



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS


MONDAY 5TH MAY 2025

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ANTIGUA TRADES
& LABOUR UNION &
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
LABOUR PARTY
Presents

LABOUR Day 2025



PICNIC
DAYFETE

5 MAY
2025 3PM UNTIL

FEATURING

RICHIE SPICE | TIAN WINTER | CLAUDETTE PETERS | MENACE
SIGNAL BAND | ISLAND PRINCE | GE EVE | EMPRESS | SOCA
VILLIAN | PEETRON | SAMMY C | KID FRESH | DJ WHO | NEW GEN
BAND | SUPA D | DRASTIC | ZAMONI | YOUNG LYRICS | NI QKO
DJs: DJ Jime | Mad Ras | DJ Quest **Host: Jesse Fyah**

Danijha Simon is Miss Labour Queen, 2025



Labour Day Special Edition

Labour Day, Vere Bird, and Leadership



by Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.

Prime Minister, Leader of the ABLP
INTRODUCTION

Labour Day 1951 marked a new era in the evolution of Antigua and Barbuda from a nation hobbled by fear, to a people willing to risk all for a brighter future. The colonials felt their power slipping away; for 300 years, or since 1634, they had ruled un-challenged except for 1736 and Prince Klaas. But by 1951, the population of emancipated people saw courage in the 6-foot 7-inch male with a cadenced voice, an unblemished character, and a fearless man who exhibited multiple leadership characteristics.

LEADERSHIP PREPARED TO CHALLENGE THE ORTHODOXY

Vere Cornwall Bird, upon his return to Antigua from Trinidad and Grenada in 1929 at age 20, was focused upon his career as a Salvation Army Minister. He had been sent to the Salvationists Training Institute in Trinidad, for one year, and off to Grenada to practice the lessons taught, for an additional year. He was young, daring, possessed of a keen intellect, and training in leadership. He believed that praying to God



Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sn.

would yield solutions to those trapped in poverty.

HISTORY ALTERED BY SPEECHES

Vere Bird took a wife of high standing on 26 June 1935, and was preparing to carve out a place in the Antiguan society for himself, when two major events changed his trajectory. On 1st November 1937, Vere Bird listened to a lecture delivered by Marcus Garvey in the Anglican Schoolroom, just east of the Cathedral. *The Power of Man to Change His Circumstances*. God gave man the intellect to think and to create; all civilizations came from the design of men, not God, Garvey intoned. Vere Bird was converted.

Then, on 1st January 1939, Vere Bird returned to that same schoolroom where the President of the British Trade Union Congress, Sir Walter Citrine, addressed a group of about 200 restless young men and women. *"You need to organize into a trade union and fight for higher wages,"* Citrine proffered.

Citrine was a member of a five-person Royal Commission sent out to the West Indies to enquire into the social unrest that was taking place in virtually every British West Indian territory. Fair wages and conditions of work

fell too far behind European standards. He proposed the introduction of trade unions, despite a 1931 law which virtually outlawed unions; he would get the sugar barons to agree to change the law, in exchange for which they would receive subsidies for their sugar exports to Britain.

16 JANUARY 1939 – A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY

The creation of the AT&LU on 16 January 1939, or 86 years ago, marked the beginning of a New Jerusalem. People placed their faith in Vere Bird and the Union after he took leadership in January 1944. He would lead that transformative institution until 1969, or for 25 years. What happened on 1st May 1951 brought the Union's defiant leadership into the light. The AT&LU celebrated Labour Day without the benefit of law. It was not a holiday then, and would not become a holiday until 1954. Capital blinked. A strike that lasted from May 1951 to May 1952 showed promise and change. *We will drink pond water, eat cockles and widdy-widdy bush, but we shall not surrender,*" Vere Bird told the poor and illiterate members of the AT&LU. Despite their poor wages and the absence of alternative employment, workers withheld their labour for a year. Capital blinked.

VERE BIRD EMBODIED THE BEST IN LEADERSHIP

The emancipated people of Antigua and Barbuda prayed for sterling leadership. God delivered Vere Cornwall Bird. He embodied the very best in leadership, guiding his small island-country from colonial rule to full sovereignty after 50 years of leadership: 1944 to 1994. He is the greatest Antigua and Barbuda citizen to be born on this earth, and we continue to revere him. God bless the AT&LU, the ABLP, and Vere Cornwall Bird!

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TIAN WINTER

Labour Day Message 2025 by Hon. E.P. Chet Greene



Hon. E.P. Chet Greene

Chairman of Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

Chairman of Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

Workers, Labour leaders, youths of Antigua and Barbuda, today we pause to honor the sweat, sacrifice and solidarity that built our nation. Today, we pay homage to the giants whose shoulders we stand upon. Visionaries like Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr. whose unwavering resolve birthed the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU) in 1939 alongside union stalwarts such as Reginald Stevens (first president from 1939-1944), Novelle Richards and other trailblazers. It was Sir V.C. Bird second president from 1944-1969, who championed the rights of sugar plantation workers, confronting exploitation and igniting a movement that led to historic strikes, fair wages and ultimately, our political independence in 1981. Their combined courage laid the foundation for Labour Day itself; a day etched in our calendar to celebrate workers' dignity and the power of collective action.

