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AIR MAURITIUS

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

Monthly - 80p 29th year

UK
Sega
Championships
See Page 19

UK Sega Championships - See Pages 15 & 19
Mauritian Day Out - See Page 17

Open
Air Festival &
Miss Mauritius GB
See Page 15

Olympic Hopeful

Mauritian seeks Fencing Qualifier



Satya Gunput on his way to The African Fencing Championships & Olympic Qualifier in Casablanca

Satya Gunput, a 20 year old Mauritian student at Oxford University, took up the Olympic sport of fencing at the age of 13 and until recently was in the Under 20 GBR team, competing internationally.

He is now competing for Mauritius under special licence from the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE) and is awaiting for the Mauritian Sport authorities to sort out the admin so he can sport full Mauritian colours at international fencing competitions.

Satya is Captain of the Oxford University Men's Fencing team and has been awarded a Full Blue by the University for representing Oxford, an honour conferred for outstanding sportsmanship. He trains around 20 hours a week while studying full time.

The young Mauritian student took part in the World Fencing Championships in Catania in October 2011. This season, he has travelled to compete at some of the most daunting internationals in the world, in fields of over 250 of the world's top fencers.

He flies to Casablanca mid April to take part in the 2012 Zonal Olympic Qualifier and African Championships. We wish Satya best of luck in his fencing career.

A fellowship for Dr Reshma Ramracheya



Originally from Mauritius, Dr Reshma Ramracheya is a research scientist at the University of Oxford.

She has just received the prestigious award of a 5-year fellowship from the world-renowned Diabetes UK for her outstanding and promising research in the field of diabetes, a disease that is affecting a greater number of people all over the world.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Ramracheya who is a regular reader of Mauritius News.

SAJ vacates Le Réduit



Archives Picture of SAJ at Hendon in 1999

Jugnauth/Brenger
A hate and love story

The MMM and the MSM are espousing each other once more, i.e. They are now on kissing term again. There was so much hatred lost between them that the name of SAJ was removed and replaced by that of Anjalay for the Stadium at Belle Vue.

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For Sale in Quatre Bornes



Beautiful, spacious house with established, terraced garden in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius. Well maintained family home in excellent location, within easy walking distance of the city centre.

Property details: Land : 11,000 sq ft (269 toises)

House: 3,392 sq ft

The house, located at SSR Avenue, consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living/dining, kitchen, utility kitchen, office, garage, storeroom and carport - all in an enclosed setting.

Selling price: £199,500 (excluding buying & selling costs)
Featuring: 3 water tanks, water pump, 2 matured litchi and 3 mango trees.

Contact: Devi (Mauritius) +230 940 8185
Veena: 07951 966 4242



Political Development

Jugnauth/Bérenger: A love and hate story

So Sir Anerood Jugnauth is back à ses anciennes amours. The MMM and the MSM are espousing each other once more, i.e. they are now on kissing term. There was so much hatred lost between them that the name of SAJ was removed to make room for Anjalay for the stadium at Belle Vue.

Well, they started extremely well in 1982 in the same party, i.e. the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), the movement that had been initiated by Heeralall Bhugaloo in the 1960s.

Among the first to join Heeralall's badwagon, was Bérenger who, thro' championing the trade union movement, was to take absolute control of the MMM. Jugnauth joined the MMM party from IFB to become the party's leader. Thus though Bérenger was the key man Jugnauth became the leader and at the 1982 general election they swept the board and took all the 60 seats of the National Assembly, leaving none to the other parties. Jugnauth was made PM.

A year later, i.e. in July 1983, Jugnauth split from the MMM to create his own MSM. Since then, so much water has passed under the bridge. Since then, the two lovers have been back and forth. At some stage there was so much animosity between them that the SAJ Stadium of Belle Vue was changed to Anjalay Stadium.

Valeur du jour

Sir Anerood Jugnauth has decided to cast his lot with Bérenger once more to fight the ruling coalition of Labour and the PSMD. They call it a repeat of the 2000 platform when the pair unsettled the Labour Party from power.

Jugnauth Interview

We were privileged to conduct an interview with Sir Anerood Jugnauth, then in the political wilderness, in Hendon, North London in 1999. In the political wilderness, Anerood Jugnauth looked every much, to our mind, a spent force... politically. Yet, a year later, in 2000 precisely, coup de the theatre, Bérenger tendered to Jugnauth the lifeline that was to revive his fortune for the rest of his life. Together, they set themselves the mission to unseat Navin Ramgoolam as PM. Ramgoolam lost to he tandem



in 2000.

Whatever next! Today, Sir Anerood is probably the only survivor of the political old guard. He was part of the ministerial delegation that came to discuss the independence issue in 1965. Does he know anything about the sale of Diego which was supposed to have been part of the deal for independence. Jugnauth is probably the only witness still alive. Yet, it is doubtful whether he would know any better.

P.C

Livingstone and I



Would he be back next month to bask in the glory of the Olympics? After all, it all started with him!.

P.C.

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Immigration Law is getting tougher and we hear changes being announced almost everyday. What are the recent developments and how are Mauritian affected? Changes to Immigration Appeal .

The Ministry of Justice has introduced an appeal fee charges for some Asylum and Immigration Appeals from the 19th December 2011. For all those who wishes to appeal against the decision of the Home Office, UK Border Agency dated 19th December 2011 onwards they will need to pay a fee when lodging their appeal. The appeal fee applies to most categories of visas refusal decisions with certain exceptions. However there are some exceptions where the fees are exempted are; (i) deprivation of right of abode, (ii) a decision to make a deportation order (iii) deprivation of citizenship, (iv) revocation of indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom, (v) removal of certain persons unlawfully in the UK, (vi) a decision to remove an EEA national or family member of such national (vii) Asylum Support Funding recipients, (viii) if the applicant is in receipt of legal aid.

However, applicants who cannot afford to pay the fees they can still apply for their fee to be remitted or reduced under exceptional circumstances.

The appeal fees currently stands at £80 for appeal to be considered on papers and £140 for appeal to be considered at an oral hearing. The fees are said to represent only £25 percent of the cost of administering the appeal. The government considers it as an appropriate balance between low, affordable fees which enable access to justice.

The above changes will fundamentally affect overseas people who want to appeal against a decision of the UK Border

See more in next issue

Truth & Justice

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Titbits from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky



OFFICIAL VISIT OF SEYCHELLES MINISTER OF TOURISM

The new Minister for Tourism and Culture of the Seychelles, Alain St Ange, visited Mauritius on an official visit from the 26th to 31st March 2012 to attend the SADC/RESOTA meetings.

Minister St Ange, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles Tourism board will also hold discussions with his Mauritian counterpart Michael Sik Yuen and also with Arts and Culture Minister Mukeswar Chonee.

MAURITIUS ROUTE TO LOSE LUSTRE

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee has finally mustered courage to try and stop unscrupulous investors from round tripping funds into India by using the Mauritius route to grab tax breaks.

Several predecessors in the past have threatened to crack down on the misuse of the Mauritius tax route but have never carried it through. Mukherjee has wormed in a simple amendment to section 90 and section 90A of the income tax law, a clause which says that just by "submission of a tax Residency Certificate containing prescribed particulars" a firm or an individual which carries on some real business in a tax haven cannot claim the benefits of a tax avoidance treaty signed with that country.

A 5-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL BOY DIED IN FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A terrible traffic accident resulting into the tragic death of a 5 yrs old school boy occurred at Terre Rouge on Tuesday the 20th March 2012.

The boy head was crushed by his own school van as soon as he was alighting from the vehicle. The van did not give the boy enough time to alight properly. As a result he fell down on the road and one of the rear wheels passed over his head causing instant death.

There was no helper in that school van at that time. The driver ran away but was eventually arrested by police. There were a riot and lots of protesters demonstrated by the police Station where the driver was kept in custody.

Two more people died on the very same day at Terre Rouge, one was a 81 yrs old lady who was hit by a bus. The accident happened four hours later after the 5yrs old school boy's accident. And in the evening about 11.00pm a man aged 53 too was involved in a traffic accident but he died on the way to the hospital.

The list of road traffic accidents is long in Mauritius So far we have had at least 134 people died in road accident since the past six months. We had at least 2 accidents per day.

BRICKLAYER IN TROUBLE WITH POLICE

Police are investigating on a case of sex with a minor aged 15. On Friday 16th March, the victim's family were worried. The victim residing at Plaines Wilhems, had left her family home to meet her boyfriend, a bricklayer residing at Camp de Masque.

It was 11. am on Friday that the victim's father

found his daughter's disappearance and reported the case to the police.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE MINISTRY

In a letter to the Prime Minister's Office and to several ministers, many lady civil servants have denounced a senior executive of a major department, accusing him of sexual harassment

"We ware living a hellish time," the women wrote in their letter. They alleged that the officer is in the habit of summoning them in his office under professional excuses, but treat them with indecent proposals. Rashid Imrith a Trade Unionist for the Civil Servants is shocked and has demanded an inquiry into these allegations and sanctions, in case the officer's guilt is established

COP DIED IN BIKE ACCIDENT

Preetam Khirodhur, a policeman aged 28 yrs old residing at Britannia had an accident on Sunday morning the 18th March. His motorcycle, a Honda 100 cc skidded off the roadway near River Dragon, before hitting a wall violently. He died on the spot. Police is investigating the cause of the accident.

