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The first Mauritian newspaper overseas - Edited by Peter Chellen from 1983 to 2004 * Empowering the Mauritian community in the UK
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July 2011 - No 283

Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius

Monthly - 80p 28th year

"Mauritius is well positioned to act as a gateway between Africa and Asia", says Mauritian PM Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam



PM Navin Ramgoolam with former LSE Economics Professor Lord Meghnad Desai

Picture: Courtesy Board of Investment

The above statement was made by Dr Navin Ramgoolam, the Mauritian premier, at the opening session of the Board of Investment conference in June. Among the guests was Lord Meghnad Desai, former Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (Pictured above, on the right next to the PM.)

Candidate Edwin Li Ping Wah told AS-Level examiners "It's an impossible question"



Edwin Li Ping Wah on BBC's Breakfast

Interviewed on BBC's tv Breakfast programme, Edwin Li Ping Wah said that after struggling for a good 15 minutes with one of the Biology questions he finally gave up and wrote a note on the script for the examiner "It's an impossible question." Outside the exam room he conferred with the other candidates and they all agreed that the multiple question provided a set of wrong answers to choose from. "There is very little that our teacher can do, and we have been advised that we may have to consider a 'resit', Edwin told the TV presenters.

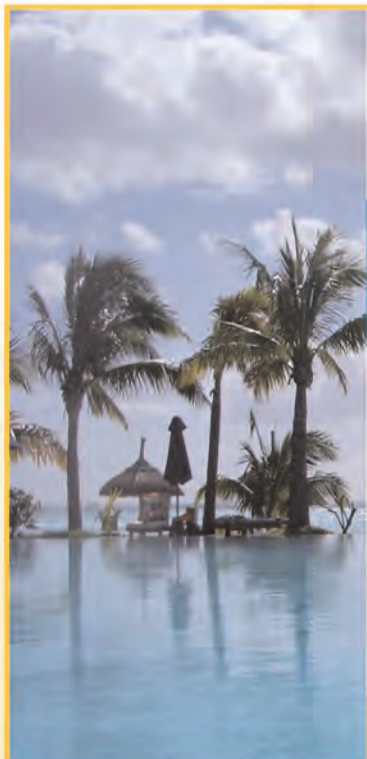
Though that one impossible question carries but one mark, "we all want to get the highest marks as possible. I want to do medicine in the future and ... I want to get ahead, said Edwin.

According to the BBC programme, "England's exams watchdog (Ofqual) is investigating a total of six mistakes taken by ten of thousands of students". According to Ofqual's assessment "the series of errors in this year's public exams are disappointing and unacceptable".

Edwin is the son of Monique, the charismatic caterer, well-known within the Mauritian community in London.

June 2011 Free Draw for a return ticket offered by AIR MAURITIUS

The draw for the return ticket to Mauritius offered by Air Mauritius was effected in June. The lucky subscription number drawn from a computer random generator was 3597, and the lucky winner is Mr R.D.Smith of Devon.



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Time marches on

27 years is a long time in the life of a newspaper

Well, we have served our turn and we feel it's now time to move over to the back seat and leave the wheel in the hands of others for a transfusion of fresh blood and new energy. Inevitably there will be changes, changes not the sake of changing but changes for the better, while keeping the high standard that we have always done our best to maintain.

Yes, 27 years (over quarter of a century) at the service of the Mauritian community in the UK, that's a long time. Yet, we do not think that the job is done. To do a business one must have visions and flair to achieve. Of these we had plenty that we shared with others to empower them in the community to move to the front.

We can take credit for a few things we have done through Mauritius News as a community paper. We can take as an example the many young people the paper has helped to acquire experience in the various aspects of producing a publication and in the various aspects of office practice. The work experience gained at Mauritius News has proved to be an asset to them to obtain lucrative employment. Some of them we can't even recall until we are told by their 'proches' of their present whereabouts. Our attention has been drawn to a girl who did a spell with us and who is now working for The Times. One went to the BBC, another one went to Daily Telegraph, to the Penguin Group, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, etc.

We take credit for the creation of a Pèrre Laval Association in London and for inviting the head of the Mauritius Catholic Church, H.E. Cardinal Jean Margéot, to come to London to celebrate mass for the expatriates at the St George's Cathedral in Southwark in 1990 and the Millennium Mass at Westminster Cathedral (not Abbey) in 2000. Mauritius News was instrumental in creating the Federation of the Mauritian Associations in the UK and the first open-air festivals in Walthamstow in the 1980s that attracted thousands of spectators, when others were unknown quantity or still yawning on the school benches.

Among other achievements, we can take credit for putting the Mauritius annual football competition on a solid footing since the 1990s, at a time when there was not a single penny in the kitty to start off the games. Mauritius News was instrumental in helping to raise all the funds required to hire the pitches, pay the referees, buy the trophies and the medals for the players, etc.

The dance we organised at the Banqueting Centre on the Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, will last in the memory of those who attended, the Day Out on Clapham Common that attracted so many people in spite of the rain, and of late the lavish Miss Mauritius GB competition are all landmarks of our performances in the community.

We have met quite a few genuine friends, and quite a few characters along the way who will drop you when they feel attracted by better rewards. As far as the paper is concerned, worst are those who request the insertion of advertisements yet refuse to settle the invoices to the point that we have to take them to the Small Claims Court. There are those who, though they claim payment upfront for their own business sit on and accumulate our invoices for months and then fallaciously argue that part-payment has been effected. These are the sorts of characters who make you feel good to distance yourself from them.

On the other hand, must I say that we have had also very reliable people within our community with whom it's a pleasure to consort. To them I say a big Thank You for the pleasure we have enjoyed from our association with them and, in some cases, with their organisations throughout the years. We still have subscribers who have been with us from the first days in 1983. Quite a long time indeed!

Though I am moving over to the back seat it does not necessarily mean that I shall leave the vehicle. Our Board of directors will always oversee operations. I myself will continue to chair this Board to ensure good management. We shall not abandon the community spirit that has always prompted us.

We have had very great help from many friends who are themselves now out of the limelight. 27 years ago, they were around but now they have changed with the years. However, there are presently others who have grown up enough to run the show until they too will pass on the baton.

July 2011

Peter Chellen

Immigrant Nation

Great Britain is now an immigrant nation. So says Paul Scheffer, a Dutch academic and writer. His book 'Immigrant Nations' has just been translated into English. He points out that European countries now have proportions of their population born abroad which are just as large as in the United States, the traditional land of immigration. Currently, for the UK, the figure is 10%, compared to 13% for the United States. This is despite, a national self-image in many European countries of a homogeneous population.



By Andrew *
Tarrant,
London

This contradiction between reality and self-image has driven immigration up the political agenda in all of the European countries. According to the British Election Survey, immigration was the second most important concern of the electorate during Britain's 2010 general election. Immigration has never been this prominent an issue before. British politicians are now grappling with how they respond to the electorate's concern.

Scheffer is addressing an audience of parliamentarians in Westminster this week. While his book underlines that immigration is now an issue across Europe, there is good reason, as this article will argue, to think that his analysis of how to respond to immigration is flawed.

Scheffer's view is that the incorporation of immigrants into host nations proceeds by a process of 'avoidance, conflict and integration'. At first, he argues both immigrants and the host population tend to try and avoid each other and retreat into their own communities. As immigrant populations increase, such avoidance is no longer possible and cultural conflict occurs. As a consequence of this conflict, both immigrant and host communities have to renegotiate cultural practices and when this process is complete, integration occurs.

Proposed solution

His fear is that the greater the divergence of the cultural practices of the immigrant community and the host nation, the more difficult the process of conflict and integration becomes. Specifically, he is concerned that it may not be possible for negotiation to take place between Muslim communities and host populations. His proposed solution is that much greater emphasis needs to be placed on identifying differences and reconciling them although, it is very unclear how he proposes that this would be done in practice.

A major critique of Scheffer's argument should be the choice of the word 'conflict' to describe the adjustments that take place between immigrant communities and host populations. It is not conflict that leads me to prefer food from almost anywhere else to typical English food. I do not go to the Notting Hill Carnival because I am forced. Of course conflict can arise if cultural practices are both very divergent and mutually taboo. Honour killings, for example, cannot be tolerated under British custom or law. However, such conflict is relatively rare and it may relate to a practice which only small groups either within the immigrant or host population support.

Although Scheffer is an academic, his book is written as an essay. The evidence for his arguments nearly always takes the form of individual stories. This makes it very readable. It also makes it highly unreliable. The notion of 'conflict' is not defined and because it is not defined, it cannot be measured. And, because it is not measured, we cannot actually tell where and with whom integration takes place most smoothly. If we cannot identify this, then we cannot investigate those situations in order to see what smoothed integration in practice.

Pessimism as to the possibility of Muslim communities integrating is based on his view that Islam cannot accept the equality of other religions. For him, this means that Muslims cannot practice religious toleration. But in reality, it is very important to make a distinction between the formal claims religions make and the actual practice of individuals who subscribe to them. In Britain, we see in practice that leading British Muslim politicians (such as the Conservative Baroness Warsi or Labour's Sadiq Khan) are very vocal advocates of religious toleration. Equally, it should be noted that a number of Christian denominations do not recognise either each other or other faiths as equal.

Ethnic TV channels

Nonetheless, this is no longer a source of major civil disagreement in most of Europe. Ideological exclusion is, in his view, compounded by modern technology. Ethnic TV channels, internet and skype mean that immigrants can remain immersed in their home cultures and never integrate. Superficially plausible, this argument does not bear examination.

Few media academics nowadays would argue that media can have an effect that overcomes a lived daily experience. In any case, Scheffer provides no evidence that those consuming ethnic media are not also consuming media produced in the host nation. I read Mauritius News but I also watch BBC and Channel 4 News. In addition, history tells us that the existence of immigrant media has had no impact on the integration of earlier immigrant communities.

The Jewish people who arrived in the East of London in the early twentieth century are now thoroughly integrated. This is a description of cultural life in the East End in the 1930s: "Whitechapel in those days was exciting. It was all Jewish! The whole East End was Jewish. Yiddish was spoken in every home; Yiddish was spoken in the streets; the shopkeepers spoke Yiddish. We had three daily Yiddish newspapers! Daily! Three! Yiddish books were printed here. There were always two Yiddish theatres in the East

End of London." Following Scheffer's argument this should have prevented integration.

Immigration hostility

Despite his acknowledgment that integration occurs as a result of negotiation, Scheffer focuses on only one party to such a negotiation, namely the immigrant communities. In so far as he considers hostility in the host community, he assumes it arises from the different cultural characteristics of the immigrant community. If we examine the polling data, it tells a different story.

