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		rockumentaries												
15	Like chalk and cheese	Different as chalk and cheese ☛					✓						✓	
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Appendix 3

List of Data

Pakistan's free press lampoons 'Mush & Bush'

Simon Cameron-Moore
Reuters/Islamabad

U.S. President George W. Bush was given a taste Saturday of the "lively and generally free press" in Pakistan he described before making his trip to South Asia.

The Dawn newspaper ran a cartoon depicting a two-faced Bush sharing a cup of tea with both Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Both the News and Daily Times carried critical analysis pieces by guest writers on U.S. foreign policy in South Asia -- respectively headlined *India in Neocon embrace?* and *Can Bush's*

man in Pakistan weather the storm ahead?

Editions of both the main English- and Urdu-language newspapers carried pull-out sections bearing advertisements paid for by the government welcoming Bush and articles talking up the U.S.-Pakistani relationship to mark the U.S. president's visit to Pakistan on the last leg of his South Asia tour Saturday.

A Daily Times sister publication, the Friday Times, regularly delivers a satirical column called *Mush & Bush*, lampooning the two allies in the war on terrorism, their hidden agendas and their suspected miscommunication.

The latest edition, of a weekly widely read by Pak-

istan's intelligentsia, didn't disappoint, mocking U.S. foreign policy, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Bush's dictation.

It started with Musharraf telling Bush he couldn't possibly be thinking of starting a war with Iran because the United States didn't have enough troops.

"BUSH: Rummy says we gotta spread unwinnability over many wars, and that'll like distributin' defeat."

And when Musharraf asks Bush what he hopes to achieve in Iran Bush replies: "Not just I-ran, but I-ra-q too, where I want to be remembered as the guy who spread democracy so fast it was like bird flu."

Finally Musharraf warns his guest to learn from history and that the "pen is mightier than the sword".

"Whoever said that obviously never encountered automatic weapons," says Bush.

Husain Haqqani, a Pakistani academic and former government adviser now working at Boston University, says the press is freer than it sometimes was under past civilian governments, but argues that Musharraf has permitted this for his own ends.

"He has created a relatively free press as a substitute for organized dissent from viable political parties," Haqqani told Reuters. Musharraf, who came to power in a bloodless military coup in 1999, has marginalized both of Pakistan's mainstream parties, led by former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto. Sharif is living exile, while Bhutto faces graft charges at home and is living abroad.

Critics say the vacuum they have left has given Islamist parties room to fill, and argue that Washington's support for Musharraf and short-term goals in the war on terrorism will eventually play into the hands of Pakistan's political clerics.

They also say Musharraf's policies are retarding the restoration of full democracy in Pakistan -- a country which has spent half of its 59 years under military rule.

Singapore goes high-tech to promote 'NEWater'

Resource-starved Singapore is waging a high-tech publicity drive to convince its own people that water recycled from sewers and sinks is perfectly safe to drink.

In a city where branding is evident in almost every aspect of life and slogans accompany all public campaigns, officials have called the product "NEWater", adding a new term to Singapore's unique lexicon.

Since last month hundreds of Singaporeans and foreign residents have been trooping daily to a state-of-the-art plant in the city's outskirts that purifies sewage water through a series of sophisticated processes. Visitors, including corporate employees and students, go through a guided tour of the sprawling complex featuring touch-screen plasma televisions explaining each step of the technology. A glass window exposes a labyrinth of pipes and valves where the actual purification takes place. Interactive games featuring questions on environmental conservation entertain the guests. NEWater is the result of a

three-stage purification process, using some of the world's highest quality membranes, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light disinfection.

Martin Abhugao
Agence France-Presse
Singapore

"It tastes just the same (as ordinary water)," a company employee told AFP after a recent tour of the sprawling complex, taking a swig from a transparent plastic bottle of NEWater given for free. "It has become a fact of life for us now," he shrugged.

A fact of life it is, as Singaporeans face the prospect of having their water supply from Malaysia cut off if two agreements expiring in 2011 and 2061 are not renewed.

Singapore, a small but affluent island-republic, gets half of its water supplies from neighboring Malaysia, but an acrimonious dispute over the price of the commodity as well as other issues has soured bilateral ties. Aside from domestic reservoirs and desalinated

water, Singapore is banking on recycled sewage as an alternative source of water for drinking and industrial use. If supply from Malaysia is discontinued, Singaporeans have to endure jokes on having to drink recycled water from their septic tanks, but officials have taken these in stride.

"NEWater is more than a clean and safe product," Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said recently. "It is a strategic concept. It adds to our water supply by turning every drop of water we get ... into more than one drop of clear water. It helps us to be self-sufficient in water," he said.

NEWater will primarily be used for non-drinking purposes in the early stages. Because of its "ultra-pure" characteristics, it is in demand in industries such as water fabrication plants which power Singapore's robust manufacturing sector, officials said.

In their drive to promote NEWater as safe to drink, the authorities cite precedents in the U.S. and a series of tests by a panel of international experts showing it is well

within standards specified by the World Health Organization and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

But mindful that the people might have reservations about drinking water recycled from their own toilets, showers and washing machines, the government is not introducing NEWater directly into residential and office taps.

Last month, it started pumping two million gallons per day of NEWater into reservoirs to blend it with raw water before being piped into taps.

The ratio will increase to 10 million gallons per day by 2011, or about 2.5 percent of daily consumption.

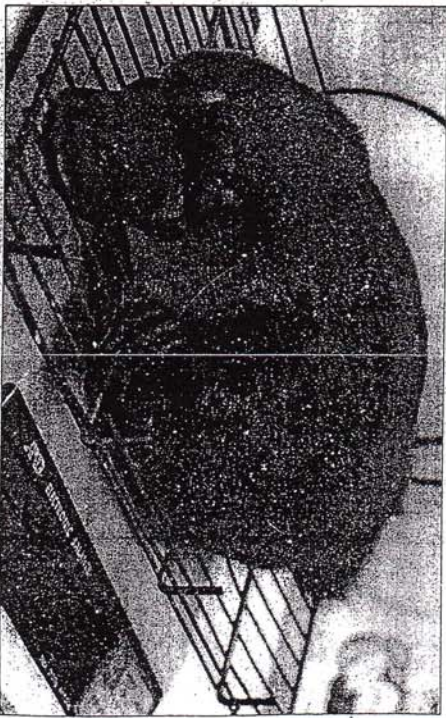
"The main reason is the psychological barrier associated with the idea of consuming reclaimed water," the PUB said on its website, explaining why NEWater is not piped directly into taps.

"It will take time for people to get used to the use of reclaimed water. By mixing NEWater with reservoir water, we will be able to help them overcome this psychological barrier," it said. Goh, however, cited an independent survey in Octo-

ber 2002 showing that 92 percent of Singaporeans were prepared to drink NEWater directly. During the National Day celebrations last August,

the government distributed 60,000 bottles of NEWater for free to toast the republic's 37th year as an independent state. The bottles, which come

with bright orange labels, are also distributed at public functions, and top government officials have been photographed savoring i-



A four-month-old female Platypus "puggle" weighs in at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia. The Platypus, one of only two egg-laying mammals in the world, is an enigmatic water dwelling nocturnal animal 35 centimeters to 45 centimeters long with a beaver-like tail and a duck-like bill.

