Michel Magras

Saint Barth's First Senator

Michel Magras, A Local Official At The Heart of The French Republic

s small a French territorial collectivity as Saint Pierre and Miquelon in terms of population size, Saint Barthélemy plays a special role in the French Republic, as the first municipality to evolve into an Overseas Collectivity (COM) given a certain autonomy in terms of certain domains whose jurisdiction has been transferred (taxes, urban planning, environment, energy, transportation...). The COM also benefits from a special legislative status, which might not mean much to a lot of people but is very important in that it allows for the exclusion or adaptation of many national laws to meet local needs. How often must this special status be used? Why is Saint Barthélemy represented in the French Parliament by a single senator, yet is the only French territorial collectivity (along with Saint Martin) not represented in the National Assembly? These are the questions that increase the importance of the mission set out by Michel Magras, the COM's first senator, and the first elected official born in Saint Barth to hold a seat in the hemicycle of the French senate.

At the end of the fist six months of his term (Michel Magras was elected as senator on September 21, 2008), The Journal de Saint Barth, our French-language big brother, joined the senator at the senate in Paris for the debate on the laws covering the economic development of the overseas territories. The perfect occasion to get to know a little more about this elected official who now splits his time between Paris and his native island of Saint Barth, where he remains a vice president of the territorial council.

Excerpts from the interview that appeared in the Journal de Saint Barth:

Journal de Saint-Barth: As the senator from Saint Barth, your mission is to best defend the inter-



ests of the Collectivity. Yet you define yourself as an elected official of the French Republic.

Michel Magras: I do not consider that my role is limited just to the interests of Saint Barthélemy. While that is my primary mission—and I am totally dedicated to my territory—as a senator I am also a senator for the French Republic. As such, my role comprises voting on laws and exercising controls on the actions of the parliament. We also vote on the national budgets, and can propose new laws.

Keeping an eye on the interests of Saint Barthélemy, means keeping a rigorous watch in order to protect our special legislative status as a COM as defined by article 74 of the Constitution. It also means not forgetting or underestimating the fact that there are many old laws which are still in effect Saint Barthélemy, as long as they have not be repealed or modified, even in the areas whose competence has been given to the Collectivity!

Journal de Saint-Barth: Legislative oversight, specific legislation, what is the difference?

Michel Magras: Legislative oversight is the fundamental job of all senators, yet it is reinforced by the fact that the Collectivity is controlled, in certain areas, by specific legislation. This specificity applies to all laws, future as well as those on the books now.

This translates to an obligation to examine each text on the agenda of the senate in terms of our specific legislation, and where necessary, propose by amendments those modifications better adapted to our situation. In other words, where specific legislation is concerned, the rule is that "the laws do not apply, with exceptions," in opposition to the legislative identity that states "the laws do apply, with exceptions?"

Also, if a new law touches on the responsibilities of the COM, it is for me to say if we want that law to apply to us or not. But if it concerns a domain regulated by the federal government, it is for me to be sire that the project has taken into consideration the interests of the Collectivity, and if that is not the case, to propose amendments to adapt it....

Legislative oversight is therefore a permanent part of the job, and my presence in Paris is justified at all times.

Journal de Saint Barth: In addition to your role as a senator, you act as a liaison between the Collectivity and the government ministers. Can

you explain what that means?

Michel Magras: In general, access to the ministers is pretty much open to the senators, at least for the majority of them. That is how I can create a junction between the ministers and the Collectivity.

The ministers are also present during assemblies where they are often part of commissions or groups that are examining specific laws or then certain laws they support are presented. We often have lunch or dinner with them, which helps reinforce our personal relationships and access. In addition, each minister's office has a staff member whose job is to interact with the parliament and they work on a daily basis to create a liaison between the representatives and the ministers.

These contacts on various levels represent a major interest for the Collectivity: that which allows us to explain our political position to those who are the decision makers.

Journal de Saint Barth: The president of the Senate has said that you fought "like the devil" to get a deputy for Saint Barth. And you seem to be the only, or almost only, person to still believe that a seat for a deputy from Saint Barthélemy is still possible. Why this strong conviction?

Michel Magras: my regret is not having been able to convince Bernard Accoyer, the president of the National Assembly, and especially Jean-Luc Warsmann, the president of the Laws for the National Assembly to pro-

vide a deputy for Saint Barthélemy.