What it seems to show is that hostility to immigration in the UK arises due to the arrival of low-skilled immigrants, not their cultural beliefs. Recent polling by IPSOS-Mori in 2007 found that the group whose immigration was most opposed by British citizens were eastern Europeans, while those most favoured were western Europeans. (The latter were more favoured than Australians and New Zealanders, perhaps the most culturally similar). Culturally, these two groups, from a British perspective, are fairly similar. However, their skill bases tend to be quite different

British citizens

There is also evidence that the reaction of British citizens to immigration derives from the occupational status of those British citizens. Polling of high-skilled workers versus low-skilled workers shows diametrically opposed views to immigration. This is quite logical from an economic perspective. The immigration of low skilled workers lowers wages in service industries to the benefit of high-skilled groups who consume those services. It will also tend to have the consequence of increasing pressure on the welfare services on which lower-skilled workers are more reliant.

The lack of scientific rigour undermines Scheffer's work. His approach is unlikely to provide MPs with much assistance. Indeed, if it encourages MPs to focus on cultural differences between groups rather than economic issues, it may impede integration not facilitate it. The key to removing the tension which racist parties like the British National Party feed from is more likely to lie in delivering fairness in distributing the costs and benefits of immigration.

Reforming the criteria under which local authorities receive central government funding is the kind of practical concrete measure which could be envisaged. Currently, levels of immigration into an area have practically no impact on the proportion of grant which local authorities receive to provide social services such as schools and housing. They should.

* Andrew Tarrant is a UK political analyst

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Permanent dam on Rivière du Poste

Government is planning the construction of a permanent dam on Rivière du Poste, which will feed the Mare aux Vacoas reservoir.

At present a temporary dam is feeding around 6,000 metre cubes of water from the river. The water is pumped daily into Pradier Canal, which converges directly into Mare aux Vacoas.

The proposed dam will be 16 metres high and 225 metres wide. In the event of Rivière du Poste being flooded, all the water will automatically be directed to the Mare aux Vacoas reservoir.

The construction work will start at the end of the year. Several other projects such as the construction of a 5.2 kilometre pipeline to feed Mare aux Vacoas with water from Mare Longue reservoir.

Work is expected to end in September 2011.

Commercial Park Circle Square in the north

The commercial park, is a project of the Indian Ocean Real Estate Company (IOREC), which will be situated at Forbach. It will consist of six distinct sections namely the Motor City, Home Scene, Wellness Arena, Retail Park, Leisure Zone and Business Esplanade.

The first phase of construction consisting of the Motor City and the Home Scene will be ready in May 2012 while the second one, which will start in September is scheduled for October 2012.

The Circle Square project is in collaboration with GML and Actis, both shareholders of IOREC, the Ministry of Finance and the District Council of Pamplemousses-Rivière du Rempart.

IRS-designed residential town near Roches Noires

The Indian Ocean Real Estate Company (IOREC) has proposed the construction of a residential town, the Haut Rive project, on the north eastern coast, near Roches Noires.

The project will be launched in September and will be the first of its kind in Mauritius. The town will offer 400 residential units which will be available to potential local and international buyers, allying local housing with the Integrated Resort Scheme.

The village will be anchored by a five-star hotel at its very centre. The Haute Rive project, as it is called, will take 10 years to complete and IOREC plans to invest 1.5 billion dollars.

The construction work for the first phase is expected to start in March 2012 and will be completed in 2013. The hotel will be managed by Thailand's Centara Hotels and Resorts. The project is in collaboration with IOREC's partners, Actis and Groupe Mon Loisir of Mauritius.

Former MBC headquarters to house ILO regional office

A section of the former headquarters of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) will house the Regional Documentation and Research Centre of the International Labour Office.

This centre will provide education, training and documentation and on-line information access to all employers, employees and students of the region.

'We plant we eat' contest launched

Solidarity Foundation of Food and Allied group is organising a vegetable-garden competition with the support of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). This will be launched on July 20 and will go on for three months.

The theme is 'We plant, we eat'. The project aims at raising public awareness on home-grown products. The competition is open to all Mauritians except experts in the sector.

Three categories are being proposed, namely existing gardens, new gardens and roof, potted or balcony gardens.

Household budget survey for 2012

The household budget survey will be conducted from January to 1 December 2012 under the provisions of the Statistics Act.

The survey aims to collect information on the consumption pattern of the population with a view to updating the basket of 11 goods and services used to compute the consumer price index.

Energy action plan before EC

An updated action plan for energy 2011-2025 will be submitted to the European Commission (EC) in the context of the disbursement of funds under the general budget support programme.

The plan provides for the setting up of institutions such as an observatory for energy, mechanisms for capacity building, measures to increase energy efficiency and the renewable energy development plan.

Model dairy farm to be set up soon

In line with the government programme 2010-2015, a model dairy farm will be set up for the benefit of registered cow breeders' cooperatives.

They should have a proven track record in livestock development to showcase modern breeding techniques, boost milk production and enhance food security.

Singapore offers free expertise on water

The government has approved that the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Public Utilities Board will be appointed to develop an integrated water management framework in Mauritius. This is with a view to achieve 24/7 potable water supply, reduce non-revenue water, and develop a plan to meet increasing and changing demands.

No fee is being paid for this vital exercise. This is one of the results of Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam's visit to Singapore in September 2010 and the high level talks he had with the Singapore authorities.

The concerned ministry approached the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Public Utilities Board to assist them to improve the management of water services. During President of Singapore S.R. Nathan's recent visit to Mauritius, the issue of water was yet on the agenda.

Breast cancer unit set up at Victoria Hospital

In a bid to step up efforts to fight cancer, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life will soon set up a health centre for breast cancer patients at Victoria Hospital, Candos.

The ministry is also planning to launch several other measures in accordance with the National Cancer Control Programme and Action Plan 2010-2014. The new centre will offer specialised services to women, including early diagnosis, treatment for benign breast diseases, mammography screening and percutaneous biopsies.

These recommendations were made by professor Georges Vlastos, a renowned breast cancer surgeon from University Hospital of Geneva, Switzerland.

85-km green trail at Les Gorges

Forests are under the spotlight ever since 2011 was declared the International Year of Forests by the United Nations to raise awareness and strengthen sustainable forest management.

By the end of this year, the Black River Gorges National Park, which hosts some of the rarest trees in the world, will be equipped with a 85-km trail to promote awareness about forest conservation.

The national park is managed by the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

New building for hawkers in Port Louis

The Municipal Council of Port Louis is redoubling its efforts to gather street hawkers operating in the capital under a single roof and ensuring that they operate in the best possible conditions.

The lord mayor, Mahmud Khodabaccus, announced the construction of a modern two storey building which would house up to 400 hawkers. He said that a plot of land has already been identified near the Life Insurance Corporation of India building at John Kennedy Street, Port Louis.

The proposal has already been sent to the procurement board and once approved, the tenders will be launched. If everything goes as planned, construction work will start around August or September.

Hyder Raman, president of the Street Vendors Association (SVA), said he welcomes this initiative.

The Municipality of Port Louis has been able to find the necessary funding for the project estimated at Rs 30 million.

Winner of Pan African contest to witness satellite launch in France

DStv Eutelsat Star Awards, a Pan-African student competition targeting students aged from 14 to 19 years in 42 African countries including Mauritius, was launched on Wednesday 22 June.

The final competition will be arbitrated by an international jury which will meet on September 12 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The winner will be offered a trip to France to assist the live launch of a satellite. The competition is a joint initiative of France-based satellite provider Eutelsat and MultiChoice Africa, a multi-channel pay television in Africa. Young Mauritians are invited to write an essay or design a poster reflecting how satellites could further support the development of the community, the country or the entire African continent. The winner of the competition will witness the launch of a satellite in France.

The project is supported by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. The jury arbitrating the competition at the national level will consist of Bernard Li Kwong Ken of Bel Ombre Foundation for Empowerment, Finlay Sales from Radio One, director of Vitiro Ltd Roselys Collard and Pascale Ng from the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

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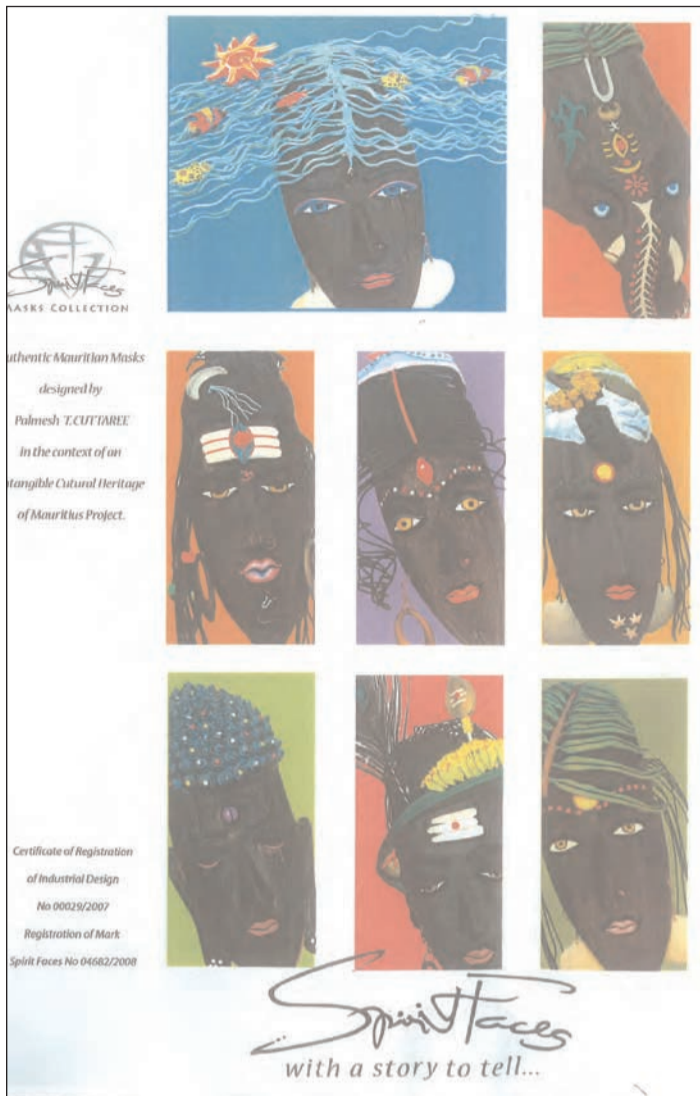
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Masques Mauriciens à la Semaine africaine de l'UNESCO



Chaque année, les délégués africains auprès de l'Unesco à Paris organisent une Semaine africaine destinée à célébrer l'Afrique dans toute sa richesse et sa diversité. Le thème de l'édition 2011 était : « Afrique : Culture et développement de la paix ». Du 23 au 28 Mai, des expositions, des spectacles de danse, des projections de films et des conférences débats ont eu lieu. Nous avons visité les stands et avons été reçus chaleureusement par Monsieur Palmesh Thiagarayen Cuttaree, venu tout spécialement de Vacoas, pour cette manifestation.

