



**C**an you hear the jingle bells? Are you already decking the halls? If you answer yes and yes, this means the Christmas spirit is upon you. Indeed dear friends, December has come and the 2008 is near its end. We know that all of you cannot wait for Christmas fruit cake, hot chocolate and marshmallows, gift-unwrapping, Boxing Day shopping and FUN time with family and friends!

But before that, a few things need to be dealt with. Credit card bills and E-X-A-M-S! Yes dear friends, exam period is here! Luckily (or unluckily) for our fellow York University students, exams are the last thing on their minds, that is, until the strike is over.

In this month's newsletter, we are introducing a new section called "SRV 101 – Surviving Toronto". Check it out; it will be very helpful for those who still find themselves quite new to the city of Toronto.

Lastly, our deepest thoughts go to the families and friends affected by the recent terrible events, Mumbai Terror attacks.

Work hard. Play safe.

Good luck for exams, happy holidays, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2009...

## Chaitlall Guinness, CEO of SBM killed in Mumbai terrorist attack

After 60 hours of continuous anxiety concerning Chaitlall Guinness, CEO of the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) and his wife, Amreeta Guinness who were staying at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai when the terrorist attacks hit Mumbai on Wednesday night (26th Nov 08), the most feared news was finally announced by the Government of Mauritius - Chaitlall Guinness was killed.

Chaitlall Guinness and his wife left for Mumbai on Tuesday night and they were staying in the suite 551 at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel.

According to "Le Weekend" newspaper, Chaitlall Guinness and his wife were not together when the attacks started. After having diner that night, Chaitlall Guinness went to his suite while his wife went to make a few phone calls to relatives in Mauritius in the Business Centre of the hotel. It was at that exact moment that the attack on the Taj Mahal Palace hotel started.

Amreeta Guinness was evacuated safe and sound from the hotel by the Indian army but his husband was stuck in his room.

At 11.30am the next day, the CEO of the SBM could finally be contacted and he has asked for his evacuation. Everybody knowing Mr Guinness was relieved but things turned bad when there was no sign of Chaitlall Guinness when the first wave of hostages was evacuated. Since then, there was no clue of his location and whether he was safe until the ultimate news was finally announced...

Chaitlall Guinness, father of 2 daughters and having an accountant background, has been working for the SBM for more than 27 years. He has since been working hard, as well as devoting his time to his family and was finally appointed the CEO of the SBM.



*We would like to express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Chatlall Guinness.*

### Mumbai: The terrorist Abu Islami had a Mauritian ID in his possession.

Abu Islami was among the terrorists who were holding the hostages at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel. According to the Indian Intelligence, Abu Islami could be a citizen of India.

Besides the Mauritian ID found on him, there were also credit cards issued to his name.

Abu Islam had been staying in the hotel for several days and weapons could have been sneaked into the hotel through him.

### Cable giant, Blue Jays owner Ted Rogers dies at 75

Rogers, who was being treated for an ongoing heart condition, died at his home in Toronto, according to a statement released by his company on the 2nd of December. He was 75.

Ted Rogers founded his company in 1960, by initially buying the radio station CHF1-FM with borrowed money. Since then, he lifted his business from one fledgling radio station into a \$25 billion Canadian institution.

In 2000, he bought the Toronto Blue Jays and the SkyDome, which he renamed the Rogers Centre.

**UofT:****Staff, faculty open their homes to international students**

UofT has more than 7,000 international students coming from all around the world. But every year when the university closes for the December holiday break, most of them are unable to return home and those living on-campus residences have to move out.

Thanks to the help of the UofT staff/faculty, some of those students have the chance to spend the holidays and celebrating christmas and new year at the staff/faculty houses.

<http://www.news.utoronto.ca/campus-news/staff-faculty-open-their-homes-to-international-students.html>

**York U:****Talks between York and striking union break down**

The union representing CUPE 3903 had not changed any of its demands for wage raises or contract terms. They kept rejecting binding arbitration that will put an end to the strike affecting 50,000 students. No talks have been scheduled at this point.

York University strike update: no deal reached

After two days of negotiations, a deal between York University and striking workers has not been reached. The mediator suspended talks Saturday evening. The school is going in it's 4th week of strike. CUPE 3903 kept rejecting binding arbitration that will put an end to the strike affecting 50,000 students. No talks have been scheduled at this point.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2008/11/14/york-university-meets-with-union.aspx>

**SRV 101 - Surviving Toronto****Health Insurance (UHIP)**

Any non-resident student is eligible for UHIP. The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) provides basic health care insurance to its members. UHIP can save you a lot of money spent when visiting a doctor. If you haven't got your card yet, please do so.

For more information on coverages and claims, please visit <http://www.uhip.ca/> or contact your international student services at your respective universities.

**Shopping tips**

Want to get good deals when shopping? Boxing day (26th Dec) is the ideal day for that. Some stores open as early as 6am and can have "once-in-a-year" deal where you can get discounts as high as 75% off any item.

When shopping for electronics (laptops, mp3 players, etc...), be careful and don't let yourself get easily convinced by the salesperson. Do your research or consult a friend who really knows about electronics before attempting to buy.

Simply don't let you be fooled and get something "value for money."

**Some interesting telegrams ever received...****TELEGRAM #1**

A daughter sends a telegram to her father on her clearing B.Ed exams, which the father receives as: "Father, your daughter has been successful in BED."

**TELEGRAM #2**

A husband, while he is on a business trip to a hill station sends a telegram to his wife: "I wish you were here." The message received by wife: "I wish you were her."

