



Time Out

GULF TIMES FEATURES

Monday, March 5, 2007

- 2 Campus Line
- 3 Eye on the world
- 4-5 TV & Radio
- 6-7 At Your Service
- 7-8 Entertainment

C
M
Y
K

Found in India: 'The last king of France'

Prince Philip's cousin is setting out an 'incredible' theory that may see an Indian lawyer being acknowledged as the head of the French royal house of the Bourbons. ANGELIQUE CHRISAFIS reports in Paris

BALTHAZAR Napoleon de Bourbon, a jovial Indian lawyer and part-time farmer, has always been fascinated by France. Framed pictures of the Eiffel Tower and the palace of Versailles implausibly decorate his house in a dusty, bustling suburb of the central Indian city of Bhopal. He gave his children French names even though he has never set foot in France.

But he may soon make his first trip to Paris, after he was visited by a relative of Prince Philip, husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who told him that he is the first in line to the lost French throne.

This Indian father-of-three is being feted as the long-lost descendant of the Bourbon kings who ruled France from the 16th century to the French revolution. A distant cousin of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, he is alleged to be not only related to the current Bourbon king of Spain and the Bourbon descendants still in France, but to have more claim than any of them to the French crown.

The story of a potential Asian dauphin to one of the most important royal houses of Europe appears to be a poke in the eye for colonial history, and has sparked a rush of interest among royals in Europe.

Prince Michael of Greece, the cousin of Prince Philip, this week published a historical novel called *Le Rajah de Bourbon*, which traces the swashbuckling story of Balthazar Bourbon's first royal ancestor in India. Prince Michael believes Jean de Bourbon was a nephew of the first Bourbon French king, Henry IV.

In the mid-16th century Jean embarked on an action-packed adventure across the world which saw him survive assassination attempts and kidnap by pirates to be sold at an Egyptian slave market and serve in the Ethiopian army.

He said several of his royal relatives in Spain and France were "quite excited and thrilled to have found a new branch". He was in favour of a DNA test, perhaps from a surviving lock of Bourbon hair, to establish the link.

From his home in the Bhopal suburbs, Bourbon, 48, said he would be glad to take a DNA test, but remained stoical about



In this December 2005 file photo, Indian lawyer Balthazar-Napoleon Bourbon poses outside the entrance to his residence in Bhopal. Balthazar, a lawyer and part-time farmer traces his lineage back to the Bourbons who began ruling France in the 16th century.

work on his newfound Indian "cousins" is more than just the latest whimsy in a history of attempts to uncover relatives of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

"If I am right - and I don't have absolute proof, but I completely believe in my theory - then Balthazar Bourbon would be the eldest in the line," he said.

"This is the cherry on the cake. Bourbon is head of a decent, dignified, middle-class Indian family. They look so Indian and yet bear his name. When you look at them, it seems incredible. The more unbelievable it is, the more I believe in it."

He said several of his royal relatives in Spain and France were "quite excited and thrilled to have found a new branch". He was in favour of a DNA test, perhaps from a surviving lock of Bourbon hair, to establish the link.

From his home in the Bhopal suburbs, Bourbon, 48, said he would be glad to take a DNA test, but remained stoical about

Who were the Bourbons?

WAR, assassinations, child kings, opulence and revolution marked the two centuries during which the Bourbons ruled France. They were known as much for their colourful personal lives as their politics.

The first king, Henri IV, came to power in 1589 and was reputed to have more than 60 mistresses and 11 illegitimate children. Later Louis XIV, the Sun King, became the most powerful ruler in French history and one of the longest reigning kings in Europe.

In 1793, Louis XVI was guillotined by revolutionaries, followed months later by his wife Marie Antoinette. Different branches of the Bourbons were restored to the throne from 1814 until the revolution of 1848.

The family is Catholic and keeps Bourbon relics, including a sword, in their home. He said he felt "a sense of pride" when contemplating the picture of Versailles on his wall.

But he is aware that his family's fortunes waned in Europe. He describes the Indian branch of the family as Bourbons on the rocks.

was made to understand that I belonged to the family of the Bourbons," he said.

"I may be from a royal family but I live my life as a commoner. I didn't have time to learn French as a teenager because my father's death meant I had to work to look after my mother and sisters. Life has been very tough for me."

When his sister went to France on holiday she visited a castle once owned by Bourbon kings. It was closed to the public but she showed her Indian passport with the Bourbon name and was allowed in.

"I don't know if any of this will change my life," Bourbon said. "The fact is, we've been having visitors from England, France and across Europe for years, curious about our family name."

"All these travellers, all this publicity, but nothing has happened yet. So how can I believe that something will change now?" - Guardian News & Media

Energy-saving snails stick to others' slime trails

By Alok Jha

SNAILS that follow the slime trails left by others do it to save their strength, according to scientists. By using trails already on the ground, they can save two-thirds of the energy they use in making fresh trails of their own.

Snails use a third of the energy from the food they eat on making the mucus needed to move around. "It's ridiculous - if we spent a third of our energy just walking around, we wouldn't get very far," said Mark Davies, of the natural and social sciences department at the University of Sunderland, UK.

"It's an inefficient way of getting around and it's very much more (energy) expensive than any other form of locomotion - swimming, flying or walking. It's probably why these snails don't get very far."

He wondered whether snails might save themselves a lot of energy by using trails already on the ground. By watching *Littorina littorea*, a marine snail, crawl across microscope slides, Dr Davies' research team calculated the amount of mucus produced by the gastropods as they wandered along their own trails and those of others.

Lo and behold, we found that the tracker snails produce significantly less mucus than the marker snails so they save quite a lot of energy."

The results were published last week in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* (the UK's elite scientific association).

"We reckon that, locomoting on the fresh trails (of others), they're producing less than 30% of the mucus, they're saving two-thirds," said Dr Davies.

"The energy required for them to move around is 35 times less than the energy that they expend in the mucus."



By using trails already on the ground, snails can save two-thirds of the energy they use in making fresh trails of their own.

The long trails of mucus left behind by snails have multiple roles. "Most snails are pretty blind - in complex habitats where visual tracking might be difficult, following a mucus trail might be a handy thing to do," said Dr Davies. "In the marine environment, the trails can act as a trap for food the snail might like to eat, because the mucus is sticky."

Snails also know if a mucus trail is their own and can detect the sex of snails that have laid other trails. "There is absolutely no reason to suppose that this wouldn't hold true for all other species that locomote on a trail of mucus. We're only at the edge of knowing exactly what these trails are for." - Guardian News & Media



Leaves on a 'dragon' ... A leafy sea dragon (*Phycodurus equus*) obtained from Australia seen on display inside a special water tank at Seaworld Indonesia in Jakarta. The leafy sea-dragon is one of two species of sea-dragon found in Australia's southern waters. Endangered sea-dragons actually belong to the same family as sea-horses (*Syngnathidae*) but differ in appearance from the latter by possessing leaf-like appendages on their head and body and having a tail that cannot be coiled up.

23 things you never knew about ... 23

begin when he claimed that a photograph of Pope John XXIII on the issue of *Life* magazine was in fact him, the proof being that 23 was his favourite number. Nash published 23 scientific articles.

☛ Few hold 23 in more esteem than the followers of Discordianism, a self-declared religion based on premise that discord and chaos are the building blocks of life. For Discordianists, 23 is the Holy Number and tribute to the goddess Eris, who surveys over a world of chaos.

☛ The mantra invoked by Discordianists for the Holy Number is "Invert The Pyramid." If you invert the sentence one letter at a time - eg "divert the pyramid," "id invert the pyramid," etc - it takes 22 chants, finished by the line "The Pyramid Inverts" to make 23.

☛ The last line is called "the final energy releaser". Discordianism is described by some of its followers as "a joke disguised as a religion disguised as a joke".

☛ 23rdians are a group of people who subscribe to the mystical power of 23 and see it in multiple combinations throughout daily life.

☛ The terrorist attacks on America on 11 September 2001 have been held up as one of the most portentous examples of the disturbing power of 23. The figures in the date (9 + 11 + 2 + 0 + 0 + 1) add up to 23. The independent US commission which investigated the attacks found the date had been chosen randomly by the hijackers and had originally been planned for later in the year.

Alternative explanations for the date included the taking over of Palestine by Britain in 1922 and the fact that 911 is the US emergency code.

☛ The Ancient Chinese believed numbers conveyed sexuality - evens for feminine and odds for masculine. They considered prime numbers to be the most masculine, conferring special status on 23 which is made up of two consecutive prime numbers and the only even prime number - two.

☛ Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* was published in 1859 - 1 + 8 + 5 + 9 = 23. Two divided by three makes 0.666 recurring (allegedly - actually it makes 0.666666667). The Hiroshima bomb was dropped at 8.15am - 8+1+5 = 23.

☛ In the disaster movie, *Airport*, the bomber has seat 23. The number of crosses on Calvary at the end of the Monty Python film, *The Life of Brian*, is 23. In *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, a train derails in subway station 23. The lead characters in the Coen brothers' film *The Big Lebowski* always used Lane 23 at the bowling alley.

☛ In the television series *Lost*, one of the combination of six numbers that haunt the characters and they have to input to a computer to avoid an unknown fate is 23.

☛ Sport stars have developed a particular affinity (and aversion) to 23. Michael Jordan, the American basketball player, wore the number throughout his career and inspired a number of copy cat fans of wardrobe vigintrificity.

☛ Best known is former England captain David Beckham, who swapped his number seven jersey for Manchester United for number 23 when he joined Real Madrid.

☛ Beckham, who said it was in deference to Jordan, is expected to continue wearing 23 when he joins LA Galaxy this summer. But the number is not always a harbinger of sporting good fortune. Manchester City have not assigned the squad number 23 to any player since 2003 after the last incumbent, Marc Vivien Foe, collapsed and died while playing for the Cameroon on June 26, 2003.

☛ Marcus Trescothick, the England cricket player, wears number 23 and was Australian bowler Shane Warne's 600th test wicket. Warne also wears 23.

☛ The Bible does not let 23 pass without conferring on it some significance, at least to students of the Book. Although the Old Testament is unpecific, it is widely held that Adam and Eve had 23

daughters. The 23rd verse of first chapter of Genesis brings the act of creation to a close while the 23rd chapter of the book of Genesis deals entirely with death, namely that of Abraham's wife, Sarah.

☛ Each parent contributes 23 chromosomes to the start of human life. The nuclei of cells in human bodies have 46 chromosomes made out of 23 pairs. Egg and sperm cells in humans have 23 chromosomes which fuse and divide to create an embryo.