Interview de l'artiste Palmesh Thiagarayen Cuttaree

M.N.: Je vois votre exposition de masques et je suis surpris, il n'y a pas de culture de masque à Maurice.

P.T. Cuttaree: Je rencontre des touristes qui me posent tout le temps la question : avez-vous des masques de Maurice au Musée des Masques du Monde (worldwide masks collection Museum) à Pailles ? J'ai envie d'acheter un masque mauricien.

Ce qui est étrange, c'est que la majorité des Hindous de Maurice viennent du Bihar et dans le Bihar il y a deux sortes de masques : le Purullia et aussi le Sereikeilla. Il y en a aussi des Indiens d'origine du Sud de l'Inde. Mais les gens quand ils sont venus peupler l'île Maurice n'ont pas apporté cette culture qui représente leurs ancêtres. De même les Africains et les Chinois.

C'est à partir de là, que moi artiste de formation, issu de l'Ecole des Beaux Arts à Paris et de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Arts, j'ai commencé de travailler sur les prototypes qui représentent l'héritage culturel immatériel de Maurice. Après soumission des prototypes, «Enterprise Mauritius» m'a attribué un grant en 2008 pour débloquer ce projet qui a abouti dans ce que vous voyez, dans les masques qui sont là, où je suis venu faire sa présentation dans le cadre

de la Semaine Africaine.

M.N.: pensez-vous qu'ils sont dans l'inconscient collectif mauricien ?

P.T. Cuttaree: bien sûr ! ce sont des images très fortes comme celle du Dieu éléphant avec sa trompe ou la Déesse au point coloré sur le front et une raie rouge au milieu des cheveux, qui ont marqué les esprits dès l'enfance.

M.N.: ce ne sont pas des masques d'importation d'origine ? vous êtes un créateur . C'est la première fois que vous venez présenter vos masques ?

P.T. Cuttaree: Oui. C'est ce qui fait que c'est un projet complètement novateur qui intéresse le Ministère des Arts et de la Culture de Maurice qui a soutenu mon déplacement et l'Unesco qui m'a invité à venir présenter ces œuvres aujourd'hui.

M.N.: vous exposez huit masques en bois d'Africa Tulip Tree, avec les titres évocateurs (notre cliché) : Ganesha Lord of the people, Cavadee-Muruga Celebrating Tamil Culture, Sea Nymph a poem without words, Shivaratri The great night of Lord Shiva, Siddhartha-Buddha Majestic sobriety, Tropical Phantasm Palm Leaf Seductive Lyricism, Bindi Sensuous youthfulness, Tropical Phantasm-Banana Leaf Simply Spiritual. Avez-vous d'autres projets ?

P.T. Cuttaree: oui. Je prépare une grande exposition, dans un premier temps à Maurice et l'année prochaine ici à l'Unesco, avec un développement de plusieurs autres masques pour compléter une série de quinze qui prendra sûrement encore quelques années.

Et je voudrais interpeller mes compatriotes de la diaspora notamment en France et en Angleterre pour faire l'acquisition d'un masque typiquement mauricien. Par e-mail, ils peuvent correspondre avec moi pour l'achat et l'envoi des masques à l'unité ou en coffret de deux ou trois. Le prix est de 100 Euros pièce excluant les frais d'expédition. Je serai aussi content de trouver un grossiste susceptible d'être intéressé par ce grand marché d'art.

Propos recueillis par Lena Goel & Gilles Berger (Paris)

Book Review

Out of the Cyclone

Guy Silvio Bigaignon, the novelist who has established himself at Paris, has never stopped surprise his compatriots. In 1984 he won the 'Mascaraignes Prize (ADELF)' in Le Paille en Queue the white enchanting long tail bird which flew across the blue sky of his dream. In 2005 he published the novel Les Naufragés.

This year, 2011, out of the blue he came out with a novel entitled: " Out of the cyclone." having for topic : Hate is hell, Love is life.

The introduction of the novel ; Out of the Cyclone has been launched in Mauritius at the Hotel de Ville de Curepipe on the 12 of May in the afternoon. The story began at Medine where they were living , father and son, and where they were considered, in mauritian term as : employé d'état major The author wanted to show how hate and love have lived together in a multi - racial country, such as Mauritius.

M.G.

Preface to the book

Written by M.S.K. Mahadeo.

Out of the Cyclone is a novel with the history of Mauritius as its backbone. Set in the fifties of the twentieth century, post independence Mauritius can recognise itself through the mist of time.

It tells the saga of a family where the woman, Melanie, who knew two marriages and bore two sons different in colour and attitude to life. The interethnic rivalry matched by intra ethnic antagonism provides a fit background to double murder enquiry that takes place in Diergo Garcia. The narration is challengingly inviting because it wisely blends imagination with reality, intuition with a first hand experience of colonial life. The half brothers provide contrasting

facts of the human personality and oppose each other because they represent opposites within a whole.

The reader of the novel has a window open on a past folklore that time and sophistication have eroded. Much of the knowledge in the past depended on the instinct for survival. The descriptions of hare hunting, the money lending techniques the cooking of pootoo, the concoction of an antidote tetanus by boiling red cockroaches and drinking the duce are all bathed in nostalgia of romance. Place is made synonymous with a moral state of being. While Mauritius is bound by principles, hierarchy and rivalry for progress, Diergo Garcia stands for an absence of rigidity and lawlessness that struggle for order and justice.

The romantic is subdued and the womenfolk demonstrate a variety of cultural postures. In fact women characters are more evolved in the novel than their male counterparts. The novel also grants glimpses of interethnic dynamics. The evolution of the Indian immigrant population is for example understood by clearly marked attitudes.

"We Mauritius of Indian origin should remember two things: First many children to gain democratic power and, second, do excellent duties and get the best jobs our power can command."

In fact, the novel brings out very clearly that the past repeats itself in multiple ways. History becomes a chain of repetitions with new faces only and variations on the same theme.

In short, *Out of the cyclone* has a fascinating structure juxtaposing the turtle's evolution with the birth and growth of men and women whom Nature guides and civilisation corrupts.

I recommend the novel to the generations who have not

known Mauritius struggling towards independence and to those contemporaries of mine who have lived the period and can recognise themselves in the world of fiction.

S.K. Mahadeo
M.A., English

Out of the Cyclone Synopsis:

Brought up in poverty in Mauritius Joe has a white father, Tim and Elsie a black African one. The two brothers have opposite natures. Held together by their courageous mother Melanie, coloured, Joe wishes to better himself and his family through Education. Tim refuses to comply with established rules. His nature is unpredictable and violent. In deep trouble with a Muslim family regarding their daughter, he flees to England where his life worsens.

Poverty compels Joe to stop studying for a job in the remote island of Diego Garcia ruled by Fred Darzon, white, who bullies the workers and is suspected of having murdered two executives. Joe's boss is Deputy Manager, Teddy McGregor, white who has plagued his childhood because of the community system at home. Local circumstances allow an uneasy friendship to develop between them. Teddy persuades Joe to help him to get the truth concerning the suspected crime, a dangerous undertaking since Darzon has absolute power in the land.

Elsie dies in childbirth. Joe returns home to comfort his mother. The ever pressing need to escape and his longing to complete his studies get him to London where the lives of the two brothers are turned around surprisingly.

Guy Silvio Bigaignon.

News from Australia

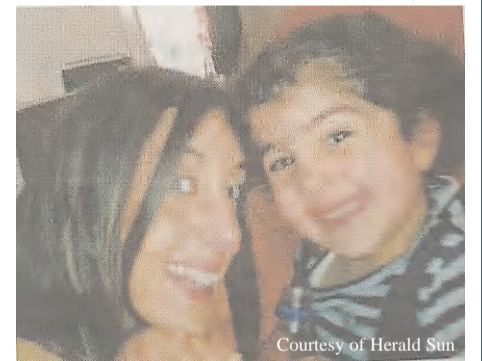
Jailed for life Ex-partner of a Mauritian woman

By Eddie Abraham. OAM

Ramazan Acar, ex-partner of Rachele D'Argent, was jailed for life on 2nd July, for the killing of his 2-year old daughter Yazmina. The murder happened on 17 November 2010, in an act of revenge to his ex-wife Rachele D'Argent, following their separation due to violence and assaults. In a pre-sentence hearing, Ramazan Acar had pleaded guilty to the crime. He used Facebook and SMS to warn his ex-wife of his intentions. "Bout 2 kill ma kid. It's ova. I did it." Acar stabbed Yazmina many times before dumping her body.

Melbourne Supreme Court Judge Justice Elizabeth Curtain sentenced Acar to at least 33 years jail. "You killed your daughter to get back at her mother. You committed this murder for the worst possible motives, revenge and spite," she said.

Outside Court, Rachele D'Argent, holding a photo of her dead daughter said, "Mummy told you there would be justice for you. Mimi it's our



Rachele & daughter, Yazmina

day today. I know you'll always be smiling on us."

On Sunday 3rd July, Rachele D'Argent appeared on the Television Program 60 Minutes on Channel 9 to recount her terrible and painful ordeal.

Field Hockey soon in Mauritius

Field hockey is finding its way into the country thanks to the Hockey Foundation of Mauritius which is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

The project initiator Raj Nijhawan said he was proud to bring hockey to Mauritius where the sport is little known. Indian striker Deepak Thakur has been roped in as national hockey coach to introduce the sport to the youngsters in the island. For a start, 14 schools in four educational zones have been chosen to promote this sport.

For the Minister of Youth and Sports, Devanand Ritoo, the introduction of hockey in Mauritius is promising and the youth will greatly benefit from it. Thakur travelled to the island for a first interaction session

with school and college enthusiasts.

Congolese President visits island

Government is actively engaged in the preparation of the state visit of the President of the mineral rich Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, from July 9 to 11.

He will be given a red carpet welcome on Saturday 9. During his visit, he will hold discussions on the setting up of a special economic zone (SEZ) in Congo-Brazzaville with the collaboration of Mauritius and Singapore, collaboration on tourism and ICT, and the development of joint business ventures between Mauritius and Congo Brazzaville. Before his departure on Monday, the delegation will meet local businessmen.

Shopping mall soon in Flacq

Palm Square Properties, a business venture by Rudi and his son Anil Goorwappa, is set to construct a shopping mall at Boulet Rouge, Flacq at a cost of Rs400 million. The construction of the building will be completed by August 2012.

The shopping mall will spread over an area of 10,000 metre square and will be built on three hectares. It will be composed of 70 shops based on a mix-match concept on the ground and first floor.

There will be several attractions such as a food-court, a leisure space for children. More than 165 parking spaces will be allocated. The mall will also include duty-free facilities since many tourists visit the region.

Socialising should not mean Overeating

Having friends can make it very difficult to stick to a sensible diet. Eating is such a big part of socialising that having friends can sometimes make you fat. So for many it is either choosing to stay slim and healthy or opting for a busy social life.

