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Air Mauritius receives award



Picture: Michael Marain

Air Mauritius was last month voted by the 'Selling Long Haul' magazine as the best airline serving the Indian Ocean for the fourth consecutive year.

Presentation of the award was made at the World Travel Market held in London in November.

Pictured above are (from left to right) Chris Gilbert, Air Mauritius UK Manager, Martin Steady, Managing Director of 'Selling Long Haul', Rajah Buton, Chief Marketing Executive of Air Mauritius, and Donald Payen, the company's Director for Europe.

Bérenger's long-awaited winning formula: more of the same power-sharing arrangement

'I will retain the office of Prime Minister after the next general election scheduled for September/ October 2005,' Paul Bérenger said at a rally in November at Réduit to mark the 35th anniversary of his party, the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM).

He affirmed that he would be Prime Minister for first three years of the fresh mandate, deputy PM Pravind Jugnauth would step into his shoes to finish off the job for the rest of the five-year term ending in 2008.

Mr Bérenger's crystal ball has forecast that he would still be the leader of the MMM after 2008, as if there is anyone else to take over from him. After Bérenger, it will be the déluge within the MMM as it was within the old Labour after SSR. Only SAJ has had the vision to secure his son in the saddle well before he is gone.

Dynastic succession is one of the three characteristics of Mauritian politics and Bérenger may do well to start grooming his son for the succession whether he is willing or not. There has never been a reluctant PM as Navin Ramgoolam. The crown was thrust upon his head. He is longing for it now that he has lost it.

The other two characteristics of local politics are the need for the coalition of parties to face an election and win, and the new phenomenon of power-sharing to rule adequately.

Football

Racism beyond the terraces

'Lip-service not enough to tackle racism off the pitch,' says CRE chairman Trevor Phillips

Despite the large number of black players in top football clubs, those who run the game are still almost exclusively white, according to a report by the Commission For Racial Equality (CRE). Every member of the FA board and the 92-strong FA council is white but this is the typical picture in the footballing world. The report looks at the extent of racial discrimination in the non-playing side of football and an action plan has been devised to secure change.

The multi-million pound football industry thrives on the skills of players from all ethnic backgrounds. Yet non-white faces make up less than 1% of positions off the field, whether in boardrooms, management or the coaching staff, and less than 2% of supporters on the terraces. The report found that 75% of football clubs have informal recruitment practices that if your face fits, you get the job.

CRE chair Trevor Phillips said "Football's authorities and clubs are not taking racism seriously. They are clearly not doing enough to promote equal opportunities off the pitch and remove the barriers that prevent ethnic minorities working at all levels of the sport. And, despite efforts by clubs and organisations, racism still remains a problem on the terraces and prevents Black and Asian supporters going along to matches to support their team.

"Steps have been taken by football's governing bodies. Last year the All Agency Review Team was set up to make race equality a priority but clearly more needs to be done.

"I have appointed Paul Elliot and Garth Crooks as special advisors. They will use their own experience and knowledge of football to secure a real commitment to change, see that the action plan is implemented and that it actually makes a difference.

"It is essential that those in charge of the football industry realise that addressing racial equality is a necessity, not an option. This report allows us to understand where the problems lie and draw up an action plan that will help ensure that an individual's ethnic heritage does not dictate their success."

The main findings include: Ethnic minorities are severely under-represented in the non-playing side of football: board membership, coaching, training and other aspects of the administration and management as well as on the terraces. There are hardly any Asian or Chinese players at any level or in any age group. The majority of professional football league clubs do not give their staff equal opportunities training. Many clubs still have no equal opportunities policy and where they do exist they are very basic.

The action plan requires: • Organisations to adopt an equal opportunities policy and implementation plan by July 2005 • All organisations to review recruitment and selection by November 2005 • All organisations to tackle under-representation and develop representative strategies by April 2006 • The FA and All Agency Review Team to evaluate equal opportunities policies and provide further support to clubs.

Lord Herman Ouseley, Chair of 'Kick It Out' said: "From tackling abuse on the terraces, our priority is the development of action that addresses the issue of invisibility. Tackling exclusions in areas such as playing, coaching and management and administration are newer challenges but now as important."

The Chagossians

The protest goes on, and the UK relents

Ilois will be allowed to visit ancestors' graves on Chagos



In the picture above, a Chagossian descendant, newly-arrived in the UK with a British passport, demonstrating outside Downing Street in London in November.

The islanders, who have been given UK passports (and whose families were evicted from the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960's to make way for a US airbase on the small island of Diego Garcia, called on the British government to give them accommodation in the country or to allow them to return to their islands. (The local councils had refused to prioritise their housing applications at the expense of those who have been on the housing waiting list for a longer period of time without causing discontent in the various localities).

It was reported that numerous islanders had been sleeping rough on the pavements of Downing Street by Tony Blair's office until their demand for housing was met. Two British MPs had highlighted their case in the House of Commons.

Meanwhile in Mauritius, barrister Hervé Lassémillante, who is handling the case of another group of Chagossians, is against Bancoult's move. Bancoult is regarded as an impediment to Mauritius's historical claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. Bancoult has himself said on various occasions that the sovereignty claim of Mauritius is no concern of his.

• In a press release issued by the British High Commission in Port Louis, it is stated that the British Government has agreed to a restricted group of Chagossians visiting their ancestors' graves next year.

Ahmad Macky

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Public phone available in prisons soon

Three of the five prisons on the island – the Youth Correction Centre, the open prison at Richelieu and the Women's Prison - would soon be equipped with public phones, according to information gathered from the Prime Minister's Office.

The objective is to help obedient prisoners keep their family ties. One official said all prisoners who do not cause problems to the prisons' administration would benefit from this privilege.

Other measures announced in the prison service include renovation works for a better

regrouping of prisoners, issue of identity cards to prisoners, classification of prisoners, regular checks of prisoners, visitors and prisons officers in connection with drugs and other prohibited items, tests for HIV/Aids and an amendment to the law on sentence reduction and also a better collaboration between the prison's administration and NGOs for the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Mauritius News has learnt that the prisons in Mauritius are overpopulated with 2,540 prisoners for 1,300 places. Government is planning to build two more prisons in the island.

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South African woman gets ten years for drug trafficking

A South African woman, Charnelle Talitha Ottele, y was recently sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for importing 578 grammes of heroin in Mauritius.

She was arrested in June 2002 in a small hotel at Baie du Tombeau. She was on her third visit to the country. She told police she had to do this job because of her financial worries.

Paul Bérenger cries for Arafat

Prime minister Paul Bérenger said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was like a big brother for him. "We want to cry upon thinking of the last images of Arafat", he said.

"We pray for this man who has given his whole life for the Palestinian cause. His death could inspire the Palestinian people to finish the big task Arafat worked for during four decades", Bérenger emphasised.



