

the NOW! special

extras

pic KARCHOONG DIYALI

it BITES

70 REPORTED DOG-BITES PER WEEK FOR GANGTOK
CAN WE AFFORD TO LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE ANYMORE?



BAZAAR BUZZ

THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

All those upset by the single-digit masquerading as double-digit lottery can now take heart. An important member of the opposition is planning to file PILs against these lotteries very soon. Outraged by this 'illegal' lottery, he plans to cleanse the town of this scourge. A noble cause indeed. But old-timers recall how it was during this person's better days that single-digit lottery flourished the most, till a PIL [small world!] ensured that the lottery was banned. But politicians we all know are famous for suffering convenient and selective amnesia. What will be interesting to see is how a close lieutenant reacts to these legal moves. After all he's a partner of the Nagaland based Shubhalaksmi double/ single lottery in Gangtok.

WHAT PACKAGE?

VRS, you've taken your decision, now take your special package is how an advertisement given by the State Bank of India to NOW! read. The bank had underestimated the reach of the advt, otherwise why were they so flummoxed to see the flood of VRS-takers coming to their branch searching for the golden package? The managers were seen having a tough time trying to explain to the milling crowd that the package basically consisted of offering advice about the best way to invest the money. And what place better to

begin than the new makeover SBI! Many were quite perplexed by this bit of free unasked for advice about what they should do with their money and there was much laughter at this [non]package. But credit must go to the bank for taking the initiative. Even if they convince half of the people to put their VRS money into SBI lockers, it's a fair amount of money.

MORE VRS

Still on the VRS. Out of the nearly 1,200 people who had applied for it only 120 made it to the finishing line. God knows what criteria, what push and pull was used to decide who gets to go and who must stay. But many were heard complaining that some senior officers with just 1 year of service left were given the VRS, which kind of defeats the whole purpose of the exercise. I mean if a guy is going to go in any case why give him all that extra money? And for all those who now have to go back to work after the month long voluntary retirement they happily took, the memory of the grandiose plans they had made will be cold comfort in the drudgery of their jobs which they had wanted to give up. Hota hai, Hota hai. But they needn't lose heart, another 10 Crore has been sanctioned for the next phase of VRS.

WHO'S LISTENING?

Why does a certain most expensive school in the

capital have the dirtiest toilets? That's a question a dismayed parent asks. If seeing is believing then the Girl's toilet in the said school is best avoided. Always very dirty, with overflowing water, is what the girl students have to say. Another grievance that some of the parents have is about the constant buzzing of the cell-phones in class. Teachers chatting on their mobiles and sending SMS' is apparently quite common. That's something that should not be allowed in class surely?

MAZAA NAHIN AAYA

Mazaa nahin aaya. That's what people have been heard saying about the ongoing Mazaa Aa Gaya Loan Mela at Yama building, organized by Internet Point. They claim that the advertisement is misleading and nothing very new or profitable is being offered. You still have to pay a considerable amount of money as security deposit and interest. Some people seem to be upset about the fact that the security money is not adjusted with the repayment money but is promised to be returned once the full payment has been made. Sunil Lama, proprietor, Internet Point rubbishes such allegations and says people just have to come and find out for themselves. As for the Rs. 500 scheme, that has not been launched yet. That's one confusion cleared.

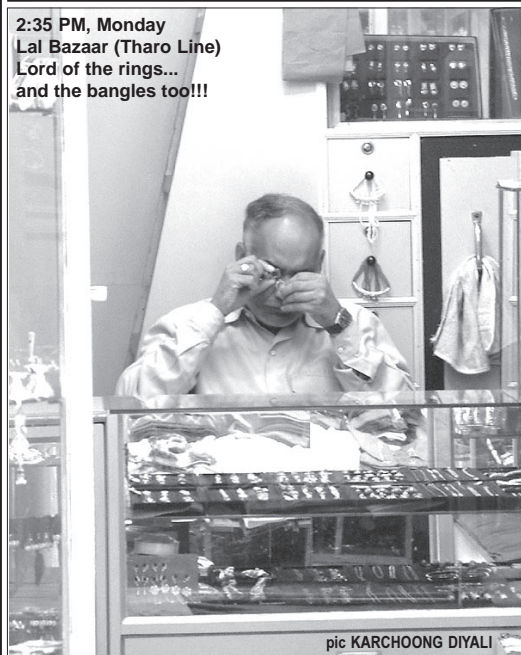


It's school time for these three girls in Burtuk.

Panorama Color Lab presents

GOOD AFTERNOON, GANGTOK

2:35 PM, Monday
Lal Bazaar (Tharo Line)
Lord of the rings...
and the bangles too!!!



pic KARCHOONG DIYALI

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Khoda Pahad



FIRST turn

I lost my way home the other day and almost drove off

the road. My only fault was to take out my new car out for a test-ride just after the nor'westers had downed a fresh load of rain on the Gangtok roads. OK, I was also on my mobile and just following the slush which is the road to my house. The myopia that mobile conversations cause made me stamp on the breaks only at the last moment, but a culvert had been dashed to pieces by then. *Ke Garne...* the slush was running off the road instead of the drains on the wrong side and I was too occupied with the latest gossip to work things out. I was confused, as surely you must be too.

The car, which suffered a full-frontal, now rests with the garage wallahs while I sit and try to figure out what made my plumber dig up the road just after the poor roads folk had okayed the contract for a fresh layer of tarmac.

This in turn reminds me of

how things have changed around me in recent years. Till only a

couple of years back, we would have everyone attack the roads with impunity the moment they had been repaired [which was only once in a very rare while]. It was almost as if everyone charged out with spades only after repairs had been carried out. Now, things have changed. We don't rush out immediately, we wait till after-dark. Ride out at night and chances are you will uncover someone digging furiously at the tarmac. How else does one explain the scars that surface on the capital streets overnight.

Methinks, it is more than private water-supply repair works in action here. I am sure the diggers have much more insidious plans than that. The lateral excavations could work as anything from impromptu speed-breakers, traps from stray dogs to get stuck in, stumbling blocks for the loitering kind.

Who am I trying to fool here, they are nothing but works of anarchy...



THE NOW! SPECIAL FOR THE CAPITAL rajdhani

THE WEST HAS WON First "completely" Sikkimese Nepali movie premiers

SARIKAH ATREYA on the filmi initiative from West Sikkim

Some time ago, a group from the remote reaches of West Sikkim got together and dreamt big. Three years later, the collective efforts of these enterprising youth have borne fruit in the form of a feature film in Nepali.

Basanta Kritu, a feature film in Nepali, the maiden venture of Phamrong Pictures Pvt. Ltd, Sikkim, premiered here at the Vajra Cinema Hall on March 30.

Area MLA, Yuksom Constituency, Kalawati Subba, Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly was the chief guest on the occasion, while Minister SNT, SB Subedi and Minister Agriculture, GM Gurung were the guests of honour. Former Chief Minister SM Limboo was also present on the occasion. Ms. Subba released the prints of the film.

Written and directed by Mausam Imbong and produced by Binay Muringla and Aitaman Muringla, this film is an attempt of the local Limbu youth from Yuksom, West Sikkim to bring together and explore the various aspects of the Limbu culture and tradition. The music is by Suresh Adhikari.

Made on a modest budget of about Rs. 9 lakhs, *Basanta Kritu* is shot extensively in the picturesque locales of West Sikkim, especially in Yuksom. The movie is also an impressive showcase of local talent with 95 percent of the artists hailing from the West district. Binay Muringla, one of the producers, also plays the main lead in the film.

Talking to NOW! after the premier, Mausam Imbong, the director of the film, who has also penned the story, said that the film is a "modest attempt at bringing together the local talents of the State."

Imbong, who has about 15 years of experience in film making in Nepal, belongs to the Yuksam area as well. "I always wanted to make a film in Sikkim with our own people. This is a



dream come true," he said.

"We have made a sincere effort to make this film, despite a lot of hardships and financial constraints. Although we have tried to depict the Limbu community and its culture in the film, we have also tried to blend in modern trends as well and made the film in Nepali so that it reaches to a wider audience," Imbong said. The film will be now released in Nepali-speaking areas of the region and in Nepal.

