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TEEN TIMES

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SXM students take part in Math A-lympiad

By Sakir de Castro

Once again four Milton Peters College students have participated in the Mathematics A-lympiad competition in the Netherlands. The Mathematics A-lympiad competition is a real world mathematics team event with open-ended assignments. The Mathematics A-lympiad competition provides appropriate tasks to practice problem solving or modelling skills in mathematics.

Originally, the Math A-lympiad was a Dutch competition among 17/18-year olds, grades 11/12 (Havo 4/5 & VWO 5/6) which started with a few schools back in 1987-1988. At present, 110 Dutch schools participate in this annual competition and, since 1995, Danish schools are also participating. The numbers have now grown to 45 high schools: Germany, Aruba and St. Maarten have been participating for a couple of years. Since 2008 Iran has also been participating and next year Japan will be taking part.

Milton Peters College student Sabrina Carty tells of her experience in this year's Mathematics A-lympiad competition: "This was one of my most

interesting experiences ever. When our team arrived to the opening of the competition, there was definitely a strange atmosphere. But I wasn't surprised. With so many different countries, it was bound to be awkward at first.

"Throughout the competition, the teams would take breaks to "socialize" with other teams. We did try mingling with others. We mingled with the girls from Iran who were fascinated by different cultures and the occasional Dutch team member who would ask us where exactly St. Maarten was. That was really entertaining for me. "The following day, we rushed to put the finishing touches on our report. We were all cranky. I mean, how could we not have been? We had been doing math for an entire day with just a few hours of sleep. Despite that, we turned it in and made a great presentation.

I really had a wonderful experience and tons of fun. I hope our results will make this experience even better."

The MPC students will be receiving their results in mid-April.



From left: Ginonne Severina VWO 4; Sabrina Carty VWO 5; Adonis Jacobs VWO 5; Daron L. Brison VWO 5; Milton Peters math and physics teacher, Mr. Blankendaal.



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Readers are Leaders recognized



Winner Reading Competition
First Place Luis Hurtault.



Winner Reading Competition
Second Place Tifiana Escallier.



Winner Reading Competition
Third Place Vincent Ramsami.

By Hazel Alberts

On Thursday, March 31, the Readers are Leaders end of term event took place to recognize accomplished members. To start off the function, Readers are Leaders advisor Karia Arnold addressed the gathering followed by a slide

show featuring photos of all active readers and a paragraph stating why each had joined Readers are Leaders.

The presidents of Readers are Leaders and Rotary Sunrise Club gave speeches; free snacks and drinks

were available; and each reader, including those who signed up that night, received a bag containing hand sanitizer and a USB flash drive among other items. Every active reader was awarded a reading achievement certificate and, as part of being a reader was the read-

ing competition; readers who got the most points for reading books, writing reports and doing their posting on Facebook got a prize.

First place winner Luis Hurtault, second place winner Tifiana Escallier and third place winner

Vincent Ramsami each received a brand new Kindle (E-book reader). Everyone who attended the event also got the opportunity to sign up for the new Readers are Leaders term which will begin in August, with the new school year.

St. Dominic High School

Creative Arts Workshop

By Kristen Sorton

During the final week of January, St. Dominic High School's first and second formers participated in the school's biannual Creative Arts Workshop. Students dabbled in a range of different art forms from rap, hip hop dancing and creative writing to video editing, photography and cake decorations.

Over the course of the three days, students learned a plethora of different skills. They became more innovative and confident. They learned to take on new challenges, be responsible and even more sociable as they learned more about the arts and their cultures. The objective of Creative Arts Workshop is to introduce students to media they would not normally or easily come into contact with.

Students who attended Garbage Art sculpted life-sized statues out of common trash such as plastic cups, wired fences, cans, paper and other miscellaneous items. They were then spray painted chrome. In the Airbrushing lesson, students learned how to disassemble the airbrush and were then told about each piece. Afterwards, they were shown how to reassemble the airbrush and given a demonstration on how to use it.

After their instructor showed them how to properly use the airbrush including the amount of pressure to apply to the brush, they were allowed to create their own masterpieces. Merengue was one of the many dance classes students attended. They were taught the basics to this Latin dance style and danced with partners. In addition to merengue, hip hop was another dance class taught. Stu-

dents were engaged in a session of upbeat and fun moves as they learned the choreography to "We No Speak Americano" by Yolanda Be Cool and DCUP prepared by their dance instructor.