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End of Year Messages



Mauritius High Commission



It gives me immense pleasure to send a message to all my compatriots settled in the UK on the occasion of Christmas and New Year.

Since my arrival in London, it has been my constant endeavour to consolidate the cordial and friendly relations between Mauritius and UK. I have also seized every opportunity to interact with the Mauritian community particularly during the various socio-cultural functions.



I am glad that I and my staff have been able to be of service to our country and to all the Mauritians who call at the High Commission.

I have a special message for our young nationals who have joined the British Universities this year and to those who are already pursuing their higher studies in UK. I wish them all the very best in their endeavours and I look forward to their significant contribution in making Mauritius a better and prosperous nation.

As readers of Mauritius News are aware, we hosted a very successful Summit of SADC in August this year, and Mauritius as the current Chairperson is playing an important part in the region.

May I mention here that the Prime Minister Hon Paul Bérenger, identified two important priorities during the Mauritius tenure of the Chairmanship of SADC:- the construction of SADC Headquarters in Gaborone and a core team to write the history of the liberation struggle in our region.

More recently, Mauritius hosted the meeting of G90 and will be hosting the forthcoming Summit of Small Island Developing States in January 2005 and other international events in the coming months with a view to branding Mauritius on the International scene.

We are a multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic nation and keeping this in mind, we have to strengthen our relations with countries of our ancestors. It is in this spirit that our Prime Minister on assumption of his office visited India, France, Mozambique, Madagascar, Pakistan and will visit Seychelles before the year ends and China early next year. These visits will no doubt strengthen our relations with the "pays de peuplement".

Important developments taking place in Mauritius are the positioning of Mauritius as a regional ICT hub.

Mauritius News readers will be glad to know that the Cyber Tower at Ebene and Les Pailles Conference Centre, which have been financed by India will be inaugurated by Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India in December,

The creation of Sea Food hubs and the development of the Financial Sector- Offshore Sector, tourism and textile and apparel as well as sugar industry are all geared to enable our country to face the challenges of globalisation.

Here in London, we have organised several events, namely The Mauritius International Apparel & Textile Exhibition (MIATEX), Seminar on Mauritius International Financial services - Onwards and Upwards and the ICT Promotion Mission with the Business Parks of Mauritius and the participation of World Travel Market.

Before I conclude, allow me to say how happy I am that His Holiness Pope John Paul II has conferred on me the Insignia of the Grand Cross of St Gregory the Great. May we pray for the health and happiness of His Holiness as he invokes an abundance of divine blessings upon the beloved people of Mauritius.

Once again let me wish all the readers of Mauritius News and all my compatriots here a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mohunlall Goburdhun
High Commissioner

December 2004



From the Regional Manager of Air Mauritius

To all members of the Mauritian Community in the UK, I extend my warmest wishes of Air Mauritius for a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Air Mauritius in the UK approaches 2005 with a high degree of optimism and confidence. As I write this message immediately following the World Travel Market event which takes place every year in London I am much encouraged by the upbeat attitude and confidence emerging from a travel industry that has been somewhat battered by SARS threat, Middle East conflict and terrible hurricane damage in the Caribbean and USA.



Even though the number of UK visitors to Mauritius has declined slightly in 2004 compared to 2003, Air Mauritius itself on the London-Mauritius route has continued to perform well and our growth plan has not changed.

I am delighted to confirm that we launch our sixth non-stop flight in May 2005 which will operate on Tuesdays both from and to Mauritius and our plan to introduce a daily non-stop flight from summer 2006 is also confirmed. In addition, for 2005 we have reached an agreement with Air Seychelles whereby Air Mauritius will operate on to Mauritius from April 2005.

With our new sixth non-stop frequency combined with two Air Seychelles flights we will be selling a total of eight flights a week to Mauritius from next summer which represents a whopping 33% increase in year over year capacity available from your national airline.

To Ensure we successfully fill these flights we will be introducing some new low fares for travel on these new services so keep in touch with your travel agent and look out for some attractive offers next summer.

Finally, I would comment on our expanded operations at London Heathrow where under the guidance of Rajesh Beeharry who was posted to London from Mauritius earlier this year, we have dramatically improved our service to customers and substantially raised the profile of the airline at Heathrow.

I am sure of you who have travelled recently will have noticed the improvement in our customer service at this very important station.

Needless to say the aim of the whole airline is to continue to provide good customer service to all our passengers. It only remains for me to sincerely thank all our regular travellers for their loyalty and to thank all our travel agent and tour operator partners who continue to provide unstinting support to the airline.

From the whole Air Mauritius team in the UK 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 and Ireland November 2004



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Happy New Year

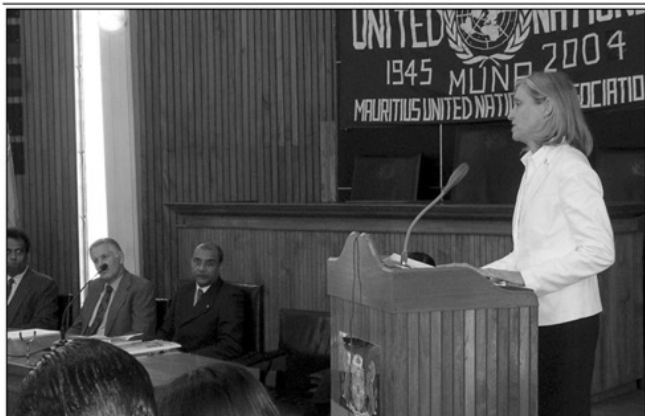
Photo news



Parents of students of the Père Laval College of Sainte Croix, near Port Louis, demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office asking for Paul Bérenger to intervene in favour of Jacques Perreira, Officer-in-charge of the college. The education authority had refused to confirm Mr Perreira in the job as Rector because he lacked the necessary qualifications.



Prime Minister Paul Bérenger inaugurated the 51st session of the Education Ministers' conference of countries that share the French language (CONFEMEN) at the International conference centre at Grand Baie. One hundred and fifty delegates from 41 countries took part in this conference. Bérenger recalled the disparity that existed between men and women in the education field despite the official policy and determination expressed to fill the gap between the two sexes.



The 59th anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated by the Mauritius United Nations Association (MUNA) at Port-Louis City Hall. The UN representative in Mauritius, Mrs Aesme Smelder recalled the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals namely poverty eradication, access to education for all, health and the struggle against HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis, women empowerment, environment and sustainable development, and a new world economic order.



Traffic is heavy in Port Louis, especially at peak times, in the morning and in the afternoon when thousands of vehicles enter and leave the capital. The government is trying since years to solve the problem but to no avail.

Australia Life imprisonment for convicted killer

Mauritian expatriate Jean-Eric Gassy, 48, has been sentenced to spend his life in jail, with a non parole period of 34 years, backdated to 11 November 2002, the date he was arrested.

