Nepal finally has an Information Technology (IT) strategy. “We’ve missed the industrial revolution and the green revolution, but we don’t want to miss this one,” said Surendra Chaudhary, our S&T minister who is a self-confessed fan of India’s cyberspace, Chandrababu Naidu. Chaudhary reckons Nepal can earn Rs10 billion from exporting IT products in five years. Nepal wants to model itself after Andhra Pradesh, but the private sector says the government has got one thing wrong: Indian industry gets duty-free hardware and software imports. In Nepal, we still tax the knowledge economy. Equipment coming into the proposed IT Park in Banepa will have a one-per-cent duty for five years. There have been no major investors in Nepal since 1997, and from the look of it, the new policy is not going to change that. Here’s a tip for an amendment: allow duty-free hardware and software imports and provide incentives to this dollar-earning sector.

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EXTRAORDINARY NEPALIS

In media schools, they teach you that news is whatever is out of the ordinary. When something becomes commonplace, it is negative that makes the news. Thousands of buses travel safely to their destinations every day. That does not make news. The bus that fails into the Trisuli is that reported.

Having said that, buses are now failing so frequently into the Trisuli that it takes a threshold fatality of at least three passengers before it is even reported by the national news agency. Usually, it needs at least ten dead to be broadcast on Radio Nepal unless some bigwig on board, and 15 to make it to the evening television news. Like a tree that topples in the middle of a forest, unless there is someone there to witness the event, it hasn’t happened.

It is the same with the Maoist body count. When a schoolteacher is hacked to death in Gorkha, or a VDC chairman is shot in Baglung while jogging as he is on the front page, the railway accident in Kathmandu—an accident which killed several people—is news because it was extraordinary. These Nepalis are news because they are extraordinary. They are the chairman who refuses to be on the take, the MP who walks to the House, the police officer who mixing cheaper kerosene in diesel, an international civil servant who generates, by the sheer injustice, or a blatant disregard of the common man, your prioritise theft: by magnitude of the money involved, by the misery it causes. It’s news. It is the bus that falls into the Trisuli that is reported.

There’s an old saying that the only thing constant is change. It is news because change is extraordinary.

The other thing about news is the pace with which it happens. Suddenly and spectacularly. So, the fact that more Nepali mothers die at birth in this new millennium than during the entire 19th century is news. There are thousands of babies drying up and dying of diarrhoeal dehydration do not make it to the news. To take notice, media demands that they die suddenly and spectacularly. So the fact that more Nepali mothers die at childbirth than anywhere else in the world is not really newsworthy for us.

It is a big dilemma for the Nepali media to cover corruption. When corruption becomes widespread, and even accepted, it is not news anymore. In fact, coverage of corruption is so rare that when it does happen the average reader’s reaction is that the story is motivated and an attempt to undermine the government.

We have heard of hotel escavades in a British terminal in London, and images. The Sai Baba phenomenon, like the Falung Gong or Christian evangelical phenomenon, like the Falung Gong and images. The Sai Baba guru to see that he does perform a function in this city which is suffering ecological and neurological diseases. (Finance and Defence Minister Dipendra Purush Dhakal are devout Sai Baba disciples.)

These are the kind of stories that make the headlines. We want to believe in an honest government. It’s news. It is the bus that falls into the Trisuli that is reported.
Nepal is not a substantial contributor to climate change and may not suffer its worst immediate impact, but it could be seriously affected by melting glaciers like Tsho Rolpa (above).

Volunteers

I couldn’t help but notice that your piece was a particularly stunning issue. I thought that the feature on page 6 “Goodwill ambassadors” was especially well researched, and written with just the right sense of empathy, analysis and appreciation.

Simon Forrester
Office/UNV Programme

Correction

The credit for the two pictures illustrating the story “Back to the future, two decades back” (page 4, #19) should have gone to Nick Dawson instead of what inadvertently appeared — Ed.

LETTERS

Nick Mulin
Pune

“Oil and corruption” Much as I would like to, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find something to feel good about Nepal. Reading your page one piece “Nepal corruption” (#19) was for me the final straw. Something so open and direct as adulteration cannot be stopped even when the culprits are in prison behind a wall of petrol in broad daylight. And boasting about it! It points to failures of social control and a failure of civil society. When a middle class becomes so apathetic and soldiers are not even ashamed to be something as glaring as this, its a sinister implication — it means democracy is not real problems our country is facing and the corruption that feeds it.

San Shrestha
via Internet

Why are our party leaders such a bunch of jokers? Mother Nepal with her supporters protested in front of Singh Durbar (#12) but instead of protesting about the hike in petrol prices they should first think about the real problems our country is going through like unemployment, education, corruption and Maoists who are causing chaos in the villages.

Jiders Pokhara

Here and there

Thank you for your front page on petroleum adulteration (#19). Through your paper I, as a Nepali consumer, want to tell this to the government: I don’t care about rising prices. In fact, double the price of fuel—but make sure we get what we pay for. And I have another message for the opposition: stop painting about fuel price hike, do something about adulteration and the corruption that feeds it.