Photography was taught by two of the school's locally known photographers, Loralie Peterson and Vayolette Laguerre. Students were shown the difference between nature photography, fashion photography and photography used for architecture. They were also taught about the grid feature in their cameras and how to use it. When insufficient light is available, they were shown how to use reflectors to reflect the light on the object they wanted to photograph.

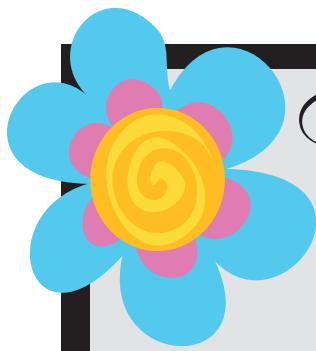
This was a fairly new course which put not only the students through a learning experience, but also the instructors. Also new to the workshops was the video editing course, where students were given the opportunity to create their own music video. They were shown the basics of a simple video editing software. They learnt how to cut their videos, add music and sync it with the video, and add special effects to make it unique. Afterwards, they were allowed to experiment with their own video and music.

Most anticipated during Creative Arts Workshop were the rap lessons instructed by local rappers Odyssey and Versatile. Students were shown the ins and outs of beat and music mixing software such as Fruity Loops. "The workshop was really fun because they freestyled for us, showed us how they make their music and told us how it feels to be in the music business," says one student who attended

one of the sessions.

Creative Arts Workshop week was enlightening to many students. Some also found it very helpful for their future career choices. According to another student, "I really liked the cake decorating class, it had to do with my two favourite things: cake and me eating it." The workshops will take place again in 2013 bringing more fun and creativity to new, enthusiastic students.





Childfest [teen] stars



By now everyone should be familiar with the word Childfest. This two-part fundraising event is said to be the biggest fundraiser for children and organisations that work on behalf of children and youth in St. Maarten. It features a gala fundraising dinner and a very popular Family Fun Day with a range of fun and exciting activities for children and families including two popular competitions: Childfest in Motion dance competition and Childfest Stars singing competition.

Childfest Stars is coordinated by vocal coach Helen Hart with assistance from Ursel Biabiany and Childfest in Motion by dance extraordinaire, choreographer Clara Reyes.

This year's gala dinner has been set for Saturday, May 14, and the Family Fun Day on May 15 at the expansive Port de Plaisance (PDP) property in Cole Bay. The finalists for Childfest in Motion and Childfest Stars have been chosen. They will go head to head at the finals on May 15.

Here's a glimpse at three of the four teen singers in the Childfest Stars pre-teen (10-13 years old) and teen (14-17 years old) categories. Teen Times could not reach one of the contestants (15-year old Fabian Marin) for an interview.

Marseno Bremer: No holding back

Marseno Bremer may have a prosthetic leg due to a birth defect, but this does not impede him from doing the things he loves including using his voice to wow others and compete against other songbirds.

The Milton Peters College (MPC) HAVO 4 student has his eyes set on taking home the top prize in the teen category. He has not yet decided what song he will sing, but at the time of this interview, he was leaning towards Katie Perry's "Fireworks." This South Reward resident and former Sr. Magda Primary

student, age 17 at the time of this interview, entered the competition to gain publicity and to give St. Maarten a chance to hear his voice. He learned of the competition from vocal coach Helen Hart.

Bremer loves using his voice to entertain others. He has performed twice before: during last year's Interscholastic Teen Idols competition, where he placed fifth, and at a gospel competition in February, where he placed first runner-up. "I'm not practising right now," he tells Teen Times, "because I've taken a break to study for up-coming exams as well as to prepare assignments."

The teen has been belting out music since age six. "I started in the church and I am still in the Methodist Church in St. Peters and Philipsburg. I just love to sing. I like the different types of music and how the music fills me. It feels great to sing; it [invokes] a really good feeling." Bremer says aside from loving to use his voice, he is working hard to achieve his future goal of becoming a pilot. "I love planes. I've always loved planes and always wanted to become a pilot. I've already looked at some options for studies. I'm thinking about going to the US and then I will see who takes me because I have a prosthetic leg due to a birth defect, but I can do everything. It doesn't impede me, but not all airlines take pilots in my condition."

The inspirational teen had some words of inspiration of his own: "I would like to see young people doing better because there are many youths who can sing and are talented, but they don't always have someone to push them to do better and to continue doing something right and to help them and guide them on their way."

