

**ROAD TESTED**  
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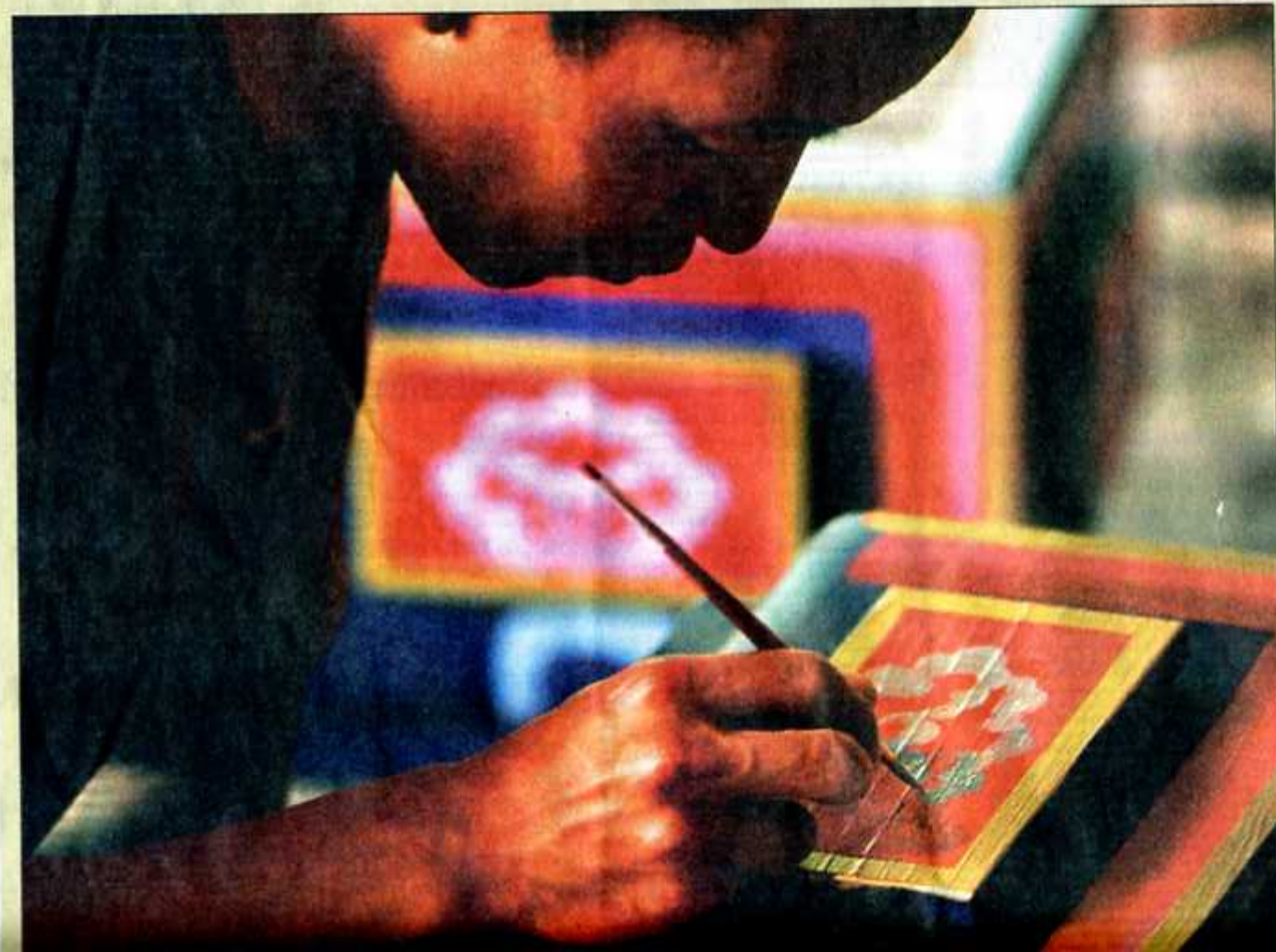
# Wisconsin State Journal

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TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Artists from Tibet, India beautify temple near Oregon



## GM cuts production time again

Janesville layoff more than expected, union leader says

By **JUDY NEWMAN**  
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The bad news just keeps blasting at General Motors employees in Janesville.

