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# The Most Exotic Country You Never Heard of: Vanuatu

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[www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com)



**Class 3**

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# Topics Today:



**Miss Vanuatu**



**Hams on Van**



**Cyclone Pam**



**Super-yacht, super-model,  
super-scandal**



**Wacky politics**



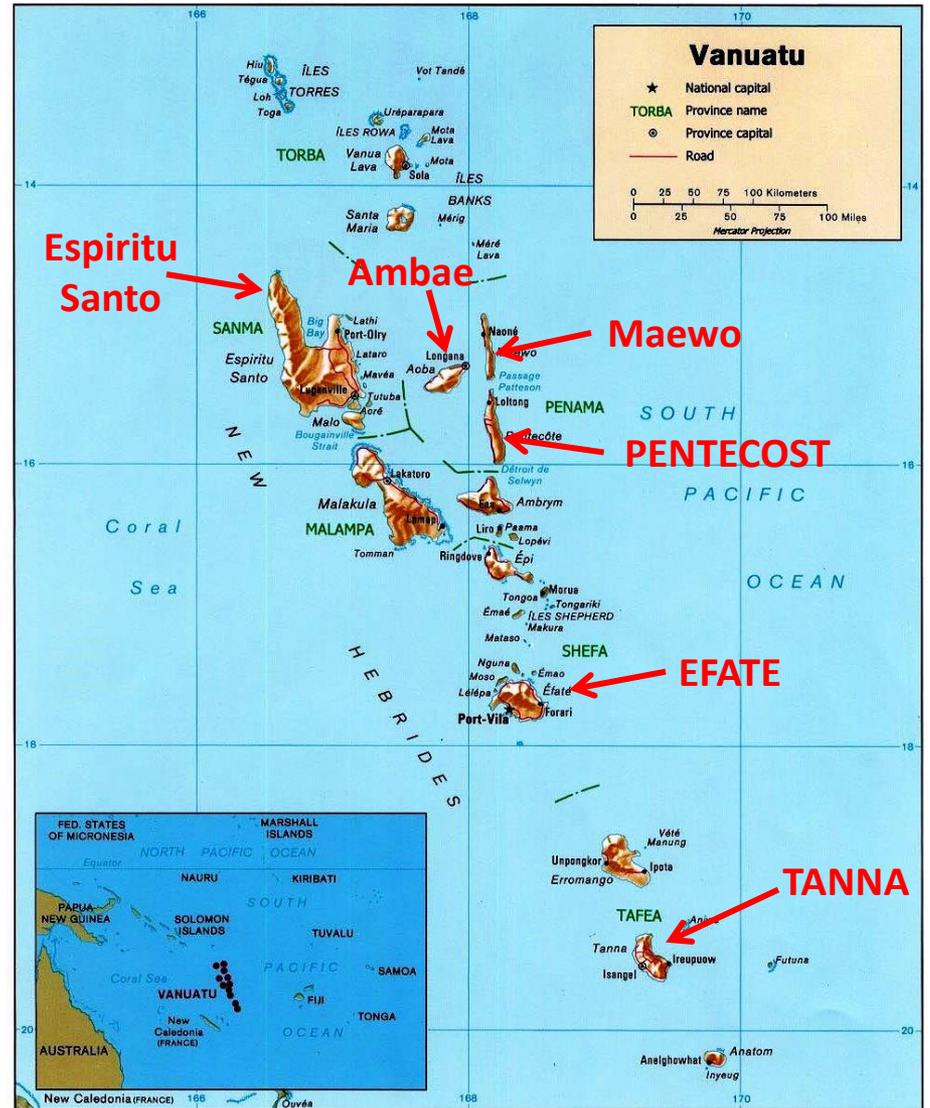
**Land diving**



# Today we will talk about Efate, Tanna and Pentecost islands



Port Vila on Efate is the capital



# Miss Vanuatu



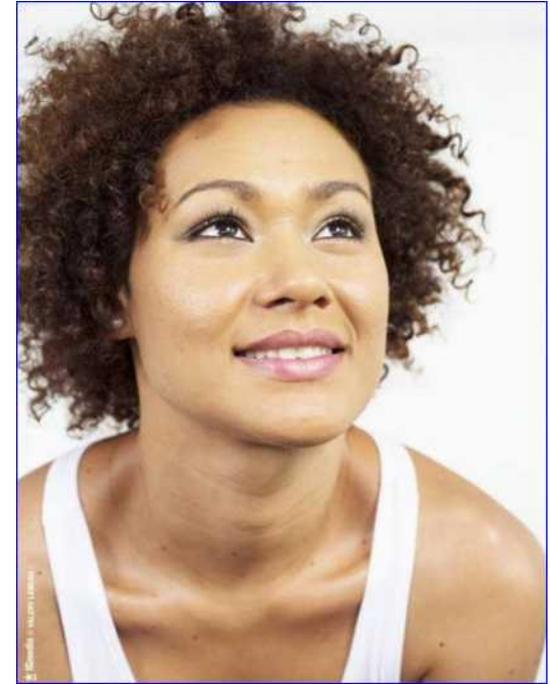
A decorative banner for the Miss Vanuatu 2013 pageant. The banner features a dark blue background with a pink floral border at the top. The text is written in a stylized, cursive font. The word "Miss" is in pink, "Vanuatu" is in yellow, and "2013" is in pink. A yellow curved line is at the bottom.

