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Regional elections 2012

The major changes and tests



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These postponements were due to the drafting of the new legislation governing the administration of local authorities-, new Local Government Act 2011. The new statute has brought several drastic changes to local authorities and was also largely criticised by Paul Béranger, leader of the Parliamentary Opposition and leader of Mauritian Militants Movement (MMM).

See more on [pg 4>>](#)

Broome Park Nursing Home Sweeps up the Awards at The Surrey Care Awards 2012



From left to right, BBC Presenter Michael Buerke, Mike Choy, Muriel Choy and Pop Legend Alvin Stardust.

Broome Park Nursing Home in Betchworth has again broken all records for awards by having seven finalists in the 2012 Care Awards. This annual event is held by The Surrey Care Association to recognise the outstanding dedication of individuals and teams working in adult social care.

(See more on [Page 3](#))



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The Chagos Scramble

In our very first issue in November 1983, we asked the question by way headline “Diego Garcia base to stay?” Diego Garcia is the principal island of the group of some 64 islets that make up the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, over 1,000 miles from Mauritius. Mauritius, prior to independence, had jurisdiction over the Archipelago as part of its overseas territory.

Thirty years after the publication of our first edition, the Chagos Archipelago is still an issue that is becoming more and more pressing for a solution.

Mauritius sovereignty

Mauritius wants the restoration of its sovereignty, the exiled Chagossians (in Mauritius and The Seychelles) want their homeland back, the British want to retain the Chagos as part of their British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), the Americans want their military base on Diego Garcia to stay, while some Chagossians in the UK dream of a Republic of the Chagos, with its own government and President.

The British, under Miliband the Elder, as Foreign Secretary and Gordon Brown as PM converted the Chagos with 64 islets into the largest Marine Park on earth. The British Government’s decision to create this Marine Protected Area or Marine Reserve Area is considered as a ploy by the British and the Americans to keep off the Chagossians for good. This is being fought by the islanders in the European Court of Human Rights.

The Pirates on the lookout

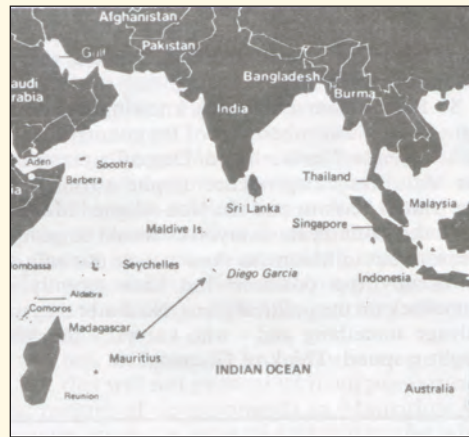
There are also The Pirates of the Indian Ocean who have an eye on these islands, which they will target for occupation once the British and the Americans are gone from the area. They will use the islands as their base to attack the vessels sailing on the open seas across the Indian ocean, just as the French pirates and corsairs did a couple of centuries ago and using Ile Maurice (now Mauritius) as their base to attack British ships.

What a scramble one can foresee as regards the Indian Ocean. The British took the group of islands as their own and did not have to have anybody’s permission to do so, no more that they needed anybody’s permission to make their own the distant Falklands and nearer home, the Rock.

The British on their own accord gave the main island of Diego Garcia to the US for a military base on a 50-year lease. Half a century ago, that sounded a long way away then. The expiry of the lease is only three years ahead, i.e. in 2016. What will happen then? Whatever decision is made in three years’ time should be under consideration now, and the more so in 2013.

Mauritius wants participation in negotiations

It has been reported that Mauritius, former owner of the Chagos, wants to be part of the negotiations between the British and the Americans about the future of the Archipelago. It has even been said that Mauritius is not averse to an extension of the lease to the Americans provided rent is paid to the Mauritius Government for the



occupation of Diego Garcia as a base.

It is said that even India that campaigned in the 1960s for the Indian Ocean to be declared a Zone of Peace is now having second thought about the presence of the Americans in the area. India now arms its vessels sailing across region to fight off the pirates. Even some states which during the Arab Spring sought western help are not too averse to an American presence nearby.

Sale of the Chagos

Who sold the Mauritian-owned Chagos Archipelago to the British, in other words who sold the British colonies to the British? Sounds rather funny. Well, the forthcoming debate on the Chagos will inevitably revive the old question as to who sold the Chagos to the British. A lot of criticism has been levelled against the Mauritius Labour Party for agreeing to the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from the jurisdiction of Mauritius as part of a bargain for the island to be granted independence by Britain in 1968.

The excision of the Chagos from Mauritius sovereignty is a reality, but present-day Mauritius is still claiming back the group of island especially as, by a UN Resolution, the excision of the Archipelago prior to the independence of Mauritius was declared illegal.

Britain knew that Mauritius would be independent as far back as 1964, because in August of that year, she allowed the island to open a ‘diplomatic’ mission in London. Mauritius was still a British colony then, but the mother country wanted to prepare the new nation-to-be in the diplomatic service, ready for independence.

Britain took the Chagos away from Mauritius in October 1964 to create the BIOT. The Mauritian delegates who came to London from 1965 onwards to discuss the independence of Mauritius were already before a *fait accompli*. Whether they liked it or not, the Chagos had already been removed from the grips of Mauritius. Therefore this ‘dialogue’ that the Mauritius Labour Party traded the Chagos for independence does not hold water.

When the Chagos was converted into the BIOT in 1964 Mauritius was still a British colony who could not dictate to the mother country what to do or not to do with her overseas possessions. Not too illogical a statement, we must admit.

On the other hand, a pertinent question that one may ask is how Mauritius, a tiny island that can barely guard its tiny territory will exercise control over the group of 64 island that are over 1,000 miles away.

Peter Chellen
December 2012

Health Care

Exemplary service from Boorme Nursing Home (From Page One)



Entries are received from all over Surrey and to become a finalist in any of the strongly competed categories is an accolade in itself. However, at the prestigious Awards ceremony held in the impressive Diomed Suite at Epsom Downs Racecourse, Broome Park Nursing Home in Betchworth, went on to win no less than five of those categories

The most important award of the evening was the special recognition award for a Life-time of Outstanding Contribution to Social Care which went to the owners of Broome Park Nursing Home, Mike and Muriel Choy. This award could not have been more richly deserved.

It was in the 1960s when a very young Mike Choy travelled 4th class from Mauritius with a pair of flip-flops on his feet and only a small suitcase to his name, to undertake his mental health nurse training in Cardiff. He met Muriel, a farmer’s daughter, who was training to be a general nurse. Love blossomed as they both worked hard to achieve a myriad of professional qualifications and experiences.

It was in 1993 they took the biggest financial risk of their lives and bought the old manor house in Broome Park following the enforced closure of a local psychiatric hospital and with an unbelievable amount of hard work and sleepless nights, Broome Park Nursing Home evolved. The nursing home has gone from strength to strength

and is soon to celebrate its 20th anniversary of providing a safe and caring environment for 56 residents. The Choy’s commitment to the care sector is not confined to their nursing home; their combined 92 years of experience, fostering persona and ability to keep abreast of eternal change has made them genuine “Ambassadors for Care” throughout the care sector in Surrey.

It is Mike and Muriel’s influence and hands-on nurturing and leadership that underpinned the other finalist from Broome Park Nursing Home in the Surrey Care Awards, resulting in winners in the best Dementia Care Team category; the most committed apprentice (Alice Phillips), the most dedicated and caring ancillary worker (Nita Capao), and a “beyond the call of duty” award for staff nurse Chitra Jaganathan.

The awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant, Dame Sarah Goad DCVO JP, Michael Buerk, BBC news correspondent and presenter, and pop legend Alvin Stardust.

These awards came as no surprise to relatives of the residents who nominated the staff, nor to the visiting professionals who wholeheartedly supported those nominations. Broome Park’s ethos of “Committed to Caring” is very evident throughout the home where there is a tremendous “happy family” feel amongst the 56 residents and 65 staff.

Elderly Welfare

National Conference on Ageing and its Challenges

In the context of the International Day of the Elderly (celebrated on the 1st of October), a national conference was held on Ageing and its Challenges at the Octave Wié Auditorium, Réduit, on the 8th of October 2012 in Mauritius.

The national conference formed part of the several activities proposed by the Senior Citizens Council in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to promote welfare of senior citizens. The event was

attended by around 600 representatives from the senior citizens associations as well as students from the University of Mauritius.

Eminent personalities were present to address the audience: Mr. Ruhee, Chairperson, Senior Citizens Council, Hon Mrs Sheilabai Bappoo, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity & Reform Institutions, Dr. R. Sithan, Chairperson and Director, International Finance Services Ltd, Dr. Dinan, Geriatriest, Miss S. Garebo, Principal State Counsel, Attorney

General’s Office and Prof. Jugessur, Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of University Council. The aim was to highlight the socio-economic impacts of ageing, the health issues affecting the elderly, rights of the elderly and finally on the social integration of the senior citizens. According to recent statistics, around 154,000 senior citizens are presently benefiting from the Basic Retirement Pension in Mauritius and there exists 2,200 institutions, including care homes, which are accommodating a large number of



by Sukritee Soopal

elderly people on the island. The main health issue affecting the ageing community is the increase level of weakness and inactivity which leads to other health conditions like diabetes or arthritis. Several cases of abuse related to property rights have been noted and for this reason senior citizens are counseled on rights reserved for them.

Good interaction was observed among the guests, and pertinent questions were asked of the Minister and the speakers. It is hoped that the debate on the welfare of the elderly will bear the desired results, and the old people will not just become a forgotten quantity of society.

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Regional elections 2012

The major changes and tests



The labour/ PMSD candidates with MP Nita Deerpalsing (in white blouse)



Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Paul Berenger (leader of Opposition) with the MSM/MM candidates

The Mauritius Electoral Commission has announced that the country will hold regional elections in December. Villages will hold polls on December 2 while the towns will go to polls a week later, December 7.

The last regional elections were held in 2005 where the Labour Party (PT) and the Social Democrats (PMSD) obtained most of the councillors' seats in the municipalities and villages. The next elections were meant to be held in 2010, but they were postponed by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party, Navin Ramgoolam on several occasions. The postponements were due to the drafting of the new legislation governing the administration of local authorities, new Local Government Act 2011. The new statute has brought several drastic changes to local authorities and was also largely criticised by Paul Berenger, leader of the Parliamentary Opposition and leader of Mauritian Militants Movement (MMM).

412,000 voters in the country's five municipalities will be asked to elect 90 municipal councillors on the December 9. The village elections will take place in 136 villages on December 2 in which 489,000 voters will choose nine councillors per village.

The forthcoming elections will be a test on the popularity of the Labour Party and PMSD government. Two years after the general election and the departure of the MSM from the government the local elections will be a popularity test for Navin Ramgoolam and to assess whether the return of Sir Anerood Jugnauth, charismatic ex-leader of the MSM, has had an impact on the political arena.

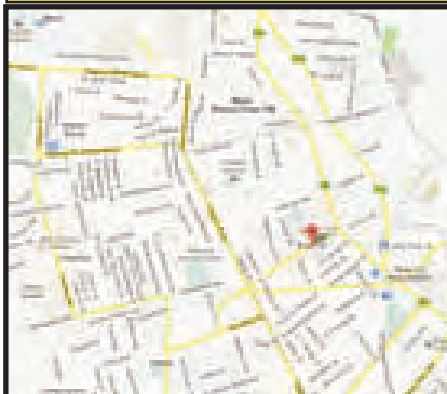
The new Local Government Act 2011 brought major changes to local elections. And these reforms will be tested for the first time: one provision of the statute stipulates that a political group presenting more than two candidates at local elections "shall ensure that no more than two thirds of the total of its candidates are not of the same sex." Another provision of the piece legislation states that a candidate should be registered as an elector in the town or village in which he or she wants to stand for election. If the same provision was to be applied to the legislative elections, the political landscape of Mauritius would encounter drastic changes.