Handing down the sentence in Adelaide Supreme Court, Justice Ann Vanstone said to Gassy, "As long as you live, you will be profoundly dangerous " With that sentence the judge recognised that Gassy " may well die in goal".

During the month long trial, a jury found Gassy guilty of the murder of Dr Margaret Tobin, ex -South Australia's Mental Health Services Director. She was shot four times in the back, on 14 October 2002, as she stepped out of a lift on the 8th floor of a City Building in Adelaide, to get to her Office. " There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that at the time you committed this crime you were mentally competent. You went to great lengths to cover your tracks and conceal your identity", Justice Vanstone said.

She added," The killing must rank in the worst category of murder. Only multiple murders could be more serious and many of those might be attended by circumstances of mitigation which are not present here".

Jean-Eric Gassy, formerly of Oyster Bay in New South Wales, was deregistered as a psychiatrist in 1997. He believed it was Dr Tobin who initiated the process to have him deregistered.

Justice Vanstone paid tribute to the outstanding work of the Police, in bringing Gassy to justice. She said, "The murder had robbed the community of a gifted and esteemed medical administrator."

Jean-Eric Gassy who represented himself at the trial, has applied to appeal against his conviction. During the preliminary hearings, the Court heard Gassy had travelled from Sydney to Adelaide in a hired car under a false name. He had grown a beard to disguise his appearance.

In closing her sentencing remarks, Justice Vanstone said, " I forfeit to the Crown your handguns, ammunition and all associated firearm parts. I impose the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. The non-parole period is 34 years. Your sentence will be backdated to 11 November 2002".

Eddy Abraham

Drug trafficking: three people sent to prison

Ismael Oodally was recently sentenced to twelve years and Christine Chuttoo and Nazma Abdool Rahman got eight years each.

The two women were caught trying to import four kilos of gandia into the island in August 2001.

Oodally was also fined Rs 200.000, and the two women, Rs 100.000 each.

National lottery results

Check your results for November here

- Sat 27: 4-7-9-10-43-46 (11)
- Wed 24: 6-9-15-23-38-48 (45)
- Sat 20: 1-4-8-26-28-36 (31)
- Wed 17:11-14-20-24-28 36 (46)
- Sat 13: 4-10-12-13-14-22 (21)
- Wed 10: 13-27-37-40-43-49 (1)
- Sat 06: 2-26-29-36-39-40 (10)
- Wed 03: 5-25-33-35-36-39 (43)

(These results have been obtained from the National Lottery. Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprints or discrepancy in the results published in this column.)

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Combating bogus and back-street qualifications

Interview with Hon. Sangeet Fowdar, Minister of Training, Skills Development and Productivity *by Ahmad Macky*

Hon Sangeet Fowdar has kindly answered some of my questions about the objective of the Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA) and the National Accreditation Equivalence Council (NAEC) supposedly set up to act as Watchdogs.



Minister Sangeet Fowdar

Back street Universities granting bogus diplomas and degrees on payment are quite common these days. Today anybody can purchase these “degrees” and “diplomas” through the Internet or bodies set up to print and issue certificates. New recruits with fake “degrees” and “diplomas” have taken many employers in Mauritius for a ride in the past. So to combat this malaise and to protect both our institutions and other department sectors, the Government created 5 years ago a Special body namely “The National Accreditation Equivalence Council” and later an additional one “The Mauritius Qualification Authority” (MQA) to monitor the authenticity of any back-street universities giving courses and diplomas for commercial purposes. Today, we find out that many of these back-street universities are saying that they are “branches” from of main renown Universities of Europe and other countries. These “branches” are still mushrooming across the island in the shadow of the MQA.

What is the role of the Mauritius Qualification Authority?

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) was established as a corporate body under the MQA Act 2001. Under this Act, Regulations were made which came into force in September last year to regulate all matters pertaining to registration of training institutions. In order to better regulate these training institutions, criteria for their registration, the registration of their trainers and their programme officers, and for the approval of courses have been laid down.

How do you assess the approval of foreign institutions as well as local ones?

This is done by accreditation. Guidelines have been developed to assess and accredit the institutions offering courses through overseas universities or institutions, and award diplomas.

The Mauritius Qualification Authority has instituted the Accreditation Committee to probe training institutions offering diploma courses. These institutions should submit a self-evaluation report in accordance with the accreditation guidelines, and which are examined by the Accreditation Committee.

According to one of the stipulations of the Accreditation Guidelines, a Self Evaluation Report should provide details on the Institution’s mission, Governance and Management; Staff and staff development policy; Learner information; Physical and Learning resource; Design, Development and running programmes;

The assessments of both foreign and local institutions fall within the purview of the National Accreditation Equivalence Council (NAEC)

In what way is the MQA useful in Mauritius?

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining a National Qualifications Framework (NQF). In this regard, the NQF has been established in order to rationalise the training system operative in Mauritius.

The aim of the NQF is to provide clear learning pathways that will give access to mobility and progression with education, training and career. In so doing it will provide parity of esteem between academic and vocational qualifications.

One of the main objectives of the NQF is to create a system that would lead to the full personal development of learners. Furthermore, Mauritius as member of SADC (Southern African Development community and having signed “The protocol on education and training” in the SADC Region has to take all steps possible to act together as a community, in the gradual implementation of equivalence, harmonisation and standardisation of the education and training systems in the region. By year 2010 all quali-

fications have to be harmonised within the SADC region, in order to enable the free movement of Human Capital

How does it differ from the old National Accreditation Equivalence Council (NAEC)?

The National Accreditation Equivalence Council still exists. The MQA and the NAEC are two separate institutions. The Mauritius Qualifications Authority has been established under the MQA Act 2001 with a different perspective.

Various private training institutions in Mauritius offer their own certificates and diplomas, what credibility should we give to these qualifications?

Training Institutions willing to offer award courses in collaboration with overseas universities are requested to abide by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (Registration) Regulations 2003 and to apply for accreditation to offer award courses.

The MQA has not accredited any training institution awarding its own qualifications. They can only offer to a student an ‘attendance certificate’ but not an academic one.

Will the modern technologies training embrace the old concept of giving the non-academic student a form of training to fit a career?

The Mauritius Qualification Authority is working on the policy for the Recognition of Prior Learning. This policy will enable the assessment of the skills, knowledge and aptitudes of any person. Modern technologies are not a hindrance for the recognition of previous acquired skills and knowledge by the non academically students. In fact the NQF will even help the non academically students to progress within the education and training pathways

Some foreign doctors working in our local hospitals have been subject of massive complaints made by patients due to their efficiencies in the Health Service, would you say that the MQA has overlooked their qualifications in appointing them?