Although *Basanta Kritu* is a full-length feature film, it has been made in video format.

"Financial constraints did not allow us to make the film on celluloid format," Imbong revealed.

The film was made with limited resources and the producers had to pool in the money from "various sources, friends and family as well," producer and actor, Binay Muringla said. The producers also managed to fund part of the film from the Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme. The film was also patronised by Ms. Subba and Mr. Subedi, Muringla disclosed.

Threading a simple story of love and family values, the film revolves around the two main characters - Basant and Ritu and their trials and tribulations. Although the film's tight budget are obvious, the music is good with some melodious songs. The first half of the film is absorbing, with excellent performances by the two child artists.

While attempts have been made to showcase Limbu culture, *Basanta Kritu* is not in the same league as say *Numafung*. But given the fact that the film is the first completely Sikkimese effort, it is commendable.

Phamrong Pictures Pvt. Ltd is already working towards a second film, which the producers promise will be of much better content and improved production values.

The producers are hopeful that "*Basanta Kritu*" will be received well by the audience of the State and other Nepali speaking areas of the region.

The promotional stunts of *Basanta Kritu* (top left) and the ticket sales counter at the premier at Vajra on Sunday

SIKKIM SNIPPETS



A Toy Train could have chugged at Gangtok too

TOYING WITH THE TRAIN IDEA

A copy of the Council Meeting held at the Residency, Gangtok, on January 8, 1918 mentions: *Present were the President, His Highness, the Maharaja of Sikkim, Members, Yangthang Kazi, Lasso Kazi, Mallang Kazi, Rai Sahib Lobsang Chhoden, Babu Ratna Bahadur Pradhan and Babu Balkrishan Pradhan. The Superintendent, Sikkim state was also present.*

The Council Meeting was convened to discuss the possibility of introducing a railway system in Sikkim. During the meeting, the Durbar agreed to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Company making a reconnaissance survey from Rongpo to Gangtok and from Rongpo to Lingtam with the understanding that the same permission was to be, in no way, construed as an agreement to the proposal of the projected railways.

Apparently the Durbar was in favour of the construction of railway to Gangtok but not to Lingtam. The proposed railways never quite took off but now you know that it was at least a possibility. Who knows, had things worked out, Sikkim may have had her own toy train to give the one at Darjeeling Himalayan competition!

(NOW! would like to thank Mr. MK Pradhan, PS to Tourism Minister for his contribution to the Sikkim Snippets.)

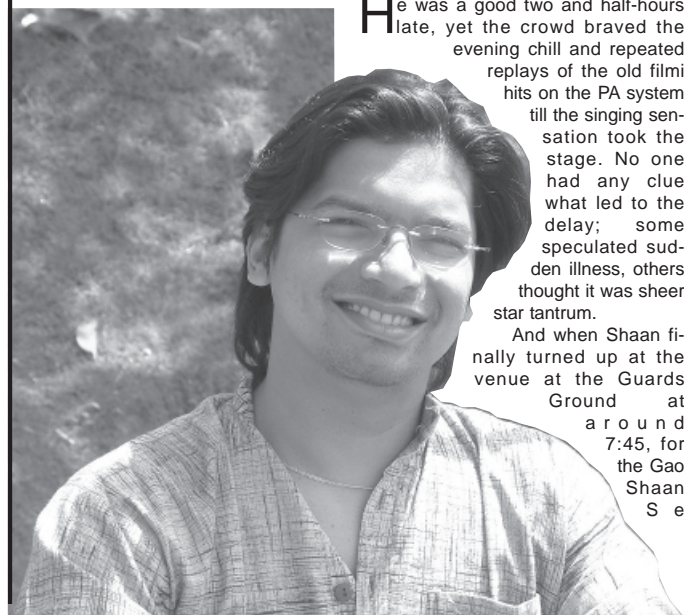
BITS&PIECES

"In California, 50 women protested the impending war with Iraq by lying on the ground naked and spelling out the word peace."

Right idea, wrong president."

- Jay Leno -

SHAAN FLOORED BY "WONDERFUL" CROWD, PROMISES TO RETURN



He was a good two and half-hours late, yet the crowd braved the evening chill and repeated replays of the old filmi hits on the PA system till the singing sensation took the stage. No one had any clue what led to the delay; some speculated sudden illness, others thought it was sheer star tantrum.

And when Shaan finally turned up at the venue at the Guards Ground at around 7:45, for the Gao Shaan S e

concert on March 25, loud cheers and whistles greeted the *Musu Musu* star, who headed straight for the stage and took over the microphone.

"I am extremely sorry for keeping you all waiting. This has happened for the first time in my career. But it was not my fault. Actually there was a slight delay in fulfilling a certain commitment on the part of the organizers," he apologized to the crowd.

Having done that, he got down to doing what he does best - enthrall the entertainment-starved janata of Gangtok with a medley of his hit songs, old and new.

Starting off with a compliment for the "beautiful people of Sikkim," Shaan sang *Ek Aisa Jahan Hum Banaye* from the film *Bus Itna Sa Khwab Hai*. Then, there was no looking back. The audience was more than willing to swing and sing along.

Shaan paid rich tribute to the late RD Burman by singing a medley of his songs. Then he went on to belt out the remix tracks that had made him a household name. His *Q-Funk*, *Roop Tera Mustana*, *Dil Kya Kare* and *Saamne Yeh Kaun Aaya* set the mood for the rest of the evening. The 1,500-plus audience were soon on their feet, crooning along with the star.

That Shaan is a complete entertainer was evident from the fact that he took complete control once he was on the stage. Not only did he sing, he also interacted with the audience, gauging the mood of the crowd efficiently. All that and he dances like a pro.

When NOW! caught up with Shaan

at the backstage during a break, the singer was exhilarated by the response of the Gangtok crowd.

"The crowd is too good. I will have to come back and perform here again," he gushed, in between sips of water.

When complimented on his great presence on stage and his twinkle toes, he admitted to actually having "two left feet," and credited his performance more to "nervousness!" He was accompanied on stage by the Beat Busters, a dance troupe from Kolkata, although looking at the way he moved on stage, he could as well be a one-man show!

Amidst loud cheering and swoons, Shaan serenaded the audience with his chartbusting tracks from recent films like *Dil Chahta Hai*, *Kya Dil Ne Kaha* and the latest *Chura Liya Hai Tumne*. Mirchi!

The piece de resistance was of course, the *Musu Musu* song, with the singer sticking to the original Nepali lyrics. He even fulfilled a request from a Bengali fan who wanted him to sing something in Bangla, humming a few lines from a Manna Dey song.

Shaan proved politically correct when he came up with an antiwar message and singing a track from the pop group Blue, calling for "love and peace." He then rounded off the evening with tracks from his last album, *Tanha Dil*. He had saved the best for the last, winding off the wonderful evening with the *Tanha Dil* number, with the promise to come back.

The affable Shaan thoroughly entertained the Gangtok crowd, who were left wanting for more. *Nikamma Kiya Is Dil Ne!*

NO WORRIES ON OIL YET

a NOW REPORT

Now that the war in Iraq is already into its second week how well prepared are we for the oil crisis which is bound to follow should the war stretch too long.

TJ Namgyal, President of Sikkim Petroleum Dealers Association assured NOW! that there was nothing to worry about as yet. "As long as NJP is supplying oil we will get sufficient fuel," he said.

"As far as Sikkim is concerned, all our petrol pumps are well stocked. We also have an oil depot at Bhagey Khola that should tide over any short-term emergency. We should do just fine," he added.

A 3.5 STRONG QUAKE VISITS

a NOW REPORT

Sikkim was rocked by a 3.5-3.7 Richter earthquake at 12.21 am on March 26.

The epicentre was located some 6.5 km north-northwest of the Bhutanese town of Paro, which trembled through 5.5 strong tremors. The quake lasted for about 10 seconds. No reports of damage to life and property were reported anywhere in the earthquake's footprint.