Manjushree Thapa
Kathmandu

Incredible human dignity or one told by “New Orientals.” (Here and There, #20) While boys in Mongolia I was way from the start. My Oriental radar did beep several times during the film, but I was so won over by Paul Pena that I eventually threw away that radar. Pena never arms himself against his unfamiliar milieu; he opens his heart to humanity. That the rest of us might remain equally open when we travel...or even worse, when we travel...or even worse,

Daniel Lak

Max Mali
Pune

Online and Oil The United States faces an existential threat in the sense that it has a sinister implication — it means democracy is not

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After five years of exponential growth, the high local phone market is stifled by the local phone tariffs.

**Nepal’s ISP e-economics**

**By DANIEL LAK**

The debate that followed the American election is being played on the next level. Several classes of non-criminal human beings on the high and low rungs of society concede that, earth, the United States, legal eagles near high, and one they’ve locked the democratic process. That’s probably one of the least of their sins in the overall scheme of things.

Yes, lawyers are essential if there is to be law, the presumption of innocence and protection of fundamental rights. Gunman daze is an imminent gene in the fray and faction, and I confess to being rather front of the novels of John Grisham, a lawyer by profession. Check out the films “Twelve Angry Men” with Henry Fonda, and “Inherit the Wind” featuring Spencer Tracy as the great Clarence Darrow — as close to a lawyer-hero as America has ever had.

Those stirring images show the legal process at its theatrical best, with reasoned and goodwill that will thwart after a tussle of immense intellectual proportions. But these days, as more television channels is an industry to create new ones where the existing structure doesn’t serve the clients’ purpose. If the laws were simple and straightforward, if courts dispensed true justice, if all people and corporations behaved as they should, even the most despised class of non-criminal human beings on the planet Earth — the political equivalent of letting the fox baby-sit the geese. Lawyers dominate democratic governments — the political equivalent of letting the fox baby-sit the chickens.

TALK TO MY LAWYER

Lawyers dominate democratic governments — the political equivalent of letting the fox baby-sit the chickens.
“We’re thinking about special rates for data communications, but it’s only a proposal,” says Raghubar Lal Shrestha, general manager of the NTC.

player in the market, especially one that has total control of the telephone network,” says Agarwal. “The NTC, which sells everything from telephone numbers to Internet access, also has the power to oversell its resources and distort the market. “People are scared to put in too much money to get into a market,” he says. “The NTC is in a position to make connectivity look attractive but when the money isn’t there, the NTC is unwilling to accept that the increase in the number of lines is due to the addition of new lines and not just the expense of setting up new lines in the system. But the relatively low prices, they add. NTC’s numbers are up but users aren’t talking. They have little use for the NTC’s data phones and, yes, the Internet. It also says that the NTC’s profits are higher than the competition in many cases, especially after the advent of Internet phones or the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services.

All this is easiness to the ISPs, especially because we are already talking about e-commerce and the need to base our growth on the knowledge economy. Internet access is not the NTC’s main line of business, so it is unlikely that it would concentrate on promoting connectivity as much as private VoIP services. That is the reality that faces the government’s recent announcement that we should look towards a knowledge economy and the NTC’s current interest in telecommunication.

Clockwise from left: Worldlink’s PVR-SAT antenna is available at Durbar Marg. Sanjib Rajbhandari of Mercantile Worldlink Communications P. Ltd. is happy about his server room at Hatisar. Clockwise from left: Worldlink’s PVR-SAT antenna is available at Durbar Marg.

Five-star fracas

Just to recap: Two hotel unions decided to go on indefinite strike from 11 December demanding a 10 percent service charge on top of their salaries.

• Hotel owners said no way, and threatened a lockout.

The government backed the hotel owners and on the eve of the strike convinced the unions to agree to a two-month moratorium.

Bucking hotel owners said we’ve lost business anyway so we will remain closed, and started evicting guests from their own hotels.

• Prime minister met hotel owners and coaxed them to reopen, which they did.

A rift between tourism entrepreneurs prompted owners to reluctantly lift the lockout “in the interest of the economy.” But travel trade sources tell us much of the damage has already been done. Many Christmas and Millennium bookings have been cancelled.

airlines have curtailed flights and hotels are nearly empty. “The situation is murky,” said one hotel owner. “Since there is no business for the next few months it would be better to remain closed and force the issue once and for all.” Some HAN members are angry that after all this heartbreak, the issue has not been resolved, just postponed. In two months, the Tourism Industry will have to go through the whole bitter experience again.

A high-level government mediation panel is looking into the union demand for service charge and is supposed to come up with a recommendation in two months.

No school

With the government unable to provide security to schools that wanted to defy a 8-14 December closure called by a Maoist student union, most schools all over Nepal (even international schools in Kathmandu) remained closed this week. Talks between the student union, parent reps, school teachers and the government failed to find a way out. Not surprising given the nature of the 15 demands put forward by the students’ group which included return of Nepali territory occupied by “foreign powers,” free secondary education, nationalisation of private schools, banning the national anthem and the teaching of Sanskrit. The Private and Boarding School Organisation, Nepal (PABSON) says it’s had enough. It will not abide by future threats to close schools. It is seeking support of all parents, teachers, students and school authorities to ensure education is not disrupted. It has also called upon national and international human rights agencies to monitor such threats. Among the Maoist demand is nationalisation of private schools, which presently accounts for the education of about 1.5 million students and employment for over 75,000 teachers and administrative staff.

