



M.A.M

P.O. Box 410
 Montserrat
 Tel. 664-491-3685
 Email: lowellewis@hotmail.com
 Web Site: montserratreporter.org/mam
 (©) Lowell Lewis

MONTSERRAT ALIVE MAGAZINE

Contents

New Year Greetings 1
 Editorial - Why Run in the Next Election? 2
 The Airport Issue 3
 Are we a Non-People 4
 Provocative Journalism 4
 - Health Sector Report
 - Mud Flow Alert – OECS Heads Meeting
 - New Risk Map
 Determining Factors 8
 Big Belly Philip 8



Miss Unity 2000 - Estelle Furlonge - Photo Courtesy Cecil Cassell

New Year Greetings

I wish all residents and visitors in Montserrat a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

We should all welcome the year 2001 with confidence that we will achieve a guarantee of the survival and sustainable development of our community. This must be achieved through a process of consultation, participation and empowerment of all the people of Montserrat, wherever they are.

Government must continue with its traditional obligation to provide adequate infrastructure, education and secure financial institutions in the promotion of economic development.

Our future will only be secure through the implementation of flexible policies that are transparent and not subject to nepotism and political patronage. We already have mechanisms for monitoring and regulation that assists our leaders in fulfilling their roles with personal responsibility and accountability, so that their decisions not only benefit certain individuals and groups, but the country as a whole.

Our civil service is the most valuable asset and resource that we possess.

They have got rid of the traditionally inherited attitudes of indifference, inefficiency, bad management and waste associated with policies and expenditures for political maintenance rather than developmental purposes.

The Public Service is an indispensable part of which ever team has charge of the affairs of Montserrat. We must do whatever is necessary to encourage and motivate willingness to work with zeal and confidence, and willingness to strive enthusiastically towards achieving progress.

The same applies for the private sector and for every household in Montserrat.

We can all have a happy and prosperous 2001, but it depends very much on our efforts and the help of Almighty God. Let us continue the Christmas Spirit throughout the year, with love and caring for everyone.

Happy New Year to you All

Keep Montserrat Alive Magazine Archives

“Diary of an erupting volcanic island - An editor’s view”

- KMAM 1 May 13 1996
- KMAM 2 May 29 1996
- KMAM 3 September 1996
- KMAM 4 November 1996
- KMAM 5 January 1998

Web Site: <http://www.montserratreporter.org/mam>



Editorial

Why Run in the Next Election Which Should Be Now?

It is important that the choice of candidates at the next election include experienced, committed, hard working, capable and trustworthy people who can be part of the decision making authority.

A doctor is just as entitled as anyone else, whether they be an economist, lawyer, preacher, labourer, or ex civil servant to be an elected representative, if the people so wish.

The deciding factor we must accept is - "If the people so wish" My supporters continue to encourage me to exercise my democratic right. They realize that political appointment is compatible with private medical practice and contract appointment in the Government service, and some remember the time when the Chief Medical Officer was an ex-officio member of the executive council.

Progress in Montserrat requires radical change. We need a proper partnership with the United Kingdom in order to achieve meaningful development of our island and the practice of self-determination.

Montserrat was once out of Grant Aid, and we will be again, but not if we lose our key personnel and are forced to adopt unaffordable systems and standards not essential for our existence.

Over the coming months, candidates will have to present how they will bring about these radical changes. They will have to prove to their peers what they have to offer, and why they deserve to be leaders.

Those presently in power have the opportunity to actually do and initiate the development activities that I am committed to.

These include-

1. A documented plan and simulation of Operation Relocation as a preferred option to Operation Exodus.
2. Convincing our U K and regional Partners that Montserrat can become a desirable tropical refuge from the colder northern climates, and is worthy of the investment of appropriate funds to complete the approved sustainable development plan.
3. A landing strip for fixed wing aircraft in the North.
4. A golf course in the North.
5. A road to Rendezvous Bay and Thatch Valley, with infrastructure for serviced plots and a hotel complex .
6. Infrastructure for housing developments at Judy Piece, Dick Hill and Barzeys.
7. Transfer of management of housing developments to private housing associations.
8. Expansion of the Electricity, water and road programmes.
9. Proper facilities at the sea ports at St. Johns Antigua and Little Bay
10. A road connecting Isles Bay Hill to Foxes Bay and one from Foxes Bay to Richmond Hill and restoration of water and electricity. .
11. Petrol stations at Carr's Bay and at St. Peters.
12. A marina, town houses and shopping centre at the Northern end of Carr's Bay,