MQA does not appoint foreign doctors working in local hospitals. But their appointments are done by the Medical Council. If the Medical Council has doubt about the qualifications of foreign doctors, the matter is referred to the National Accreditation Equivalence Council

Finally, Mr Minister, Mauritius has so many experienced and professional workers in their own fields who are being looked down by recruiting officers because they have no academic qualifications, what have you got to say about that?

I agree with you. For example, there experienced fishermen, professional sportsmen and many skilled workers without certificates or diplomas/degrees but, sadly, they have not been given any consideration by recruiting officers. This is going to change in the near future. My ministry is working on it. I can’t be more explicit than that. We are going to give value for money.

Small Island States meet in Mauritius in January

Mauritius will host the United Nations Conference on Small Island States from 6 to 14 January next year in the presence of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Participants from over 40 countries will review the Barbados Programme of Action adopted in April 1994.

This programme was implemented with the goal of supporting sustainable development in small island develop-

ing states, by acknowledging their specificities as small islands, the challenges they face and proposing measures to achieve sustainable development.

Several topics will be discussed at this meeting. They include climate change and natural and environmental disasters; freshwater, land resources and waste management; energy, transport and communications; sustainable

tourism, biodiversity, coastal and marine resources, trade, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, security needs and information technology.

Three other forums will also be organised parallel to the meeting.

They are the civil society forum that will take place on January 6 and 7; the Youth forum from January 7 to 12 and the Community Village forum January 8 to 14.

From Eddy Abraham, Melbourne

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the naming of Australia



Eddy Abraham with Governor-General Michael Jeffrey

On 14 November 2004, I had the privilege and honour of attending a ceremony at Government House in Canberra. The function was to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the naming of Australia, by Matthew Flinders, R.N.

Guests included renowned historians, among whom Dr Edward Duyker (featured in the last issue of M.N), Ambassadors and High Commissioners, representing Spain, France, U.K, India, South Africa and Mauritius. Governor-General, Major-General Michael Jeffrey, who presided, spoke of Flinders’ expeditions and his detention in Mauritius (then known as Ile de France).

Professor Weston Bates, President of the Royal Society of Victoria, paid tribute to the adventurous character of Flinders and the legacy he left to subsequent voyagers of discoveries. Bill Fairbanks, who was the driving force behind the celebrations, went to great lengths to obtain a copy of the original chart, which is held by U.K Hydro graphic Office in Taunton, Somerset. It measures approximately 92 cm x by 72 cm.

After circumnavigating the continent known at the time as New Holland, Matthew Flinders was forced to stop at Ile de France (Mauritius), en route to England, because his vessel was not seaworthy. He was unaware that war had broken between France and England. He was detained on the Island by General Decaen, from 1803 to 1810. It was during his detention that Flinders worked on his charts.

The original chart where Flinders first named the continent “Australia” left Ile de France on 14 November 1804. It was despatched to Sir Joseph Banks, in London.

During the ceremony, there were exhibits to remember Flinders, namely his map of Australia, his photographs and two models of his vessels, the Investigator and the Cumberland. They were donated by Gaëtan de Chazal of Comajora in La Brasserie, Forest-Side, in Mauritius.

Guests received a copy of Flinders’ map of Australia, as a memento of this memorable occasion. After the ceremony, the Governor-General and Lady Jeffrey entertained their guests at a reception on the wonderful lawns of Government House.

Swaleha Joomun’s presence is missed in the community

In the September 2000 general elections, Swaleha Joomun got only 84 votes as an independent candidate. She is the only Muslim independent candidate to obtain more than eighty votes.

This woman turned to politics just to get a platform to denounce prevalent social injustices. However, no other Muslim woman has dared to do what Mrs Joomun did. She defied the hypocrisy of certain religious men associated with politicians.

Many women in Plaine-Verte are unaware that Mr Joomun left Mauritius to UK. What they have in mind is the creation of a “L’aile féminine pour la sécurité des femmes de Valley Pitot”.

They have made an appeal to the media for the return of Swaleha Joomun to continue the task she started. The women in Plaine-Verte pray that Mrs Joomun guide them to fight against social injustices emanating from various directions.

At Valley Pitot Swaleha Joomun is considered as “The spokeswoman of the region” because “les sans voix” used to rely on Mrs Joomun to defend their causes. And they want Mrs Joomun to carry on her political campaign and fight against social injustices.

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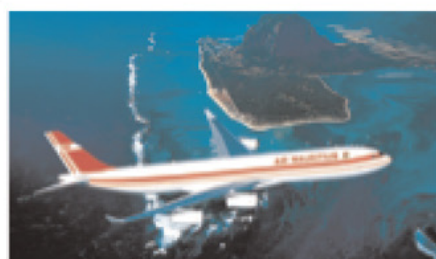


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Mauritians, The Younger Generation

(Young UK Mauritians will have their contributions on whatever subject (Cinema, television, music, holiday trips, bullying, school/college/University life, examinations, parents, UK life etc etc etc) published on this page. Write to the Editor, Reuben V. Poullé, at <editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk> or send correspondence to Mauritius News, 583 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JD)

DJ CLK up in the clubs

Hey people, I'm back again telling ya'll about what's hot and what's not. Let's start with the good old top five.

1 Terror Squad - Lean back

This is one of the most requested tracks out at the moment. I have not been in a club where people do not sing it out loud and proud, they have also gone for the dancehall dance routine thing that is becoming more and more popular.

Terror squad consists of Fat Joe, Remy Ma, Tony sunshine, Prospect & Armageddon. The main focus of this group is Mr Fat Joe one of Hip hops finest battle rappers who has been in the game for a number of years with tracks like Flow Joe, What's love, Crush tonight and many more. Look out for the album coming out soon, also look forward for this track in the future to become a hip hop anthem.

2- Capleton - In her heart (Chrome riddim)

The rise in popularity for reggae and dancehall music has made a lot of people very bias in regards to the artists, Capleton has been a dancehall artist since 1991 at the age of 17 with tracks like Dem no like we, Gun talk, Mellow & Tour to name a few.

So he is definitely not a new comer. In her heart is one of those happy tracks where people who want to dance and give their heart to somebody can feel free and do so, its all about bringing back the fun in dancing and raving. Look out for the video for the dance routine. Don't sleep on this track..

3- Destiny's child - Loose my breathe

The Girls are back after rumours of them breaking up, look out for the new album due to hit the streets from 16th November Y2K4 called Fulfilled. They have really been busy. Loose my breath is an absolute dance floor filler, its lively, its happy, its truly a feel good anthem.

Destiny's child has always been good at making tracks that can appeal to all audiences worldwide. I just can't wait to see the damage that the new album makes.

Oh by the way the best part of the track for me is the bridge. Also look out for the Destiny's Fulfilled MixCD by Yours Truly DJ CLK for Sony Music U.K

4- Twista - Your So Sexy f.t. R.Kelly

If your like me and appreciate good quality hip-hop soul tracks, then make sure you get a copy of this joint. The collaboration of these two artists does compliment each other styles. I usually play this towards the end of the night before the slow jams.

