



# St. Lewis wins round 1 in \$1 million libel case

by Ewart Walters

Ottawa U law professor Joanne St. Lewis has won a round in the libel case she brought against Denis Rancourt, a former colleague. The Ontario Superior Court has ordered Rancourt to pay 85 per cent of the university's legal fees, as well those of Professor St. Lewis. A blog-posting suggesting St. Lewis was a "house negro" to U of O president Allan Rock is at the root of the court action.

Rancourt is the professor who was fired from the university in 2009 for turning his physics course into a class on social activism and for giving everyone an A+. He wrote that her evaluation of a student-produced report alleging systematic racism at the school was "an

academic fraud" and he accused St. Lewis, who is Black, of being a traitor to her race.

He added that "law professor Joanne St. Lewis acted like president Allan Rock's house negro when she enthusiastically toiled to discredit a 2008 SAC report about systemic racial discrimination at the university."

She asked Rancourt to take down the offending post, but when he refused she filed suit for \$1million.

The dispute dates back to November 2008, when the Student Appeal Centre of the Student Federation University of Ottawa released a report entitled Mistreatment of Students, Unfair Practices and Systemic Racism at the University of Ottawa. It was in reaction to the report that Rancourt wrote the allegedly defamatory blog post on his U of O Watch

website.

In response to the report, University of Ottawa president Allan Rock had St. Lewis assess its findings. Her review of Nov. 25, 2008 had 10 recommendations for the university's administration and SAC to follow up.

Rancourt was critical of the review, stating in a December 2008 post that it was "far from being of professional calibre." A February 2011 blog post by Rancourt asked "Did Professor Joanne St. Lewis act as Allan Rock's house negro?"

The term "house negro" was used by civil rights activist Malcolm X in his 1963 Message to the Grassroots speech to describe slaves who were subservient to their white masters, and received better living conditions than their peers who worked in the fields.

However, in testimony from April 2012, Rock explained to the court that the university was compelled to cover St. Lewis's legal costs because she was defamed as a result of work the university asked her to do, namely, to review a student-produced report that alleged systemic racism at the university.

Rancourt then tried to have the action dismissed on the grounds of champerty.

But that was turned down by the judge who said that the University did not enter into an agreement to share in the proceeds of litigation, and as a result, he found there was no champerty. "For the same reason, the University's agreement to fund the costs of the libel action does not rise to the level of trafficking in litigation as there was no purchase or sale of rights to the libel action by the University."

*The rich and powerful of the world did not hate Chavez because he was a dictator. He wasn't. They hated him because he was symbolic of a threat to the dictatorship of Capital, a figurehead of a continent alive with social movements and millions of people conscious of their political power. (See Chavez, page 4)*

## Major (ret'd) Walter Peters (Jan 22, 1937-Feb 24, 2013)



Caption: Photo: Major (ret'd) Walter Peters (right) joins Dr. Stephen Blizzard and LtCdr(N) Meiz Majdoub (left) at the 2010 Remembrance and Commemoration concert at Christ Church Cathedral. Sarah Onyango photo

by Sarah Onyango

The St. Helen's sanctuary was filled to capacity on that cold Sunday afternoon, yet you could have heard the proverbial pin drop as mourners took turns at the podium to honour Walter Watson Peters who passed away suddenly on February 24 following a stroke. Despite the sadness that hung over the proceedings, the memorial unfolded like a virtual journey through

the multifaceted life of a cherished patriarch, accomplished member of Canada's air force family, highly respected aviation executive, successful entrepreneur and dynamic community advocate.

Walter Peters was born on January 22, 1937 in Litchfield, Nova Scotia. He grew up the youngest of six siblings in a rural family in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he stayed until his mid-twenties when his work in the Canadian

Forces had him moving all over the country. At the memorial, one of his public school chums remembered "Bubbles" or "Bub" as a fierce competitor whose formidable athletic prowess led the University of Mount Allison football team to three consecutive league championships and earned him Rookie-of-the-Year and three Top Scorer awards in the process. His performance in track and field earned him a trip to the British Empire Games

Trials and the Canadian Olympic Training Camp.

One of the Peters daughters saluted the doting father and devoted husband whose high standards, unconditional love, support and "never-give-up" mantra fuelled his children's aspirations. Mr. Peters never missed an opportunity to laud their achievements, and his unabashed pride was warranted. Shelley Carey, the eldest daughter, became the first Black female member of the RCMP in the 1980s later transferring to the military and retiring as a Lt.Col with the Order of Military Merit (2009). She is currently an advocate for Veterans with the Royal Canadian Legion. He sister Laura heads the English Department at the University of London in the UK, and their other sister, Catherine is a senior director with the Federal Government in Ottawa.

Another family member, a nephew from Nova Scotia, reminisced about the incurably curious, daredevilish and cheeky uncle who loved unleashing the craziest pranks on his unsuspecting children and younger relatives. Whilst being a dependable, wise

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## Ottawa Twins Prescribe Elegance For Trendy Montreal Neighbourhood



Ottawa identical twins, Dexter and Byron Peart, have been hitting the headlines, most recently with their WANT Apothecary brand of a lifestyle concept store in the upscale Montreal neighbourhood of Westmount. Trendy clothing boutiques come in all shapes and sizes. But in Montreal, only one comes disguised as a drugstore. That's the Peart store.

Designed partly to resemble an old-fashioned drugstore, WANT Apothecary is a luxury fashion and accessories boutique at 4960 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, described by the Globe and Mail as "a gentrified neighbourhood of restaurants, florists and hardware stores next door to English-language libraries left over from the days when the area ruled as a WASP bastion."

The twins wanted to create "something that looked like it had always been here, like it belonged to the neighbourhood." WANT Apothecary is the first bricks-and-mortar extension of WANT Agency Inc., the six-year-old fashion distribution business that the Ottawa natives operate out of renovated offices in Montreal's Chabanel garment district, together with business partners (and married couple) Mark Wiltzer and Jacqueline Gelber.

The plan now is to open similar concept stores in other cities in Canada; Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa for starters.



Denise Siele (right) stands beside Ms. Galaxy, Solange Thuyishime, at the recent Vivant fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Sarah Onyango photo.



# COMMUNITY *Pulse*



Former St. Lucia Association President Noella Charles (right) receives her Community Builder Award from Sarah Onyango at the Association Independence event. Sarah Onyango photo.

Do you know a youth who is devoted to his/her community, who takes initiative, who is passionate, who has surmounted obstacles? Then nominate them for Spirit awards! Go to <http://www.spiritawards.ca/> to complete the online nomination form and explain why your nominee is deserving of the award. Nominations close April 7, 2013. Nominate today. Look within your schools, churches, sports clubs etc., for young people who would qualify. The 2013 Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards is on Tuesday, May 21, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Ottawa Convention Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive.

Catholic Immigration Board Executive Director and Police Board Member Carl Nicholson has been elected President of the Ontario Council of Agencies

Serving Immigrants. OCASI was formed in 1978 to act as a collective voice for immigrant serving agencies and to coordinate responses to shared needs and concerns. A registered charity OCASI is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Its membership comprises more than 200 community-based organizations in the province of Ontario. Since 1978, OCASI Member Agencies have looked to OCASI to provide strategic leadership in encouraging all levels of government to adopt an equitable and humanitarian approach to policies and programs that affect immigrants and refugees in Canada.

