

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

WHO IS AFRAID OF PRAKASH KOBID?

TURN TO pg 7

PRAVEEN MOKTAN ON NEPALI WRITING IN THE PRESENT TIMES



from left: Charred remains of the settlement; children at the relief centre; James looks on at what was once his home; and the only thing that remains standing at moving

Rangpo fire razes settlement

RANJIT SINGH

RANGPO, 06 June: After Rhenock, it was the turn of Rangpo to face the heat. A fire raged the IDM grounds, a few minutes from Rangpo on the evening of 06 June razing 8 houses and everything it contained to the ground. Fortunately, there are no reports of any human casualties.

The fire, which broke out at around 5 pm on Sunday, ravaged the human settlement on the banks of the Teesta and around 35 people, including women and children, have suddenly found themselves not only

homeless but also bereft of anything they previously owned. The fire was so sudden and swift that there was no time to save any item of worth.

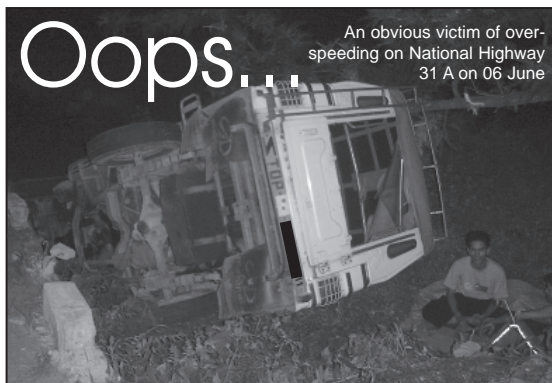
Says James Rai, whose father collected rent from the other houses which were razed, "I was in Rangpo when suddenly everyone started talking of a fire at my home. I rushed home to find everything already razed. There was nothing we could do."

"I was away grazing my goats; when I returned there was a huge fire bellowing from one of the houses. Within a few minutes the whole settlement was aflame," says Dilmaya Rai who along with her children

lived in one of the houses. She too has relocated for the moment to the shelter at Agriculture Auction House which was arranged by the SDPO.

When NOW! arrived at the site there was nothing standing; only charred wood and smoke along with the a thick carpet of hay that once formed the roofing of the houses. James and his three brothers, Reuben and Joel were at the site on a wooden bed under the night sky. Two of their friends, Abhisek and Sandip were with them. The other occupants have relocated to the Auction House.

As Bhola Nath, a social worker, turn to pg 6



Oops...

An obvious victim of over-speeding on National Highway 31 A on 06 June

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.

DON'T MISS

Don't Miss
GANGTOK
EXPO 2004

SIKKIM BIGGEST EXHIBITION



Attractive Offer
Biggest Sale
Heavy Discount
Many More

Participant : Khadi Gram Udyog, Dimple Home Appliances, Subh Marble, Handlooms from Panipat, Wooden furniture from Saha-ranpure, Sofa-cum-bed (Kol), Leather Goods (Kol), Gokul, Libra world Class Home Appliances (buy one Multi Maker - get 20 pcs. Dinner Set FREE) and many more 500 products.

Date : 21st May to 7th June Venue : White Hall, Gangtok

Org. by : North East Consumer Expo

Phone : 0361- 2226824, Cell : 98640-21222, 13024
SILIGURI CONTACT NO. - 2433702, 2538283, 98320-68530, 68529

NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

Rain, Rain, Go Away...

The monsoons arrived a fortnight in advance this year and even as the farmers rejoice, for the rest, a headache has been preponed. The pre-monsoon showers had already sliced off portions of Sikkim hills delivering to the people their calling card of landslides and roadblocks. Even before people read of disrupted road communication in day-old dailies, their pockets feel it every time they shop for grocery. Vegetable prices shoot up with even the slightest hint of a road block; water supply goes all awry with the onset of monsoons; phones go dead and the roads turn to streams. This happens every year. While people might not really "suffer," the inconvenience remains an irritant. Every once in a while, a tragedy of the scale of Gangtok in 1997 and Geyzing in 1999 hits and everyone is shaken. Knee-jerk notifications are issued, orders passed and forgotten with the receding monsoons. Take for example the search launched for that elusive "high-level technical committee's" report on the stability of suspect buildings in 1997 which everyone seems to have forgotten. Just look around, how committed do you think anyone is on averting a '97 revisit. The jhoras continue to double as garbage dumps forcing the surface run-off to find its level on the roads putting both traffic, property and lives at risk. The drainage remains inadequate. Landslides along the highway continue to haunt even though one would have expected the hills to have finished all the slush they could hold. Agreed, the Sikkim Himalaya is a young, unstable chain, but surely, close to a century-long experience with landslides should have made us experts at containing them. Sadly, we still continue with our business at their mercy. A State, which should have by now been the home of landslide experts continues to depend on "experts" from outside wanting to experiment their theoretical solutions on this land. And no one has succeeded so far. The slide at 9th Mile, troubled Sikkim in the '70s, stabilised on its own in the eighties and is sinking fast again. No solutions even for this 100 metre stretch and we expect someone to deliver us permanently from the scourge of slides?

Maybe one reason why a solution has evaded Sikkim is because everyone has been looking at science when the solution is more likely social. Improved civic sense among the locals should immediately make the urban areas safer. A heightened respect for the environment should leave enough trees on the hillsides to hold back the slides and a more enhanced commitment to long-term development should see the road network keep pace with the load on it. Of course, even these solutions might fail. But we have tried all other avenues so trying this one should cause no real harm. Sikkim has to bear in mind that very soon it will not only be catering to laid-back locals and awed tourists. International trade is much more demanding and not given to accommodating avoidable delays.

-73-

When I saw that he was not speaking or murmuring, I called out to him, "Master, master! Shall I call the doctor and Mr. Muuse?" He interrupted by a gesture of the left hand. With quivering lips, he said, "I want you. Twan, I want you to call the lawyer." "Mr. SK Ghose?" I asked. He nodded.

I left the room, rushing upstairs to call his friend Mr. Muuse first. Ten minutes later when I returned, he was asleep, breathing heavily. Mr. Muuse summoned the doctor, and together they decided to take my master to the hospital immediately. When I called the lawyer to tell him that my master wanted to attend to something in the presence of Mr. Van Aken, the Dutch Consul, Mr. Muuse, the lawyer's voice interrupted me to say that this matter could be attended to later when my master found that he could do it at ease. That is how it happened that my master died without leaving a proper will.