MAM Editor - Dr. Lowell Lewis

13. Conference centre and Tourist Shopping Village, including vegetable market near Festival Village.

14. Expansion of the capacity for production and marketing of agricultural and fishery products.

15. Organised local television programs with a budget for entertainers and performers.

16. A restart of manufacturing activities, including reestablishing of the Rice Processing Project.

17. A License for Dr. Cooper's off shore medical school and facilitation for the return of AUC.

18. A civil service with a Development Department that takes over the functions of DIFD.

19. A finance centre committed to creating wealth to take us out of grant aid, lead to the end of personal income tax and support a social welfare programme with similar benefits to those in the UK.

20. Appropriate interim support for such a social welfare programme to encourage and facilitate return of volcano evacuees and retired nationals.

21. Legislation to prohibit the charging of interest on mortgages or loans for assets in the exclusion zone, and refund of interest paid during the period of closure.

22. A health service that provides primary preventive care for all residents and competent secondary care services, to guarantee care for elderly residents and visitors.

This list is not exhaustive and is meant to provoke discussion.

Our people want more than just new faces to share the prize jobs.

This is a challenge to those with the desire to see a new Montserrat to come forward with their active support for their choice of leadership.

Why should the elections be called now?

Firstly, because the preparations for Operation Relocation cannot wait until February 2002. If a surge of the magnitude of June 25th or December 26th 1997 comes down Mosquito Ghaut which is now almost full and flat, the hot clouds will spread out quickly to reach Friths, Belham and Salem. That is why some of us expect to hear sirens whenever pyroclastic flows associated with intense seismic signals are seen at the top of Mosquito Ghaut. The glowing dome and tumbling rocks ought to alert residents in that area, to be in a pre-evacuation mode.

Secondly, I cannot see how the UK would want to cooperate with a local administration that persists with programmes which are contrary to the strategy of the agreed sustainable development plan. (See pg. 15 section 2.4.1. "Further public investments in new assets should not be considered at this time." The refusal to accept that there is a difference between the areas listed as moderate, low or minimal risk is not surprising, since this is the same attitude that prevailed in relation to Farms and Trants where people perished.

The Airport Issue

Recent exchanges on the Internet Evergreen network revealed much information on the dilemma of providing the people of Montserrat with the landing strip promised by the British Prime Minister in 1997. We were left with the disappointing realization that despite an expensive consultancy by Gibb Ltd, we still do not know for certainty whether it is safe for aircraft to land at either Gerald's Bottom or Thatch Valley.

Not with standing that fact, like many other people, I have taken the common sense approach of making a decision which would not be influenced by factors such as, whose friend is looking for a big contract in the construction of the airport, and whose buddies are likely to make a fortune selling land.

I have been accused of making a hasty decision, but in reading the Gibb Report Brochure which gave options at Gerald's for both a 600m and 1100m runway, I decided that, providing the preliminary investigations to verify safety yielded satisfactory results, that we should proceed with the Gerald's Bottom option which was considered affordable.

Mind you, even the issue of the cost is not settled, since everybody knows that the \$20 million earmarked for transporting topsoil from Thatch Valley to Trants is not necessary. What we need is action and a decision, not talk and consultancies that have predetermined objectives.

In this life we have differences in opinions, and we make mistakes, but I know from my profession, that difficult life saving decisions must be taken, and the consequences accepted. In this situation, it is the economic life and future of our island that must be saved.

This airport issue is such an important one for us, that if the lady in charge of DIFID agrees with our sustainable development plan, which requires a lot more than 25 million pounds per year over the next 5 years, she should come

to Montserrat and personally give the green light for a strip at Thatch Valley, or for even better effect, a strip and a golf course at Old Cow.

I am allowed to discuss these various options and show indecision on this issue, since I have no access to the technical information needed for decision making.

We must be able to convince our partners(?ex colonial masters) from the temperate regions of this planet, that it is worth while investing in our island and community, so as to make it a welcome refuge from the cold winter months.