Miss  
Vanuatu  
2013

**Miss Vanuatu 2013 – present:  
Valerie Martinez, 1/2 Ni-Vanuatu &  
1/2 French, from Tanna island**



# Her father's restaurant on Efate was the site of the 1980 independence talks





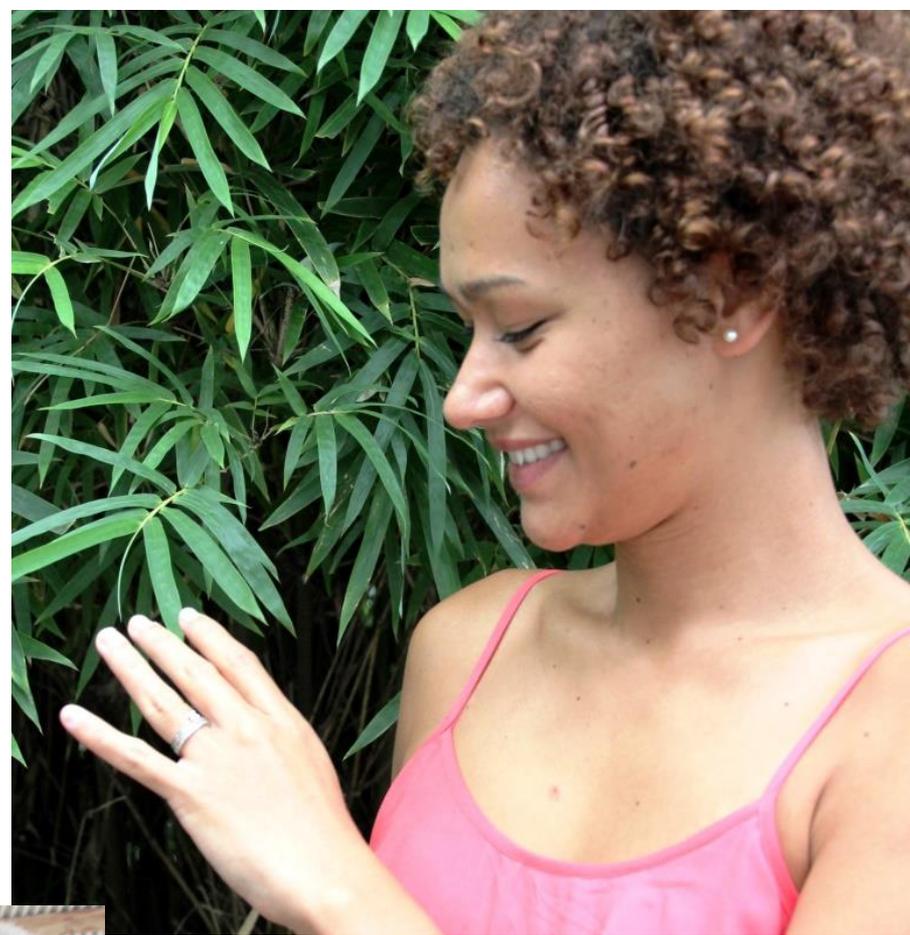
**I was fortunate to assist her and write speeches**



