

CONSIDERING TO BUY A FLAT IN SILIGURI?**Consider buying it on an SBI loan from Gangtok!**

contact Kumar Gajmer at SBI, Gangtok branch, or call 221165

NOW!

DAILY
FIRST WITH THE NEWS**SIXTEEN IMPRISONED IN BHUTAN BRIBERY FOR ELECTIONS SCANDAL****DETAILS ON pg 5****Manmohan to be leader of House in RS**

NEW DELHI, 05 June: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha while BJP leader and former Union Minister Jaswant Singh will be the Leader of Opposition.

Since Dr Singh is a member of the Rajya Sabha, his Cabinet colleague Pranab Mukherjee was earlier nominated as 'Leader of the House in Lok Sabha.

As soon as the Upper House met on the first day of the 201st session, Rajya Sabha Chairman Bhairon Singh Shekhawat introduced the Prime Minister to the members even as Dr Singh stood up and acknowledged it with folded hands.

Shekhawat then told the House that Dr Singh would be the Leader of the House, as conveyed to him by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. Jaswant Singh, who is the leader of BJP in the house, would be the Leader of Opposition, he announced.

WHILE THE REST OF SIKKIM OBSERVED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY...

a NOW REPORT

SINGTAM, 05 June: Singtam has long been grappling with the problem of littered and dirty streets, overflowing garbage dumps and increasing health problems. All of last year UD&HD conducted a series of meetings searching for a permanent solution. But in spite of all the initiatives launched, Singtam continued to live with the problem.

We have been following the Singtam story over the last two years and today, on World Environment Day, we decided to travel to Singtam to see for ourselves the present situation.

But before we look at the present, let us go back a little.

In July last year, acknowledging the seriousness of the problem, UD&HD held an awareness programme on solid waste management here. The meet, which was attended by more than 200 local residents, was organized to discuss

views and ideas about how to keep the Singtam streets free of garbage.

For the first time in Sikkim, a Garbage Disposal Room was set up in Singtam. Residents were encouraged to dump their garbage in the room everyday, which was to be subsequently collected by UD&HD trucks and taken to the disposal sites.

These initiatives of the department had raised the hopes of the residents for a permanent solution. But a few months later when NOW! visited Singtam to see the progress, it was a dejected populace that we encountered. The hopes raised were dashed when after so many months the town continued to grapple with a garbage disposal system that is woefully inadequate and residents could not help but feel let down by UD&HD.

The GDR inaugurated at the July meeting as the first of its kind in the state was yet to dispose any garbage and the 'bell ringing' tradition which was to come to Singtam and the temporary collec-



Inaugurated as Sikkim's first Garbage Collection Centre last July, this room in Singtam remains locked and unutilised this June

tion sites at Jubilee Line and Lall Bazaar were still in the same over-run condition as they were before. The July meeting, believe the locals was a waste of time.

When contacted, the depart-

ment offered its own reasons for the delay in addressing Singtam's woes. The GDR could not be used due to technical reasons, they said. However, locals maintained that the

turn to pg 5

COMPUTER LOAN CARNIVAL

In association with CITIZENS CO-OP BANK LTD.

- ✓ 0% INTEREST
- ✓ NO DOWN PAYMENT
- ✓ NO PROCESSING FEE
- ✓ SAME DAY FINANCE
- ✓ EASY REPAYMENT

1ST TIME IN SIKKIM**extended till 10th June ON POPULAR DEMAND**

FOR
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES,
BUSINESSMEN
& PRIVATE PERSONNEL
ALL OVER SIKKIM

COME AND TAKE HOME PERSONAL COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS, PRINTERS, SCANNERS, DIGITAL CAMERAS, WEB CAMS AND MANY MORE

HCL

home pc

NAYUMA INFOSYS, 551 EDUCATION, NEAR KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG, GANGTOK,
 PHONE: 270876, 227917, 9832097317, 9832089970
 NAMCHI:- 263919. MANGAN:- 234161, GEYZING:- 251187

NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

Hello...

The telecommunications backbone in the region remains weak. Although both Reliance and BSNL make frequent claims of improved services and broadened customer base, the two service providers are falling woefully short of what the area deserves. They are saved only by the fact that people don't have a third option as far as mobile connectivity is concerned and as for land-lines, BSNL has monopolised the service.

While the BSNL authorities had made loud noises about how crores of rupees in outstanding dues had been defaulted by local subscribers, they remain cagey about commenting on their current level of services. Ask them about the future plans and they will have us believe that Sikkim is headed for the information super highway speeding on the network laid out by the BSNL, which, hoardings all along the highway assure us has taken the "oath" for "Sikkim's growth." Save the ones owning numbers which begin "20," the rest of the land-line users are left with dead phones at the whisper of a thunder anywhere in the Sikkim skies. As for Reliance, any attempt at dialling a landline [in Sikkim] or a BSNL mobile meets with the standard excuse of "congestion" in the land-line network. A very convenient way of straddling BSNL with the blame for failed connection. Making a call from a land-line to a Reliance number remains an attempt in which the odds of getting through are stacked higher than cracking the winning combination on the Super Lotto. Both service providers have failed in meeting the first requirement behind their services - communication. They have to remember that people subscribe to their services so that they can remain in touch with others who might not be necessarily connected to the same network. These are not wireless sets that the people have purchased that they should be limited to a particular bandwidth.

It is not necessary that there are some mala fide reasons why the two players are blocking the other out. It could be a genuine technical glitch that they are ironing out at present, but the least that they could have done is inform the subscribers of the problem. Surely, in the barrage of SMS' they unload on to our mobiles everyday, they could have accommodated one that the people could use - an explanation why their networks refuse networking beyond their respective circles. Will this message get through? Unlikely, the network busy sign is already blinking.

-72-

The war had made things rather difficult for my master. He had many thousand rupees in Holland as I understood, but when Holland was taken by the Germans, he soon had to spend all he had in India. I did my best to be economical, but the household expenses remained more or less the same. He had to pay bills for this and that, for club dues and books he had to buy. I could see he was worrying and unhappy. I think during this time his friends came to his help and thank God he was not out to any humiliation, and there was no dearth of food in the house.

One evening, when things were going on like this, I had told my master emphatically that since he had now retired from his office work, it would be a good idea for him to leave Calcutta and settle in Kalimpong. It would be so much better for his help and less expensive. He only nodded and said it was nice of me to think of such a plan and he smilingly added that he would think it over. Then one day I was told to prepare for the journey to Kalimpong. "We'll see if we can find a cottage or bungalow for rent," he said. Why not buy or

build one master," I asked, "and save the rent? I know one of your friends would help you," he decided that anyway he would choose a quiet place where he could study and write, and complete his Tibetan dictionary, at which I had seen him work for years. During this week we spent in Kalimpong, we could not find any suitable cottage or land but Mr. Tharchin, my old friend there, said he would look out for something.