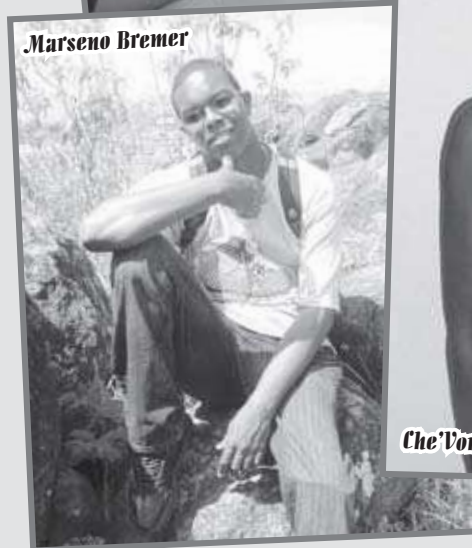
Che'Vonne James: 'This is my now'

When Che'Vonne James is not busy with books, bags and pens, she has her mind set on showing off her vocal skills at the Childfest Stars competition. She will be competing in the pre-teen category.

This will be the first competition for the 13-year old Milton Peters College HAVO first former, but singing is certainly not something new to her. "I sing all day even in the bath. It's a nice feeling to sing. I feel happy and comfortable," she says, adding that her all time favourite artiste is Ciara, because of her great music, cool voice and hip moves. Che'Vonne admits she is "a little bit nervous" about performing on stage, but also says she's ready for the challenge. "I've been singing since I was three years old. I started in the Philipsburg Methodist Church choir and I love to sing,"



Julia Bates



Marseno Bremer



Che'Vonne James

she says.

She learnt about the competition after reading about it in *The Daily Herald* and she encouraged her mother to sign her up. She has already crossed one leg of the competition by qualifying for the finals and she now has her eyes set on the finals in May. She will be singing Jordon Sparks' "This is my now," which she also performed for the semi-finals. "I love to sing and I want to show people that I can sing, because lots of people, who know me, know that I can."

Outside of her love for singing, Che'Vonne aspires to become an architect and a speech therapist so that she can engage in her other passions – helping youngsters with speech defects and using her drawing talent. "There aren't enough speech therapists around and I love children and I want to help them to speak properly. I also love to draw."

As for preparations, Che'Vonne says she practises daily in the comfort of her home.

Julia Bates: A passion

Music means more than a form of entertainment for 15-year old St.

Dominic High third former Julia Bates, now preparing for the teen category. "It's a passion" she says. "I love it when people listen to your voice and are moved by it. I love singing because it is a great way to show myself. I think I have talent and I like to show people."

Julia performed in Childfest Stars competition last year and was a runner-up. "So I wanted to go back again this year to win. My vocal coach Helen Hart is helping me and other Childfest performers."

Julia has done karaoke performances and has a few competitions under her belt. Her dream is to turn her love for music into a career. She crossed one major hurdle when she recently found out that she was accepted into the prestigious Boston-based Berkley Music College summer programme for this year. She will be attending the institution's five-week summer course. "My dream is to major in music and make a career out of my voice. My piano teacher attended Berkley and I sent in my application as well as about 900 other students who want to get into the programme. I will get to live there and see how it will be when I start

college. I can also try out to see if I can get early acceptance [for the college programme]."

Julia has been singing since she was quite young. "I may have been like 5 years old, but I was humming when I was much younger. I remember the teacher was always telling me to be quiet because I was always humming." She says St. Maarten has many talented youths. "It's great that we can showcase it in many ways and it's also good when we can put our talent into concrete things." She's not sure which song she will perform, but she says it will most likely be either "Temporary home" by Kerry Underwood or "At last" by Christina Aguilera.

Also performing in the pre-teen category are Jermani Obrien, Keoni York, Sara Grace Pittel and Geniquah Thewet all age 12 and under.



Finally!

~ MPC students laud new gym ~

A popular adage reminds us not to give up the old for the new, but for many Milton Peters College (MPC) students, the new and modern gym facilities opened on campus on March 16 are worth giving something up for.

The 3.7 million guilders facilities include two new gym halls equipped with dressing rooms and an outdoor sports field which will be accessible to MPC and St. Maarten Vocational Training School students. Youths from the community will be able to use the outdoor sports field.

This is what students say about the new gym:

Rainer Ranis (16) HAVO 4: "I am very athletic so for me it was exciting having a new gym, but at the same time, it was a bit disappointing. Disappointing because we used to go to Raoul Illidge Sports Complex to do track and field and now we just stay here at school. So while we have the benefit of a new gym, we lost out on the opportunity to go to Raoul Illidge Sports track. There is no track here, but we have other things such as basketball courts. The fact that we get to do a lot more sports because of the gym is great. One of the sports I enjoy is called 'The Funniest Game in the World.' I am involved in a lot of sports. I do track and field for about two hours three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I also take Taekwondo at Juliette's Gym."

