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FMC leaders quit

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No reprieve for cop

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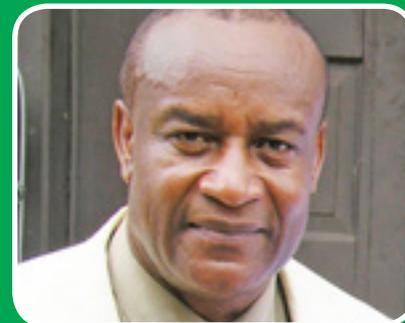
TCBN wants in on
Downsview project

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rapso king passes on

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Former Montserrat chief
minister jailed

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NEWS

No reprieve for Toronto cop who assaulted Dafonte Miller

Ontario's top court has upheld the conviction and sentence of Const. Michael Theriault, the off-duty Toronto police officer who assaulted Dafonte Miller in an attack that left the young Black man blind in one eye.

Earlier this year, Const. Michael Theriault was found guilty of assault in connection with a December 2016 attack on Miller, then 19.

Theriault was initially charged with aggravated assault but was found guilty of the lesser included offence of assault as Ontario Superior Court Justice Joseph Di Luca could not rule out the pos-



Michael Theriault

sibility that during a portion of the incident, the off-duty officer was acting in self-defence and attempting to carry out a lawful arrest. He was also charged with obstruction of justice but was acquitted.

Theriault, who

was sentenced to nine months in jail, subsequently appealed both the conviction and sentence.

In a decision released on Monday, Ontario's highest court rejected the appeal on all grounds and con-

firmed that the sentence imposed by the judge was justified.

"The trial judge correctly concluded that this case called for heightened denunciation and I endorse his approach," the decision read.

"As our society comes to grips with disproportionate rates of police violence against Black people, it is integral that the need for denunciation of crimes that are emblematic of these broader social patterns develops accordingly."

The trial judge said while the Crown did not allege that the attack on Miller was racially-motivated, "the racialized



Dafonte Miller

context with which the offence took place cannot be ignored," adding that community concern about race and policing is at an "all-time high."

Both Theriault and his brother were initially charged in connection with the incident but Christian Theriault was cleared of all charges following the judge-alone trial.

The attack occurred in the area of Thickson Road and William Ste-

phenson Drive in Whitby in the early morning hours of Dec. 28, 2016. Miller's injuries were so severe following the assault that he was left blind in one eye and now wears a prosthetic.

The appeal court noted that Theriault's actions "shattered a community's trust in the very system that is supposed to protect them."

"Michael's actions, as a white off-duty po-

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Joe Halstead, Eddison Doyle, Chris Alexander quit FMC



By **Lincoln Depradine**

When, as expected, Toronto's Caribbean Carnival returns to the streets of the city next, the festival will be under the leadership of new top-level management.

Eddison Doyle, Chris Alexander and Joe Halstead, who all have been with the carnival organizing committee – the Festival Management Corporation (FMC) – since its inception in 2006, announced Tuesday that they will be leaving their positions shortly.

Halstead, FMC's chairman, told **The Caribbean Camera** it's not a coordinated mass resignation, but one made separately by each individual.

Since March, he said, he had indicated that he planned on leaving the FMC.

"It was my personal decision," Halstead said. "It has absolutely nothing to do with anyone else or anything else. I have given all I can. It's time for me to go."

The resignation notices of Halstead, Doyle and Alexander were made public at a meeting of leaders of masquerade bands.

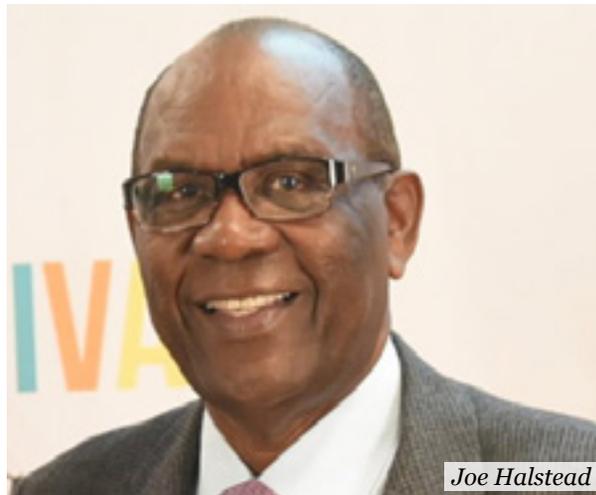
"There was a bands' meeting and the information was provided to them," Doyle confirmed.

Mas' band leaders and other carnival stakeholders, in cooperation with the FMC, are planning to organize virtual events this year. The Coronavirus pandemic, both in 2020 and 2021, forced the cancellation of live in-person events, including the popular carnival street parade on Lakeshore Boulevard.

The FMC was established after the City of Toronto – citing management and financial concerns – withdrew funding for the Caribbean Cultural Committee, which has been organizing the carnival since 1967 under the trademarked name "Caribana".

Doyle, longtime CFO of the FMC, and chief operations officer Alexander, said they were quitting FMC to devote more time to other business ventures.

"I'm the CEO of a



Joe Halstead

hospital in Trinidad and that has taken off in a phenomenal way," said Doyle, who is stepping down from the FMC at the end of September.

"So, my focus is more in Trinidad, where I have been for the last three to five years. I just can't manage more than that."

Alexander's resignation takes effect from year-end, giving him more time to expand his private business in Canada and also to markets overseas.

"It's my decision. My personal business is taking off and I want to spend some decent time doing that and to put more energy into it," Alexander said in an interview.



Eddison Doyle



Chris Alexander

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TCBN wants in on Downview Park project from planning to execution

By **Lincoln DePradine**

A mobilization effort has started aimed at ensuring women, African-Canadians and other representatives from racialized communities obtain jobs and other benefits from a multi-million-dollar development project in Toronto's Downview Park neighbourhood.

Three entities – Canada Lands Company, Northcrest Developments and CreateTO – are said to be in the planning phase for what has been described as a “large-scale, mixed-

use development that will bring housing, commercial and other uses” to the Downsview Park site.

But Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN), a coalition of 120 members drawn from community and labour organizations and groups and social enterprises, whose goal is ensuring Toronto becomes “an inclusive, thriving city in which all residents have equitable opportunities to contribute to healthy communities and a prospering economy”, isn't leaving anything to chance with the Downsview Park

project that first must receive approval from the City of Toronto to proceed to the start of construction.

TCBN, in a news release earlier this week, said it had “launched a campaign to get a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) framework agreed to and implemented for the Downsview Park/Lands Development”.

Specifically, what TCBN is seeking is “an equitable planning process and developments that prioritizes equity, diversity and inclusion”.

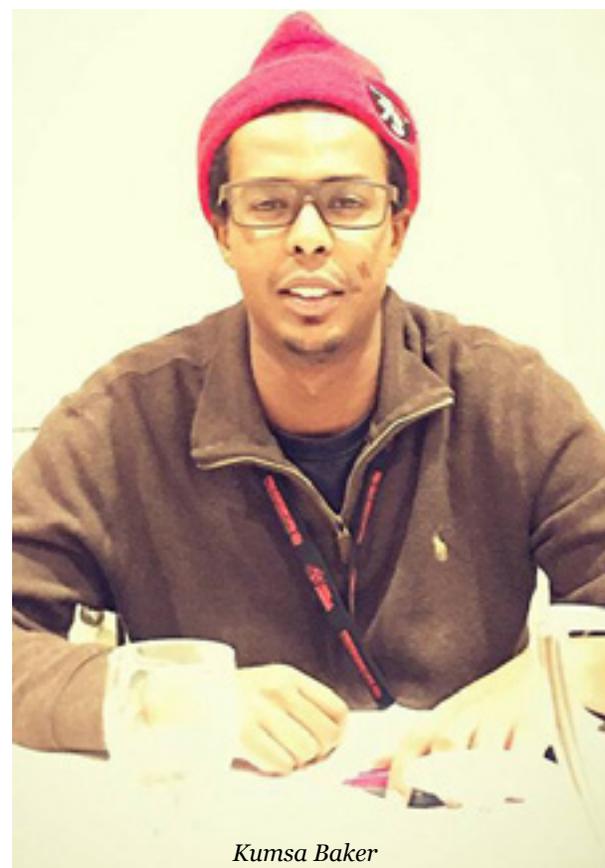
“We want to

ensure that there are good jobs through the skills trade for equity-seeking groups such as Indigenous people, Blacks and other people of colour. We want to make sure that specific, hard targets are included in the contract with the builders for the project,” TCBN's campaigns director Kumsa Baker, told **The Caribbean Camera**. “We also want to see a lot of affordable housing; we want bold, ambitious goals for affordable housing.”

As part of its campaign, TCBN has issued an invitation to community members to register for an online information session scheduled for 4 pm, Tuesday, July 27.

The session, according to the network, “will have a discussion around Community Benefits Agreements, the current Downsview development process, how the community can be involved with the process”, and also provide information on TCBN's “next steps” regarding the project.

“We are seeking community advocacy and also want to hear about what are the different priorities that people might have for Downsview,” said



Kumsa Baker

Baker.

TCBN, he added, also is interested in “neighbourhood improvements and protections” that involve such things as the inclusion of community and childcare centres, green areas, open parks and cultural spaces that will “ultimately result in a just and equitable development that benefits the community first”.

“We want to make sure that those are all part of the vision and those types of elements will be included at

Downsview,” said Baker. “We want to ensure that there is a Community Benefits Agreement that the developers negotiate. So, that Community Benefits Agreement will lay out all the specific benefits the community will have for the project and we can use that to hold the developers accountable.”

For more information on the TCBN campaign, visit <https://www.cbafordownsview.ca/>

TCBN, established six years ago, says it's committed, among other things, to addressing the challenges of “access to good jobs, local economic development and neighbourhood revitalization” faced by racialized groups and the communities where they live in large numbers.

“We need to talk about it.”

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Jamaica appoints honorary investment advisor to Toronto

The Consul-General of Jamaica at Toronto has appointed Mr. Jerrold Johnson as Honorary Investment Advisor (HIA) of Jamaica to Toronto, Canada.

The appointment is part of the Economic Diplomacy Program (EDP) developed in 2020 by Jamaica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) and the country's investment agency, Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO).

The overarching aim of the EDP is to leverage Jamaica's diplomatic missions globally to advance the country's image as an investment destination and to strengthen linkages between Jamaican and overseas investors.

Mr. Johnson's appointment is effective from June 14, 2021. It comes on the heels of two other Honorary Investment Advisor appointments from Jamaica to India and Japan.

A notable entrepreneur with deep linkages throughout Eastern Canada and within

Jamaica, Mr. Johnson is well respected and is currently pursuing a cross-border project in manufacturing and supplying construction materials to support the many infrastructure projects in Jamaica.

From his vast experience in the private sector, Mr. Johnson is intimately acquainted with the intricacies of successfully navigating business investments in both jurisdictions.

In his former capacity as head of the Jamaica National Bank in Canada, Mr. Johnson was instrumental in facilitating the expansion of Jamaican businesses into Canada and to fostering increased investment of Canadians in Jamaican real estate.

"This appointment is especially timely," noted Consul General Mr. Lincoln Downer. "Mr. Johnson in his capacity as HIA will help to drive our objective of deepening business linkages for the economic recovery of our beloved Jamaica. His extensive network and business connections across



Jerrold Johnson

diverse industries will help us with accessing inroads to showcase investment opportunities in manufacturing, agri-business, logistics and business process outsourcing."

