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From Our Desk to Yours

Happy New Year! Our first issue of the year comes to you with best wishes for a healthy, happy and peaceful 2008. We hope you enjoy this issue.

January 2008 has Rocky Patel on our cover. A unique business choice, the sheer determination to make it a success and the desire to achieve still more are some of his admirable characteristics that you will take away from this interview. Rocky travels extensively and attends local trade shows to promote his brand of cigars. We hope you will take the opportunity to meet him during one of his events. You may be surprised at the knowledge you will gain in a field which until now has been relatively untouched by our community.

The topic for Eye On Business is laser hair removal this month. We have covered two centers that offer it here in the Florida area and hope that it will help unravel some of the mystery that is always associated with permanent hair removal - will it *really* work? Dr. Meena Jain and Rita Kruse answer some questions that you may have as well as provide some guidance should you be interested in getting into a similar line of business.

Shahnaz Husain provides tips on a brand new "YOU" for 2008 in Beauty - a complete make-over of sorts - but one that you work towards with natural products off of your kitchen shelf. Neelofer Syed Esq. and Fernando Perez Esq. of Perez and Associates have put together an article that will guide employers who wish to sponsor workers from outside of the US. Bollywood sees Nandini back with her special brand of gossip from our neck of the woods and Kavita has some of the latest movie reviews in ReelTalk. Vish has written both TechTalk and Daru Ka Nasha for this month while Ashish vacations in India. In TechTalk, he guides you through the process of enjoying your HDTV in its entirety and explains how just the purchase of the TV is not good enough for the complete experience. In Daru Ka Nasha, he complements our cover story on Rocky Patel and gives some ideas on which drinks you may choose to enjoy your next cigar with. The Blackberry Curve is one of our recent acquisitions, (so far, only one of us has it!), and we have highlighted some of its coolest features. We all celebrate New Years and it is probably one of the most universally celebrated days in the entire world. Did you know how it came about? The How & When Of "Happy New Year" gives you some history of how this day came to be celebrated through history.

Javid talks about the upcoming series in Australia in Cricket with his usual candid flare and we have a special New Year's Small Hands cartoon strip from Nidhi. We welcome Dr. Rima Sanka as another guest contributor who will write the HealthTalk column periodically. This month, she covers introductory issues that you may be facing due to allergies. We invite you to write in should you have any questions related to allergies as we do for The Parents' Chat Room in which Dr. Maulik Trivedi answers your parenting questions. Auntyji still seems to be a bit miffed with her readers although she has taken the time to write back with her signature common sense approach. We are hoping that whatever is ailing Auntyji will be dispelled with the new year and she will once again become her cheerful self. In The Kitchen has another one of Anita's delicious recipes and Sheniz has reviewed The Dowry Bride for the CityMasala Book Club. Don't miss the Horoscope column this month to see what 2008 has in store for you. Happy Reading and once again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We look forward to hearing from you and your feedback is important to us. Please keep writing to us at editor@citymasala.com or info@citymasala.com.

Remember to talk about CityMasala, rave about CityMasala, make your friends read CityMasala and ask for your copy of CityMasala by its name! Chhaya Sanghavi and Shaphali Jain

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