



DRUMMER: McInnis

Babs is on a roll aged 90

GREAT granny Barbara McInnis is Britain's "oldest female drummer" - after having lessons with one of Simply Red's original members.

Barbara, 90, who is now in three groups, said she was nervous to get behind the kit at first - after seeing tutor Chris Joyce's studio walls lined with gold and platinum records.

But under his expert tutelage, Barbara, from Morecambe, Lancs, said drumming has given her "a new lease of life".

She added: "It's helped me roll back the years. It's keeping me young."

Chris, 66, was in the pop group from 1985 to 1991.

FACT OF

NUTMEG is a hallucinogen. The spice contains myristicin, which has mind-altering effects if eaten in large doses.

THE DAY



BUMMED OUT: Invader

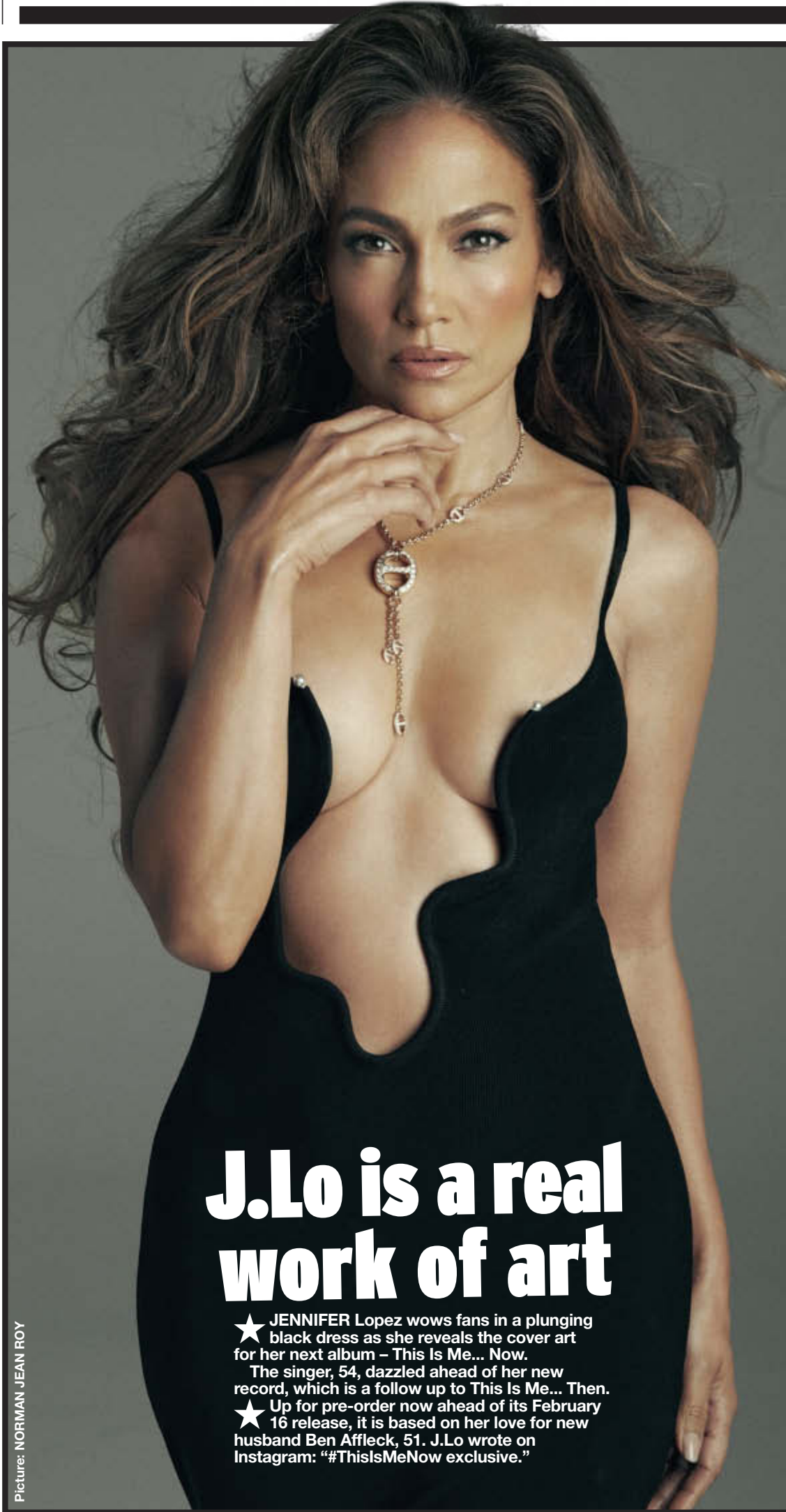
Mink is trapped by stink

AN invasive species of mink is being wiped out thanks to scent from their own anal glands.

Conservationists from Waterlife Recovery Trust use the scent to lure them into traps lined up to cut off East Anglia from the rest of the country.

They believe the method could be used across the UK to wipe out the predatory American mink, which was brought to the UK to be farmed for its fur.

Balloonatics



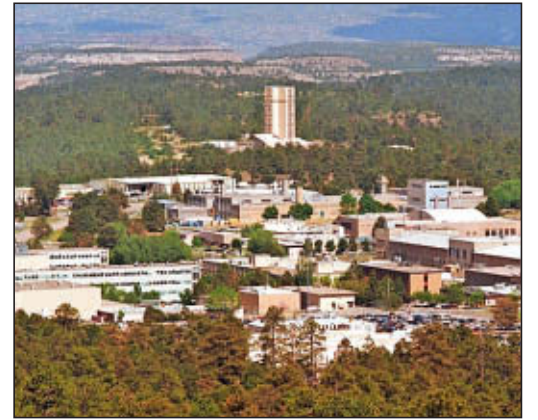
Picture: NORMAN JEAN ROY

J.Lo is a real work of art

★ JENNIFER Lopez wows fans in a plunging black dress as she reveals the cover art for her next album - This Is Me... Now.

The singer, 54, dazzled ahead of her new record, which is a follow up to This Is Me... Then.

★ Up for pre-order now ahead of its February 16 release, it is based on her love for new husband Ben Affleck, 51. J.Lo wrote on Instagram: "#ThisIsMeNow exclusive."



INVENTIONS: The Los Alamos National Lab

