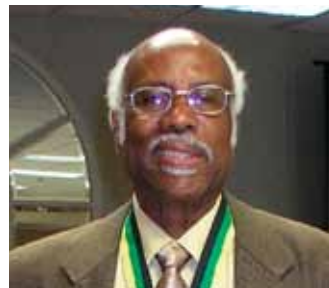




# the Spectrum

Making Canadians Visible



Vol. 30 No. 7

Ottawa • Phone 226-2738

July - August, 2013

## And so, To bed

The time has come for us to put the *Spectrum* to bed. Putting a newspaper to bed usually means completing all the editorial, typesetting and design work that pre-

cedes the printing and publication of each issue. But this time we are doing more than that. As Ecclesiastes says, there is a time to be born and a time to die.

Yes, friends, after 29 years of publishing this little paper we are saying goodbye. It was a great adventure, and we enjoyed it even when the going became rough. And

we enjoyed it mainly because of you, our readers, subscribers, contributors, writers, photographers and advertisers. You made the *Spectrum* live for all those 29 years.

Thank you all for coming along with us and supporting your community. It still needs your support. And so, to bed. For the last time.

## Horsing around – Off Broadway!

# Alexander Nicholson, actor



Alexander Nicholson

by Ewart Walters

His name is going up in lights. And isn't he glad! Ottawa's Alexander Nicholson is celebrating his graduation from Circle in the Square Theatre School with an Off Broadway acting role in New York. And for the Canterbury High School graduate, that's exactly where he wants to be.

Horse Play The Musical is the name of the play that opens at the Ellen

Stewart Theatre at La Mama (Venue #12), 66-68 Fourth Street between The Bowery and Second Avenue and runs August 9 – 14.

Nicholson gets to play a scrubby old light grey speckled horse named Jimi who is a mystic, speaks to his inner visions and moves around as if he's drunk. Other horses think he is crazy or on a mind altering substance. The horses all place bets as a carriage driver falls

in love with a woman intent on banning the horses from Central Park and New York City. A rock score drives this universal tale about life and freedom and how love of horses brings people together.

A tale of love, revolution, freedom and life it is quite a story but let's hear how he did it in his own words:

"I started out in theatre at age 11 at the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama (OSSD). It was my big introduction to theatre and I had fallen in love. I took classes there through to the end of Grade 8 and then started Grade 9 at Canterbury as a part of their Drama Program. That was what really awoke the artist inside me and though I had thought I knew it when I started at OSSD, I definitely knew now that acting was not going to be just a pastime. I went through my four years there, getting the chance to work with Commedia, Shakespeare, Voice and Speech, Brecht, Children's Theatre, Clown, and also had the opportunity to experience directing!

"Within those four years I also began singing and in my senior year, landed the lead role of Daddy Warbucks in our school's

production of Annie. This was when I knew that singing was something I needed to keep alive in my artistic life. I graduated Canterbury and went to a school that I had been dreaming of attending all my life, and it turned out to be the completely wrong program for me. The style in which they were teaching, the way in which I felt I was being looked at, and the atmosphere of the university was nothing like what I had dreamed it would be. And then I was asked to leave the program.

"This was a huge kick to my ego because I had never really been told no before. But inside I knew it was what was best because I hadn't been happy. I took the year, saved up money, and just gained life experience living in Ottawa. And then I decided to audition for schools. This time, I knew I was ready. I auditioned for Ottawa U, travelled to Toronto auditioning for the Randolph Academy, and even travelled to Oxford auditioning for the Oxford School of Drama. However, the one that I knew I wanted was Circle in the Square's Musical

Theatre Program in New York.

"With this new-found life experience and artistic openness alive in me, I was accepted into three of the four schools, but the moment I got into Circle, I knew that was where I was going. There was something about my experience auditioning for them. It was everything my first school hadn't been and it resonated so much better with me.

"My two years at this Conservatory was everything to me. I was taking 18 courses a year, from Dialects, to Acting Technique, to Stage Combat, to Musical Theatre Dance. I laughed A LOT, cried A LOT, and grew A LOT. I made some great friends and some great contacts and I even fell in love.

"I've now started my one-year Visa as of June 1st and I've already managed to land myself a starring role in a NYC Fringe Festival show called "HorsePlay The Musical" running August 9-14. Horseplay tells the story of a carriage driver who falls in love with a woman trying to ban the

Continues pg. 10



Mayor Jim Watson

## Mayor's Tribute

Dear Ewart,

I was very sad to hear today that the *Spectrum* will be publishing its last issue in August. I have been reading the *Spectrum* for many years and will miss its great content. Thank you for your always insightful coverage of Ottawa and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Jim Watson, Mayor  
City of Ottawa

## CanJamaica Sickle Cell Project

The Jamaica50 legacy project is getting underway. An account has now been opened at the Bank of Montreal, Rideauview with contributions from JOCA, NICJ and people who attended Jamaica50 Ottawa's opening event at Bethel Pentecostal Church and the Grand Gala that closed the year at the Hampton Inn.

So far, CanJamaica has lodged total of \$3,716.57 and fund-raising events are now in the planning stage.

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder

that can lead to early death. One in every 10 persons has the sickle cell trait. People with sickle cell anemia have a reduced life expectancy, but, patients can now survive beyond the fourth decade with management.

The sickle cell gene occurs heavily in the Black populations near the Equator. Including Jamaica and most people in Jamaica have family members, friends or colleagues who are affected. Because of the high incidence of the disease in Jamaica, it has become a leader in caring for sickle cell

patients.

With Canada's growing Black population, sickle cell anemia is a new disease here and the care protocols are not yet fully known in the Canadian health system. There has already been some intervention in Ottawa by doctors from Jamaica but the growing numbers of Canadians who suffer from the disease remain in great need. It is hoped that the CanJamaica Sickle Cell Project will eventually assist and feed back into the Canadian system where the needs are already quite high.



On July 4, 2013, Nigerian musician Femi Kuti - son of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti - lit up the River Stage with his colourfully dressed band and dancers at the RBC Royal Bank Ottawa Bluesfest. Sarah Onyango photo



# COMMUNITY *Pulse*

There is a new Caribbean eatery in Bells Corners, and if you live east of Bronson Avenue that should not deter you. Situated at 1980 Robertson Road, it is the Trini Caribbean Delights, specialising in roti, doubles and aloo pies. If you are not Trini, don't let that stop you!

But if you're really looking for something else, especially now that Island Jerk is no more, you will find it at Mike "the Bossman" Singh's Tropical Heat which takes in the entire Diaspora of Caribbean cuisine. Tropical Heat is at 1036 Merivale Road at Shillington, and you can dine in or take out as you wish. And if you don't know what to try, ask for his mouth-watering oxtail dinner. You'll be glad you did.

\*\*\*  
**Tue Jul 23**, 7pm, Octopus Books, 251 Bank Street, Book Launch - **Fear of a Black Nation: Race, Sex, and Security in Sixties Montreal**. In October 1968 the Congress of Black Writers at McGill University brought together well-known Black thinkers and activists from Canada, the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean—people like C.L.R. James, Stokely Carmichael, Miriam Makeba, Rocky Jones, and Walter Rodney. Within months of the Congress, a Black-led protest at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia) exploded on the front pages of newspapers across the country—raising state security fears about Montreal as the new hotbed of international Black radical politics.

The author, **David Austin**, is the editor of *You Don't Play with Revolution: The Montreal Lectures of C.L.R. James*. He teaches in the Humanities, Philosophy, and Religion Department at John Abbott College, Montreal. "Brilliantly conceived, meticulously researched, trenchantly argued, and elegantly written, *Fear of a Black Nation* upends our understanding of the history of Black internationalism," says Peter James Hudson, Assistant Professor of History, Vanderbilt University.

\*\*\*  
**Aug 1-4**, The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual **International Black Summit and International Black Youth Summit**, National Hotel and Suites, 361 Queen Street, Ottawa.

Opening event: 7 pm Thu Aug 1, cost: free.. The International Black Summit is a Conversation that is being given by life, to the world, through people of Black African Descent.

\*\*\*  
**Sun, Aug 4**, 3:00 pm, Centretown United Church, Bank and Argyle, 2013 JOCA Jamaican Independence Church Service with Special Guest Speaker Rev. Mark S. Gordon.

\*\*\*  
**Tue Aug 6**, 12:00 noon, the Ottawa Police Service in partnership with the Jamaican community will proudly unfurl the Jamaican flag at the Ottawa Police Station located at 474 Elgin Street to mark Jamaica's Independence Day.

\*\*\*  
**Sat, Aug 10, Jamday**, 12:00

on, Lineup includes: Juno Award Winner **Jully Black**, **Trilla U**, **Hawkeye**, **Brian Art**, **Chrisinti**, Juno Award Winner **Mikey Dangerous**. There will performances by artists from Montreal, and Jamaica. Hosted by: Papa Richie CHUO 89.1 FM, and Mikey Wizdom CHUO 89.1 FM. There will be an all-age section, children's village, dances and cultural performances. Admission (in advance): adults \$20.00, students \$15.00, children under 12 free. \$30.00 at the gate. For info: (613) 302-5673 or (613)523-9085. JamDay takes place rain or shine!