☛ The most detailed account of the assassination of Julius Caesar, written by Nicolaus of Damascus, claims numerous enemies stabbed the Roman emperor 23 times. The wounds ranged from superficial to mortal.

☛ William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on April 23, 1564. He died 52 years later on his birthday, April 23, 1616. Kurt Cobain, the 'idol of grunge', was born in 1967 and died in 1994 - 1+9+6+7= 23, 1+9+9+4 = 23.

☛ In the science fantasy saga, *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Chewbacca sneak into detention block A-23 to rescue Princess Leia. The rescue attempt is botched and Leia escapes only by dodging Stormtroopers' laserfire. A police robot called 23 is included in *Star Wars* director George Lucas' first film, *THX 1138*.

☛ The Knights Templar, the order of soldier monks who eventually fell foul of the Vatican and have been the subject of

conspiracy theories about the Holy Grail ever since, had 23 Grand Masters.

☛ The first morse code transmission - "What hath God wrought?" - was from the Bible passage Numbers 23:23. In telegraphers code 23 means "break the line".

☛ The Birthday Paradox states that a group of 23 randomly-selected people is the smallest number where there will be a probability higher than 50% that two people will share the same birthday.

☛ The author William Burroughs was obsessed with 23. While living in Tangiers, he met a Captain Clark who ran a ferry between Spain and Morocco.

☛ One day, Clark told Burroughs that he had been doing the route for 23 years without incident. Later that day, the ferry sank, killing the captain.

☛ While Burroughs was thinking about the incident, a radio bulletin announced the crash of a Flight 23 on the New York-Miami route. The pilot was another Captain Clark.

The events prompted an obsession which saw Burroughs record every occurrence of the number 23 for the rest of his life.

☛ The disbanded pop act KLF are one of several musical sources of 23-related lore. The two men behind KLF - Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty - were once known as the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu, which has 23 letters and comes from the novels of Robert Anton and have been the subject of



William Shakespeare

A police car used for the video of the KLF's No.1, *Doctor in the Tariffs*, had 23 painted on the roof, their final performance lasted 23 minutes and they incinerated £1m on a remote Scottish island on August 23, 1994.

☛ Psychic TV, another cult act, released 23 live albums on the 23rd day of 23 consecutive months.

☛ "W" is the 23rd letter of the Latin alphabet. It has two points down and three points up. White supremacists use 23 to represent "W" as a mark of racial superiority.

☛ "23 skidoo" is an American catchphrase from the early 20th century meaning to make a sharp exit. Some believe its origins lie in Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*, where the old woman counting the daily victims of the guillotine calls "23" as the hero is beheaded in the last chapter.

☛ The average human physical biorhythm is 23 days. - *The Independent*

By Cahal Milmo and Tom Willett

TO MOST, the number 23 is no more significant than the fact it follows 22 and precedes 24. But for millennia it has been conferred with special significance - a symbol of life and death and mathematical purity.

☛ 23 is one of the most commonly cited prime numbers - a number that can only be divided by itself and one. Twenty three is the lowest prime that consists of consecutive digits. Primes have been described as the "atoms" of mathematics - the building blocks of the world of numbers. An American businessman has put up a \$1m prize for the first mathematician to find a pattern in problems - a problem known as the Riemann hypothesis.

☛ John Forbes Nash (*above*), the Nobel Prize-winning economist who was the subject of the film, *A Beautiful Mind*, starring Russell Crowe, was obsessed with 23. It featured prominently in his battle with mental illness. His breakdown

Michael Jordan

MES students observe World Thinking Day

THE Scouts and Guides of MES Indian School observed World Thinking Day recently with a variety of programmes.

At the assembly, Shaheen Usman (class 9) spoke. A presentation and cultural performances followed.

Friends of the Environment Centre (FEC) official Adil El Tigan was the chief guest. Saleh Suleman Saleh and Salma al-Talla were the guests of honour.

Principal F M Basheer Ahmed congratulated the Scouts and Guides for their charity zeal and enthusiastic participation.

Scouts and Guides in-charge Shakil Ahmed Kakvi, Guide in-charge Hamida Kader, Scout master G M Shafi Shariff, Dr Mirza Sarwer Baig, Shany Bash and music teacher Ratnesh Kumar spoke.

Later in the day, 150 students went to Shahania for one night camp organised by FEC and Katmat Foundation.

World Thinking Day was established in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide/Girl Scout International Conference, held at Girl Scouts of the USA's Camp Edith Macy (now called Edith Macy Conference Center).

Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation to their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

The delegates chose February 22 as the date for Thinking Day because it was the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy



Scouts and Guides at the Shahania camp. Below: Fire extinguishing drill in progress.

Scout movement, and his wife Olive, who served as World Chief Guide.

Fire safety training

Trainers from the Civil Defence Department visited the school and conducted a fire safety programme for teachers.

A presentation on fire fighting exercises and a live demonstration of fire extinguishing drill followed.

School officials and 100 teachers were present. The school, which has more than 7,500 students, will now prepare a select group of teachers to learn marshalling for emergency situations.



'Tell-tale' Tuesdays ... Come Tuesday and Wonderland in Doha Modern Indian School is buzzing with the excitement of a show about to begin. For, every Tuesday is 'Show and Tell Day' in KG 1 and students come well prepared with the topic they are told a week in advance. The topic for last week was wild animals. Children brought models, books and pictures of wild animals. The idea is to instill in children a sense of achievement and to build up self confidence and public speaking skills.



A new beginning ... The first batch of Class X students of Birla Public School had a special assembly last week. School chairman Dr Mohan Thomas urged them to be regular in their studies from the very first day and reach higher heights. Director Lukose Chacko asked the teachers to care more for the 'not so bright' students and asked the students to help their fellow students. The assembly ended with principal A K Shrivastava's assurance that the team of teachers and students will not spare any effort to uplift the name and fame of the school.

REPORTS COMPILED BY: Bonnie James



Friends of animals ... The students of KG 2A, AI Khor International School-Indian Stream (AKIS-IS) acted out a Zoo Trip. A very interesting slide show, imparting even more information, kept the audience enthralled. The tiny tots recited a poem *Danger! Danger!* about why these animals are endangered. The concluding song, *Set them Free* re-emphasised the message that it is we who need to care for the lives of these animals.



Field day ... The Year 3 children of Doha English Speaking School in training for the baton race during Physical Education lessons.



Spell-bound ... ELS Language Center had its second spelling bee contest recently. Students from levels 1 through 6 participated. The winner of the beginner level was Khalid Sultan al-Nemaa, and that of the higher level was Manuel Cardona. They received "Best Speller" certificates. The next spelling bee is on March 20.



The outgoing students pose with their titles in the company of Mattu. Right: Global Acer distinction holders.



DPS-MIS bids adieu to outgoing class XII students

DPS-Modern Indian School recently organised farewell ceremonies for the outgoing batch of class XII.

The first was an informal occasion arranged by the students of class XI. The seniors were awarded special titles. There was fun and frolic, dance and songs.

In the formal farewell ceremony, the class teacher Deepesh addressed the audience and thanked the class for their co-operation in the academic year and wished them success.

Parents spoke in appreciation of the school and were hopeful that the students would live up to the values they learnt.

Souvenirs in the form of citations were presented to the students. Each student of the out-

going batch spoke in gratitude for all the inspirations received from the school, which helped them to grow into mature persons.

They admired principal S Mattu for her encouragement, guidance and love and above all for being their role model.

DPS-MIS president M I Farid, who gave out the souvenirs, urged the outgoing students to be the brand ambassadors of the school.

Mattu exhorted students to have a positive attitude in life - love life and everyone around. An audio-visual presentation on the outgoing batch, prepared by senior teacher in computer Manoj Sarin (senior computer teacher) was shown.

It depicted students interacting with each other in class, with their teachers, parents' view about the school, an inter-

view of the principal by the head boy Ritwick Varier and head girl Akshera Rai, and pictures of students in various activities.

A farewell song was sung and in tradition of DPS Schools there was candle lighting by students symbolising awareness and keeping alive all the good things learnt in school during the past years and taking the flame of good values to the world.

The school's former vice-president Dr S M M Nainar, treasurer Yasir Nainar, management member Rocky Fernandes and staff were also present at the ceremony which concluded with a cake cutting ceremony and dinner.

Toppers in Acer Exam
A total of 191 students took the Global Achieve

Examination 2006, conducted by Australian Council for Educational Research Limited (Acer).

The commendable performance of Shaishav Mayur Shah (class VII) and Arpan Saha (X) in Maths, earned them the Global Achieve Award for Excellence and certificate of honour.

The toppers were also awarded a cash prize of QR500 each.

A total of 41 students received certificate of distinction. Their names are the following: Science - Russell Mendonca (III), Nigel Shaji John (IV), Nihal Kumar Singh (IV), Varun Gopakumar (IV), Shaishav Mayur Shah, Sanjana V Akella (VII), Gabriel Thomas, Nikhilesh S (VIII), English - Sahla Sathar,

Abhyudaya Gupta, Russell Mendonca (III), Mrimilani Mahesh, Samridhi Bansal, Davik Dinesh, Siddharth Jaya Prakash (IV), Anagha Ann Gopakumar, Fahimath Sahla (VI), Ashima Madhu, Sanjana V Akella, Shaishav Mayur Shah (VII), Geetika Sakkena (VIII), Mugdhaavalikar, Unninarayan Ashwini Kumar (IX), Arpan Saha, Eshwar Gopalakrishnan (X).

Maths - Ahina Justine, Lakshmi Ranjith, Nihan Yoosaf, Sahla Sathar, Abhyudaya Gupta, Harry John, Russell Mendonca (III) Davik Dinesh, Siddharth Jayaprakash (IV), Karan Rakesh, Varun Nagarajan (VI), Abhipray Sahoo, (VII), Nikhilesh S, Prashanth Somnathan (VIII), Priya Bajaj, Unninarayan Ashwini kumar (IX).

PEC students excel in Qur'an exam, bag prizes

THE students of Pakistan Education Centre (PEC) who excelled in the Tefheezul Qur'an annual examination conducted by Wehdat Tefheezul Qur'an Al-Muntaza Ministry of Education for 2006-07 were honoured with cash prizes and certificates in a special function.

Boys Wing vice-principal Amanullah Khan gave away the prizes. Abdul Majid (class IX), Abdul Rehman and Mohamed Uzair (XII) were among the winners who took their exam covering the entire Holy Qur'an and got QR600 each.

As many as 150 students from class I to XII appeared in the examination and 99 were declared successful. A total cash prize of QR17,600 was given away to the winners.