Mr. Johnson says he looks forward to utilizing his connections to increase awareness of Jamaican opportunities, to supporting business matchmaking activities, promoting investment and trade opportunities, and cultivating strong business relationships between both countries.

"There is untapped scope for both Jamaican-Canadians and friends of Jamaica to take advantage of the varied investment opportunities that exist in Jamaica for small, medium and large investors. I look forward to helping businesses on both sides successfully navigate the landscape," Mr. Johnson said.



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Hands off Haiti! Time to pay reparations

In the middle of the night of July 7, a shocked Haitian nation woke up to the news that President Jovenal Moïse was murdered by a group of armed men. Almost immediately a number of Colombian mercenaries were arrested and admitted doing the deed. So far fingers are being pointed at a US-based security company, and various internal opponents of Moïse in the country, as being the sponsor of the assassination.

While the mainstream media dusted off its standard description of Haiti as a violent, broken state, the years of abuse since the country successfully freed itself from slavery was ignored; instead calls were made for the international community to intervene to stabilize the country.

Basically this narrative obscures the repeated violent foreign interventions, which strangled the revolution at birth and forced free Haiti to pay for its hard fought freedom. Instead it speaks of Haiti as a victim of its own backwardness, corruption and prone to violence, but ignored the ongoing and systematic abuse by Western nations that is at the root of Haiti's sad history.

In 1791, the Africans rose up against their French colonial enslavers and won their freedom after years of bloody conflict. In 1804, the former colony of Saint-Domingue became the first successful slave revolt in all the European slave colonies and the first self-governing Black society in the Americas. It chose the name Haiti,

which was derived from Ayiti - the indigenous Taíno or Arawak name for the island.

In 1825, France, after repeated attempts to take back the island and restore colonial rule, forced the freed Africans to pay for its independence to the tune of 90 million gold francs – the equivalent of about \$US20 billion in today's money.

One would have thought that such an enormous penalty for one's freedom would have been enough, but the Americans thought otherwise; it simply could not allow the Haitian example to inspire the enslaved of the Caribbean and Americas. The slave business was much too lucrative as the primary element of the American economy.

So in 1914, the US marines landed in Haiti, seized \$500,000.00 from the Haitian National Bank and took it to New York. This was part of a strategy to force Haiti to seek US protection – a euphemism for submitting to being

re-colonized. The Haitians resisted, so the Americans invaded in 1915 and occupied the island for 19 years. They then applied the same racist Jim Crow laws as was the case in the US.

Even as the US withdrew in 1934, the virtual re-colonization didn't end. The Americans, together with their European allies, and Canada, hand-picked every president, except one, against the wishes of the majority of Haitians. That single president was Jean Bertrand Aristède, who was kidnapped by US forces and, while Canadian troops secured the airport, the only democratically elected president, was flown to the Central African Republic and into exile.

The turmoil and violence by which we have come to know Haiti, are the result of the ongoing occupation of Haiti that started in 1804 when the enslaved Africans freed themselves; now another chapter is being written with the murder of president Jovenal Moïse.

Unfortunately, this chapter is no different from all previous chapters that it constitutes Haiti's history of ongoing occupation and the deposition of a leader. And, like clockwork, the powers that have made Haiti what it is, are again speaking of intervening, sending in armed forces to keep the peace, and experts to help in the investigation of Moïse's assassination.

Fortunately, there is a strong resistance from within and without Haiti which is calling for no more intervention in Haitian affairs. They want foreign hands to be taken off of Haiti, and let the country chart its own course for the first time in its history.

Justice must also be served by demanding that France and the US pay back the billions they robbed Haiti of, plus reparation for the pain and suffering they caused. Canada should be made to pay as well.

All decent people should echo that call.

You may soon be able to own a piece of the "Mona Lisa of stamps"

The 'Mona Lisa' of stamps returns to Britain for first time in 143 years", blared the Sky News headline. Other British media carried captions in similar vein. As every philatelist knows the 'Mona Lisa' of stamps is the One Cent Black on Magenta which has its origins not in the UK at all, but here in Guyana, or British Guiana, as it once was.

After it left this country its sojourn in Britain was exceedingly brief, and most of the time it could be found first in Europe and subsequently in the US. Its rarity derives from the simple fact that no others of its kind have survived. It was one of a small batch printed by the local Gazette after a shipment of stamps from England was delayed.

This unprepossessing scrap of octagonal paper is considered to be the most valuable man-made item in the world, and is worth 2.5 million times more than 24-carat gold, according to an internationally known stamp dealer. Up until it was sold at auction last month, it had been on display at the Smithsonian National Stamp Museum

in Washington DC, on loan from American shoe designer, Stuart Weitzman.

From a Guyanese point of view it is less a question of which country provides a home, than who has bought it, and this time, we might be in luck for reasons which will become apparent later. The new owner of the Black on Magenta is rare stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons, whose name will be known to collectors in this country, some of whom no doubt own one or another of that company's catalogues.

CEO of the firm, Graham Shircore, was quoted as saying: "It's truly one of a kind, and we're delighted to be welcoming it back on to British soil where we hope it will remain." On its own website Stanley Gibbons gives a brief synopsis of Guyana's philatelic background, after first essaying into a dubious account of the nation's earlier history. The article says that Guyana's relationship with stamps began with the 'Cotton-reels' of 1850-51, which were followed by a second issue printed by Waterlow (in England) in 1852. This in turn was suc-

ceeded by what was called a "more conventional issue" in 1853, which also featured the 'Ship' design. The 'Ship' appeared on almost every issue until 1931, including, of course, the Black on Magenta, which dates from 1856.

While referring to the many stories which surround the Magenta, the site rather improperly, perhaps, cites the one supposedly associated with previous owner Arthur Hind, who was said to have purchased a second example and then burned it, to preserve the stamp's unique status. The story is almost certainly apocryphal, and does not find space in any of the recognised philatelic histories of British Guiana.

The dealer does say something which will come as no surprise to Guyanese, i.e. that our early stamps are very hard to find in fine condition. Among the other issues which the site highlights are the pictorial ones, the first being in 1898 for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and which showed Mount Roraima and Kaieteur Falls.

But what makes the Stanley Gibbons' acquisition of particular interest to Guyanese is that the dealer intends to make the stamp available to collectors through a shared-ownership scheme. It is not a new idea; it has been applied in the art world with shares in some major paintings selling from prices like £20. - a pricing model that will allow anyone to join the club.

Guyanese have always felt rather remote from this particular wisp of their heritage, despite the fact it is so valuable. After all, it hasn't been in this country since the 19th century, and has spent most of its time being passed along from one international millionaire to the next. Being a part of a shared-ownership scheme is certainly not going to make anyone any money, something that will seriously limit its appeal in this country, although there are still bound to be a few persons who would like to reconnect with their philatelic heritage if only in a symbolic way.

– Stabroek News Editorial



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Cryptocurrencies, central banks, and the Caribbean



By David Jessop

This year has seen the Bahamas and the Eastern Caribbean introduce Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). Other nations are expected to do so soon. This writer believes that CBDCs could revolutionise Caribbean financial transfers, engage the unbanked, and do much to encourage intra-regional trade.

In less than three months' time, El Salvador intends becoming the first country in the world to make Bitcoin its official currency alongside the US Dollar.

The country's President, Nayib Bukele, a populist and media savvy disruptor, says that his decision will generate employment, enable the financial inclusion of tens of thousands of the country's citizens who operate outside the formal economy, and enable its large diaspora in the US and elsewhere to send money to their families more cheaply. The idea is that the government will guarantee convertibility to dollars at the time of transaction through a US\$150mn trust fund created at the country's development bank BANDESAL.

Others are far from sure how this will work.

The IMF says it

needs to assess the legal, financial, macro-economic and regulatory problems that may occur in relation to the US\$1bn loan it is considering, and the World Bank has expressed an unwillingness to assist in implementation given Bitcoin's 'environmental and transparency drawbacks'. It is also unclear how the country will manage the risks inherent in its volatility: Bitcoin peaked in March at 58,734 to the US Dollar before falling back to around 39,091 this month.

Paradoxically, El Salvador is taking this uncharted course just as regulatory authorities around the world are exploring how they can manage the risks posed by cryptocurrencies.

In the last few days, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the primary global standard setter for regulation by central banks, has said that it is consulting on a proposal that would see digital currency assets placed into two differently managed groups. Cryptocurrencies, such as bitcoin, it said, will be subject to 'a new conservative prudential treatment' while others will be eligible for treatment under the existing Basel Framework for banks.

The announcement follows an unrelated decision last May by the Financial Stability Committee of China's State Council which announced it would 'crack down on Bitcoin mining and trading behaviour'. Subsequent commentary in China's state media made clear that its financial institutions



must not participate in or facilitate cryptocurrency transactions and criticised the profligate use of energy for Bitcoin mining. Though not stated, these developments may relate to work the country's Central Bank is undertaking on the creation of a digital currency and electronic payment system for a Digital Yuan that may eventually be promoted as a global reserve currency.

A further indirect blow was struck when the US Department of Justice challenged the assumption that crypto currencies are secure. Using blockchain analysis, it seized back 63.7 bitcoins worth US\$2.3mn, paid by Colonial Pipeline to ransomware hackers by obtaining in an undisclosed way the private key needed to access the money.

These developments affecting the future of unregulated cryptocurrencies suggest that the innovative, balanced, and progressive approach being taken towards digital currencies by Caribbean nations have real value.

It has long been evident that the Caribbean needs to modernise and speed up its creaking, largely conservative banking and payments systems in ways that embrace the unbanked

and rural communities, works around the region's fragmented geography, and helps citizens cope during a pandemic and during post disaster recovery.

The challenge has been how to do so in a manner that is developmental in a region of multiple currencies, reduces the relatively high cost of transactions, remittances, and monetary exchange, embraces tourism, and supports the growing pressure on banks and businesses to respond to complex international anti-money laundering and terrorism financing requirements.

What now sets the Caribbean apart from those seeking to use or promote cryptocurrencies is the development of what are known as Central Bank Digital Currencies or CBDCs. These provide an electronic record in the form of a digital token that represents in virtual form, a fiat currency, issued and backed by a government or regional financial authority.

This year has seen the Bahamas and the Eastern Caribbean introduce two such currencies.

The first was the Bahamas SandDollar, a CBDC issued by the Bahamas Central Bank, which can be used for transactions on mobile

phones. A few months later, the East Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) launched a digital EC Dollar pilot project known as D Cash. This involves Antigua, Grenada, St Kitts, and St Lucia, developing a digital payment platform backed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, which, after a twelve-month assessment, is expected to roll out the initiative in all eight ECCU nations.

Other Caribbean countries are also exploring the use of digital CBDCs. They include Belize and Jamaica which hope to have fully operational systems in place by 2022, Haiti which intends developing a pilot programme, and Barbados which has been using since 2017 a 'synthetic' CBDC issued by a third party, backed 101% by notes and coins, supervised by the Central Bank and the country's Financial Services Commission. However, this has yet to progress to a Central Bank issued CBDC. Suriname too has explored a CBDC, and Cuba is considering the role of cryptocurrencies and CBDCs for the additional reason that their use may enable transactions that US sanctions have made it hard to undertake.

There is also potential interest elsewhere. Speaking recently at a virtual conference in the Cayman Islands, the Caribbean economist, Marla Dukharan, has suggested that as a world-class jurisdiction that is entrepreneurial, progressive, and forward-looking, it should be exploring technologies that help to distin-

guish it from others.

More generally, Ms Dukharan who also works with Bitt, the Barbados-based Fintech company that helped develop D Cash and other Caribbean digital currencies, says that future initiatives have to come from policy makers and those with an interest supporting socio-economic development since CBDCs are unlikely to be of interest to the non-indigenous banking sector in the region.