In my capacity as chairman of the ABLP, I proudly commend the AT&LU, our oldest trade union, for its indelible role in shaping our social and

economic fabric. Our nation's progress has also been fortified by the enduring contributions of sister unions like the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU), the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (ABPSA), the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) and the Antigua and Barbuda Free Trade Union (ABFTU). Each of these institutions, in its own right, has contributed to the upliftment of workers and amplified the voices of the marginalized. Together, they form the bedrock of our labour movement. I encourage us to treat all unions as sacred trusts, reminders that unity and perseverance can move mountains. To every union member and leader, your legacy is our compass. Guard it fiercely, innovate wisely and remain steadfast in your mission of service.

Today's workers face new frontiers; digital transformation, climate resilience and a post-COVID world demanding adaptability. Rights remain non-negotiable; fair wages, safe workplaces and protections against discrimination. However, with rights also come responsibilities. As we rebuild our tourism-driven economy and diversify industries, each worker must embrace lifelong learning, productivity and a commitment to national development. As we celebrate labour day 2025, I implore us to embrace technology, champion sustainability and prioritize mental health, ensuring that no one is left behind in Antigua and Barbuda's progress.

The pandemic has reshaped our world, compelling a "national reset" that includes reimagined workplaces and resilient economies. To AT&LU, ABWU, ABPSA, ABUT, ABFTU and all other unions, this moment demands leadership anchored in integrity. Foster trust between workers, employers and the government. Reject divisiveness and embrace dialogue. Advocate

not just for better pay but also for solutions that balance worker welfare with business viability and national interest. As we prepare for automation and gig work, let unions innovate by fighting for upskilling, social safety nets and equitable growth. Let collaboration, not competition, define our approach. We can build a future where resilience and shared prosperity are not only ideals but realities. This can only be done by working together.

On this Labour Day, I implore every citizen, union members and leaders to unite with purpose. Let us honor Sir VC Bird's legacy by bridging divides, amplifying collaboration and putting the nation above self. Whether in agriculture, commerce, construction, hospitality, classrooms or digital spaces our collective labor fuels Antigua and Barbuda's ascent. To the unions, (AT&LU, ABWU and the ABPSA) stand firm for private and public-sector workers' empowerment. To the ABUT your mission of nurturing our educators and students in a wholesome and responsible environment is a national imperative. Combining your advocacy for innovation in non-traditional sectors is paramount if we are to successfully navigate the challenges ahead. Together, we are stronger.

As the sun rises on our 44th year of independence, let us move forward with the same fire that ignited our labor movement back in 1939. For in solidarity, there is strength; in unity, our victory.

Happy Labour Day 2025! May we continue to build a nation where every worker thrives and every dream finds wings.

God bless Antigua & Barbuda

Hon. E.P. Chet Greene

Chairman of Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

The importance of Labour Day to Identity and Power



By AT&LU President Bernard De-Nully

Seven years following the 16th of January, 1939's creation of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU), the first trade union created in Antigua, the Union launched its very first Manifesto. It was a supplement to the Workers' Voice Newspaper published on the 18th of May, 1946. That organic document has served as a blueprint for building what the Union declared "A New Antigua". The leaders of the greatest institution, we refer to them now as the 39ers, conceived by the emancipated people of a poor and decrepit colonial outpost, wished to alter their people's identity and the object of their existence.

For three hundred years, from 1632 when the colonial masters landed, until 1939 when trade unionism was permitted under law, the minority who controlled all legislative and economic power-relations, ensured that the emancipated people could not progress under their

designed system of exclusion. The scars of false freedom that mentally abused and frustrated people, keeping them imprisoned in a state of stagnation was as brutal as slavery itself. The Union's Manifesto of 1946 threatened to unravel the network of chains and crosses, intended to keep the emancipated people prisoners of colonial servitude.

It addressed first and foremost the issue of "**West Indian Nationhood**": "The final aim and paramount principle of all political planning in the West Indies is the development of a mature West Indian people expressing themselves in a distinct culture, able to hold their own as an adult group in the community of nations..." Systematically, the first Manifesto of the Union, one-page long, addressed constitutional reform, improvement of education, better healthcare and superior housing, full development of natural resources and the reformation of social services.

Bear in mind that the United Nations had been founded less than one year earlier, in August of 1945; its Charter addressed the object of self-determination, and respect for the rights of peoples to govern themselves. The Europeans, having fought six years of homicidal warfare, in which millions were killed, were severely weakened and their empires crumbling. Weakened, the colonials could not fight back as the anti-colonial movement began to intensify its struggle.

