



We have our eye on
Sandra Morán by Elaine O'Connor



In 1984, Guatemala's Sandra Morán, a student activist, fled to Canada as her nation struggled through a bloody civil war. A decade later, she returned to assist with peace accords as director of Sector de Mujeres, a network of women's groups. But as the unrest wound down, another form of violence began to escalate.

Between 2000 and 2008, at least 4,300 Guatemalan women — most under 45, some as young as 11 — have been tortured and mutilated, their bodies dumped in ditches, their killers left at large. Street gangs are often blamed (killing a rival's girlfriend is thought to be an initiation rite) but just one in 10 cases is ever investigated and far fewer result in conviction. "The message is that people can do whatever they want, with no chance of prosecution," Morán told the BBC. By fostering a culture of impunity, she argues, the state has become the principal accomplice.

Today Morán is at the front line in the battle against femicide, organizing protests and pressuring officials to investigate on behalf of Sector de Mujeres. Thanks in part to her efforts, the government has established both a prosecutor's office and a commission working on the issue. But she's also been threatened and had her office smeared with blood. "We all feel afraid," she told the press. "It just makes us want to carry on."

VAUGHN
BREAK-UP" SYDNEY PRESS CONFERENCE
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Crush
of the
month
by Siri Agrell

Vince Vaughn Since his breakout role in 1996's *Swingers*, the six-foot-five actor with the smoldering eyes has become one of the biggest names in comedy, charming ladies and cracking wise in everything from *Sex and the City* to *Wedding Crashers*. In this month's *Couples Retreat*, Vaughn engages in some tropical marriage counselling alongside Jon Favreau and Jason Bateman. Sure, it's been more than a decade since *Swingers*, but in our opinion, he's still money.

From the headlines
The Times "Briton Sally Antia faces prison in Dubai on adultery charge"

by Siri Agrell

A British man recently found a unique way to exact revenge on his cheating spouse: He had her arrested. Vincent and Sally Antia had been living in the United Arab Emirates — where adultery is illegal — for more than a decade before Sally reportedly began seeing another man, prompting Vincent to inform local police that she was cheating on him. As a result, she was arrested and spent six weeks in prison. She's since been released and the couple are said to be working on their relationship, but we can't say we're hopeful.

HAVE YOU HEARD?
by Laura Tretheway
New research from Cornell University indicates that the more easily disgusted a person is, the more conservative their politics. In two related studies, squeamish participants were also found to be more likely to disapprove of gay marriage and abortion. But yet, it would seem they can stomach Ann Coulter. Go figure.

It's time to... by Tralee Pearce

START

going to the library again. Along with coupon-clipping and shopping in our closets, we're getting reacquainted with the public library — and wondering why it's been so long. If you haven't checked out your local book room in years, visit its website for a preview. You'll find tools to hunt down your favourite authors and check the borrowing status of current best-sellers. And instead of shelling out \$30 a pop for the latest hardcovers, borrowing those same books is a guilt-free way to find out which writers really speak to you. It's like shopping, without the spending.

STOP

abandoning the garden come September. Just because the kids are back in school doesn't mean it's time to hang up your hoe, says landscape designer Kennedy McRae of HGTV's *Dirty Business*. Clearing fallen leaves, continuing to prune and even planting for next year should be at the top of your fall to-do list. "We plant right up until the end of November," McRae says. His top pick: breezy grasses from the miscanthus family to give your garden shape right through winter. While you're out there, he also suggests rearranging your patio set to take advantage of shifting sun patterns.