This is a banging track with catchy sing along lyrics (of cause not Twista lyrics), I will give it about 2 months before you start hearing it on all the main stream radio stations. If you have not got his album yet what are you waiting for.

5- Akon - Locked up

The first time I heard this track I went crazy, the multitalented singer song writer made a whole album about his life, all the ups and all the downs.

If you have not heard locked up yet you must check it out, this is RnB at its best. Watch out for the Album titled 'Trouble'. I'm keeping this track review short and sweet listen to the track then try to disagree with me. He he he !

CLK's final thought,

Recently I have notice a rise in club nights and I'm trying to establish what you the punters think about it all, what makes your night a good night.

Coz at end of the day DJ's are the people who are in charge of your emotions and feeling when we are playing, so if there's something you do like take this opportunity to air your views.

For more info Contact <dj_clk@yahoo.co.uk>

Or tel +447950504564

Competition: Due to the huge response to last months questions, I am still going them, the winner will be announced soon!



DJ CLK

Big B shoots Bollywood film in Mauritius

Bollywood's most renowned actor Amitabh Bachchan is currently in Mauritius shooting a new movie titled "Dil Jo Bhi Kahey".

The film is an adaptation of Romesh Sharma's "C'est la vie" based on a tv serial. It is a typical love story between a Mauritian boy of Indian origin and a girl from the Franco-Mauritian bourgeoisie who fall in love while studying in Stockholm. They both encounter problems with respective parents.

Amitabh Bachchan plays the role of the boy's father who is a successful banker. He stars along Karan Sharma and Annabelle Wallis (in the lead roles), and Revathywho plays Karan's mother.

Over the past decade Amitabh Bachchan has made several films in Mauritius. He confesses that he always appreciates the islands kindness and support. He states "Indian films have been progressing rapidly, particularly over the last few years. I think the trend will continue."

Dil Jo Bhi Kahey is set to be released on the 14 Febuary 2005 (Valentines Day!).

Audition places left for young musicians

After 29 days on the road to hear a record 763 children play, the National Children's Orchestra 2004 audition tour has now come to an end.

From Devon to Edinburgh via Kent and Manchester, the Director of Music Roger Clarkson and orchestra Founder Vivienne Price drove to hear every single child who applied. Now they have the unenviable job of choosing between so much talent!

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For more information visit the RFH web site at: <www.rfh.org.uk> or contact:- 84a Elm Tree Rd, Locking, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 8EH or Tel: 01934 820 254 Fax: 01934 820 257 <www.nco.org.uk>

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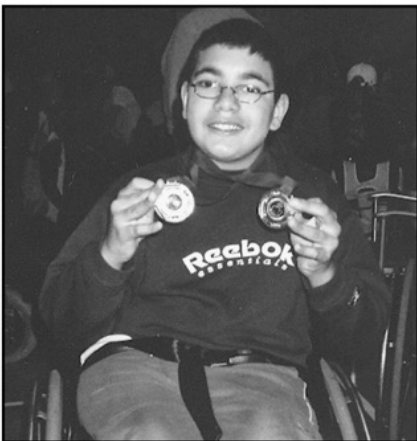
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Simon wins again in wheel style

Simon Duncan completes a gold medal double as he took part in the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation National Junior games at the Stoke Mandeville stadium in Buckinghamshire..



Simon, aged 12 won both the 100m and 200m wheelchair races. He completed the 100m race in 34.8 seconds and the 200m in 68.5 seconds. One could say that he is an Olympic hopeful!

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Letter to the Editor

The Kraft Cheese saga...

Dear Editor,

I read the last edition of your newspaper with a smile on my face.

With regard to the gentleman who wrote about him and his families love for Kraft cheese, is he having a joke?

Any cheese which comes out of a can surely cannot be taken seriously. What is it with Mauritians and their necessity on bring back food from their home to England. My brother and I have long discussed why family in Mauritius feel the need to send such stuff.

Don't they know we get cheese in England - In a way though, we do not get cheese of such quality as Kraft - poor quality that is. Even to this day when my parents go to Mauritius someone feels the need to send cheese as a gift. They don't seem to understand. What is it all about? People out there listen. Do not bring or buy that tasteless rubber-style sustance that is Kraft cheese.

Yours,Deven Pamben

Editor's note: A line should now be drawn under this cheesy topic but not before we attempt to dispel some misconceptions about this goody.

First and foremost that Kraft cheese is not a produce of Mauritius but of Australia for which Mauritians have developed a great predilection.

Even when Mauritius was a British colony and had to buy everything British, Mauritians still preferred to import the dairy produce of Australia among which Kraft cheese and Red Feather butter which melts in the mouth.Mauritians are discernible people who can really appreciate good cheddar, and as a matter of fact Australian cheddar is by far much tastier than the bland English cheddar. Even eminent cheese connoisseurs like the French are not good at cheddar. Secondly, the writer's conception that the Kraft cheese comes out of cans or tin boxes is wrong. The Australian Kraft cheese is wrapped in foil and packed in small 90gsm card boxes.

Lastly, there was a time when the new-comers from Mauritius used to beg for it from home. It was the time when the whole family used to sleep in one room with no heating etc. `hence, the tradition.

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Mauritius News Cuisine

GATEAUX NAPOLITAINS

In spite of its name, Napolitains are considered to be a Mauritian speciality. They seem to exist nowhere else and even our neighbours from Réunion island (whose great appetite for those delicious melt-in-your-mouth cakes is no secret) do not attempt to make them!

Ingredients:
1lb flour, sifted
1 egg yolk
1/2 lb butter
1/4 lb guava jelly or strawberry jam

For the icing:-
1 cup sugar
1/2 to 3/4 cup water
1 egg white
juice of half a lemon

Preparation:
Make a dough with the flour, egg yolk, and butter. roll it out to a thickness of approximately 1/2 inch. Cut into two-inch rounds and bake in a medium oven for 25 to 30 minutes. The cakes must not be brown - they should bake to a light gold colour. Cool and join two rounds together with guava jelly or strawberry jam.
For the icing, stir the sugar in the water until dissolved. Cook over medium heat to obtain a medium thick syrup. Remove from heat and mix in stiffly beaten egg white and then add the lemon juice. Beat vigorously until the icing reaches the desired consistency - be careful that it does not become too thick. spread icing on Napolitains.

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‘The Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius’
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Tradition

The twelve symbols of Christmas in the USA

Every year Americans celebrate Christmas by putting on Christmas trees and placing mistletoe sprays tied with bright red ribbons above all the doors inside the house and a wreath on the front door

Christmas trees, mistletoe and wreaths are some of the twelve symbols of Christmas in USA. However not many people actually know how these objects became original Christmas symbols.

