

Bay Area Friends of Tibet

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1999 • Volume 10, Number 2

You Can Help Build a Local Tibetan Cultural Center

The Board of Directors of the Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC), a group representing the Bay Area's approximately 450 Tibetans, is organizing a fund raiser, "Childrens' Dances from the Roof of the World." on August 28, 1999. It is their first fund raising event to establish this most needed Cultural Center for the Tibetans and their friends in Northern California.

The Tibetan Cultural Center will provide a multi-purpose facility to host Tibetan events such as weddings, death ceremonies, Tibetan Cultural performances, Tibetan "town hall" meetings, and provide a single place for the offices of TANC and other Bay Area Tibet Support Groups. This facility would allow all Bay Area Tibetans and Tibet Support Groups to share costs and save lots of money which could be used for more productive purposes. The center will be a strong support in preserv-

ing Tibetan cultural events such as weddings and funerals which require days of ceremony in specially consecrated spaces.

TANC's program includes a Reception at 7:00pm, and at 7:30pm, a hour-long performance entitled "Childrens' Dances from the Roof of the World." Contributions for this exciting event are \$50.00 per seat.

TANC is requesting all its friends, Tibet Support Groups, and individuals to help us to make this big step a successful one. Please mark this date in your diary to attend this event. The venue for the fund raising event is at the Berkeley Jewish Community Center at 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. For tickets and more information about this important event please call Lhakpa Dolma, TANC Development Officer at (510) 526-5716, Tsewang Choedon, TANC Treasurer at (510) 658-9474, or the BAFoT office at (510) 548-1271.

Tibetan Can Stay in U.S.

By Adam Geller

It was a riddle without any obvious solution: What is a man to do when the law orders him to leave the country or forfeit his right to live here, but other nations refuse to admit him? For Thupten Phuntsok, part of the answer lay in a roll of the dice.

Phuntsok, a former Tibetan monk who, together with his sister, found a home with a Cresskill woman last year, is back in New Jersey to stay after a six-week journey threading his way through immigration laws that nearly left him stateless. "It's like a reunion with my family," the former disciple of the Dalai Lama said Wednesday, hours after his return. "I'm back to my home."

Phuntsok's problems ironically began earlier this year when the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service approved his request to stay in this country permanently. There was just one, seemingly minor catch. For Phuntsok to stay, the law required that he leave the country and go to a U.S. embassy overseas that was willing to hear his case and issue him an American visa. Embassy officials in Madrid and Paris agreed to do just that. But when Phuntsok, who is 28, asked French and Spanish officials to issue him a travel permit to enter their countries, they refused on grounds that he didn't have a visa to return to the United States, the very document he was seeking to pick up.

The problem was complicated by U.S. immigration law, which gave him until June 28 to leave the country. If he did not leave, immigration officials said, he would be considered illegal and could be deported. With just hours to go before the deadline, Phuntsok still did not know what he would do.

He ended up crossing the border into Canada while Lisa Hochman, the Cresskill woman who has more or less adopted Phuntsok, continued to work on obtaining permission for him to go to Spain.

Hochman finally secured that permit in early July. But the chaos had left Phuntsok so shaken, he was fearful of making any move. He left his decision to a roll of the sho, a trio

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China-Appointed Panchen Lama Appears in Tibet Capital

The 9-year-old declared by China to be the Panchen Lama, the second-ranking Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, has appeared in the capital of Tibet for the first time since his appointment in 1995, the state press reported today.

The boy, Gyaincain Norbu, has received spiritual training under Government protection in a secret location since his disputed appointment four years ago. Another contender for his title, whom the exiled Dalai Lama endorses, is believed to be under house arrest with his parents somewhere in China.

In his four years of seclusion, according to

the report by the New China News Agency, Norbu "diligently studied Buddhist sutras," and he "can recite sutras for three successive days."

On his arrival in the capital, Lhasa, he was greeted by leading political officials and lamas from major Tibetan temples, the report said.

In May 1995, the Dalai Lama, who ranks first in Tibetan Buddhism, angered the Chinese authorities by announcing his own selection as the reincarnation of the previous Panchen Lama, who died in 1989. The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959, after an abortive uprising against Communist rule. The boy whom he selected in 1995, Gedhun Choiki Nyima, was already on the short list of a Government-approved selection committee. But the Dalai Lama is seen by the Government as an enemy, and Beijing officials, angered by his effort to pre-empt their selection process, declared his choice invalid.