AP/Dan Fisher

An AfriCar in every garage? Good idea but consumers lukewarm

A proposal by an idealistic businessman to bring motoring to Africa's masses with a low-cost car — based on the East German Trabant — has got car-loving South Africans divided.

Some are enthusiastic. A lot of others have poked fun at the prospect of the obsolete little clunker ever riding again.

Peter Mandos disclosed at the start of this month that he had persuaded Sachsenring, the company that built the original Trabbi, to draft a project plan to manufacture a car that would cost no more than 26 times the average African's monthly pay, or 3,000 euros.

Sachsenring denied a rebirth of the two-stroke Trabbi was planned, but said it had the skills to design a similar no-frills car.

"That's a very good idea. Car prices in South Africa are far too high," said Siphso Mkwazazi, a former Soweto resident, as he filled up his German-made BMW car at

Ralf E. Krueger

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
Johannesburg

the pumps this week. Asked if he would drive one himself, he was less enthusiastic, especially after being shown photographs of the boxy, 1960s-style glass-fibre Trabant.

Pump attendants, whose low pay means they can only just afford the fare for a minibus-taxi, also shook their heads incredulously. "Nice price, they said, but who, in all sincerity, would want to drive one?"

This latest vision of what has been dubbed the AfriCar would have a top speed of 80 kilometers an hour. It is supposed to have a tough suspension to cope with rutted tracks, a big boot and be cheap to run on the motto "low cost, low tech".

On the taxi rank outside Baragwanath Hospital in

Soweto, drivers were all too willing to give their views.

"The roads in South Africa are the best on the continent. What do we need a thing like that here for?" said one driver as he leaned coolly out the window of his mini-bus. He hailed from Zimbabwe, where there are shortages of petrol even with a limited number of cars.

South Africa not only has cars galore, but South Africans love speed.

And hardly anyone more so than mini-bus drivers. You mess with a South African mini-bus driver at your peril. Don't expect him to give early enough turn signals. Don't expect him to stop (unless of course a passenger suddenly wants to get off in the middle of busy traffic).

The death toll on the roads, including freeways, is legendary. 248 were killed in just 11 days from April 25 to May 5 during a series of public holidays. Supporters of the

AfriCar/Trabant argue that less-powerful cars might lead to slower speeds and greater safety.

Opponents point out that South Africans, black and white, want up-to-date cars with modern safety features.

"When we heard about this, we were quite surprised," said Nico Vermeulen, spokesman for the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA). Toyota tried a similar idea once and it was a failure, he pointed out.

Top-quality manufacturers have assembly plants in South Africa that export to the world.

In the past year, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Volkswagen and Toyota have all announced plans to invest billions of dollars in even better factories. Last year 125,305 vehicles left the plants, ranging from C-class Mercedes to 3-series BMWs and Volkswagen Golfs.

The plan is to step up output to 170,800 by 2005.

Where's the 'party-warty'? Briton masters Indian English

To the lament of many who treasure the quirky richness of Indian English, Indian newspapers now rarely carry reports of Cabinet ministers "airdushing" to a crucial meeting.

Also, most Indians no longer "prepon" an appointment — they just schedule it earlier. And thinkers are not "thinkers" any more.

But there are still some quaint words and mutations from the collision of languages in the once brightest jewel of Britain's imperial crown that have escaped the flattening reach of "universal English".

They have been recorded by Nigel Hankin, a lanky Englishman who has lived in India for half a century.

Penny MacRae
Reuters
New Delhi

In his book, *Hanklyn-*

Just published in a fourth edition, it is a modern-day successor to the English classic *Hobson-Jobson*, Sir Henry Yule's dictionary of Anglo-Indian words that first appeared in 1888.

Hankin, a still vigorous 83, first came to India as a soldier en route to the Burmese front. But before he reached his destination, World War II ended and he returned to India to do "odd jobs" for the High Commission. It was there in the 1960s he got

his idea for what became his life's work.

"A doctor at the British High Commission in Delhi gave me a list of 20 Indian words he'd read in his newspaper and asked me what they meant," Hankin recalls.

"I suddenly thought if he wants to know, others might too."

Two decades after he began collecting "Hindustanee" words the first edition of Hanklyn was published, a collection of terms of Indian and English origin and their hybrids.

The book presents a world in which criminals are "miscreants" who "abscond" rather than evade capture, young men who whistle at women are "evertensors", drivers put suitcases

in the car "dicky" rather than the trunk and plans "fructify".

The title, *Hanklyn-Janklyn*, is a play on words similar to the rhyming phrases popular in Hindi. One may sip a cup of *chai-wat* (tea), read a *kitab-witab* (book) or go to a *party-warty* where one may down a *witaky* *risky*.

The book is more than a mere glossary. As its subtitle says, it's also "A Stranger's Rumble-Rumble Guide to Quiddities Indian and Indo-British" — an insider's guide to the Indian way of life.

past and rituals that make the country so intriguing to foreigners. Rumble tumble was British army slang for scrambled eggs, and quiddi-

ty means the "distinctive peculiarity of a thing" from the Latin "quid est?" or "what is it?"

"I didn't want the book to be just a dictionary. I wanted people to learn about India, its people — to give meaning to facets of life which otherwise might seem perplexing," said Hankin, whose book has been

praised by leading news magazine *India Today* as perfect for "a lazy afternoon's read".

Readers learn about such curious trades as the "ear cleaner" who, Hankin explains, is an "urban informant professional gentleman identified by his small red turban into which are tucked his instruments: tweezers, probes and cotton wool buds".

"He will attend his clients anywhere — on the roadside, in the bazaar or at their pieces of work or homes — peering and probing into their ears for wax and producing for inspection the evidence of his skill."

The book contains some handy expressions. Want a job done faster? You may have to slip the worker some "speed money".

Heard of Delhi Belly? While it's "a stomach disorder sometimes afflicting newcomers to the capital, akin to the Rangoon Runts of Burma and Montenegro's Revenge-of-Mexico", it's also a cocktail garnish, quip.

Delhi Belly can be the increase of girth observed on a diplomat after a year of the capital's social whirl," writes Hankin.

With no pension, Hankin lives on earnings from guiding walking tours through the teeming streets of Old Delhi. A bachelor, he has been looked after by the same servant since arriving in India.

"We've grown old together," said Hankin, whose bonny frame was a familiar sight as he darted through Delhi's perturbed scooter traffic on a battered scooter recently retired due to his falling eyesight.

Now he sticks to buses and auto rickshaws. The Sussex native says he could not live in Britain again. "I returned for three months in 1992 to visit my brother but it was so dull I went home after a few weeks," he said.

