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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2020

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**Soria Dupie-Winston**  
**Unsung Frontline Hero 2020**



## A Tale of October 20th and Our Story

The 20th of October is a day that should resonate in the mind of every Antiguan and Barbudan because it brings into focus the indomitable spirit of the people on extreme ends on the spectrum.

On Wednesday 20th October 1735, King Court acknowledged all the allegations against him related to the plans to revolt. At noon he was broken on the wheel and executed.

Two hundred and twenty years later on Thursday 20th October 1955 the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) was incorporated, as The Antigua Co-operative Bank Limited. It registered a share capital of EC\$100,000 and became the country's first indigenous bank and public company.

In 2020, even though King Court has been acclaimed a National Hero whose statue is prominently placed on Independence Drive, we are still a long way from ensuring that our people are intimately familiar with the historical details of his life. We are yet to imbue in our young people a deep appreciation for the herculean effort it would have taken for King Court and his supporters to free themselves of the deep seated mental condi-

tioning slavery depended upon to thrive.

The awakening of consciousness to fuel the desire to plan an active rebellion, to accept the associated risks and to want to fight for freedom above all else, are traits that ought to be deeply ingrained into the Antigua and Barbuda spirit even today.

Today, the Antigua Commercial Bank is just another financial institution to most of us. Most of us are unaware of the fact that ACB is a major player in the OECS financial space and has the distinction of being the largest indigenous bank. ACB stands as a testament to the vision and determination of our forefathers of the post-emancipation, pre-independent twin island nation to own an important wealth creation vehicle that could also positively impact the nation's economic growth.

EC\$100,000.00 in 1955 was a significant sum. Our people displayed spirits of cooperation, enterprise and an unwavering spirit in order to rise to the challenge of stepping away from the flawed 'partnership-is-leaky ship' business dogma that we were conditioned to accept. They built a solid founda-

tion for an institution that has withstood the test of time.

We pause today to pay homage to our ancestor, King Court and the men and women who stood with him and dared to fight for freedom; men and women whose graphic and ghoulish execution was meant to quench our forefathers desire for freedom but instead became the flag-bearers of the pursuit of freedom and democracy. Their sacrifice is our inspiration and a call to arms which should remind us of the stanzas in the National Anthem which call upon us to 'raise the standard' and 'answer to duty's call' in service of country.

In tribute to their struggles, and as a clear signal that their sacrifice was not in vain, we celebrate the pioneer shareholders of the Antigua Co-operative Bank Limited, now Antigua Commercial Bank. Despite the challenges, it is still the only financial institution with a commercial presence on both islands. ACB has contributed tremendously to the growth of many sectors of the economy and played a pivotal role, at least two times, in providing well needed financing to upgrade critical national in-

frastructure.

As the first indigenous, publicly held financial institution, the Antigua Commercial Bank, built by the equity, savings and use of services of Antiguan and Barbudans with one hundred percent of profits reinvested in our nation, represents a bold and bright beacon in the ongoing mental emancipation process.

As ACB continues to expand its footprint throughout the commercial banking space may it serve as a reminder to us that we are capable of fighting for our freedom from whatever ails us. May ACB's continued success remind us that there is no success with effort and that the battle is not for the swift. Just like King Court, ACB should remind us that we mustco try and try and push against the flow of the current!

May we as a people celebrate our successes and gather inspiration from the invaluable lessons of our history. May we also never forget to share these important historic occasions and people with younger generations!

All hail King Court and may ACB grow in continued financial strength.



## Comptroller of Customs: revenue rebounding



*Roju Boddu, Comptroller of Customs, Antigua and Barbuda*

At least one of the government's key revenue centres is reporting a rebound in financial collections.

Despite this, the Customs Division has reported that revenues are still down from that reported in the third quarter of 2019.

This is the assessment of the Comptroller of Customs, Raju Bod-

du.

Boddu reported that at the end of September this year, revenues collected by the Customs Division totaled \$243.47 million. This amount is roughly \$34 million less than was collected by the same time last year.

Notwithstanding the shortfall, Boddu reported that the department has witnessed a small recovery in collections from the early months of 2020 when the country was forced to shut down because of the global coronavirus outbreak.

Until the end of March this year, revenues in the country were running ahead of projections, however, for the first two months of the shutdown, April and May, revenues nosedived with April collections totaling just over \$11.4 million and May totaling \$13.6 million. Since then, the gap between actual collections and intake has narrowed and maintained pace with 2019 statistics.

The department observed that the improvement coincided with the government's decision to reopen the country's borders in June. Antigua and Barbuda was the first country in

the region to reopen its borders following the April and May shutdown.

"We are not doing too badly as we see improvements in collection for each month after May to the point where collections for September were less than \$1 million compared with the same month for last year," Boddu stated.

Total revenues for 2019 at the Customs Division was \$390 million and the government had projected that it would raise between \$405 and \$410 million this year.

"We have now revised our projections this year because of the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic. We now expect to collect approximately \$350 million for all of 2020. We are looking forward, with some anticipation, to the months of November and December which are our best revenue months for the year to lift us up to respectable figures," he declared.

PointeXpress is presently working to secure the Customs statistics from the Inland Revenue Department which will be published in a subsequent issue.



**STARTING POINTE**

**ON AIR**

**with Shelton Daniel**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**8:30am-10:30am**

**POINTE FM**

**99.1 FM**

COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

# Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat retires



*Retired Ambassador Starret Alvan Dickson Greene*

Government of Antigua and Barbuda to become the OAS Representative to the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, where he served until June 2014. On July 1, 2014, the seasoned diplomat assumed a new post in Belize where he served as the OAS Representative until his retirement on August 31, 2020.

In a letter to his OAS colleagues, Starret Greene outlined the path that he believes the organization should take in order to maintain its relevance in the lives of the citizens of the Americas.

Making reference to emerging issues such as mounting assaults on democracy, climate change, cyber warfare, rampant corruption, increasing poverty and global pandemics, Greene suggested that it is opportune to objectively examine whether the work of the OAS remains in sync

with the changing needs and circumstances of the people of the region.

He explained that his goal was not to transform the OAS into a development agency given the fact that other regional and international organisations are engaged in addressing developmental problems and concerns in the hemisphere, however he expressed the view that the OAS should take a closer look at its current initiatives with a view to ensuring that they narrow the socioeconomic gap between those who were doing well and those who were not.

Greene contended that, in making the suggested changes, the organisation will emerge better equipped to respond more effectively to the legitimate aspirations of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean for a better life.

Starret Alvan Dickson Greene, was a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Service for 20 years and a representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) for 14 years, retiring as a diplomat.

Greene, who is originally from Bethesda Village, served as a Foreign Service Officer in the employ of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs alongside many notable diplomats including the late Sir Edmund Hawkins Lake, Ambassadors Lionel 'Max' Hurst and Dame Deborah-Mae Lovell, and the late High Commissioner to London, Sir James 'Bags' Thomas.

In January 2006, Greene was granted leave by the





## Police urge responsible social media interaction

The Police are renewing the appeal for members of the public to be more responsible with their social media postings and comments.