Jahir Martimbor (15) HAVO 3: "Having a new gym matters a lot because the old gym was very dirty. There was a lot of garbage and bottles around, the changing room was in bad condition with clothes all around and it was just bad. I am excited about the new gym. It has a nice environment. I [especially] like the new gym equipment. The old gym did not have much equipment, but there are many [options] now. I would play any sport if I get a chance to because I like sports. I think sport is important. If you are stressed, sports can help to release some of that stress. It also relaxes the mind and helps you to focus on your school work. Sports and school go

together."

Melissa Mingo (13) HAVO 1: "I'm not the best, but I enjoy sports so the new gym is definitely [a plus]. The old gym was not bad, but the new one is huge and it is a major improvement. I actually get very excited to go to the new gym. Every week there is a new activity planned and you also get a chance to meet and interact with other kids. As for the importance of sports, there is a time for studying, but there is also a time for having fun; and having a gym with a lot of activities provides that balance between sports and education. Sports keep you energetic."

Melissa's advice to her peers: "Don't trash the new gym."

Oliver Lucas (13) MAVO 1: "The new gym is much better than the old one. It is bigger, breezier and has a lot more space for students to do what they have to. Only two teams could have competed against each other in the old gym. More than one team can compete in the new one. If I don't do sports, I get cranky and if I don't do my school work, I won't be smart, so both [compliment] each other and both are needed. I like sports especially football. I play football on Tuesdays and Thursdays and I will start going to the gym on Saturdays."

Julie Alcín (16), MAVO: "I have bronchitis, so it is difficult for me to do rough sports, but I've been in the new gym and I can say it has good running space. It's spacious and there are many options: baseball, volleyball, gymnastics, ropes and others. Young people need to exercise, especially teens. Sitting on the couch watching television all day does not do anyone any good. I [welcome] the gym because it is here to help us stay active and healthy."

Curtley Salcedo (17) MAVO 3: "I moved to MPC from Sundaal School about a year ago so I can't compare the new gym to the old one, but some of the activities in the new gym are fun and some are not. The ropes are fun, but my class is very competitive and the person who is representing the team has to win. This can turn the fun game into one that is not fun. It is good that the gym is [accessible]."



Think Global, Act Local

~ St. Dominic High School Comenius Project ~

By Kristen Sorton

As St. Dominic High School became an authorized IB school, it adopted the motto "Think Global, Act Local" as its theme for the 2010-2011 school year. However, even before the big change, the school was already showing this mentality for quite some time, choosing to become part of the Comenius Project, a special program involving the partnership of EU schools collaborating on a project of their choice. During the course of the project, the schools would fly to participating countries and present their work. St. Dominic High's Comenius project commenced in late 2009 with the theme "The way we were/The way we are."

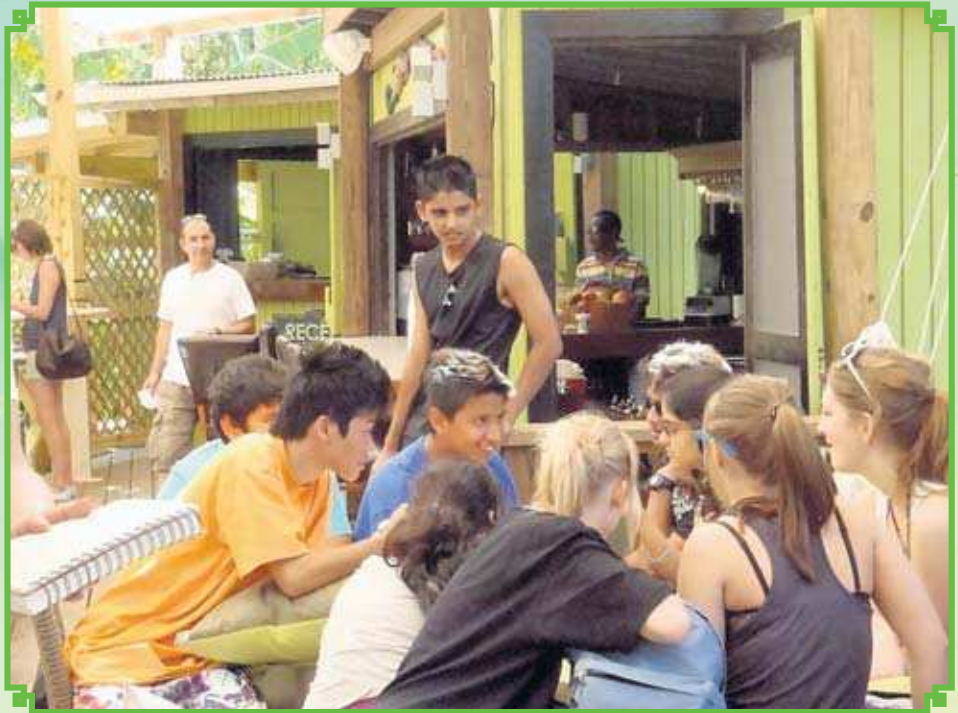
They collaborated with three other European countries, Italy, Sweden and Germany. All students from the Comenius Project worked to put together the presentation for St. Maarten and travelled to Italy, Sweden and Germany to present it. They compared issues from St. Maarten's past with today's issues, did a fashion show displaying St. Maarten's fashion from the beginning of the 20th century till today, and created a picture slideshow contrasting the lifestyles of the way St. Maarten was