By Devinia Sookia (USA)*



There are various ways to enjoy both, that is have friends as well as eat healthy food.

Speak up

Tell your friends that you are trying to lose weight and would rather go to restaurant which has salads, fish and grilled chicken on the menu rather than go for pizza, and and go for low-fat yogurt instead of icecream or pastries.

You will get to know a lot about your friends' eating habits. Without being boring try to explain to them how important it is to opt for healthy eating habits.

Have a look at the menus in advance

When you pick a restaurant go online and look at the

menu to see if there are foods that you can eat. You may need to ask that a dish be grilled rather than fried or for the chef to substitute marinara sauce for vinaigrette.

If the only option is fried, suggest going somewhere else.

Wait till everyone has ordered

When you are dining in a group and feel uneasy to say that you are on a diet or do not eat feasy food, be the last one to order.

Once everyone else has placed an order, they will be busy talking. Nobody will notice if you tell the waiter that you do not want any fatty or greasy food and would rather have a salad with steamed fish.

Snack first.

Try not to go meet your friends for dinner on an empty stomach. Have a good snack such as almonds, a salad or a grilled chicken sandwich 30 minutes before meeting them.

Then you can order something light. Stick to water during dinner and avoid wine which can spike your blood sugar.

Sharing

Rather than order separate dishes, suggest sharing. A lot of weight loss is about portion control. If a pizza and salad are ordered you can have more salad and less pizza.

That way you can have less than the others. Find activities you have in common.

Instead of meeting your

friends for dinner, try suggesting activities you can do together that will help you both burn calories and keep you trim such as swimming.

Mention going to the movies rather than meeting for dinner. Also suggest walking to the movies rather than taking the bus.

A good idea is to spend time in the open such as enjoying Sunday afternoon by having a picnic in the park.

Then everyone can prepare some food and you can bring healthy food such as salads, wholewheat sandwiches and fruits.

Sense

Having friends does not mean having to like their favourite food as well.

You can keep both your friends and healthy eating habits if you use some sense.

* Devinia Sookia is a barrister-at-law, journalist, writer and attorney

Health Matters

An orange juice in the morning is a good for you and for your wallet...

A glass of fresh orange juice each morning is ideal and guarantees that you will start the day in the best of form. Oranges are known mainly for their high vitamin C content, with an average orange containing around 70 mg of the vitamin.

But you should be aware that vitamins are very sensitive to light, to heat and to oxidation, so drink your orange juice as soon as it has been squeezed. This means squeezing oranges freshly each morning, not the day before. Something that people are less aware of is that oranges are also a significant source of minerals and trace elements.

And don't underestimate the benefits of the pulp. It is in this part of the fruit that you will find the greatest amount of fibre and flavonoids, which are known for their anti-oxidant properties. Tasty and fresh, orange juice is quite sufficient on its own - there is no need to add sugar. And as oranges are both low in calories and inexpensive, there's really no reason why you shouldn't squeeze some juice in every morning!

Vegetarian or vegan ... is it ok to exercise if you don't eat meat?

Getting exercise through a particular sport is most definitely good for your health. But it also requires that you eat a balanced diet. So what should you do if you're a vegetarian or even a vegan? Here are some answers.

If you are a vegetarian, taking part in sport is entirely possible and, indeed, recommended! You can find the proteins you need for this type of exercise in eggs and dairy products and you can add to this by eating the vegetable proteins contained in certain pulses such as lentils. Your iron requirements too can be covered by dairy products and eggs. And when it comes to calories, these can be found in starchy foods - preferably the wholemeal versions of these. And the essential fatty acids you need can be found in vegetable oils (rapeseed, nut oil, etc), which will make up for the lack of oily fish in your diet.

When it comes to vitamin C, the best way, of course, is to eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Being vegan means not eating any foods of animal origin at all. Excluding such foods from your diet entirely can lead to serious deficiencies, whether you are sporty or not. You are likely to suffer from a shortage of minerals and amino acids, along with iron, selenium and B-group vitamins.

This imbalance in your diet can have many knock-on effects. Your ability to recover from effort will be reduced and you will naturally be more easily tired as your tolerance to exertion is reduced. For all these reasons, it is strongly recommended that you see your doctor before starting any type of sport, regardless of what it is.

Getting our children to brush their teeth

Very often, our little ones are reluctant when it comes to brushing their teeth. However, there are plenty of ways of turning this into a fun activity.

Toothbrush manufacturers market many products specially designed for children. So go out together and choose a colourful toothbrush with a holder or a specially decorated one. And when it comes to toothpaste, the choice is vast! There are multicoloured toothpastes available and even some that taste of bubble gum! Mark each time your child brushes his teeth on a calendar and try using an egg timer to ensure that he brushes his teeth for the full recommended 3 minutes. In other words - be a bit creative and your child will enjoy brushing his teeth all the more.

And on the subject of enjoyment ... choose a brush with soft bristles as this won't irritate the gums. Don't forget to change the toothbrush every 3 months and always use a fluoride toothpaste. Dentists recommend one session of tooth brushing a day up to the age of 3, two sessions between the ages of 3 and 6 and then three sessions ... for the rest of your life! And, of course, you should make sure your child visits the dentist at least once a year.

What a big brain we have ... all the better to smell things with

Why is it that mammals became more intelligent over the course of evolution? Quite simply, it would seem, because of the way their sense of smell developed. At least that is the theory put forward by a team of American researchers.

According to these researchers, the

outstanding olfactory capabilities that characterise mammals stimulated the evolution of their brain. Which explains why they developed such a large and complex brain: the mammalian brain is up to 10 times the size one might have expected, relative to body size.

By studying two fossils of mammals that lived in the Jurassic period, it has been possible to show that the brain evolved in three stages. Firstly, thanks to an improvement in the sense of smell, then accompanied by an improvement in the sense of touch because of their covering of hair, and finally through neuromuscular coordination, ie the ability to move their muscles in accordance with their other senses.

The researchers used a scanner to create endocranial casts of the two 190-million-year-old fossils. With the images obtained, they were able to produce an interior view of the skull and the nasal fossae. These cavities and all the areas associated with smell were highly developed in these fossils, as were the areas of the brain responsible for processing olfactory information. This suggests that pre-mammals had a well-developed sense of smell.

Help! I've got dandruff

Dandruff is very often caused by what doctors call pityriasis. This condition occurs when a fungus colonises the scalp and disrupts its cell renewal system. Like the rest of your skin, the skin on your scalp is always shedding dead cells in order to produce new ones. In people with pityriasis, this process tends to accelerate.

The dead cells stick to each other and build up into scales. There are various solutions to this problem, such as anti-dandruff shampoos. However, it is advisable to see a dermatologist to find out the correct level of application for your particular case.

Some forms of dandruff are caused by an infection, a parasite or an illness. This is true of scalp eczema, which is caused by a fungus. When it spreads, yellowish scales of greasy skin are formed. The resulting dandruff is therefore greasy.

Tinea or ringworm is another fungal infection that gives rise to large scales of infected dandruff and causes considerable itching. Psoriasis is an auto-immune condition that occurs when the body's defence mechanisms become overactive. The cells of the epidermis renew too quickly, causing substantial scaling that takes the form of dandruff.

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National Lottery Results June/July 2011

Lotto Draws: Twice weekly

Tue 05 Jul 11	11 - 28 - 29 - 47 - 49	1 - 5
Fri 01 Jul 11	8 - 11 - 23 - 31 - 46	8 - 9
Tue 28 Jun 11	15 - 16 - 30 - 44 - 50	2 - 3
Fri 24 Jun 11	5 - 16 - 20 - 30 - 41	6 - 11
Tue 21 Jun 11	17 - 20 - 35 - 49 - 50	3 - 4
Fri 17 Jun 11	11 - 16 - 21 - 22 - 44	3 - 8
Tue 14 Jun 11	5 - 12 - 19 - 41 - 48	8 - 10
Fri 10 Jun 11	3 - 19 - 20 - 37 - 48	8 - 11
Tue 07 Jun 11	6 - 25 - 36 - 38 - 40	4 - 10
Fri 03 Jun 11	4 - 39 - 40 - 49 - 50	2 - 5

These results were obtained from the National Lottery. Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprints or discrepancies in the results published in this column.



www.apsainternational.net

A Mauritian Charity dedicated to the fight against diabetes in Mauritius. Support of Overseas Mauritians solicited with thanks!
Tel Mrs Audrey Hardy

on
00 230 676 2934.
Email: apsa@intnet.mu



Thought for the month

Time changes and we change with Time.
Circumstances change and we change with Circumstances.

Time and circumstances may change
But never in the ways of friendship.

P.C.

Exchange Rates from KBR Foreign Exchange

£1.00 = 1.13 Euros
1.00 Euro = Rs 40.16
1.00 US \$ = Rs 27.80
£1.00 = Rs 45.44

*Figures correct at the time of going to press

Interviewing Dr Sam Lingayah on his latest book:

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

New Methods and Perspectives

Interview conducted by Dr David Lingiah (Glasgow)

Sam Lingayah, as a writer and researcher, is well-known for his prolific writings on social issues confronting Mauritius. His latest work is due out shortly.

Why you have written this book?

This book is primarily written for the education and training of student social workers and practitioners in Mauritius. Simultaneously, it represents the successful conclusion of a long journey of experiments seeking to find out what can be achieved by one who is determined to turn his life around.

However, this book has been written with a view to realising two commitments. The first commitment is to commemorate the end of a successful career in social work extending over thirty years. The second one is to leave this book as a legacy, for whatever its worth, to social work colleagues and others interested in social work education and practice in Mauritius, my country of origin.

What is the thesis of this book?

No book is worthy of the labour involved unless it is aimed at making a socially useful contribution. I see the 21st century as an age of the highest stage of accountability and transparency. However, the practice of social work seems to have lagged behind vis-à-vis other fields of welfare interventions. The aim of social work is to seek to help people to develop social skills so as to become self-reliance without having to depend on social welfare.

On the other hand, failure to empower others to achieve self-growth indicates the failure of social work intervention. Welfare investment derives from increasingly scarce resources from our environment. The thesis of this project is that no investment should remain unaccountable to the taxpayers. Social welfare can no longer be conducted on basis of political rhetoric, emotions or the whims and fancies of individuals or opportunists who happen to wield enormous authority.

Like a business investment, welfare investments have to be ploughed into the system systematically with a view to producing a positive outcome: that is effective resolutions to social problems. Yet, when we look at the welfare investments in the welfare sector in Mauritius, we find that the annually increasing investments for many years have proved a total failure. Prevailing rampant social problems, as evidenced in marital breakdown, domestic violence, child abuse, acts of violence and criminalities, reflects most blatantly the ineffectiveness of the existing social welfare system in Mauritius.