A statement from the Police Strategic Communications department said this latest appeal was prompted by comments on social media on what it described as ‘certain sensitive matters surrounding ongoing police investigations or pending court cases’.

“Recently, an article was published in certain sections of the media, surrounding an ongoing police investigation into an alleged sexual offence. This has prompted members of the public to

weigh in on the matter and posted several damaging comments on social media. This behavior, which is seen as unprofessional and irresponsible, can also hamper police investigations and pending court matters by prejudicing their outcome or ending in a miscarriage of justice.

,” the Stratcom statement said.

It added that the Sexual Offences Act of Antigua and Barbuda, No. 9 of 1995, makes it unlawful for anyone to publish or broadcast the identity of an accused person, or complainants in a sexual offence case.

Section 29 of the Act states: After a person is ac-

cused of an offence under this Act, no matter likely to lead members of the public to identify a person as the complainant or as the accused in relation to that accusation shall either be published in Antigua and Barbuda in a written publication available to the public or be broadcast in Antigua and Barbuda except-

(a) Where, on the application of the complainant or the accused, the Court directs that the effect or the restriction is to impose a substantial and unreasonable restriction on the reporting of proceedings and that it is in the public interest to remove the restriction in respect of the application; or

(b) In the case of an accused, after he has been tried and convicted of the offence.

Therefore, it continued, anyone who contravenes this Act, by publishing or broadcasting any matter contrary to subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary, conviction to a fine of \$25,000 and to imprisonment for two years.

Stratcom said the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to working with the public in their crime fighting activities asks for the cooperation of the public.



## APUA helps COVID-19 affected customers

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is rolling out another initiative to benefit its customers who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent statement issued by APUA said the organisation recognises that many people have faced challenging economic constraints due to the coronavirus pandemic. The utilities provider pointed out that it has already es-

tablished a series of measures to assist customers to navigate these difficult times.

“APUA has reduced the fuel variation charge, increased the discount percentage to 15% for payment of electricity bills paid in full on or before the due dates and temporarily halted the disconnection of all utility services provided by the Authority for the past seven months.”

Now, APUA is encouraging consumers who are experiencing difficulties maintaining their accounts to call its Credit Control Department and speak with a representative to discuss manageable payment plans.

APUA also commended their business and residential customers for their continued efforts to make payments to their accounts even during this difficult time.

# Braving the challenges of COVID-19 for Accountants Week

**By Shelton Daniel**

The Antigua chapter of the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Chartered Accountants (ECICA) is this week observing Accountants Week.

The annual observance has been considerably scaled down this year, however, due to restrictions necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic.

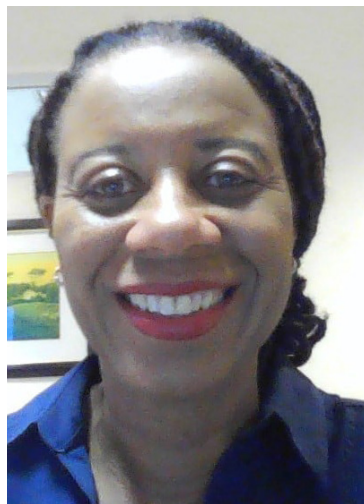
Accountants Week has been observed in the sub-region since 2002, but this year the activities have been condensed and made virtual to limit the physical proximity and interaction of participants in line with social distancing protocols.

Antiguan chartered accountant and founding member of ECICA, Cassandra Simon, shared this year's plans with PointeXpress.

Although there was no official church service for Accountants Week, this past Sunday, Simon church leaders asked their congregations to keep the profession and its practitioners in their prayers and reflections.

A "media blitz" organised on Monday 19th October was greatly scaled back due to the broadcast on virtually all media houses, of the official funeral of the late music and entertainment legend, Sir Rupert "King Swallow" Philo.

The activities also include two half-day Continued Professional Development



*Cassandra Simon*

(CPD) seminars which began on Tuesday and conclude today.

Simon said the half-day scheduling was meant to allow members to attend to their regular employment schedules while contributing to the special programme of observance.

She clarified, however, that the continued professional development seminars are designed to include persons who are not practicing accountants as they contain sessions on personal financial management which everyone is welcome to partake in and benefit from.

"COVID is so new – unknown to me or any living person who has never had a pandemic – that whereas we used to say to someone, 'you should have at least three months of your expenses in a savings account as your emergency fund', there are

persons who have been unemployed for the last seven months. That is totally unheard of, because in the normalcy of things, three months is considered to be reasonable for you to acquire another job or another source of income."

The sessions will also focus on other areas including business continuity.

"How do you plan? How do you survive in a crisis like this? We are looking at brainstorming to learn new things, because this COVID takes all your brain power.

"On Friday, we will be reviewing meetings we previously had with stakeholders, examining their concerns and following up. We will also be making a donation to a charity," Simon added.

In previous years, Accountants Week has featured involvement with schools in the form of business sessions with students.

**TODAY  
WE HONOUR AND  
REMEMBER  
YOU SHAWN  
OWEN WILLIAMS**



**SUNRISE  
29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1969  
SUNSET  
21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

MISSING YOU DEARLY.  
REMEMBERED  
WITH LOVE BY  
HIS WIFE SHARON,  
DAUGHTER SHAWNJÉ,  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS



## Nurses Association president wins prestigious award



Nurse Soria Dupie-Winston has been named CIBC First Caribbean's Unsung Frontline Hero.

Nurse Dupie-Winston, who is President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses' Association, was chosen from a field of three candidates for the award having amassed more than 900

votes.

A humble Dupie-Winston expressed gratitude to the bank for honouring her but noted that her efforts are supported by a team of dedicated individuals who have sacrificed much in order to deliver critical health care to those in need.

"I must say thank you

to CIBC for the initiative in recognising health care workers who are pivotal in this fight against COVID-19. I must say that I did not work alone as I worked along with several members of the medical team, ministry officials who have been very instrumental in this fight, as well have all been together since then. I must also recognise the public health inspectors. It's been a plethora of different disciplines, different professions who have come together and I stand proudly accepting this award, not just for myself, but for all the frontline heroes who have been working tirelessly in this effort

since the pandemic started," she said.

Communities across the region have a unique opportunity to hail heroes, who in the darkest moments of the COVID-19 crisis, shone brightest.

Earlier in the year, CIBC FirstCaribbean launched the FirstCaribbean Unsung Frontline Heroes initiative aimed at giving persons the opportunity to nominate essential workers and persons from their communities who put service above self and reached out to help others during the COVID-19 crisis.

"We have been awed and humbled by the many stories of heroism and selflessness displayed across so many villages and towns, as medical professionals and little children with piggy banks, all rallied to help and to give to those impacted by the pandemic," said Chief Executive Officer of CIBC FirstCaribbean and Chairperson of the FirstCaribbean Com Trust Foundation, Colette Delaney.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

### John Bull



JOHN BULLS were replicas of the grotesquely masked African Witch Doctor with a bull's horns on the head. They were the dominating feature of the festivities in town and country. There was terror and excitement in the young and old.

