

N°173- March 20, 2009



Local News
in English

FREE

St-Barth WEEKLY

Published by Le Journal de Saint-Barth
05 90 27 65 19 - stbarthweekly@wanadoo.fr



Michel Magras

Saint Barth's First Senator



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

As 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 first 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 been 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 sure 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



Yves Jégo with Michel Magras

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.

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Monday, March 23

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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 (124'), Axia (124'), 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')

14th Annual St Barth Bucket:

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 Barthéle-

my, 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.

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Special Events

Claude Challe in St Barth

► **Friday, March 20**
Happiness Party by Claude Challe, the iconoclastic lounge DJ at The Yacht Club

- C-Will & Wise from New York City, New Vibe Musik at Hot Spot Café, Lurin
► **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

► Wednesday 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 (complementary Champagne for ladies till 1pm) at the Strand Supper Club
- Latino rhythm with DJ Nando at Hot Spot Café,

Live Music

► Every Evening

- Lounge mix by Jacques Dumas, 7:30pm to 1am Bar'tô, Hotel Guanahani

► March 2-21

Darian Cuning Quartet, Indie, soul, Alternative from 9pm to midnight, Bet'A Z'ailes, Gustavia

► Friday March 20

- PapaGuyo & 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

► Sunday March 22

- PapaGuyo & Charlee Marlee "Reggae Pop" from 1pm at Dô Brazil, Gustavia
- Ibiza Sunset Cocktail by Patris Gero from 4pm at Dô Brazil, Gustavia

► Monday March 23

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

Night Club

- Yacht Club, Gustavia
- Eleven 12, Gustavia
- 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

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

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

► Artists' collections

- Pompi, Petit Cul de Sac
- Didier 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, Gustavia
- TomBeachArtStudio,
- 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 plants. Today, it is the technique of BarCodes that interests the artist.



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			3				4
	2		4		5		
5						2	7
	6			5			
	1	9		7		2	8
			1				6
4	8						3
		3		1			9
6				8			

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	American Airlines 00 599 54 52040
<u>Taxis</u>	Gustavia 05 90 27 66 31
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<u>Town Hall</u>	05 90 29 80 40
<u>EDF</u> (electricity company office)	05 90 29 80 81
<u>Water system</u>	05 90 27 60 33
<u>Post office</u>	Gustavia 05 90 27 62 00
<u>Marine Reserve</u>	06 90 31 70 73
<u>Catholic church</u>	Sunday 8:30am Gustavia 05 90 27 95 38
<u>Anglican church</u>	Sunday 9am. 05 90 29 74 63
<u>Evangelical church</u>	Gustavia Sunday 9am

Solution

Check the solutions to the Sudoku page 6

2	5	1	3	8	4	7	9	6
8	9	4	6	7	1	3	5	2
3	6	7	5	2	8	1	4	9
9	3	8	2	1	5	4	7	6
5	8	4	7	6	9	1	3	2
4	1	7	5	3	9	2	8	6
7	2	9	1	6	8	4	5	3
2	7	6	4	9	3	8	1	5
4	8	1	3	2	5	6	9	7

St Barth WEEKLY

Published by "Le Journal de Saint-Barth" ISSN-1766-9278

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Impression : Daily Herald

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