She believes that Government, private sector and cross border transactions for trade and remittances can be made much more affordable and efficient. "Policymakers have the potential to completely change the way business is conducted", she stresses. "I am proud that the Caribbean is becoming the world's Central Bank Digital Currencies hotspot, supportive of financial inclusion, compliance efficiency, and less informality. These are important considerations especially for the Caribbean".

She is right. Carefully monitored Central Bank regulated digital currencies could in a decade not only revolutionise Caribbean financial transfers, but do much to engage the unbanked, encourage intra-regional trade, and even facilitate the reconceptualisation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@caribbean-council.org

TRAVEL

Antigua – Barbuda welcomes the return of cruise tourism

Tourism hopes are high in Antigua and Barbuda as the country welcomes the return of cruising, signalling the rebound of the vibrant cruise tourism sector.

The mood was celebratory as Windstar Cruises' Star Breeze, coasted into Antigua's, St John's Harbour on July 15, greeted by a symbolic water cannon salute, the booming of tugboat horns, and lively steelpan performances by the respected Hells Gate Steel Orchestra.

On hand to officially welcome Captain Ricardo Pinzon, and over 200 passengers

and crew on board the luxury vessel, was minister of tourism, Charles Fernandez, minister of state in the ministry of tourism senator, Mary-Claire Hurst, chief executive officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James, general manager of the Antigua Cruise Port Dona Regis-Prosper, chief health inspector Sharon Martin, alongside other health and tourism stakeholders.

"Today is truly an exciting day for Antigua and Barbuda's cruise industry. It is one that we have been working hard towards with our health authorities and



International Cruise lines to ensure that we restart in a safe and sustainable manner

to the benefit of all stakeholders," said minister of tourism, Charles Fernandez. "It's also one that has been looked forward to with anticipation by the scores of businesses and hundreds of our countrymen who depend on this industry for their livelihoods."

Antigua's cruise ship sector was poised for exponential growth just prior to the pandemic. This is the first revenue cruise that the country has received in over a year. It comes at a time when Antigua and Barbuda has more than 37,000 persons in its adult population vaccinated, and covid-19 cases are at an all-time low, following the successful management of the health crisis.

A third of Antigua and Barbuda's labour force is employed in the tourism industry. In preparation for the safe restart of the cruise sector, Antigua and Barbuda tourism officials invested in training tourism workers, COVID-19 protocol certified approximately

four hundred tourism businesses, and improved port infrastructure to include the completion of a fifth berth. They have also held months of discussions with Antigua Cruise Port management, and the ministry of health designing robust health and safety protocols.

Dona Regis-Prosper, general manager of Antigua Cruise Port said: "Nothing could have given me greater joy today than the sight of the Star Breeze pulling into the port. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome this fabulous yacht-style cruise ship and its passengers and crew to Antigua and Barbuda. In recent weeks, we have been in many discussions with the Windstar Cruises team and the government to determine how to make this trip, and voyages to come, as safe and successful as possible for everyone involved.

Regis-Prosper noted that: "Given the fact that the threat of COVID-19 is still very

real, the cruise line has advised that as a cautionary measure, only passengers taking organized tours will be allowed to disembark in the first instance, however, we continue to work with the cruise line and local health authorities as these protocols evolve. We are grateful for the confidence that the Windstar Cruises team has demonstrated in our port and our destination by choosing Antigua and Barbuda as one of the exclusive destinations for this sailing".

All crew and passengers on Windstar Cruises' Star Breeze are fully vaccinated. Over 60 passengers disembarked the vessel to enjoy organized tours in Antigua and Barbuda.

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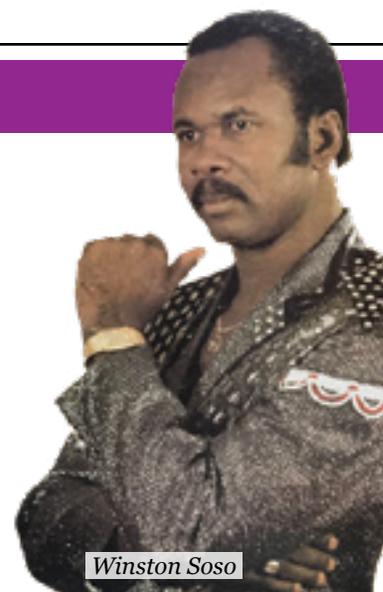


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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Winston 'Soso' Lockhart calypso/soca icon dead at 69



Winston Soso

Winston 'Soso' Lockhart, 69, one of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' greatest soca and calypso icons, died last Sunday from complications of kidney failure.

In June of 2020, the Vincentian Cultural Ambassador suffered from a kidney failure and was placed on dialysis treatment, since then he was unable to

work. There were several fundraising efforts to assist him.

Over the past decades, 'Soso' thrilled music lovers with hits such as *Pan Yard, I don't mind, and, How some men love their woman*. Many of his songs focused on the physical attributes of women.

The Vincentian Artiste and Composer

received a Life Time Achievement Award in 2016 from Vincy Care Inc for his significant contributions to music.

On the eve of his 60th birthday, 'Soso' declared his respect for Alston' Becket' Cyrus and Cyril' Scorcher' Thomas.

In an article published by the Vincentian Newspaper, he said, "There is this brotherly,

happy feeling when we meet; we're not there to compete against one another."

According to the interview with the publication, he also extended his gratitude to musical maestro Frankie Mc Intosh and record producer extraordinaire Granville Straker.

According to those who knew 'Soso,' he grew up confident and

private, often displayed a spirited sense of humor, and looked forward to hearing people like Becket, Scorcher, Sheller, and Lifeboy sing, especially at carnival.

According to SVG Solid Band: "we are saddened by the news of the death of our friend and mentor, The Rolls Royce of Calypso,

Mr. Winston Soso....we as a band thank you for your love, advice, and confidence in us over the years as we graced the stage with you on numerous occasions and brought musical joy to our audiences."

Toronto R&B Pop Artist ANLIL unearths "Phantom"

At her most vulnerable and raw, Toronto-based self-described 'sad-girl' pop artist ANLIL

is here to haunt with the release of her slick, R&B-infused banger, "Phantom" — available now.

The track is Sade-smooth with Jo-Jo-dreamy vocals that curl inside your earbuds and nest. Charming

harmonies add velvety layers to this already evocative ballad about loving and losing.

Chased with soothing synth, "Phantom" is a bop that exposes ANLIL in her rawest, most vulnerable self. Prepared to leave it all on the lyrics, she delivers on relating and resonating with the pieces each of us are desperate to put back together.

"The intention behind writing 'Phantom' was being as vulnerable as possible," ANLIL explains. "I had just closed a chapter of hardships in my life, and struggling to keep steady; to see eye-to-eye and tolerate those closest to me. I didn't have any intent for what I was about to create."

The Toronto/Vaughan-area artist is making her mark with her newly minted trademark dark, romantic pop infused storytelling. Finding herself deep in the roots of songwriting and creative processing, ANLIL has nabbed working with producer Sunny Diamonds (Toronto), the mastermind behind mixing and



cutting her records.

Mentored by Che Pope, ANLIL has also enjoyed streaming success with her "Disaster" drop earlier this year. She also produced "Villain"; an edgy-grunge and gritty record she had mixed by GRAMMY Award-winning mixing engineer, Dacota G.

"Phantom" marks ANLIL's highest streaming single to date. A track that was birthed of the ability to overcome struggle and what it feels like to pursue the world through the lens of sorrow was a track that essentially built itself. "It started with synth chords, a bass line, and I then slowly began to sculpt the skeleton of 'Phantom' in the basement of my parent's home," she says. "I wanted to write

about how I felt, the built-up tension from my pain.

"Phantom" tells a story of a lonesome soul roaming from city to city, desperately trying to grasp onto a feeling of "home." The feeling of being alone, like a ghost and the struggle of abandonment was what influenced the words and held the structure of the story for 'Phantom'."

ANLIL once again teamed with Sunny Diamonds to mix and record the track, and enlisted Mike Bozzi for mastering. Unabashedly laying it all on the line, ANLIL has also released "Phantom's" subsequent follow-up, "Scars"; another near-diary entry that draws the listener even further into her alluring story of life and living through the ebbs and flows of it.

With "Phantom" delivering on the hauntings of loneliness, and the pursuit of finding calm after pain, ANLIL has become synonymous with being a tell-all troubadour who ain't afraid of no truth.



**Caribana:
A testament
to Caribbean People
and their culture**



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T&T cultural and rapso artist Brother Resistance has died

To Trinidad and Tobago, Brother Resistance was much more than an artistic icon; he was a fount of cultural knowledge. With his passing at a private hospital on July 13 (he had been ailing for some time), the country has lost an elder of its musical artforms—calypso and soca, to be sure—but more specifically, its hybrid, rapso.

Part poetry, part scintillating backbeat, rapso is defined as “the power of the word in the rhythm of the word,” having grown out of the West African griot or storyteller tradition. In the Caribbean, these musical poets

have been traditionally referred to as chant-wells, champions of call and response.

Born Roy Lewis in east Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 1954, Brother Resistance, as he would most popularly come to be called, eventually changed his name to Lutalo Masimba to better reflect his African heritage. He received his secondary education at the prestigious Queen’s Royal College, famous for producing figures such as Eric Williams, the country’s first prime minister, writers C.L.R. James and V.S. Naipaul. The school inducted Brother Resistance into its Hall of Honour in 2017 in

recognition of his contribution to culture and the arts.

Rapso music was pioneered by the late Lancelot Layne, evolving as a brand of protest music out of the Black Power movement of the late 1960s. Brother Resistance, along with the Network Riddim Band, took up the rapso mantle and carried the form into the 1980s and beyond, spearheading its revival and bringing it into the mainstream of World Music.

The band’s 1981 debut offering “Busting Out” contained two tracks, one written by Brother Resistance, and became a hit. The following year the group

released “Roots of de Rapso Riddum”, but their message, deeply rooted in social commentary, was deemed subversive. Police raided and destroyed their band room in June 1983, which only served to fuel their sense of purpose. They continued to release music, always putting the genre front and centre: “Rapso Explosion” (1984), “Rapso Takeover” (1986), and “Rapso Uprising” (1989).

Brother Resistance continued to be prolific as a solo artist well into the 1990s and 2000s, singing on themes of love, unity, spirituality,

fighting for freedom, victory bound to come [...] I come with my bell just to second the motion, rock the rapso riddum.”

In a telephone interview, Robin Foster, who attended Queen’s Royal College with Brother Resistance and later worked with the Network Riddim Band as a sound engineer, remembered him as a true poet who would mix his love of language with music:

“He was the chantwell of the school. At cricket and football matches, he led the chant and would always compose the school songs for Intercol [the secondary schools football league]. He used to deejay at school bazaars. I’ll never forget

Turn to PAGE 13



Brother Resistance

and respect for “Mother Earth”, a song that demonstrated just the depth of his perception and vision. Long before the term climate change was coined, Brother Resistance was asking, “Is it too late to save the earth?”

Perhaps his most beloved song, however, was “Ring De Bell”, in which he symbolically advocates for ringing the bell—part of Spiritual Baptist, Orisha and other religious traditions—for culture, justice, freedom and, of course, rapso: “It’s a long, long time now we

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NEWS

Montreal police stops: You can now log what happened on an interactive map

Starting this Wednesday, Montrealers who are stopped by police, or who have been stopped in the past, can self-report their experience via an online interactive map.