John Bulls were tended by a 'Cattle Tender'. The crack of the whip he would tease the bull. The bull would then shoot off in the direction of the crowd of children or grown ups and plough through them and they would scatter.





# Disgruntled workers picket St. John's restaurant



Angry employees of the now closed Melinis Restaurant located in Jolly Harbour protested on Tuesday outside of a St. John's restaurant which they allege their former employer has interests in.

The workers, some of whom were employed by Melinis for more than seventeen years, say the owner of the restaurant, Mark Tutton, refused to pay them their last weekly wage and severance due to them when the business closed at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the workers, the businessman claimed that he did not have the money to cover their compensation packages.

One employee also claimed to see Tutton removing appliances from the restaurant. When confronted, Tutton claimed the management of Jolly Harbour had asked him to vacate the property.

Rather than taking the ap-

pliances to his home however, the workers claim the items ended up at Lounge 87 restaurant, located on Thames Street, in which they believe their former boss has an interest.

Some long standing Melinis employees present at the protest said their frustration at being disrespected and lied to prompted the decision to make their plight public.

Samuel James, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Free Trades Union, said the excuses for the delayed payments would no longer be accepted as he believes that Tutton may have deliberately hid assets belonging to Melinis at Lounge 87.

James said his union is prepared to pursue legal avenues to ensure that the workers receive their pay and that that justice is done.



Colin C. James  
CEO

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority

Patrice Simon  
Executive Director

Antigua and Barbuda Hotels  
& Tourism Association

Frank J. Comito  
CEO & Director General

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association

CHTA's Caribbean Tourism Fireworks - Antigua & Barbuda  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020  
9 a.m. ET

LIVE on [facebook.com/CaribbeanHotelAndTourismAssociation](https://facebook.com/CaribbeanHotelAndTourismAssociation)



## Air Canada announces the resumption of flights to Antigua



Air Canada has announced that it will resume flights into VC Bird International Airport from November 1.

Confirmation of this comes from Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin James, who further reported that Canadians have been eagerly awaiting the resumption of flights to Antigua and Barbuda from Canada. He added that many Canadians have spent their downtime enjoying the twin island nation through 'virtual vacation' experiences.

"Earlier this month, Vision Travel Specialist, Tracy Turberfield, took Canadians on a virtual tour of the twin island paradise from the comfort of their living rooms. Turberfield, understanding that her clients cannot wait for their next

trip, created 'Live-Virtual Vacation Experiences' so they could feel as if they were in Antigua and Barbuda," an ABTA release said.

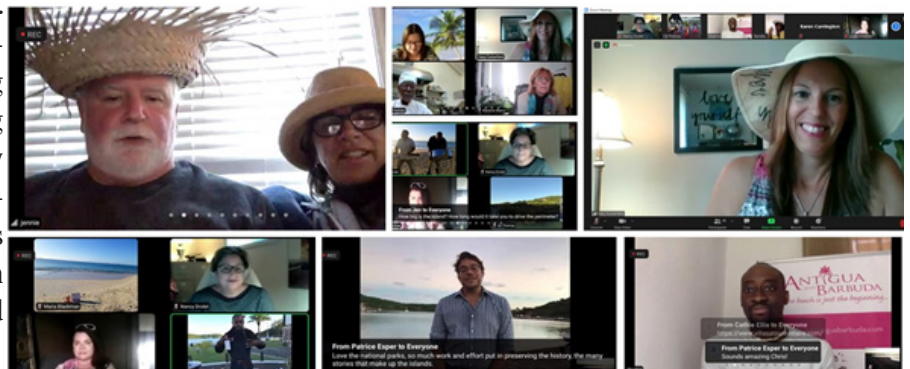
"We were excited to be a part of this latest experience, giving Canadians the opportunity to enjoy our real time views, musical and culinary displays and conversations with our team and tourism partners. We are even more excited to announce that with Air Canada resuming their weekly flight from Toronto to Antigua on November 1. Canadians can now pack their bags. Antigua and Barbuda is stunning from your living room, but the only way to truly experience its beauty is in person here in the country", said James.

The virtual event was hosted by Totonto-based ABTA Senior Sales and Marketing Manager, Tameka Wharton, and Cruise Marketing Executive, Shamo Richards, while Marketing Communications Executive, Maria Blackman, and Digital Platform Technician, Renee Ambrose participated from historic Fort James Beach.

Canadians were able to learn from the experts about local 'hot spots' and other locations of interest as the team answered their questions.

The virtual tour went live from the UNESCO World Heritage site Nelson's Dockyard, where the National Parks Authority's Heritage Resources Officers, Desley Gardner and Christopher Water, Manager of the Heritage Department, discussed the history of the English Harbour area.

Mixologist, Kanto George, created "Paradise", a cocktail featuring the Antigua Black Pineapple and Antigua's English Harbour 5-year-old Rum.



# Amidst the mourning, not a pan was heard!

## By Panist

The steelband movement rejoices in the news that the government has found it fitting to bestow a national award on steelband powerhouse, Hells Gate Steel Orchestra. On behalf of the pan fraternity in Antigua and Barbuda and beyond, I would like to extend hearty congratulations on this remarkable achievement. Few, if any, can deny that Hells Gate is absolutely deserving of this accolade.

Hells Gate is arguably the oldest steel orchestra not only in Antigua and Barbuda, but the world, with a track record of consistency and longevity over 75 illustrious years. The nation should be justly proud of the heights to which the orchestra has scaled and maintained as an extraordinarily professional unit of outstanding music and musicianship, sound administrative structure and delightful performances.

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is to be congratulated for acknowledging the importance of Hellsgate's invaluable contribution to our cultural landscape.

Pan is indeed alive and well...or at least, that is what we thought.

We then fast forward to the heartbreaking passing



of two knighted stalwarts, Sir Selvyn Walter and Sir Rupert "Swallow" Philo. Both men have made an indelible impact on our twin island nation in general and particularly on the pan fraternity.

I take this opportunity to join the families of these esteemed gentlemen in mourning such great loss.

Sir Selvyn exhibited vision exceeding 20/20 when he founded one of the most successful and popular pan groups, the Halcyon Steel Orchestra, in 1971 in his beloved Grays Green community.

Sir Rupert was an outstanding, internationally renowned calypso and soca artiste who produced infectious party hit after hit. Many Swallow tunes became natural choices for steelbands in their repertoires, locally, regionally and internationally in Panorama competitions, con-

certs and recordings.

Over the years, the pan fraternity benefited tremendously from the tireless work of both Sir Selvyn and Sir Rupert. Quite fittingly, therefore, the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association indicated to the organising committee an interest in meaningfully participating in both funerals.

I was as alarmed as dismayed to hear that the ABPA's suggestion to put a coordinated, combined steelband on the road in the funeral procession was unceremoniously rejected, allegedly on the grounds of "not wanting all that noise".

For Sir Selvyn's funeral, Halcyon provided an hour of prelude music while mourners were entering the Sir Viv Richards Stadium, but during the actual service not a pan was heard for the band's revered founder.

