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BLOODY MARY

Vaibhav Gangan

New Zealand's national Muslim body called the decision of CanWest TV Works to screen the "Bloody Mary" episode of South Park "contemptuous" and "tasteless".

Javed Khan, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ), wrote to Rick Friesen, chief operating officer of CanWest TV Works

“The decision of CanWest TV Works to screen the "Bloody Mary" episode of South Park "contemptuous" and "tasteless".

demeans not just her person and the beliefs of those who revere her, but also humanity itself."

Javed also noted that the decision flies in the face of points affirmed by CanWest TV Works and others in a meeting on 8 February between media and religious representatives.

He said "the meeting affirmed the importance of freedom of the media and that this freedom comes with responsibilities, including sensitivity to diverse cultures and beliefs. Therefore the announcement leaves us in

grave doubt about the sincerity of CanWest TV Works' commitment."

Earlier on 8 February, Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres had organised a meeting of religious leaders with leading media. At the meeting, the two newspapers which published the cartoons - *The Dominion Post* and *The Press* apologised for the offence caused and gave an undertaking not to publish them again.

Lisa Beech, Research and advocacy officer of Caritas—the Catholic Agency for Justice Peace and Development, said the recent controversies over the publication of cartoons offensive to Muslim people and the South Park episode offensive to Catholics, appear to show that existing broadcasting standards are unable to take into account offence caused to religious communities.

The Global Indian decided not to publish the cartoons.

(For more opinion on the cartoons episode and media's responsibilities, please read our ["readers write" section](#).)

We'll be back with The Global Indian of the Month feature soon. If you know an Indian achiever in New Zealand, please nominate by emailing the editor.

WANT TO NOMINATE?

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CLASSICAL MUSICAL NIGHT

A senior citizens' Club in Bangalore (India) is organising a charity event to support the underprivileged children in India. The club, based in southern Bangalore, runs four primary schools for poor children, improving the lives of over 1800 children.

When Aucklander Krishna Subramaniam, working for Child, Youth and Family, visited India, he visited the schools and was impressed by the difference this effort is making to the lives of these children. His uncle, Bala Subramaniam, manages the schooling project, after having served the country in a senior position in the Indian Army. He leaves home early every morning to raise money to fund breakfast and lunch, uniforms and stationery for these children, besides buying old but working computers.

"The work is inspiring and humbling!" says Krishna. "One of the school buildings was donated by a very generous man."

"The children are intelligent, extremely well-behaved, and love school because they are fed, clothed and educated!" Krishna recalls.

This concert of music and dance has

been arranged to raise funds for the continuity of this project. You can help by buying a donation ticket (\$10) and attending the programme. For details contact Krishnamoorthy (ph.+64 9 626 7356) or Raju Chandra (ph. +64 9 827 3956).

Where and when: Skipton Hall, 53 Skipton St, Mangere, Auckland, Saturday 4th March, 7pm

Donation: \$10



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US-INDIA NUCLEAR DEAL

Ram Narayanan

The Times of India in an editorial (February 21) titled "Seal the Deal" talks about the considerable scope for creativity in resolving the nuclear issue. "The formula that the Centre has proposed on fast breeder reactors (FBRs) is evidence of the kind of creative compromise and tough albeit flexible strategy that is necessary to close the Indo-US nuclear deal."

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, who's visiting India, has offered a positive assessment of the current status of the deal to Newsweek's Fareed Zakaria. "We're 90% of the way there. We've got just 10% to go. And as long as both of us show flexibility in the details, I'm confident that we will come to an agreement," Burns said. Burns' appraisal, according to Chidanand Rajghatta of The Times Of India, was echoed by a top Indian official, who said a deal was achievable. It was all a matter of addressing apprehensions of doubting Thomases in both countries' constituencies that believed both governments were giving away too much.

