



## Jamaica 50 Celebrations...

# Ja Military Band to visit Ottawa



With the swift approach of summer, the celebratory activities of Jamaica50 Ottawa swing into high gear. The committee has mounted a year-long program of celebrations of Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence and 50 years of diplomatic relations with Canada and summer's peak events are just around the corner and they include a special visit from the Jamaica Military Band.

The Jamaica Military Band, long a favourite of the Jamaican people, will be in Canada as guests of the Canadian military

and will be performing in the Canadian Forces' "Fortissimo" on Parliament Hill, after which they will make appearances in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto before returning to Jamaica.

Summer's highlights include:

- Charity Golf Tournament, Chateau Cartier Golf & Spa Resort, July 20
- Jamaica50 Independence Party, Obsession Lounge, August 3
- Viewing of London Olympics 100 metres final, City Hall, August 6
- Aug 10 - Rastafest,

Festival Plaza

- Aug 11 - JamDay, with Jamaica Military Band, Festival Plaza
- Aug 12 - Independence Service, Centretoen United Church
- Aug 13 - Jamaica Military Band in concert, Carleton University
- Aug 18 - Carivibe Float Parade, Petrie Island

Three other events later in the year are awaiting final confirmation and will be publicised later. In the meantime, please go to the Jamaica50 Ottawa website at [jamaica50Ottawa.com](http://jamaica50Ottawa.com) for details.

## Parliamentarians To Be



Sarah Onyango Photos

**Top:** Eight-year old Makhai Joseph has a keen interest in politics so he used his PD Day to go with his parents and sister Imani to visit Senator Don Meredith in the Senate.

**Bottom:** Sarah Nilame (left) and Solange Tuyishime with former federal NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin at the Famous 5 Ottawa Luncheon at the NAC on June 5, celebrating female "firsts" in Canadian politics.

## 23 years for 'Dudus' Coke

Jamaica's notorious "Shower Posse" leader has been sentenced to 23 years in a US federal prison. Christopher "Dudus" Coke, 43, provoked a virtual state of war in Kingston two years ago when he resisted arrest in the barricaded Tivoli Gardens neighbourhood he ran as his own personal fiefdom,

Coke pleaded guilty last August to charges that included trafficking more than 3 tonnes of marijuana and 30lb (14kg) of cocaine to the US. He was sentenced June 8 by a federal judge in New York and was also ordered to pay \$1.5m in forfeiture of profits from his global drug trafficking operation that centred on Kingston, Miami and New York.

"With his conviction, Coke is no longer able to traffick drugs in the

US, move guns across our border, or terrorize people, and with today's sentence, he will now spend a very long time in prison for his crimes," said Preet Bharara, US attorney for Manhattan.

Coke's sentencing brings to a formal end his violent reign that lasted almost 20 years with the complicity of Jamaican political interests. Before he gave himself up in June 2010 he had been on the US department of justice's list of the world's most dangerous drug traffickers.

He ran the neighbourhood of Tivoli Gardens on the west side of Kingston as a sort of walled military encampment within which his rule was unchallenged. Through his gang, the Shower Posse - a reference to its members' fondness

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Mrs Florence Robinson (left) celebrates her 90th birthday with longtime friend, Phyllis Pinnock, at the June 3 JOCA Brunch, at Ukrainian Hall.



# COMMUNITY *Pulse*



John Dennison



Raul Nembhard

Good news for John Dennison and A. Raoul Nembhard. John has been named Citizenship Judge and Raoul has been appointed to the Race Relations Foundation. Our warmest congratulations go out to both gentlemen.

Passengers on recent Air Canada flights were pleasantly surprised to learn that the linguistic capabilities on board have now soared beyond Canada's two official languages. Also present, they say, were Spanish,

Portuguese and Cantonese. Not so pleasant was the news that if you are travelling to the US you get to pay an extra \$25.00 for your bag/suitcase; no reason given.

So, you have to line up for the Greyhound bus now. Security is the order of the day and the bus company advises you give yourself plenty time to catch the bus. It all follows the murder of Tim McLean on July 30, 2008. McLean, 22, was stabbed, beheaded and cannibalised

while riding a Greyhound bus near Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. On March 5, 2009, McLean's killer, 40-year-old Vince Weiguang Li, was found to be not criminally responsible for the murder and was remanded to a high-security mental health facility. Parts of the victim's body, placed in plastic bags, were retrieved from the bus, while his ear, nose and tongue were found in the pockets of his killer. McLean's eyes and a part of his heart were never recovered and are presumed to have been eaten by Li. Now we have another imbecile murdering his roommate/partner and sending pieces of his body in the mail across Canada.

Liberia ex-president Charles Taylor got 50 years in prison for the Sierra Leone massacres. He won't come out. Ex-president Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was also in the news - life imprisonment. It has

been a good few weeks for justice!

Have you seen the documentary *Life and Debt*? The film examines the economic and social situation imposed on Jamaica by the globalization policies of the IMF and the World Bank based on structural adjustment policies that required Jamaica to enact economic reforms, including trade liberalization, privatization and deregulation. These are better identified as how to strangle a nation's local productivity since they opened the flood-gates to imported American products resulting in heart-rending scenes including a milk factory turning on the taps to let its milk flow out onto the ground since it could no longer compete with cheap imported US milk powder. The "reforms" left the country with \$4.6 billion dollars in debt. The film features a number of interviews

with several Jamaicans including former Prime Minister Michael in which he critiques the system of IMF/World Bank loans. He is particularly critical of required structural adjustments as an attack on the sovereignty of former colonial nations. Similar claims have been made popular by former Chief Economist of the World Bank (and Nobel Prize winner) Joseph Stiglitz. This 2001 film directed by Stephanie Black was shown again at the Mayfair cinema May 31 by the Jamaica Self-Help group which got Michael Manley's daughter Rachel Manley to give an introduction. It is a compelling film and worth your attention.

**Wed, June 20** Location 1: Fritzi Gallery & Studio, Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC). 1233 Wellington St. W., 7pm - 10pm Location 2: Alpha Soul Cafe, 1015 Wellington St. W., 7pm - 10:30pm New

Eyes, New Visions Soiree. Join OCISO, in partnership with Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC) and Alpha Soul Café to celebrate World Refugee Day with an evening of art and music from new Canadians. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) World Refugee Day is an annual event that recognizes the resilience, courage, creativity and contributions of newcomers from around the world. There will be two celebrations happening simultaneously at 2 different locations. Free admission. Cash bar.

**Sat June 23, 7:30 pm** - Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive: Come and enjoy an evening with Rev. Ernie Cox and Friends (London Trio Plus & on Don Cummings on B3 organ) in concert. Refreshments included in \$20 ticket.

## MONEY TALK\$



### Bad debt - the SMELL will tell

by Elcho Stewart

We all know that our economic system is based on a relationship between borrowing and lending with checks and balances in place. Even though there are some cultures, religions or even individuals that strongly discourage money-lending or acquiring debt it is very difficult to live in the Canadian society without accumulating some form of debt. How we manage our debt situation, therefore, is really what matters.