It was before dawn on the morn-

ing of the seventeenth of March, in the hospital where he had taken him that my master silently bade goodbye to me and to the world. With a heavy, sorrowful heart I clung to his cold body, sobbing, at the same time praying to God to give him happiness in the Kingdom of Peace, where the dead rest in calm and beatitude. As I stood there alone in this bare hospital room and stared at all that was left of him, the thought came that my master might be gazing at his own useless body from the spiritual world. To me, he looked like a saint; his tranquil appearance reminded me of some great Chinese philosopher. "Hatred is not conquered by hatred, Twan, but by love. This is the spirit of an understanding mankind," so my master used to

RONALD REAGAN, 1911-2004

It may be some time yet before Americans come to fully appreciate the magnitude of Ronald Reagan and his well-earned place in the pantheon of U.S. statesmen.

But in many ways - not least, the boost he gave to the American spirit and his contribution to the defeat of communism - his was the most pivotal presidency of the 20th century.

Reagan, who died yesterday [05 June, 2004] at 93 - the longest-lived president ever - after an extended and agonizing struggle with the effects of Alzheimer's Disease, was the first two-term president in 30 years.

And he left the White House with the highest public approval ratings since World War II - an astonishing 68 percent.

It is no exaggeration to say that no president since has been as widely beloved a figure as Ronald Reagan. For he was the right man at the right time - a commanding leader at a time when America desperately needed one.

It was thanks to Reagan that Americans' pride and confidence in their country was restored. He told this nation that it was "morning again in America" - and they believed him. Under Ronald Reagan, in short, Americans once again were able to stand tall.

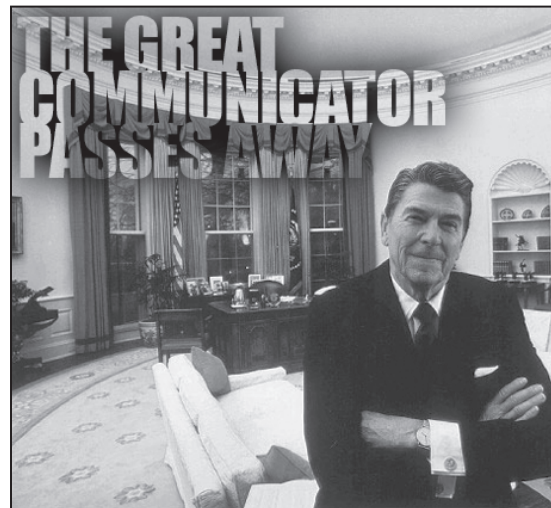
Reagan took office in 1981, at a time of national "malaise" and humiliation.

Americans were being held in captivity in Iran; the Soviet Union was flexing its muscles in Afghanistan and Central America, and the U.S. military, caught in the throes of post-Vietnam hand-wringing, was stagnating.

At home, Americans were trapped by record-high inflation and interest rates, runaway federal spending and federal tax rates that reached as high as 70 percent.

All that would change.

Because, from his first day in office, Ronald Reagan governed with a well-defined ideology and a



strong agenda and sense of purpose. Elected in a landslide over Jimmy Carter, he entered the Oval Office with a broad mandate, which helped him move swiftly to enact monumental reforms.

His achievements were all the more remarkable because the Republicans never fully controlled Congress under his presidency. But he forged a coalition of "boll weevil" Democrats who supported his programs, and his foes simply couldn't overcome the force of his personality.

Indeed, liberals never understood what they saw as the mystery of Reagan's popularity. But there was nothing mysterious about it: He was a man utterly lacking in pretension, someone with whom ordinary Americans could identify. When he spoke to the nation, its citizens understood what he was saying; not for nothing was he dubbed The Great Communicator.

They liked him - and they trusted him. They saw his courage just two months into his presidency when he survived a would-be assassin's bullet, and later on when he was diagnosed with cancer.

When Reagan ran for re-elec-

tion in 1984, he scored one of the greatest landslides in history, winning more electoral votes than any other candidate, before or since.

And so began the events that would lead, amazingly, to the collapse of what Reagan - to the liberals' horror - rightly labeled The Evil Empire.

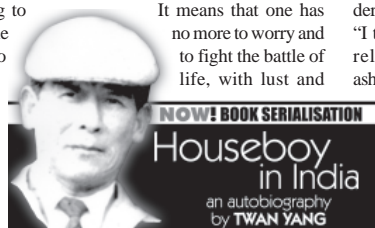
The Soviets were forced to abandon Afghanistan. Their surrogates gave up power in Nicaragua, Angola and Grenada [the latter thanks to a U.S. invasion in 1983]. China and Vietnam abandoned strict Marxism and began enacting economic reforms.

When he left office, runaway inflation was a distant memory. And then there were taxes: Ronald Reagan took office declaring that Americans had a right to keep the money they earned instead of surrendering it to the government. His legacy of tax reform and deep tax cuts helped spark the greatest economic prosperity in 40 years.

Ronald Reagan presided over a period of reawakened national unity, pride and strength. And he did so with a measure of grace and style, humor and dignity that en-

turn to pg 7

Looking at an uncertain future



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...

craving, Twan."

Surely my master had lived to serve mankind. Now he lay dead, and my tears fell on his quiet face as I

knelt to kiss his forehead, for this was the last time that I would see him.

At last came the light of day and with it the nurse. Placing her slender hand on my shoulder, she said, "I think now we should inform his relatives," she paused. I was ashamed to show her my tear-stained face, but I had gathered courage to tell her that he had no relatives in India, only friends. "Could you show me the phone?" I suggested. Covering my master's face, I followed her and did what I should have done long before.

By eight o'clock there came the mourners. Mr and Mrs. France, Mr. Muuse and Mr. Van Aken, the Dutch Consul and a few other acquaintances. Mr. Van Aken patted me on the shoulder and took me outside. "What time did he die, Twan?" he asked. "It was about four, or it could

have been about five, sir," I told him. He looked at me sympathetically, trying to make me understand that this way was better than for my master to have lingered on with pain. For these mourners there was nothing much to do, but each one tried to give me some consolation. Then they departed to arrange for the funeral.

"What is there left for me to do now?" I asked myself. I was tormented at the thought that I had no longer any master to serve. Who would tell me what to do? Who would soothe me my pain. A new responsibility seemed to have fallen on me. Thinking of home, I felt that I had no home, for I feared I would soon be evicted from my present quarters. How would I maintain my wife and child? Fear haunted me, and anxiety followed like the shadow that follows the wheels of an ox wagon.

- to be continued

GANGTOK SHOPS. SHOWS NO SIGNS OF A DROP

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 June: The shopping bonanza continues in the Rajdhani. Even as hundreds of women have made their presence felt at the Gangtok Expo, which has been going on for the last two weeks, the hunger to buy more and more continued on Sunday.