Canada's first Black, jet-fighter pilot, Major Walter Watson Peters, CD, passed away at the Civic Hospital February 24, following a



Adrienne Coddett speaking at the Global Alliance event at the National Arts Centre recently. Sarah Onyango photo.

stroke. He was 76. A fiercely proud, loyal and determined trailblazer, "Bub" Peters was a role model and mentor right to the end. He was loving husband to Nancy; Dad to Shelley (Joe), Laura (Azzedine) and Catherine; and Bampy to grandchildren Lauren, Matthew, Jacob, Adam and Sami. Major Peters was predeceased by parents Laura Mae Peters (nee Bailey), father Freeman Peters, sisters Doris, Matilda and Lillian and brothers William and John. He also leaves behind nieces and nephews, loving friends, his special church family at St. Helen's and the newest editions to the family, his dogs Thelma and Louise. A memorial service to celebrate his life was held March 3 at St. Helen's Anglican Church.

Are you new to Canada? Here is your chance for a Free Soccer Referee Course. Connect and contribute to soccer community of 60 clubs and over 50,000 people in Ottawa; - Referee anywhere in Canada; - Generate income while staying physically fit. Eligibility: New Canadian

at least 14 years of age. Dates: 23-24 March 2013. Duration: 16 hours in two sessions (9am-5pm). Location: Glashan Public School, 28 Arlington Ave, Ottawa Buses 1, 7, 14 and 101. More details: <http://www.ontariosoccer.net/Referee/Referee/ClinicsDevelopment.aspx> Details and Registration: [jclavelo@soccer.on.ca](mailto:jclavelo@soccer.on.ca) Telephone: 613.233.6561 ext 228 Fax: 613.317.1844

Wednesday, March 20, 10 am, 180 Argyle Ave, 4th Floor, Employer MEET & GREET. Stock Transportation. Looking for a new career? Want to work part-time hours? Come and learn about being a School Bus Driver. Free training & Licensing, Competitive Pay, Average of 20 hours weekly. Registration: Call 613-788-5001 to register. Must have a valid Ontario driver's license.

Friday March 22, 7:00pm & March 23, 11:am, Best Western Plus Macie's Hotel, 1274 Carling Ave. Ottawa ON Information session and seminar. Presented by The Jamaican Ottawa Diaspora Group in collaboration with the Jamaica National Building Society Toronto Representative office. Come Learn how you can participate in and contribute to the 2013 Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference to be held June 16-19 in Montego Bay, Jamaica and find out more about JNBS. RSVP @ 613-291-4483 Or email - [jamaicanottawadiaspora@gmail.com](mailto:jamaicanottawadiaspora@gmail.com)



Richard Edwin presenting an award to young soprano Keena Eloise at the St. Lucia Association's annual Independence dinner.

## Street Food: More Choices

Beginning in May, Ottawa will welcome 18 new and exciting food choices to the city's streets. Following on the City's commitment to promote small business opportunities in the local community, these new trucks and carts will increase street food vendor options for residents and tourists alike.

"Ottawa will have a full range of street food options from appetizers to desserts," Mayor Jim Watson said. "Regardless of your culinary preference, there will be new options for you to discover from Ottawa's enhanced street food scene."

Last fall, City Council approved the New Street Food Vending Program that provided for the opening of up to 20 spaces for new and diversified menus. A total of 61 applications was received and reviewed by a selection panel. These new options are in addition to the existing 44 licensed truck and cart food vendors. "Food vendors can be so much more than their current stereotypes," said Councillor Mark Taylor, Chair of the Community and Protective Services Committee. "I'm thrilled to see these diverse and interesting options added to Ottawa's great existing food culture."

The volunteer selection panel that reviewed the applications was made up of five members representing the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA), Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Culinary Federation, Savour Ottawa, Just Food and Ottawa Public Health. Vendors were chosen based on the proposed menu, business plan, level of vendor experience and the overall contribution to Ottawa's street food scene.

The City of Ottawa is pleased to announce the following successful applicants: Trucks Benjamin Baird: Ottawa "Street" Gourmet - Fresh, local and seasonal ever-changing menu - North side of Queen, west of O'Connor Layne Belcher and

Mathew Hinds: Urban Cowboy - Texan street food - East side of Bank, north of Glen

Peter G. Bowen: Health conscious foodie friendly locally sourced cuisine - East side of Olmstead, south of Montreal Rd.

Mario Burke: Ad Mare - Fish and seafood - South side of Slater, east of O'Connor

Steven Dupras & Glen Galbraith: TURN rotisserie + kitchen: Turn yourself on to Ottawa's best food truck! - North side of Argyle, east of O'Connor

Mathew Gregoire & York Entertainment: Ragin' Cajun - West side of Bank, north of Clemow

Jacqueline Joliffe: Stone SoupFoodworks - Creative blend of local soups, tacos and sandwiches - East side of Spadina, north of Wellington

Jake Thomas: Dosa Inc. - South Indian crepes - South side of Somerset, west of Lyon

Jason Tran: Chow Down - Asia snacks and meals - North side of Byron at Woodroffe

Kin Tran: Asian-Fusion with a twist - North side of Gloucester, east of Lyon

Tim Van Dyke: LUNCH - Fresh and local ingredients in wholesome soups, salads and sandwiches - North side of Albert, east of Lyon

C a r t s Wasi Choudhry: Olive Green - The South Asian food experience - location to be confirmed.

Rodney Cummings: Royi Fruta Bar - Baked empanadas and fruit drinks - East side of Elgin, north of Laurier

Gavin Hall: BOBITES: Best Organic Bites - Organic baked potatoes with seasonal toppings - East side of Metcalfe, south of Sparks

Tarek Hassan: Gongfu Bao - Chinese steamed Asian buns -East side of Elgin, south of Slater

Hana Jung: Roan Kitchen - Authentic Korean cuisine - West side of Bank between Albert & Slater

Brian Nolan: SPOON - frozen yogurt - East side of O'Connor, south of Sparks

Ulises Ortega: Churritos - Churro (traditional Mexican treats) - West side of O'Connor, south of Sparks



## MONEY TALK\$

### Teamwork

by Elcho Stewart

Money problem is listed among the top ten reasons why couples disagree or marriages breakdown. Usually love, wishful thinking, or both allow one party to assume that her partner is either as financially savvy as herself or even more adept - only to face a different reality very shortly in the union. You can avoid money wars and a lot of heartache by setting the stage very early in your relationship when you:

- Discuss your values toward money up-front: Many people are not comfortable revealing the intimate details of their financials (including their income) even with their partner. If saving is a priority for your partnership what are the goals: a home, retirement, and/or vacation?
- Own-up to existing debts: Being open prevents one partner from feeling blind-sided, prevents resentment, and builds trust as you jointly work on a debt-reduction plan.
- Establish a household budget: Identify fixed from variables expense such as rent/mortgage and utilities versus movies and gifts. Determine if you agree on frequency of dining out, household chores (one party believes in doing the cleaning and the other budgets for cleaning service), alcohol consumption, gift limits, tithing and philanthropy, vacation: where, frequency, and cost, as well as entertainment.
- Separate common expenses from individual ones: Every person has a right to understand and derive some satisfaction from where their individual paycheck