# Miss Vanuatu visited children's wards to cheer them



**She competed in regional events, organized cleanups, and was the face of Vanuatu**



**Valerie Martinez  
with her  
engagement ring**



**Miss Vanuatu with  
PM Joe Natuman**

# She asked me to be her wedding photographer



**Miss Vanuatu and her new husband**

**Valerie Martinez in her Tanna wedding finery**



# More wedding photos



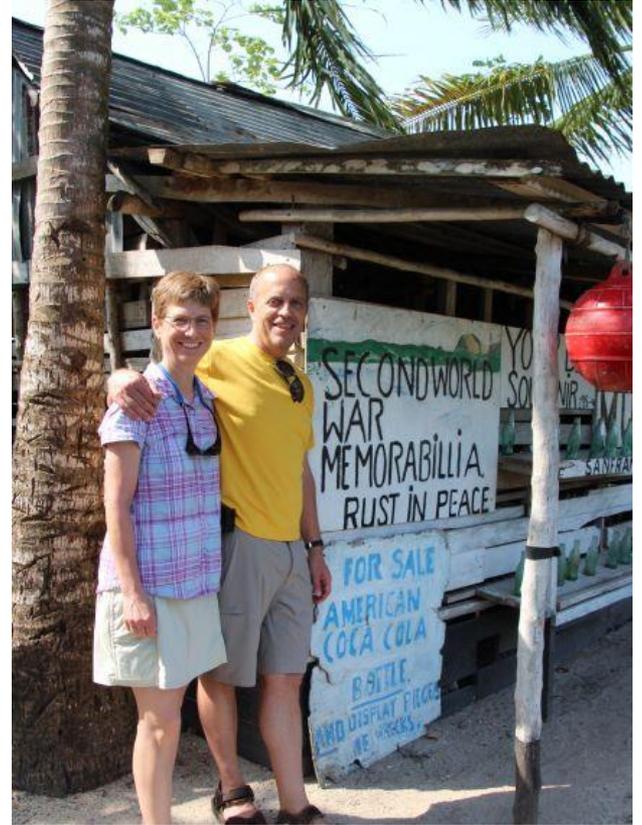
# Wedding reception



# Hams on Van



# Ham radio operators love weird countries



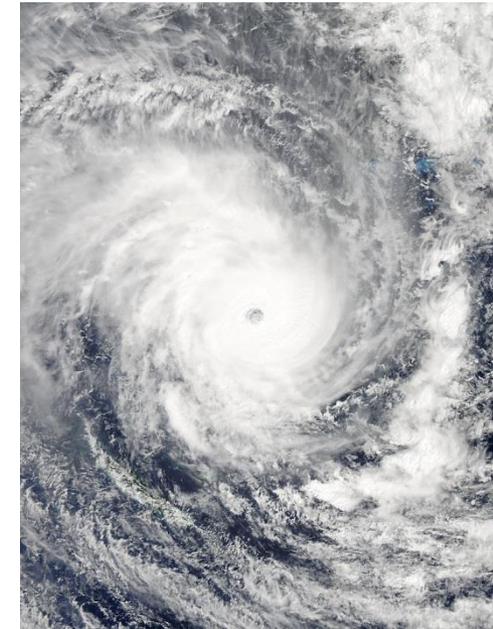
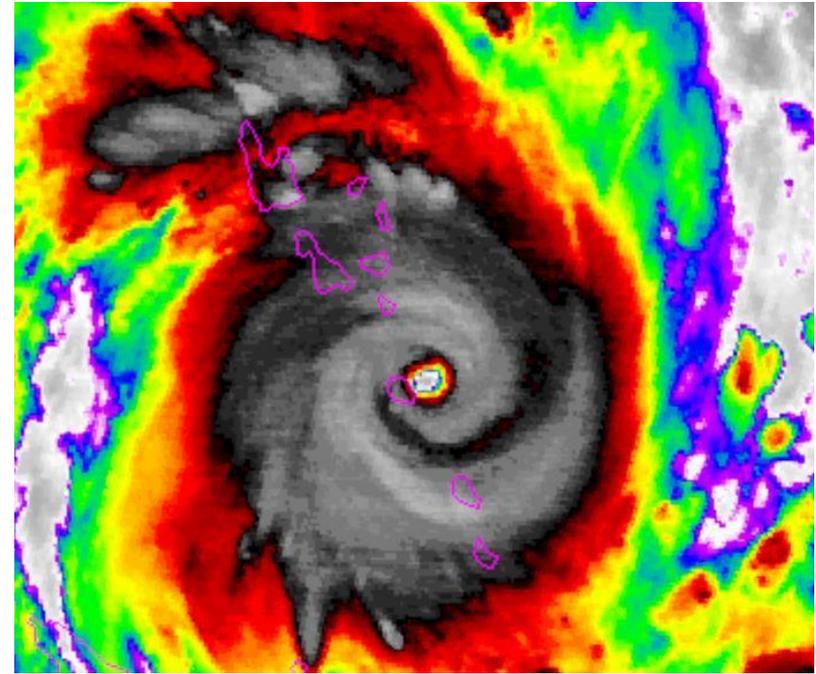
**Bill Conwell  
made over 2200  
contacts in 36  
hours**



# Cyclone Pam



# Cyclone Pam flattened the “happiest country on Earth” in March 2015



# Damage from the Cat 5 storm was extensive...



...and 67,000 of 250,000 lost their homes

**It was the second worst cyclone in Pacific history...**



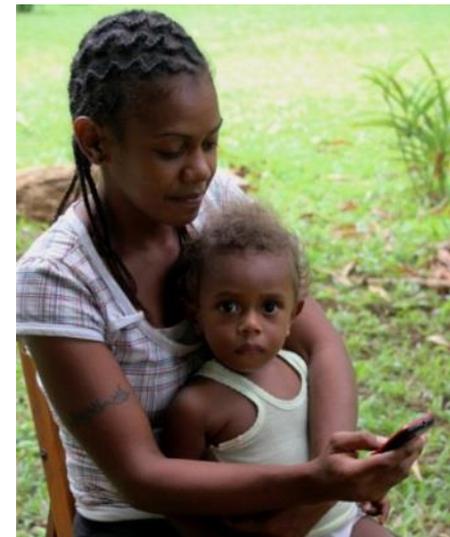
**...winds of 150 mph & gusts of 190 mph**