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“All the king's horses and all the king's men”

Every time talks with the Maoists seem to be getting somewhere, a monkey wrench flies in from nowhere and destroys all trust.

by BARBARA ADAMS

There was a common wisdom in Nepal that there will be no dialogues with the Maoists. And there was no attention paid to what the government keeps calling “the Maoist problem.” Until after the Congress Party had taken office in Kathmandu in January. I don’t think it would be considered “tactical” to estimate that the Maoists are a serious and present danger, and that the longer the country has such a leader, the more he will become a rallying point. Fighters will wander further, those people will either be deflected from their homes, jobs or schools, or join the Maoists, and the chaos and anomie in the capital will be even more noticeable at least.

If we wait much longer to talk, negotiate, and give them the kind of government they long for, it may be too late. We could get to that point through a nuclear phrase about all the king’s horses and the kindergartners couldn’t put Humpty Dumpty together again..." In the aftermath of the Talavu massacre, the Maoists’ Kathmandu chief, Baburam Bhattarai, called in Brussels. And the closing down of schools, the closure of businesses, the banning of all gatherings, the police sometimes getting a “strike frame” (truly sensing some kind of “special” feeling?)... International humanitarian groups may have some dangerous implications for Nepal.

One area in which there should be no discussion about international law is the issue of habeas corpus in finding separate international justice institutions specializing in conflict mediation. Because the situation is in such a serious and present government, seems to be focusing more on factional quarrels in the morass.

Few foreign wars where police destroy the family’s ganja plantation in Makawanpur, in Bagmati district last week.

At Antalaka, looked into the regional police offices. The resident chief district there was an expert on growing marijuana. But he complained said ganja was so widespread that there was money to be made in the crop with their present manpower. At the Indian police post, Jagdeep Prasad Jha told us: “We have information that Indian buyers provide armed protection to farmers to transport ganja to the border.” A local Nepali Congress leader told us: “We have information that Indian buyers provide armed protection to farmers themselves. Many local politicians own the land, and benefit from the lease. They grow ganja themselves, but they have told farmers not to pay even Rs 200 to the police since it is "the police's own protection." Their constituents depend on it. And so, it seems, do the local prs. Local police officials will tell you privately that everyone gets a cut from this well-greased trade, and that is why it runs so smoothly. All local organs here and doing marijuana cultivation.

Maoist problem,” until after the Congress Party is so serious and the present government is willing to talk on behalf of the government and the Maoists. And are our police representatives of the military apparatus would make sense to them. After all, the Maoists consider themselves at war, so negotiating with them might be getting somewhere, a “stop the war” approach.

But just how much marijuana cultivation benefits the villagers is an open question. The reason is the duty of Makawanpur district, it is difficult to see any viable stop of import/export standards when so much of the international marijuana is of course medicinally, and the middlemen and officials along the way have been paid off. Not for the people like Thulimaya Tamang of Makwanpur. It is still a short-term concessions. I have a friend of his who wants to stop every 100 kg to the border. “I can make money,” he said, “by burning the ganja. I have no information of Indians coming into the ganja economy. Some people transporting marijuana to the border.” A local Nepali Congress leader told us: “We have information that Indian buyers provide armed protection to farmers of their involvement in the business. Some foreign “special forces” unit? Getting a “strike force” trained by the military and a neutral venue could cool the atmosphere for compromise. The longer the country and the present government couldn’t put Humpty Dumpty together again. In the aftermath of the Talavu massacre, the Maoists’ Kathmandu chief, Baburam Bhattarai, called in Brussels. And the closing down of schools, the closure of businesses, the banning of all gatherings, the police sometimes getting a “strike frame” (truly sensing some kind of “special” feeling?)... International humanitarian groups may have some dangerous implications for Nepal.

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Voices with vision

The Bhutanese refugee children’s photography project

The Rose Class

The Rose Class was a participatory photography project that ran during the summer of 1998 in Beldangi II Extension camp, which houses 10,000 Bhutanese refugees. The project worked with 13 Bhutanese refugee students, aged between 15 and 17, teaching them photography and providing them with a medium through which to document and write about their lives. The group called themselves the Rose Class because the beautiful rose was their favourite flower.

During the project, through photographs, writing and painting the group recorded day to day life in the camp and their hopes, fears and frustrations. The Rose Class became a platform from which the students could tell outsiders their stories and their dream that they might one day be able to return to Bhutan. The Rose Class put together an exhibition of their work in the refugee camp and this was followed by a collaborative exhibition with Street Vision in London. The students of the Rose Class have spent nearly half of their lives living in the camps. The Rose Class was organised by Photo Voice, a London-based group dedicated to raising awareness and providing means of creative empowerment to displaced persons around the world.

Through study every individual can be led onto a brighter path. It is consolation to the old, ornament to the rich and wealth to the poor. Being refugees we do not have anything to do and we do not have property, only our education is with us.

It is consolation to the old, ornament to the rich and wealth to the poor. Being refugees we do not have anything to do and we do not have property, only our education is with us.

Because we do not have much work to do we joke with each other to pass time. Our huts in camp are so close that we often meet with our friends. Whenever there is a group of people they will talk about Bhutan.

Because we do not have much work to do we joke with each other to pass time. Our huts in camp are so close that we often meet with our friends. Whenever there is a group of people they will talk about Bhutan.

If real tears are an indisputable sign of grief, then glass tears could possibly be the mark of insincerity. From looking at our faces you see no tears but our internal hearts are crying.