Ironically, of the eight tributes in word or song,

including a second performance by one of the vocalists, all the verbal ones highlighted Sir Selvyn's undeniable, deep rooted love for pan, which was even further accentuated by Sir Selvyn's attractive custom made 18-karat gold pan-styled tie-clip and cufflinks he was "spously" adorned with as he was laid to rest.

It is puzzling how, on one hand, a prestigious national award is rightfully being bestowed on Hells Gate, while on the other hand, the same steelpan artform continues to be disrespected and undermined by such inflexible individuals, with a seemingly pan-less agenda serving on a steering committee.

Stevie, Ray and Aubrey could all see the importance of pan to Sir Selvyn Walter.

How ironic also, that an English governor of colonial Antigua could embrace and encourage our steelband movement in 1945 but in independent Antigua and Barbuda in 2020 there is still such official disdain for the homegrown music of its people.

"We don't want 'all that noise!'"

Perhaps now is the time to debate and lobby for pan to be recognised as our National Instrument, replacing

*cont'd on pg 13*





*cont'd from pg 12*

the fyfe.

As we move on from this shameful fiasco, perhaps we should consider the immense impact that the pan artform can potentially have on our all important tourism product. While pan continues to be an extremely valuable attraction to both locals and visitors, the lack of respect and ignorance of its cultural value by many in authority is not only sad but incredibly short sighted.

Much developmental work and education are required to ensure that we progress towards excellence. For continuity and growth in the steelpan industry, both the players and the infrastructure must be addressed. While the “pan-lab” launched by the government was welcomed by all, it is unfortunate that as with many such initiatives, there seemingly has been little attention paid to upgrading or even maintaining it.

Another existing problem is the shortage of drums which continues to seriously affect the ability of the pan builders and apprentic-

es to craft the instruments at a rate rapid enough to furnish the schools with these necessary instruments at the grassroots level.

The premises are derelict and seriously in need of not merely a facelift, but a calculated upgrade of its facilities to an aesthetically pristine environment which can allow visiting tourist groups to tour and experience firsthand the technical skill involved in transforming 55-gallon oil drums into marvelous musical instruments.

Establishing a factory to chrome-plate these instruments, and other metallic objects, would also create additional jobs for Antiguan while improving the quality of our instruments.

The recognition of the invaluable contribution the steelpan artform plays in culture and tourism must go beyond intermittent gestures. There must be a collaborative effort between the government, the ABPA and all those who have a stake in pan’s growth and development.

It takes two hands to clap, however, only with mutual respect, responsibility, and a common vision, can the

steelpan artform be soundly placed on the path to success, socially, culturally and economically.

Disrespect, disdain, dis-

regard and selective appreciation! “We don’t want all that noise!”

What’s needed is for the pan to be heard!

## ATLU President addresses the eradication of poverty



When I spoke to you last, it was on May 4, 2020, or five months ago, on Labour Day. These are unusual times and unusual circumstances, I remarked then. For the very first time in the history of modern Antigua and Barbuda, 386 years and counting, nothing like this coronavirus pandemic has ever occurred here.

The economy of Antigua and Barbuda has been severely impacted, not by war or natural disasters; the economy has been partially dismantled by an invisible virus that has taken lives, has imperiled livelihoods, and threatens workers’ jobs all over the globe. The coronavirus is the nation’s enemy, I noted.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, this past Friday, is an opportune moment to address all workers in Antigua and Bar-

buda, whether or not served by the AT&LU.

I choose to speak on the day set aside for the eradication of poverty, and on the cusp of United Nations Day 2020, of October 24, 2020. The United Nations and its many bodies, including the International Labour Organization (I.L.O.), to which I am assigned, are focused upon poverty reduction, since the coronavirus has caused millions of jobs to disappear, plunged the poor further into poverty, and threatens the survivability of small nations.

The AT&LU, having lit the candle that sparked the anti-colonial movement, that ended a dreadful era in our history, and which brought succeeding generations of Antiguan and Barbudan many material and spiritual benefits, the AT&LU knows that the time has come to engage the thousands of workers whom it represents, and all others, by asking them to pay special attention.



# UWI Vice-Chancellor: US\$600 million needed to drive diversification

As universities globally grapple with funding challenges precipitated by sharp falls in government funding and a decline in enrolment, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) convened a landmark meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. This first-ever virtual Development Partner Forum focused on “Investing in higher education to build more diversified and resilient post-COVID economies” and was organized jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC). As part of the emergency investment in the Caribbean region is a proposal by the Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, to establish a US\$600 million multi-donor trust fund to prevent systemic decline in the region’s higher education and research sector.

Vice-Chancellor Beckles issued his call to action during his presentation on the topic “Fixing the Broken Links: Crisis in higher education, research, international competitiveness and inclusive economic development”.

He emphasized that the Caribbean region has been woefully underfunded for education and development projects since independence, in spite of centuries of wealth extraction by developed countries. As a result, the contemporary higher education sector is unfit for purpose with systemic challenges that need to be addressed at all education levels. In spite of over seven decades of government support for education and The UWI’s dedicated efforts, which have led to the regional university’s ranking among the top 4% of universities globally by Times Higher Education, the current constraints of the highly-indebted Caribbean countries and the projected economic contraction of close to 8% in 2020, now pose an existential threat to the higher education sector in the Caribbean, unless a fund to support human capital development is urgently established.

Vice-Chancellor Beckles, who is also the President of Universities Caribbean, a consortium of universities located in the English, Span-

ish, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, did not mince words as he addressed the virtual audience of over 100 participants, including Prime Ministers, Ministers of Education, Ministers of Finance, other government officials, diplomatic missions and representatives from United Nations agencies and development banks. He stressed the severity of these challenges, which come at a time when countries need to draw on research and innovation to build knowledge economies and propel the region’s economic diversification agenda. Sir Hilary explained that the Caribbean’s vulnerability to climate change, chronic diseases and exogenous shocks is being exacerbated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that the resulting funding crisis for higher education and research is a burning issue that must be red flagged as part of the region’s emergency response to the pandemic.

He thanked the governments for trying their very best to support the regional university in spite of the se-

vere impact on the region’s GDP and also expressed his gratitude to ECLAC for facilitating this important conversation. Vice-Chancellor Beckles called upon the private sector to invest in research, development and innovation projects that could help boost economic diversification and international competitiveness. He also urged development partners to help mobilize resources for the multi-donor trust fund for human capital development in the Caribbean, challenging them to an initial capitalization level of US\$600 million. This fund will make it possible to undertake urgent regional projects that would provide widespread access to higher education, advance path-breaking research and innovation, promote much-needed digital transformation, develop technical and vocational skills to support a range of industries and undertake education reform and policy harmonization from early childhood through to university.



## Barbados: Parents regret that taxpayers will foot CXC bill



Paula-Anne Moore

Parents and students affected by the ongoing Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) saga have welcomed the Mia Mottley-administration's promise to foot the bill for students demanding a review of their "erroneous" grades.

