties and festivals all around the place. Diwali brings lots of happiness and joy around. I like Diwali and I think that everyone should celebrate it, because it brings light to your life. You will never be left in the dark.

### Spring Festival by Wang

We have a big feast for Chinese New Year. On New Year's Eve, the children dress up in their new clothes, carry lanterns and fireworks, and go outside. They will set off the fireworks with their family to celebrate the new year coming. Also, each family will have a big party with their whole family. Some of them will make dinner, some of them will play games. They greet each other. The children will get presents and money from their parents and grandparents. People really enjoy it.

### Spring Festival by Lin

Spring Festival is the most important festival in China. It started in 600AD. It depends on the lunar calendar. The Spring Festival is the first day of the year. We believe that if we celebrate the first day of the year, we will get good luck for the rest of the year, and we believe that if you have a good start to everything, you will get a successful result. During the Spring Festival, we always clean our houses and put up some nice pictures and special paper. We call it "chunlian". It's used to prevent people from unlucky things, and protect people in peace and happiness. In the evening, we have a big party at home. All the family members must attend it. We have nice food and play games until midnight. It's a good chance for all the family members to get together and talk about everything in the last year they had. In some places they set off fireworks. We all enjoy the spring festival.

### Mid-Autumn Festival by Harry

This day is very important for Chinese people. Chinese people use two different calendars. When the day comes to 15<sup>th</sup> of August, everyone makes a feast together and gives mooncake to friends. China is a big country, so many people are working or studying in another place. On this day, all families hope to have a reunion. Today, the moon gets round. People want the family to be well.

### Chong Yang Festival by Michael

Chong Yang Festival is an important festival in my country. It's during September and October. Before the day, everyone buys a few mooncakes and gives them to their parents, friends or workmates as a gift. I don't know when exactly we started celebrating Chong Yang but it could be over a thousand years ago. On that day, everybody in the family has a meal together and eats mooncake and grapes. After that they go outside to put a candle in a paper bag. They write their wish on the paper and light the candle, then let the paper bag fly to the sky.

#### Chinese New Year by Kevin

Chinese New Year is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. It's an old festival in China. It's the first day of a new year. It's the beginning of a year. On that day, everyone should stay at home, because every family has a party. They cook, drink, and so on. If you are a child, that day will be your happiest of the year, because you will get money from your family. Your mother, father, grandparents, uncles and so on will give you a red bag and there is a little money inside. After 12 o'clock, you can use the money by yourself. It's a long holiday on Chinese New Year. We get about 2 weeks off.

#### Ghost Festival by Sean

This festival is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July every year. It has a long history, about 3000 years old. On this day, every family burns fake money at night time. They believe that this money will be sent to the other world for their dead family members. It also sends the message to tell them their family is safe and everything is OK. This festival only takes one night, but some areas might celebrate more.

#### Yuan Dan by Qing

The whole world celebrates the New Year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January every year, but for Chinese people, we don't say that this is New Year, we call it Yuan Dan. As you know, in China we use two different calendars. One has the world's dates, the other has Chinese traditional dates. It was followed by ancient China. Our great people counted the date and time by the sun and moon, so that usually, Chinese New Year is later than the world's New Year. For example, in 2009, Chinese New Year's Eve will start on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, and the next day will be Chinese New Year!

#### Divali by Avinash

We celebrate it on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. It is celebrated by Hindus. Divali is a nice festival. We have to keep a fast for 10 days before the festival, then on the day itself we have to cook some cake. There are different kinds of cake, sweet and sour. All the members of the family have to give a hand together. Then before 6pm all of us take a bath, put on some new clothes, and get ready to light the oil lamps all around the house. We say some prayers, then we have to distribute the cakes from house to house in the locality. Sometimes we go to give cake to some living family or friends. I really enjoy myself on this particular day. I like lighting the oil lamps, but not forgetting about the nice cakes. Mmm!