Wehdat Tefheezul Qur'an Ministry of Education conducts Tefheezul Qur'an examination every year. Students appear from different schools according to their age and class.

Good show

PEC students put up an impressive performance in the 17th Inter-School Sirat-un-Nabi elocution competition in English and 14th Holy Qur'an recitation competition for the students of expatriate Schools of the Indian subcontinent held at MES Indian School last month.

Abdul Hameed and Abdul Raheem won the first positions in senior and junior categories of the Holy Qur'an recitation contest in which the students from seven schools participated. In the elocution competition, Osama Yousof won second position and Sara M Amin



Winners of Sirat-un-Nabi elocution and Holy Qur'an recitation with officials.

third position in the junior category. PEC was also awarded the rolling trophy for scoring the maximum points.

Principal Professor Humayun Nasir felicitated the award winners and their par-

ents and teachers. The topics for the elocution competitions were 'Islam - Right way towards global peace, unity and stability' and 'Social changes brought by Islam' for senior and junior categories,

respectively. For recitation, the prescribed portion was from 'Surah Al-Isra to Surah Al-Haj' for senior category and 'Surah Al-Rahman to Surah Al-Mursalat' for junior category.

A flower each spring

More than 40 students of Pakistan Education Centre (PEC) along with their teachers attended the launch ceremony of 'A Flower Each Spring' programme organised by Friends of Environment Centre at Shahania recently. Aqool is the flower chosen this year. The school has been the champion for three years in the activities organised by the Centre.

Last year it came second. Environmental activities co-ordinator S M Shah led the students and teachers.

Countdown begins for Ethiopia's Millennium celebrations in September

By Andrew Heavens

THE countdown has started on a flickering billboard high above a roundabout in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, blinking out recently in red and gold letters: only 209 days, 15 hours, 22 minutes and 22 seconds to the Millennium.

Seven years after much of the world marked the beginning of the 21st century, Ethiopia is finally approaching the year 2000, thanks to a unique and ancient system of measuring time.

A variation on the archaic Julian calendar which started disappearing from the West in the 16th century means Ethiopia will not enter the year 2000 until September 12 this year.

When everyone else celebrated their millennium, they said all sorts of things were going to happen, but nothing happened. Addis Ababa film director Tatek Tadesse said.

Now all the prophecies they made about 2000 will happen this time round on the true Millennium. It will be a new age for Ethiopia.

Tatek is giving the final touches to a film inspired by the historic event.

Unlike the Gregorian calendar used widely in the West, Ethiopia's version squeezes 13 months into every year - 12 months comprising 30 days each and a final month made up of just five or six days depending on whether it is a leap year.

Time is also measured differently in the Horn of Africa country. Days start at dawn rather than midnight.

There is lots of opportunity for confusion when it comes to times and dates, said Tamrat Giorgis, editor of the country's largest English-language business newspaper, *Fortune*.

One person can say let's meet at 4 o'clock and the other can mean 10 o'clock and you get lost in between. There are companies which close their books according to the Gregorian calendar and there are some companies which do everything by the local calendar, he added.

The dating system has its roots in the ancient Ethiopian Orthodox Church which, like Orthodox churches throughout the world, did not follow Pope Gregory XIII's decision to abandon the Julian calendar for the Gregorian one in 1582.

But there is no serious debate about changing it. There would be a storm if anyone tried to change the Ethiopian calendar. In Ethiopian society, people are very proud of their heritage, Tamrat said.

Civic groups and travel companies are lining up to announce the first plans for huge parties to mark the Millennium.

An appeal for 200m USD, Ethiopia is expected to go out to pay for the official celebrations.

Festivities will include a nationwide music festival, a series of cultural conferences, the planting of 50m trees, and building a national academy for 2,000 poor but gifted students.

The cash-strapped country also hopes to get something more tangible out of the publicity - a chance to change its image as a land beset by famines, floods, wars and civil unrest.

We want to show the world that poverty is not Ethiopian, said Mulgetu Asratie Kassa, communications chief for the Secretariat to the Ethiopian Millennium Festival National Committee, the body responsible for the official celebrations.

We want to show the world that we are a patchwork of nations... hopefully it will result in an attitudinal shift in Ethiopia as well. Mutual tolerance has not been one of our strengths in the past, added Mulgetu, a second cousin to Ethiopia's last emperor, Haile Selassie.

Nonetheless, plans for the party are being made in turbulent times; Ethiopian forces joined Somali government troops in December to oust Islamists from southern Somalia. Ethiopia's border dispute with Eritrea is still unresolved, there has been civil unrest inside Ethiopia.

Participants hope the millennium events will have a positive effect on the divided country. We've got to keep celebrating our culture despite these wars and rumours of war, said Ras Tagas King, deputy representative of the Ethiopian World Federation, a Rastafarian group hoping to stage a series of concerts.

His Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie said spiritual and cultural education leads human beings back into unity. So that's what we're doing, he added. Reuters



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah (centre) takes part in the festivities with other royals. Right: A Saudi prince performs a traditional dance.



Sword dance, camel races reflect Saudi heritage

Besides being a cultural event, the desert fair promotes national unity, says ANDREW HAMMOND

By Andrew Hammond

SAUDIS crowded to camel races and sword-dancing this week at a desert cultural festival that has come to reflect growing anxiety over national unity and the loss of tribal Arab identity to Western culture.

The Janadriyah began 22 years ago as a showcase for a Bedouin culture heritage of camels, tents, coffee pots and swords that seemed in danger of disappearing.

Besides being a jamboree of cultural affirmation, in recent years it has also become an opportunity to encourage national unity, with state television showing King Abdullah and other Saudi royals performing a Bedouin sword dance known as arida.

The Saudi family used an austere version of Islam to conquer and unite the vast country in the Arabian Peninsula in the early 20th

century; commitment to a supernatural idea of Islam still comes before patriotism for many Saudis.

But the September 11 attacks of 2001 in the United States, where most of the attackers were Saudis, spurred the authorities to try to boost the sense of belonging to the Saudi state. Regional conflicts such as Iraq have increased this anxiety.

The theme and principle is that we all live in one country, and to unite all these regions together and allow each one to know the other, said Ahmed al-Shalan, an organiser of the camels races event outside Riyadh.

Sociologists say around half of Saudi Arabia's native population of 17m hails from tribal, Bedouin origins.

But even among those there can be a deep sense of separate identity that shows in seemingly small things such as different names for the sword

dances and slight variations in dance moves.

Each region displays its dancing prowess at the Janadriyah, along with other Gulf Arab countries such as the United Arab Emirates, where Westernisation is more advanced than in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's strict religious values and traditions sit uneasily with the Western fashion, music and technology increasingly favoured by its growing urban youth population, now enjoying the fruits of the country's oil wealth.

We need to send a message to our new generation to let them know about the heritage and culture of our fathers and grandfathers, to keep in mind that whatever comes, or you cannot win, we have always to stick with our culture, Shalan said.

Now most of the Bedouin are completely forgetting about these things, he added. A crowd of well-heeled

Europeans, mostly diplomats, sat in the grandstand, peering through binoculars as about 50 camels raced around the desert course.

The women sported dark sunglasses and exquisite hair-dos, but still wore the black abaya cloak that strict Saudi culture imposes on all women in public.

Camel-racing has a special place. It's a part of our heritage, it's more important than horse racing, said a camel owner from the city of Yanbu, whose animal had just won the US government criticised the use of boys under the age of 18 to ride the animals.

Many have been sent as young boys by their parents from the tribal regions of Sudan and Pakistan, where camels are also found, to work for years in Gulf Arab countries. Human rights groups says camels races are a form of slavery and they should be stopped.

Saudi television, airing the races, said all the riders were at least 18. Most of those at the Janadriyah were small and wiry, as owners prefer, but looked to be teenagers. They were reluctant to give personal information.

When you win it really encourages you. It needs a lot of training, and there are prizes, said Hamoud Sadah from Sudan, referring to four-wheel drive vehicles presented by the Saudi National Guard, the festival organiser, to winning owners.

The Westerners in the crowd were thrilled, crowding round the camels afterwards to pose for pictures. I love it, you don't have the chance to see this often, said an ecstatic Jocelyn from France. It's beautiful. For people living here temporarily in Saudi Arabia it's an occasion to enjoy yourself. Reuters

Fear fades out in Haiti slums as UN cracks down on gangs

By Jacqueline Charles

SCHOOLBOYS kicked a tiny red ball around in the shadow of a bullet-riddled building in the Cite Soleil slum. Women walked to and from market with baskets on their heads. Families packed a tiny church nearby. But the children never strayed too far from their play area, afraid of a return of the firefighting between local gangs and United Nations peacekeepers that once regularly ripped through the squalid area, leaving gang members and civilians dead or wounded.

You can't let the children out of your sight, said Marguerite Joseph, 32, tightly clutching her two-year-old daughter in fear as four black and white UN armoured vehicles ferrying blue-helmeted troops rumbled by her cement-block shack.

Over the past weeks, hundreds of UN peacekeepers slowly seized sections of Cite Soleil, a densely populated slum of about 200,000 people, once dominated by heavily armed gang members who kept kidnap victims there, intimidated local business people and allegedly raped local women.

The flags of the United Nations and Haiti now flutter from atop the crumbling blue bullet-pocked building, once used by the gangs to snipe at UN peacekeepers, and now a UN command post and symbol of progress in Haiti. Cracked down on the gangs that mushroomed in the wake of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's 2004 ouster.

We want the capital to regain its peace. Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis told *The Miami Herald* during the UN forces' pre-dawn February 9 raid to take control of the area known as Boston, about a quarter-mile from the building.

It is quiet in Boston now, at least for the moment. UN forces now control about 20% of Cite Soleil, and the gangs appear to be on the run. Scores of gang members have been

arrested, and three gang leaders including Boston's feared former ruler, a young man known as Evans or Ti-Koko (Creole for Little Knife) have contacted Haitian authorities, offering to turn in their guns.

Still, many problems remain in the seaside shantytown, a historic stronghold of support for Aristide where graffiti still hail him as King. Residents live in row after row of corrugated iron-roofed shacks next to mounds of garbage and open sewers. Money and work are scarce. Misery is plentiful.

People are hungry, said one of a group of young gang members in Cite Soleil who blocked a reporter from walking deeper into the slum. The UN peacekeepers first went on the offensive against Cite Soleil's gangs in December, after an unprecedented rash of child kidnappings and increasing pressure by Haitian lawmakers on Alexis and President Rene Preval to improve the security situation.

UN peacekeepers and Haitian national police began to launch raids into gang-controlled areas and eventually seized control of the Bwa Neuf section of the slum after several days of fighting.