\*\*\*  
**Sat, Aug 17**, 12 noon - 6pm, **11th Annual Dapo Fun Day**, Blackburn Community Centre - 190 Glen Park Drive hosted by

Dapo Agoro Foundation for Peace. This annual event honours the memory of Oladapo Agoro, a 19-year-old, Grade 12 student at Lester B. Pearson High School who was stabbed to death while trying to break up a fight. The day includes a BBQ in the park, open Mic, guest speakers, sporting events and games for the kids. The event strives to inspire the youth through knowledge about peaceful conflict resolution and have some fun at the same time. The organizers are accepting donations to help make this event a success, from monetary gifts to donations of food or prizes. If you want to help, please direct inquiries by email to [dapafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:dapafoundation@gmail.com) or by phone at (613)837-0029.

## “Not by chance...”

# Jamaica first choice for Air Canada Rouge

Air Canada has chosen Kingston, Jamaica, for the inaugural flight of Air Canada Rouge, the new leisure carrier powered by Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations. "We are delighted that Jamaica has gone down in the record books today as the very first destination flown by Air Canada rouge," Air Canada Leisure Group president and CEO Michael Friisdahl said shortly after

the aircraft touched down at the Norman Manley International Airport on July 1. "It is not by chance. We chose Jamaica in recognition of the tremendous partnership between our two countries. Today Air Canada offers more than 200,000 seats each year between Jamaica and Canada," Friisdahl said. Jamaica's Minister of Tourism Dr Wykeham McNeill exuded pleasure

as he underscored the significance of the inaugural flight. "Now that Rouge is flying to Kingston, when it inaugurates service to Montego Bay in November Air Canada will have increased its capacity to Jamaica by 35 per cent overall... These developments are creating a very positive outlook for our visitor arrivals out of Canada," he said. But he noted that factors

beyond Jamaica's control had reduced airlift between Canada and Jamaica in recent times by 40,000 seats, threatening the island's ability to sustain the rate of growth to which it had become accustomed. Air Canada Rouge's July 1 start-up fleet consisted of two Airbus A319 aircraft and two Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, which the airline said would grow to 10 aircraft by the end of the year, with the addition

of six Airbus A319 aircraft by December 2013. It is also planned to have an additional four Airbus A319 aircraft by March 2014, for a total of 14 aircraft by the end of the winter season. Air Canada Rouge will operate flights to Mexico, the United States and the Caribbean including Jamaica, Grenada, St Kitts, Grand Exuma, Bahamas, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles and

La Romana, Dominican Republic. This is in addition to Air Canada Rouge service commencing with its summer 2013 schedule on July 1 from Toronto year-round to 10 Caribbean and Central America destinations. The Toronto-Montego Bay flights will be operated with Boeing 767-300ER aircraft that feature a two-cabin configuration with three customer comfort options.



## MONEY TALK\$

# Empowerment

by *Elcho Stewart*

Invariably, when someone dies, we find ourselves hoping that life insurance is in place. In his book *To Follow Right*, Ewart Walters chronicled the role that the *Spectrum* has played since its inception in the Ottawa Black community including observer, educator, representative of the disfranchised, voice of the community, holder of the mirror, media ambassador for the Caribbean people and the African Diaspora, friend, and political advocate. With this the final run of the *Spectrum*, the Black community has been dealt a serious blow. We all assumed that it would always be there. What will take its place?

In *The Road to Now*, Montreal historian Dr. Dorothy Williams, showed the importance of being the gatekeeper of one's own story or risk it being told by someone else. The *Spectrum* was the stage on which the community expressed itself. We controlled how our story was told. Although the print media in general is suffering from declining readership and advertising, unlike other newspapers, the *Spectrum* was a sort of "community centre" where we assembled in search of familiar faces and where news of our accomplishments were highlighted compared to the often negative exposure we received elsewhere.

On a smaller scale, this column used everyday language to educate readers about the power of proper financial security planning on individuals, families, and the community. Last year I attended a conference in Dallas, Texas, where a well-known life insurance company made a commitment to join forces with the conference organizers to educate Black America on how to break the cycle of poverty within the Black community and create intergenerational wealth. Apparently, despite all the racial inequalities, and not because of them, even middle class and educated Blacks

have fallen short on using life insurance as an effective tool to manage risks, increase wealth, and reduce taxes. This has contributed to the Black community's poorer health and lack of economic and political clout - even with a Black president. Economic empowerment is attained by taking control of one's own finances, one dollar, one family, and one community at a time.

When we insure our lives, wealth is created that can be passed on, funerals are funded, widows live with dignity, money is set aside for even our grandchildren's education, businesses are created, Black unemployment decreases, Black home-ownership increases, physical and emotional health improve, and Black families (read coupledom) are strengthened. Within one generation the economic, mental, and social state of the Black community can be changed with as simple a tool as owning life insurance. For most young couples, it would cost as little as \$2/day - less than a cup of coffee, a hamburger, a pack of gum, or one Jamaican beef patty and a cola champagne. I cannot break it down simpler than that. It translates into individual, family, and civic responsibility - otherwise, talk is cheap.

I hope that the *Spectrum's* fire will continue to burn in another life-form as well as in our hearts. For everything there is a season. With *Money Talk\$* it was my desire that someone, somewhere would gain sufficient insight and act upon them. I've received many encouraging feedback over the years and I feel blessed to have been associated with the paper. Thank you.

*For a confidential and free financial security planning session for women at every stage of life check with Elcho Stewart/ Financial Security Advisor. E-mail: [elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com](mailto:elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com). Tel: 613-422-9188.*

*Elcho Stewart is a Life Insurance Broker, and the Managing Partner at Weblife Financial. Weblife Financial offers you consumer loans, savings and investment products such as RRSPs, GICs, and Segregated Funds as well as Life and Health insurance from some of Canada's top Life Insurance companies. Telephone: 613-422-9188, Toll free 1-866-783-8516, Fax: 613-422-9189; E-mail: [elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com](mailto:elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com)*



R&B, blues and soul music icon, Mavis Staples performs at Dominion Chalmers United Church on June 23, 2013 as part of the TD Ottawa International Jazz Festival. Sarah Onyango photo

# NIJC honours music men



Bingy Barker and Ashton Hughes

Lionel Lloyd Barker, affectionately known as “Bingy,” and Ashton Hughes, are the 2013 recipients of the Lignum Vitae Achievement Award which was presented at a Chimo Hotel reception attended by friends and family on Friday, July 5.

Bingy Barker, son of calypso king “Lord Jellico” and choir singer Esmie Barker, began his singing career as a child, first in the school choir at St. Anne’s Infant and Primary Schools (Kingston, Jamaica), and then joined his mother’s church choir. He spent many hours in the studio and on the road with his father’s band and there got his first insights into the music business. He was sometimes allowed to play the triangle and the grater with the band. And at some venues he would dance and sing.

Barker was not only a musician. He was a top sprinter and had some excellent track and field performances at school. He also played football (soccer) and was a member of Jamaica’s national football team before migrating to Ottawa to further his studies. Between his studies he found time to continue his dreams in sports and music. He founded the Rockers United Soccer

Club which still exists today with seven men’s teams and three women’s teams playing in the league. He then became lead vocalist for the Sound of Freedom band, and in 1990 formed the Bingie Barker And The Raggamuffin Band.

Bingy was also a host of the Sounds Black program which was aired on Channel 12, now Rogers Cable 22.

Trinidadian born Ashton Hughes studied at the University of Guelph, and by 1972 he graduated with the B.Sc. Honors, as well as the M.Sc. in microbiology. After graduation he joined Health Canada in Ottawa.

During his public service career he authored and co-authored several scientific publications related to the protection of public health from microbiological hazards in food.

Represented the Canadian Government as an advisor to foreign food manufacturers in meeting Canadian and International Standards for food under the CESO Program. CESO (Canadian Executive Service Organisation) is a Canadian, not-for-profit organisation funded by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency). CESO’s purpose is to transfer Canadian

expertise to businesses and organisations in developing nations and in emerging market economies in Europe. The transfer of expertise occurs by way of CESO experts, who are highly trained in their profession or industry. They serve as advisors or trainers to clients.

His federal government service saw him working in many parts of the world including Thailand, Jamaica, Guyana, Serbia and the Ukraine. He authored and co-authored eight scientific publications related to protection of public health from microbiological hazards in food. He was also instrumental in establishing and operating a laboratory for food preservation in canned food science, canned food technology and canned food microbiology. The laboratory was used for training of Canadian and international food scientists.

Ashton’s life in Ottawa was not all work; his love of music was reflected in the acquisition of some steel pans from a visiting band that was disposing of their instruments, and he played a pivotal role in the formation of the Nepean Panharmonic Steel Orchestra.

This led to the cultivation of steelband music in the National Capital Region, and his active involvement in teaching pan music and the band’s performances for the wide Ottawa community. Ashton has also been an inspiring steelpan teacher and mentor to students of diverse backgrounds.

The Trustees of the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians (NIJC) bestowed the Lignum Vitae Achievement Award upon these individuals, Lionel Lloyd ‘Bingy’ Barker and Ashton Hughes for their valued commitment and great success in the sharing of music with the citizens of Ottawa.

The Lignum Vitae Achievement Award was established by the NIJC to recognize members of the Black and Caribbean community for their superior achievements in their community, profession and leadership at local, provincial, national, and international levels.

For information on the NIJC, email us at [nijc@sympatico.ca](mailto:nijc@sympatico.ca) or telephone (613) 800-2596.

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## Jaku Konbit launches Community Kitchen

An African-Caribbean senior’s community kitchen has been launched by Jaku Konbit with \$23,680 funding support from the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for seniors Program.

“Our community kitchen vision,” says Joanne Robinson, Project Director, “is to open our doors to family and friends, young and old alike. With growing ethno-cultural diversity in Ottawa and an aging population, there is a real need to explore culture, community, social service, and economics all under the same umbrella. We need to do things differently. We figure that social enterprise is the way to go.”

