

## MONTH SPECIAL

*HANEEF TREATED UNFAIRLY*

*NEW PASSPORTS ON THEIR WAY*

*ELECTIONS GET INDIAN FLAVOUR*

*THE GOOD, THE BAD AND SPAM*

*INDIAN BUYS \$11M HOUSE*

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## DR HANEEF UNFAIRLY TREATED - THE GLOBAL INDIAN SURVEY

Sandeep Chandra

While many readers of an Indian magazine in New Zealand and Australia feel that the UK terror suspect, Dr Haneef, was unfairly treated, few believe that this incident will cause a setback to global peace.

These are some of the findings of a recent survey carried out by The Global Indian magazine. The respondents were undecided over the question of Dr Haneef's innocence, but majority felt that the Australian government was unfair to the UK terrorist suspect.

One respondent from the AFP (presumably the Australian Federal Police) said, "as member of the AFP, I know his case was not solid," and added, "he was used by both my department and John Howard as a political scapegoat for the new terror laws which breach a person's civil rights."

Australian Government did not hear what Dr. Haneef was saying, said another respondent. "The Australian Police made up their decision that Dr. Haneef was a terrorist without even listening to Dr. Haneef's side of the story."

Some disagreed. "National security against terrorist is far more important than the civil liberties of one individual who despite a lack of evidence may well be involved with the UK terrorists."

However a few respondents towed a common line. "All men are presumed

**"As member of the AFP, I know his case was not solid," and added, "he was used by both my department and John Howard as a political scapegoat for the new terror laws which breach a person's civil rights."**

innocent until found guilty. Australian Government deliberately leaked news to tarnish his standing and sow the


seeds of guilt in the public's mind. This goes against the grain of rule of law."

About 57 percent of the respondents felt that the government should apologise to Dr Haneef.

Two of three Indians polled were worried that the Haneef incident will have unfavourable implications for foreign-trained doctors in Australia. "The spotlight will be on foreign doctors specially Muslim doctors who are "visible migrants" and cannot blend in like White doctors from European/Western countries," said one respondent.

However, a respondent who supported the Australian government's move, said, "they (the government) have to be proactive and act on the information on hand. (They) don't have to wait till civilians are killed before acting."

Over half the respondents (60 percent) felt that Dr Haneef should fight to get his visa reinstated. While one said that if he is innocent, he should fight, the other added, "Why should he fight? It should be automatically reinstated."

Dr Haneef's visa has since been reinstated. 

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.....▶ However, an overwhelming 88 percent respondents felt that they will not feel uncomfortable being treated by an Indian doctor.

The responses of over 100 participants are not surprising, says Sangeeta Anand, editorial director of the magazine. "They largely reflect the feelings expressed in the community.

"However, terrorism is reality today no matter where we live," she added. "Terrorists have no nationality. Each government has the interest of its people foremost, but the need to maintain a fine balance with human rights cannot be sacrificed."

"In a world of inter-dependent economies, complex global trade, multiple migrations and fierce competition for skilled workforce, statesmen have to take a holistic approach to such sensitive issues."

## NEW INDIAN PASSPORTS ON THEIR WAY

The High Commission of India in New Zealand has decided has started issuing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) from last month. The centralised printing of passports is in New Delhi, similar to the OCI card system. Hand-written passports would be issued only in very exceptional cases. The process will take one month from the date of applications. Passport applicants may apply online by visiting <https://passport.gov.in>. After filling up details a web file number and application form shall be generated and can be printed. This printed application form, documents and fee may be submitted to the High Commission of India.

The online registration is not yet made available. The applicants can approach the High Commission with manually filled-up forms.

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## ELECTIONS GET INDIAN FLAVOUR

Staff correspondent

Many know Ram Rai as a successful Indian businessman in Auckland. Now, the Indian community is likely to see him give up his role as a quiet political supporter, and aspire to take the front seat in public life.

The former medical industry professional has chosen to contest the Auckland District Health Board elections in October. He is a Citizens & Ratepayers Now candidate.

Ram co-owns Dakshin Products, one of the most successful Indian food manufacturing companies, as well as a restaurant, Jewel of India in Auckland.