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Communication Coordinator's Corner

By Giovanni Vassallo

It has been six months now since I've taken on this part time position of Communication Coordinator at BAFoT and a lot has happened since I've started. First of all, there have been some office changes. BAFoT now shares office space with three other Tibet Support Groups (TSGs), the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet (ICLT), Tibet Online/Committee of 100 for Tibet (C-100), and the newly arriving Tibetan Nuns Project (TNP). Previously we shared a room with only ICLT and we have went on to sublease a portion of our room to Tibet Online. Two months ago ICLT acquired a lease for an adjacent room to our office which they subleased to Tibet Online. Tibet Online's vacated space was subsequently filled by ICLT who took over their sublease from BAFoT.

I work at the BAFoT office at least two days of the week. It has been a great experience and a delight to be working in the space with these three other groups. Tibet Online's Dan Haig has given me free computer advice on how to access BAFoT's e-mail in our antiquated computer system and has volunteered to wire BAFoT in on their DSL line, a much more powerful and a quick way to access to the internet. Additionally, Tibet Online's Yolanda O'Bannen has provided me with good Tibet-related information tips. ICLT has greatly helped to straighten the office space and is even decorating the space with plants. As a full-time student I can be preoccupied sometimes so I also want to thank Meg of the newly arriving TNP who consistently reminded me to go to an evening orientation of the Foundation Center, a great source of grant research and money for nonprofits (which BAFoT badly needs). In short, BAFoT is now in an exciting, new beginning stage and is now sandwiched in an office with some wonderful, dedicated Tibet-loving groups.

All we need now is your continuing support to continue to do what BAFoT has been doing since its inception in 1984, making it the West Coast's oldest Tibet Support Group. BAFoT continues to need funding to support our mission statement which is to provide assistance to local Bay Area Tibetans, do educational outreach, grassroots activism, educational assistance to Tibetans, support other Tibet support groups, and other activities designed to promote human rights, Tibetan culture, and freedom and self-determination for the Tibetans.

As many of us know things have not been good for the Tibetans under Chinese rule. Cultural genocide is still being implemented through Chinese actions. The recent World Bank decision to provide a low interest loan of millions of dollars and consequently help Chinese population transfer into HH Dalai Lama's birthplace is appalling. Only by the actions of the worldwide Tibet Support network, have funds for the population transfer portion of the loan been halted for further review. China's recent crackdown on the Falon Gong religious movement, a worldwide movement that involves a mixture of martial arts, Buddhism, and Taoism, has recently eclipsed decades old persecution of the HH Dalai

Lama's position as a leader of Tibetan Buddhism.

China's government involvement in religious meddling is now so blatant that they have taken to parading the nine year old Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama in the streets of Lhasa while HH Dalai Lama's Panchen Lama is still under house arrest along with his family. Further, now that oil has been discovered by a Chinese petroleum group, China's grip on Tibet appears to be on the verge of tightening more than ever. China's paranoia has increased with NATO's involvement in the internal affairs of Serbia assisting the Kosovars. China fears this might lead to a similar involvement in 'their' Tibet. Tibetans are still being imprisoned or beaten simply for possessing a picture of HH Dalai Lama. Tibetans are still crossing the treacherous Himalayas to escape to India and Nepal for a chance to preserve their culture.

So now is the time for all good BAFoTers to come to the aid of BAFoT so that we can continue to do the job that is still unfinished. I urge all concerned to give me a call at the BAFoT office so that we can all put our minds and hearts together for a renewed and organized commitment to the Tibetans.

BAFoT needs more volunteers in every area: urgent action, newsletter, phone banking, letter writing, computer expertise, grassroots organizing, and more. With your help we can make a difference for Tibetans and therefore help a great cause toward world peace. Please help by either renewing your membership or donating your time or money to BAFoT.

I can do my job as Communication Coordinator only if I have people with whom I can communicate. Now that the office is in a better situation, surrounded by some dedicated people, I look forward to hearing from all of you in the coming months in order to help me help you, help you help me, help the Tibetans. Together, I am confident that we can take many small steps to our goal and contribute to one big movement toward world peace and a Free Tibet. Please feel free to give me a call at BAFoT at (510) 548-1271. Tashi Delek!

Bay Area Friends of Tibet NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Collective

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The Editorial Collective seeks more volunteers. The Newsletter accepts, at its discretion, Tibet-related advertisements that do not necessarily represent the views of BAFoT. Please contact BAFoT for information.

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...Bogus Lama Show

(continued from page 1)

Instead, officials of the atheist Communist Party staged a ceremony dating from imperial times, in which the reincarnated lama is selected by lots drawn from a golden urn. The winning name was then endorsed by the State Council, the Cabinet. (June 19, 1999, Saturday. Foreign Desk, *The New York Times*)

Happy Birthday!!!!!!

BAFoT would like to take this opportunity to wish a very Happy Birthday to well-known Tibet activist and movie star RICHARD GERE who was born on August 31, 1949 and is turning 50 years old (or 51 according to Tibetan customs). Congratulations Richard and thank you for all your help with the Tibetan Freedom Movement!

