

thebulletin

Marketing scams have been aimed at more than half of Britons aged over 15, claims the Office of Fair Trading after a survey of 4,000 people. Fraudsters are using text messages and e-mails, it warns. But if they are all as comically absurd and illiterate as those offering to share a deposed dictator's wealth for a proportion of yours upfront, don't worry too much.

Twenty people were taken to hospital in Greater Manchester when a floor at Premier Education, which supplies schools, collapsed. Suffice to say that the firm might wish to reschedule the health and safety meeting, which all were attending at the time, and any others they plan, to another location.

Children as young as 8 are joining the latest and most murderous street gang yet to emerge from Los Angeles, MS-13. "What's unusual is the degree of violence and the degree of sophistication these kids engage in," says Luis Li, a California state prosecutor. "Young kids used to get into fights over things like sneakers, now it's over territory and money." And that age again: 8.

Cowboy hats symbolise the American West and already cost Texans as much as \$5,000 (£2,870) for a good one. But prices, especially for mid-range hats that mix rabbit and beaver pelts, are rising rapidly. Yes, it's China again. "They're putting rabbit fur on everything," complains Stan Redding, of the Stetson Hat Company in Garland, Texas, explaining how keeping pace with the Chinese has led to a 20 per cent rise in costs.

A definitely maybe never from Dave Gilmour on the prospects of a Pink Floyd tour. The main guitar and voice of the band says that they were "offered a lot of money to go on tour" after the success of the Live8 reunion concert at Hyde Park last July. "Just going out and replaying our old hits again on a tour does not appeal to me at all." But, any chance? "Who knows? I have no plans at all to do that."

Sources: Ananova, Manchester Evening News, The Christian Science Monitor, Billboard