After some time, we heard of a house situated on the hilltop overlooking Kalimpong, and it was exactly the kind of house my master wanted to live in, beneath the shadows of the Himalayas. He ordered me to pack all his books and make a list of them, so that at any moment we could move

Dr. RABIN CHETTRI

Come 8 June and one will get an opportunity to witness a very rare celestial event. On that day, if weather is friendly, at around 10:45 a.m. we will see a black dot passing across the face of the sun. This kind of event where some object appears to pass across the face of another object is termed as "Transit" in Astronomy. This time around, the object that's going to pass across face of the Sun is identified the second planet of the Solar system; the Venus, and hence the event - Transit of Venus.

As usual, as is the case with any astronomical event, it will be visible only from some selected regions of the world. For this transit, India is one of the best located places, as the entire transit will be visible from all over the country. In Gangtok, the transit will be visible from 10:45 a.m. till 4:52 p.m.

The event is similar to solar eclipse which occurs when the moon comes in between earth and sun. The moon being nearer to the earth, its apparent size is just enough to cover the whole disc of the sun during total solar eclipse. In case of planetary transits, a planet comes in between the earth and the sun; and even though planets are bigger than the moon, due to their larger distances from earth they appear only as small dots on the face of the sun. And, since it needs a special kind of alignment of the planet with the Sun and the

Transit of Venus: A rare celestial event

Earth; planetary transit is an extremely rare occasion. In fact, the last transit of Venus was seen on 06 December 1882, 122 years ago. It's interesting to note that any observer who might have seen the transit of 1882 may not be in this world anymore. So, any observer in the world around, be it an Astronomer of NASA or an ordinary lay man in one of the villages of Sikkim, would be viewing the transit of 08 June for the first time.

We are aware, that all members

THE LAST TRANSIT OF VENUS WAS SEEN ON 06 DECEMBER 1882, 122 YEARS AGO!

of the Solar system, the nine planets including stray comets and dangerous life threatening asteroids, go around the sun in their own orbits. While doing so, the two planets, Mercury and Venus besides our moon can sometimes come in between earth and the sun, the so called position of inferior conjunction. And, being in this position is when there is a possibility of seeing transit of the object. The moon comes to this position every 29th day, that's how we have new moon day and has been the basis of lunar calendar.

In the case of the planet Venus, the period is slightly longer of 19 months. That means, every 19th month, Venus comes in between

sun and the earth. But then the interesting fact is we do not get opportunity of seeing Transit of Venus every nineteenth month. The reason is very simple; the orbits of earth and Venus are not in the same plane. They are tilted to each other by an angle of 3.4 degree. This tilting is the only reason for having this event so rarely. And, it's the same reason why we do not have every 29th day a solar eclipse even though the moon comes in between earth and the sun on that day. The orbit of the moon is also tilted from orbit of the earth. So, to have a transit or a solar eclipse, the planet or the moon respectively, needs to be not only between the sun and the earth but they should also lie in the same straight line. And, these conditions of having the object in between and also in the same straight line are fulfilled very rarely. In fact, after the discovery of telescope by Galelio in 17th century, till now only six transits of Venus have been observed.

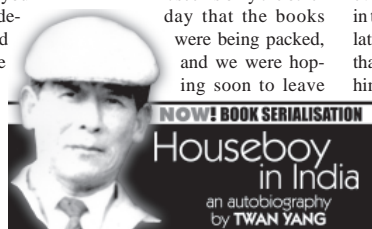
It's interesting to note that whenever transit of Venus occurs, it occurs in pairs with a gap of eight years and each alternative pair comes in a gap of 122 years and 105 years. Apart from the transit of 08 June, the next transit of Venus would be visible in June 2012, which, however, will only be partially visible from India as on that day the transit would start much earlier than the time of sun rise in India.

concluding part tomorrow

Utter dejection follows my master's illness

But that was not to be.

It seems only the other day that the books were being packed, and we were hoping soon to leave



Artist, filmmaker, keen photographer, columnist with international magazines... It's hard to pin Twan Yang down. Born to a Chinese father and Tibetan mother, he grew up in Kalimpong and worked in Sikkim. NOW! serializes Twan Yang's autobiography, Houseboy in India...

for Kalimpong. As was often our custom, I played a game of chess with my master, and later we had a delicious meal at the Chinese restaurant at Park Street. Then I took my master to the Swiss Club, where his friends invited him to join a

game of bridge. Thus he spent the evening of the 15th of March, 1943, in that friendly company, staying till late in the night. It was at two am that I brought him home and bade him good night. I left him sitting near his table with a volume by Jack London in his hand.

Early next morning I was shocked to find him still sitting in the same place, but panting heavily and in some horrible distress. He lifted his head at the noise of the creaking door. "I am sorry to call you, Twan," he murmured. "I cannot move my leg, Twan. Something has gone wrong with it." His despairing look meant that he could not do without my help. "Twan, help me to the bed," he said as I rushed to help him, my entire body trembling in one terrifying emotion.

"Is it paralysed, master, or is it

rheumatic pain?" I asked. "Looks like that," he replied, taking a deep breath.

Slowly, and with great difficulties, I brought him to the bed, while he staggered and held my shoulder with his left hand, the other dangling by his side. Both his right arm and right shoulder with his left hand, the other arm dangling by his side. Both his right arm and right leg seemed to be useless. There in his bed he lay, exhausted and breathless, as if he had been climbing mountains. Notwithstanding my utter dejection, I smiled at him and said softly, as one might to a child, "It's nothing, master! You'll be all right in a day or so." But I knew that it would take time and patience, since to recover from a stroke is not an easy thing. Never before had I seen such a pathetic face. At my words he wept and sobbed like a child. In his weeping, there was some invincible motive, something he could not express. "I want to, oh something is wrong here," he muttered, and pointed his finger to his head. "Here! Here! And he touched his temple. The, for a time he rested calmly, without talking or looking at me.

to be continued

Environment centre-staged at HRD, Forest event at TNSSS

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 05 June: Spot Painting, Essay Competition and Tree Plantation drives marked the celebration of World Environment Day here at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School. The event was jointly organized by Human Resource Development Department [erstwhile Education Deptt.], Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management and Gangtok Water Supply and Sanitation Project.

Ranka MLA, Nimthit Lepcha, who is also the Chairperson, SIMFED, presided over the days events as the chief guest.

In his welcome address, Dr. Madan Shanker, Deputy Director, Zoo & Wildlife, said that the main aim of observing this day was to make people aware and conscious towards the environment because "only when we protect the environment do we protect ourselves."

"We are fortunate that we have a chief minister who is very concerned about the environment and determined to make Sikkim a clean and organic state," he added.

KN Bhutia, Chairman, Stakeholder Advisory Group, GWSSP in his address stressed on the need for planning for the future.