Christmas Tree:
Christmas tree is linked to the Druids’ winter solstice celebration. The Druids believed the evergreen had magical powers as it thrived despite the wintry season. Christianity has adopted many pagan rituals and the evergreen is one of them. It became a symbol of Christmas and one of everlasting life and hope.

Mistletoe:
Christians adopted another pagan ritual in the use of mistletoe. Druids had a lot of faith in mistletoe. When enemies met under the mistletoe tree, they had to put down their swords and make peace for some time. Mistletoe was also a pagan fertility symbol. A kiss was exchanged for a mistletoe berry and the kissing business continued while the berry supply lasted. At Christmas a male who finds himself standing next to a female under a sprig of mistletoe hanging from the ceiling or above a door can ask the lady for a kiss and it is vice versa.

Wreath:
A wreath is formed by evergreen boughs shaped into a ring. It originates among pre-Christian Germans who used to make wreaths of evergreen during the cold dark winters and light fires in the belief that spring would soon come again. By the 16th century Catholic and Protestant Germans adopted this tradition and started using wreaths and candles to celebrate Advent.

Ornaments:
Fruits were the first decorations used in pagan rituals to encourage tree spirits to return in the spring. Then in 1605 Christians started decorating the Christmas trees in their homes. However in 1846 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert made this practice fashionable and since then on Christmas, trees have been decorated throughout the world.

Christmas Bells:
Bells play a big role at Christmas. In ancient pagan winter rites, bells were rung to ward off evil. Bells became a part of Christmas, calling the faithful to prayer and announcing Santa’s arrival.

Candy Canes:
Candy canes are just white sugar sticks, which were given to kids to keep them quiet during the long church services. When red stripes were added to them, some people believed that it was a religious symbol although candy makers from the 1800s said the red stripes were only added to make the canes attractive. The shape of the canes is believed to reflect the shepherd’s crooks or the letter “J” for Jesus.

Eggnog:
This traditional American Christmas drink goes back to the Renaissance when there was no refrigerator and milk and eggs had short shelf life. Brandy, madeira, wine or sherry was added to a milk and egg drink as a festive preservative. Thus eggnog became a natural part of the wintry Christmas tradition. “Nog “ could be a combination of the words egg and grog - egg-n-grog thus eggnog.

Elves:
Scandinavian pagans believed house gnomes guarded their homes against evil spirits. In the 1800s when Christmas became a national celebration, Scandinavian writers turned gnomes into mischievous creatures called elves who are the true friends and helpers of Santa Claus.

Santa Claus:
Santa Claus is based on St Nicholas who used to distribute gifts. Early Byzantine portraits show St Nicholas with a long white beard. He became linked with Christmas as his day is celebrated on December 6. When people took offence at the distribution of gifts in the name of a saint, folklore stepped in to create Santa Claus. Every country has its own version of Santa Claus. The Dutch have Sinterklaas and the British have Father Christmas.


Flying Reindeer:
Santa needs something to pull his sledge in the North Pole. Laplanders believe Santa brought reindeers to the North Pole because of their agility in snow. On Christmas eve the elves sprinkle some magic powder on the reindeers and this gives them their flying ability.

Fruitcake:
Christmas tradition calls for a dessert to be served after Christmas dinner. As Christmas is in winter, the season when fresh fruits are short and only preserved fruits are available, fruitcake was born.

Stockings:
According to legend a wealthy nobleman became hard up and was unable to provide a dowry for his three daughters. St Nicholas a holy man used to give anonymously to the needy. He dropped a bag of gold through an open window to provide for the first daughter. The second night he dropped another bag of gold for the second daughter. On the third night as the window was closed he dropped a bag of gold down the chimney. This landed in a stocking hanging from the mantle where it was left it dry. After that hanging a stocking by the fireplace became a Christmas tradition.

A Merry Xmas & Happy New Year to all the readers of my column.

Devinia Sookia is a barrister-at-Law, journalist, writer and attorney (USA)



By Devinia Sookia

Your Horoscope

For December 2004

by Jacques Zoizo

Aries (March 21 – April 20)
You feel that you have full control of your life as everything falls into place in your love life and finances.
However you must pay attention to health matters, with Christmas approaching over indulging is not recommended, you will discover that moderation is the key. A friend from the past will bring welcome news and luck.

Taurus (April 21 – May 21)
In the workplace you will encounter plenty of challenges. As you tackle them head on your self-esteem will grow. If you have any feeling of insecurity, you must be honest and examine them. The sooner you get them off your chest the better for you.
Your partner will need your support as they are in need of pampering. If you are single your potential love could appear staring on a shopping trip.

Gemini (May 22 –June 22)
The decision you made about a past love could make you realise that it was not the right one when the old partner re-enters the scene. By avoiding pressure from family members you could make amends over the Christmas period to reopen your heart to love
Your finances are somewhat out of control; Belt-tightening is necessary to bring overspending under control.

Cancer (June 23- July 23)
One must reflect on the current year, as your achievements will raise your confidence when applying for a new job or new business venture.
You have to stand up to a partner who may wish to rule your life as you take up new challenges. Standing for yourself will strengthen your relationship as the partner sees a new side to you. You will receive baby news from abroad.

Leo (July 24 – August 23)
Your stubbornness and short temper will create problems amongst those close to you. But, you must be firm using your instincts in terms of making future goals and objectives.
Opportunities for discovering and fulfilling your potential will present themselves on several occasions! You will come across someone out of the ordinary who could introduce you to a new circle of friends.

Virgo (August 24 – September 23)
You have been recently overwhelmed with responsibilities and demands both in the workplace and at home. A trip or holiday could make them disappear if you take a break abroad, alone or with a partner.
It seems likely that you will receive news confirming that you were right to stick to certain principles regarding a family matter. Your friendship could be at risk when sharing some winnings.

Libra (September 24- October 23)
New developments in a relationship or career could be the making of you as fresh opportunities come your way. You’ll soon discover that you have a natural ability to complete tasks and chores as quickly as possible giving you more time to do things you’ve always wanted to do.
Someone whom you idolise will enter your life. But approach him/her with caution as he or she may not be what you expect them to be..

Scorpio (October 24- November 22)
Your love life becomes hectic and complicated as a meeting with a new partner opens up new feelings in a triangle. Your instincts will serve you well in terms of deciding what step to take in your own love life.
A career move is planned, you have a powerful vision about precisely what you want to do, though; an opportunity to go travelling or visiting old friends and relatives is a possible option.

Sagittarius (November 23- December 21)
You will have to cope with some opposition from colleagues and loved ones; the time has come to convince them that you can survive without them. This can somewhat be draining on you emotionally and financially.
One must pay attention to other relationships as your career and family have taken a lot of your time.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 20)
It’s a case of one step forward, two steps back as you assume that progress in both your personal and domestic life steps up a gear. However, this is not the case! Changes to your health and lifestyle must be made to ensure an improvement in your environment at home and on the work front.
Your finances will grow significantly, as you will receive a cash bonus either at work or in a competition.