Meanwhile, India signed a declaration with France setting out the parameters of an agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation, which will, however, take off only after Delhi concludes such a pact with the US. "The

On the eve of the US President George Bush's forthcoming visit to India in March, US-based Ram Narayanan explores why this visit is so crucial not only for the two countries, but for the rest of the world.

agreement, coming days before Bush's visit, may give Manmohan Singh's government some space to argue for the necessity of completing the deal with Washington," adds Indrani Bagchi.

A ton of misinformation has been circulating in recent weeks about the US-India nuclear deal both here in America and in India. Some of the misinformation is due

to incorrect understanding and appreciation of what the deal is all about. Sadly, however, some are in the nature of motivated attempts to sabotage the deal not just to hurt democratic India and ensure that Leninist China gains but, if possible,

derail the emerging multi-faceted strategic partnership between the US and India that's destined to change the course of this century!

Ram requests the readers of The Global Indian to visit his voluntary website and fill in the guest register to receive updates on US-India relations.

www.usindiafriendship.net

"Begin with praise and honest appreciation. Talk about your own mistakes before criticising the other person. Make the other person happy about doing what you suggest." Dale Carnegie (**Contributed by Bharti Hira, Wellington**)

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A SONG FOR LIGHT, MUSIC FOR LIFE

After four sell-out shows in 2004 and 2005, the Subcontinent Artists Guild Inc. (SCAG) are presenting a brand new production - 'CHARAG' - (meaning 'Light' in Urdu). The Guild will for the first time introduce to Auckland audiences their brand of Bollywood and South Asian music and dance polished with influences of funk, jazz and pop," says SCAG's president Afreen Rahman. All proceeds will go to Oxfam New Zealand's earthquake reconstruction work in Pakistan and India.

Previously, the artists associated with SCAG generated

\$20,000 for Oxfam's Tsunami Relief Aid through their sellout show 'Crossings' in Wellington last year. SCAG aims to surpass this effort with 'CHARAG'. The Global Indian magazine is a media sponsor helping the cause.

Auckland, 25 March 2006, 8.00 pm, Dorothy Winstone Centre, Auckland Girls' Grammar School

Wellington, 7 and 8 April 2006, 8.00 pm, Victoria University Memorial Theatre

Tickets: \$20 (General); \$15 (Child); \$75 (group of five)

Auckland: Ashok 6267424; Reena 021891303; Vikas 021449110; Shashi 8389959; **Wellington:** Bhagavan 4767600; Afreen 4780786; Jayesh 4779600



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‘OPEN PRISON’

Richard Worth

It now seems clear that the increasing cost of containing prisoners is causing the Government to substantially shift its position on law and order issues.

The new proposal is that low level sex offenders, thieves and drink drivers could be released into "open prisons".

Aimed primarily at those sentenced for less than six months, eligible offenders (from actual case studies) would include:

- A taxi driver found guilty of indecent assault - six months.
- A woman who stole more than \$11,000 from a sick woman in her care - six months.
- A man who was convicted of 72 charges of fraud and 3 of theft - six months.
- A man who was convicted for his sixth drink-driving offence, as well as assault and breaching community work - five months.
- A man who was convicted of 6 charges of theft, assaulting police, resisting police, and possession of cannabis - three months.



Census 2006

The planned Census on 7 March 2006 will involve for the first time the prospect of completing the census return on the internet.

The first reference to a census on any broad scale appears in Luke chapter 2 when Caesar Augustus ordered a census of the "entire Roman World". That saw Joseph and Mary who lived in Nazareth return to Bethlehem for the census taking and the birth of Jesus.

It was the date of the Census which established that 7AD was the last year in which Jesus could have been born.

The second great Census was in 1086 when William the Conqueror sent men over England to each shire to find out "what or how much each landholder had in land and livestock and what it was worth".

The Domesday Book Census included an estimate of land value and unsurprisingly found that land in the North of England was worth less than land in the South as a result of war and insurrection in the North. That value disparity continues today.

