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December 2002 No 184

Monthly - 60p

Home owners talk to local MP of management problems



Picture: Peter Hogan

Mauritian-born Lilette Nagendren and Rashid Ebrahimkhan took the opportunity of a visit from Conservative leader Ian Duncan Smith, their local MP, to their Palm Nursing Home at Woodford to highlight the problems experienced by nursing home owners as a result of the excessive regulations imposed upon them by the National Care Standard Commission.

On top of the amount of paper work to attend to there is also the harassment from overzealous inspectors who are making a hell of their homes management.

These inspectors tend to come from the social services rather than from the nursing profession who would have a better understanding of the work involved and the care dispensed, says Rashid Ebrahimkhan.

During lunch, IDS gave an exposé of the difficulties being experienced generally by the ageing population as a result of the shortcomings of the system. To a question from Mauritius News with regard to the solutions, IDS advocated domiciliary care among the remedial actions. Judging by the condition of some residents it is certain that domiciliary attention will not be the answer to all cases especially in regard to those old people who need intensive nursing care.

In a recent article which appeared in the The Times, Lilette complained of the fact that after 15 years of managing a nursing home as a qualified nurse, she was asked to take a written examination set by the National Care Standard Commission to be allowed to continue to



Picture: MN

Wandstead MP Harry Cohen (far right) addressing the gathering at the Cambridge Nursing Home, newly acquired by Lilette and Rashid

run a nursing home. As a result of her protest and with the help of the Registered Nursing Home Association's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Frank Ursell, this written examination is no longer set.

It is encouraging to know that both Lilette and Rashid are not put off by the problems affecting the care management because they have just bought themselves the Cambridge Nursing Home, a much bigger one with 49 beds, at Wanstead in the Borough of Redbridge. Local MP Harry Cohen (Labour) was among the guests for the inauguration. He expressed his appreciation of the dedication of such people as our two compatriots in dispensing care to the needy, especially to those who are now unable to look after themselves and who need constant attention.

Mauritius News - 20th Year of publication

This paper, head held-high, has now entered its 20th year of publication to sail along the 21st century, with us all on board!

And so, from now on, we shall have to think more and more about the younger readership. It is therefore very pertinent that we ask ourselves the question:

Do the young people of Mauritian origin in the UK need a newspaper of their own like Mauritius News?

Reflections:

- * Together, we are united. * Unity means strength.
- * Strength means respect!

We do not have the money to ingratiate politicians for a lobby.

Our lobby is Mauritius News!

The younger generation of UK Mauritians and elsewhere will have to fight for their right to retain the Mauritian citizenship which is being denied to many of them who have applied for it. According to one press report in Mauritius, 36,000 applications from young people from overseas who are eligible for Mauritian nationality have been turned down by the Mauritius Government without giving any reason.

Yet, people from other countries are given Mauritian citizenship for one reason or another. Mauritius News has in the past campaigned for dual nationality to be extended to all overseas Mauritians and their children until this was approved by the Mauritius Government in 1999, but which it refuses to implement in practice.

The younger generation of UK Mauritians will have to fight for their right to inherit your property in Mauritius or to buy property in Mauritius. As non-Mauritians, they will be denied those rights. Yet, people from other countries, with no connection with Mauritius at all, are allowed to buy properties in the country if they bring in a sum of some £500,000 on top of the property (should very sizeable - not a few toises) they intend to buy.

Mauritian Passport and ID Card

Do you think that because your children have been issued with a Mauritian passport it means that they have Mauritian nationality? Only a few years ago holders of Mauritian passports (of Mauritian parentage) were deported from Mauritius. A passport is nothing but a travel document, in the same way that an Identity Card (issued in Mauritius) is nothing but a document to identify a person. Neither a passport nor an ID Card is a document meant to establish the nationality of the bearer.

On the UK Scene

In the UK, young Mauritians will, more and more, need to have their identity recognised as a minority among the minorities when it comes to sharing the national cake to which we have contributed by way of income tax, NIC, rates etc etc.

These are only a few of the rights for which they will need a newspaper to fight on their behalf.

As for the first generation of UK Mauritians they will have to fight for it if they wish to be allowed to vote in Mauritius which they should be allowed to by right as overseas citizens.

No Mauritius government will give this privilege to expatriates on a plate!

Reflexion:

- * Divided we fall!

UK Entry

No visa requirement for Mauritian visitors and students from December 18

According to the press release from the British High Commission reproduced below, Mauritians who come to this country as visitors or students will no longer need a visa to enter the UK.

The onus will therefore be placed once more on the immigration officers at points of arrival to screen Mauritians entering the UK to test whether they are genuine visitors or students. We may once more find a return to the situation when newcomers were detained at airports and sea-ports, and frequently sent back home on the same carrier or boat that brought them to the country.

One Mauritian put it very bluntly when he said that we would be bothered again by the authorities when someone arriving at the airport and gives our names as contact in the UK for the period of their stay. And this is true. The situation is made worse when you barely know these people who have given your name to the authorities. You are put to all sorts of inconvenience having to contact solicitors, immigration agencies and MPs to sort out their entry into the UK. And even the Mauritius High Commission which cannot intervene in such matters will have no peace when Mauritian nationals are detained in the UK.

As long as the visa arrangement was in place, though it was expensive, all the documents of the traveller were cleared by the British High Commission in Mauritius and the traveller encountered no problem from the immigration officers in the UK. Now, all that is likely to change, not for the better!

British High Commission
Port Louis
26 November 2000

UK VISA REGIME LIFTED

The UK visa regime on Mauritius will be lifted from 18 December 2002. From that date, Mauritian visitors and students will no longer need to obtain entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom. Visas will, however, still be required up until that date.

For certain categories of travel, including settlement and as working holidaymakers, Mauritians will still require prior entry clearance. The categories of travel for which entry clearance is mandatory are the same for all nationalities other than those from the European Economic Area. Mauritians travelling to the UK for purposes other than visits or study are advised to contact the British High Commission to check whether they need an entry clearance.

Additionally, visitors or students who have previously been refused a visa, refused entry to the United Kingdom, or who feel they might not meet the requirements of the UK Immigration Rules, may wish to apply for an entry clearance before travelling.

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Mauritius News

December 2002

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The Delphis Bank scandal

A letter to the Governor of The Bank of England

In our November issue we mentioned that we had written to the Bank of England to situate its responsibility in allowing the Delphis Bank to open a Rep Office in London which resulted in numerous UK residents being cheated of their investments.

Hereunder is a reproduction of this letter.

Sir Edward George
The Governor of
The Bank of England
1 Threadneedle Street
London EC2R

Dear Sir,

In August 1997, the Bank of England granted a 'Letter of No Objection' to the Delphis Bank of Mauritius to set up a Representative Office in the UK. The Office subsequently started operation from 77 Brook Street, London W1.

Because of this 'Letter of No Objection' from the Bank of England many UK residents who bought shares in the Delphis Bank when it was floated on the Mauritius Stock Exchange have been cheated of their investments.

The Bank of England therefore has a share of responsibility for not screening properly the request from the Delphis Bank (Mauritius) before issuing the Letter of No Objection to open a Rep Office in the UK.

We therefore invite your office to take cognizance of the following facts to avoid a recurrence of such a financial scandal presumably sanctioned by the Bank of England.

Attracting UK Mauritians

The London Representative Office of the Delphis Bank began from its very inception to place advertisements in the London-based community newspaper Mauritius News to attract clients from among members of the UK Mauritian community.

In November 1999 the Delphis Bank floated its shares on the Mauritius Stock Exchange and this attracted quite a few shareholders from the UK.

The Delphis Bank which started operation in Mauritius in 1991 with the blessing of the country's Government soon became the fifth most successful banking institution of the country with branches all over the island. In Appendix A to this letter you will find a picture of its HQ in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius.

However, there have been allegations of misdemeanours among previous top officials or major shareholders of the Bank who had already attracted the animosity of some political figures of the country. There were also in local press reports of late compliance of the Bank with the exigencies of local regulatory bodies.

But the Bank continued to be a prosperous institution in spite of its problems. One particular Mauritian expatriate in the UK, a certain Mr Harry Sookun, who has done extremely well in the nursing home business here in Engalnd wished to buy the bank. He actually held a substantial number of Delphis Bank shares. In a letter dated January 24, 2002 (Copy attached as Appendix B) this Harry Sookun invited investment to finance the acquisition "of a going-concern bank in Mauritius." It was the Delphis Bank which was being targeted as would be confirmed much later by the Mauritian Minister of Finance when he told the press that everyone knew that Mr Sookun intended to buy the Delphis Bank.

Already Mr Sookun had been wining and dining some top political and other personalities who proved crucial in his negotiations for the Delphis, and he even, reportedly, made donations to political parties in the island. Having opened an office in Mauritius in 2000 to trade as a Limited Company, this Mauritian UK resident was placed on the island's New Year's Honours List in 2002 with a distinguished decoration for services rendered to business.

Revocation of banking licence

On March 8, 2002, the Bank of Mauritius revoked the licence of the Delphis Bank, and a Receiver/Manager (Mr Yuviraj Takoor) was appointed to dispose of the assets of the Delphis Bank. According to local press reports this Receiver/Manager had had previous close busi-

ness connection with the Limited Company of MrSookun.

A month later, in April 2002, the Receiver/Manager invited tenders for the purchase of the assets of the Delphis Bank and even placed an advertisement in the UK Financial Times issue of April 6, 2002 (Copy of the advert is attached as Appendix C). The closing date for submission of tenders was set as April 17. Barely 11 days were allowed for all formalities to be completed by prospective tenderers.

In this FT advert, it will also be noted that the Receiver/Manager stated that the Delphis Bank "was the fifth largest bank in terms of deposits in Mauritius."

So both the prospective buyer (Mr Sookun) and the Receiver/Manager affirmed that the Delphis Bank was an ongoing and profitable concern. Why did the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius (Mr Basant-Roi) therefore revoke the Licence of the Delphis Bank thus depriving shareholders of their investments in the Bank?

Even the local Business Magazine hailed the success of the Delphis Bank in its April 1999 issue with the headline: DELPHIS BANK: Impressive 84% growth in pre-tax profits. 10,000 additional clients in 1998. (See Appendix D)

As was highly speculated, the Delphis Bank was subsequently sold by the Receiver/Manager to Mr Sookun for the sum of 50 million rupees while the Bank's assets were estimated at over 600 million rupees. The sum of 50 million rupees was reportedly assessed by a valuer (Mr Appavou) also alleged to have had a connection with the Limited Company of Mr Sookun

When the January 2002 letter of Mr .Sookun (in Appendix B) came to light in July this year the Mauritian Minister of Finance, Mr Paul Bérenger, brushed aside all criticism of insider's dealing by simply stating, according to press report, that it had always been known that Mr Sookun intended to buy the Delphis Bank.

All that begs the following questions:

(1) Because Mr Sookun wished to buy the Delphis Bank (as confirmed by himself and the Finance Minister), why did he not make a formal bid for the Bank to allow the shareholders to exercise their right to decide on the price of the sale?

(2) Why did the Bank of Mauritius ignore the rights of the shareholders of the Delphis Bank? The shareholders could have obtained a good return on their investment instead of now possessing a useless piece of paper, The only beneficiary among the shareholders is Mr Sookun who has been allowed to buy the Bank's assets at a fraction of its value and to reinvest the acquired assets in the same bank but with a changed name as mentioned below.

(3) Why did Finance Minister allow the revocation of the Licence of the Bank, and subsequently for its assets to be sold, ignoring completely the shareholders? Is this the way that the Republic of Mauritius is going to establish itself as a reputable financial centre of the Indian Ocean?

(4) What has happened to the 50 million rupees paid by Mr Sookun to the Receiver/Manager for the acquisition of the Delphis Bank's assets? All letters addressed to the Receiver/Manager on this subject are being ignored.

5) Some top officials have had the audacity to say that shareholders should know the risk of investing in stocks and shares. It is a fact that when a business goes bust, shareholders are the first to lose their investments. But the Delphis Bank did not go bust. It was purposely destroyed by a clique for reasons everyone knows but which no one dares mention.

The Delphis Bank (which was previously known under various names) has now metamorphosed into the First City Bank with Mr Sookun as Vice-Chairman having been granted 39% of



The former Delphis Bank, a monument to those who can do whatever they like in the island!

the shares of this bank for his Delphis Bank assets. The Development Bank of Mauritius, which is not a commercial bank, owns 51% of the First City Bank in defiance of all banking decency, it has been pointed out.