Pressure groups at the forefront of the fight are disappointed, however, that taxpayers will be the ones paying up as the regional examining body attempts to absolve itself of liability.

Lead Committee Spokesperson for the Group of Concerned Parents of Barbados, Paula-Anne Moore, as well as Student Advocate, Khaleel Kothdiwala, were reacting to Sunday's virtual press conference convened by CXC Chairman, Sir Hilary Beckles, and Registrar, Dr. Wayne Wesley, to disclose the preliminary findings of an Independent Review Team (IRT) appointed amid regional outrage over this year's results.

Today, the team presented its findings in full following a review on Monday with regional Ministers of Education.

On Sunday, Dr. Wesley announced during the press conference which saw participation by journalists around the region, that review fees would be slashed in half and the results of requested reviews would be available in a week. The deadline for making requests has also been extended from 23 October to 6 November with a promise that students' grades will not be reduced. The review will include a re-marking of the disputed paper.

Hours later, during a political

meeting at Market Hill, St. George, Prime Minister Mottley instructed Education Minister, Santia Bradshaw, to inform CXC of the government's intention to foot the bill (BDS \$30 per script) for all CXC reviews requested by Barbados' students.

"Santia, I know that you have asked for a waiver and we have not heard back an answer, but Bajans don't beg, and therefore tomorrow, you will tell them that the Government of Barbados will pay for the review of all the children who need a review from CXC," Mottley declared to the delight of Barbados Labour Party (BLP) faithful.

## Grenada marks 37th anniversary of the murder of Maurice Bishop

Grenada marked the 37th anniversary of the shooting death of its first ever left wing prime minister, Maurice Bishop, with a call for closure for the families of those who were killed at Fort George on that day.

The shooting of Bishop, who led the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), and some cabinet ministers and supporters, triggered off an American-led invasion of the island six days later.

Bishop had himself seized power in 1979, when his New Jewel Movement (NJM) overthrew then prime minister, Sir Eric Gairy, in the first ever coup in the English-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping.

Four years later, Bishop was put un-



Maurice Bishop

der house arrest by his own Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard Coard.

The executive member of the Mau-

rice Bishop and October 19th 1983 Martyrs Foundation, Dr. Terrence Marryshow, has lamented the fact that 37 years later, there's still no closure for the families of those killed.

"There is still no closure, and particularly for the families and victims of October 19th 1983. There has been closure for the perpetrators, they have been freed, they are living their best lives," said Marryshow.

"A lot of innocent Grenadians were gunned down, some lost a limb, lost an eye and they continue to suffer. Up to this day, we are still no closer in terms of getting what will lead to the recovery of the remains of Maurice Bishop and his cabinet colleagues who died on October 19th 1983.

*cont'd on pg 16*

*cont'd from pg 15*

“We know what happened up to a point, the onus is now on the Americans to come forward and tell us what they have done with the remains,” said Marryshow, who is of the firm belief that identifying the missing remains of Bishop and his cabinet colleague will not only bring closure for their families, but the entire nation.

## NSWMA, MoH of join to control marine pollution

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) and the Ministry of Health will be embarking upon two projects intended to control marine pollution through the use of land based mitigation programmes.

Daryl Spencer, the NSWMA's general manager, said the first initiative will focus on source separation which will be piloted in two communities.

The selected communities

were chosen, Spencer said, because of their strong community organisation, their location to the marine environment and the likelihood that pollution from these communities could end up in mangroves or on the seashore.

“This is a source separation programme where we are trying to keep with the circular economy where the waste we utilise is valuable within our waste stream.

“We want to separate our recyclables, so we do have a very active recycling system in Antigua and Barbuda where [the Antigua Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation] ABWREC has been taking plastic bottles, aluminum cans for quite a number of years,” Spencer said.

According to him, the NSWMA is also looking at reducing the level of organic waste which is taken to the Cook Sanitary Landfill daily. At present, approximately 45 percent of the waste going into the landfill is decomposable organic matter.

## Trinidad: Gang members in Parliament?



*Stuart Young, Minister of National Security, Trinidad & Tobago*

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of National Security, Stuart Young, quipped that he's seen the names of some opposition members in recent reports of illicit activity.

He was speaking during the Standing Finance Committee Meeting of Parliament.

After MP for Naparima, Rodney Charles questioned the work being done to curtail gang activity in Trinidad and Tobago, Minister Young assured that the government still receives frequent and reputable information connected to gang-related activ-

ity which has led to arrests and charges being laid.

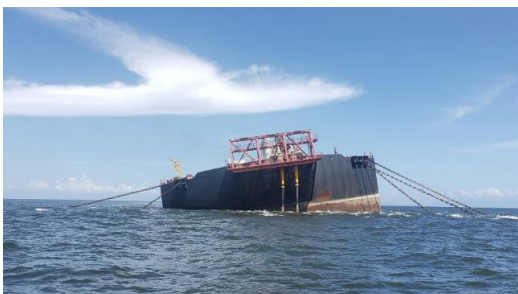
Young added that there were familiar names being pointed out, too.

“We continue to get those reports, and I'll tell you something; some of the reports that we get are quite disturbing and I see some of the names of persons who sit opposite me in those reports as I've reported to the Parliament before,” he said.

Despite the crosstalk, the minister assured that the Anti-Gang legislation was working to the benefit of the crime situation and deserved resources to ensure that the work continues to flourish.

“There has actually been an uptick in the number of charges that we'll be bringing to parliament very shortly. I was tempted to say that some other members in here might be able to help us to say who are and who are not gang members,” Young said.

## Potential oil spill threatens caribbean sea



*FSO Nabarima Oil Tanker, Gulf of Paria*

The FSO Nabarima oil tanker, laden with 1.3 million barrels of crude oil, is

sinking in the Gulf of Paria between Venezuela and Trinidad and can impact the ecological systems of Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago almost immediately.

The impact of the spill can also affect other countries within the hemisphere.

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Authority (CDEMA) are closely monitoring the

situation and will issue timely public reports on the situation.

Should the need arise, the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) will be activated and the committee will be tasked with conducting analysis, assessments and necessary response measures to mitigate any adverse effect on Guyana.

Fishing and sea-going vessels have been urged to be on the lookout for any sighting of oil spills and to report immediately to MARAD Georgetown Lighthouse.



## Soldiers open fire on protesters in Nigeria's Lagos



*Chicken farmer Juliet Barrett, a resident of Logwood, a tough rural community in St Thomas.*

Soldiers have opened fire on demonstrators gathered at a protest site in Lagos that has been the epicentre of widespread rallies against police brutality in Nigeria, according to several witnesses.

Amnesty International also said in a statement on Tuesday it had received “credible but disturbing evidence of excessive use of force occasioning deaths of protesters at Lekki toll gate in Lagos”, adding that it was investigating “the killings”.

Three witnesses told Reuters News Agency that the soldiers fired at the protesters who had gathered in the Lekki district of Nigeria's largest city in defiance of an indefinite curfew imposed

hours earlier by the authorities. Hundreds of people were at the site at the time of the shooting, which witnesses said took place around 7pm (18:00 GMT).