- went.
- Agree on spending limits for even personal acquisitions: One partner might feel that once common expenses are met the rest of the paycheck can be spent on gadgets, gears, and garments. The more fiscally responsible partner might be left to pick up the pieces in case of emergencies such as long-term or short-term illness, home or motor vehicles repairs, and having enough cash to visit/tend to sick or dying loved ones.
- Talk about career goals: Let it be known if either of you envision going back to school full time, or take a lower-paying but more satisfying job, or go on a sabbatical - how might it affect the other.
- Understand each other's attitude towards owning insurance: Consider what happens if one of you should become disabled, is diagnosed with a critical illness, dies, or dies leaving a debt load? Remember that most mortgage foreclosures are due to long-term illness.
- Talk about children: The subject of planning or a family is worthy of a column of its own. Discuss if you and your partner want children, how many and when do you wish to begin.
- Marry or live together: Understand the rights of same sex couples and the legal rights of unmarried couples living together. Factors that come into play include insurance beneficiary claims, division of assets in the eventuality of a separation, funeral dynamics, and spousal pension claim.
- Talk about the end: It might be scary on many levels to talk about death but nothing brings clarity and perspective to a union like Will Planning. Hearing who will inherit the pet rock, the Picasso, or who has the final say (pardon the pun) with regard to funeral arrangements: burial or cremation and at what facility or cemetery) can be very revealing.

It is true: managing your money means managing your life. By working together with a Financial Security Advisor, even before moving in together, couples can lay the ground work on how to organize their finances and have a peaceful life instead of one filled with anxiety and strife. Elcho Stewart, Life Insurance Broker. Telephone: 613-422-9188/Toll free: 1-866-783-8516; Fax: 613-422-9188. E-mail: [elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com](mailto:elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com)

Black History

The Legacy of the Middle Passage

by Doreen Grant

The capture, transport and enslavement of African people could be considered the most horrific and demoralizing crime committed against humanity by humanity. The fact that so many people from Africa were kidnapped from their families, friends and homes so that they could be brought thousands of miles away to some strange place to be sold at auctions into slavery, is astounding.

Imagine the horror of being captured and dragged from your day-to-day life before you are taken on to a slave ship to endure disease, poor nutrition and lack of air from being jam-packed in a ship's hold like animal cargo. The very thought of being forced to live in human filth and vomit would be certainly reprehensible.

Millions of Africans lost their lives during the long voyage from their homeland, across the Atlantic – this episode known as “the Middle Passage.” Some died when they chose to escape by jumping overboard into shark-infested waters, others during mutiny or simply from lack of air while confined in shackles in a dark cramped place below deck.

Once arrived in the Americas from the West African coast they were sold into slavery and were held as slaves in different parts of the Caribbean, America, Brazil and other parts of the world. The European slave masters used the Africans as their servants and slaves on sugar and cotton plantations. They were considered to be property and if they tried to escape they would be tortured or killed. They were denied the right to speak their own language or to be called by their African names. Some owners refused their slaves the opportunity to learn to read or write and forced them to work long hours. Young African women and girls would be raped by their masters and if they became pregnant the child would become a slave and could be sold.

The treatment and the lack of freedom became so unbearable that many would plot uprisings and burn plantations. Slaves would even chop off the head of their masters. Some today are considered heroes after being caught and hanged for their roles in uprisings.

After lasting somewhere between 1440 and 1870, slavery throughout the Americas was abolished, giving Africans the freedom for which they fought and died. The legacy of the Middle Passage and Africans in the New World gave birth to a wealth of what is now termed “Black History.”

To conserve and promote the important role that Blacks played in the building of America, the month of February is observed in America as Black History Month. This followed the creation of Negro History Week in 1926, by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The second week of February was originally chosen because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born

during that time. It got expanded to Black History Month and first celebrated in 1970 by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University.

In the United Kingdom Black History Month was first celebrated February 1987, due to the work of Ghanaian analyst Akyaaba Addai-Sebo and the Greater London Council. In Canada, Black History Month was officially recognised in 1995 by the House of Commons upon a motion by Jean Augustine. This was followed in 2008 by the Senate at the instance of Senator Donald Oliver. But both were building on celebrations that had been taking place in Ontario and other parts of Canada for a decade or more.

The bravery, ingenuity and heroism that many slaves contributed to their new home away from the Motherland Africa are not surprising. Most were chosen because of their physique and youth. Blacks living in the Americas today should give thanks to their ancestors' resilience to survive the horrific conditions they had to face in harsh and sometimes barbaric captivity. However, what is surprising is that through it all, their forebears never stopped dreaming of freedom, of a new life free from slavery. They wanted to live in dignity. It is the testament of the human spirit.

They have made a positive contribution to the New World and society. Yet the effect of this atrocious unacceptable act of human bondage still cripples the mind. People live with undiagnosed depression, self-hate, anger and the embrace of greed that got them into enslavement. Some have adopted the hateful, greedy behaviour of the slave master. Some take up a life of crime and violence, or discriminate against their own Black people (light skin vs dark skin). The act of enslavement of the Africans has ravaged family life and damaged the ability for Black women and their male partners to create stable relationships with a two parent household.

Still the great legacy of the Middle Passage is found throughout the Americas and beyond. The slaves lived a life of servitude never to be paid nor compensated for their emotional trauma. Sadly the inheritance that many enjoy today as a result of the blood, sweat and tears of African slaves, often goes unrecognized or is even concealed in the rewriting of history.

Interestingly the African descendants, who are currently migrating from the areas of Africa previously affected by the slave trade are perhaps walking on ground stained by the blood of their own ancestors and are not aware of the great legacy of accomplishment and contribution to the building of many countries in the New World, or of the vast wealth of knowledge and skills they left behind. It is not just Black history; it is the history of humanity, the spirit to triumph over evil and the determination to never give up even in the face of overwhelming adversity.

We must ensure that the stories of these ancestors do not remain buried with them.



Spoken Word poet Kevan Anthony Cameron (aka Scruffmouth the Scribe) doing his thing at Mugshots, this open mic spokenword showcase featuring professionals and amateur poets, was a fundraiser for the annual Black Youth Conference Day organized by 3 Dreads & a Bald Head. (Sarah Onyango photo).



## The rap on the Pope

The Vatican's plan to call the retiring pontiff Benedict XVI "Pope Emeritus" hit a snag in the form of a threatened lawsuit by an Oakland-based rapper who has been recording under that name since 2006.

"I don't care who he is, I ain't let nobody mess with my brand," said Mr. Emeritus, who prior to 2006 recorded under the name Notorious P.O.P.E.

While the Vatican said it was unaware that Mr. Emeritus had already claimed the name seven years ago, the Oakland rapper scoffed at that idea: "They should have done what I did before I

picked it out: Google it."

Furious at what he is calling a clear case of trademark infringement, Mr. Emeritus said that he has no intention of stepping aside for the former pontiff: "He's the one who should step aside. Call himself P. Biddy or something. This is wack, yo."