The goal is to reflect a more accurate account of police stops in the city, using the open-data research initiative to collect information about the nature of the stops directly from citizens' testimonials.

A number of persons are invited to record "any experience where a police officer stopped you and asked you to identify yourself

or show them your ID, asked you what you were doing or where you were going, without that incident leading to any kind of sanctions," said the project's lead researcher, Carolyn Côté-Lussier.

The data on the map will chart when and where a stop happened. It will also give people the option to enter information about themselves — with full anonymity — such as their age group, gender, racial or ethnic identity and sexual orientation.

People will also be prompted to give



Carolyn Côté-Lussier

the reason they think they were stopped and whether they think it was justified.

The project was launched by a multi-disciplinary research team from the Institut national de la recherche

scientifique (INRS), McGill University, Concordia University and College London.

Stopmtl.ca, which had 82 stops recorded as of noon at the time of writing, will allow researchers to map out the social and physical distribution of police stops in Montreal, something Côté-Lussier says is missing from data gathered and shared by the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM.)

She says the SPVM only record five to 20 per cent of the stops they make. The force has recently implemented a policy to

ensure street checks be based on observable facts and not "discriminatory motives," but some advocates say that still won't end racial profiling.

The project relies on 100 per cent data transparency and shows a running count of how many stops have been self-recorded in the city to date, with a function to view data in different boroughs to pinpoint hot-spots.

Côté-Lussier, who is an assistant professor at the INRS and a researcher at the International Centre for Comparative Criminology, says the project

was partly inspired by a 2019 independently-produced SPVM report suggesting that police stops disproportionately affected certain groups — primarily young adults in Black, Indigenous and Arab communities.

The research will focus on the public's reaction toward crime and safety issues, and will look at this data in terms of how it affects health, behaviour and quality of life for Montrealers.

Researchers will produce a report on the project and the validity of the data in February 2022.

Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund now open for new applications

On Tuesday, Bell announced that applications are now being accepted for grants from the 2021 Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund, which supports organizations working to increase access to culturally informed mental health and well-being support within Canada's Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities.

"Recognizing the impacts of racism and social injustice, the Bell Let's Talk Diversity

Fund works to address the specific mental health needs of ethno-cultural communities across Canada," said Mary Deacon, Chair of Bell Let's Talk. "Since its launch last summer, the Fund has distributed \$2.25 million in grants to 16 organizations performing vital work in their communities, and we're now ready to welcome new applications for support."



The Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund was launched in July 2020 and provides grants of up to \$200,000 to organizations working to address the mental health impacts of systemic racism. The funding process is informed by a team of health experts, persons with lived

experience and BIPOC community leaders that reviews funding applications and selects final grant recipients.

Bell Let's Talk encourages Canadian registered charities, non-profits and other community organizations to apply for grants, which will be disbursed in early 2022. To learn more about projects already funded by the Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund, go to <https://letstalk.bell.ca/>

[en/results-impact/canada/diversity-fund/#-funds](https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/results-impact/canada/diversity-fund/#-funds)

Bell Let's Talk is set to unveil a new podcast series this fall highlighting the mental health experiences of Canada's BIPOC communities. Each episode will feature guests sharing their personal stories and mental health journeys as well as mental health experts from BIPOC communities who can help Canadians understand the impacts of racism and injustice on the mental health of

BIPOC Canadians.

The Bell Let's Talk mental health initiative is focused on 4 key action pillars: Anti-stigma, Care and Access, Research and Workplace Leadership. Since its launch in September 2010, Bell Let's Talk has partnered with more than 1,100 organizations providing mental health services throughout Canada, including hospitals, universities and other care and research organizations.

To learn more, visit Bell.ca/LetsTalk.

T&T cultural and rapso artist Brother Resistance, has died

from PAGE 11

seeing one of his party flyers promoting what was called 'The Cold Concrete Network'. He took that concept

of networking and ran with it."

For Foster, though, one of Brother Resistance's most enduring legacies was his em-

bracing of "Trinbagonian" as its own language:

"Resistance was a bright, highly educated man, and he regarded

our way of speaking as more than a dialect, more than broken English — and that was really important at a time when anything but

standard English was considered uncultured. Resistance was proud to be Trini."

Having completed his tertiary education at The University of the West Indies (UWI),

Brother Resistance was awarded a Master's degree in Carnival Studies from the University of Trinidad and Tobago in 2012, and was in the process of completing his Ph.D. at UWI.

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NEWS

With Haiti in turmoil, lawyers call for faster family reunification

Slandie Edouard came to Canada as a refugee claimant more than two years ago and she hasn't seen her two sons, aged five and eight, in person since.

"I want to touch them. I want to give them a hug, but I can't," said Edouard.

The boys lives with Edouard's mother in Haiti — a troubled country plunged deeper into turmoil by the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse last week.

Moïse was killed early Wednesday at his Port-au-Prince home by what Haitian authorities describe as a unit of assassins formed of

26 Colombians and two Haitian-Americans.

Meanwhile, the tens of thousands of Haitians who have settled in Quebec are watching the drama unfold with bated breath, worried for their family and friends.

Kids stuck waiting for application to be processed

Edouard says she works in Montreal seven days a week, doing what it takes to support her kids and save enough money to get them to Canada.

She submitted her permanent resident application a year ago and has yet to hear back. With permanent

resident status, she would be able to bring her kids to the country more easily.

Instead, she is watching the news and worrying about their safety. She has lived through past coups, and often people with relatives abroad often fall victim to violence when a government is overthrown, she said.

Immigration lawyer Stéphanie Valois says there are many Haitian families in Montreal going through the same thing, but the average processing time for immigration applications like Edouard's is two years. That's too long, she said.

"We all know that these children will eventually be able to travel to Canada. Most of these files are decided positively. There's no reason for the children to be refused...therefore, why wait?" she said.

Immigration lawyer Stéphanie Valois says two years is too long to wait for an application to be approved, especially for those who are living in the troubled country of Haiti.

Valois is the president of Quebec's association of immigration lawyers, which goes by its French acronym, AQAADI.

As president, she



Stéphanie Valois

penned an open letter that, signed by some 50 others — including several Haitian community groups — calls on the Canadian government to speed up the immigration for Haitian applicants.

"Like the special programs adopted for Lebanon and Hong Kong, we ask Canada and Quebec to take all measures to prioritize visa and permanent residence applications submitted by members of the immediate family of citizens and

permanent residents of Canada, as well as Haitians recognized as refugees and persons in need of protection," the letter states.

The letter was published in La Presse, a digital newspaper, last Monday. It notes that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to do everything he could to help people in Haiti after the assassination.

No one from the federal immigration ministry was available to comment Tuesday.



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Big person fete allows children too: David Rudder is one of the attractions

By Stephen Weir

If you are a David Rudder fan and have missed seeing “Sir David” perform during the pandemic, honk your horn this July 31st. And if you really want to hear some of the new material he has written over the past year or so, honk again and flash your high beams.

On Saturday July 31st Soca legend David Rudder will be performing live in Toronto for the first time since the shutdown. He will be outdoors, on stage at the City View Drive-In playing for a lot filled with parked cars! The car-only venue is back

this summer since the relaxation of Covid restrictions in the city. The drive-in is located adjacent to the Rebel Night Club on Polson Street in the Toronto Harbour District.

Trinidad’s David Rudder is based here in the GTA and has had to quarantine along with the rest of the city. It has been quiet for a normally very busy entertainer but “I did perform three months ago at Exhibition Place (for a live Caribbean Carnival online show),” said Rudder. “I didn’t have an audience. It was used to promote this year’s Caribana. That is about it for 2021!”



The stage on which he will perform is massive, some 240 feet wide. The audience, sitting in cars, will have no difficulty seeing or hearing the show.

As well, the Drive-In broadcasts the show on the FM radio band to the parked cars!

He will have a full band behind him and figures that they will debut “at least one new song”. One doesn’t usually associate drive-in theatres with live Soca shows, but the singer says this won’t be the first time for him. “Yes, I actually did perform at the Kay Donna Drive-In in Trinidad over thirty years ago.”

It could be the last time in a while to see Rudder live on a Toronto stage. The singer songwriter figures that “if things open up I’ll probably go to Trin-



David Rudder

idad for a while. Other than that, I’ll probably do some studio work!”

The concert is being staged by former radio personality and now promoter, Dr. Jay Donna (Da King Of Soca). He is calling the event his Big People Fete. He announced earlier this week that the concert is already 50% sold out. “This is a family event and tickets are sold per car meaning you can come with as many

people as there are seatbelts in your vehicle for a single price.”

Ticket holders have to stay in their autos (no motorcycles allowed) throughout the show. There are washrooms and food trucks on site. As well, you are allowed to bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks. The show starts at 8 pm and tickets range in price from \$110 to \$180 per vehicle.

The NDP toasts the Keepers of the Culture – the mas makers, calypsonians, dee jays, steel pannists and everyone who keeps Carnival alive.



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MPP Beaches—East York

Trini-Canadian poet M. NourbeSe Philip awarded \$50K Arts Molson Prize

The Arts Molson Prize is a lifetime achievement award annually given by the Canada Council for the Arts

M. NourBeSe Philip has won the 2021 Arts Molson Prize, a \$50,000 award, for her “invaluable contributions to literature.”

The Arts Molson Prize is a lifetime achievement award annually given by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Philip is a widely celebrated poet, essayist, fiction writer and outspoken critic. Her books include the YA novel *Harriet's Daughter*, poetry collection *She Tries her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*, the genre-bending book *Zong!* and nonfiction collection *Blank*.

Born in Tobago, Philip moved to Canada in the 1960s and completed a Masters degree in political science followed by a law degree at the University



M. NourbeSe Philip

of Western Ontario (now Western University). She practiced law in Toronto for seven years, writing and publishing poetry in her spare time, until she started writing full-time in 1983.

Philip released her first three poetry collections in the 1980s: *Thorns*, *Salm on Courage* and *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*. The books explored her identity as a Caribbean and Canadian woman,

the complicated beauty of language and experiences of racism and exile as a Black woman in Canada.

Philip released her debut novel, *Harriet's Daughter*, in 1988. The book tells the coming-of-age story of a 14-year-old girl in Canada who idolizes Harriet Tubman. Philip later adapted the story for theatre.

Her most recent poetry collection *Zong!* was published in 2008. The book tells the true

story of a slave ship from November 1781 on which 150 Africans were drowned on captain's orders so the ship's owners could collect insurance money. Philip examined the legal text from the case to create a collection that mourns, sings, chants and curses.

“Everybody read *Zong!* now. It's a stunning accomplishment that takes on how to write about the unrepresentable,” Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *The Sympathizer*, tweeted in 2020.

But Philip's work exposing colonial cruelty has always extended beyond the page. In the 1980s, she was a prominent voice for Black writers in the country, leading a protest group called Vision 21 outside of PEN Canada

for excluding writers of colour. June Callwood, a CBC journalist known as “Canada's Conscience” and PEN's incoming chair, told Philip to “f--k off.”

Journalist Amanda Parris writes that the Canadian literary scene responded to Philip's activism by pushing her further into the margins. Her work in the 1990s and 2000s was largely ignored by Canadian critics and prizes, despite the praise it was garnering abroad. In her 2017 book *Blank*, a collection of essays interviews, Philip describes herself as a “disappeared writer.”

“The primary obstacle I've had to overcome was Canadian racism in its myriad forms, the subtle and the not so subtle, which would have destroyed me as

a writer,” said Philip in an interview with the Molson Prize.

“M. NourbeSe Philip's writing has, for four decades, merged vital formal experimentation and considerations of race, gender, colonialism and African diasporic identity,” said PEN America, which awarded her the prestigious PEN/Nabokov Award for International Literature in 2020.