# Damage to schools was substantial...



...Australia, NZ and others sent aid

# Recovery has been impressive





## TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM

*Seven Months On*

9th October 2015

[VANUATUREDCROSS.ORG](http://VANUATUREDCROSS.ORG)

**VANUATU:  
AREAS OF OPERATION**



**SITUATION SUMMARY:  
12-14 MARCH 2015**



**188,000**  
people affected (70% of Vanuatu's population)



**66,000**  
people lost their homes



**22**  
islands affected

**PROGRESS SO FAR:  
AS OF 9TH OCTOBER 2015**



**39,915**  
people reached through Red Cross relief activities



**7,983**  
households reached through Red Cross relief activities



**16**  
islands reached

**RELIEF ITEM DISTRIBUTION**

<b>TOTAL:</b>	Water Storage	Tarpaulins	Kitchen Sets	Sleeping Mats
	6,417	13,060	2,115	6,243
Solar Lamps	Blankets	Shelter Toolkits	Hygiene Kits	Mosquito Nets
2,726	3,137	5,152	3,527	1,129

\*Includes distributions conducted by both Red Cross and external partners (ADRA, Caritas, Relief International, Save the Children, WFP and World Vision). Amounts distributed have been subject to operational presence and assessed needs in different areas.

**Super-yacht  
Super-model  
Super-scandal**



# The super-yacht *Phocea*, once the largest private sailing vessel in the world



# *Phocea* (originally *Club Mediterranee*, now *Enigma*)

- Built 1976 for single-hander Alain Colas
- 246 ft. long, 31 ft. beam, 20 ft. draft
- 30 knots under sail, crossed Atlantic in 8 days, 2<sup>nd</sup> in race
- 12 guests and 16 crew
- Worth ~ \$34 M; charters for \$300K/wk

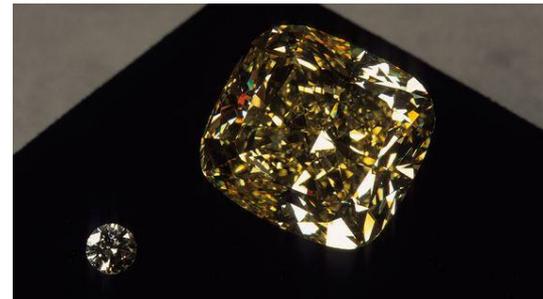


**Billionaire (?) Pascal Vu Ahn Quan Saken  
of Vanuatu (?) – owner (?) of *Phocea*  
Ex-Hon. Consul of Vanuatu to Vietnam  
Founder, Billionaire Yacht Club  
Shipyards, mining, finance, farming, ex-im**

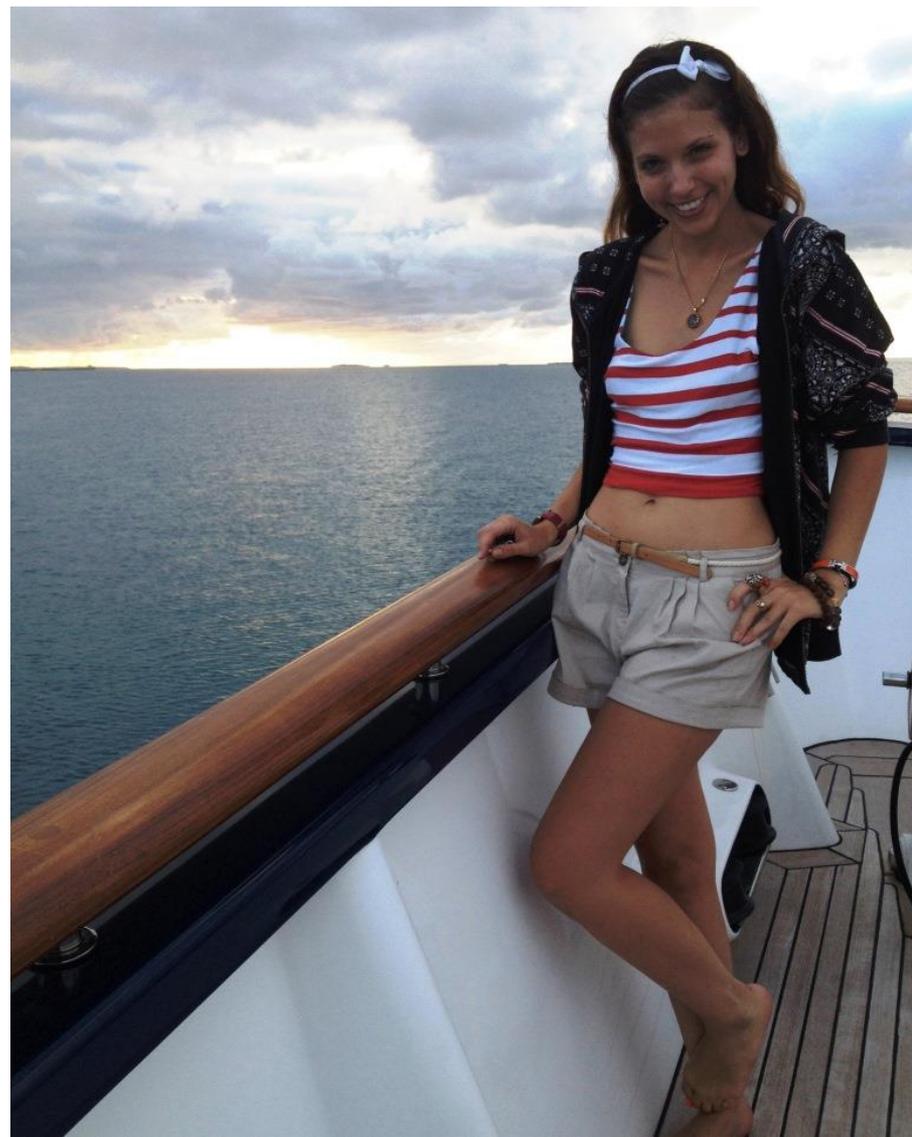
# Is *Phocea* jinxed?