Earlier this year, Dakshin's Jewel of India Butter Chicken Frozen

Convenience Meal topped the 2007 Foodtown Magazine People's Choice Awards, for the second time in three years. Jewel of India won the top award for the first time in 2005 and was also a finalist in 2006. Foodtown magazine has a readership of 269,000.

An electrical engineer by training, Ram started his career for a medical equipment company in India in 1981.

That initial start led him to a rewarding career in hospital project management and the medical equipment industry in various parts of the world. Apart from India and New Zealand, he has worked in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. He has travelled extensively around the world.

Ram is keen to bring his medical industry experience to benefit New Zealand's healthcare sector which is in dire state. "I can add great value

to the board with my medical industry and business management experience.

"I believe that all successful businesses should take social responsibility, and as my business has stabilised now, I felt this was the right time to take on other responsibilities," he told The Global Indian.

He left the medical industry in 2001 to set up Dakshin with his wife. The couple employs over 35 people, and have an 18 year old daughter who is currently studying at Auckland University.

Of course, Ram is not the only Indian candidate contesting these elections. Ann Pala is first Fiji Indian candidate for Waitakere City Council. She is currently the president of Waitakere Ethnic Board.



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## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE SPAM

Sangeeta Anand

The room was filled with some 50 worried people - small business operators, marketing and communications professionals of large companies, PR practitioners, web consultants, managers of charities and IT managers, all attending a seminar on the new anti-spam Act. It was a diverse group with one common need - they all wanted to know more. Life will not be the same for New Zealand businesses - come September 5, when New Zealand's first anti-Spam legislation will be unleashed.



It will affect almost every business in New Zealand - small or big, commercial or charity, goods-driven or services provider, with very few exceptions like government bodies defined by the Ombudsmen Act 1975 or the Crown Entities Act 2004.

And business owners and managers have reason to be anxious, as the Act prescribes a penalty of up to \$500,000 for non-compliance. The Unsolicited Electronic Communication Bill, which is aimed at bad guys, is making good guys nervous. They have a legitimate business to conduct, and an authentic need to communicate with their audience; but they are not certain whether their electronic communication is legitimate any

more.

The major implication of the Act is that businesses are now gearing up to send one mass email to their database, seeking permission from people to receive promotional emails. Unlike the popular opt-out practice (you have to reply to be able to unsubscribe to a mailing list), businesses are being recommended to use opt-in request to secure consent (reply to stay subscribed).

Some marketing professionals even see this resulting in a major wipe-out of a very sustainable way to communicate. Marketing managers are worried that they may lose most prospects on their database that like to receive email updates, but would not take the trouble of replying to subscribe request, to stay on the list. No wonder, some businesses have to go an extra mile and show a carrot, as the country's flagship carrier is doing, offering hundreds of dollars of airfare in a lucky draw, to encourage Kiwis to confirm their email subscription.

The bill, which was written by the Ministry of Economic Development after a long period of deliberation, seeks to address the universal issue of Spam. Any unsolicited commercial message (email or text) is Spam, according to the new Act.

However, communications professionals are advising their managers and clients about three important criteria that their communication needs to meet: obtain recipients' permission, identify the sender and their contact details, and provide a 'unsubscribe' facility. They are also required to maintain a record of permissions at all times. And last, businesses cannot use harvested lists.

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What's more, even the legitimate channels of marketing like 'tell a friend' links on news websites, and 'get a friend to sign up' marketing promotions may attract the wrath of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), which is responsible for the implementation of the new Act.

Unlike Australian legislation which is more specific, the New Zealand Act provides for very few exemptions, and therefore has more wide-reaching implications for our businesses.

For New Zealand's small businesses which are already on thin profit margins in this gloomy economic environment, this legislation brings additional compliance and administrative costs.

ISP providers can expect sleepless nights too! Hundreds of businesses will try to obtain permission from non-

consented email addresses before 5 September, and as millions of hurried emails are expected to be transmitted by the last-minute managers, ISPs' bandwidth will be put to test on 4 September.

However, some managers see this as an opportunity to clean up their databases of 'sleeping' subscribers, or those who prefer the 'delete' button over the 'reply to subscribe' button. Then there are other Kiwis who are too polite to unsubscribe. The new Act has provided a legitimate (!) reason to everyone to tell the truth.