and the way St. Maarten is today.

St. Maarten's environment and the effect that tourism and overdevelopment have on it were researched and presented as well. The students themselves learned much about their island as they explained their common environment to countries of completely different environments; learning and appreciating the contrasting elements of the cultures and lifestyles.

In February, the final Comenius meeting took place on St. Maarten, as St. Dominic High School hosted 18 Italy, Sweden and Germany students and teachers who immersed themselves into the colourful island culture and multicultural lifestyles of their hosts. The first day of the program consisted of the presentation of the country projects, after which everyone returned to school to experience school life in St. Dominic High and converse with the other 300 students at the school – a much smaller population when compared to the schools the European students hail from. The trip was not only work, but an equal balance of entertainment as well, as local and European Comenius students got the opportunity to visit the Loterie Farm.

Once they embarked on the sky-walking, zip line tour, there was no turn-



ing back. At the end of the obstacle course, students were relieved to be still "alive." Some wanted to do it again, while others swore "never again!" The students were taken to Philipsburg, Dutch St. Maarten's central shopping area, where they paraded through stores for souvenirs and enjoyed the boardwalk. In fact, the Europeans fell in love most with the stretch of sand beyond the boardwalk itself "the beach!"

This was the most an-

icipated part of the trip for many of the students. "Before we came here, we expected there would be beaches everywhere; and there is!" said a student from Sweden who was glad to finally put her feet in the "chilly" waters this time of year. "Actually, this is pretty warm; this is extremely hot weather and it's just what we expected, it's so cold in Sweden!" Go figure!

Great Bay beach wasn't the only beach the students went to. Guided by a group of St. Maarten Comenius project boys, they also experienced the underwater beauty of the reefs at Divi Little Bay and got a taste of the French side with a picnic on Friar's Bay beach after a bus tour of the island. Students and teachers enjoyed the assortment of foods and deserts with a Caribbean twist. After a long Sunday of leisure, students and teachers were sent into an adrenaline-pumping kayaking obstacle course on Kimsha Beach.

They were divided into groups of 10 and a pair of students from each group had to complete 10 laps of kayaking and racing on the sand. This was a strenuous workout that left everyone exhausted

by the start of round two. The trip ended with a farewell party. There was a buffet, video games and lots of dancing with music familiar to St. Maarten and the other three countries. At the end of the night, students bade their final good-byes, and soon enough there were the water works: tears from everyone! All in all, the Comenius meeting in St. Maarten was a success. Students learned a lot about the cultures of each country, and some even grew more accepting; not to mention the dark tan lines. Here is what the Comenius countries had to say about the Comenius project and their stay in St. Maarten.

Sweden:

"I think the project is really good because it gives the chance to see different places and meet different types of people and I think that's important."

"I expected St. Maarten to have beaches everywhere and it does! More beautiful than expected! Didn't think there were so many hills."

"A difference is that we have showers in school, longer days and more breaks... and free lunch."

"I love the beach; the heat; I love it!"

Germany:

"I really like the project; I have made so many new friends."

"It is an interesting project. I really love the way things are here. Everyone is friendlier than in Germany. They spend a lot of time with friends. We don't do that very often."

"I like that it is not so strict. I'm usually late to everything, and here you don't get in trouble for it much."