With the interactions that will be taking place in this kitchen, the community will not only have isolated seniors coming out but possibly their family members. This community kitchen will serve as a meeting and relationship building spot.

The project commenced on March 2013 and will run through to March 2014.

Jaku Konbit’s mission is to support and improve the lives of disadvantaged individuals and families of African and Caribbean descent through partnership with all communities and programming that results in everyone’s successful economic and civic participation in Canadian society. As Jaku Konbit embarks on this new endeavour, it is their goal to deliver and be recognized for providing the best quality, youth, elder and community programs that serve the Afro-Caribbean community as well as being wholly open to all others in our culturally diverse Ottawa.

For more information: Joanne Robinson @ 613-292-3375 or Jaku Konbit at 613- 567-0600; Email: [joang1416@yahoo.ca](mailto:joang1416@yahoo.ca) or [info@jakukonbit.com](mailto:info@jakukonbit.com); Website: [www.jakukonbit.com](http://www.jakukonbit.com)

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### Jordan Davis, 17, shot dead:

## Michael Dunn Murder Trial Begins September 23

Even before the heat of the George Zimmerman trial dies down, another tragic case is making its way to court. Still in Florida, the scene is Jacksonville, and the story involves Black teen Jordan Davis, the same age as Trayvon Martin.

Davis, 17, was shot to death by Michael Dunn in November 2012.

Dunn told police that he asked Davis and three other teens, who were parked next to him at a gas station, to turn down their music. Dunn says he heard threats from the teens and saw a gun in their car. He says he feared for his own safety,

and that’s why he grabbed his gun and fired into the vehicle.

Police say they found no guns inside the teens’ vehicle and that Dunn fired his gun eight or nine times.

Dunn faces a first-degree murder charge in Davis’ death and three counts of attempted first-degree murder for shooting at the three others in the vehicle who survived. He has pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail in a Duval County, Florida, jail. His trial is scheduled to begin on September 23.

– CNN



the  
**Spectrum**

Editor: Ewart Walters, CD, MJ  
Managing Editor: Merle Walters  
Phone: 226-2738 Fax: 226-6909  
E-mail: [spectrum@storm.ca](mailto:spectrum@storm.ca)  
**The Spectrum is published by Boyd McRubie Communications Inc.**  
**Box 16130, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3S9**

America’s trial

You shouldn’t be able to kill someone and get away with it. Not in the 21st Century.

You shouldn’t be able to shoot someone dead, even in self-defence, and not be forced to account for it in a court of law – law being the people’s expression of a democratic society. This is one of the fundamental platforms on which our democratic civilization is constructed.

Yes, there might be extenuating circumstances. But these must be proven in a manner that pays respect to the principles of democracy and citizenship. And the law must be sound.

A Florida court has found cop wanna-be George Zimmerman not guilty of the charge of second degree murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Like O.J. Simpson, it was difficult to bring a verdict of guilty beyond a reasonable doubt against Zimmerman. And observers say the law has been followed correctly.

Nevertheless, the verdict is still wrong. It might be in keeping with existing law. But the law, properly written and properly applied, should not permit such a verdict. It must be concluded that the existing law and its trappings need to be discarded and replaced. And may we say that the reliance on all-white juries where there is even a whiff of racial overtones must be repealed at once, for we have seen the value of this here in Ottawa previously (Vincent Gardner-John Monette trials).

Now Juror 39 who is a Visible Minority also identifies the problem when she says “Zimmerman got away with murder – because of the Florida laws.”

Here is something to consider.

Not too long ago, in this country, it was legal to deny certain people entry to a hotel or certain sections of a cinema. Not too long ago in this country the law said you could buy a man or a woman and keep that person as your own private property. And you could work them – to death, if you wanted, and nothing would happen to you. You would not even be arrested. Indeed many such slaves in Canada were murdered, and nothing came of it – no arrest, no trial, no consequences. In America it was simply worse.

But, guess what? The laws that permitted those things to happen were discarded as being wrong. It is no longer legal to do those things. The law(s) that allow George Zimmerman to shoot unarmed Trayvon Martin at point blank range, and then allow an all-white jury to free him, fall in the same category and must be rescinded. Something of honour must take its place, something that meets the standards of all citizens.

Much as people thought Barack Obama’s election to the presidency signalled a so-called post-racial America, it is made clear once again that racism runs deep in the psyche of the US and it has raised its ugly head very often against President Obama himself, simply because a Black man is president. The racial alienation in the US was very evident in the Zimmerman trial, where the White part of the country has no interest in the other part except to profile people and clutch handbags tighter or shoot young Black men.

We cannot end this, our final editorial, without remarking on the fact that Ottawa’s dominant, daily print media have not seen fit to make any comment on this matter on which an entire continent including a neighbouring government has been riveted. It was that ignorance, that kind of dismissal which beckoned the beginnings of the Spectrum. As we close, someone now has a mantle to take up.

Trayvon Martin and race in America

In a perverse sort of way, the not guilty verdict against George Zimmerman in the Trayvon Martin murder case in Florida was good for America.

The evidence lies in the scores of demonstrations last Saturday across the United States (US) against the outcome of the case, but more important, in the debate it has spurred about race in America.

Indeed, one of the paradoxes of America’s election of Barack Obama, twice, as its president was the silence, or perhaps awkwardness, it imposed on the discourse on how race is lived in the US.

Mr Obama’s white, liberal supporters - and others - could point to an African-American in the White House and conclude that the project launched by events such as the protests of Selma and the march on Washington was concluded. Mr Obama himself - with his Jeremiah Wright experience during his first campaign and the backlash against his criticism policy for their “stupid” arrest of black Harvard professor Henry Gates - caused the president, it seemed, to be circumspect about opening, or engaging in any public, robust discussion of race.

That, at least, was up to the Zimmerman verdict and Mr Obama’s observation that “Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago”.

The fundamental point is that while America has made significant progress against crude bigotry, there is still some effort yet to be made to filter racism fully out of the national psyche. The sophistry that overlaid much of the first-term opposition to Mr Obama’s presidency merely hid racial discomfiture.

Mr Obama rightly did not downplay problems in America’s Black community - the violence among its young men, teenage pregnancy, and educational underachievement. He wants lack people to be held accountable.

But importantly, he understands that there is also a context to Black social dislocation in America. The president’s post-verdict intervention, in that regard, not only added legitimacy to last weekend’s demonstrations, but, in a sense, gave his imprimatur for a serious, mature discussion of the issues.

In a sense, Mr Obama is re-engaging the conversation in his Jeremiah Wright speech, which, unfortunately, was short-circuited by the exigencies of electoral politics and the politics of government.

Mandatory sentences Yet, it needs some explaining why African-Americans, who account for 12 per cent of the population, are so disproportionately represented in the country’s prisons. One in 15 Black men is in jail, compared to 1 in 106 for Whites. One in three Black men are likely to spend time in prison during their lifetime and are twice as likely to be arrested and four times more likely to experience the use of force during encounters with the police.

They receive longer sentences - by 10 per cent - than their White counterparts. They are also 21 per cent more likely to receive mandatory sentences.

When it comes to cases of murder, (Blacks) have 1.75 times greater chance of receiving the death sentence than a White person convicted of the crime. If the victim is White, the killer is 3.5 times more likely to receive the death penalty than if the victim is of another race.

These disparities can’t be explained only by dysfunction in Black communities. There is more, which the Trayvon Martin verdict has given America leave to discuss.

– *Daily Gleaner July 23*

The Spectrum – topical, incisive, honest, fearless

Ewart,

What a gift you and the Spectrum paper are to the Ottawa community and beyond. Topical, relevant and incisive articles and commentary abounded on the pages of this community institution. As you know our congregation was a venue of distribution of the paper and this was particularly important because of the intercultural nature of our congregation. This meant that many beyond the black community were exposed to news and perspectives that they would not have received from other mainstream media. There is no one who underestimates the enormous amount to energy, time and dedication you and Merle poured into this “gift”. Feel well satisfied that you have played a seminal role in the upliftment of “our” community and beyond. Many Thanks. Be Blessed.

(Rev. Dr.) Anthony Bailey

You and Merle have done a remarkable job sustaining this labour of love over the years. Doesn’t seem like 29 years. It has been a great service to the community and ethnic minorities more broadly. You have every right to feel proud. Walk good.

Claude Robinson, Kingston

I am sorry to hear that you have decided to close the paper- I know that it will be missed by many, and there will be an immense hole left in its absence. I hope someone will come in to fill the void. On the other hand I can appreciate your feeling it is time to retire and enjoy some free time for yourself, Merle and your family (and your friends!) Best wishes for this next step in your life. Love,

Beverley Taylor, Cornwall

Please be advised that your contribution to the Black community was instrumental in bringing people together! You can also take pride that your work put Black pride on the radar within Ottawa. Congratulations!

Patrick Martin

I am deeply saddened to see this successful and informative Community Newspaper come to a close. As a contributor to the Spectrum I want to thank Merle and Ewart for their years of commitment to this initiative. Without the Spectrum the voice of Ottawa’s Black Community in newsprint will not be the same.

L. K. Scantlebury “The Runnins.”

Very sorry to hear this institution is closing its doors. The Spectrum’s influence has been broad, even reaching us in Winnipeg back in the day. I would have liked to have been a contributor, but life and work have been my preoccupation. We’ll see what the future holds. Thanks to your years of service to the community. You will most certainly be receiving more accolades in the weeks to come.