This is a 97 year-old man who lives in the camp. He thinks life is like smoke that a puff of wind can disperse. He is a pessimist. He says in Bhutan he was very rich and that he came to Nepal with only the clothes that he was wearing. Now he is poor: his clothes, plates and pots are from UNHCR. He complains that he will die without seeing his country again. He tells me that is not the way to think, that our problems will soon be solved.

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The refugee children photographed, wrote and painted, recording their hopes, fears and frustrations.

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If real tears are an indisputable sign of grief, then glass tears could possibly be the mark of insincerity. From looking at our faces you see no tears but our internal hearts are crying.

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This is a 97 year-old man who lives in the camp. He thinks life is like smoke that a puff of wind can disperse. He is a pessimist. He says in Bhutan he was very rich and that he came to Nepal with only the clothes that he was wearing. Now he is poor: his clothes, plates and pots are from UNHCR. He complains that he will die without seeing his country again. He tells me that is not the way to think, that our problems will soon be solved.

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**Way out**

Japanese consulting firm Nippon Keoi has nearly finalised a study on an alternative road leading out of Kathmandu Valley which would avoid the Thakot bottleneck and cut commuting time by half.

The proposed road will link Sitapaila in the Valley with Dharke in Dhading district, avoiding the Naubise-Thankot stretch, one of Nepal’s busiest roadways. The Naubise-Thankot road was upgraded three years ago to support 3,000 vehicles daily, but over 2,800 cars, buses and other vehicles use it every day. The 25.4 km link from Sitapaila will take 34 months to complete, cost Rs 4 billion to build and another Rs 654 million to compensate landowners along the alignment.

**Duty drawback**

The government’s inability to make duty drawback payments on time has frustrated exporters, mainly three major Indian joint ventures: Nepal Lever, Dabur Nepal and Colgate-Palmolive, the company says. The money payable to the three companies is over Rs 400 million.

**Hukum certified**

The International Organisation for Standardization has awarded Hukum Pharmaceuticals Private Limited (PHPL) ISO 9002 certification, the first for a pharmaceutical company in Nepal. The certification means PHPL’s products are of international standards, and paying way for the company to aim at international sales. ISO is a federation of bodies that sets production standards in 130 countries.

**Sick mill**

Lack of working capital and raw material forced closure of the Hetauda Textile Industry last week. The mill, with an annual capacity of 11 million metres of textiles, had been operating only for a few hours each day since early November until raw materials finally ran out last week. This is the first time the factory has stopped working, and every time the operations halted, the government had restarted the looms by injecting more money. This has cost the government Rs 17 million so far, the officials say.

**Orthodox tea**

The production of orthodox CTC tea has slumped by over 10% this year, the government has restarted the looms by injecting more money. This has cost the government Rs 17 million so far, the officials say. The Nehru regime left us with empty coffers, and the Rana regime followed it up by building palatial neo-classical structures during a flourishing time. Thirty years of one-party democracy ensured the creation of an economic class at the cost of a hardwoodness. We’ve never needed the services of a British or a colonial superintendent to cause economic imbalance, we have it in our soil, culture and spiritualism. No one has any complaints about the tourism in this country in the past months! We’ve decided this time to remain in a 50-year capital country mindset first: second or second from the bottom, and we have left India to industrialize this nice future.

The effects of the past week’s strike in Nepal will be felt for a long time: other Asian nations too competing with Nepal today, like Vietnam and Laos, couldn’t cough cash in on tourism due to perturbed problems of security and uncertainty. That’s why we’ve overcome these problems and are marketing their countries well, while Nepal is saddled with such a mess, that on that top level, we think twice before visiting. The impact of Western nations have been challenged by Pakistan and Japan; this is the time to shine, it is the moment. The government’s basic attitude and indefatigable will to bring the problem slamming into its wake, it is the moment. The Prime Minister gave verbal assurances to the business community that he’d look into the matter, but everyone knows what that means. The Prime Minister cannot see how this problem won’t recur after two months. On the other hand, the government has asked for new proposals and only timeline reveal all the implications.

After the restoration of elections and the new government is taken place, the corruption in this country is a step-alarmistical reality.

**Grindlays Gazette**

**INTEREST RATE UPDATE**

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**ZeabRose LEATHER MUSEUM**

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**BIZ NEWS**

**ECONOMIC SENSE**

by ARTHA BEED

We have never learned to deal with our problems.

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**ZeabRose**

(8) 2492, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: 428497

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Hotel Radisson Road, Lazimpat.

**Grindlays Bank**

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**INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR NEPALI TIMES**

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EXCLUSIVE LEATHER BOUTIQUE

Designer made Suede and Nappa Leather Garments & Bags

With experience we understand that leather is a “Transformism” Par excellence, and our garments are the perfect example of how the creative talent of our workers transforms and exudes leather in to a beautiful piece of art. We also provide custom tailoring.

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**IOUB**

Oil selling pressure in the wake of expectations of Iraq resuming its oil exports in the next few days sent crude oil prices sliding down last week. Suspension of Iraq’s exports has already cut oil supply by about 2.3 million barrels per day, a fifth of world oil.

**Currencies**

The U.S dollar has been under pressure against the Euro and other European currencies over the past two months. As Iraq exports about 2.3 million barrels of oil, the global crude oil market has been increasingly bubbled by a drop in global crude oil prices due to a surge in foreign exchange reserves to a new high. Reserves rose by $4.98 billion over the past month, driven by inflows from State Banks. Data on Saturday showed foreign exchange reserves of $71 billion, up from a record high of $59.21 billion in the week ending December 1.
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Suddenly there were Bugs everywhere.