Sikkim is a "highly quake-prone" region and lies on the dangerous Seismic Zone-4 which spans the whole of North-east India, including Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Bangladesh.

Stitching Together An Exhibition



The National Textile Corporation, in collaboration with a Kolkata-based firm is holding an Exhibition-cum-Sale, *Entyce*, at Hotel Bayul, MG Marg. The sale which started on March 28 is on till April 3. On display are sarees, dress material, salwar kameez, bedcovers and pillow cases. Buyers can avail of 10% to 30% discount on the products.

Getting the right Dye

by NOW REPORT

A two day workshop on Dye-cum-Designing was held at the Directorate for Handicrafts and Handloom (DHH) Gangtok on March 25 and 26.

Organised by DHH in collaboration with the Weaver's Service Centre, the workshop was inaugurated by the BM Singh, former Chairperson,

SPCS.

The workshop was organised for the instructors and trainers of the DHH who were made aware of the latest colour and design trends in the field of dyeing and printing. The workshop also informed them about the latest vegetable dyes.

Ms. Singh while addressing the inaugural function lauded DHH as a major employment and revenue generating agency.

GOVT TOLD TO CLEAN UP ITS ACT

Vice Chairperson wants
Sikkim to wake up to
funds set aside for
Safai-Karmacharis

On March 25, Manju Chandra, Vice-Chairperson of National Commission for Safai Karmachari, held a meeting with the officials of Line department at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat.

At the meeting Mrs. Chandra discussed various schemes initiated by the central government for the socio-economic and educational upliftment of the Safai-karmacharis. She then stated that the state government should take benefit from the National Safai-karmachari Financial Development Corporation which provides funds for the upliftment of the Safai-karmacharis.

She pointed out that except Sikkim, every state was taking advantage of this scheme. Mrs Chandra then asked the officers to ensure participation of the Safai-karmacharis in the Solid Waste Management Project to be initiated by the state and also inquired whether the Safai-karmacharis were being subjected to any discrimination in Sikkim.

The officials present at the meeting informed the Vice Chairperson that in Sikkim the Safai-karmacharis did not belong to any particular community and that they are not subjected to any harassment. All the Safai-karmacharis of the UD&HD were given free Hepatitis-B injections. The officials also stated that all the departments were concerned about the socio-economic, educational and health aspects of their Safai-karmacharis.



**GO GRAB YOUR
LAST COPY
BEFORE THE NEXT
ONE HITS YOU!**

INDIGENOUS ANGREZI VIDEO

Alternative Illusions, the new rock band in town released its first music video *End this day* on Friday, March 28. The video is the first English video to be produced in Sikkim using local talent and facilities.

Directed by Prashant Rasailly, who debuted with his own album *Awaaj* recently, the video depicts the struggle of a slave against his captors.

"The portrayed struggle is a metaphor for the individual's struggle in society," says Prashant.

Shot at the Fambangho Wildlife Sanctuary over two days in December, the sequences have been choreographed by Ajay Pradhan and shot by Surinder Singh.

With this album Prashant Rasailly enters the music video scene, "There is a lot of potential for this field to develop in Sikkim. So many songs are already being picturized. With this video we have shown that even without high-end technical facilities, we in Gangtok can indigenously produce quality products," claims Prashant.

The idea is not too farfetched. The video is worth watching and the song itself very catchy. The equipment for the video-shoot was provided by Nayuma Cable and the Milestones Next sponsored the post-production facilities.

Prashant who picked up Direction and editing skills on his own without any formal training has used interesting effects in the video. The whole song has been given a blue tinge while scratches have been superimposed to give the video the feel of an old film. Prashant is now positioning himself as the new music video director in town and going by his first effort he's on the right track.

A NOW! feature on a bunch of youngsters and their creative endeavours...



Prashant Rasailly with the tools of his trade

A Countryside Delight



First things first, this is NOT a restaurant profile, neither is it an advertorial. Simply put, it's appreciation of something wonderful.

It's off the Gangtokian gourmet charts, it's way out of the reach of blaring Bolero and Gypsy horns and you don't bump into it everyday on MG Marg. **Country Inn & Restaurant**, that's what it's called. An apt name for the grand location this micro-cafeteria enjoys.

A little short of the Helipad, Country Inn doesn't even boast a fancy menu, it's the most basic of all palates in this 20 X 20 structure which houses about three tables and a couple of chairs and a modest kitchen with a solitary, neatly polished furniture which displays simple objects like Maggi and Wai Wai.

Simple enough?

Started on February 6, 2003 by LB Gurung & Robin Gurung, Country Inn has had few, but regular, customers who come by often. Tourists are occasional walk-ins. With the Burtuk Junior High School and the Burtuk Primary School just around the corner, the joint also caters to students and teachers from the school. The proprietors of the joint do not have to deal with disgruntled cooks and rude waiters because the two take care of everything themselves. They own the place, they cook and they serve themselves.

According to LB, young couples frequently boost their romantic ride out of town with something to munch at the Inn. There's the mandatory Coke and Pepsi with other fast food must-haves. But where else in Gangtok would you find "Gorkha Khana" (in Gurung's own words) including Gundruk and Tsurpee alongside Indian curries and Momo Thukpas? And do you still get Baingan Bhajis at one rupee a piece elsewhere in the state of Sikkim? Digest that!

- KARCHOONG DIYALI

CROSS-BORDER ARTISTRY



The exhibits at the White Hall (top) and Norbu Gensapa with his paintings at the Exhibition (above). NOW! pics.

A Joint Art Exhibition was organised by artists from Sikkim and Nepal at the White Memorial Hall on Monday. The exhibition is open till April 2, 2003. The exhibition is part of the First Birendar Fine Art Festival, organised by Zero Century Nepal, a Kathmandu-based collect of artists, from February to April 2003.

With forty painters from Nepal and seven from Sikkim, the exhibition was jointly organised by Sikkim-Nepal Joint Art Exhibition Organising Committee and Zero Century Nepal for Gangtok. Tashi Wangyal Denzongpa is the Chief Executive Co-Ordinator and also on display were his paintings. With over hundred exhibits in all, the price tag on the paintings range from Rs. 1,500 to 5,000. All of the handful of sculptures in the exhibitions are priced at Rs. 20,000.

While talking to NOW!, the media liaison of Zero Century Nepal, Saroj Bajracharya stressed on the simplicity of the

Sikkimese paintings.

"Art in Nepal is very influential whereas Sikkimese paintings have this tone of simplicity and consistency. It is almost like art in Nepal is still going through a stage of culture shock," he added. From the very little that the Nepal troop have seen of Sikkim, Bajracharya stated that Sikkim is a painter's paradise.

Of the seven participants from Sikkim, NOW! talked to Norbu Gensapa, an artist and an employee with the Agriculture Department. When asked how long he has been painting - "For a long time now!," replied Gensapa.

"This is the first time my paintings are being exhibited. I have always wanted to hold an exhibition of my own, but somehow things never worked out. Maybe because my work keeps me busy," remarked an excited Gensapa whose last minute paintings were still not dry.

Zero Century Nepal also organised a similar exhibition in Darjeeling last year where the response was overwhelming which also encouraged them to hold this exhibition in Gangtok this year. The exhibition will be followed by a art workshop later this week.

Dinesh Chettri has already been bitten thrice by stray dogs which populate the Gangtok streets. It is an occupational hazard he has to live with since his day starts early - he sells momos and is out with his stock for the day by 6AM, just the time when the strays are rummaging for breakfast and are in a foul mood.

Dinesh, however, is not one of the seventy-odd Gangtokians who troop to the STNM Hospital every week for anti-rabies vaccine injections. Yes, the average number of people reporting at the hospital with dog-bites every week is 70, discloses Deekumari Kharel, Senior ANM at STNM in-charge of the "injection room".

And then there are many like Dinesh who refuse to seek medical attention for dog-bites. The actual number of dog-bite victims in Gangtok could be much higher.

Specially at risk are late-night revellers and early-morning risers. Joggers, phaley-wallahs, momo-sellers like Dinesh, students heading for tuition, milk vendors and safai-karmacharis, all have horror stories to narrate of their experiences with the canine dwellers of Gangtok's gutters.