According to a source close to the Vatican, Benedict is likely to choose another name for himself rather than risk a legal tussle with the aggrieved rapper: "The last thing the Church needs right now is another lawsuit."

– Borowitz Report

## DLP retains power in Barbados elections

Sticking with tradition Barbados provided the incumbent party with a second consecutive term in power following a nerve-jangling general election. The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) won 16 of the 30 seats in the elections with the remainder going to the main opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP).

The results run contrary to opinion polls that had predicted that the BLP led by former Prime Minister Owen Arthur would win as many as 20 seats, while the DLP would have gained 13 seats at most.

The unpredictability of the Barbadian electorate was clearly visible the result as several Ministers in the DLP Administration lost their seats. Former Minister of Labour and Social Security, Dr. Esther Byer Suckoo, lost her battle with newcomer

Dwight Sutherland in St. George South. Former Minister of International Business and International Transport, George Hutson, lost to Kerrie Symmonds in St. James Central, while former Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Patrick Todd, lost to Col. Jeffrey Bostic. Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly Kenny Best lost his rematch for the St. Michael East seat with Trevor Prescod. Former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Senator Irene Sandiford Garner lost again to George Payne in St. Andrew.

Prime Minister-elect Freundel Stuart insisted that the ruling party had to deal with difficult problems but had done so honestly and efficiently.

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## SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE SPECTRUM!



the  
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# Latin America

The election of Argentina’s Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Roman Catholic Pope has refocused the world’s gaze on South America, just as it was in some danger of fading with the death of Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez.

From the 1940s with Juan Domingo Peron in Argentina, through Guatemala’s Jacobo Arbenz, Cuba’s Fidel Castro, Chile’s Salvador Allende, and Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega to Hugo Chavez, the story of Latin America has been a struggle with Uncle Sam for control of its resources and its own way of doing things.

Needless to say, the approach to governance by those Western Hemisphere leaders in the South drew opposition from the North. Only partly because of the Cold War, they were portrayed not merely as dissenters, but were painted Pinko if not outright Red by a compliant “Western press” that breezily ignored the real goal which was the control of these countries’ resources and their economies.

Hugo Chavez’s widespread reforms for the poor of Venezuela have been blithely brushed under the table by the same “Western press” in their zeal to promote Washington’s interests.

His creation of the economic block of The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), rated very little balanced analysis in “Western” media, because it is based on the idea of the social, political and economic integration of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, posits South autonomy, and rejects obeisance to Washington. Worse, it projects trading in its own “South” currency, the Sucre and not the Dollar.

In the meantime, the emergence of South America also has foundations in sport. Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay are leaders in World Cup football and the next World Cup is scheduled to take place in Brazil in 2014, while the 2016 Olympics also goes south to Brazil’s former capital of Rio de Janiero.

And now, the Pope! What are things coming to?

Pope Francis, 76, has already shown signs of his determination to be different. His first papal words were “Brothers and sisters.” A member of the Society of Jesus which has not always seen things the way of the Vatican Curia, and which has a particular focus on poverty, he is the first Jesuit to become Pope. In the best traditions of the Jesuits, he shuns the trappings of wealth, tradition and power, living humbly in an apartment, taking the bus to work, paying his own hotel bills and refusing to turn away from the church unwed mothers seeking baptism for their infants.

South America is home to more of the world’s 1.2 billion Roman Catholics than anywhere else. Francis becomes the 266th pontiff in the Church’s 2,000-year history at a time of great crisis and difficulty.

While we would have preferred his election to have been signalled – for a change of optics – by black smoke instead of white, we will see how Pope Francis tackles the thorny tasks of overcoming crises caused by the cover-up of priestly child abuse and a leak of secret papal documents that uncovered corruption inside the Church government or Curia.

In the meantime, the rise of the Americas’ southern continent from the relative obscurity in which the northern (“Western”) media has traditionally sought to place it, is only to be welcomed.

# Idiots

So who exactly are the idiots that sanctioned the return of penknives to the cabins of airplanes? And what in the name of sanity could have propelled such thought and authored that decision?

No word about removing the ban on large toothpaste tubes and fragrances. And no indication that this is the result of any valid study.

It can only be hoped that this is but a fleeting aberration that will be corrected soon. Whew!

# Hugo Chavez, Undefeated

By Derrick O’Keefe

Hugo Chavez has died – undefeated. Yes, undefeated. Chavez, no matter how many times the corporate media and the cheerleaders of the status quo call him a dictator, was elected repeatedly with overwhelming majorities.

No matter how many times this slur is moronically or mendaciously repeated, people know the truth. No less than Jimmy Carter certified Venezuela’s elections as amongst the most fair and transparent his organization has ever observed. And the voter turnouts that elected Chavez were usually far, far higher than those in the U.S.

The voices that cheer and mock the death of Hugo Chavez are in fact mocking democracy and the people of Venezuela, who elected him and who have re-elected him time and time again – most recently by a decisive majority in October 2012.

But today we need not dwell on the disgusting carnival of necrophilia with which the right-wing has followed Chavez’s illness and which will reach a crescendo in the coming days with the news of his untimely demise. This macabre celebration is only the flip side of impotence; they whoop and holler at Chavez’s death from cancer only because they failed to defeat him in life, and could not take down his

government by democratic (or other) means.

Besides, behind this grave-dancing is not just the hatred of one man who became emblematic of a continental shift to the left and away from U.S. interests and power; it also reveals the shallow indifference to human life and to democracy built into the whole system. Within minutes of announcing the news of his death, CNN was discussing the implications it might have on the markets and on the value of U.S. corporate interests in the region.

Today, I would rather celebrate the majority of Venezuelans – especially the poor and the marginalized. It is, after all, the people who made Chavez, and not the other way around. And it is the humble people of Venezuela who saw to it that Chavez was allowed to complete this many years as president, after all.

The rich and powerful of the world did not hate Chavez because he was a dictator. They hated him because he was symbolic of a threat to the dictatorship of Capital, a figurehead of a continent alive with social movements and millions of people conscious of their political power.

Chavez came very close to dying much earlier – of unnatural causes. It was People Power that kept him alive and that kept his democratically elected

government in power. I’m referring of course to the April 2002 coup d’etat cynically aided and abetted by Venezuela’s rabidly right-wing media and which was issued with an immediate stamp of approval by the Bush administration.

It’s important to remember that the traditional elite of Venezuela -- the oligarchs of this South American petro state who ruled for decades under the “Washington Consensus,” and who quashed resistance to neo-liberalism in blood like during the 1989 caracazo – and their allies abroad in the U.S. government and in the corporate boardrooms of the world never intended for Hugo Chavez to live beyond those days in April 2002.

If the people had not mobilized to restore Chavez to power 11 years ago, Latin America would be a much worse place today. The “pink tide” would likely have been largely stemmed before it had a chance to spread; transformations that have begun in Bolivia and Ecuador might never have gotten out of the gates. Who knows, the FTAA, a proposed hemispheric corporate trade deal, might have been implemented rather than soundly defeated. After all, back in 2001, when tens of thousands marched in Quebec City against the early stages of the FTAA, President Chavez was almost alone as a head of government inside

the talks opposing the deal.