And the new Act is creating more business for many. Lawyers, web consultants and PR practitioners are smiling their way to bank. Internet solutions providers have seen this as a huge opportunity to grow their business by helping worried managers comply with the legislation.

The additional administrative work generated by compliance activities will see sizeable temporary work opportunities for people.

Of course, even the DIA has an upheaval task on hand. All complaints to the DIA will be accompanied by samples of all sorts of Spam - Viagra offers, Nigerian scams and viruses that wipe out hard-drives.

Since the Act is less prescriptive and allows the DIA the discretion to use the test of reasonableness, the DIA will have to exercise high degree of prudence and judgement in dealing with complaints.

And behold, apparently the bad guys are directing their Spam guns at DIA. Look after your servers, Wellington!

*(Sangeeta Anand is the editorial director and publisher of The Global Indian magazine)*

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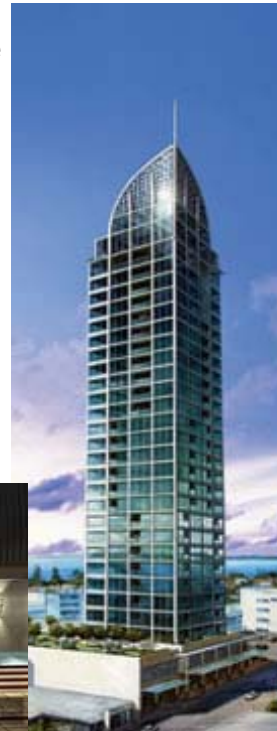
Vaibhav Gangan

An Indian businessman has bought a penthouse in Auckland's North Shore for \$11 million, where he intends to stay "only few days in a year."

Mainly Singapore-based Mike Panjwani has bought levels 29 and 30 of the Sentinel apartment block in Takapuna.

The tower comprises 117 units and offers sea views. The \$11 million sale makes this house one of the most expensive apartments in New Zealand.

The apartment is still being built and is waiting for fitout,



expected to be completed early next year.

The penthouse has a dedicated lift, four carparks, lap pool and spa. It will be fitted with custom-designed handmade carpet and natural stone flooring. The walls are movable. The house will come with a home theatre, motorised windows, gas fireplaces, underfloor heating and a large deck.

A couple of years ago, Mike's Empress Leisure NZ Ltd sold 63 residential and three commercial properties in Auckland's CBD to Blue Chip NZ Ltd for \$25 million. Mike's daughter, Yasmine Caroline Panjwani, a gemologist and designer, opened a jewellery boutique, Kohinoor of London, at the Chancery in Auckland's CBD district a few years ago.

She graduated in Gemmology and Jewellery Design from GIA New York.

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## RELIEF NEEDED IN BIHAR

Staff correspondent

World Vision India has begun relief distributions in Bihar, the northern Indian state most affected by the country's worst flooding in a lifetime.

Food and blankets have been distributed to 350 families, as fears of water-borne disease rock people rendered homeless by the floods. With the water receding slowly, people are still living in conditions of poor sanitation along highways and railway tracks.

"While the immediate needs are being met by government, World Vision and other NGOs, the biggest challenge will be when people start going back," says Dr Jayakumar Christian, World Vision India's national director.

"And this will be a slow process with the need to address economic, health and infrastructure issues."

World Vision India will focus its work on providing relief to 5000 families in the Darbanga district of Bihar.

Family relief packs distributed contain 3kgs rice, 3kgs wheat flour, 3kg ground rice, 1kg chickpea flour, 1kg palm sugar and four packets of

biscuits. The rice and wheat flour help those who are able to cook, while the biscuits, chickpea flour and palm sugar can be eaten by just adding water. The government and other NGOs are also providing cooked food and water to those in need.

As people start going back to their homes, World Vision will provide them with a 30-day pack of rations and utensils and blankets to use as they rebuild their lives.

World Vision New Zealand has committed \$50,000 to the relief effort in India and Bangladesh. Donations can be made on 0800 800 776 or [www.worldvision.org.nz](http://www.worldvision.org.nz)

## REMOVAL ORDER ON PANAH REMAINS

Immigration Minister David Cunliffe outlined steps taken by the Department of Labour to alter the detention conditions of Iranian detainee, Ali Panah.