In 1947, the five persons who were elected to the Legislative Coun-

cil on the Labour ticket, moved a resolution to declare the 1st of May each year a Workers' Holiday—Labour Day. That resolution was defeated. Under the rules, the same resolution had to wait until the next sitting of Parliament to re-introduce a resolution addressing the same subject. That opportunity arose in 1949 when the AT&LU's elected members tried again and once more their resolution was defeated. Conscious that they could not succeed with having Labour Day declared a lawful holiday, the AT&LU determined that all members would take-off the 1st of May, 1951.

On the of 1st of May, 1951, thousands of workers gathered at Emancipation House, 46 North Street, then marched in solidarity to Fort James for a picnic in full camaraderie. That defiant act, led by Union's President, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, changed forever the relations between labour and capital. It ended 200 years of fear-induced governance when in October 1736, eighty-eight (88) brave men and women were executed in Antigua for having planned a revolution to end slavery.

The AT&LU became the inheritors of a tradition of courage and fearlessness. It had altered forever the identity of the Antiguan personality and the relation between labour and capital on Labour Day 1951. I thank the Almighty Father for the blessing of the AT&LU and I proudly state the Unity of Labour is the Salvation of our Country.

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FEATURING

SIGNAL BAND

Danijha Simon is Miss Labour Queen, 2025



Danijha Simon, the delegate representing the St. John's Rural South constituency in the 2025 Labour Queen Pageant held Friday night at the American University of Antigua Conference Centre, is the new Labour Queen for ABLB/AT&LU.

Danijha won two of the five judged segments – Best Interview and Best Performing Talent – on her way to winning the crown in what has been described as certainly one of the best Labour Queen Pageants ever. It was also the first time that the show was being held at the newly constructed venue at AUA. This is perhaps one reason why the turnout was the largest crowd seen for a Labour Queen show with the hall packed to capacity.

"I'm so shocked now...I can't find the words here and now to truly express the joy that I am feeling at this moment and how



grateful I am," Danijha told Point Express newspaper moments after she was crowned.

She also spoke about the hard work she put into her preparations for the pageant.

"I went out there and I gave it my very best and I am just happy to be Miss Labour Queen 2025. I know this journey is not ending here, it is taking me further and I am ready for it," Danijha declared.

She praised her efforts in 'giving my best' for giving her the edge over the other eight delegates competing in a very competitive show. "I didn't stop anywhere that I may have felt that I fell down, I just kept going and going fighting to the end. This is what eventually claimed the title in the end," she indicated.

The first runner up in the pageant went to, Christine Powell - St. John's City West, 2nd runner-up is Abi-

gail Piper - St. John's Rural North, while, the 3rd Runner up: Aaliyah Taylor - St. John's Rural West.

Meanwhile, there has been much kudos expressed to both the show's production group, Marsh and Marsh Productions for a pageant that was produced at a very high standard. Brucilla Marsh, in particular, was praised for her creativity and her ability to get the best out of the contestants.

Regarding the venue, there has been much positive comments for the decision to take the show at the AUA Conference Centre. "This is now the standard in terms of a venue that we should accept from our people going forward. Having the show here has been one of the best decisions ever," said Urban Renewal Minister, Rawdon Turner to one of his Cabinet colleagues at the end of the show.

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RICHIE SPICE

Labour Day Special



PM wants former Miss Universe, Jamaica's Lisa Hanna, to work with Labour Queen contestants



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is demonstrating that he is serious when he says he wants a role for the Labour Queen Pageant delegates to be formalized into a key institution within the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

Speaking on the *Browne and Browne* show on Saturday, PM Browne says the high standard of delegates that the show is attracting, he is moved to make something permanent or them to advance within the ABLP.

One of the ideas he hopes to pursue is to have the former Miss Universe, Jamaica's, Lisa Hann, who later went on to serve in the Jamaican parliament, to hold some sessions with the delegates, current and former.

"Whereas in the past we never focused in a significant way on the subsequent development of these individuals, I think we now have to recognize that they would have to play, based on their skills, a significant role in the country going forward and we have to create a space at the table for them," he remarked.

According to the prime minister, the arrangements to formalize the pageant delegates into a formal group within the ABLP will take place over the coming weeks.

"I am also thinking about calling my friend, Lisa Hanna, the former Miss Universe from Jamaica, if she is available, to get her to address them and advise them on how they can make the

transition from pageantry into governance. As you know, she is a celebrated parliamentarian and one who, almost emerged as the leader of one of the major parties in Jamaica," the prime minister observed.

PM Browne said he is hoping that Hanna would be available 'to help us' by taking on the challenge of speaking with the young ladies here in Antigua and Barbuda and to be a role model and motivator.

The prime minister noted that this year's delegates are all well-educated and are pursuing tertiary level education or about to pursue higher learning. He said he is quite impressed with them as a group and it is his desire to see them play a meaningful role in the nation's growth and development now and in the future.