Jiabao-Manmohan summit: Will China am-Bush India?
Friday, April 15, 2005

Siddharth Srivastava, New Delhi

One comparison consequent to the meetings of Chinese premiere Wen Jiabao with the Indian leadership has been vis-a-vis Indo-U.S. relations. The U.S. in the recent past has made it apparent that it wants India to play a critical geo-strategic role in maintaining the balance of power in the Asian region, keeping in mind the growing influence of China.

Apart from the occasion arising due to the visit of U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, President George Bush called Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to apprise of U.S. intentions which will find its application in cooperation in nuclear energy (thus in a way legitimizing India's nuclear weapon status), arms supplies as well as possible joint production of arms.

As one comment put it, the U.S. is seeking to carry its relationship with India onto a completely different plane, despite the little lollipops in the form of F-16 fighters to Pakistan to keep the country happy.

No such assertion, however, can be made about China, following the Jiabao' visit. While both the countries have been following pragmatic diplomacy, it is in the face of the humongous rise in business relations between the two countries. This is due to the internal dynamism in India and China consequent to the change in economic structures with both the nations embracing capitalism with jest.

It is to the credit of the Indian and Chinese dispensation that diplomatic relations have not been allowed to impinge on economic matters, unlike India and Pakistan wherein the border and terror kerfuffles have not allowed the two economies to flourish in tandem.

The Jiabao's visit, in contrast to the recent overtures by the U.S., makes it apparent that while it is international politics that is coalescing Indo-U.S. relations it is business that drives the Sino-Indian entente. After all trade flourishes between China and Japan despite the political suspicions about each other.

While is true that India and China have come a long way since the war in 1962 followed by frigid relations in the 1970s and 1980s, it can be safely said that peace and the happy interludes in such vexed issues as re-drawing the borders between the two countries, have endured because of the eagerness to capitalize on each others economic strength – manufacturing, hardware, software and services.

The status quo of the 1993 agreement has been retained over the border question post the Manmohan-Jiabao meeting. For the first time China has acknowledged Sikkim to be a part of India but large regions in the western and north eastern India remain in the realm of disagreement, with China refusing to provide maps of the line of actual control along the western sector. Indian officials maintain that the Chinese approach is to keep border negotiations deliberately de-focused with no immediate resolution in the near future.

China has said that it supports India's bid to the UN, but when it has come to the specifics in the reform process, both China and U.S. have been at the forefront to block any expansion of the Security Council, the latest instance being the call for consensus in the general assembly on the issue. Thus, strictly going by what exists on paper, apart from the adding billions to Sino-Indian trade figures, there is not much more to write home about on the diplomatic front, apart from the fact that military skirmishes remain a strict no-no.

India, though, is always wary of China's military ambitions including in the Indian Ocean region as well as the strong military relations with Pakistan that dates over five decades. India's foreign secretary, Shyam Saran, did clarify post-the Tuesday Jiabao-Manmohan meeting that the India-China "strategic and cooperative partnership" was not a military alliance and not directed at any third country.

Prior to his India visit, Jiabao was in Pakistan when the joint production of the JF-17 fighter aircraft, a project that was initiated because of the hitherto ban on F-16 fighters by the U.S., commenced. Wen also spoke of joint nuclear energy production, making it apparent that China's security concerns for the region still veer against India.

It is difficult to say which paradigm will be better and stand the test of time – India and U.S. or India and China.

From India's point of view, there is a need to tread very carefully. It is for the first time that the country has been drawn into the vortex of global geo-politics and business. In the past U.S. concerns in this region have been plugged to Pakistan, whether to take on the Soviet Union in the cold war era or the subsequent "war on terror." Changes are taking place in the Middle East, Iraq, Lebanon with Iran likely to join the unpredictable shortly.

The U.S. interests have also veered to Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. India has more or less been a silent spectator. So has the case been with Sino-Indian relations with China constantly seeking Pakistan while ignoring India for most of its history as an independent nation since 1947.

With both China and U.S. looking to engage India which is a reflection of its growing status, it is incumbent upon the country to make the best of the situation, without getting sucked into a disadvantage by either. Indeed, in an era where no blocs exist, no black and white stands are apparent, it is best to judge each overture on merit, while maintaining enough flexibility.

The writer is a New Delhi-based journalist and can be reached at srivastava_siddharth@hotmail.com.

Are you in 'mudical' mood?

Thursday, December 04, 2003

During the recent *Lebaran* festivities marking the end of the fasting month, I spent, unintentionally, more time than usual wondering why many English words have infiltrated *Bahasa Indonesia*.

I discovered that the answer was simply because there are no substitutes for them. Street vendors and linguists have not tried to call "tissue" by any other names but *tisu* as an economic necessity due to competition and not *kertas penyeka* (cleaning paper), for instance.

I was amused to discover that the media here are willing to call a reporter just a "reporter" instead of, *peliput* from the verb *meliput* to cover in journalistic terms. "Reporter" sounds alike and is spelled in the same way, unlike *marka*, as in street marks for preventing road accidents.

Foreign house wives had to cope with the absence of their maids or cooks during *Lebaran* because almost all of them had been given permission to go *mudik*, to go to their villages for a family get-together as the *Lebaran* tradition calls for. At this point, I came up with an interesting idea just to keep the balance in the exchange of words between *Bahasa Indonesia* and English.

Why do we not take over the word *mudik* and spell it *mudic* to be pronounced *myudic* to make it sound like Indonesian-English if we are homesick and urgently want to meet our relatives. *Mudic* for a new English word is acceptable because it sounds like music. Of course, don't associate it with "nude" (less with nudist!).

So Indonesians trying to sound English may ask their foreign guests who want to travel to their homelands to meet their families over Christmas or New Year: "Are you in *myudical* mood? In other words, are you very homesick and urgently must see the green-green grass of home and long to meet familiar faces? The suggestion to use the word *mudic* may only be acceptable to those foreigners having spent some time in Indonesia.

I like to suggest purists in *Bahasa* among the media people change "reporter" into *repoter* (without "r"). While the Indonesian word *repot* means very busy, doing a particular job or all kinds of jobs, which is true for any reporter.

GANDHI SUKARDI Jakarta

So what's up with naked ducks, Doc?

Wednesday, June 07, 2006

That Donald Duck doesn't wear underpants could be considered indecent by some, and for all we know Bugs Bunny may have gagged on his food. And how much did anyone know about *Lassie*, did the dog have a gender crisis?

- * *The Guinness Book of Records* holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.
- * Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny, was allergic to carrots.
- * Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- * Felix the Cat is the first cartoon character to ever have been made into a balloon for a parade.
- * The original Winnie the Pooh was a real live bear found outside of Winnipeg, Canada, hence the name Winnie.
- * The sound of ET walking was made by someone squishing their hands in jelly.
- * *Lassie*, the TV collie, first appeared in a 1930s short novel titled *Lassie Come-Home* written by Eric Mowbray Knight. The dog in the novel was based on Knight's real life collie, *Toots*.
- * *Lassie* was played by several male dogs, despite the female name, because male collies were thought to look better on camera. The main character was named *Pal*.
- * Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to *slow* a film down so you could see his moves.
- * Daniel Boone detested coonskin caps.
- * Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- * In Disney's *Fantasia*, the Sorcerer name is Yensid which is Disney backwards.
- * Marilyn Monroe had six toes.
- * Charlie Chaplin once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest.
- * Louisa May Alcott, determined to make money to help her impoverished family, worked as a teacher, dressmaker and housekeeper before writing books for children. She hit it big in 1868 with the best-seller *Little Women*. Yet writing the book bored Alcott, plus she disliked little girls and only wrote the book at the insistence of her publisher.
- * Writer Edgar Allan Poe was kicked out of West Point.
- * Shirley Temple always had 56 curls in her hair.