Richard is Shadow Minister of Justice. A law school topper, he was chairman of New Zealand's largest law firm, Simpson Grierson.

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NEW ZEALAND

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

AUCKLAND—On Saturday 11 March, Waitakere Ethnic Board in association with Basketball NZ will host the India Men's and Women's Basektball teams at the Trust Stadium. WEB is keen to get as many Indian people at the stadium to support these team on their way to the Commonwealth games.

Saturday March 25 - WEB is organising Waitakere International Cultural Festival to celebrate diversity (in cooperation with Human Rights Commission and Waitakere City Council).

Saturday 25 March, 2006, 10am to 6pm. Te Pai Park, Lincoln Rd, Waitakere City

Market stalls, food stalls, games and prizes, art and dances

Contact ann.pala@winmac.co.nz on (09) 818 4450.

INDIA

INDIA TO OPEN PRAVASI CENTRES

NEW DELHI—India will soon open special offices in five countries to address the myriad problems faced by overseas Indians, Press Trust of India reported. The centres will also coordinate their investment plans back home. The offices, likely to be named "Pravasi Welfare Centres", will be set up in the Middle-East, Europe, the United States and South-East Asia. They will be under direct control of Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs.

"These centres will cater to the problems faced by Indians abroad like labour issues, visa troubles and their social and cultural needs," Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi told PTI. Two centres would be opened in the Middle-East, where a large number of Indians reside, he said. He further said that they may come up in Dubai or in Abu Dhabi, but the decision on their locations has not been taken.

FIJI

FIJI JOBS WARNING

WELLINGTON—Fiji citizens should think twice before handing over their hard-earned savings to a company reportedly promising jobs picking apples in New Zealand, says New Zealand Immigration Minister David Cunliffe.

News reports in Fiji said Pooz Travel World was promising Fijians work in New Zealand picking apples and charging \$2000 for the service. People were quoted in the article as saying their life savings had been used as payment.

The Immigration Advisors Licensing Bill, to regulate immigration agents and provide greater protection to those who use their services, is currently before a parliamentary select committee.



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MEDIA MASTER-MIND

Vaibhav Gangan

The row over the publication of cartoons worldwide and especially in New Zealand seems to have quietened in some quarters, while others are only gaining more momentum.

The controversy brought out both the good and the bad in people. Although we appreciate freedom of press and speech, it's not an absolute freedom. Healthy communities are built by laughing "with" people, not laughing "at" people. Unlike Danish culture editors who published the cartoons first, New Zealand editors had enough evidence to realise the impact the re-production of cartoons will have on New Zealand's society – not just the Muslim community. Although we have responsibility

"Kudos to the Muslim community of New Zealand for their peaceful and mature response to the immature act of some scribes."

to the society – not the one that divides it!

Kudos to the Muslim community of New Zealand for their peaceful and mature response to the immature act of some scribes. On the previous occasion when some Auckland mosques were vandalised following the London

blasts, the community had shown similar poise. It's human nature that inaction or absence of bad action goes largely unnoticed compared to a good action.

"Though there might be such demands (execution or amputations for the cartoonists) elsewhere we here in New Zealand do not hold such a position on dealing with the cartoonists nor those who might have published those cartoons," Auckland Girls Association President Tayyaba Khan wrote in a letter to the New York Times. "Islam is a religion of peace, and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) would have also endorsed dealing with this situation in a peaceful and calm manner. For that reason we, the Auckland Muslims, would uphold what our faith demands of us."

A small country like New Zealand, and it's even smaller Muslim community have shown a positive manner of addressing issues while the world is taking to more violent means.

Publication of the cartoons has done more damage than good, at economic, social and political level. Potential loss of export business is estimated to run into millions of dollars, and couldn't have come at worse time when our economy is heading for a downturn. On social front, we have a long way to go to become a society that's tolerant of over 200 cultures residing in New Zealand. Politically, there is a fear of trade sanctions. All this for freedom of press? Or is there more to it?