"We all only think of the

present and forget about the future. But a little concern for our environment today can save this world for the future generation," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Ms. Lepcha informed about the many initiatives taken by various departments towards protection of the environment. She also stressed on the importance of conservation of wild life, trees, herbs and appealed to all to work towards it.

The addresses were followed by the performances of two skits by Kyi-de-Khang School and West Point Secondary School, winners of the inter school skit competition on Clean and Beautiful Environment held earlier on 18 May at Community Hall.

In between these skits, BB Subba, a local artist presented a unique musical experience of producing sounds of birds, insects as well as tunes of many songs by blowing on a flute through his nose.

This was followed by the distribution of prizes to the winners of the painting and essay writing competitions. In the essay competition, Ujjwal Ghimirey won the first prize with Roshan Upreti taking the second. In spot-painting, Kunzang Doma Lepcha stood first while Kriti Kala Chettri, Bhumika Basnet and Kanchan Sharma stood second, third and fourth respec-

tively in the Primary category, with the winner's trophy lifted by PNGS.

In the Secondary category, Bikash Chettri came first with Ledup Tshering Lepcha, Nipung Subba and Lakpa Tshering Lepcha coming second, third and fourth. The winner trophy in this category was given to West Point SSS.

In the Senior Category Devika Gurung stood first while Tenzing Norbu, Sher Bahadur Manger and Bikash Gurung coming second, third and fourth respectively. The winner trophy in this category went to Holy Cross School.

The host trophy was given to Mr. Panikar, Principal, TNSSS who also gave the Vote of Thanks. This was followed by planting of trees by the chief guest and others.

The World Environment Day celebration culminated in a rally taken out from TNSS School to MG Marg by students of different schools.



The Environment rally marches out of TNSSS [above] after the function at the campus [below], presided over by Ranka MLA, Nimthit Lepcha [below left]



RAJEEV ELECTRONICS, GANGTOK, & UCO BANK, GANGTOK BRANCH, PRESENT

LOAN MELA*

FOR GOVT. EMPLOYEES ONLY

ON 7TH, 8TH & 9TH JUNE '04

AT P.S. ROAD, GANGTOK

ALSO AVAILABLE MOBILE PHONES & COMPUTERS

4500W FMPO

*conditions apply

For Enquiry Contact: Rajeev Electronics, PS Road, Gangtok. ph: 03592 - 203779, 203590. Rajeev Electronics (P) Ltd., MG Marg. ph: 03592-221778, 224879

Pacific Club organises day-long activities for Env. Day

a NOW REPORT

MENGLLEE, South Sikkim, 05 June: Joining the rest of Sikkim in observing World Environment Day today was the Pacific Club of this rural hamlet in South Sikkim below Yang-Gang.

The day's activities began with an inaugural plantation drive by the chief guest, South Upadhakshya, BM Rai. The club and the chief guest had many saplings to plant. Apart from the 500 saplings of flowering plants provided by the Forest Department, each of the 60 club members present today had brought along 5 saplings each for planting. Continuing with the plantation drive along the road towards Saino Taar. The club also organised an environment awareness programme at Menglee bazaar which was attended by some 100 locals.

At a small function at Thulo Dhungey, near the bridge over Rangpo Khola, the chief guest was petitioned to help with the beautification proposal that the club and locals had prepared for the area. While assuring full support for the project, Mr. Rai, added that he would take up the matter with the Chief Minister soon and encouraged them to go ahead with their plans.

Also visited during the day was the Khasmal forest land adopted by the Club as Ram Prasad Memorial Forest and the Chief Guest was again petitioned to expedite the process of demarcating the area.

Ugen Gyatso appointed SDF Contract & Trade Cell chairman

GANGTOK, 05 June: The ruling Sikkim Democratic Front party President, Pawan Chamling, appointed Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, a party general secretary, as the Chairman of SDF's "Contract and Trade Cell" yesterday. Besides this Bhutia will also look after the NHPC affairs.

Mr. Bhutia while thanking the party president on his appointment said that since NHPC was involved in developmental work, it would always have the support of the people here.

He also assured that his work would be driven by the final aim of providing the educated youth in Sikkim with as many jobs with the NHPC as possible while also securing as many contractual work for local contractors in NHPC related work.

**IF THE LAND-LINES LET YOU DOWN,
NOW! CAN ALSO BE REACHED AT**
98320 80753
98320 34122
98320 42096

Buddha's Light to illuminate Heritage Walk this summer

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 June: Buddha's Light International Association [BLIA], Sikkim Chapter, is organizing a Heritage Walk during the coming summer vacation of schools in June.

Called "Know Your Sikkim Better Study Tour," the main aim of the endeavour is to acquaint the younger generation with the rich cultural and religious heritage of Sikkim and bring them face to face with the natural beauty of the state,

its vibrant people, their colourful culture, history and places of interest in the districts and the rural areas. They will also be shown and told about the sacred peaks, lakes, caves etc of Sikkim.

"It has been necessary for us to acquaint the younger generation with our cultural and religious heritage. The venture initiated by BLIA is only a small and humble beginning, which, we hope, will be successfully carried forward by others," says GS Lama, President, BLIA

The proposed heritage walk is

of six days starting from 12 June. During the period the students will visit Temi Tea Garden, Samdruptse, Namchi, Daramdin, Phur-tsa-Chu, Mahadevthan at Legship, Rabdentse, Pemayangste, Khechuperi, Yuksam, Norbugang, Dubdi, Tashiding and other places of importance on the way.

BLIA Sikkim Chapter was established in 1994 with the objective of promoting humanistic Buddhism and to carry on activities in various fields which benefit the public.

Forest Deptt. [South] observes World Environment Day

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 June: Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, South Sikkim, observed World Environment Day at Goam, Junior Higher Secondary School. The Zilla Adhyaksha, Mrs. Phurmit Lepcha was the chief guest at the occasion.

DFO, Territorial, welcomed the gathering and also briefed about the laws of the department. He urged the people to avoid grazing their

cattle in the preserved forest area. DFO, Land Revenue stressed on the theme of the day which was "Wanted Seas & Oceans; Dead or Alive."

He further said that there was a national grain crop project for 50 schools in south district under the school environmental scheme of the central government which he informed would be implemented shortly.

DFO Wildlife in his address said that the well being of the plains

depended on the good health of the hills. "84 per cent of the land in Sikkim is under forest land," he informed. DC, South, Mr. Vishal Chauhan condemned the use of polythene bags while the chief guest urged the people to look after the planted saplings. She also suggested that schools should have additional classes for environmental studies.

An essay competition was also held in which Adesh Khati bagged the first prize.

Chakung does its bit for a greener Sikkim

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 June: On the occasion of World Environment Day, a tree-planting programme was carried out in all the seven Gram Panchayats of Chakung constituency. The plantation drive was presided over by area MLA and Minister of Building & Housing depart-

ment, Prem Singh Goley.

