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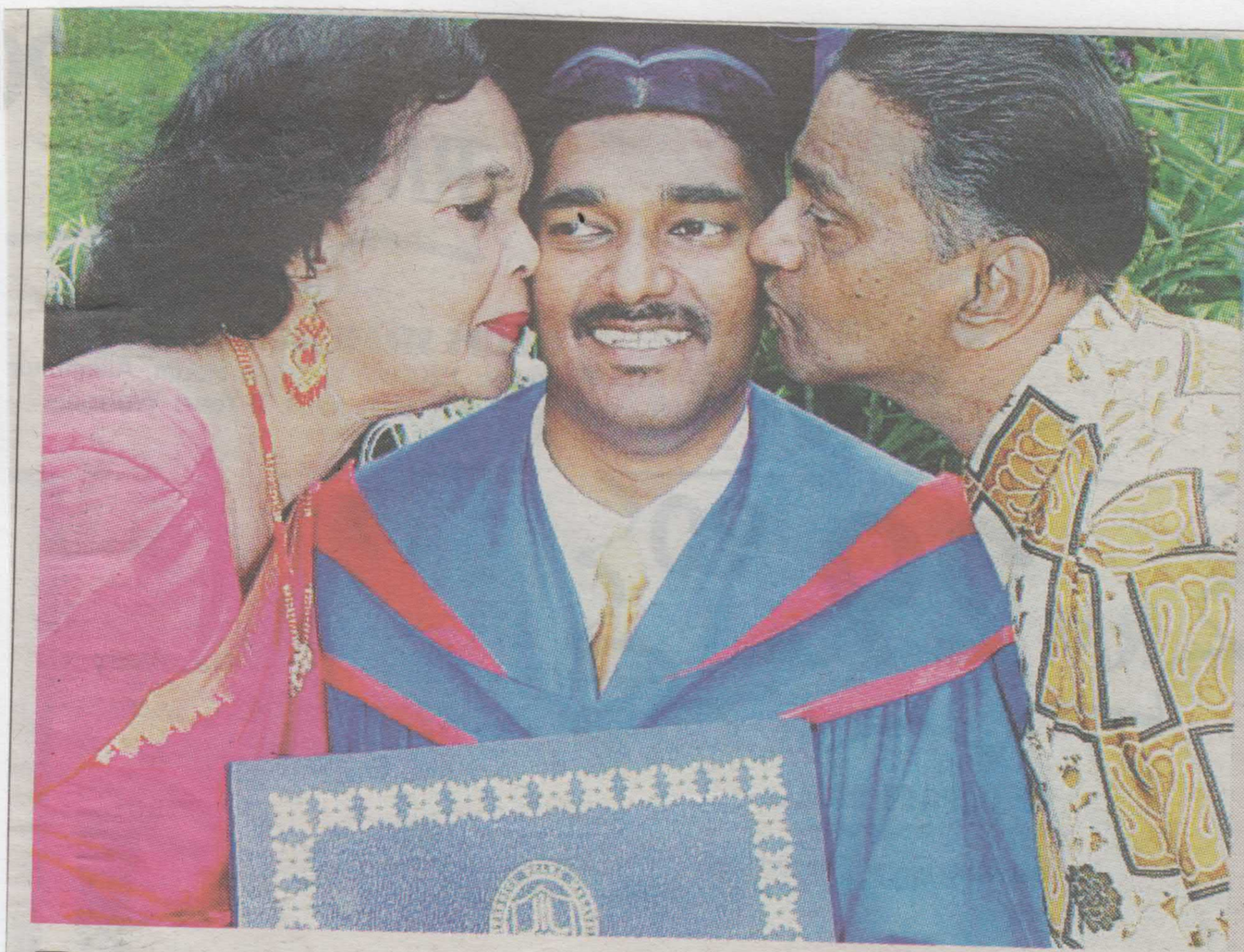

WELL DONE: Derrick getting a peck on the cheek from his parents, Sybil and Visvanathan.

Dream come true for journalist

ST 26/9/05 16:4

SINTOK: Perseverance paid off for *The Star* journalist Derrick Vinesh who graduated in Business Administration with honours at Universiti Utara Malaysia.

After toiling for five years juggling between hectic work schedules and travelling over 145km to attend classes, he finally made it.

"It has always been my ambition to obtain a university degree and to experience life on campus.

"The distance learning programme provided me an opportunity to taste campus life as we have to attend intensive classes three or four days a month," said Derrick, 32, who has been with *The Star* for 12 years.

And he confessed to having sneaked out of class to interview Siti Norhaliza in concert at the campus.

Derrick expressed his gratitude to his uncle Dr John Tambyah and aunt Leana for giving him a loan to pursue his degree.

"My aunt said pursuing an education is never a wasted effort," said Derrick, who is now pursuing a distance-learning masters degree programme in Journalism at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

Derrick's mother Sybil Visvanathan was proud that his son had successfully completed the course despite his hectic work schedule.

Derrick was among the 1,759 students who received their scrolls at the third and fourth session of UUM's 18th convocation yesterday.

This year, UUM produced 6,263 graduates including 15 who obtained their PhDs.

Sultan of Kedah Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah awarded the Royal Education Award to Decision Science graduates Suliadi Firdaus Sufahani and Zernil Lurthanathan.

Ahmad Baharudin, who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, won the Chancellor's Gold Medal.

A total of 21 students were awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal.

The Bursa Malaysia Book Prize winners were Lee Li Quing (International Business Management), Huam Mui Ing (Finance), and Muhammad Ridzuan Abdul Aziz (Banking).

UUM Alumni Association Book Prize winners were Siti Diyana Mustapa Kamal (Technology Management) and Siti Rosina Attaulah (Economics).