The average person can use the SMELL test to determine whether or not debt is a problem: Are you *Sleeping like a baby* even though you have debt? Is the obligation *Melting or mounting*? Does it leave your *Ego or self-esteem intact*? Is it *Legal* or not and, lastly, are you creating a *Lasting Legacy*?

**Sleeping like a baby:** If being in debt is affecting your sleep you need to remedy the situation. Home ownership, for example, is considered a good debt because over the long run equity builds up in the property, there is pride of ownership, and the control over where one lives. These are mitigating arguments in its favor. Even though responsible mortgage lenders would have performed a thorough assessment of our financial

situation before granting a mortgage, we should still take further precautions to determine whether we can maintain the payments in the event of a short-term job loss, illness, disability, major repairs, or emergency. The same goes for the type of rental accommodation we choose to live in. Work towards slowly putting aside as much as six months' net income for the sole purpose of meeting emergencies, and for that same reason secure adequate life, health, and/or disability insurance.

**Melting Or Mounting:** Simply making minimum payments on credit cards does not reduce the original debt. You only get to chip away at the debt by paying more than the minimum required. Before even acquiring a debt, there should be a systematic plan in place on how to repay it. This is one reason why credit-card debts can get out of control: the purchases were made without any consideration of how the obligation will be met once the statement comes in. Incidentally, borrowing from our brother-in-law usually goes sour for that same reason.

**Ego Buster:** Studies have shown that people in unmanageable debt situations are prone to suffer from low self-esteem. Their situation is exacerbated by lack of

sleep (see above) and the need to spend more in order to feel better. We should learn to feel good about denying ourselves things that could create an unhealthy spending cycle. In any event, the mental high achieved from impulse shopping is short-lived and can be achieved for free by taking a brisk walk around the block!

**Legal Or Not:** Too many bad movies tell us that the whole business of borrowing from unsavory and unregulated sources can lead to a bad death rather than a bad-debt write-off. There we see that a regularly scheduled payment to a "loan shark" rarely means that the debt is being reduced. While that is not the case with traditional lending institutions, cash advances on credit cards, pay-day loans, convenience checks, and late payment fees are all legal but carry hefty interest rates or carrying charges that can become onerous.

**Lasting Legacy:** If you are in debt and have nothing concrete to show for it, you have failed the SMELL test miserably. Even though you cannot see or touch a student loan, for example, it is presumed to be an investment in future employment and a good income. The same goes for home improvement loans, and the aforementioned home mortgage. Accumulating debt to pay rent, or dining out, is a recipe for disaster. The former does not build equity and the latter is literally money going down the drain. That is why we

are encouraged to pay off monthly credit card bills and not accumulate interest charges. It is therefore not sound financial security planning to finance lifestyle by accumulating credit card debt.

Debt control and elimination is one of the basic elements of sound financial planning. How do you SMELL? To find out more on how to manage your life by managing money, speak with a Financial Advisor.

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## JOCA Celebrates Jamaica's 50

by Nicole Blair

The Jamaican Ottawa Community Association has been busy preparing to host events in celebration of Jamaica's 50 years of independence this year. Luke Campbell, president for the JOCA, said this year is special and worth the planning involved to recognize how far Jamaica has come as a nation and the contributions Jamaicans have made to Canada.

"It means that we change the international assumption of a tiny island to a recognized nation through our contributions in all aspects. The many Jamaican professionals in business, sports, and others, who now are Canadian citizens being in Ottawa celebrating Jamaica 50th makes us proud of the contribution made to Canada and Jamaica over the past 50

years."

The association participated in special celebrations earlier this year including the National Launch of Jamaica50, which was held at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa on March 22, with over 500 people in attendance. There was also a special church service at the Bethel Pentecostal Church in Ottawa on March 18 to launch Jamaica50 Ottawa's parade of celebrations. Both events were attended by Jamaica's High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith.

Other events staged so far were JOCA's annual Variety Gospel Concert, which the organisation started over 25 years ago and the "Come Bowl With Us" event which took place on May 8.

"There was no stage or venue for the young people to expose their talents, and this lack was

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**“This is Mr. Aiken’s case... and he is not agreeing”**

## Legal clinic unhappy

The African Canadian Legal Clinic is unhappy with a settlement reached before the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal between the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) and the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on the matter of race-based traffic data in the Chad Aiken case.

The Clinic which appeared for Mr. Aiken said the OHRC reached a settlement with the Ottawa Police Service without consensus of the complainant. It said in light of research and in consultation with an expert in racial profiling which it retained, the settlement lacks key elements that are of fundamental importance to the Black community in Ottawa, and across the province.

The OHRC and the Ottawa Police Services Board agreed that data collection will be important in helping to address

concerns and perceptions in minority communities. The settlement calls for significant consultation with community partners.

The settlement followed a human rights complaint by Ottawa resident Chad Aiken. In 2005, Aiken, then 18 years old, was pulled over by an OPS officer while driving his mother’s Mercedes-Benz. In a complaint against the police, he alleged that he had been stopped because he was Black.

A partial settlement was reached between the parties in 2010. This most recent settlement focuses on using data collection as a way to help provide bias-free police services in Ottawa.

The OPSB and the OHRC have agreed the data will be used in a way that respects Ontario’s Human Rights Code. The settlement requires the Ottawa Police to collect data for a minimum two-year period,

starting within 12 months. At the end of two years, the OPSB will share the collected information with the OHRC which will then conduct an analysis on the data and may make recommendations.

ACLRC executive director Margaret Parsons slammed the Commission.

“This settlement is clear proof that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is not a friend of the African Canadian community, and as a provincial body entrusted with protecting, advancing and defending the human rights of African Canadians the Commission has abandoned this role in favour of chumming up with a police service that is notorious for egregious acts of racial profiling against African Canadians,” she said.

She said the settlement is tantamount to the “police policing itself,” and Aiken will have none of that.

Parsons said Aiken’s lawyers will challenge the settlement at the Tribunal this month. She said Aiken has two key demands: the addition of walking (pedestrian) stops to the data collection, and the

creation of an independent body to come up with the methodology for the study, and to supervise it. Otherwise, he’ll ask for a full hearing on his complaint against the police.

“We are not agreeing to what the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Ottawa Police have decided. This is Mr. Aiken’s case, it is not the commission’s case and he is not agreeing to this settlement,” she said.

Race-based data collection related to police stops is required by law in the U.K. and is common throughout the U.S. It is recognized as one of the major tools available to help police services address allegations of racial profiling around the world. The OHRC notes that police services in Canada can benefit by using this tool.

The OHRC recently completed a three-year Charter with the Toronto Police Service and is currently working with the Windsor Police on a similar project.

## Testing curry’s ability to fight cancer

A chemical found in curry is to be tested for its ability to kill bowel cancer tumours in patients.