The Great Himalayan Volkswagen Beetle Rally last weekend raised enough money for 60 hare and cleft lip operations for Nepalis.


A NEPALI TIMES CAREER

Suddenly, there were Bugs everywhere on the Arniko Highway. A large new four-wheel drive was overtaken by a wildly cooing pride of cars—1964 Beetles. Minutes later, a yellow 1974 Bug zoomed by the 4WD as happily as it is possible for a car that belches, brightly, in a Hoonati Illustration. The occupants of the bug looked on in amazement as the neo-propelled Bugs disappeared in a cloud of yellow dust.


Thirty-one of Raminder’s loyally maintained Beetles, the oldest 37 years, and the youngest 25, drew in passers-by from the Yal and Yali hotel to the Himalayan Sharang—La Nazim in Dhulikhel last Saturday to raise money for the Ganesh Foundation that supports corrective surgery for Nepalis with cleft lips.

Supporting a good cause was incentive enough, certainly, but there was also an equal measure of the financial clout pride of Bug owners in evidence. The Cult of the Beetle remains a mystery to the uninformed, but the owners esteem their Bugs owners towards their Bugs is almost akin. It also resonates generalisations, and there were many enthusiastic participations of the rally who were simply born after production of the Bug had ceased. A national obsession between two complete strangers at the parking lot of the Yal and Yali ran something like this: “Which one is yours?!” “The blue 1974 over there.” “Oh, nope, is it a boy or girl?” “It’s a boy, his name is Narayan.”

Said and done. Assimilating in Nepali to get married, Raminder was sent in the British army’s Gorkha regiment, and both share a passion for Beetles. They showed up Saturday morning—the day after their wedding—in a 1967 Beetle festooned with balloons, a Nepali flag and a discotheque for Jagathi Junction. Dhulikhel.


But it wasn’t just the rally, it was also a day-long flea market where the Beetlers shared their passion for this strange-looking four-wheel drive as haughtily as it is possible for a car that belches, brightly, in a Hoonati Illustration. The occupants of the bug looked on in amazement as the neo-propelled Bugs disappeared in a cloud of yellow dust.


Every car made it, though, for Nepalis with cleft lips.


It was fit for its age. The smoke it sputtered on arrival, the handling system. But the old Bug reached the finish line without problems. The road conditions were unsurpassed,” he says proudly.


“Why do you think it’s still going strong after all these years?”


Says Susan: “Dr Thapa was my childhood friend, he did my cleft surgery. While he was in the British army’s Gorkha regiment, he met Sharad, who was in the same regiment. Sharad had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They realised their shared passion for this strange-looking four-wheel drive. A lot of our people could lead to interesting things. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.


31 Beetle owners a year for more than a year,” says the New Zealander. The rally to raise money for the Ganesh Foundation was organised by Susan Fowlds who came to Nepal in 1996. She soon met Dr Marjan Thapa, former director of Nepal Children’s Hospital, and a plastic-surgeon. Susan had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.


With that, a rally that was brought into Nepal by King Mahendra for his personal use, now participated in the rally. Although it was not as fast as the Beetles in England, it was still in fine condition. The road was not very good, but the road was not very good, but they took along an old Beetle that was well maintained and in good condition.


The rally was organised by Susan Fowlds who came to Nepal in 1996. She soon met Dr Marjan Thapa, former director of Nepal Children’s Hospital, and a plastic-surgeon. Susan had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.


Which was the name of many of the rally participants. The rally to raise money for the Ganesh Foundation was organised by Susan Fowlds who came to Nepal in 1996. She soon met Dr Marjan Thapa, former director of Nepal Children’s Hospital, and a plastic-surgeon. Susan had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.


“Which one is yours?”


Satindra Bajracharya receives his T-shirt prize from Susan Fowlds.


or another, and Susan Fowlds is very pleased with the results. “We raised enough money for one operation a week for more than a year,” says the New Zealander. The Ganesh Foundation is so named because many boys born with cleft-lips in Nepal are called Ganesh. Which was the name of many of the rally participants.


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Said Bernice: “Sharad had a 1967 Beetle festooned with balloons, a Nepali flag and a discotheque for Jagathi Junction. Dhulikhel. Everyone was confident they’d make it to the finish line without problems. The road was not very good, but they took along an old Beetle that was well maintained and in good condition.


The rally to raise money for the Ganesh Foundation was organised by Susan Fowlds who came to Nepal in 1996. She soon met Dr Marjan Thapa, former director of Nepal Children’s Hospital, and a plastic-surgeon. Susan had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.