“They started firing ammunition toward the crowd. They were firing into the crowd,” said Alfred Ononugbo, 55, a security officer. “I saw the bullet hit one or two persons,” he said.

Inyene Akpan, 26, a photographer, said more than 20 soldiers arrived at the toll gate in Lekki and opened fire. He said he saw two people being shot. Akinbosola Ogunsanya, a third witness, also told Reuters he saw soldiers remove bodies.

Scenes of protesters removing a bullet from someone's wound and pleading for help were broadcast in a live video on Instagram by DJ Switch, a popular disc jockey. Gunfire and sirens could be heard in videos filmed near the toll gate.

There was no immediate comment from the Nigerian army. Gboyega Akosile, spokesman for the governor of Lagos state, said in a Twitter post that authorities had ordered an investigation.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu alleged that criminals had hijacked the protest movement “to unleash mayhem”, as he announced the curfew.

## Fearing a loss, GOP senators keep distance from Trump and begin to ponder party's future



For four years, Republican senators have shrugged off President Donald Trump's constant string of controversies and scandals. They've ignored his Twitter outbursts and endless grievances and they've avoided confronting him, while voting mostly in lock-step for his agenda and protecting him during his impeachment trial, but two weeks until Election Day, GOP senators are beginning to come to grips that Trump's reign in Washington could soon come to an end.

Publicly and privately, Republicans are now beginning to distance themselves from the President and the debate over the post-Trump Republican Party is already taking shape, with some eager to emulate his populist style of America-first, slash-and-burn politics -- and others pushing to return to a more moderate, pro-business message to woo disaffected younger voters and women who have been put off by Trump.

While Republicans brace for that debate, several influential Republicans are pleading with Trump to abruptly change his tactics in the final two weeks to zero-in on an economic mes-

sage, stop downplaying the coronavirus pandemic and to quit launching attacks against his public health experts -- namely Dr. Anthony Fauci.

"I would like to see in the closing days of the campaign him prosecute the argument against the Democrats and the difference in policies," said South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the Republican whip, told CNN. "Stay away from personal attacks. Quit attacking the media. Quit attacking Fauci and focus on issues. He's got to stay disciplined to do it, and I think that's how you're going to win over the middle people."

In recent weeks, Republicans have been critical of the President and some of his policies.

GOP leaders have strongly opposed calls by Trump to pass a stimulus plan worth more than \$2 trillion. Some Republicans, like Texas Sen. John Cornyn, have made clear they haven't always been on the same page with the President on issues like the national debt and one GOP senator -- Ben Sasse of Nebraska -- launched a scathing attack about the President's treatment of women and flirtation with

white supremacists, warning about the ramifications for the Republican Party in a conference call with constituents leaked to the media.

"I think our party is in trouble with young people, increasingly with older people, with minorities. And those young people we were in trouble with five years ago are now voting, and so we've got some real work to do," Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, the party's 2012 presidential nominee who isn't backing Trump's reelection bid, told CNN.

Republicans in tight races, who had hoped to ride the President's coattails to victory, have little desire to align with Trump over his more incendiary attacks, including against Fauci, the respected infectious disease expert whom the President has been undermining in recent days and called a "disaster" during a call with campaign staff Monday.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, who has tied himself closely to Trump amid his neck-and-neck reelection bid in South Carolina, was sympathetic to the President's latest line of scorched-earth attacks against former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, because the President "has been accused of everything under the sun."

But Graham added: "I think in terms of Dr. Fauci, I trust his judgment."

Thom Tillis, a first-term senator from North Carolina and one of the most endangered Republicans, sided with the infectious disease expert when asked if he agreed that Fauci is a "disaster."

"I got a lot of confidence in Dr. Fauci," Tillis said.



## Process to elect ICC war crimes prosecutor stalls

Washington's decision to impose financial sanctions on the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court is overshadowing the search for her successor, with countries deadlocked over a post that has new visibility as the target of American anger.

The court's 123 member countries are due to meet in New York on 7 December when they are meant to pick a successor for Fatou Bensouda, the court's Gambian chief prosecutor, whose term expires in June.

A shortlist of four candidates has been drawn up for the nine-year term, narrowed down from a list of 14 by a panel of diplomats and experts, but in a letter, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters, the court's oversight body wrote to inform members that none of the four nominees had enough support. It proposed widening the search to include all 14 of the original candi-



*Public Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda waits for alleged jihadist leader Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud to enter the court room for his initial appearance on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands April 4, 2018. REUTERS*

dates.

Diplomats say the U.S. sanctions are not the main reason for the disagreement over the body's leadership, but the sanctions have drawn greater international attention to the process, added to the objections some countries have with the shortlist and raised the stakes of a potentially damaging fight.

"It's been a refrain from the U.S. that the ICC is not a judicial institution but a

political one. It will haunt us for nine years if the decision of who will be the new prosecutor is a political one and not a merit based one," said one diplomat.

According to diplomats, who discussed the selection process on condition of anonymity, some countries argue the four short-listed candidates lack the international stature needed to stand up to Washington, but other countries say any

decision to change the procedure so late in the process would only make the situation worse, by adding to criticism that the court has become politicised.

In a letter sent to all members on behalf of Sierra Leone and a dozen other African states, signatories objected to a "striking deviation from the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, fairness and informed decision-making".

 A promotional graphic for the 'Talking Point' radio show. It features two hosts, Dr. Maserati and Senator Colin Browne, in a radio studio setting. The background is a deep red. A logo for 'POINTE FM 99.1' is visible, with the tagline 'BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY' and 'COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE'. The text 'TALKING POINT' is prominently displayed in large white letters, followed by 'TUESDAY - FRIDAY' and '10:30AM TO 1:30PM' in yellow. The names 'DR. MASERATI' and 'SENATOR COLIN BROWNE' are at the bottom in red.
 

**TALKING POINT**  
**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**  
**10:30AM TO 1:30PM**

DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

# Google hit by landmark competition lawsuit



*Google headquarters*

The US government has filed charges against Google, accusing the company of violating competition law to preserve its monopoly over internet searches and online advertising.

The lawsuit marks the biggest challenge brought by US regulators against a major tech company in years. It follows more than a year of investigation and comes as the biggest tech firms face intense scrutiny of their practices at home and abroad.

Google called the case “deeply flawed”. The company has maintained that

its sector remains intensely competitive and that its practices put customers first.

“People use Google because they choose to - not because they’re forced to or because they can’t find alternatives,” it said.

The charges, filed in federal court, were brought by the US Department of Justice and 11 other states. The lawsuit focuses on the billions of dollars Google pays each year to ensure its search engine is installed as the default option on browsers and devices such as mobile

phones.

Officials said those deals have helped secure Google’s place as the “gatekeeper” to the internet, allowing it to own or control the distribution channels for about 80% of search queries in the US.

“Google has thus foreclosed competition for internet search,” the lawsuit said. “General search engine competitors are denied vital distribution, scale, and product recognition - ensuring they have no real chance to challenge Google.”