Curcumin, which is found in the spice turmeric, has been linked to a range of health benefits. Studies have already shown that it can beat cancer cells grown in a laboratory and benefits have been suggested in stroke and dementia patients as well.

Now a trial at hospitals in Leicester will be investigating giving curcumin alongside chemotherapy drugs.

About 40,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK each year. If the disease spreads around the body, patients are normally given a combination of three chemotherapy drugs, but about half will not respond. Forty patients at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Leicester General Hospital will take part in the trial, which will compare the effects of giving curcumin pills seven days before starting standard chemotherapy treatment.

Prof William Steward of Leicester University, who is leading the study, said animal tests combining

the two were “100 times better” than either on their own and that had been the “major justification for cracking on” with the trial. “Once bowel cancer has spread it is very difficult to treat, partly because the side effects of chemotherapy can limit how long patients can have treatment.

“The prospect that curcumin might increase the sensitivity of cancer cells to chemotherapy is exciting because it could mean giving lower doses, so patients have fewer side effects and can keep having treatment for longer.

“This research is at a very early stage, but investigating the potential of plant chemicals to treat cancer is an intriguing area that we hope could provide clues to developing new drugs in the future,” He said.

Joanna Reynolds, from Cancer Research UK, said: “By doing a clinical trial like this, we will find out more about the potential benefits of taking large amounts of curcumin, as well as any possible side effects this could have for cancer patients.”

– BBC

## JOCA celebrates Jamaica’s 50

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what gave birth to the gospel concert,” Mr. Campbell said.

“We are a growing community and it’s our desire to help our youth and young adults find that which they seek. JOCA has decided to revert to the original concept to engage not just our community but the community at large. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in conjunction with the Jamaica50 Ottawa Committee, what better way to uphold the words on our Coat of Arms ‘Out of many – One People’?”

The events to celebrate Jamaica’s 50th have just begun with more fun and enjoyment planned for upcoming months. There will be a special presentation in conjunction with the changing of the guard on parliament hill from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 6. The celebrations continue on

Jam Day August 11, with the performance of the Jamaica Military Band and many other international and local artists are scheduled to perform. On Sunday August 12 there will be the annual independence church service at Centre Town United Church on Bank Street.

JOCA was begun in 1964 to enhance the quality of life for the Jamaican Community and the wider Afro-Caribbean and Canadian communities in Ottawa. The organisation strives to promote various services for youth and seniors.

“The youth are our future and the seniors are our link to our heritage,” Campbell said.

For more information about the events and to purchase tickets, visit the JOCA website at <http://www.jamaicanottawaassn.org>.

## Rideau Street Renewal Begins June 25

Reconstruction of Rideau Street will begin on Monday, June 25. This is the first phase of a two-year \$28.9-million infrastructure renewal project along Rideau Street. This construction project will improve an important transportation link in Ottawa’s downtown core by upgrading roadways and increasing cycling and pedestrian links, which will encourage economic development and tourism in the area.

The project will replace aging water and sewer pipes, which are up to 140 years old. It will also replace a water main, improve cycling connections, rebuild the deteriorating roadway and beautify the street with the addition of new trees, street furniture, sidewalks and artwork.

Beginning on June 25, Rideau Street will be reduced to westbound traffic only from King Edward Avenue to Dalhousie Street. Traffic detouring for eastbound traffic will be implemented before the start of construction. Eastbound traffic will be diverted to Besserer Street via Nicholas Street during this stage of construction. Eastbound general traffic on Besserer will be returned to Rideau Street via King Edward Avenue.

During phase one of the construction project, detours will divert traffic to Besserer, Murray and George Streets. Changes to traffic detouring,

including OC Transpo and interprovincial trucking, will be communicated to the public through the project website, e-bulletins, and public service announcements. Transit riders may also visit [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com) for travel planning information.

Businesses will remain open and accessible on Rideau Street through the construction period.

The Rideau Street Renewal project is part of the Ottawa on the Move initiative that will allow the City to proceed with much needed city-building infrastructure projects. Ottawa on the Move will see roadwork and bridge repair, sidewalk upgrades, sewer and culvert improvements and cycling infrastructure investment across the length and breadth of Ottawa. This plan will improve transportation choices for residents in advance of the light rail construction period and in advance of Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017. Through the Ottawa on the Move program, \$340 million worth of projects will be completed and a record amount of funding will go towards cycling initiatives.

Further information about the Rideau Street renewal project is available on [ottawa.ca/rideaurenal](http://ottawa.ca/rideaurenal) or by contacting 3-1-1, or by e-mail at [rideaurenal@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurenal@ottawa.ca).



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## Israelis invent ‘cannabis without the high’

Israeli scientists have cultivated a cannabis plant that doesn’t get people stoned in a development that may help those smoking marijuana for medical purposes, the AFP reports.

According to the Maariv daily, the new cannabis looks, smells and even tastes the same, but does not induce any of the feelings normally associated with smoking marijuana that are brought on by the substance THC,

or tetrahydrocannabinol. “It has the same scent, shape and taste as the original plant -- it’s all the same -- but the numbing sensation that users are accustomed to has disappeared,” said Tzahi Klein, head of development at Tikkun Olam, the firm that developed the species.

“Many of our patients who tried the new plant come back to us and say: ‘You tricked me,’ because they assumed

they had been given a placebo, he said.


According to Maariv, Tikkun Olam sought to neutralise the effect of the THC and to increase the effect of another substance called CBD, or cannabidiol, which has been shown to help diabetics and to ease various psychiatric disorders.

Not only does it leave users stone-cold sober, it also doesn’t induce the munchies, the hunger

pangs that the drug’s smokers generally suffer.

Despite the innovation, it is unlikely to have any impact on Israeli law, which outlaws the use of marijuana as illegal except for medical purposes.

According to figures published earlier this year by Sheba Medical Centre and the Israel Cancer Association, medical marijuana has been approved for use by about 6,000 Israelis suffering from various illnesses.



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## Bob Rae and the Liberals

No sooner did the Federal Liberals begin to grapple with new party rules that would allow interim leader Bob Rae to run for the leadership early next year, than they were also confronted with two new polls that fomented second-guessing. An Ipsos Reid poll reported in the *Ottawa Citizen* June 10 said more than half of federal Liberal and NDP supporters back the idea of their parties merging into one with the aim of defeating Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

However, the second poll, which was reported in the same circumstances, identified not Bob Rae but Justin Trudeau as the person on whom most Liberals would pin their leadership hopes.

Rae is a smart, compelling parliamentary debater and a decent man who has never been marred by personal scandal. He has shown grit and spunk in his interim leadership, especially in his parliamentary performances. But some people still balk at his years as NDP Ontario Premier.

What is more, he had a rough ride trying to convince Liberals that he was their messiah. In 2006, they elected Stéphane Dion, and Rae finished third; and in 2009 he stepped out of the race leaving them to acclaim Michael Ignatieff. But he has done well as the party's interim leader and the party, impressed, rewarded him by changing the rules to let him run for the top post.