Local elections will now be held every six years. Mayors, Presidents and their deputies will serve for 2 years only. Some boundaries of municipal wards have also been reviewed. Consequently, the number of wards has increased in all municipalities and each should now return only three councillors. The number of wards in Port Louis has increased from 6 to 8; from 3 to 5 in Quatre Bornes and Curepipe; from 4 to 6 in Beau-Bassin/Rose Hill and Vacoas/Phoenix.

The towns were not the only ones to have been affected by the changes, in the rural areas the number of district councils have increased from 4 to 7. Henceforth, one council per district and the number of councillors will be decreased from 12 to nine in the villages. A total of 3,894 candidates (2,711 men and 1,183 women) have been registered for village council's elections.

List of candidates of the two main blocks

B-B/Rose-Hill



Labour-PMSD

Ward 1 : Aurélie Tang Chong, Marcelin Davasgaum and Komaduth Hurry
Ward 2 : Lindsay Veerapen, Claudette Momus and Gary Hungley
Ward 3 : Dorine Kim Soo, Fazlai Ahmed Shermomahed Khan and Josian Bhujoharry
Ward 4 : Daniel Emilien, Marie Chimene Jenny Chandoo and Vadivel Moorvaya Murthen
Ward 5 : Patrick Cavalot, Zaed Nanhuck and Kiran Munboddh
Ward 6 : Ronald Bigaignon, Sunil Bundhoo and Marie Christiane Lucile

MMM-MSM

Ward 1 : Jai Krihna (Mahen) Choolun, Mardaymootoo Ramsamy and Marie Noël Sindy
Ward 2 : Marie France Ramene, Jean Sylvain Philippe Boidou and Annie Georges Begue
Ward 3 : Eileen Karen Lee Chin Foo Kune, Eddy Georges Petit and Rashad Daureeawoo
Ward 4 : André Toussaint, Gaëtan Aurokium and Maryline Sandapa
Ward 5 : Adillag Auckbaraullee-Khodababux, Jules Rivet and Andy Kinsley Lai Kong Ling
Ward 6 : Bhoopendrasingh (Davesh) Budlorun, Anita Arlapen and Hayatullah Sairally



Vacoas-Phoenix

Labour-PMSD

Ward 1 : Thangavel Thodda, Monisha Jooty and Meveen Kadam Narroo
Ward 2 : Renganaden Yetty, Hedjaz Aukbarally and Oormila Baldawo
Ward 3 : Yusuf Elahee, Sunilduth Parbutteea and Chandanee Devi Busgeeth
Ward 4 : Veejendra Dayal, Sunjeevsing Dindyal and Rambhawatee Baichoo
Ward 5 : Abdoolferoze Acharauz, Haroon Durbass and Chetanadevi Domah
Ward 6 : Hiren Jankee, Koontee Dabydoyal and Mamode Soleman Soogund

MMM-MSM

Ward 1 : Veerasamy Seeven Elaheeboccus Eshan, Yetty Anuradha
Ward 2 : Sandian Christian, Outim Fayed and Ramchurn Devianee
Ward 3 : Chowrimootoo Marie Georges Eric, Khoosye Dunputh and Shreeneebus Faeza
Ward 4 : Chuttoo Najmool Hoosen, Sooben Sadaseeven Sesen and Unjore Madhvi
Ward 5 : Hossey Fazlek, Dowlut Farhad and Goolaub Chandni
Ward 6 : Bundhoo Fatima, Ramsoondur Navin and Runglall Somduth

Municipal elections in figures

385,292 electors

356 candidates

101 women



Port-Louis

Labour-PMSD

Ward 1 : Kevin Boodhoo, Jean-Marie Malepa and Marie Moissette Munbodwah
Ward 2 : Marie Daniella Therese Josianne Hector, Ahmad Seegoolam and Aboobakar Utteenun
Ward 3 : Mahen Gondeea, Jean-Claude Chiffonne and Marie Dominique Bapomme
Ward 4 : Ismael Yacoob Doba, Pradeep Kowlessur and Martine Bistoquet
Ward 5 : Zareena Tawheen Choomka, Ali Osman Ramdin and Shameen Rassool Cadam Ally
Ward 6 : Salim Abbas Mamode, Amirah Bibi Mamode Hossen and Didier Moutou
Ward 7 : Audie Travailleur, Daniel Emilien and Elvina Manaroo
Ward 8 : Ganeshwarsing Bissessur, Ahad Sheik Ozeer and Marie Virginie Juliana Trapu

MSM-MMM

Ward 1 : Marie Christiane Dorine Chokowry, Georges Jean Daniel Augustin and Phalraj Servansingh
Ward 2 : Vikramduthall Ramtahal, Muhammad Eshan Ally Kawroo and Marie Catherine Dominique
Ward 3 : Rajeshri Moher Phakeeree, Gino Nicholas France Cotry and Mohammad Shakeel Uteene
Ward 4 : Antonio Jenito Seedoo, Roubina Jadoo-Jaunbocus and Vinod Ramnial
Ward 5 : Mohamed Parwez Nurwoollah, Shamima Khatib and Yousouf Mohungee
Ward 6 : Aslam Adam Hossenally, Hasna Hossenbocus and Louis Ludovic Michel Caserne
Ward 7 : Laurent Daniel Eric Clive, Jenny Adebiro and Mari Christine Tenermont
Ward 8 : Ally Ackbar Hossen, Marie Clara Pasnin and Bobby Hurreeram



Curepipe

Labour-PMSD

Ward 1 : Shailendr Ramsagur, Marie Michelle Lepredour and Alain Thomas
Ward 2 : Daniel Ricardo Taracharane, Kamla Devi Varma and Malini Khemlolia
Ward 3 : Yousouf Maghoo, Nathalie Gopee et Dhaneshwar Bissonauth
Ward 4 : Georges Laval Charlot, Jacques Anthony Chelvan and Zeenat Waheeda Mohamoodully
Ward 5 : Marie Lorence Dominique Chaton, Kritanand Beeharry and Stevens Derek Nynapen

MMM-MSM

Ward 1 : Sundee Beedassy, Marcel Antoine Pottaren and Margueritte Hans
Ward 2 : Errol Noel Lafolle, Louis François Dominique Sopramanien and Devika Teewantee Pabaroo
Ward 3 : Yogendranaden (Ananda) Rajoo, Marie Noëlle Doris Sybille Lolocho and Woomed SH Heerah
Ward 4 : Jean Damien Kevin Ramma, Muhammad Sulaiman Akhtar Keennoo and Irène Coret
Ward 5 : Lindsay Toussaint Paul, Moonsamy (Guychil) Kistnasamy and Vandini Devi Parsand



Quatre-Bornes

Labour-PMSD

Ward 1 : Reza Mohamad Riyad Moosuddee, Desiga Saravanen Hans Mootosamy and Reshma Ramchurn
Ward 2 : Shakuntala Boolell, Jean Paul Robert Cheng Yen and Cader Mallam-Hassam
Ward 3 : Rosemay Moorghen, Christian Malherbe and Indira Devi Narainen Kayala
Ward 4 : Shankar Tarachand Gaya, Poonum Thylam and VeenaSookwantee Rucnaje
Ward 5 : Dhanwantee Ramkoomar, Premanand Beedasy and Guy Emmanuel Troylukho

MMM-MSM

Ward 1 : Reza Gunny, Ramkalawon Rambha (Sarita) and Beemadoo Danen
Ward 2 : Jownally S.M Iqbal, Khemlolia Maheshwarsingh and Meetoo Dayamantee Rooma
Ward 3 : Malherbe Marie Claire Vianney, Diolle Marie Alexandra Tania and Gaya Raj
Ward 4 : Moothoosamy Shanmoodum (Yu-Yu), Dalloo Vidya Merai and Sonoo Atmaram
Ward 5 : Begue Marie Brigitte, Seechurn Ajay Beekash Raj and Sookun Shyam

Michaela McAreavey's family suing Mauritian Sunday Times for Rs 15 million



Dick Ng is representing the interests of the Harte and McAreavey in Mauritius (credit: lemauricien.com)

The family of Michaela McAreavey, who was murdered in Mauritian hotel in January 2011, has lodged a civil case for damages against the Mauritian Sunday Times and its editor, who was arrested by police, for publishing pictures of her body. The victim's family is claiming Rs15 million, about £300,000, as damages.

It is the biggest lawsuit ever against a Mauritian newspaper and its editor. The pictures of Michaela McAreavey's body were published on 15 July 2012 by the Sunday Times (Mauritius). The pictures were taken by the police as documentary evidence in connection with the murder investigation and were not meant to be published in the press or released in any media.

Imran Hossany, who is currently on bail, has been charged with outrage to public and religious morality for publishing the pictures of the victims

and the crime scene. The McAreavey family describes the publication of the pictures of Michaela as a reprehensible act that constituted an outrage to the dignity and memory of Michaela.

"By printing, distributing and/or causing to be published these photos of the late Michaela Harte body as taken by the police photographer defendants had committed a serious and unforgivable fault towards the plaintiffs." This statement was sent to the Court in Mauritius by the legal representative of the Harte and McAreavey families.

In July, former hotel workers Sandeep Moneea and Avinash Treebhoooon were acquitted of Mrs McAreavey's murder by a jury at the Supreme Court in the capital Port Louis. A new police investigation was launched a day after the trial ended.

Flaws in Michaela murder probe highlighted in an Irish documentary



Flaws in Michaela Harte murder probe has been highlighted in a documentary broadcasted by UTV in November. Mauritius News was a consultant on the documentary that showed how vital evidence has been either corrupt or simply ignored in the murder investigation.

Almost two years after the honeymoon bride, the UTV insight team travelled to Mauritius to investigate what failed to bring the Killers of Tyrone GAA boss, Mickey Harte's daughter to justice.

Award-winning journalist Chris Moore learned some disturbing facts: a key witness

was allowed to leave the country - took employment on a cruise ship - and how police notoriety influenced the jury. To have better picture of the Mauritian inquiry, Moore interviewed retired police officers, Police Medical officers, and Human right activists.

In the documentary the journalist said: "Justice was denied Michaela McAreavey in July when two men accused of her murder walked free. It raised questions about the abilities of the police and the prosecutors, and today it's far from clear if the Mauritians have the resolve to match their promise to find justice for Michaela."

According to Human rights campaigners interviewed in the documentary 57 people have been killed in police custody in Mauritius since 1979. Dr Gujjalu, a former police medical officer, stated in the documentary that: "The problem in Mauritius is, when a case of brutality crops up, it's the police that inquire. Police against police doesn't work." The Insight Team pledges to continue to follow the case and the new police investigation progresses. The documentary can be viewed at <http://www.u.tv>

THE SUGAR CANE

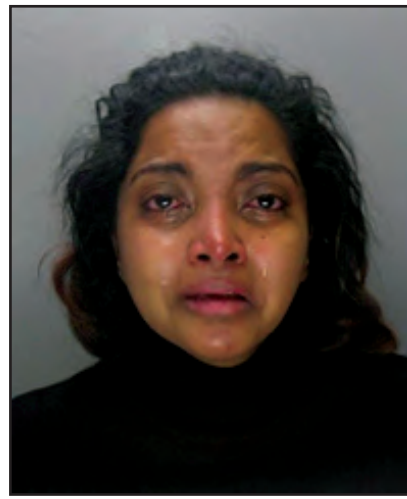
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Maria Michaela pulled off £15m in mortgage scams

Mauritian estate agent became "Britain's biggest ever conwoman"



The headlines could make the storyline of next blockbuster. But this is real life story. Maria Michaela a Mauritian estate agent was sentenced to nine years in prison for running a £15million mortgage scam. Detective Inspector Andy Fife of City of London police said to the press that: "We think she is the biggest female fraudster. We have not had any female on this scale before."