Then, on February 9, they seized the Boston section in their largest raid to date. Since the raid, 45 gang members from both Marissant and Cite Soleil have been arrested by Haitian National Police and the peacekeepers. UN military spokesman Laurie Arellano said. But how long they will remain behind bars is unclear because Haiti's jails already are severely overcrowded. Recently, UN officials announced the capture of Johnny Pierre Louis, the Cite Soleil gang leader wanted in the killing of relatives of gang members who had agreed to join a disarmament programme. Also seized during the Cite Soleil February 9 raid were a Gall assault rifle, about 6,000 rounds of ammunition, two telescopes, one binoculars, two laptop computers and 27 cell phones. The raiders also found the national identity cards of several kidnap victims. Now it's possible to walk in Boston without fear, without problems, without criminals circulating freely in that area, Maj Gen Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz said. But while a degree of normalcy has returned to Cite Soleil, some Aristide supporters have complained that the UN forces used brutal tactics in their raids. *The Miami Herald*/MCT

For them, home is where the cave is

By Ben Blanchard

FOR Wang Fenguan, a 40-year-old man, a cave is his castle. He lives in a huge one and he has no intention of leaving. Neither do any of the 20 families in his village.

Where else would he go? asks Wang, sitting in his house beside the cave where his family has been living for more than half a century. This is our home. We are used to it, he adds, in uncertain sounding Mandarin. The cave is located deep in the remote southwestern Chinese province of Guizhou.

Wang's village of Zhongdong which literally means middle cave is built in a huge, aircraft hangar-sized natural cave, carved inside a mountain over thousands of years by wind, water and seismic shifts.

In other parts of China people live in houses tunnelled out of hillsides, but Zhongdong is, the local government believes, the last place in the country where people live perennially in a naturally occurring cave.

The villagers are all ethnic Miao people, supposedly related to the southeast Asian Hmong, and one of several minority groups who live in Guizhou.

Getting to the cave is extremely difficult. It takes some four hours to drive there from provincial capital Guiyang, the last hour on a dirt road which clings precariously to the side of a mountain valley, high above a river.

But the final way up to Zhongdong is a walk for more than an hour up a steep, rock-stone path hewn out of rocks. Everything must come up the cave by hand, and even washing machines.

The government has built houses in a valley below the cave, but they don't want to go, saying the houses are not up to standard and leak during the heavy rains which characterise Guizhou's damp climate.

We thought about moving, but we don't want to go, said Wang Houzhong. We are China's last cave dwellers. Life is very bitter for us. To be sure, life in the village



An ethnic Miao man walks inside a cave in a remote village in Ziyun county.

is tough. Villagers say they are lucky to make even 1,000 yuan (\$129) per family a year.

Women give birth at home, in houses with dirt floors and wood-fired hearths. The nearest hospital is a five-hour rough trek away. In the last few years, life has improved considerably, the cave dwellers say with a hint of optimism.

Electricity has arrived via wires strung over the mountains, and there is a primary school which, like almost every other building in Zhongdong, has no roof. It does not need one as the buildings are deep inside the cave.

Four houses now have televisions, some with DVD players, and a few even have washing machines. Satellite dishes are

perched on outcrops at the cave's entrance and, guess what? There is even mobile phone reception.

Villagers say the school has revolutionised life. The children happily chat away in clear, unaccented Mandarin, unlike their parents and grandparents who still struggle with China's official language or don't speak it at all.

When I was young, I had to walk three hours to school and another three hours to get back home, said Wang Fenguan.

The new school is great. Adult literacy classes are also being held. Progress is marked on the household registration forms pinned outside homes, with the Chinese characters for has escaped illiteracy placed next

to the names of adults who have attended class.

Daily necessities are still a struggle though. Villagers make the five-hour trek to the county town once a week to buy things they cannot make or grow, like toothpaste and soap, and to sell their cattle.

Water supply is limited in dry season. Buckets are set up around the cave to catch drips. Residents' Church which, like the cave's floor, is a measure, perhaps, of their commitment to stay in their remote home.

Exactly when their ancestors moved into the cave, and why, is a subject of debate. Some villagers say they have been there for generations. Others say they only moved in following the 1949 Communist revolution, to escape bandits.

There is a lower cave, too damp for habitation, and an upper cave that also has no residents. But ultimately it may be economics that kills Zhongdong. Already many villagers have left to work in richer parts of the country.

Luo Yaomei's three children have all gone, leaving her to bring up their children her grandchildren in her thatched house blackened by smoke at the cave's entrance.

None of them want to live here, she says. Of course the outside world is better, Luo adds sadly. *(Additional reporting by Kitty Bu)* Reuters

	SUPER MOVIES	STAR MOVIES	ESPN SPORTS	FOX SPORTS	HOLLYWOOD CH.	ZEE TV	DISCOVERY CH.	STAR PLUS	
5am to 1pm	0500 Malibu Spring Break (3) 0700 Churchill The Hollywood Years (2) 0900 Blind Horizon (3) 1100 Troubled Waters (2) 1300 One Last Thing	0535 The Three Musketeers 0725 Brotherhood IV The Complex 0905 Fatal Error 1035 Racing Strips 1230 Uptown Girls	0530 College Basketball West Coast Conf. Semifinal # 1 Live 0730 College Gamernight 0800 College Basketball West Coast Conf. Semifinal # 2 Live 1000 Sportscenter 1130 Winter X Games Special 1200 College Basketball 2007 Ohio Valley Championship	0500 Golf Central International 0600 Fox Soccer Report 0800 ACC Sunday Night Hoops Boston College @ Georgia Tech 1000 Golf Central International 1100 Fox Soccer Report 1200 ACC Women's College Basketball Semifinal #1: Teams TBA	0500 One Hit Wonders 0600 Speakeasy Chat 0700 Best Movies! Ever! TV Frames 0800 Born To Be 0830 Muchmusic Video Flow 0900 Start Daily Hollywood 0930 Making It 1000 I Heart Muchmusic VJ 1100 Search The Series 1200 The List 1230 The Punk Show 1300 Mmmprofile	0500 Sales Slot 0525 Jhalak 0530 WVS 0630 Jai Ganesh 0700 Test Case 0730 Mazlein Apni Apni Sarhadain 0830 Kahi Apna Sa 0900 Jabb Love Hua 0925 Jhalak Exposure 0930 Marmia 1000 Maayka 1030 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1100 Kasamh Se 1130 Saath Phere 1200 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Betyaann 1230 Movie: Har Dil Jo Pyar Karega	0510 The Compleat Angler 0540 Lake Escapes 0605 Battle of the Beasts 0700 Test Case 0755 Future Fighting Machines 0825 Meat Machines 0850 Thunder Races 0945 Building the Ultimate 1010 Rides Biggest Spenders 1105 Mythbusters 1200 Test Case 1255 Future Fighting Machines	0530 Kora Kagaz 0600 Mirch Masala 0630 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0700 Kyun Hota Hai Pyar 0730 Saarthi 0800 Shanti 0825 Shagun 0900 Shararat 0930 Karam Apna Apna 1000 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1030 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 1100 Bhabhi 1130 Kesar 1200 Saarthi 1230 Kora Kagaz 1300 Shagun	
	MOVIE RATINGS								
	1 All Viewers, 2 Caution 3 Parental Discretion, V Violence S Adult Content, L Strong Language								
	1500 Cake (2) 1500 On A Clear Day (2) 1900 Taxi								

1pm to 7pm	2100 Four Last Songs (3) 2300 Pinero (3) 0100 Knots 0300 Pinero (3)	1355 Cyborg 2 1535 Thumbelina 1705 The Marilyn Cambrell Story 1840 Smile	1400 Outside The Lines 1430 Women's College Basketball 1630 College Basketball Southeastern Conference 1830 College Basketball West Coast Conf. Semifinal # 1 Sportscenter	1400 Fox Soccer Report 1500 Firsthand Kassa Meador 1530 FEI World Cup Jumping Vigo, Spain 1630 ATP Tennis: The Tennis Channel Open Final Las Vegas, NV 1830 Football Asia 1900 Fox Soccer Report	1330 The Newmusic 1400 Video On Trial 1430 Muchmusic Video Flow 1500 Start Daily 1530 Start At The Movies In Fashion 1630 Fashion Television Countdown 1800 Muchtvide 1900 Muchmusic Special	1355 Exposure Jhalak 1430 Film contd. 1530 Kasam Se 1600 Saath Phere 1630 Mythbusters 1700 Sindoor Tere Naam Ka 1730 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1800 Saath Phere 1830 Kasam Se 1900 Saath Phere	1325 Mean Machines 1400 How Techies Changed the World with William Shatner 1445 Mythbusters 1540 Extreme Machines 1635 Building the Ultimate 1700 Thunder Races 1800 Oil, Sweat and Rigs 1900 Leonardo's Dream Machines	1330 Shararat 1350 Viraasat 1430 Kunkum Pyara Sa 1500 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 1530 Kaun Banega Crorepati - SRK 1630 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 1700 Kayamath 1730 Karam Apna Apna 1800 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1830 Viraasat 1900 Siski
-------------------	--	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

7pm to 5am	2100 Four Last Songs (3) 2300 Pinero (3) 0100 Knots 0300 Pinero (3)	2030 Doctor Dolittle 3 2210 Alexander 0105 Ozzie 0240 The Grudge 0420 Robots	2000 ESPN Soccernet 2030 Outside The Lines 2100 College Basketball 2007 Ohio Valley Championship 2300 Beach Soccer Tahiti Highlights 0000 ESPN Soccernet 0030 Stump The Schwab 0130 Women's College Basketball 0300 College Basketball Colonial Athletic Ass. Championship Live	2000 Everton TV: Everton vs Sheffield United 2300 ATP Tennis: The Tennis Channel Open Final Las Vegas, NV 0100 ACC Sunday Night Hoops Boston College @ Georgia Tech 0300 Golf Central International 0330 Golf Channel TBA	2000 The Art Of The Photograph 2030 Muchmusic Video Flow 2100 Start Daily 2130 In Fashion 2200 Raw 2230 So 90s 2330 Muchmusic Countdown 0100 Best Movies! Ever! TV Frames 0230 Born To Be 0230 Muchmusic Video Flow 0300 Start Daily 0330 Big Hollywood Countdown 0400 Making It 0430 I Heart	1930 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Betyaann 2000 Jabb Love Hua 2030 Maayka 2055 Exposure Jhalak 2100 Kasam Se 2155 Exposure Ek Nazar 2130 Bidwin 2200 Sales Slot 2300 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 2330 Sindoor Tere Naam Ka 0000 Kasamh Se 0030 Marmia 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Jabb Love Hua 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayan	2000 Wheeler Dealers 2100 Mythbusters 2200 Inventing History 2300 Zero Hour 0000 FBI Files 0100 Super Surgery 72 0200 Extreme Surgery 0350 Thunder Races 0445 Oil, Sweat and Rigs	1930 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 2000 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2030 Kayamath 2100 Kaun Banega Crorepati - SRK 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2300 Sarthi 2330 Kunkum Pyara Sa 0000 Kesar 0030 Shanti 0100 Shararat 0130 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Shagun 0230 Bhabhi 0300 Kayamath 0330 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
-------------------	--	--	--	---	--	---	---	---