Urgent Action

Get on Your Computer and Take Action...

From Daniel King
<daking@lynx.dac.neu.edu>
Subject: 12 Nuns

Hey peoples, we have an action that is easy and we hope productive. With a few swipes of a mouse and a click you can help bring attention to the plight of 12 imprisoned tibetan nuns. You can speak out DIRECTLY to the Chinese government!! All you need to do is copy and send the below message to:

webmaster@china-embassy.org

This is their official website. Let's hope that they will hear us and release these nuns who have committed no crime. Also cc the Vice President, Al Gore: vice.president@whitehouse.gov, so he knows that this is an issue and a concern people have for the next president and hopefully he will bring this up in his campaign. This will only happen if we get a massive turnout for this action:

To keep track of how many people have done this cc me at: ai133@yahoo.com.

Activism doesn't get much easier than this. We want thousands to take part in this. Spread this far and wide. If YOU don't do this, then who will?

Peace,
Dan King
www.amnesty133.org

Where is the Panchen Lama?

The Dalai Lama's choice of Panchen Lama, Gendun Choekyi Nyima was kidnapped after his selection. The World's Youngest Political Prisoner deserves to be FREE! Please use the addresses available in this newsletter to remind the Chinese and American governments that we have not forgotten this boy. Please write an appeal today!

Copy This Letter

Premier Zhu Rongji
c/o Embassy of People's
Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008

Your Excellency,

I would like to request the immediate and unconditional release of the following 12 Tibetan Nuns who have been imprisoned for recording Tibetan songs while at Drapchi Prison. Ngawang Choezom, age 22; Gyaltzen Choezom, age 21; Gyaltzen Drolkar, age 19; Ngawang Sangdrol, age 18; Lhundrup Zangmo, age 23; Phuntsog Nyidron, age 23; Tenzin Thubten, age 20; Ngawang Lochoe, age 19; Ngawang Tsamdrol, age 21, Jigme Yangchen, age 23; Rigzin Choekyi, age 20; Namdrol Lhamo, age 28.

The twelve nuns are Prisoners of Conscience who have been imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs. I am also deeply concerned at reports that the nuns have been ill-treated while in prison. You have the opportunity to show the world that you respect human rights. Please do so by immediately releasing the aforementioned nuns.

Finally, I request information regarding the above individuals current conditions, and any action you may already be taking to protect them and other victims of human rights violation in Tibet to be sent to Amnesty International Group 133, 251 Albany Street, Cambridge, MA, USA 02139.

Thank you for your time and concern in this matter of utmost importance.

Sincerely,

A Friend of Tibet

Free Ngawang Sangdrol

The Longest Serving Female Political Prisoner in Tibet

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, August 3, 1999

Ngawang Sangdrol, who was serving 17 years' imprisonment in Drapchi Prison, had her sentence extended for the third time in October 1998 by the Intermediate Municipal Court of Lhasa, bringing her total sentence to 21 years. She is the longest serving female political prisoner in Tibet.

According to a reliable source from Tibet, Ngawang Sangdrol's sentence was increased by four years due to her participation in the May 1 and 4, 1998 prisoner protests at Drapchi Prison. Earlier reports indicate that since the protests in May last year Ngawang Sangdrol and another nun, Ngawang Choezom from Chubsang Nunnery were subjected to harsh treatment and were placed in solitary confinement. Sangdrol was suspected as a "ring

leader" by Chinese authorities and singled out for ill treatment. Following the Drapchi Prison incidence, 11 prisoners were reported to have died.

Ngawang Sangdrol's prison sentence had previously been prolonged by the Intermediate Municipal Court of Lhasa in October 1993 and July 1996. Born in 1977, Ngawang Sangdrol, now 22 year-old was from Garu Nunnery. She was first arrested when she was only ten years old in 1987 for participating in a demonstration and was detained for 15 days. On August 28, 1990, at the age of 13, she again joined a demonstration led by nuns from Norbulingkha in Lhasa. She was considered too young to be tried that time and was detained for nine months without charge.

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Are You a BAFoT Member?

BAFoT operates through the generous contributions of its members. If you are not a member, please join today. Send to: Bay Area Friends of Tibet, 2288 Fulton St., #312, Berkeley, CA 94704 / (510) 548-5879 / fax (510) 548-3785 / E-mail BAFOT@IGC.APC.ORG



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Family Rate \$50
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Student, Low Income, Seniors \$25
Newsletter Only \$20
Other\$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
e-mail: _____
Phone:(h) _____ (w) _____

BAFoT is a nonsectarian, nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

On June 17, 1992, at the age of 15, she had originally been sentenced to three years for attempting to stage a demonstration in Lhasa along with other nuns from Garu Nunnery. She was then charged of "subversive and separatist" activities.

