

# Tittle Tattle

PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE TOWN TICK

## In Loving Memory

CHRISTINA HELLMANN FOUNDS CHARITY AS A LEGACY TO HER SON



## GRIST TO THE RUMOUR MILL

**GENETIC TESTING** This socialite took sibling rivalry to a whole new level when he demanded a DNA test with his parents because he felt his mother favoured her other children over him.

**ON THE BRINK** The trend for towering heels is great, if you've got the muscle tone for it. This society doyenne, however, lets vanity get the better of her. At a recent event, she could barely walk onto the escalator without her husband holding her steady. She was last seen taking baby steps on the plush carpet.

**QUICK SWITCH** When this brand changed its name overnight because the designer had died, it told customers that the goods on offer would remain the same. However, fans soon realised they were purchasing items from an entirely new brand, whose designer had no experience in creating the former products.

### ERRATUM

We would like to clarify that 2008 was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Kokichi Mikimoto and not the brand's 150th anniversary. Mikimoto is celebrating its 115th anniversary this year. We hope that Mikimoto will accept our apologies for any confusion or embarrassment caused.

**M**ANY PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW what an orphan disease is, but **CHRISTINA HELLMANN** received an acute education on the term when her son, Joshua, was diagnosed with one in 2002 and passed away five years later. Orphan diseases are rare diseases that have not been "adopted" by the pharmaceutical industry because they offer little financial incentive. Usually genetic, orphan diseases occur in less than one in every 10,000 people. Hellmann started the Joshua Hellmann

Foundation for Orphan Disease in honour of her son to raise awareness among doctors and the public. The aim is to help improve the quality of life of those who suffer from orphan diseases and offer relief to their primary care givers in Hong Kong. "I have been able to turn my personal loss and profound grief into something positive for those who might share similar circumstances," explains Hellmann. "Although I was fortunate to have the financial resources to enable access to specialist opinions and care, not all are as lucky."

## Designer Dog House

SPCA PARTNERS WITH GOD STORE TO REHOME MONGRELS

THE TERM "MONGREL" rarely has positive connotations, but the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is looking to change perceptions with the help of home-furnishing brand GOD by launching the **DOG x GOD MONGREL ADOPTION CENTRE** in Sai Kung. Mongrels, or "tong-gau" as they are known in Cantonese, are one of the least-sought-after pooches by adopters. The philosophy behind the centre

is for the SPCA to partner with a brand that celebrates local traditions to bring heightened awareness about these smart dogs. **DOUGLAS YOUNG**, founder and CEO of GOD, says, "We are delighted to work with the SPCA. Tong-gau, as with tong-lau, [the old styled Chinese apartment blocks], is truly representative of Hong Kong." *DOG x GOD Mongrel Adoption Centre is at 65 Man Nin Street, Sai Kung, 2232-5599*