Kumar, arrives at MG Marg by 5 AM to deliver milk to Gangtok homes. He has had his share of scraps with the strays, but has now settled for a truce with them. They don't chase him and he does not bother them. He also has his own bit of street-humour to add to the menace. "Only doodhwallahs selling adulterated milk are targeted by the dogs," he winks, implying that he is safe for now.

Since the menace goes unchecked, those who have to undertake the early morning walk have worked out defen-

BITTEN YET?



70 PER WEEK, THAT'S GANGTOK'S AVERAGE FOR "REPORTED" DOG-BITES

There are many areas in Gangtok where even the residents don't venture out at night - the domain gets taken over by the local stray dogs once the sun goes down. ANAND OBEROI fleshes out some first-hand experiences of Gangtokians and their skirmishes with canine menaces on the streets...

sive strategy. Tshering Thendup, Penzong Lepcha and Jigdal of Kyi-de-Khang school have to pass the specially harrowing Nam Nang

stretch every morning to for their tuition. "When I walked alone earlier, the dogs would chase me all the way from Star Cinema to tuition classes.

Now, the three of us walk together and have realised the strength in numbers," informs Tshering.

Animals are instinctively territorial by nature and no one knows it better than the safai-karmacharis. Since the dogs congregate to rubbish which the safai-karmacharis

have to sweep away before Gangtok rises, they are constantly in confrontation.

Sunil Rawat, a safai-karmachari with the UD&HD responsible for the Lall Bazaar to Highway stretch says he has been attacked by strays many times in the past. "It is better now, I have figured out their territory and do not infringe upon it," he says.

Apparently, the dogs get specially vicious when Sunil tries to sweep away the rags or cardboard the strays use as bedding for the night. He now leaves them untouched and the dogs only snarl at him when he approaches. No gnashing teeth on his calves any more.

Sunil goes on to add that when a new incumbent reports for the safai duty, this arrangement is one of the first things they educate them upon.

Interestingly enough, the early-morning Gangtokians, who perhaps face the strays at their fiercest [most strays sleep through the day to raise a holler at night], have no misgivings about their presence. They do not want them "removed". Gombu Namgyal, a Kazi Road resident and a committed jogger, said, "Strays are a part of the Gangtok food-chain and we must learn to coexist with them. There has to be an option other than exterminating them."

Needless to add, the strays are a nuisance and although UD&HD undertakes frequent drives to rid the Gangtok streets of them, there has to be an option other than shooting them down. Vaccinating these strays against rabies is definitely a must before animal rights activists start talking of shelters for them. Since we can't get the dogs to stop biting, maybe the focus should be on how best we can protect the people against them. Shooting the Bhatua Kukurs of the capital should not be the only option, but a solution we must work out.

ATREE for the children



A 3-day Nature Camp for the children of Army Cantonment was held at Army School, Gangtok from March 28 to 30. Organized by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), the camp aimed to develop an attitudinal change among the children so as to make them conservators rather than destroyers of nature.

The camp was inaugurated by Mrs. Rita Anand, President, Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) and first lady of the Black Cat Division. To commemorate the occasion, Mrs. Anand planted a sapling in the Army school campus as a symbol of environmental conservation.

A total of 20 teachers and 80 children attended the camp. Activities at the camp include lecture-cum-demonstration by experts on Nature, conservation, protection of flora and fauna and group activities by campers. On the last day an entertainment programme was organized for the parents. The camp is being co-ordinated by Yusuf Simmick, a dedicated conservationist from ATREE.

WHAT'S UP, SIKKIM CONTEST

WHICH RIVERS SEPARATE THE EAST AND NORTH DISTRICTS?

NAME:
Address:

Last Week's answer: Pema Dorji Winner: Umesh Gurung, Law College

WIN A FREE MEAL FOR 2 AT

Migtin Italian, Mexican,
HOTEL Chinese,
Tibet Road, Gangtok. ph: 224101 Indian and
Continental
cuisine

WOMEN NOW!

ALREADY LIBERATED THE IRAQI WOMEN

Even as American bombs pulverise Baghdad into "Freedom" and deliverance from the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, there are things about the status of women in Iraq that Bush Jr. won't tell you...

The White house is right that Iraq is by far the most repressive country in the Middle East, but that is true only if you are a man. To see how many Arab countries are in some ways even more repressive to women, consider how an invasion might play out.

When American ground troops stormed across the desert from Saudi Arabia into Iraq, American servicewomen were theoretically not allowed to drive vehicles as long as they were in Saudi Arabia and were advised to wear an *abaya* over their heads. As soon as they cross the border into enemy Iraq, they will feel as if they are entering the free world: They can legally drive, uncover their heads, even call men idiots. Iraqi women routinely boss men around and serve in non-combat positions in the army. If Iraq attacks with smallpox, Americans will have a woman to thank – Dr. Rihab Rashida Taha, a woman, is the head of Iraq's biological warfare programme and was also known to UN weapons inspectors as "Dr. Germ".

A man can stop a woman on the street in Baghdad and ask for directions without



**IN A REGION
WOMEN ARE
DOORMATS,
UNIQUELY
EVEN HAS A
HEADING ITS
BIOLOGICAL
PROGRAMME**

causing a scandal. Men and women can pray at the mosque together, go to restaurants together, swim together, court together or quarrel together. Girls compete together in after school sports almost as often as boys, and Iraqi television broadcasts women's sports as well as men's. At the Basra Maternity and Paediatric Teaching Hospital, 25 of the 26 students in obstetrics and gynaecology are women. Across town, 54 per cent of Basra University students are female. Iraqi women who work get six month's maternity leave at full pay and another six months at half pay. Subsidised day care is usually available at the workplace. Female circumcision, which is still common in American allies like Egypt and Nigeria, is absent in Iraq.

Women began taking positions in the mainstream job market as early as the 1920s and 1930s. In 1970, the Iraqi constitution was changed to guarantee that all women and men are equal before the law. The 1970s and 1980s were years of general economic growth in Iraq and state induced policies worked to eradicate illiteracy, educate women and incorporate them into the labour force. Subsequently, working outside the home did not only become acceptable for women but prestigious and the norm. Iraqi women became the most educated and professional in the whole region.

In a region where women are treated as doormats, Iraq offers an example of how an Arab country can adhere to Islam and yet provide women with opportunities.

GI JANES IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

1 in 7 U.S. military personnel in Iraq is female and this time around in combat deployments. The GI Janes now have a theatre of war of their own.



A U.S. Army engineer cut her friend's hair during a quiet evening after two days of heavy battle in southern Iraq.

The war with Iraq will be the largest deployment of women to a combat theatre to date, marking more than a century of women's military service – and the first major test of women's expanded combat roles since Desert Storm. As women head to the Gulf again, they make up a larger percent of the Armed Forces than they did during Desert

Storm. The percentage of women in the active duty population has continuously increased over the past two decades. Women now make up approximately 15 percent of active military personnel.

Gulf War II marks the culmination of a long history of women serving during war. The Pentagon says women make up 15 percent of the active – duty forces

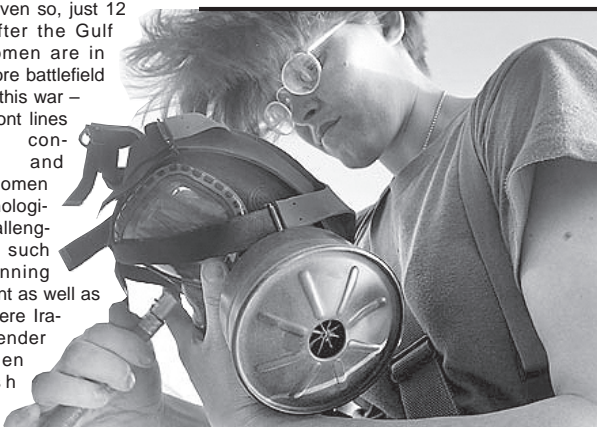
– 1-7 – in comparison with just more than 1 in 10 during the first Persian Gulf War. Eight percent of those in the U.S. military now are single parents and forty three percent of the women are married.

