

Six German women sold for \$28,600 Published: 11 November 2003

SIX German women in their mid-30s who promise to add sparkle to even the dullest party have sold themselves in an Internet auction for just over \$28,600 (BD10,810).

The friends advertised themselves on the eBay site saying they would take a crate of beer round to any party - and then stay.

"Not enough to drink? Want some new faces? Too many men? Empty dancefloor? Party always over by 11pm? Always the same old dull couples?" they asked.

"Then get into a real party mood with our sixpack. We will personally bring the crate round. And the best thing is, we'll stay and party too."

When the auction ended, the highest of the 218 bids came in at the tidy sum of 25,050 euros (BD10,971), offered by an unidentified buyer.

According to a website they hastily set up after being flooded by e-mails, the women - Nicole, Locki, Andrea, Steffi, Kerstin and Christine - are aged from 30 to 36 and mostly blonde.

They give few personal details, although Press reports say they live in or near Guetersloh, in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

"We're being overrun by radio, television and newspapers! We never thought it would cause such a fuss," they say, apologising that their website briefly crashed under the weight of hits.

The first offer was on November 1 at 6.99 euros (BD3), but it quickly rose. By the time the eventual winner, under the address blueemoon100, entered the bidding it stood at 11,750 euros (BD5,146). A surge of 25 bids in the last day took the final sum from 13,700 euros (BD6,000) to the winning 25,050. Four other women, these ones in their mid-20s, are now offering themselves for sale as party guests too, claiming rather cattily to be a "cellulite-free alternative to the over-30s."

*War bomb defused

Police evacuated some 2,500 people from their homes in northern France to enable experts to defuse a 250kg British bomb left over from the Second World War.

The operation in the village of Leval near the border with Belgium was carried out without incident and residents were later allowed to return home, officials said.

Wartime ordnance such as unexploded bombs and mortar rounds are frequently found in northern France, which was the scene of fierce battles between Allied and Nazi forces.

*Everest race begins

Some 45 runners yesterday began a 280km race which passes through the slopes of the world's highest mountain Everest, organisers said.

"Altogether 45 competitors - 38 French, an Italian and six Nepalese athletes - are participating in the marathon high altitude mountain terrain race," said organiser Bruno Poirier of the Himalayan Racer Association.

It will be completed in 10 stages on 10 days between Monju mountain and Lukla village, passing through Mount Everest base camp.

The runners will cross three major mountain passes - Kongma-La, Cho-La and Renjo-La,

all situated above 5,000 metres, ending the race on November 20.

*Teeth clamp on thief

A German with no handcuffs to hand captured a burglar by clamping his teeth onto the man's thumb and dragging him off to a neighbour's house.

"He couldn't use the phone himself... so the neighbour called the police," read the statement from police in Duesseldorf.

The thief received treatment for his injured thumb.

*Husband locked in loo

A Turkish woman locked her rich industrialist husband naked in the bathroom for three years claiming he was mentally disturbed, press reports said yesterday after the man was released.

Orhan Babutcu, 41, was found naked and traumatised sitting on the shower tiles next to the toilet, with a bowl on the floor for his food, the reports said.

The woman, Kevser Babutcu, who said it was obvious her husband was mad because he took three showers a day, added she was going to seek a divorce after 15 years of marriage, Hurriyet daily added.

"Her goal was to make me sick so that I die and she inherits my fortune," said the husband, adding that his wife, who has two children, had been living it up with other men while he was locked in the bathroom, Milliyet daily said.

He was finally freed after his mother, alerted by neighbours, called in the police.

His wife is to be charged, while Orhan Babutcu was receiving psychiatric help.

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