Richard Sharpe

I want to add my voice in congratulating The

Spectrum on 29 years of selfless service not only to the wider community in Ottawa but to the Black, Jamaican, and Caribbean Diaspora. It has been 29 years of professional journalism; honest, fearless and timely reporting, commentary and analysis. There will certainly be a void and I can only hope that in time someone in the present generation will find the resolve to pick up the mantle. Well Done!

Gil Scott, Kingston

The Trustees of the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians (NIJC) are sorry to hear that the Spectrum will be no more after the July-August edition. Over the 29 years, we in Ottawa turned to the Spectrum to provide us with our stories through ‘our own’ eyes. It informed us of the everyday issues, and the challenges of our own members that were not reported in the other media. The pages of the Spectrum made us laugh, cry, and rejoice with each other because “We Saw It in the Spectrum.” The NIJC would like to thank you for the sensitivity of your stories when Making Canadians Visible.

Margaret Tucker, President

You should take great pride in what you have contributed to the community through The Spectrum. It is well deserved. Best. Daniel Stringer

Thank you for 29 years of service to the community. I hope another pioneer or group of pioneers or journalism students can step up to fill the void.

Ade Olumide

Special thanks to you, Merle, and your family for the remarkable service which you rendered not only to Ottawa’s Black and Multicultural Communities but, significantly, to all of Ottawa over almost three decades. The Spectrum gave a voice to so many, and throughout the years you yourself were a strong, special and particular voice: identifying and directing attention to issues, providing clarifying thought, standing up for ideals, right, and justice. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to, and made the Spectrum so successful. I look forward to the community event at which Ottawa’s Black Community will publicly show its “respect.”

Des Doran

Over the years I have come to appreciate the enormous task it takes to put out a newspaper and for Ottawa to have its own ethno-cultural/Visible Minority paper. While there will be a void I am hoping that someone or some group of journalism-minded individuals will step up to the plate and take up the mantle that you and Merle have left. Walk good, my friend and enjoy retirement... but stay active.

Harvey B. Brown, Renshi, Ottawa Chito-Kai Martial Arts Centre

Thank you for providing a voice to our community through Spectrum, you and your family can take



# The Spectrum

Cont'd from pg. 4

pride in what the newspaper has achieve during those 29 years. Congratulations! I will miss reading the Spectrum. Best Wishes. **Félicité Murangira**

On behalf of Black History Ottawa, I wish to commend and congratulate Ewart and his family for 29 years of exemplary work promoting Ottawa's Black community through the Spectrum newspaper. Your insightful editorials, feature articles, current news and sports reports plus the up-to-date calendar of community events, gave us readers so much more than one would find in the mainstream media. Thank you for being one of us, a leader, role model and innovator. We urge you not to relent in your journey of discovery and community engagement, your contribution continues to be priceless. With our very best wishes.

**Godwin Ifedi, President, Black History Ottawa**

Big up, Ewart! A man who love and respect the power of the Word, razor sharp intellect, just sense of social justice, real roots and culture, God bless Sir, cuz you major, and ride on with your literature! One love!  
**nthny (Bansfield)**

Thank you, Merle and the rest of your family for nearly 3 decades of the Spectrum, thousands upon thousands of hours of volunteer work in giving voice to the Black and multicultural communities in our nation's capital. Congratulations on all the insightful articles, editorials, photos from countless events and the passion shared through all these years!! I will miss reading the Spectrum. It is truly the end of an era and a loss for our community and Ottawa. All the Best.  
**Maxine Ifill**

I would like to add my voice to those of very many members of our community. Thanks to your foresight, determination and managerial skills, the Spectrum put the activities and aspirations of our people on the map in Canada and elsewhere for 29 years. It is pity that the paper will cease to exist. This will be a great loss to our community. I wish you and your family good health and happiness.  
**Matshela Molepo**

Congratulations and many thanks to you, Merle and all the Spectrum contributors and supporters over the years. You did good work and you ought to be proud!  
**Best. Fred Sherman**

Truly a sad day for the community. Thank you and Merle for all the years Of SERVICE.  
**Orson & Sybilla Forbes**

What an amazing ride! What a gift! My gratitude to you and Merle and your team for being such a strong demonstration of what commitment, passion and perseverance can manifest in our community. Each month, you reminded us how important our unique perspectives, possibilities and potential are a vital part of the emerging narrative called Canada. Well done, you good and faithful servant. Walk good and 1Luv. **Jacqueline Lawrence**

# Obama – Yes, we know profiling

by Ewart Walters, Editor

Every country, including Canada, which has a history of slavery that was based on race and colour, is still having to come to terms with the deep painful stain of anti-Black racism. Here in Canada, we have tried to ignore it, thinking that if we do, it will disappear forever. The fact that Ottawa has now become the third city in Ontario to try and mop up the police racial profiling of Black people with its Traffic Race Stop Survey is an admission that the ignoring plan does not work. In America, the advent of a Black President in Barack Obama was thought to signal a "post-racial society." To the contrary, there has been a vulgar, visceral and volatile increase in anti-Black racism, much of it directed at the President himself (how dare he occupy our White House?) The CIA and the Secret Service have had to redouble their efforts to keep their Black president alive. Obama's three ventures into the Colour Line that has so divided the US have been derided by a large swath the White population – even though the response to the Rev. Jeremiah Wright situation elicited one of America's best ever speeches. But his comments on the situation in Cambridge, Mass, when a White police officer arrested Professor Gates in his own home for trespass, were met with an astoundingly negative rejection from White America, only to be wildly exceeded by his comments on the Zimmerman verdict. And yet President Obama is still trying to straddle the line. His speech, reproduced below, did not go quite far enough. White America will never know what Black Americans like Rachel Jeantel have to undergo day in, day out; and so that ignorance fosters the utterings of so many superficial commentators.

## President Obama's Statement July 19



The reason I actually wanted to come out today is not to take questions, but to speak to an issue that obviously has gotten a lot of attention over the course of the last week, the issue of the Trayvon Martin ruling. I gave an -- a preliminary statement right after the ruling on Sunday, but watching the debate over the course of the last week I thought it might be useful for me to expand on my thoughts a little bit.

First of all, you know, I want to make sure that, once again, I send my thoughts and prayers, as

well as Michelle's, to the family of Trayvon Martin, and to remark on the incredible grace and dignity with which they've dealt with the entire situation. I can only imagine what they're going through, and it's -- it's remarkable how they've handled it.

The second thing I want to say is to reiterate what I said on Sunday, which is there are going to be a lot of arguments about the legal issues in the case. I'll let all the legal analysts and talking heads address those issues. The judge conducted the trial in a professional manner.

The prosecution and the defence made their arguments. The juries were properly instructed that in a -- in a case such as this, reasonable doubt was relevant, and they rendered a verdict. And once the jury's spoken, that's how our system works.

But I did want to just talk a little bit about context and how people have responded to it and how people are feeling. You know, when Trayvon Martin was first shot, I said that this could have been my son. Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago. And when you think about why, in the African-American community at least, there's a lot of pain around what happened here, I think it's important to recognize that the African-American community is looking at this issue through a set of experiences and a history that -- that doesn't go away.

There are very few African-American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a department store. That includes me.

And there are very few African-American men who haven't had the experience of walking across the street and hearing the locks click on the doors of cars. That happened to me, at least before I was a senator.

There are very few African-Americans who haven't had the experience of getting on an elevator and -- a woman clutching her purse nervously and holding her breath until she had a chance to get off. That happens often.

And you know, I don't want to exaggerate this, but those sets of experiences inform how the African-American community interprets what happened one night in Florida. And it's inescapable for people to bring those experiences to bear. The African-American community is also knowledgeable that there is a history of racial disparities in the application of our criminal laws, everything from the death penalty to enforcement of our drug laws. And that ends up having an impact in terms of how people interpret the case.

Now, this isn't to say that the African-American community is naive about the fact that African-American young men are disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system, that they are disproportionately both victims and perpetrators of violence. It's not to make excuses for that fact, although Black folks do interpret the reasons for that in a historical context.

A Violent past  
We understand that some of the violence that takes place in poor Black neighbourhoods around the country is born out of a very violent past in this country, and that the poverty and dysfunction that we see in those communities can be traced to a very difficult history.

And so the fact that sometimes that's unacknowledged adds to the frustration. And the fact that a lot of African-American boys are painted with a broad brush, and the excuse is given... well, there are these statistics out there that show that African-American boys are more violent. Using that as an excuse to then see sons treated differently causes pain.

I think the African-American community is also not naive in understanding that statistically somebody like Trayvon Martin was probably statistically more likely to be shot by a peer than he was by somebody else. So folks understand the challenges that exist for African-American boys.

But they get frustrated, I think, if they feel that

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Continues pg. 10





Mr. Ewart Walters  
c/o The Spectrum

Good Day Mr. Walters,


The *Spectrum* has indeed been a voice for Ottawa’s Black and visible minority communities in Ottawa. It is hard to fathom that this will be coming to an end.

The time and effort that it has taken yourself and Merle over these years cannot be replaced or forgotten within not just our community but within other communities as well.

As a leader within the community yourself, I commend you on the years of service that you have provided for the Jamaican community. Time and time again with you at the helm, the *Spectrum* has demonstrated its support and leadership role for the Black community.

Although no time is ever a good time to see the ending of an iconic community business, which is what the *Spectrum* is to many; on behalf of the members of the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association Inc., I would like to thank you for your support and assistance over the years.