What are your findings for this conclusion?

Evidence supporting this conclusion is manifested throughout the 334 pages in this book. Three reasons can be safely attributed to the fact that years of annual increment to the welfare budgets have not brought comparatively desirable outcomes in terms of problem-resolution:

1. The negative attitude and quality of the majority of social work students selected for social work education and training do not seem to meet the criteria regarding what it takes to be a dedicated and effective social work practitioner (see Module 3: A personal Note on Social work Practice).

2. The quality of social work education and training seems to lack the robust imaginations and resources to put social work students through the treadmill capable of producing

effective practitioners. This is primarily because the teaching methods are too reliant on Eurocentric materials, which ignore the local needs, let alone the homogeneous cultural and traditional features of Mauritius. One also wonders how many Mauritian social work lecturers and professors have conducted meaningful studies on local social issues and produced publications useful for reinforcing and updating the teaching materials!

3. Social work practitioners in Mauritius lack professional autonomy and leadership in terms of proving themselves to be an indispensable taskforce in the society. Lack of a guiding philosophy, weakened by lack of a challenging instinct and sociological imagination, seems to have denied social workers of the influence and power required to be recognised as another major player in the movement of creating a progressive Mauritian society.

For whom have you written this book?

In 1997, I was offered a part-time lectureship in social work at the University of Mauritius, which I turned down for personal reasons. I also had the opportunity of delivering a few lectures at MACOSS to mature Mauritian officials engaged in the welfare sectors studying for a Master's Degree.

Also since carrying out fieldwork for my PhD thesis on social welfare in Mauritius in the early 90s, I have been increasingly interested in social work education and training there, apart from social issues. Years of my own observations, particularly disturbed by the rising tides of social issues, without any positive outcome, has pointed out to this incontestable conclusion: there must be something wrong in the method of education and training of social workers in Mauritius.

It is pure common sense that any form of effort or investment must show a positive result. No business can survive without a profitable return. So it should be with welfare investment. As the tools of social work are to empower people to become self-sufficient and help contribute to the progress of their society, Introduction to Social Work Practice, on the one hand, shows how over-reliance on the Eurocentric social work philosophies and methodologies have helped to aggravated social problems rather than resolving them. It also elaborates how the unimaginative 'Cut & Paste' approach to problem-resolution reflects years of pouring scarce welfare resources into a bottomless hole.

Using material from Mauritius, this book seeks to demonstrate through an innovative and radical approach of applying welfare intervention by re-adapting and reinterpreting social work methods in order to be congruent with the Mauritian cultural tradition and Mauritius-based needs. This Manual focuses on a radical root-and-branch re-evaluation of welfare thinking and implementation from the standpoint of Mauritian society exclusively rather than the culturally conflicting pro-colonial social work methodology.

Why do you think that the contents of this book will raise the standard of social work practice in Mauritius?

Introduction to Social Work Practice has been written with a view to radically altering the thinking and approach of social work practice in Mauritius. Preceded by an impressive Foreword by the master of social work

practice himself, Cassam Uteem, the Contents of this Manual consist of 4 Parts.

The first 3 parts incorporate 38 Modules, which begins with an analysis of the sorry state of the existing Mauritian society, tortured with social problems almost beyond control. To give the social work students an idea of the origins of social welfare in Mauritius, it is followed by some details of the development of informal social welfare and the introduction of formal social services from the French colonial authority onward.



Dr Sam Lingayah (author)

The students are also given an insight into the complex definitions of social problems and the often conflicting interpretations of social work. Part One also considers the roles of sociology and counselling as additional tools to effective social work practice, apart from the need to acquire a grasp of the functions of theories, diagnostic skills and needs assessment. It also emphasises on the students of the need to understand the principles of ethics and values in social work practice.

Part Two takes social work at a higher phase of practice, introducing the social work students to the need to have a grasp of the milestones in child development, in addition to the disastrous consequences of family breakdown and domestic violence, which constitute the main sources of child abuse, children coming into care and the dysfunctional values passed on by the next generations from children brought up in children homes.

The other Modules also consider the plight of older Mauritians, care homes, methods of caring for the dying and also the processes of bereavement, etc. There is also a discussion why social work students need to have a good mastery of recording their interaction with their clients.

With the erosion of family cohesion and the disintegration of community life, Part Three extends the tools of social work to community social work, groupwork, casework, working with mental health patients, anti-social elements and alcohol and drug addicts. With the judiciary at all levels getting increasingly overloaded with its caseload, using my own experiences in court matters as a social work practitioner, I have also included a Module showing how social work intervention in the judicial system can make a socially useful contribution in achieving speedier and fairer judicial resolutions.

Social work advice and involvement is helpful in securing easier access to the judiciary particularly for the poor, the inarticulate and those lacking financial means to engage lawyers to protect or defend their legal rights and interests. The courts generally will benefit immensely, let alone the enhancement of the quality of the system of law and order, from the input of the well-trained professionally objective social workers' social circumstances reports advancing an expert's opinion on a range of cases coming before the courts.

As a practitioner, I was asked to submit a number of court reports, transcending from domestic violence to child abuse, from juvenile delinquency to more complicated civil and criminal matters. Being a Manual for social work education and training, each Module, applying my own experiences as a practice teacher/researcher/writer, is followed by a number of questions. They have been meticulously prepared for class or group discussions and also for examination purposes.

Part Four provides a range of eclectic social work tools and techniques regarding the implementation of social work knowledge in practical terms. During my social work career, I have come across many colleagues, who possess vast social work knowledge but are ineffective at adjusting it into practice in order to meet the varied needs and challenging attitudes of the service users. To fill in this gap, I have given a number of examples as how to set up a contract with a client; how to write a referral letter to another professional in a different discipline; and, among others, how to write court and other important reports.

** Introduction to Social Work Practice is a teaching and learning Manual, specifically written for Mauritian social work students and practitioners. It consists of 334 A-pages. Limited copies will be available in Mauritius in all good bookshops at Rs.500 per copy. Copies are available from the author at £15, inclusive postage, from 38 Kimberley Road, London N17 9BJ, Tel. 0208 801 8343 & Email: sam.lingayah2@btinternet.com. Cheque to be made to Dr S. Lingayah*

NB Dr Sam Lingayah leaves London by Air Mauritius (MK) 57 on Monday 11th July, at 9pm, and arrive in Mauritius on the following morning and stay until 20th August. This journey is specifically for the Presentation of his new book, Introduction to Social Work Practice. He can be contacted at his residence at 85 Louvet Avenue, Quatre Bornes, telephone no 4272273.



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Double Dhamaal' enters UK Box Office Top 10



Reliance Pictures has done it again by making riotous comedy 'Double Dhamaal', a staggering Box Office success, both domestically and in international territories. Grossing a phenomenal £128,000 in UK over its Opening Weekend, 'Double Dhamaal', has entered the UK Box Office Top 10, three days on. 'Double Dhamaal' has claimed victory among UK audiences, with audience numbers sure to rise following the massive hype and buzz around the family entertainer.

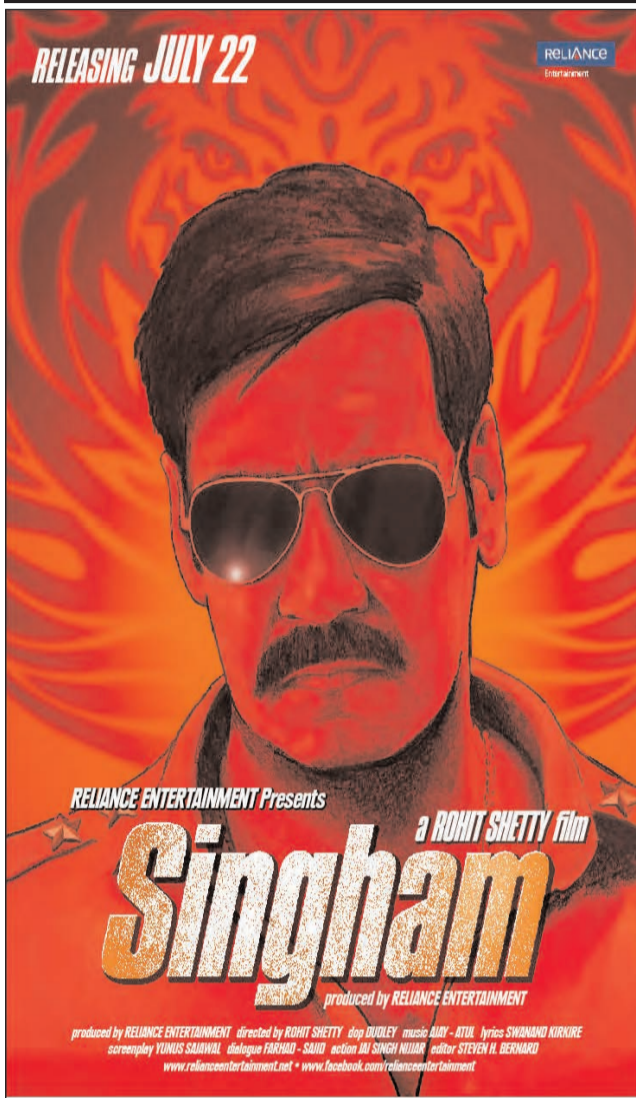
Four years on from when they first caused a

comedic riot on the cinema screens, the four jokers have reunited to give audiences a much anticipated, follow up dose of 'Double Dhamaal'. The film reopened to stitches of laughter from the first time around, much-loved director Indra Kumar presenting comedy kingpins, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Jaaved Jaafery and Ashish Chowdhry, as they reprise their roles and reunite to cause havoc once more for moody cop, Sanjay Dutt. With jaw-dropping beauty added to the mix courtesy of screen vixen Mallika

Sherawat and dazzling damsel Kangna Ranaut, temperatures soared this summer as 'Double Dhamaal' spread an epidemic of laughter across cinema theatres. The rollercoaster film ride is complemented by an equally infectious soundtrack of peppy numbers by composer, Anand Raj Anand ensuring audiences have emerged with a smile on their faces and a hum on their lips.

Produced by Indra Kumar and Ashok Thakeria in association with Reliance Pictures, 'Double Dhamaal' was released in UK and worldwide on 24th June.

Singham pays homage to the age-old tradition of the Indian action film



Famed for gravity defying stunt sequences and a heavy-handed dose of 'dishoom' (Fight scene sound effect used in old Hindi movies)...! Hindi cinema all-rounder, Rohit Shetty ('Golmaal' series), showcases his inimitable action-flick directing skills once again, following an accomplished list of comedy, Box Office super hits.