It all stinks, said the Mauritian Opposition leader!
UK presence

The main purpose of writing this missive to you is to situate the responsibility of the Bank of England in granting "A letter of No Objection" to the Delphis Bank (Mauritius) to open a Representative Office in London, thus attracting UK shareholders who have now been cheated. Had not this Bank been allowed to open such an office in London UK residents would not have lost money in such a deceitful manner. Generally speaking, UK residents do not care about other Mauritian Banks because those banks do not have a presence in the UK. Even the previous application of the State Bank of Mauritius to set up a Branch in the UK was turned down by the Bank of England.

The second purpose of this letter is to invite the Bank of England to scrutinise all future applications from any Mauritian Bank which may wish to have a presence in the UK so that British citizens may not be fleeced once more. It is now reported that the First City Bank intends to open a Representative Office in the UK. It will be indecent of the Bank of England to allow such a thing to happen especially as we understand that the 'Letter of No Objection' from the Bank of England is no longer required. In other words, any foreign Tom, Dick and Harry can open a Bank in the UK. So much for the prevention of money laundering! Mauritius has been placed high on the list by various countries in this direction. We only hope that England does not intend to encourage this sort of thing by indiscriminately opening the door to one and all.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Chellen
Managing Editor

December 2002



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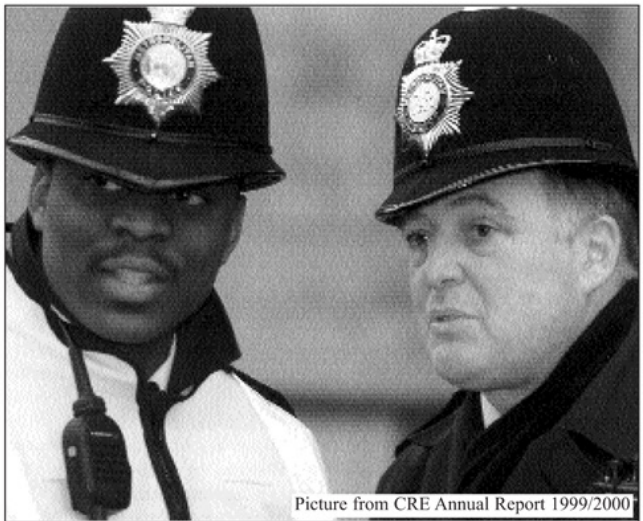
Understanding institutional racism

- Racism of all sorts exists in Britain
- Well-qualified black students still find it difficult to gain admission to some Law or Medical schools
- Many social services are simply oblivious to the specific needs of their ethnic minorities’ service users

Institutional racism is a burning issue in contemporary British society. On the 31st. of May this year, the Race Relations Amended Act 2000 became operational and its overall aim is to eradicate institutional racism from Britain’s public services.

The 1976 Race Relations Act was amended as a direct result of the Macpherson Inquiry after it unearthed evidence of widespread institutional racism within the Metropolitan Police Force. The Director of the Prison Services admitted recently that institutional racism was ripe within the Prison Services, while the Director of the Public Prosecution Services Sir David Calvert-Smith raised a few eyebrows lately when he stated publicly that the entire British society is institutionally racist.

Racism of all sorts exists in Britain. Take Higher Education for example research conducted by Bristol University showed that well-qualified black students still find it difficult to gain admission to some Law or Medical schools. While there are empirical as well as anecdotal evidence to suggest that many social services are simply oblivious to the specific needs of their ethnic minorities’ service users. So institutional racism is not uniquely confined to police forces alone but rears its ugly head everywhere including unlikely places as the caring NHS or the enlightened Education sector.



Picture from CRE Annual Report 1999/2000

The PM’s cherished dream of seeing Britain becoming a stakeholder society will only become a reality when all citizens, irrespective of their colour or religions, are treated equally and fairly.

Furthermore, institutional racism is not exactly a new phenomenon. It has been practised, tolerated and even encouraged by many societies. We know that Roman citizens had certain privileges that were not accorded to non-Romans as exemplified by the notable fact that St.Paul once escaped the death penalty because of his Roman citizenship. While a 1948 memo from the British Admiralty asking managers “to prevent the appointment of natives of India or Pakistan to the Admiralty by covert administrative actions” (quoted in Harris 1991) is another clear example of institutional racism by another name.

In Britain today, it is in the field of employment that someone from an ethnic minority is more likely to encounter institutional racism of various guises. A recently published government document entitled Full and Fulfilling Employment (DTI July 2002) suggests that British employers would rather recruit less qualified white workers than better qualified ones from the ethnic minorities. So when it comes to joining the employment market the dice is not just heavily loaded against ethnic minorities job seekers but once they have found a job, their career progression can be absurdly slow. The fact that many Mauritians living in Britain are actually employed in public sector organisations like the NHS, the Civil Service or Education means that the Amended Race Relations Amended 2000 Act could have a significant impact on their working and personal lives.

Misunderstanding and confusion

An understanding of institutional racism, an awareness of how it manifests itself in the workplace or what could be done about it could help them to challenge it in an informed manner.

The term institutional racism lends itself to a multitude of definitions that have helped to engender misunderstanding and confusion over its real meaning and interpretation. But the term was coined by American social scientists in the 1960s to describe the systematic and endemic discriminatory practices perpetrated by social organisations against the mainly Black American population. At that time many American civil rights activists perceived the eradication of institutional racism as an essential pre-condition for the establishment of a fair and peaceful US society. They rightly believed that these covert and hidden practices not only reproduced but also perpetuated racial disadvantages in the USA.

Even the US Judiciary was tainted by institutional racism because very seldom did all white juries convict white defendants who have committed the vilest crimes against black people. For example earlier this year a surviving member of the Klu Klux Klan was found guilty of murdering three young black girls in Birmingham Alabama. But at the original trial, some forty years

ago, an all white jury sensationally acquitted the same defendant despite the overwhelming evidence.

But such anomalous situation still persists in the Land of the Free. Who can forget the haunting television pictures of black and unarmed motorist Rodney King being assaulted by four white Los Angeles policemen? The victim spent days in hospital suffering from broken bones and concussion. But an all white jury found the white policemen not guilty and triggered the worst racial riot seen for a long time in Los Angeles.

In Britain, although the term institutional racism has been widely used and analysed by the academia it nevertheless fails to attract serious political concerns until the recent publication of an official inquiry into the racist murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence. The MacPherson Report describes institutional racism as “processes, attitudes and behaviours which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage ethnic minority people”.

One can safely deduce that institutional racism is not only embedded in the social structures of British society but it deliberately generates socio-economic disadvantages that include poverty, unemployment, poor housing, educational under-achievement and ill health. It is worse than personal racism because it purposely ensures that some ethnic or racial groups remain at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder or organisational hierarchy. But it is not as easy to recognise as personal racism because of the paradoxical attributes of their respective perpetrators.

Let me contrast a personal white racist with an institutional one in order to stress my point. Although a personal white racist can be xenophobic and dislikes white people from other cultures or countries, his ‘nigrescence’ conceptualisation of “immigrant or foreigner” makes him more antagonistic and bellicose towards non-white people. He is above all a white supremacist and racial hygienist who abhors miscegenation thus disapproves of mix-marriages and hybrid children. He does not prevaricate with his words and would openly admit that he loathes non-whites and that they should be expatriated because they do not belong to this island race or continent.

His hatred is ingrained in emotive fallacies like “they are here to take my jobs” or more astonishingly “to steal my women”. Should he meet you in a dark alley he would kick your head in and feel no remorse about it. I have, however, a sadistic admiration for the personal racist because of his transparency and brutal honesty but wish I could be as complimentary about the institutional racist.

Sociologists would undoubtedly refer the institutional racists I have encountered as people with excess social capital. In other words they are intelligent middle class people in places of authority



Collection of pictures from London Mayor’s Annual Report 2000/01

In multi-cultural Great Britain, in court cases, juries are white people most of the time

and some are real pillars of their local community. They live exemplary lives and are generous to those less fortunate than themselves including their adopted black children in some distant part of India or Africa. They have non-white friends and yes they do like a good mild curry! If the personal racists suffer from emotive fallacies their institutional counterparts are in turn infected with authoritarian ones.

As people who may have travelled extensively, they purport to know a lot about other cultures, customs, traditions and attributes. At work they would claim that their actions are always guided by what’s best for the organisation or the clients groups so their motives are altruistic, utilitarian but never discriminatory. They therefore have an obligation to ensure that the best people are employed or promoted and it is just divine intervention that “the best” as far as they are concerned are the whites! Some of them are so sanctimonious that they find the notion that they can be institutionally racists repugnant and slanderous.

This was clearly demonstrated in the recent court case Eccles v The Seventh Day Adventist Church when the white defendants argued that the accusations of institutional racism were spurious and should be treated with contempt. They are above all good Christians who even love their enemies. But the Employment Tribunal disagreed, accused them of self-delusion and awarded the plaintiff over £ 77,000 in compensation.

Self-delusion and infallibility

The combination of self-delusion and infallibility means that some institutional racists do not take kindly to anyone who challenges their decisions or judgements. So imagine the hurt and disbelief you could cause if you accuse them of being institutionally racists? First you get the righteous indignant riposte of “how dare

you! My best friends are blacks “. Should you persist with your accusations? The gloves then come off, you are cast as a demoniac, your character pathologized resulting in victim-blaming .You would be branded as “someone with chips on his shoulders”, “an idiot playing the race card” or more hurtfully “an opportunist jumping on the compensation gravy train “.



By Amédée Roger Numas *

There could be implied threats like ‘watch your back’ or ‘your cards have been marked’ and it could lead to group-closure by some of your white colleagues. But don’t worry if you are sent to Coventry because I can vouch that it’s a beautiful city!

The enactment of the amended Race Relations Act 2000 means that from now on the institutional racists and the organisations that employ them will have to tread more carefully. This is because non-decision making tactics such as inertia, denial, demonisation or threats are unacceptable, illegal and counter-productive. Although they often act as Victorian mill-owners, perpetrators of institutional racism who work within the public services are nevertheless public servants who have rational legal authority not unfettered power.

This effectively means that they have to discharge their assigned duties within legally defined frameworks. And the Race Relations Amendment 2000 Act impose on them a legal duty to adopt a more pro-active, considerate and reflective approach when dealing with allegations of institutional racism.

But could you recognise workplace’s institutional racism? The perpetrators are shrewd, slick and cunning thus not easy to unmask. They occupy trusting positions within their organisations and to paraphrase Shakespeare a minority of them are like the Devil, namely that they can quote the Scriptures for their own purposes (MoV). So remember this old French adage when dealing with them “ L’apparence est souvent trompeuse”. But the following omens could be of assistance.

* Your contributions are ignored, your work seen as useless toil while those of your white colleagues always appreciated and lauded. You are only entrusted with the menial and less demanding tasks because of your assumed inherent lesser ability.

* There are constant nit picking and fault-finding regarding the quality of your work or performance. So not surprisingly you are more likely to be disciplined than your white colleagues. The excuses are often trivial thus amounting to tacit selective bullying.

* Opportunities accorded lavishly to your white colleagues are denied to you. These include going on study courses, attending seminars, acting up for senior colleagues. (In other words you stagnate while others are being primed and lined up for more important roles and positions in the organisation. Your juniors white colleagues are early developers or high-fliers while you are treated as early deteriorators and no-hoppers.)

* You have acted-up in a more senior position and been praised for it. The post is subsequently advertised and you have been interviewed for it. You got a phone call informing you how “agonising” it has been for the appointing panel or what a close race it was. But sadly you did not get the job and it then dawned on you that you were only warming the seat for your less experienced or less qualified white colleague.

* Non-whites are inexplicably rooted at the bottom of your organisation despite having better tangible or measurable qualifications and longer experience. The rational or excuse used to justify such glaring omission is that ‘you need more than paper qualifications to do that job’ or ‘we need new blood not dead wood’ – meaning wish you were whites.

* Promotions are hard to come by because you keep failing on

Continued on Page 5 (Col 2)

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A Foreigner in my Homeland

A young UK Mauritian’s impression of the land of her parents. Freshly graduated, with a BA Hons in Journalism and English, Suzanne Gaspard entertains us in this article with the experience of her recent trip to Mauritius which seems to be like the awakening of a young person making fresh contact with her roots.

I walked off the plane into a dark tunnel; I could see light up ahead. No I was not in heaven, but close to it if you look at the description Mark Twain had of the tropical island “ Heaven was made in the image of Mauritius.”