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51ST FILMFARE



BEST FILM



BLACK DAY

Vishal Singh

It was a clean sweep for Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed *Black* at the 51st Filmfare Awards in Mumbai. The movie won best film award while Sanjay won best director, Amitabh Bachchan and Rani Mukerji won best actor and best actress respectively.

BEST DIRECTOR



BEST ACTOR



BEST ACTRESS



NOW SHOWING



TAXI 9211

Nana Patekar and John Abraham come together for the first time under the Ramesh Sippy banner for this

situational comedy about a journey of a cabbie (Nana) and his passenger (John). It's an absolute pleasure to see Nana in a comic role after a long time. John shares a good timing with Nana. A good entertainer!

TOP 10 SONGS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Rang De Basanti (Rang De Basanti) | 6 Right Here Right Now (Bluffmaster) |
| 2. Yeh Hai Meri Kahani (Zinda) | 7 Humko Tumse Pyaar Hai (title song) |
| 3. Qatra Qatra (Family) | 8 Dil Deewana (Jawani Diwani) |
| 4. Aayo Re Saki (Water) | 9 Ek Ajnabee (title song) |
| 5. Dulhania - (Dosti) | 10 Ada (Garam Masala) |

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RUNNING ENGINE

A mechanic was removing the cylinder heads from the motor of a car when he spotted the famous heart surgeon in his shop.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, 'Hello doctor! Please come on over here for a minute.' The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic.

The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked argumentatively, 'So doctor, look at this here. I also open hearts, take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish, this will work as a new one. So how come you get the big money, when you and me is

doing basically the same work?'

The doctor leaned over and whispered to the mechanic "Try doing it with the running engine."

Daddy's password!

While my brother was tapping away on his home computer, his ten-year-old daughter sneaked up behind him. Then she turned and ran into the kitchen, squealing to the rest of the family, "I know daddy's password! I know daddy's password!" "What is it?" her sisters asked eagerly. Proudly she replied, "Asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk!"

Contributed by Sanjay Belia, Wellington

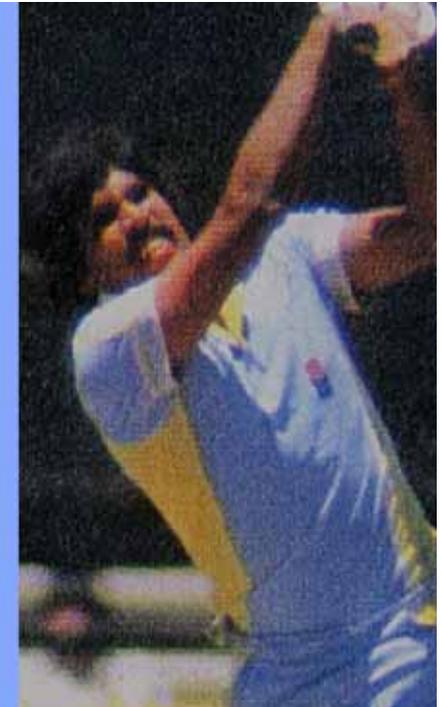


Retro Cricket

In 1981 India faced up against New Zealand & Australia in the Benson & Hedges World Series of Cricket. They may not have won but Kapil Dev & the boys certainly looked great in their retro shirts.

Now it's your chance to wear a piece of history.

Order your retro cricket shirt at
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FRIED MUTTON

Ingredients

1 dish thick mutton slivers

some salt

1 egg

1 tsp. cumin

1 tsp. ground pepper

1 tsp. paprika

1 bowl cornstarch-water

1 cup oil

Method

Mix mutton slivers well with cornstarch-water and egg mixture.

Heat oil in a wok till very hot, then drop the well-mixed slivers in. Stir-fry and separate them with chopsticks.

Then, empty slivers into a strainer and preserve the oil in



wok.