In my opinion, the most important outcome of the discussion was the following comment by one member, which demonstrates that despite our efforts to fight disinformation, that we still have an uphill battle convincing anyone that it is an acceptable risk to spend large amounts of money in Montserrat.

She wrote .

"If the volcanic reports mean nothing to anybody...what's the use? People still believe that the island is just a time bomb waiting to go off."

My response: " We cannot allow this assumption to go unchallenged. Whenever this statement is made it must be clarified with an appropriate response . The scientific reports on the MVO web site clearly state that the risks to areas north of Lawyers are minimal (1/120,000)(I add that this is similar to the risks of living in neighbouring islands), Woodlands- low (1/5000) and Belham -moderate (1/400). This means that whether or not anything happens(i.e. this time bomb goes off) the areas north of Lawyers need not be evacuated and does not require any courage or sentimental passion for people not to want to leave this area, and makes this area suitable for major investment projects such as an airport at Gerald's Bottom or Thatch Valley, and hotel complexes at Rendezvous and Little Bay.



An aerial view of possible landing strip at Old Cow looking from bottom of Look Out.



In addition, it is my opinion that our knowledge of the volcano and the monitoring systems in place, make it possible, even when the dome is growing, for us to occupy areas as far as Bransby Point. However we must accept that under certain likely conditions, South of Belham will be closed, and that under very rare and unlikely circumstances, the line for the exclusion zone will be moved, temporarily, to Runaway Ghaut.

.The following was one response received.

Lowell- Just a suggestion: rather than saying “However we must accept that under certain likely conditions, South of Belham WILL be closed, and that under very rare and unlikely circumstances, the line for the exclusion zone WILL be moved temporarily to Runaway Ghaut” you could say the same thing without the implied certainty that nobody, not even the MVO scientists, feel obligated to use.... For example, “However, we must accept the fact >that under certain conditions, conditions subject to variability in prob-

Are we a Non-People?

The situation regarding our status, mirrors the ongoing debate by the countries of Europe about giving up identity. The British will not. They will only accept a |Europe of Nation States, in which the British and Westminster identity remain intact.

Similarly, the Montserrat community will only remain alive and the ‘people of Montserrat’ retain their identity, if they resist being swallowed up within a group of disempowered Overseas British Territories. Our survival and resilience in handling the devastating natural disasters of Hurricane Hugo and the Volcanic eruption, stems from the sense of identity, belonging, possession and independence which makes us strive for excellence and equity,

and refuse to be merged into a metropolis of ‘minority’ groups.

The Government of Montserrat, which should represent the people of Montserrat and their interests wherever they are, should remember that they are supposed to be partners, albeit unequal partners with separate identities. Montserratians in Britain, though enjoying the privilege of British Citizenship, still cherish their Montserratian identity. Similarly those in Canada and the USA do not regard themselves as Canadian or American. I suspect that they will support those of us who have made personal sacrifices to preserve the homeland of their identity.

Many of us, like the nationals of other independent CARICOM states, have received university education and permission to travel throughout Europe and North America even though we do not have British Citizenship. And who says that a well respected government of a tiny microstate cannot negotiate for special privileges to be retained while some degree of self-determination is practiced.

ability as long as the volcano remains active, South of Belham could be subject to closure and the line for the exclusion zone could be required to be temporarily extended to as far north as Runaway Ghaut.” though, through our private conversations I understand where you are coming from, what you write comes across as if you believe you have greater vision of the certainty of what will happen in the future than most people believe you or anyone else can have.

My reply

Hi, I agree that I have no greater vision of what WILL happen than anyone else. I am just sharing my interpretation of the published scientific projections and pushing for us to be appropriately prepared..

For easier understanding the following definitions are offered “certain likely conditions” = large mudflow down Belham.

“Very rare and unlikely circumstances” = Pyroclastic Flow down past the Bridge at Belham.

Provocative Journalism

During the last 3 months I have taken the risks of what I refer to as provocative journalism, aimed at stimulating discussion on critical issues, and influencing decisions. I describe it as a risky activity because it puts one’s reputation on the line, and threatens relationships with

colleagues who have a difference of opinion.

However, provocative non libelous journalism, which can be ignored, through its effect on public opinion, can stop the progress of inappropriate actions.