Says Tilak Deka, manager Sikkim Expo, "We have had a good run. Not only the locals, but also tourists have been coming here in large numbers. What is attracting the tourists are the stalls selling handicraft items from all over the country."

For the locals, any and every thing is worth a buy. From bedcovers to pottery to leather goods.

"This is my third visit here and



Leather Exhibition cum Sale

each time I find something new to buy," says Kalawati Pradhan, an office employee.

"This is our fourth time in Sikkim and the attendance keeps improving. Also, people are very well-mannered and friendly here," says a stall owner

For Lucky Arora of Harayana Handlooms, a bad day's sale would be around Rs. 50,000 and no wonder he loves coming here. "Response is good because people love our handloom items," he says.

Today [07 June] is the last day of the Expo and lots of things are still around to be bought and who

knows you may even get a good discount. But a little birdie tells us that the Expo may just be extended for another week or more. What-



Sikkim Expo 2004

ever, a good deal is a good deal.

And if you are fed up of the items here and want newer stuff, you can visit the leather exhibition which is currently on at the Top Floor of the Super Market.

The 10 stalls here display all sorts of leather items. Bags, jackets, belts, shoes made from sheep, goat and buffalo leather. Prices ranges from

Rs. 100 to Rs. 650 for bags, while jackets cost Rs. 1,000 onwards.

The Jaipuri and Kolhapuri shoes come in various designs and sizes and cost between Rs. 150-Rs. 350. A discount of 10-20% is offered on all products.

Says Javed Akhtar, manager, "Last year we had good sales and we are sure this year too will be the same."

9th TT championship announced

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 June: Sikkim Table Tennis Association is organizing the 9th Sikkim State Table Tennis Championship, 2004 at St. Xavier's School, Indoor Hall, Pakyong from June 10-13. Selected players from all the districts will be

participating in the Championship.

The final match will be played on 13 June. This will be followed by a cultural programme presented by the students of St. Xavier's School.

After presentation of the presidential report the prize distribution ceremony will be held. STTA was established in 1984.

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

*conditions apply

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

North observes World Environment Day



DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, 06 June: The north district observed World Environment Day at Ringhem Junior High School yesterday. The chief guest for the day was the DC [North], PS Targain. Other prominent guests were DFO [T], RO [T], the headmaster of the school, JFM Committee, BO, Panchayats of different blocks, teachers and students of RJH School and MSS School along with NCC cadre.

The chief guest, in his address, recounted the significance of the day. The environment, he said, plays a vital role in the life of humans and so it was our responsibility to see to it that our seas and oceans, which are the source of life, do not dry up. He further condemned deforestation and said that it should be stopped and plantation drives undertaken.

DFO [T], in his address, informed

that the Forest Department had become more proactive in the protection of khasmal and green areas. The Department, he said, had formed the Joint Forest Management Committee [JFMC] at different blocks to keep a check on the forests and suggest measures to be taken at the block level by the forest department.

The DFO also expressed eagerness to work in cooperation with Panchayats and the JFMC for environment preservation.

A painting competition for the school students was also held. Lapchen Lepcha [class VIII] got first prize, Bishnu Tamang [class VI] came second and Ashik Kaden [class II] third. Saplings were also planted in the school compound and in the forest areas.

World Environment Day was also observed at Dzong, Chungthang and Phodong.

Nathula reopening might get delayed, but it will come: Chamling

BIRENDRA S.

DARJEELING, 06 June: With the change in the Central Government, it is likely that the scheduled trade with China through the Nathula, will not start in mid-July as expected.

"The opening of the trade route is a Central Government matter and unless the new Government settles down, we don't think that Nathula will open" Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, said. He feels that even when it opens, it will start on a much humbler note.

Regarding infrastructure, the CM assured that it would be devel-

oped as per requirement.

"Sikkim has not yet decided as to what local commodities we can export. Only after trade begins will we get a clearer picture of what we should export and Sikkim will try to extract maximum benefit," he said.

Mr. Chamling is also convinced that the reopening of Nathula for trade will benefit the entire stretch from Sikkim to Kolkata.

The delays, notwithstanding, the route will eventually open and Mr. Chamling believes that his government has already won in as much as convincing the Centre of the need to reopen Nathula is concerned.

"Our main victory is that we managed to convince the previous Central government of the importance of this trade route resulting in former Prime Minister Vajpayee's talks with China in June last year after which both countries mutually agreed to reopen this old trade route. This not only boosted friendship between the two countries, but also prompted China to accept Sikkim as an integral part of India," said Mr. Chamling, who feels that the SDF government deserves to be given the most credit for the reopening since it maintained continuous pressure on the Central Government with the demand.

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION VIA ATREE



"By organizing events at such places, we believe that we can bring about a sense of belonging and responsibility. We also felt that holding such events in town would not bring about the desired change in the minds of the children. Besides, here we can involve the students in field activities and make them connect with nature and learn more," said the project officer, Jayanti Lama.

While most schools were invited, a total of about six schools participated in the Education on Environment Programme [EEP].

Through the day, the students mixed games with learning as they were introduced to various plants and their herbal quality.

The 6 acres in which the EEP was conducted, and where other events of ATREE [Kalimpong] take place, is dedicated by Yusuf Simick to all the projects of ATREE.

There are also plans to set up a children's park over the plot, informs Mr. Simick.

The NGO, known for its winter camps and summer vacation camps, will also soon be holding a workshop for teachers and principals.

a NOW REPORT

KALIMPONG, 06 June: Even as the modern age witnesses a steady increase in the dangers posed to nature and wild life, most of our youth and senior citizens continue to take the warning signals lightly. It was to drive home the urgency of protecting the environment that the local branch of Ashok Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, [ATREE], a national NGO, observed World Environment Day in the midst of nature at Khadale, about 12 kms from here yesterday.

TRANSIT OF VENUS: A RARE CELESTIAL EVENT - 2

The right precautions to watch the Transit

Dr. RABIN CHHETRI

Observing the Transit of Venus [08 June, Tuesday, visible from Gangtok from 10:45 AM to 4:52 PM], since it involves looking at the Sun directly, is a risky exercise.

Proper precautions are necessary for doing that. One should never look at the sun directly with naked eye. Looking directly through light enhancing instruments like telescope, binocular, camera, etc. without proper solar filter is extremely dangerous. It might immediately cause permanent blindness.

Looking through X-ray films, compact discs [CDs], smoked glasses, coloured water and any other kind of home made filters are also dangerous because these objects, although they lessen the intensity of visible light of Sun, do not absorb the infra-red rays which are also present in Sun's radiation. These infra-red radiations are the most dangerous radiations which damage the eyes.

The best way of observing the transit and solar eclipses are through proper approved solar filters if available. Otherwise, the simplest way is to project the image of the Sun by pin-hole arrangement on some screen and observe the projected image.