- Launched and turned upside down
- Alain Colas vanished 1978 on other vessel near Azores during a race
- New owner Bernard Tapie jailed, lost his \$\$\$
- 2005 crashed in Sardinia, 3 injured, Prince Michael of Kent aboard, new owner coutour queen Mouna Ayoub almost drowned w/ her \$10 M in jewels
- Ayoub sold world's largest yellow diamond, 113 ct. to pay for \$17 M refit
- Under new owner Saken, **arrested in Vanuatu** for 10 mo. in 2012-3
- Hit reef en route to Thailand
- Nov 2013 hit by storm in Phuket, stuck in mud



# Faviola Dadis, super-model & “party girl” was aboard *Phocea* as PR staffer, Tonga to Vanuatu



# Was *Phocea* carrying guns, diamonds, drugs, “white slaves”?

- **7/14/12: *Phocea* arrives Port Vila**
- **Anchors off, does not clear Customs**
- **Crew goes ashore**
- **Reportedly visited by Min of Foreign Affairs and Min of Ed**
- **Owner Saken left country with diplomatic passport**
- **Police and Customs storm the vessel at gunpoint, search for contraband**
- **Vessel arrested, held for 10 months**
- **False Registration Certificate found, vessel = stateless**
- **Crew arrested, jailed, tried, fined**
- **Police investigator suspended**
- **Crew eventually released**
- **5/3/13 *Phocea* departs Port Vila**



***Phocea* was arrested for 10 months...**



**...Faviola told me she was jailed for 2 days, w/  
possible 2 years in prison...**

She contracted hemmorrhagic dengue fever, forced to stay in Vanuatu 2 months, but was eventually fined \$750 and released

**VANUATU DAILY POST** Published since 1993 **ONLY 100vt**

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Local News Santo News Letters Regional / Inter News Classified/Real Estate ADS Sports

# Faviola Dadis fined only Vt70,000

...for obstructing officials boarding the Phoceca



Faviola at court yesterday morning.



Faviola Imgrad Brugger Dadis as a super model on her website

By Bob Makin

**FAVIOLA IMGRAD BRUGGER DADIS** was fined the sum of Vt70,000 in relation to obstructing the government Customs, Maritime and Police officers who boarded the sailing vessel, Phoceca. The maximum is Vt2 million and two years in gaol.

This sentence was handed down by Senior Magistrate Stephen Felix in the Magistrates' Court, August 20.

In relation to illegal entry she was charged Vt100,000 like the other crew of the Phoceca.

For obstructing or hindering the officials who had boarded the 'mega-yacht' sailing boat three days after its illegal arrival, the prosecuting officers requested a maximum fine of Vt2,000,000. The Customs Act specifies Vt2,000,000 or two years imprisonment - or Vt2,000,000 and two years in prison.

Prosecutions stressed that "the law is the law" and the vessel having dropped anchor in Paradise Cove was committing a major offence.

"Ministers of government are not officers of the law and they are not allowed to grant entry rights to any vessel.

"We have officers employed to do this," they said. Never-the-less the fine imposed for hindering officials by Dadis was reduced by the magistrate to only Vt70,000, with costs of Vt20,000.

Counsel for Dadis, Nigel Morrison spoke of Dadis as "no different from the others" who had been let off similarly lightly over illegal entry. "She was an employee on board. She had her passport taken by the vessel's agent like the others."

This is understood to mean the on-board vessel's agent, as the listed agents for Phoceca are really located in the United States. If a local agent is employed there are serious questions to be answered as to how that Port Vila agent could permit multiple disembarkations and embarkation by persons resident in Vanuatu such as ministers of the Vanuatu Government.

As regards causing a disturbance, Morrison said Dadis "was no different from the others. She did make a noise and admitted she was excessive in her police interview. She had said 20 were on board. She made demands. She stood up for her rights. A police search warrant for the vessel duly arrived. People were taken into custody and Dadis was held for 24 hours in Naurua 6, like the others."