'Singham' pays artful acknowledgment to one of the richest genres of Indian cinema – the action movie – characterised by its good versus evil narrative theme and perfectly choreographed 'dishoom' punches. Rohit Shetty's reinterpretation of one of Tamil cinema's biggest blockbusters presents the epitome of screen machismo, Ajay Devgn, as principled, merciless cop, 'Bajirao Singham', alongside a stellar cast of both Hindi and Tamil cinema's most seasoned actors including Tamil starlet, Kajal Aggarwal; Prakash Raj, reprising his negative role from the original version; and the demure Sonali Kulkarni. Set against the dusky rural backdrop of Maharashtra, India, 'Singham's poetic mise en scene is enhanced by Ajay-Atul's rich and masterful soundtrack

Hollywood Review

Kung Fu Panda 2



Starring: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Dustin Hoffman, Seth Rogan, Jackie Chan, Lucy Liu, David Cross

Director : Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Released: 10th June

Rating: PG

Kung Fu Panda Po (voiced by Jack Black) is back after his 2008 debut, and these days he's living the dream as a Dragon Warrior. Along with his friends and fellow kung-fu masters The Furious Five - Tigris (Jolie), Monkey (Chan), Mantins (Rogen),

Viper (Liu) and Crane (Cross) - he's charged with protecting the Valley of Peace. All is well until nefarious villain Lord Shen (Oldman) decides to use a secret weapon to wipe out Kung Fu from the face of China. Only when Po unlocks the secrets of his mysterious past can he find the strength he needs to succeed against the enemy.

Unlike The Hangover II, the other of last month's sequels, this one manages to tread new ground without simply rehashing the themes of the original. This time, Po finally twigs that since his father Mr Ping (James Hong) is a goose and he's a panda,

there must have once been some biological parents floating around in the universe somewhere, and that somehow, evil Lord Shen is responsible for his being orphaned.

Rather than concentrating on the battle at hand, writers Aibel and Glenn Berger make the fight a background to explore Po's abandonment issues, and his yearning to know the truth about his real father, but they manage to do it in a way that won't bore the kids. The task of easing Po across the emotional bridge falls to Master Shifu, excellently voiced by Dustin Hoffman. But even against the backdrop of Po's heartfelt

search for his origins, there's still quite a lot of silly fun to be had.

Like the original, the roles are voiced to perfection by an all-star cast and the animation is even more beautifully done the second time around - this time with the addition of 3D sequences - and the loveable characters will enchant the kids in the audience, even if the story is a little slow at times and some of the action scenes are a tad on the long side. Jennifer Yuh, a creative consultant on the first movie, does an admirable job here in her first feature-length effort and leaves just enough creative juice in the story to pave the way for a third instalment.

Kung Fu Panda 2 is almost the perfect summer movie experience with something for everyone and definitely worthy of its predecessor. It raises the emotional stakes from its first outing, giving us bigger laughs and providing us with much larger-scale action, but never loses sight of the underlying message: that 'family' does not necessarily mean the one you were born into.



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In a sense, Ireland gave us everything (from the British victory which led to the conquest of Isle de France in 1810 and which had weighed so much in the destiny of Mauritians since then to the poetical legacy of Robert-Edward Hart of Irish connection), yet we snatched the life out of her. How ungrateful and how inhuman!

Indeed, Mauritius has been served, in one way or another, by Irish ever since French rule. *“Descendants of the ‘Wild Geese’, who had found refuge in France, arrived at Isle de France as early settlers under Governors Denis Denyon (1721-1725), Denis Brousse (1725-1727), Pierre Benoit Dumas (1727-1729, and in much larger numbers under Mahé de La Bourdonnais (1735-1746).” (1)*

The term ‘Wild Geese’ has been coined to designate the Irish emigrants who left Ireland for political reasons in the 17th century and *“took refuge in Brittany, Normandy, the Paris region or other regions of France, as well as Spain, Scandinavia, the Low Countries and the Austrian Empire.” (Idem)*

What did these Irish-born emigrants come to do in Isle de France under the early French governors? *“They came as hired hands such as carpenters, soldiers, sailors, and chaplains.” (Idem)*

French Mauritius continued to welcome Irish-born people in the second half of the eighteenth century, the more remarkable among them being fighting troops in the service of France. *“Later from the 1750s onwards, Irish Regiments that formed part of the ‘Irish Brigade in the Service of France’ sojourned at Isle de France on their way to India; the Regiments of Lally (17 December 1757-27 January 1758), Clare (April 1771-September 1772) and Walsh (1788-1790) left their mark in the annals of Isle de France.” (Idem)*

Indeed, a few of the soldiers serving in the Irish regiments settled on the island for good. Such was the case of officers William de Keating and Thomas O’Gorman in the 1780’s and 1790’s. The musician of the Walsh Regiment, Henry Louis Denys Chelin, together with his wife and son settled on the island in the late 1790’s.

“Henry Louis et son épouse s’installèrent à la rue de l’Hôpital où selon toute probabilité elle ouvrit un café offrant le couvert et une salle de jeux équipée de billard.” (2)

Irish troops instrumental in British 1810 takeover

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Irish played a decisive part in helping the British secure the Mascarenes. *“The chief events leading up to the takeover of Rodrigues (1809), the capture of Bourbon (July 1810), the French naval victory at Grand Port (August 1810) and the invasion and fall of Isle de France in December 1810”* have all seen *“the active participation of Irish soldiers and seamen, generals and officers.” (1)*

Indeed, at that time, many Irishmen were recruited to form part of British troops. *“A large proportion of the crew of the British frigates was Irishmen. Ireland had only been formally politically united with Britain less than a decade before the battle of Grand Port. Crew members listed came from Dublin, Limerick and Cork but sometimes their origin is simply given as ‘Ireland.’” (3)*

Admittedly, the most

prominent part was played by Colonel Henry Sheehy Keating, the first to land with the British troops in the north of Mauritius on 29 November 1810, and Commodore Sir Josias Rowley, one of the signatories from the victorious camp of the Act of Capitulation on 3 December 1810.

Both Irishmen were previously implied in the takeover of the other two islands of the Mascarenes, Rodrigues (August 1809) and Bourbon or Réunion (July 1810). One Mauritian historian has argued that the British takeover of the island has been a blessing indeed, insofar as the liberation of the masses and the evolution of the democratic process was concerned.

“If the British had not dislodged the French...and taken over Mauritius in December 1810 – the 66 thousand slaves would not have been liberated in 1835 – and Indian Immigration en masse (450 000 from 1834 to 1923) would not have taken place. As such, Mauritius would not have experienced the evolution of a democratic system of Government.” (4)

An immense contribution to quality education

Whatever would have been the case, the British administrative era in Mauritius did open the way for numerous *“Irish-born professionals, politicians, soldiers, settlers, and members of various religious orders” (1)* to serve on the island. There has been *“the immense contribution made to education in Mauritius by the I.B.V.M. Congregation (Loretos) from 1845 to the present day.” (Idem)*

I.B.V.M. stands for The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary created in the 17th century by Mary Ward in the Yorkshire. However, the credit for the real pioneering effort in the field of quality education for girls goes to an Irish lady Teresa Ball who started the first Loreto House in Dublin.

As a matter of fact, the success obtained in the field of education by the Loreto Sisters is a telling evidence of the success obtained in general by the Irish missionaries in Mauritius. *“La preuve la plus éclatante de la réussite des missionnaires irlandais demeure sans conteste la gestion des collèges Lorette ainsi que les écoles primaires dont ils avaient érigé en modèles.” (5)*

On the other hand, the case of boys’ education in Mauritius has been served with much success by the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Fathers of the Holy Ghost (C.S.Sp.).

Of governors and bishops from Ireland and others

It is indeed a honour that the second British governor appointed to rule Mauritius, from 1823 to 1828, was none other than the Irish Sir Lowry Cole, and that, following in his footsteps, *“several Irish governors were appointed, among them, in the 1880s, Sir John Pope Hennessy who had a vital role to play in taking Mauritius further along the road towards constitutional and social reforms.” (1)*

To him we owe the famous slogan, *“Mauritius to the Mauritians!”*, and, as such, he can be considered as the real father of the century-long process of the evolution of Mauritius towards autonomy and full independence.

On the other hand, let alone Irish members of the clergy and educators, no less than four Irish bishops, *“Mgr Peter O’Neill o.s.b. (Benedictine Order), and three Spiritan Bishops of Port-Louis: Mgr*

John Baptist T. Murphy (1916-1926); Mgr James Leen (1926-1949) and Mgr Daniel Liston (1949-1968)” have been at the head of the Catholic Church in Mauritius.

Their administrations have been a blessing for the island:

“These four Irishmen, out of a total of eleven Bishops to date, had a major impact on the spiritual life and moral values of twentieth-century Mauritius. Significantly, since 1991, a Mauritian-born Bishop, trained in Dublin and a member of the same Congregation of the Holy Ghost, Mgr Maurice Piat C.S.Sp., is at the helm of the Catholic Church, having succeeded the much-revered and greatly-loved Mgr Jean Margéot.” (1)

Just as Mgr Maurice Piat, a large number of *“Mauritian-born students...have completed their education in Irish tertiary institutions, notably at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (R.C.S.I.), University College, Dublin, or other Colleges of the National University of Ireland at Cork or Galway.” (1)*

Prominent among them are the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Arvin Boolell, Dr Charles Yip Tong and Dr I. Gaya who all studied in Dublin.

On the cultural, artistic and economic fronts

On the cultural and artistic fronts, apart from gratifying Mauritius with the exquisite works of Irish artists like Frederick Robert Nixon and writers like Charles John Doyle, Ireland has inspired a host of Mauritian writers and novelists as Karl de Souza, Arthur Martial and Lilian Berthelot.

Quite obviously, it is imperative, *“in the context of Irish-Mauritian connections”,* not to *“forget that Robert-Edward Hart (1891-1954) belongs to a family with ancestors from both countries” (Idem)* and whom Jean Urruty has described in the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography as *“not only the bard of Mauritius, but the poet of the entire Indian Ocean”* and *“up till now the greatest poet Mauritius has ever produced.”*

On the economic front, Mauritius has learnt from Ireland’s economic progress as a nation in the 1980s. Furthermore, *“sporting links between Mauritius and Ireland have existed since the foundation of the Mauritius Turf Club in 1812...”* when *“British and Irish officers and Government officials first participated in races at Mangalkhan and the Champ de Mars for many years.” (Idem)*

The law of reciprocity tampered with

Mauritius has, on one or two occasions, shown how much she values her connection with Ireland. Thus, *“the contribution of Ireland to the education of Mauritian-born young people was recognized in the 1960s by Mauritius which made a generous donation to the R.C.S.I.” (Idem)*

The donation amounted to £ 10,000. Again, in response to a call as far back as 1849, in the wake of the Great Famine, Mauritius made a *“donation £ 3 000 to the Irish nation”* which *“was the largest of all and even surpassed the contributions of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert combined.” (Idem)*

Sadly enough, on a fateful 10 January 2011, Mauritius played it foul to Ireland by strangling to death, in hotel room 1025 of the Legends, her 27 year old beauty queen Michaela McAreavey-Harte. A national shame!

