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in Berlin in May, offers guests a choice of rooms in the style of the old eastern bloc, reports the BBC.

The hotel is a former East German Plattenbauwohnung - the kind of mass-produced concrete apartment building that came to symbolise life in the communist bloc.

In the reception four clocks show the time in Moscow, Berlin, Havana and Beijing.

The hotel was the brainchild of two former East German circus performers, Daniel Helbig and Guido Sand.

Their concept of retro chic continues a wave of 'Ostalgie' - nostalgia for some aspects of life in former East Germany, expressed in the cult status of Trabant cars and the hit film Goodbye Lenin.

The hotel founders managed to rescue communist-era furnishings from private homes and the dusty store rooms of furniture dealers.

A display case in the hotel lobby contains East German souvenirs such as plastic egg cups, chocolate GDR-Mark coins and even a rare roll of GDR toilet paper.

Strange case of Piles

A prisoner has been caught with an entire mobile phone charger hidden up his bottom.

Suspicious officers noticed murderer Tony Pile's discomfort while searching his cell, reports The Sun.

He finally confessed and grimaced as he produced the cable and plug.

Two fist-sized blocks of cannabis and cocaine were also found hidden in the cell on D-wing at Swaleside Prison on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

Police action is now being considered against Pile, 22, from Ashford, who was jailed for beating a man to death in a race hate attack in 2005.

A Prison Service source said: "We've known for some time that prisoners hide phones up there but this is a first.

"Pile had somehow managed to secrete the entire charger where the sun doesn't shine.

"It just goes to show the

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Cricket is here!

Ever heard the terms stickey wicket, LBW, maiden over, outswing, sixer, stumped, yorker? If not, you're in for a treat! Cricket is making inroads into the Dominican Republic, and the association is looking for more players and supporters...

The Dominican Republic Cricket Association is celebrating its 1st birthday with news of a welcome present. The MCC Cricket Foundation at Lord's Cricket ground in London has granted a sum of \$ 4,000 USD to buy equipment needed to develop cricket here. The bats, balls, wickets and the rest will arrive by air at Puerto Plata early in July 2007.

The DRCA head quarters is located in the university area of Santo Domingo and operates under the management of the president Dr Shakil Khan an eminent Heath Centre owner. By negotiation with the sports ministry a stadium has been organised in the park that was the site of the Pan Am games in 2003. Night Matches have been organised that have caught the imagination of hundreds of spectators. Regular cricket Matches are played in the University grounds on Saturday and Sunday. The players are a selection of Pakistan, Indian, South African, USA and Afghan cricketers.

During early June 2007 negotiations took place in Santo Domingo with a leading USA insurance investment company interested in supporting Cricket development with a six figure sum.

Puerto Plata will become the centre for the northern region under the guidance of Executive Vice President

Alan Buckley a former of MCC & Hants cricketer who moved here to write books and run an international marketing company.

Already a committee of local personalities has been formed with a meeting place in a Malecon hostelry. Players and devotees are invited to take part in a programme of social events, sport and tours

Join in the creation of sports history in the Dominican Republic. Less than a decade ago the United Arab Emirates was unknown in the Cricket World. Now it is the venue for the International Cricket Council Headquarters in Dubai and welcomes Test match teams to the stadium in Sharjah. With your support Cricket can be

introduced to Dominican Players and international teams can use the D.R. for all year round training camps and contests. The potential is enormous. To request a brochure and become a member phone 809-261-1419 or email: alansscinternl@hotmail.com



Cricket ground at UASD in Santo Domingo



Young Cricketer. "Yes, I cocked one off the splice in the gully and the blighter gathered it." Father. "Yes, but how did you get out? Were you caught, stumped or bowled, or what?"