	GEO TV	AMERICA PLUS	FUN CHANNEL	BBC WORLD	ORBIT NEWS	CNN INTERNATIONAL	DISNEY CHANNEL	CHANNEL [V] INT.
5am to 1pm	0505 Fun Club 0605 Advance Booking 0630 Kings 0705 Khatjor 0730 Dr Love 0830 Dhoom Machadhey Dhoom 0930 Noor Jehan 1000 Kusum 1030 Sheeshay Ka Mehal 1100 Ye Meri Life Hai 1130 Aashna 1200 Safaid Posh 1230 Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin	0500 The O.C 0600 Good Morning America 0700 Inside The Actors Studio 0800 Everwood 0900 All My Children 1000 Stingers 1100 Everwood 1200 All My Children 1300 Gilmore Girls	0500 Skate 0530 The Tribe 0600 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0630 High Flyers 0700 Sleepover Club 0730 Explorations 0800 The Why Why Family 0825 Little Mermaid 0850 Littl Bits 0915 Rainbow Brite 0930 Sylvanian Families 1000 Lady Lovely Locks 1025 Princess Tenko 1045 Little Mermaid 1100 Princess Sissi 1135 Princess Sissi 1155 The Why Why Family 1220 Diploodes 1245 Littl Bits	0500 BBC News, Weather 0530 Asia Today 0600 World Business Report 0600 BBC News, Weather 0630 Asia Today 0645 Asia Business Report 0700 BBC News, Weather 0730 Hardtalk 0800 BBC News, Weather 0830 World Business Report 0900 BBC News, Weather 0930 World Business Report 1000 BBC News, Weather 1030 World Business Report 1045 Sport Today 1100 BBC News, Weather 1130 Our World 1200 BBC News, Weather 1230 Hardtalk Interviews 1300 BBC News, Weather	0500 NBC Nightly News 0530 ABC World News 0600 NBC Dateline 0700 NBC Nightly News 0730 ABC World News 0800 ABC 20/20 0900 ABC This Week 1000 NBC Meet The Press 1100 ABC World News 1130 NBC Nightly News 1200 ABC World News 1230 NBC Early Today Live 1300 MSNBC Live First Look	0530 World Sport 0600 World News 0630 World Report 0700 World News 0730 World News 0800 CNN Today 1100 Business International 1200 World News 1230 World Sport 1300 Larry King	0515 Brandy And Mr Whiskers 0535 GooF Troop 0600 House Of Mouse 0625 Lilo And Stitch 0650 Kim Possible 0700 Emperor's New School 0725 Recess 0750 Fillmore 0800 Breakfast Briefing 0830 Lilo And Stitch 0835 Classic Cartoons 0900 Mickey's Club House 0925 Little Einsteins 0950 Jo Jo's Circus 1010 Stanley 1035 Higglytown Heroes 1100 GooF Troop 1125 Recess 1145 Kim Possible 1210 Lilo And Stitch 1235 House Of Mouse 1255 Quack Pack 1300 News And Lifestyle	0500 Double Shot: Superstars 0600 Popparazzi 0630 The Record Shop 0700 The Ticket 0730 Soundtracks 0800 Double Shot 0900 America's Next Top Model S7 #2 1000 For The Record: The Record Shop 1015 Double Shot 1100 Breaking Up With Shannen Doherty 1130 Double Shot 1200 Popparazzi 1230 The Record Shop 1300 Video(Scope): Depeche Mode

1pm to 7pm	1300 Pyaree Shamho 1400 Mehndi Walay Haath 1430 Khuda Kee Basti 1505 Tere Pehlo Mein 1530 Kajaj 1605 Bachelor Mann Kay Saahay 1630 Fun Club 1705 Bachelor Bawarchi 1730 Akele Na Gana 1800 Mehndi Walay Haath 1830 Khuda Kee Basti	1400 Stingers 1500 Good Morning America 1700 Gilmore Girls 1800 Related 1900 Supernatural	1305 Rainbow Brite 1330 Sylvanian Families 1355 Jin Jin And The Panda Patrol 1420 Oliver Twist 1445 Eek The Cat 1475 Headbitch 1555 The Why Why Family 1620 Diploodes 1645 Littl Bits 1710 Rainbow Brite 1735 Sylvanian Families 1800 Camp Cart 1825 The Adventures Of Pinocchio 1850 Peter Pan And The Pirates	1330 Take Off 1/6 1400 BBC News, Weather 1430 World Business Report 1445 Sport Today 1500 World News Today Including World Business Report 1600 BBC News, Weather 1630 Asia Today 1645 Sport Today Sports 1700 BBC News, Weather 1730 Hardtalk 1800 BBC News, Weather 1830 Click 1900 BBC News, Weather	1330 ABC America This Morning Live 1430 NBC Early Today 1500 NBC The Today 1630 World Sport 1700 World News Asia 1730 Living Golf 1800 Your World Today	1400 Business International 1500 World News Asia 1600 World News 1630 World Sport 1700 World News Asia 1730 Living Golf 1800 Your World Today	1320 Tarzan 1340 Recess 1350 Lilo In Space 1435 Brandy And Mr Whiskers 1500 Luncheon News 1530 Recess 1510 Lilo And Stitch 1535 Emperor's New School 1600 Family Odd Parents 1625 American Dragon 1650 Kim Possible 1700 News And Lifestyle 1710 Haman Montana 1735 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cody 1800 Emperor's New School 1825 Fillmore 1845 Recess 1900 Brandy And Mr Whiskers	1400 America's Next Top Model S7 #3 1500 [V] Special: Kasabian TV Special 1530 Double Shot 1600 Parental Control #10 1630 Double Shot 1650 CD USA 1900 Video(Scope): Depeche Mode
-------------------	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	---

7pm to 5am	1905 Tere Pehlo Mein 1930 Kajaj 2005 Aashna 2030 Noor Jehan 2205 Bachelor Bawarchi 2230 Akele Na Gana 2300 Mehndi Walay Haath 2330 Khuda Kee Basti 0005 Tere Pehlo Mein 0030 Kajaj 0105 Aashna 0130 Noor Jehan 0205 Pyaree Shamho 0305 Safaid Posh 0330 Sheeshay Ka Mehal	2100 Related 2200 Stargate Atlantis 0000 E-Ring 0030 The Bush Patrol 0200 Stargate Atlantis 0000 E-Ring 0100 Related 0200 Supernatural 0400 ER	1915 Dennis 2000 Explorations 2030 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 2100 Skate 2130 The Tribe 2200 BBC News, Weather 2230 Click 2300 BBC News, Weather 2330 Fast Track 0000 World News Today Including World Business Report 0100 BBC News 0115 Sport Today Sports 0130 World Business Report 0145 Asia Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Asia Today 0245 Asia Business Report 0300 BBC News, Weather	1930 Asia Today 2000 BBC News, Weather 2030 World Business Report 2045 Sport Today 2100 BBC News, Weather 2130 Hardtalk 2200 BBC News, Weather 2230 Click 2300 BBC News, Weather 2330 Fast Track 0000 World News Today Including World Business Report 0100 BBC News 0115 Sport Today Sports 0130 World Business Report 0145 Asia Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Asia Today 0245 Asia Business Report 0300 BBC News, Weather	2000 MSNBC Live The Most W/Alison Stewart 2100 MSNBC Live 2200 ABC 20/20 2300 MSNBC Live T. Carson 0100 MSNBC Live Hardball 0200 MSNBC News 0230 ABC World News 0300 NBC Nightly News 0330 ABC World News 0400 MSNBC Live Countdown W/K. O'Berlmann	2130 Living Golf 2200 Your World Today 2230 World Business 2300 World News Europe 2330 World Business Today 0000 World News Europe 0030 World Sport 0100 Business International 0200 CNN Today 0230 World Sport 0300 CNN Today	1925 Fairly Odd Parents 1950 Phi Of The Future 2010 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cody 2035 That's So Raven 2100 Evening News 2125 Boy Meets World 2150 Classic Cartoons 2200 House Of Mouse 2225 Lilo And Stitch 2250 Kim Possible 2310 Emperor's New School 2325 Recess 2350 Fillmore 0010 Lilo In Space 0035 Classic Cartoons 0100 Mickey's Club House 0125 Little Einsteins 0150 Jo Jo's Circus 0210 Stanley	1930 Double Shot 2000 Parental Control #10 2030 Double Shot 2100 The Rock Show 2130 World News 2200 Popparazzi 2230 The Record Shop 2300 Video(Scope) Special: Kasabian TV 0030 Double Shot 0100 Remote Control 0200 The Ticket 0230 Soundtracks 0300 America's Next Top Model S7 #3 0400 Double Shot: 90's 0430 Double Shot: Rock's
-------------------	---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--