Technically, women still may not serve in the infantry, drive tanks or serve in the Special Forces, the idea being that they are not permitted to engage in hand – to hand combat. A department of Defense advisory committee on women recommended a few years ago that women be permitted to serve in all combat situations, but that recommendation was rejected.

Even so, just 12 years after the Gulf War, women are in many more battlefield roles. In this war – where front lines change constantly and where women do technologically challenging jobs such as manning equipment as well as men, where Iraqis surrender and then a m b u s h t h e i r c a p -

tors, where air raid sirens go off in presumably safe areas – many women are just as much in combat as are men. Officially, women now serve in combat ships and in fighter planes, which they couldn't do in 1991. That became possible as of 1994, under an order signed by President bill Clinton. But they are still barred from about one – third of active duty army positions. In the Air Force and the Navy, women are eligible for nearly all jobs, except as Navy SEALs on submarines.

There are about 2,00,000 American women serving on active duty in such jobs as piloting fighter planes and launching Tomahawk missiles. There are 29 women piloting Apache gunships, and 112 who operate Black Hawk helicopters.





The truth has always been out there, we've just assembled it for you. The men-folk need to start thinking again on how to disguise their words now.

Most women will enthusiastically claim that, without doubt, men lie far more often than women.

Scientific studies and experiments show, however, that men and women tell about the same number of lies. It's the content of their lies that is different. Women tend to lie to make others feel better and men lie to make themselves look good. Women lie to keep the relationship safe. Women find it most difficult to lie about their feelings. Men lie to avoid an argument and love to lie about how wild they were when they were young.

The evidence is clear – women lie just as much as men, they simply lie differently. Because of women's super-awareness of body language and voice signals, men get caught far more often, which makes it seem like men lie more. They don't. They just keep getting caught.

Here are some common lies men tell women.

"I'm not drunk": This is an easy lie to pick, especially as it usually sounds like, "I'm narg drmgthph." There is no reason for someone to say they're not drunk, unless they're drunk.

"I definitely didn't have sex with that woman": A man who has cheated will lie about it well past the point of rationality because, in his mind, he has nothing to gain by telling the truth.

"We're just friends": He says they are simply lifelong buddies and he has absolutely no interest in her. But he keeps her away from you and won't let you meet her. Other variations of this one include: she's a lesbian; she just needs a friend; she just needs someone to talk to; she's

going through a bad time and I just want to help her; she's sick and she wants me to go see her; she doesn't have feelings for me – she is just embarrassed. That's why she doesn't want you to be here when she's here.

"Sex with my ex was lousy": Sex for men is one of life's constants – it's always good, no matter where or when. If a man says sex with his ex was lousy, he's definitely lying. When he tells you sex with his ex was better than with you, he's lying again. Probably to make you angry. It's always the same for him – always good.

A dictionary of male speech patterns for Women Now! readers. What he says – the lie and what he means – the truth.

1. Can I help with dinner?
"Why isn't it already on the table?"

2. I'm getting more exercise lately.
"The batteries in the remote are dead."

3. We're going to be late.
"I have a legitimate reason for driving like a maniac."

4. Take a break, honey, you're working too hard.

"I can't hear the television over the vacuum cleaner."

5. That's interesting darling.
"Are you still talking?"

6. We don't need material things to prove our love.
"I forgot our anniversary again."

7. Its really a good movie.
"Its got guns, knives, fast cars and naked women."

8. I heard you.
"I haven't the faintest idea what you just said, but you can stop talking now."

9. You really look terrific in that outfit.
"Please don't try on one more outfit, I'm starving."

10. I'm not lost, I know exactly where we are.
"No one will ever see us alive again."

11. I love you.
"Let's have sex now."

12. I do help around the house.
"I once threw a dirty towel near the laundry basket."

13. She's one of those militant, feminist lesbians.
"She refused to have sex with me."

the Curtina BEST TIPS Contest

WINNERS ARE REQUESTED TO COLLECT THEIR COUPONS FROM NOW! OFFICE AT GAIRI GAON, TADONG

MEENA CHETTRI, RANIPOOL

- ☐ In order to keep ants away from your sugar container, put some cloves in it.
- ☐ Add some salt in cottage cheese [churpi], mix it well and store it in a tight jar. The hurpi will remain fresh for at least a week.

Home remedies, kitchen tips, beauty makeovers, recycling advice... just about anything that makes life easier for the housewife... Send in your tips and if adjudged the most useful tip of the week, you will win a Gift hamper worth Rs. 250/- sponsored by CURTINA, MG Marg. Send in your entries to: NOW! Near Ayurvedic Clinic, Gairi Gaon, Tadong, East Sikkim. Or email us at sikkimnow@rediffmail.com

TEA-BREAK

My son's skin often breaks into small sores. He scratches these and this leaves marks all over his body. Why do you think these sores happen and what can I do about the marks?

Sores developing during summer months are generally due to superficial skin infections which develop following scabies or prickly heat. Sores could also develop following itching after skin allergy due to certain food, medicines, clothing, soaps and cosmetics or even due to intestinal infections or worms.

The idea in treatment is mainly preventive. Keeping pets and carpets free of fleas helps. Avoiding certain allergic foods could also help. Your son could be put on some anti-allergic medicines like celrizine or loratadine as soon as the allergies appear and some soothing lotion like calamine (caladry) to apply before the sores develop.



Dr. HK Chettri on paediatric concerns

My 3-year-old wants to drink tea and coffee all the time. He hates milk and every time I have tea, he wants some. Is tea harmful for a child?

Tea or coffee taken in excess is harmful for children. In minor quantities, tea is more beneficial than coffee, because it has been found to relax the mind and stimulate when taken in proper quantities. Tea prevents access cholesterol formation also. But, taken in larger quantities, it depresses appetite and decreases the iron content in the body causing anaemia. It increases peristalsis so increases bowel movement also.

HOME REMEDIES ARE BEST

No matter how many potions and lotions are available in the market, using natural products holds special appeal. For many office goers, college girls and housewives it's the home made remedies that give them their money's worth. There are certain products which are good for you throughout the year to take good care of your skin, face and hair.

Honey is a natural moisturizer for your skin. It also reduces the fine lines and the unwanted wrinkles from your face.

Neem rates high for its anti-biotic and antiseptic properties.

There is nothing better than Neem paste for those acne and pimple eruptions.

Eggs, especially the white portion, is a natural remedy for oily skin. The albumen is good for the dry complexion. It tightens the skin giving it the porcelain effect. For hair too, egg is a good conditioner.

Cucumber or carrot, grated or sliced takes away the tan from the skin. Cucumber also can be used as an astringent. **Fresh cream and sugar** or oatmeal are best for smooth hands. For the skin **olive oil** is best as it is readily absorbed and leaves the skin soft. Try these home remedies and see yourself glow.



KNOW YOUR SOAP CONTEST!

Name this TV personality



ANSWER _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SEND A CORRECT ANSWER AND WIN FREE MEAL

Last week's Answer: Kya Masti, Kya Dhum
Winner: Dinesh Subba, Govt. Law College

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CO
A RUSH OF



FACTOR

THE NOW! EXTRA FOR THE YOUNG



COLDPLAY took home a grammies this year. But very few know the pre-grammy tales of this foursome. Here is a brief look into what brought about the coldplay...

2000

JANUARY

NME (New Musical Experience) Carling Premiere Tour with fellow newbies Shack, Campag Velocet and Les Rhythms Digitales.

Launch of coldplay.com internet site. Recorded their debut album for summer release.

MARCH

Single 'Shiver' released and co-headline tour with Terris.

'Shiver' reaches top 100 in UK singles charts.

APRIL

Still touring with Terris!

MAY

Putting the finishing touches to the album and completing the Muse tour.

JUNE

2nd single, 'Yellow' hits no.4 in singles charts.

Coldplay UK headline tour.

Glastonbury 2000 festival (other stage)

JULY- SEPTEMBER

Debut album called 'Parachutes' goes in at no.1 in the UK album charts.