Why do I remain convinced we need a deputy? First, a deputy is a link to the National Assembly, which in contrast to the Senate, works on more partisan positions. In the National Assembly, we could discuss the real hostility in terms of Saint Barth. I think there are those on the right as well as the left who are opposed. But having an elected deputy for Saint Barthélemy would make sure that what is done in the Senate is not undone in the National Assembly. This is important as the texts are often examined in an urgent manner, that is to say, with only one reading in the Assembly...

Journal de Saint-Barth: In concrete terms, what can be done to obtain this post for a deputy, and in doing so, go against the decision of the constitutional council?

Michel Magras: The only way to change the decision of the constitutional council is to modify the Constitution! That is what I plan to propose a constitutional law that would guarantee that every Overseas Collectivity is represented by a deputy and a senator. I know it will take time, but there will be revisions to the text of the Constitution in the years to come which could allow for us to obtain this representation in the National Assembly. I maintain the hope that one day the Parliament will see the need for a collectivity to be represented in both the Senate and the National Assembly.

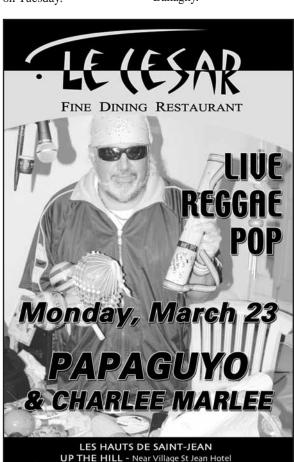
French Overseas Secretary of State in St Barth On Saturday

As of Thursday, March 19, French Overseas Secretary of State, Yves Jégo, is making his first visit to the



French Antilles since the end of the general strikes on the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. He will make a stop in Saint Barth on Saturday after spending a day and a half in Saint Martin, and will then go on to visit Guadeloupe and Martinique before returning to Paris on Tuesday.

In Saint Barth, he has a busy schedule on Saturday morning, including a visit to La Ligne de Saint Barth, a meeting with the gendarmes and with the population, as well as a champagne toast at the Collectivity, where the National Order of Merit will be presented to Jean-Pierre Ballagny.



Tel. 05 90 27 70 67 -lecesar.sbh@hotmail.fr

Record Number of Boats On The Starting Line!

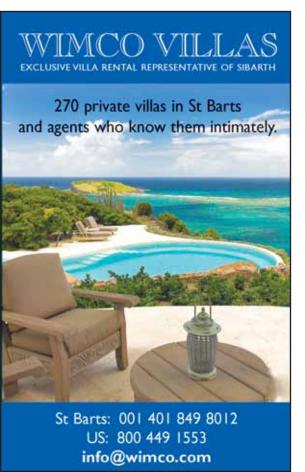
The 14th edition of the St Barth Bucket—which takes place March 26-29—promises to be a record-breaking year, with the largest fleet to date comprising 35 magnificent sailboats. But the large fleet is not the only big news for this Caribbean sister regatta of the Newport Bucket, which takes place every year in July in Newport, Rhode Island: as of this year, the St Barth Bucket is affiliated with the French Sailing Federation (FFV), and Melanie Smith, who served as the local organizer for the race since its debut in Saint Barth has passed the torch to Wendy Kronenberg, of Nautica FWI. She works with the US-based Bucket committee, led by Hank Halsted, Timothy Laughridge, Ian Craddock. Organized in close collaboration with the Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy, the Port of Gustavia, and the Saint Barth Yacht Club, the Bucket Regattas are unique in the history of sailing as they are invitational events reserved for the big boats, most of which measure over 100' in length. Over the years, this private, exclusive regatta has continued to gain in popularity, not only for the owners and skippers who come to race, but also the spectators who are lucky enough to watch the great show these boats put on as they sail around the island for three days. The "baby" of the fleet is the 76' W-Class Wild Horses, while the largest is the famous Maltese Falcon, which weighs in at 289'. A participant in the 2007 Bucket, this yacht has gained celebrity status around the world for its three high-tech, rotating carbon-fiber masts, which house the fifteen

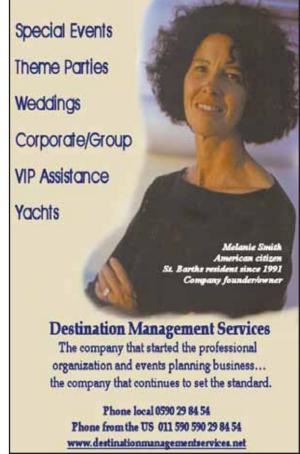
square sails (five per mast). In addition to the Bucket "regulars" who race every year, this year's newcomers include: Baracuda, Moonbird, Shamoun, and Varsovie. Also in the fleet is the new Perini Navi 125' racing sloop, P2, which was designed by naval architect Philippe Briand and launched June 14, 2008. Built for racing, with a hull constructed in Sealium, an aluminum alloy which provides greater mechanical strength and improved corrosion characteristics, while reducing weight, P2 combines comfort and speed.