Whilst in Drapchi Prison, Sangdrol's sentence was extended by six years on October 8, 1993 on charges of "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda." Along with thirteen other nuns, she was accused of recording independence songs and poems on a tape recorder and smuggling it outside the prison. In July 1996, her sentence was further extended by eight years for shouting "Free Tibet" while she and other nuns were made to stand in the rain as punishment for failing to clean their prison cells. The latest extension of her prison sentence brought her current sentence to 21 years.

Article 69 of the Chinese Penal Code clearly stipulates that the maximum sentence of fixed-term imprisonment cannot exceed 20 years. By extending Sangdrol's prison sentence to 21 years, China has violated its own law.

The Chinese authorities have also violated the Article 17 of the Chinese Penal Code, which states that minors below the age of 16 will not be held responsible for their infraction. Sangdrol was only 15 years old when she was arrested and sentenced to 3 years on June 17, 1992 on charges of "counter-revolutionary" activities. Her younger brother, Jamphel Tenzin who resides in India, testifies her year of birth as 1977.

Ngawang Sangdrol (lay name: Rigchog) continues to be subjected to harsh treatment. She was placed in solitary confinement on two occasions in March 1996 (6 months and 10 days) and after the prisoner protests in Drapchi

Prison in May 1998. Sangdrol's prison mate, Lobsang Dolma, who spent 5 years in Drapchi Prison with her, reported that she has for long a kidney problem but was allowed for treatment only in prison clinic. She is made to weave wool and is never allowed outside prison to work. Ngawang Sangdrol is now due to be released in the year 2013 at the age of 36. By that time she will have spent 21 years of her prime life in prison.

Recommended Action:

Please circulate this appeal letter to your friends. Please send telegrams/telexes/express/airmail letters in English, Tibetan or Chinese or in your language:

- To immediately rectify China's illegal sentencing of Ngawang Sangdrol by releasing her from prison;
- Demanding an immediate end to the brutal ill-treatment of Ngawang Sangdrol and other prisoners who were involved in the peaceful protests of 1 and 4 May 1998 in Drapchi Prison;
- Urging that political prisoners, including Ngawang Sangdrol, immediately receive full and appropriate medical treatment;
- Urging a full and impartial investigation into the deaths of 11 political prisoners following the May incidence in Drapchi;

Write your appeals to:

President of the People's Republic of China
JIANG Zemin, Guojia Zhixi, Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Telegram: President Jiang Zemin,
Beijing, People's Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Regional
People's Government

Legchog, Zhuren, Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin
Zhengfu,

1 Kang'angdonglu, Lasashi 850000,
Xizang Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China
Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT
CN

Telegram: Chairman, Regional People's Gov-
ernment, Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region,
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Chairman

Tibetan...

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of Tibetan dice used to divine the future.

The sho, Phuntsok said, told him that there would be many obstacles in his path but that if he moved forward, things would work out. With that in mind, he headed to Spain. It took a few weeks, but the U.S. Embassy in Madrid handed him his immigrant visa last week, and after six weeks in limbo, Phuntsok returned to the United States on Tuesday night for good.

Phuntsok's case was complicated by the fact that he has no country he can turn to as his own. Like many other ethnic Tibetans, he was born in India to parents who fled Tibet when it was forcibly annexed by China in the 1950s.

Tibet no longer exists as an independent nation. China does not consider Tibetans outside the territory to be its citizens and neither does India, which provides Tibetans with travel documents but considers them refugees.

Those documents must be renewed every two years and Phuntsok had let his lapse, meaning it would have taken months for him to secure permission to return to India, time he didn't have.

Now that he's back in the United States, Phuntsok says he will carry out the plans outlined in his visa application, predicated on unique skills learned during years of study at a monastery in northern India.

Phuntsok's specialty is constructing mandhalas—intricate sand motifs that represent the universe in abstract. He hopes to teach his art, and other tenets of Tibetan Buddhism, here. He also wants to study computer technology, so he can eventually create visual representations of Buddhist texts on a computer.

The chance to pursue those plans has left him and Hochman jubilant. Greeting a visitor Wednesday, Phuntsok raised his arms over his head like a victorious athlete and proudly offered a copy of his new U.S. visa for inspection. "I'm going to frame it," a beaming Hochman said. "It's just beautiful."