Joanne Robinson, President  
The Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association Inc.  
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*Ewart: Au personnel, aux bénévoles et collaborateurs, de la part des membres du Service de police d’Ottawa – Merci pour les années de service envers la collectivité.*



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**SAY YOU SAW IT IN  
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Barrhaven Lions Club charter member, Korean Veteran and 2007 Lignum Vitae Awardee Gus Este (left) was honoured July 19 by the City of Ottawa with a park in Barrhaven in his name. A Montrealer, Gus has called Nepean-Ottawa home for several years. The ceremony started with a parade flags of Canada, City of Ottawa, UN Peace Keeping, and Lions Clubs International. It was attended by the Korean Ambassador to Canada who extended congratulations to Gus and appreciation for his service as a Korean war veteran as well as Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Minister of State for Democratic Reform, Mayor Jim Watson, Deputy Mayor Steve Desroches, and Gus' family and friends. The Gus Este Park is located at 26 Brookstone Street in Barrhaven.



Jackie Dixon is flanked by Spectrum Editor Ewart Walters and Citizenship Judge John Dennison at the recent function to honour Bingy Barker and Ashton Hughes at the Chimo Hotel.



African Queen would like to convey our sincere thanks to *Spectrum* for supporting and promoting African Queen and other African-Caribbean businesses in Ottawa for the past 29 years. Your confidence in our abilities and businesses means a great deal to us. Wish you all the best.

Kofi & Doris Kodua



*The Spectrum:*

Thank you very much for 29 years of being a beacon of hope, a source of information and analysis, and a voice for Ottawa's Black and Visible Minorities. We will miss you dearly.

Carl Nicholson  
Executive Director



**Mauril Bélanger**  
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by Pastor Jacob Afolabi

Dreams from God

Dreams are God’s gracious discoveries of yourself to you. And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. (Numb.12:6)

God gives you beforehand the prospect of your advancement or of troubles ahead, to support and comfort you under the long and grievous journey in life. (Matt.24:24, 25). Observe in Genesis 37: 5-10, Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. Joseph dreamed of his preferment, but he did not dream of his imprisonment.

Thus many people, when they are setting out in the world, think of nothing but prosperity and pleasure, and never dream of trouble... The fulfillment of the promises contained in Joseph’s dreams were due to his personal character. The only things that can altar promises or covenants is character.

THE GOOD WORD

# The Source of Dreams

The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. (Gen.39:2-4). He was soon “promoted into prison,” and “graduated from prison” to the palace of Pharaoh.

Whenever dreams are repeated in form or in substance, it means that it certainly has a Divine (Godly) origin. Joseph was called to tackle the mystery of Pharaoh’s dreams. “Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.” (Gen.41: 25). Only a prophet can interpret prophesy. A dream is prophesy and we must not rely on social philosophers to tell us its meaning.

While Daniel was in Babylon, the King had a disturbing dream. “In the second year of the

reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.... Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven “. Dan. 2:1, 17-19).

In the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, God promised to make all people prophetic in one form or the other. “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28). These are the areas in which the prophetic dispensation is shared by the Holy Spirit.

Dreams from Other Sources

When a soul is influenced in a dream to

turn away from God, or to commit sin, it is certainly of Evil origin. Most dreams from evil sources come as temptations to depart from God.

Those who are wavering in faith, will soon move outside the Will of God, and become “Occultist.” (practicing magic and indulging in mysteries). “For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream;” (Jeremiah 29:8). Retain and Renew your Faith in God through Jesus Christ only.

Some people have dreams that are the result of their lively activities in their communities. For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool’s voice is known by his many words. (Eccl.5:12).


When a stronger will than your own attempts to impose itself on you in your dreams, by causing you to experience fear, attacks, and other unpleasant events .... faith in the Name of JESUS is your safe anchor. “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

After a perplexing dream....Fall on your knees – Prayers have a way of separating the truth from falsehood, the wheat from the common grass. Patriarch Job was so terrified in his dreams that he complained to God. “When I say, my

bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,’ then you scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, so that I would choose strangling and death rather than my bones. (Job 7:13-15)...

Job survived his nightmares, and all his trials, because of his Faith in God. Job lost everything in his life, except his Faith in God. Have faith in God, even in your dreams.

Bishop Jacob Afolabi  
bishop@christschapel.com



## The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa

Hello Ewart

The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa thanks you being the voice of our Community with the style, class, profound analysis and superb journalism that has become the trademark of the Spectrum newspaper for the last 29 years.

## Fourth Avenue Baptist gets female minister

by Ewart Walters

The old church is getting some new life! Ripples of excitement are running through the 115 year-old Fourth Avenue Baptist Church at the corner of Bank Street and Fourth Avenue in the Glebe. The inspiration for that excitement is the Rev. Cheryle Hanna who has been called by the church to take up ministry on Sunday September 1.

Yes, Rev. Hanna, a native of Detroit, USA, is the church’s first female minister, and if that were not enough it is her preaching skill that won her the job.

“I believe preaching is at the heart of worship and that the preaching moment allows us to celebrate all God is doing, has done, and will do on our behalf,” she says.

With several years of active contribution to churches, her ministry included directing Ministries, Christian Education, premarital counselling and mentoring or supervising candidates for ordination.



Rev. Cheryle Hanna

As an Associate Minister (Discipleship) in Toronto’s Yorkminster Park Baptist Church for the past four years she increased Sunday morning study, added Lenten Cell Groups, developed an annual stewardship month, and brings to Ottawa the experience of having pastored and lived in Canada’s largest multicultural urban area.

With a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Rev. Hanna is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry degree at the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

Interestingly, Rev. Hanna is a also an engineer and holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree from Kettering University which she put to good use in a former 14-year employment with General Motors. Located in Flint, Michigan, Kettering University is deeply tied to the development of the American automotive industry and was formerly known as the General Motors Institute.

Rev. Hanna was ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA in 2001 and her ordination was recognized by Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec in 2009. She will be inducted into the ministry of Fourth Avenue Baptist Church on Sunday September 29, 2013 at 3:00pm.

With a current membership of about 100, Fourth Avenue Baptist Church was the place of worship of one-time Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

### ‘Fear of a Black Nation’

## New book on Black activism and 1960s Montreal

In the 1960s the city of Montreal became a focus for Black Power and the Caribbean left, according to a just released new book by David Austin. “Montreal played an important, significant historical role within the Black Diaspora in the 1960s,” he says in an interview with Radio Canada International.


Austin’s book, “Fear of a Black Nation, Race, Sex and Security in Sixties Montreal”, concentrates on the impact of a Black Writers’ conference in 1968 that brought Black thinkers and activists such as political activist and author C.L.R. James, Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leader and Black Panther Honorary Prime Minister Stokely Carmichael, singer Miriam Makeba and historian-activist Walter Rodney to Montreal.

The Black Writers’ Conference was the fourth in a series of conferences organised by West Indian students in Ottawa and Montreal which began in 1965. The book also explores the Black protest that exploded in Montreal’s Sir George Williams University (now Concordia) in 1969 and how this and the presence of activists in the city attracted the attention of Canada’s security forces, at a time of political activism in Montreal and the predominantly French-speaking province of Quebec.

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# The Spectrum – a democratic space

## You kept the flame lit

Dear Ewart,  
Your deadline has come and gone but that does not prevent me from communicating the tremendous sense of pride and appreciation for the role which the *Spectrum* has played in all our lives. In saying this, I take the liberty of speaking on behalf of the community but more so as a reflection of the sentiments which I believe my predecessors as High Commissioner would have also shared.

Twenty nine years ago, the vision of the *Spectrum* would no doubt have been *avant garde*. While I have not been part of the Ottawa landscape for most of the ensuing period, there is no doubt in my mind that the *Spectrum* has met its objectives. Thanks to you, Merle and the band of supporters among whom have been your faithful sponsors, you have kept the flame lit and have been the lighthouse for many, raising consciousness and stirring consciences in the process.

The High Commissioner reiterates its profound appreciation for the unstinting support which you have given to our work over the years. As you prepare your swansong, know that you have the deep admiration of a grateful community.

With best wishes in all your endeavours.

**Sheila Sealy Monteith**  
High Commissioner for Jamaica

## A Democratic Space

Dear Ewart,

The success of the *Spectrum* is that it has become a community institution - not an inflexible bureaucratic structure - but a malleable entity that reflects who we are. As a community, we feel that it is ours because it is. While mainstream media has often prevented our voices from being heard or made it very difficult for many of us to get published, the *Spectrum* has provided that much needed democratic space for us to discuss important political and socio-economic issues that affect our communities in the Diaspora and throughout the world. The paper has served as a training ground as well as a refuge for many who have found their way to mainstream media.

Ewart, I know I speak on behalf of many in the community when I say that we are deeply grateful for the thousands of hours of volunteer work that you and your family have put into the production, distribution and delivery of the *Spectrum*. I am also thankful for those who have volunteered their time to write and contribute to the paper. I will miss reading the *Spectrum* and your editorials on community policing, immigration reform, employment equity, Caribbean integration, cricket... and the list goes on. I will also miss contributing.

Sometimes as a community, we forget that building community institutions requires time, energy, effort, perseverance and considerable dedication. Let us hope that the end of the *Spectrum* inspires others to fill the gap and continue the work of reflecting our community in all of its beauty and rich diversity. Thank you, Ewart. Many, many thanks.

Pat Harewood

## Integrity

Ewart,  
I have been a reader and frequent contributor to the *Spectrum* over that past couple of decades. I have also come to know its Editor in Chief and Associate Editor, Merle during those years. If I were to choose a single word to sum up the paper and its Editors, that word would be **Integrity**. The paper has remained true to its mission of making Canadians from African and Caribbean communities visible. It has been a reliable and forceful advocate for social justice in very concrete ways. Policing, education, political participation and criminal justice are some of the concrete areas addressed over the years.