The claimant owner, Pascal Anh Saken, escaped custody and abandoned his vessel and crew by flying out to New Zealand.

Morrison: "Dadis is 27, a student and she just wants to return to her studies next week. There is no evidence to suggest that Faviola had anything to do with the owner of the vessel. She was simply an employee. She was employed by Saken. She took a week of her summer break from studies to join the yacht in Tonga. She was in charge of marketing and public relations. Four days out from Tonga they arrived here and went ashore to have a meal and celebrate. This was at Paradise Cove. Then there was the disturbance.

"Dadis is in the same category as all the other offence," said her counsel, Morrison.

Dadis told this writer she was working on her chemistry and calculus studies on board the Phoceca. Her tutors allowed her to study while travelling, but she would have to be back in the US in order to do her laboratory tests.

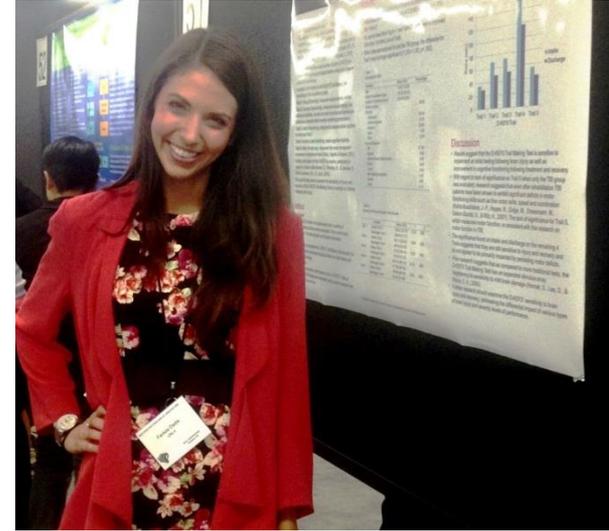
Her website is available at <http://www.lerage.com/profile.html?id=1588pid=0>

It shows her work as a super-model for Versace, Puma, Jean Paul Mitchell, Sauvage and others.

# Faviola: *Phocea* carrying no contraband; charges were corrupt & possible attempt to extort money

## Faviola's bio:

- ✓ VIP hostess at Tao nightclub in Las Vegas, and for Michael Jordan, Naomi Campbell, Paris Hilton, royals, etc.
- ✓ Lived in ten countries
- ✓ Speaks English, Dutch, Mandarin, German, French
- ✓ Chess fanatic
- ✓ Working on her Ph.D. in neuro-psychology at Oxford
- ✓ Loves her Rottweiler "Mojo"
- ✓ Recently accused Steven Seagal of assault in 2002 on set of film "Genghis Khan"

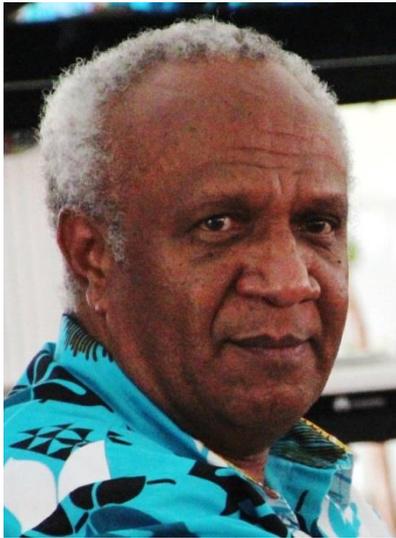


Faviola and atty Lisa Bloom

# Wacky Politics



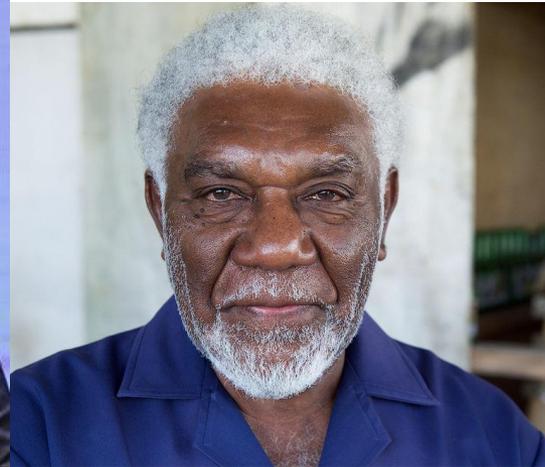
# In 3 years I worked for 4 Prime Ministers – why?