Italy:

"I like the project; in fact it is a very important experience. You meet new realities and make new friends."

"Two different places – I love St. Maarten, but I love Italy too. The people here are funny; I love the school, and it has a comfortable atmosphere. I expected St. Maarten would be beautiful; in fact, it is very wonderful. I also expected it to be really small, but it isn't!"

"I do not want to come back; I will just stay here! In Italy, the school is an open place and we stay in the same classroom. There is no beach in Benevento. Everyone is friendly and open-minded here."



Sundial's 'Magic 10'

Teen Times was given the opportunity to interview Anenda Zaandam (herself a former Teen Times writer) and the "Magic 10" of the Sundial High School hospitality program. She was kind to have a one-on-one interview in which she basically informed us of the mechanisms of the program. After our little tête-à-tête with Ms. Zaandam, Teen Times enjoyed a group interview with the students who were coined by Zaandam as the "Magic 10."

At Sundial, there are two sectors in which students can choose to further their studies: Care and Hospitality. Interest tests are given to the students to assist them in their decision making, which is done nearing the end of second form. Students whose interest lies in hospitality undergo an interview process to ensure they have the mentality, the right mindset and motivation to be in the sector.

The hospitality program is a two-year program that begins in the third form. It is a course involving the preparation of students for the basic skills necessary for the restaurant and kitchen, as well as all manner of guest servicing. The focus is drawn towards the hospitality industry in the sense of hotelier, restaurants on the island, and every aspect of public service on St. Maarten.

Coursework of the students includes learning restaurant techniques: setting up the restaurant, serving, and the ability to communicate with guests to make sure they feel special during their dining experience. Students are taught basic bar activities, how to mix drinks and how to have drink orders properly processed, and minimum wine knowledge.

Guest relations, posture, how to present yourself and how to

communicate are taught alongside sportsmanship. Students learn the basics of cooking techniques: cutting techniques, the science behind cooking and the theoretical and practical aspects of cooking. Their knowledge is tested whenever "open restaurant" is held for the public. This is usually for two or three days around November. They experience the fast pace of a restaurant, as the school tries to simulate as closely as it can the atmosphere of a regular restaurant.

"There's always pressure. Every time we open there's always pressure. Serving guests is a form of a test, a practical test, but this is actually a laboratory experience. This is where you make all the mistakes you should be making. Regardless of the nerves or pressure, I want them to make those mistakes, because then I can correct them. And the moment they go through all of this and go out to job training or go out to have jobs, they've passed through all the initial nervousness and pressure and are able to perform better. Reviews from where 3rd and 4th form students go to attend job training are always a mixed variety, but the general consensus is positive," Anenda said.

Here are responses of various students in their own words:

Describe your experience with the program in general?

"AWESOME! I feel good right now because I can cook; before I didn't know how to cook, how to serve people. We get a lot of experience by going out to events such as the gala dinner, different kinds of events. It is a great experience here."

What led you to join the hospitality program?

"I enjoyed watching my mother. I learned from my mother how to cook so, after a while, I sort of got used to it."

Are you the type of people to go home, put on the food channel and just watch it?

"YEAH! YES!"



Where do you guys see yourselves in the next 5 to 10 years?

"In my own restaurant; I'm not quite sure what I would call it, but it will have a unique name and it will be 2 stars."

"In five years, I see myself in Miami; in 10, I see myself opening my own restaurant, "Latin Flavors."

What do the stars mean?

"For example, she wants a 2-star restaurant, which means she wants to be famous. So, if famous people like J. Lo or Chris Brown come, they would have their own table with the paparazzi around them. The stars mean you have a low or higher level; the more stars you have, the more publicity your restaurant gets."

Do you guys watch Top Chef? Does anyone have any aspirations to compete in that show?

*"Yes."
"Maybe not to compete, but to have the opportunity to be on the show."
"I will be there someday. I will be "Bobby Flare."*

What are your favourite drinks to mix?

"Malibu, Margarita, Tingo (absolute mango, mango flavouring and ice), Woo (strawberry flavouring, strawberry vodka, ice cream-something)."

What do you like least and what do you like most in the restaurant?

*"I hate working under pressure, but you have to deal with it. I like the cooking aspect: the learning of the different stuff, the different foods and food combinations, the timing for cooking."
"I like serving the most; meeting and greeting; seating the guests. I like the kitchen least of all; it's hell. It's a lot of pressure."
"I like learning the desserts because I want to be a pastry chef. I don't like serving much because I'm shy and I don't like meeting people much."*

When you finish school, where are you going to go?