D O D O

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Photos: “No Man is an Island” of Professor Marc Serge Rivière, to whom we are indebted.

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2011 Reunion - Portsmouth

At the moment, approximately 100 former members of HMS Mauritius, Vacoas, will be holding their 4th annual reunion in Portsmouth, United Kingdom, on 8th October 2011.

There is a website called 'Mauritian Veterans' (which is hidden behind another website) and any former service personnel and civilians who worked in HMS MAURITIUS are eligible to join. For further information on membership [which is free] send details of the years you were there rank and where you worked to roberthchase@btinternet.com and copy to michael@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk and put membership in the subject line. Also please mention you saw the advert in Mauritius News.

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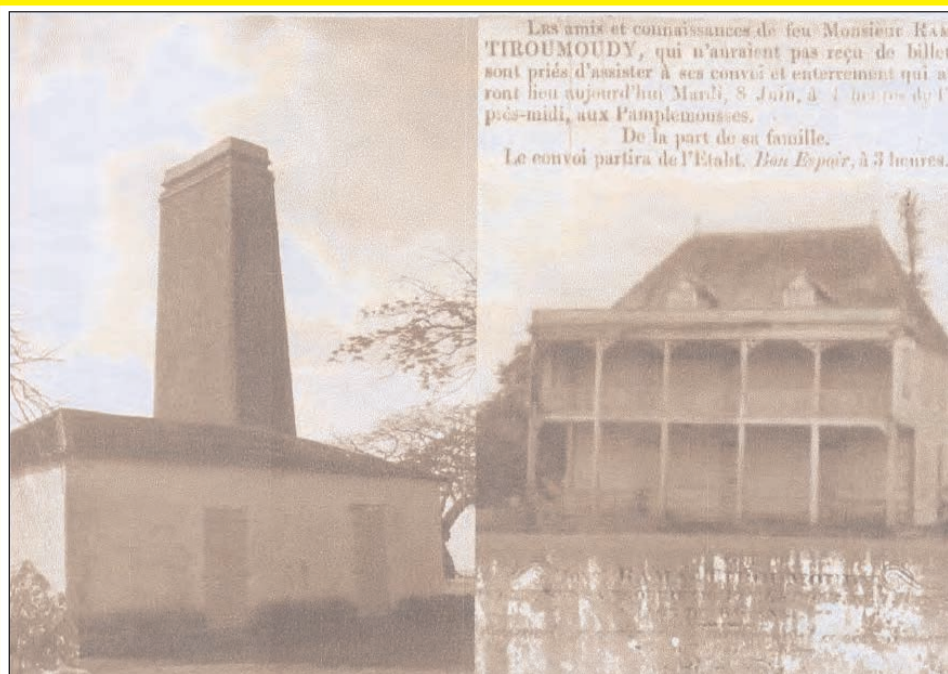
To our loving mum "Shirley Delaitre" who celebrated her birthday on the 19th of May:

" Mum you have always been there for us in good and bad times and we wish you many more happy birthdays to come.

From your loving daughter Isabel and Son David.

Mauritian reminiscences

225th birth anniversary of Chettiar Rama Tiroumoudy



The Greco-Roman style monument erected on Rama Tiroumoudy's tomb in Pamplemousses cemetery by his relatives.

The Mauritian archives indicate that many Tamilians came to the island from Pondicherry in the early years of the French occupation. These first Pondicherians landed in Isle de France from "Le Sirène" in July 1730. They were brought to the island for their craftsmanship as skilful stonecutters, masons and bricklayers. (1)

This trend continued throughout the 18th century with Mahé de La Bourdonnais and Pierre Poivre. The two administrators recruited Tamilian masons, carpenters and ironsmiths for construction and reconstruction works in Port Louis where "le génie dravidien se manifesta par la symétrie de leurs travaux." (Ibid) Several monuments still testify of the building genius of these artisans. "Des exemples d'architecture laissés par ces ouvriers sont entre autres l'Hôtel du gouvernement, la Citadelle, des églises et autres édifices." (Ibid)

Arrival of the chettiar Rama Tiroumoudy from Pondicherry

Under British rule, the wave of migration from Pondicherry espoused a new physiognomy with the arrival of traders, merchants and jewellers. Among them was a notorious businessman, Rama Tiroumoudy who came to Mauritius in the first half of the 1820's. Born in 1786 (which means that this year marks his 225th birth anniversary), Rama Tiroumoudy belonged to the prestigious caste of the chettiars or "grands commerçants" (Ibid) whose commercial flair brought them to open trading posts beyond the frontiers of India, across the whole of south-east Asia.

Tiroumoudy was quite a figure at a time and in a society that was culturally and economically dominated by citizens of European stock. He cut a place for himself in the civil service and was the owner of the ship "Latchimi" and the barque "Antoinette" of 186 tons, manned by a crew of 21 seamen. (Ibid)

Proprietor of the Bon Espoir S.E. in Rivière du Rempart

In 1826, Tiroumoudy together with the Irish doctor and estate owner Charles Telfair and a Tamilian merchant dealer Vellivahel Anassamy Moodeliar, acquired the large sugar estate of Bon Espoir in the district of Rivière du Rempart in the north of Mauritius. However, the chronology used in the document of SOS Patrimoine en Péril-Save Our Heritage regarding the accession of Tiroumoudy to the ownership

of Bon Espoir S.E. as well as the identity of his associates is confusing. As a matter of fact, in the same document it is asserted that Rama Tiroumoudy acquired Bon Espoir in 1833 (and not in 1826) and his associate was V. Annasamy. On the other hand, Charles Telfair is associated with La Tour & Co. as being the proprietors of Bon Espoir in 1829. One Chauvet owned Bon Espoir shortly before it was acquired by Rama Tiroumoudy.

So it seems that there was no partnership as such between Telfair and Tiroumoudy. However, there is no doubt that some sort of interaction did exist between the two sugar magnates. As a matter of fact, although Charles Telfair's sugar business was in Moka (Bois Chéri estate acquired in 1815) and in Black River (Bel Ombre estate acquired some time later), there is reason to believe that the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart were not unfamiliar to him. His first child, still born out of his wedlock with "Annabella, daughter of Admiral Chamberlayn", was buried at Pamplemousses. (3) Moreover, "towards 1826 he abandoned Bel Ombre as a residence for a new estate at Beau Manguier" (Ibid), which is near Cap Malheureux in the north. So, can it be inferred that, one point in time, Telfair and Tiroumoudy (both sharing the same interests in sugar and residing in the same district) were intimate to each, if not partners?

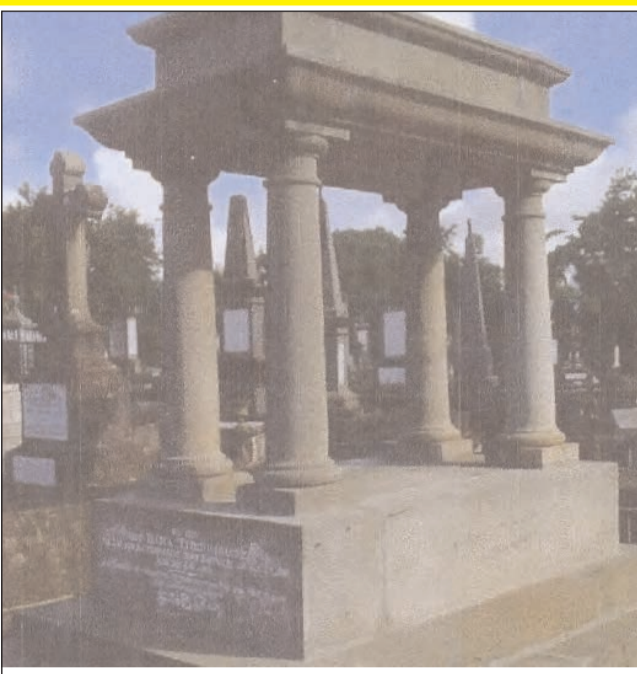
The datas regarding the ownership of Bon Espoir from 1829 to 1833 have manifestly been borrowed from Guy Rouillard's "Histoire des domaines sucriers", the most reliable reference work so far as the history of the sugar estates in Mauritius is concerned. The partnership between Tiroumoudy and Annasamy lasted until 1840 when the former became the sole proprietor of Bon Espoir and remained so until his death in 1852 when the estate passed on to the Tiroumoudy heirs in Pondicherry. (2) In 1914, the sugar estate was sold to Nemours Harel, the proprietor of neighbouring Belle Vue S.E. The Bon Espoir S.E. was centralized on Belle Vue. The sugar factory of Bon Espoir as such had already closed in 1909.

A benefactor of the sugar industry and of his countrymen

Rama Tiroumoudy acceded to the ownership of the Bon Espoir S.E. at a crucial stage in the evolution of the country, with the abolition of slavery looming large on the horizon. He was seemingly instrumental and played a pioneering role in the import of Indian labour as a substitute for the slaves in the sugar cane fields. "Quand l'industrie sucrière se trouva menacée de faillite

en raison de l'abandon presque complet de la culture lors de l'émancipation des esclaves en 1834. Tiroumoudy étant lui-même propriétaire d'esclaves joua un rôle important dans les décisions du gouvernement d'importer des travailleurs engagés. Son avis était toujours recherché et il fut parmi les premiers importateurs de travailleurs indiens dans les années 1835." (1)

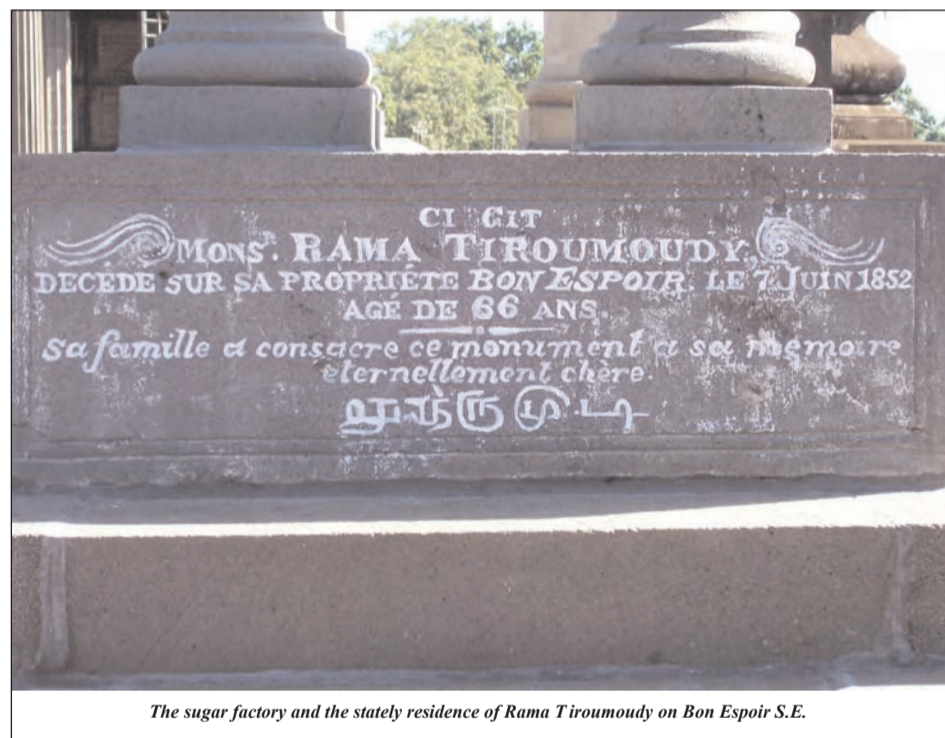
The well-to-do Pondicherian never forgot the land of his Indian ancestors and ever strove for the welfare of his Tamilian fellow citizens. "Le protecteur des travailleurs immigrants Hugon fit ses éloges en disant que 'M. Tiroumoudy prenait une part active au bien-être de ses compatriotes'. En effet, il siégea sur un comité dans le district de Rivière du Rempart, compose du Magistrat stipendaire, du commissaire civil, Ravel, de Messieurs A. Aubin et E. Rouillard pour aider ses compatriotes à obtenir des



The inscription on the epitaph in memory of Rama Tiroumoudy.