GARDEN ATTACK

Jo Wesley Souri, a welder aged 32 and Jean Noel Giovani Souci aged 29 are suspected of threatening a woman with a knife in the Robert Edward Hart garden (Les Salines) at Cassis, before running away with the victim's three mobile phones.

The two men were arrested by police and taken to Court of Port-Louis on Monday the 19 March. They have been provisionally charged with larceny armed with offensive weapon.

They were kept in police custody.

JEWELLERY STOLEN

A woman residing at Calebasses reported to the police of Terre Rouge last Saturday the 17th March that jewellery valued at Rs 45,000 were stolen from her home on Friday the 16th March.

In addition to the jewellery, a sum of Rs 12,000 had also been stolen. According to the lady, the robbery happened during her absence, between 7.15 am and 6pm the same day.

ARRESTED FOR DRUG POSSESSION

As the police of Trou-aux-Biches approached them, they noticed that one of the four men threw a pack of cigarettes away. However it turned out that the package did not contain cigarettes but a powder suspected to be heroin. The police searched the suspects' car and found a sword and a knife. The driver aged 25, residing at Vallée Pitot, and his three accomplices, all from Port-Louis, were arrested and are still in custody. The car was seized.

POLITICAL SAGA IN MAURITIUS

Following the announcement of the prorogation of the National Assembly, political speculation went rife across the country and on social networks on the net. Hundreds of Facebookers have been inundating the official pages of the main political parties with their opinions, ideas, suggestions and speculations. Politicians including MPs are also resorting to online debates, adding to the political confusion that has gripped the island.

WEAK EURO AFFECTS EXPORTS SAYS MINISTER OF FINANCE

Finance Minister Xavier Duval stated that the strengthening of the rupee against a weak Euro is affecting export receipts. Duval was speaking at the annual lunch of the American Chamber of Commerce on the 15th March, 2012.

He said that the issue was seriously being looked into. "Even IMF recognizes that we have a problem with the rupee. Despite our products selling well abroad, our exporters' revenue are declining because of the weak Euro." He said. He however, said there is no reason to panic because some sectors, such as the financial, sea-food and tourism, are doing well, despite the global crisis.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO MEET PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Local Government Minister Hervé Aimée has decided not to meet the President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth following the latter's request to the Minister to come and discuss the electoral boundaries.

The meeting was scheduled for the 16th March, 2012. "I have nothing to tell the President," Aimée told the press on Wednesday the 14th March. Earlier, on the 6th March, the five Mayors also declined a meeting request by the President of the Republic

MAULANA DEMANDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT

The Jammāt-ul-Ulama held a press conference on the 15th March 2012 to demand the promulgation of the Equal Opportunities Act.

Maulana Jamil Chooramun proposed that representatives of all communities form part of High Powered Committees. He also deplored that the authorities have been unable to enforce a Court Order at Grand Gaube to evict squatters.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROROGATION

The Prime Minister has proceeded to the prorogation of the National Assembly on Tuesday night the 20th March 2012. In a communiqué, the PMO stated that the government, acting in virtue of Section 57 (1) of the Constitution, has advised the President of the Republic to proceed to the prorogation of the present session of the National Assembly.

That will sit on the 16th April 2012. instead of 20 March 2012 as announced on adjournment in December 2011. On the agenda of the new session is the reading of a new Government Program which will highlight the priorities of

See Sega Championships on Page 19

The White House's petition

The Chagossians made it



credit: chagosrefugeegroup.net

The 25 000 signatures were essential for the White House to consider the Chagos' issue. The Chagossians made it and are now waiting for the Obama's administration decision.

The Chagos Refugees Group (CRG) launched the online petition on March, 5, and had one month to obtained 25 000 signatures for their case to be considered by the White House. They obtained more than 28 000 signatures. Olivier Bancoult, leader of the GRC, described the success of this petition as a "great victory." The latter also said that the Chagossians will continue to use every international forum to promote their cause "until the final victory."

"On behalf of the CRG and the Chagossian people, I wish to express our grateful thanks to the members of Speak Human Rights for this great initiative, to the Mauritian people for their solidarity, to all the organisations across the world, in Britain, Europe and the US as well as the Indian Ocean region in particular, and to all our members, supporters, friends and sponsors for their solidarity and contribution. A special word of thanks to the media and the social communication networks, and all the volunteers who worked hard to get the signatures. This is a great moment, a historical landmark in our long struggle. Thanks to you all, we Chagossians feel we are part of the greater, wider world community. With your support we can make it! Yes! We will get Home!", said Olivier Bancoult on the CRG's website.

The right to petition is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which confer to individual or groups, who obtained a 25 000, or more, petition signed, the right to present an issue to the Government. Throughout history, Americans have waived this constitutional right to organise petitions around issues such as the civil rights movement, the abolition of slavery and the women's right to vote.

Today this right to petition has been waived by the Chagossians but we don't know if the issue will be the same as the examples mentioned above. Americans are militarily dependent of Diego Garcia where their strategic military base is located. And they become even more dependent day after day due to the political instability of many middle east countries. There are also many leaks stating that Diego Garcia might be a secret prisons where many suspected terrorists are detained. According to leaks on the net and many news reports, Diego Garcia also harboured "nuclear submarines."

The Americans are not ready to terminate the lease of Diego Garcia and the United Kingdom is also not ready to allow the resettlement of Chagossians in the islands, who were expelled during the late sixties. The archipelago was excised from Mauritius in 1965 by the British. Meanwhile the Mauritian independence negotiations were already in process. Since, the last decades Mauritius has been claiming back the sovereignty over the islands. Moreover, the GRC are still waiting for the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights which is due in June.

Broadcasting of major court's trials

Request sent by the DDP to the Attorney General

The Attorney General (AG), Yatin Varma, has declared that he is actually considering a request made by Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Satyajit Boolell for the broadcasting of major trials such as that of the murder of Michaela Harte. The request is also backed by the Chief Judge Bernard Sik Yuen. However the AG stated that there are several issues and procedures that have to be followed. "We need to discuss", said the AG which also explained that his office will seriously look in the matter after the launching of a postage stamp for the Law day the 4th April.



supreme court of Mauritius (source : icf africa.org)

MSM/MMM 2000 REMAKE

Ashock Jugnauth out, SAJ and Pravind Jugnauth in



Mauritius News Archives:
Photo: Vel Kadressen MBE

No pardon for Ashock Jugnauth! His nephew, Pravind Jugnauth, seems not ready to accept him in Mauritius Militants Movement (MMM)/Mauritius Socialist Militants (MSM) alliance. The leader of the National Union (NU) is once again alone in the political arena.

One week after the resignation of Sir Anerood Jugnauth as President of the Republic, the MSM/MMM alliance has already been concluded. Its official, acknowledged by the leaders of the MSM and MMM during a meeting at La Caverne, Vacoas, on Saturday 7th April. It seems that all the formalities have been met and, also, that Ashock Jugnauth, leader of the UN and ally of Paul Berenger, will not be a member of the MSM/MMM alliance. Pravind Jugnauth who has challenged and beaten his uncle in the by election of the Number 8 constituency in 2009 is not ready to forgive him and the removal of his name in the alliance supports it. The leaders of the MSM and the MMM are actually working on at the list of candidates of the alliance for the next elections. SAJ will be the leader of the alliance and main challenger of Navin Ramgoolam.

The political landscape might changed again, as the next legislative will be held in 2015. And alliance can be easily created and broken as well. Last year Pravind Jugnauth was Minister of Finance and as stated, was "loyal to Navin Ramgoolam and his Government." In 2010, the love story between Pravind Jugnauth and Navin Ramgoolam was at its peak and the bad guy, in their contemplation, was Paul Berenger and his MMM. The latter was described Jugnauth and Ramgoolam as "Daddy's boy."

London 2012

Mauritius swimming teams to train in Surrey

The Mauritius Swimming team and many of the world's top team will train there



Photo Credit: Surrey.ac.uk

According to the BBC, Surrey will be in the limelight for the London 2012 Olympics. Many teams have chosen the county as their training base for the games which will start in July. The Mauritius Swimming team and many of the world's top team will train there. The British, Canadian, US and New Zealand riders have already signed up. Councillors have encouraged more teams to come to Surrey to train. The Surrey County Council has described the 23 teams coming to Surrey as a great opportunity for the county. They said: "Local cyclists will get to share the roads with the world's best and having so many

teams and their wider entourages train, eat, sleep and play in the county will provide an estimated boost of over half a million pounds to the local economy."



Source: Surrey County Council

Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir launch CD for Diamond Jubilee

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir (CYO) has launched a CD in March to raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust.