This contraption is simple.

Make a pin-hole on a cardboard and placing the cardboard towards the Sun, let the light fall on some white screen. The black dot of Venus passing across face of the sun will be large enough to be visible in the projected image. The projected image of the Sun can also be produced on a wall by reflecting its light by a small mirror.

If one has instruments like telescopes or binoculars, but no solar filter, then these instruments can be used to produce large projected images on screens placed some distance away from eye-piece of the instrument. But, do not look through the instruments directly at the sun. Even if one has a solar fil-

ter, the filter should be fitted at the front end i.e. the objective of a refractor or Galilean type and the primary mirror of reflector or Newtonian type of telescopes. Simply covering the eye-piece of the instrument will not be sufficient.

It is once in a life time opportunity to witness such a celestial event and hope we will not miss it.

Interested persons without the necessary equipment can also share the delight by joining the group which is scheduled to meet at the Sikkim Government College, Tadong, on Tuesday morning to witness the Transit together.

[The writer teaches at Sikkim Government College, Tadong]

DISCOUNTS FOR BEST FLOORING



Wooden parquet flooring, Lucky PVC floor tiles, PVC wood plank, tiles, Vista floor, Super marblax, Wall Heritage Surface, Textures, Spray polish, Japanese technology.

contact: _____

TIKA ENTERPRISES

Near Krishi Bhawan Gate
31 A NH, Uma Cottage
Tadong, Sikkim - 737102
Ph: 231394 M: 98320 96499

SMART ACADEMY

Announces Admission for Bachelor's & Master's Degrees

Courses Offered:

BSc IT	MSc IT	Information Technology
BCA	MCA	Computer Application
BCom IS	MCom IS	Commerce with Information System
BA JM	MA JM	Journalism and Mass Communication
BSc FD		Fashion Designing
BSc BT	MSc BI	Bio-Technology/ Bioinformatics

All Degrees & Diplomas issued by:

SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

Eligibility:
For Bachelor's Degree: 10+2 (In Any Stream)
For Master's Degree: Graduate (In Any Stream)

Admission & Courses Conducted @:
SMART ACADEMY
(University Study Centre: 1760)
Syari Raod, Deorali, Gangtok, ph: 281043, 280313, 94340-26140

The ONLY University Centre in Gangtok

RSVY INCORPORATES SIKKIM, PROMISES Rs. 45 CRORE GRANT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 June: The Department of Development, Planning, Economic Reforms and North Eastern Council Affairs informs that Sikkim has been included in the RSVY scheme. The Planning Commission will now provide a grant of Rs. 45 crores spread over a period of 3 years at Rs. 15 crore per year.

A list of Panchayat Units/ areas has been selected which will be covered under the RSVY. The objective is to reduce poverty in a time bound manner. The schemes which may be taken up under RSVY will therefore be aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, generating employment and income and

filling critical gaps in the social infrastructure. The schemes include both, those which benefit only the identified panchayat units, communities or individuals and those whose impact are much wider and would normally come under the category of infrastructure development.

The districts, with the help of the Panchayat units and NGOs, are to identify their requirements and prepare a District Plan. Efforts will be made to maximize the RSVY funds through leveraging funds from the financial institutions, beneficiary contribution and from various schemes of the Govt. of India.

Various development departments of the State Government have

been advised to prepare schemes in the identified Panchayat units/areas in their respective sectors.

The schemes drawn up by the departments should be holistic and integrated plans fulfilling a vision through integration of the schemes proposed. The plan is to be prepared by a team of district officers of the development departments coordinated and led by the District Collectors involving the PRIs, NGOs and other institutions.

The district plans are to be submitted to the department office by 15 June. Vinay Shankar, retired secretary to the Government of India is to be the consultant in the preparation of this plan, informs an official press release.

Kalimpong workshop lays groundwork for the battle against addiction

KARAN SHAH

KALIMPONG, 06 June: Recognising the increase in the prevalence of alcoholism and drug addiction in the hill society, the town today witnessed its first "total workshop" on "Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse."

The awareness workshop held by the Kalimpong Family Anonymous Group [KFAG] and Kripa Foundation, Darjeeling, stressed on the need for a more optimistic attitude of dealing with such patients, rather than force or compulsion.

The workshop was organised for resource persons who tackle addiction and was attended by the teachers, police officials, NGO's, social workers and other senior citizens. Those present were taught more spiritual and friendly methods of treatment of all addictions.

The workshop was divided into four concepts of: disease concept, effects on various areas of life, family disease and curative measures.

"In the matter of guiding them specifically, I believe the law-enforcement section will benefit more, as it's a known fact that they handle things in a more harsh way with punish-

ments. Other than that, what we are trying to explain is the seriousness of problem. Everyone accepts that drugs are a problem, but are not as worried by alcoholism. We believe both are equally destructive," said PJ Pradhan, member First Evangelical Church Association of India [FECAI], Namchi and a social worker.

Mr. Pradhan also believes that more such initiatives need to be taken to combat drug abuse in the hills.

When asked about the purpose of holding such a workshop, instead of directly reaching out to the youth, Amod Yonzon, the chief coordinator said: "If we had called the workshop only for the youth,

our audience would have been limited. Drug abuse has to be tackled not only by those who are at risk, but also those who have to deal with it on a day to day basis like teachers, police officials and members of the civil society."

"We look forward to organizing such meets only for the students in the near future," he added.

While speaking on the positive impact of such workshops, Rajen Dewan, of the Kripa Foundation, said: "Our overall programme has proved to be fruitful in many ways. Take for example the success rate of the Kripa Rehabilitation Centre at Darjeeling, which stands at 65%."

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

Gangtok Water Supply and Sanitation Project NGO Mobilization Workshop

We hereby invite the NGOs of Gangtok to participate in the Mobilization Workshop for NGOs. The participating NGOs should have experience of working with the community in Gangtok. The participation will be purely through a formal invitation. Hence it is necessary to have consultation with the project beforehand.