Philip continues to be a force in literature and a voice writers turn to for guidance. To emerging writers, she had this to say, “Learn how to trust [your] gut instincts about [your] own work — sometimes the critics are wrong; be willing to risk — failure or success; and have someone in your life who loves what you do and will critique your work honestly.”

Six-year-old Ad'Ria La Pierre pens her first book

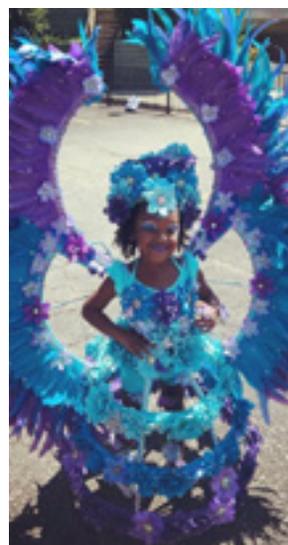
And it's about Carnival

She was inspired to write her first book, *Adria The Carnival Princess*, based on her own life experiences with the help and guidance of her mother.

Ad'Ria is a model, actress, masquerader who loves going on adventures and taking her readers along for the journey.

Carnival Princess begins on the day of

Ad'Ria's first experience as a participant in the parade day. She is excited and a bit nervous to go on stage and show off her fairy princess costume. Adria is in for an unforgettable



Ad'Ria La Pierre

adventure! Carnival is a huge celebration in the Caribbean and now worldwide.

It is a celebration of freedom where

masqueraders parade in beautiful hand-built costumes, dance to Soca/Calypto music, and eat cultural food.

Adria The Carnival Princess encourages bravery, multiculturalism, and imagination. It is perfect for all children, schools,



bookstores, and local libraries. It helps children to boost their confidence and build healthy self-esteem.

Overall this book is a fun-filled learning journey that allows young readers and their families to experience the feeling of attending a Caribbean carnival.

Adria The Carnival Princess is available on Amazon and www.thekiddiesclub.com

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Black Canadians more likely to be hesitant about COVID-19 vaccines

Toronto orthopedic surgeon Dr. Ato Sekyi-Otu, leader of the health-care task force of the Black Opportunity Fund, says a new survey confirms unpublished public health data that vaccine hesitancy is higher among Black Canadians than among white or non-Black racialized people.

“There’s a 20-point gap with respect to the rate of vaccination in Black Canadians compared to the Canadian average,” Sekyi-Otu said in an interview. “When you look at vaccine confidence, unvaccinated Black Canadians are least likely to say that they’ll definitely get the vaccine.”

Sekyi-Otu said the Black Opportunity Fund partnered with the African Canadian Civic Engagement Council and the Innovative Research Group to try to understand why Black

Canadians appeared to be getting vaccinated in lower numbers.

The survey found that as of early June, when more than 60 per cent of Canadians had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, 45 per cent of Black Canadians surveyed said they were at least partially vaccinated, compared with 65 per cent of white Canadians and 43 per cent of non-Black visible minorities.

Sixty per cent of Black Canadians surveyed who didn’t have at least one dose expressed some level of hesitancy to get vaccinated, compared with 55 per cent of white Canadians and 44 per cent of non-Black visible minorities.

The figures are in line with vaccination data in Toronto, where the neighbourhoods with the lowest vacci-

nation rates also have some of the largest Black populations.

Dunia Nur, president of the African Canadian Civic Engagement Council based in Edmonton, said addressing hesitancy in Black communities will require “a variety of policy shifts” from government that take into consideration language needs, as well as differences in education and socio-economic disparities.

“These include investing in strategies that work with Black-led and Black-focused community organizations to address COVID-19 vaccine knowledge gaps and related trust barriers,” Nur said in a statement.

Black Canadians responding to the survey were less likely to be hesitant about vaccines if they trusted their health-care providers

and the vaccine makers, could take paid time off work to get vaccinated and were confident in where and how to go about getting a shot.

“When we talk about hesitancy, we speak about the ABCs,” said Sekyi-Otu. “I’m talking about access, belief and confidence.”

According to Sekyi-Otu, access is affected when Black Canadians are more likely to work in jobs where taking paid time away to be vaccinated is difficult or impossible. Belief in the vaccines can be eroded if you don’t trust the people providing the information about them, and confidence that the vaccines work is harmed when people who are already less trusting of the health-care system get mixed messages about vaccine safety and effectiveness.

Dunia Nur, president of the African



Dr. Ato Sekyi-Otu



Dunia Nur

Canadian Civic Engagement Council based in Edmonton added: “It’s not surprising that if someone has a bad experience with one institution, for example, criminal justice, when he or she is 19 years old, he or she may not want to take the vaccine in 2021 when he or she is 45 years old,” he said.

Sekyi-Otu says governments need to ensure that people can take time off work to be vaccinated and take immediate steps to provide culturally sensitive and appropriate delivery and education about vaccines in Black communities.

“You have to build a system where the

people who are leading the system look like the people using the system,” he said. “And so we want to create a culturally sensitive system, engage with the community so that they can come up and take the vaccine.”

The survey is being released as the Public Health Agency of Canada reports new data showing COVID-19 death rates in the first eight months of the pandemic were highest in communities with lower incomes and higher visible minority populations.

More than 2,830 Canadians responded to the survey, including more than 500 Black Canadians.

Mississauga clean Deepak Anand



Last weekend, volunteers came out to clean-up the Elm Creek Park, which is located behind the Malton Community Centre in Mississauga. The event was organized by Deepak Anand, Provincial Member of Parliament of Ontario for Mississauga-Malton.

“It was heartwarming to gather safely and cherish the great outdoors that makes our province and our nation a beautiful place to call home. ... As we enjoy more outdoor activities during the summer, let’s take care of our beautiful parks, water bodies & green spaces. This will help to protect wildlife, beautify our neighbourhoods & protect the environment for current and future generations.”

To organize a community clean up near you, contact our office at 905-696-0367.

Gloria (Heddy) Josephine des Vignes dies in Toronto at 80

Gloria (Heddy) Josephine des Vignes (nee Ayoung), who was born on April 11, 1941 in Maraval Rd, Port of Spain, Trinidad, and grew up in Success Village, Laventille and St Augustine, in Trinidad, died on July 18, 2021

Ayoung - des Vignes, came to Canada on March 24, 1968, died of a stroke after a short five day stay at Scarborough's Grace Hospital. She was a retired Medical Secretary at Wellesley and St. Michael's hospitals for 25 plus years.

Some of her hobbies were cooking, tutoring children in reading, school and church volunteer, Ministry



Gloria (Heddy) Josephine des Vignes

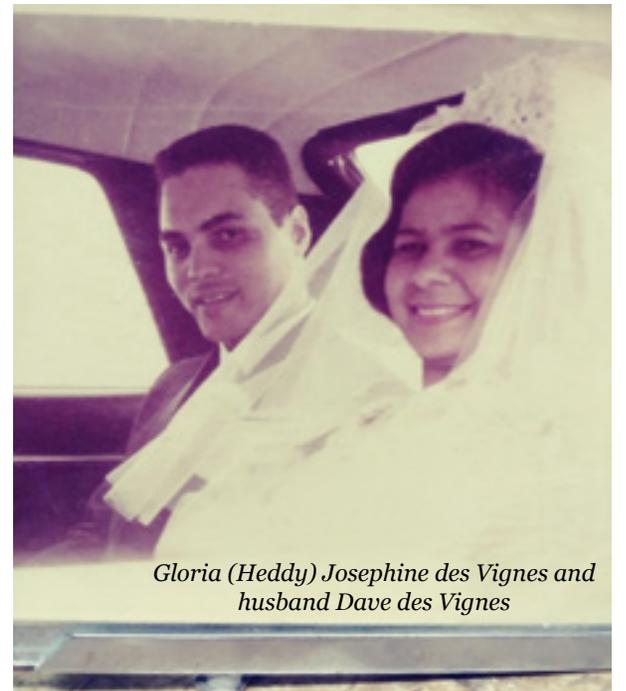
Leader of the Hospitality Team at St. Joseph's

Catholic Church, event catering (Biker Boyz,

homemaker, babysitter she spent many years making mas with the Zodiac group with (Nip Davis), Mas Toronto (Errol Achue), and volunteered at Caribana King and Queen Show.

She was a fixture at events like Joan Alexander and Friends Parang Lime, Hawks International (Lady In Red), Family and Friends Boatride and Changing Places Christmas Show.

Ayoung - des Vignes leaves behind her husband Dave des Vignes, her two children Dawn and Robin. Her three grand children, Jarren, Drew and Angelica. Her "adopted" daughter, Natasha Payne. Her siblings, Jelio, Peter,



Gloria (Heddy) Josephine des Vignes and husband Dave des Vignes

Rosalie, Edwin (Crazy), Yolanda, Margaret (deceased), Ainsley, Elena and Maria her best friends Joan Alexander, Etta, McPherson, Sandra Lloyd, Judy Austin, Hannah Manesh and

members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Prayer Group.

Funeral arrangements are to be determined and will be announced at a later date.

Finally Pedro Castillo declared president-elect of Peru

Pedro Castillo has been declared president-elect of Peru, weeks after winning the popular vote in a tightly-contested run-off election.

The country's election authority announced its verdict after reviewing claims of electoral fraud by his right-wing rival, Keiko Fujimori.

Mr Castillo, a 51-year-old former school teacher and union leader, secured just over 50% of the votes. He will now be

sworn in as Peru's president on 28 July.

After the jury announced its verdict, Mr Castillo gave a speech in the capital, Lima.

"We are going to work together and bring this country together," said Mr Castillo, according to news outlet RPP. "We are going to reject anything that goes against democracy."

In a tweet, Peru's current President Francisco Sagasti said he welcomed the announcement.

"May this be the beginning of a new stage of reconciliation, consensus and unity," he added.

Mr Castillo burst onto the national scene four years ago when he led thousands of teachers on successful strike over pay.

During his presidential campaign, Mr Castillo pledged to nationalize Peru's lucrative mining and hydrocarbon sectors, and said he would aim to create a million new jobs in a year.

He also proposed re-introducing the death penalty to help tackle crime.

Mr Castillo won last month's election by a margin of only 44,000 votes - beating Ms Fujimori in her third bid for the presidency.

He has previously claimed victory, but a series of legal challenges by Ms Fujimori delayed an official verdict from election officials.

Ms Fujimori had provided little evidence of her claims of election fraud, and Castillo's



Pedro Castillo

Free Peru party has rejected the accusations. Electoral observers, including the Organisation of American States, have also said they have found no irregularities.

Ahead of Monday night's announcement, Ms Fujimori said she would accept the result.

"The truth will come out anyway," she added. "We are all going to work together to re-establish legitimacy in our country."

Ms Fujimori is the

daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori, who is in jail serving a 25-year sentence for crimes including corruption and human rights abuses.

Ms Fujimori herself is being investigated for alleged corruption and money laundering, claims she says are politically motivated. Her failure to become president means prosecutors can now proceed with the charges against her.

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Former Montserrat chief minister jailed

A High Court Judge on Monday sentenced former chief minister David Brandt to 15 years in jail after he had earlier been found guilty on six counts of sexual exploitation and one count of perverting the course of justice.

But Brandt immediately indicated that he intends appealing the sentence, insisting that he had no physical contact with the young girls who were between the ages of 13 to 15 years when the crimes were alleged to have taken place.

"I am not broken. I will not be broken. Do I look like a man broken?" said Brandt, who defended himself during the trial.