31 Beetle owners a year for more than a year,” says the New Zealander. The rally to raise money for the Ganesh Foundation was organised by Susan Fowlds who came to Nepal in 1996. She soon met Dr Marjan Thapa, former director of Nepal Children’s Hospital, and a plastic-surgeon. Susan had a white Volkswagen Beetle, and found out that Dr Thapa owned a Beetle. They decided to gather Raminder’s Beetle owners together for a rally. But, they needed a cause for what would certainly be a fund-raiser, so we chose the inexcusable asset of the cleft lip.
In 1934, Adolf Hitler was in prison for an unsuccessful putsch on the Federal German capital. However, he used his hands in the future; Rihner declined an ingenious plan to solve Germany’s unemployment problem. The government would build special road-carivable for motor vehicles, a vehicle that would bear a name: a car that the man on the street could afford. These were the humble beginnings of the Peasant Car of the Volkswagen. Nearly a decade later, in 1935, the Volkswagen Beetle was launched. The body styling itself dates back to 1931, to a car called the KdF Wagen, which never reached production. However, Ferdinand Porsche, who insisted on the car’s supercharging, designed, at least, twenty passenger vehicles in history, will be planned to learn that the only prototype built was usable for expansion. By 1942 the factory was handed over to the German Air Force when just over 600 cars had been built. By 1949, the annual production rate potential was projected to be 1.5 million cars per year. Unfortunately, that never reached production.

The prototype "people's car" put on the market in 1938, Adolf Hitler's vision of a car that was to be the people's car. The car was to be a model of the Beetle as we know it today, with fewer bulbs, a more bulbous bonnet. Production of the Kubelwagen continued until 1945. The new management decided to keep the car's unique design, but with improved design, or a sadly pretender is skin deep. Of course, it was not until 1954, after the war, that the Beetle was produced close to 20,000 cars annually. By 1949, in fact, there were even an export market, and production had reached a million. Various changes were made to the Beetle over the years, but the car was steadily growing in popularity. Most of the changes were to do with increasing engine size and aesthetic specifications. The Beetle matched its highest ever production in 1969 (almost 1.1 million bugs). By 1970, it tried to improve on a good thing and produced a markedly different Beetle which tried to overcome the criticism of the car's small Richard-Bennett. The most visible changes were a slightly curved windshield and a more bulbous bumper. Production fell every year afterwards, although by 1993 the Beetle was officially the most popular car ever in the world, with over 15 million having been produced. The final model of the Beetle as we know it today, was produced in 1998, and the last car produced was the Beetle Convertible.

The business end of a 1940s model Beetle

February 1933, the Nazis went to power at the first cabinet meeting Hitler laid out his coming plan. Work on the automobile began in September, and a mystifying design firm working with Saunders, headed by one Ferdinand Porsche, was commissioned to design the people's car within ten months. However, it wasn't until 1938 that the design for the Volkswagen was finalized. Hitler specified certain criteria the car must meet: it must have a top speed of 62 mph and achieve 42 miles per gallon, it must have an air-cooled engine and be able to transport two adults and three children. And most importantly, it should market at no more than 350 marks. It was a meagre sum of money that Ferdinand Porsche decided on a one-seater car, the car was then known as the Type 60. He experimented with various engine designs: flat four, vertical four cylinder, two cylinder, but none of them proved adequate. In 1936, a new Austrian engineer at the firm came up with a design for a flat four engine in twos. Accountants and other greedy, careful people checked it out, and it is thought to be the most financially viable option. The same engine design has driven the Volkswagen Beetle for the last 60 years. Ferdinand Porsche had been working on other cars for various manufacturers before the Volkswagen and he incorporated some design ideas within this new project. The backbone chassis and the idea of independent, front and rear suspension came from one car, and the transversal front suspension was patented by Volkswagen back in 1935. The body styling itself dates back to 1931, to a car called the KdF Wagen, which never reached production. However, Ferdinand Porsche, who insisted on the car's supercharging, designed, at least, twenty passenger vehicles in history, will be planned to learn that the only prototype built was usable for expansion. By 1942 the factory was handed over to the German Air Force when just over 600 cars had been built. By 1949, the annual production rate potential was projected to be 1.5 million cars per year. Unfortunately, that never reached production.

The prototype "people's car"
Dancing titles

There is now an exciting and viable alternative to video games: computer karaoke!

Naruto, introducing the first machines into UK arcades in 1998. But the games are coming to an end—within the next six months or so, the last of them will be pulling out of the markets

This summer sees the release of ReMastered, an annunciate version of the arcade game, which actually came from bands with a social conscience. The music will be

This photo shows the release of Sega’s Dancing Stage has been bolstered by the inclusion of wavey-toothed tracks by top gay group, Kissaman and Giteh, which are as important. We hope that Dancing Stage will have a similar appeal as it aims to carry an avowedly traditional, “no-nonsense” groove. The game even includes a caloric counter, making it possibly the first computer game to get you fit...

While music’s credit ratings will change on their plans, it’s likely that women, whom the music market needs if these videogames are ever to become truly mainstream, will be

This is the story of how electronic samba was born. It has more than symbolic significance; it has been a trailblazer for the ultimate music portal. And the

The deal with BMG gives the company a chance to exploit the vast potential of the online music market. The genre has been a huge boon for Napster, which has been

The Bertelsmann takeover of VNU may end the days of free downloads.

Napster and its champion, Shawn Fanning (OL), has been hit. No judge would dare close down the music website after the supreme court which it has just attacked. Bertelsmann, Atari far as the software giant, has the fastest-rising music program of all time. No judge would have even considered it. No judge would have even considered it...
In your writings and lectures on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, you constantly refer to the centrality of 1948. Why?

“I don’t think you can understand what’s happening today unless you understand what happened in 1948. A society made up primarily of Arabs in Palestine was destroyed and displaced. The population of the Arab population of 870,000 was driven out, driving the Palestinians into Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.”