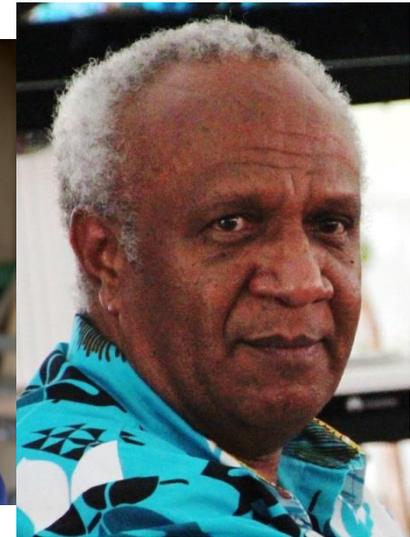
**Sato Kilman,  
2011-2013**



**Moana Carcassas Kalosil,  
2013-14**



**Joe Natuman,  
2014-15**



**Sato Kilman,  
2015-16**

# A colleague alleged Chinese and Indonesian involvement in Vanuatu politics...

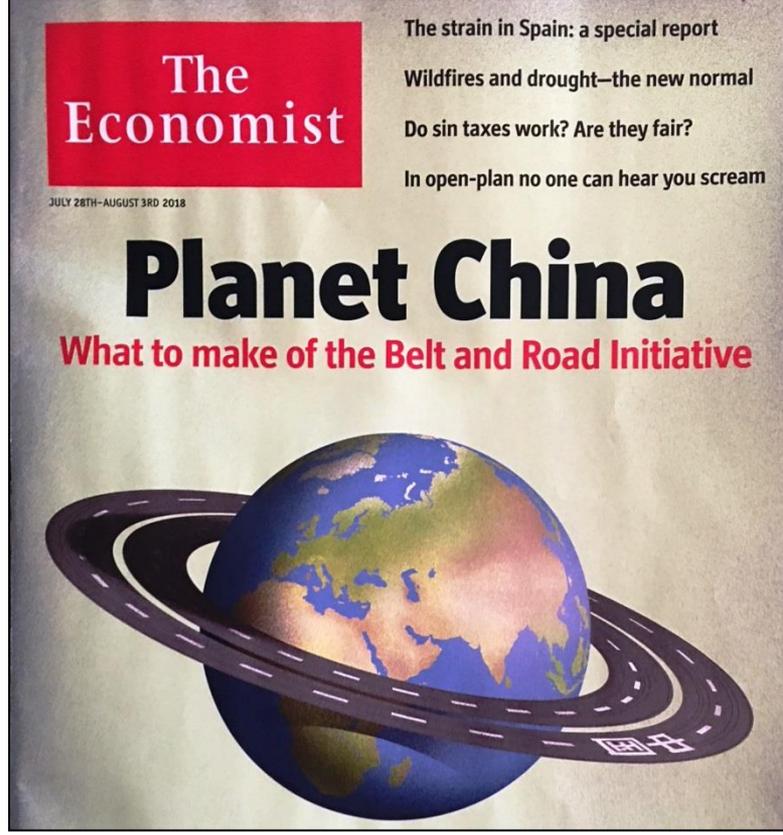
China: wants BRI foothold, property, regional influence, food, UN vote, prevent Taiwan recognition, future naval base?



Indonesia: wants to stop Melanesian Spearhead Group demands for independence of West Papua

...~\$50,000 per Parliamentary seat

# The Chinese BRI – Belt and Road Initiative – is the biggest project in the world today...



...and little Vanuatu is a target

# A corruption scandal in 2015 convicted 15 of 52 MPs, including 2 ex-Prime Ministers



Ex-PM Moana Carcassas doing the “Perp Walk”



Justice Mary Sey of Gambia

# Convicted in 2015:

Chinese Intelligence?



Fong Man Kelvin of HK



- Dep. PM Moana Carcassas: 4 yrs. for \$452,000 in bribes
- Speaker of Parliament: 3 yrs.
- Foreign Min. and ex-PM: 3 yrs.
- Lands Min.: 3 yrs.
- Public Works Min.: 3 yrs.
- Youth & Sport Min.: 3 yrs.
- Climate Change Min: 3 yrs.
- Seven MPs: 3 yrs. each
- Finance Min.: 20 mo. suspended after guilty plea



# Separate conviction in 2018:

- Ex-PM and Dep. PM Joe Natuman
- Perverting the course of justice
- 2 yr. suspended sentence