I was excited and so were my parents, it had been six years since I last went to Mauritius and so much had changed within our lives. I had graduated and learnt a lot from my experience at university. I had also discovered that I was moving further away from my Mauritian culture, I wanted to learn more about my heritage where I came from. So when my parents suggested going to Mauritius I jumped at the chance. Being away from good old England for five weeks did worry me a bit but I was fresh out of university, I had no obligations and it was unlikely that this chance would come about again.

As I walked through customs I was experiencing all sorts of emotions, anticipation, nerves.... We walked towards the exit of the airport I was hurrying my parents along, I did not want to wait any longer. We walked outside, the fresh air hit my face and as I looked out beyond the airport I saw palm trees waving in the wind. I looked straight ahead and saw a group of familiar faces staring at us. We walked towards them and my aunt burst into tears. After many hugs and kisses we got into the car for the next part of the journey to my dad’s family home, Beau-Bassin.

While in the car I was able to take in the scenery. The earth was a rich red colour and the luscious green leaves of the sugar cane shook vigorously in the wind. It was raining, but the brightness of the sun was still shining through. We arrived in Beau-Bassin in a journey which seemed to last forever. No sooner had we got out of the car, the door of the house opened and my Grandma and the rest of my aunts came out and started to cry as soon as they saw us. Although a happy time in my life to see my family after so many years, it was also sad because I had missed so much from being away from my family for so long. Three of my cousins had got married and already had children and two more were engaged. I had missed out on all the family celebrations, I felt like a stranger within my family.

Within a few hours that had changed, although I still felt awkward I was starting to adapt with my new surroundings. After a day of talking and catching up on six years everyone made their way back to their respected homes. My family had come from Flacq, Mahebourg and Quatre Bornes to see us. It had been a long day and I made my way to bed for a well-earned rest.

Sunday was a special day, we all got up early we had to be at the church at 9am. My aunt and uncle were renewing their vows; they had been married 25 years. We arrived at the Sacred Heart church in Beau-Bassin.

The church was full to the brim, religion was still very important to the Mauritian people. At the end of the service we made our way to the front of the church, everyone else went out. The rest of my family, and my uncle’s side of the family, crowded around the altar as my aunt and uncle renewed their vows. The priest who was conducting the service had actually married them 25 years ago in the same church.

After the service we had a party to celebrate this special day. We ate, drank and danced the sega and everyone had a good time.

The next day we woke up early again, we were going to visit my mum’s older brother and sister who both lived in Port Louis. My mum was particularly excited, Port Louis was her hometown, a place where she spent most of her childhood.

As we drove through Port Louis it amazed me just how busy a town could be. There were cars everywhere, beeping, people packed the sides of the streets. The temperature seemed to rise as we made our way through the streets of the capital.

My aunt and uncle lived on the outskirts of Port Louis, near the mountains, a sharp contrast to the busy lifestyle of the city centre. This area was definitely much more laid-back; the mountains looked a beautiful luscious green on a sky blue backdrop.

We drove up to my uncles’ gate, he was waiting for us outside, a huge smile crept up on his face as his ‘little sister’ came out of the car.

Suzanne Gaspard
In the next instalment Suzanne Gaspard will write about visiting Curepipe, Flacq, Mahebourg, Quatre Bornes and Belle Mare beach.

Institutional Racism

Continued from Page 4

subjective criteria like ‘lack of vision or potentials’ , ‘lack of leadership qualities or depths’ or ‘you did not articulate well’. Your junior white colleagues are seemingly over-blessed with such qualities and don’t you envy them!

Remedial action

What should or could you do if you feel that you have been a victim of institutional racism at work ?

(i) First approach your Trade Union Rep. But remember that your manager or the alleged perpetrator could be a member of your Union too. So, divided loyalty and conflict of interest can be an issue. It perhaps explains why many unions adopt a softly softly approach vis-à-vis allegations of racism.

(ii) The best bet is to contact your local Community Race Relation Council who will help you to establish whether there is a *prima facie* case. But this does not mean the allegations are legally founded. They may even ask the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) to investigate your case in more details.

(a) The CRE will carry out further investigations assuming they believe there is still a *prima facie* case and will advise you accordingly. They may ask their Legal Committee to scrutinise the legal strengths and weaknesses of your case.

(b) If there is legal case to answer, the CRE may even decide to take the perpetrator/your employer to an Employment Tribunal on your behalf or advise you on how to proceed without their assistance.

(c) Remember you do not need formal legal representation, you can thus can represent yourself. Should you wish to self-represent, your Citizen Advice Bureau will assist you with your preparation. But legal matters are rather complex. Evidence is important so keep all records, documents and contemporary notes of alleged incidents including names, dates, witnesses etc.

(d) If you live in London, you could approach the London Race Discrimination Unit (LRDU). The LRDU employs its own expert lawyers and would give you sensible advice as well as practical helps.

(e) Many Law firms do operate on a no win no fee basis and you might be pleasantly surprised to know that some Home Content Insurance Policies also cover legal costs. So check if yours does.

It’s important to know that an Employment Tribunal will only consider your claim if it has been lodged within three months of the last incident allegedly took place and there are few exceptions. You also need a “comparator”, namely someone from a different ethnic group who you think has been given preferential treatment -the CRE/ LRDU or lawyer will explain this to you. Lastly, bear in mind that taking your employer to an Employment Tribunal means you are crossing the Rubicon so there could be nasty fall-outs. But do not let them intimidate you because there are laws against workplace intimidation, bullying, victimisation or vexatious behaviours.

The days when social and public organisations treat some British citizens as ‘less equals’ than others are truly numbered because the tool to dismantle institutional racism the Race Relations Amended Act 2000 is now in place. Furthermore, the Act has given the CRE more legal clouts that they are prepared to use. But the eventual elimination of institutional racism will very much depend on whether its alleged victims are prepared to challenge it or not. If they don’t and stick with their current deplorable attitude of resigned tolerance it will only embolden the institutional racists.

I was part of a delegation of four black university lecturers from England and Scotland who met with the Cabinet Office’s Performance and Innovation Unit (The PIU) in October 2001 to discuss institutional racism within the Higher Education Sector. The PIU reports directly to Prime Minister Tony Blair and is seen as his personal think-tank. In that meeting, we did express our concerns that the Race Relations Amended Act 2000 is in a sense discriminatory because it does not apply to the private sectors where institutional racism is arguably more rampant. The initial vibes we picked then were quite encouraging and don’t be surprised if the Act is amended soon to give ethnic minorities employees in the private sectors the same legal protection they richly deserve.

The Prime Minister Tony Blair has made it crystal clear that he wants to see Britain becoming a stakeholder society. He lately re-enforced his message by appointing Paul Boateng as the first ever black British Cabinet Minister. But his cherished dream will only become a reality when all British citizens irrespective of their colour or religions are treated equally and fairly. And there is no better place to start this daunting process than in the public services funded collectively by British taxpayers of all ethnic races or creeds.

* The author of this article, Amédée Roger Numas, is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton & Member of the Association of the University Teachers Equal Opportunity Committee.

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MTMS

Strengthening our Mauritian Tamil culture

Wouldn’t you like to see our Mauritian Tamil Culture continue to grow in the future?

The Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam UK (MTMS) has always strived to maintain our culture in the UK. A new committee has recently been elected and together we promise to work even harder to reach our goals.

In the past the MTMS has successfully achieved its objectives of holding regular religious functions – Thai Poosam, Sittirai Kavadee, Govinden and Canjee pooja. In addition, we hold various discos throughout the year to raise money in order for us to continue our work.

We are currently aiming to buy our own property to build the very first Mauritian Tamil Temple in the UK. In order for this dream to come true we ask for all the Mauritian Tamils to unite and give us your support. Your help can make all the difference. We urgently need more members who share the same values and hopes for the future in order to help us fulfil our ambition. As a member you will be investing in the future of our culture and helping us to pass on our heritage to future generations.

To become a member all you will have to do is fill out an application form which can be obtained by calling Ken Descann on (020) 8340 6073 or alternatively you can send an email to mtms_uk@yahoo.co.uk. All we ask to become a member is to pay a subscription of either £2 monthly or £24 yearly. There is a 50% discount for Students and OAP. We also wish to reach out to the younger generation who are also able to help us.

We all thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours in His Service
Amanda and Prescilla Sawmynaden
(Organisers)

In a corner of India, a Japanese spirit shines

by Mylene Oishi (Japan)

I went to India with an abstract idea. To help children in some way and to keep my husband's spirit alive. I was married for nine years, and I can honestly say that everyday was filled with joy and happiness. I believe joy and happiness are gifts that we have to learn to share, which is how this abstract idea came to be. I did not know anyone in India, or know much about the country. Yet while I was there, chance meetings, introductions and connections bring my idea to fruition.

I found India to be a spiritual and optimistic place, where generosity of spirit transcends above the heart-breaking poverty, where amid the colourful chaos exists kindness, compassion and warmth.

Goa, India

Some people may never have heard of Goa, which is located south of Mumbai (Bombay). Yet it has a rich historical and international background. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit priest introduced Christianity here before making his way to Japan (Kagoshima) in 1549. His remains is located in the world-renowned church, the 'Basilica of Born Jesus', in Goa. This Church is a World Heritage site, attracting people from every corner of the world.

Don Bosco

John Melchior Bosco* (later known as Don Bosco) was born in 1816 in Italy. As a priest, he gave his life to help the street children of Italy. He wanted to bring a ray of hope into the shattered lives of thousands of youngsters. Priests today who follow in Don Bosco's footsteps are known as the Salesian Brothers. From the action of this one man, Don Bosco schools have opened in many parts of the world. There are two societies of Don Bosco here in Japan, plus many educational institutions, such as the Osaka Seiko Gakuin Junior High School.

Inspiration from a priest

I met Father Francis Silveira (a Salesian Brother) by chance at Kamali station in Goa. As we chatted (as two strangers are wont to do) I discovered that Father Francis used to be the vice principal of Don Bosco school in Panaji (capital of Goa) until he resigned because he wanted a more challenging and meaningful role in the lives of children. He had just started 'Child Line', (June 2002) a 24-hour help line for all children in need: abused children, abandoned children, runaway children, sick and handicapped children whose parents have neglected them, dropouts, and orphans.

He told me about a large property that had been donated to Don Bosco which he wanted to make into a sheltered home and study centre for children who don't, won't or can't go to school. The property is an immense cream-painted bungalow located near Goa airport, in Danbolim. He told me it could house 100 children. (Perhaps Fr. Francis was being optimistic with that number). I got the feeling this would be a good place for a spirit to shine from.

A religious retreat

The next day, back at Kamali station waiting for my train to Kerala (South India), two Mother Teresa Sisters of Charity spoke to me. "If you go

south, you must visit the retreat," they suggest. While we chatted, they said they knew Father Francis well. In fact, they told me that at night "he wanders the streets and picks up the abandoned babies, the street children and the mentally sick. He takes them to the Mother Teresa Sisters of charity in Panaji, where they are looked after, until other arrangements can be made for them." I decided to change my plan and went on to the retreat. Prayers, meditation, fasting and no contact with the outside world gave me time to think.

The Spirit of Giving

I think that out of dark muddy waters, the beautiful lotus flower grows. Out of personal tragedy people pick up the pieces and bring joy and hope to the life of others. Out of the chaos of a country with over 300 regional dialects, shines the spirit of harmony and understanding.

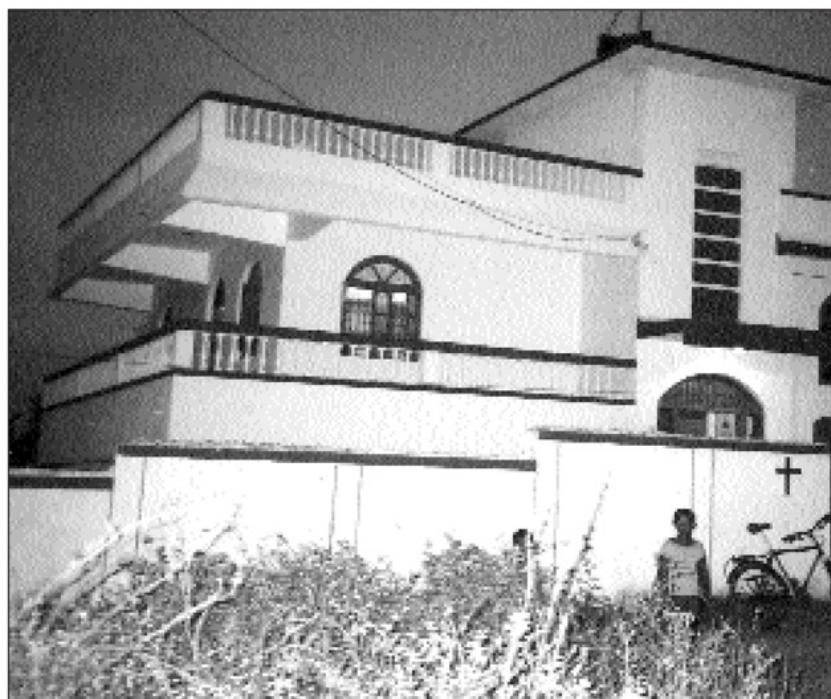
I have now decided to donate the funds necessary so that the sheltered home Father Francis has in mind can open and start operation. The donation will also help several other Don Bosco projects for children. At the entrance of the sheltered home I will place a sign in English and Japanese to read: "The Spirit of giving". A photo of my husband will be placed in the main room for posterity. I would like to think that the children would look at the photo and think that a stranger who never knew them was helping them in some way.