Thursday, August 5, 1999, *Tibetan Information Network*)

Tibet Calendar

Tibetan Cultural Center Fund-Raiser
Saturday, August 28. TANC will hold a children's cultural performance, "Children's Dances from the Roof of the World," with proceeds being earmarked for creating a local Cultural Center. (see page 1)

The Tibet Online project of the Committee of 100 for Tibet has opened a new space next door to the BAFoT office and is preparing to open informal open labs for computer use at the end of the summer. Tibet Online has undertaken a fund-raising campaign to gather the resources necessary to begin offering free formal classes in computer skills to Tibetans in the Bay Area. For more information call 510.848.6554. Yolanda O'Bannon, Tibet Online Project of

the Committee of 100 for Tibet, 2288 Fulton St., Suite 312, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 848 6554 www.tibet.org

The Tibetan Nuns Project is excited to announce the opening of their USA Programs Office at 2288 Fulton Street in Berkeley. The Project supports over 500 nuns in five different nunneries in northern India, and seeks to improve the quality of life and education of Buddhist nuns. For more information on sponsoring or volunteering contact Meg Moser, Development Director, at (510) 647-3423 or tnpusa@igc.org.

Volunteers are needed for all BAFoT sponsored events. Join the fun!



Dianne Feinstein and Richard C. Blum Pledge \$5 Million to the New Asian Art Museum

Gift Will Fund the Construction of a Theater in the Performance Wing of the New Asian Art Museum

As a symbol of their continued support for the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Senator Dianne Feinstein and her husband Richard C. Blum have pledged \$5 million to the New Asian Art Museum Project.

This commitment is an addition to their previous agreement to fund the Asian Art Museum's Himalayan Gallery. The gift will establish the Dianne Feinstein & Richard C. Blum Theater, a state-of-the-art performing arts hall that will serve as the centerpiece of the performance wing of the museum's future facility at Civic Center.

This gift comes from close friends of both the Asian Art Museum and the City of San Francisco," said Johnson S. Bogart, chairman of the Asian Art Museum Foundation. "As Mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein spearheaded the campaign to move the museum to Civic Center. By naming this theater in her honor, we pay respect to this great civic leader and her commitment to showcasing — in all its forms — the arts and culture of Asia. We are profoundly grateful for her continued leadership."

Senator Feinstein and Blum have long connections with both Asia and the Asian Art Museum. Dianne Feinstein, serving as Mayor of San Francisco from 1978 through 1988, was the author of the proposal for the museum's move from Golden Gate Park to the old Main Library at Civic Center. As mayor, Feinstein also provided the support for the beginning of the highly regarded cultural programs department of the museum, which has presented live musical concerts, dance, readings, films, artist demonstrations, and family festivals.

It was my belief that the museum needed to reach out to the communities represented within its collections and bring an additional cultural dimension to their experience," commented Senator Feinstein. "In addition, it is extremely important as we move into the 21st Century for Americans to better understand Asian cultures, as there will be continued rapid growth in trade, commerce, and the movement of people between America and Asia."

As mayor, Dianne Feinstein together with her husband Richard C. Blum were active in expanding San Francisco's sister city ties in Asia. New or expanded sister city relationships in Asia include Shanghai, Osaka, Manila, and Seoul. The City also has similar ties with Taipei and Sidney.

The museum's cultural programs complement the beauty and stimulation provided by its exhibitions, and drawing on both contemporary trends and ancient traditions to present a rich and relevant view of the diverse cultures of Asia. In the 395-seat Dianne Feinstein & Richard C. Blum Theater at the New Asian —with its enlarged, modern facilities—the museum will be able to offer an expanded program of live performances, films, and lectures, all of which are designed to bring people into the museum and encourage them to take advantage of its resources.

Blum is a San Francisco investment banker and an honorary consul general to Nepal. He is the founder and chairman of the American Himalayan Foundation, and he holds close ties to the Dalai Lama. He led the first American climbing team ever in an attempt in 1981 to scale the previously unclimbed East Face of Mt. Everest from Tibet.

The American Himalayan Foundation, since its inception 20 years ago, has sponsored over 170 different projects in Nepal, India, Tibet, Bhutan, and Pakistan. Most of the projects funded are projects that involved education, health care, cultural preservation, and the environment.

Richard Blum added that his many years of personal and business involvement in Asia have created a deep respect for the people of the region and their art and culture. "We felt it is important to continue to give back to Asia something that would reflect our gratitude for what it has meant in our lives, that would enrich our entire community and visitors, and that would create further understanding with a first rate art and cultural institution. This donation gives us that opportunity and we are pleased to participate."

This gift of \$5 million brings the campaign
(continued on page 7)

Review

Dinner at the Cafe Tibet

by Max Butler

Cafe Tibet is a new restaurant, which just opened in Berkeley. In fact it is the first Tibetan restaurant in the East Bay. Owned and operated by Samten and her husband Dhonyola (President of Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC)), Cafe Tibet is a friendly and welcoming place full of culinary surprises. Samten, who has for years worked for Stars restaurant in San Francisco and before that was the operator of a well known restaurant in Dharamsala, India, takes traditional Tibetan cuisine and creates some pretty wonderful dishes. All of this happens in a setting that has all the charm and warmth of home. The restaurant was decorated with skill and tasteful restraint by a local Tibetan artist, Rinchen Lekshay.