Vyapooree. "Les deux associations ont oeuvré à la rénovation du monument de style gréco-romain, dont la taille imposante donne la mesure du pouvoir de cet homme." (4) On the restored epitaph the visitor can read:

CI-GIT



The sugar factory and the stately residence of Rama Tiroumoudy on Bon Espoir S.E.

licences pour débiter leur commerce et très souvent il les cautionna." (Ibid)

The last days of Rama Tiroumoudy and restoration of his tomb

Rama Tiroumoudy breathed his last at Bon Espoir where he was living in the splendid colonial mansion which was unfortunately demolished in the early 1980's. He died on 8 June 1852 at the age of 66. (Ibid) The following communiqué, probably inserted in a newspaper of the time, was published to inform friends and relatives on the whereabouts of the funeral:

"Les amis et connaissances de feu Monsieur RAMA TIROUMOUDY, qui n'auraient pas reçu de billets, sont priés d'assister à ses convoi et enterrement qui auront lieu aujourd'hui Mardi 8 Juin à 4 heures de l'après-midi aux Pamplemousses.

De la part de sa famille.
Le convoi partira de l'Etat. Bon Espoir, à 3 heures."

Lately, on 25 April 2009, the monumental tomb of Rama Tiroumoudy in Pamplemousses cemetery was restored, a timely action undertaken jointly by SOS Patrimoine en Péril - Save Our Heritage and the Tamil League, ably supported by a dynamic team led by Vel

MONSIEUR RAMA TIROUMOUDY
DECEDE SUR SA PROPRIETE BON
ESPOIR LE 7 JUN 1852
AGE DE 66 ANS
Sa famille ci consacre ce monument à sa
mémoire
éternellement chère

This action of SOS Patrimoine en Péril - Save Our Heritage and the Tamil League cannot but be commended. The more so as next year will mark the 160th death anniversary of 'Monsieur Rama Tiroumoudy'.

DODO

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The Irish market which has been patiently built over the years by the Mauritian tourist industry, must have been severely shaken after the murder of beauty queen Michaela McAreavey, daughter of emblematic manager of Tyrone Gaelic Football Team, Mickey Harte. The victim's young husband, John McAreavey, is himself a popular soccer player and nephew of the Irish bishop, Mgr McAreavey, who married the young couple.

It is a fact that Mauritius has figured prominently in Ireland in the fields of business and tourism in the decade just gone by. *Post.ie*, or *Sunday Post Online* of 6 February 2005 carried ‘**The Irish take their wishes to Mauritius**’, by Linda Maher who hailed the island as “*a high-end tourist destination [...] and a favourite with honeymoon couples looking for something a little different.*” The journalist referred to the Integrated Resorts Scheme (IRS) and focused on the ‘Anahita project’, “*one of the first luxurious resorts to become available under the IRS*” to Irish investors. Indeed, according to this article, “*the target market for Anahita is high net worth individuals from the main tourist markets: Ireland, Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Dubai, India and South Africa.*”

Maurice Lam, Chairman of the Mauritius Board of Investment at the time, is reported by the journalist to be “*particularly excited about Irish interest in Anahita. He believes that Ireland is a perfect example for Mauritius to follow in terms of attracting foreign investment.*” Finally, the article quotes “*one Irish investor with a business in Mauritius [who] said [that] the economy was more comparable to Europe than Africa despite the location. Many people view Mauritius as simply a sunshine destination, but many don't realise that it's an industrious country, with textiles and sugar as its main exports.*” Significantly, while knowledge of Mauritius is spreading in Ireland, it is, perhaps naively, represented as something of a refuge or a last Eldorado, in a fast-changing modern world.

The “safe and sure” mantra shaken

However, the mantra singing Mauritius as a “*safe and sure*” destination (to quote Patrice Legris, director of the AHRIM which groups hotel and restaurant owners of the island) was severely hit after the tragic death of Michaela. “*We're not even safe in paradise*” is the new clarion call emanating from the international press. The worse is that Irish tour-operators have stopped selling Mauritius as a tourist destination. MTPA itself was compelled to postpone a campaign targetting honeymooners in Ireland, to encourage them to come to Mauritius for St Valentine this month. To minimize the fall, Patrice Legris is reported saying that the tragic death of Michaela, which is much regretted, is an isolated case and that, in general, Mauritius remains a safe and sure destination for tourists.

Albeit, it is downright sure that Michaela's death, which was related to theft, has impacted negatively on the Irish. Relating what he heard on a very popular Irish radio show called Liveline, hosted by the well-known Joe Duffy, Saffiyey Edo, a Mauritian who lives in Limerick, communicated the following to the page “Forum” of Le Mauricien of Monday 17

January:

“While many acknowledged that one community cannot be held responsible for the acts of three individuals, many called for completely different reasons. About 75% of the callers recounted how they have been victims of theft while staying in hotels. This, I think, is very detrimental to the reputation of our country. The radio show is listened to by millions here, these types of stories could have a lot of people seriously reconsidering holiday plans to Mauritius. I am no expert in the matter, but I think tourism authorities should take active steps in investigating the matter. Hotel managers should seriously take whatever complaints of theft laid by their guests. Quite a few people on the show complained that hotel authorities did not take the matter seriously, one lady actually said a hotel staff was ‘apathetic’ to her complaints...”

Dramatic increase of thefts in ‘Tourist Belt’

Indeed, the dramatic increase in the number of thefts in the “Tourist Belt” of the island, must cause serious concern to the Mauritian authorities. No less than five cases of thefts with violence were reported during the week-end following Michaela's death. More worrying is the fact that half of thefts in the ‘Tourist Belt’ in 2010 were committed inside the very hotels where the tourists are deemed to be afforded comfort, safety and security. S. Edo's advices published in ‘Forum’ should be considered with due diligence:

“For a country that praises itself for its warmth and hospitality, we should actually practise it. Let's hope that the authorities concerned will take appropriate steps. Nothing is going to bring Michaela McAreavey back, but let's hope that the tragedy will have hotel managers think twice before recruiting people and will have hotel employees do their jobs honestly because, as we have seen, the best laid plans can change in 2 minutes.”

It is high time the authorities react strongly to stop aggressions and robberies on the persons of tourists from insiders. The more so as MCIT investigators in Mauritius are on the point of putting forward damning evidences proving that the floor supervisor Sandeep Moneea was the mastermind behind the series of thefts at Legends hotel.

Mauritius Youth Festival A wealth of dramatic talent

By Stephen Spark



But the afternoon's clear winner was Prof. Basdeo Bissoondoyal College, Flacq, which scooped Best Play, Best Director (Raja Naga), Best Actor (Kushal Nunkoo) and Best Actress (Anncy Jeanlice). Naga also collected the Best Writer award for the play, *The Greatest Wealth*, which had a strong theme about the importance of family unity in helping to overcome poverty. Nunkoo gave a storming performance as prodigal son Deva, while Jeanlice was frankly astonishing as Laajo – seeing her back in uniform to collect her award, it was hard to

the audience. Aayushi Agnihotri (Chubukov) and Karishma Dussaram (Lomov) won Best Actress Under 15 and Most Promising Young Actress, respectively.

For a small country, Mauritius has a remarkably varied and vibrant arts scene, although, aside from the big séga shows and public concerts, it can be hard to discover when and where events are taking place. Still, there are competitions and community shows almost every week and, thanks to Rakesh Seerkissoon, arts officer at the Ministry of Arts and Culture, I was able to attend one of them.



Every year the National Drama Festival brings together about 100 schools to compete in 10 separate language-based competitions. Fifteen schools took part in the English language section this year, and three made it to the finals at the Serge Constantin Theatre in Vacoas on 26 May. The auditorium was packed with an enthusiastic audience of pupils from the competing colleges, all looking smart in their uniforms.

Invitation to God, by Kitin Naidu and performed by SSS Goodlands Boys Drama Club, was an imaginative modern-day take on the idea that God can be found where we least expect Him. Johnny (Madlani Harshid) manages to invite the Almighty to dinner, but is appalled when a grubby beggar

turns up at his door. Harshid was the deserving winner of the Most Promising Young Actor award for his very engaging portrayal in this effectively presented drama.

believe that this was the ageing mother who had been on stage half an hour earlier. There is clearly no shortage of acting talent in Mauritius, so let's hope that these youngsters get the encouragement they deserve to keep the country's dramatic arts in good shape for the years to come.



Forest Side SSS's choice of Anton Chekhov's comedy *The Proposal* was brave, given that two of the all-girl cast had to play 19th-century male Russian landowners bickering over disputed land and the merits of their hunting dogs. Purists might have found the acting somewhat 'hammy' and there were some oddities of accent, but it got a good reception from

More local fruits to be produced

The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is in the process of undertaking various initiatives to make the island an agro-business hub.

According to a report by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU), the island has a very diverse variety of fruits, with around 50 species or more that grow in the wild or in private yards. The ministry wants to increase the production of these fruits. The government will lay stress on under-utilised fruit species such as

the papaya, mango, starfruit, guava, avocado, passion fruit, strawberry and the neglected ones such as Coeur demoiselle, fig, jackfruit and mulberry. They are targeting an area of 100 hectares for the production of 20 minor fruit species which will provide 3,000 tonnes of potential 'exotic' raw material by 2015. The production of these fruits could promote ecotourism and agro-tourism, which is on the government's agenda for its new economic strategy.

Remember

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