Three examples follow.

Health Sector Review Report

In September I shared my comments on a Health Care Review report, to stifle a recommendation for a change in the job description of the Chief Medical Officer to one in which responsibility for administrative and policy matters could be moved offshore. The subsequent releases to the press on this issue are evidence of response, but the effect may be negative in that the requirements of the post may still be adjusted to exclude any local or regional applicant.

Excerpts of my comment are shared with readers below.

”I am pleased to note that the report agreed with our impressions that future explosive activity of the volcano will put at risk, only the areas of Salem, Friths and Old Town, and that the probability of large accumulations of ash arising in the North over the next three years are low.(1 –2%). However I was surprised that they did not comment about the inappropriate return of the Secondary School and the Governor’s Office to the above named area of risk. Especially in light of their recommendations for the management of children with chronic respiratory problems.

I was pleased with the statement that **“The conclusion of Montserrat as unsuitable for children under 12 years**



of age, is unnecessary and unhelpful”.

I found the comments about the Health Care Services unsatisfactory. I agree that the care at the hospital and clinics need improvement. The layout at the casualty department is appalling, there is no privacy for patients being consulted and the service almost comes to a standstill when a single ill patient on a trolley occupies the single examining space available.

It is unacceptable that surgical procedures are still being done in a make shift operating theatre, which imposes severe stresses on staff and patients, even though the stresses for patients are less than those associated with going overseas for surgery.

I am of the opinion that the procedure for referral overseas is operational but under funded. Whenever the medical officer on duty assesses a patient as requiring overseas care, he first consults with the receiving doctor overseas and then refers the matter to the CMO's office for authorisation and implementation.

I suspect that the review team did not appreciate the fact that the Government of Montserrat (that bears the direct responsibility for care of its people) did not accept the recommendation (not a directive) for all or most of its secondary care services to be delivered overseas. In consequence government recruited medical officers with secondary care skills and allowed specialist practitioners like myself to work in Montserrat.

Since the U.K. CMO's report of 1997, 290 surgical procedures have been done in the temporary improvised operating theatre. 204 minor and 86 major operations, involving 120 general anaesthetics. It is easy to do an audit of these patients, since they can all be interviewed in one week, thus providing a more objective measure on the merits of having a resident surgeon and an operating theatre, similar to what exists, but at the location of the hospital.

This service on island has saved the people of Montserrat thousands of dollars, and the inconvenience of difficult travel overseas for patients and their families. More importantly, several employment opportunities have been preserved and the staff have had some continuing work experience to maintain their skills, and their ability to provide adequate service at special times of crisis, such as during hurricane warnings or heavy ash falls, when the island may be cut off for several days.

There seems to be an obsession with the evacuation of patients overseas for care after stabilisation, despite the obvious fact that this policy will cost much more than the cost of employing appropriate staff to provide a basic level of secondary care on island.

In addition many patients have been very unhappy with their experiences at the Hospital in Antigua.

I have a particular interest in paragraph 16iii as this introduces new criteria for competence to do operations and the assessment of adequate skills for performance.

I support most of the views regarding Children of UK Government employees, but differ slightly on section 22. I feel that one of the medical officers should have experience in obstetrics and that any surgeon in post on the island should be capable of doing emergency caesarian sections, for the non high risk patients who get into difficulty at night. In addition the mid-wife led service should be supported by an obstetrician who visits once per month.

The recommendation for removal of the CMO shows little regard for the considerable administrative tasks under taken, and does not recognise the difficulties of directing staff who perform poorly and resist the imposition of U.K. style medical practise. I believe an easier option exists for achieving the objectives.

It is not necessary to have a medical specialist and a medical clinical director. The medical director, could be supported by two primary care physicians, with experience in surgery, obstetrics and anaesthesia.

The very good working relationship between Dr Avery and his non medical staff would make it much easier to correct the deficiencies identified by the report. I know he would enjoy being on the rota for casualty services and willingly join a weekly ward round, in order to correct identified problems of staff supervision.

OECS Heads Meeting A success but a missed opportunity

Another example of provocative journalism practiced was with regard to the issue of mudflows at Belham River and the venue for the Meeting of the OECS Heads of government.