But faced with lacklustre rank-and-file support, Rae has announced that he will not seek the leadership. He was abandoning that idea, he said, because he thought it was best for the party. He added that his earlier pledge not to use his interim leadership to seek the permanent position was "a reality that needs to be respected."

Seen for many years as Canada's natural ruling party, the Liberals are as far away now from ruling as they have ever been.

The truth is they have nobody to blame but themselves for their present predicament as Canada's third party. Blessed with almost automatic support of Visible Minorities from the time of Pierre Trudeau and his policy of multiculturalism, the party in the last decade or so embarked on a spiral of downplaying or ignoring that policy. Canny politician that he is, Stephen Harper saw the opening and pounced, grabbing some Visible Minority ridings across the country while the Liberals slept under an anesthetic of their own creation.

As the "browning" of Canada goes on apace and more Visible Minorities begin to vote, no party can ignore Visible Minorities any more.

The Liberals also got consumed with the so-called Washington Consensus – a string of neo-liberal imperatives set out by the US that helped move several countries in the world to the right of centre. Even when the US itself seems to have abandoned that posture in a new Post-Washington Consensus, the Liberals did not awake from their slumber, abandoning the centre-left to the NDP with the result that they don't seem to know what they believe in anymore and therefore cannot project anything to the electorate.

The Liberals need to figure out who they are. Next, they have to tell the country what they stand for. They also have to consider Justin Trudeau – a man who while bearing the Trudeau name has not really identified himself with any particular set of principles the way his father did leader. (So he beat a conservative in a fun charity boxing match the other day. So what? He needs gravamen).

They also have to consider whether their best tack would be to merge with the NDP, a party which under Mulcair, is also making the error of moving too far away from the Left. Neither party will beat Harper in right-wing ideology. So there is nothing there for them.

But we would hope that the goal of a merger would not simply be to defeat the Harper Conservatives; they need to define a loftier goal, a goal that will actually mean something to people and bring them to the polls in larger numbers.

# Ten Things Everyone Should Know About Quebec's Student Movement (I)

By Andrew Gavin Marshall

The student strikes in Quebec, which began in February and have lasted for three months, involving roughly 175,000 students in the mostly French-speaking Canadian province, have been subjected to a massive provincial and national media propaganda campaign to demonize and dismiss the students and their struggle. The following is a list of ten points that everyone should know about the student movement in Quebec to help place their struggle in its proper global context.

1. The issue is debt, not tuition.

In dismissing the students, who are striking against a 75% increase in the cost of tuition over the next five years, the most common argument employed is that Quebec students pay the lowest tuition in North America and therefore should not be complaining. Even with the 75% increase, they will still be paying substantially lower than most other provinces. Quebec students pay on average \$2,500 per year in tuition, while the rest of Canada's students pay on average \$5,000 per year. With the tuition increase of \$1,625 spread out over five years, the total tuition cost for Quebec students would be roughly \$4,000.

The premise here is that since the rest of Canada has it worse and Quebec students should shut up, sit down and accept "reality." This is false. In playing the numbers game, commentators and their parroting public repeat the tuition costs but fail to add in the numbers which represent the core issue: DEBT.

So, Quebec students pay

half the average national tuition. True. But they also graduate with half the average national student debt. With the average tuition at \$5,000 per year, the average student debt for an undergraduate in Canada is \$27,000, while the average debt for an undergraduate in Quebec is \$13,000. With interest rates expected to increase, in the midst of a hopeless job situation for Canadian youth, Canada's youth face a future of debt that "is bankrupting a generation of students." The notion, therefore, that Quebec students should not struggle against a bankrupt future is itself a bankrupt argument.

2. Striking students in Quebec are setting an example for youth across the continent.

Nearly 60% of Canadian students graduate with debt, an average of \$27,000 for an undergraduate degree. Total student debt now stands at about \$20 billion (compared to a trillion in the U.S.). Roughly 70% of new jobs in Canada require a post-secondary education. Half of students in their twenties live at home with their parents. A four-year degree for a student living at home in Canada costs \$55,000, and those costs are expected to increase in coming years at a rate faster than inflation. In 18 years, a four-year degree for Canadian students will cost \$102,000.

Defaults on government student loans are at roughly 14%. The Chairman of the Canadian Federation of Students warned in June 2011, "We are on the verge of bankrupting a generation before they even enter the workplace."

This immense student debt affects every decision made in the lives of young graduates. Owing so much money for so many years

severely curtails spending, which is where the economy most needs a boost. With few jobs, enormous housing costs, the cutting of future benefits and social security, students are entering an economy which holds very little for them in opportunities.

Women, minorities, and other marginalized groups are in an even more disadvantaged position. An informal *Globe and Mail* poll in early May found that students across Canada share a similar anxiety over rising tuition fees as that felt in Quebec, and roughly 62% of post-secondary students said they would join a similar strike in their own province. In Ontario, which boasts the highest tuition in Canada, 69% said they would support a strike against increasing tuition. Since governments underwrite student loans, if students default it could be catastrophic for public finances. If the bubble explodes, it could be just like the mortgage crisis.

3. The student strike was organized through democratic means and with democratic aims.

The decision to strike was made through student associations and organizations that operate through direct democracy. While most student associations at schools across Canada hold elections where students choose the members of the associations, the democratic accountability ends there – just as it does with government. Among the Francophone schools in Quebec, the leaders are not only elected by the students, but decisions are made through general assemblies, debate and discussion, and through the votes of the actual constituents.

This means that the

student associations that voted to strike are more democratically accountable and participatory than the government. The Anglophone student associations that went on strike – from Concordia and McGill – did so because, for the first time ever, they also began to operate through direct democracy. This has naturally resulted in insults and derision from the media. The national media in Canada – specifically the *National Post* – complain that the student "tactics are anything but democratic," dubbing it "mob rule." First they ignore you, then they mock you...

4. This is not an exclusively Quebecois phenomenon.

I am an Anglophone. I don't speak French. I have only lived in Montreal for two years, yet I feel that the strikers are struggling as much for me as for any other student, Francophone or Anglophone. Typically, when others across Canada see what is taking place here, they frame it along the lines of, "Oh those Quebecois, always yelling about something."

But I'm yelling too – in English. Many people here are yelling in English. It is true that the majority of the students protesting are Francophone, and the majority of the schools on strike are Francophone, but it is not exclusionary. In fact, the participation in the strike from the Anglophone schools is unprecedented in Quebec history. This was undertaken because students began mobilizing at the grassroots and emulating the French student groups in adopting direct democracy.

Next issue: Part II – A Global resistance to corrupt power

## A Monetary Policy for the 99%:

# 12-year-old Reformer Goes Viral

by Ellen Brown

The YouTube video of 12-year-old Canadian Victoria Grant speaking at the Public Banking in America conference last month has gone viral, topping a million views on various web sites.

Monetary reform – the contention that governments, not banks, should create and lend a nation's money – has rarely even made the news, so this is a first. Either the times they are a-changin', or Victoria managed to frame the message in a way that was so simple and clear that even a child could understand it.