Aquarius (January 21- February 19)
It will be a miracle if others should co-operate fully, but that may not be realistic. Some decisions you will take over the month will be difficult ones. However they could put you on the path to better career and beter money. You could also expect to make remarkable progress in other areas as your feelings for a certain person could start to blossom. Take it easy when doing building work or decorating around the house.

Pisces (February 20 – March 20)
It’s a time for family gatherings and social events where you could become the life and soul of the party. Someone with a peculiar job have eyes for you. This news takes you by surprise, try to follow your instincts to avoid missing out. Due to stress at work the temptation to branch out is overwhelming. It is possible that your best interests are not served by going solo.

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New sega release

Emilien's 'Rêves'

Gérard Emilien's first album 'Rêves' brings the sega of Mauritius to today's pop audience.

Guitarist and vocalist Emilien has just released his first album 'Rêves' (Dreams), spanning the bridge from the sega of his native Mauritius to classic pop, influenced by forerunners as the Beatles and Simon & Garfunkel.

Emilien has written ten original tracks which he delivers in English, French, and Mauritian Creole with a pure tenor voice. Emilien, who has sung and played the guitar since his childhood in Port Louis, to the accompaniment of bass, contrabass, sax, clavier, violin, and sitar. The variety of instruments creates a hybrid of pop/folk world that reflects his travels and residence in no less than five countries.

While his exposure to American and English pop music during his youth has greatly influenced the sound and structure of his compositions, Emilien is not an avid consumer of today's music.

Rather than mimicking other contemporary musicians, Emilien is inspired by his own travels and studies (he has multiple degrees and is a Doctor of Psychology and Pharmacology!) as source material for his songs.

The influence of Mauritian sega on the album counterbalances the contemplative and down-tempo tracks such as 'Le Violon' and 'Give Me Love.' Sega has traditionally served as a liberating means of expression for the fishing community of Mauritius. While the music has evolved beyond the solo accompaniment of the percussive Ravane, the rhythm of sega still accelerates to allow the dancers to reach the state of ecstatic frenzy.

'Mamzelle' and 'Zoli Femme', the purest sega tracks on the album, have been the most popular element of Emilien's live performances.

The 'dreams' of Rêves are hopeful and sensual. Emilien's audience is invited to an inter-continental voyage through the benevolent and vibrant psyche of an accomplished man. They are dreams we all can relate to, although we may not dream in three languages! Emilien is currently planning a tour in France to launch Rêves. Other members of Emilien's international audience can log on to his website in anticipation of his international tours. For more information on Rêves, please visit:

<www.emilien-music.com>

Mauritius News a statement of faith

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Deaths

Every entry below contains the only information supplied to us.

Mauritius

MAILLARD, Marguerite. M.- 66 yrs- October 31.
SOOBOOPILLAY, Sarapadee- 46 yrs-Pointe Aux Sables-Nov8.
RAMIKISSON, Sita- Fond du Sac- November 9.
KIOUK LAN CHOO FOO- 75 yrs- Roches Brunes- Nov 11.
DOORASAMY-NAIKER, Marie-53 yrs-Coromandel-Nov 10
SALIMAN, Eveline- 101 yrs- Quatre Bornes- November 16.
CHUNG SU YUEN- Marie Thérèse- 92 yrs- Curepipe- Nov 16.
WOON KA, Chan (Charles)- 67 yrs- Port Louis – November 17
ASSY, Olga- 85 yrs- Rose Hill- November 19.
MIN SHING, Maryse. M–49 yrs- Roche Bois- November 20
LEUNG YIN KOW, France- 74 yrs- Port Louis- November 21.
ANTOINETTE, Jean-Claude- 50 yrs- Les Salines- Nov 22.
LEUNG FOR SANG, Tet Fon- 80 yrs- Port Louis- Nov 24.
CHORIAMAH, Thérèse- 85 yrs- Rose Hill- November 24.
KISNAH, Sonmateea- 81 yrs- Port Louis- November 25.

OVERSEAS

PATIENT, Phillippe- 86 yrs- Lewisham, England-November 5
LOA KUM CHEUNG, Marie- 86 yrs-Sydney, Australia-Nov 11.
TADEBOIS, Joseph Gaston- Melbourne, Australia- Nov 10.
PÉLICIER, M. Cyrille- Perth- Australia- November 17.
LIM CHOW TOON, Maurice, P.N- 55 yrs-Glasgow- Nov 21.

Deaths announcement

Louis Roger Chan-Lok passed away on 20th Oct 2004 at the age of 78 years old. His funeral ceremony took place on the 29th Oct 2004 at St Michael Catholic Church, Ashtead, Surrey and he was cremated at Randalls Park Crematorium in Leatherhead, Surrey.

Louis Roger Chan-Lok was born in Port Louis on 25th May 1926 and he emigrated to England in October 1964. He is deeply mourned by all members of his family.



Appanah Sooranna (known as Mousli) passed away on 29 October 2004 after struggling bravely against a fatal illness. His last hours were peaceful and he went quietly in his sleep. His departure has left a great sadness amongst his family and friends.

Appanah Sooranna was a well-known figure in the Mauritian Community. He came to England in 1958 to work as a professional tailor, and has lived with his family for the last 42 years in the East End of London.

He was very proud of living in London and according to his wishes his funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery (Near Wanstead) on 6 November

Ahad Lalloo of Croydon, Surrey, passed away on November 17 at the age of 57. He is grieved by his wife, son and daughter, and has left a feeling of great loss among all those who were close to him as friends

Maurice Lim, a very effective community leader among the Mauritians of Glasgow, succumbed suddenly on November 21 at the age of 55.

A very industrious fellow Maurice had built himself a reputable business at a prestigious shopping mall of Glasgow. He was a generous person always ready to put himself forward to assist fellow countrymen in distress. His death leaves a vacuum within his family and the community.

George Koo (75) of Kingsbury, Harrow, passed away on November 23 and his cremation took place on December 2 at the Golders Green Crematorium.

CHAKOWA, Basmath- 79 yrs- Vacoas- November 27.
NAIK, Rajkarran- 75 yrs- Quatre Bornes- November 29.

Fisheries Minister resigns



Fisheries Minister Sylvio Michel resigned from office on November 15 after several months of differences between his party and the other parties in power on an eventual compensation to be paid to descendants of slaves in the island.

He tendered his resignation to the President of the Republic, Anerood Jugnauth at State House, Réduit.