Brandt, who served as chief minister here from 1997 to 2001, told reporters he is con-



David Brandt

fidant of winning his appeal and having the verdict reversed.

The Court had set sentencing for July 14, but the matter was postponed to Monday as the High Court awaited the Social Inquiry Report that became available last Friday.

In sentencing Brandt to prison, Justice Stanley John said that because the charges were so "aggra-

vated" and that Brandt had used his position, most notably as a senior lawyer here, a wealthy person and a former chief minister, he was adding 18 months to the seven- and nine-year sentences that had been imposed on the sexual charges.

On the five of the six counts of sexual exploitation, Brandt was given jail terms of nine years while on the sixth count he was jailed for

seven years.

On the charge of perverting the course of justice, Brandt, who is in his 70's, was jailed for 15 years. The sentences are to run concurrently

In passing sentence, Justice John said that while there were some mitigating factors before the Court, the aggravated nature of the charges far outweighed them.

The judge spoke of the age of Brandt, his various illnesses, being immobile and having other medical challenges as well as the 12 months he had been in prison awaiting trial.

A number of prominent Montserratians, including former acting Governor Sir Howard Fergus, made pleas on behalf of Brandt, but the judge said that their intervention did

not come close to the violations against the children.

In the Social Inquiry Report, Mrs Brandt and their children also asked for leniency and forgiveness, but the judge noted that the victims were between the ages of 13 and 15 and that what made it a very serious offence.

The case against the prominent attorney dates back to September 18, 2015 when Brandt was initially arrested and charged with one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in 2010.

In 2015, he was charged with conspiracy to have sex with a minor, due to developments that took place between April to September that year.

Brandt had always maintained his innocence, and that "my day

in court will show that is the case, and that I am innocent. These allegations that have been brought against me are totally false."

But in November 2018, Brandt was taken into custody by local police assisted by the members the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) and several charges were laid against him including two counts of child sexual exploitation and one count of perverting the course of justice.

In the midst of the 1997 volcanic devastation, Brandt assumed the position of chief minister, retiring from active politics in 2001. As a member of the Legislative Council of Montserrat, he won a seat in every election since his first attempt in 1983.

Pierre confident of victory in St Lucia July 26th elections

The leader of the main opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), Phillip J. Pierre, is confident that the party will win the July 26 general election, insisting that it has been preparing to return to government following the defeat in the 2016 poll.

"Finally! July 26, 2021. We are ready!" St Lucians, we are ready to serve," the SLP said in a post on its official Facebook page, while Pierre in a televised address following the election date announcement, criticised the performance of the Allen Chastanet administration over the past five years.

"As their term closes, St Lucia's economy is the worst performer of the independent

member states of the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States), according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank," Phillip said, adding that the poor performance was not purely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID merely further exposed the poor economic decisions that they had been making," Pierre said.

But when he announced the election date in a radio and television broadcast on Monday night, Prime Minister Chastanet said that the Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services, (CaricRIS), which is the Caribbean's regional credit rating agency, has "maintained our credit rating and projected a

stable outlook.

"This report provides confidence to our lenders that our country is heading in a positive direction. Importantly, it indicated that the maintenance of our debt was adequate as a result of our current and projected recovery from tourism and the impact of our current and projected construction projects," Chastanet added.

Chastanet, who is leading the ruling United Workers Party (UWP) into a second consecutive general election, said he was pleased with the report "given the enormity of the challenge that our country has been facing, like the rest of the world.

"The report shows that St Lucia is one of



Phillip J. Pierre

the best performing countries in this region and that the efforts of this United Workers Party Government are working," he said, adding that "whilst we celebrate the many gains we have made as a country over the last five years, we know we have not done it alone.

"Thousands of ordinary St Lucians have helped to re-build our country, not least among them our party members, who have supported our Mem-



Allen Chastanet

bers of Parliament and our candidates at the constituency," said Chastanet.

But Pierre noted that the government destroyed the health sector and that low priority had been given to that sector resulting in the island having the highest coronavirus (COVID-19) infections and mortality rates in the OECS.

Pierre said that the situation was so poorly handled that St Lucia has more than

the combined totals of OECS member states and urged voters to give his party another opportunity to rescue and rebuild the island.

Chastanet said he is "confident that when you hear how the UWP plans to rebuild our country and turn challenges into opportunities that you will have no doubts about returning us to office".

Nomination Day for the general election was July 16.

Ansel Wong named chair of the London Black Cultural Archives

LONDON, England -- Ansel Wong, a community leader, historian and political activist has been selected as the new chair of the Board of Trustees at the Black Cultural Archives (BCA).

Wong will work alongside the team to help realise its 2030 strategy.

The Trinidadian born CBE holder has been based in the UK since the 1960s. Formerly, he chaired the Notting Hill Carnival Trust and he was also a key figure in the

establishment of Black History Month.

Currently, Wong chairs the Windrush Commemoration Committee. The cultural champion and academic also co-founded Elimu Mas Band.

Of his appointment, Wong said: "This year feels like a sea change in the development and momentum of Black communities in the UK.

"The BCA is part of this reawakening and I am both proud and delighted to have been entrusted with building on the foundation created

by Dawn Hill and her directors and leading the BCA on its journey to achieve its mission and, for me, be the first port of call to access, learn and celebrate the Black presence in the UK."

He will officially enter the role this month once Dawn Hill steps down.

Hill, who currently chairs the committee will stand down at the organisation's annual general meeting this month.

She has been part of the Black Cultural

Archives since 1981, and worked alongside founding chair Len Garrison becoming chair at the BCA in 2012.

Her greatest legacy at the organisation is the national heritage centre in the heart of Brixton.

Hill also currently leads the BCA initiative which helps victims of the Windrush scandal, providing them with pro-bono legal support in partnership with McKenzie Beute and Pope immigration lawyers.

Arike Oke, current



Ansel Wong

managing director said: "From a strong field of candidates for the chair role, Ansel stood out.

"He is the perfect person to take BCA into the future, as a thriving community resource, an influential national archive, and on to international renown for our mission to preserve, document and celebrate the histories of people

of African descent in the UK.

"Dawn Hill has contributed indelibly to BCA and I'm indebted to her guidance and support to date. I'm excited to work with Ansel in the next phase of BCA's journey."

Ansel is of African, Caribbean, Chinese and Spanish heritage.

T&T Govt, Nicki Minaj say naming rum "J'Ouvert" is cultural appropriation

Actor Michael B. Jordan has agreed to scrap the brand name J'Ouvert after criticism from Nicki Minaj and the government of Trinidad and Tobago

Michael B Jordan has issued an apology, in the fallout from his announcement over the weekend that he was launching a line of rums called J'Ouvert.

The term signals the start of carnival in the Caribbean and is a cornerstone of tradition in Trinidad and Tobago; Jordan's use of the word was felt by many to be cultural appropriation.

Critics were particularly angered by the line in Jordan's trademark filing that claimed the term has "no meaning in a foreign language". An online petition to stop the trademark had already topped 12,000 signatures and the government of the islands also expressed deep concern over



Michael B Jordan

the plan.

Singer Nicki Minaj, who comes from Trinidad, urged Jordan to change the "offensive" name on Tuesday; later that day Jordan posted an apology on Instagram Stories.

"I just wanna say on behalf of myself & my partners, our intention was never to offend or

hurt a culture (we love & respect) & hoped to celebrate & shine a positive light on," he wrote. "Last few days has been a lot of listening. A lot of learning & engaging in countless community conversations ..."

"We hear you. I hear you & want to be clear that we are in the process of renaming. We sincerely apologize & look forward to introducing a brand we can

all be proud of."

The term "J'Ouvert" originates from the French for daybreak; its relationship with the start of carnival in the Caribbean dates back to the 1800s.

At the start of the week, the minister of trade and industry, Paula Gopee-Scoon, said that the intellectual property implications of the filing were "of extreme concern".

Bob Marley's former London apartment on sale for £1.65 million

A London apartment where Jamaican reggae legend Bob Marley once lived has gone on sale for £1.65 million.

Located in Bloomsbury, the four-bedroom apartment at Ridgmount Gardens was where Marley lived in 1972 when he went to England to launch his

music career outside of Jamaica.

Accompanied by his band, the Wailers, Marley was invited at the time by American singer Johnny Cash on his tour, the UK's Metro newspaper reported.

Marley, born Robert Nesta Marley in Nine Miles, St Ann,



Bob Marley

later met record label owner Chris Blackwell,

and stardom came soon after for the reggae icon and his band, which comprised Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer.

In 2006, "a blue cultural heritage plaque" was unveiled at Ridgmount Gardens, recognising it "as the first London home of the 'singer, lyricist and Rastafarian icon' Bob

Marley, the newspaper said.

The historic four-bedroom apartment is on sale through Dexters Marylebone Estate Agents in London.

The apartment, which overlooks a large communal garden and greenery, is also set behind a red-brick façade "typical of the

style from when it was built in the 1890s," the article said.

"Ridgmount Gardens has a great history, once home to the reggae superstar Bob Marley, and now has a cultural blue plaque, making it a highly desirable home," Alison Battrick of Dexters Marylebone explained.

New Haiti PM appointed “with international backing”

A new prime minister supported by key international diplomats will take charge of Haiti, an official said Monday — a move that appeared aimed at averting a leadership struggle following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Ariel Henry, who was designated prime minister by Moïse before he was slain but never sworn in, will replace the country’s interim prime minister, Haiti Elections Minister Mathias Pierre told The Associated Press.

It wasn’t immediately clear how quickly Claude Joseph, who has been leading Haiti with the backing of police and the military since the July 7 assassination



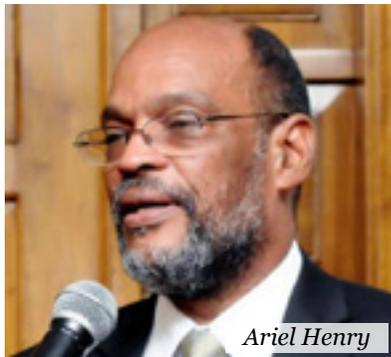
Claude Joseph

of Moïse, would step down.

“Negotiations are still in course,” Pierre said, adding that Joseph would go back to being minister of foreign affairs. There was no immediate comment from Joseph.

In an audio recording, Henry referred to himself as prime minister and called for unity, saying he would soon announce the members of what he called a provisional consensus government to lead the country until elections are held.

“I present my com-



Ariel Henry

pliments to the Haitian people who have shown political maturity in the face of what can be considered a coup. ... Our Haitian brothers gave peace a chance, while leaving the possibility that the truth could one day be restored,” Henry said.

“Now it is up to all the national leaders to walk together in unity, towards the same goal, to show that they are responsible.”

The political turnover followed a statement last Saturday from a key group of international diplomats

that appeared to snub Joseph as it called for the creation of “a consensual and inclusive government.”

“To this end, it strongly encourages the designated

Prime Minister Ariel Henry to continue the mission entrusted to him to form such a government,” the statement from the Core Group said.

The Core Group is composed of ambassadors from Germany, Brazil, Canada, Spain, the U.S., France, the European Union and representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

On Monday, the U.N. issued a statement calling on Joseph, Henry and other national stakeholders “to set

aside differences and engage in constructive dialogue on ways to end the current impasse.”

The U.N. added that Joseph and Henry made significant progress in the past week and that it supports dialogue to find “minimal consensus” for holding fair legislative and presidential elections.

Monique Clesca, a Haitian writer, activist and former U.N. official, said she doesn’t anticipate any changes under Henry, whom she expects to carry on Moïse’s legacy. But she warned Henry might be viewed as tainted because of the international backing that preceded his taking power.