Whatever the shortcomings and all the very real contradictions of Chavez’s government, the poor of Venezuela and of all Latin America are better off today in real and tangible ways because the people kept it in power.

So let the corporate media say “good riddance” to Chavez in their cynical way. Ignore them, and watch (or re-watch) the inspiring story of the People Power that defeated the 2002 coup, as told in the powerful Irish documentary *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*. The title is a tip of the hat to Gil Scott-Heron, and it’s a reference to the key role that right-wing, private, big media played in orchestrating and manipulating events and their portrayal during the failed attempt at regime change.

The rich and powerful of the world did not hate Chavez because he was a dictator. Deep down the sentient among them know he wasn’t.

They hated him because he was symbolic of a threat to the dictatorship of Capital, a figurehead of a continent alive with social movements and millions of people conscious of their political power.

*rabble.ca Editor Derrick O’Keefe is a writer and social justice activist in Vancouver, BC. You can follow him at <http://twitter.com/derrickokeefe>.*

# Austerity going to ebb-tide

by Keeble McFarlane

At the height of the Cold War of the 1950s and 60s we learned a new word – brinkmanship. It is a description of what leaders on either side of the great gulf between the United States and the Soviet Union routinely practised. At the heart of this face-off was The Bomb. As the word suggests, brinkmanship is the idea of moving ever closer to the brink – the point at which the other side would feel so threatened that it would seriously consider using its bomb; then, at the 11th hour, pulling back to safety. It was much like a game of “chicken” which well-off American youngsters played. Two teenagers would choose a secluded place where they could race their souped-up cars directly at each other and the one who veered off first to safety would be declared “chicken.”

Fortunately for the world, despite a few close shaves, we never got to the point where either side was sufficiently foolhardy to set off a nuke. And, fortunately, the fear of what such an event would lead to still keeps itchy fingers off the nuclear trigger. Political Scientists called it the Balance of Terror.

We can’t say the same for the world’s economic situation. Many governments have, in the past few years, adopted something close to an

economic nuclear weapon. Contrary to common sense and the advice of serious economists, politicians have scared themselves — and, in the bargain, the rest of us — into swallowing the bush medicine of austerity. Cut, cut, cut, is the solution for the moribund economies of countries as disparate as Britain, Greece, Italy, Spain, Ireland and the United States. And as we have seen in Greece, Spain and elsewhere, people are rebelling.

Last month, Italians voted in a parliamentary election and the result was a rejection of the status quo. Three-fifths of the voters chose parties with no demonstrable aptitude for managing even a pizza stand, while the other 40 per cent voted for two blocs with a more practical approach to managing a country. A little less than 30 per cent of the vote went to a coalition assembled by Silvio Berlusconi, Mr Bunga-Bunga himself. You perhaps recall that this was the man who, as prime minister, bungled the enormous financial crisis which befell Italy along with other European countries while he cavorted with young women who could have been his grandchildren.

He was squeezed out of office just under a year ago and replaced by a dour technocrat, Mario Monti, who ran the country without an elected mandate and whose prescription for

reforming Italy’s economy was — you guessed it — austerity, austerity, austerity. He was favoured by the rest of Europe, the United States and the big international financial organisations, but he picked up a mere 10 per cent of the votes.

One of the big winners is a movement calling itself Five Star, led by a compulsive blogger and former comedian, Beppe Grillo. Its prescription for reforming Italy is for all the traditional political parties to “go home” so that parliament could be dissolved and be replaced by “rule of the people.” For a dozen years he has blasted away at politicians, the church, the corporate world and the news media. To him, they all are a bunch of liars, thieves, even criminals, interested only in looking after themselves and satisfying their own vices. But his election promises to go nowhere, as he says he has no desire to join in a coalition to try to govern the country.

Here lies the problem. His movement has garnered the single biggest bloc of votes, while the other groups are just that – coalitions of the centre-right or centre-left. And his obsessive campaign against the old-line politicians resonates with Italians, who have grown totally fed up with their scandals, corruption or the inability to do anything effective. It will take a lot of manoeuvring

to get Italy out of this mess.

The byword is “cut, cut, cut.”

Austerity, belt-tightening, budgetary rigour, call it what you will — is what Germany and its allies in the euro zone prescribe for Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and France. It’s also the policy imposed by Britain’s Conservative prime minster, David Cameron, who is pledging to move ahead in vigorously chopping the deficit after influential financial rating agencies downgraded Britain’s AAA rating one full notch. He told the House of Commons: “This credit rating does matter, and it demonstrates that we have to go further and faster on reducing the deficit.” Official figures demonstrate the ineffectiveness of the austerity regime: in spite of the boost from the London Olympics, Britain’s economy grew by only 0.3 per cent in the final quarter of 2012.

Across the Atlantic, the American political system is in gridlock over this very problem. At the time of writing, the federal government had just embarked on a state of “sequestration” — the fancy term for a draconian programme of cuts imposed by the Congress on the federal government. It arose in 2011 when President Barack Obama and the Congress, bullied by the

*Continues on page 5*



# The Song That Put Reggae on the Map



By Marc Myers

When the movie *The Harder They Come* opened in New York 40 years ago, its impact wasn't immediately felt in the US. The theme song and soundtrack, however, were a different story. The album featured a compilation of singles by reggae artists as well as a catchy title song by the movie's star—singer Jimmy Cliff. The song was quick to popularize the new Jamaican music style, giving Mr. Cliff international visibility. The film, meanwhile, became an art-house hit in college towns and big cities, exposing a generation of Americans to reggae.

A handful of US hits had already featured Jamaican beats—among them Millie Small's cover of

*My Boy Lollipop* (1964), Desmond Dekker's *The Israelites*, the Beatles' *Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da* (1968) and Paul Simon's *Mother and Child Reunion* (1972). But the springy rhythms of *The Harder They Come* opened the door for a new wave that influenced rock, soul and punk, from Eric Clapton's cover of Bob Marley's *I Shot the Sheriff* to the Police's *Roxanne*.

Last month, Mr. Cliff, 64, the title song's singer and composer, bassist Jackie Jackson, 66, and guitarist Hux Brown, 68, talked about the song's development and its recording in Jamaica. Mr. Cliff won his second Grammy Award for best reggae album, *Rebirth*.

**Jimmy Cliff:** In 1969, I was at Dynamic Sounds Studio in Kingston

recording a song I had written, *You Can Get It If You Really Want*. When we finished, I walked outside and met a gentleman named Perry Henzell, who had been waiting for me. He said he was making a movie and asked if I could write music for it.

By that point, I was pretty well known in Jamaica and the U.K. I had recorded quite a few hits. I had always wanted to be a movie actor, so I asked Perry to send me the script. When I read it, I felt I had known Ivanhoe Martin (the main character) all my life. In the script, he was a guy from the country who came to the city to make it as a musician but was held back by the trickery of a record-company owner. Eventually Ivan turns to crime and is killed at the end.