- * Pamela Anderson Lee is Canada's Centennial Baby, being the first baby born on the centennial anniversary of Canada's independence.
- * Sting got his name because of a yellow-and-black striped shirt he wore until it literally fell apart.
- * James Doohan, who plays Lt. Commander Montgomery Scott on *Star Trek*, is missing the entire middle finger of his right hand.

Oops, he Diddy it again

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Have you guys heard? P. Diddy did it again. From Sean "Puffy" Combs to Puff Daddy then P. Diddy, he recently shed the "P" and remains with just ... Diddy. As to what this shorter name would do to boost his success and fame, I have no idea.

Celebrities do the whole name-changing game for many reasons: easier pronunciation, more appealing sound, or to exude a certain image.

Jennifer Aniston, the former Mrs. Brad Pitt, originally had the very Greek last name, Anistonopolous, which she shortened for easier pronunciation and to avoid sounding overly Greek. Now that Nia Vardalos has made being Greek very cool with *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, I wonder if Ms. Aniston might consider finally using her full last name.

Now, Tom Cruise was born Thomas Mapother IV. Allegedly, some Hollywood hotshot thought the name sounded too "preppy", so he changed the name that has survived four generations into Tom Cruise. Recently, Tom Cruise repaid the deed by changing the name of his fiancée Katie Holmes to K-a-t-e. Maybe "Katie" sounded a bit too much like a teen cheerleader for the 40-something Cruise. Well, Tom, she *is* that much younger than you are. But hey, we're not judging here.

Diddy's one-time girlfriend, Jennifer Lopez, abbreviated her name to J.Lo for the title of her second album, and much to her surprise, the name stuck. Rumor has it that the diva doesn't allow people to actually call her that to her face.

One of the most famous name-changers was Norma Jean Baker, who dropped her name entirely and became the sex symbol Marilyn Monroe, a name that implies sensuality. I'm not sure if that picture of her in that wind-blown white halter dress would have looked half as magical if she had remained Norma Jean, or Ms. Baker. By the way, Marilyn took her screen name to her grave – a mausoleum located behind the small church on Wilshire Boulevard in L.A.

Winona Ryder, on the other hand, was born Noni Horowitz. But after her embarrassing high-profile shoplifting case, she's probably tempted to go back to being an ordinary pretty face named Noni.

And Sting! Does anybody even know what his real name is?

Sometimes, celebrities change their names to assert their individuality or to emphasize their standing on issues.

Nicolas Cage, for one, didn't want to be known as the nephew of legendary director Francis Ford Coppola.

And Jon Voight's children decidedly use their middle names once they enter show business. The much-rumored soon-to-be future Mrs. Pitt, Angelina Jolie – who is expecting Pitt or Jolie Jr. – is one of them.

Prince got into a major fight with his record company, where he felt "over-commercialized", that he decided to change his stage name into a symbol no one knew how to pronounce. During his years-long battle from "outside the record deal system", people were forced to address him as The Artist Formerly Known as Prince. What a mouthful, really. When a few years ago he made amends with the recording studios, people took a collective sigh as he reassumed the name Prince.

Vin Diesel, rather differently, kept the name he picked up from a previous career. If you're a bouncer in New York's harbinger clubs where things can get heavy and dirty, you really don't want people to know your real name. When he became an actor he decided to keep that name, which kinda goes along with his tough-guy movie persona. Although I must say, I like his real name better – Mark Vincent. But well, I like everything from and about Vin Diesel, anyway.

What's in a name, asked Shakespeare. Apparently to many entertainers, it could mean a life-changing or -determining career point. Let's call Diddy and dig out. – *Miss Sassy*

To feed or not to feed homeless people

Todd Lewan
Associated Press/Orlando

At Lake Eola park, there is much beauty to behold: robust palms, banks of cheery begonias, a cascading lake fountain, clusters of friendly egrets and swans, an amphitheater named in honor of Walt Disney.

Then there are the signs. **DO NOT LIE OR OTHERWISE BE IN A HORIZONTAL POSITION ON A PARK BENCH. DO NOT SLEEP OR REMAIN IN ANY BUSHES, SHRUBS OR FOLIAGE ... per city code sec. 18A.09 (a) and (o).**

Visit the park's restrooms, and you'll find this sign on the wall above the hand dryers: **BATHING AND/OR SHAVING IN RESTROOM IS PROHIBITED ... per city code 18A.09 (g). LAUNDRING CLOTHES IN LAKE EOLA PARK IS NOT PERMITTED.**

Since joggers and dog walkers tend not to snooze in flower beds, and because employees at the glittering office towers around Lake Eola don't scrub laundry in park sinks, it's clear, says Monique Vargas, at whom the notices are targeted.

"They're talking to us, to the homeless," says Vargas, 28, who says she has lived on the streets, in parks or under overpasses, since age 18. "It's a way of saying, 'Your kind isn't wanted in our city.'"

Orlando, a population of 250,000, works hard to conjure the image of a true-life Pleasantville. But its spotless sidewalks and twinkling skyline belie a real city with real problems — most notably, a growing homeless population that authorities are struggling to control.

After a law that banned panhandling was struck down by the courts, the city tried to discourage aggressive beggars by obliging them to carry ID cards, and later by confining them to 90-centimeter-by-4.6-meter "panhandling zones" painted in blue on sidewalks downtown.

Despite these laws, the number of people living on the streets of the metro area swelled, from roughly 5,000 in 1999 to an estimated 8,500 today, dwarfing the city's shelter capacity for 2,000 people.

So in July, the city commission tried a "supply-side" approach: It passed an ordinance regulating the feeding of large groups of people in Orlando's downtown parks.

Those who wished to feed more than 25 hungry individuals at parks within a 3.2-kilometer radius of City Hall could do so, but only if they obtained a "Large Group Feeding Permit" from the parks department — and no one would be granted more than two feeding permits a year.

For the first time anyone in Orlando could remember, not only would panhandlers find themselves in the crosshairs of the law, but so would those trying to help them.

A week before Orlando's ordinance took effect, Las Vegas criminalized giving food to even a single transient in any city park.

In August, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit challenging the Las Vegas ban, saying it violated constitutional protections of free speech, right to assembly and right to practice one's religion. A federal court in Nevada has prohibited the city from enforcing the ordinance until a final ruling is issued.

Advocates for the homeless feared it wouldn't be long before other cities passed similar laws.

Already, the cities of Dallas, Fort Myers, Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Atlanta have laws restricting or outright prohibiting the feeding of the homeless.

