

Why true love survives the years...

I have heard of some elaborate and strange Valentine gifts - but a 'nose job'?

At least one clinic in Bahrain is offering a Valentine special on cosmetic surgery, which in itself is a reflection on the society we live in.

Looks are all important and cosmetic surgery is hugely sought after, particularly by those desperate to mask the onset of age.

But that is all it can do - mask it - for time moves on however much you try to hold it back.

Valentine's Day is a commercial venture into which we are all drawn, since to fail to send that card, or

those flowers, will be taken to mean that we don't care, that the romance is gone.

No-one really minds the fortunes being made by the corporate Cupids, since it is a chance to tell someone we love them, which can never be a bad thing.

But I suspect treating your loved one to a date with the cosmetic surgeon may well backfire, since it is tantamount to saying you are not happy with the way they look.

Love is about the person within and if it was based only on looks, no marriage would survive the changes brought about by age.



If looks were what kept people together, what wife would stay with the pot-bellied, middle-aged spouse who bears little resemblance to the sleek young man who courted her - or vice-versa?

My own parents were together for more than 60 years until death took my father 18 months or so ago and were

bound by bonds deeper than physical attraction.

We all have our v

I would love my hair back and pay a fortune for it, though in expense of my family's needs I wouldn't mind being adult-size nose is a little bulbous, and I'm too sticky-out and good-wax who wouldn't love to be young if we could wind back the clock. But when I go home each day I find something more important, it the love of a wife and children take me for what I am, serious included - and they are many

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Ban on debate series rapped

600 expected at corrosion expo for

BAHRAIN has been accused of stifling political debate after a series of high-profile seminars was allegedly cancelled because authorities deemed them too sensitive.

The Kitson, a Paris-based non-governmental organisation, was planning to hold monthly debates in Bahrain to address a variety of topics.

Its first dinner-debate on March 8 was due to focus on GCC counter-terrorism, but organisers have been told that local laws prevented it from taking place.

British Ambassador Jamie Bowden and French Ambassador Yves Ducloux were among those expected to take part, along with UN representatives in the International Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme. Jean-Louis Brugui is a former World Policy Institute Middle East Project director. Dr. Alon Ben-Meir.

However, the entire series has been shelved after

Bahrain authorities refused to give it the go-ahead. The Kitson founder Eliza Kitson told the QDN yesterday that she had still not been given any reason for the decision, despite earlier receiving assurances from senior officials at the Interior and Foreign Ministries.



Ms Kitson

She complained that months of planning had now gone to waste.

I was planning to move to Bahrain in the fall and organise a debate every month, which would be great for the country," she said.

Our lawyers in Bahrain took almost eight weeks to inform us that our standard statutes that are completely valid in France and Switzerland have no value in Bahrain.

We've received no explanation from the government or any ministry apart from our lawyers informing us that Bahrain's law does not allow us to hold political debates.

Ms Kitson said that her lawyers were told that the only alternative was to either establish her organisation as a friendly society with the majority of members being Bahrainic, or register as a commercial company.

A trial debate has already taken place in Bahrain in February last year and a senior minister was also expected to patronise forthcoming events here.

I feel like we've been led up the garden path and wasted a year," added Ms Kitson.

We are currently rebranding the event's sponsors, which is very embarrassing. Oh I'm rather glumpy.

In my opinion, how can a country claim to want to embrace foreigners and attract more people when they are doing things like this?

It has totally put us off organising any event in Bahrain in the future, which is very sad as we've got an excellent reputation across Europe and most of the world.

The Kitson was formed in April 2006 as a Parisian debate club where leading chief executive officers, politicians, scientists and journalists could meet and share their views off the record.

It is the brainchild of Ms Kitson, a former correspondent at The Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and The Independent, and cites its aim as 'bonding cultures'.

It is a non-profit organisation and has also conducted regular debates in Geneva since January 2009.

Government officials were unavailable for comment yesterday. eliza@kitson.com.uk



At the signing ceremony are, sitting from left, Mr Sakiguchi and Mr Al Qassbi with other officials

Japan skills chance for graduates

FIFTY Bahraini graduate engineers sponsored by Yasubei are to be trained by experts from Japanese company Yokogawa to equip them with specialist knowledge as systems engineers.

The initiative is part of Yasubei's human capital development programme under which a \$134,000 deal was signed with Yokogawa.

The five-year programme consists of batches of students spending two years working through a three-phase study schedule.

It includes three months of off-the-job, six months of on-the-job and a year of stage training, said Yasubei chief executive

Abdullah Al Qassbi. We believe that Bahrain has one of the best technical engineering education systems in the region and that Bahraini engineering graduates must leverage this advantage with playing a key role in the fast-evolving technological world," he said.

Yokogawa was represented at the signing ceremony by corporate finance and operations senior vice-president Yasuki Sakiguchi, who said the firm was keen to tap the potential of Bahraini engineering graduates.

Yokogawa is producing unique and innovative industrial automation and process

control systems and products and this initiative will help us work closely with promising Bahraini engineering graduates who could help us widen the global reach of our technology," Mr Sakiguchi said.

The programme is open to Bahrainis who are graduate engineers from instrumentation and process control, chemical, electronics, electrical or process automation engineering.

Applicants can contact Yokogawa on 7735040 for details in addition to responding to newspaper advertisements for course placements.

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