Basically, her message was that banks create money "out of thin air" and lend it to people and governments at interest. If governments borrowed from their own banks, they could keep the interest and save a lot of money for the taxpayers.

She said her own country of Canada actually did this, from 1939 to 1974. During that time,

the government's debt was low and sustainable and it funded all sorts of remarkable things. Only when the government switched to borrowing privately did it acquire a crippling national debt.

Borrowing privately means selling bonds at market rates of interest (which in Canada quickly shot up to 22 percent), and the money for these bonds is ultimately created by private banks. For the latter point, Victoria quoted Graham Towers, head of the Bank of Canada for the first twenty years of its history. He said:

Each and every time a bank makes a loan, new bank credit is created – new deposits – brand new money. Broadly speaking, all new money comes out of a Bank in the form of loans. As loans are debts, then under the present system all money is debt.

Towers was asked, "Will you tell me why a government with power to create money, should give that power away to a private monopoly and then borrow

that which Parliament can create itself, back at interest, to the point of national bankruptcy?" He replied, "If Parliament wants to change the form of operating the banking system, then certainly that is within the power of Parliament."

In other words, said Victoria, "If the Canadian government needs money, they can borrow it directly from the Bank of Canada. The people would then pay fair taxes to repay the Bank of Canada. This tax money would in turn get injected back into the economic infrastructure and the debt would be wiped out. Canadians would again prosper with real money as the foundation of our economic structure and not debt money. Regarding the debt money owed to the private banks such as the Royal Bank, we would simply have the Bank of Canada print the money owing, hand it over to the private banks and then clear the debt to the Bank of Canada."

Problem solved; case

closed.

But critics said, "Not so fast." Victoria might be charming, but she was naive.

One critic was William Watson, writing in the Canadian newspaper *The National Post* in an article titled "No, Victoria, There Is No Money Monster." Interestingly, he did not deny Victoria's contention that "When you take out a mortgage, the bank creates the money by clicking on a key and generating 'fake money out of thin air.'" Watson acknowledged:

Well, yes, that's true of any "fractional-reserve" banking system. Even before they were regulated, even before there was a Bank of Canada, banks understood they didn't have to keep reserves equal to the total amount of money they'd lent out. They could count on most depositors most of the time not showing up to take out their money all at once. Which means,

Continued on pg. 6



# Table Tennis Team Named



Prime Minister Stephen Harper with members of Canada's Olympic table-tennis team.

Table Tennis Canada has nominated four athletes to represent Canada at the London 2012 Olympic Games and they were celebrated in grand style, receiving their official Team jackets from Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the unveiling of Canada Olympic House in London.

Table Tennis players Andre Ho (Richmond, B.C.), Pierre-Luc Hinse (Gatineau, Que.), Eugene Wang (Ottawa) and Mo Zhang (Ottawa) will compete for the maple leaf at the London Olympic Games this summer. "This is a moment I will remember forever," said

Andre Ho. "How often do you get nominated to the strongest team in the county, and meet the Prime Minister on the same day?" "I'm so proud that I'll be part of this amazing team," said Pierre-Luc Hinse. "It's something I've been working towards for a long time and today takes it

one step closer to being a reality." "Today is a very special day for us," said Mo Zhang. "I look forward to joining the rest of our teammates back here in London just a few short months from now." "This is an unbelievable feeling," said Eugene Wang, who was granted Canadian citizenship last week. "I am so proud to call myself Canadian and to represent Canada at the Olympic Games." Canada Olympic House 2012 will rest in the heart of one of London's busiest tourist destinations, Trafalgar Square. In addition to Prime Minister Harper, High Commissioner Gordon Campbell and Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, James Moore helped the Canadian Olympic Committee reveal Canada House as the home away from home for Canada's Olympic family during an Olympic Games.

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## Life and Debt

Prize-winning author Rachel Manley (left), Jamaica50 Ottawa Chairman Ewart Walters, and Jamaica High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith at the Mayfair cinema for the recent screening of the documentary Life and Debt presented by Jamaica Self-Help.

Joan Wright Photo

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# Sultry Donna Summer, 63



Sultry singer Donna Summer, whose pulsing anthems such as "Summer Fever," "Last Dance," "Love to Love You Baby" and "Bad Girls" became the soundtrack for the glittery disco age and flashy clothes, died May 17 after a battle with cancer. She was 63. The Queen of Disco had attempted to keep the extent of her illness from fans and was trying to finish her latest album. Donna was a five-time Grammy Award winner and the first artiste to have three consecutive double albums reach number one on the US Billboard chart. She also charted four number-one singles in the United States within a 13-month period. Donna, who was born LaDonna Adrian Gaines

in 1948, married actor Helmuth Sommer in 1973 before giving birth to the couple's daughter Mimi later that year. The marriage crumbled in 1975, but she kept an altered version of her ex's surname to use as her stage name. She married Brooklyn Dreams musician Bruce Sudano in 1980 and the couple went on to have two daughters, Brooklyn, born in 1981, and Amanda the following year. In 1994, the family moved from Los Angeles to Nashville where Donna took time out from show business to focus on painting, but had recently returned to the recording studio. Her family released a statement saying she died and that they were "at

peace celebrating her extraordinary life and her continuing legacy." Summer gained prominence during the disco era of the 1970s, and released a number of albums that reached gold or platinum status, including the multiplatinum "Bad Girls" and "On the Radio, Volume I & II." Her No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits include "Hot Stuff" and "MacArthur Park." Her sound was a mix of genres, and helped her earn Grammy Awards in the dance, rock, R&B and inspirational categories. She released her last album, "Crayons," in 2008. She also performed on "American Idol" that year with its top female contestants.

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Pastor Jacob Afolabi

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1)

No one takes part in an athletic event in a wedding dress or suit; neither can we run the Christian race with a load of moral or ethical rubbish. This is one occasion in which we are obliged to “dress down.” It is obvious that a wedding dress would be a hindrance to the

## THE GOOD WORD

### Dress Down – To Run Your Race

running of a race, but suitable clothing would permit the arms and legs to function properly. The Christian life is compared to a race. We are like runners competing for the prize, and we are being encouraged to persevere by the examples of those who have triumphed and are now bearing silent but eloquent testimony to the power of faith. This comparison of the Christian life to a race is very appropriate, because a race has its limitations, so has the Christian life. The racer may not run everywhere, but must pursue the course marked out for him. This exhortation is directed to Christians who are ready and striving to climb to higher levels in their Christian life, and that they should reject every purpose that can only bring them a “corruptible”

crown. (1Cor.9:25). We must endeavor to mark out the footprints of Jesus Himself, the great Leader and Perfecter of our faith. We Christians, even as natural men and women, always prefer to win by our own physical, intellectual, or moral strength and talents. That is a “weight” we have to put aside. “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.” (Col.3:8&9). The Christian life is an introduction to the Divine Life, and this can only be maintained by constant diligence, and perfected through endurance and faithfulness. Most of the time, we struggle to fulfill our ambitions, we never struggle to be obedient to

God, but it is adherence to the spirit of obedience, and not the perfection of our ambitions, that gives us the victory. “So Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22). This is a summons from the lower to a higher Christian life. God our creator has His own ideal for the perfect man or woman. His purpose is that the new man should win the victory in this life, something that cannot be achieved if we are weighed down with cares and corruptions. Our progress in the Christian course will always be opposed by strong and subtle adversaries, and also by frequent and formidable difficulties.