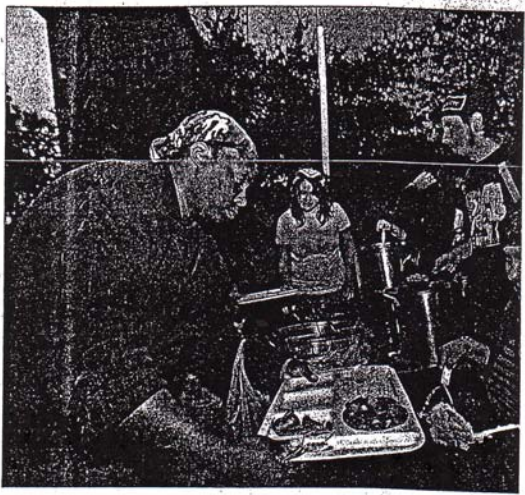
In Fairfax County, Virginia, homemade meals and meals made in church kitchens may not be distributed to the homeless unless first approved by the county.

"We've seen cities going beyond punishing homeless people to punishing those trying to help them, even though it's clear that not enough resources are being dedicated to helping the homeless or the hungry," said Maria Pocarini, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

A 2006 report on 67 cities by her group and the National Coalition for the Homeless, a nonpartisan, non-profit network, found an 18 percent increase since 2002 in laws prohibiting aggressive panhandling; a 12 percent jump in laws outlawing "passive" begging; a 14 percent rise in laws defining sitting or lying in public places as criminal acts.

Says Michael Stoops, the coalition's executive director in Washington, D.C.: "The idea is to drive the visible homeless out of downtown America, so that cities can attract developers, big money."

What's wrong with attracting investment? Nothing, Stoops says — unless it comes at the expense of decency. "It's a sorry state of affairs when you can feed the



Chelsea England (lower right) of the group Food Not Bombs serves dinner to a homeless woman new law, those feeding the hungry must obtain a permit.

squirrels, the doves and pigeons at Lake Eola, but not a hungry guy down on his luck."

On streets around Lake Eola, where drug dealers and prostitutes once roamed, residential towers like "The Paramount" and "The Metropolitan at Lake Eola" are now rising. In addition, the city is finalizing plans to renovate the downtown Citrus Bowl and build a new performing arts center and arena by 2011 — at a cost of US\$1 billion.

Homelessness, in the view of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and members of his staff, adversely affects public safety and economic development, and therefore must be addressed.

"It's a balancing act," says Brie Turck, Dyer's spokesperson. "We need to balance the needs of our citizens and our businesses with the needs of the homeless."

The large feedings were unbalancing constituents who lived near the parks, she says. "We were receiving dozens of complaints about individuals sleeping in people's bushes, urinating on private properties. Some citizens reported finding homeless people doing drugs in their stairwells. There were reports of carjackings. There was even a stabbing."

Alana Brenner, a city clerk who serves as the mayor's point person on the homeless problem, says the city has set up "an alternative location near downtown," where "feedings can take place any day, any hour."

The locale Brenner refers to is roughly a 15-minute walk from City Hall, a sweep of blacktop where charities fed groups of destitute men and women several years ago.

Jacqueline Dowd, a lawyer with the ACLU, which has also sued to overturn Orlando's feeding ordinance, says the neighborhood is unsafe. "I've documented five cases of homeless people being beaten around there in the past year."

sored "Project Homeless Connect," an outreach program that placed 22 individuals in apartments. And last fall, the city earmarked \$860,000 to refurbish 289 apartments for low-income families and homeless people. It plans to spend \$329,258 more this year to renovate the Health Care Center for the Homeless, and this year, it will give \$2 million to established agencies and charities that care for the

"You have to get a permit to feed here, and shoo us away."



Signs discouraging the homeless from inhabiting Lake Eola Park are displayed in Orlando. The number of people living on the streets of the Orlando metro area has swelled from roughly 5,000 in 1999 to around 8,500 today.

China's last bow maker struggles to keep 4,500-year-old craft alive

Peter Hermann

uous use until the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1911)

to choose a profession, he thought it safer to become a

Yang learned his patience from his father and is not sure



Me, myself and the dog

Sunday, January 22, 2006

Doggone, I seem to share many characteristics and traits of this Year of the Dog, despite my horoscope being the Tiger. Granted both are compatible, as it's told in the stars, but surprisingly the earlier reflects me very much as a person. Consider these points.

Although loyal and faithful to men, dogs, as the horoscope describes, may not be entirely honest. Instead, the quality is rather subjective, and I can attest to that. I confess that, like the zodiac professes, I want to tell "little white lies to make things run smoother". There's nothing wrong with that, mind you, as long as it doesn't hurt others in a significant way.

After all, it's only human nature to lie, in one way or another, but as long as there are valid reasons for it, such as getting me out of a quandary unscathed, so be it. Besides, I'm no saint.

But thankfully, I'm not quite entirely selfish. I'm often fond of rooting for the underdog, in the belief that any worthy forward-thinking creative type should support talented like-minded individuals, whatever their backgrounds.

Great minds always start from somewhere and nurturing them is necessary for creative expansion. The underdog shouldn't be undermined, for it can bark loud and command attention.

Dogs are also temperamental, and so am I, terribly so. My volatile mood swings, like the stock market, easily go up and down just like that, in the process experiencing a range of emotions, from niggling anxieties and irrational fears to great joy and yearning for fun. Yes, I'm versatile that way, but blame it on my fierce creative streak.

The horoscope says spending some time alone would balm my senses. True, as I reckon everyone needs his or her space, and to spend time alone to reassess and put things in perspective. Nothing is more enlightening than not being assaulted by other people's opinions about me. Nothing's worse than being dishonest with one's self – whatever way it is – and to give other people that much liberty in shaping me as a person is just too much. I'll just take anyone's opinions of me with a pinch of salt, thank you.

My love life, it's foretold, is rather doomed in the Year of the Dog. It says I will stress out my partner for the sake of passion and romance. Well, I'm currently not in a relationship, but I'd like to think of myself as highly passionate and romantic. Love, to me, is a means of self-preservation and redemption after years of being deprived of someone to love and be loved by in return. Sorry, I can't help throwing caution to the wind here.

Like the dog, I should also be more tolerant of other people's bad habits, to not alienate them. This worries me – as I often speak frankly, even bluntly to other people – a bad(?) habit that has stuck with me. Or would you rather not hear the truth?

Whatever it is, the Year of the Dog has made its predictions. I wonder if they're cast in stone. Only time will tell. – *Tan Hee Hui*

Bouncing to it with wallyball

Sunday, June 16, 2002

Hera Diani, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta

Next time you are stuck in the house when you are supposed to exercise outside, think of a new sport that can be played indoors. Who knows, it might become popular and you could gain a fortune. That worked for Californian Joe Garcia. After rain canceled his volleyball game back in 1979, he came up with an idea for a new sport, a combination of volleyball and squash.