The strategy of Michaela Maria was a good one. She built up a massive portfolio of luxury London homes by pretending to be a wealthy South African heiress. She even bribed surveyor Jane Rathie, whose task was to double the valuation of properties she was purchasing in posh areas in West London. Maria Michaela tricked even the most suspicious bankers and played them. She had thousands of bogus identity documents and dozens of fake identities.

She used the identity of "Joanne Pier" to obtain a loan of £10.5million from HBOS bank aiming to buy eight properties. She repeated the same trick at RBS, this time for a £2.5million to buy further five properties, we heard at the Harrow Crown Court. Before giving the sentence, Judge Graham Arran said: "You were a very experienced, highly skilled and exceptionally well-equipped fraudster." He sentenced Maria Michaela to nine years. Rathie was found guilty of five counts of fraud. Accomplices Hunter-Scott, 53, of Fulham was jailed for five years. Steel, 51, of Knightsbridge, got four years. Humadi, 51, from Battersea admitted money laundering and got one year sentence suspended for two years.

Innocent Chagossian finally walks free after spending a year in jail

Accused of rape by his ex-lover, Georges Joshue Trompette, 27, remained in jail for over a year. He was even under the threat of a deportation order issued by UK Border Agency (UKBA). The Chagossian, from Crawley, West Sussex, was detained at Lewes Prison, near Brighton. He is now a free man and owes his salvation to Me Bushan Deepchand of Lambeth Solicitors.

I met with Joshue in August at Lewes Prison when I was appointed as interpreter by an agency. We spoke only about his case and I was not allowed to speak of issues outside his statement. His English was very poor and there were many incoherent facts in his

statements and his first translator could not speak a word of Creole, an inmate from Congo who speaks only a bit of poor broken French. I did my best to translate Joshue's Creole statements, and it is a pleasure that he is a free and innocent man. Its very hard to defend oneself when one cannot communicate properly.

Georges Joshue Trompette has been lucky to have the services of Mauritian Lambeth Solicitors as counsels. What would have happened to him if it was any other way? An innocent man would have been sentenced to prison because of the reported perjury of a jealous ex-lover.

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SOLVING YOUR PROBLEMS IS OUR PRIORITY!

Board of Investment of Mauritius



"The 2013 National Budget gives a great boost to Mauritius as an investment destination"

the implementation of a new business unit at BOI. It will be operational in 2013.

With an overall positive economic performance, Mauritius is well positioned in the "golden triangle of growth", acting as the natural investment and business platform between Asia, Middle East and Africa. The Budget provides for the removal of barriers to African citizens travelling to Mauritius. Businessmen and tourists from 29 additional African countries can now obtain visas upon arrival.

In the spirit of further enhancing our position as the leading business platform for Africa, multinationals will be encouraged to set up their Regional Head Quarters and Regional Treasury Centres in Mauritius. Moreover, manufacturing firms will be allowed to benefit from Freeport status, subject to certain eligibility criteria.

New impetus has been given to all sectors of activities, whether traditional or emerging. Financial services, education, health, tourism, entertainment and shopping, manufacturing and other export-oriented industries, agriculture and fishing and ICT-BPO will all receive significant boosts through measures announced.

In addition, to promote the development of the ocean economy, a strategic partnership is proposed for the exploration and exploitation of our EEZ. The renewable energy sector is also given a boost, through requirements for energy efficiency services and fiscal incentives for a greener Mauritius.

Pointing out the sustained increase in level of FDI, the budget provides a set of measures that will assist BOI in further promoting Mauritius as an investment destination and as a provider of services for the region. This budget includes measures that reinforce the strategy to further open up the economy.

In a difficult global environment where first-world economies are faced with restricted fiscal space and turning to protectionism, the 2013 Budget resolutely embraces the pursuit of diversification and sustained growth through macroeconomic stability, broadened economic space and a careful response to the needs of investors and operators.

We shall move forward on this journey of growth with expectancy. We, therefore, invite you to read our sectoral analysis and join us as we help Mauritius rise to the challenges of a world in transition.

Ken Poonoosamy
Managing Director

Board Of Investment Mauritius
www.investmauritius.com

The 2013 National Budget gives a great boost to Mauritius as an investment destination on three fronts while narrowing the economic and educational divide between various groups and accelerating the technological transition. It singularly recognises our youth and the hope that they carry nationally.

Our macroeconomic fundamentals favour growth. Direct incentives will reduce the cost of doing business. Carefully crafted levers are in place to trigger sectoral activities and expand our economic space. Despite the prevalent international economic context, our current year will end with an appreciable growth rate of 3.4%, with a forecast of 4% in 2013. The budget deficit will be reduced to 2.2%.

The outlook will improve with public sector debt capped at 53.6% and an increased capital expenditure of MUR 28.6 billion to be spent on road network, the port and airport and other productive infrastructure.

Certainty and predictability are important to international investors. The budget gives a helpful nudge to our investors through unchanged corporate taxation, reduced international private leased circuits costs by 15%, direct cash incentives for employers recruiting and training young talents and accelerated capital allowances for investments in green technology, amongst others.

In addition, an annual fee of MUR 500 that replaces the expatriate work permit bank guarantee will free up considerable working capital for export-oriented enterprises.

SMEs remain an important component for ensuring sustained growth in developing economies. Therefore, SMEs will now benefit from easier access to finance with reduced costs while those with a turnover of less than Rs 4 million will be removed from the VAT net. Investment facilitation will also be enhanced with

TIT BITS NEWS FROM MAURITIUS by Ahmad Macky

BUDGET 2013

Budget 2013 has been rendered public on Friday 9th November, 2012 by Finance Minister Xavier Luc Duval. This is his second budget since he was Finance Minister. Here are some measures in budget 2013: Internet connection to be reduced from Rs 349 to Rs 200 monthly. Digital (iSo pad) to all Form IV pupils as from next year; An allowance of Rs 750 to each child coming from families that earn less than Rs 6,200; Abolition of tax registration for first time buyer of land which cost no more than Rs4 million; Higher prices for both cigarettes and alcohol. Budget deficit reduced to 2.2%; More control of the Bank of Mauritius on other Commercial Banks expenses. An envelope of Rs 330 million to combat unemployment Growth to 4% in 2013. Abolition of Land conversion. Old age pension goes up from Rs 3,409 to extra 4.3%. A rise of 39% public investment to attain Rs 28.6 billion. Recruitment of 600 policemen Easy access for foreigners to buy property in Mauritius

FORMER LAWYER ACCUSED OF SWINDLING

Prakash Boollell, a former lawyer was extensively quizzed by police on Thursday 15th November. Boollell, a Mauritian settled in the UK is alleged to have swindled an amount of Rs300,000 which in fact represents his legal fees. The accuser claims that the former lawyer, Prakash Boollell, forged documents relating to a court case. He was positively identified. Prakash Boollell will be representing himself in this case and he denies all the allegations against him.

KATHI LYNN AUSTIN ASKS FOR CIA PROTECTION

Miss Kathi Lynn Austin, the American campaigner against armament who revealed that Russians, under the cover of business, is using Mauritian soil for arms trafficking, is ready to come to Mauritius if she is accompanied by a CIA agent. This was revealed at the National Assembly on Thursday 15th November by a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly. Apparently the lady was being harassed and constantly being threatened if she came to Mauritius.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS RISING

The Construction Price Index, which stood at 108.6 as at June 2012, increased by 0.2% or 0.2 point during the third quarter of 2012 to reach 108.8 in September 2012. On a monthly basis, the index increased by 0.1 % in July, remained unchanged in August and registered an increase of 0.1% in September 2012. The 0.1% increase in July was mostly due to increases of 0.9% in the prices of aluminium openings, 0.3% in timber carpentry and 0.6% in the rates for hire of formwork for decorative columns

MORE BAD YEAR FOR SUN RESORTS

Sun Resorts has reported losses of Rs 214 million for the nine months ending 30 September 2012,

worsening the losses of Rs 115 million of the previous period. The group's turn over is around Rs 2.3 billion

IRELAND BLYTH Ltd BRINGS RISE TO PROFITS

Ireland Blyth Ltd has seen its profits for the three months ending 30 September 2012 rise by 16.7% from Rs 160 million in the same period last year to Rs 192 million this year. The company's turn over reached Rs 5.2 billion. The success is attributed to its seafood segment. Furthermore, an Interim Dividend of Rs 0.60 per share in respect of the year ending 30 June 2013 has been declared payable to shareholders of the Company registered at the close of business on 4th December 2012.

PRIME MINISTER IN RODRIGUES

Prime Minister Ramgoolam who was on a three day visit to Rodrigues from 2nd to 4th November announced that prices of rice and flour will be the same as they are in Mauritius. Ramgoolam opposed the very idea that there could be two categories of citizens within the Republic of Mauritius. "The Rodriguans are entitled to the same rights and privileges as other citizens of the Republic of Mauritius" he said. He announced that subsidies worth Rs 20 million would be allocated for freight charges, which would help reduce prices of main commodities in Rodrigues.

TERMINAL GETS FUNDING

The Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) has on Monday signed a loan agreement to the tune of rs 1.3 billion with the Agence Francaise de Developpement for the extension and strengthening of the Mauritius Container Terminal. In addition the European Union has allocated a grant of Rs 120 million through the Eu-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund Grant for the financing of the environmental and social aspects of the project and a Sovereign Guarantee Agreement has also been signed with the Government of Mauritius which stands as guarantor for the loan. With the increase in container traffic, it has been deemed necessary by the MPA to embark on the extension project which would enable the simultaneous berthing of two large container vessels of more than 8000 twenty foot equivalent unit (TEUs) capacity concurrently.

BIHAR-MAURITIUS TOURISM

Ajay Jhurry, Chairman of the Tour Operators Association and M.D.K. Srivastav, the Director of Bihar Tourism Office have on Tuesday signed a bilateral agreement on Tourism in the presence of Bihar Tourism Minister Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu, MTPA Chairman Robert Desvaux and Director Dr. Karl Mootoosamy. The agreement aims at promoting tourism between Mauritius and Bihar, India. Mauritians will be able to visit their ancestral roots in Bihar, whilst Bihar citizens would be eager to visit Mauritius.

Mauritius: The Education Hub for Africa



organised an export promotion mission to Nairobi, Kenya from 1st to 6th October 2012. The objective of the mission were mainly to showcase the Mauritian higher education sector and attract more students from Kenya to study in Mauritius.

The mission included a one-day conference themed "The Mauritius-Kenya Higher Education Forum" as well as participation in an international fair, one-to-one meetings, courtesy visits and visits of international schools. The mission was led by the Dr. the Honorable Rajeshwar Jeetah, Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research & Technology. It also saw the participation of more than 25 Mauritian tertiary education institutions.

The outcome of the mission is very promising. The Mauritius Kenya Higher Education Forum, which was held on 3rd

October 2012, attracted over 100 Kenyans participants including educational institutions, student recruitment agencies and other stakeholders. It provided a platform to discuss opportunities in the higher education sector. Honorable Kilemi Mwiria, Assistant Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Kenya was of view that Mauritius would be an excellent destination for Kenyan students. He also announced the forthcoming memorandum of understanding between the two countries for mutual recognition of certificates.

The Mauritius pavilion at International Education Fair Kenya was visited by more than 1,500 students from 30 institutions with many potential students who have expressed keen interest to study in Mauritius.

The various meetings and interactions organised during the mission allowed the Mauritian delegation to gauge the Kenyan education market. This mission also permitted exchanges for potential collaborations between Mauritian education providers and Kenyan institutions as well as recruitment agencies with a view to attracting students in the country.

In line with the above, the Board of Investment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research & Technology

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS: 3,894 CANDIDATES FOR 1,170 SEATS

There are 130 villages in Mauritius and each of them returns 9 councillors. The nomination day for village council elections (rural areas) was held on Saturday 17th November 2012 and 3,894 candidates have been registered for 1,170 available seats. It is to be noted that there were 2, 711 men and 1,183 women. The Village Council Elections will be held on the 2nd December, 2012 while the Local Government Elections (Municipal and Urban) will be held on the 9th December, 2012 .