# Land-diving



# Land diving is only done on south Pentecost island



# Land diving has been done for centuries...

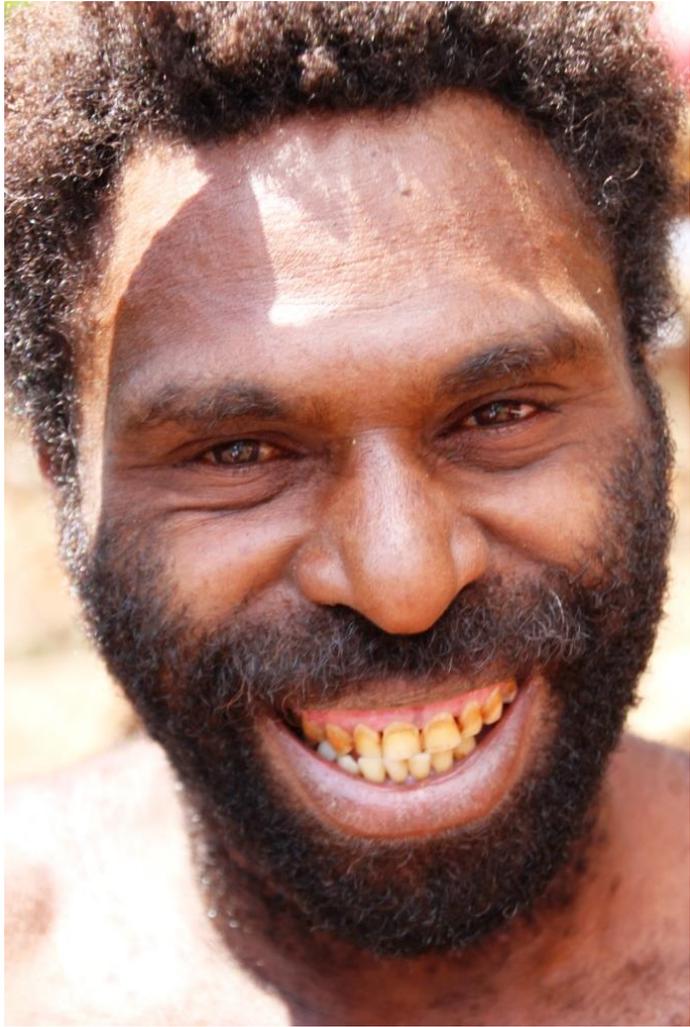


David Kirke, Oxford, at Clifton  
Bridge, Bristol  
April Fool's Day, 1979



...and inspired bungee jumping

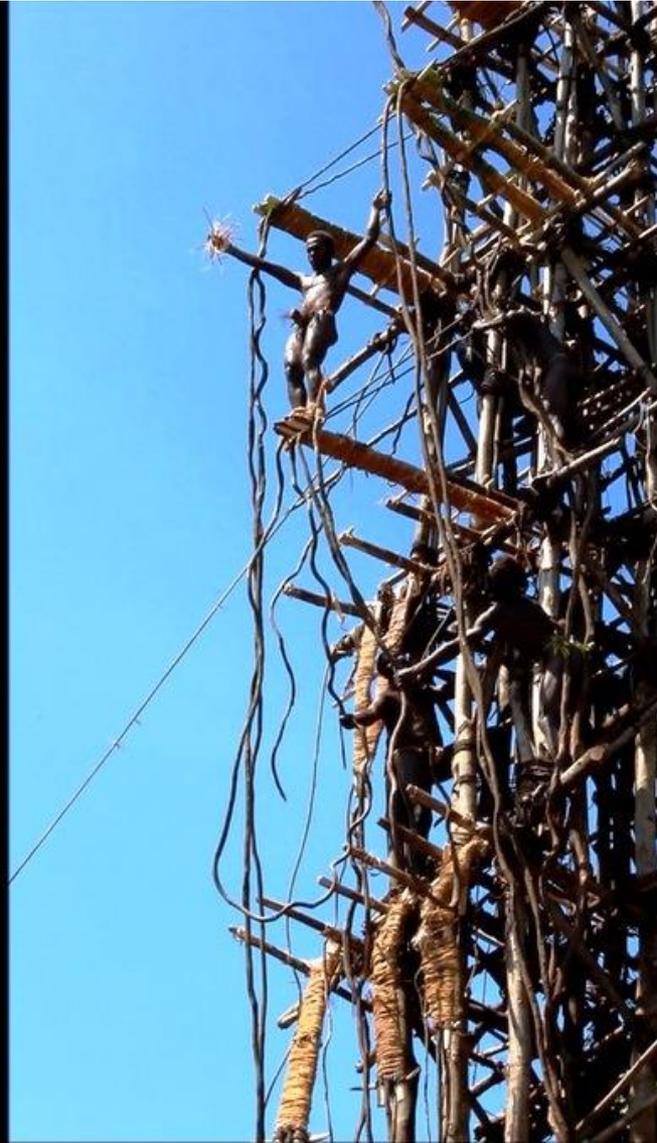
# Christian Lala, 34, and the 93-foot tower



# Let's go land diving!



**Let's see a dive in video**



**Men from 12 to 45 go  
land diving...**



**...all must stay a week  
in isolation, eat special  
food, and have no sex**



# Women chant to bless the yams while visitors gasp and take pics



**Land diving: 5 locations in S Pentecost, Apr - June**

# So, you wanna go land diving, right?

- ✓ About 5 foreigners have done this
- ✓ None died
- ✓ You must be male, or....
- ✓ You must donate a pig to the Namba chief and perhaps \$300
- ✓ You must join the tribe, for 3-30 weeks
- ✓ You must go into isolation for a week, and have no sex
- ✓ You must acquire a penis sheath



**This could be you!!!**



I hope you have enjoyed our ESILL course on Vanuatu -- the most exotic country on Earth!



# Tank Yu Tumas!

[www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com)



## QUESTIONS?