I told Perry that the script was great, and he decided to cast me as Ivan. The film at the time was called *Hard Road to Travel*, after one of my songs, and we filmed over the next year or so. When we shot the scene where Ivan cuts the bicycle-store owner who came on really hard, a line came to my mind—the harder they come. In real life, if you come on hard like that, you're going to die hard.

When I told Perry my line, he loved it. He thought it was a stronger film title and asked me to write a theme song to go with it. He didn't give me much time—just two

days—because he wanted to film me singing it in the studio with the band for the movie.

The first development of my song is actually in the movie—when the guitarist and I are rehearsing a song in the church. That's an early draft of *The Harder They Come*. The rest of the music came fast. When I have a title, the rest always comes very fast. I'm quite good at melodies.

The lyrics came from my past. I grew up in the church and had always questioned what they were telling me. Like the promise of a pie in the sky when you die. The second verse about oppressors trying to keep me down kind of reflected my own life—coming out of the ghetto in Jamaica and fighting the system. I wanted the song to have a church feel and to reflect the environment I grew up in—the underdog fighting all kinds of trickery.

What you see in the movie—in the recording studio—is the song being recorded. You're watching the real thing. Gladstone Anderson was on piano, Winston Wright was on organ, Hux Brown was on lead guitar, Ronny Bop played rhythm guitar, Jackie Jackson was on bass and Winston Grennan was on drums.

**Jackie Jackson:** We were studio musicians of that era and had recorded with Jimmy many times before. For the theme

song, we got together at Dynamic Sounds around 8 p.m. Usually the band started the day at 10 a.m. and recorded about 10 sessions. That's how you made your money. But on this day, we didn't have any sessions and we were fresh. The energy was flowing and we were champing at the bit.

**Hux Brown:** When Jimmy arrived, he strummed the song on his acoustic guitar to give us the lowdown. The song's instrumental intro was his. Then Gladly (Anderson) told us the key and chord progressions, and we spent a half-hour getting around it and setting the tempo. Then we were ready to record.

**Mr. Cliff:** I just sang along with the band and improvised the lyrics. I didn't have them all together or fixed in my head when the cameras started. I wasn't one of those writers who jotted down lines on paper. Now, I do that, of course. But back then, expressing how I felt off the top of my head created more exciting results. You had the pressure on you.

**Mr. Brown:** We weren't concentrating on the movie cameras. We were focusing on giving the promoter a hit. The band's job always was to sell a song. I was supposed to play what Jackie was playing, but I used a slightly different line—more bouncy, for texture and contrast. Ronny Bop and Winston Wright played off of what

Gladly was doing. And Winston Grennan went in between.

**Mr. Jackson:** We wanted to do it in one take, so the music would be alive. Originally the song ran for about 20 minutes and we could have kept going all night. They must have cut down the tape for the single and album.

**Mr. Cliff:** The song for me was about social and artistic change. When I lived in the U.K., I recorded a lot of ska and rock-steady styles of Jamaican music. But people there weren't accepting it. So I began using a faster reggae beat. On the record, the song ends with those odd organ chords. That was Winston. He was a brilliant keyboard player. It was his decision to do that. He was good at adding those strange things you weren't expecting. When we finished, we all said, Brilliant, wow, great! What you see on my face in the movie was genuine. I felt good. We all felt good. We knew the song was special.

**Mr. Jackson:** The first time I heard the song I was at the movie's premiere at the Harbour View Drive-In in East Kingston. The place was packed. I took my girlfriend in my Vauxhall Viva GT. We sat outside on the grass. Some of the other guys from the band were there. When Jimmy and the song came on, we began jumping and screaming. That was us up there.

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## Austerity going to ebb-tide

Continued from page 4

Republican Party, were unable to agree to schedule about US\$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years. They came up with what appeared then to be a far-fetched plan so outrageous that it would probably never go into force.

But guess what? It has! The Budget Control Act stipulates that the Treasury would take (sequester) a year's worth of savings at the start of this year -- half of it from the Defence Department. At New Year's, a tax deal between the president and the Congress delayed and reduced that cut, so now it's \$85 billion instead of \$1.2 trillion. Because the "sequester" applies equally across the board, it prevents department managers from choosing how to implement it. It's an extremely blunt instrument intended as a deterrent, but in the days leading up to the deadline the dysfunctional Congress made only token attempts to avoid it.

Republicans — especially a bloc elected since the rise of the Tea Party movement four years ago — have a deep-seated antipathy to government and taxes and have directed particular animosity at Barack Obama

and his initiatives. Many of them claim he is a socialist or even a communist, and have resorted to every device they can to block his efforts. So they are quite content to see the government grind to a halt, with everybody from park attendants and airport security agents to food inspectors and air traffic controllers laid off. Obama has taken his message over the heads of the politicians directly to the people, appealing to them to put pressure on their elected representatives to end what he calls "these manufactured crises."

The Republicans have shot themselves in the foot like this before. In 1995, President Bill Clinton vetoed a spending bill the Republican-dominated Congress sent him. As a result, the federal government put what it calls non-essential workers on furlough — leave without pay — for 28 days between the end of November and the beginning of January the next year. During the shutdown of the 1990s the public appeared to blame Clinton, but once it ended, his approval ratings shot up to their highest since his election.

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THE GOOD WORD

# Overcoming Spiritual Invasion



Pastor Jacob Afolabi

Whether under Monarchy or Democracy, Kings and Governors come and go. But the Ruler of your life is the most important entity you must get to know. Who rules your life? The nature and method of the Divine government of the individual life is recorded in Psalm 23, “The lord is my Shepherd ...or my King . . .or my Governor . . or my Ruler” This leaves out any and every other rulers, including your own self. Do you know who rules your life? Are you being ‘tossed’ about by every wind, from master to master? Are you at peace

within your self?

The adversary has a way of coming in un-aware, un-announced and un-invited. Only the effects of his presence shows. How then do we resist and overcome unwanted spiritual invasions? Firstly, “Submit yourself to therefore God...”(James 4:7a). Whenever an invasion occurs, there is always a “scattering.” When peace is lost, the mind, the body, and the spirit will each find different directions to wander away from each other. The Spirit alone cannot do battle when the soul becomes a refugee from the body. When confusion sets in “the centre cannot hold.” Only in confessing Jesus Christ as the Lord of your entire life, can you bring together again all of your being into One wholesome entity; for as it is written... By Him (Jesus Christ) all things hold together...” (Col.1:17 NIV). Secondly, identify the Invader.... “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Matthew 17:21). The

disciples of Jesus proved unsuccessful in casting out a spiritual invader, simply because they could not identify it. It requires a prior preparation to identify an evil presence. In preparing for your engagement in spiritual warfare and deliverance, apply pure Faith always, (the mustard seed kind of faith), Love to pray always, especially when things are quiet and there are no problems. Engage yourself in righteous fasting (which is simply self-control over all your fleshly desires). Thirdly, resist the Invader: ‘Resist the devil, and he will flee from you...’ (James 4:7). The initial aim of the devil is towards your pleasure points, “ (pride, beauty, provisions, the flesh, etc). When you resist him in all of these areas, he leaves you alone. If there is any one of these that you are still holding on to please let go and let God in.

Finally, Give rest to your Soul, not to the devil. “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. “Then

he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds [it] empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.” (Matt 12:43-45).