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HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

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MENACE XL

SJRS MP and Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew congratulates Labour Queen 2025



The Member of Parliament for the St. John's Rural South and Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, has described last Friday's Labour Queen Pageant as a show of a 'very high quality'.

Speaking moments after Danijha Simon, the delegate representing his constituency, was crowned Labour Queen 2025, Minister Matthew said he was 'quite impressed' with the overall standard of the show.

"I just want to say that the show was of an extremely high quality, very competitive show and I want to congratulate all of the young ladies who participated. For Danijha to come and rise to the top to emerge the winner...I am so excited, so elated and proud. I must however state that it was no 'blow-out' victory by any stretch of the imagination and I want to commend every single participant in the show, even as I am happy to be the sponsor of the



winning girl," he stated.

Minister Matthew feels that all the other ministers and caretakers should be equally proud of the performances of their delegates.

Speaking about the venue, Minister Matthew described it was 'Next level'.

"As we say in the ABLP, the venue is 'next level'. The crowd came out, it was an indoor venue

and it showed the sort of facilities that we have here in Antigua and Barbuda and the things that we can do when we have excellent facilities. I was saying to the prime minister earlier that we can't go back downtown to the *People's Place* because we have taken this show to such a high caliber show with a high quality production that the show just tops it off," Matthew remarked.

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FEATURING

CLAUDETTE PETERS

List of Prizes for Miss Labour Queen Pageant, 2025

**Miss photogenic**

- ☐ Phone charger stand and selfie stick and gift certificate Island Photo

Miss congeniality

- ☐ Leather portfolio, Cross pen set and cell phone screen amplifier

The renaissance award

- ☐ Gift certificate from Exotic Antigua, leather portfolio, Cross pen set

Leadership award

- ☐ Tablet and Land Leather portfolio

Best Performing Talent –

- ☐ Neck massager and under desk bike

Best Evening Gown

- ☐ Gift certificate from Whitestone Boutique, table top sewing machine

Best Swimwear –

- ☐ Beach hat, bag, towel and cover up

Best Introductory Speech –

- ☐ Gold leather portfolio, phone charger clock stand

Best Interview

- ☐ 10-inch tablet
- ☐ phone charger
- ☐ clock stand

Miss Labour Queen 2025: Danijha

Simon, St. John's Rural South,

- ☐ \$8,000
- ☐ PM Scholarship
- ☐ 65-inch TV
- ☐ Pandora bracelet with charm
- ☐ Leather weekend duffle and leather travel document holder
- ☐ Land bag
- ☐ Suitcase
- ☐ 10-inch table with keyboard
- ☐ Beach folding chair

1st Runner-Up: Christine Powell - St. John's City West

- ☐ \$6,000
- ☐ 50-inch TV
- ☐ Electronic walking pad
- ☐ Gold earrings
- ☐ Suitcase
- ☐ Leather passport holder and luggage tag

- ☐ Beach folding chair

2nd Runner-Up: Abigail Piper - St. John's Rural North

- ☐ \$4,000
- ☐ Hair conditioning system
- ☐ Electronic walking pad
- ☐ Beach folding chair
- ☐ Leather passport holder with belt and keying
- ☐ Perfume set

3rd Runner-Up: Aaliyah Taylor - St. John's Rural West

- ☐ \$3,000
- ☐ Electronic walking pad
- ☐ Beach folding chairs
- ☐ Leather passport holder with belt and key ring
- ☐ Perfume set

Miss photogenic - Abigail Piper - St. John's Rural North**Miss Renaissance (Most improved) - Cyczique Teague - St. Paul****Leadership Award - Danijha Simon St. John's Rural South****Best Speech - Tia James St. John's Rural East****Best Swimsuit - Amiaha James - St. Mary's South****Best Evening Gown - Aaliyah Taylor - St. John's Rural West****Best Performing Talent - Danijha Simon St. John's Rural South****Best Interview - Danijha Simon St. John's Rural South****Appreciation/ Special Thanks – From Sen. Shenella Govia**

Chairman of the Labour Queen committee thanked her members of the Labour Queen committee

Deputy Chair: Shenique Barry

Members: Samantha Albert, Sanka Riley, Stephon Hector, Carolyn Quimby Jarvis, Rushell Ellis, and Debbie Collins.

Special thanks to:

Derrica Watson, Laurel Jonas, Caleb Gardiner, Neilson Duberry

Big Shout out: Marsh and Marsh Production**Sponsors**

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Hon EP Chet Greene
Hon Charles Max Fernandez
Hon Maria Browne
Hon Daryll Matthew
Senator Dwayne George
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Randy Baltimore

Whitestone Boutique

Land Leather

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Labour Day Special



Cde. Rufus Adolphus Lewis OM was born on the 9th of July, 1927. He was only 15 years old when his mother signed him up to be a member of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) shortly after the Union was established on the 16th of January, 1939.