BOFFINS FLOAT IDEA OF NEW TRAVEL MODE

by DAVID O'DORNAN

BOFFINS are designing a giant balloon for air travel that could rival fuel-guzzling planes.

They say their "vacuum balloon" could eventually carry humans and travel "as fast as a commercial airliner".

Physicists at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory - the atomic bomb lab as seen in Cillian Murphy's *Oppenheimer* - are working on the project.

They are attempting to create a solid ball that is lighter than the surrounding atmosphere - allowing it to hover.

Scientists say the balloon could also be used for surveillance by spy agencies or to deliver parcels.

Physicist Miles Beauvais said: "We have not managed to make something float yet but we have tested vessels that are 34 times the density of air."

"And we have shown a proof of concept for making vessels that are 10 times the density of air, so we are within one order



FILM: Cillian at the lab

of magnitude of actually reaching air buoyancy.

"They're at least 98% empty space, so they're mostly made of nothing."

"I had the idea that maybe you could make one with a density low enough that it would float in air."

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KIM'S WEAPON BLASTS IN SEA

NORTH Korea has fired a ballistic missile over the sea - its first such launch in about a month.

South Korea said the provocative launch took place on Sunday near Pyongyang and flew about 600 miles before coming down in the Sea of Japan.

Japan's Defence Ministry said it had detected the possible ballistic missile launch by North Korea.

Dictator Kim Jong-Un's country has been test-firing its Hwasong-18 solid-fuelled, intercontinental missile, designed to strike mainland US.