Mauritius News Free December Draw

The winner of the December Free Draw organised by Mauritius News for the paper's subscribers is Pamela Permalloo of Southampton.

Ms Permalloo's subscription number 5337 has been drawn from a computer random system.

The winner receives a complimentary return ticket to Mauritius offered by

Air Mauritius

for the benefit of the paper's subscribers.

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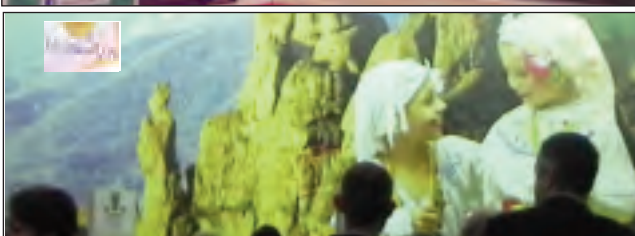
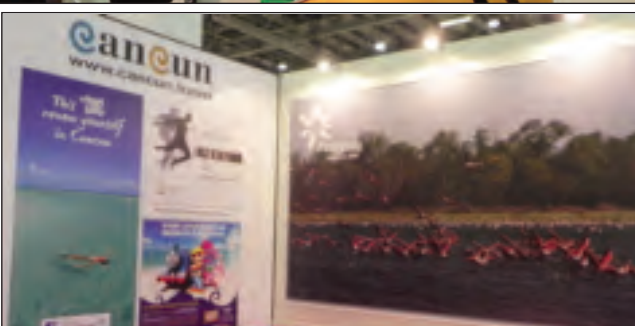
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Veteran Arnaud Martin (centre) on the Sun International patch. I have met him at the WTM for as long I have been there myself, since Earl's Court, Olympia, and now Excel



World Travel Market 2012 at Excel, Canary Wharf, Docklands

Around the world in a day

By Mylene

Launched in 1980, the World Travel Market once again put together a compelling programme of conferences, seminars and debates for those in the travel industry.

Taking place over four days (November 5-8) this global event attracted a record number of national tourist boards, suppliers, travel agents and tour operators, all there with a clear desire to conduct business.

100,000m2 of space was divided into two sections, the North Hall and the South Hall. Europe & Mediterranean, Africa and UK & Ireland were to be found in the north with The Americas & Caribbean, Middle East and Asia, Pacific & Indian Ocean in the south.

In this temporary global village, world destinations have never looked more inviting to holidaymakers. The message from each country seemed to be: come and discover our land which is full of endless possibilities; come and enjoy unforgettable experiences on our shores; come to a country that offers new business opportunities.

Cultural Taste

To attract and wow clients, each nation brought with them a taste of their unique culture. Thailand displayed traditional puppets dressed in stunning classical costumes.

The Netherlands had a large bar where their national beer and cheese could be consumed and under the marquee-like space of Abu Dhabi, a falcon relaxed on the arm of a sheik, both in readiness for the next photo shoot.

The Oman section offered me the chance to have an exquisite henna tattoo on my hand while Spain distributed roses to passers-by.

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority was to be found in the South Hall. The area was bright and welcoming with the soothing sound of babbling water coming from the strategically placed water fountains.

Small white tables and chairs were laid out for a cosy one-to-one chat with potential clients while interviews were

conducted on a comfortable sofa opposite the drinks bar.

I had occasion to meet Khemlall Rampersad, managing director of Villa on the Beach and Priscilla Cattaree, director of sales for the Hilton. Tony Cowles and Iqbal Bhayat from the Chiswick office of Air Mauritius were present as was Caroline Remy, all the way from Rodrigues. Although there were no souvenir freebies or any form of cultural display, the Mauritian team were all professional in demeanour, knowledgeable in their given field and full of enthusiasm.

Inauguration

In her opening speech, Chairperson of the WTM Forum, Fiona Jeffery, OBE spoke of the many hurdles and challenges that face the travel industry, from economies with crippling debts to consumer confidence.

The positive is that the emerging markets of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) are seen as future powerhouses of the tourism industry and SLIMMA, which is an acronym of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Argentina, follows a close second.

With one billion expected to travel the globe this year the travel industry is constantly on the lookout for new ways to keep the holidaymaker happy.

A number of airlines including Malaysia Airlines have banned babies and young children from certain sections of its aircraft in order to improve the flying experience of other passengers, and Airbus is designing planes with wider seats for obese people.

Airport expansion in the south east of England remains controversial even though one in three of the travel industry support a fifth runway at Heathrow.

After my visit to the WTM I decided to go and have my hair done. I proudly showed my henna tattoo to my hairdresser who asked me if by any chance it had been done at the Oman section. I replied yes, only to be told that the artist is an old school friend of hers. Made me think, what a small world!

Mauritius wins awards

Talking business on the stand



And picking up awards in the process



Mauritius Tourism was awarded, at the WTM, the * Indian Ocean's Leading Dive Destination 2012, * Indian Ocean's Leading Wedding Destination 2012 * Long haul destination of the year for spa & wellness. * Hilton's Mauritius received the award for Mauritius' leading Resort & Spa.

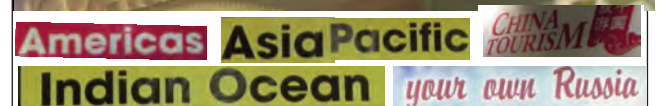


Mylene in Thailand

In the Land of The Thais, known as Thailand. You may have heard of Thai Poosum. You may wish to find out the connection between the two, and between their deities



Abu Dhabi's winning poster. It penetrates the soul



It took Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg 80 days to go around the world.

It took me less than 8 hours to do so and time to spare in the WTM press lounge, a rest well deserved, especially as I have been visiting the WTM since the days of Earl's Court and Olympia for some 20 years. An Armchair Globetrotter!

Are we ready for the MN Holidays Club? Would you invest in it? We have the world to visit.

Celebrating 50 years of 007

THE NAME IS BOND, JAMES BOND ...

2012 has been an epic year for Britain. The Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the 50th anniversary of James Bond, perhaps that is why Skyfall, the latest 007 film has an unmistakably British flavour.

Mainly filmed in and around London, it buckles the usual trend of James picking up his mission from M16 HQ and scooting off to exotic locations round the world. There is a spectacular train crash shot at Pinewood using two specially-built seven tonnes train and a chase in London's Whitehall that utilised 750 extras and 100 vehicles.

Bond wouldn't be Bond

without all his essentials. The suit, the watch, the gun, the car, the drink and cutting edge gadgets. The spectacular set pieces and unforgettable action scenes. Beautiful Bond 'girls', M (Judi Dench) and a dastardly bad guy (Javier Bardem). Although the film looks to the future, the re-introduction of the classic Aston Martin DB5 complete with its original number plate has a rather nostalgic touch.

Over half a decade, seven actors have played Ian Fleming's secret agent, if you include David Niven who appeared as one of seven incarnations of 007 in a spoof of Casino Royale, in 1967. Sean



Bond and his Aston

Connery, George Lazenby, Craig make up the other six. Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel

(f) 1995 - Goldeneye. Dalton quits and Pierce Brosnan takes over as Bond. Judi Dench cast as M
(f) 1997 - Tomorrow Never Dies
(f) 1999 - The World Is Not Enough
(f) 2002 - Die Another Day
(f) 2006 - Casino Royale. Daniel Craig is cast as James Bond
(f) 2008 - Quantum of Solace
(f) 2012 - Skyfall

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU BOND

(b) = BOOKS PUBLISHED (f) = FILMS RELEASED

- (b) 1953- Casino Royale. Fleming's first James Bond book
- (b) 1954 - Live And Let Die
- (b) 1955 - Moonraker
- (b) 1956 - Diamonds Are Forever
- (b) 1957 - From Russia With Love
- (b) 1958 - Dr No
- (b) 1959 - Goldfinger
- (b) 1960 - For Your Eyes Only
- (b) 1961 - Thunderball
- (b) 1962- The Spy Who Loved Me
- (f) 1962 - Dr No
- (b) 1963- On Her Majesty's Secret Service
- (f) 1963- From Russia With Love
- (b) 1964 -You Only Live Twice. Ian Fleming dies
- (f) 1964 - Goldfinger
- (b) 1965 - The Man With The Golden Gun. Goldfinger picks up an Oscar for the Best Sound Effects Editing
- (f) 1965 - Thunderball
- (b) 1966 - Octopussy And The Living Daylights
- (b) 1967 - You Only Live Twice
- (b) 1969 - On Her Majesty's Secret Service. George Lazenby takes over from Sean Connery
- (b) 1971 - Diamonds Are Forever. Connery returns to the role of 007
- (f) 1973 - Live And Let Die. Roger Moore becomes the new Bond
- (f) 1974 - The Man With The Golden Gun
- (f) 1977 - The Spy Who Loved Me
- (f) 1979 - Moonraker
- (f) 1981 - For Your Eyes Only
- (f) 1983 - Octopussy
- (f) 1985 - A View To A Kill
- (f) 1987 - The Living Daylights. Moore steps down and Timothy Dalton steps up to the role
- (f) 1989 Licence To Kill

The Brush and the Camera slug it out at the National Gallery

Seduced by Art: Photography Past and Present

When the internet arrived and reading books online became a regular activity, many were premature in sounding the death toll for the traditional printed version.

In 1939 when the French painter, Paul Delaroche saw a photograph for the first time, he gloomily declared, 'painting is dead.' Now, donkey's years later, painting is hardly dead but photography which struggled to be accepted as an art form has certainly come into its own.

Seduced by Art is the National Gallery's first major exhibition of photography. Not claiming to be an art critique of any calibre, I took my niece, Atlanta, with me as her knowledge of art seems to be inexhaustible.

The exhibition has been described as a

groundbreaking show, one that explores the relationship between historical painting and photography. I guess careful consideration was taken on how to juxtaposition the art works to create an interesting dialogue between the audience and the exhibits, but the end result seems somewhat haphazard and contrived.

Still, don't let that detract from the controversial, thought provoking, slick and exceptional work on display which also include new works specially commissioned for the exhibition.

The rooms are divided according to traditional genres - portraiture, still life, nudes and landscape - with Old Master painting and contemporary photograph presented together.

In the portraiture section, I looked at

Martin Parr's work which is displayed alongside Thomas Gainsborough's Mr and Mrs Andrews (1750).

I compared the two and tried to make a connection, but failed miserably. Chalk and cheese came to mind. However, I was able to see the Baroque influence of Anthony Van Dyck in the photographs of Craigie Horsfield and the Victorian artist David Wilkie Wynfield.

It goes without saying that the human figure, especially unclothed, has fascinated us since times of antiquity.

So it is not surprising to find controversial works by Oscar Gustav Rejlander and contemporary practitioners like Richard Learoyd whose contribution, Man with Octopus Tattoo II, had been placed next to the Laocoön, a sculpture from 25 BC of a Trojan priest and his two sons

hopelessly entwined in the suffocating coils of a sea serpent.

In the landscape section, works by French photographer Gustave Le Gray and contemporary artists such as Jem Southam and Richard Billingham can be seen.

Two epic pictures worth a mention are both by French photographer Luc Delahaye. One is a bleak, sombre, somewhat unspectacular photo of a battlefield in Afghanistan which completely dwarfs the grand tableaux by Emile-Jean Horace Vernet (1821) hanging just above.

The other, a large-scale photo titled, 132nd Ordinary Meeting of the Conference, is the piece de resistance as it is a clear example of how an artist has managed to find a creative way to make use of the influence of an Old Master.

So, what did the discerning eye of

Who knows what could have been!



The name is Chellen, Peter Chellen, and the cocktail in his hand is both shaken and stirred. Black tie and all, the next part was to be his, as M. on the far right could attest. But Connery and Roger would not retire. In the end he lost to Craig, Daniel Craig. Craig did not like the role at first, he could no get the grasp of it, as they say in the trade. Now he is a well-camped Bond. M. leaves with Sky Fall. End of story. That tall Mauritian chap in the white coat, HRL de C, was to take over from Jaws, as the man playing the villain in James Bond films, a constant pain to Bond. He won't have it either.