“There is not only a perception, but the reality that he has been put there by the international community, and I think that’s his burden

to carry,” she said.

“What we’re calling for is for Haitians to really say this is unacceptable. We do not want the international community stating who ought to be in power and what ought to be done. It is up to us.”

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. would continue to work with Joseph after noting he was the incumbent in the position and was serving as acting prime minister before the assassination.

The Core Group statement was issued hours after Moïse’s wife, Martine, arrived in Haiti on Saturday aboard a private jet clad in black and wearing a bulletproof vest after being released from a hospital in Miami. Moïse’s funeral will be held on July 23rd.

Member of European Parliament repudiates destabilization campaign against Cuba

Spanish MEP Manu Pineda last Sunday repudiated the destabilization campaign launched against Cuba and denounced the media manipulation and hypocrisy that accompany the aggression.

In an interview with Prensa Latina, Pineda, who is a member of the United Left party in the European Parliament, warned that no one should be surprised by the new crusade to overthrow the Cuban

Revolution, which he considered an example of resistance and victory, despite the extreme circumstances the country is facing, particularly, the blockade imposed by the United States.

Pineda stressed that Washington’s economic, commercial and financial blockade is the core of Cuba’s problems, and its impact grew amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the vice president of the Cuba Friendship and Solidarity Group in the European Parliament, this scenario marked by the consequences of the blockade and the health crisis generates civil unrest, a legitimate reaction from which the promoters and executors of the destabilization try to benefit.

Pineda underlined his support of Cuba and its Revolution, and insisted on supporting the people, the Government and the Communist Party, recognizing their

work to face difficulties and their solidarity with other countries hit by Covid-19, including Andorra and Italy, in Europe.

He highlighted the development of five Cuban-made Covid-19 vaccine candidates, despite the hard situation in the country.

This campaign is hypocritical, because Cuba does not send weapons, soldiers and wars for the planet, but doctors and teachers, he said.

For Pineda, the crusade seeks to distance US President Joe Biden from any approach on Cuba and his promises to change some of the measures adopted by his predecessor, Donald Trump. The Spanish MEP stated that the



Manu Pineda

recent position by the US president does not call for optimism; however, he reiterated that Washington should resume the path towards the normalization of relations and opt for non-interference.

Pineda reaffirmed his support for Cuba and its Revolution, and called to denounce the destabilizing crusade ‘with all means we have at our disposal.’

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NEWS

Black Alliance for Peace says “Hands off Haiti”

Black Alliance for Peace (BAP - USA), people-centered human rights project against war, repression and imperialism, condemns the arrogance and illegality of United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti Helen La Lime’s July 8 statement that Haitian Prime Minister Claude Joseph will be the new president, just one day after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

The decision was announced to the press after a closed-door UN Security Council meeting had been called on Haiti. But BAP asks: Who gave the United Nations special envoy the power to make that kind of determination for the people of Haiti?

This sounds like a play right out of the old regime-change book. As BAP stated in its July 7 press release, BAP smells a rat.

BAP is concerned the political situation the United States created by supporting a dictatorship in Haiti is quickly replicating the moment when the United States swept in to colonize the predominantly African/Black country after the 1915 assassination of Haiti’s president, Vilbrun Guillaume Sam.

“The Black Alliance for Peace remains steadfast in our call against foreign intervention and occupation of Haiti,” says Jemima Pierre, BAP’s Haiti/Americas Coordinator. “We call on all anti-im-

perialist and Black internationalist forces to stand with the Haitian people and oppose U.S. and European interventions deployed under the guise of the ‘Responsibility to Protect.’”

What Haiti needs is authentic national sovereignty and self-determination.

“When people say Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, they fail to understand it is the Pan-European colonial powers that have kept Haiti with its hands tied behind its back,” says BAP National Organizer Ajamu Baraka. “We say time out on white Western powers causing destruction in the global South.”

Shortly after Democrats wrung their hands

over the possibility of Donald Trump staying past his term in office, Biden came into office and immediately lent his support to Moïse to stay beyond the February 7 term limit. That decision sent thousands of Haitians protesting in the streets week after week.

“The Haitian people clearly understood that the United States, the United Nations, and the Organization of American States were behind this,” says Chris Bernadel, a member of BAP’s Haiti/Americas Committee. “During these massive protests, they called for all of these Western powers to exit Haiti.”

While Biden expressed support for



Ajamu Baraka

Black Lives Matter and for democracy during his campaign for president, true support would have meant ending U.S. meddling in Haiti’s affairs. This assassination relieves the Biden-Harris administration of the embarrassment of having to reconcile the contradiction between pretending to respect Black

lives and democracy and supporting a dictator who had reigned after his term had ended on February 7.

That is why for BAP, it doesn’t matter who pulled the trigger to kill Moïse because the Pan-European colonial-capitalist powers are responsible for the suffering of the Haitian people.

BAP vigorously opposes any and all foreign institutions and structures intervening in Haiti. The Haitian people must be allowed to exercise self-determination and address their internal political situation without interference, as BAP noted in its July 6 press release.

Meet Sir Roland Richardson – father of Caribbean impressionism

Armed with his signature straw hat, a palette, and a smile, Sir Roland Richardson has brought the light, life, and joy of the Caribbean to canvas for almost half a century.

Born on St. Martin to a family whose French Caribbean heritage dates back to the 1700’s, the globally celebrated Sir Roland has long made it his mission to share the enchanting qualities and character of the Caribbean with the world at large. He reveals his

exotic, luminescent subjects by painting pictures exclusively “en Plein Air”, preserving the impressionist tradition by working amidst the natural landscapes he captures.

Sir Roland has been characterized as the “Father of Caribbean Impressionism.” Despite this reputation, he is a multifaceted master of diverse mediums including oil, water, pastel drawing in charcoal and extensive fine print making. Recognized by scholars around the world, Sir Roland has



Roland Richardson

been profiled in publications that include the New York Times, the Washington Post, Elle, American Airlines Latitudes, Robb Report, Caribbean Travel & Life, and Island Magazine. His work has been en-

joyed and appreciated by patrons that include the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Romare Bearden, Marth Graham, Harry Belafonte, Susan Lucci, former Massachusetts Senator Edward Brooke, and the

Getty Family.

On the topic of his muse, Sir Roland has said, “The entire region of the Caribbean is blessed with a warm, glorious light manifesting in myriad, vibrant color. This environment enchants, envelops, nourishes, and transforms all who are bathed in it. Here colour reveals qualities of its interior self that elsewhere are subtle and only hinted at. No wonder that Paradise is still thought to be in this part of the world.”

It is through the

efforts of Sir Roland and a growing cohort of Caribbean impressionists that distinctly Caribbean art now touches points all over the world, bringing a greater cultural and environmental awareness to a region whose story may be unfamiliar to many. Sir Roland’s unflinchingly positive outlook and style continue to ensure that this story is one of hope and inspiration - that the world might come to love and cherish the natural wonders of the Caribbean as he has.

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FOCUS ON HEALTH

A healthy lifestyle helps us function

at our best

Our lifestyle can have a big impact on how we feel. When we don't take care of ourselves, we can experience a number of problems, including sleep difficulties, fatigue, low energy, trouble concentrating, and increased tension and stress. These problems can leave us

vulnerable to anxiety. Making healthy choices will help you feel better.

Remember, the goal of developing a healthy lifestyle is to help us function at our best, not to eliminate anxiety (because anxiety plays an important adaptive role – without it we would not survive). Having a healthy life-



style puts us in a better position for managing anxiety. Here are some ideas for building a healthy lifestyle.

reminds us to take time for ourselves. Having a routine can help you to set the stage to better manage your anxiety.



Set a routine

Establish a routine by setting specific times for meals, work, housework, quiet time, and bedtime. We feel more secure when there is some predictability to our day. It also helps us get things done and

Regular exercise

Regular exercise can have a positive impact on both your emotional and physical health. In fact, exercise is one of the most powerful tools for managing stress and anxiety. However, it can be hard to start a regular exercise program. So, start small and work your way up. Aim for at least 20 minutes of physical exercise 3 to 4 times a week. You'll be more likely to stick with a program if you choose something you enjoy. Find little ways to increase your physical activity. For example, park further away from the door, or take the stairs.

make it difficult to cope. Aim to get about 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night. However, this is just an estimate. People differ on how much sleep they need and this amount can change with age. If you are experiencing sleep problems talk to your doctor.

Establish social supports

It is important to have people in your life that you can count on. It helps to be able to talk to a friend when you have had a bad day or are struggling with a problem. Having a good social network has been linked to greater well-being. Having at least one good supportive friend can make a difference.

anxiety. Try to reduce your caffeine intake. This includes coffee, some teas, soda, and chocolate. If you drink a lot of caffeinated beverages, it's better to gradually reduce the amount of caffeine that you have every day. Smoking is also a strong stimulant. In addition to the health benefits, quitting smoking may also leave you less prone to anxiety.

Avoid alcohol and drugs

As you may already know, it is not a good idea to use alcohol or drugs to help you cope with anxiety – this just leads to more problems. If you have problems with anxiety, try to avoid using drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with negative feelings. If you think that you may have a problem with drugs or alcohol, talk to your doctor.

Eat healthy

Having a well-balanced and healthy diet can make you feel better. Eat consistently throughout the day and don't skip meals. Your diet should include a variety of foods. Try to reduce your salt and sugar intake, eat more fruits and vegetables, and drink more water. Aim for 3 meals a day and 1 to 2 snacks.

Learn to relax

Using relaxation strategies can help lower your overall tension and stress levels. However, relaxation is more than just sitting on the couch watching television. What makes a difference is "deep" relaxation, which is the opposite of what your body experiences when it is under stress.

Get a check-up

Make sure you are taking care of your body. While not common, there are a few medical conditions that can present with some of the same symptoms seen in anxiety and depression. It is a good idea to ensure your symptoms are not a sign of an underlying medical condition.

Get a good night's sleep

Sleep difficulties can contribute to anxiety problems and

Reduce stimulants

Excessive caffeine can lead to sleep problems and heightened

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UK wants to deport Caribbean woman whose Windrush father served in Royal Air Force

People arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been labelled the Windrush generation.

It refers to the ship MV Empire Windrush, which docked in Tilbury on 22 June 1948, bringing workers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands, to help fill post-war UK labour shortages.

The ship carried 492 passengers - many of them children.

A Caribbean woman whose Windrush father served in Royal Air Force (RAF) for years has been forced to shell out thousands of pounds to remain in UK due to what lawyers term “discriminatory” British nationality laws.

Sharon Vitalis, 48, who worked for the NHS for more than 15 years, has been refused status under the Windrush Scheme on the basis that she was born in Germany while her father was deployed in



Sharon Vitalis

the country.

Her five siblings, all of whom were born in the UK, were British by birth.

Ms Vitalis, whose family moved back to the UK months after she was born, has twice been threatened with deportation and is now having to pay around £3,000 every three years to remain in the country with her two children and the rest of their relatives.

Lawyers say her Windrush case was refused on the basis of “needlessly complex” and “discriminatory” elements of British nationality law.

The British Home Office has proposed to rectify this in its new Nationality and Borders Bill, which was laid in

Parliament last week, but it is not clear when – or whether – this will be passed.

Ms Vitalis lived in Britain until the age of six, when she moved to the Caribbean with her mother and siblings to go to school there. She returned when she was in her early 20s and began working as a nurse.

She faced no problems for 17 years, during which she gave birth to a daughter in 1999 and a son in 2005. Her partner later moved to the US after the couple split.