Speaking on the phone, Mr. Goley informed that the plantation programme was carried out in a grand manner and was geared toward fulfilling the dream of the chief minister to make Sikkim the greenest state of the country

KB Chamling, party vice president also took part in a plantation

drive at Delapchan under Regu constituency which was participated by local panchayats, students and party workers.

Similarly in South Sikkim, under Rateypani constituency a plantation programme was held at Namthang school premises under Aita Singh Barailey

Another arrested for Nadia Khan's death

MUMBAI, 05 June: The Government Railway Police on June 5 arrested another crewmember of the Kaizad Gustad's film in connection with the accidental death of budding director Nadia

Khan died during a film shoot on 25 May at the Mahalaxmi suburban railway station in Mumbai.

Hadley D'Mello, an accomplice of Gustad and his assistant Ashish Udeshi, was arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, common intention, and causing disappearance of evidence.

He was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate D A Joshi who remanded him in police custody till June 10. Hadley is the fourth accused to be arrested in this case. The others are Gustad, Udeshi and police constable Darshana Waiti, all of who were present at the Mahalaxmi railway station when a speeding

train knocked down Nadia. Gustad and Udeshi are in custody till June 10 while Darshana was granted bail on a bond of Rs 6,000.

According to police, Hadley had accompanied Udeshi when Nadia was rushed to Nair Hospital. He was also present along with Udeshi when the 'panchnama' (registration) was drawn and the

complaint lodged.

According to police, a train hit Nadia on May 25 while shooting of Gustad's film Mumbai Central was in progress at the Mahalaxmi railway station.

WILLS
SPORT

available
at
REEBOK SHOWROOM
Below Bank of Baroda
MG Road, Gangtok

RDD minister attends Env. Day function; distributes 500 saplings

PURAN TAMANG

NAMCHI, 05 June: The RDD minister, KN Rai, attended the World Environment Day celebrations which were organised at the Nandugaon Primary School at the school premises. He was the chief guest at the occasion. The welcome address was given by ward Panchayat, Sangita Tamang.

Mr. Rai in his address said, "To save the environment the protection of wildlife and forest is very important." He urged people to stop cutting trees for their livelihood. He informed that the government had also taken steps to protect the forests and wildlife of the state.

Among the speakers was Ms. Bina Kapil, a teacher of the school who stressed upon the importance of the forests in the environment.

District Youth Coordinator, NYK, Mr. Puran Chettri in his address said, "Forests can provide all the needs of a person from his birth to his death. Hence the protection of the environment is our duty." He further stressed on the dangerous consequences of deforestation.

The students and members of the village and surrounding areas also presented skit, dances, songs and comedy shows on the occasion. The chief guest visited the school complex and inaugurated the Smriti Udayan of the school. He also distributed 500 saplings of fig and guava among the villagers.

BLACKBERRYS
ARROW
EST. 1851

STYLE
Hotel Golden Pagoda
MG Marg, Gangtok

**INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
CATERING TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED NUTRITION**
(s/b Govt. of India and Govt. of Sikkim)
TADONG, GANGTOK, SIKKIM-737 102
Ph. No.-270735, 270557

FOR CLASS X & XII STUDENTS

Application are invited for admission to **ONE & HALF YEARS DIPLOMA AND CRAFTSMANSHIP COURSE IN HOTEL MANAGEMENT** for the academic session 2004-2005. **AGE:** Age of the candidate should not be more than 22 years as on 1st July 2004. For candidates belonging to SC/ST, age limited is relaxable upto 25 years.

HOW TO APPLY: Application form and Prospectus can be obtained from the Institute of Hotel Management, Gangtok against cash payment of **Rs. 100/-** or remitting **Rs. 125/-** through demand draft/ Postal order in favour of **INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT**, payable at Gangtok.

Application form complete in all respect should reach the institute before **10th July 2004** accompanied by Registration Fee of **Rs. 300/-**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for submission of application : **10.07.2004.**
Admission : **by 31.07.2004.**
Commencement of class : **16.08.2004.**

Camp on Mother & Child Health

a NOW REPORT

NAMCHI, 05 June: A one-day camp on mother and child health cum medical care for BPLs was held at lower Phalidara today 5 June. The camp was organised by Kamal Jyoti Club and was sponsored by Maniram Phalidara gram Panchayat unit. Dr. BM Rai, ex CMO, Namchi General Hospital was the chief guest of the occasion. The camp was attended by around 250 women of the area.

Mrs. Mina Rai, ICDS, Supervisor, informed the gathering on the facilities provided by the ICDS and urged them to avail of it.

Mrs. KN Gurung DyPHNO, talked on mother and child health and advised the women to take health counselling specially during pregnancy.

A quiz was also held on the occasion among the mothers and pregnant women present and prizes were distributed. A total of 68 women and children were provided free medical treatment and medicine. Dr. BM Rai provided the free medical treatment.

NO FOUL-PLAY IN DISCONTINUED PASSENGER TICKET LOTTERY SCHEME, CLAIMS SNT

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 June: Sikkim Nationalised Transport officials today objected strongly against news reports indicting it of foul play in the conduction of the Passenger Lottery Ticket scheme initiated by it. Incidentally, the scheme which began on October, 2000 was terminated in April this year.

The Additional Secretary, RB Gurung, while speaking to NOW!, clarified that there was no question of any mischief involved in the lottery scheme.

"The lottery was started as a scheme to increase the revenue of the department by enticing more

people to travel in its buses. The results which were declared monthly were published in both, the English and Nepali local newspapers. Besides this, they were also prominently displayed in all our buses and depots here as well as in Kalimpong and Siliguri," he says.

The passenger ticket lottery was drawn every month and had three cash prizes of Rs. 15,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000. Tickets were collected by the 15th of the month and the winners were picked in a public draw supervised by a lottery committee.

"Often we had children and tourists picking the winners from the rotating drum," informs the Addl. Secy.

The winners approached the SNT offices to claim their prize money and had to produce the winning ticket along with their photograph.

"The prize money was given only when the winners approached us. Most of the times there were no claimants for the prizes; in such cases the money remained in the government treasury," Mr. Gurung reveals.

He further reveals that the prize-money was never kept with the department but was with the government. "So, there is no question of any of our officers involved in any underhand dealings," he feels.

The Passenger Lottery Scheme proved to be a failure

since it triggered no enhancement in the revenue of the Transport Department.

"Therefore, to curtail our expenditure on the lottery, with the approval of the government, we discontinued it from April," reveals Mr. Gurung. The last draw took place on 23 April, 2004. The monthly expenditure on the lottery incurred by the Transport Department came to about Rs. 34,000.

He attributes the failure of the scheme to ineffective publicity as well as to the competition provided by the light motor vehicles.

"People prefer to use the taxi jeeps as there are comfortable and faster," feels Mr. Gurung.