Photo Credit: Commonwealth Secretariat

Fifty per cent of the funds raised from the distribution of the CD 'A Celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee' will go to the trust, which funds initiatives in Commonwealth countries. The rest will go towards the CYO's music education workshops -engaging and inspiring school-children in all 54 countries on the benefits of working together. In her Diamond Jubilee year HM Queen Elizabeth II has agreed to be patron of the CYO. The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall had watched rehearsals for the evening's launch event earlier that day at Lancaster House. The CYO was established to mark and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth - to bring together young musicians from the 54 member states of the Commonwealth. Speaking at the event, where the CYO sang the Commonwealth Anthem and performed classical music, Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma said: "The Commonwealth's theme 'Connecting Cultures' encourages us to explore how the Commonwealth can use culture to build bridges of exchange and understanding. We

want these links to be strengthened in new and special ways in 2012 in order to learn and to deepen the appreciation we have of one another. We see before us in the CYO a superb example of how music can bring cultures together in celebration." Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba said: "Music has always been a 'language' that transcends cultural and social barriers - linking people and places, despite their differences."She added that music was a vehicle through which diversity could be harnessed and through the orchestra they could promote the composers of the Commonwealth and youth participation. At the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Mauritius this year, the Commonwealth Youth Programme will launch the Pan Commonwealth Students Council to help build capacity and unity among already established student organisations and advocate for a greater focus on the role students can play in the decision-making processes of the Commonwealth.

Source: Commonwealth Secretariat

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The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work launched

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development is an international competition opened to young people whose works have contribute to make a difference to the lives of others.

"Become part of a growing number of young people determined to make positive change in the world." The Commonwealth Secretariat is calling for entries that recognise young people of the 54 member states of the Commonwealth whose commitment to development work has made a difference to the lives of others. Nominations for the Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work are now open. In return, nominees will get a chance to win international recognition and support for their development project. The award was designed to help celebrate the role of young people as nation builders and partners in development. With this Award, the Commonwealth Secretariat offers young people under 30 an opportunity to share their contribution and inspire others to get involved. Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma said: "More than any generation in

history, the youth of today are shaping our social, economic and political landscape. These awards recognise their contribution in our 54 Commonwealth member states". Deputy Secretary-General Masire-Mwamba, Mmasekgoa who oversees youth development at the Commonwealth Secretariat said: "Young people represent more than 50% of Commonwealth citizens. I have seen the excellent contribution they are making at community and national levels all across our countries. I welcome these Awards as an opportunity to tell their positive stories that often go unnoticed." Five Awards will be given regionally with the top entrant from each region receiving a Pan-Commonwealth Award.

Source: Commonwealth Secretariat

All entries should be submitted via the link:
<http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya>

From China with love

Journey to Meixian



Living in China for the past 18 months I unaware of having any relatives in China. Most of my family presently live in the UK where I was born and also Mauritius where my parent’s generation are from. However, an eye-opening trip to Meixian; the birthplace of my ancestors soon proved me wrong. Accompanied by my parents, my uncle and aunt from the UK and my father’s oldest brother and his grand-daughter from Mauritius.

By
Chen Xiu Jiao
???

I travelled to Meixian to find out more about my Chinese roots. It was at the Lantern festival banquet dinner, to mark the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations, where I found out that, incredibly, the 800 people present were in some way related to me. The dinner had taken place in the Chan compound outside the Chan ancestral hall Tang hao (? ?) a simple unassuming structure which housed a small temple to offer worship and sacrifice to our ancestors. I had previously imagined this place to be quite rural and undeveloped, i.e. no roads, old wooden building and dirt tracks as my father had described it after visiting it 10 years before but it was not the case. Around the Tang hao were well-kept communal buildings and houses surrounding a small lake and a cemented road that ran around the compound. On the night of the banquet, many red lanterns adorned the outside of the tang hao and underneath them, a sea of over 100 red circular tables covered the area around the Tang hao and also inside the building itself. To the right of the Tang hao was a pop-up outdoor kitchen; huge woks the size of upside-down parasols sat on intensely burning fires whilst young chefs and servers rushed to and fro with vats of raw ingredients. All members of this Chan clan were invited to attend the dinner, including women who had married out of the family and whose own family were not regarded as Clan. I was impressed and surprised to find out that I am 14th generation of the clan. This meant that there had been a long line of fathers stretching hundreds of years back in history, all bearing the same Chan name and originating from the same little place in Meixian.

As dusk fell, each family sat down at their reserved table and eagerly awaited the banquet whilst drinking toasts of Baijiu to welcome the new year. My family meanwhile, was ushered to the head table because my eldest Uncle was a honoured guest at the celebration. I observed the scene before me with much wonder; it was a raucous, colourful celebration which is usual for Chinese tradition. Suddenly the food started arriving; I had no clue how they were going to feed 800 people at the same time but the cooks and the servers though noisy and brusque, handled it with ease and one by-one a dish of steaming food was placed on the table before us. The food was plentiful and absolutely delicious; amongst the 12 or so plates were well-known Meixian dishes, for example, braised belly pork on preserved vegetables, steamed corn-fed chicken and fish ball soup. I was quite relieved that we were not treated to a dog casserole which was the case when we had lunch at the compound a few days before.

During the banquet the head of the clan said a few words and acknowledged my family travelling all the way from England and Mauritius. My eldest Uncle beamed in pride for this place had been his home from the age of 5 to 15 years old. I tried to imagine him as a little boy running around the compound and my grandmother working hard to provide for the family. Returning to his old home in China and clan meant so much to him and it was wonderful to share the experience and learn more about his life there with his mother, my grandmother. She and my grandfather was one of the thousands of immigrants who left Meixian to find work in Mauritius. Following the birth of her two sons and daughter, my grandmother returned to Meixian with the children and lived in the same area with the other Chans, managing a small shop. On a visit to the area a few days back, my Uncle showed us where they lived, it was a small rundown shack not far from the Tang hao that had been abandoned many years ago. A few minutes walk from here was her shop, which now housed a mobile communications store. With a heavy heart I learnt more about the grandmother I never knew, the hard laborious life she led and the painful tragedy of the death of her infant daughter. With the threat of civil war in China, life in Meixian was no longer safe therefore she took her teenage sons back to Mauritius and rejoined her husband where they made a life for themselves. After bearing 6 sons altogether, she longed for a daughter though it was not meant to be. Therefore it has been said that unusually for a Chinese person, she wished her sons to bear daughters and later her wish came true, with 10 granddaughters and only 2 grandsons in the family. Though, sadly we were all born before we could meet her, her legacy continues in the Chinese names that she chose for us before we were born, all etched on her gravestone.

On my return back to Nanjing in China, where I live, I told all my Chinese friends about the trip, the massive banquet and what I had found out about my roots. I was very surprised to hear that they had no Tang hao or did not know what generation they were from. It would appear that in modern day China that this it is rare to follow such traditions but I for one, have come away from the whole experience feeling a lot more “Chinese”.



Death Announcement John Christian Jackdeo

Manny and Sydney Jackdeo would like to notify everyone of the sad passing away of their son John Christian Jackdeo on the 25 February 2012. He was affectionately known to all as Christian. His funeral took place on the 8 March 2012.Manny and Sydney, all the grandchildren and family would like to thank everyone for their condolences and help at this sad time.

Seychelles:familiar but different



The Mauritius truck

When Prince William and Kate Middleton announced that they would be honeymooning in the Indian Ocean, many people assumed they meant Mauritius. In fact, they chose Seychelles. I wondered then what it was that made this archipelago of 115 islands and only 89,000 people so special.

By Stephen Spark

In March I had the chance to find out, thanks to the Seychelles Tourist Board (STB), Emirates airline and Kempinski Seychelles Resort. The STB has been energetically promoting its annual Carnaval International de Victoria, held in the country’s capital – the smallest in Africa, and possibly the world. The inaugural event in 2011 proved a huge success, so this year’s celebration was eagerly awaited.

What little I knew about Seychelles consisted of glossy magazine images of white sandy beaches, luxury hotels and, less glossily, marauding Somali pirates scouring the seas for ships to seize. I imagined the country would be much like Mauritius, and indeed when you step out of the airport (which in size is more like Plaine Corail than SSR), there are lots of familiar sights and sounds, from little tourtelles pecking by your feet, to the creole language and the turquoise-blue sea. Even the place names have a Mauritian ring: Beau Vallon, Bel Ombre, Bon Espoir...

But don’t be fooled: this isn’t Mauritius. On the distant island of Aldabra, giant tortoises roam freely in their hundreds; in Victoria’s botanical gardens the suggestively shaped fruits of the coco-de-mer hang above your head; the National Reserve is home to the bizarre jellyfish tree. The houses have proper pitched roofs, not ugly flat ones punctuated by steel bars waiting for the next storey to be built. Rather than Mauritian basalt, the rock is granite, sculpted over millennia into fantastic, elegant shapes. The country is also spotlessly clean. Perhaps they held a nationwide wash and brush-up to impress the carnival visitors, but somehow I doubt it; the ordinary Seychellois I met were clearly environmentally aware and proud of their country’s natural beauties. The people seemed calm and friendly, and the racial mix in this “melting-pot of cultures” makes the notion of ‘nou-bannism’ irrelevant.

In many respects, Mahé – the country’s largest island – reminded me of Rodrigues, and they are of similar size (155km2 against 109km2), though you don’t see goats and cows tethered by the roadside as in Rodrigues.

The big event itself – which the STB has dubbed the ‘Carnival of Carnivals’ or, only slightly less grandly, ‘Vanilla Islands Carnival’ – kicked off on Friday 2 March with speeches (too many!) in the centre of town, followed by a stage show in front of an enthusiastic crowd. The following day, up to 40,000 people squeezed themselves into the capital, many of them entering into the carnival spirit by dressing in beautiful outfits and wearing decorated masks. I saw no sign of any trouble and the atmosphere was one of togetherness and good humour.