The gentleman on the far left was actor Reg Varney, late husband of Dame Judi Dench. He is the main attraction of the TV series On The Buses that is still frequently shown on ITV. No, it's not Miss Moneypenny standing next to Reg.

Winning Cockerel Sells for Thousands

Aimee Willsher, Young Artist of the Year

The London-based artist scooped the Young Artist of the Year award in a stunning evening attended by royalty

The prize was presented by HRH Princess Michael of Kent at the Mall Gallery in London. The Cock, is a detailed, colourful art work that took over two years for Aimee to complete and has been sold to an art collector for an undisclosed figure in the thousands. No one could have been more proud of her achievement than her fiancé, my nephew Damien. Aimee talks candidly to Mauritius News about her art and her life



Princess Michael of Kent and the Artist

I would like to produce art for the rest of my life

As a professional artist, I would like to translate my ideas to an ever growing audience and to constantly evolve my style and ideology.

University was very intense

My passion for art propelled me to study the History of Art at Cambridge university. It was hard work but I can appreciate the fact that it has given me a solid background in that field. It's as if I have this pool of knowledge that I can draw upon every day in my own work. It was a huge privilege to be at Cambridge, it has moulded me as an artist and heightened my understanding of what it takes to be a truly great craftsman and how art can be used as an effective political tool to inform and engage with society

sensibility

My style combines both classical and modern influences

I specialise in oil paintings of people and animals. My work focuses on capturing the finite detail of each subject which is contrasted by the bold simplicity of a clear white background. In the case of the winning cockerel painting, I opted for a pale blue background to offset the strong primary colours of the bird. My ultimate is to produce a new genre of portraiture by using both classical and modern influences

It is easy to walk past a homeless person without really seeing the person

That's why I am currently working on a portrait project focusing on the homeless people in Westminster. It is so easy to walk past the man or woman living on the streets as if they were invisible, but you cannot avoid the gaze of a formal portrait. 9m billion was used on an Olympic venue which will be sold to private initiatives yet thousands of people young and old still live on the streets. My aim is to organise a solo exhibition of these portraits

A truly original work of art
All my paintings are produced on commission. That means that I work with your ideas and photographs, the end result is a truly original work of art, whether it is a pencil drawing or a full blown oil painting

Christmas 'Doggies' Cards

For this Yuletide season I have created original handmade cards which I call my, Christmas Doggies. Five different designs, home-printed on the finest quality watercolour paper and set off with a bright red ribbon. Already there is a strong demand.....

I am a lucky girl!

This year I have exhibited my work at various exhibitions including the Whitstable Oyster Festival. That I have great support and encouragement from my family and Damien's family and those close around me is a blessing. My career as an artist is so enjoyable I can class it as one of my hobbies.

<http://www.aimeewillsher.com>



© X7551
Maisie Maud Broadhead
Keep Them Sweet, 2010
C-type print
145 x 106.5 cm
Represented by Sarah
Myerscough Fine Art,
London
Image © Maisie Broadhead

Atlanta make of this exhibition? She quotes Oscar Wilde: Life imitates Art far more than Art imitates life.

She explains clearly and succinctly what that means, but I'll leave you to your own interpretation.

“A ship in harbour is safe, but that’s not what ships are built for” William Shedd

Stranded in Bucharest Central

*The idea of spies, informants, secret police and places mysteriously steeped in Cold War propaganda was an adventure that a young man had to experience. (An extract from an essay by Damien Gallagher) **

The idea of spies, informants, secret police and places mysteriously steeped in Cold War propaganda was an adventure that a young man had to experience. An extract from the essay, Bucharest Central.

Well before Shedd penned this famous quote in the 1800’s, young people have gone in search of adventure in foreign lands. Romania is now a popular tourist destination, but just after the Iron Curtain was lifted, The British Foreign Office warned all travellers to avoid this country. At 17 years of age I decided to go inter-railing around Eastern Europe. The war taking place in what was then Yugoslavia, forced me to journey to Bucharest.

E. Europe was a long way from the ignorant stereotype fed to us at school. It was much like the rest of Europe, but poorer. Beautiful villages and inspiring landscapes. Drab industrial towns and endless tracts of ugly agriculture.

Bucharest station was huge, cold, confusing, alien and overwhelming

It was a throwback to the Communist paramours of form and function arrogantly overriding nature, on the one side, and humanity, on the other. Humphrey Bogart once said that, “By the time you’re 50, you wear the face you deserve.” Well, this place had its face and it was void of love, full of brutality and my only thought was to get out of there as soon as possible.

One dollar for the use of the toilet and for a single sheet of loo roll

The need to relieve my bladder led me to a dark, tiled, staircase, resembling a drug-addled subway from an 80’s thriller. A stodgy old lady, think of a boiled ham stuffed into laddered tights, was the attendant. I entered a dungeon, where a full inch of urine bathed the floor, sloshing to and fro with the traffic of feet as if in the swaying bowels of some nightmarish ship of yore. The tiled walls appeared to be victims of several deranged assaults involving faeces.

And then there were the old men

Their faces dark and leathered by a lifetime of exposure. Dusty, threadbare jackets. Eyes quietly watching. They stood waiting for I-don’t-know-what. Silently, in piss.

Sharks of the station

These were the illegal money-changers dressed in black leather jackets with gums full of gold. The station their domain, their hunting ground where the

scent of naivety, like fresh blood, was picked up with every new arrival. In tight little shoals, they circled the concourse slowly, their dark, dead eyes betraying a predatory cynicism that focused on every new comer to the feeding ground. Circling and sizing up and waiting until the right moment to approach and begin their business of confidence and trickery. Many would be duped to exchange American Dollars for a couple of Romanian notes wrapped around a pile of carefully guillotined newsprint.

Dispossessed, starving and desperate were the children seeking a morsel of food or small bit of change.

Some were dressed in traditional Romani Gypsy garb, the girls like mini belly dancers, all anklets and chattering coins, headscarves framing naturally beautiful faces set with piercing, crystalline, blue eyes, yet their faces a contortion of anguish as they gestured for food, stabbing empty fingers to dry little lips. They were the lucky ones.

Like old war veterans, apathetic, as if in regret of the horrors of struggle

These were the street children. Most had limbs missing. Some used crutches and others bits of wood obviously found in skips. The image of one little boy has stayed with me. No more than eight years old his face was that of a man at the end of his years. He was wrinkled beyond belief and with that air of tired acceptance one only sees in geriatric wards and nursing homes for the elderly. Now and again he pops into my head unexpectedly, his woeful gaze fixing deep into my soul, reminding me that love is above all things.

I exchanged \$20 for a large wad of Romanian Lei that filled my secret money belt to bursting

Food was so cheap that I soon realised I had made a big mistake changing so much money, as it was illegal to take the local currency out of the country and impossible to exchange abroad, made this money worthless. So, I decided take a yellow Yugo taxi back to the bureau de change

“I take you to a good place, Marché noir”, said the driver

I was driven through an outer part of town, less developed, less populated and decidedly shifty looking. I began to worry. The tarmac, covered in a fine layer of dry, sandy dust playing in the breeze, reminded me of

the setting of so many a mid-West adventure. Such stories inevitably had their silence



broken by the sound of gunfire and screams of terror and I could only hope that my over-active imagination would prove, once again, to be in the wrong.

Windows blacked out, guard at door and the man who looked like he ran things flanked by a pair of silent bodyguards

My Lei made quite a sizeable pile on the table and as one of the minders stepped forward and began to count them out very methodically, I began to relax a little, that was until the money-man was forced to lean forward to grab a stray note and his jacket fell open to reveal a pistol stuffed into the belt of his trousers. I pretended not to notice, but I did make a mental note that I would not be arguing over the exchange rate

Back at the station, and happy to be shot of our black market friends, it was time book my passage on the next train South

In these parts, it is advisable to pay a little extra to reserve a seat to avoid a day-long journey standing between carriages, outside an overflowing toilet. Fighting my way into what seemed the shortest queue, I lined up patiently like a true Brit while old ladies with unfeasible bundles butted in and rich Russian women in red stilettos and shiny shell suits tottered with impunity to the front. I made my way forward laden with the weight of a cumbersome back-pack, the horde unwilling to budge, I stepped aside towards a vacant space only to find the little child with the old man’s face lying on the ground amidst the throng. I still wonder if he was dead or just sleeping. Ignored and avoided, his story seemed at an end. A young man aged by misfortune.

*** Damien Gallagher has**

been a reader of Mauritius News since his childhood. His mother, Marie Claire, was for a long time a contributor to our Recipe columns

HOLLYWOOD & BOLLYWOOD

IN CINEMAS 20th DECEMBER IN 3D & 2D

Life of Pi: A masterpiece, a visual wonder



Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee (Brokeback Mountain, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon) directs LIFE OF PI, based upon Yann Martel’s beloved book, which went on to become one of the biggest publishing events of the past decade. The movie is a real masterpiece. Described as the next “Avatar” this movie will certainly be a blockbuster. Its the kind of family movie which is a must see during the greeting season.

Life of Pi is a visual wonder, a cinematographic journey in a world of fantasy guided by the genius of Ang Lee. An epic adventure of magical realism, LIFE OF PI follows the story of a young man’s incredible survival at sea against almost impossible odds. A remarkable breakthrough in the use of 3D technology, PI will take audiences on an emotionally captivating journey that will inspire, touch and transport them to a place of discovery they will be unable to forget.

LIFE OF PI stars newcomer Suraj Sharma as Pi, Gerard Depardieu (Cyrano de Bergerac), Rafe Spall (Prometheus), Irrfan Khan (Slumdog Millionaire) and Tabu (The Namesake).

Yann Martel’s novel has been adapted into a screen play by David Magee (Finding Neverland), produced by Ang Lee, Gil Netter (Water for Elephants), David Womark (Stardust), co-produced by David Lee. Cinematography by Claudio Miranda (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button), editing by Tim Squyres (Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon). Production Design by David Gropman (Date Night), music by Mychael Danna (Little Miss Sunshine).

Akshay Kumar returns in Khiladi 786

Bollywood supremo Akshay Kumar will once again please his adoring fans worldwide when he returns, after an absence of 12 years, to his famous Khiladi franchise with Khiladi 786.

The film sees Akshay flexing his box office pulling power as well as his brawn. He pulls no punches as he high-kicks his way through some truly spectacular stunts, harnessing his considerable experience of martial arts and extreme sports to make the film a truly visual feast of high-caliber action and stunts galore all sprinkled with some classic ‘Akshay humour’.

The all-action, stunt-laden film, produced by Akshay’s home production company Hari Om Entertainment and Himesh Reshammiya’s company HR Musik, once again teams the versatile Akshay with previous co-stars Paresw Rawal (OMG: Oh My God), Mithun Chakraborty (OMG: Oh My God) and leading lady Asin (Housefull 2) in this explosive Masala action-comedy film. The supporting cast boasts the comic talents of Johnny Lever (Golmaal 4, Housefull 2) and musical hero Himesh Reshammiya, who has co-written the film’s script with Kushal Bakshi and Bunty Rathore as well as penning the musical score. Khiladi 786 has been directed by debutant Ashish R Mohan who previously assisted Rohit Shetty with hits Golmaal, Golmaal Returns, All the Best: Fun Begins and Golmaal 3.

Bollywood’s original Khiladi Akshay Kumar has enjoyed a successful year so far with his first two releases of 2012 Housefull 2 and Rowdy Rathore both entering the coveted 100 crore club at the box office in India. Recently, Akshay released his maiden film project OMG: Oh My God from his new production company Grazing Goat Pictures to rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.



The film, which is a departure from Akshay’s more typical Bollywood offerings, is an avant-garde black-comedy exploring the realms of faith and God.