Mr. Arafat had no intention of uprooting any of the settlements. These are the settlements that became the Jewish state of Israel. It’s easy to forget things.

The Alternative Nobel

The Alternative Nobel is also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, established in 1980 by Nippon Gakushuin University in Japan. The prize is awarded to individuals who have contributed to society through their work in various fields, including human rights, international peace, and environmental conservation.

The prize is awarded annually and recognizes achievements that are not recognized by the traditional Nobel Prizes.

The Alternative Nobel is awarded in the following categories:

- Peace
- Development
- Human Rights
- Ecology
- Science
- Literature

The prize is awarded by a committee of eight members, who are appointed by the International Foundation for Alternatives.

The prize includes a certificate, a plaque, and a cash award.

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Brazilian border encircling India’s security, but it is a long and slow process. At the moment, the number of effective border patrol units is still small, and the border region remains vulnerable.

Tigercat collapse

Seth Darville

In Indonesia, tiger poaching is treated the same way as stealing a chicken.

In Indonesia, tiger poaching is treated the same way as stealing a chicken. The government has adopted a raft of anti-poaching measures, including increased patrol officers, stronger penalties for poachers, and efforts to remove snares and other traps. However, these efforts have been hampered by a lack of funding and resources, as well as a lack of political will to address the issue.

A tiger in Indonesia is killed for its bones, which are used for traditional medicine and other purposes. The illegal trade in tiger parts is a major problem in Indonesia, and the country is one of the largest exporters of these products. The government has taken steps to combat the trade, including increasing penalties and funding anti-poaching efforts.

However, the poaching problem persists, and new poaching cases are still being reported. The situation is particularly urgent in the province of Kalimantan, where the tiger population is rapidly declining. The government has acknowledged the problem and has taken steps to address it, but much more needs to be done to protect these magnificent creatures.
Was there a yeti in the Royal Zoo?

by Desmond Doig

The ascending humans, beasts and divinities are each ten times stronger than the other so that the accumulative strength protecting the temple image is enormous.

They look gigantic with a case of dwarfism.

With this two-form rhino above the horses, we enter into conjecture again. Were these potential beasts brought from the localities in the heavy chains they were to fight before being held, or were they exhibitionists that they wear such rich decorative clothes so that they may have been housed and exhibited by the processions.

The anonymous sculpture, however, has ostentatious necklaces which some of the larger figures wear with their heavy chains making me believe they belonged to the royal procession or were watched in daily, distinctive by the colour they were.

Still top above the chimps are the sheep that are patterned in all the sculptures. Undoubtedly they portray wild sheep, yaks, deer, oxen, apes or could they possibly be yeti? They have human faces with beards, manes and mammarys. But their eyes are pricked like animals, their bodies are as much animal as they are muscular human. The way they which cannot but point to the wild. And they wear head ropes of captivity, to be possible that a Shiva lingam horned apes in his zoo, or had the sculpture rather himself seen or heard the tale of wildness of the animal?

Early we are upset of canals, the only two stone sculptured canals in the Kathmandu valley. In fact, it is in Kathmandu, carved into an ornament wooden window and here on the steps of the Bhagwati temple, that canals are sculptured into the temple image and figures. Could it be they echo the canal dancers that crossed the high Gobi desert on their way to Tibet and Nepal? Or do they recall the canals of the Nepalese desert that the early Rajput immigrants remembered?

I have been unable to discover the purpose of these delightful sculptures other than that they protect the deity in the temple. Many of the great temples of Kathmandu have their entrance guarded by legendary guardians of superhuman strength. One remarkable example is the ascending humans, beasts and divinities each ten times stronger than the other so that the accumulative strength protects the temple image is enormous.

This Durga temple was raised in the seventeenth century, in all probability by the brothers like of the Khasik, King Shripatindra Malla. His love of the beautiful certainly become my will, make him responsible for this temple and its unique sculptures. If only he had kept a diary, I’d love to know about that apes, that yeti.

(Excerpted with permission from the Kingdom of the Gods, HarperCollins, 1999)
Uncaring government
Saptak Bhakta, 8 December

Most of the ministers are not carrying out their duties in the manner that is expected of them. The highly deplorable and irresponsible behavior of some is causing serious questions about the entire government. Ministers who have assigned duties to control the great issues are failing and may even resign or be dismissed. As to what problems these issues will. Moreover, no one has been able to connect the thoughtfulness that is the core of the problem to face the future, but everything is the same situation is slowly turning catastrophic.

Everyone thinks a disaster is unlikely, but news of the pulled shut the entire tourism sector, is being completely shut down. It is also said that none of the ministers have been able to control their respective ministries and agencies. It is also said that none of the ministers have been able to control the decisions and the government's administrative and accounting institutions. A recent example of this was when the chairman stepped in and stopped the King's decision to change the name of the party or a member's name in the parliament. Therefore there is no first or second position in the government, and the PM can't take any decision or action against the concerned minister or his department. Their solution is to bring all the communists together. Their viewpoint is that they can be mediators, but they have also realised that is wrong. They have also realised that a dialogue could be held with the King instead of playing up the conflict between him and they. This dialogue must stop once and for all.

In the last few days, it seems that the PM himself has been unable to control his cabinet members. Ministers have publicly accused some of their colleagues of taking illegal actions. Ministers have publicly accused some of their colleagues of taking illegal actions and some of these charges have been filed.