In 1954, Comrade Lewis was elected secretary of the Union's Section in Swetes. In 1961, he became Shop Steward for Non-Established Workers at the Public Works Department. While serving on the AT&LU Executive Committee, Comrade Lewis also served as a member of the National Labour Board and the National Minimum Wage Committee. Moreover, he participated in numerous local and international training courses relating to industrial relations and represented the AT&LU at several conferences and seminars locally and internationally as well. Comrade Lewis served for twenty-two (22) unbroken years on the AT&LU's Executive Committee where he ascended to 1st Vice President and retired in 2001.

In celebration of the 74th Anniversary of Labour Day in Antigua & Barbuda. The AT&LU appreciates and thank you, **Cde. Rufus A. Lewis OM** for your dedication, advocacy and loyalty to the Labour Movement and the Working Class. May the Almighty Father continue to bless and protect you.

Profile of Hiroy Reginald Humphreys



Born December 19th, 1949 in the village of Sea View Farm

Schooling at Sea View Farm primary school then Goodwill Academy Secondary School.

First employed as a teacher at the Sea View Farm Primary School.

Left teaching to begin an apprenticeship at Monroe Spencer Heavy Duty Equipment Company where he learnt to operate heavy duty equipment. Six months later he began another apprenticeship at Richardson Steel Fabricating Works in welding and fabricating of burglar bars and furniture.

In 1969 he applied for a job at Geo. W. Benneth Bryson and was successfully employed as an accounts clerk, because of his penchant for hard work and his keen eye for detail he was transferred to the Head Office where he became Office Manager, then Internal Auditor and trouble-shoot. During his tenure at Bryson, he acted in various capacities; Manager of the Wholesale, Supermarket and Bottling Plant Divisions.

During his early years, at age 9 or ten, he was an active member of the

Antigua Trades and Labour Union juvenile section in his village and progressed to be a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. His involvement in the party was noticed and he was elected to be the Leader of the Youth Arm of the party. His upbringing at the party was noted, especially by the political leader Vere Cornwall Bird on matters pertaining to the history of the party and the country. Due to his tenacity, he was liaising with the leader on Fridays before the start of executive meetings.

In 1980, he was invited to run for the party in All Saints Constituency where he was successful in winning the seat by 9 votes. He became a Parliamentary Secretary in the Min-

istry of Economic Development and Tourism. He ran in the elections of 1984, '89, '94 and '99 when he was also successful. As an elected parliamentarian he was very effective in the defense of his constituents. During his time in the government, he performed as Minister of Public Works, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Trade and Minister of Health.

He will be remembered for the hard work he performed in getting the Dialysis Departed established in Antigua and also for the Emergency Medical Service as it's known today.

He is one of the Trustees of the Party.



Labour Day 2025

Monday 5TH May 2025

Saint John's Rural East

BUS PICK UP SCHEDULE



Pick up times/ locations

- 8:30 AM - Clare Hall Secondary School
- 8:45 AM - Pumkin School/ D Gala
- Drops off to VC Bird Bust then to **Fort James**
- The bus will leave Fort James at 6PM

 **268-783-3235**

The Labour Movement: Paving the Path for Political Leadership in Antigua and the OECS



By Garfield Joseph

Introduction:

Imagine a world where your voice is unheard, your rights are ignored, and your future is uncertain. This was the reality for many workers in Antigua and other OECS countries before the rise of the labour movement. The struggle for workers' rights not only transformed the lives of countless individuals but also laid the foundation for political leadership that continues to shape the region today. This article explores the historical context of the labour movement, the leaders who championed workers' rights, and the new generation of leaders who are driving economic and financial progress in the OECS.

Historical Context:

The labour movement in Antigua and the OECS countries emerged as a powerful force in the early 20th century, driven by the need to address exploitative working conditions and social injustices. In Antigua, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, a key figure in the labour

movement, fought tirelessly for better working conditions and increased pay for sugar workers. Bird's role in the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU) and his subsequent political career set the stage for significant social and economic reforms.

Similarly, in St. Kitts, Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw played a pivotal role in advocating for workers' rights. Bradshaw's involvement in the St. Kitts and Nevis Trades and Labour Union and his leadership in the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Labour Party were instrumental in securing better wages and working conditions for sugar workers. These leaders not only championed workers' rights but also paved the way for political leadership that would drive national development.

The New Generation of Leaders:

Today, the legacy of these labour movement leaders is carried forward by a new generation of political leaders in the OECS. Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit of Dominica, Prime Minister Terrance Drew of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada are at the forefront of driving economic and financial progress in the region.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne:

Gaston Browne has been a transformative leader for Antigua and Barbuda, focusing on economic growth and social development. Under his leadership, Antigua

and Barbuda has seen significant improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Browne's policies have aimed at attracting foreign investment, boosting tourism, and creating job opportunities, thereby enhancing the economic stability of the nation.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit:

Roosevelt Skerrit, the longest-serving Prime Minister of Dominica, has been a key figure in regional integration efforts. His leadership has been marked by a commitment to sustainable development and resilience in the face of natural disasters. Skerrit's economic policies have focused on diversifying the economy, promoting renewable energy, and improving social services. His efforts have strengthened Dominica's position within the OECS and CARICOM.