Already facing the factory's shutdown by the end of 2010, workers were told Monday they will be off the job for 14 weeks this year, or half of the remaining six months of 2008.

"The hits keep coming," said Brad Dutcher, president of

GM spokesman Chris Pontiac, Mich.

The Janesville plant makes the Chevrolet Suburban, Tahoe and GMC Yukon SUVs.

The curtailments are based on forecasts of "the shifting of consumer demand from trucks and SUVs to cars and crossovers," Lee said.

With gasoline prices continuing to soar, tempers have been running high for a couple of weeks, Du-



# COLORS OF THE BUDDHA

By **RON SEELY**  
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**OREGON** — Though they seem not much different from the other workers finishing the new temple at the Deer Park Buddhist Center, the three men working in the temple's quiet basement traveled halfway around the world to lend their unique skills to the completion of this special place.

They are artists from Tibet and India, painters trained in the traditions of Buddhist artwork, with its brilliant colors, charismatic deities and layered meanings. The painters have lived on the grounds of the temple for months, transforming it into a showplace of Tibetan artistry.

Their hours have stretched into the evenings in recent weeks as they race to finish in time for a much-anticipated visit by the Dalai Lama in July.

The Dalai Lama will visit Madison from July 19-24. He is scheduled to conduct a series of teachings as well as give a public lecture, set for July 19 at the Dane County Coliseum. But for the Deer Park Buddhist community, perhaps the

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**ABOVE:** The main hall of the new temple at Deer Park shines with the traditional colors of Tibetan Buddhism, including the deep blue of the sky against which Buddha sits.

**LEFT:** Working long hours to prepare for the July visit of the Dalai Lama, the three visiting painters spend much of the day in their makeshift basement workshop. They are, from left, Tenzin Choe-phel, Tashi Dorjee and Lodoe Choedar.

the weeks of June 30 and July 7, the Janesville plant will suspend production for two more weeks.

"Ten additional down weeks will be scheduled at the plant between now and the end of the year. The timing of those weeks has yet to be determined," said

from May 2007, Subaru sales dropped 45 percent as sales dropped even further. "I think the Amer-

Please see C

• Doyle: Group will try to presence in Janesville. PA

## Candy still sweet for many, despite slower economy

By **MARTHA IRVINE**  
Associated Press

Like a lot of people, Nate Towne is cutting back on spending. He's carpooling to work and shops only at grocery stores that take coupons or offer discount "rewards" cards.



**Nate Towne** calls himself a 'candy snob'

But even in this economy, he remains a self-described "candy snob."

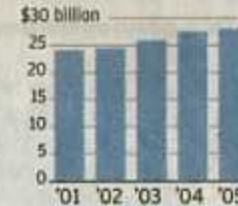
"I'm serious when I say I'll pay a premium for my top favorites because in the grand scheme of things, it's only a few bucks," says Towne, a 37-year-old public relations con-

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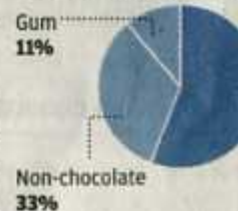
### Sweet sales

Americans spent \$29.1 billion on candy in 2007, up about 3 percent from the previous year.

### U.S. candy sales



### 2007 sales distribution



SOURCE: National Confectionery Association

collapsing at home on June 16. Mitch Winehouse told the Mirror that his daughter had been diagnosed with



# Temple

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most significant moment of the visit will be when he conducts a special ceremony to dedicate the new temple.

This will be the Dalai Lama's second visit to the temple, construction of which has been overseen by an old friend, Geshe Lhundub Sopa, director and abbot of Deer Park since its founding in 1979. The first visit was last year and, though the structure was complete, the temple was bare of the brilliant ornamentation, carvings and paintings that now bring it alive.

A good part of that artwork has been created in the intervening months by the three visiting artisans. They are Tenzin Choephel, from Lhasa, Tibet; Tashi Dorjee, from Dharamsala, India; and Lodoe Choedar, a Buddhist monk from Tsang, Tibet. All have been trained since their youth in traditional painting techniques.

Dorjee comes from a centuries-old family of traditional artists, known as *thangka* painters for their painted silk wall-hangings.