Khiladi 786 will once again see the ever-entertaining Akshay assume the role of action hero as he fights the bad guys, cracks some wise one-liners and gets the girl in this year’s must see festive film. Khiladi 786 releases internationally in cinemas on 7th December 2012.

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Mauritian reminiscences

Thomas Bradshaw, an illuminating artist but a poor civil servant of His Majesty



One of the forty views of Bradshaw's collection. This one is showing plate No. 10 «Grande Rivière» (looking South-East)

Thomas Bradshaw's "Views in the Mauritius or Isle de France" appeared in 1832, that is some 180 years ago in London. They were published by James Carpenter & Son of Old Bond Street and dedicated "To His Majesty, William The Fourth" by "His Dutiful Subjects and Servants' Thomas Bradshaw and William Rider. (1) There were forty plates engraved on stone by William Rider from paintings 'drawn from nature' by T. Bradshaw. The value of this pictorial production is enhanced 'with a memoir of the island, and a description of each view.' The full list of plates is indicative enough of the invaluable contribution of Bradshaw's work to the history of early 19th century Mauritius, the author having been a civil servant of the British colonial government at the very beginning of the British occupation of the island in 1810, and serving as well in Bourbon when this sister island was under British rule.(2)

The drawings of Bradshaw have been hailed by the best art critic of the island as the most representative of early British Mauritius. "Les dessins de Bradshaw sont, sans conteste, ce que l'on a fait de mieux sur l'île Maurice de ce temps-là."(3) Bradshaw is quoted as one of the main contributors to the historiography of Mauritius through pictorial works. "Il y dans l'oeuvre picturale des périodes hollandaise, française et anglaise de notre histoire, de riches et émouvants témoignages de ce que l'île a pu inspirer à des artistes. Les gravures de Valentyn et de Savery, les lithographies de Thuillier, de Milbert, de Sainson, de Temple et de Bradshaw, les aquarelles de d'Hasstrel et de Bowler, notamment, nous offrent un assez large éventail d'un art qui est resté une des expressions les plus sensibles et les plus variées de l'historiographie mauricienne."(Ibid) Views encompassing almost all the districts of the island

The forty views drawn by Bradshaw encompass almost all the districts of the island except those of Flacq and Rivière du Rempart. The lion share goes to Port-Louis with 13 views bearing the following captions: 1. Port Louis, 2. Port Louis, from the Eastern side of the Harbour, 3. Port Louis, from "La petite Montagne" (twilight), 4.

Port Louis, from the Offing, 5. Protestant Church, Port Louis, 6. From the Beach, near Fort Blanc, 7. Near "Les Salines", 8. Mouth of "La Grande Rivière", 9. Village of "La Grande Rivière", 10. "Grande Rivière" (looking South-East), 11. Aqueduct at "La Grande Rivière". Two additional views (Nos. 39 & 40) which are naturally linked to Port Louis bear the captions "Baie du Tombeau", looking West, and "Baie du Tombeau", looking North.

The remaining two-thirds show views taken from the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Black River, Savanne, Grand Port, Moka and Pamplemousses. The two views of Plaines Wilhems bear the captions: 12. "Cascade des Plaines Wilhems", 13. On the "Marais aux Vacouas". An additional view of Plaines Wilhems (No. 31) shows a waterfall "Cascade Piston". The five views drawn from the district of Black River enrich Bradshaw's collection devoted to scenes of the western part of the island, when added to the thirteen views of Port Louis prominently situated on the western coast. The views from Black River district show: 14. "La Rivière Noire", 15. At "La Rivière Noire", 16. On the "Rivière du Tamarin", 17. "Les trois Manguiers", 18. "Cascade du Tamarin".

Pamplemousses placed second in importance after Port Louis

Bradshaw's collection then unfolds with six views drawn from the district of Savanne: 19. "In the district of La Savanne", 20. "Morne Brabant", district of "La Savanne", 21. "Baie du Cap", 22. "Baie du Cap (from the Eastern Cliffs)", 23. Fall of the "Rivière du Cap", 24. On the "Rivière du Cap". Two districts, Grand Port and Moka, have inspired three views each. From Grand Port there are: 25. Barracks at Mahébourg, 26. On the "Rivière des Créoles" and 27. Near Mahébourg. The Moka scenes show: 28. "Le Réduit", 29. "Le Bout du Monde" and 30. In the district of Moka. No less than seven views of Pamplemousses district (coming second in the list of places after Port Louis, which is not surprising in the work of a British artist and civil servant who came to Mauritius in the wake of the British conquest of the island, the two districts, Port Louis and Pamplemousses, having been central in the British

takeover) are depicted in Bradshaw's collection.

It is remarkable in the section of his work on Pamplemousses district that Bradshaw gives equal importance to places and legendary figures which have been central under French occupation such as Mon Plaisir and Paul and Virginia, and under British occupation such as Powder Mills where the British land forces assembled for the final assault on the French troops on the way to Port Louis. This seems to be an artistic rendering of the spirit of compromise that characterized British administration of the old Isle de France. The seven views of Pamplemousses are: 32. Powder Mills, Pamplemousses, 33. Near the Powder Mills, Pamplemousses, 34. Near "Mon Plaisir", Pamplemousses, 35. Tombs of "Paul et Virginie" and 36. Near Pamplemousses.

Bradshaw's four views of Grand River North West

At least four views of Grand River North West are painted by Bradshaw (was he residing in the neighbourhood which, it must be said, was very residential at the time?). They appear on plates 8 to 11 and show the mouth, the village and the aqueduct, and one view showing "Grande Rivière" looking south-east. This view is of particular interest as it gives an idea of the immediate surroundings of the river with its wooden bridge, the picturesque buildings with their colonial attic and the abundance of trees on the banks. The scene is most relaxing showing in the foreground a couple and a child picnicking, small sailing boats gliding smoothly on the river and people crossing the bridge. Bradshaw has given an elaborate description of this view on plate 10:

"The village of Grande Rivière is about a mile from Port Louis, and its environs abound with picturesque scenery.

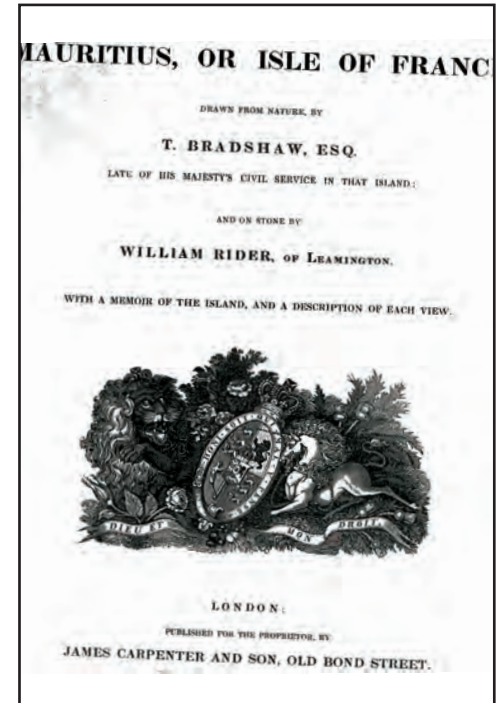
The point of view which has been selected is on the cliff, on the western side of the mouth of the river, which here presents an imposing breadth of water, but its depth is not very considerable. The bridge, which is of wood, has been, within these few years, rebuilt by government. The buildings below, on the right, comprise the Civil Hospital, a long building with a flat roof, and numerous bungalows, in which the Indian convicts employed upon the roads are lodged. The Grande Rivière is formed by the junction of four rapid mountain torrents, three of which rise in the hills of Moka, the Rivières, Moka, Profonde, and Mesnil, and that of the Plaines Wilhems, which rises in the district of that name. These torrents pursue their winding course, for the most part, through ravines of great depth. Attempts have occasionally been made to follow the course of these streams along their beds. Some nerve is required, in the outset, to descend the rugged precipitous paths made by the negroes in the almost perpendicular cliffs, which they run down with the agility of mountain-goats; having reached the bottom of the ravine, fresh obstacles present themselves in the nature of the ground, which is invariably covered with brambles and bushes, which in some places are impassable; and the traveller is compelled to cross and re-cross the river repeatedly as he proceeds. These formidable obstacles, in addition to the heat of the climate, render it, in general, too fatiguing as undertaking for a European to persevere in – The hills on the left are the western extremity of the Moka range, terminating in the "Montagne Orry". The mountain on the right is the "Corps de Garde", the outline of which bears a remarkable resemblance to the rock of Gibraltar."

In general Bradshaw's description of the views of 'Grande Rivière' provides valuable information about things, buildings, people and sceneries in and in the neighbourhood of the locality in the first decades of the 19th century such as the various rivers converging towards Grand River, the mountains, buildings such as the Civil Hospital and the principal station of the Indian convicts employed in road-building and maintenance. Mention of these buildings is made in the description of at least two of the views – the one entitled 'Grande Rivière – Looking South-East' and the other entitled 'Village of 'La Grande Rivière'. Among people who draw the attention of the artist are the black washermen and washerwomen who were active on the banks of the river.

The man behind the artist, a public officer of disrepute

Described in the title page of his collection of

drawings as « late of His Majesty's Civil Service in that island », P. J. Barnwell asserts that Bradshaw « is to be identified with the man who in 1813 was Collector of Internal revenue at Bourbon, before it was handed back to France at the peace.»(2) From Bourbon Bradshaw came to Mauritius in October 1814 « to be Register of Slaves, on a salary of £1100, with £400 allowed for clerks. »(Ibid) But his office proved to be a white elephant. « The work did not go efficiently, and in September 1820 the acting governor, General Darling, reported that one clerk Bataille had been guilty of fraud in the office ; that another, Budm, was incapable, and that Bradshaw himself was unfit to be Registrar. »(Ibid)



Further adverse reports came. In June 1823 governor Sir Lowry Cole reported that Bradshaw was repaying excess pay which he had received by authority of former governor Sir Robert Farquhar. In November 1825, Bradshaw was censured for irregularities and delays in compiling the register of slaves. A report of August 1826 said he was « an idle and inefficient public officer, not worthy to be the auditor-general » and another one of May 1827 said he was not « attending to the duties himself », leaving his clerk McCarthy to do the office work. Prior to the last two reports, Bradshaw had gone on leave in February 1826 and was replaced by Colonel Draper. When he had applied for leave in the United Kingdom, « one comment was that he desired to avoid meeting » the Colebrooke-Blair commission of enquiry which, among other things, were to investigate the issue and practice of slavery in the Colony. Bradshaw before Bourbon and after publishing his 'Views'

Did Bradshaw come back to Mauritius after his leave ? One thing is certain that « nothing is known of his years before his service in Bourbon in 1813, of his years after publishing his Views in 1832. » (Ibid) Another question worth asking is whether he left a family in Mauritius. « There are several Bradshaws in the civil lists a generation later : G. T. Bradshaw in 1854 a clerk in the treasury and secretariat before becoming a landing-waiter in 1859. From 1857, there was a Charles Arthur Bradshaw a veterinary surgeon in Port Louis, and a Mrs G. Bradshaw a teacher of vocal music. There was a cricketer, C. Bradshaw, playing for Port Louis Cricket Club in 1863, and a C.A. Bradshaw in 1869... Were they of his stock ? »

Albeit, Bradshaw may have been a poor civil servant, but his artistic works have been given due recognition since the late 1980s when « the Views in the Mauritius by Thomas Bradshaw has realized Rs100,000 at auction ! »

DODO

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Plate No. 32 showing « Powder Mills, Pamplemousses » drawn in 1811.

INTERVIEW



Karen Foo Kune, MMM's candidate for BB/RH with MP Kee Cheong Li

Karen Foo Kune: "The choice of joining the MMM was as easy as a badminton game"

Mauritius News (MN)- How did you make the transition from high level sport to politics?