The conference was a success in that Salas Hamilton and his supporting staff from the Chief Ministers Office, and the staff of the Vue Pointe Hotel showed how expertly and efficient they are at organizing a first class event. It certainly proved that the Vue Pointe Hotel is worthy of support for a Northern extension of their tourist product, so that they can continue their business through-out all eventualities.

It was a missed opportunity for us to get the leaders going away saying that “you can visit and live in Montserrat without fear of harm from the volcano. That during the meeting they were not even aware of the volcano's presence and had to take a long drive over two mountain ranges, in order to see it.

Instead we had the media selectively reporting the honourable Prime Minister Bird of Antigua praising the people of Montserrat for their courage. Courage of our babies and old people who actually need no courage at all to live comfortably in Montserrat.

Tropic Film Studios

Producers and Distributors

Of local video films

Now Available - Festival 2000 Highlights

P.O Box 410, Montserrat

Tele # (664) 491-2379



We missed a chance to reduce the number of our neighbours who still think that we should all leave, and discourage visitors from coming to Montserrat.

In retrospect, the choice of words could have been less alarming, but the timing was right in that all the planning arrangements were complete and appropriate public relations response by the Chief of Staff dealt with my malice.

Readers can make their own judgement from the two postings which were made.

9th November 2000

MUD FLOW ALERT

Yesterday, Wednesday 8th November, 2000, several people were temporarily stranded on the southern side of the Belham Valley and had to leave their cars overnight.

Once again we seem to be ignoring the obvious warning signs that nature gives us, not accepting that a mud slide tomorrow could be ten times as big as the one yesterday. There was a boat moored at the mouth of the Belham river.

In addition, we now seem to be drawing the Heads of Caribbean Governments into the ignorant madness that refuses to recognize the real danger of an eminent, but easily manageable volcanic eruption. While I regret any loss of business that the View Pointe Hotel may experience, or the inconvenience of Isles Bay' residents being temporarily unable to occupy their homes, I believe that it is stupid to hold the Heads of Government Meeting in the foreground of the volcano, at a time when the Day Time Entry Zone is closed because of high activity.

It would be quite possible for the conference to be held at a variety of locations in the safe Northern area. The dining room of the Tropical Mansion Suites, The Pentecostal Church at Brades, the Anglican Church at St Johns or even the Good Life Restaurant at Little Bay after making some building adjustments.

We may get away with it, and nothing happen while the conference is held at the mouth of the Belham River, but once again we will have demonstrated to the region and the world that we do not accept the ever present danger, and do not intend to take appropriate actions to secure the long term safety and future of Montserrat.

I would fully support holding the meeting at the View Pointe Hotel, if the activity was low, and the day time entry zone open, but cannot condone the current level of risk taking, especially with the recent criticisms of BBC broadcasts.

I am not an alarmist, just some one with the guts to make public what I believe, until the recognised authorities present us with the appropriate reassuring information.

12th November 2000

My posting on mud flows had the desired effect. Exercising my right to freedom of expression and posting my personal opinion to a private E-mail group, on matters which are of public interest, upset

several people and generated a series of phone calls and emails, the contents of which ranged from polite requests for clarification, to angry accusations of un patriotism and madness.

I no longer worry about being called an attention seeker, because that is what politicians do, and if I had persisted earlier, the tragedy at Harris and Farms may have been avoided and by now we would have had a landing strip in Montserrat.

The questions "How serious are the mud flows?" The mud flows that we have had or likely to have, carry no risk whatsoever to any of the dwellings or business places around Isles Bay and Old Town, but I cannot accept that it is okay for tourists to be driven across the river within hours of any kind of flow. Even 4 wheeled drives can get stuck in mud.

"What do I mean by ignorant madness" I believe that photographs and film of the heads of government carrying on business as usual in front of a fuming dome, will be as upsetting as what the BBC showed. Every body in Montserrat knows that there is nothing wrong with people living and working in Isles Bay and Old Town under the present circumstances. And I will add that the same thing applies to Delvins and Foxes Bay, which could well be used for supervised sand mining. However we cannot say with certainty that this will be the case in 2 or 3 weeks time, and I don't think meetings of this kind should be held with this level of uncertainty. Further more I believe that we should take every opportunity to demonstrate that continuous life and activities of all kinds can and will take place in Montserrat for all time, regardless of what the volcano is doing or may do. This absolutely necessary if we are to give investors confidence and salvage our economy.