16 imprisoned for three to five years in Chukha

CHUKHA, Bhutan, 05 June: The 16 men involved in the election bribery case in Chukha - two councillor candidates, 12 DYT members, and two other accomplices - were sentenced by the Chukha Dzongkhag court yesterday to prison terms ranging from three to five years. The money used in the bribery was forfeited.

Candidate Karma Dorji, who

first revealed the bribery issue, received five years in prison, Mangmi of Lokchina Geog, Janga Bir Ghalley three and a half years for trying to mislead the Court, and the rest were given three years each.

The court described their action as "immoral, unethical, and criminal acts of bribery and corruption" that threatened the "rule of law, undermined social justice and good

governance", deviated from the "principles of free and fair election", and "endangered the stability of political institutions and moral foundations of society".

"The institution of public office and those who contest require undoubted integrity and public confidence," said Drangpon Lungten Dubgyur. "By selling themselves they have violated the law of the land and, more so, breached the trust, faith, and confidence vested in them by society."

Eight of 11 geogs in Chukha dzongkhag will re-elect their local leaders following the verdict that was passed by the Chukha district court yesterday afternoon. Bongo, Dungna and Jabchok were not affected.

The gup of Tala, Aita Singh Aley, mangmi Nima Gyeltshen, chimi Lokman Rai, Geling's mangmi Dorji, Getana's chimi, Tashi Dorji, Metakha gup Trelu, and the mangmi of

Phuentsholing, Ram Prasad Rai, were sentenced to three years each for accepting bribes of Nu 5,000 each from Karma Dorji, a businessman in Tsimlakha who stood for the elections.

Kalu Singh Tamang, who was recently elected as the gup of Balujhara, accepted Nu 8,500 and mangmi Mani Prasad Ghalley received Nu 1,500 while the gup of Lokchina, Aita Singh Tamang accepted Nu 2,500 and Lokchina's mangmi Janga Bir Ghalley received Nu 2,500 from Karma Dorji and another Nu 4,000 from Tsenda Dorji. The former gup of Metakha, Passang Dorji received prison term of three years for accepting Nu 3,000 from Tsenda Dorji.

Phurba Daw, gup of Chapchha and Goenpo Tshering, a businessman in Chapchha, were given three years each in imprisonment for helping Karma Dorji to bribe their DYT member colleagues.

-courtesy Kuensel

While the rest of Sikkim observed World Environment Day...

Contd from pg 1

wheelbarrows problem in negotiating the steps to the GDR was not a serious enough technical problem. They also wanted UD&HD trucks to lift garbage everyday, as against the alternate day routine. The department had then lobbed the ball back to the people's court by claiming that no local body came up with suggestions on how to tackle Singtam's garbage disposal problem.

The problem continued to fester and this time we went to Singtam looking for the Big Garbage Story. We did not find that, but what we found was even more interesting. The people of Singtam

have come up with their own solution to keep their neighbourhood free of the stink and dirt of uncollected garbage.

The locals have started their own community service by forming a local committee to look into the seriousness of their garbage disposal problem.

"In spite of continued interaction with UD&HD, we could find no solution, this time we decided to take matters in our own hand," said an area resident.

Under the guidance of Dhiren Lama, OC, Singtam Police Station, this committee approached local truck owners to provide the community with trucks every day to dispose garbage. The trucks have now started coming everyday and with the help of Safai Karamcharis, all

the garbage is taken to Goshkan Dara, a temporary disposal site, ensuring that the town stays clean and livable.

"We are very happy with this provision as we did not know that the solution to our problem lay with ourselves," say the community workers, happy that Singtam has found a solution for its garbage disposal problem.

The Safai Karamcharis are being provided monetary help, which is also arranged by the committee and locals.

Meanwhile the ambitious initiative taken by UD&HD in the form of the Garbage Disposal Room continues to be unutilised. According to the locals it stays locked all the time and is being used as a store room.

LEATHER EXHIBITION
CUM SALE 2004
FROM 1ST TO 16TH
JUNE, 2004
Leather Bags,
Jacket, Belt, Shoes,
stuffed animals
and many more
items available
Venue:
Top Floor, Super Market
Opp. Denzong Hall
Gangtok

FREE COUNSELLING
FOR DIRECT ADMISSION IN HIGHER STUDIES
AFTER XII (ARTS, COMMERCE, SCIENCE) IN
BANGALORE, DELHI, W.B., NAGPUR, CHENNAI.
IN JOURNALISM, MASS COMMUNICATION,
BUSINESS & HOTEL MANAGEMENT, B.C.A.,
M.C.A., ENGINEERING (B.E./ DIPLOMA), B. SC.,
(BIO-TECH, GENETICS, BPT, NURSING), BDS, LLB
CONTACT: CAREER'S COUNSELLING INSTITUTE,
TIBET ROAD, GANGTOK. PH: 226510, 94341-53355
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR R.I.M.C. (DEC.
EXAM) & WINTER CRASH COURSE (X, XII)

free smart connection!
Buy any Nokia or Motorola Mobile Phone and get Free
Smart Connection [conditions apply]
LIMITED PERIOD OFFER
Ⓞ Easy Instalment Scheme for Salaried individuals
Ⓞ Mobile Phone at Reasonable Prices
Ⓞ No parking problems even after 5 PM
Ⓞ Connection facility
Ⓞ Exchange offer available
contact: 201006, 94341 17320
TENZING ENTERPRISES Shopping Complex,
Room No. 41, Development Area, Gangtok

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya
Rothak, PO Naya Bazar
West Sikkim
CORRIGENDUM
POSTPONEMENT OF ADVERTISED DATES
This is with reference to the call for tender quotations and walk-in-interview called by the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the 25 May, 2004, issue of NOW! The dates for the two have been postponed as under:
1. Tender Quotation - 23.06.2004
2. Walk-in-Interview - 25.06.2004
sd/
C. Kannamma, Principal
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

No entrance tests for Andaman students

PORT BLAIR, 05 June: Students aspiring for Engineering courses from the Andamans have been exempted from appearing in the All India Engineering Entrance Examination for this year, an official said.

The marks obtained by them in Plus Two examination will be the basis for their admission to various courses, the Assistant Security education, Andaman and Nicobar Island said.

The Ministry of Human Resource and Development has agreed to exempt students from Andaman and Nicobar Islands from appearing in the AIEEE, the Assistant Secretary added.

However, he said, students will have to sit for the entrance examination next year.

Pope scolds Bush over 'deplorable events' in Iraq

Pope John Paul chided President Bush yesterday for the "deplorable events" in Iraq and urged him to quickly restore Iraq's sovereignty.

The visit to the Vatican was one of Bush's first stops in a European jaunt that the White House hoped would embellish the President's standing as a world leader.

But as the Pope has done in the past, he spoke his mind freely and scolded the American leader.

Speaking with difficulty and at times slurring his words, the Pope condemned the "deplorable events" of recent weeks "which have troubled the civic and religious conscience of all." It was believed to be a reference to the abuse of Iraqis in the Abu Ghraib prison.