World tour - Europe and Asia

OCTOBER

UK headline tour

the 8th June Coldplay sign to BMG Publishing

OCTOBER

The first Parlophone release 'The Blue Room' E.P. 5000 limited edition CD/12" with video.

The lead track, 'Bigger Stronger' started picking up plays on Radio One when Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley pronounced themselves Coldplay fans.

Nationwide Tour co-headlining with Bellatrix.

At the end of 1999, Coldplay found themselves being touted by the music press as a band to watch in 2000. NME particularly displayed their faith in them by putting them on the bill for the January NME Premiere tour.

1998

JANUARY

Coldplay form, having met at University College Londonback in 1996.

The band got together after Chris and Jon started jamming and writing songs together. Soon after, Guy came long to add some bass. The current line-up was completed when Will decided to play drums for them, despite never having played before.

The name COLDPLAY was nicked off their mate Tim before he could use it for his band.

First coldplay internet site established by Claire Smith (later developed into coldplay.org, which is now part of .com)

COLDPLAY became best mates who all live and breathe to make beautiful music. From their very first session together, they realised they had the chemistry to achieve greatness.

APRIL

Chris' old school mate Phil became their manager and financed Coldplay's first recording and release of self-financed 'Safety EP' on 500 copies, limited CD.

SEPTEMBER

'Safety' got Coldplay a gig in a cuban cafe as part of the Unsigned Bands' Festival 'In the City' in Manchester. In the audience was a talent scout who tipped off Dan Keeling of Parlophone records to keep an eye on them. Another gig at the Falcon in Camden was written up by NME journalist Simon Williams who wrote a glowing review and offered them the chance to record the single 'Brothers and Sisters' for his Fierce Panda label.



Gonna Give It To Ya

Arf arf Yeah, yeah, yeah (Grrrr)

Uh, Yeah don't get it twisted This rap shit, is mine Motherfucker, it's not, a fucking, game Fuck what you heard It's what you hearin It's what you hearin (Listen) It's what you hearin (Listen) It's what you hearin (Listen)

X gon give it to ya Fuck wait for you to get it on your own X gon deliver to ya Knock knock, open up the door, it's real Wit the non-stop, pop pop and stainless steel Go hard gettin busy wit it But I got such a good heart I'll make a motherfucker wonder if he did it Damn right and I'll do it again Cuz I am right so I gots to win Break break wit the enemy But no matter how many cats I break bread wit I'll break who you sendin me You motherfucker never wanted nothin But your wife said, that's for the light day I'm gettin down, down Make it say freeze But won't be the one endin up on his knees (Who)

Please, If the only thing you cats did is come out to play Get out my way
[Chorus:] First we gonna ROCK, Then we gonna ROLL Then we let it POP, GO LET IT GO X gon give it to ya He gon give it to ya X gon give it to ya He gon give it to ya (Repeat Once)

Ain't never gave nothin to me But everytime I

turn around Cats got they hands out wantin something from me I ain't got it so you can't get it Lets leave it at that cuz I ain't wit it Hit it wit full strength I'm a jail nigga So I face the world like it's Earl in the bullpen You against me, me against you Whatever, whenever What the fuck you gon do? I'm a wool fin sheep clothing Only nigga that you know that can chill Come back and get the streets open I've been doing this for nineteen years Wanna fight me? Fight these tears I put in work and it's all for the kids But these cats done forgot what work is (UH-HUH!) They don't know who we be Lookin! but they don't know who they see

[Repeat Chorus:]

Aiiyo where my niggaz at?! I know I got them down in the game Give em love and they give it back Talk to much for to long Don't give up your to strong (What?!) A dog to bow bow hug it Shoutout to niggaz that done it And it ain't even about the dough It's about gettin down for what you stand for yo

[Repeat Chorus:]

1999

JANUARY

NME include Coldplay in article on 'Bands to watch in '99'.

APRIL

'Brothers and Sisters' single released on Fierce Panda Records.

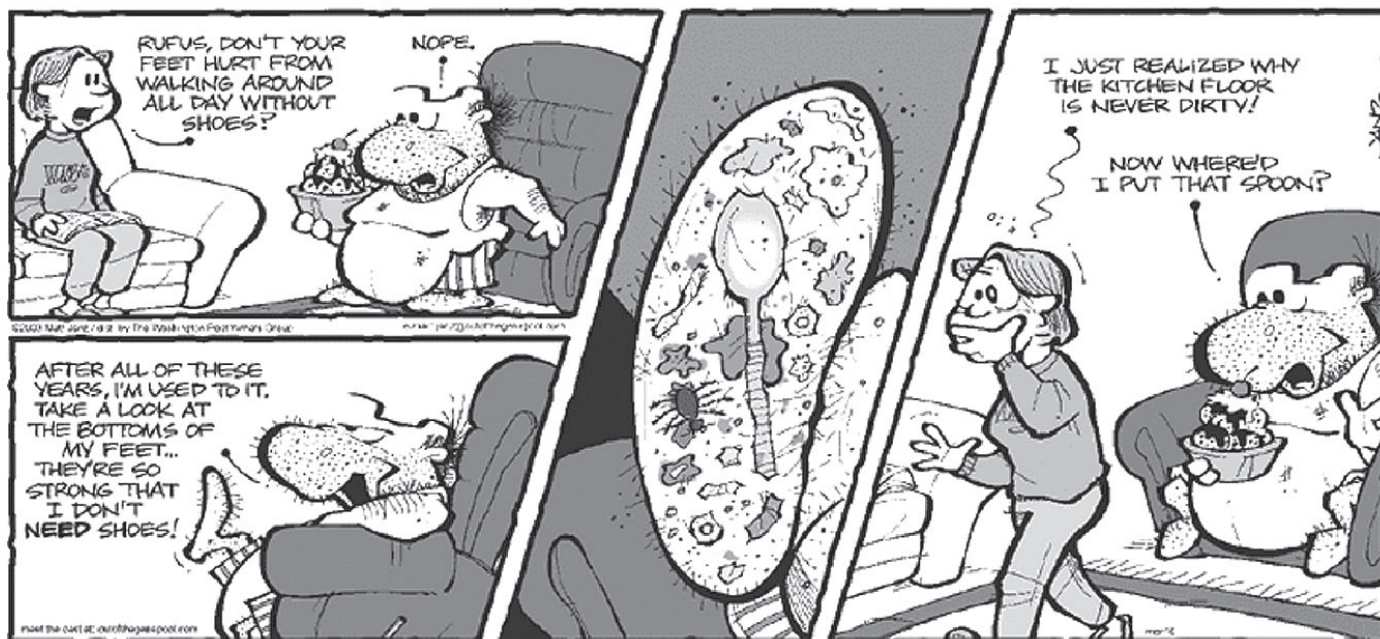
Steve Lamacq broadcasts live session from BBC studios - tracks include 'Shiver', 'Bigger Stronger' and 'Brothers and Sisters'.

MAY

Coldplay sign to Parlophone Records on

OUT OF THE GENE POOL

BY MATT JANZ



SWEET NOTHINGS

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

DEAREST WOULD BE!
DVD? Hehe. Savings account
spilling over!!! Time to Save it
for the Dragon?

BALD HEADED HERMIT

THE NATURAL!!!!?
Damn you and your bloody
login names!!! Anyway, bring
back the JUMPIN JACK!!!
Write?

REVamped & HOLEY!

PELSH2K3!!!
Life sucks if lived PROFES-
SIONALLY. Right? Want a new
stringer???? HAH!!!
4 MEGA PIXELS!!!

SPIKE!!!
Had enough of Sila? Anyway,
welcome back to the valley of
Rice!!!!

BIPASHA, KIM & ME!