The workshop is scheduled on June 14, 2004

For more details contact:

Gangtok Water Supply and Sanitation Project,
Tenzing & Tenzing Building, 31-A, National Highway, Gangtok
Ph: 201057, 201058

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)



Pakim Palatine College Pakyong : Sikkim

WANTED

I. Invites application from suitable persons for the post of "Principal"

Essential qualification:

Applicant should be a Post Graduate / MPhil / PhD in any discipline from a reputed University and recognised as eminent scholar with published work of high quality and should have been actively involved in research works with minimum of seven years experience as Principal or Administrator of a residential Degree College, and/or 10 years experience in research at University/National level institution including guide for doctoral level and/or person with similar experience with military background not below the rank of Colonel and with excellent management capability

Apply with:

1. As per UGC norms the applicant need to submit along with the application a copy each of reprint of three major publications of which one could be a book or research report.
2. Attested copies of relevant documents and credentials
3. Contact phone (must), email
4. Mailing address
5. Two referees (preferably past employers) and their mailing address and contact phone(s)

Selected suitable candidates will be intimated to come for a face-to-face meet
The applications should reach the following address **on or before 17 June 2004.**

II. Invites application from suitable candidates for the post of "Lecturer"

In the following subjects / faculties:

1. **For BSc / Environmental Science / BCA Classes:**
Botany, Zoology, Geology, Micro Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Applications, Computer Hardware, Software, Info-Technology
2. **For B.Com / BBA Classes:**
Business Management, Finance and Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Business Maths
3. **For BA / Humanities:**
English (Lit/Lang), History, Geography, Sociology & Anthropology, Public Administration, Political Science, Philosophy, Education, Hindi, Nepali, Modern Tibetan

Essential qualification: PhD / MPhil / PG (minimum 55% in the relevant subject) from a reputed University

Experience: 3-5 years experience as lecturer in the subject applied with NET/SLET or CSIR certificates is desirable but fresh candidates may also apply. (Note: Candidates who have obtained M.Phil. or have submitted Ph.D. thesis on or before 31.12.1993 are exempted from NET qualification).

III. Librarian (graduate in Library Science)

IV. Lab technicians

Experience: 3-5 years experience in the subject applied for.

Salary (for all posts): As per College rules and UGC norms

Other perks: as per College rules.

Other conditions: (for all posts)

1. As English is the medium of instruction, (except Language teachers) all applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English.
2. Selected candidate(s) should be willing to live and work at Pakyong, Sikkim, (qualified couples are encouraged to apply) (18 Km east of Ranipool, Gangtok).
3. The selected incumbent should join the College by July 2004

Apply with:

1. Attested copies of relevant documents and credentials
2. Contact phone (must), / email]
3. Mailing address
4. Two referees (preferably past employers) and their mailing address and contact phone(s)

The applications for II, III & IV above should reach the following address **on or before 21 June 2004.**

**The Chief Executive Officer,
Pakim Palatine College,
Pakyong, 737106,
Sikkim.**

Candidates may email their applications to: bandeydah@indiatimes.com
The selection, however, will be done only on receipt of application along with the enclosed relevant documents.

Selected candidate will be asked to attend interview at Pakyong or Silliguri (North Bengal). The date and venue will be intimated over phone/ email individually.

Note: The College shall neither bear nor reimburse, nor will it be responsible for any kind of expenses incurred by the candidate while attending the interview.

ADMISSION NOTICE

Session Beginning August 2004



Pakim Palatine College
Pakyong : Sikkim

Located at New Market, Pakyong
(Hostel Facilities available)

Full Time Degree Course offered in:

- ☛ B.Sc. Micro-Biology
- ☛ B.Sc. Env. Studies
- ☛ B.Sc. General
- ☛ B.C.A
- ☛ B.IT
- ☛ B.Com
- ☛ B.B.A
- ☛ BA

(See prospectus for details)

Prospectus will be available from 12 June 2004

Languages offered: English, Nepali, Hindi, Tibetan
Medium of instruction English

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW

For Details Contact:

Chief Executive Officer,

Pakim Palatine College, Pakyong, 737106, Sikkim.

Phone: (03592) 257962 (O)
257197 (R)

Email: bandeydah@indiatimes.com

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); Paldan 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 our inability to do so individually.

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



Sikhs mark Op Bluestar anniversary

AMRITSAR, 06 June: On 06 June, 1984, the army launched Operation Bluestar to flush out terrorists from Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

On Sunday, the twentieth anniversary of the event, Jaspal Singh Manjura, 25, of the All India Sikh Students' Federation, attracted attention at Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex, when he raised slogans of 'Khalistan Zindaabad'.

But there were no takers among the thousands of devotees who had gathered to pay tributes to those killed during the operation.

A Punjab University student,

Manjura called former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal a traitor.

"People like Parkash Singh Badal, who are corrupt to the core, should be removed from the political scene and honest people should be brought in, otherwise the dream of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale [a preacher turned separatist who headed the Khalistan movement and ran his terrorist campaign from the Golden Temple] will never become a reality," he said.

Supporters of Bhai Amrik Singh, who was killed during the operation, distributed calendars depicting him and a shattered Akal Takht.

Amrik Singh was from Damdami Taksal, which was headed by Bhindranwale, who was also killed.

Prominent among those who were present at the Akal Takht were Badal, former Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee presidents Bibi Jagir Kaur and Kirpal Singh Badungar and Simranjit Singh Mann, president, Akali Dal-Amritsar.

Ishwar Singh, Bhindranwale's son, and Manjit Singh, Amrik Singh's brother, were also present along with Bibi Kiranjot Kaur, who brings out a magazine called *Sant Sipahi*.

NTR's son Balakrishna arrested

HYDERABAD, 06 June: Popular actor N Balakrishna, who allegedly shot a Telegu producer, was arrested at a private hospital here on Sunday. Police took him into custody at 3.30 am today.

Later Balakrishna, son of former chief minister and matinee idol NT Rama Rao, was brought before the Metropolitan Magistrate, who ordered the police to produce him in Court on Monday.

An attempt-to-murder case has been registered against Balakrishna for allegedly opening fire at a film producer B Suresh and his friend Satyanarayana Chowdhary on Thursday night, leaving both injured.

The Judge initially ordered police to admit Balakrishna in another hospital but later accepted his plea and allowed his re-admission at the same hospital.

BJP national executive has 20 new members

DELHI, 06 June: The Bharatiya Janata Party, which suffered a shock defeat in the Lok Sabha election, has named 20 new members in their newly-constituted national executive.

The list includes former Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley both whom have been named party general secretaries by President Venkiah Naidu.

Pramod Mahajan, who along with Sanjay Joshi continues to be general secretary in the new team, will prepare the party for the Maharashtra assembly election later this year.

Naidu, who kept the reconstitution of his team in abeyance after taking over as party chief in view of the Lok Sabha election, gave representation to all sections of the society in the reconstituted

central office, frontal organisations and national executive, party spokesperson Jaitley said while releasing the list in New Delhi.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who was general secretary, is now party vice-president. He will continue to be the party's spokesperson with additional responsibility of headquarters-in-charge.

Naidu dropped Ramdas Aggarwal as treasurer and replaced him with Sukumar Nambiar, who had held this post when Jana Krishnamurthy was party president. Another office-bearer who finds himself dropped is vice-president Pyarelal Khandelwal.