Without a commitment to "share human values ... neither war nor terrorism will ever be over-

come," the Pope said.

Seated next to the pontiff, Bush promised that his nation would work for "human liberty and human dignity." He also awarded the Pope the US Medal of Freedom.

Outside the Vatican, tens of thousands of Italians protested Bush's visit and called for the removal of Italian troops from Iraq.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a strong supporter of Bush's Iraq policy, called the protests a "flop." Bush is also slated to meet the French President Jacques Chirac and take part tomorrow in a ceremony honoring the 60th anniversary of World War II's D-Day invasion.

Historically, presidential excursions abroad are almost always a political plus - and Bush is counting on a political bump from a steady diet of photo-ops with global movers and shakers during the month.

"There's a tradition that Americans always feel better about their President when he is representing



their country abroad," a senior Bush adviser acknowledged.

Bush has three foreign policy extravaganzas in June beginning with this weekend's visit to Italy and France. During a second European visit from June 25-29, Bush will meet with European Union leaders

in Ireland and attend a summit of NATO heads of state in Turkey.

Between those headline-grabbing journeys, he also will host next week's G8 economic summit at Sea Island, Ga., where a new UN resolution on Iraq and Iraqi debt reduction top the presidential agenda.

Kutse Shegu

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of our beloved mother late Amrita Gurung wife of Late Khichung Bhutia who left her heavenly abode on 26 April 2004 falls on 13th June. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Nam Nang road, Gangtok.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thanks all those who extended their help in our hour of bereavement.

Thinlay Dorjee Bhutia (son); Tshering Pema (daughter); Rajan Pradhan (son-in-law); Tshering Choden (daughter); Tshering Diki (daughter); Paladhan Bhutia (son-in-law)
Ph- 98320-75155/ 98320-42184

Kutse Shegu

The 49th day Shegu of Late Shri Nari Tshering Bhutia, Chief Coach Sport & Youth Affairs, who left for heavenly abode on 29th April falls on 15th June 2004. All friends relatives and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence "Norbuling", Upper Syari.



We would also take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our hour of grief and regret our inability to do so individually.

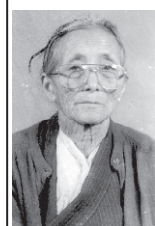
**All Family members
Upper Syari, NORBULING, Ph. 280139**

Chumi Menlom

The 21st day Chumi Menlom of our beloved daughter Tsoang Tamang (Roshni) who left for heavenly abode on 18 May 2004 falls on 7 June. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to kindly attend the Chumi Menlom ceremony at our residence at Upper Sichey. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us at our time of bereavement.

Rajen Tamang (Father), Dolma Tamang (Mother), Rivaj and Rikej (Brothers), Sita Tamang (Sister-in-Law), KB Gurung and Laxmi Tamang (Assang-Angi)
Phone No.: 221574

Kutse Shegu



The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of our beloved mother late Ana Kunlem Bhutia who left for her heavenly abode on 24th April 2004 falls on 10th June 2004. All friends, relatives and well wishers are cordially requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Lower Chandmari (Gairi Gaon).

We, the family members also take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement and regret our inability to do so individually.

Sons, daughter-in-laws, daughters, son-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ph: 205308, 227455

Telgi suffering from AIDS: CBI

NEW DELHI, 05 June: Fake stamp paper scam accused Abdul Karim Telgi is suffering from AIDS, CBI sources said today quoting a report of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

The sources said the blood sample of Telgi, who was brought to Delhi for questioning, was sent to NICD which confirmed that the scamster was HIV positive.

Telgi was brought to the national capital last month during which he revealed information to the CBI which led to seizure of fake stamps amounting to Rs 1.5 crore in Bangalore.

CBI sources said Telgi was aware that he was carrying the deadly disease.

PROBE LIKELY INTO FOREIGN DAILY PUBLICATION

NEW DELHI, 05 June: Caught unawares by media reports about the publication of *International Herald Tribune* in India, the government decided to seek an explanation from the publishers even as the latter said the permission had been duly taken from the Registrar of Newspapers in India (RNI).

Information and Broadcasting Ministry sources revealed that the publication of the newspaper from Hyderabad was a 'complete violation' of existing guidelines, and said an internal inquiry would be conducted to find out how the RNI gave the title clearance without informing the Ministry.

Information and Broadcasting Minister S Jaipal Reddy held a series of meetings throughout the day, and it was felt that the government

had ample evidence to take action against the publishers, Midram Publication Private Limited. The Ministry is also seeking legal opinion in this regard.

Media reports said the newspaper was being printed and published since the last week by T Venkatram Reddy who is also the owner and publisher of Hyderabad-based English daily *Deccan Chronicle*.

The International Herald Tribune is part of *The New York Times Group*, and the editor of the Indian edition is M J Akbar.

FOR SALE

One Diesel Commander [Hard-top], 2000 model. 4-Wheel drive in good running condition. Price negotiable. Call: 94340 29383, 202325

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Experienced Chef/ Cook for top Hotel in Pelling, West Sikkim. Premium salary offered. Interested persons please contact: 94341-53548/ 03592-284606



Sale & Purchase REAL ESTATE

DEALS IN SALE & PURCHASE BUILDINGS/ OWNERSHIP FLATS/ LAND/ RENTING/ LEASE HOTELS IN SIKKIM & W.B.

Contact for Blue Print/Valuation Report/Search Report Estimate/ Interior Designing

BOOKING STARTED FINANCE AVAILABLE
E-mail: josexporter@hotmail.com

GMT [Real Estate]
Dev. Area Gangtok Sikkim
Cell: 94341-78999
Cell: 94342-35745

CLASSIFIEDS

call us at 270949 to book space in NOW! Classifieds, the affordable option

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Space for rent approximately 2,100 sqft Highway level Tenzing & Tenzing building Contact 98320 11437

WANTED

Qualified Teacher in Synthesizer, Bharat Natyam, Drums. Contact: 232102, 281523

MAKE MONEY

Excellent Money Making Franchise Opportunity available for Foreign Education and Employment. Interested parties please e-mail: FranchiseHimal@hotmail.com

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Barsaana College Building & Hostel available for rent in Kalimpong after August 2004. Contact BK Shrestha. Phone: 00 977 98510 45156

ESTEEM FOR SALE!!

A Black Esteem Velocity for sale. Five months old, with all accessories including a Sony X-Plod CD system. Extremely reasonable. **Contact: 94342 41116**

KARCHOONG DIYALI

Nestled at an elevation of 3200 metres above sea level, with Yuksom towards the south and Dzongri further north, Tsokha becomes a bustling hamlet during the tourist season. This village with seasonal occupancy serves as an acclimatization point for trekkers bound for Dzongri, Goechala and beyond.