In the next edition of The Weekly: Bucket Regatta schedules, security precautions, special events on the dock, the best spots to watch the yachts, and the weekend weather forecast.

ENTRIES FOR THE 2009 ST BARTH BUCKET:

Maltese Falcon (289'), Baracuda (186'), Salute (184'), Adela (180'), Parsifal III (177'), Meteor (170'), Perseus (163'), Andromeda La Dea (154'), Antara (154'), Windrose (152'), Saudade (148'), Helios (148'), Timoneer (147'). Rebecca (141'), Ranger (137'), Destination Fox Harb'r (134'), Ganesha (128'), Moonbird (126'), P2 (125'), Freedom Whisper (116'), Sojana (115'), Unfurled (112'), Paraiso (108'), Shamoun (108'), Kalikobass II (104'), Virago (100'), Varsovie (100'), Léopard III (100'), Sapphire (100'), Windcrest (98'), Symmetry (96'), Wild Horses (76')





TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit?
Listen to live music? Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party!

Special Events

Claude Challe in St Barth
Friday, March 20
Happiness Party by Claude
Challe, the iconoclastic
lounge DJ at The Yacht
Club

Live Music

► Every Evening
-Lounge mix by Jacques
Dumas, 7:30pm to 1am
Bar'tô, Hotel Guanahani
March 2-21

Darian Cunning Quartet, Indie, soul, Alternative from 9pm to midnight, Bet'A Z'ailes, Gustavia Friday March 20

- PapaĞuyo & Charlee Marlee LIVE reggae'pOp from 8pm at La Mandala, Gustavia

Saturday March 21
- Live Music with PapaGuyo
& Charlee Marlee, from 7pm

at Caviar Island, Gustavia
- Live music with DJ Patris
Gero, La Mandala, Gustavia
D Sunday March 22

- PapaGuyo & Charlee Marlee "Reggae Pop" from 1pm at Dõ Brazil, Gustavia

- Íbiza Sunset Cocktail by Patris Gero from 4pm at Dő Brazil, Gustavia Monday March 23 Pana Guyo & Charles

- PapaGuyo & Charlee Marlee "Reggae Pop" from 1pm at Le César, St Jean

Night Club

- Yacht Club, Gustavia

Eleven 12, GustaviaThe Strand Supper club

- The Strand Supper Club - Hot Spot Café, Lurin

Let's Party

- New suggestions every nights: Fashion show & dance show at le Ti St Barth, Pointe Milou

Friday March 20

- M&M Evening: DJ Maxx (Nikki Beach St Barth) & DJ Mick of "Z" at the Strand Supper Club, Gustavia - C-Will & Wise from New York City, New Vibe Musik at Hot Spot Café, Lurin Saturday, March 21

 Saturday, March 21
 C-Will & Wise from New York City, New Vibe Musik at Hot Spot Café, Lurin

- Saturday Night Fever at The Strand, Supper Club - Love Music for a lovely night at Yacht Club, Gustavia

■ Sunday, March 22
- Djoul from St Barth at The

Strand Supper Club
Monday March 23
- Disco Night avec Fabien
Kouffach, at Yacht Club,

Gustavia

Mednesday March 25
Bling Bling (R&B Deluxe)
Old Skol meet the future at
the Strand Supper Club

- Bad girls with DJ Piro at Eleven 12, Gustavia ▶ Thursday, March 26 - Overkitch 70-80-90 (compli-

Overkitch 70-80-90 (complimentary Champagne for ladies till 1pm) at the Strand Supper Club

- Latino rhythm with DJ Nando at Hot Spot Café,

Fashion Show

Every Tuesday

- 6:30pm: Fashion show by the pool, from the boutique at the Isle de France, Flamands

- 9:30 pm, Fashion Show & Dance Show at Ti St Barth, ▶ Everyday

- 1:30- 2 pm, Case de l'île, Isle de France, Flamands

- 1.30pm & 8:30pm, fashion show featuring Wild Side, La Plage, St Jean

- Fashion show at le Ti St Barth, Pointe Milou

- 1:00pm Fashion show at Le Tamarin, Saline

Exhibitions

March 12- March 19
Karen Petit at la Porta 34,
Gustavia

Through March 25
Catherine Feric at Carole G.
Art Gallery, Gustavia.