From left to right: Fr Romulo Naronna, (Head of Don Bosco), Mylene Oishi, and Fr Francis Silveira

I remember the words of Mother Teresa. "I cannot change the world, but I can change one person's world" For me, too, this is enough: to know that one person's world may change for the better because my husband's spirit shines in a corner of India.

* St John Bosco is known as the Patron Saint of Editor

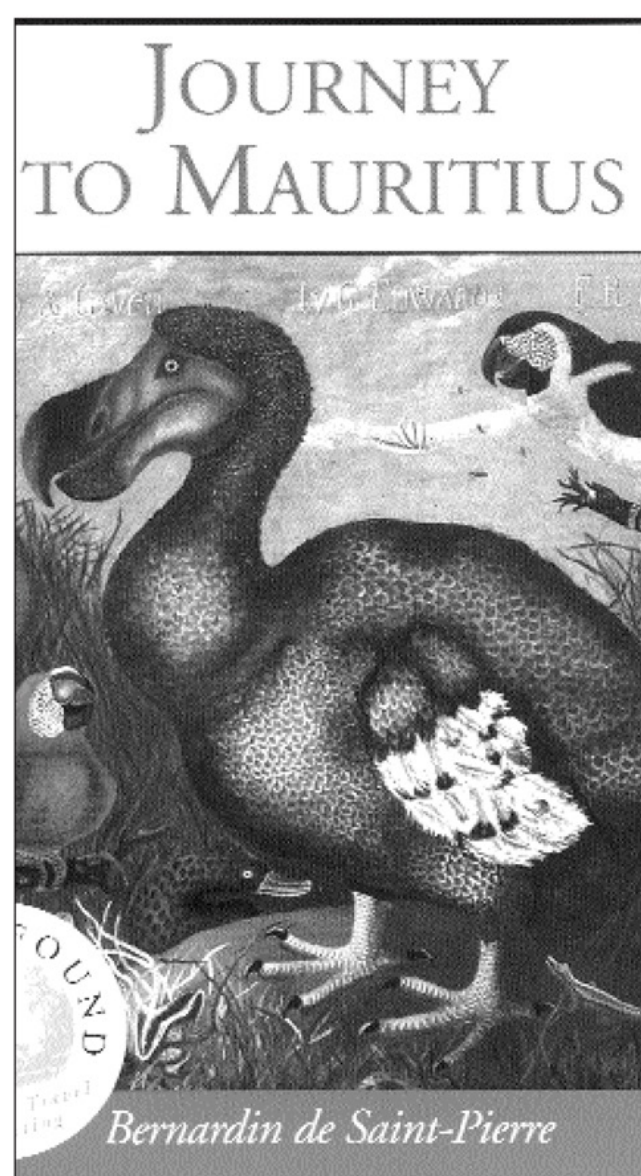


The proposed sheltered home and study centre

Journey to Mauritius

Bernardin de Saint-Pierre

Translated and edited by Jason Wilson



Paul et Virginie (1787), an adolescent love story set in an exotic Indian Ocean island, was one of the literary sensations of the age. Telling of a passion both chaste and doomed, the novel combined fashionable sentimentality with an evocatively tropical setting. It was a huge critical and commercial success in France and abroad, a precursor of the Romantic movement.

The novel's author, Jacques-Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, had previously spent 28 months in the French colony of Ile de France (now Mauritius) in 1768-70. This extended exposure to the island not only inspired Paul et Virginie, but also led to one of the period's fullest and most fascinating accounts of a colonial society and its daily life. First published in 1773, Voyage à L'Isle de France is now available in this newly translated and annotated edition—Journey to Mauritius.

Structured into a series of letters, Bernardin's survey of Mauritius includes a detailed description of the island's geography, flora and fauna. Describing the closed nature of colonial society, he also provides a chilling picture of the cruelties of plantation life and slavery. Mixing indignation with a keen appreciation of the island's beauty, Bernardin provides us with one of the earliest examples of a walking guide as he details Mauritius' sights and landscapes. From the disappearance of the dodo to the mosaic of multiracial Port Louis little escapes the author's curious gaze. His journal also includes detailed descriptions of neighbouring Réunion island and the Dutch-controlled Cape Colony, South Africa, visited on his return to France.

An introduction sets this travel account in its historical context, discussing Bernardin's life and ideas as well as the hostility the book provoked when first published. It also explores its contribution to travel writing and its relevance to modern-day Mauritius. Incorporating the story La chaumière indienne (The Indian Shack) that Bernardin wanted to include in a never-published second edition and illustrated with period engravings, Journey to Mauritius will be of interest to those visiting the island as well as students of the anti-slavery movement, colonialism and travel writing.

A friend and disciple of Rousseau, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre was a naturalist and influential social critic as well as a successful author. A military engineer by training, he was instrumental in popularizing pastoral fiction with Paul et Virginie.

Jason Wilson, Professor of Latin American literature at University College, London, was born in Mauritius and is the author of books on Alexander von Humboldt, Octavio Paz and Buenos Aires (Signal, 1999).

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Mauritius to control the level of bromate in its water

Health minister Ashok Jugnauth announced that the present legislation would be reviewed in a bid to ensure that the level of bromate in bottled water sold in the island meet WHO standards.

He told Parliament early November that samples of bottled water have been sent abroad for examination by a specialised laboratory. «We will take the necessary measures according to the results of this examination», he said.

According to Jugnauth, water samples are taken daily throughout the island for examination so as to ensure its bacteriological quality.

This official move follows the

conclusions of a British Chemist, Cameron Mc Leod, a close collaborator of the University of Mauritius, who said earlier that underground water used in the island for bottling was being disinfected with ozon, and this could lead to an increase of the level of bromate in the water. Bromate is believed to cause cancer.

On its part, the Institute for Consumer Protection (ICP) issued a press release arguing that tap water was better than bottled water. In Mauritius, 60 percent of the water used comes from surface reservoirs and the rest from underground boreholes.

1000 additional rooms in tourist resorts in December

Six hotels will start or re-start their operations between end of November and early December in Mauritius. Some of them have been completely renovated while others have changed ownership. They would all offer some 1,000 additional rooms to the tourist industry.

«The Veranda», owned by the Veranda Group of Hotels, restarts its operations with a capacity of 123 rooms; the Belle Mare Plage Hotel, with a capacity of 194 rooms, offers a new golf course to

tourists and The Sofitel reopens with 191 rooms.

While Le Touessrok has entirely renovated its 200 rooms, The Legends, owned by the Naïade Resorts group, offers 149 rooms and Indian Village, the new hotel from Appavou Hotels Group offers 350 rooms.

Meanwhile, the Victoria Hotel at Trou-aux-Biches, which was completely destroyed by a fire in September last will restart its operations December 14.

The Gospels published in Creole in Mauritius

The Bible Society of Mauritius has published the Gospels, according to St-Mark, in the Creole language to mark its 190th anniversary.

Its director, Marc Etive said his

team based itself on the Greek translation of the Gospels published by Nestle-Aland Editions to produce the Creole copy.

“The translation was possible with the collaboration of the Institute for New Testament Textual Research of Munich”, he said. The copy was also circulated among the translators and language specialists teaching at the University of Mauritius.

The Creole version will be on sale from early December at Rs15 a copy.

Zimbabwe Mauritian farmers not authorised to own more than one farm

Mauritian farmers living in Zimbabwe are not allowed to own more than one farm, in the wake of the land reforms that took place in that country.

Foreign minister Anil Gayan told journalists he had discussed the matter with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Stan Mudenge.

“Mauritian farmers would have the possibility of choosing their farms but they cannot own more than one farm. They would be compensated for the other farms that would be seized by the authorities”, he said.

At least ten Mauritian families have lived in Zimbabwe for several years.

Diabetes affects 20 per cent

The Mauritius Diabetic Association has asked for better treatment of people affected with diabetes in public hospitals.

The MDA's Vice-President Ursule Ramdenee said diabetes brings several complications like cardio-vascular diseases, renal failure, eye problems and limb amputation.

“These are enough reasons to campaign for prevention and early tracking of this disease”, she said, adding that at least 20 per cent of the population was affected by this disease.

According to Mrs Ramdenee, the situation in the island has deteriorated since 1999, and today Mauritius is the second country in the world where the rate of diabetes is the highest. The first country being Papua New Guinea.

Rodrigues bye-election scheduled for December 14

A bye-election will take place in Rodrigues December 14 next to replace Serge Clair, leader of the Organisation du peuple Rodriguais (OPR), who resigned from the National Assembly of Mauritius to take part in the recent regional election for the newly-created Rodrigues Regional Assembly where, unfortunately, he was defeated.

The Nomination Day for this bye-election has been fixed for November 23. Some 22,778 electors will take part in it.

•Another bye-election, this time for the local assembly, will take place January 26 next in the constituency of Grande Montagne /Roche-Bon-Dieu, following the resignation of Jean-Robert Spéville, a member of the OPR, to allow Serge Clair get a seat in the regional assembly.

Faraway Beaches

by Stan Brumby *

The tears in his eyes smeared across the great painted balloon, the low-hanging sun, wobbly and leaking a straggled red stain into the seawater.

He stumbled without purpose across the soft, white, fluffy-sanded dunes, prickly with hard green grasses. He plunged carelessly down from the high, grassy dunes on to the hard, corrugated, blackish sand.

On the desolate North Sea, no boats, no land horizons, no birds, only the last orange segment of the drowning sun.

His feet crunched on the sand and coal-dust. He passed a faceless man in a black-shiny cap and a dirt-shiny jacket who was shaving a black crust from the surface of the hard sand and slithering it off a shiny shovel into a grimy sack. He saw the man wheel away home this bag of treasure, sagging over the crossbar of his bike, leaving a meandering tyre-trail and bootprints as sharp as tracks in moon dust.

He remembered how he and his brothers had once collected the sea-borne coal bounty here, and remembered too how they laughingly brought it home on their bikes, just like the faceless man, and how the sand and coal grit would spit, squirt, sizzle and crackle in the grate and shoot malicious sparks across the room as a merry teatime fire got under way.

The sea rustled to his left and glinted under stars that some timeless lamplighter lit up one-by-one. Lightly splashing waves, black and silver, rolled in, to fawn at his wearying feet. The wavelets creamed and fell back, pulling with them a shuffle of sand, shells and pebbles.

He stopped, and stood still, looking out to the indistinct line of the distant horizon. The sun had rolled away and only tinges of purple and pale yellow remained to mark the place.

He remembered her, and another beach.

Their first time alone, as they strolled contentedly arm in arm under bowing palm trees, marvelling at the Mauritian sunset, the technicolour skies. The horizons had tumid piles of orange cumulus, sailing through glorious purples, reds and golds; then fading slowly to green-marbled pink.

Her skin was pinking, scarcely protected by a figure-flattering bikini. He called to a beach vendor, a boy with a flashing smile, who walked barefoot in the sea. She chose a florally exuberant sarong.

Their embrace was long, warm as the breeze, drunken as the sea. They swayed, graceful as twin palms, in the dazing sand. His tears fell hot on the cold black sand.

* Stan & Jacqueline Brumby worked with the IVS team in Mauritius in 1966-68

Chagossians seek financial compensation from the British and US Governments

Regional NGO Network support sovereignty claims of Mauritius over the Chagos group of islands in the Indian Ocean

The Chagossians went once more to the High Court in London on November 28 to seek financial compensation from the British government for evicting them from their Indian Ocean islands in the 1960s.