Finally, place slivers back in the wok and stir with ground pepper and paprika, salt and cumin. Empty them into a dish and serve. Best served when hot!

Contributed by Yen Lin, Singapore



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LET'S WELCOME THE NEW LIGHT!

Sanjay Karhade

The 'Dravidians' need to be complimented wholeheartedly for hitting back by winning the one-day series hands down after losing the test series. The one-day series threw up a new concept of day-evening matches. The original concept of day-night matches came up especially in the wake of receding crowds for matches



Sanjay Karhade has been writing on current affairs and sport in India for over two decades. He contributes to The Global Indian on the current and sporting front in India.

played on weekdays. The concept afforded cricket followers an opportunity to watch exciting play after attending to their bread-n-butter duties.

The day-evening matches started good three hours before the scheduled time of 2.30 pm. Still the crowds showed up and the concept, in a way, seemed acceptable at least to the cricket fans in Pakistan. The scenario will not be very different in India when it comes to matches against Pakistan, or one-day series between Australia and England or South Africa or West Indies or India or Pakistan are concerned.

I like this concept for a few reasons. First, the cricketing reason. A match getting over around 7 pm means answering the issue of "dew factor affecting the result of

the match" to a great extent. The issues like: white ball doing the tricks, bowlers unable to grip the ball, the red cherry slipping out of the fielders' hands, and the outfield getting heavier thereby affecting the run scoring can at least take a back seat, if not wither away altogether.

The concept is also very relevant to the Indian sub-continent. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh face great deal of power crisis. The new concept will empower these countries by the power saved. Except Bangladesh,

“The 'Dravidians' need to be complimented wholeheartedly for hitting back by winning the one-day series hands down after losing the test series.”

other three countries play, on an average, 35 to 40 one-day matches! The Board of Control for Cricket in India may be a power-packed house as far as its kitty is concerned. But, the Pakistan Board is just getting better with regular Indo-Pak series and the Sri Lankan and Bangladesh cricket boards are in shambles.

And finally, the issue of global warming is already giving alarming signals and it's obligatory to take steps on war-footing in this respect. Everyone is aware of the kind of heat generated by the floodlights and any step, even as small as playing day-evening matches, should go a long way to answer the issue.

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NOURISHING YOUR SOUL

Jasbindar Singh

“The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and god, Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that god wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.” Anne Frank

The phone rang – it was a dear friend inviting me for the weekend to Waiheke Island. Quite spontaneously, I decided to pack and go. It was a gloriously warm, summer day. The 35-minute ferry trip provided some wonderful variegated snapshots of the changing seascape. In the bright sun, the water was simply gleaming – a palate of shades of aqua and turquoise, dancing in merriment. The harbour was teeming with Aucklanders in their boats; fishing, sailing or just cruising. Even the different bays on Waiheke looked like little colonies with all the visiting boats berthed closely. It had to be one of the hottest days in Auckland, the temperature even a few degrees higher on the island.

Jasbindar Singh is a business psychologist and executive coach. www.sqconsulting.co.nz



Set in the less inhabited and quieter part of the island, my friend's, Mikhaela's, home had all the peace and

tranquility of a monastery. We had nourishing food, walked on the beach, visited the local market, sampled the works of the artisans, had deep and meaningful conversations about our

different yet similar sense of calling, and engaged in some serious laughter. I was reminded of the joy and pleasure to be derived from the simple things including those souls who we really connect with and are gifted to call our friends. It's easy to get caught up in the rat race and neglect what is truly joyful, precious and nurturing for our souls. Here's a reflective question for you, "what are you doing to nourish your soul today?"

As we said goodbye, we promised not to leave it for another year before I returned. It was another milestone in our enduring friendship. On the trip back, I felt replete as I let the cool of the ocean-spray wash away any vestige of old thinking. Like a butterfly, I emerged from the chrysalis and was ready to fly.



“The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and god...”