Prime Minister Terrance Drew:

Terrance Drew, the current Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, has brought a fresh perspective to leadership with his background in medicine and public health. Drew's administration has prioritized healthcare reform, social security improvements, and economic diversification. His recent pension reform bill is set to provide greater financial security for government workers, reflecting his commitment to social equity and economic stability.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell:

Dickon Mitchell, the newly elected Prime Minister of Grenada, has already made a significant impact with his leadership. At the Citizenship by Investment Conference, Mitchell demonstrated his depth of knowledge and ability to analyze and communicate complex issues. His focus on good governance, economic development, and sustainability reflects his dedication to transparency and progress. Mitchell's commitment to these principles is set to drive Grenada forward, building on the legacy of past leaders like Dr. Keith Mitchell. Additionally, Dickon Mitchell has the unique opportunity to learn from the more seasoned Prime Ministers who have been in office for multiple terms. This mentorship and collaboration can enhance his leadership skills and contribute to Grenada's progress.

Impressions from the Citizenship by Investment Conference:

At the recent Citizenship by Investment Conference, held here in Antigua, the Prime Ministers and Attorney General from five OECS countries showcased their exceptional leadership and deep understanding of the issues facing the region. Their ability to analyze and communicate the opportunities and threats with both intellect and empathy was truly inspiring. This conference highlighted their commitment to building on the legacy of leaders like Vere Cornwall Bird, Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw, Eugenia Charles, and others.

The Future of Political Leadership:

As we look to the future, it is essential that those aspiring for political office possess not only a

love for their people but also the capacity to navigate the complexities of economic, financial, and social challenges. The current leaders have set a high standard, demonstrating that effective leadership requires a blend of humility, courage, intellectual prowess, and a genuine commitment to the well-being of the region.

Conclusion:

The labour movement in Antigua and the OECS countries has been a catalyst for change, empowering workers and shaping the political landscape. The legacy of leaders like Vere Cornwall Bird and Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw continues to inspire the new generation of leaders who are driving economic and financial progress in the region. We have

come a long way, and it is crucial for young people to engage with and support these leaders in their efforts to build a more equitable and prosperous OECS. Let us continue to set the bar high and hold each other accountable for the safety and prosperity of our respective countries. Your voice matters, and together, we can continue to pave the way for positive change.

Call to Action:

Join the movement for progress and equity in the OECS. Stay informed, get involved, and support policies that promote social justice and economic development. Your participation is key to shaping a brighter future for all.



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Why Side With Our Antagonists?

By Cecil E. W. Wade

The Transatlantic Slave Trade began about 1620, when Europeans started to purchase people from West Africa to provide free labour on the sugar plantations in the Americas. Those countries became wealthy by way of enslaved labour while the slaves remained destitute, existing in inhuman conditions, as they were counted as assets on the balance sheet of the plantation owners, since they produced wealth, and as liabilities because they had to be maintained.

When, after a short lifespan, they became non-productive, they were either disbanded or sometimes buried alive.

When slavery was abolished, the owners were compensated for their loss of business, while the former enslaved people were left desolate, with nothing more than the names of their slave masters imposed upon them.

During their productive years, the enslaved people, who did not choose suicide over slavery, were obviously inspired by the hope that their tenacity would augur well for better existing conditions of their descendants.

Following colonialism, we the descendants of enslaved people, through many trials and tribulations, achieved a position of sovereignty, and perceived independence. But today, because of our misguided notion of the lack of love and respect for ourselves and each other; and in spite of having a large amount of examples from our ancestors to emulate, we remain inert, still programed by the effects of the divide and rule strategy used by our oppressors, instead of being impressed and inspired by the works and teaching of our forebears:

Marcus Garvey was a Black Jamaican-born Nationalist who founded The United Negro Improvement As-



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

sociation (UNIA). His legacy can be summed up in the philosophy he taught – race pride, the need for African unity and self-reliance; the need for black people to be organized and become rulers to govern on behalf of the working classes.



Harriet Tubman

He admonished: *“Up you mighty race! You can accomplish what you will. Liberate the minds of men and ultimately you will liberate the bodies of men.”*

Harriet Tubman was an American social activist who escaped slavery and made 13- Missions, at the risk of her life, to rescue enslaved family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses, known collectively as the Underground Railroad.

When she became ill and was useless to her owner he tried to sell her. But she prayed to God to change his heart or kill him. He subsequently died and she regretted her earlier sentiments, but continued her work along the railroad.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson was an African-American historian, author, activist, and professor. He is fondly remembered as the father of Black History, who initiated Black History Month. He authored *The Miseducation of the Negro* which is held in high esteem as a source of inspiration and learning for black people.