The British Government's contention is that compensation amounting to several millions of pounds had already been paid to them on two occasions since their removal from the Chagos Archipelago, and that they agreed then that no further claim would be made on the British Government.

The British Government further claims that the islanders gave an undertaking that they would not request a return to the Chagos. According to Richard Gifford, the solicitor acting on their behalf, the money given was never adequate and the islanders deny giving the undertaking not to return to their homeland.

The Chagossians' leader, Olivier Bancoult, told the media that the islanders are still living in dire poverty without proper education and employment in Mauritius and The Seychelles where they were deported. They are easy prey to alcohol and drugs addiction, he said. For these reasons, the British Government must pay them compensation, he insisted. The amount will run into several millions of pounds for the hundreds of islanders and their offspring, it is forecasted.

Two years ago the High Court ruled that the islanders had been illegally removed from their group of islands in the Indian Ocean. The British Government has acknowledged this fact and has authorised them to return to their islands with the exception of the island of Diego Garcia which accommodates the Americans. And this is precisely where they want to go on the ground that this was the place where most of them used to live before their eviction.

So the British Government has another court action on its plate! These court actions are likely to go on and on, everyone seems to agree while some islanders and their leader shuttle between Mauritius and London.

The Chagossians are also charging the Americans for agreeing with the British in their ill-treatment and for discriminating against them in giving employment to other nationalities on Diego Garcia except to them. They are simultaneously claiming damages from the US in American court.

In acknowledging the rights of the former inhabitants of the Chagos, the British government has granted all of them the British nationality and issued them with the British passports on demand. They are yet to move to the UK where they may enjoy better conditions of living and receive the benefits they may be eligible for as a deprived people.

The settlement of the Chagossians in the UK, this is another challenge for the authorities!

- The Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON) has petitioned the governments of Mauritius, US and Britain asking for the closure of the US military base in the island of Diégo Garcia and the return of the Chagos archipelago to Mauritius.

In their petition, members of SAHRINGON called for an evaluation of damages caused to the island's ecology by 30 years of US occupation.

“We have also asked for adequate compensation for Chagossians who were forced to leave their island 35 years back and that the archipelago become the 22nd constituency of Mauritius», one member said.

The petition was also presented November 23 last at the Human Rights Festival held in Swaziland.

New Mayors for 2003

The five municipal councils elected their 2003 mayors on November 20 as follows: **Port-Louis** - Gérard Nina (Lord-Mayor) and Kirat Moossun (Deputy); **Beau-Bassin** - Bala Padiachy (Mayor) and Patrice Duval (Deputy); **Quatre-Bornes** - Ravi Sreekissoo (Mayor) and Eddy Rivalland (Deputy); **Vacoas-Phoenix** - Fazlek Hosseny (Mayor) and Dhiraj Neerburn (Deputy), and **Curepipe** - Gérard Colin (Mayor) and Jayen Teeroovengadam (Deputy).

French woman and daughter die in road accident

Laurence Monique Leungme, aged 33, and her 3-year-old daughter Eva died in a road accident at Nouvelle France on November 9. The other occupants in the car were seriously injured.

Leungme and others were on their way from Flic-en-Flac to the airport to collect her husband, Jean-Luc, when the car collided with a 4 x 4.

“SOS Femmes” sends 33,000 letters to Mauritian men

Mauritian NGO “SOS Femmes”, has sent 33,000 letters to men to mark the International Day against domestic violence which was celebrated on November 25.

According to Rada Gungaloo, chairperson of “SOS Femmes”, the objective is to sensitize men on the need to combat violence against women. “We want men take their responsibility; we are not accusing them”, she said.

Gangaloo added that in the letter, men have been called as father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and father-in-law, to help in eliminating violence against women and children.

“You are a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a cousin, a father-in-law, protect your daughter, granddaughter, niece, cousin, daughter-in-law from ill-treatment from their husbands or partners», she said.

“SOS Femmes” organized several activities to mark the event. They included spots on the local television and cinema halls, compilation of statistics on domestic violence on the night of November 25 which was sent to Radhika Comerasawmy, special UN reporter on domestic violence.

The Sands, a new hotel opens its doors

The Sands Tourist Resort opens a new tourist hotel called “The Sands” which was officially opened by Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth in early November.

“The Sands” built by the Mauriplate Investment is found at Wolmar, Flic-en-Flac, in the western part of the island. It has a capacity of 93 rooms. Its construction has cost some Rs 300 million, and has for director an Austrian named Anton Hasslebner.

Mauritius News, a paper that creates unity among the various components of the UK Mauritian community....



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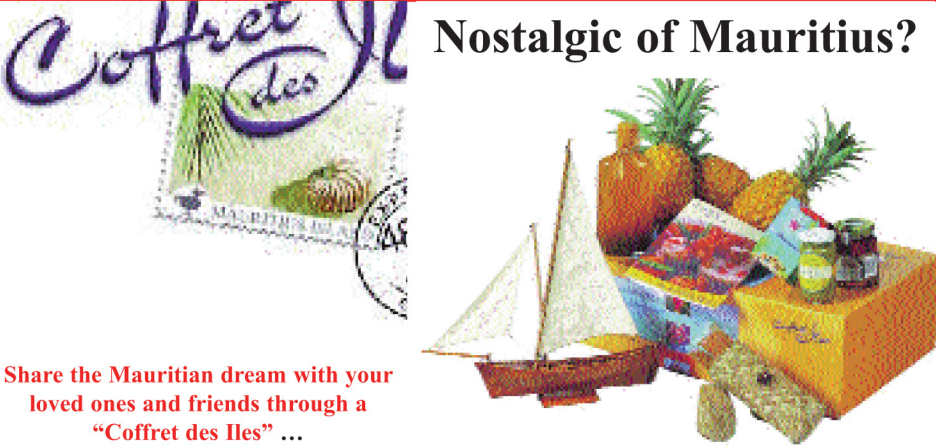
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1	COFFRET FLEURS DES ILES	1,500 Rs / € 50 / £ 36
	* 18 superb Anthuriums stems with leaves * A guide for the care of your tropical flowers * Official tourist guide	
2	COFFRET ANTHURIUM	1,500 Rs / € 50 / £ 36
	* 15 stems of tropical flowers with leaves * A guide for the care of your tropical flowers * Official tourist guide	
3	COFFRET BLUE LAGOON	1650 Rs / €55/ £40
	* 1 Juicy Victoria pineapple * 1 bottle of home-made passion-fruit punch with genuine fruit pulp * 2 small glasses from the Dodo collection * 1 superb pareo/sarong * 1 bottle of coconut tanning oil * 2 soaps perfumed with vanilla and Ylang Ylang essence * 1 hand-made beach bag, decorated with shells * Traditional recipe booklet * Official tourist guide * A copy of the day’s newspaper	
4	COFFRET TIPIK	1650 Rs / €55 / £40
	* 1 bottle of the best Green Island rum * 1 Juicy Victoria pineapple * 2 cans of phoenix beer * 10 “faratas”& 20 “samoosas” * 1 jar of chilli paste * 1 jar of mango chutney * 1 jar of vegetable pickles	

Postcards from Mauritius



The Jardin de la Compagnie

in Port Louis has been completely and exquisitely renovated. It is to be hoped that the City council will allow proper maintenance to keep it up.

The garden had of late become a sort of dustbin where passers-by left their rubbish, made worse after a cyclone. It was an eyesore in the capital which receives so many foreign visitors everyday.

The Jardin de la Compagnie, named after La Compagnie des Indes (French India Company) which administered the country for a time from 1715 was built in 1772 on an ancient cemetery in the days of Administrator Pierre Poivre who introduced spice to the island.

Pierre Poivre had himself created the Botanical Garden of Pamplemousses in 1769, one of the most famous in the world to this day.

Of Mauritius itself, the French poet Jean Toulet wrote "Jardin qu'un Dieu a sans doute posé sur les eaux
Maurice, où la mer chante et où dorment les oiseaux." - “Garden which a God without doubt has placed on the waters
Mauritius where the sea sings and sleep the birds.”





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Issue 178

as seen on TV



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Malaria prevention

Think Malaria when you think Mauritius (or vice versa)

It is highly advisable that visitors to Mauritius should see their doctors for the usual precaution against malaria. Tablets are normally prescribed to be taken orally before and after departure, and on return to the UK as an effective course of preventive measure against infection.

Ed. Note: In our last issue we wrote “Be vaccinated against malaria”. An incensed lady chemist telephoned to ask us who gave MN the message to publish. She was rather uptight that we were misinforming the public because there was no such a thing as a vaccine against malaria, etc. etc.etc.

Recently, I saw a film about an elderly gentleman falling in love. One of his friends said “I thought that Frank had been vaccinated against that sort of thing.” No one in his right mind would think that there is a vaccine against love to be applied to a person either by injection or to be taken orally.

We must understand that use of words can be very elastic. We know what has become of the word ‘gay’. In the old days some people were known as ‘illegal immigrants’. The same people today are known as “Asylum seekers”. In France, the ‘*Sans Papiers*’ have become ‘*Réfugiés*’. (I hope we have not opened another can of worms here!).

The word ‘vaccine’ originated from the word ‘cow’. Does it necessarily mean that the cow is involved in regard to every vaccine that is put on the market?

Pharmacology may be the forte of the lady in question, but the ‘messaging about with words’, as one journalist put it, is ours. The main point, as far as we are concerned, is to convey the message and make ourselves understood without ‘murdering’ the language!

Japan to fund fishermen's training centre in Mauritius

Mauritius and Japan have signed an agreement for the funding to the tune of Rs 187 million by the latter of the construction of a Fishermen's training centre at Pointe-aux-Sables, near the capital, Port-Louis.

Foreign minister Anil Gayan said the centre would comprise of an exposition hall, a documentation hall, a fishing post for the protection of the lagoon and for keeping watch on the sea and a jetty for the movements of research, training and patrol ships.

This project follows the government policy aimed at training fishermen to enable them operate in high seas. The courses would concern navigation base and security techniques at sea», he said.

According to Gayan, the exhibition hall will be opened to the general public, particularly to students, in a bid to help them understand the need to preserve and promote marine environment.

Meanwhile, Fisheries minister Sylvio Michel recalled that Japan had earlier funded the construction of a Fisheries Research Center in the island, a fishing port and an experimental station, among others.

Mauritius News learnt from the Fisheries ministry that some 17,000 people earn a living out of sea activities in Mauritius.

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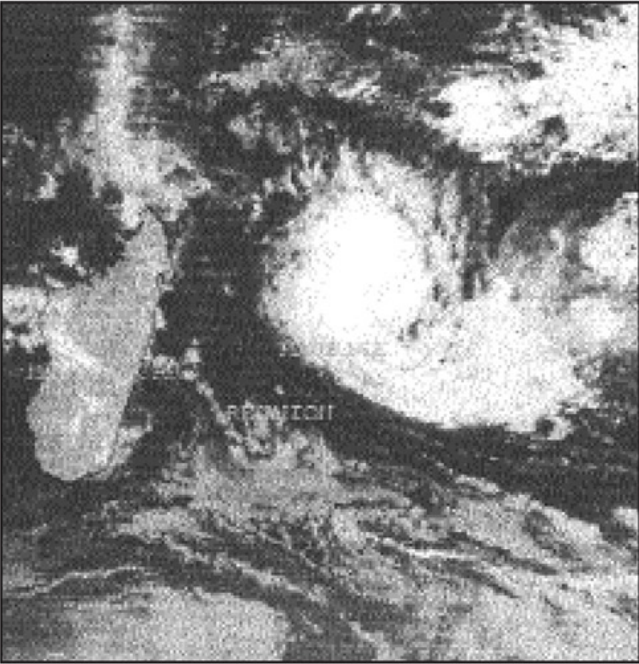
If you’ve got a story to tell, be it scary, funny, met someone famous or anything unusual which you would like to share, send it to us at Mauritius News, and we shall publish the most interesting ones.

Please send your stories to:

funnystories@mauritiusnews.co.uk

Email only please

Cyclone Boura passes north of Mauritius



The second cyclone of the season named “Boura” passed about 450 km north of Mauritius on the night of November 20. Gusts to the order of 117 km per hour at Le Morne (south) and 93 km per hour at Bain Boeuf (north) were recorded in some regions of the island but they did not cause any big damage to the country. However, “Boura” did not bring much rainfall.

MR launches campaign against Paul Bérenger

The Mouvement Républicain (MR) has launched a campaign to prevent Deputy Prime Minister Paul Bérenger from becoming Prime Minister next year. Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth will take over as President of the Republic as per the agreement reached between the MSM and MMM alliance prior to the September 2000 general election .