Naidu also appointed two women as office-bearers - former Union minister Jaskaur Meena [vice-president] and Kiran Maheshwari [secretary].

RANGPO FIRE...



Contd from pg 1

at the Auction House recounts, the fire was caused by a flame carelessly left burning after it had just been used to cook food in one of the houses. The two people who had cooked the food had then left the house without dousing the flame.

"The fire was helped along by the strong winds blowing from the direction of the river," says James.

According to him the Rangpo fire tender which arrived about half an hour later did not carry enough water to douse the flames.

"Water had to be pumped from the river. In about a couple of hours, the fire was doused but there was nothing left to claim," he says dejectedly.

Sitting by the wooden bed on the

ground where his home once stood he reveals that his family had about 3 tolas of gold along with about Rs. 60,000 in cash, all of which went up in smoke.

"We had 40 fowls, 12 goats and four pigs; most of them have run away or are lost," he says while his brothers Rueben and Joel sit dumbstruck.

As informed by them the land belongs to one Mr. Kumar while their father, Macmohan Rai, collected the rent. "I don't know how we will live now. My father is half blind and we have lost everything now," he says.

As informed by Bhola Nath the first people to arrive at the spot was the SDPO along with the first and second OC of Rangpo police station. They were followed by the panchayat and other local people.

GS Sharma of the NSS was also present at the temporary shelter when NOW! arrived at the place. As he says: "We will be looking after the people from now on. Though the SDPO has provided for the people for today we will be procuring the ration for them tomorrow and for the following days that they remain here."

"Will we get compensation?" asks James Rai expectantly.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE

Hotel furniture and other articles suitable for use in hotels available for sale. contact: 9832070691

AVAILABLE FOR SALE

100ft X 350 ft. of prime land along NH 31A near Rangpo. Contact 9832032981 for further details

WANTED

A teacher for a Kindergarden School in Gangtok. Contact: 232230, 231949

PRAVEEN MOKTAN

WHO IS AFRAID OF PRAKASH KOBID?

In the 1920s when Indian Nepali writing was still in the cradle of commercial viability there was a genre that was enjoying a great deal of market success. These were your risqué verses written in the stringar rasa. Abounding in innuendoes and mildly erotic imageries of soldierly craving, these poems that spoke of the love lives of mercenaries and their reluctant lovers among other things, were a great hit among the literate and the semi literate readership of those days. However there was a group of litterateurs who rued the lack of interest in serious literature. Much of this disdain found expression in the journals of that time. These publications were sophisticated works of journalism that had within their brief, the task of bringing about some sort of a social revolution by highlighting the low social, economic and educational status of the migrant Nepali populace of Darjeeling and elsewhere. These papers, in a sense, were the precursors of the more politically vociferous slogans [and agendas] that would be raised time and again in the hills in the future.

The emergence of the Nepali public sphere in India and the role played towards achieving that end by these journals has been the subject of the thesis of a young Scottish scholar Roderick Chalmers with the School of Oriental Studies, University of London. This seminal work also contains forays made by the researcher into understanding the world of Nepali publishing and the creation of Nepali print communities in India. He offers interesting insights and conclusions based not just on the analysis of literary merits of the works of that time but also a path-breaking examination of the type of market dynamics that made some publications sustainable while others had to fold up due to lack of readership. It is genuinely hoped that the questions that are raised in the thesis opens up newer vistas for indigenous scholars to explore and expound.

The singular fact that stands out in Roderick's study is one that is pertinent to readership everywhere. That is, a major percentage of the literature that is bought and read panders to the tastes of a lowbrow readership. Even in the more sophisticated literary environment of the United States, the inclusion of popular horror writer Stephen King into the literature hall of fame and the subsequent controversy that it raised speaks volumes about the unease with which the literati regards the merits of paperback hacks.

In Nepali, therefore, it is no surprise that in the democracy of readership the most widely read are works churned out by the so-called "peddlers of pedestrian prose". The term "democracy of readership," is to imply the readership of those writers whose works have been bought not because of the dictates of faith [read Ramayana] or because they have been canonised in the syllabus of some examining board. The reading community that I am referring to bought those books because they genuinely wanted to read them. In the seventies and the eighties for example, the commercial success of authors like Prakash "Kobid," Prakash Rana, Dil Subba, Bhagirath Rawat and to an extent Subhas [you know who] bear witness to the fact that there was at one time a voluntary group of Nepali readers who bought books not out of any

literary pretensions but because they genuinely wanted to read a novel, enjoy it, forget it and then buy the next one.

Prakash Kobid, in fact, I am told by some from Bhutia Busty in Darjeeling, made a living [or what could be more plausible, supplemented considerably his primary school teacher's income] out of the books that he wrote. It's indeed a remarkable thing that there was once a time right here at home when it was possible to pay the bills by writing. How that changed is difficult to explain but forces as diverse as the growing Americanisation of the local youth, Hindi movies, television and cricket could have conspired at many levels to sound the death knell of popular Nepali fiction. This is perhaps one of the prices to pay when literature functions as a subset of "entertainment".

But there is another substantive explanation of what drove away the readership. This inevitably has to be the writers themselves. While a few died and at least one gave in to the pull of a higher calling, the rest fell into that trap of "over literariness." As a result, a majority of the literary output are nothing but a farrago of words that do not excite the present and one can safely assume have no worth for posterity to judge. More often than not, the average person with the foolhardiness to print books and then the temerity to put them up for sale is an over sentimental individual, preoccupied with literary pretensions that he is neither capable nor inclined to do justice to. Unlike, say a Prakash Kobid, who was unabashedly simple and unpretentious about his craft, the present lot would want to give you the impression that they are Nobel Prize material. They complicate things for the sake of it and that overwhelming sense of self-commiseration that pervades a majority of the works would make the adjective Kafkaesque almost untenable. [It is also no coincidence I feel that a majority of the op-ed pieces in the local Nepali dailies while being basically pastiches are written in styles so top-heavy and convoluted that it is a wonder that people still read them].

Paradoxically, this downward slide in the quality of literary output has coincided with the growth of Nepali University Education that has provided us with sophisticated critics educated in the best critical traditions of both the worlds. The only problem is the banality of creative structures that these yardsticks set out to measure and evaluate.

Thus at the moment, we have the hapless situation where one the one hand literature does not cater to the masses be-

cause it is not sufficiently readable and it does not appeal to the higher critics either, as it is in fact quite unreadable.

In this bleak scenario there has however been a beacon of hope. IB Rai is that singular window that exposes the hills to the fresh breeze of World Class Literary trends. He has been untiring in his zeal to experiment and push the boundaries of meanings that words and expressions can convey.