I had dinner at Cafe Tibet on two occasions and each time I was impressed by the quality of food and the care taken in its preparation. Everything that is served is fresh and I was struck by Samten's fusion of Western and Tibetan cuisines. Without any doubt her momos are superb. The meat momos (steamed noodle enclosing a delicious filing of meat and spices) are wonderful, but the mushroom momos are

phenomenally good. These are momos that would be fit for a king or queen. They are rich in flavor, not at all heavy, yet so delectable that they are truly satisfying.

There are many other delicious dishes besides the momos. Amongst the appetizers are two dishes that are quite good. They are the batter coated and deep fried finger sized pieces of tofu and eggplant. They are served with a piquant dipping sauce and are perfect for beginners. The salads are either a combination of slivered cucumber and carrot with a light rice wine vinegar or mixed organic greens with a balsamic vinegar dressing. Both salads are light, simple and good for cleansing the palate. Besides the momos there are a number of other entrees which give the menu a variety to suit all tastes. Last but not least are the deserts. Samten makes the best ginger creme brulée. The deserts are not Tibetan, but they are to die for.

Cafe Tibet is conveniently located in downtown Berkeley. It is at 2020 university Ave. between Shattuck and Milvia Streets. The restaurant is open every Tuesday through Sunday, 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. (510) 548-5553. Ample parking is available.

International News

China To Develop Tibet Field Despite Political Controversy

Despite environmental and political concerns, China plans to develop one or two oil fields in Tibet for commercial production in two years, according to a senior oil company official of China National Star Petroleum Corp. Wednesday. Chinese industry officials said they believe Tibet will benefit greatly from the exploitation of natural energy resources, and China likely will ignore possible opposition from political and environmental lobby groups to see its plans go through, according to the official of CNSPC - operator of the field in Tibet. The plans follow last week's discovery of an oil reserve in northern Tibet's Luenpola basin at an altitude of 4,700 meters—the highest altitude ever for an such a discovery. The discovery well flowed a significant amount of oil and contains recoverable reserves of 3 million tons of oil, according to the CNSPC official. The discovery has received widespread international attention due primarily to the fact that Tibet is touted by many as China's political and religious hotbed. International human rights critics have accused China of implementing rules meant to destroy the Tibetan culture and tradition. International environmental protection agencies have raised concerns over the possible damage of the natural environment and ecology in the area. An official with Japan's Environmental Protection Promotion Institute said environmental protection is of vital importance to Tibet, which is still a pristine highland. However, according to Zhou Baixiu, vice president of CNSPC, "the discovery will add wings to the welfare of Tibet." "Oil development in Tibet will help improve social stability and promote the local economic development," he said. CNSPC is planning to build at least one field with an annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons in the Luenpola Basin in northern Tibet, according to the CNSPC official.

Singapore, Jul 21, (Dow Jones)



China Seeks To Prove Linqian Reserves At 10 Million Tons

CNSPC is looking to prove the field reserves up to 10 million tons from three million now, Zhou said. The Luenpola petroleum basin could contain up to 150 million tons of in-place reserves, he added. An appraisal well, Lunqian 3, flowed an average of 214 barrels of oil a day during a steam lifting July 9-12, he said, adding that the oil is of heavy type. It is the first time China has made a major discovery in Tibet. China National Petroleum Corp. gave up exploration in northern Tibet three years ago after failing to strike any discovery. Tibet gets its oil products supplies from northwest China's Qinghai and Gansu province through a 1,080-kilometer pipeline running from Golmud in Qinghai to Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. CNSPC began searching for oil in northern Tibet eight years ago, under what Zhou calls "very harsh natural conditions," with oxygen content in the air standing at only 52% of the normal level. State-owned CNSPC, established in January 1997, is an upstream company. With eight regional bureaus, it operates in 76 basins in Jilin, Ordos, Jiangsu, Tibet, Northern Tarim, Sichuan and the East China Sea. Its oil and natural gas production was 842,562 metric tons in 1998, accounting for 0.5% of the national total.



Scientists Comment on Possible Tibet Oil Reserves

Chinese scientists think that the Tibet Autonomous Region could follow in the footsteps of the oil-rich Tarim Basin in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. After years of oil exploration, potential oilfields have been mapped by the Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources and the China National Petroleum Corporation in the Qiangtang Basin in northern Tibet. Thick oil layers have been discovered in the Gangba Basin in southern Tibet on more than 10,000 sq.m. of ground, according to Qiu Dongzhou, of the China Academy of Geological Sciences. Geologists found the region's first deep oil

deposit, with 200 million tons, in the Lhupola Basin, and 1.5 million tons of proven reserves have been found. Geologists have found 6-sq. km. No 1 field, and a major oil formation has been found along the Changliu Spring-Tsony-Baitan Lake Block in the Qiangtang Basin. Many geologists believe that Tibet has favorable geology for oil formations. The strata are of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic periods and similar to oilfields in the Persian Gulf and the Karakorum in Central Asia.