I will miss reading the *Spectrum*. I will also miss the opportunity to opine on divers subjects within its august pages. It is my hope that the communities will not lose their way when this beacon, this lighthouse ceases to shine its brilliant light.

“Walk good, my friends.” Your legacy will live on as I know our friendship will.

Regius Brown

## A good run

It was indeed a really good run. For the short time that I’ve been a part of the *Spectrum* production I’ve learned so much. Thanks for everything and I do look forward to venturing that side one of these days as I’m sure that you have plenty more wisdom to impart.

Kamar Turner, Spanish Town

Mr. Ewart Walters  
c/o The Spectrum

Good Day Mr. Walters,

The *Spectrum* has indeed been a voice for Ottawa’s Black and visible minority communities in Ottawa. It is hard to fathom that this will be coming to an end.

The time and effort that it has taken yourself and Merle over these years cannot be replaced or forgotten within not just our community but within other communities as well.

As a leader within the community yourself, I commend you on the years of service that you have provided for the Jamaican community. Time and time again with you at the helm, the *Spectrum* has demonstrated its support and leadership role for the Black community.

Although no time is ever a good time to see the ending of an iconic community business, which is what the *Spectrum* is to many; on behalf of the members of the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association Inc., I would like to thank you for your support and assistance over the years.

Joanne Robinson, President  
The Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association Inc.  
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and associate

WINSTON BARNETT, FCA JAMAICA

The *Spectrum* has blazed an invaluable trail for the people of Ottawa. It lit a lamp of understanding and progress for us in all our diversity, and regardless of our history or origins. For 29 years it has been a forum for reasoned and reasonable discussion on many subjects, some of which we definitely would not have had without this newspaper under the leadership of Ewart and Merle Walters, and for this and the sacrifices we know they made we offer our undiluted thanks. The nation’s capital is a better place for having you and the *Spectrum*.

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Mr. Walters,

I don’t know where or how to begin to thank you for the 29 years of the *Spectrum*. It was “our paper” and it gave us our perspective on things local, national and international. I shall miss it.

I must particularly thank you for keeping me abreast of upcoming events over the past years. I must also thank you for publicizing various events for groups which I was involved with over the years. In particular the Rockers Soccer Club thanks you for all the publicity you have done for us over the years. The *Spectrum* will be sadly missed. Who can I turn to? All the very best!

Alic Edgar  
Rockers United Soccer Club.

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# Obama – Yes, we know profiling *Cont'd from pg. 5*

there's no context for it or ... and that context is being denied. And that all contributes, I think, to a sense that if a White male teen was involved in the same kind of scenario, that, from top to bottom, both the outcome and the aftermath might have been different.

Now, the question for me at least, and I think, for a lot of folks is, where do we take this? How do we learn some lessons from this and move in a positive direction? You know, I think it's understandable that there have been demonstrations and vigils and protests, and some of that stuff is just going to have to work its way through as long as it remains nonviolent. If I see any violence, then I will remind folks that that dishonours what happened to Trayvon Martin and his family.

But beyond protests or vigils, the question is, are there some concrete things that we might be able to do? I know that Eric Holder is reviewing what happened down there, but I think it's important for people to have some clear expectations here. Traditionally, these are issues of state and local government -- the criminal code. And law enforcement has traditionally done it at the state and local levels, not at the federal levels.

That doesn't mean, though, that as a nation, we can't do some things that I think would be productive. So let me just give a couple of specifics

that I'm still bouncing around with my staff so we're not rolling out some five-point plan, but some areas where I think all of us could potentially focus.

Number one, precisely because law enforcement is often determined at the state and local level, I think it'd be productive for the Justice Department, governors, mayors to work with law enforcement about training at the state and local levels in order to reduce the kind of mistrust in the system that sometimes currently exists.

Trained police

You know, when I was in Illinois I passed racial profiling legislation. And it actually did just two simple things. One, it collected data on traffic stops and the race of the person who was stopped. But the other thing was it resourced us training police departments across the state on how to think about potential racial bias and ways to further professionalize what they were doing. And initially, the police departments across the state were resistant, but actually they came to recognize that if it was done in a fair, straightforward way, that it would allow them to do their jobs better and communities would have more confidence in them and in turn be more helpful in applying the law. And obviously law enforcement's got a very tough job.

So that's one area where I think there are

a lot of resources and best practices that could be brought bear if state and local governments are receptive. And I think a lot of them would be. And -- and let's figure out other ways for us to push out that kind of training.

Along the same lines, I think it would be useful for us to examine some state and local laws to see if it -- if they are designed in such a way that they may encourage the kinds of altercations and confrontations and tragedies that we saw in the Florida case, rather than diffuse potential altercations.

I know that there's been commentary about the fact that the stand your ground laws in Florida were not used as a defence in the case. On the other hand, if we're sending a message as a society in our communities that someone who is armed potentially has the right to use those firearms even if there's a way for them to exit from a situation, is that really going to be contributing to the kind of peace and security and order that we'd like to see?

And for those who resist that idea that we should think about something like these "stand your ground" laws, I just ask people to consider if Trayvon Martin was of age and armed, could he have stood his ground on that sidewalk? And do we actually think that he would have been justified in shooting Mr. Zimmerman, who had followed him in a car,

because he felt threatened? And if the answer to that question is at least ambiguous, it seems to me that we might want to examine those kinds of laws.

Number three -- and this is a long-term project: We need to spend some time in thinking about how do we bolster and reinforce our African-American boys? And this is something that Michelle and I talk a lot about. There are a lot of kids out there who need help who are getting a lot of negative reinforcement. And is there more that we can do to give them the sense that their country cares about them and values them and is willing to invest in them?

You know, I'm not naive about the prospects of some brand-new federal program. I'm not sure that that's what we're talking about here. But I do recognize that as president, I've got some convening power.

Programs

And there are a lot of good programs that are being done across the country on this front. And for us to be able to gather together business leaders and local elected officials and clergy and celebrities and athletes and figure out how are we doing a better job helping young African-American men feel that

they're a full part of this society and that -- and that they've got pathways and avenues to succeed -- you know, I think that would be a pretty good outcome from what was obviously a tragic situation. And we're going to spend some time working on that and thinking about that.

And then finally, I think it's going to be important for all of us to do some soul-searching. You know, there have been talk about should we convene a conversation on race. I haven't seen that to be particularly productive when politicians try to organize conversations. They end up being stilted and politicized, and folks are locked into the positions they already have.

On the other hand, in families and churches and workplaces, there's a possibility that people are a little bit more honest, and at least you ask yourself your own questions about, am I wringing as much bias out of myself as I can; am I judging people, as much as I can, based on not the colour of their skin but the content of their character? That would, I think, be an appropriate exercise in the wake of this tragedy.

And let me just leave you with -- with a final thought, that as difficult

and challenging as this whole episode has been for a lot of people, I don't want us to lose sight that things are getting better. Each successive generation seems to be making progress in changing attitudes when it comes to race. It doesn't mean that we're in a post-racial society. It doesn't mean that racism is eliminated. But you know, when I talk to Malia and Sasha and I listen to their friends and I see them interact, they're better than we are. They're better than we were on these issues. And that's true in every community that I've visited all across the country.

And so, you know, we have to be vigilant and we have to work on these issues, and those of us in authority should be doing everything we can to encourage the better angels of our nature as opposed to using these episodes to heighten divisions. But we should also have confidence that kids these days I think have more sense than we did back then, and certainly more than our parents did or our grandparents did, and that along this long, difficult journey, you know, we're becoming a more perfect union, not a perfect union, but a more perfect union.

## Alexander Nicholson, actor

*Cont'd from pg. 1*

use of horses in Central Park. The horses are the main characters, with a lot of the story being told through their eyes, and I play a horse names Jimi, a role that is inspired by Jimi Hendrix and the prophet Ezekiel, but with a condescending sense of humour.

"It's a good way to start off a hopefully busy year, and despite the fact that I have landed this role, I am still constantly auditioning for what will come next. Even as I type this, I'm sending off an audition tape for a web series and submitting for some hopeful other auditions

"This is the life I've chosen though, and I am so inspired by it. I love the work, I love the challenges, and I love not knowing where my job could take me next. It's what's going to keep me going and will stop me from settling. This is not something I will be giving up on and you will be hearing a lot more of me, and that's a fact!"

Nicholson, who now has an agent with 30 years experience, loves to prepare and takes

preparation seriously. Indeed, he spent a year researching. He operates on the principle that luck is when preparation meets opportunity.

The Circle in the Square Theatre School began when Circle in the Square Theatre was located on Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village. The theatre was producing professional plays on a regular basis and hiring young actors. It began training actors in 1961 and now draws aspiring actors from all over the world. Among Alexander's colleagues there were big stars from Argentina, Israel and other countries all wanting to get on Broadway.

At the beginning, CITS Theatre School had 15 students in attendance. In both the Two-Year and Summer Programs, the student body is approximately 200 students annually from the thousands who apply.

Applicants to the Two-Year Professional Workshop Programs must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent and be at least 18 years old. Applicants to the

Summer Workshops must be at least 18 years old. Summer students usually range in age from 18-50. All applicants are measured by professional standards of talent, experience and potential.