"College. USM. Curaçao. Study more hospitality."

Is anybody focusing on

any specialties, techniques?

"Art Designs. Italian. Spicy foods. Desserts."

What advice do you have for students who are interested in becoming a waitress, a cook, a bar tender, etc.?

*"Follow your own dreams because in the end, you will be the happy one."
"If you want to follow your dream, GO HARD!"
"You should follow your dreams because at the end of the day, you are the one stuck with the job. It doesn't make sense going to a job that dissatisfies you. You have to have fun at your job or else you would not perform the way you know you can perform."*

you have to be of the right mindset and be prepared to work really hard. Not necessarily at the skills, but really hard in yourself. It is a job that requires you to be extremely flexible, to be strong minded; it drives you to build up the courage to be able to handle any type of person, because in this line of business, you will deal with all types of people. Patience. Perseverance. Have fun. You choose for you, because you will deal with you."

Are you guys ready for your exams?

"YES! Yes, we are! We are going to try and give our best!"



Teen of the month: Brian Brison

~ Soaring sky high ~

By Roylyka Roache

Brian Brison is not your ordinary high school student. Born on the friendly island of St. Maarten, Brian at the mere age of 15 has developed a passion for flying.

With this passion, he is determined to become St. Maarten's youngest commercial pilot. While at the flight academy, I decided to sneak in and get into the diverse mind of this young pilot in the making. Here's my interview with him:

Q. What school and which grade are you attending?

A. I am currently attending Learning Unlimited School and I'm in the 10th grade (3rd form).

Q. How did you get interested in the aviation field?

A. Growing up, I played a lot of video games that were based on flying. While playing the video games, I became very interested in how planes actually work. The interest also came from travelling with my parents. Arriving at the airport, I would see the pilots in their uniform and I would always say, 'Wow, they look really cool!' Being a witness to the pilots in their uniform got me even more interested in the aviation field. My older brother Rolando Brison told me two of Winair's pilots were opening a flight school and he thought it would be a great idea for me to attend the school, seeing I showed so much interest in wanting to become a pilot.

Q. When exactly did you start the flight school?

A. I started right af-

ter my 14th birthday and I'm 15 right now, so it has been about a year that I have been studying at the Caribbean Flight Academy.

Q. What made you decide you wanted to try to become the youngest pilot on St. Maarten?

A. Well, right now I currently have 10 hours of flight training and, if all goes well, by the time I am 16 years, I will have had 40 hours of training, which will allow me to sit the written exams that I need in order to obtain my first licence. I hope that at age 17, I can perform my check ride exam. However, there aren't any companies that would be willing to hire a 17-year old to fly their aircraft. I would have to wait until I'm 18, which would then make me the youngest pilot on St. Maarten, but I can't forget there are other young pilots in my class who are probably thinking the same way in terms of being the youngest pilot on the island. If I do become the youngest pilot, it would be a great accomplishment.

Q. Besides being a pilot, do you have any other career options?

A. I have always been interested in technology. As a secondary option, I would definitely get into the technology field. It is taught that as a pilot you should always have a secondary career option. As pilots we are also human, which means we are prone to get sick and may be incapable of flying, therefore you would need another career option. It's always good to have another career to fall back on.

Q. Besides flying, what do you do in your spare time?

A. Just like every other teenager, I go out on weekends with my friends, watch a movie; basically anything the average teenager wants to do.

Q. When you receive your pilot licence, which



type(s) of aircraft will you be eligible to operate?

A. Currently, I am flying single-engine; by the time I obtain my licence, I will be able to operate a single-engine aircraft.

Q. Who or what is your inspiration?

A. Basically every pilot I have seen in uniform has been my inspiration. If they can fly those 747 airplanes, then why can't I fly one also? Ricardo Wilson has also been a big inspiration for me because he followed his dream by starting the flight school and is now helping young stu-

dents follow their dreams also. Both my brothers are also an inspiration to me – One is working at Winair and he deals with a lot of the pilots there; and my other brother is attending the flight school with me. My parents felt it would be a great experience if both my brother and I receive our hours together and hopefully fly together one day.

Q. Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

A. In the next five years, I see myself with my uniform and my licence,

hopefully flying for a major company.

Q. What has been one of your most memorable moments thus far while flying?

A. It was a while back when I was flying with Ricky and we were flying over Anguilla doing the normal training and Ricky gained the confidence in me to let me manoeuvre the aircraft back to the training area. He just helped me here and there; but for the rest, I flew the plane pretty much by myself. I was really proud that he had that much confi-

dence in me and saw the potential that I have.