"What reassuring statements" I have since been reassured that the MVO has every thing under control and are confident that they can give adequate notice of any event likely to disrupt the meeting. I have also been reassured that there are contingency plans in place to hold the meeting at an alternative venue if necessary.



Flag bearing Cadets at OECS Heads meeting at Vue Pointe Hotel

The New Risk Map

To members of the EE Network

I propose to send the letter below to the Attorney General. All comments would be appreciated before I hand it in. I personally extend a welcome to all and sundry to spend Christmas with us in Montserrat. The 4000 to 5000 of us who live here are quite safe, and as you can see by these postings, it is not only the scientist and government officials who are trying to make sure we do not have another 25th of June 1977 disaster. In addition, we continue to encourage the authorities to be open and transparent with the peoples' business.

*Hon Attorney General
Attorney General's Chambers
G H Q Brades Montserrat
23rd November 2000*

Dear Sir,

I write to you by way of this open letter, as a concerned citizen of Montserrat, for information regarding legal aspects of the current volcano risk map and visitor's guide in use. The Northern zone which is described as safe, includes Isles Bay and the Belham Valley.

The last report of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory includes warnings. "that the Belham Valley is subject to mud flows", "that pyroclastic flows may occur on all sides of the volcano." (This includes a corridor of 1 mile width extending from the crater along the Belham Valley to the sea at Isles Bay). In addition the scientists admit that it is too dangerous for them to replace monitors on the North Western wall, which would give information on the outward movement of that side of the volcano. I therefore wish to know who would be liable for injuries sustained by visitors who are not aware of the current MVO report or do not get a copy of the visitor's guide.

I also wish to know if the residents of Montserrat who live to the North of the Nantes Ghaut can take legal action against this map which places them at the same risk as the area to the south as far as Belham, despite the fact that documented scientific reports and maps published on the MVO website, indicate that the area north of Nantes Ghaut

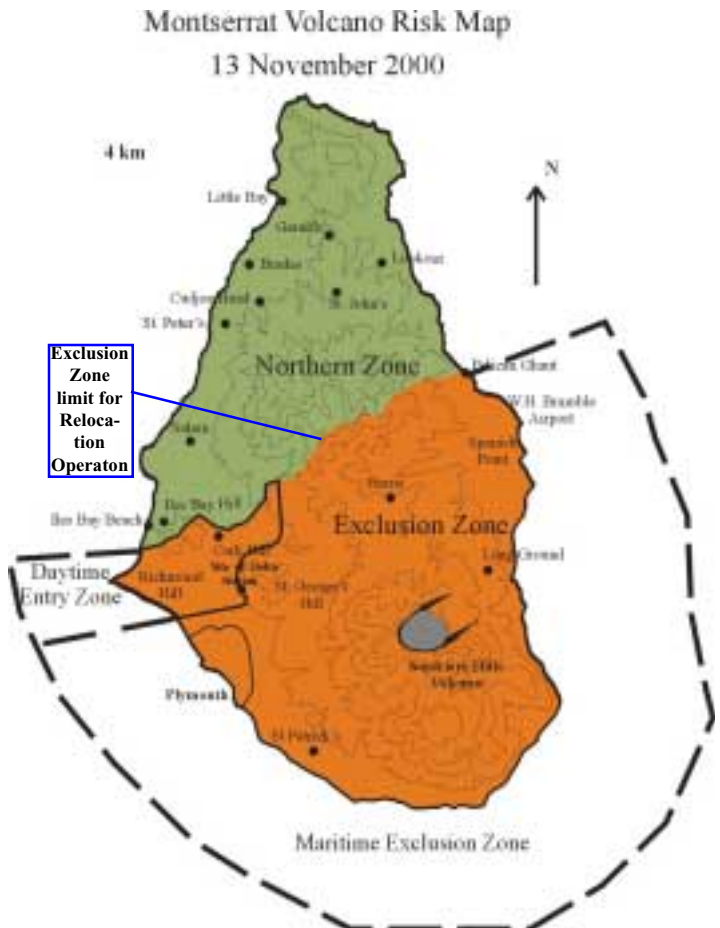
is safe for continuous habitation during all likely categories of eruption.