Garcia then christened it with the name Wallyball. He traveled across the country promoting the new sport from a motor home wildly painted with the sport's name. If the idea of combining volleyball and squash is a head-scratcher, it is actually pretty simple. Wallyball comes from the word wall, as the ball -- a smaller, blue version of a volleyball, can be bounced off the wall, just like squash.

The court is the size of a standard racquetball court, or some 12 meters by six meters. The court area is divided into two equal team courts with a center line between them. The net should not be higher than 2.45 meters for men, or 2.24 meters for women. The ball weighs around 0.28 kilogram. The rules are similar to volleyball. Each team, made up of two to four players, has three hits to get the wallyball over the net. If the ball hits the ceiling, back wall on the opponent's side of two more walls consecutively on a serve, volley or block, it will be called out of bounds. All matches of wallyball consist of the best of two, best of two out of three games, or best of three out of five. The score in one set depends on the agreement: 15, 18 or 21 points.

"But compared to volleyball, it has a faster pace. It is also a little rougher because of the smaller size of the court. You're moving pretty constantly," said Catherina Day, the manager of Club Athena health club at the Aryaduta Hotel which offers wallyball equipment.

The Club -- which claims to be the only one that offers wallyball in the capital, uses its squash courts for wallyball. Traces of the rubber ball can be seen on the glass door. Wallyball players have to be able to anticipate the ball bouncing off the walls. They also have to be more aware because they risk slamming against the walls and each other as they dive for the ball.

"You never know at what angle the ball's going to come. But that what makes the game fun!" Catherina said.

The extreme sport apparently has grown in popularity worldwide. A report from the American Wallyball Association said that more than a million players around the world have signed up for the organization's free registration. More than 5,000 clubs offer the sport, including some in China, England, Australia, and of course here. Club Athena first introduced the sports a couple of years back. According to Catherina, although the game is not so popular yet here, those who have played are very dedicated.

"Many members join us just to play the game," she said.

Interested? Just call Catherina on 2311234 (ext.88178). For more information about the game and the official rules of game, check out the American Wallyball Association's website at www.wallyball.com.

Kartini Day 'taekwonrobic' performance

Sunday, May 13, 2007

April 20 was a significantly remarkable day for the whole of GMIS, but especially, for her army of miscellaneous women.

It was Kartini Day celebration -- a day of genuine remembrance of a great woman's empathetic deeds, a day of radiant celebration for all women's priceless existence, and, a day where GMIS students' earnest, caring efforts for less fortunate individuals are unveiled through their sublime performances and bona fide donations.

One well-received event was our taekwonrobic performance.

On Kartini Day, my team staged the performance of taekwonrobic steps that I had created as my Personal Project of Grade 9 and 10.

As the saying goes, "no pain, no gain"; our performance was not without exhausting effort. We had to polish our taekwonrobic moves day and night to accomplish the specific gestures -- midnight was not an exception, neither were Sundays and holidays -- practice seemed to go on forever.

Mercifully, there came a time when my team and I were able to secure a pleased grin from our taekwondo teacher -- he is extremely stringent in teaching -- and thus, our hours of practice had paid back.

Although my taekwonrobic team had to endure hours of exhaustion from continuous practice both onstage and offstage for a five-minute performance, now that I have performed in front of my awaiting audience, all I feel is profound satisfaction.

I am content at the vigorous effort my team made to achieve this success and the enthusiastic applause we received from the obliging audience.

By performing for our guests -- some of them orphans -- I was enlightened. I was enlightened by the jovial smiles, merry laughter and the joyful reaction of those less-fortunate children and vowed silently to make the best of each day with what little I have, instead of mourning and grieving over what I lack.

Also, it was a moment to look back on my previous days, weeks, months, and years, to assess whether my effort to overcome the numerous staunch barriers that impeded my path was fruitful and unceasing

'Rockumentaries': Should we take them more seriously?

Friday, November 26, 2004

Mandy Marahimin, Contributor, Jakarta

If films are social commentaries, detailing the lives and times of people, both ordinary and famous, over the years, than what could capture the mood of an era more astutely than the documentation of its music.

For this reason, perhaps, it is time to start taking documentaries on contemporary and pop culture, such as those to be screened at Teater Utan Kayu (TUK) this weekend, more seriously.

Certainly they tell us something about ourselves and how the world came to be the way it is today.

The term, "rockumentary", was coined by Rob Reiner in his spoof *This is Spinal Tap* (1984), which is more of a "mockumentary".

But the genre of rock documentary itself actually originated in the 1960s when D. A. Pennebaker filmed Bob Dylan on his 1965 concert tour in England and made *Don't Look Back* (1967).

Then the Maysles brothers, Albert and David, made *Nightmarish Shelter?* (1970), which they shot during a Rolling Stones concert at which everything went wrong.

Soon, the genre made a name for itself. Documenting rock music became popular, with everything from the concerts themselves to what was happening backstage caught on film, making the day's icons more accessible.

Many legendary directors have also ventured into this realm, including Wim Wenders with *Buena Vista Social Club* (1998), Martin Scorsese with *The Last Waltz* (1978) and Jonathan Demme with *Making Sense* (1984).

Even MTV has its own rock documentary series it calls *Biorhythm*.

This weekend, Teater Utan Kayu (TUK) on Jl. Utan Kayu 68-H, East Jakarta, will present rockumentaries as a serious and significant genre of film that has long been overlooked.

The films selected for the screenings are varied, thus providing an overview of the genre. Among them is the extensive and in-depth *History of Rock & Roll* (1995), a ten-part work produced by Quincy Jones to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of rock music.

The film, which is 10 hours long in its entirety, will be screened in two-hour blocks.

On Friday, Nov. 26 at 7:00 pm, TUK will start the weekend with *Sympathy for the Devil* (1970) a film by Jean-Luc Godard.

The film portrays the creative process the Stones went through to make one song; from the rough arrangement of the music to its completion in a London recording studio.

In the film, Godard combines sequences of Rolling Stones recording sessions with a series of vignettes that provoke discussions on topics as diverse as pornography and black power.

On Saturday, Nov. 27, screenings will start at 1:00 p.m. with two volumes of *History of Rock & Roll: Rock 'N Roll Explodes* and *Good Rockin' Tonight*, an exploration of the roots and early development of rock 'n' roll in the 1950s.

At 3:00 p.m., the show continues with *Invades, America Fights Back* and *The Sounds of Soul* about how America's music scene was dominated by The Beatles and the Rolling Stones and how Motown was the only big thing to fight the invasion.

The 5:30 p.m. show will feature *Plugging In* and *My Generation*,

a comprehensive look at the 1960s, and how technological developments influenced rock 'n' roll.

Oh, and don't forget to watch for rare footage of Bob Dylan becoming the first folk singer to use an electric guitar at the Newport Folk Festival, and being booed by the audience.

The last film of the day was made by the man who helped initiate the whole genre. D.A. Pennebaker's *Depeche Mode* (1989) shows the band's 101st concert at the Rose Bowl stadium.