Tourist season comes twice a year, between March to May and September to November. During these times this village of ten families metamorphoses into candle-lit cafeterias, cabins for rent and big barns for pack animals. With the nearest shops and establishments an eight-hour rigorous trek away at Yuksom [14 kms below], business is brisk and guests welcome.

Tourists come. They climb. They go back. And the rest of the six months reflect a not so colourful life of the residents of Tsokha. Every family owns a substantial amount of livestock [sheep, horses and Dzos] engaged in the tourism business besides which there is no

Tsokha musings...



real money coming in. During the winters, all of Tsokha, cattle and their owners, migrates down to Yuksom to escape the harsh cold and snow. There is no vegetation for the cattle and no tourists to cater to for the masters. With a lifestyle devoid of electricity and a settlement about a day's trek from Yuksom, most of the children of Tsokha obtain their education in boarding schools elsewhere.

Monsoons bring in their own share of woes for the residents. Trails become treacherous, everyday chores stretch longer and worst of all, their animals fall sick.

With no veterinarians around, the animals have to depend on indigenous knowledge for treatment. Herbs for diseases and kerosene for injuries and fractures, informs a local. The vet down at Yuksom is firstly too far, and secondly 'of little use since his knowledge does not stretch to the requirements of the mountain animals, says another cattle owner.

"Our local medicines work better, they have nothing there anyway," she adds.

And in case of human ailments, help is about a day's pony or porter ride away at the Health Centre at Yuksom. More serious problems require a jeep ride on to Geyzing and still further to Gangtok if the condition does not improve.

"I guess it does not make sense to have a clinic where there are no roads and no electricity and accessible only nine months a year," remarks Bhaju who runs a trekkers' hut.



VAJRA MOVIE contest

A correct entry (decided by draw of lots) will win 2 FREE TICKETS to the latest flick playing at VAJRA CINEMA, Digital Surround Sound.

Last week's answers: Kareena Kapoor / PLAN
WINNER: Gunjan Sharma, Tibet Road

- Name the male lead of the film Lakshya?
- Who has directed the horror flick Krishna Cottage?

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

STYLE SWEET Nothings

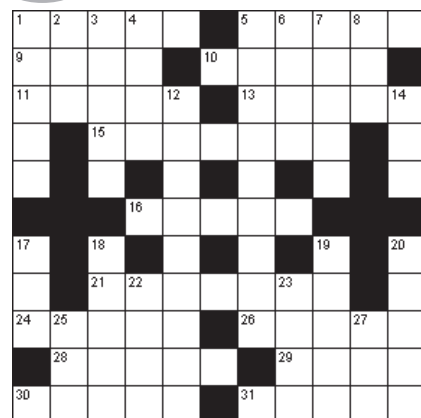
FEEL FOR YOU
You're far away,
But, I can feel you,
You exist in my every breath,
in every beat of my heart,
adding a spectacular sizzle,
in all the right places.
Even when I close my eyes,
I see your face and feel,
the fire of your caress.
Your presence is a tangible thing...
yet as hard to grasp as the air.
I reach for you,
but you elude me.
Still, I can feel you;
the softness of a petal,
a warm winds on my cheek,
a ray in my vision,
a distant light that
ever draws me near.

This feelings is dedicated to my sweetheart (Alpa) from prateek pradhan,

Genuine Pepe Jeans LONDON
STYLE, HOTEL GOLDEN PAGODA, MG MARG, GANGTOK. PH: 03592 223276
A PEPE T-SHIRT FREE FOR THE BEST MESSAGE EVERY WEEK FROM STYLE

little italy CROSSWORD

Solve the crossword correctly. Rush it to Oberoi's (MG Marg) or NOW!, on or before **Saturday** and a lucky draw of all correct entries will decide who wins **FREE DINNER FOR TWO at LITTLE ITALY, DEORAIL.** SNACKS COUPONS TO BE COLLECTED FROM NOW! OFFICE



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Across | Down | |
| 1. Tangle | 1. Strike with the open hand | 8. Stain |
| 5. Chute | 2. And not | 12. Helper |
| 9. Marco — explorer | 3. Not silently | 14. Canceled |
| 10. Hard as granite | 4. Capar | 17. Speed measure |
| 11. Fragrance | 5. Unofficial vote (5,4) | 18. Central Nova Scotia town |
| 13. Cattle roundup | 6. Ransack | 19. Characteristic of city life |
| 15. Farthest from the chief city | 7. Alphabetical or numerical guide | 20. Passage |
| 16. Chilly | | 22. It is so |
| 21. Rattlesnake | | 23. Gain |
| 24. S Louisiana city | | 25. Rowing shaft |
| 26. Sticker | | 27. Feelings |
| 28. Walk of life | | |
| 29. Fury | | |
| 30. Figurehead | | |
| 31. Anger | | |

eye IDENTIFY & WIN

Identify the venue shown alongside and one lucky correct entry will win RELIANCE RECHARGE COUPON WORTH RS. 200/- from

Cindrella Mobiles
MG MARG, GANGTOK. PH: 229897

NAME:.....ANSWER:

today in
History

6th June

- 1844:** Young Men's Christian Association [YMCA] founded in London
- 1882:** Cyclone in Arabian Sea [Bombay] drowns 1,00,000
- 1882:** Electric iron patented by Henry W. Seely, NYC
- 1936:** Aviation fuel first produced commercially Paulsboro NJ
- 1942:** First nylon parachute jump
- 1944:** D-Day: 150,000 Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France
- 1949:** Born, Robert Englund actor (Freddy Kreuger-Nightmare on Elm St, V)
- 1956:** Born, Bjorn Borg Sodertalge Sweden, tennis champ (Wimbeldon 1976-79)
- 1962:** Beatles meet their producer George Martin for the 1st time
- 1967:** 6-day war between Israel & Arab neighbors begin
- 1972:** David Bowie releases "Rise & Fall of Ziggy Stardust"
- 1980:** Bjorn Borg beats John McEnroe for Wimbeldon title
- 1982:** 30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out PLO
- 1984:** 1,200 die in Sikh "Golden Temple" uprising India
- 1985:** Body of Nazi criminal, Dr Josef Mengele located & exhumed
- 2012:** Next transit of Venus [between Earth & Sun] occurs

IF THE LAND-LINES LET YOU DOWN, NOW! CAN ALSO BE REACHED AT

98320 80753
98320 34122
98320 42096

'MINI-ME' ACTOR SEEKS ANNULMENT FROM MODEL



LOS ANGELES: The diminutive actor best known for playing Mini-Me, the pint-sized look-alike protégé of Dr. Evil in the "Austin Powers" movies, has gone to court to challenge the claims of a leggy, blond model that he has married her.

A hearing in the annulment proceedings brought by Verne Troyer, who stands just 32 inches tall, is set for June 17, his attorney said on Friday.

Silberberg said his client filed papers Feb. 23 seeking to annul Genevieve Gallen's marriage claims, which he said were fabricated and financially motivated.

