

## Sikh Youth Camp, Sydney

The next international Sikh Youth Camp will be held at Sydney, Australia from Jan 11 to 15, 2006. The topic for the camp is : "From Sikh to Khalsa". Information about the camp may be obtained from the undersigned.

A Medical Specialist from Varanasi has already registered along with his two children and wife. We wish to make this truly an international camp so that our youth can network on an international basis. I shall also be urging all camp sewadars to become regular contributors of **The Sikh Review**, which has been one of most informative Sikh magazines over last 50 years.

S.AjmerSingh Gill(Email: ajmersinghgill@gmail.com) or S. Sukhvinder Singh (Email sukhvinder777@hotmail.com)

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## Britain's Queen – a devout Sikh for a day!

Vijay Dutt reports: For over an hour, last October, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh not only looked but conducted themselves as well like any devout Sikh visiting a Gurdwara.

The Queen reverentially entered the prayer hall of the Gurdwara in Hounslow in Middlesex, wearing white ankle socks and with a golden shawl covering her head. The Duke too removed his shoes and followed her into the hall wearing a blue headscarf that bore the symbol of Khanda, the holy swords.

They were welcomed by a group singing *jaaps* and playing drums and harmonium. Like any devout Sikh before the Guru Granth Sahib, the Queen bowed her head while the Duke clasped his hands in a sign of praying.

Over 500 people, including Sikh war veterans, had congregated at the Gurdwara to see the Queen open a £2.5 million extension project. She also viewed an exhibition to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holy Scriptures. The Queen's visit was in effect a reiteration of the British society having become multi-ethnic and multi-cultural.

The Hounslow Gurdwara is one of the oldest ones in Britain and is uniquely free of any factional tug-of-war. A computer database holds hundreds of names of eligible Sikh men and women looking for a spouse through an assisted "marriage" scheme.

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## Sikh Professor Gets Oscar Glory

**Vinayak Chakravorty\***

India has a reason to toast Oscars 2005, after all. But, this isn't about the reflected glory that *Born Into Brothels* – the Best Documentary (feature) on children in Kolkata's red light area, Sonagachhi, made by two US filmmakers – fetched us. Meet Karan Sher Singh, Toronto based animator par excellence. He's the brains behind *Ryan*, winner of the Best Short Film (Animated) award at the Academy Awards this year.

Sher Singh is a professor of computer graphics and animation at the University of Toronto, but that's not his claim to fame. Oscar glory apart, he is also the man who designed Maya, a software for animation used by filmmakers like Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Peter Jackson (*The Lord Of The Rings*). "It's pretty much the industry standard on animation in Hollywood," he says, on phone from Toronto.

His involvement with *Ryan* director Chris Landreth goes back to almost a decade. "He's the artist and I am the scientist in our projects," says Singh. "When Chris suggested this idea, we both knew we had to film it." Naturally so – the 13 minute film documents the life of

Ryan Larkin, “the gifted animator of the late sixties who defied traditional norms set by Disney to pioneer computer-generated imagery (CGI)”.

Don’t think it’s a sedate celluloid biopic. “Ryan’s life is a story in itself,” says Singh. “He reigned in his time, gradually became an alcoholic and today spends his days in a shelter for the homeless in Montreal.” Singh and Landreth’s tribute to their hero unfolds surreally. “We’ve tried to give the film a Salvatore Dali kind of feel,” he says. Singh calls it “non-photo realism”, and admits it’s his kind of animation: “I love fashioning painting like imagery while rendering visual effects.”

**[Courtesy: *Hindustan Times*]**