Tibet is called "the last and largest oil belt on the continents". Professor Liu Tianyou, of China Geology University, points out that, in keeping with the country's oil industry strategy of "stabilizing the output in eastern oilfields while developing the west", there will be greater exploration in Tibet. "We are confident that Tibet will become an oil reserve base in the 21st century," he noted

Xinhua news agency, Beijing, 15 Oct 97

International Seminar on Ozone Layer Protection Opens in Tibet

An international seminar on protection of the Earth's ozone layer opened today in this capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

More than 100 Chinese and foreign experts and officials from related departments of the United Nations, Sweden and China's State Environment Protection Administration are attending the seminar, and have warned that human beings cannot exist without the ozone-sphere.

They also discussed global protection of the ozone layer, environment protection on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and ways to decrease the production and use of Freon in developing countries.

To date, 168 countries have agreed to the Montreal Pact on Ozone-sphere Protection. It is estimated that the production of Freon has reduced the ozone layer by as much as 10 million tons.

A UN official said that the various man-made gases are destroying the ozone-sphere, and this could lead to many diseases such as skin cancer and cataracts, as well as do irreparable harm to agricultural production.

Human activities in Tibet have also caused some loss to the ozone layer in summer and further protection of the natural environment in this region remains an urgent task.

Xinhua via NewsEdge Corporation: Lhasa (Aug. 4)

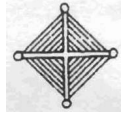
Hong Kong NPC Deputies Interested in Tibetan Medicine

Deputies to the 9th National People's Congress (NPC) from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) became interested in Tibetan medicine when they visited Qinghai Province in northwest China.

"The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is known for its cold, bright sunlight, and clean environment," said a local official. "The plateau abounds in Tibetan medicine, which is highly effective with a history of 2,000 years," he added.

After a tour of a local medicine company, Tso Wung-wai said, "We're now trying to make Hong Kong a center of traditional Chinese medicine, and we hope Qinghai will develop its rich Tibetan medicine resources and become an important production base for Hong Kong."

July 22, 1999 Xinhua via NewsEdge Corporation : Xining, July 21 (Xinhua)



Beijing Preparing for Talks with HH Dalai Lama

China is preparing to resume informal contacts with the Dalai Lama, but no new proposals are on offer, Taiwan's official Central News Agency reported Sunday.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin has set up a task force to preside over renewed talks with the Tibetan spiritual leader's government in exile, CNA said, quoting a recent report by Taiwan's cabinet-level Mongolian and Tibetan affairs council.

The Dalai Lama has said he was engaged in back-channel contacts with the Chinese government until Beijing cut them off abruptly and without explanation late last year. Though China's leaders may now be ready to resume dialogue, they will continue to insist that the Dalai Lama agree to standing demands, including that he live in Beijing if he returns to China.

While disavowing Tibet's formal separation from China, the Dalai Lama has called for Beijing to grant Tibet real autonomy to safeguard its unique Buddhist culture. Beijing regards him as rogue element seeking to split Tibet apart from China.

(AP) "Times of India" Report Taipei: 12 July 1999

Dalai Lama Prays for Kashmir Victims

By Tom Rachman

The Dalai Lama chanted prayers Friday for soldiers, animals and insects harmed in the recent conflict in the Kashmir region, and pleaded with the combatants to embrace non-violence.

Speaking at a meeting to honor slain Indian soldiers, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists paid his respects to those killed and wounded on both sides.

"There is always the danger of using violence, so it's extremely important to make a habit of the practice of nonviolence," he said. "India has in the past exported a lot about the theory of nonviolence. Now still you must utilize it more continuously so the world will benefit."

Indian troops launched a campaign in the Himalayan region of Kashmir earlier this year to dislodge Pakistani-backed militants who had occupied mountain peaks in Indian-held territory. The Indian military estimates that 1,400 people were killed in the fighting in Kashmir, a frigid region divided between India and Pakistan.

The Dalai Lama, who won the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, fled Tibet in 1959. He lives in a Tibetan Buddhist community in the northern Indian town of Dharmasala.

(AP) New Delhi, India

\$5 Million Pledge

(continued from page 5)

pledge total to \$125 million toward the overall project goal of \$160 million. The gift also reinforces the intent of the lead donor to the campaign, whose wish it was to create a center of art and culture. Chong-Moon Lee gave a lead gift of \$15 million to the New Asian project in 1995 to launch the campaign. Recognizing that gift and agreeing with the intent, the Asian Art Museum has named the complex in which it and this new theater will reside the Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Arts and Culture.