As a Notting Hill veteran, I can assure MN readers that Victoria’s street party is unique. Over 30 foreign countries were represented among the 56 groups that took part, including Indian, Australian and Russian sailors; cultural groups from China, Rajasthan, Indonesia and Zimbabwe; a huge contingent from Düsseldorf in Germany, and an even larger one from Réunion. Plus there were the professional party animals: Trinidad & Tobago and Notting Hill Carnival, and it was the Londoners who won the Best International Float prize for the second year running.

But what about Mauritius, which is, after all, Seychelles’ Indian Ocean neighbour and the leading light of the Vanilla Islands tourism campaign? Well, there was just one sorry-looking little truck with three or four people aboard (a last-minute, privately sponsored entry). The absence of an official Mauritian float was commented on all weekend, not just by the STB and ordinary Seychellois, who clearly felt hurt by this snub, but also by the 100-strong group of journalists who had flown in to Victoria from all corners of the globe.

The Arts & Culture Ministry, the Ministry of Tourism and the MTPA may be able to give us a good reason why they gave Seychelles the cold shoulder, but it did Mauritius no favours at all in front of the world’s press. A Mauritian float could have showcased everything from sega to the dodo, from the country’s rich mix of cultural traditions to its world heritage sites. What a wasted opportunity! And for anyone tempted to say that Mauritians don’t parade in the street, I’d just point to the wonderful little carnival I saw in Rivière Coco, Rodrigues, last year. A few years ago there were sega dancers in Notting Hill Carnival, too.

So no more excuses: if impoverished Madagascar can send a dance troupe to Victoria, surely Mauritius can send a big delegation of its talented youngsters to show off the very best the country has to offer. Former STB boss, newly appointed as tourism minister, Alain St Ange told us the dates for carnival 2013 will be Friday 8 to Sunday 10 February. So Mauritius has about 10 months to get its act together and prove it’s really ready for the party.

But with or without carnival, I’d recommend anyone to take the short flight from Mauritius to spend a few days exploring this Indian Ocean neighbour. There’s enough similarity to make you feel at home, but it’s different enough to make it well worth the trip.



A Notting Hill Carnival masquerader from the group Sunshine International Arts

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

No place like home

After 43 years living in Australia and in the U.S, Jean-Noel Moutou is going back to Mauritius. He wants to put in place a project in the education sector. He has kindly agreed to discuss his project in this interview for Mauritius News.

E.A. Jean-Noel ,after having lived in the U.S and in Australia for so long, why did you decide to return to Mauritius.
J.N.M. After so long overseas, I feel I'm at a stage of my life and career where I can return to Mauritius and also I'm trying to start a business , so it's a chance for me to contribute to the Mauritian economy and society.

E.A. What kind of business is it?
J.N.M I plan to start an education agency in Mauritius, in particular. While we have a lot of education agencies that work with Mauritian students who are interested to go overseas to study, my agency will work with students who want to come to Mauritius to study. Now that the sector in Mauritius is expanding, this is a good opportunity.

E.A. What is your experience in the tertiary sector both in Australia and in the U.S?

J.N.M. I went to the U.S in 1992 to do my Master's Degree in California and then I was offered a job to establish the first International Students Office for a small University. So I did that and one thing led to another. I stayed in the U.S for 12 years and I became the Director of International Students Services at California State University, where I was responsible for over 2,000 international students. Our Office was responsible to coordinate all services and programs, from the time the students arrived to the time they graduated. I got a lot of experience there. When I returned to Australia, I worked at Swinburne University of Technology, not so much in administration but I was teaching Sociology for 2 years.

E.A. Have you contacted the education authorities in Mauritius regarding your project?

J.N.M Yes I did. I had a very successful meeting with one of the Directors of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, which is a new Ministry, created by the Mauritian Government about 2 years ago. My meeting was to understand how the sector operates, what are some of its goals and vision. At the same time I presented my ideas of what I want to do. I received a very positive feedback from the Ministry.

.A. Why do you think that international students would be interested to undertake studies in Mauritius, instead of going to countries like England, Canada, France, India or South Africa?

J.N.M. That's a good question. Of course traditionally most students go to countries you mentioned .But what Mauritius wants to do is to position itself as an alternative in terms of cheaper costs to education. It's worth noting that the Mauritian Higher Education Sector has been diversified. We now have many Universities from England, Canada, Malaysia and India that have established a branch in Mauritius. These Universities are sending some of their students to study in Mauritius. Now the Mauritian Government wants to begin attracting other students to come. Some of the benefits in terms of marketing Mauritius as a destination are that the costs will be cheaper for the same degree that someone can study in England, for example. In Mauritius it is estimated that the costs will be a third, just because it is targeted at the Mauritian market. Secondly, the Mauritian lifestyle. Instead of going to England where it is cold, rainy, Mauritius has a tropical lifestyle to offer. The Government offers both Mauritian and international students, free public transport. These are some of the alternative attractions but there's a lot to be done to gain people's confidence and to see students beginning to arrive. It won't be easy because for Mauritius they are just starting up.

E.A. Have you thought of some of the courses your project would offer to international students?

J.N.M I myself will not be offering courses. I will be working as an Education Agency. I will be working with the established Universities there. I will approach all the Universities and put all information into one publication that I hope will come out in December this year because at the moment, if students wish to come to Mauritius to study, they have to contact all the various institutions and find out what courses are on offer. I will publish one central publication. It will be a Directory of tertiary education in Mauritius. It will list the 50 or so institutions that we have, with all the courses that they offer and I will offer them a free listing as well as the opportunity to pay for advertising in the Directory.

E.A. Jean-Noel, who is going to recruit the students?

J.N.M The way the Mauritian Government has worked this so far, basically ,number one it is the responsibility of the institutions to do their recruiting. They can use various methods but each institution is responsible to recruit students. Secondly, the Government has given a mandate to Enterprise Mauritius, which is a Government Body, to promote, to market Mauritius among other things. It is responsible to market all sectors in Mauritius overseas and it has missions in different countries every year. So now it is just adding this new sector that is Higher Education, promoting it throughout the different countries. I propose to ask that my Agency will act as a recruiting agent.

E.A. Have you thought of a name for your project?

J.N.M The first product will be called the Directory of Post- Secondary Education in Mauritius. I set up a Company but the name is not finalised yet. We are working on that.

E.A. Jean-Noel, I want to congratulate you on your initiative and I wish you every success in your endeavour in Mauritius.

J.N.M Thank you very much. I appreciate that and I certainly have the confidence and I think the timing is right and I'm looking forward to



BY EDDY ABRAHAM

The Agony column

We are pleased to resume this column in the style of the previous 'Ask Auntie' feature. Claude Canabady, psychotherapist by profession, contributes to various newspapers. One of his special contributions is to answer questions from readers on certain matters that demand a degree of the application of his professional experience.

Hereunder, we have a sample of the sort questions and answers that he has dealt with locally.

Mauritius News readers, and all of us, are invited to write to him by email for questions which he can answer via the paper. It will not be possible for him to entertain any personal correspondence. We, however, wish to assure all interested parties that strict confidentiality and anonymity will be observed in handling any correspondence pertaining to this column.



Question

I am a young man of 19 starting at Uni this year. First I would like to give you a physical description of myself. I am 6'' tall with an athletic body and I consider myself quite handsome but my major problem is that I can't seem to attract the girls. I have had several setbacks. My friend has suggested that I changed my clothes and hair style which I have done but still no luck. Where am I going wrong? Please help.

J.C

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Graduation Day for Elvina

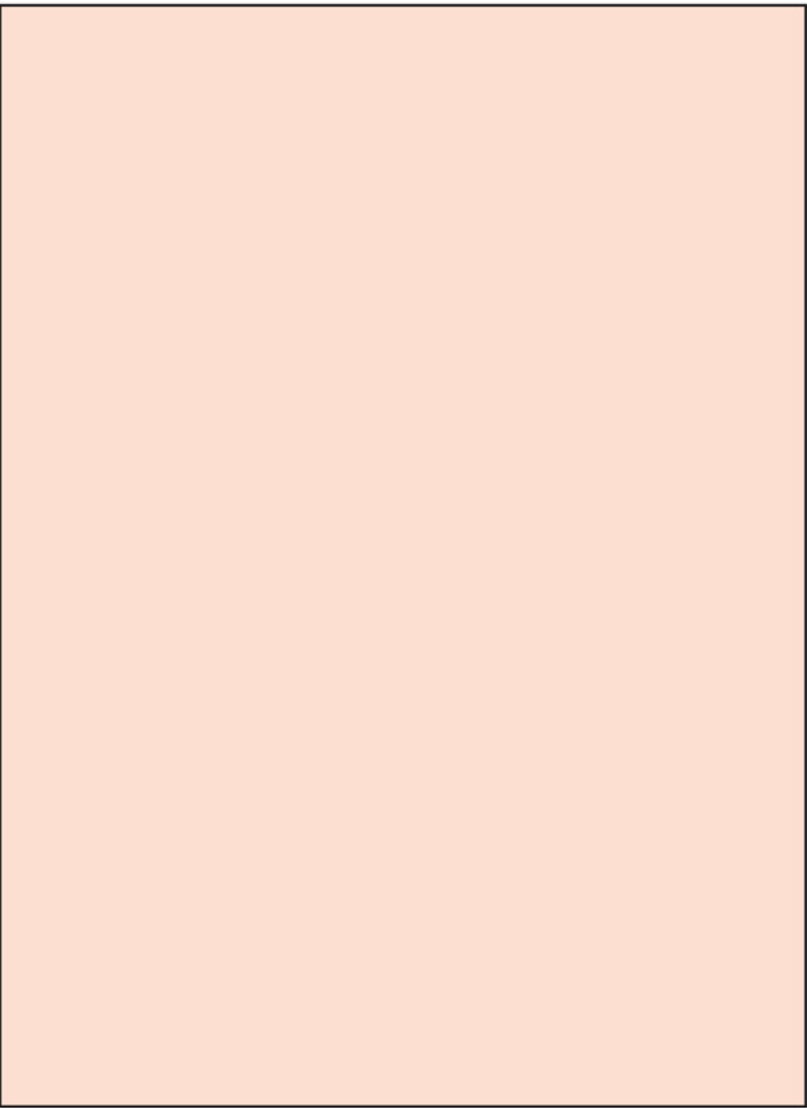
Elvina Green, received her award of Master of Art & Design Education from the London Univeristy Insitute of Education on the Graduation Day in April.