A number of Off-Broadway musicals have had subsequent runs on Broadway. These have included musicals such as Hair, Godspell, A Chorus Line, Little Shop of Horrors, Sunday in the Park with George, Rent, Grey Gardens, Urinetown, Avenue Q, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Rock of Ages, In The Heights, Spring Awakening and Next to Normal. Plays that have moved to Broadway include Doubt, I Am My Own Wife, Bridge & Tunnel, The Normal Heart, and Coastal Disturbances. Other productions, such as Stomp, Blue Man Group, Altar Boyz, Perfect Crime and Naked Boys Singing have run for several years Off Broadway. The Fantasticks, the longest-running musical in theatre history, spent its original 42-year run Off



*Spectrum Editor Ewart Walters and Ms. Elcho Stewart, president of the Network of Black Business & Professional Women, were among the community leaders who attended an informal breakfast and conversation with the Hon. Michael Coteau, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, hosted at HUB on June 7 by Ottawa-Centre MPP and Ontario Labour minister, Yasir Naqvi.*

## Letter – Race Traffic Survey

The Editor, the *Spectrum*:

I would have thought that there were some predefined objectives in the Race Traffic Survey so that the data would not be misused or left on the shelf.

For example, what would happen if the collected data were to reveal that members of our community were unfairly affected? Would we ever know about it? Or Would the Ottawa Police Service be obligated to take corrective action?

I pose these questions not because I am a sceptic but because I have seen many efforts on the part of our community to build a relationship with the police service only to have the clock turned back time and time again.

I think that any data collected should not be left to the discretion of OPS. It should be made available to public at large.

What do you think?

Raymond Peterkin  
Ottawa



# Two Extraordinary Picks for a Sizzling Summer

## ...And the Living is Easy

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Published by Alfred A. Knopf – a division of Random House Inc., New York - 2013

by Pat Harewood

With two award-winning books to her name and the benefit of tremendous literary skill, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has already set herself apart as an insightful writer who is unafraid to tackle the difficult issues of our times. Adichie's latest novel, *Americanah*, solidifies her reputation gained from her two previous novels- *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*. In *Americanah*, Adichie addresses the complex issues of race, reinvention, displacement and (im)migration – while telling an intense yet believable love story between Ifemelu and Obinze. The story is told through the eyes of both characters though it is Ifemelu's voice that shines the brightest. Ifemelu is a young middle-class Ibo girl who inherits her father's aversion to corruption and political synophants and her mother's pragmatism. Obinze is a middle-class Ibo boy raised by his single mother, an ambitious professor at the University. Ifemelu is intelligent, confident and opinionated. While studying at a Lagos secondary school, she finds her match in Obinze, who is quiet yet confident and utterly captivated by Ifemelu's mind and her pulsating charisma. The book begins with Ifemelu making her way to a hairdressing salon in a town just outside of Princeton. Ifemelu is getting her hair braided in a typical African hair braiding salon by a Senegalese woman who is struggling to make ends meet. Adichie uses the salon to allow Ifemelu to reflect back on how she arrived in the United States. We learn that Ifemelu has been in the U.S. for over ten years and left Nigeria after getting a scholarship to study abroad. When we first meet Obinze, he is stuck in « Lagos traffic » and is reading a text message on his Blackberry from Ifemelu who announces that she has decided to move back to Nigeria. By that time, Obinze is a married man with a child. He is a successful businessman who has benefitted from his somewhat dubious connections to power. And he is still in love with Ifemelu. Ifemelu and Obinze were high school beaus but life circumstances draw them apart. Ifemelu leaves her university studies and a military dictatorship in Nigeria mid-way to move to the U.S.A. for a scholarship. Life in "America" is far from rosy as Ifemelu tries to complete her studies and have enough money to pay the bills. At times, she resorts to humiliating jobs to make ends meet and suffers consequences to her mental health. Obinze ends up in England where he struggles to live an undocumented life – all the while hoping

that he will eventually obtain his status through a sham marriage and end up in the U.S.A. Through Ifemelu's blog about race, which she titles, *Raceteenth*, or *Various Observations About American Blacks* (Those formerly known as Negroes) by a Non-American Black, she begins to chronicle her life in the U.S., her experience of race and racism, disruption and dislocation. The blog is an instant success and makes Ifemelu a somewhat reluctant celebrity blogger. Adichie uses Ifemelu's blog as a means of exploring the absurdity of the American obsession with race, the ways in which it divides, dissociates and dehumanizes us. In one posting, entitled *Why Dark-Skinned Black Women – Both American and Non-American – Love Barack Obama*, the issue of shadism and self-hatred in Black communities is addressed head-on. In another, entitled *Friendly Tips for the American Non-Black : How to React to an American Black talking about Blackness*, Ifemelu discusses the way in which anti-Black racism is minimized and the persisting legacy of slavery. In yet another blog post, entitled *What Academics Mean by White Privilege*, or *Yes It Sucks to be Poor and White but Try Being Poor and Non-White*, Ifemelu develops a questionnaire for persons who wish to determine whether they have white privilege. We can almost hear Adichie laughing as she writes this fictitious blog. Adichie is clearly writing about what she knows – having studied and lived both in Nigeria and the U.S.A. What is particular about this novel is Adichie's comfort with addressing issues that have plagued the American psyche for hundreds of years. Perhaps Adichie's position as an "outsider" or Non-American Black gives her the necessary distance required to both laugh at and speak out against racism. Adichie is just as comfortable talking about cronyism and corruption in the Nigerian government as she is speaking about the persistence of race and racism in America. Adichie tackles how racism corrupts American institutions, everyday social relations and the relationship of the U.S. to the rest of the world. Ultimately, *Americanah* is Adichie's treatise on race, racism, reinvention and (im)migration – told through the eyes of two carefully crafted characters who want nothing more than the safety and discomfort that love can provide. **Fear of a Black Planet: Race, Sex and Security in 1960's Montreal** by David Austin  
Published by Between the Lines, Toronto, Ontario, 2013

It is not often that one reads a book which is a reminder of countless discussions held over the course of a 20-year friendship. David Austin's Book, *Fear of a Black Planet – Race, Sex and Security* in 1960's Montreal is one such book. In this impressively researched work, Austin addresses how two events in Montreal – the Black Writers Congress (1968) and the Sir George Williams Affair (1969) – brought the issue of racism and race relations into sharp relief in Canada. The Black Writers Congress brought together hundreds of prominent Black thinkers and activists from the U.S.A., the Caribbean, the African continent and Canada including Rocky Jones, Miriam Makeba, Stokely Carmichael and C.L.R. James. The Sir George Williams Affair was a student protest on the Sir George campus (now Concordia University), prompted by allegations from Black students that their science professor was engaging in racist marking practices by failing a disproportionate percentage of Black students. The students ended up occupying a computer room which ultimately caught fire. This resulted in the incarceration of several students, including Rosie Douglas and Senator Anne Cools. The event hit the global headlines and sparked protests in the Caribbean, forever shattering the myth of Canada as a genteel country without a history of colonialism and racism. Austin convincingly argues that these two events changed the relationship of Black communities with the Canadian state and provided the Black community with the impetus it needed to continue to organize and resist racial oppression. As a result of these events, the Canadian state, under the direction of the RCMP, engaged in aggressive and intrusive surveillance of several members of the Black community, including the organizers of the Congress and anyone who appeared to pose a "Black Power" threat to national security. While Austin notes that this important history is absent from the history books in Canada, especially from histories of the Left, he insists that it must be shared so that we can better understand the challenges that we face today. The book offers several insights into the conditions of Black communities in Montreal in the 1960's, especially the Anglophone Black community. It discusses the way in which the Quiet Revolution was inspired by the civil rights movement and Black Power while ignoring the reality of Black people in its own backyard. Finally, relying on the work of critical race theorists and political writers such as Richard Iton, Frantz Fanon, C.L.R. James and Angela Davis, the book provides an important theoretical lens through which the legacy of slavery, race and racism in Canada can be understood and challenged.

## 98th Spingarn Medallist


# NAACP honours Jessye Norman

The NAACP Board of Directors awarded opera singer and honorary UN Ambassador Jessye Norman the 98th Spingarn Medal, the Association's highest honor. Norman became the 98th recipient of the award, and she was honoured during the NAACP National Convention in Orlando July 17 at the annual Spingarn Dinner. "Jessye Norman is a true inspiration," said Chairman Roslyn M. Brock. "Her work embodies the power of music and its ability to serve as the soundtrack to our movement for social justice." The Spingarn Medal, first instituted in 1914 by then NAACP Chairman Joel E. Spingarn, is awarded to an American of African descent who has demonstrated outstanding and noble achievement in the preceding years. "She has changed the world with her music and her activism. We can only look forward with expectation at where her career is headed from here,"

said NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. Congressman John Lewis described Ms. Norman as a daughter of the South and a citizen of the world. "We honor her tonight for her unwavering commitment to preserving the art, power and history of the African American experience." Jessye Norman was born on September 15, 1945, in Augusta, Georgia. In 1969, she debuted as an opera singer in Tannhaeuser. Her performance resulted in numerous job offers and she went on to tour through the 1970s. By the 1980s her roles in *Aida* and *Les Troyen* had made her one of the most popular opera singers worldwide. In 1984, the French Government named her Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" and in 1989 she was awarded the "Legion d'Honneur." Ms. Norman was made an honorary ambassador to the United Nations in 1990. In 1997, she became the

youngest to the receive Kennedy Center Honors. The soprano has also received honorary doc-

torates across thirty colleges, universities, and conservatories around the world.