"There is no valid marriage. That's why we're asking for an annulment," Silberberg said. It was not clear on what grounds Gallen was asserting a marriage to Troyer.

Neither Gallen, 31, whose real last name is Gowman, nor a representative could immediately be reached for comment. Her Web site [www.genevievegallen.com] shows the buxom, blond model and yoga instructor posed for several photos in a bikini. It describes her as standing 5-foot-6-inches tall and says she aspires to be featured as a Playboy centerfold.

Silberberg denied that the two

ever made "formal wedding plans."

Troyer has worked in Hollywood for about a decade, getting his first break as a stunt double for a 9-month-old baby in the film "Baby's Day Out." Other credits include a bit part in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and the role of Griphook the Goblin in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

He is best known for his role as Mini-Me, the tiny clone of the diabolical Dr. Evil played by Mike Myers in the big-screen espionage spoofs "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" and "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

HALLE BERRY'S ESTRANGED HUSBAND SEEKS SUPPORT

LOS ANGELES: The estranged husband of actress Halle Berry, R&B singer Eric Benet, is challenging their prenuptial agreement in court as he seeks spousal support from his Oscar-winning wife

Benet filed papers this week in Los Angeles Superior Court asking a judge to "determine the validity and/or enforceability of the parties' prenuptial agreement and subsequent amendments thereto," according to documents posted on the Web site thesmokinggun.com.

The documents show Benet is asking Berry to pay his legal bills and spousal support but does not know the "nature and extent" of their joint assets and debts.

Berry, 37, who won the Acad-



emy Award as best actress for her sexually charged performance in "Monster's Ball," filed for divorce

from Benet, 33, her second husband, in April of this year, six months after the couple separated.

The divorce petition cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split. In a recent appearance on Oprah Winfrey's TV show, Berry said Benet had been unfaithful to her and was being treated for sexual addiction.

The two married in January 2001 and have no children. Berry's previous marriage to Cleveland Indians outfielder David Justice ended in divorce in 1996.

Berry, last in theaters starring in the psychological thriller "Gothika," will next be seen in the title role of "Catwoman," due for release in July.

FINDERS KEEPERS? MAN SUED AFTER \$50,000 FIND

BUENOS AIRES: A jobless Argentine who found \$50,000 buried in trash and promptly bought a house, two cars and a corner shop is now being sued by a woman claiming her maid mistakenly had thrown out the cash.

"All I can say is that I am no criminal," Paulo Altamirano, a 46-year-old man who ekes out a living by collecting street garbage in the central city of Cordoba, was quoted as saying on Thursday by local DyN news agency.

Emilia Mascoy, a 70-year-old store owner, brought a lawsuit for fraud and demanded her money be returned. She says a maid mistakenly threw out the box of cash during a spring cleaning at her home, DyN reported.

A massive economic crisis in 2002 forced thousands of Argentines known as "cartoneros" to earn their living by collecting and then selling street garbage such as cardboard.

SHORT SKIRT BAN STIRS CONTROVERSY

MOSCOW: A Russian regional government has told its women employees to stop wearing short skirts and tone down their make-up because they were arousing their male colleagues' "animal instincts."

The ruling by Oleg Shlyk,

deputy governor of Kaliningrad on Russia's Baltic coast, has stirred indignation among many in the enclave - including its menfolk.

"Of course, a woman must attract a man's attention, but not so much as to overstep norms and

arouse not business-like but only animal instincts," Shlyk told the NTV television network.

An NTV commentator said Shlyk's ruling meant that women in Kaliningrad administration headquarters would have to forsake short skirts in favor of business-suits, shun outlandish jewelry and wear only modest make-up.

Yuri Matochkin, a deputy in the regional parliament, indignantly said the ruling brought shame on Shlyk himself.

"If this distracts him, then he has chosen the wrong job and if he cannot control himself to direct his energy correctly he ought to change his job," Matochkin said.

THE FUTURE, NOW!

ARIES: Is this one of those days in which you feel like four people have a hold on each of your limbs? That people are tugging away and you are getting stretched to the maximum? Someone wants you to go there, someone wants you to come here. Make sure to take a time-out for yourself.

TAURUS: You are apt to have tremendous amount of drive and enthusiasm, which will help you move forward with whatever projects you have underway. Just be careful that you don't act too hastily or impulsively. Be careful of starting out on a new path without having a solid idea about where it is leading.

GEMINI: A relationship that you may have recently formed might have you in a dither. This might be a romantic relationship, or it could be some other sort of acquaintance. You might not be sure about which way you want this involvement to develop. This is not the day to think much about it, as things probably won't become clear.

CANCER: Some strange dreams that come your way could stimulate your imagination and start you off in new avenues of exploration.

Don't be surprised if you learn new things about yourself that you hadn't previously been aware of.

LEO: You might find it difficult to connect with others, because your brain seems like it is in some other dimension. Realize and appreciate the power of fast, circular movement in your life. Seek out things that are fast-paced and a bit bizarre.

VIRGO: If you woke up this morning and feel glued to the bed, then perhaps that's where you should spend the day. You have been working hard and long these past few weeks. It only makes sense that your body would rebel eventually. This is a day for rest and relaxation.

LIBRA: This is a day for rest and relaxation. The office will survive just fine without you. Call in sick, then disconnect your phone and burrow deep under the covers. You're likely to sleep better than you have for a long time.

SCORPIO: An improvement in your financial status could lead to changes within your household. A

member of the household might move out. Although it may seem illogical, the changes in your outward surroundings represent transformations taking place within you.

SAGITTARIUS: There is an emotional intensity inside you that is squirming to find a way out. Sudden outbursts are likely, so take care to hold your temper in check. Seek friends who can act as a thoughtful ear, not a permanent crutch.

CAPRICORN: The nature of a relationship with a close partner may get a bit confused. You may find yourself reacting quickly to a situation without really thinking or processing your thoughts before you speak.

AQUARIUS: You might be feeling somewhat under the weather. Don't panic! You're probably stressed out and need a little rest.

PISCES: Reading could take up a lot of your time. You might not want to talk much about what's coming up for you. You'll need to make sense of it first.

This Is a Stick-Up! Fry Me Some Eggs!

BUENOS AIRES: A hungry Argentine thief forced his way into a home on Friday to steal clothes and appliances — before sitting at the dinner table to demand the captive family cook him a proper meal.

"He ordered a steak and fried eggs. Afterward, he pulled the telephone out and tied the family up," said the porter from the building in a posh neighborhood of Buenos Aires.

The thief then escaped.

a man is judged by the shoes he wears ...why not make it an Adidas?

ABACUS

SNOD Complex, Deorali, Gangtok

IF THE LAND-LINES LET YOU DOWN, NOW! CAN ALSO BE REACHED AT

98320 80753
98320 34122
98320 42096

email us at
sikkimnow@rediffmail.com