It seems that you are getting yourself in quite a state of anxiety in regards to affairs of the heart. I have a feeling that you are trying much too hard to impress the girls and succeeding in achieving exactly the opposite effect. I applaud you for taking some action in trying to resolve what is bothering you. Perhaps changing your hair style and wearing fashionable clothes might have an impact in attracting the girls but you must remember what matters most of all is how you project yourself and how the others perceived you. One can be very handsome and very fashion conscious but it is one's personality that is equally important if not more so. What can be very significant is that sometimes in trying to impress others; one can act in a somewhat artificial way and project the wrong image. Girls tend to know when someone is phoney. So it is important that you must be your normal self and not try to be someone that you are not just to try to impress others because sooner or later, the flaws will appear. If you get turned down, you might feel downhearted but it is all part of trying to build relationships with the opposite sex. That does not mean that you are not worth the love of somebody somewhere. There is not a single guy who has not had setbacks in his pursuit of love. So rest assured that you are not the first and will definitely not be the last. It is a question of patience and perseverance. Your friends might have a head start on you in the love contest but that does not mean that you will not catch up eventually. Do not put yourself under undue pressure by making it a competition. Bide your time and do what comes to you naturally, you must not try to copy your friends. If you are aware of some little bad habits that you have shown in your encounter with the girls, then you must endeavour to change. No doubt you have some friends who are girls, talk to them and it is quite possible that they might be in a position to help and advise by giving you some hints, guide you as to where you are going wrong, after all they know how and what attracts the boys. The best advice I can give you is to try to be relaxed about the whole thing, stop trying too hard to make a good impression. One day when you will be dating so many girls and finding it difficult to cope with, you will ask yourself why you worried in the first place. Do not force issues or otherwise the girls might see you as pushy. Perhaps it is a lack of self confidence. I suggest that you join a local club where you can meet other people (guys and girls alike) and that would enable you to enlarge your circle of friends but most of all it would give you the opportunity you to meet girls without the pressure to impress and that should increase your self confidence. Good luck

You can send your questions to <claude.c@intnet.mu>

Crossword Puzzle

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Who will be Miss Mauritius (GB) 2012?

Fairfield Hall, Croydon, Sunday 23 September 2012 from 5.00pm More details to follow



Melissa Nathoo
Miss Mauritius (GB) 2011
Far left: 2nd runner-up - Rebecca Mangaroo
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DEPECHEs SANTE

Au Cameroun et au Ghana, on vaccine contre la fièvre jaune

Une large campagne de vaccination contre la fièvre jaune a été lancée le mois dernier au Cameroun et au Ghana. A l’initiative de l’Organisation mondiale de la Santé, elle est la conséquence directe d’une recrudescence du nombre de décès dans ces deux états de l’Ouest africain.

La fièvre jaune, contre laquelle la meilleure défense est la vaccination, est un problème de santé publique considérable. L’OMS estime en effet à 200 000 le nombre annuel de cas, et à 30 000 celui des décès dus à cette maladie dans le monde.

Au Cameroun, la campagne de vaccination a débuté le 23 janvier dans huit districts. Elle est destinée à protéger plus de 1 million 200 000 personnes. Depuis le mois d’octobre dernier en effet, 23 nouveaux cas ont été recensés dans le pays, et 7 décès ont été rapportés.

Au Ghana, trois laboratoires d’analyse ont confirmé des cas de fièvre jaune. Deux décès sont à signaler. Une campagne de vaccination a donc débuté le 6 février dernier. Elle cible plus de 235 000 personnes, à l’exclusion des femmes enceintes et des nourrissons de moins d’un an, pour cause de contre-indication au vaccin. Cette offensive vient compléter la campagne de vaccination de masse entreprise dans le pays. Une première phase a été menée en novembre 2011. La phase en cours devrait permettre de vacciner avant la fin de l’année, 1 million 700 000 personnes dans 17 districts. www.destinationsante.com

Tisanes : décoction, infusion ou macération
Une tisane, rien de tel pour se réchauffer... et bien s’hydrater. Mais saviez-vous qu’elles existent sous plusieurs formes ?

Pour une infusion tout d’abord, utilisez de l’eau frémissante. Il suffit de la verser sur les plantes que vous vous serez procurées, et de couvrir pendant quelques minutes sans que l’eau ne refroidisse. La chaleur libérera des huiles essentielles, précieuses pour leur concentration en principes actifs.

La décoction est sensiblement différente de l’infusion. Vous devrez mettre de l’eau froide et les plantes, et amener l’ensemble à ébullition dans une casserole. Dès que l’eau bout, retirez la casserole du feu et recouvrez-la quelques minutes.

Enfin pour la macération, vous disposerez les plantes dans un récipient d’eau froide pendant 24 heures ou plus afin d’en extraire les principes actifs. Les trois types

de préparation ont un point commun: la filtration. Elle permet de séparer la plante et les résidus, pour ne garder que la tisane elle-même. www.destinationsante.com

Dengue : la maladie qui monte

Autrefois silencieuse, la dengue appartient désormais à la catégorie des maladies émergentes. Son incidence a spectaculairement progressé, et plus de 2 milliards et demi d’humains y sont désormais exposés.

Selon les estimations de l’OMS, la dengue pourrait atteindre chaque année dans le monde, entre 50 et 100 millions de malades.

Avant 1970, seuls neuf pays avaient observé la maladie. Désormais pourtant, elle sévit dans plus de 100 pays répartis en Afrique, en Amérique, en Méditerranée orientale, en Asie du Sud-Est et dans le Pacifique occidental.

La dengue est transmise par des moustiques du genre aedes. Elle se manifeste par un syndrome grippal, mais il en existe également des formes dites sévères, ou hémorragiques.

Celles-ci affecteraient 500 000 patients chaque année dans le monde, dont une très forte proportion d’enfants. Il est essentiel dans ces cas, d’assurer des apports liquidiens suffisants. L’OMS souligne ainsi que la mise en œuvre de traitements adaptés permet de ramener le taux de mortalité de 20% à moins de 1%. Cette forme de l’affection, qui nécessite dans la plupart des cas une hospitalisation, est particulièrement grave chez les jeunes enfants. Dans les meilleures conditions, environ 2,5% des jeunes malades peuvent en mourir.

Il n’existe à l’heure actuelle ni vaccin, ni traitement contre la dengue. Mais l’espoir est permis, d’autant plus que les essais cliniques menés sur un candidat vaccin sont très prometteurs. Aujourd’hui toutefois, la seule méthode pour prévenir ou combattre la transmission du virus consiste à lutter contre ses vecteurs, les moustiques. www.destinationsante.com

Qu’y a-t-il derrière une toux chronique ?

Souvent négligée, la toux est considérée comme un symptôme banal. Si elle persiste plus de huit semaines, c’est un signe sérieux que les médecins définissent comme une toux chronique. Elle peut alors être le révélateur de différents problèmes potentiellement graves. La fonction première de cet acte reflexe est de protéger les voies aériennes d’une agression.

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Mauritius chosen for programme showcasing weddings

Lately a MTPA delegation in Shanghai met with some organizers from the Chinese television programme called “Rose Weddings”. The programme showcases weddings that have taken place at approved and accredited tourism destinations. Each year, one destination is chosen and this year Mauritius will benefit. Chinese newspapers and television channels will promote Mauritius as from this month till October when the filming of the first programme will take place. This programme will involve 15 couples and the weddings will take place in Mauritius.

Historical book on Mauritius-Turkey in the pipeline

A historical book on the relationship between Mauritius and Turkey should be ready this month. The initiative goes to the Mauritius-Turkey Friendship Association.

Lately a Turkish delegation, headed by Ahmet Kemal Oncu and his wife, was in

Mauritius to review historical documents on the subject. Ahmet Kemal Oncu, the head of the delegation, also a sociologist and historian said that the ties between the two countries date back to the 19th century. There used to be a Turkish consulate in Port Louis in 1877. Historical documents from the Ottoman archive show that several Mauritians had sent financial contributions to Turkey during the difficult moments of the First World War.