“---- The educated white man differs from the educated Negro who readily forsakes the belated element of his race. When a white man sees an element of his race trending downwards to a level of disgrace, he does not rest until he works out some plan to lift such unfortunates to higher ground; but the Negro forgets the delinquents of his race, as he has done in leaving the masses in the popular churches.”

There is a lot more knowledge and inspiration that we, the descendants of enslaved ancestry could derive from our forebears, and contemporaries like Vivian Richards and Ibrahim Traore. Mahatma Gandhi, Booker T. Washington, Malcom X, Stokely Carmichael, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Franz Fanon, Dr. Eric Williams, CLR James, Mary Prince, Olaudah Equiano, Dr. Walter Rodney, Nelson Mandela, King Court, Hercules and Tom Boy, Reginald Stevens, Luther George, Vere

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Bird, and Louis Farrakhan.

Did these pioneers die in vain? Because today, we take up cudgel for our oppressors against our own people. Our ancestors would be heartbroken on account of the valiant efforts they expended in our behalf. When we look at the Half Moon Bay debacle and others, the Mehul Choksi saga, and recently, the Alfa Nero satire, with the objective to discredit our leaders and denigrate our sovereign country, we see the decadence and disunity of our society.

How could we support an inconsequential Caucasian woman, demanding accountability from our leaders, and a report on the disposition of the funds of our country? In our local parlance: *She dam farad!*

The political bias in Antigua and Barbuda is so potent that it causes us to foster hate, envy and jealous, to the

extent that we tend to employ the *Scorch Earth Syndrome* in order to attain power, even though the political marauders, on attaining power, would have to start rebuilding from scratch. But, maybe that is par for the course, since we are not cultured to generate generational wealth, so as to negate our successors from having to always start from a position of destitution!

So, our opposition leaders declare: *My job in opposition is to oppose. And my job is to bring down the government.* Being oblivious to the fact that we are self-destructive!

Perhaps we should harken to the teachings of the great Lebanese philosopher, Khalil Gibran when he wrote an article to his people in the Middle East, in Arabic, about one hundred years ago, translated either, *The New Deal*, or *The New Frontier*.

He wrote: "Come and tell me who and

what are you.

Are you a politician asking *what your country can do for you* or a zealous one asking *what you can do for your country*?

If you are the first, then you are a parasite, if the second, then you are an oasis in a desert.

On the walls of many American homes hangs a plaque commemorating the statement of the late John F. Kennedy: *Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.*

Perhaps we, as descendants of African enslaved people in this fair state of ours, need to consolidate, in the prudence of that narrative, to the benefit ourselves and our country.



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The Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU) 74th Labour Day Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving at the Gracehill Moravian Church, Liberta Village, St. Paul.