"This is an exceptional case. The removal order on Panah remains in force. He has not been granted refugee status, there will be no cost to the taxpayer and neither will he

enjoy any other benefits of residence or citizenship.

"Panah has had the full benefit of every legal remedy open to him under the immigration laws of this country and has failed at every step.

"The Department supported Panah's release into the care of the Anglican Church which has agreed to take full responsibility and care of Panah, including any medical or other expenses. The church has also

agreed to be responsible for medical supervision including the reintroduction of a normal diet.

David said negotiations with Iranian officials over the issuing of travel documents is ongoing.

"The offer still stands for the New Zealand government to facilitate Mr Panah's departure to a third country, an offer previously accepted, then rejected, by Panah."

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**“I am committed to ensuring the people of Auckland have access to higher quality, appropriately funded health services. I would look at reducing wastage and delivering efficiencies, without compromising service.”**

**Vote for Ram Rai in  
Auckland District Health Board  
elections**





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## RETHINK OF FLOOD POLICIES NEEDED

International development agency Oxfam called for a radical rethink in the way South Asian governments implement flood defence and response policy.

In a report called *Sink or Swim: Why Disaster Risk Reduction is central to surviving floods in South Asia*, Oxfam says that some flood defences, such as the construction of river embankments, can make matters worse. In India's worst hit area, Bihar, embankments have nearly

trebled the flood-prone area from 2.5 million hectares to 6.9 million hectares in the last 50 years. In Nepal culverts and embankments have obstructed the flow of waters causing major floods and in Bangladesh, an estimated 75 embankments were breached in one month alone during the current floods.

"This year's flood is a wake up call for South Asia's governments. Current flood policies are not working and in some cases are exacerbating the problem. Simple, proven and affordable solutions are available. They are needed now but will be

needed even more in the future as climate change increases the probability of such extreme weather events," said Ashvin Dayal, Oxfam's head for South Asia.

Oxfam said that relatively small amounts of investment, compared with economic losses and the cost of flood responses, could make significant impact on people's ability to cope better.

Donate online at [www.oxfam.org.nz](http://www.oxfam.org.nz) or call 0800 600 700; or 0900 600 20 to leave an automatic \$20 donation.

## WATCH YOUR TIME - DAYLIGHT SAVING

Daylight saving will start on Sunday 30 September 2007, and end on 6 April 2008.

From this year, Daylight Saving will run for a period of 27 weeks. It now starts from the last Sunday in September, when 2.00am becomes 3.00am, and ends on the first Sunday in April the following year, when 3.00am becomes 2.00am.

"The decision means people will have an extra hour of daylight in the

evenings from late September to early April to enjoy the outdoors," Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker said.

"The earlier start will also avoid clashing with the start of the fourth school term, which has caused disruptions for schools and families in the past."

Set your clock forward an hour on 30 September



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## MAIL FROM AUSTRALIA

Justin Lewis and Jacob Rajan

Earlier this year we performed in Adelaide and now we are in Brisbane with *Krishnan's Dairy*. The



Aussies seem to like us because they keep on inviting us back.

Since we began touring to Singapore interest in our work from Asia has exploded. We could easily send Jacob on the road for six months next year but his family is not too keen on letting him go for that long, which is fair enough. We are still on the prowl for an actor that can take Jacob's place in the clone production of *The Candlestickmaker* next year. 'Cloning' is common practice these days (for example at any time there are 5 to 6 versions of *Phantom of The Opera* on the road) but it will be our first stab at it.

Work on *The Dentist's Chair* is continuing. With Jacob in

Wellington and Justin in Auckland we have embraced modern technology as never before. Often these days we are seen wearing our little headsets (they make us look very cool) while talking over Skype to our dramaturge Murray who is currently residing in Poland. We have really started to get a feel of the scale of the new play which is much bigger than our previous productions.

Creating a play is a mysterious process and bringing a new story to life causes fresh challenges for us every time. The process of extracting our most ambitious work has been a difficult operation and we need some extra time to bring it all together. We have therefore made a tough call and decided to postpone the premier of *The Dentist's Chair* which was set to tour Hamilton, Tauranga, New Plymouth and Napier this year. It will now premier as part of the New Zealand International Arts Festival next year.