### Going To The Zoo

I went to the zoo this weekend. I saw a lot of animals there. It was a great and interesting journey. I saw a big monkey and lots of birds, and a lot of wolves in the hutch. There weren't too many people there, because it's winter. The weather is very cold. I really enjoyed this journey and I want to go again! LINDA

I went to the zoo last a few years ago. I saw some animals I'd never seen before, like a speckled ostrich. It looks like a bird, but it can't fly. It is taller than people, but people can ride it. I saw some dolphins. I'd like to go there again. Do you want to go there with me? ZHAO

I like going there, but I don't have free time, so I have never been there in Dublin. My favourite animals are dogs. I brought up a dog in my home. It's a small white dog. It has big eyes and a small nose and mouth. He's a lovely, friendly, devoted dog. I love it. I want to see some more animals. My teacher is going to take us to the zoo. I will go there and then I will tell you about my great time. XIA

I like going to Phoenix Park because it is beautiful. It is the biggest park in Europe. It's very nice. There are many animals. The monkey is best. I take photos of them, and many birds and flowers too. The elephants and tigers are very good. I like it. I want to go there again because this is my favourite place for animals. LIN

I went to the zoo in Dublin with my classmates. It's amazing. There are many kinds of animals, such as monkeys, tigers, peacocks, and some animals I don't know the names of exactly. Although there are many animals, they don't have much freedom because of the small space. I like going there, but I wish they had a bigger space to be active. My favourite animals are monkeys. I feel happy when I give food to them. VICKY

I went to the zoo. I had a great time. I saw a lot of animals. There were a lot of monkeys in a cage, and some elephants. A few weeks ago an elephant calf was born. In Ireland, you can't see snakes in the mountains, only in the zoo. I saw a big snake in the zoo, and tigers, ostrich, parrots, chimpanzees... TOM

We had a great time at the zoo last weekend. There are a lot of animals in the area. You can see some birds, some fish in the sea, and some animals of the earth. My favourite animal is hamster. It's so lovely and small. It's my pet. ANGEL



**Should you bring anything when you visit someone for dinner?**

**Xia, ShenYang:** IMO, it all depends on who you're visiting. With really good friends who I see a lot, I'd probably take some beer or wine. But for people I don't know well, I'd buy some flowers.

**Angel, Dublin:** IMO, you should arrive for dinner with a small gift, because it's polite. Sometimes you can take something to drink and maybe food. It's always appreciated.

**Iverson, Fuqing:** IMO, if my friend invites me to his party, I usually take a gift to the party. I always take cigarettes and sugar!

**Tom, Dublin:** IMO if I invite people for dinner they should be early. Don't be late! You should usually take something to drink and a present.

**Lingli, China:** I have to take something to drink and a small gift the first time I go to a friend's house.

**Vicky, Dublin:** I usually don't take a gift when I meet people who I see a lot, but I would bring something for someone I meet for the first time, such as wine, flowers or fruit. Anyway, it depends on your way.

**Zhao, Fujian: IMO you don't need to go for dinner too early. I will be half an hour late. You should bring your girlfriend.**



#### Our Stories

It happened last night. I was working in the restaurant at the busy time between 7 and 8pm. Suddenly it was very busy and I put a lot of orders and food out on the post table. The floor staff came to bring the food to each table. Then one staff asked me for one more dish of food. Maybe that was my fault, or maybe they brought it to the wrong table. We had an argument over that. It happens almost every night. ZHAO

It all happened last weekend. I was staying at my aunt's house at the seaside and I was bored. At first it was soaking. The seaside was very wet, and I felt happy, but time passed quickly and I realised that I was a long way from my aunt's house, and I was completely lost. I decided to follow somebody. They took me to my aunt's house. MEI

Last week when I was doing shopping on Grafton Street, I found something surprising. Brown Thomas is a big brand in Ireland. When I was looking for some perfume for myself, I found some staff members were decorating for Christmas. I know Christmas is the most important festival for westerners, but I really cannot understand why they prepare for it in September! I asked some Irish people. They thought it was ridiculous too. I'm Chinese. In my country, people won't begin to celebrate the Spring Festival, normally in February, until January. GARY

It all happened last summer. I felt so lonely, so I went out to drink beer. When I went outside to the Liffey River, I saw that it was night time, and I felt my shoes had something inside. I saw it was a wallet. I was very happy, but then I opened it. Only €10! So I felt I'd lost hope again, so I threw the wallet into the river. I regretted it, because the wallet was LV. In the end, I said that God was playing with me. LIN

It all happened last weekend. I was going to Chelestown to see my sister's baby. I didn't know how to get the bus to get to Chelestown. I decided to ask for information. At first I said "How are you?" "Very good," she said, "Can I help you?" "Which bus goes to Chelestown?" "What?" She didn't understand what I meant. I felt very anxious, because my sister told me that there was only one bus at 11am. I forgot, and it was nearly 11am now. I was very worried because I said Chelestown and it was the wrong word. She didn't understand. Suddenly, my phone rang. It was my sister phoning

me. My sister knows I usually forget numbers. I don't find it easy to remember numbers. It's difficult for me. So my sister phoned me to tell me which bus to take. IVERSON