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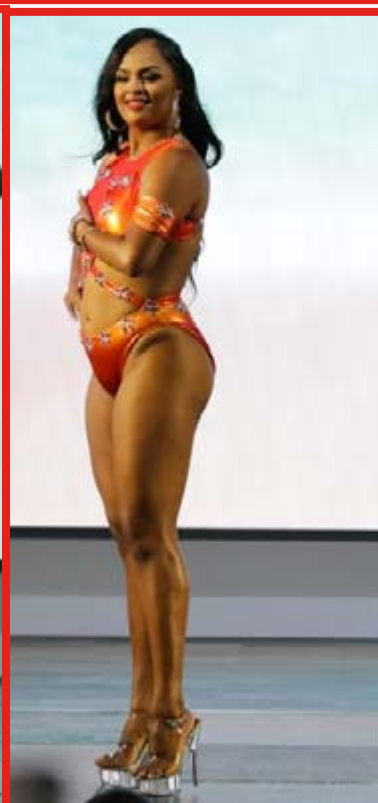
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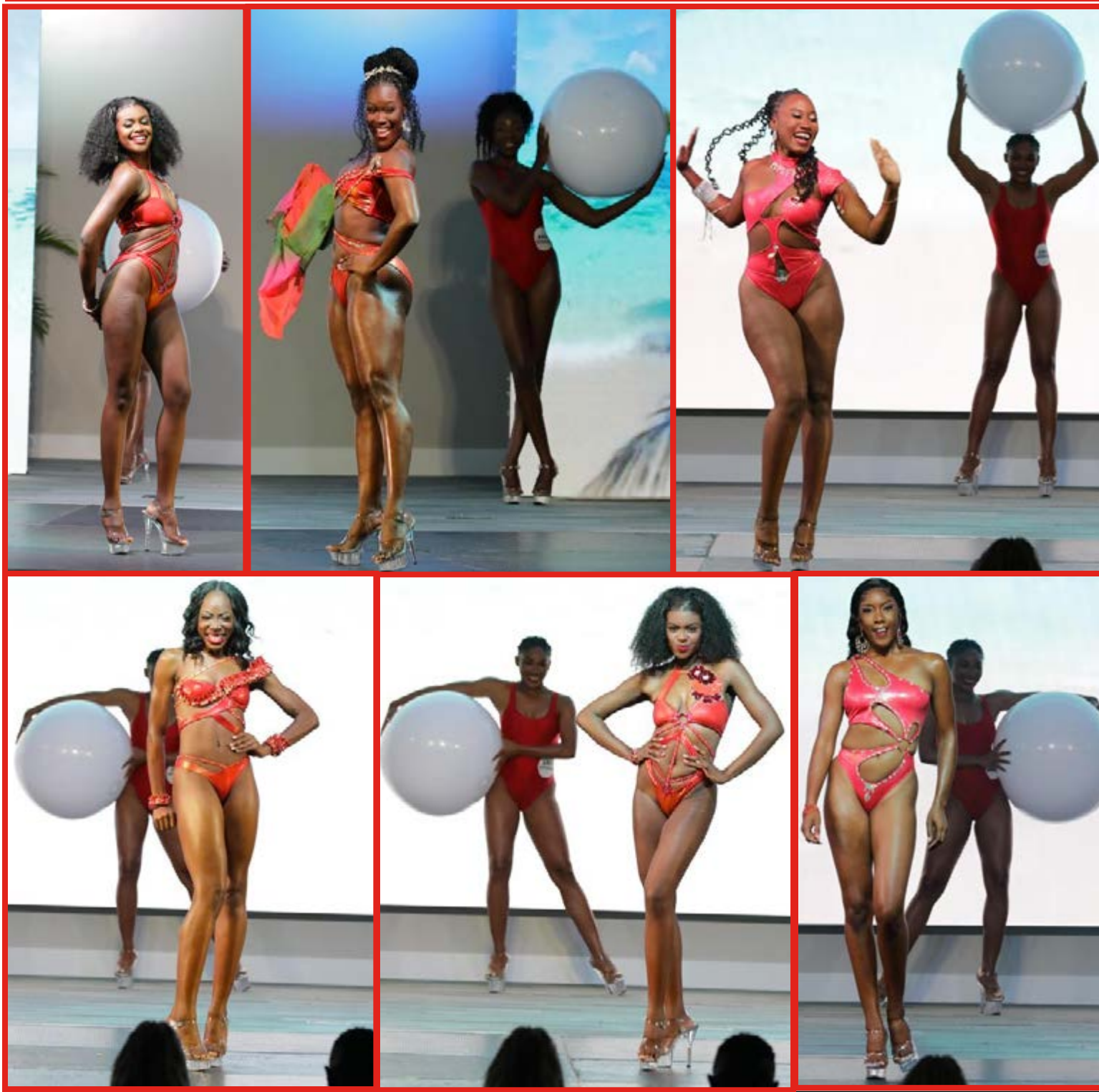


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select group of only three boats that have won the Lord Nelson Trophy on three occasions. Sir Peter Harrison's Farr 115 Sojana won in 2011, 2018 and 2019, while Larry Ellison's Farr designed Maxi Sayonara was victorious in 1997, 1998 and 2000. In addi-

tion, an earlier El Ocaso, a J/120, won the trophy back in 2012.

This year competitors at Antigua Sailing Week were challenged by a wider than usual range of conditions, from light, shifty and tactically challenging race days down to some really windy squally days on which sharp

boat handling paid dividends. Entries came from 17 different countries, with the 24 different race winners including crews from as far afield as Finland and Australia.

Over the course of the regatta 65 per cent of the fleet scored at least one podium finish, while Roy Disney's

turbocharged Volvo 70 Pyewacket, in **CSA Racing Class 1**, was the only boat to take both line honours and victory on corrected time in every race. Adrian Lee's HH66 Lee Overlay Partners III won the Performance Multihull category.

El Ocaso takes historic Lord Nelson Trophy victory at Antigua Sailing Week



Antigua, May 3, 2025: After a week of intensely close racing, Steve Rigby's chartered J/122 El Ocaso, triumphed in CSA Racing Class 3, and claimed Antigua Sailing Week's most coveted prize, the Lord Nelson Trophy. This recognises the CSA Racing 2, 3 or 4 class winner with the fastest overall corrected times calculated on a time-on-

distance basis.

At the start of the final day of racing several boats were still in contention to win each of these classes. "We started today in second place, so we're really surprised to win," says Rigby, "but we had an amazing first race of the day and won the second as well. We're delighted."

"There are five boats that

could have won this regatta," he adds. "We've won four races and the next boat won three, so it's been very competitive and it really could have been anyone's regatta, so we're delighted, despite the boat's success in the past. It feels like the most competitive regatta that El Ocaso has ever been in."

What's the appeal of An-

tigua Sailing Week? "The seas are amazing. The weather's amazing. It's been rather rainy this week, but despite that, we had amazing racing, so we love coming here," Rigby continues. "We love the people, we love what happens here and can't wait to come back next year."

El Ocaso is now one of a
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