Rather than abandoning this year's tour completely we instead decided to do a double bill of *Krishnan's Dairy* and *The Candlestickmaker* to honor our commitment to audiences and venues. It's the first time we have toured a double bill outside Auckland and Wellington and we're very excited by that. It will also be a good opportunity for Jacob to get back into the swing of performing different plays on different nights. We want him to be in tip top shape for Adelaide next year.

*(Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis are men behind the highly successful award-winning Kiwi play - Krishnan's Dairy. Source: Indian Ink newsletter)*

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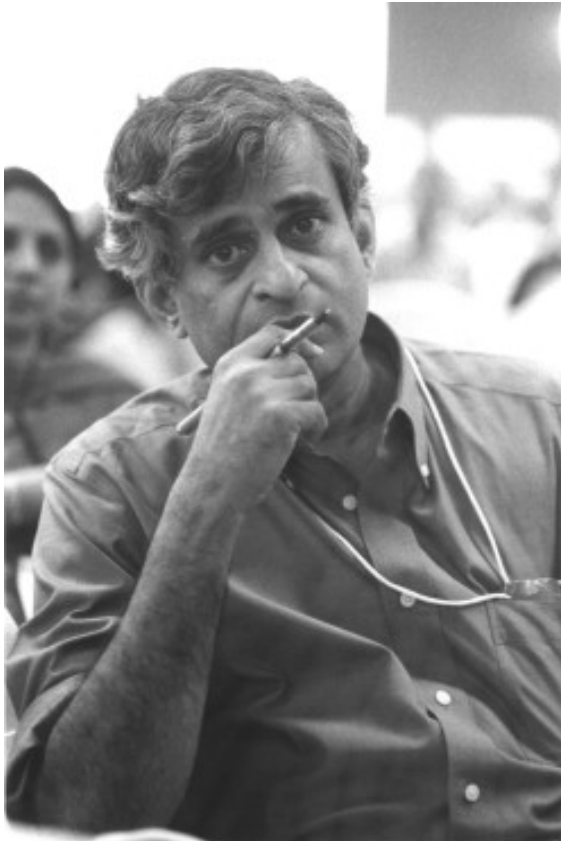
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## JOURNALIST GETS ASIA'S NOBEL PRIZE

Sangeeta Anand

**R**enowned Indian social journalist P Sainath is known in India for his work for the cause of rural population. Now his work has been recognised by Asia's highest award for journalism—Ramon Magsaysay award. Sainath has contributed to India's development debate in a major way.



Set up in 1957 (the same year Sainath was born), and named after the third Philippine president, the Magsaysay award is known as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel prize. The award also includes a cash prize of US \$50,000.

The 50-year old Sainath is rural affairs

editor and Mumbai bureau chief of The Hindu—one of India's oldest newspapers.

The award "recognises his passionate commitment as a journalist to restore the rural poor to India's consciousness, moving the nation to action," says the award citation.

A letter to the editor of The Hindu said, "Mr. Sainath's series on the agrarian crisis in Vidharbha and the political indifference brought tears to readers' eyes."

He is said to spend 300 days in a year in India's remote locations and has devoted 14 years to the cause of the poor.

Sainath shares his heritage with his famous grandfather V V Giri, who was India's former president.

True to his nature, Sainath is glad to receive the award because he hopes that it will bring core issues of poverty to limelight. "Recognition of this sort, or by any award, changes a few things. One, it increases the space for such issues. A lot of editors might stop and ask if they too should be giving these topics more attention," he told India Together.

He wishes that media's priorities change in a way that provides coverage to the issues of the masses. "The fundamental characteristic of our media is the growing disconnect between mass media and mass reality. The other day, there was a lead story, maybe in the Times of India, about a guy who paid Rs. 15 lakh (NZ\$50,000) to get a private mobile number of his choice, and this was called an 'awakening of India's new confidence'," he said in the interview.

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## I JUST CALLED TO SAY...

Vishal Singh

Though there is certain charm and excitement in long distance relationships, they aren't without challenges. Here are some tips from one such couple that eventually married after five years of a cross-country relationship As narrated to TGI by Vandana and Vikram Khosla, New Delhi. Vandana was studying in Ahmedabad and Vikram was working in New Delhi. They met in Mumbai at a party. Instant attraction surfaced which led to exchange of contact numbers. Later Vandana went overseas to study for a management degree and it started their long chats and letters. Here's their advice:

Stuck in a long distance relationship? Don't worry! *The Global Indian* tells you how to spice up your relationship!