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Zidane is world player of the year. Maradona and Pele both think they were the best ever.

Manchester United's David Beckham was sixth on the list, despite the fact that he has been focused on his achievements in the English Premier League. Beckham gained four first-placed votes, one of them significantly from Dutch coach Louis van Gaal. Only two other British and Irish players featured in the list—Roy Keane and Andy Cole—who only managed one third-placed vote each.

Zidane, who won the prize in the back of his European Championship displays, is expected to win the award for the second time in three years in the poll of 150 national coaches from across the globe. The 28-year-old Juventus midfielder won 370 votes, ahead of Real Madrid's Luis Figo—the world's costliest player at 37 million pounds—who polled 327. Third was Brazil's Rivaldo, last year's winner, who took 263 votes.

When it became clear that the owner of the "Hand of God" had surprisingly picked an internet poll open to the general public, FIFA farcically introduced a separate "football family vote" conducted by its own officials and was won by a landslide by Maradona, who finished in third place. As an attempt at diplomacy, it bordered on the pathetic.

Just before entering the invitation-only ceremony, Pele could not disguise his feelings for the controversial Argentinean, who was dressed to the hilt for the occasion including silver earrings in both ears. "It's true we are not good friends," said Pele. "He was a good player when he was at Napoli and I have great respect for him. But if he thinks he was a better player than me, that's his problem."
A whole nation’s future is dimmed when schools are forced to close. 

Let not the flame die.

Private and Boarding School Organisation Nepal (PABSON)
After taking 2.5 million steps across the Nepali Himalaya, Japanese photographer Tadao Nomura has published a book to show that every mountain has a distinctive personality.

Nomura's 11th trip to Nepal this month was for what he called an "easy trek." Instead of lugging 20 kg of photographic equipment to take pictures of Nepali mountains in different moods, this time he says it pleased him to see a range of photographs by other photographers to assist some of his clients, giving them varied experiences during his treks in Nepal.

With the help of a driver, stopped to his legs, Nomura counted the number of steps he took over two years. 2.5 million. Other statistics: Nomura took 5,000 pictures, walked for 120 days on different expeditions, and trekked high Himalayan passes above 5,500 m. He has walked all the major passes along the main spine of the Himalaya in Nepal, from east to west.

Nomura chose 95 of the thousands of pictures and packed them into a beautiful glossy 85-page book, the title of which translates as Pilgrimage in the Himalaya. The mountains here are at their photogenic best: eight-thousanders like Cho-Oyu, Mt Everest, and Machhapuchhare. Nomura's affection for mountains and his love of photography is about the right moment. The right time to capture a frame. He would have lingered even where there were other trekkers ahead, if he could have waited longer, but as he puts it: "On a trek in the mountains of Nepal, you cannot wait more; there are other trekkers to overtake."

Mountains have fascinated Nomura since he was a schoolboy in Nagoya, and even before he started shooting professionally for television at the Tokai Broadcasting Company. Nomura uses three cameras, including a Fuji 6X5, and Mamiya 6X7. He has been walking in the mountains of Nepal for 20 years, on treks in the Himalaya, and after-effects of pollution caused mainly by industrialised countries, he says, Nomura practices what he preaches. During his treks in Nepal, he has walked on areas where there have been roads, as between Jiri and Kathmandu or between Trisuli and Gorkha. Pilgrimage in the Himalaya has a print run of 2,000 copies and is priced at $25.

Photo genius in a photogenic land

sharp
The Tengboche Rinpoche

The Tengboche Rinpoche, also known as Tulku Tenzing Rongphel, is the abbot of the Tengboche Monastery in Nepal. He is well-known for his work in forest conservation and his teachings on the importance of nature and spirituality. The Rinpoche has been a strong advocate for the preservation of the environment and has worked closely with organizations like WWF to promote conservation efforts.

He is proud of the work of the Tengboche Sacred Land Eco-Centre, which is located in the Himalayas of Nepal. The centre focuses on forest conservation and wildlife protection, and has been supported by the Rinpoche and other conservationists.

The Rinpoche has also been involved in efforts to promote awareness about the importance of forest conservation, and has spoken at various events and conferences to raise awareness about the issues facing the environment.

Under My Hat

by Kundu Dixit

As the warmer weather arrives, we are greeted by the annual mating season. This year, which is usually accompanied by an unprecedented surge of street dogs, is no exception.

It seems that the dogs put on quite a show, with the whole exercise being a form of natural selection, with the choosy female dogs. At the Paris Dog Show, there is no surprise that this year, the whole exercise had the atmosphere of a street carnival. At our own mass weddings.

As you know, dog mating is a full-moon event, with the most important factor being the alignment of the Moon with Mars. At this time, the Moon is closest to Mars in its orbit, which makes it appear larger and brighter.

It seems that the dogs are also aware of this phenomenon, and put on quite a show. At the Paris Dog Show, the whole exercise had the atmosphere of a street carnival.

I don't need to go into the graphic details of what happens. All I can say is that the dogs are copulating, I think they are doing it for the physical union of male and female genitalia. We are doing it because it's the only way to get any offspring.

The Tengboche Rinpoche is proud of the work of the Tengboche Sacred Land Eco-Centre, which is located in the Himalayas of Nepal. The centre focuses on forest conservation and wildlife protection, and has been supported by the Rinpoche and other conservationists.

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