But IB Rai's preoccupations with such exercises have proved increasingly elitist and divorced from the demands that the average [and at the moment non-existent reader] make of works in Nepali. Recently there has been a brave but surprisingly muted crop of critics who feel that (i) IB Rai is too abstruse and that (ii) what he is doing is nothing novel or path breaking [IB they feel has been making the most of his scholarship and that his ease with languages other than Nepali allows him the liberty to transpose some of literary trends and thoughts in Nepali without the average reader being aware of it].

Whatever merits these arguments may have, I somehow feel that in IB's hurry to experiment and theorise we somehow lost the writer who gave us such profound works as "Raat bhari hoori chalyo" and "Aeuta din ko samanyata". He may, in a certain dimension, have grown as a writer, but at least for the moment, he has lost what Indian Nepali literature needs the most - readers. In fact, so acute is the shortage that even at the point of being over simplistic I will not hesitate to say that what we need at the moment are the Prakash Kobids to bring back the readers who will buy and read Nepali books. People like IB can be showcased, but they write for a different readership whose attention is also vied for by the likes of Derrida and Foucault.

But to give the stalwart the due, I would like to recollect what the great man said in an interview that he gave to NOW! nearly two years back. He said that his Tesro Ayam movement derived itself from Einstein's Theory of Relativity. I thought this was a lot of name-dropping. The editor defended the great man by saying that something could be lost in translation and the journalistic exigencies of editing for want of space. Later, when I put that Einstein comment into perspective, I understood what IB had meant. As far as I understand it, Tesro Ayam is that mode of writing that seeks to present reality the way it is, without any influences of the writer, or the frame of reference from which he is presenting it. The core of the special theory of relativity too is the same, that is the laws of physics [i.e. to an extent reality itself] have the same form through out the universe. Thus, it really did not depend on the observer as reality had a separate, inviolate existence apart from him. Tesro Ayam sought to devise a set of vocabulary [borrowed at times from the other Arts] to express the totality of experience without any external impingements. Now, I may be wrong, but that, in a sense, is the futility of the whole exercise of trying to pin down IB.

This of course brings us to another analogy from physics. Quantum Mechanics postulates that there is an inherent duplicity of nature that does not allow us, even with the best of intentions and equipment, to pinpoint its actuality.

In a sense I really miss Prakash Kobid.

The great communicator passes away

Contd from pg 2

deared him to his countrymen.

Even as he announced the awful diagnosis of his illness, Reagan's good cheer shined through: "I know that for America," he said, "there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

That characteristic burst of optimism was the last the nation would hear from Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Yet the legacy of America's 40th president will long live on.

Reagan recast, and revitalized, his party, the nation and the world. He'll be missed.

But not soon forgotten.

-courtesy: New York Post

Seige of Mithila

Ashok Banker
Price: Rs. 332

In *Prince of Ayodhya*, Ashok K. Banker told of the terrifying prophecy that doomed a city and the heroes that fought to preserve their homes. Drawing on the epic Indian saga of the Ramayana for inspiration, he has brought one of history's great-

est works to a global audience. Now *Siege of Mithila* continues the story of the heroes of the Ramayana. The prophecy of annihilation has been made and events are moving to their inexorable conclusion. The fate of the world hangs in the balance and the slightest mistake will lead to the certain destruction of all. The original Ramayana was written in Sanskrit by a reformed thief-turned-sage named Valmiki, possibly as long ago as



2,000 B.C.

Kleptomania
Manjula Padmanabhan
Price: Rs. 200

The dictionary defines kleptomania as a recurrent compulsion to steal without regard to the value or use of the objects stolen.

It is also the title story in Manjula Padmanabhan's eclectic collection. The whimsical picture of a black fork piercing a pink heart on the book cover foreshadows the darkness that is an undercurrent of the narrative. In *Kleptomania*, Padmanabhan familiar-

ises us with the nuances of the word ranging from the self-castigating "all writers are kleptomaniacs" and the Winona Ryderesque impulse of a society matron to steal from her

On the Shelves

hosts at parties to a socially relevant

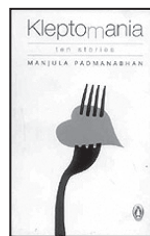
"powerful bureaucrats in our country are all compulsive looters and thieves" — the institutionalised kleptomania of corruption. The stories in the collection belong to different genres — satire!, fantasy, mystery, sci-fi and autobiography. They explore the disconcerting reality of modern day existence.

Emperor's new mind

Roger Penrose
Price: Rs. 300

The Emperor's New Mind by Roger Penrose may be the best book about modern science yet written. The range of issues addressed by Penrose is vast, from Relativity and quantum mechanics, to many questions about mathemat-

ics, and ultimately to important questions about Artificial Intelligence; and Penrose's authority as



one of the greatest living mathematicians to address these things is unique. Penrose's thesis, therefore, that Artificial Intelligence through computers, as presently constructed, cannot in principle duplicate the workings of the human brain, and his argument

that Einstein was not wrong to express grave philosophical doubts about quantum mechanics, are given a weight that they would not have if merely some philosopher, or anyone else less intimately involved with the mathematical and theoretical underpinnings of physics, had expressed similar views.

-All books available at Rachna Books, Development Area

today in
History

7th June

- 1502:** Born, Pope Gregory XIII, who introduced the Gregorian calendar in 1582
- 1631:** Mumtaz Mahal wife of Shah Jahan dies
- 1769:** Daniel Boone begins exploring the Bluegrass State of Kentucky, US
- 1775:** United Colonies change name to United States
- 1912:** US army tests 1st machine gun mounted on a plane
- 1924:** George Leigh-Mallory disappears 775 feet from Everest's summit
- 1929:** Vatican City becomes a sovereign state
- 1930:** NY Times agrees to capitalize the n in "Negro"
- 1939:** 1st king & queen of England to visit US, George VI & Elizabeth
- 1958:** Born, Prince [Rodgers Nelson], rocker/actor (1999, Purple Rain)
- 1963:** First Rolling Stones TV appearance (Thank Your Lucky Stars) & release 1st single, "Come on"
- 1967:** Israel captures Wailing Wall in East Jerusalem
- 1971:** Born, Mark Wahlberg rapper/ actor
- 1981:** Israel destroys alleged Iraqi plutonium production facility

NOW! CAN ALSO BE REACHED AT
98320 80753
98320 34122
98320 42096

ARIES: You are impulsively affectionate and flirtatious at this time, and you feel quite restless if you are in a stable, predictable relationship that offers little excitement. You may be highly attracted to someone new.

TAURUS: You are in an eager, confident mood and this is a good time for any competitive endeavor or anything that requires a lot of energy.