Lee commented that he was particularly pleased to see that he has been joined in the campaign by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Richard C. Blum. "They have long been known in Asia as interested and involved in our arts and culture. This is a fine expression of that appreciation," he added.

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted to Asian art, opened in 1966 as a result of a gift to the City of San Francisco by industrialist Avery Brundage. The museum's holdings include more than 12,000 art objects representing the countries and cultures throughout Asia. Its collection is world-renowned, and as a city-owned asset in the multi-billion dollar category, its value is exceeded only by the city's own land and buildings.

The new Asian Art Museum, which is scheduled to open in 2002 in the former Main Public Library building, is the culmination of a decade-long effort by San Francisco to revitalize the Civic Center district. By the turn of the century, several buildings in the immediate vicinity of the new museum will have been newly built or seismically renovated and architecturally restored. These include San Francisco City Hall, the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, the new San Francisco Main Library, the War Memorial Veterans Building,

the Court House, the Civic Center complex and the Opera House. The combined cost for the Civic Center revitalization project is estimated at more than \$1.3 billion.

San Francisco—(Business Wire)—Aug. 4, 1999

Contact: Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Michele Ragland-Dilworth, 415/379-8813, Tim Hallman, 415/379-8787



Tibet Calendar



Khenpo Könchog Gyaltsen Rinpoche, Drikung Kagyu Lineage will be in SF from Sept 14th through the 20th. He will give Vajrasattva empowerment and teach on his book *The Transformation of Suffering*. The teachings are to be held at the Far East Fine Arts Gallery, 518 Sutter Street, 3rd floor, SF. Contact Jeff Beach 415-668-8210 or gyaltsen@earthlink.net

KalaChakra information:

<http://www.kalachakra.com/History/History.htm>

HH Dalai Lama is visiting Pasadena in October 1999. Please check here for detailed information:

<http://www.compassionbuddha.org/>

Let us know what your group or teacher is doing!

ICLT Wish List

Dear ICLT members and friends,
Our Tibetan Children's Rights Project mission team members will be leaving for India in mid-October to conduct interviews/investigation of human rights abuses against Tibetan children under Chinese occupation. We are in need of the equipment listed below (the computers, adapters & cases would be on a loan-only basis for the duration of the mission—approximately 4 weeks). If you, or someone you know, can provide any of these, please let us know. Your support is very much appreciated.

Laptop computers (2)
Computer Adapters (2)
Computer Disks (one box of 10 disks)
Computer Carrying Cases (2)
Battery tester
Toys, coloring books, maze-books, kids' crossword puzzle books, colorful pens and pencils, Tibetan-English story books, journals.
2 tape recorders: Sony TCM-59V (cassette-size, with auto-reverse).and tapes

Kind regards,

Janice Mantell
Executive Director
International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet
2288 Fulton Street, Suite 312
Berkeley, CA 94704

tel. (510) 486-0588, fax. (510) 548-3785,
e: iclt@igc.org, <http://www.tibeticlt.org/>



BAFoT Wish List

There are a number of specific types of help we could use:

- We could use funding for a new computer. We would like an iMac. The cost of this computer would be around \$1,000, leasing it would cost \$30 a month. Our current computer is years out of date and very slow.
 - Professional accounting services, including tax preparation would be greatly appreciated.
 - Financial assistance for Tibetan students in India. We are currently seeking scholarship assistance for a large family headed by a widow. One daughter is struggling to complete college and two children are still in elementary school.
 - Financial assistance for the office salary of the Communication Coordinator in order to continue to have someone attend the BAFoT office on a regular basis. This critical position enables someone to answer phones/mail/e-mail in a timely fashion as well as coordinate volunteers, take and publish minutes, update the Web page, and update and reconfigure our membership database. Our coordinator will be helping with grant research and writing in the near future as well.
 - Volunteers for a variety of work including phone-banking, tabling at events, etc.
- Thank you,
The BAFoT Board



Seeking Jobs and Tutors For Tibetans

With the success of the family reunification project, many hard-working Tibetans are now seeking employment. The newly-arrived Tibetans have a wide variety of skills and backgrounds.



BAFoT is serving as a clearinghouse. At present, educational opportunities, scholarships, and job offers (full- and part-time; housecleaning, baby-sitting, painting, clerical, gardening, etc.) are needed. If you can contribute, even an hour a week, to help someone with reading, etc., or if you have a job or job referral to offer, please call Giovanni Vassallo at BAFoT at (510) 548-1271 or Sonam Gonsar at (510) 658-1266.

Thank you!



Thank You ICLT

For the Macintosh computer to augment our old PC and be available for people helping us who "don't do windows."



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