It added: “Google is so dominant that ‘Google’ is

not only a noun to identify the company and the Google search engine but also a verb that means to search the internet.”

The suit said the deals have hurt the public by damaging search quality in terms of privacy and data protection, reducing choice and thwarting innovation.

Sally Hubbard, who works for the Open Markets Institute, a Washington think tank that has long pushed for more aggressive action against big tech firms, said focusing on Google’s search distribution deals was one of the easiest

*cont’d on pg 21*



# Community Notices

PAGE 21

*cont'd from pg 20*

legal cases to make against the company. On Twitter she said the lawsuit had "been so long coming but it's wonderful to see".

The case could be the first

of many in the US that challenge the dominance of big tech firms and potentially lead to their break-up.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### PANACHE PAN ACADEMY

Panache Steel Orchestra is pleased to bring back the Panache Pan Academy where you can learn to play the steel pan and the fundamentals of music! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes will be separated accordingly with a maximum of ten (10) students per class. At Panache, we have strict protocols and guidelines in place for our safety and yours.

Registration is \$30.00 for the 2020/2021 academic year. Registration takes place on Saturday 24th October, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Classes are free and pan sticks will be on sale. For more information, please contact Robin Margetson: 764-5043, Maurisha Potter: 773-5494, Malik Smith: 789-0030.

### CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Halo Foundation Inc is again hosting its annual Christmas card competition which is open to youngsters aged seven (7) to eighteen (18). All entries should be 'Caribbean Christmas' themed. Deadline for submission is December 11, 2020. Call 562-5193 for more details. Prizes to be won.

### FREE MATHS CLASSES IN ST. PAUL'S

Another learning opportunity is being offered in the St. Paul's community. CXC Math classes facilitated by veteran mathematician, Anthonyson King. These classes are geared toward 4th and 5th form students and those desirous of retaking CXC Mathematics. You must be a resident of St. Paul. Classes commence on Wednesday 14th October and will continue every Wednesday at 4:00PM. Early registrations are encouraged to facilitate scheduling. All COVID-19 health protocols will be strictly enforced.

### RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Labour Department wishes to inform the public that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has decided that until further notice, work permit renewal applications are not required to be advertised by employers. ALL new work permit applications, including change of employers, MUST be accompanied by proper proof of advertisement, copies of applications received in response to job advertisement and a proper justification for the work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

### CADET CORPS REGISTRATION

Registration to the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps for children aged 13-18 will take place each Saturday in October from 9am-12.30pm at the ExServicemen Association Building, Camp Site (opposite Sagicor Insurance, close to the Prime Minister's Office). Each child should be accompanied by a parent or guardian and should have a copy of their birth certificate, a passport picture, proof that the child is enrolled in an educational institution, including the Antigua State College, ABICE, ABITT. This proof can be the acceptance letter or school bus pass, and a registration fee of EC\$25. Please wear masks and bring your own pen.

Submit your community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

DAY 10/21

31° Hi



A morning shower in places;  
otherwise, partly sunny

DAY 10/21

25° Lo



Partly cloudy

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
6:02 AM

Sunset AST  
5:41 PM



Duration  
12:39 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
10:59 AM

Moonset AST  
10:19 PM



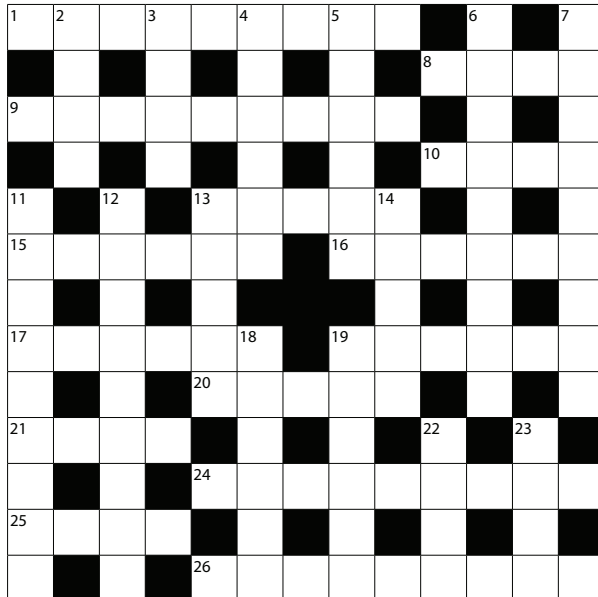
Duration  
11:20 hr

## LEISURE

## QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword

no 15,650



## Across

- 1 Museum housing collection started by Catherine the Great (9)  
 8 Pastry used for baklava (4)  
 9 Where unwanted items end up (9)  
 10 Large wading birds with down-curved bills (4)  
 13 Moved stealthily (5)  
 15 Come down (6)  
 16 Writer (6)  
 17 Earnings (6)  
 19 Inferior film (1-5)  
 20 Jerusalem's composer (5)  
 21 Individually (4)  
 24 In an ungainly way (9)  
 25 Mark of approval (4)  
 26 Accord (9)

## Down

- 6 Act up (9)  
 7 Colour — eg sermons (anag) (4,5)  
 11 Political statement of intent (9)  
 12 Film director (the 'Master of Suspense') (9)  
 13 Title holder (abbr) (5)  
 14 Stomach (informal) (5)  
 18 Eavesdrop (6)  
 19 Graze (6)  
 22 Reduce slightly (4)  
 23 Panache (4)

Solution no 15,649



## CARTOON CORNER

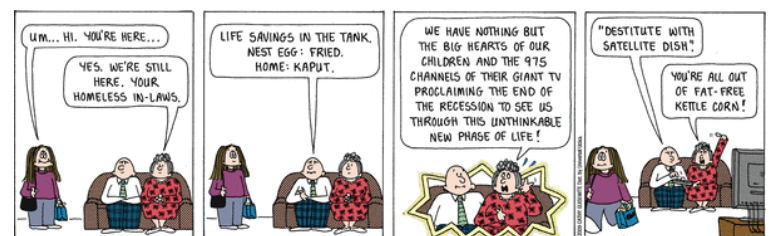
## Dilbert



## Garfield



## Cathy







## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Apply some of your charm to making one of your more ambitious goals achievable. You will be amazed by what a little charm can do! A well-timed smile can open up an important door.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** If someone from a different culture tests your patience today, don't get upset about it. This communication disconnect isn't a problem; it's an opportunity!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It's important to be as honest as you can today, but you also need to be very careful about who you tell the shocking truth to. If you spill all of your secrets to the wrong people, it will only overwhelm them. You could shock them.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Someone who holds sway over a group you belong to is not acting completely honestly right now. You'll see their subterfuge right away, but not everyone else will. And if they fall for this person's act, you'll be the one to suffer for it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Is someone disappointing you? Keep in mind that the word "friendship" means different things to different people. Be careful not to make any assumptions about what this new friendship is all about.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Being indecisive today will be both a blessing and a curse. The good part will be that your mind will start ranging in unusual directions, generating unique ideas. The bad part will be when you discover that you're not quite sure how to proceed with any of them.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You're going to have the good energy that you've been hoping for today. And it's going to help you spread some cheer to everyone you see. This means that even the grumpy folks will brighten up when you come around.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A very demanding person could test your patience today, but you can pass the test with flying colors if you maintain a good attitude. First, don't take their behavior personally. They are like this with everyone, not just you!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Something surprising could happen today, but you'll react to it well and you feel very empowered afterward. Also, you could very well get a reward in the near future for showing such grace under pressure.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Today, don't let a culture clash cause you to avoid someone or something. If you give it time, it could be a very positive experience for you in the end.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A new person is interested in getting to know you better, though they don't quite know how to communicate that effectively. In fact, their cool attitude has been sending you the wrong message entirely!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** It's all about using your imagination today. Take the time to imagine something you aren't happy with in a new and improved form, and you'll take the first step toward making it better.