Permanent exhibits

• Works by Cyrille Margarit at Nikki Beach, St Jean

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Exhibition

Photography by Wolfgang Ludes, at Clic Bookstore and Gallery, Rue de la Republique in Gustavia. Receptions for the artist will be held on Friday March 27 at 8pm.

 Paintings by Suzanne Mac Nally, Les Artisans, Gustavia

 Sculptures by Timothy Holmes, Comptoir du Cigare, Gustavia
 Acrylic paintings at

Sandra's Art Gallery, Gustavia. • Alain le Chatelier, Les

Artisans, Gustavia
• Rose Murray, Comptoir du

Cigare, Gustavia

• Group show at Pipiri

• Group show at Pipiri Palace, Gustavia

Zaza Noah at Bar'tô
 Restaurant, Guanahani Hotel
 Grand Cul de Sac

Artists' collections

Pompi, Petit Cul de SacDidier Spidler, Gustavia

Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac
 Mitchell Summer, Toiny

Art Galleries

- To-b.art galerie, Gustavia - Sandra's Art Gallery,

Pipiri Boutique, Art Gallery,Spindler Art Gallery,

Spindler Art Gallery,GustaviaTomBeachArtStudio.

- Clic Gallery, Gustavia

Until March 26, 2009
DOMINIQUE
ROUSSERIE
"BARCODES"
Dominique Rousserie surprises us once again with the exhibition "BarCodes".
In the tradition of naturalists who detail rigorously

the plant, Rousserie has

painted a long series of

nique of BarCodes that

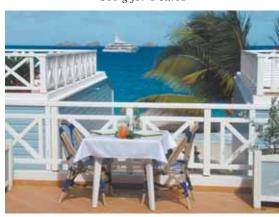
interests the artist.

plants. Today, it is the tech-



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Puzzle Gaz

www.sudokustar.fr There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!"Fill in the grid so that every row, every

column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9."That's all there is to it. (Solution page 10)

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Classified ads

For sale: 1,000 square meters of land with building permit for a villa with swimming pool. Private inquiries only, no brokers. harrissonb@hotmail.com

Rental

Mature couple looking for one year rental, 1-2 bedroom furnished Villa/ apartment anywhere on hillside. St Jean, Lorient, Gustavia preferred retiring to St Barts, know island and everyone well. Need year, maybe two. Ron at drfederici@aol.com or US 703-963-8861

Real Estate

Villa for Sale: Flamands - 3 BR, 2.5 Bath spectacular views from 2 large terraceswalk to beach. - Flawlessley maintained, beautifully decorated, rented weekly. \$1,950,000 USD ct2415@yahoo.com

For sale, this 3 bedroom villa is set on the hillside of Anse des Cayes with wonderful views. It is a perfect investment opportunity to either renovate or construct a new villa as it is sold with a permit for a 3 bedroom residence and a caretaker/ guest house; St. Barth Properties

Sotheby's International Realty: 0590 29 75 05

For sale, a 3 bedroom house under construction that is situated on the tranquil hillside of Petit Cul de Sac and offers pastoral views. Good opportunity;

St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty: 0590 29 75 05

For sale, several commercial leases very well situated in Gustavia and St Jean. Each receives excellent exposure and offers a great opportunity for a new business venture; St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty: 0590 29 75 05

Services

Enhance your knowledge of French while enjoying your stay in Saint-Barth. Lyne, a French biographer and journalist, will help you master French. Lyne at 05 90 29 38 11 or 06 90 53 17 23.

Looking for ...

... Housekeeper Rental villa in Colombier. Rented most weeks high and low season. Must be able to speak English and have a back-up person available... Contact Lousie ct2415@yahoo.com

Solution

Check the solutions to the Sudoku page 6

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Water system 05 90 27 60 33

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Evangelical church Gustavia Sunday 9am



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