Digital archiving of plots of land operational this month

Mauritius will have a comprehensive digital cadastral database which will become operational as from this month. This program is a computerized register where documents concerning the division of territories and properties, and the names of the individual owners of plots will be

recorded. This project will deliver a modern Land, Administration, Valuation and Information System (LAVIMS) to the country. Real estate professionals will be in a position to better evaluate properties and individuals will also have access to information on their land.

Extended fishing liner Austral Leader II starts campaign

Austral Leader II, which has been extended by 8 m at the Chantier Naval de l’Océan Indien, will leave this month and start fishing in the difficult seas of the South Indian Ocean, making full use of its increased capacity. With its extension, the capacity of the pads of the ship has increased by nearly 30 per cent. The ship has a capacity to store over 200 tonnes of fish.

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Tourism students prepare for International Dance Day

Second year students of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Management at the University of Mauritius are currently preparing to participate in the coming International Dance Day on 29 April. They have chosen a theme that reflects their interest and which focuses on ‘Around the World: dance connecting people.’ The dance show would present different types of dances that exist around the world. The International Dance Day commemorates all dance genres across the globe, not only as a form of expression but a way to show that dance brings people together.

ICT Academy on track beginning of this month

The ICT Academy which will open its doors at Ebène this month, envisions equipping the youth with knowledge, skills and international certifications so that they can join the ICT industry. Presently, there are about 15,000 professionals in the ICT sector. With the establishment of the academy, some additional 5,000 persons are expected to be trained within the next two years.

Essay competition for world Biodiversity Day

April 22 is the deadline for the submission of best essays by schools participating in the essay competition held by the National Parks and Conservation Services operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security. The essay competition on the theme “The protection of our resources is one of the answers to mitigate climate change effects and to support sustainable development” is organized in the perspective of World Biodiversity Day which will be celebrated on May 22.

Police holds man for theft of manhole covers

A mason by profession has been accused by police of stealing 5 manhole covers at Bonne Veine Road, Quartier Militaire. The manhole covers belong to the Central Water Authority. A police raid at the 36-year-old culprit’s house helped recover the objects.

Site manager assaulted and robbed

A 32-year-old site manager of Quatre-Bornes had to be admitted to a clinic after 3 men irrputed in his house and assaulted him before stealing some of his possessions – a wallet containing Rs 6 000 and 3 bank cards,

School van crushes six-year-old to death

Irfan Beedesia, a six-year old was killed when he was hit by his school van at Morcellement Tara, Terre Rouge.

A narrow escape as cement columns fell off lorry

A tragedy was averted when cement columns fell off a lorry near Hindu House at Cassis. However, no one was injured.

Rs 46,300 worth objects stolen

A woman, 32 and resident of Baie du Tombeau alleged in a police complaint that a thief broke into her bungalow and stole a laptop, a camera, a USB key and foodstuffs.

electronics, perfumes and clothing worth Rs 60,000. The malefactors drove away in his company car.

Cop dies in bike mishap

A 28-year-old policeman residing at Camp Berthaud, Britannia, had an accident. His motorcycle, a Honda 100 cc, skidded off the roadway near River Dragon, before hitting a wall violently. He died on the spot. Victim’s father could hardly control his sorrow. “He was an exemplary son . He was much appreciated by everybody. He was my right hand.”

Mason in trouble for sex with minor

Police is investigating on a case of sex with a minor aged 15. This happened at

Camp de Masque where the minor from Plaines Wilhems had left her family to meet her boyfriend, a mason by profession. The father found about his daughter’s disappearance and reported the case to police.

Jewellery stolen at Calebasses

A woman residing at Calebasses reported to the police of Terre Rouge that jewellery valued at Rs 45,000 were stolen from her home. In addition to the jewellery, a sum of Rs 12,000 had also been stolen. The robbery was committed in full daylight during the lady’s absence.

Policeman motorcycle missing

A mechanic, aged 25, residing at Forest-Side, Curepipe, was

arrested by police. He is suspected of stealing a policeman’s motorcycle, residing at Curepipe. The policeman has parked his motorcycle at his front door and it had vanished. The motorcycle was later retrieved in parts.

Music teacher attacked by dogs

A 65-year-old music teacher residing at Sodnac, Quatre-Bornes, was attacked by two dogs while doing his morning jog. The owner of the dogs, aged 55, denied the attack. “My two dogs were certainly not on the streets, so early in the morning...My dogs were sleeping at my house that night. We treat them like children.” Police and MSPCA are investigating.

Public help arrest 2 HC at Les Salines

Members of the public helped to arrest two Habitual Criminals (HC) Josick Westley Souri, 32 and Jean Noel Soucis, 25 who threatened and stole the handbag of a Bangladeshi national at Les Salines garden. Suspects were handed over to police.

Ten arrested for heroin possession

Six were arrested at Avenue Le Flamant, Albion and four of them at Pointe aux Biches for possession of heroin drug worth Rs 250,000. At Trou aux Biches police spotted four suspicious throwing a packet of cigarettes, which was found to be containing a powder suspected to be heroin.

Two accidental burns

Two people were

admitted to the burns unit of Princess Margaret Orthopaedic centre on the same day. One lady from La Peyrouse, Eau-Coulée, 30 years, passed away. The fire spread to her clothes while she was attempting to snatch away a bottle of alcohol, which her two-year-old daughter was playing with.

3 killed in road mishaps

Three people died in road accidents on the same day. One of the accidents happened at Lallmatie, causing two victims. 51-year-old was driving his bike when a lorry loaded with sugarcane hit him. A 53-year-old lady who was sitting on top of the heap of the sugarcane was thrown off the lorry and died. In another accident, a 81-year-old from Terre Rouge died when she was hit by a bus while crossing the road near a bus stop.

Guy Rozemont’s 1949 historic motion in favour of a public holiday for Labour Day

Ever since his accession to the chairmanship of the Mauritius Labour Party and his election to the Legislative Council in the late 1940’s, Guy Rozemont intensified his fight for the welfare of the working class. It is line with this socialist vision that “in 1949 he moved a motion that 1st of May be declared a public holiday.”(1) The motion he tabled in favour of a public holiday for Labour Day was “to allow the workers of this Colony a day’s rest to celebrate



Guy Rozement

In his historic motion presented on 29 April 1949, Guy Rozemont stated that “it is an old fact that, during eight to ten years, it has been in mass public meetings the expression of opinion of the population that there is an overwhelming desire that they should be given the 1st of May as a public holiday for associating themselves with their other comrades throughout the whole world in order to celebrate the ideals of workers.”(Ibid) However, it is implicit in Rozemont’s statement that the proposal for the proclamation of Labour Day as a public holiday has been made a few years earlier prior to his epoch-making parliamentary motion. The author of the proposal was none but Emmanuel Anquetil himself, the mentor of Guy Rozemont. “On 5th May 1946 Anquetil publicly and forcefully asked at a meeting in the yard of the Rose Hill District Court for 1 May to be proclaimed national holiday.” (Ibid).

Labour Day celebrated for the first time in 1938 on the island.

It is noteworthy that the move for obtaining a public holiday came only a few years after Labour Day was celebrated for the first time in Mauritius. As a matter of fact, Labour Day was celebrated for the first time in Mauritius on 1 May 1938. “Le 1er mai 1938 pour la première fois la Fête du Travail est célébrée à l’île Maurice au Champ de Mars par le Parti Travailleiste.” (3)That was indeed a momentous day in the history of the working class. “To mark the occasion, a public meeting was organised by the MLP trio Dr Maurice Curé, Pandit Sahadeo Rama and Emmanuel Anquetil at Champ-de- Mars with a crowd estimated at around 20,000. Dr Millien, Dr Jeetoo, Dumputh Lallah, Samuel Barbe, B. Ohsan, H. Assenjee, Marcel Geneviève, Fritz Moutia, Gabriel Félix, Marcel Abel and René Monty were also present on the rostrum.”(2)

The various speeches laid stress on the vital importance of the workers as an economic partner who, alas, was denied its right share in the wealth produced. “On that occasion several leaders addressed the workers. All of them spoke of the contribution made by working classes to the prosperity of this country. They also described the appalling conditions in which labourers and artisans had been forced to live.”(1) Quite obviously, the necessary unity among workers, which implies absolute opposition to communalism, was recommended as the absolute weapon against economic exploitation. “Great stress was laid on unity because it was through it that they could compel their employers to change their attitude.”(Ibid) The strategy of “divide and rule” of the colonial masters and of the economic masters was already looming at the horizon. “Les dirigeants du Parti mettent les travailleurs, venus assister au meeting, en garde contre le danger communal qu’ils voient déjà poindre à l’horizon. L’Etat colonial voyant l’ampleur que prend le mouvement veille au grain, les dirigeants sont étroitement surveillés. La police assiste à leurs meetings et note tout ce qui est dit pour le rapporter au Gouverneur. Le patronat de son côté réclame plus de fermeté de la part de l’Etat pour mettre fin à la subversion.”(3)

Celebrating Labour Day to dignify the worker

Having inherited of a history where labour has been associated with servility and exploitation under both slavery and the régime of indentured labour, there was the dire need to enhance the status of the worker, to restore his lost dignity. “One of the ways to do so was the celebration of 1st of May as Labour Day. It was foreseen that a large number of workers would associate themselves with such a day. They would feel their lost dignity restored to them. A few Labour leaders seized the opportunity and made arrangements to organize a function.”(1) The motives behind the celebration of Labour Day have been summarized in this way:-