It all happened last holiday. I went back to China. I was living at my mother's house. I was so happy. I really wanted to play with my daughter. At first, it was sunny. The sky was so blue and beautiful. I felt happy, but time passed quickly, and I realised that my daughter was so tired. Suddenly, I saw the sky was so dark, then it was raining. I hugged my daughter and I ran home. After a while, my daughter was sleeping in my arms. ANGEL

It all happened in January this year. I went back to China. I visited my old friend. We got together in her new apartment. We wanted some beer, so I went to buy it with my friend. At first, there was gorgeous weather. Suddenly, the rain poured down. Neither of us had an umbrella. We didn't have patience to wait for the rain to stop. We rushed towards the apartment, but the rain was too heavy to rush. Suddenly, I saw another friend. She was looking for us, because we had been outside for a long time. She had two umbrellas for us. After a while we got home and began to drink! VICKY

## Movie Reviews

### Just Like Heaven



This film is about a girl named Elizabeth. She's a doctor, she works long hours in a hospital, so she's very tired. She has a car accident, but she's not dead. She's still alive but in a coma. David rents her apartment and they become romantic with each other and then he saves her. XIA

Elizabeth is a doctor. She works in a hospital. She has a car accident. She is in a coma. She becomes a ghost. David is looking for an apartment. He finds her apartment and lives in it. He sees Elizabeth and talks to her, and he helps her to find her body, but she can't get into her body. David brings her to his garden. She had a dream of the same garden before. He wants to find some idea to help her come back to her body. He steals her body from hospital, but she will die. He kisses her and she wakes up, but she forgets him and she's afraid of him. One day, he comes back to her apartment. She feels him there, and then she finds him in her garden. He gives her the key. His hand touches hers. She remembers everything. Then he kisses her. ANGEL

It is a romcom and horror film. There are two main characters in the film. The girl's name is Elizabeth, and the man's name is Dave. Elizabeth worked in a hospital. She worked very hard because she had a chance to get promoted. One day on her way home she had a car accident and she was in a coma. Later, Dave moved into an apartment, but the spirit of Elizabeth existed in the apartment. There was a misunderstanding with each other at first, but they solved the problems. Finally, they got on well. They started to enquire about Elizabeth. Meanwhile, they fell in love with each other. They made a lot of efforts to save Elizabeth. Then she faced the new problem that she didn't remember him at all. She saw many things to bring back a lot of memories with Dave. All in all, the film ends with happiness. I really liked it. I was deeply moved. VICKY

### Frankenstein



The book tells the story in a more peaceful way compared to the movie. In the movie, the story is told in a violent way. I'd rather read the book because sometimes, movies cannot tell the audience what the characters truly think, as the books do. The film was going too fast to tell the audience the story. There are not enough connecting points. HANS

Victor's father and Elizabeth's deaths are different from the book. I like the film best because it shows what really happened. The monster is my favourite character because he knows who his father is and what he has to do. When Victor dies he wants to kill himself as well. The film is very nice and interesting, because we get a chance to see the actual characters. We also get to see how Victor went about creating the monster. The only sad part was Elizabeth's death because she really didn't deserve to die. Victor was responsible for everything, so he's the one who should suffer the consequences. ZITHANDIWE

I prefer the film because it's easier to understand. Victor made a monster and the monster learned how to kill people and how to live, and how to look for love. The film is like the book, it's so interesting, but the death of Elizabeth is not good. If I could, I'd like her to stay alive, and she can get married to Victor. I enjoyed the film. KEVIN

Some things have been changed from the book, for example, Victor's mother's death. I prefer books more than film because in the movie there are too many terrible pictures. Elizabeth is my favourite character because she always brings happiness to Victor and his family after their mother died. This movie is horrible. Victor couldn't accept his mother's death. He tried to find out how to make life last forever, that's why he created a monster, but he didn't realise his creature could kill all the people he loved. He couldn't forgive himself until he was dead. It is terrifying! QING

I like the book and the film, but they are different. All the characters are brilliant. Victor was born in Geneva. When he was young, he lost his mother, then he went to the university. He studied very hard and did a lot of research. He created a monster from

parts of dead people's bodies. He was successful, but the monster hated him. The monster tried to find him and followed him to Geneva. It killed many people. Finally Victor and the monster both died in the north. I enjoyed it because the film is more interesting than the book. SEAN