According to the members of the MR, there are ten reasons proving that Bérenger was disqualified from the post of Prime minister.

The MR accused him to have dismantled national unity. It alleged that Bérenger practises «scientific communalism and casteism» and has divided the communities by creating different cultural centres.

The MR criticized the Deputy Prime minister’s stand favouring the eventual independence of Rodrigues.

The MR also alleges that Deputy PM gave protection to a criminal in the Gorah Issac Street’s triple murder case in 1996; dissemination of false news regarding a sugar cargo apparently poisoned with «lanate» on board MV Nisha; dismantling the Economic Crime Office and dismissing Mrs Indira Manrakhan to prevent the arrest of a Minister suspected of fraud and corruption.

The MR said with Bérenger’s policy of privatization, unemployment has increased from 42,000 to 75,000 and 64 factories have closed shop.

He is also accused of liquidating prime land and public beaches through the Integrated Resort Scheme, creating economic apartheid in the island and favouring a handful of Franco-Mauritian families, through the Illovo deal, and gifting Rs 1.6 billion by way of fiscal exemption to New Mauritius Hotels Group on August 23, 2002; and promoting an education policy that will impact negatively on the descendants of slaves and indentured labourers.

According to Rama Valayden, leader of MR, 30,000 copies of the leaflet detailing these allegations were being circulated all over the island.

Editor’s note: The above list of misdemeanours contains very serious allegations against the Deputy PM Paul Bérenger, but it is unlikely that these allegations will have any effect on the course of events. No one could hold him to account in regard to the Delphis Bank scandal. Many believe that, with a reputation as a ‘quitter’, he had little choice but to acquiesce, others believe otherwise. In our next two issues we shall write about ‘The man who would be PM’ (borrowing the title from Kipling’s ‘The man who would be king’.

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*** Various plots of land in Péreybère.**

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*** House in Curepipe on 26 perches, Rs3 million**

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*** Bungalow in Flic-en-Flac, Rs5.2 million**

*** Commercial in Rose Hill on 250 toises, Rs12 million**

Contact Paya on 020 8888 9611 (answerphone included)

or Murugan on 00 (230) 256 7488

Christmas poetry from young Mauritians Poverty, Generosity, Solidarity

Rise people, RISE!!
We have no right to do nothing.
Our kindness and generosity will definitely
Bring some warmth to the heart of a child ...
A smile on his face ...
Some sparks to his days ...

Poverty can never be eradicated,
We all agree on that.
But, at least, it can be controlled.
And to be able to control it, we should all put hands together.
"He that giveth shall receive", says the Bible ...

On humanitarian grounds,
Let us all make the effort to lighten the heavy heart of the poor soul
Let us give him the chance to become someone...
Let us give him the chance to enjoy at least part
of the fundamental rights, to which we are all entitled to
as human beings, and to which he is entitled,TOO ...

Being poor ... Oh poverty!
He hasn't chosen his fate ...
No one does anyway ...
The fact is that he happens to be born in a poor family ...
He cannot be blamed...Definitely not

Let us all extend our hands to him ...
This simple act of generosity,
This grand act of opening our hearts to him ...
Can bring miracles ...
Can bring tremendous changes to his burdensome existence ...

Let us not forget that ...
On that very Christmas day,
When we, children, were savouring the multiple packs of gifts,
deciding which one to open first ... at the same time, another
child, a brother of ours, was sitting in filth near his doorstep,
barefooted, hunger hooking his stomach ...

Let alone Christmas gifts! These are beyond his dreams ...
BUT, We can change this...
We can make his far-fetched dream a reality...
For once, let us forget our own welfare and let's spare a thought
for these children, who lay powerless, innocence and
childhood snatched away, in their poverty-stricken trap ...

Only some **generosity**, accompanied by **solidarity** on our part
can find these children a way out of **poverty**

**Excitement and Joy,
Merry and Blithe**

by Ganeshan Ramsamy (13), Hayes, Middlesex.

Christmas is the time of excitement and joy,
Especially when the streets, shopping centres and houses
Are beautifully decorated with garlands, lights
On lovely starry nights

At the entrances of the lively shopping centres,
There are twinkling Christmas trees,
Welcoming people, rustling and bustling
Around like busy bees
Peeking into shop windows,
Queueing up in rows,
Waiting to go into toy shops

One will be pleased to listen to the melodious carol singers
With their nice chorus
And the poor pianist wearing out his fingers!

In the other end of the complex is Santa,
In his magnificent Grotto, waiting for kids
To go and sit on his lap,
As he gives them a friendly tap

At home, on Christmas Day, I love
The fragrances of the juicy tangerine and roast turkey
And the lovely Christmas pudding, all brown and murky
With holly on top,
It is jolly to hear the crackers go POP!

When Santa has left the gifts
And when his reindeer and sleigh lift,
We seem to wake up
We get loads of presents
From a pencil to a new born pup!

Christmas is so merry and blithe
Even though Santa is a myth,
It is such a wicked celebration,
And is known throughout my nation
So long live that Christmassy spirit!

Mauritius News cuisine

An alternative to the traditional Christmas Turkey!!

Tandoori Chicken

1 3lb chicken

1 tablespoon garam masala

1 teaspoon powdered chilli

1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

2 cups of natural yoghurt (unsweetened)

Sprigs of fresh mint / coriander (chopped)

Salt & pepper to taste

red colouring

* Cut the chicken into pieces. Mix the rest of the ingredients and add to the chicken. Mix well and marinade for 12 hours and leave in fridge.

* Heat the tandoori oven with wood charcoal for 1 hour. Place the chicken on skewers and grill in the tandoori until done. A home grill or barbecue may be used with excellent results.

* Serve accompanied with a choice of vegetables, faratas and chutneys.

NB Variations on the same theme may include other ingredients in the marinade, such as garlic, ginger, onions and lemons.

*From "Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius"
by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel
Editions de L'Océan Indien (1988).
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**Your HOROSCOPE
for December 2002
by Anna**

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Try not to cancel any arrangements or back out of plans - as you could be missing out on meeting an important person. You will see a new face at work, which will help with your finances.

Problems at work will be easier to some than you think. You'll be a success this month, so pay attention as something unusual may help you succeed.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20)

Your ability to dig your heels in works well when it comes to an older colleague at work. Try something new in your social life, it may have more to offer than you first think.

Your loved one should be your main priority this month, but be aware that it may take over your time leaving you less time for work matters and will let you down at work.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

You are gaining confidence all the time, so if there is something you want, now is the time to go and get it. Take time out of your busy schedule to call an old friend.

You will be lucky this month, take a gamble and your life will change. Make your own decisions and good news will come your way.

CANCER (June 21 - July 20)

It may be easier to forget promises you may have made. Health issues may be of concern this month, so take up a new exercise regime or change your diet.

Happy times are on their way in love and work you see that someone feels the same way. At work organise your workload so you don't fall behind or overwork yourself.

LEO (July 21 - August 21)

You seem to have an opinion about everything and this may not go down well with most people. Take up the chance to go out with new people and try to change your image.

Family matters will emerge this month, linked to travelling so take your chance to get things out in the open. Take care of your finances or check investments as you may be in for a surprise financially.

VIRGO (August 22 - September 22)

You will be striving for success as usual and will encounter set backs as usual. Make peace with work colleagues or family to make things better. Try to contact old friends to begin to relax more.

Take time to forgive a loved one, no matter what they may have done. It is possible to think positive and look towards the future, as opportunities will begin to emerge so take full advantage of it.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

Hard work this month will all be worthwhile when your efforts are rewarded. Whether this is at home or work proposals will come your way to broaden your horizons.

You may lack energy this month, but it will be down to hard work. Don't let yourself get too relaxed or your work will suffer.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 22)

A partner has a lot to say, but listen carefully as they may not be genuine. Take time to prepare yourself before you meet someone important, you will know what you want to say but may be afraid to say it.

Secrets will frustrate you so let a family member know what you are thinking. Put money aside or check investments as you may have more money than you expect. Be careful with it as it may run out quicker than you want.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 20)

Double check facts on an important document, whether that be at work or a travel document, this may lead to you changing your mind about a decision.

Travel plans will go ahead and you will finally go on that dream trip. Talk to loved ones and ask advice on an important issue as having more help may help you to sort out your ideas and plans.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19)

Calm down and begin to respect the people around you more, it will make you realise who your friends are. Keep in touch with people you may not have spoken to in a while.

You'll surprise family and friends with your words and actions. They may take it personally so think carefully as you may upset them.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

A hard tone in your voice will leave people with the wrong impression. Take care with making important decisions. Your personal appearance will be important this month, so don't let people get the wrong impression.

People may not turn up if you have made plans, don't get angry as you may regret it later, stick to your plans and be adventurous.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

You may have to do more research than you previously thought due to small problems, but it will be worth it in the end. Listen to gossip with a new ear as it may help you make a change in your lifestyle.

Not everyone at work is feeling as confident as you. Look at your finances as you may have been spending more than you realise.

Return to source

Visit to a sacred place



How does one celebrate 31 years away

from Mauritius....?

I decided to spend three weeks in Mauritius in October 2002. The most beautiful and interesting place I visited was the Ganga Yamuna Dhaam, Rose Belle at the Ganga Yamuna Nagri.

It is at this place that two rivers meet and is also named after the two most sacred rivers in India - Ganga and Yamuna. The number 108 is auspicious in Hinduism and this is reflected in the 108 steps which lead down to the river. There are 15 sacred spots where you can offer prayers to different Gods and Goddesses, including the Virgin Mary, Ganesh, Gaytree Maa and Krishna.

The latest addition to the Dhaam was the Gaytree Maa. The Gaytree mantra is the most sacred verse in the Hindu religion. On the afternoon of the 25th October, I was fortunate to participate in a procession from Chandrasekar mandir to Ganga Yamuna Nagri and this was attended by the President of Mauritius Hindu Sanatan Dharma.

I sponsored the event and the Gaytree Maa was officially laid by two Hindu Pandits.

Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (UK)

Thai Poosam Kavadee

Saturday 18th January 2003

The Thai Poosam Kavadee will be taking place at the following venue:

**Murugan temple, 200A Archway Rd
Highgate, London N6 5BA**

The prayers will start at 8.00am.

Fasting will commence on the 9th January 2003 with Codi E Thon taking place at 7.30pm.

Ubayam will be taking place over 10 days and will start at 7.30pm daily for the duration.

Codi Ettram will take place on the 19th January 2003 at 10.30am.

Please inform Sheela Mootoosamy (020 8641 7452) or Ken Descann (020 8340 6073) no later than the 3rd January 2003 if you wish to participate or contribute to any of the following:

***Ubayam *Kavadee *Paal Codum**

***Donations *Refreshments / Food * Flowers / Malai / Milk etc.**

Please be advised that there is a fee of £20.00 per Kavadee and Paal Codum. Cheques should be made out to Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (UK). Cash payments are also welcome and both cheques / cash should be given to either Nallasamy Savan (Treasurer) or Ken Descann (Asst. Treasurer).

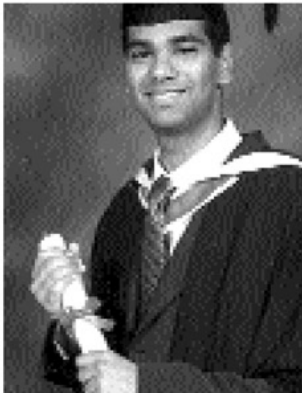
Examination success

Graduation of Gavin T Gooljar

Congratulations to Gavin on successfully obtaining his Master's in Engineering from the Imperial College, London.

Best wishes and the very best of luck for the future, and lots of love from mum Sheila, dad Tooldeo and your siblings, Sonia, Hemma and Soonil.

Congratulations also from the Gooljar and Pandoo families in Mauritius.



Mauritius News, a paper with a future for future generations. We the pioneers, shall we pass it on to them?