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## England ODI captain says playing in bio-secured bubble is “untenable”

England players will be free to withdraw from tours if living and playing in bio-secure bubbles is impacting their mental health.

England games were played in bio-secure venues this summer because of the coronavirus pandemic, with players spending several weeks living in onsite hotels.

Similar measures are in place for the Indian Premier League and will likely be used in future tours.

“I think it’s untenable,” England ODI captain, Eoin Morgan, said.

Morgan continued, “I don’t think it’s possible. I actually think it’s probably



England ODI Captain Eoin Morgan

one of the more challenging times for anybody involved in the cricket industry.”

England played West In-

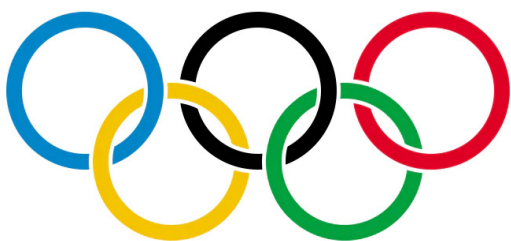
dies, Pakistan, Ireland and Australia this summer with all matches played at the Emirates Old Trafford or the

Ageas Bowl.

The teams were unable to leave the site until the end of the series and were not allowed to have their families stay with them. They were tested regularly, and visiting teams had to quarantine for several days before moving to the international venues.

Morgan expects that players will have to withdraw from international tours in the future because of the pressures associated with playing under a bubble.

England are scheduled to tour South Africa for white-ball matches next month, with tours of Sri Lanka and India to follow in early 2021.



## Russia denies trying to disrupt Olympics

Russia on Tuesday denied British and US allegations its military intelligence had orchestrated a litany of cyber attacks, including attempts to disrupt next year’s Olympics and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

London and Washington made the accusations late on Monday. Russia’s RIA news agency cited an official at the Russian embassy in Washington as saying Moscow rejected the allegations.

“It’s completely obvious

that such information releases have nothing to do with reality and are aimed

at stoking anti-Russian sentiments in US society and to trigger a witch hunt spyma-

nia, “the official was cited as saying.

## Lionel Messi’s performance “could be better”

Lionel Messi’s performance “could be better “, but the Barcelona captain is “happy” says new FC Barcelona manager, Ronald Koeman.

Messi, 33, who captains the team, tried to leave the club this summer and called the transfer saga “a brutal drama”.

He has scored one goal so far this season.

Koeman said, “I have no concerns or doubts about his efforts.”

Despite this, the Barca manager admitted that Messi’s performance at this time could be better.

“On a day-to-day basis, he’s happy and wants to play and be the team’s captain.”

Messi is in the final year of his contract.

## Talks take place over new £4.6bn tournament



Talks have taken place over the creation of a new £4.6 billion European Premier League involving the top sides from across the conti-

nent.

Sources told the BBC that discussions are still at an early stage, but the plan would involve replacing the Cham-

pions League with a new format.

While industry insiders have confirmed that the talks involved the prominent American Wall Street bank, JP Morgan, they have also indicated that the project still has a “long way to go” and added that the deal “may not

happen”.

Reports suggest that five Premier League clubs, including champions Liverpool and Manchester United, have been approached by those behind the plan, with more than a dozen teams from England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, to negotiate becoming the founding members of the competition.

It has also been reported that the European Premier League would see 18 sides compete in a single league with the top sides taking part in a play-off to determine an overall winner.

Football’s world governing body, FIFA, is involved in the discussions.

# DEWS



## TOUCH LINE

with

**VERON ‘EPLIUS’ EDWARDS Jr.  
VERNON A. SPRINGER**



POINTE FM










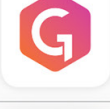
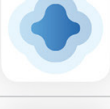
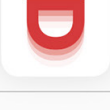
**MONDAY-FRIDAY  
7:00am - 8:30am**



**99.1 FM**



# POSTPAID PRIME BUNDLES

					
		<b>MEDIUM</b> DIGICEL PRIME BUNDLE <b>330GB</b> TOTAL DATA	<b>LARGE</b> DIGICEL PRIME BUNDLE <b>335GB</b> TOTAL DATA	<b>XL</b> DIGICEL PRIME BUNDLE <b>345GB</b> TOTAL DATA	
Any Use Data		<b>15GB</b> +	<b>20GB</b> +	<b>30GB</b> +	
Listen on D'Music		<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Songs	<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Songs	<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Songs	
Watch on PlayGo		<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Television	<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Television	<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Television	
Watch on SportsMax		<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Live Matches	<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Live Matches	<b>45GB</b> 90hrs Live Matches	
Video Chat & Messaging on BiP		<b>45GB</b> 38hrs Video Chat Unlimited Messaging	<b>45GB</b> 38hrs Video Chat Unlimited Messaging	<b>45GB</b> 38hrs Video Chat Unlimited Messaging	
Read on Loop		<b>45GB</b> 22,500 Articles	<b>45GB</b> 22,500 Articles	<b>45GB</b> 22,500 Articles	
Listen on GoLoud		<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Radio	<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Radio	<b>45GB</b> 675hrs Radio	
Upload on Billo		<b>45GB</b> 45,000 Photos	<b>45GB</b> 45,000 Photos	<b>45GB</b> 45,000 Photos	
Help on MyDigicel		<b>Free</b> 24/7	<b>Free</b> 24/7	<b>Free</b> 24/7	
		<b>\$165</b> Includes Unlimited Local Minutes	<b>\$210</b> Includes Unlimited Local Minutes	<b>\$250</b> Includes Unlimited Local Minutes	

# Contact Us

We're here for you every step of the way!

Feel free to contact us at the below numbers:

## Customer Care

- 1 268 736-1013 & 1 268 736-1014
- 100 from Digicel handset
- Live Chat Feature (Ruby) in the MyDigicel app  
BIP Message 1 268 725-5972 & 1 268 736-2307
- Email: [Antigua.SupportTeam@digicelgroup.com](mailto:Antigua.SupportTeam@digicelgroup.com)

## Home Connect

- For Migration purposes please call us at 736-4069
- For New Sign Ups please call us at 736- 2339 & 736 4080