What are some of these weights we have to put off? Lust – Of all the acts that make men to fall, lusting with the eyes is the most dangerous. Jesus said, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt.5:28). This also could involve the desire for possessions. Pride - Pride is also one of the most misunderstood elements in the character of men. It is a poison that is sweet to the taste, but most dangerous to life. “For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1 John 2:16). Pride always leads to a Fall from favor. Fear – Fear of losing life, of losing health, of losing

loved ones, of losing wealth and comfort; fear of the known and of the unknown, all add up to make the heart weak, and life short. Jesus said, “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:31), Fear affects the soundness of our health and the potency of our faith. Stubbornness – This is rigidity, a condition that makes it impossible for anyone to help you. This is arrogance, which has no place in any assembly of human beings. The whole of our earthly life is of a short duration, and the time of this Christian race is even shorter, when compared with the glory that is set before us in eternity with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Bishop Jacob Afolabi  
bishop@christschapoel.com

## 12-year-old Reformer Goes Viral - pg. 4

as any introduction to monetary economics will tell you, banks can indeed “create” money. What he disputed was that the Canadian government’s monster debt was the result of paying high interest rates to banks. Rather, he said: “We have a big public debt because, starting in the early 1970s and continuing for three full decades, our governments spent more on all sorts of things, including interest, than they collected in taxes.... The problem was the idea, still widely popular, from the Greek parliament to the streets of Montreal, that governments needn’t pay their bills.”

That contention is countered, however, by the Canadian government’s own auditor general (the nation’s top accountant, who reviews the government’s books). In 1993, the auditor general noted in his annual report: The “cost of borrowing and its compounding effect have a significant impact on Canada’s annual deficits. From Confederation up to 1991-92, the federal government accumulated a net debt of \$423 billion. Of this, \$37 billion represents the accumulated shortfall in meeting the cost of government programs since Confederation. The remainder, \$386 billion, represents the amount the government has borrowed to service the debt created by previous annual shortfalls.”

In other words, 91 percent

of the debt consists of compounded interest charges. Subtract those and the government would have a debt of only C\$37 billion, very low and sustainable, just as it was before 1974. Mr. Watson’s final argument was that borrowing from the government’s own bank would be inflationary. He wrote: Victoria’s solution is that instead of paying market rates the government should borrow directly from the Bank of Canada and pay only token rates of interest. Because the government owns the bank, the tax revenues it raises in order to pay that interest would then somehow be injected directly back into the economy. In other words, money literally printed to cover the government’s deficit would be put into circulation. But how is that not inflationary? Let’s see. The government can borrow money that ultimately comes from private banks, which admittedly create it out of thin air and soak the taxpayers for a whopping interest bill; or it can borrow from its own bank, which also creates the money out of thin air and avoid the interest.

Even a 12-year-old can see how this argument is going to come out.

*This article is a Truthout original.*



Members of the Jamaica Self-Help Group at a reception after the showing of Life and Debt. At left is Director Irvin Stewart and at centre is host Uté Gerbrandt.

## 23 years for ‘Dudus’ Coke - pg. 1

for spraying people with bullets – aka the Presidential Click, he ran a state within a state. He had his own small army of up to 200 soldiers, and a makeshift jail in which he dispensed summary justice. He even organised schooling and sustenance for poor local families, rendering him enormously popular at one level. In a hand-written letter submitted to the court seeking leniency, Coke wrote: “I did a lot of charitable deeds and social services to help members of my community. I also host a lot of charity events such as an Easter treat for the elderly persons in my community.”

But he was also brutal. Last month evidence

was presented to the court in which one of Coke’s former henchmen described how the gang leader would go into the jail run by the Shower Posse and dispatch people by cutting them up with a chain saw. He is widely believed to have remained immune from the law for so long because of protection from leading Jamaican politicians. When the US asked for his extradition, the Jamaica Labour Party government of Prime Minister Bruce Golding refused, only relenting under pressure in May 2010. That triggered a state of emergency in Kingston after the Jamaican army was sent in to Tivoli Gardens. Controversy continues to swirl two years later over the battle in which 73 people were killed.

Who Is The Smallest Government Spender Since Eisenhower?

## Would You Believe It’s Barack Obama?

It’s enough to make Even the most ardent Obama cynic scratch his head in confusion. Amidst all the cries of Barack Obama being the most prolific big government spender the nation has ever suffered, Marketwatch is reporting that our president has actually been tighter with a buck than any United States president since Dwight D. Eisenhower. So, how have the Republicans managed to persuade Americans to buy into the whole “Obama as big spender” narrative? It might have something to do with the first year of the Obama presidency where the federal budget increased a whopping 17.9% —going from \$2.98 trillion to \$3.52 trillion. I’ll bet you think that this is the result of the Obama sponsored stimulus plan that is so frequently vilified by the conservatives...but you would be wrong. The first year of any incoming president term is saddled—for better or for worse—with the budget set by the president whom immediately precedes the new occupant of the White House. Indeed, not only was the 2009 budget

the property of George W. Bush—and passed by the 2008 Congress—it was in effect four months before Barack Obama took the oath of office. Accordingly, the first budget that can be blamed on our current president began in 2010 with the budgets running through and including fiscal year 2013 standing as charges on the Obama account, even if a President Willard M. Romney takes over the office on January 20, 2013. No doubt, many will wish to give the credit to the efforts of the GOP controlled House of Representatives. That’s fine if that’s what works for you. However, you don’t get to have it both ways. Credit whom you will, but if you are truly interested in a fair analysis of the Obama years to date—at least when it comes to spending—you’re going to have to acknowledge that under the Obama watch, even President Reagan would have to give our current president a thumbs up when it comes to his record for stretching a dollar.

