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Friday, December 1, 2006

USA TODAY · FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006

Travel

Warm regards for 'Borat,' ice skating

USA TODAY's **Kitty Bean Yancey** writes about the new and notable on the hotel scene in her **Hotel Hotsheet** every day at blogs usatoday.com/hotelhotsheet. Highlights from current postings:

The *Borat* B&B owners tell all

First came the question: Was that a real B&B that comedian Sacha Baron Cohen (in his Borat-the-Kazakhstan-journalist persona) fled in the hit movie, thinking the Jewish owners had transformed themselves into cockroaches and were menacing him?

The answer is yes, it's the Four Seasons B&B in Newton, Mass., just outside Boston.

I called and got co-owner Joseph Behar, who says Cohen and the film crew never broke character and never told him or wife Miriam that they were going to be in a movie comedy. Cohen did in fact run out in the middle of the night.

Behar found Cohen "very nice and polite." And he's not offended by the movie. "He's making fun of everybody. ... I think it's like *Candid Camera*."

However, the Behars are upset about one

thing in the film. "We don't have any cockroaches here. We don't!" Joseph says. "My wife keeps the house spotless."

The B&B has no website, and Joseph isn't interested in USA TODAY printing its phone number. "We don't need the extra advertising."

Meanwhile, one lodging in *Borat* is promoting its connection with the movie. Manhattan's Hotel Wellington (wellingtonhotel.com), where Borat complains about being charged \$117 for a room, has come up with a "Borat Slept Here — NOT!!!" package for January. For \$117.13 a person, double occupancy, you get room, full American breakfast for two, metro card and discounts on shopping and sightseeing. There's a two-night minimum stay.

Bikinis on ice

You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd. But this holiday season, you can take to the ice at hotels in hot-weather destinations.

I just visited the legendary Hotel del Coronado in San Diego (hoteldel.com), where an oceanfront winter ice rink is a big hit. You'll see Easterners in shorts gliding around, totally blissed out.

Did you know that some Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ships (royalcaribbean.com) also have ice rinks? Not something I've ever looked

for in a Caribbean vacation, but sounds good.

And the Lake Las Vegas Resort (lake.com), about 17 miles from the Strip, has a rink that floats on the lake. You can go afterward.

\$16 milk and cookies

That's what you'll pay when you order a soothing snack on the new "traveler's room-service menu" at a Westin hotel.

In theory, the idea is a good one. Travelers are stressed out, tired and susceptible to feeling run down. So Westin, after consulting with health experts at *Prevention* magazine, is offering a menu of items to revive and energize guests.

I like the idea of Westin stocking free water in lobbies and sending up a free humidifier or ice pack. I like its room-service choices — from smoothies to green tea to a honeysuckle-and-lemonade.

But the prices! Enough to raise blood pressure. \$10 oatmeal cookies and warm milk cost about \$16 to your bill after the 8.375% vice charge, \$4 delivery fee and 8.375% added. Chicken broth? I get mine for under \$10 at home; at Westin, the watery broth cost \$12 and change when all the charges are tacked on.



Hit the beach, or strap on skates: The oceanfront winter ice rink is a big hit for the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.