RADIO STATIONS	QBS ENGLISH SERVICE	Schedule of the day	RADIO ASIA	ASIANET RADIO 657AM	BBC	1130 Cultural Shock	1920 World Business Report
0600 Holy Qur'an and Its Translation 0615 The Breakfast Show (News Summary at 0700) 0845 Arabic/Islamic Programme 0900 Melody Time 0930 In the Spotlight 1000 Country Music USA 1100 News Summary 1105 Midday Show 1300 The News 1315 French Transmission 1600 London Line 1700 Evening Show 1800 The News 1815 Evening Show contd... 2000 News Summary 2005 Featuring Album 2100 Music in Stereo	1330 News; Qatari press review; Number 1 1345 Heartbeats 1415 Musical talk show with local news 1530 News Flash 1535 Issues concerning French speaking countries 1600 Back to English Service	0500 Manjurukum Pular Kalam 0530 Life Magazine 0605 Keralaeyam 0700 Sarasakeralam 0800 Hello Rainbow 1000 Comedy Serial 1100 Daily Diary 1305 Sneha Veesdu 1330 Aardrabhavangal 1357 Nam Engottu 1420 Atlas Daily Sl 1500 Viva Dhasparvam 1530 Quiz Time 1600 Kerala Link 1702 Snehitath thilhe 1800 Hotline 1900 Sneha Sandeshan 2000 Nanchil Ninthe Rangam 2100 Isai Malai 2130 Uravamu Padalam 2215 Ragamrutham 2300 Songs	1000 Opening and Holy Qur'an 1010 Good Morning Gulf 1040 Sneha Sandesam 1100 News Headlines 1105 Daily Serial 1135 Film India 1200 Hot News 1210 Mayuri Tex 1235 Lulu 1235 Kudumbasamedham 1300 Hitachi 1310 Cinema 1335 Atlas 1400 Suvarnamangishangal 1400 News Headlines 1402 Shared Public Demand 1420 Requested songs 1445 Westar News/close	0500 World News 0505 World Briefing 0520 World Business Report 0530 World Briefing 0540 Analysis 0550 Sports Roundup 0600 World News 0605 The World Today 0700 World News 0720 The World Today 0800 World News 0835 World Briefing 0850 World Business Report 0900 Business Daily 0900 World News 0905 The World Today 0920 World Business Report 1005 Documentary: Ghana: Winds of Change 1030 Health Check 1100 World News 1105 The World Today	1130 Cultural Shock 1200 World News 1205 World Briefing 1220 World Business Report 1230 World Briefing 1240 Analysis 1250 Sports Roundup 1300 World News 1320 World Update 1400 World News 1405 World Briefing 1420 World Business Report 1430 Culture Shock 1500 World News 1505 Newshour 1600 World News 1605 Documentary: Ghana: Winds of Change 1630 Health Check 1700 World News 1705 Outlook 1800 World News 1805 World Briefing 1840 Analysis 1850 Sports Roundup 1900 World News 1905 World Briefing	1920 World Business Report 1930 World Briefing 1940 Business Daily 2000 World News 2005 Europe Today 2100 World News 2105 World Have Your Say 2200 World News 2205 World Briefing 2220 World Business Report 2230 Health Check 2300 World Business Report 2305 Documentary: Ghana: Winds of Change 2330 Culture Shock 0000 World News 0005 Documentary: Ghana: Winds of Change 0100 World News 0105 World Briefing 0120 World Business Report 0130 World Briefing 0140 Analysis 0150 Sports Roundup 0200 World News 0205 The World Today 0300 World News 0305 Outlook	

RADIO STATIONS

	BBC PRIME	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	STAR WORLD	GRANADA UK	MOVIE CHANNEL	M G M	TV LAND	SUN TV
5am to 1pm	0600 Teen Angels 0700 Garden Invaders 0730 Balamory 0750 Tweenies 0810 Big Cook Little Cook 0830 Tikkabilla 0900 Boogie Bebies 0915 Tweenies 0935 Balamory 0955 Teletubbies 1020 Fimbles 1040 Big Cook Little Cook 1100 Changing Rooms 1130 Lenny's Big Atlantic Adventure 1230 Garden Invaders	0500 NG Special 0600 Hunter Hunted S3 0700 In The Worms 0800 NG Special 0830 Planet Wild 0930 Amazing Moments 1000 NG Special 1100 Triumph Of Life 1200 Showreal Asia S3	0600 The King Of Queens 0630 The Simpsons 0700 Business Week 0730 Asia 0830 Hollywood Squares 0900 Friends 0830 Cheers 0900 Oprah Winfrey Show 1000 Boston Legal 1100 Prehistoric Park 1200 Fashion House	0600 Edward VII (Series 4) 0700 Coronation Street 0930 Just Us (Series 2) 1000 Disraeli 1100 Fortysomething 1200 Sunday TV Movie: <i>David And Lisa</i>	0500 What About Bob? 0700 Beautiful Girl 0900 Volcano 1030 The Phantom Of The Opera	0520 Hollywood Hot Tubs 0700 The Rose Garden 0850 What Did You Do In The War Daddy? 1045 Solomon & Sheba 1215 The Devil's Brigade	0600 Kojak (2005) 0700 Stargate SG-1 0800 Xena Warrior Princess 0900 The Unit 1100 Survivor Cook Islands 1200 Beauty And The Beast 1200 Prison Break	0630 Nadhiathali Pidithathu 0700 Namma Neram 0730 Comedy Time 0800 Santhipoma 0830 Anandham 0900 Bandham 0930 Nimmadhi 1000 Chellammadi Nee Enakku 1030 Sorgam 1100 Afternoon Bulletin 1130 Movie: <i>Anjali</i>
1pm to 7pm	1300 Model Gardens 1330 Big Cat Diary 1400 African Penguin 1430 Keeping Up Appearances 1500 My Dad's The Prime Minister 1530 Kiss Me Kate 1600 Our Mutual Friend 1700 Popcorn 1800 Big Strong Boys 1830 Changing Rooms	1300 Mad Labs 1330 I Didn't Know That 1400 Outsmarting Terror 1500 NG Special 1600 Light At The Edge Of The World 1700 Triumph Of Life 1800 The Living Edens	1300 Oprah Winfrey Show 1400 J.A.G 1500 General Hospital 1600 Desperate Housewives 1700 Baywatch 1800 The Simpsons 1830 Cheers	1400 Edward VII (Series 4) 1500 An Audience With Victoria Wood 1600 Under The Hammer 1700 Night And Day 1730 Mission Wild 1800 Upstairs Downstairs (Series 4)	1300 Sky High 1500 Volcano 1630 Inzoupid 1830 The Rock Action	1425 Lawman 1600 The Tenth Man 1735 Hornet's Nest	1300 WWE Smackdown 1500 Xena Warrior Princess 1600 The Unit 1700 Kojak (2005) 1800 Stargate SG-1	1400 Netru Indru Naalai 1430 Kutty's Choice 1500 My Dear Bootham 1530 Muhurtham 1600 Evening News 1630 Headlines 1630 Kasturi 1630 Anandham 1700 Malargal 1730 Evening News 1800 Anjali 1830 Kolangal
7pm to 9pm	1900 Cash In The Attic 1930 Small Town Gardens 2000 My Dad's The Prime Minister 2030 My Hero 2100 Tony And Giorgio 2130 Ground Force 2200 Dalziel And Pascoe 2300 Hustle 0000 The Kumars At Number 42	1900 NG Special 2000 Light At The Edge Of The World 2100 Triumph Of Life 2200 The Living Edens 2300 NG Special 0000 Mad Labs 0030 I Didn't Know That 0100 Outsmarting Terror 0200 NG Special	1900 Friends 1930 Seinfeld 2000 Still Standing 2030 Frasier 2100 Fashion House 2200 Life With Bonnie 2300 Rodney 2300 Seinfeld 2330 Friends 0000 Still Standing 0030 Frasier 0100 Fashion House 0200 NG Special	1900 Home To Roost 1930 Emmerdale 2000 Coronation Street 2030 Day One The Shadowmaker 2230 Airline (Series 6) 2300 An Audience With Victoria Wood 0000 Under The Hammer 0100 Night And Day 0130 Mission Wild	2100 Friday Night Lights 2300 Sky High 0100 The Prophecy 0230 D.E.B.S 0430 The Phantom Of The Opera	1925 Charlie Chan & Curse Of The Dragon 2100 Liebestraum 2245 Sour Grapes 0010 Firelight 0145 Mr North 0315 Teachers	1900 Ghost Whisperer 2000 Ugly Betty 2100 Desperate Housewives 2200 C.S.I. Miami 2300 Top Gear 0000 The Unit 0100 Prison Break 0200 Ghost Whisperer 0300 Ugly Betty 0400 Desperate Housewives	1900 Arasi 1930 Lakshmi 2000 Surya 2030 Putham Pudhuru 2100 News In Tamil 2200 Thirai Masala 0300 News In Tamil 0330 Putham Pudhuru 0400 Mangayar Choice 0430 Nalamai Vazha
9pm to 11pm	0700 Today's Business 0800 Squawk Box Europe 1100 Worldwide Exchange	0600 Sky News On The Hour 0630 CBS News 0730 Sky World News 0730 Review & Business 0800 Sky World News 0830 Review & Business 0900 Sunrise 1200 Sky News Today	NO TRANSMISSION	0630 New Programme 0700 Meet The Heart-mates 0900 Tharavishesham 0930 Movie 1030 Asianet Varthakal	0605 V Trailers 0610 WWS Sky Shop 0625 V Trailers 0630 Deevaananpan 1025 V Trailers 1030 Muqabla	0730 Bottle Top Bill 0745 Lunar Jim 0800 Barney 0830 Blues Clues 0900 Connie The Cow 0915 Dora The Explorer 1000 Thomas & Friends 1015 Postman Pat 1030 Bottle Top Bill 1045 Lunar Jim 1100 A House That's Just Like Yours 1130 Hi 5 1200 Tracey Mcbean 1230 Danny Phantom	0700 Song Sequence 0730 Movie: <i>Veettukari</i> 1000 Song Sequence 1030 Movie: <i>Deiva Piravi</i>	0630 Snehittha 0700 Priyam Priyatharam 0730 Star Talk 0800 Vellithira 0830 Music Moments 0830 Anandham 0930 Chechi 1000 Kolangal 1030 News 1145 Movie: <i>TP Balagopalan MA</i>
11pm to 1am	1300 Power Lunch 1400 Europe 1600 US CNBC Squawk Box 1700 Squawk On The Street 1700 US Morning Call 1800 European Closing Bell	1500 Lunchtime Live 1700 Sky News Today	1500 Holy Qur'an 1530 Garfield 1600 Marsipilami 1630 Play With Me 1700 Sesame 1730 PSI 1730 Today's Environment 1800 Earth Final 1845 Horizon	1330 Music Chat Show 1530 Movie 1555 Munshi 1600 News Time 1630 Movie cont...	1425 V Trailers 1430 Yeh Dil Aahiqana 1800 Soldier	1300 Yakkity Yak 1330 Hey Arnold 1400 Spongebob 1430 Squarepants 1430 All Grown Up 1500 Tracey Mcbean 1530 Danny Phantom 1600 Blues Clues 1630 Dora The Explorer 1700 Barney 1730 Hi 5 1800 Fraggie Rock 1830 Jungle Run	1300 Song Sequence 1330 Movie: <i>Idhaya Vaasal</i> 1600 Neengal Rasithavai 1630 Muthal Payanam 1700 Enakku Piditha Pradal 1730 Movie: <i>Sangamam</i>	1330 Special Prog 1400 Venal Mazha 1430 Hai Kids 1500 Kutties Choice 1530 News 1600 Neelakurinjil 1630 Manassariyadhe 1700 Kanakkinaru 1730 Prayanam 1800 Kalyanee 1830 Minnu Ketu
1am to 5am	2000 US Power Lunch 2100 Europe Tonight 2130 Street Signs 2200 US Closing Bell 0000 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno 0045 Late Night With Conan O'Brien 0130 NBC Nightly News 0200 US Morning Call 0200 Pokerheaven.Com Online	2000 Live At Five 2130 Sportsline 2200 The Sky Report 2300 World News 0000 Tonight 0000 Nine O'clock News 0030 Sky News 0100 Sky News At Ten 0130 Sportsline 0200 Sky News Tonight 0300 Sky News On The Hour 0330 CBS News	1945 Daddio 2015 Moments in Time 2115 Monk 2200 English News 2230 Feature Film 0000 Transmission of Al-Jazeera Channel	1930 Tharavishesham 1955 DSF Update 2000 Asianet Varthakal 2030 Munshi 2105 Saregama 2135 Home Sweet Home 2200 Gulf Varthakal 2230 Comedy Cousins 2300 Snehapoovam 2300 Europil Nimnu 2330 Amma Manassu	2200 Telemart English 2215 V Trailers 2220 Hero Hiralal 0200 V Trailers 0205 Auzaar	1900 Darcy's Wild Life 1930 Unfabulous 2000 Parents Are Aliens 2030 Tracey Mcbean 2100 Danny Phantom 2130 Yakkity Yak 2200 Hey Arnold 2230 Spongebob 2300 Squarepants 2300 All Grown Up 2330 Blues Clues 0000 Dora The Explorer 0030 Thomas & Friends 0045 Postman Pat	2000 Srippu Vedigal 2030 Movie: <i>Pathini Penn</i> 2300 Song Sequence 0200 News 0230 Song Sequence	1900 Kayamkulam Kocaganni 1930 Bharyam Sook-shikkama 2000 Comedy Time 2030 News 2130 Vellithira 2200 Naadum Naattarum 2230 Snehittha 2300 Puthiya Prattukal