**events coming up...**

- **Cavalcade of Lights 08**

Cavalcade of Lights Saturday Night Firework  
December 6, 13 & 20, 2008

The 42nd annual Cavalcade of Lights presented by Scotiabank sets Toronto aglow with a month-long calendar of spellbinding events including spectacular fireworks, sparkling lighting displays and a one-of-a-kind holiday tour of Toronto's picturesque neighbourhoods. It ends on the 31st December with a **New Year's Eve Bash** hosted by CityTV with an open-air concert featuring some of Canada's hottest musical talent and a countdown to 09.



- **Leisure Ice Skating**

Every winter, the city of Toronto opens public ice rink for leisure ice skating (weather permitting). Rinks already open (downtown area):

- Nathan Philips Square
- Harbourfront Natrel Rink

Skates rental are available at most of the rinks for about \$7.

For more info, please visit

[http://www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation\\_facilities/skating/outdoor\\_ice\\_rinks.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/skating/outdoor_ice_rinks.htm)

**Mauritius:****HSC: Mauritius investigates exam papers leak**

The Mauritius Education ministry and the Mauritius Examination Syndicate (MES) have started an investigation following a leak of examination papers of the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

Some students reported that through the forum "BlackPapers", they were able to discuss with Malaysian and Pakistani students about the exam they were going to take the following day which somehow had similar questions.

Students feared that they would have to have take new exams in certain subjects, but luckily for them, the report from the investigation has cleared any allegations about the leaks.

Students can now just relax and enjoy their well-earned holidays.

<http://lemauricien.com/mauricien/in081201.htm>

**Rafael Nadal was in Mauritius in November**

Rafael Nadal went to Mauritius for 1 week with his girlfriend Maria Francisca Perello. He was invited by the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and stayed at the Royal Palm Hotel.

His interview can be found at: "[http://www.mauritiusupdate.com/page.php?page\\_id=60](http://www.mauritiusupdate.com/page.php?page_id=60)".

**Zinedine Zidane in Mauritius**

The french soccer legend, Zinediane Zidane is in Mauritius for business and is staying for 5 days with his business partners for a housing project in Mauritius.

<http://www.lexpress.mu/Story/205~Zinedine-Zidane-%C3%A0-Maurice-pour-affaires>

**Canada:****Stolen garbage bins**

Under the new garbage collection plan in Toronto, people need to use the new bins provided by the city in order for their garbage to be collected.

But, since the implementation of this new plan, hundreds of household have reported the theft of their bins.

**World:****Late workers, students get notes blaming NY subway**

People late for school or work because of New York City subway delays can get notes from the transit agency to give to their teachers or bosses.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/odd\\_subway\\_delay\\_notes;\\_ylt=Aj0OHh6ju9kNyfmF7FGvGTPtiBIF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/odd_subway_delay_notes;_ylt=Aj0OHh6ju9kNyfmF7FGvGTPtiBIF)

**French say they need biggest condoms**

The French say they need the largest condoms in Europe while Greeks get by on smaller ones, according to a Europe-wide study by a German consultancy that provides advice on condoms.

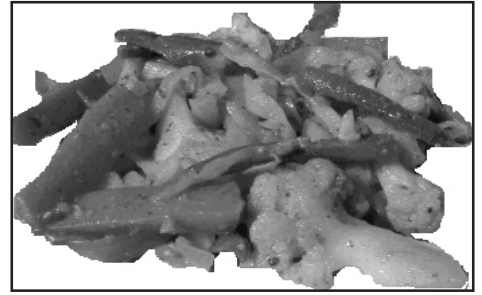
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081128/od\\_uk\\_nm/oukoe\\_uk\\_germany\\_condoms;\\_ylt=AnTEiyFaeIXso6yRMGn1y6TtiBIF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081128/od_uk_nm/oukoe_uk_germany_condoms;_ylt=AnTEiyFaeIXso6yRMGn1y6TtiBIF)

**Germany faces Santa shortage**

Wanted: Cheerful, chubby men, preferably with fluffy white beards and no criminal record, ready to work hard for one month.

Germany is running out of qualified Santa Clauses and needs to recruit and train them fast, a leading job agency says.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081124/od\\_nm/us\\_germany\\_santa\\_odd;\\_ylt=Arqi8WIGefc7SzPov76\\_zxrtiBIF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081124/od_nm/us_germany_santa_odd;_ylt=Arqi8WIGefc7SzPov76_zxrtiBIF)

**Light Vegetable Pickle****Ingredients:**

- 200 grams finely sliced cabbage,
- 200 grams carrots cut into matchsticks,
- 200 grams French/haricot beans finely sliced lengthwise,
- 1/2 medium cauliflower, separated into small pieces,
- 3 tablespoons black mustard seeds,
- 2 tablespoons crushed garlic,
- 1 tablespoon turmeric powder,
- Optional (sliced green chillies according to taste),
- 10 tablespoons of vegetable oil (preferably mustard oil),
- 2 large onions finely chopped,
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar,
- Salt to taste.

**Method:**

1. Drop vegetables in hot boiling salted water and blanch until slightly cooked but still crisp. Remove from water, drain and allow to dry out.
2. Blend mustard seeds, turmeric powder with garlic and a little water.
3. Heat oil, fry onion until transparent. Add the mustard/garlic/turmeric paste and some salt. Stir fry for one minute until cooked.
4. Add vegetables and green chillies, mix well until well coated. Remove from heat.
5. Allow to cool and stir in the vinegar.
6. Place in dry jars and store in refrigerator.
7. Enjoy as an appetiser or in white bread rolls.

<http://ile-maurice.tripod.com/achard.htm>

**alo moris**

MONTHLY NEWS FROM YOUR MAURITIAN STUDENT GROUP

Your monthly 'Alo Moris' is brought to you by the executives of:

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ps: We'd love to hear from you, so please do not hesitate to contact any of us...