- Forbes

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# Racial profiling law passed in Connecticut

A few months after four East Haven police officers were arrested for targeting and harassing Latinos, Connecticut's state legislature passed a bill to beef up safeguards against racial profiling. Titled "An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information," SB 364 mandates that local and state law enforcement agencies adopt their own "written policy that prohibits the stopping, detention or search of any person when such action is solely motivated by considerations of race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation, and the action would constitute a violation of the civil rights of the person." In addition, the legislation sets up reporting requirements for police whenever they conduct traffic stop, as well as a system for citizen complaints or for state authorities to collect and assess pertinent data from municipal departments. Initially passed by the state Senate on April 19, the legislation made it through the House

of Representatives on Monday and is now expected to be signed by Gov. Dannel Malloy. "I will continue to insist that every effort is taken to protect individual rights in every community and that racial profiling is eliminated," Malloy said Monday in a statement. "This is a real problem that deserves a real solution, and my administration is committed to carrying out the spirit and letter of this law." If and when the bill goes into effect, those pulled over after January 1, 2013, would get a copy of the "standardized form" filled out by police containing details about the driver and circumstances of their case. Those who feel they were profiled due to their race, color, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation can file a complaint, which must be reviewed by the local police department and be passed on to a state agency. The bill doesn't mention any locality or case specifically. But it follows the arrests, in January, of an East

Haven police sergeant and three officers following a federal investigation into racial profiling. They all pleaded not guilty. A civil lawsuit has also been filed related to that case. According to a federal indictment, the four allegedly conspired to "injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate various members of the East Haven community" by profiling Latino residents during traffic stops, performing illegal searches and harassing Latino business owners and their advocates. The men allegedly threatened and assaulted detainees, made false arrests -- including a local clergy member -- and later conspired to cover up evidence of their conduct by falsifying reports and blocking an investigation, prosecutors said. The men also thwarted a police commission inquiry into their alleged misconduct, authorities said, calling on the support of local union leaders to block and intimidate municipal investigators.

"They behaved like bullies with badges," said Janice Fedarcyk, assistant FBI director in New York. Many Latino residents of East Haven -- who make up about 10.3% of the town's roughly 29,000 people -- say that, for years, they have had to contend with an overly aggressive police force. "They always come by and bother us," said Esdras Marin, a manager at La Bamba, a Latino-owned bar and restaurant named in the indictment. "Police come in two or three times a month and ask everyone in the restaurant for their identification," he said. "And if you don't have it, they threaten us and say they're going to call the immigration office." The Rev. James Manship of St. Rose of Lima Church, a plaintiff in the civil suit, has accused since retired police Chief Leonard Gallo of fostering "a racist and dishonest police force" in East Haven.

- CNN

## Letter

### What's wrong with the RDS Plan?

The Editor,  
The Spectrum,

The new Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is an important benefit for the disabled. For those found eligible, the federal government will pay up to \$1,000 a year into a disability savings bond. As well, the government will match contributions made to a savings grant, at a rate as high as three to one for the first \$500 and two to one on the next \$,1000. Contributions may be made till the person turns 59. Sounds pretty good, and it is, but there are serious problems. People need to know about the fact that they must pay back if the amount is withdrawn before a ten year period. There are complications if a person later is no longer disabled. In order to open a plan, a person needs to go through a bank, and branches are ill informed as to how to proceed. The federal government engaged a communications firm, Compas, to explain the program to the public and the helping community. In one session, people were given phone numbers for specific contacts in the head offices of the banks. They were told to make appointments with their local bank branch but to have the head office on the phone at the time because personnel in the local branch would in all likelihood not have a clue. And that is just to set up an RDSP. Ongoing support is yet another concern. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the whole program is new and yet is already undergoing many substantial changes. The basic problem is that the banks are ill

equipped to deal with the intricacies of the program on an ongoing basis. If the program is to be carried out effectively, help must be provided to those enrolled and those acting on behalf of disabled enrollees not capable of acting on their own. Participants in the program need to have ongoing support, through qualified people fully familiar and up to date on the program and its changes. There should be a short course or series of seminars to prepare people to become familiar with the ins and outs of the RDSP, as well as the income tax provisions related to disability. Those who complete the program should be certified and should receive regular updates from the government. Such certification could be of interest to financial planners, trusts, social agencies, accountants, lawyers, and insurance agents. Certificate holders need to follow their clients regularly, through all the various intricacies, to insure that they do not fall afoul of the requirements or make missteps that could be costly to them, at the same time maximizing their opportunities. The first issue, clearly, is that, far from banks being the sole agents permitted, they are not even appropriate. Only if bank employees in designated branches have the appropriate training and are prepared to provide the necessary ongoing client service should banks be involved at all. They would need to treat these disabled clients with the same attention that they would give to a major developer.

Reuel S. Amdur  
Val-des-Monts QC

## A Question of Timing:

# What America Can Learn From the Revolt in Europe

By Robert Reich,

Who's an economy for?

Voters in France and Greece have made it clear it's not for the bond traders. Referring to his own electoral woes, Prime Minister David Cameron wrote in an article in the conservative Daily Telegraph: "When people think about the economy they don't see it through the dry numbers of the deficit figures, trade balances or inflation forecasts — but instead the things that make the difference between a life that's worth living and a daily grind that drags them down."

Cameron, whose own economic policies have worsened the daily grind dragging down most Brits, may be sobered by what happened recently in France and Greece — as well as his own poll numbers. Britain's conservatives have been taking a beating. In truth, the choice isn't simply between budget-cutting austerity, on the one hand, and growth and jobs on the other. It's really a question of timing. And it's the same issue on this side of the pond. If government slices spending too early, when unemployment is high and growth is slowing, it makes the debt situation far worse.


That's because public

spending is a critical component of total demand. If demand is already lagging, spending cuts further slow the economy — and thereby increase the size of the public debt relative to the size of the overall economy. You end up with the worst of both worlds — a growing ratio of debt to the gross domestic product, coupled with high unemployment and a public that's furious about losing safety nets when they're most needed. The proper sequence is for government to keep spending until jobs and growth are restored, and only then to take out the budget axe. If Hollande's new government pushes Angela Merkel in this direction, he'll end up saving the euro and, ironically, the jobs of many conservative leaders throughout Europe

— including Merkel and Cameron. But he also has an important audience in the United States, where Republicans are trying to sell a toxic blend of trickle-down supply-side economics (tax cuts on the rich and on corporations) and austerity for everyone else (government spending cuts). That's exactly the opposite of what's needed now. Yes, America has a long-term budget deficit that's scary. So does Europe. But the first priority in America and in Europe must be growth and jobs. That means rejecting austerity economics for now, while at the same time demanding that corporations and the rich pay their fair share of the cost of keeping everyone else afloat. President Obama and the Democrats should set a clear trigger — say, 6 percent unemployment and two quarters of growth greater than 3 percent — before whacking the budget deficit. And they should set that trigger now, during the election, so the public can give them a mandate on Election Day to delay the "sequestration" cuts (now scheduled to begin next year) until that trigger is met.

— Truthout

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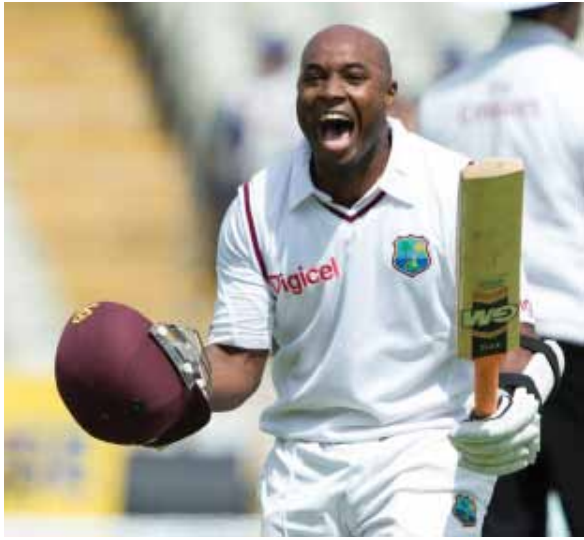
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# Windies Cricket Goes Yanqui



West Indies fast bowler Tino Best celebrating his crowning moment with the bat after scoring his maiden half-century in a recent Test match in England.