In 2013, when Ms Vitalis went to collect her daughter from Gatwick Airport after a spell living with her father, she was stopped by immigration officials and told she was liable

for deportation, before being taken to a detention centre.

She was released shortly after, but she was issued deportation proceedings and was therefore dismissed from her NHS job.

She successfully appealed her removal but was issued deportation orders again in 2017, at which point The Independent covered her case and the Home Office later revoked her removal.

When the Windrush Scheme opened, Ms Vitalis had been hopeful that it would enable her to obtain British citizenship, but her application was refused in January 2019 and again in February

2021.

The Home Office said she was not eligible for British citizenship because she was born outside the UK.

Her children, now aged 22 and 15, were both born in the UK but do not have UK status on the basis of Ms Vitalis’s lack of citizenship – meaning they are currently unable to travel or go to university.

Rejecting the prospect of leaving the UK, she said: “We’re not going anywhere. We have no family back in the Caribbean. Everyone is here.

“My dad was in the Air Force for 13 years. He was the only Black person in his battalion. For me to be going

through all of this 48 years later – it’s an insult to his service. He must be turning in his grave.”

In the Nationality and Borders Bill, the Home Office has proposed adding flexibility to nationality law so that caseworkers can use discretion to register an adult as a British citizen in certain compelling cases.

Jacqueline McKenzie, of McKenzie Beute and Pope, said this would help people like Ms Vitalis to become British citizens, describing UK nationality law as “needlessly complex and in many instances, discriminatory and often illogical”.

No reprieve for Toronto cop who assaulted Dafonte Miller

from PAGE 2

lice officer who assaulted a retreating, injured Black youth, cannot, and should not, be divorced from this wider context,” the decision read.

Miller called the upholding of the conviction ‘a huge step’ toward justice.

“For me, I just feel like the decision today was obviously a huge step forward because

I find the acknowledgement that racism plays (a part) in police interactions, not only in my situation specifically but other people who be going through the same situation as me, it was really important,” Miller said.

However Miller’s lawyer Julian Falconer expressed anger that the system that sought to ignore Miller’s brutal beating has failed to hold others to account.

“Inspectors who magically didn’t connect with SIU and furthered the cover-up, they’ve ‘retired’ out of accountability,” Falconer said. “It’s nonsense.”

The Crown’s appeal of the case was also dismissed by Ontario’s top court on Monday.

The Crown took the position that prosecutors would not seek a new trial unless Theriault’s conviction was overturned.

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SPORTS

Canadian rising star Felix Auger-Aliassime ready for Olympics

Stepping onto Tokyo's Ariake Tennis Park will be a childhood dream come true for Felix Auger-Aliassime.

The star tennis player, who turns 21 next month, says playing in the Olympics is something he's thought about ever since he watched his first Games in 2008.

"I told myself it would be incredible to walk one day in the opening ceremony among that handful of Canadian athletes that go to the Olympic Games," he said in an interview.

"It's really a childhood dream and to come true, it's awesome."

Despite the ideals expressed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern

Olympics, Auger-Aliassime wants to do more than just take part.

"I hope to go all the way," he said. "To win a medal would be my greatest pride."

He says he wants to win in Tokyo, even if his Olympic result won't impact his professional ranking or his wider tennis career.

"Bringing back a medal is a great pride, but doesn't make you climb the world rankings," he said. "That's why winning a Grand Slam is still the most important for me."

"On the other hand, when you win the Olympic Games, you mark history, that's how it meets the 'value' of a Grand Slam. But it's very personal. We see Andy Murray, who won the last two Olympic tournaments, I find

it too bad that we don't talk more about this grand achievement."

Even though he wants to give Canada — and himself — the best chance for a medal, he doesn't think he will participate in a third draw by playing mixed doubles.

"By multiplying competitions, it would be complicated. I could find myself playing three matches in a day, which would be a bit too much," he said.

The Tokyo games will be very different from previous Olympics, with no fans allowed at venues while Tokyo is under a state of emergency due to rising COVID-19 cases. Fellow Canadians Denis Shapovalov and Bianca Andreescu decided not to go for safety concerns.



Felix Auger Aliassime

Auger-Aliassime has no regrets, even if he won't get the full Olympic experience.

"It's true that these games will be completely different and it's too bad. It's also the first time I'm going to Tokyo and I won't see anything besides my room and the competition site," he said. "Now, the next games are in three years: it will come

up quickly and I know I'll probably be a better player, more mature."

"It's nothing but positive for me: it gives me the chance to play at the Olympics, to see what I can do. I'm already in a position where I've beaten the best players on the tour, and you never know what can happen in a competition."

Auger-Aliassime

said he was looking forward to "real opening and closing ceremonies" in the next games.

What he regrets the most is the fact that he'll have limited contact with other athletes.

If Auger-Aliassime's dreams come true, he could be playing until Aug. 1.

Olympic tennis begins July 24 at Ariake Tennis Park.

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Evin Lewis' sparkling display and team fielding give West Indies 4-1 margin

A fiery half-century from Evin Lewis laid the platform for a 200 target set by West Indies, which seemed well within reach for Australia until a slew of dynamic fielding efforts during the chase turned the tide back the way of the hosts as West Indies clinched a 16-run victory to complete a 4-1 series win at Daren Sammy Stadium in St Lucia.

Lewis attacked pace and spin in equal measure to blaze a 23-ball fifty and ultimately finished with 79 off 34 balls, including four fours and nine sixes, to pace West Indies through the first half of their innings after winning the toss and choosing to bat first.

Aaron Finch and Mitchell Marsh put Australia well ahead of the required run rate in the Powerplay portion of the reply. But a trio of sensational fielding efforts, first by Russell off his own bowling in the fifth and then by Fabian Allen and stand-in captain Nicholas Pooran in the space of three balls in the 10th, sucked the air out of the Australia chase at a pivotal stage from which

they never recovered.

After a blazing 31 off 14-ball cameo in his previous knock two days earlier, Lewis stayed a bit longer at the crease on this occasion and enacted double the damage. His first victim of the night was Jason Behrendorff. After ending the first over by flicking the left-armer over square leg for six, Lewis seized on a free hit in the third to belt a full toss for another six over mid-wicket before ending the over with another over backward square. A switch of ends made little difference for Behrendorff in the sixth as Lewis clattered him for another pair of boundaries and sixes.

The start of a four, six, six sequence in the eighth over against Tye helped Lewis to his ninth T20I half-century. At one stage, David Miller's fastest T20I century off just 35 balls looked in peril when Lewis heaved Mitchell Swepson for back-to-back sixes over the leg side in the ninth to move to 75 off 28 balls. But the left-hander finally ran out of steam collecting four singles in the next two overs before holing out to

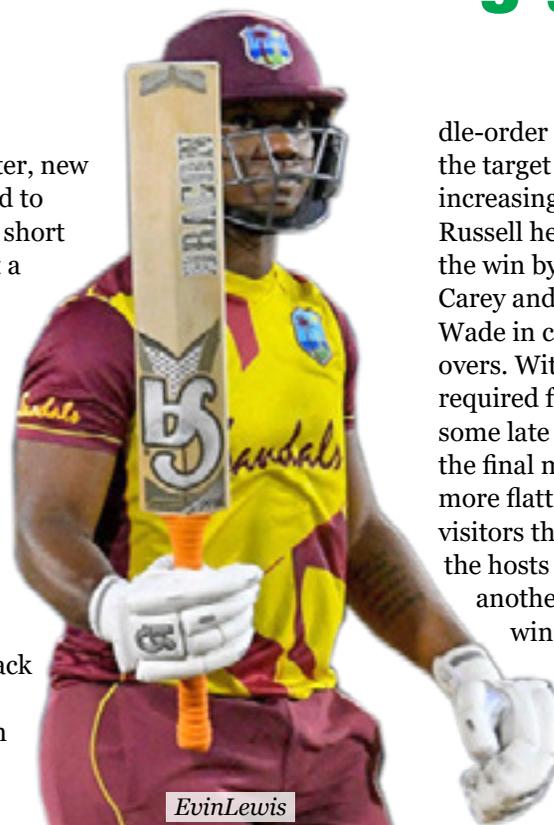
Marsh at the end of the 11th.

In spite of the early loss of Josh Philippe to end the first over, Australia were humming in the Powerplay behind another brisk knock from Marsh at No. 3, who motored to 30 off 14 balls as Australia ended the fourth over at 46 for 1. Russell arrived in the fifth and struck first ball with a brilliant reaction catch as a half-volley was smoked straight back to the all-rounder, who pocketed a hip height catch in his follow-through.

But Russell's catch was child's play compared to what occurred in the 10th over. Player of the Series Walsh Jr claimed his series best 12th wicket off the second ball of the over, but it was Allen who made the moment possible through sheer effort and athleticism. A knee high full toss was slapped flat down the ground by Finch, but Allen reprised some of the boundary catching heroics from years gone by in the CPL, that put him on the map early in his career, by sprinting to his left at long-on before flinging his body to claim a stunner laid out full extension with

his left hand.

Two balls later, new batter Carey tried to tap and run into short midwicket to get a well set Moises Henriques back on strike. But Pooran continued his side's merciless display in the field by hustling out from behind the stumps, picking up the ball and firing back into the striker's end stumps from short range with Henriques still inches short of making his ground to be out for 21. From 95 for 2, Australia were



EvinLewis

suddenly 100 for 4.

Despite being ahead of the required run rate, their thin mid-

dle-order depth meant the target became increasingly distant. Russell helped cement the win by dismissing Carey and Matthew Wade in consecutive overs. With 63 off 27 required for the tail, some late hitting made the final margin seem more flattering to the visitors than it was as the hosts completed yet another convincing win.

West Indies 199 for 8 (Lewis 79, Tye 3-37) beat Australia 183 for 9 (Cottrell 3-28, Russell 3-43) by 16 runs

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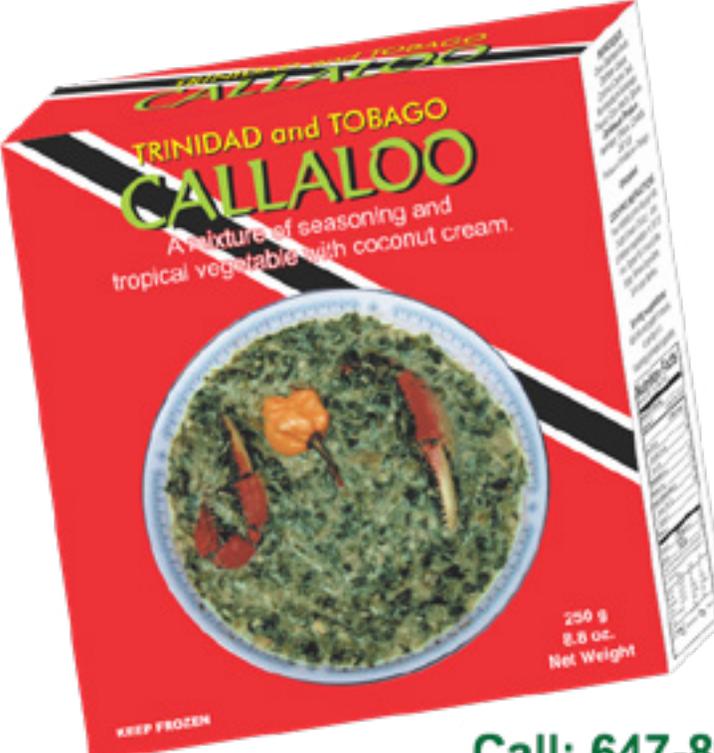
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