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28). Make Room for Jesus in your heart. When He comes in, no one else can gain entrance. When your inside is fully occupied, no intruder will come near. When you place your soul in the Hands of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, you rest is sure. Declare Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, indeed, your own Shepherd.

Bishop Jacob Afolabi  
b i s h o p @  
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Kenya

## Jomo Kenyatta’s son Uhuru wins election



Uhuru Kenyatta was named the winner over Prime Minister Raila Odinga with only 50.03

per cent of the vote, in a tense presidential election that kept the country on edge for a week. Supporters of presidential candidate Uhuru Kenyatta celebrate in Nairobi early Saturday morning after he was declared the election winner by a tiny margin. By: Michelle Shephard National Security Reporter, Published on Fri Mar 08 2013 Uhuru Kenyatta,

the wealthy son of the country’s first president, was named the winner by a slim margin over Prime Minister Raila Odinga in a tense election that kept the country on edge this week. Kenyatta’s win now poses a diplomatic dilemma for Kenya’s foreign allies who must maintain ties with a president set to stand trial this summer at the International Criminal Court in The Hague for

crimes against humanity. Kenyatta and his running-mate, William Ruto, are accused of bankrolling death squads that killed more than 1,200 in the weeks of politically-stoked ethnic fighting that followed the last election five years ago. In the Kenyatta stronghold of Kiambu, about 20 kilometres from Nairobi, people rushed to the streets to celebrate and chant.

Retained value awards

## Prius, Genesis surprise victors

Mark Toljagic

Reflecting new consumer preferences, a gas-electric hybrid and a South Korean sedan are first-time winners in the annual Best Retained Value Awards determined by Canadian Black Book, the nation’s curator of vehicle valuations. Astute buyers know the biggest expense of a new car is depreciation — that unseen scourge that devalues your ride as soon as you leave the dealership. Canadian Black Book (CBB) established its awards eight years ago as a way of showcasing its market intelligence and informing consumers. For the 2013 winners, CBB tracked what 2009-model-year vehicles are actually fetching at industry auctions and then compared those values to their original sticker prices. The vehicles whose value eroded the least over the past four years

made the awards list, divided into 19 market segments. The 2013 CBB award winners were announced at the Canadian International AutoShow, with a couple of surprises among the nameplates making their return engagement. The first-place finish by the Toyota Prius in the compact car category caught even Josh Bailey, Canadian Black Book vice-president, research and editorial, off guard. “Prius hybrids weren’t holding their value terribly well at first. Like everyone else, we were skeptical,” Bailey says. But rising fuel prices lifted the gas-sipping Prius’s stock in trade. Add to that the car’s proven durability in taxi fleets across the country, and its valuation has improved. It doesn’t hurt that the Prius is a unique platform, adds Bailey. Instead of

embracing hybrid versions of conventional models like the Toyota Camry, many hybrid shoppers prefer the Prius as a recognizable, green nameplate. The other unexpected winner is the Hyundai Genesis in the full-size car category, displacing the Toyota Avalon, which

dominated the category over the past three years. “It’s the first time Hyundai, or any South Korean automaker, has won a retained-value award from Canadian Black Book. It has the right features and the reliability to show for it,” says Bailey.

## Hillary to join Bill on lucrative public speaking circuit

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton looks set to enter the lucrative speaking circuit as early as this spring, in the first phase of her public life after four years in the Obama administration. The popular Democrat has signed on with the Harry Walker agency, which also handles speaking engagements for her husband, former president Bill. She is expected to draw fees in the high six-figures for some talks. The former secretary’s next moves are being closely watched for signs that she is running – or not – for the presidency in 2016. So far she has not stated an intention to do so. Former president Bill Clinton earned \$13.4 million from speaking engagements in 2011, a personal record, according to financial disclosures. In November 2011, the former president was paid \$750,000 for a single speech in Hong Kong to the telecom company Ericsson. Succeeded at the State Department by John

Kerry on February 1, Hillary Clinton has said her immediate plans are to relax after an unusually active four years. As Secretary of State she visited 102 countries, more than any previous secretary, putting in 351 travel days over four years, according to the State Department. A survey by Quinnipiac University, a major pollster, found that Clinton is the most popular political figure in the United States, with a 61-34 split in her favorability rating. She has been a central figure on the national political stage for two decades, from the time her husband was elected president in 1992, through her Senate career of 2000-2008, her presidential run and her cabinet post. She also plans to write a book about her time as the nation’s top diplomat. In 2000 she earned a near-record advance of \$8m for her memoir of the White House years. At the time only the Pope had netted more for a book advance.



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**Tony Garcia**  
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# Major (ret'd) Walter Peters

Continued from page 1

mentor and “go-to-guy” to many members of his extended family, he was also the fun-loving “life of the party.”

A former Canadian Forces colleague who met Wally back in the 1970s remembered how his consummate professionalism, consistent pursuit of excellence and dogged determination won over even the most skeptical and prejudiced superiors. Indeed, these qualities contributed to Wally’s academic achievements and his steady rise through air force ranks. A graduate of Mount Allison University (1959), Walter worked for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force at age 24 and entering pilot training. After receiving his commission and wings, Mr. Peters accumulated some 15,000 flying hours on many types of aircraft. He served in various capacities during his 19 years with the RCAF including as a senior officer in a variety of Air Force squadrons; a flight safety officer at the Military College; an Instrument check pilot and a squadron commander. He enjoyed a distinguished and trailblazing career on

numerous levels. He was Canada’s first Black jet fighter pilot and an A1 flying instructor. He took part in the development of the famed Snowbirds Aerobatics Team and later flew with them.

At CFB Trenton, Mr. Peters piloted Hercules cargo aircraft on various missions around the globe, and it was here that, as a staunch advocate for human rights and equality for all, he also became the Armed Forces’ first Human Rights Officer. He was a founding member and the first President of the New Brunswick Association for the Advancement of Coloured People and also distinguished himself on the international scene. As advisor to the United Nations Security Council (1983-84), he offered advice on the tactical movement of troops by air, and briefed the Council after the Russian shoot-down of a Korean civilian jet in 1983. He retired holding the rank of Major.

In 1984, Mr. Peters joined Transport Canada Aviation, where he was responsible for Safety Programs from 1991-96, and Director-General of Systems Safety from 1996, until his retirement in 1998. Walter then formed the consulting firm Walter

Peters and Associates Inc., and was recruited by Bombardier to set up a NATO Flying Training in Canada program to train NATO fighter pilots and mount other pilot training programs. He represented Canada in the Air India Flight 182 investigation and acted as an advisor during the investigation into the 1991 crash of a Nation Air DC-8 jet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Peters’ professional achievements did not go unnoticed, and he received various awards including the Minister’s Award of Merit, Transport Canada (1994), the Chief of Defence Staff Medal for Excellence, and the U.N. Medal (1983). He was named a Black Pioneer for his achievements and is featured in the Aviation Museum in Shearwater, Nova Scotia.