PRAYER TIME
Fajr 4.38am, Shoroq (sunrise) 5.54am, Zuhr (noon) 11.45am, Asr (afternoon) 3.07pm, Maghrib (sunset) 5.39pm, Isha (night) 7.09pm.

DONA ZOO
Open from 8am to 12 noon and 2.30pm to 7pm daily. Tuesdays are reserved for women. Friday for general public in the afternoon only.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS
Tel: 4408555

HOSPITALS
Visiting Hours:
Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital and Rumailah Hospital 6am to 7.30am, 4pm to 8pm.

HELP LINE
Is drinking a problem for you or someone you love?
Call Alcoholics Anonymous: 5605901

LATEST DVD, VIDEO RELEASES
ENGLISH: *Unknown* (Jim Caviezel, Greg Kinnear), *Saw* (Shawnee Smith, Bahar Soomekh); *Pokemon: Destiny Deoxys*;

INFORMATION
Open Season (Animation): *Nothing* (David Hewlett, Andrew Miller); *Wicker Man* (Nicholas Cage); *King Maker* (Gary Stretch, John Rhys-Davies); *Wicker Man* (Nicholas Cage); *Find Me Guilty* (Vin Diesel); *Akasha & The Bee* (Keke Palmer, Laurence Fishburne); *Black Hole* (Judd Nelson, Kristy Swanson); *Silther* (Nathan Fillon, Michael Rooker); *Bailey's Billion* (Jackie Burroughs); *Seven Swords*; *Basic Instinct 2* (Sharon Stone); *Tamara* (Jeena Dewan, Katie Stuart).

HINDI: Bhagam Bhag (Govinda); *Dhoom 2* (Hrithik Roshan); *Jaana* (Rajesh Khanna, Zeena Aman); *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* (Shahrukh Khan); *Kudiyon Ka Zamana* (Rekha); *I See You* (Arjun Rampal); *Aryan* (Sohail Khan, Sneha Ullal); *Baabul* (Rani Mukherji); *Dil Diya Hai* (Emraan Hashmi, Geeta Basra); *Vivah* (Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao); *Umrao Jan* (Aishwarya Rai, Abhishek Bachchan); *Apna Sapna Money Money* (Jackie Shroff, Sunil Shetty); *Uhris* (Sanjay Kapoor); *Rehgarzar* (Jimmy Shergil, Salim); *Don* (Shahrukh Khan).

ARABIC: Emrat (Yacoubian); *Alemmiel* (Hadi); *Oreed Kholaan*; *Dars Khsousy*; *Zarf Tarek*; *Ghaway Hour*; *Malash Ahna Bent-bahel*.

Information courtesy: Q-Mart Audio Video at The Mall.

USEFUL NUMBERS
Police, Fire, Ambulance 999
HMC 4392222
Women's (Rumailah) 4393333
HMC (Emergency) 4393507
Veterinary 653083
Water & Electricity 991
Flight Inquiries 4622999
Doha Seaport 457457
Museum 4442191
Cinema 4671811
Murtaz Post (24-hr Service): 4415566
 4432211
(Car) 4483551
Ship Phone Service 4864444
Ministry of Interior main switchboard 4330000
Public Department for passports, nationality and residence 4882862
Capital Security Department 4444420
Criminal Information Department 4477477
Boundaries and Coasts Security 4414488
Civil Defence Department 4413666
Public Relations Department 4448720
Rescue Service 4682888

YOUR STARS

ARIES (Mar 21-April 20): You may be tired of working for someone else. Try to accommodate them without infringing on your own responsibilities. Listening can be more valuable than being a chatter-box. +++

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Put your thoughts into action. Don't let your friends talk you into taking time off. +++

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. +++

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Try not to get involved in other people's problems. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Do something special for yourself. +++

LEO (July 23-August 22): Get the red tape and the unwanted paper-work out of the way. Personal alterations will be in your best interest. Don't push your mate away. +++

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Comfort is a necessity. Check your motives. You will have excellent ideas and you should be able to help your partner get ahead. Rewards for past good deeds will highlight your day. +++

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. Weigh the pros and cons and make a decision that will change the conditions you've been living under. Pushy people must be kept at arm's length. +++

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Don't settle for less than the best. +++

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. You are in a cycle where travel, education, and creative endeavors are concerned. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. +++

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Avoid boredom by being creative in your endeavours. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. +++

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Try not to judge too quickly. Don't be too eager to dismiss someone who works under you. Problems with colleagues are likely. +++

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You need to get out and have some fun to reduce tension. A new activity could help shape your attitude. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place. +++



Guess what they sing!

IT IS Yo La Tengo dogma, and James McNew, who has been the stalwart indie-rock act's bassist for 15 of the band's 23-year existence, recites it almost reflexively, albeit somewhat facetiously, when questions are raised about the intentions behind songs on Yo La Tengo's latest disc, *I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass*.

We never supply lyrics to our records. We never disclose the meanings of song titles. We never explain much of anything. It's more fun for us, anyway.

It's a draw your own conclusions type of thing, he continues. We want you to imagine what the hell the band could have been thinking when (they) came up with that song title. We're more interested in having what we do mean something than what we say it means.

That would seem to slam shut the door on further discussion on the content of one of Yo La Tengo's best discs ever, a bravura recap of

short- and long-form song-writing ranging from bright, horn-fired mid-'60s pop (*Beanbag Chair*), falsetto-fueled R&B (*Mr. Tough*), White-Striped Left Banker chamber pop (*Black Flowers*), percussive, strobe-light psychedelia (*The Room Got Heavy*), punked-out Velvet Underground/Beach Boys raveups (*Watch Out for Romeo*) and extended spacey jamming (the 10:45-minute *Pass the Hatchet, I Think I'm Goodkind*) and dreamy droning (the 11:47-minute *Story of Yo La Tengo*).

But wait. Before he can stop himself, McNew lets slip a potential clue about the '60s vibe coursing through *I Am Not Afraid of You*.

I don't normally disclose this stuff, he begins tentatively, but before we made this record, I did start listening again, as a real interested fan, to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

You have to remember, I entered the picture at the time of (1978's)

'We never supply lyrics to our records. We never disclose the meanings of song titles. It's more fun for us, anyway,' indie-rock band Yo La Tengo tells LEN RIGHI

Some Girls. That was a good one, but after that ...

But, suddenly, I began craving (the Beatles songs) *Yellow Submarine* and *Hey Bulldog* and *I's All Too Much*, and I became completely obsessed with (the Stones albums) *Between the Buttons* and *Exile on Main Street*.

McNew cuts himself off, and it is time to move on.

He is asked which songs he feels closest to.

I feel close to all of them, McNew replies.

All three of us were heavily involved in every track, he adds, referring to his band mates, singer-guitarist Ira Kaplan, a one-time

writer for New York Rocker, and drummer Georgia Hubley, who in 1984 founded the Hoboken, New Jersey-based band (the two are now married).

What about the decision to open *I Am Not Afraid* ... with the lengthy instrumental *Pass the Hatchet* ...?

McNew notes that the version on record is very, very similar-sounding to the very first time we ever played that song. A few minutes into playing it, I assumed it would be the first song on the record. That was a no-brainer.

Occasionally, Yo La Tengo has been sensitive to such song-length issues. On *Electric-Dr-Para*, which we put out in 1995, we made all the

song times different. None of them corresponded to the song, says McNew with a chuckle. That made us laugh.

The band began writing material for *I Am Not Afraid*... in April 2005. Around the same time, Yo La Tengo became involved in a benefit concert for Tonic, a club on the Lower East Side of Manhattan that presented mostly jazz and avant garde music.

The band rearranged two sets of material for the show, which McNew reports, was a big success. The club is still open. I just went to see a band there a few weeks ago and it now has new bathrooms, which I like to think we helped it get.

Another project the band was involved in was resurrecting *The Sounds of Science*, the score Yo La Tengo wrote in 2001 for eight of filmmaker Jean Painlevé's most famous underwater shorts. The band performed the score live for the first time in three years in four cities



Indie-rock band Yo La Tengo

Chicago, St. Louis, New York City and Tokyo.

The band also scored a seven-minute animated film, *Octave*, directed by Hubley's sister, Emily, and two feature-length movies, *Old Joy* and *Short Bus*.

Asked if all that activity helped shape *I Am Not Afraid*... which was recorded rather leisurely in Nashville over a five-week period,

McNew offers this elliptical response: We showed our appreciation for having time by not over-preparing and leaving all of our

song ideas open and not really finished. It helped retain spontaneity, and sparks were flying as things were figured out, as things were occurring to us.