GEMINI: Physical thrills and excitement have a strong appeal for you now, and you want to do something new and out of the ordinary. You also have a lot of energy and quick reflexes.

CANCER: There is a friendly, cooperative, harmonious tone to the interactions you have now. It is a good time for social activities and for getting in touch with friends.

LEO: Friendships and love relationships are favored as you are openly affectionate, warm, and

CONMAN DUPES PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW

CHENNAI: A conman duped the nephew of President APJ Abdul Kalam to the tune of Rs. 25,000 at the Chennai Central station here

earlier this week.
 On June 3, Dr. Kalam's nephew Sheikh Dawood, who works for an IT company, was returning in the

Brindavan Express to Bangalore when a well-dressed man in the adjacent seat requested him to look after his baggage while he visited the loo.

When the man returned, it was Dawood's turn to make a similar request. But on his return, the presi-

dent's nephew made the shocking discovery that he had placed his faith in a 'conman' who displayed little scruple in walking away with his suitcase that contained cheques for Rs 60,000 and his personal belongings.

NUCLEAR 'FOOTBALL' IN VATICAN HALLOWED HALLS

VATICAN CITY: While George W. Bush and Pope John Paul talked peace in the Vatican on Friday, a military aide held a bulky black attache case containing the codes the U.S. president would need in order to launch a nuclear war. It is known as "the football." It has been all over the world and on Friday it entered the hallowed halls of the Vatican. It was never very far from the president. While he and the pope were speaking alone in the pontiff's private study, it was in the next room. And when Bush and the pope delivered speeches and Bush awarded the pope the Presidential Medal of Freedom, it rested on the shiny marble floor between the firm legs of Major Paul Montanus of the U.S. Marine Corps. Sometimes a leather strap links "the football" from the military aide's wrist to the handle of the soft leather case.

J'LO MARRIES MARC ANTHONY

LOS ANGELES: Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has married her current boyfriend, salsa singer Marc Anthony, barely five months after breaking her much-publicized engagement to actor Ben Affleck, *US Weekly* reported on Saturday.

going among tables covered in white table cloths and flower centerpieces.

The reported marriage comes less than a week after Anthony was granted a quickie divorce in the Dominican Republic from his wife of four years, Dayanara Torres, a former Miss Universe.



The magazine said Lopez, 33, married Latin music star Anthony, 34, at her home in Los Angeles on Saturday in front of about 40 guests. *US Weekly* said it had pictures

of a giant tent assembled on the estate and of guests coming and aisle have both lasted a little over a year.

THE FUTURE, NOW!

also quite responsive to loving gestures from others.

VIRGO: Sharing your hospitality, entertaining, giving something special and personal to a friend, and other loving gestures are emphasized now. You are apt to feel relaxed and pleasantly unambitious now.

LIBRA: You're dissatisfied with the "same old tune" you've been playing or listening to from others, and now you're apt to do something different. You're drawn to the unfamiliar.

SCORPIO: Errors in judgment, due to personal prejudices or emotion, are apt to occur. Your mood very much colors your thinking right now. You can have fruitful discussions with your close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: Giving and receiving appreciation, love, and

happiness come into your life now. You are moved to express your affections more openly than usual.

CAPRICORN: You are inclined to take physical risks, gamble, speculate, and to act on faith and belief in yourself. This can, in fact, be a very productive time for you if you can keep your expectations within reasonable bounds.

AQUARIUS: You are in an eager, confident mood and this is a good time for any competitive endeavor or anything that requires a lot of energy.

PISCES: This is a time when you express yourself very clearly, and conversations, negotiations, and communications of all kinds are cordial and successful. Expect a rapid pace with numerous transactions.

COMPUTER LOAN CARNIVAL
 In association with
(CITIZENS CO-OP BANK LTD.)

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

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

COME AND TAKE HOME PERSONAL COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS, PRINTERS, SCANNERS, DIGITAL CAMERAS, WEB CAMS AND MANY MORE
 For Government Employees, Businessmen & Private Personnel all over Sikkim

HCL home pc

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

HIT Himalayan Institute Of Technology, Dehradun
 DEHRADUN
 Affiliated to H.N.B. Garhwal University, (Uttaranchal), Recognised by UGC, Ministry of HRD, Govt. Of India, Approved by Government of Uttaranchal

Admission Notice - 2004

M.S.W. Master of Social Work	Association and Membership: Institute of Adv. Computer Science Centre for Global Information Technology World Youth Organization Association of World NGOs, South Africa International Instt. of Hotel Mgt. & Catering. Edu. Instt. of Social Work, America.	100% Placement Assist. & Training Leads you world class organizations Hyatt Regency Lo Meridian ACC / AHTL CMC Limited TCS / LG Reliance / Nokia Samsung Hotel Imperial Blue Star BPL Limited Coco Cola HCL / AKAI 3Com / Birla GE Capital PCL / I2BI British Airways - and many more.
M.Sc. (IT) M.Sc. in Information Technology	Eligibility: M.Sc. (IT) / M.S.W. - Graduate in any stream (Arts/Comm./Science.) B.Sc.(IT)/B.Sc(H.M.C.)/B.C.A. -10+2 in any stream (Arts/Comm./Science.)	
B.Sc. (IT) B.Sc. in Information Technology	Prospectus & forms: Send a Demand Draft / MO of Rs. 300/- in favour of "Himalayan Institute of Technology" payable at Dehradun.	
B.C.A. Bachelor of Computer Applications		
B.Sc. (H.M.C.) B.Sc. in Hotel Mgt. & Catering.		

Separate Hostel Facility for Boys & Girls
 Himalayan Institute of Technology, Nehru Colony, Near Central Excise Office, Haridwar Road, Dehradun. Ph 0135-2650859, 2710809, 2671934.

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

**If you can't move to the CITY...
 ...then we bring the CITY to you**
 a One-Stop Brand-Shop
ABACUS
 SNOD Complex, Deorali, Gangtok

BESIDES ENTRANCE

SPOT ADMISSION IN
MBA/ BBA/ ENGINEERING/ MA/ M.COM/ BA/ B.COM/ LLB/ B.ED./ X, XI, XII
 &
DIRECT ADMISSION IN
MBBS/ BDS & IN OTHER CAREER COURSES

CONTACT:
RAJGURUKUL ACADEMIC & TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
 SILIGURI (W.B.), PHONE NO. 0353-2595089, M. NO. 94342-17584

FRANCHISES:-
 JALPAIGURI - 03561-220285
 KURSEONG - 0345-2345691, M. NO. 98320-77545
 RAIGANJ - 035292-254782 (O), 250174 (R)
 MIRIK - Mr. BHARAT SANGDEN - PH. NO. - 0354-2443643
 MOBILE NO - 98320-74139