The selections offered on Sunday, Nov. 28, will start at 1:00 p.m. with *Guitar Heroes* and *The '70s: Have a Nice Decade* concerning how rock 'n' roll was forced to redefine itself in the new decade. *70s or 80s?*

And at 3:15 p.m., *Punk* and *Up from the Underground* will highlight the redefinition of rock all the way to the birth of MTV and rap music.

A discussion will follow at 5:30, with Danie Satrio, a music editor for *HAI Magazine*. To end the program, sit back and relax with *Render: Spanning Time with Ani DiFranco* (2002) a very intimate portrait of the latest craze for folk-rock music.

VIEW POINT

Julia Suryakusuma
Jakarta

On the surface, perhaps there could not be two people so unlike each other as me and my housemaid, Sari.

I am tall, she is short. I am thin, she is fat. I have long, straight hair, hers is short and curly. My skin is fair, hers is dark. My father was a diplomat, coming from a Sundanese aristocratic background. Hers is a taxi driver, a Javanese, one of the common folk. I have a postgraduate university education. Hers is high-school, specializing in management.

I have a fairly retentive mind, while hers is like a sieve, which doesn't hold anything that's put into it, least of all my instructions: Routine tasks and responsibilities are just as routinely forgotten. Tim, my husband, calls her the

Like chalk and cheese: When opposites are alike

Teflon mind. Nothing sticks, everything just slides off effortlessly. In the past, this drove me to distraction, but now I'm getting used to it and just remind myself to remind her constantly.

However, under the surface, there are similarities aplenty. We are both good cooks. In fact, her cooking is so good, Tim said, "I don't care how forgetful she is, her cooking is divine. She stays, no matter what". She's very emotional, and so am I (although naturally I prefer the word "passionate"!).

We are both moved easily and although we both have gruff exteriors, underneath we are actually soft-hearted and sensitive and can't stand to see people suffering. Because we're both generous and like to help people, we get duped easily.

We both had problems with our parents, and sometimes

still do. She considers herself to be the 'odd-one-out' in her family, and told me she was often discriminated against and abused by them, verbally by her mother, sometimes physically by her father.

Her difficult relationship with them was exacerbated by her decision, aged 20, to elope with Didi, her husband (who also works for me) whom her parents did not approve of, because he was poor and uneducated. I also got married — to my late husband Ami Priyono — at age 20. My parents didn't disapprove of Ami who was a film director and from an aristocratic Javanese background, but otherwise our family histories are quite, in fact, very, similar.

She once said to me, "Ibu, I'm jealous of your closeness with your mother, I'd like to be like that with mine too". I smiled and said, "Believe me, it wasn't always like that. It takes effort." It gets easier as I get older, I have to confess, but it was often extremely difficult and painful before. The anger and hurt caused me to develop my rough and sometimes abrasive manner, which is probably also the reason for Sari's behavior now too.

Like Sari, I was the family "outcast", and, rebellious as I was, my deepest heart-rending desire was to be accepted by my parents, who loved me and were proud of me, but never understood me, what made me tick, and why I took the risks I did (especially in the Soeharto era), to fulfill my calling as an intellectual, a writer and an activist. I urged Sari to make up with her mother, gave her money to buy a gift for her mother, and told her she should visit her every month, always bearing gifts. And it worked! Another mother-daughter relationship restored.

Sari and I live under the same roof, drink the same filtered water, eat from the same kitchen and have the same interest in maintaining and guarding the house. She dumps her problems on me, in return she takes care of me, which I am especially grateful for when I am sick. She makes me porridge or soup, hot

drinks or herbal concoctions, and massages my aching shoulders or legs when I'm tired. That's when we bond, and share stories about our lives. She loves to know of our similarities. "Oh, I'm just like you bu", she says.

We are both mothers, and now I am the foster mother of her three children with Didi. She takes care of their daily physical needs, teaches them and helps them with their homework, while my involvement is obviously not so direct (paying for their schooling is one of them), but there is daily interaction nevertheless.

She has dreams, as do I, the difference is that I was able to actualize many of my dreams because I was fortunate enough to have a good education, and because I had the financial means. One of her dreams was to be a secretary. Perhaps it was a blessing that dream didn't come true: Given her forgetfulness, it might have been a nightmare. The other dream she has, like mine, is to make her mother happy. That is happening — and so is her dream of seeing her children grow strong, healthy, educated, and having a better life than she does.

Sari and I are like chalk and cheese, but perhaps it is because of the differences that we have our symbiotic, committed and loyal relationship. As for the forgetfulness, I too am becoming more so these days. Is it part of my premenopausal symptoms; or is it something I caught from Sari?

Or perhaps it's just God's way of reminding me that it is often our own faults that we see first in other people and there is always room for bridges between people, no matter how different they may seem on the surface. Now's there's a thought for our fragmenting Indonesia, as everyone rushes to assert their difference from everyone else in ethnicity, race, religion and politics.

The writer is the author of *Sex, Power and Nation*. She can be reached at jsuryakusuma@mac.com or jskusuma@dnet.net.id.

ew Mideast

Where did all this international silence come from, does the Geneva Convention mean anything in today's world, what about human rights, children rights?

But in Beirut, nothing seems to make sense, one political party waging war against Israel, another against Syria, while Westerners are enjoying their own party in the endless Beirut nightlife. I have the feeling that I am watching an existentialist movie with no heroes and a grey background; from my corner, I see an attractive Lebanese woman walking by, followed by a man wearing a necktie, then by one of the self-styled mujahideen, a missile, and an Israeli tank with Bush on top of it singing about democracy. The tank is followed by a woman on a bike, a European, and yes, she's demanding peace!

Earlier, in a grubby apartment in Beirut, I sat in my room listening to the news. Hundreds have been killed and injured in brutal wars involving Iraq, Palestine and

now, Lebanon. My room mate, a supporter of Hizbollah, is smoking hash and listening to Mushrooms, an Israeli band.

Outside, the sound of bombs mixes with the Muslim call for prayer, while the deadly black smoke creeps along the city streets and alleys. On television, Condoleezza Rice talks about the "New Middle East". And then it hits me: If rock speaks about pain and rap about anger, jazz expresses a form of imperfection and uncertainty.

Jazz is dialectical, it turns and moves, and like mathematics it constructs a world of complex relationships. But somewhere in its development, when all the variables have been exhausted and all the contradictions expressed and elaborated upon, it is no longer possible to dissect or analyze it. You fall into numbness. Jazz is about numbness...

The writer is a project coordinator at the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialog in Beirut.

It's time for hydrosolidarity

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Budi Widianarko, Contributor, Jakarta

When it comes to water, man seems to suffer from some sort of "split-personality" syndrome. Although water is widely regarded as a spiritually sacred substance, water pollution still escalates the world over. The manifestation of this syndrome can be observed at a population level down to an individual level. It is not unusual to see an individual spiritually respect water and, at the same time, contaminate water with human waste.