We prepared for having lots of time by being unprepared. MCT



Calamity Jane?

Jane Austen fans are livid that Anne Hathaway is playing their beloved authoress. But the 24-year-old New Yorker has gone to huge lengths to prepare for the part – even learning to like Marmite.

LEO BENEDICTUS commiserates

"NOW I'm just warning you," Anne Hathaway interrupts, "as if she can stand the presence no longer, 'the tea is actually not hot enough."

There is an awkward pause. I have not tasted mine yet, and murmur some conciliatory noises. Right now, Hathaway's tone is not one that invites contradiction. Immaculately dressed, with hair out of an advert, she has been a touch defensive since we met.

Given the nature of her new film – *Becoming Jane*, based on the early life of Jane Austen – she may feel she has reason to be. Some Austen fans have complained that Hathaway should never have got the job.

To those people, who have been blogging indignantly for months, the idea that this extravagantly beautiful 24-year-old American, born in Brooklyn, should be entrusted with the task of playing the English spinster who wrote all their favourite novels must seem like the worst kind of Hollywood blasphemy.

Indeed, Hathaway, herself an Austen fanatic, admits that she was nervous about taking the role for precisely that reason.

"It was fear of failure," she says. "I think so highly of her that I just thought, am I up to it?"

In the end, the decision was made by default when Hathaway appeared on a chat show alongside her idol Emma Thompson ("I mean, I worship her"), who asked what projects she had coming up. "I couldn't tell her that I was hem-

ming and having about playing Jane Austen," Hathaway recalls, "because I knew that if I did she would punch me and steal the script and go and tell the producers why she ought to play it."

The only alternative to a face-off with Thompson, it seemed, was to say yes. But for Hathaway (named in deliberate homage to Shakespeare's wife by her theatre-loving parents), the part must still have seemed a daunting task.

Having become famous in teen comedies, notably for playing a girl who discovers she is European royalty in Disney's *The Princess Diaries*, she boldly entered the mature phase of her career with roles in *Brokeback Mountain* and gangland thriller *Havoc*, both of which demanded nude sex scenes and were rich in what are known as "adult themes".

Since then, Hathaway has starred as the ingenue opposite Meryl Streep's fashion virago in *The Devil Wears Prada*. But never has she faced a technical challenge that compares to the accent, manners and heritage of the young Jane Austen.

Of course, it is polite for movie stars to profess, or quickly acquire, a lifelong fascination with any well-known character they are about to play. But while biographical accuracy takes just a cameo role in *Becoming Jane*, Hathaway's Austen credentials really do check out.

She began reading the novels at the age of 14, and became an expert on their many adaptations. At New York University, where Hathaway still has two years

of an English degree left to complete, Austen seemed to become a part of almost every course she chose to study.

Nor could one fault her dedication to the role. "I thought, even if I can't act my way out of a paper bag, they will never be able to get me on the research," she says, before explaining how she learned to play the piano, re-read all the novels, ploughed through numerous books on the period, and even visited the British Library to read all of Austen's letters.

"I knew who she was when I saw that," she exclaims ecstatically. "How much she could write! And how many words she could fit into a page! Her script looks like a computer font, it's so perfect."

Finally, Hathaway moved to a village in England for the month before shooting began. "I lived in a house and had tea every day," she says, which accounts for the intolerance she is still showing for her present cup.

As a joke, I ask if she also managed to give herself a taste for Marmite during this month. Incredibly, she did. "But I just have to have very, very thin layers."

The result of all her labours is an impressive performance, delivered in an impeccable accent.

"People never talk about it, but there's something very religious about very difficult acting," she says, sounding more relaxed now, less likely to play a tea-lady. It must be hard, having to be charming and funny while worrying about what everyone will make of your words when they appear in the paper. "It is hard," she agrees.

Besides trying to be succinct with journalists, how does she cope with the other trappings of fame? "The weirdest thing that I still can't get used to, and I refuse to accept, is when people try to unpack my bags for me. It just freaks me out. I don't want people touching my underwear." Fair enough.

"And I usually get stares. That's the hardest thing – getting used to being stared at. It makes you become very, very hot and then turn bright red. And then people are like, why is she turning bright red. And you're like... She makes a punicky little flapping noise. I get the idea.

On balance, however, Hathaway says she is very happy, and grateful, about her success – even if it is something she never planned for. "I thought I was going to be a chorus girl and have tons of student loans," she says.

Was there a moment, then, when she knew she had made it? "Yeah." She considers for a moment, obviously on the point of saying something else she might regret.

"I hope I don't sound too blunt and disgusting when I say this, but when I made a million dollars for the first time," she displays that mixture of pleasure and nervousness that comes with sharing a secret. "All of a sudden, I had a million dollars in the bank!"

She looks ready to burst with excitement. "I could fill this room with ones! That was definitely a moment when I thought, 'I am definitely never going to have student loans.'"

The conversation moves on, rambling through her middle-class upbringing in New York, the evil goblins of unemployment anxiety and the cost of shopping at Marc Jacobs. But something is bothering her. "Was that really obvious when I talked about making a million dollars?" she asks. No, it was fine. "Sorry... I know, I know, I'm sorry, I'll stop."

But the interview is not over. Just as I am gathering my stuff together, Hathaway returns. "It's just something I want to clarify," she says.

"As you noticed, I apologised a half-dozen times throughout the interview, wondering how things were going to sound. The reason is that the one thing that is so difficult to come to terms with is being misunderstood."

To illustrate this, she tells the story of how a friend of hers in India read that she was going to quit acting to become a carpenter, when what she had actually said was that in the next 10 years she would like to study carpentry.

"It's not a matter of, 'Oh, I'm so worried what other people think about me,' it's just that you want the things you say to connect and be clear. I just wanted to make sure."

I tell her this has been noted, and she seems pleased. This time she leaves quite cheerily, announcing at the door, for my benefit: "Right, I've just got to go into the bathroom to do some blow..." – Guardian News & Media



HAPPENINGS

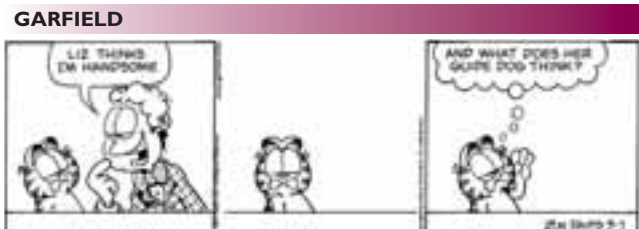
NAACP honour ... Singer India Arie poses with the Outstanding Song prize for *I Am Not My Hair* in the press room during the 38th annual NAACP Image Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Friday.



Song fest ... Canadian-Portuguese singer Nelly Furtado receives flowers from presenter Pippo Baudo after performing as a guest with the Italian duo Zoro Assoluto – former school-mates Matteo Maffucci (left) and Thomas De Gasperi (right) at the 57th Festival of Italian song, better known as the Sanremo Song Festival.



Award ... Tunisian actress Hind Sabri displays her best actress award for her role in *Malak Wa Ktabah* during the closing ceremony of the 55th Catholic Center Festival for Egyptian Cinema at the Al-Nobel Hall in Cairo last week.



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Yesterday's solution

This puzzle is taken from *The Sudoku Book: An Introduction to Sudoku with 101 puzzles*, by Sam Griffiths-Jones (RRP: £5.99, Harriman House). Visit www.daily-sudoku.com for a daily graded puzzle, online Sudoku resources and links.

	B							1
9	2			3				
		3		4	5			8
		2	4	9				1
	3							7
1				2	7	6		
2			6	8		1		
		7					5	4
	9							6

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

7. To stir up dirt is foul (6)
8 & 3Dn. Enter before anybody else and win (4,2,5)
10. Nothing interrupts the strange priest making a quick reply (7)
11. Permission to make a request (5)
12. Once a great quantity of ale with a large fish (4)
13. Poet takes nothing for meals (5)
17. Kind of book to do away with (5)
18. Space for accommodation (4)
22 & 14Dn. A smart way of talking's used by Frenchmen (5,7)
23. Refuse to agree with the ancestral line, we hear (7)
24. Landholdings found in France by the Scot (6)
25. Card game that's soft and quite confused (6)

DOWN

1. See 20 Down.
2. When the salary is revised, spend it (7)
3. See 8 Across.
4. Sportsmen who go from one end to another (7)
5. Replaced a redwood tree inside (5)
6. Beneath (5)
9. You'll find me with a random assortment of notes (9)
14. See 22 Across.
15. Don't reveal a rise in insurance premium (5,2)
16. One colleague takes it in to make a copy (7)
19. It gives one the time to be an observer (5)
20 & 1 Dn. Depressed description of one in no position to become incinerated! (3,2,7)
21. Bustling atmosphere about the street (5)

QUICK CLUES

7. Obscure (6)
8. Make sorrowful (6)
10. Whet (7)
11. Foster (5)
12. Pout (4)
13. Raise (5)
18. Fair (4)

22. Characteristic (5)
23. Survive (7)
24. Courage (6)
25. Painter (6)

DOWN

1. Own (7)
2. Handcuff (7)
3. Nervous (5)

4. Dwell (7)
5. Decorate (5)
6. Beneath (5)
9. Gatecrashing (9)
14. Terrestrial (7)
15. Madman (7)
16. Law (7)
19. Outwit (5)
20. Belief (5)
21. Bleak (5)

Yesterday's solutions

QUICK CRYPTIC

Across: 1 Model; 4 Disband; 8 Tetanus; 9 Rings; 10 Earl; 11 Parisian; 13 Tomb; 14 Only; 16 Unnerved; 17 User; 20 Tears; 21 Evident; 22 Yearned; 23 Rapid.
Down: 1 Mother country; 2 Deter; 3 Lone; 4 Dismal; 5 Scrutiny; 6 Amnesty; 7 Bull's-eye; 8 Assinine; 7 End in disaster; 12 Imperson; 13 Tantra; 15 Defend; 18 Sleep; 19 Hint.

Across: 1 Hills; 4 Embrace; 8 Tonight; 9 Laird; 10 Ogre; 11 Prussian; 13 Vega; 14 Hyde; 16 Patriotic; 17 Vega; 20 Ashen; 21 Torment; 22 Trades; 23 Buyer.
Down: 1 Hot-house plant; 2 Liner; 3 Sago; 4 Enters; 5 Scrutiny; 6 Amnesty; 7 Bull's-eye; 8 Assinine; 7 End in disaster; 12 Imperson; 13 Tantra; 15 Defend; 18 Sleep; 19 Grub.