Karen Foo Kune (KFK) - Well, I guess that they both stand for the same values; patriotism, personal commitment and sacrifices, the necessity to give the best of yourself and the aptitude to communicate with the population and the press.

Since I've been doing all this for many years now, I guess that the transition to politics will be smooth.

(MN) - What made your decision to join the MMM and to stand for elections in Beau Bassin Rose-Hill?

(KFK) - I've always been pro-MMM. I believe this country is going through challenging times. We've talked about the economic situation but one of the main challenges this country is facing is the electoral reform.

I chose to be part of a political family which believes that any woman or man, whatever her or his origin can become Prime Minister of this country. This political party, through its origins, its history - whose pinnacle was undoubtedly Paul Berenger's accession to Prime-ministership - is the only one that can answer to pertaining issues.

As for the region, this is where I grew up and still live in. I am perfectly aware of the troubles there and its people need the representatives of the MSM/MMM alliance to solve them.

(MN) - Was it an easy choice to make?

(KFK) - It was as easy as a game of badminton

(MN) - The Mauritian political arena is quite a fierce one, with many hits below the belt. Are you ready for that challenge?

(KFK) - My mentor, Moogess Veerabadren, who is himself a two-time Lord Mayor of Port-Louis told me once that I should never fear such acts as long as my hands and track record remain clean.

I guess that hitting below the waist becomes harder when you don't have anything to substantiate it.

(MN) - What are your projects as candidate?

(KFK) - This young team of qualified candidates of the MSM/MMM alliance has a lot of projects, but let us wait for our Leader to announce them first.

(MN) - Does this mean that your sporting career is over now?

(KFK) - Yeah, it's been over for some months now. As I said in a local newspaper (SPlus Dimanche), I'm all too aware of the means on hand to develop the younger sportsmen and women.

I've traveled the world and one thing I can tell you, the investment other countries put in their athletes is considerable.

Over here, they invest far less, talk much, rush beside someone who wins something, get furious when you don't get a result as if they were the ones on the pitch, and when you're down, they're nowhere to be seen.

With the limited means on hand, I prefer having those funds given to younger people emerging. But I'm in a good position to know that there ain't a lot thinking like me.

Indian politician and animal and environment campaigner, Maneka Gandhi:

"I appeal to the Government of Mauritius to implement a ban on the breeding and export of primates."



Slaughtered monkeys in mauritius

"I am happy to support the BUAV on this issue. I am deeply concerned by the plight of the monkeys in Mauritius. This trade inflicts great suffering on tens of thousands of primates every year. Mauritius is not a poor country. Its main income is from tourism. Its people are a gentle people and its culture is gentle. Why does it have to earn money from inflicting needless violence on defenceless creatures? I appeal to the Government of Mauritius to implement a ban on the breeding and export of primates", stated the Indian Politician.

Moreover, the BUAV statement has also been signed by key religious and socio-cultural groups in Mauritius, including the Mauritius Sanatan Dharma Temples Federation, Hindu House, Federation of Arya Samaj, ISKCON and Arya Sabha Mauritius, as well as British Members of Parliament and celebrities, including international actor Nitin Ganatra. This support represents a growing awareness and concern on Mauritius and internationally about the suffering inflicted on the country's monkey population.

"We support the Save Our Monkeys Mauritius, BUAV campaign as animals do not need to suffer. We are bringing on a battle for life and as Humans have life, the monkeys of Mauritius also have the same life. We are the guardians of these monkeys, we need to protect them and not allow suffering. Before, laboratories used to test on animals, but due to advances in technology in the world, new alternatives are available, hence, a solution to end the suffering of animals. Mauritius is a small island where the dodo was a natural beauty. Unfortunately, the dodo is now extinct. We need to be conscious about the fate of the dodo as we will also lose the natural beauty of our monkeys as well. The government of Mauritius will need to find a solution to save our monkeys"(Archarya Hanslall Sooklall, Head Priest, Hindu House; President, Sanatan Dharma Purohit Mandal)

Michelle Thew, Chief Executive of the BUAV stated; "Maneka Gandhi is well known for her compassion for animals. We are delighted to receive her support in our

campaign to raise awareness about the breeding and export of primates in Mauritius for experimentation around the world. This cruel trade has continued unchallenged for too long."

A BUAV investigation has recently uncovered the slaughter of hundreds of monkeys by Noveprim Ltd, a primate breeding farm in Mauritius. Graphic images released by the BUAV, that show discarded dead monkeys stacked in piles on the floor or dumped in bins and skips like garbage have been broadcast around the world resulting in widespread shock and revulsion (picture above).

Furthermore, the BUAV has renewed its call to Air France to end the transportation of primates destined for the research industry. Air France transports monkeys for Noveprim to the USA and France (to be distributed across Europe). Only recently a shipment of over 100 young monkeys was sent to a satellite breeding facility in Spain (Carmarles) via Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. Photographs obtained by the BUAV show crates containing monkeys waiting to be loaded on to an Air France aircraft.

The BUAV has led the international campaign to end the cruel shipment of monkeys destined for research. Over the years, their efforts have moved many airlines to dissociate themselves from this cruel trade. Airlines that do not transport primates include American Airlines, British Airways, United Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, Northwest Airlines, Qantas Airways, South African Airways, Delta Airlines, Air China, Eva Air, Qatar Airways and China Airlines. However, a small number of passenger airlines including Air France continue to be involved in this ugly business.

The BUAV also has launched a global AVAAZ petition urging the Mauritius Prime Minister to ban the breeding and export of primates for research. Please sign and share it with your friends and family. It is important that we demonstrate the strength of public opinion on this issue.

Source: BUAV.ORG

Agony Uncle by CLAUDE CANABADY

Question

I am a young man by the name of T, I am 23 yrs old. I am single and still live at home with my mother. My father left us when I was very young. I have had a very unhappy upbringing because of my father's absence and I still feel quite bad at times. I do not really have any friends at work or outside work. I try to mix with other people but I am sure that they find me boring. I wonder whether they laugh after I have left them. I usually run out of things to say and I feel generally that the other persons are trying to cut me out of the conversation. I feel so desperately unhappy. I really want to make friends with people at work or in social occasions but I find it so difficult. Away from work, I usually stay at home and watch the television and this to me is a dull routine. My life is so boring and empty and I really do not know what to do. Please help and advise me. Thank you, I look forward to your reply.

Answer

The first thing that you should do is to shake yourself out of this lethargy. Complaining and not doing anything will not change your life. If you long to have friends, people that you are happy with, people that you can trust, then shake yourself and wake up. I am sure that you are not boring but if you think that way, you will probably become boring to others. One thing for sure, you must attend to is your technique of making friends. If you moan about your troubles all the time, you are bound to put people off. Remember, you cannot force anyone to be your friend. You can try to pick and choose the people you want to be friends with but if they do not want to be in your company, if they do not wish to be friends with you, accept it and move on. There are a number of things that will turn people off. I will suggest some, I am sure that you can add on this list.

1. Avoid telling other people what to do, in other words avoid being bossy.
2. Do not praise yourself; people don't like those who are full of self praise.
3. Stop moaning all the time. You might have difficulties. You might feel hard done by. Your friends do not want to hear that all the time.
4. Avoid lying or cheating - friends want somebody that they can trust and rely on.
5. Do not be mean - be generous to your friends and they will reciprocate.
6. Refrain from gossiping and talking about other people behind their back - a sure way to lose friends and make enemies.
7. Do not talk about yourself all the time. If you try to hog the limelight to the detriment of others, you will be thought of as a bag full of hot air.
8. Avoid constantly telling others what they are doing is wrong. Do not take the role of a know all. People do make mistakes and will learn from them.
9. Avoid being sarcastic. Remember sarcasm is the lowest form of wit.
10. Not to be serious all the times. There is a time for the conversation to be thoughtful and full of meaning but there must be times for banter so do try to maintain the balance. Finally, you must try to work out what could be termed as people skills
 - a) to make good eye contact. It makes people feel that you are interested in them, interested in what you are saying
 - b) Do listen attentively to what other people are saying
 - c) Try to look friendly

Pay attention to the combination of your body language, what you say and the way you listen. Have you considered joining local clubs that will give you more confidence and develop your social skills? You do need to work at them. Good luck

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Mauritius back to Top 20 in Doing Business 2013

Mauritius improved its ranking in the World Bank's Doing Business 2013 survey from the 23rd to the 19th position. The study entitled 'Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises' assesses regulations affecting domestic firms in 185 economies and ranks the economies in 10 areas of business regulation, such as starting a business, resolving insolvency and trading across borders.

Extension of Mauritius Container Terminal starts soon

The Mauritius Port Authority has embarked on an ambitious project for the extension and the strengthening of the Mauritius Container Terminal Quay at Port Louis. Works on the project are due to start in the first quarter of 2013 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2015. The project which will cost \$127 million, consists of extending the existing quay (560 metres) by 260 m, expanding the container stacking yard by 6.5 hectares and constructing bunds and shore protection at Fort George and Fort William to stock dredged materials.

The 66th edition of Miss France 2012 held this month

The 66th edition of Miss France 2012 will be held in France this month and will be broadcast live on TF1. It is notable that the preparation contest for the pageant has been filmed in Mauritius from 15 to 22 November 2012. 33 contestants have been involved in the preparation in view of the selection of Miss France this month. The preparation involving photo shoots, film shoots and promotional spots has been covered by the French media both online and offline.

MPS and PFI host Angel Tree on 12 December

Mauritius Prisons Service (MPS) in collaboration with the Prison Fellowship International (PFI) will host the Angel Tree for the second time in Mauritius. It will take place on December 12, at the Beau Bassin Central Prison and festivities for families will be held on the same day in the Gymnasium of the Prison Training School. The Angel Tree is part of the programme of Prison Fellowship International present in 129 countries around the world which aims to bringing joy, hope and peace of Christmas to children of detainees.

Village and municipal elections on December 2 & 9 respectively

Nomination day for candidates sitting for the coming village elections was held on Saturday 17 November. These elections are scheduled for 2 December this month. Municipal elections

will be held one week later, on December 9.

Candos Hospital equipped with a second radiotherapy unit

New services will be made available for cancer treatment at Victoria Hospital in Candos. As a matter of fact, the hospital will soon have a second radiotherapy unit, which will help to improve treatment as all cancer patients on the island receive treatment there. Construction of the new block of 8 or 9 floors dedicated to cancer is scheduled to start next year. It is expected that the new will be ready and running by 2014.

80 secondary schools

engaged in Argo programme in January

In January, some 80 secondary schools of the island will be engaged in the Argo programme (an observation system for the Earth's oceans, for use in climate prediction, weather forecast, oceanographic and fisheries research in the Indian Ocean) in collaboration with Lady Amber Research Vessel which is under the command of Captain Peter Flanagan. All information will be received via satellite and may be interpreted by different departments as appropriate at school level. The Lady Amber will be in our waters in April 2012.

Hospital patients' info online by 2013 for improved medical services

The setting up of an E-health Strategic Plan in all Public Health Outlets is contemplated with a view to use ICT to improve the delivery of medical services to the population. Through this plan, it is expected that there will be better control on issues such as drugs given to patients, reduction in waiting time, easy retrieval of records and timely access to clinical test results. Moreover, various medical centres across the island will easily get the medical history of the patients through electronic identity cards.

East-West Connector', a 35-km long road, at Rs 3 billion

Processes for the East-West Connection route which is a Private-Public Partnership at a cost of Rs3 billion have started. It aims at cutting down travel time for the transit between the east and the west avoiding a detour through small villages further south. Still at a feasibility study stage, the 'East-West Connector', a 35-km long road, starting from the East at Centre de Flacq will pass through Providence, Quartier Militaire, Phoenix, Réduit, and will end in Flic-en-Flac – West of the island.

Road Safety Education in primary in 2013

Road Safety will be introduced in the primary school curriculum as a cross-cutting theme in the different subjects as from 2013. In this regard, several sensitization campaigns have already been held in both primary and secondary schools and relevant CDs, leaflets and posters were made available to inculcate the basic concepts of road safety in the school community. The aim of the programme is to initiate pupils to road safety issues and road signs and to make them more responsible on the roads as pedestrians and future drivers.