## David McGuinty

Member of Parliament - Ottawa South    Député - Ottawa-Sud

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**David McGuinty, M.P.**

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**Constituency Office/**  
Bureau de circonscription  
1883 Bank Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1V 7Z9

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Fax/Télex: 990-2592  
Email/Courriel:  
david.mcguinity@parl.gc.ca  
Web Site/Website:  
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Hi Ewart,  
My apologies for the brevity of this note. I am feeling somewhat ambivalent about your most recent news. I am saddened that the *Spectrum* will be no more, but I am also happy that you and Merle will now be able to engage in other pursuits unfettered by the responsibility of having to produce a regular community newspaper. On behalf of the entire Harewood/Parris clan I would like to thank you and Merle and the entire Walters family for your many contributions to the community over these last 29 years. You created a vital institution that has done much to cultivate and fortify our community. You have provided myriad opportunities for creative expression from young and old. You have been unafraid of challenging power and thus have provided us all with a sterling example of how one can be principled and dogged in the pursuit of truth. You have provided us with a window to the world offering us informative, provocative and practical articles on a range of subject matter. You have told our stories. In essence you helped to humanize this fair region of ours and for that you are deserving of our community's gratitude.... Be well.  
Adrian Harewood



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# Slavery reparations talk heats up Striking while the Kenyan iron is hot, Carib nations seek Mau Mau compensation model

by Ewart Walters

Buoyed by Britain’s agreement to compensate Kenya for torture and other atrocities during colonial rule, leaders of more than a dozen CARICOM countries are striking with a hot iron and are seeking compensation from three European nations for the lingering legacy of the Atlantic slave trade.

CARICOM has taken up the cause of slavery compensation and the genocide of native peoples and is preparing for a battle with the governments of Britain, France and the Netherlands. It has engaged the British law firm of Leigh Day, which waged the successful fight for compensation for hundreds of Kenyans who were tortured by the British colonial government during the Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s and 1960s.

CARICOM is creating a reparations commission to press the issue, said St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves who has been leading the issue. The legacy of slavery includes widespread poverty and under-development. Any settlement should include

a formal apology, but contrition alone would not be enough, he said.

The notion of forcing the countries that benefited from slavery to pay reparations has been a decades-long quest. Individual countries including Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda already have national commissions. Earlier this month, leaders from the 14 CARICOM nations voted unanimously at a meeting in Trinidad to wage a joint campaign that those involved say would be more ambitious than any previous effort.

They agreed to focus on Britain on behalf of the English-speaking Caribbean, France for the slavery in Haiti and the Netherlands for Suriname. CARICOM officials have not mentioned a compensation figure but Gonsalves and UWI History Professor Verene Shepherd, chairwoman of the national reparations commission in Jamaica, both noted that Britain at the time of emancipation in 1834 paid £20m to British planters in the Caribbean, the equivalent of £200bn now.

“Our ancestors got nothing,” Shepherd said. “They got their freedom and they

were told ‘Go develop yourselves’.”

The British high commissioner to Jamaica, David Fitton, in a radio interview said the Mau Mau case was not meant to be a precedent and that his government opposed reparations for slavery.

“We don’t think the issue of reparations is the right way to address these issues,” Fitton said. “It’s not the right way to address an historical problem.”

But both former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2007 and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2010 have acknowledged the unbearable suffering caused by slavery and the wounds of colonization.

Prime Minister Gonsalves said much more needed to be done and he hoped to begin an “honest, sober and robust” discussion with the European governments soon, championing the issue when he takes over as chairman of CARICOM in January.

“You have to seize the time,” he said.

The U.K. on July 29 finally agreed to pay compensation to thousands of victims of horrific torture during the British colonial rule in Kenya in the 1950s.

# Antigua’s Ambassador elected President of United Nation’s 68th session

Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador John W Ashe has been elected President of the UN’s upcoming 68th session.

Ashe, who took the floor immediately after his election, said that in 18 months, the world body would launch an agenda for sustainable development for all, which “may very well be the boldest and most ambitious project that the United Nations has ever had to accomplish.

“In order to succeed, the

General Assembly needs to be equally bold, ambitious and collaborative if we are to rise to the task we are about to undertake and ensure its completion,” he said, adding “failure is not an option. Let us show the world... we can be bold and decisive in our actions.”

UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, in congratulating Ashe, paid tribute to his “impressive experience,” which includes co-Chairmanship of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the Rio+20 Conference,

Chairmanship of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) and Group of 77, and service on the governing bodies of major United Nations environmental agreements.

Made up of all the 193 Member States of the United Nations, the General Assembly provides a forum for multi-lateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the UN Charter.

# Caribbean Runnins

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

Award-winning reggae band Steel Pulse has added its voice and music to the controversial Trayvon Martin-George Zimmerman case that has elevated racial tension in the US and sparked heated debate worldwide. British reggae group Steel Pulse has weighed in on the controversy by rereleasing their song “Put Your Hoodies On (4 Trayvon)” in protest against the not-guilty verdict in favour of Zimmerman. The song, which refers to the hooded shirt worn by Martin at the time of the incident, was originally released shortly after the teenager’s death.

**Antigua** – The Antigua and Barbuda government said it has established a committee to oversee the implementation process, as the island seeks to suspend certain concessions and other obligations with the United States in their ongoing Internet gaming dispute. The seven-member “WTO Remedies Implementation Committee” (RIC), chaired by Attorney General Justin Simon QC, is responsible for directing the government’s plan to build the framework to suspend selected US intellectual property rights to the tune of US \$21 million per year.

**Guyana** - The Government of Guyana is going ahead with the planned expansion of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. The announcement by Public Works Minister Robeson Benn comes even as the \$5.6 billion allocated to the country’s transportation sector programme was slashed by the National Assembly. The government has already spent US\$20 million for mobilisation, field and laboratory works for the airport expansion project that will include constructing a new terminal building. The project also involves the extension of the airport’s main runway by 3,500 feet to accommodate large aircraft and the construction of eight international parking positions that include a dedicated position for cargo aircraft.

**Jamaica** - Education Minister Ronald Thwaites says that with the ban on smoking in public spaces, including in and around educational institutions, teachers and other persons working in schools should lead by example to uphold the law. Thwaites was speaking this week at the annual back-to-school conference at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville, hosted by the Ministry of Education Region 5 office. Thwaites said that a bulletin will be distributed in schools to indicate that any kind of smoking is off limit in schools. He also urged the school officials present at the conference not to tolerate any untoward behaviour among students in the coming academic year.

The Jamaica government says while it “stands by all our athletes” it adheres to the rules governing anti-doping in sports. Minister with responsibility for Sports, Natalie Neita Headley said that Jamaica, through its Anti-Doping Agency (JADCO) “has consistently had a rigorous programme for in and out-of-competition testing while providing public education for all who participate or wish to participate in sport, including at the high school level. “Jamaica is currently under the microscope globally, as our ascendancy in track and field means that we are being focused on. Our athletes will get special attention and therefore, the temptation to jump to negative conclusion without all the facts, could be very appealing to some,” said the Opposition party’s spokesperson on Sports, Olivia “Babsy” Grange.

Construction has started on a cardiac wing at the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston. The facility is being built under a partnership agreement involving the Ministry of Health and several private sector entities including Digicel Jamaica and Sagicor Investments. Digicel donated J\$100 million with a further J\$40 million from Sagicor Investments. Chain of Hope has also donated J\$10 million in addition to equipping the facility, in collaboration with other stakeholders, at a cost of approximately US\$4 million. The facility will provide an increased number of Intensive Care Unit beds and significantly reduce the number of children on the waiting list for surgery. The facility will contain 10 beds, an Operating Theatre and equipment as well as support facilities. It will serve children up to age 12. Construction is expected to be completed by early next year.

**Barbados** - Six-time Grammy Award-winner Rihanna is expected to “rock de rock” when she returns home to Barbados to stage her second concert here in November. According to Minister of Tourism Richard Sealy, the privately produced event is scheduled for Saturday November 2, 2013. Sealy told the press that the event would not be produced by the state-owned Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA), but by international concert promoters Live Nation Entertainment.

**Trinidad and Tobago** - A High Court judge ordered the Trinidad Express newspaper to pay \$325,000 in damages to former Police Service Commission chairman Nizam Mohammed for a report published in 2010. Justice Mira Dean-Armorer ordered the payment after delivering an oral ruling in favour of Mohammed in his defamation lawsuit. Dean-Armorer was presiding in the Port-of-Spain High Court. In the lawsuit, Mohammed, an attorney, claimed the article was irresponsibly published and was against the “tenets of responsible journalism.”

Preliminary data from Trinidad and Tobago’s Central Bank shows a 1.7 per cent growth in the economy for the first quarter of 2013. However, job losses for the first five months of the year were 16 per cent higher than the same period last year. Central Bank Governor Jwala Rambarran said this most recent information suggested that employment conditions in the country may have deteriorated.

“Ebry dyay debble help teef; wan dyay Gad wi help watchman”

Canada-Jamaica trade...

## No Beef in Beef Question

Canada has raised its eyebrows at Jamaica’s protracted ban on importing Canadian beef. The matter was mentioned in a discussion between Canadian High Commissioner Robert Ready and Jamaican journalists recently. The beef ban was imposed in 2003 during the mad cow disease scare. Since then, the World Organization for Animal Health has regarded Canada as a controlled-risk country, allowing it to export to 57 other countries, including European territories.

But according to Ready, despite years of discussions between the Canadian mission and the Jamaican Government, Kingston continues to restrict beef imports while he continues to urge the Jamaican authorities to look more positively at lifting those restrictions.

In times of excruciatingly bad financial woes, Jamaica has been promoting an “Eat What You Grow, Grow What You Eat,” which Ready concedes might be a good thing. However, he noted that it could also result in protectionism. “We’d hate to see barriers grow out of domestic policies for self-sufficiency,” Ready said, but when questioned, he pointed out that the issue was not expected to affect Canada’s relationship with Jamaica.

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