- “(a) The workers had been crushed by the capitalists. It was necessary to make a show of strength in order to stop the big planters from being arbitrary. That was not possible without joint action on the part of labourers and artisans.
- (b) Although it was as a result of their work that the country had developed yet they were still underfed and underpaid. It became necessary that all of them should speak with one voice to describe their misery.
- (c) They belonged to different sections of Mauritian population. As such they were separated. It was important that the problem of one be known by others. In this way some sort of solidarity could be established among all working classes.
- (d) The Mauritius Labour Party relied for its existence on the support of workers. There was the need to identify them with the party. Any force constituted by them was going to help considerably.”(Ibid)

A public holiday to celebrate Labour ideals-

So the President of the Labour Party Guy Rozemont came forward with his motion to Parliament on 29 April 1949, claiming that the observance of a public holiday on Labour Day was to give the people the opportunity “to celebrate the ideals of workers” together with “their other comrades throughout the whole world.”(2) These ideals are summarized in six-points in the following extract:-

- “It must be said that the idea behind asking a public holiday was to celebrate Labour Day may be described as follows:
- (a) Labour Day was earmarked for the workers primarily to give them an opportunity to join their counterparts of the whole world in thought and ideas. They were dominated by a capitalist system everywhere. It was essential to think and devise ways to break its shackles. Thus it was a sign of solidarity.
- (b) It was important to remember the vicissitudes and difficulties through which they had been undergoing. The hard work which they had put in to enrich their employers needed some attention.
- (c) It provided them with an opportunity to express their joys and satisfaction or pains and indignation. They were given time to review what they had done in the field of labour and what they could do in future
- (d) They could list out their needs and requirements. They could also draw the attention of their employers to shortcomings and drawbacks.
- (e) Labour being divine they got an occasion to mix and to think without any tinge of communalism. The question of race and religion did not worry them. They would believe in comradeship and not in narrow nationalism.
- (f) It was difficult to think of the world without Labour. Intelligence and capital were not sufficient in themselves. Thus there was the need to glorify labour.” (1)

An army of pro-Labour parliamentarians support Rozemont’s motion.

It may be assumed that Rozemont’s motion requesting a public holiday for Labour Day would not have been passed if the electorate had not voted, under the first really popular elections of 1948, a majority of candidates who were pro-workers. So goes the story of this major success, a success for all workers, irrespective of their social classes: “Raymond Rault seconded Rozemont’s motion. Soon after, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal and Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam successively spoke in its favour. For Bissoondoyal, “it will be something like symbolising co-operation between workers and capitalists.” May Day, for Dr Ramgoolam, “was looked upon by workers throughout the world as a sign of solidarity, as a sign of the struggle through which they have been and the sign and shape of things to come.” Two nominees, Dr. Arthur de Chazal and Andre Nairac, spoke against the motion. Seeneevassen brought an amendment so that 1 May should be also “a bank, office and estate holiday,” thus benefiting all the country’s workers, including those on sugar estates. Roy seconded the amendment. Other supporters of the amended motion, all elected members, were Dr Millien, Forget and Koenig. Rozemont’s motion, as amended by Seeneevassen, was carried. It was thanks to the presence in the legislature of a majority of members, successful in the 1948 general elections, being sympathetic to workers, that 1 May became a public holiday in 1950.”(2)

It would not be irrelevant to stress the fact that this public holiday would be “a paid public holiday” (4), a sine qua non condition to ensure its observance in the popular classes and that would go a long way to dignify labour. “Being assured that they would not lose their wages for one day, they could make it a duty to assemble at one place to show solidarity. They would get time to assess the work they had done and also think of what they would be capable of in the future. A paid public holiday furthermore



Raymond Rault

would definitely give them a certain status to make their ascendancy in the realm of public affairs.”(Ibid)

Labour Day decreed public holiday on island in 1950

Subsequently, the Governor Sir Hilary Blood declared 1st of May, 1950 as public holiday. This was a first in the history of the workers of the island who could, from that date, join in to their “other comrades throughout the whole world” to celebrate Labour Day at par, on a legally decreed public holiday. The Mauritian decree appeared in the issue of the Government Gazette of 22 April 1950. “Dans une grande avancée, La Gazette Officielle du 22 avril 1950 annonçait que le 1er mai avait été décrété congé public.”(5) Labour Day, on 1st May 1950, was celebrated amidst an unprecedented popular fervour – with tribute paid to the memory of Emmanuel Anquetil at St Jean cemetery in the morning and a public meeting at Champ de Mars, followed by a football match (which means that, already in the mid-20th century, Mauritians were fans of our two national sports – football and politics): “La Fête du Travail, cette année, fut célébrée dans un enthousiasme sans précédent. Le matin du 1er mai, Rozemont, les membres du comité exécutif du Parti Travailleiste, ainsi que de nombreux travailleurs allèrent se recueillir sur la tombe d’Anquetil, à St. Jean. Dans l’après-midi, au Champ de Mars, une foule estimée à 15 000 personnes assista au meeting traditionnel du parti, au cours duquel les orateurs suivants prirent la parole: le Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Renganaden Seeneevassen, Raymond Rault, Wilfrid L’Etang, Gontran Zamudio, R. Balgobin, Mée P. Riviere, l’auteur de ces lignes, Philippe et Guy Rozemont. Ce dernier retraça la lutte menée par le Dr Curé, Anquetil et les autres pionniers du Parti Travailleiste afin d’obtenir que le 1er mai soit décrété congé public à Maurice. A l’issue de la réunion, un match de football opposa la YMFA aux Muslim Scouts. Ces derniers l’emportèrent par 3 buts à 0. Mme Rozemont remit la coupe aux vainqueurs.”(Ibid)

DODO

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AddressPostcode.....

Email:..... Tel No.....:

Name of dance partner:

Terms of participation:

I certify that I am 13 years old or above

I agree that my dancing partner or myself will be allocated a number to participate in the competition, which we shall wear while taking part.

I agree that the decision of the judges will be final. I appreciate that the promoters have no interest in showing any form of favouritism in the award of the 2012 title for the Sega Champions.

I agree not to publicise any adverse remarks on the competition to run down the promoters or the judges.

I agree that the competition may be recorded on video and be made available publicly.

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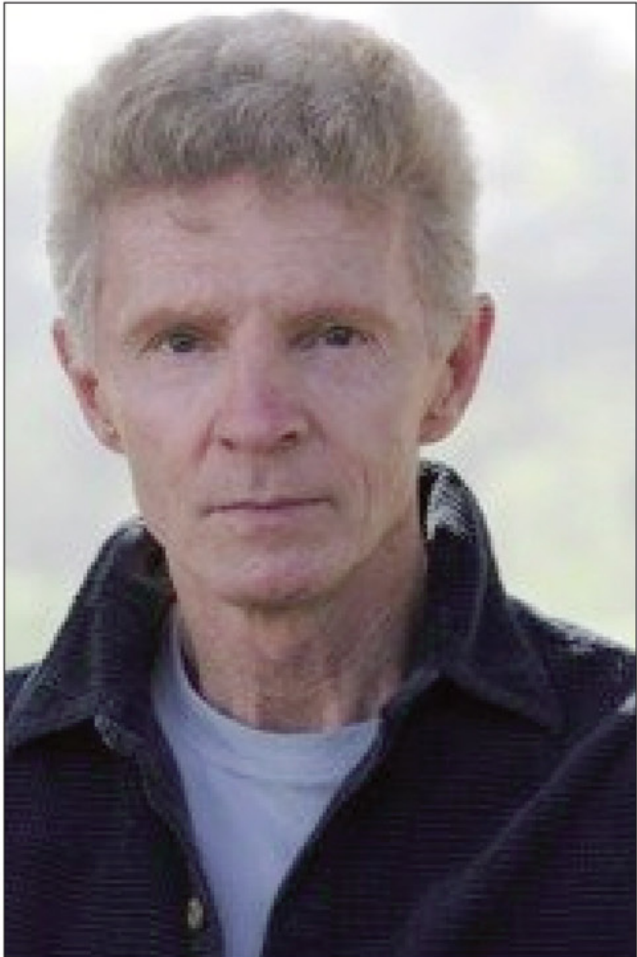
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30 years after escaping from a Turkish prison- Remember Midnight Express Movie?

Bill Hayes releases a new book about his life

Billy Hayes talks to Mauritius News about his new book “Midnight Return.” The latter, an American tourist accused of smuggling hash, was convicted to life imprisonment in 1970 in Turkey. He escaped from “hell” five later and wrote his first book, “Midnight Express”, about his peril. The book was later adapted into a movie.