New Students' Union at UoM for academic year 2013-2014

A new team of the Students' Union of the University of Mauritius (UoM) has been elected for the academic year 2013-2014. Student Power won eight out of nine seats while one of the candidates of the opponent Student Force was elected. One of the priorities of the Students' Union is to revalorize the different clubs and societies on the campus. Out of approximately 13,000 students (full-time and part-time), only 4,350 students participated in the poll.

MK Flights to Shanghai twice a week in 2013

The Air Mauritius service to Shanghai via Kuala Lumpur, inaugurated on July 4, 2011, having returned positive results (a growth of 38.3 per cent in the number of arrivals from China for the period January to September 2012), two direct weekly flights to Shanghai will be effective from January 24, 2013. Both flights will also offer connections to and from Reunion, Madagascar and South Africa.

Armistice Remembered

Mauritians in the Second World War

Amit Bhoonah's first book 'Mauritians in the Second World War' was launched on Remembrance Day

The launching ceremony took place on Sunday 11 November in the Robert d'Unienville Hall of the Royal College at Curepipe. The book is the 21st one published by Osman Publishing.

The book deals with the major events that have marked Mauritian history from 1939 to 1945. Based mainly on personal interviews, it relates the many difficulties faced by Mauritians during World War II, both as soldiers in the army and as citizens.

Mauritian soldiers joined the British Army to participate in the North African and Italian campaigns, engaged with the Free French Forces, and volunteered with the local forces. Citizens were confronted with acute food shortages and strict military rules, stood up in support of General de Gaulle, and witnessed major historical events such as the internment of 1,600 Jewish refugees destined for Palestine.

The book is an attempt to collate the different aspects of Mauritian history during World War II together into a single piece of work.

Ramesh Ramdoyal who did the critical reading

The young author Amit Bhoonah has kindly agreed to respond to a few questions from Mauritius News

What brought you to write about 'Mauritians in the Second World War'?

The idea evolved from childhood stories I heard from my grandmother. She would speak of this lady whose husband went to war barely a week after they got married and never came back. She also mentioned that people said war veterans were starving so badly they had to feed on rats in the deserts. These details got me interested and I had always



Author Amit

wanted to research the subject. After my HSC, given that I would have to wait six months for University, I decided that there would never be a better time in my life to do that so I took a gap year to work on it.

How come that a teenager gets interested in writing about an event or events that have been of importance for people who have been living nearly three-quarter of a century back?

I think the old days have a certain charm about them that people of my generation find seductive. Log cabins, fireplaces, the forests, rearing animals... it almost feels like bedtime story material. True, you would not put your kids to sleep with World War II stories, but that does not make it any less interesting. Also, World War II led to a series of historical events still very much relevant today. For example, US and British interest in Diego Garcia started during the war, when it was used as a naval base by Allied Forces.

Did you choose to write on this theme yourself or were you oriented?

It was my idea but I could never

have done it had it not been for the help and support of Prof. Marc Serge Rivière, the Mauritius Ex Servicemen Association, my parents, and



Mr. Fritz Thomas, Chairman of the 'Mauritius Ex-Services Trust Fund' presenting a copy of the book to Amit's mother, Mrs. Yogueswaree Bhoonah.

most importantly, the wonderful war veterans who shared their stories with me.

With the numerous personal interviews you have carried out to supplement your research the book will no doubt remain as a memorial of this parcel of our history. What can you say about the sum of efforts you provided for this work which will no doubt enrich the documentation available up to now on the subject?

The main difficulty I faced was the fact that very little documentation was available on the subject. But, in a way, that was good because it forced me to go and get the information at source: the mouth of those veterans! I saw a 90 year old man shed tears as he remembered the 1940s. Another one had dementia or Alzheimer's disease-he could not remember what I told him five minutes ago and would continuously repeat everything he just said. However, memories of the 1940s were crystal clear in his mind; he even remembered his company name in the army! It was probably the toughest interview I faced, but it was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Perhaps the only regret I have is not having been able to interview a veteran from Rodrigues.

You were not physically present at the ceremony which you could yet follow live

through our modern

technology. How did you feel all along especially as the launch took place on your very birthday and mum and dad were invited to cut a birthday cake on the occasion?

It was actually not my birthday. It was my first book and my parents wanted to celebrate by offering cake; it is something we do in the family to celebrate good times (as do a lot of Mauritian families I am sure). Personally, it felt great to be able to watch the ceremony live. I was happy to see my book finally out, because it has not been a plain sailing ride. Writing it was, in a sense, the easy part but publication took nearly two years.

Any future plans?

Personally, I wanted my book and this ceremony to open a door for a greater media interest in our war veterans. I heard some of them were interviewed on the MBC and appreciate that as a step forward.

My aim from now on is to try to get more and more war veterans into the limelight so that they can share their stories with Mauritius and the world; they will do a much better job than me sharing their own stories! I intend to contact various news agencies in that regard. Finally, I will try to encourage the families to engrave the memories of their heroic grandfathers and grandmothers (Mauritian women went to war too) on paper, audio, or film.

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Use Caution When Using Contact Lenses

by Devinia Sookia (USA)*

Millions of people wear contact lenses all over the world as it is very practical. The introduction of disposable daily lenses has encouraged more and more people to opt for contact lenses rather than glasses.

However not many wearers of contact lenses have seriously thought of the risks involved in using contact lenses. Recent warnings from scientists in the United Kingdom have drawn our attention to something that a lot of contact lenses wearers do without realising that this could result in blindness.

Washing contact lenses in tap water

Contact lenses should never be washed with tap water as there is the risk of catching Acanthamoeba. Acanthamoeba is a naturally occurring single-celled organism that is found in untreated soil and liquids including tap water. If it gets into the lens and comes in contact with the eye, it can penetrate the cornea and cause Acanthamoeba keratitis. As a result great damage can occur to the eyes. Symptoms include redness and eye pain, tearing, light sensitivity, blurred vision, discharge and feeling as though there is a foreign body in the eye. As many of the symptoms resemble those associated with Pinkeye, Acanthamoeba keratitis can be difficult for an eye doctor to diagnose.

Acanthamoeba keratitis diagnosis is usually reached when the symptoms persist despite antibiotics. The presence of a ring-like ulceration in the eye can also be used as an indicator. While Acanthamoeba poses a risk to everyone, contact lens wearers are at particular risk. Statistics from the UK show that around 75 people have to deal with serious damage caused by Acanthamoeba per year.

Dr Fiona Henriquez from the University of the West of Scotland who has been conducting tests on new lens solutions to fight Acanthamoeba contamination said:

"It is a potential problem for every single contact lens wearer. The incidence is quite low but that may be a problem with diagnosis. There are no effective drug treatments. The drugs used are often ineffective. It requires hospitalisation and applications of a toxic substance to the eye."

"We're trying to improve the elimination of this parasite and prevent blindness. If treatment isn't effective, there is the possibility of blindness and the need for a corneal transplant. An estimated 3.7 contact lens wearers in the UK and more than 125 million worldwide are at risk from acanthamoeba".

Though this news is very disturbing, it is encouraging to know that some things can be

done as a means of prevention. There are a few simple things you can do to reduce the risk of infection.

Taking extra care by following the following steps

Follow instructions on how to care for your lenses that were given you by your eye doctor.

* Use only products that your eye doctor recommends.

* Never use tap water to clean contact lenses.

* Never swim, shower or use a hot tub while wearing them. If you must wear your contact lenses while swimming, make sure to wear airtight goggles and afterwards dispose of your lenses.

* Single use daily contact lenses are considered safer than reusable ones.

* If your lenses are not disposables, upon removing always clean them in multipurpose solution and then store them overnight in fresh disinfecting solution.

* Make sure to replace your lenses as often as is recommended by your eye doctor.

* Lastly always wash and thoroughly dry your hands before handling your lenses.

Happy Holidays to the readers of this column

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

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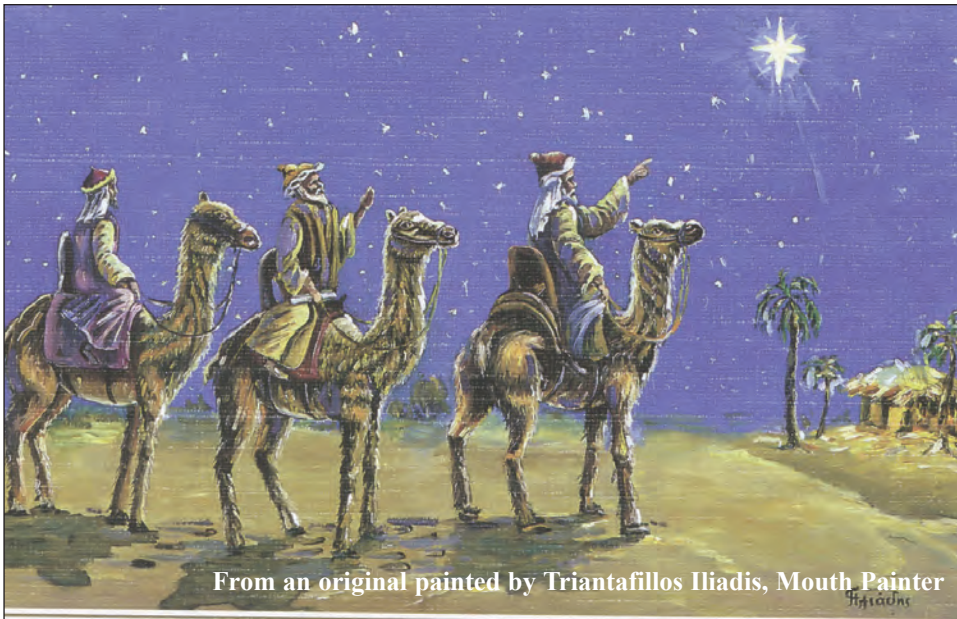
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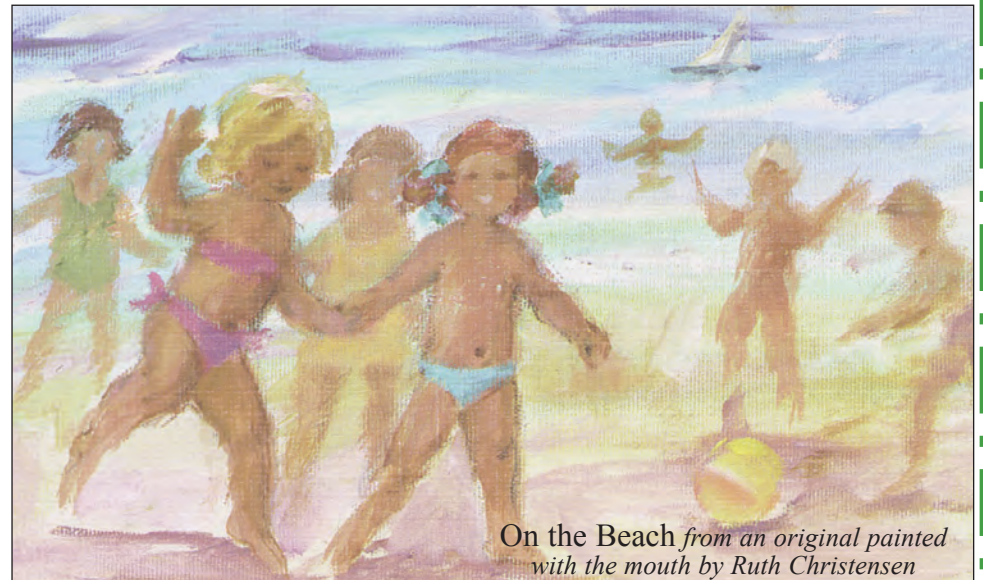
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On the Beach from an original painted with the mouth by Ruth Christensen

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