It is common practice to use water to get rid of impurities, purify objects for rituals as well as cleanse a person physically and spiritually. No other substance on earth bears a spiritual meaning as profound as water. In Christianity, water is prominent in confirmation rites. The pouring of clean and fresh water, symbolizing the spirit of God, signifies a new state of spiritual life. In this case, water blesses the human body and is understood as preparation of an individual before spiritual union with God. The purifying quality and energy of water is also essential in Islam as Muslims cleanse themselves before approaching God in prayer. Water also has a distinctive role in Hinduism because of its spirituality cleansing powers as Hindus strive to accomplish physical and spiritual purity. For indigenous peoples, water is not just sacred but is very often regarded as a form of life.

Sadly, in today's world it seems spiritual respect for water does not correspond whatsoever with the way humans treat water in their daily lives.

Many reports show that the world's most pressing water problems do not necessarily stem from scarcity of the substance. Instead, they spring from the ever increasing degradation and distribution disparity of water, which are mainly caused by human attitudes and activities. Pollution and claims over ownership of water is clearly an insult to the sacredness of this vital substance.

While the drive for commercialization of water is in the upswing, the prevalence of water pollution is also rampant. The commercialization of water will potentially disrupt people's access to water, i.e. threaten human water security, whereas pollution will jeopardize the safety and health of humans and other living creatures using water. In worst cases, rivers are likened to a sewer and even a murderer.

Clearly, without a major shift in human orientation toward water the following upsetting conditions may prevail or even get worse: (i) approximately 1.1 billion people (17 percent of the world's population) are without access to proper sources of water; (ii) about 2.4 billion (40 percent) have no access to improved sanitation sources resulting in 2.2 million deaths, mostly of children, in developing countries every year from diseases associated with a lack of safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene; (iii) by 2025 at least 3.5 billion people or nearly 50 percent of the world's population will face water scarcities; (iv) 29 of the world's river basins with 300 million inhabitants will experience further scarcity; (v) the world's main source of potable water (more than 90 percent), i.e. groundwater, is increasingly threatened with depletion and contamination; (vi) one fifth of the world's freshwater fish are either endangered or extinct due partly to pollution of water streams.

Man's attitude toward water tends to deny the most important aspect of life, i.e. coexistence. Quoting Rigoberta Menchu, a 1992 Nobel Peace laureate from Guatemala: "Nothing is larger than life coexistence; and water is the core element of it -- not only among humans but also between humans and other living beings on this planet". If coexistence is the most important aspect of life, it is imperative to promote the value of solidarity. Thus hydrosolidarity has a meaning far beyond the technical term of "water allocation" or "water distribution". Hydrosolidarity holds spiritual and ethical values that deny full ownership of water -- a common resource -- by any living being or any individual.

In other words, hydrosolidarity can be seen as a realization of the spirituality of water or hydrospirituality. Current practices by humans in their regard for water poses a great challenge to hydrospirituality. When legal, economic and technical approaches in water management prove to fail, it will only be natural to assume that the spiritual approach can ultimately provide a solid foundation for human-water interaction. Hopefully, with respect for the spiritual value of water among most societies in the world there should be ample opportunities for hydrospirituality to take a lead in solving the multitude of today's water problems.

-The writer is Professor of Environmental Toxicology at Soegijapranata Catholic University and board member of AMRTA Institute for Water Literacy. He can be reached at widianarko@unika.ac.id

School of Hard Rocks 'Rock 101'

Friday, June 23, 2006

Hard Rock Hotel Bali recently hosted the School of Hard Rocks "Rock 101". In all, 62 participants from Hard Rock Hotels and Hard Rock Cafes from the Asia Pacific region joined the June 5 to 9 conference.

Rock 101 is an internal management conference immersed in the spirit of Rock 'n Roll led by Jim Knight, Sr. Director of Training and Development from Hard Rock International. The concept of this conference revolves around the Hard Rock culture, standards and revolutionary management best practices.

Pictured are Hard Rock International Sr. Director of Training and Development Jim Knight (*third from left*) with Rock 101 participants.

For more media information, please contact: Eva Hernawati, Marketing Communications Officer, Hard Rock Hotel Bali, Jl. Pantai, Br. Pande Mas, Kuta, Bali - 80361. Tel: +62 (0361) 761869, fax: +62 (0361) 761869, e-mail: eva@hardrockhotels.net, website: www.hardrockhotels.net

Teana hopes to shed hulky image of Nissan

Thursday, September 02, 2004

For the Indonesian market, Nissan has been known for a long time as a tough brand, usually associated with its Nissan Patrol four-wheel-drive vehicle employed by Indonesian government agencies some three decades ago.

The Nissan Patrol of yesteryear was truly rugged compared with today's sports utility vehicles (SUVs). Nissan now seems to have continued its long history here by promoting a "No. 1 SUV" brand image, although it offers other products like sedans and multipurpose vehicles (MPV). Nissan even has its own roadster, the Nissan Fairlady. After reintroducing the Nissan Serena MPV in July, PT Nissan Motor Indonesia (NMI) launched on Aug. 26 its Nissan Teana, a medium sedan powered by a V6, 2.3 liter engine with 24 valves and double overhead camshaft (DOHC) technology.

The VQ23DE engine, which also uses continuous variable-valve timing control (CVTC) and electronic throttle chamber (ETC) offering ample torque and fuel efficiency, can be revved up to reach 173 horsepower (hp) at 6,000 revolutions per minute (rpm) and maximum torque of 219 Newton-meter (Nm) at 4,400 rpm. When asked why the company launched a sedan despite its strong SUV image, PT NMI president director Toru Hasegawa said the sedan was very useful to enhance Nissan's brand image.

"We want to enhance our brand image and it is very effective to use a high class sedan," he announced publicly at the launching ceremony. "It does not mean we want to shift our focus from SUVs to sedans. We just want to remind people that we also have other models," he added.

Hasegawa gave the example of Mercedes-Benz, known for its sedans, but which also has SUVs, or Porsche, which is almost entirely defined by its high-performance sports cars, but has also developed its own SUV. The Mercedes Benz SUV is the G-Class and M-Class while Porsche developed the fastest SUV ever, the Cayenne. In Indonesia, PT NMI relies on Nissan Terrano and Nissan X-Trail SUVs as its flag carriers to boost sales.

The Nissan Teana, which means 'dawn', comes with four-speed automatic transmission and uses an intelligent card key to start the engine, lock and unlock all doors, including the trunk. The locks can sense the intelligent key's presence from up to 80 centimeters away.

First introduced in Japan in 2003, Nissan Teana received the U-LEV certificate for its low emissions, reducing harmful chemical levels by up to 75 percent less than the maximum levels permitted. As for competition, the Nissan Teana will have to fight market leaders like the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord, which Hasegawa admitted would be a tough challenge.

"Despite the competition, the Nissan Teana has everything to offer compared to its competitors. We would like to invite prospective buyers to come to our showrooms and have a test drive. "I am sure customers will choose the Nissan Teana for its leading features," he added. Interested buyers can choose from three color options of black, champagne gold and diamond silver, and it is priced at Rp 355 million (US\$38,500). The basic price is the same, at Rp 355 million nationwide, but for other cities in Indonesia there is a transportation cost," said Hasegawa. He also said that the company's distribution arm would start delivery in September