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BLOODY MARY EPISODE

Auckland Muslim Girls Association (AMGA) is extremely distressed with TV3 and C4 owner CanWest MediaWork's decision on allowing South Park's "Bloody Mary" episode to be broadcast. Mary the mother of Jesus Christ is a highly esteemed and respected woman to every Muslim and Christian in the world. The Holy Qur'an has a complete chapter dedicated to Mary, part of which states:

"And (remember) when the angels said: "O Maryam (Mary)! Verily, Allâh has chosen you, purified you (from polytheism and disbelief), and chosen you above the women of the 'Alamîn (mankind and jinns) (of her lifetime) ." (3:42)

Just recently we witnessed numerous media organisations despicably insult the faith of 1.3 billion Muslims across the globe in the name of "freedom of speech". This "freedom" is now being abused again by negligent media associations as Muslim and Christian communities sadly await South Park's outrageous cartoons of Mary, the purest woman in history. Television network executives and senior staff casually argue the media's right to demean women and femininity by justifying the offensive nature of satirical depictions which "make people think". Surely the multi-million dollar profit-making media machine can "make people think" without the need to trample over half the global population's sacred religious figures! It's disheartening to watch the

media's constant disregard for the faiths and cultures of the public it aims to serve by exploiting its right to freedom of speech and abandoning the responsibility that comes with it.

Tayyaba Khan, President, Auckland Muslim Girls Association

The Wellington Council for Christians and Jews supports the legal right for citizens to express themselves freely, and believes that the media should not be unnecessarily restricted by legislation. At the same time, we believe that the media have a moral obligation to consider the emotional and spiritual effect of their material prior to publishing.

It was morally wrong to republish the Danish cartoons which the Muslim community found so offensive. We would also ask CanWest to reconsider their decision to air an upcoming episode of South Park, which they know will deeply offend many Christians should it be screened.

We accept that there are times when it is necessary to disseminate information that some people will find offensive. In our opinion, however, the damage done by these particular actions far outweighs any resulting positive outcomes.

Harold Klug and John McCaul, Co-Chairs, Wellington Council for Christians and Jews; Dave Moskovitz, President, Temple Sinai - Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation



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ARE YOU A KIWI?

Did you know that New Zealand is pretty much the only place in the world where you cannot actually be a New Zealander? Whenever you fill out a form or survey in New Zealand you can tick the box to say you are Maori, Tongan, Australian, European (or NZ born of European Decent), Asian, etc but there is no box to say "Yes, I am a New Zealander." In Australia, you can be an Australian. In fact in Australia you can be a New Zealander.

Most people are proud of their ethnicity, and so will tick whichever box they feel applies to them. Many of us however consider that we have been in New Zealand for long enough now that we should be able to claim that as who we are...regardless of where our ancestors may have come from many centuries ago or what the colour of our skin or shape of our face might indicate.

If you support us in our desire to be recognised as New Zealanders then, on the 2006 NZ Census form, when you are asked for your ethnicity, choose the option "Other" and state your ethnicity as "New Zealander"

If we can get enough people to do this then maybe, just maybe, we can get the powers that be to sit up and recognise that we are proud of who we are and that we want to be recognised as such, not divided into sub-categories and all treated as foreigners in our own country.

Brian D'Silva, Auckland

AUCKLAND INDIAN SPORTS CLUB

Please come to the Junior Hockey Enrolment Day Sunday 5 March 2006, 4pm to 5.30pm at Avonadle College Hockey Turf, 203 Rosebank Rd, Avondale organised by Auckland Indian Sports Club. We are a total hockey Club catering for mini hockey (five-year olds) through to Under 15 and Under 18 Grades through premier hockey level. We have an extensive junior coaching programme and have over the years produced many Auckland region and New Zealand representatives at all age groups including Olympic hockey players. For more info contact Ronnie Nathoo 4180 371, 4184 373, 021 807 303.

Deepak Lala, Auckland

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