It is my opinion that this risk map increases the probability of the island being abandoned, to a level which makes it unrealistic for any body to make long term plans to live here, or to spend significant amounts of money on buildings in Montserrat.

It is therefore also my opinion, that the risk map should be modified to show that in certain situations, the Day Time Entry Zone and the Exclusion Zones may be temporarily extended to the Nantes Ghaut area, and that Operation Exodus will take place only after a more appropriate scenario than was used in the simulation exercise.

Yours sincerely,
Lowell Lewis

To date no response has been received. Perhaps actions will speak louder than words.





Determining Factors

The following paper has been accepted for presentation at the **XXVI General Assembly of the European Geophysical Society** in Nice, France March 25 – 30, 2001.

Local persons will present our experience at an international forum, and have yet another opportunity to market our tourism product.

Political, economic, sociological and psychological factors that influence responses to volcanic hazards. The Montserrat experience.

The ongoing volcanic eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano in Montserrat, West Indies has produced an interesting catalogue of events which demonstrate that political, economic and psychological factors are the major determinants of the responses to volcanic hazards at individual, institutional, national and international levels.

Despite the existence of clearly documented scientific reports and projections, major development projects and normal everyday activities continued during heavy ash falls in evacuated areas, and previously evacuated areas were reoccupied on two occasions, despite the presence of a continuously growing dome. Volcano risk maps conveniently allowed continued operation of the airport and seaport, and farmers continued to farm lands, even in direct view of pyroclastic flows progressing down adjacent valleys.

The potential for insurance claims, the effects of the crisis on real estate activities and difficulties acquiring lands in the safe northern area, hindered timely re-housing of residents and relocation of businesses.

A pause in the eruption between February 1998 and September 1999, when dome growth ceased, brought a change in the international response, more resources being provided for infrastructure development projects to allow a sustainable relocation to the North. However, the resumption of dome growth, ash eruptions and pyroclastic flows have once again seen the introduction of a convenient risk map and policy decisions which are not consistent with long term survival of

the island's community, in that certain key social and administrative institutions and infrastructure installations have not been placed in the areas of lowest risk, so as to minimize the disruption and cost of further eruptions.

Critical to the long term survival of the community is development of the northern most part of the island which is clearly out of reach of the volcano. Progress in this area has been hindered by misconceived environmental concerns for wild life in the area. Wild life that may in fact benefit from appropriately planned developments.

This paper concludes that honest, unbiased interpretation of scientific reports and projections, the provision of non volcano susceptible housing, institutions and employment, and improved public education, are essential for preservation of lives, the optimum use of resources and the sustainable survival of communities exposed to volcanic hazards.

Big Belly Philip

Forty two year old Marjorie lived on Low Road at Kinsale, next door to Teacher Robeert Riley. She had three children. 16-year-old Crystal, 14-year-old Beryl and Philip, her 9-year-old son. The children's father had gone to England in 1958, and used to send back Ten pound postal orders every month, until he got in a fight with some Teddy Boys and went to jail for stabbing one of them.

So Marjorie had to go back to pounding stone at the side of the road. The money was not enough, so the girls became tall and skinny, while Philip became stunted and pot-bellied.

Now Uncle Ben, who lived at Reid's Hill had come back from Panama, where he spent 40 years working on the canal. He was a miserable old man who kept complaining about not having any children to look after him in his old age, so Marjorie decided to give Philip to him.

When Philip got to Reid's Hill, he began to eat, and eat, and eat like a pig, so the old man put him out to eat with the pigs. Philip continued to eat and eat. He got fatter and fatter and the pigs were getting thinner and thinner.

So, one Sunday, the old man put all of Philip's things into a crocus bag, and took him back to his mother on Low Road. When Marjorie opened her door, she saw her fat son with a big grin on his face. She turned to the old man and said." Why you bring him back, don't you see his belly is still big?

Happy Hill Medical Center

**General practice
Adult and Pediatric General Surgery
Consultation by Appointment
Salem Office 9 am –12 noon: 2 pm - 4 pm**

**Telephone # 491-3685
St. Johns Office 5 pm - 7 pm**

Telephone # 491-2379