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* New Year - 1st January and 2nd January
* Thaipoosum Cavadee - 19 Jan * Chinese Spring Festival - 1 Feb
* Abolition of Slavery - 1 February * Maha Shivratri - 1 March
* National Day - 12 March * Ougadi - 2 April
* Labour Day - 1 May * Ganesh Chaturthi - 1 September
* Divali - 25 October * All Saints Day - 1 November
* Indentured Labour Day - 2 Nov * Eid-ul-Fitr - 25 or 26 Nov
* Christmas - 25 December

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1/11

Public holidays for rest of 2002

Eid-ul-Fitr *Friday, 6 Dec ember

or Saturday, 7 Dec

Christmas Wednesday, 25 December

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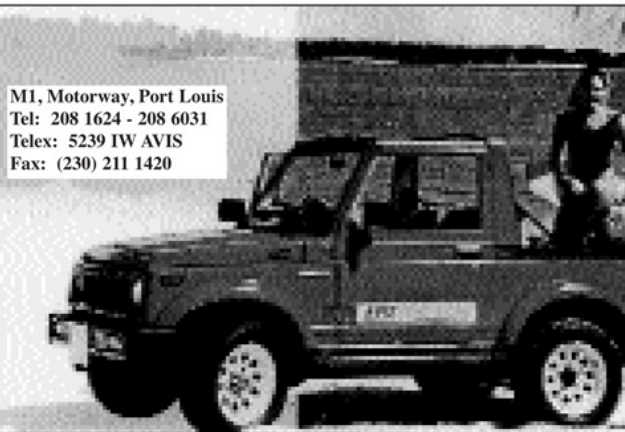
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Mauritius

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Joyful Sankranti

(Dec02-Jan03)

Books Review

‘A Comprehensive History of Mauritius’

by Sydney Selvon (2001). Prefaced by Abhimanyu Unnuth.

The history of Mauritius is told in this book comprehensively from the beginning to 2001, by one of the Mauritian nation’s most prominent journalists, well-known in academic circles, particularly historians, for his research and publication.

It is not just a history book like so many others. In his 436-page work, Selvon combines both the traditional and the new trends. The book is also a socio-cultural study of a nation with an anthropological touch. It also demonstrates that a history book requests, in addition to thorough research at archives and through private papers, speeches and the rest, intense personal commitment, interrogation and querying.

‘While my love waited’ by Sydney Selvon (2002)

This is a 163-page novel based on a love story involving world-famous navigator Mathew Flinders, while imprisoned in Mauritius from 1803 to 1810, and a Mauritian woman.

The manuscript of this novel was used for the script of a projected international film production initiated by British director/producer Tim Purcell. He obtained extremely positive reviews of Selvon’s work by major personalities of the film industry and of the history of the Napoleonic wars in the UK and Australia. Selvon has re-constructed in this book a love story that is believed even by the most dedicated historical researchers to have involved Flinders and Delphine.

Back home, Ann, whom Flinders had married in England barely a month before leaving on a mission that led him to imprisonment from 1803 to 1810 in Mauritius, patiently waited..

The Anatomy of Mauritius by Ismael Khoodabux

(2000). Prefaced by Dr. A.Soodin.

‘The Anatomy of Mauritius’ is the bold title of a book that really put Mauritius under the microscope. In 13 chapters, backed by a mine of facts, statistics and graphical illustration, Ismael Khoodabux looks at, examines and analyses the most prevailing public policy issues under different regimes since the island emerged as a growing economy.

Khoodabux has held various professional positions in the public sector and specialised in industrial relations at Keele University, England. He also holds a masters in public policy, planning and management. The preface to the book is written by Dr. Ally Soodin PhD, MSc, MBA (Health Service Planning & Management (Keele).

Khoodabux observes in his 356-page work: “ There is no doubt that as we enter the third millennium, the focus of Mauritian politics will be shifting more towards public policy issues. The public will demand to know more about government activities and their consequences rather than just showing interest in the person of political leaders who are always evasive about what they stand for.”

He does not see much policy differences and options between the main political parties of the nation. However, he tries to point out the similarities as well as the differences between the respective governing styles of S.A. Jugnauth and Dr N.Ramgoolam.

He writes of the ‘lethargy’ that characterised much of the latter’s time at the helm of the nation, but also makes positive comments on some positive trends whether under Jugnauth or Ramgoolam.

The author also complains, that though other countries provide systematically a mine of objective data on themselves, In Mauritius, however, several constraints can be encountered, for example, the lack of researched materials, the difficulty in obtaining them, the unavailability of the required data and the persistent refusal of persons and authorities to supply them’.

Further developments in Mauritian policies are being assessed for a forthcoming publication due in 2003.

History of Mauritius: Experiments in Democracy

by Chit Dukhira (Dec 2002)

Since this book is yet to be published, we have not been able to review it. But we can say that it deals with the history of Mauritius in a different way. Dukhira is quite well known in Mauritius for his previous work on local government and democracy. He was previously the town clerk of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill. Interested readers can find these books on sale in public libraries in Mauritius nationwide.

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Another date to remember: Independance Day Celebration

on the 15th March 2003 at the Selby Centre,

White Hart Lane, Tottenham, N17

Book Review By Kenneth Nathaniel

“AT THE EDGE” of Kavi Vadamoootoo (Ukyaar Ltd, 1 Park Place, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0DJ)



Kavi (Karl) Vadamoootoo

Readers of Kavi Vadamoootoo’s writings who are used to the more formal approach to poetry:- in terms of stanza’s versification, rhythm, and rhyme etc. would be somewhat disappointed. There is none of all that between the covers of this publication, however, both its contents and the illustration on its front cover testify to the author’s intention of having opted for quality rather than quantity.

“At the Edge” consists of

three compositions couched in irregular patterns, each one of them around a different theme, each one developed in its way through a process of densification of thought and language, so as to impart as much meaning as possible through the particular use of imagery.

There is only one instance where we get a glimpse into the direction of the poet’s spiritual quest, as he dwells on the edge of some kind of abysmal wilderness to observe the drama of survival, death and rebirth, as it unfolds between a ‘wild black cat’ and a ‘featureless bird’....and the poet to intervene thus:-

I, like God, interfered and aborted
the birth of the great act ...

(The Last Act)

Even in the death of the bird, there is still an element of new vigour and triumph. Though the term ‘rebirth’ would have been more appropriate! Apart from this brief appearance and the use of the nominative singular “I”, the poet’s tone of voice is mostly impersonal throughout his writing. He indulges sometimes in the interplay of simile and mixed metaphors e.g.

That fated bird ...

like the lonesome broken voice of a fugitive snapped
by the furtive wind, which echoed the wind whirling
sand dunes...

(The Last Act).

There is a giveaway hint of Dylan Thomas’s influence in the background of “The Rising of the Still Dust”, with none of the thunderous reminiscences and lyricism of the master. Instead, we are treated to a feast of repetitive sentences and words and the full use of alliteration and assonance to convey the feelings of a poet doubling as an artist:-

The endless gestures of ceaseless voices
body out textures of blue, red and yellow
of the yellow smoke becomes
the frame of revolt,
the struggle of the spirit
that finds dignity
in a heap of dust.
The canvas is filed
and it is the end.

(The Rising of the Still Dust)

There are several examples in Vadamoootoo’s free style of expression that could be construed as ‘poetic licence’. He likes to create some sort of magical or abstract voice-over like...

“Heart, the skin-glass, the purse-flux” whatever that is, or “the time-bound maker” or again as in the “splashing on incantatory hues”. What we do not know sometimes is, if words like “garrett” or “sandunes” are misspellings or misprints.

Due to the limited scope of this article we are unable to expand fully on the third and last part of Vadamoootoo’s experiment under the heading ‘In Spins’, as fascinating as all this is! Suffice to say, for those who do not believe that a poem should be a long winded piece of work, complex and abstract.

But is ‘In Spins’ a single long poem? Oh, not at all! The visual presentation on the page could be deceptive. It is in fact, what we could call forty-one iconified images, each one painstakingly crafted in the Japanese style of the haiku with its own entity of seventeen syllables.

It could not be easy for Kavi Vadamoootoo, poet-artist-sculptor, to have to divide his loyalty among three channels of expression so different from one another. Such delving into the nooks and crannies of one’s inner self has its own price and its own reward!

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Deaths

Every entry published below contains the only information made available to us

Mauritius

Mrs Jasodah NOORUTTNSINGH -78 yrs-Morc. St Andre-Sept 26.
Sobachand(Chanduth)Mohana NAIKO -54 yrs-Oct 12.
Shyam(Babooram)CHOO LHUN -44 yrs-Notre Dame-Sept 1.
Gerard CLEMENT -56 yrs-Oct 13.
Yacoob Mohammad JEEWA -Oct 16.
Lewis Clency PAVADAY -64 yrs-Oct 7.
Amita Sohinee MANRAJ -b.Bheenick-Oct 3.
Hajee Sahid ALLYBOCUS -81 yrs-Sept 29.
Beebee Zouveda HOSSENALLY -b.Mokdoom-74 yrs-Oct 13.
Ww(Ah Lien Mei)NG TAI MUI -90 yrs-Port Louis-Oct 18.
Paul Henry SELVON -63 yrs-Rose Hill-Oct 7.
Regis DICK -Rose Hill-Oct 10.
Joseph Georges DESVAUX de MARIGNY-88 yrs-Q.Bornes-Oct 16.
Marc YOW TUNG SHING -Port Louis-Oct 1.
Annie MEGUEL -Cite Kennedy-Curepipe-Oct 8.
Bonheur SUMRAH -La Rosa,New Grove-Sept 27.
Baboo Seewoobhoossunsingh GOWREESUNKUR -Sept 30.
Louis Regis OBEEGADOO -Oct 2.
Abdool Carrim HAUJEE -70 yrs-Port Louis-Sept 29.
Savitri(Rajoo)TOUSSAINT -b.Mayaveram-P.Louis-Aug 22.
Breejram Teluchina(Raj)APPADU -Oct 7.
Hafeezoon GUKHOOL -Oct 1.
J.Gerard EDMOND -35 yrs-Sept 9.
Sevamy Chinamah RAMSAMY -b.Arnasalon-85 yrs-R.Hill-Oct 11.
Michel(Garcon)Villeneuve TANTIAH-68 yrs-Grand Baie-Oct 12.
Ww Marie CHUNG YUE SHUN -93 yrs-Beau Bassin-Oct 10.
Parmowtee GOORAH - b. Runnoo-71 yrs-Creuve Coeur-Oct 12.
Mrs Pierre MARTIN -b.Sheila Freear - Oct 31.
Joseph MOTET -80 yrs-Oct 7.
Marie Andrea MELIN -79 yrs-Phoenix.
Mrs Mylla(Midou)COQUET -Beau Bassin-Oct 5.
Pandit Deokeenanand DEWOO -Sept 17.
Abdool Monaff RAMJAUNY -Curepipe-Sept 13.
Emmanuel MASSON - July 18.
Michael R.Stephano ANTHONY MOUTOU-27 yrs-Pte Riviere-Oct 7.
Nagapen Modely CUNDUN -Vallee des Pretres-Sept 26.
Ten Chong(Teddy)LEUNG FAI SHING -29 yrs-P.Louis-Nov 17.
Mrs Jankee VIRAHSAWMY - Oct 15.
Goindsamy(Anne)Pillay VENCATASAWMY -Stanley,R.Hil-Nov 5.
Marie Cecile VINGTA -82 yrs-Vacoas-Nov 10.
Mira Fowdar UJODDAH -Nov 4.
Kistnen(Gopal)COUTTIGNANE -Nov 9.
Shersing(Anil)HARPAL -52 yrs- Port Louis-Oct 17.
Serge DUVERGE -61 yrs-Quatre Bornes-Nov 15.
Mrs(Kim Niouk)Michel AH YOW-b.Li San Fan-85 yrs- P.Louis-Nov 14.
Ww LIM HOW CHEN -b.Koo Tin Chow-Oct 30.
Rene Alex LAFOND - Mont Roches,Beau Bassin-Nov 7.
Marie-Josee EMILE -b.Alexandre-48 yrs-Ste Croix-Nov 12.
Ah Miow Fat Cheong YIP WONG WING -78 yrs-B.Bassin-Nov 13.
Marie Julianna PHOKEERDOSS -b.Chelmiah-Curepipe-Nov 8.
Hossen TEELUCK- 62 yrs-Allée Brillant, Mesnil,Phoenix-Nov 23.
Vee Choy TANG YAT SAM -77 yrs-Port Louis-Nov 11.
Mary Anne Chui Y. HAW MIOW FAH-65 yrs-Tombeau Bay-Nov 11.
Patrick Antoine ZEPHYR -37 yrs-Quartier Militaire-Nov 3.

Overseas

Ww Olga SEEBORUTH -86 yrs-London-Nov 13.
Micheline ARLANDA -66 yrs-England-Nov 10.
Mrs Germaine MOUTOU -Perth,Australia-Oct 2.
Serge Henri SADIEN - 55 yrs-France.
Mrs Sarah Bibi PARDHUN -b.Fareedhun-Stratford-London-Oct 10.
Soopaya M.(Raymond)CHETTY-79 yrs-Leyton,London-Oct 10.
Bernadette TAMBANIVOOL -France-Oct 7.
Michel Hervais LAZARRE JOSEPH -57 yrs-France-Oct 27.