### Honesty and truth

Being miles apart can have dampening effects by the slightest act of dishonesty. Trust becomes more important when he or she is in a distant land. Don't allow yourself to be drowned in uncertainty every night. Share with your partner the events of your day. Tell him or her your thoughts about certain matters. Never deliberately leave out important facts.

### Communication

Emails, online chatting, voice chat are effective modes of communication. SMS and text messaging services are offered by most telecommunication providers. A decade

ago, long distance relationships suffered because of the dearth of communication channels.

### Space and balance

Every relationship requires an element of space and balance. Developing independent interests and hobbies is essential. Delve in books, sports, music or make friends you can hang out with.



### Add spice

For a fruitful long-distance relationship fun and spice are synonymous. Send no-reason cards every now and then, just to

remind them that you're thinking about them. Make them feel special and wanted when you greet them on holidays.

There's another side of the story: what about long distance relationships where partners have never met in person but through chat rooms and Internet? There are a lot of romantic stories of people who met this way and got married. They still have challenges facing them though.

The bottom line is, most long distance relationships can work with love and commitment. Yes, it takes a little more work, but it is possible. Just have faith in yourself and your partner, and put in the efforts.

**MONTH SPECIAL**

*HANEEF TRTREATED UNFAIRLY*

*NEW PASSPORTS ON THEIR WAY*

*ELECTIONS GET INDIAN FLAVOUR*

*THE GOOD, THE BAD AND SPAM*

*INDIAN BUYS \$11M HOUSE*

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## MAN LOSES HOUSE OVER WEIRD BET

Xin Liangkun, 53, of Dalian city, boasted on national television that no person could recreate the five-layer ball he spent 10 years to create.

"If anyone can reproduce it, I'll give him my three-story building, and the collections within it."

The ball is so amazing because all five balls can turn without touching each other.

It took less than six months for Sun Zheng, a young porcelain amateur from Luoyang city, to step up and challenge Xin's public boast. Sun created the exact same ball and demanded his prize.

"At first he said my replica had internal noise. So I improved the technique, and created a perfect one. Then he said the procedure must

have been different."

So he took Xin to court. The court ruled that Xin's TV pledge just the same as if he signed a contract, and ordered Xin to give up the house and belongings to Sun.

*Source: Weird Asia News*

## IRONIES

After a 25-year-old woman was accused of murdering her father and sister (and wounding her mother) in July in Sydney, Australia, authorities revealed that she had been diagnosed with a psychotic illness in 2006. However, she had been discouraged from seeking psychiatric treatment by her parents because they are Scientologists, who by doctrine reject psychiatry and psychotropic-drug treatment. [Agence France-Presse, 7-9-07]

Great Moments in Anger

Management: Raul Ponce Jr., 20, was arrested in San Diego in April and charged with killing his teenage girlfriend by stabbing her 122 times; he was arrested later that day at his anger-management class. [San Diego Union-Tribune, 6-23-07]

And Rev. Robert Nichols, who for several years had been teaching anger-management classes for accused criminals in Gary, Ind., was arrested in July and charged with beating his wife. (WISH-TV (Indianapolis))

## ALARMING HEADLINES

"(British National Health Service) Dentists Turn Away Patients With Bad Teeth" (a May report in London's Daily Telegraph) (compensation is sufficient only for routine treatments). (Daily Telegraph (London))

*Source: News of the Weird*



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## HELPFUL TIPS

→ A sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.

→ Use empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

→ For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze

→ To remove old wax from a glass candle holder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candle holder out and turn it upside down. The wax will fall out.

→ Crayon marks on walls? Use a damp rag, dipped in baking soda.

Comes off with little effort.

→ Permanent marker on appliances/ counter tops—Rub alcohol on paper towel.

→ Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time!

→ Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

→ On the first day of school, a first grader handed his teacher a note from

his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

→ It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van.

Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

→ A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party.. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit." "And why not, darling?" "You know that it always gives you a headache next morning."

*Contributed by Brian D'Silva, Auckland*

## Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

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## FEEDBACK

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