Dorjee can trace his lineage back nine generations and one of his direct relatives, Lhamo Kunga, was among those artists summoned in 1645 by the Great Fifth Dalai Lama to create artwork during the renovation of the Potala, the palace of the Dalai Lama in Tibet.

Choedar most recently lived at Sera Monastery, the home monastery near Lhasa of Geshe Sopa. Choedar's family, too, has a history of working in the arts. And Choephel, who speaks English and frequently translates for his friends, laughingly remembers his youthful interest in creating drawings that, initially, had little to do with Buddha.

"I was in school in India in the 10th grade," Choephel said. "And in school, I liked to draw Superman and Batman."

## Work here is special

Little did any of them know they would one day find themselves in the American countryside, creating the art for a temple a world away from the familiar temples of their homes. For all of them, this is the first visit to the United States.

And though all have practiced their art for years, Choephel said this work is very special. They are aware they paint not only to complete a rare traditional temple in the U.S. but also to create, in the face of tragic times, a lasting repository of a besieged culture's artistic traditions and spiritual beliefs.

Choephel said all have been witness to China's destruction of temples and the murder of monks and Tibetan citizens. Destroyed along with those temples are the works of art

that are as much a part of Buddhist teachings as the ancient texts from which the old lessons of Buddhism are drawn.

Speaking of the loss of old ways and of the threat to the culture, Choephel wastes few words.

"It is facing extinction," he said, standing near the artists' paintings at the entrance to the temple. "And it is our responsibility to preserve it."

## The Great Kings

The artists, Choephel said, draw their inspiration about what to paint from religious texts.

Such has been the process of painting temples for centuries. In the entrance to all traditional temples, he added, one is likely to find the same artwork that now adorns the walls at Deer Park.

"Our traditions are very old and very specific," said Choephel.

So in startling, rich reds and greens and blues, the Great Kings of the Four Directions stare down upon those who enter the temple. On another wall is a painting depicting the great wheel of life, encircling depictions of the teachings of Buddha.

Throughout the temple and in many places along its outside walls are other decorative paintings completed over the months by the three artists.

They have climbed and clung to scaffolding to paint on the high walls and sat for long hours in their makeshift basement workshop, painting in the light that slants in through the windows and doors.

They practice the slow and painstaking methods they learned as youngsters, using needles to punch intricate designs in paper stencils and then transferring the designs to wood ornament by tamping a chalk-filled bag on top of the stencil.

They then use acrylics to paint the designs in 'he rich, traditional colors.

These days, Choephel said, they work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., hoping to finish in time for the Dalai Lama's visit.

"Your eyes get tired," said Choephel, 45. "And at night, when you go to bed, there is always pain in your back and arms."

## The Buddha's teachings

John Martens, an architect

who helped design the temple and who has directed the arts project, has watched in awe as the painters ply their talents.

Their work, he said, is in keeping with the thought that has driven the project from the beginning, a belief that the temple should rise from its oak-shaded hillside as a unique blend of American engineering and traditional Tibetan design.

Key to maintaining the direct link to the richness of Tibetan culture and religion, he added, is the art that is as much a part of the temple's spiritual core as the old teachings.

"The temple is actually a manifestation of the teachings," Martens said.

Or, as Geshe Sopa has written, "from the doors to the rooftops, each aspect of Tibetan Buddhist buildings has a symbolic significance, allowing visitors to encounter the Buddha's teachings in a powerful visual form."

Geshe Sopa, who carries the knowledge of all that is being lost in Tibet, walks across the grounds of Deer Park from his residence to the temple nearly every day, visiting with the workers and the artists and sharing a moment with them as they pause to survey what they have built.

Surrounded by the green of a Wisconsin countryside, the temple seems more than ever the symbol of hope and long-lasting commitment Sopa intended.

And the art that now gladdens its walls — a gift of three painters far from their families and homes — a prayer for better times in a distant land.





Photos by CRAIG SCHREINER - State Journal

One of the Great Kings of the Four Directions, a deity painted by the artists, greets visitors near the entrance to the temple.



Taking a break from their work, the three artists working on the Deer Park temple share a laugh. They are, from left, Tenzin Choephel, Tashi Dorjee and Lodoe Choedar.