Obituary

Mr Sandra Mootoosamy Ramsamy
(known as Charlie).



It is with sadness that we write about the sudden and sad death of Charlie Ramsamy of Haringey, North London.

Charlie, 69, passed away on the 5th September 2002 at the Whittington Hospital, London. The funeral took place on the 14th September 2002 in Curepipe, Mauritius.

Charlie was born in Rose Belle and was one of the first Mauritians who settled in the UK. He worked for the Post Office where he

remained until he retired.

To his wife Sheila and sons Kris and Shiva, Charlie was a supportive, caring and devoted husband, father and friend.

Charlie was known as a well respected member of the community for his polite, kind hearted ways, advice and guidance. This was evident in his active role as a committed member of the “Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam” from its inception and he constantly supported its development through his invaluable contributions.

Sheila, Kris and Shiva wish to express heartfelt thanks to all relatives and friends for their sympathy and support during this time.

Charlie is also mourned by his sister and brother-in-law, Devi and Nyan Shunmoogum and nephews and nieces, Karlen, Harry, Nadia, Vanessa, Mervin, Malini, Davinia and Kanen.

Mauritius News: The Challenge for the next 19 years

Mauritius News is the product of 19 years of tenacious effort for Mauritians to have a voice in the UK.

Let us pass this voice to our children to fight for their right to Mauritian nationality and to own property in Mauritius.

Obituaries

Mrs Vinoda Singh (Ada) née Narayanan
Originally from Clairfonds, Vacoas. Ada passed away on November 25th 2002, aged 48, in Surrey, UK.

Mrs Olga Seeboruth
Mrs Olga Seeboruth born in 1915 died on November 13th in Edmonton, North London.

Her body was taken to Mauritius where the funeral took place at the St Jean cemetery on November 23rd.

Mrs Seeboruth is mourned by her sons and daughters, sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, all other relatives and friends.

Members of the family would like to express their thanks to all sympathisers for their support.

Marie Marcelle Lucille Assam
It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away on 8th November 2002 of Marie Marcelle Lucille Assam, born on 16th December 1920 in Mauritius.

May you now rest in peace.

Deeply mourned by Josian, Maggie, and all members of the family and friends.

Mme Jean Berger, née Marie Louise Lescol
Décédée le 24 août 2002, à Cannes, dans sa 95e année.

De la part de: Mme Alfréda Dubois - Stark, sa fille et M. Erhard Stark, son gendre, M. et Mme Bertrand Machard de Gramont, **M Gilles Berger***, ses petits-enfants, Axelle et David, Candice, Sylvain, Julien, ses arrière-petits-enfants, Fanny et Antoine ses arrière- arrière-petits-enfants, les familles Lescol, Berger, Vassal et Boisset.

*** Gilles Berger est un de nos correspondants en France à qui nous adressons nos sincères condoléances à la perte de sa maman.**

Constance Hotels open eight luxurious villas in Seychelles

The Mauritian hotel group, Constance Hotels, has opened eight luxurious villas in Seychelles. It invested at least Rs 280 million in this project.

These new villas, including one presidential suite, are situated on a 200-hectare site near the Lémuria Resort, another hotel of the group.

These villas face the sea and have got two sleeping rooms each. Their dining rooms are found in the midst of a private swimming pool. They have also a big living room, a kiosk and one bathroom inside and another one outside.

The Constance Hotel group has also completely renovated the Belle-Mare Plage Hotel in Mauritius and built 20 additionnal villas and a new golf course. The investments rose to Rs 1.3 billion.

Plastics bags interdicted as from October 2003

Environment minister Rajesh Bhagwan announced on November 22 that the government has decided to interdict plastic bags in the island from October 1, 2003 in a bid to protect the environment.

He said bags of less than 80 micrometres would not be used because they constitute about 8 per cent of solid waste generated annually in the country.

According to him, the population use more than 250 million plastic bags in a year. “These bags total about 100 tonnes of plastics annually and for each bag used, the State spend ten times its cost to get it collected and disposed of», the minister emphasised.

He said more solid bags would be on sale to enable people to use them several times while its cost would go up.

“Free distribution of plastic bags would be discouraged», he said.

Bhagwan recalled that this new measure adds to others - the interdiction of sand extraction from the lagoon, the introduction of unleaded petrol and the management of used oils - taken to favour the sustainable development of the island.

Football

Mauritius out of Olympics 2004

The Mauritius under-23 football national team was kicked out of the Olympics 2004 after a draw 1-1 against the Seychelles at the Sir Gaëtan Duval stadium, Rose-Hill, on November 23 , in the second leg of the preliminary round. Seychelles won the first leg (1-0) a fortnight earlier at Mahé.

Mauritius scored at the 36th minute of the game by Jeannot Lamarque who beat the Seychellois keeper, Kitson Cécile, with a header prior to a corner.

But the Seychelles team equalized at eight minutes from time by Wilnes Brutus to kick Mauritius out of the competition.

George V Stadium renovated
Works have started December 2 last for the reconstruction of the George V stadium in Curepipe in the wake of the forthcoming Indian Ocean Islands Games (IOIG) to take place in the island in August/September next.

The chairman of the Renovation committee, Navin Hoolooman, said the works had been tendered to the Rehm-Grinaker Construction firm for a sum of Rs 125 million.

“This modern stadium with a sitting capacity for 20,000 people will, in the first instance, accommodate 6,500 spectators. The second phase of the works will start after the Games”, he emphasised.

It is at the George V stadium that the opening and closing ceremonies of the first IOIG took place in 1985. Six islands of the Indian Ocean take part in this event, namely Mauritius, La Réunion, Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros and Maldives.

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Trade-union to demonstrate against George W. Bush January next

Leaders of the Federation of Progressive Unions (FPU) have announced a demonstration against US President George W. Bush when he comes to Mauritius next January to participate in the second forum of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) that will take place in the island.

One of its animators, Reez Chuttoo, said the US president did not deserve a warm welcome from the Mauritian population. “We do not agree with the US policy as regards AGOA which is a protective law with which the Americans can dictate their policy, especially their foreign policy, to African countries”, he said.

Chuttoo criticized the Mauritian government for its attitude regarding AGOA. “In world forums like the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations, Mauritius is at the service of the United States”, he added. He said the FPU was not against the American people but against their leaders who do not deserve to be welcomed in Mauritius.

Season's Greetings

Christmas & New Year Message

from Air Mauritius

To all members of the Mauritian community in the UK, I extend the warmest wishes of Air Mauritius for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I am continually both surprised and delighted with the support that Air Mauritius in the UK consistently achieves on the London route, despite many factors which could have a detrimental effect on our performance. Once again in 2002, we have continued to achieve higher load factors on our flights, and we have exceeded our expectations by a substantial margin.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our loyal and regular travellers for their ongoing support. Despite British Airways moving their Mauritius service to Heathrow, and despite the option of travelling to Mauritius via Dubai with Emirates, we have improved our market share from the UK, and the support we continue to receive from our travel agents and tour operator business partners is truly excellent.

We aim to continue to exceed our customer's expectations, and we must never lose sight of the need to consistently deliver high standards of customer service. By maintaining high standards in all customer contact areas, we will ensure our future success.

Market demand continues to be strong, and all being well, we will see the introduction of a fifth frequency on the London - Mauritius route next summer.

In the meantime, we hope and pray that war with Iraq can be avoided and that 2003 will again bring increased tourism business to Mauritius.

From the whole Air Mauritius UK team, we wish all our customers, business partners and friends a happy and peaceful festive season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Chris Gilbert
Regional Manager (UK & Ireland)



Message from the Mauritius High Commissioner, London

It is my privilege and pleasure to send a message to readers of Mauritius News on the festive occasions of Christmas and New Year.

Soon, it will be another year gone by and another chapter that we leave behind us. 2002 has been eventful in more than one way. During the year, I was privileged to represent our beautiful country at a number of national / international fora designed to actively pursue Government policies on a number of fronts be they trade, investment or tourism.

Apart from my official duties, I am invited by many socio-cultural organisations, student bodies, universities, businessmen, diplomats etc. The only way to attend to the demanding task is that the High Commission fulfils its duties to one and all invariably.

I am pleased to report that we have been able, with limited resources, to attend to all queries from various sectors both locally and in Mauritius. Our High Commission is now more proactive and able to respond more quickly and efficiently to the ever growing demands of Mauritians from all walks of life.

Mauritius and the UK have had very good relations for almost two centuries. Mauritius with its multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-lingual society is often quoted as an example of peaceful co-existence and social harmony. In fact, the harmonious blend of the main religions and cultures in the world has constituted the bedrock of our economic success and prosperity. We are committed to a land of tolerance, peace and economic success.

I am happy to note that thousands of our citizens who have settled in the UK maintain very close ties with Mauritius and take much pride in the development taking place there. The Mauritian citizens in the UK do contribute in a large way to strengthen the friendly relations between the UK and Mauritius and make Mauritius better known through the various socio-cultural activities which are a colourful aspect of our Rainbow Nation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my best wishes to our students who are enrolled in British universities for success in their studies. I am confident that all who have completed their studies will make significant contributions toward the further development of Mauritius as we want to make it into Cyber Island.

Mauritius has been playing a vital and crucial role at the United Nations as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. We have given our fullest backing and support to UN resolutions to ensure that the world is a safer place to live.

Another important event for which we are all working for is the forthcoming AGOA Business Forum II when for the first time a US President is to set foot on our soil. We are creating conditions to have a positive ripple effect on our economy as our vision is to position Mauritius as a world class business centre and a key player in the new economy.

Finally, I am pleased to inform the readers of Mauritius News that Mauritian visitors and students will no longer need to obtain entry clearance before travelling to the UK as from 18th December 2002.

Let me wish all the readers of Mauritius News a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.
Long Live the Republic of Mauritius!

Mohunlall Goburdhun
High Commissioner



Père Laval Association (UK)

Avec nos meilleurs vœux
pour la Noël
et pour une Sainte Année 2003

Laval Lim and family
extend to all relatives, friends
and patrons their warmest
greetings for Christmas
and the New Year

Mauritius Football FC

Special greetings to all
players and their families at
Christmas-time & thro' the New Year

From The Mauritius Sports Association (UK)

A Happy Christmas and the very best of
2003 to all members and supporters.

A & M Travel
May your Christmas
be filled with joy,
and 2003 be full

Mauritius Hindu Association

President and Committee members
wishing you all a Happy Christmas, a prosperous
New Year 2003, Eid Mubaarak and a
Joyful Sankranti!

**M H Banharally & Co.
Solicitors**
Our best wishes for the festive
season and the coming year.

**The Bristol
Mauritian Association**
wishes all members and their families,
Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year
2003, Happy Eid Ul Fitr and Joyful
Sankranti.

**Mauritius Tamil
Maha Sangham (UK)**
The Executive Committee Members would
like to wish the Mauritian community in the
UK a Merry Christmas, a Happy
New Year 2003, and a Happy Pongal.
பலவாண்டு வாழ் வாழ்த்துகள்!

**L'Association Chrétienne des
Mauriciens à Londres**
souhaite à ses membres et
amis un Joyeux Noël
et une Bonne Année

**Overseas Sino-Mauritian
Association (UK)**
To all our Mauritian compatriots
our very best wishes for
Christmas and 2003!

The London School of Law
Our very best wishes
for the festive season
and the coming year.

**Management and staff of
Imbel Travel**
send to all of you their warmest greet-
ings for the festive season, and wish
you all a very prosperous New Year.

Transways Red Lines (UK) Ltd
Wishes you all a
wonderful Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year 2001

**From Michael Marain
(Professional Photographer)**
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year

**Palm Nursing Home &
Cambridge Nursing Home**
Avec Tous nos vœux de bonheur
pour un Joyeux Noël
et une Heureuse Année.

Blue Marlin FC
To all members and
supporters
our warmest best wishes for a
Christmas full of peace and a New
Year full of happiness.

The Anglo Mauritian Association
Happy Christmas to all members
and readers of Mauritius News.
May the New Year bring you happi-
ness and prosperity

A very Merry Christmas, and a
Happy New Year 2003,
Eid Mubaarak, and a
Joyful Sankranti to all from
Mauritius News

Cosmos Social Club
To all members and well-wishers
we convey our thanks for their
support and wish them all
a Joyous Christmas and
a Happy New Year!

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