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ding dresses based on back-catalog cartoons such as Sleeping Beauty and Beauty And The Beast.

Designer, Kirstie Kelly unveiled the dresses in New York with price tags of \$1500 to \$3000.

Disney are already offering Disney-themed weddings with rides in a Cinderella carriage and appearances by Mickey and Minnie Mouse in formal attire.

Packages start at \$4,000 but average about \$27,000. Disney's new line of wedding gowns is aimed at couples with a tighter budget.

"We are enticing them to step up without breaking the bank," said Jim Calhoun, executive vice-president for global apparel at Disney Consumer Products.

If successful, the gown collection could be extended to include other Disney Princess-branded fashions and home furnishings for adults.

"If it really is the lifestyle opportunity we think it is, then it opens up possibilities beyond the day of the wedding," added Mr Calhoun.

### 'Oh my God, they killed **Kenny!** the Queen!'

The US farcical cartoon, South Park as gone one step further with a new episode depicting the Queen Elizabeth II of England shooting herself.

The scene, shows the Queen putting a pistol in her mouth and pulling the trigger.

Her cartoon body slumps to the floor by her throne with her fallen crown beside her.

It is expected by the show's creators that the episode will generate a barrage of complaints when it is shown in the UK later this year.

A spokesman from US Comedy Central network said: "South Park has never shied away from offending people in the name of comedy."

"Scriptwriters say nobody is off-limits to be poked fun at - including the Queen."

The episode, shown in the US this week, centres on a terror threat and parodies drama series 24.

The Queen is shown trying to regain control of the US for

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## Dominican Customs Using Internet to Collect Payments

The Dominican Customs Agency (DGA) is pushing ahead with plans to use the internet to collect payments.

So far this year, the DGA has collected RD\$600 million via its online electronic payment system, most of it through Banco Reservas and Banco Popular.

71 import companies are paying using the new method

and the DGA wants to encourage other companies to check with their bank as to whether they can do the same. Obviously in the long term, this is a big time saver for both the DGA and companies using the online system.

The DGA's website at [www.dga.gov.do](http://www.dga.gov.do) now has the facility for importers to look at their tax payments online.

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*"We are... A bite above the rest!"*

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the British Empire and kills herself as her plans collapse.

## Funeral Shows Up Friends

Amir Vehabovic, a 45 year old Bosnian faked his own death so he could hide in the bushes and watch his own funeral. Unfortunately, the only attendee to his burial in the north Bosnian town of Gradiska was his elderly mother.

In the letter to the 45 friends he invited to the funeral he said: "I paid a lot of money to get a fake death certificate and bribe undertakers to deliver an empty coffin."

"I really thought a lot more of you, my so-called friends, would turn up to pay their last respects. It just goes to show who you can really count on."

## Ewe've been had

In the latest con, rich Japanese women are being conned into buying lambs in the belief they are valuable miniature poodles. An internet company, Poodles As Pets based in Sapporo were offering poodles for sale at just \$1250, half the \$2500 price poodles usually sell for.

The con first came to light when movie star Maiko Kawakami complained on a talk show that her new poodle refused to bark or eat dog food.

She showed photos of the animal and was devastated when informed that it was not a valuable pedigree poodle, but a baby lamb.

Hundreds of women have now contacted police to say that they had also been sold lambs instead of pups by the conning company.

One couple found out the truth only after a dog beautician told them she could not trim their poodle's claws - because they were hooves.

The company has since been shut down, and a police spokesman said: "We launched an investigation after we were made aware that a company were selling sheep as poodles."

The company were importing the sheep from the UK and Australia to sell online as poodles, and were able to take advantage of the fact that sheep are rare in Japan and

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