Law Report

by Vijay I. Ram LL.B (Hons)

Mauritius Jurisprudence
In the Supreme Court of Criminal Appeal
Judge body language not bias
Nawoor v The State

Judgement of A.G Pillay C.J, K.P. Matadeen J., and A.A. Caunhye J.
Three Appellants, M.S Nawoor, S.I.Sumodee and A.N. Keramuth appeal to the Supreme Court against their conviction on the grounds that the Presiding Judge erred in his directions to the jury.
They contend that the Judge used such language and a tone of voice that clearly influenced the jury to give more than necessary weight to the testimony of two prosecution witnesses. Thus, they claim, the Judge’s directions to the jury “were a clear invitation . . . to convict the appellants”.
They ask the Appeal Bench to quash their convictions on the grounds that there is a breach of the rule of natural justice and fairness.

Mr. M. Sauzier, B. Desvaux, R.D’Unienville Q.C, S.Bhuckory and R Stephen appear for the appellants.
Mrs G.Jugessur-Manna and Miss S.Gareeboo defend the decision of the Presiding Judge.

Counsels for the respondent raise a question of law as to the interpretation of section 10(3) of the Mauritian Constitution where it refers to “...any record of the proceedings made by or on behalf of the court”.
In simple terms, the respondent contends that there are provisions in our Constitution that compel the court’s administration to produce a written script of its deliberations but there is nothing in the law that calls for the court to produce the actual digital recording, i.e. the tape itself.

The Bench is convinced by the arguments of the respondent and rules of that section 10(3) needs to be interpreted in the lights of section 23 of the Courts Act 1999.
Subsection 2 of which clearly states that “records of the court” are synonymous to the minutes of the proceedings of the case. Applying the same rationale to the provisions of section 177 (3) of the Courts Act which allows the use of tape recording or any technological means, the meaning of the term *records of court* will still be a transcript or written summary of the proceedings.
The Judges then go on to address the circumstances in which the Supreme Court is empowered by section 3 (7) of the Courts Act to compel parties to produce a digital tape evidence of the directions of a presiding Judge in court. Pillay C.J. rules that this may happen in cases where “it is *prima facie* established by cogent affidavit evidence that . . . the tone of voice used by the presiding Judge was patently biased...”.
The cases of *R v Wood (1996) 1 Cr. App. R.207* and *R v Nelson (1997) Crim. L.R. 234* are cited and the learned judgement of Staughton L.J is quoted:

“Miss Kennedy told us, in effect, that the tone of voice used by the Judge and the physical expression of views by sighing, by shrugging of his shoulders and raising his eyebrows were hostile to the defence. In our judgement we ought not to act on such information unless...there should be sworn evidence”.

The case of *D. Hurnam, a barrister (2000 SCJ 79)* is also cited.
The appeal is dismissed and the Judges are happy that they have seen enough evidence in the written transcript of the court’s proceedings without having to hear the actual recording of the tape.

Philanthropy
A shelter for the underprivileged



Mylene Oishy (sitting, fourth from left) visiting the Shelter and Study Centre in Dabolim, Goa (India), which she helped to build over 18 months ago in memory of her late husband Teruyuki whose picture is given a place of honour.
Teruyuki was a philanthropist whose wish was that a donation be made from his estate for the welfare of children.
During Mylene’s visit to the centre Father Francis of Don Bosco Salesian Brothers (standing, second from left) arranged a celebratory outing for children from Vasco and the surrounding areas to have a holiday at the home. Parents were invited too.“We are children for a short time of our life. As an adult, it is important for me to take the trouble to make a child’s life free of trouble, which is why it gives me great pleasure to see their happy smiling faces,” says Mylene.

Letters to the Editor

We are thankful to readers and well-wishers for the numerous letters of appreciation we have received on the 21st anniversary of our paper. We have selected only one of them for publication as it sums up the sort of gratitude expressed in our regard.

Appreciation

Carshalton Beeches
Surrey SM5 3NG

12 November 2004

Dear Peter,

I was very pleased to read in your latest edition that Mauritius News has reached this milestone on your 21st anniversary. I am grateful to you for all the charitable work and projects that Mauritius News has been supporting and promoting during that time.
On a personal level, I am happy to highlight that you were the instigator to set up and put on sound footing the Mauritius Football Competition, and whatever we have achieved to date is thanks to your support. Without Mauritius News, we will be a poorer community in the UK.

Well done and Keep up the good work.
Best wishes

Vishnu Sooboodoo

Chairman
Mauritius Football Competition (UK)

Recognition

To: editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk
From: Rachel Snyder <rachel@globalgrit.com>
Date: 10 Nov 2004, 05:45:24 AM
Subject: Chagos Islands

Dear Peter:

I am a U.S. writer currently based in Cambodia (www.globalgrit.com). I’ve been following the Diego Garcia/Chagos Islands fiasco only for the past several weeks, though the history is amazing. I wonder if, as the editor of Mauritius News, you might be able to put me in touch with Oliver Bancoult? Or perhaps with David Vine in the States?

I would be very appreciative; I think your coverage of the entire affair has been wonderful, though it is unfortunate that the story must continue for the Chagossians. —Particularly in light of recent U.S. elections.

All the best
Rachel

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Advertising feature
How to say it with flowers in Mauritius

Vanessa Ajoodha, the founder of Maurifleurs Ltd explains what motivated her to set up her unique flower delivery service in Mauritius.

I am Mauritian and have lived in Paris and London for over 20 years, and probably like many others I have many family and friends back home who I like to keep in contact with, and send flowers to on birthdays and other occasions. I find that flowers are always welcome and an attractive bouquet can brighten up someone's home for several days and be a pleasant reminder of the sender.

Over many years I have sent flowers to friends, family and loved ones in Mauritius and I have either used Interflora or occasionally asked one of my local friends to arrange the purchase and delivery for me.

The trouble with these methods is that the first is quite expensive and most of your budget seems to be used up on overseas fees so the resulting bouquet delivered can be quite disappointing.

The second is inconvenient for all involved and means you have to reimburse and trouble others to arrange a delivery. Also, you have no way of knowing what will actually be delivered because you rely on the Interflora service or a helpful local to buy on your

behalf.

I got so frustrated with this experience that I decided to launch **Maurifleurs**, a quality flower delivery service that offers UK based customers the opportunity to purchase an attractive bouquet at a reasonable price.

UK customers simply need to visit our website at www.Maurifleurs.com and choose from a bouquet, place the order and pay. They can also specify their personal message, which will be hand written on an attractive card to accompany the bouquet.

The bouquets offer excellent value so UK customers can now send flowers and know that the gift will be attractive and remembered. Orders are processed overnight so if you order today the bouquet will be delivered in Mauritius next day.

Maurifleurs operates in partnership with a very reliable, good high quality local Mauritian florist, so our customers can be assured that their gift will be delivered on time and in full bloom, using fresh local flowers.

So, now like me you can say it with flowers in Mauritius and know that your gift will deliver the pleasure you intended.

Contact **Maurifleurs** on
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