His extensive knowledge and engaging personality made him a sought-after speaker at national and international seminars on Black History in Canada. In 2006, he spoke at the Dreams Never Die Foundation in Toronto, which gives scholarships to young Canadians of colour to pursue careers in aviation; the Commemorative event for the #2 Construction

Battalion (Canada’s Black Battalion 1916-1920) in Pictou, NS; and the St. John Symposium on Visible Minorities and Empowering African Nova Scotian Males. It was in this context that I first met Mr. Peters, in November 2006, at a luncheon on Parliament Hill in honour of the 90th anniversary of the all-Black Number 2 Construction Battalion.

As a board member of Black History Ottawa and a Black military history enthusiast, I subsequently invited Mr. Peters to various events promoting the contributions of Blacks to Canada’s armed forces including “Remembrance and Commemoration” events by Cathedral Arts. Such has been my admiration for him that in June 2009 I devoted an entire episode of my 30-minute Rogers TV television program, “Fontonfrom,” to him and his daughter Shelley. I was so impressed by Mr. Peters’ passion for motivating youth to strive for excellence and for sharing his remarkable experiences as a trailblazing aviation professional that at the end of February 2012, I connected him with the Hillcrest High School Black History Club. This led to his taking part in two school

assemblies highlighting his inspiring story, the second of which was featured in a nationally broadcast CBC News Network piece on Blacks in the Canadian Air Force. Such was the lasting impression he made on these students that a group of them attended his memorial service with one of their teachers.

My fondest memories of Mr. Peters, however, will always be of working with him on several initiatives spearheaded by The Legacy Voices project including

a series of videotaped interviews featured in the “Heroes Remember” section of the Veterans Affairs Canada website. Legacy Voices founder, Kathy Grant, whose father Mr. Peters considered a role model, mourned the loss of one of her greatest champions. “He strongly supported my efforts to document and to promote the contributions of blacks to aviation history. He will never be forgotten,” she said.

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## Cricket at the Olympics?

Fresh moves are afoot to have cricket become an Olympic sport perhaps in time for the 2024 edition of the games. The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) World Committee is lobbying for Twenty20 cricket to be included, claiming it could significantly raise the profile of the sport.

“The MCC World Cricket committee appreciates that a great deal of effort may be needed to lobby for the inclusion of cricket in the Olympic Games of 2024.” MCC said in a statement.

Cricket has already passed the first stage of selection when it received full Olympic recognition in 2010. The earliest the International Cricket Council (IOC) can apply

to be part of the Olympics is for the 2024 Games. The MCC World Cricket Committee, which acts as a complementary body to ICC, admits it would cost the game financially, but feels the positives of being an Olympic sport can make up for such losses.

“The committee accepts that, were cricket to be played in the Olympics, there would be a short-term loss in income for the ICC,” the statement said following a two-day meeting in New Zealand.

“But is impressed with the potential boost for the game worldwide if cricket were to be included.”

The statement also said: “Furthermore, the committee advocates

Twenty20 cricket as the format to be played at the Olympics, thereby providing the ‘pinnacle’ of that form of the sport.”

IOC President Jacques Rogge has encouraged the sport to put forward a case for its inclusion, saying they would welcome an application, adding cricket is an important, popular sport and very powerful on television. Also, one of the game’s more outspoken advocates, Australian cricketers Adam Gilchrist, has been pushing for T20 cricket to be included in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Cricket was part of the 1900 Olympics in Paris and has not appeared since.



Ontario Labour Minister and Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi flanked by Yomi Pratt and his wife after receiving a Global Alliance Award at the National Arts Centre recently. Sarah Onyango photo

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# Heavy police presence after homes, businesses firebombed in Trinidad

National Security Minister Austin ‘Jack’ Warner, warning that “no one area should hold this country to ransom” is promising to intensify security in the volatile Laventille area after several homes were destroyed by fire bombs recently as rival gangs continued their turf war. “The bulk of the murders in the country, 41 per cent of the murders in the country is taking place in one particular area, so one area of the country literally is holding the country to ransom and I go forward to say one small group of men is doing that. “That is why we have to intensify what we are doing and you will hear, you will read that we are carrying out an exercise in Laventille from today until Monday which will be unprecedented,” Warner said. More than 100 police officers have already moved into the Laventille area, along the east-west corridor, after several homes and businesses were firebombed over the past 72 hours. Police say two more houses were destroyed on Tuesday night and are bracing for even more reprisals as the gangs battle each other. Parliamentary representative for the area, Marlene McDougal told reporters that she has “never seen this type of behaviour on my constituency. ‘This is the first time I have seen this deviant type of behaviour,” she said, adding that the “war’ is taking place between gangs separated by a street in the area. “It pains me to see what is happening,” she added.



Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stewart greets supporters after his recent election win. Jamaica Observer picture

## Caribbean Runnins

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

**Antigua** - Antigua National Security and Labor Minister Errol Cort has continued to reach out to key stakeholders in an effort to address the issue of crime and security in Antigua and Barbuda. Senator Cort met with several local banking executives and held open discussions on security measures specific to banks, as well as the general security of the city of St John’s. He said that meetings of this type were in an effort to foster continued partnerships between the government and the business sector and to achieve mutual security goals.

**Barbados** - Renewable energy will be the centre piece of Government’s economic programmed outlined by Governor General. In the speech, a feature of the opening of a new parliamentary term, the Government committed itself to not only reducing the island’s overall \$1 billion fuel bill by \$150 million by 2018, but also to using hybrid and electric buses for public transportation.

**Guyana** - The Progressive Youth Organization (PYO) that serves as the youth arm of the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), held a night of reflection on the life of one of the party’s founder-leaders, the Late Dr. Cheddi Bharrat Jagan. Minister of Home Affairs, Clement Rohee, who was introduced as one of the remaining direct protégés of the late Dr. Jagan, and who continues to struggle against forces that try to subvert democracy, retraced the establishment and growth of the PYO and said: Jagan “left behind a cadre of young people whom he knew he could rely on to continue with his legacy.”

**Jamaica** - Jamaica will be making concessions to public-sector workers who have agreed to a wage freeze until 2015. The Government is tapping the NHT to the tune of \$11.4 billion each year over the next four years as part of its fiscal-consolidation programmed. As part of its economic programmed with the IMF, the Government has said it will have to reduce public-sector wages as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

**St Lucia** - Responding to the “sick out” staged by government workers which had disrupted work in the public and private sectors for two days, Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony told the nation the government’s position on the current wage negotiation impasse with public sector employees. He painted a picture of the economic situation of the country before he went into the present circumstances. By the end of March 2013, debt would increase to 78% of our GDP. “For the first time in our fiscal history since independence in 1979, the Caribbean Development Bank has included us among a list of seven countries in the Caribbean with a high and unsustainable debt,” he said.

**Trinidad** - An advisory by the Surfing Association of T&T warned that a large and dangerous ocean swell event is expected to hit T&T’s coastal areas. The advisory, issued on several social networks, said massive waves formed by “a combination of multiple North Atlantic cold fronts will focus their energy on the north coast. Citizens in general, and those residing along coastal areas, are asked to be on the alert for above-normal sea conditions. It also advised extra caution by small craft operators, sea bathers and all marine interests at sea.

Say it for the month: Gold teeth don’t suit hog mouth

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