Victor was a brilliant scientist. He studied in university and he created a monster who killed many people. He was a very dangerous monster. When he destroyed Victor's family, Victor wanted to kill him. At last Victor also died and the monster died with him. Victor didn't remake Elizabeth in the book, but he did in the movie. I prefer the book because the movie is too horrible. LIN

I prefer the film, because I can see it. My favourite character is Elizabeth. The book was written by Mary Shelley. TOM

Victor has a good family. He created a monster. When the monster was created, it killed his wife, brother, and friend, and asked him to make another woman monster. Victor made his wife alive again. She couldn't believe what she looked like and killed herself. At last Victor died with the monster. I didn't enjoy it because some parts of the film are disgusting. Maybe I am going to have a bad dream at night. DAVID

### Rush Hour 3



Some bad people want to kill a woman who has a list of bad people. Inspectors Lee and Carter try to save the woman and the Chinese ambassador's daughter Soo Yung. In the end they save the girls and find the list. LINDA

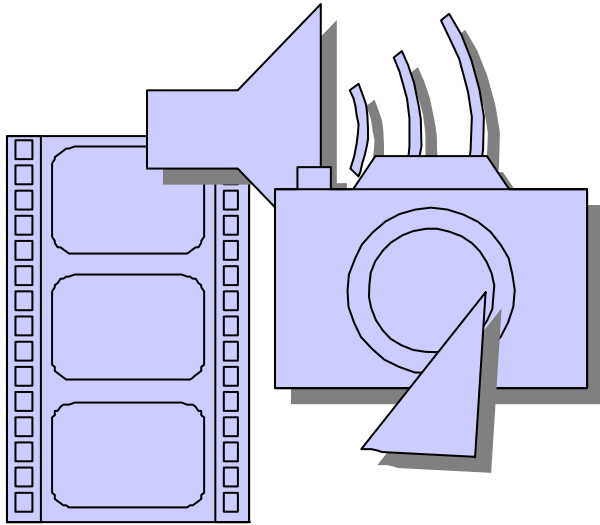
They want to find Sha Xing to keep the world safe, but they have a lot of dangers. Some bad men catch Soo Yung. She is the Chinese ambassador's daughter. Finally they find that Sha Xing is a tattooed list on a woman's head. It was very funny and interesting. LU

The film is about two inspectors who look into the Shy Shen. They know the girl Genevieve is in the Shy Shen, and she knows the secret. There is a lot of Chinese culture and racism in the film. It's such a funny film. Jackie Chan is a famous stunt man. I like him so much. VICKY

It's about two detectives, Lee and Carter. They went to Paris. They are looking for Shy Shen. They think Shy Shen is a person, but it's a list. They found a girl, Genevieve. She's Shy Shen. Her head has a tattoo of the list. The French government want to kill her, so they look after her. ANGEL

I like this film. It's very funny and makes me very excited. YAN

This film is about Lee and Carter. They went to France to find Shy Shen. I like this film because the characters are very funny. TOM



*The Future is Simple...*

*Aries*

*You need to spend some time talking to people this month. Why not go somewhere quiet and try to solve all your problems.*

*Taurus*

*You're feeling angry with someone, but just thinking about it won't help. Tell them about it and maybe you can find a solution.*

*Gemini*

*It's a time for celebrations. Maybe you'll win some money or find true love. Make the most of this time, and enjoy yourself!*

*Cancer*

Someone will tell you something that comes as a big surprise. Try not to get too angry, because it was difficult to tell you.

Leo

You may feel bored this month because you've finished something fun. Why not start planning next summer's holiday to cheer up!

Virgo

You have to work very hard at the moment. You're busy with your job and at home. Don't worry, it will be worth it.

Ask The Stars!

Libra

You're in demand this month and you'll be meeting a lot of friends. Try to make some time for yourself as well.

Scorpio

You should slow down and don't work too hard. Take a weekend break or have a holiday. Things will wait for you.

Sagittarius

You'll meet someone you haven't seen for a while. There's lots to catch up on! Try to keep in touch this time.

Capricorn

Things are getting interesting between you and someone special. Do you really want it? Decide before you begin!

Aquarius

It's a good time to study something new. It will help you a lot and stop you feeling bored. Have a look at the night class book! You may find something you like.

Pisces

You should think about something that you need to organise. It may be some time away but you need to start early.