On Saturday June 30 United States' cricket fans are expected to be out in force in Florida as the West Indies face New Zealand in the first of two historic Twenty-20 matches. It will be the first time the West Indies have played in the US.

The double-header in the Digicel Series will be played on June 30 and July 1 at the 15,000 capacity Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill, Florida.

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) Commercial Manager Nelecia Yeates expressed her excitement.

"We are delighted and excited to finally bring international cricket to the US. We are confident of overwhelming support for the matches especially from the West Indians resident in the US and Canada, but also from the wider Asian communities in the US as well.

"Our team is known globally as one of the most charismatic and entertaining teams, especially in the Twenty20 format, and they will face strong competition from New Zealand so the matches are certain to be thrillers and we are ripe with anticipation," she added.

The two teams will also play five One Day Internationals (ODIs) and two Tests. The Digicel ODI Series will commence in Jamaica with two matches at Sabina Park and conclude in St Kitts at Warner Park which will host a triple-header.

The First Digicel Test will be played at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground and the teams return to Jamaica for the second and final Digicel Test. It will be the first time the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground (SVRCG) facility will host a Test match since 2009 when the sandy outfield caused a Test match to be abandoned.

Schedule - West Indies v New Zealand

Digicel	Twenty-20	Series
June		30
-	Central Broward Regional Park, Fla, USA	
July		1
-	Central Broward Regional Park, Fla, USA	

Digicel	One Day	International	Series
July 5	Sabina Park,	Jamaica	Jamaica
July 7	Sabina Park,	Jamaica	Jamaica
July 11	Warner Park,	St Kitts	St Kitts
July 14	Warner Park,	St Kitts	St Kitts
July 16	Warner Park,	St Kitts	St Kitts

Digicel	Test	Series
July 25-29	Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Grounds,	Antigua
August 2	Sabina Park,	Jamaica

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# Caribbean Runnins

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

Grenada - The main opposition New National Party (NNP) has turned up the jets on Prime Minister Tillman Thomas to come clean on a US\$150 000 overseas donation (The opposition has alleged that a top official received the money from a source in Saudi Arabia in a transaction termed "legal fees") made to his ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC). Opposition officials have renewed calls for the prime minister to explain the transaction after he confirmed that someone in his government had received the donation. The prime minister was denying reports of the transaction after weeks of accusations by the opposition. But in an abrupt turnaround on a Government Information Service (GIS) television interview, Thomas acknowledged that someone in his government received the donation, but denied suggestions it might have been an underhand deal.

Barbados - Former Opposition Leader Mia Mottley has implored Prime Minister Freundel Stuart to "have mercy on the people of Barbados" and step aside as head of the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP). Failing that, Stuart should call an election immediately and let the people decide who they believe should run the country, the senior Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Member of Parliament suggested. Mottley has also implied that...This government has refused to make difficult decisions to stabilize the economy. They continue to administer the wrong medicine to the country and their failure to make changes continues to drag the country down." She reiterated that she

had no problem offering her services to the DLP administration in adopting a dual-party approach to solving the problems at hand, putting disposable income back into the pockets of Barbadians.

Bahamas - An assessment team led by Captain Stephen Russell, Director of the Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), has concluded an inspection of damage wrought by the tornado which struck the area. An official statement said that the team discovered that four properties were "clearly impacted" by the severe weather system, which passed through the islands of Bimini, Grand Bahama, Abaco and adjacent waters. The statement indicated that 12 people had to be temporarily relocated after their triplex sustained structural damage. Several other commercial and residential properties were impacted and a downed utility pole resulted in a temporary power outage.

Jamaica - In celebrating Jamaica's 50th Year of Independence, VP Records will release Out Of Many, 50 Years of Reggae Music on July 17, 2012. This comprehensive 3 CD compilation chronicles the country's musical evolution with one significant hit from each year since the island's independence in 1962. The album features the monumental anthems that played a pivotal role in the Jamaica's musical history. Out of Many's musical sphere offers a well-rounded variety of the island's seminal sounds. Over the past 50 years Jamaica's music has made an indelible mark as a cultural beacon throughout the world. Today, reggae is one of the most influential

musical forms.

Trinidad & Tobago -Workers of the Trinidad Cement Ltd (TCL) squared off with police and security guards after being locked out of the company's Claxton Bay plant. The workers, led by president general of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) Ancel Roget, were prevented from entering the compound when they turned up for orientation and to resume work. TCL management and the union are expected to appear before the Industrial Court for the first hearing of the industrial dispute as both sides seek a resolution.

St. Lucia - The sights, sounds, splendour, colour and spectacle that is Saint Lucia Carnival will be on display as the island's premiere cultural showpiece officially opens. The duty-free berthing facility, Pointe Seraphine, nestled in the heart of the capital Castries, will provide the backdrop for the much anticipated opening of the 2012 carnival season, which is expected to draw hundreds of spectators and scores of revelers. A host of soca heavyweights like Power Soca and Road-March Monarch Ricky T, combined with calypso giants: reigning Monarch Minelle and four-time Monarch D-Indaver, will perform a medley of old and new selections for the 2012 season.

Antigua & Barbuda - The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has completed the fourth, fifth and sixth reviews of Antigua and Barbuda's economic performance under a program supported by a 36-month Stand-by Arrangement. This allows the immediate disbursement of an amount

equivalent to SDR 13.5 million (about US\$20.3 million), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to an amount equivalent to about US\$61 million. The economy of Antigua and Barbuda was severely hit by the global financial crisis, leading to lower government revenue, higher public sector debt, and financial sector shocks. Despite a pick-up in tourist arrivals, growth prospects remain well below their pre-crisis level.

Guyana - Guyana will now benefit from non-stop flights from Georgetown to Toronto, as Cabinet gave the green light for EzJet GT Inc. to operate a non-scheduled two-flight, weekly service out of Guyana. This was announced by Cabinet Secretary Dr Roger Luncheon who said the approval would flights from Georgetown to Toronto and back from June 15, 2012 to June 14, 2013. This act introduced some competition for Caribbean Airlines which currently has a monopoly.

Belize - The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) has announced that, after a national search, it has selected two well-respected and highly qualified Belizean candidates for the position of director of tourism and director of marketing and industry relations. Selected as acting director of tourism is Laura Esquivel Frampton, and as the new director of marketing, Alyssa Carnegie.

Say It For The Month: Puss and dawg no have di same luck!

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