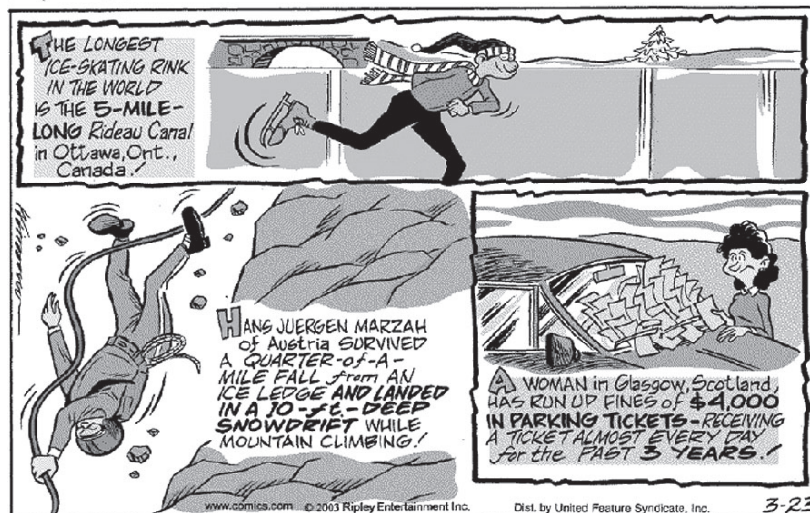
BELOVED SUNITA!!
Was a fool on the Fool's Day!!
Forgive the fool for his
foolishness!!!
HUNG OVER!!!!

GURENDAR!!
Economics ta phayl? Abo
chhai?? Hehe. Foster le bigadyo
hai? Kehi chhaina!!! Off to
Motherland! Hoi?

TOOL - K

ASLAM BHAI!!!
No Birthday Item? Postpone
one for us OK? Uff Yeh
Gangtok aur local strain!!!
HARRY & U'R FAV GANG!

DEAR BUZZZZZ!!!
All roads to Munguthang are
blocked!!! We believe the
internet is down too!! Log out?
BUZZED AND CONFUZED!!



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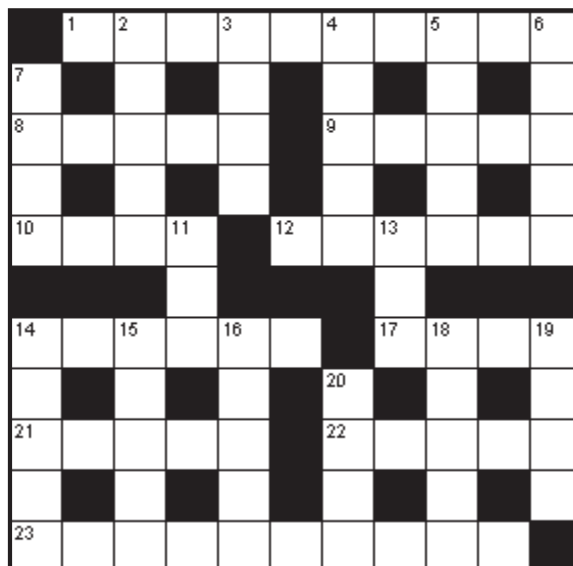
3-23

THE little CROSSWORD 040

WINNER GETS FREE DINNER FOR TWO

at **little**
SNOD Complex
Deorali, Gangtok.
Ph: 281980 **italy**

Solve the crossword correctly. Rush it to Oberals (MG Marg) or NOW! Gail Gaon, Tadong, on or before Sunday and a lucky draw of all correct entries will win FREE DINNER FOR TWO at LITTLE ITALY, DEORALI. SNACKS COUPONS TO BE COLLECTED FROM NOW! OFFICE



ACROSS

1. Branch of mathematics
8. Groups of animals
9. At that place
10. Swallow eagerly
12. Defeated
14. Costing much
17. Former Russian ruler
21. Belonging to Paul
22. Big cats
23. Place to research

DOWN

2. Rustic
3. Piece of work
4. Unit of length
5. Something special
6. Unsoiled
7. Ruffian
11. Place
13. Insect
14. Kent village
15. Small firework
16. Person that loses
18. Kent river
19. Ascend

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: ACROSS: 6. SAHARA 7. FAIL 8. TUBS 9. RAINED 10. GEARS 12. BALSA 15. ABLAZE 17. BARD 18. MORE 19. LONGER DOWN: 1. NATURE 2. GAGS 3. HAIRY 4. AFRICA 5. BITE 11. READER 13. SORTED 14. HEALS 16. BLOT 17. BEND WINNER: MADHUMITA DAS, DEORALI SCHOOL



SANO BHAI and THE CABLE WAR

by CHETAN RAJ SHRESTHA

out of earshot when they started quarrelling.

"You get to watch the TV all day. If you take some time off from flash and marriage."

"So? Can I help it if all the programmes come in the evening?"

"Why don't you do some housework instead? None of my colleagues have only the servant working in the kitchen."

"And how many of your colleagues caper with the babunis in their office?"

"I wouldn't mind if you watched something more sensible? I'm sick of watching the same people fight in different ways. I have a feeling you get most of your paranoia from these serials."

"And there is much dignity in twenty-two people running after a ball, I suppose."

The argument died out, inconclusive, when Sano Bhai reappeared. But he could tell that a disagreement had preceded his entry. Afterwards, feeling sober, one of his parents would remark loudly over the dinner table that it was actually better when there was only Doordarshan. You had no control over what you watched and more often than not, you liked what you saw.

These fights soon assumed the airs of a daily ritual. They seldom exchanged a cross word with Sano Bhai around but he could tell that things were getting worse. They got another TV but it was a flawed medication, for now, Ama and Papa didn't even talk to each other. They lavished much care on Sano Bhai but the affection was actually competition and Sano Bhai couldn't decide how he felt after a one-sided orgy of affection showing. It was only when he heard his mother mutter "divorce" that Sano Bhai concluded that he might soon be living with only one of his parents.

And then the cable war that made Gangtok a livelier place to live in, occurred. Sano Bhai's house had witnessed a few TV blackouts earlier. It was a cause for much activity in an otherwise dull locality. There were subscribers to both cable lines in his locality. Early in the mornings, his neighbours streamed out of their houses, their cables having been cut in the course of the night and collectively cursed whomever they imagined responsible. Soon, the frequency of wire-cutting increased on both sides. Someone speculated that

it was because the number of wire cutting people had increased. That now things were hotting up and would soon come to a head. Ama and Papa discussed the coming war frequently; it seemed to be one of the few issues that they had similar views on. As did almost every house in Gangtok.

The TV sets then produced only static for a week or so in Sano Bhai's house. He decided on the first day itself that it wasn't going to affect his habits drastically. There was no TV in his room and it was too cold to go and watch it in another room. He preferred the video games on his computer.

On the first TV-less evening, he could sense the restlessness in his parents. They stopped by more often on their way to the kitchen and peered into his

room. Papa even inquired if he was studying hard. Sano Bhai had to remind him that his exams were over. Whereupon, guiltily, he asked other things.

The next day Thulo Bhai came back from his hostel for his winter vacations. Being the noisy kind, he changed the still atmosphere of the house. Ama, Papa and Sano Bhai hung around him and fretted over him. He had been starved of TV in his hostel, being allowed only one movie a week. His disappointment was therefore, understandable and acute. He was cursing the cable companies loudly when Sano Bhai took him aside and told him about the sometimes unbearable remote control battles. Thulo Bhai then joined his brother in the ranks of the thankful.

On the night of the second

day, with nothing to do, they all crowded in Sano Bhai's room. And had a truly convivial conversation in a long time. Ama and Papa joked with each other as if they were old friends meeting after a while. They talked about how life had been in the basti, before they came to Gangtok.

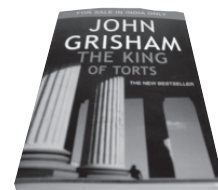
"It had been something like this. With no TV or any of the modern things you young people can't live without." Papa said, making "modern" sound almost sneer-like. Sano Bhai, being small, didn't grasp the irony.

"Ho ta. Sometimes, after dinner and before sleeping, we used to get together and sing out of the sheer lack of anything else to do. It used to be a happy atmosphere before long." Ama joined in. It seemed that Thulo Bhai was the only one to be disappointed by the lack of moving images in the house. But after hearing Sano Bhai narrate tales of earlier frostiness and directly link the absence of TV to the present levity in the house, he kept his opinions to himself.