In 1970, Billy Hayes was arrested while trying to smuggle hash from Turkey to the United States of America. He was sentenced to four years in jail, but his sentence was shifted into a life term weeks before his release. He wrote a book about his experiences called “Midnight Express”, which was adapted into a movie. However, the author maintained that the movie was not accurate description of the events that lead to his escape. His new book “Midnight Return”, relates the fascinating journey of the Billy Hayes from his downfall to hell to freedom. 30 years after of his great escape, Hayes comes back with the sequel of his peril, including photos, maps and letters that he received while he was in cell. “The first draft of this book was written 20 years ago then put aside...but the response last year to the Locked up Abroad episode about my experience was so overwhelming that I revised the book and was able, as an e-book, to add many photos, maps and old letters”, said

Billy Hayes. For the latter, this new book is a chance to relate what really happened in the Turkish prison and to answer the questions of people asking “about my life after Midnight Express.” Hayes is an example of determination. He never gave up and planned his successful escape from the Turkish prison five years after his conviction. Following his return to the United States, he wrote his first book, Midnight Express, which became a best-seller and was adapted into a movie in the 80’s. The movie was directed by Alan Parker and the script written by the famous Oliver Stone. But Hayes has always maintained that the movie was not accurate. Some facts “have been modified” for the sake of the movie. During the premiere of his TV Show, Locked up abroad, Hayes offered a “first person account of the Real Midnight Express.”

Julien Tuyau

(To continue in next issue)



Photo | Midnight Express (Sony Pictures, formerly Columbia Pictures)

MAURITIUS NEWS GALLERY

Modelling

Shikira Matabadul: “I think that I have the best of both worlds”

Shikira Matabadul, Mauritian-born model, with her doe-eyed look, talks about her career and shares her views about the modelling industry. Here we talk about Mauritius, fashion, culture and the link between them. The young model was 1st runner up of Miss Mauritius GB 2011.

Mauritius News (MN): How did you get into modelling?

Shikira Matabadul: As a child, I have always wanted to be an artist. Acting and dancing was, and are still, my passions. I did get some opportunities to perform in some shows.

Moreover, i was also deeply fascinated by science, which is still my favourite subject. No matter how much I wanted to embrace a modelling career, I have never given up my studies. Science brought me a long way in life; today I am starting a career in the medical profession.

MN: What advice would you give to aspiring models?

Shikira Matabadul: Be yourself; never try to look like someone else or to think that other girls are better than you. It is important to remain natural. Beauty pageants are, indeed, based on beauty, but physical appearance is not enough to succeed in those contests. You have to be smart and stay focus; the judges know how to differentiate between genuine performances and fake attitude.

MN: Was it easy to manage your studies and your modelling career?

Shikira Matabadul: I wanted to follow my

heart as well as my brain. A friend encouraged me to pursue my dream and to continue to dance and act. But it was not easy to manage my education and my modelling career. It was extremely hard. Time management is so important in life. I can’t say no to new opportunities but I have never neglected my studies. I try my best to keep a balance between both. I get my inspiration from Mother Theresa and Gandhi. They are my role models and they truly fascinate me in every perspective. I was born in Mauritius and moved to United Kingdom at the age of 7 years old. I think that I have the best from both worlds. I have not forgotten my Mauritian culture, the legacy of my parents and grand-parents. I have learned a lot from what I have seen in Mauritius and in UK. My parents have always been source of inspiration and I truly give them the credit of what I am today.

MN: What are your next projects?

Shikira Matabadul: Everything is always better when left in suspense. I like projects that come out of the blue. I am aiming at a couple of projects but ill like to keep that as a surprise.

J.T

Photographer: Valentino V
MUA: Safiyah



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Lots of Surprises



Mauritians in UK
GERARD CHARNIER

The Lionpulse Sound experience

British-born Mauritian Dj, Gerard Charnier, is a young talented artist and co-founder of the Dj collective Lionpulse Sound. From the bowels of Brixton Dubstep and Reggae scene, Lionpulse Sound has emerged as one promising Djs group in the United Kingdom.



Deejaying is not only limited to mixing or making people dancing. Deejaying is more complex than that and could be described as an art on its own. And to master it, one has to work hard in order to emerge from the jungle of the music industry, where hundreds of Djs are all fighting to be acknowledged by the gurus of this industry. However, hard work is not enough to succeed in this world; luck is the other factor that determines the fate of a DJ. Meeting the right people at the right time, playing in famous venues, always opens the door to fame. Lionpulse Sound has started the hard work four years ago. "We have started playing in small clubs and students' nights. But now we are playing on a larger scale in different clubs around Bristol and London", said Gerard Charnier.

Lionpulse Sound has been aiming at larger scale events for the past two years. They have performed in several clubs around London and Bristol to promote their "sound system." "Reggae music and the sound system culture is the foundation many musical style(s) known today. Our current project is the building up of our sound system; we are investing a lot of time and effort to get it done. During the finalisation of our sound system, Lionpulse Sound has been promoting its name and getting exposure through performing at different clubs around Bristol and London." Promotion is a big deal in this industry and Lionpulse Sound is aware of it. They also made loads of research in order to have a professional and up-to-date "set" which confers a very special touch to their "sound system."

Gerard Charnier, 25, was born in England and lived in Mauritius for five years. His elder brother, Jean Claude Charnier stayed in UK to run his label called Trinity-London. "We have been lucky to meet an array of artists from the London underground scene within this network. It has been easy to integrate ourselves within as we all share the same passion for music." With the help of his brother and his friends, Gerard started to venture in underground scene of London's musical industry. After acquiring much experience, he created the collective Lionpulse Sound with his friend Henry aka Lionpulse General and MC Cody. And this how their journey started.

Their strength is their dedication towards perfection, always searching for the best tunes to add to their sound system. "We now know how to make the crowd feels our vibe and appreciate our music. We update our music collection on a monthly basis by ordering vinyl as far as Japan and California in the States. Lionpulse Sound has been inspired by several people including Channel One Sound system, Jah Shaka, Aba Shanti I, Saxon Sound, Congo Natty, Mad Professor, King Tubby to name a few." They have shared line-ups with the famous Rebel MC aka Congo Natty, Daddy Freddy, Tenor Fly to name a few.

Moreover, Gerard Charnier still keeps in touch with the nightlife in Mauritius and has witnessed loads of changes throughout the years. "The nightlife scene in Mauritius appears to be very commercial. I acknowledge that there are several talented Djs over there but the music policy is quite generic. House music and Electro seem to be the most popular style of music and are played by the most famous Mauritian clubs." However, Gerard thinks that there is definitely a market for Reggae and Dub nights in Mauritius. "The beauty of reggae is that it has a universal message which can be embraced by anyone, anywhere in the world." Lionpulse Sound will be playing in many events during this month (see dates and venue below). They will also feature in many festivals this summer.

Julien TUYAU

Links

<http://www.facebook.com/lionpulseofficial>
<http://soundcloud.com/lionpulse>
<http://www.mixcloud.com/tag/lionpulse/>
<http://lionpulse.tumblr.com>
<http://trinity-london.com>

Lionpulse Sound next dates:

April 8th, Lakota, Bristol
April 14th, Social Club, Bristol
April 20th Blue Mountain, Bristol

USA

eBay's StubHub acquires Mauritian company



Oliver and Wesley Oxenham (Source: NSU University)

The Oxenham's brothers: Road to Silicon Valley

"PEEKSPY", the start-up that Wesley and Oliver Oxenham have founded has been bought by StubHub a subsidiary of the giant of online sales, eBay, in March 2012. The two brothers have headed to Silicon Valley where the company headquarters are located.

The story of PEEKSPY could make an interesting scenario for movie like "The Social Network" which was based upon the life of the founder of Facebook. But, unlike the social network, PEEKSPY does not deal with "friend requests" or similar stuffs.

The startup is more complex and has created software such as Fanvenues which provides 3D views of famous stadium and mythic theatres. StubHub, an online ticket provider, was bought by eBay for 310 million US dollars in 2007, has faith in the brothers' project and bought it in March 2012. Fanvenues allows StubHub's customers to have a 3D preview of the box or seat they have booked at a particular event. It might be a concert or a football match.

The startup has been created by Wesley and Oliver Oxenham four years ago with the help of their friend and business partner, Paymon Rasekhy. The two brothers were both studying at the National University of Singapore at that time. Wesley was doing his BSC in Architecture while Oliver was pursuing studies in the field of Computer Science. They combined their knowledge to give birth to PEEKSPY. The first project of Oliver and Wesley was the 3D modelling of the National University of Singapore library. Properly installed in an office provided by the university, the brothers started to lay down the foundation of the success of PEEKSPY. They have moved to San Francisco after StubHub acquired their company. But the selling price of the startup has not yet been disclosed. The adventure begins for the two brothers and maybe the start of an American dream.



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Application form on Page 15
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* Ivan: 0742 636 3170
* Mylene: 0793 158 9637
* Vivienne/Dianne on 0785 259 8602
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* Peter: 020 7498 3066

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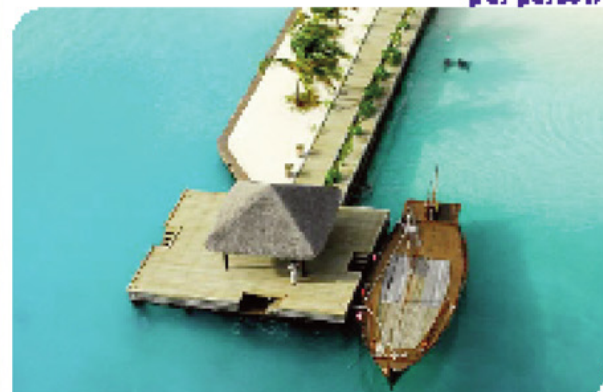


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