- to be concluded

THIS ENTRY WINS THE COFFEE-TABLE-BOOK from RACHNA BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

LEGAL BEAGLE RETURNS



ON THE BOOKSHELF

From the author of such bestsellers as *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief* and *A Time To Kill* comes the latest *The King of Torts*.

Like other John Grisham books, this one too has all the legal trappings that Grisham is well known for. The book tells the story of Clay Carter, a young lawyer in the office of the Public defender. Clay has been working too long here and like most of his colleagues dreams of a better job in a real firm.

That is, till a new case lands on his table. It is a case that could turn his whole life upside down.

A young man is charged with a random street killing and as he digs into he background of his client, he opens up a virtual pandora's box. It's a conspiracy too horrible to believe. He now finds himself in the middle of a complex case against one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world. The huge settlement could change his life overnight.

What should he do? Read and find out. John Grisham knows how to spin a yarn and it won't be long before this book is made into a film, like so many of his other books. Many twists and turns in this engrossing book. Ideal for a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Pages 376 Price 225 Available at RACHNA BOOKS

Bookworm Asks CONTEST

Why does rain fall in drops and not all at once?

The first correct entry will win a gift voucher worth RUPEES HUNDRED from



Rachna books and publications

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224336 rachna_books@yahoo.co.in

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: Both The Glasses Weigh The Same (Archimedes' Principle)
WINNER: Bikramjit Chandra, XI- TNA

EARLY ENTRY



Oil'll be damned

Thousands of vibrant young men
Why should their lives be snuffed out?
'Give me oil, or I'll spill your blood'
Why was that the bargain struck?

A dark gush from the bowels of the Earth
Why does man swallow its eternal lure?
Oil might be an all consuming passion
Why are they all wedded to it in lust?

Family and love and home and hearth
Why did so many have to say goodbye?
A young widow stares in frozen silence
Why does she hold only a cold, cold medal?

- AMBUSH -

FACE *of the* WEEK



GOVIND DHAKAL, III Yr. History Honors
"Music and sports, thats my weakness"

the FUTURE is NOW

ARIES: An all round improvement in your life. Your social status will be good. Financial position will be maintained. Some may go on an overseas trip. You will enjoy the support of your superiors at work. You may expand your business and new ventures may commerce. People in employment may get a promotion.

TAURUS: Some may take an important decision in family matters. Some may start a new business. Some may go on an overseas trip. You will enjoy the support of your superiors at work. You will be honoured for your contribution at work.

GEMINI: A financial crisis will take place. You will be popular among your friends. You may invest in property. People in the commission agency business do well. Some may start a partnership business. Political life will be very comfortable.

CANCER: Changes will be for the better. Wedding bells ring for some. Those who are in trading business do well. A financial crisis will be over. Loans will be minimised. Some may start a new agency business. Business will be brisk and busy. Those who are in cine line do extremely well. Exporters find a great level of improvement.

LEO: You will be in good cheer and happiness will prevail. A long trip is in the offing. This will give mental happiness. People in the trading business do well. Political life will be very comfortable. Court affairs will be postponed will be postponed. Your worries will be over. Tensions will be reduced.

VIRGO: Cash flow will be good. Some may start a new agency business. Expansion in business is expected. Financial stability will be yours. You will be able to repay your loans easily Name and fame will come to you. Your social status will be good. You will be popular among your friends. A business trip gives you tension.

LIBRA: A financial crisis arises. You enjoy a loving and supportive relationship with your spouse. Some may get promotion at work. Court affairs will be postponed. A long trip is in the offing. An important decision will have to be made regarding family matters. People in the trading and commission agency business do well.

SCORPIO: Those who are in trading, publishing, automobile industry will do well. Your worries will be over. Partnership business will be brisk and busy. You enjoy a loving and supportive relationship with your spouse.

SAGITTARIUS: Business will boom. You receive encouraging communication in business dealings. You enjoy a loving and supportive relationship with your spouse. A change of environment will give you mental happiness. Some may get a marked improvement in income.

CAPRICORN: Some may take a major decision regarding family involvement in business matters. Business will be brisk and busy. Family life will be very comfortable. Your social status will be good. Your worries will be over. Those in the trading and commission agency Business do well. Some may go on an overseas trip.

AQUARIUS: Changes for the better in your family life. Cash flow will be good. You enjoy a loving and supportive relationship with your spouse. You will enjoy a long holiday. Business will be brisk and busy. Your social status will be good.

PISCES: Some may start a new business activity. Business will be brisk and busy. Your social status will be good. You will be popular among your friends. Your worries will be over. You will be in a position to make a huge turnover in business. You will be successful in all you do. Cash flow will be very good.



With the perceptible increase in the temperature heralding the advent of summer, well almost anyway, can the juice companies remain quiet any longer? **Rasna** has introduced their **Juc-up** range of **instant juices**. Take your pick from flavours such as Mango (or Mast Aam as they like to call it), Orange, Nimbupani, Pineapple and Mosambi. By the way, convenience just got a brand new name. Juc-up retails requires no sugar to be added and is available in single serve, 8 glass (200 g) and 20 glass sachets. Moreover, Juc-up is enriched with fruit powder and glucose. A single serve is only Rs.2/-



MO' JUC FER YA

FOR THE GODDESSES

Long dormant company **Tips and Toes** seems to have suddenly woken up to the fact that the Indian consumer market is HUGE by any measure. And what an awakening it is. 'I'm not a woman, I'm a goddess' screams the headline in their ads. Their new Goddess range includes nail colours and lip colours in rich hues. Even the packaging has been given the once over and now boasts sleek contours in brilliant blue.



and Nutra C for the hair

Who does not want 'gorgeous hair, come rain or shine'? Who indeed you ask? Using this clever carrot on a stick to entice you, **Sunsilk** introduces their **New Sunsilk Pro Conditioner**. The marketing spiel says, 'Made with Nutra-C and Lotus Flower Complex, it coats each strand from root to tip' and makes hair 'manageable, supple and so gorgeous looking'. A 100 ml bottle retails for Rs.50 and the 8 ml sachet totes up Rs.2.50.

TASHIMOVIE CLUB TOP5

- △ CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE
- △ PHONE BOOTH
- △ DAREDEVIL
- △ TEARS OF THE SUN
- △ SNIPER 2

Oberoi's AUDIO ARRIVALS

- .Come Away With Me - NORAH JONES
- .Greatest Hits - BLONDIE
- .Christina Aguilera - DIRRRTY
- .LET GO - Avril Lavigne
- .OST - DUM

VERBATIM

"As we head to war with Iraq, President Bush wants to make one thing clear: This war is not about oil, it's about gasoline."
- Jay Leno

A CALL JUST PERFECT

From the director of "Batman & Robin": one man, in a call box, for 80 minutes. Cinematic purgatory, right?

Well, shelve the cynicism and snide remarks, for Joel Schumacher is on target with "Phone Booth", an impressive genre entertainment - forgettable but gripping; slight but deadly.

The set-up is "high concept" gone stratospheric, an idea so simple it could be very clever or very stupid.

Smartmouth New York publicist Stu Shepard (Colin Farrell) uses a public phone to ring the object of his extramarital affections (Katie Holmes). There, he takes a call from a stranger who threatens that if he hangs up, he'll be shot.

As the tagline would have it, Stu's "life is on the line".

Can he talk his way clear of trouble? What does The Caller want? And when a passer-by is shot, can Stu persuade police captain Ramey (Forest Whitaker) he's not responsible? Schumacher stacks up the

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stylistic tricks, keeping his camera flighty, flicking round the static situation, feeding off the fear of the protagonist. Veteran journeyman scripter Larry Cohen, meanwhile, mostly avoids or undercuts clichés - creating dialogue a little too bespoke to be believable, but amusing and angry nonetheless.

You'll be glued to Stu even as the third act winds down and the action fizzles when it should fire. He fills the picture.

"Phone Booth" is far from flawless, but far from "Flawless", too. Worth a call.

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