Q. Is there anything you would like say to the readers?

A. I would like the readers to know that you need to follow your dreams and to never give up on your goals, because if the pilots working at the major airlines can take off with those million dollar aircraft, then why can't you do it also?

TEEN ATHEISM ON THE RISE

By Linayra Huntington

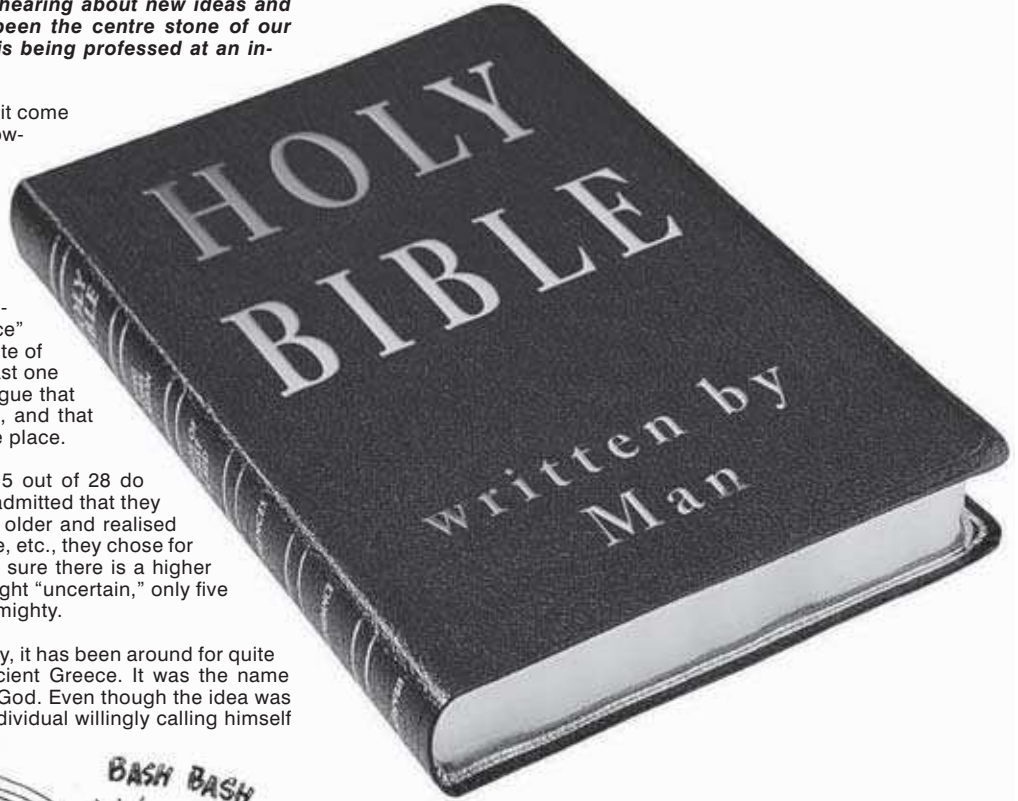
In an expanding world, we find ourselves hearing about new ideas and new ways of living. Religion has always been the centre stone of our Caribbean community. Atheism, however, is being professed at an increasing pace among teenagers.

What exactly is atheism, and where did it come from? I've heard many religious followers say it is another word for Satanism or worshipping the devil, going against God, all of the above. In fact, it isn't really any of those things, except maybe to go against God.

Simply put, atheism is the belief that there is nothing to believe in. Atheism is the lack of belief in God, a higher being, or any type of "force" that controls the world. Atheism is the opposite of theism, naturally. Theism is the belief in at least one deity (some type of higher force). Atheists argue that the world can be explained through science, and that there need not be a God for existence to take place.

A quick snapshot of teens polled showed 15 out of 28 do not believe in a "higher power." All of the 15 admitted that they basically grew up in church, but as they got older and realised some of the "hypocrisies" of religion, the Bible, etc., they chose for themselves. Of the 28 polled, eight were not sure there is a higher power. So among the 15 non-believers and eight "uncertain," only five teens said outright that they believe in the Almighty.

So where did atheism come from? Surprisingly, it has been around for quite awhile. The origin of atheism is seen in ancient Greece. It was the name given to Greeks who rejected the worship of God. Even though the idea was around for so long, the first instance of an individual willingly calling himself



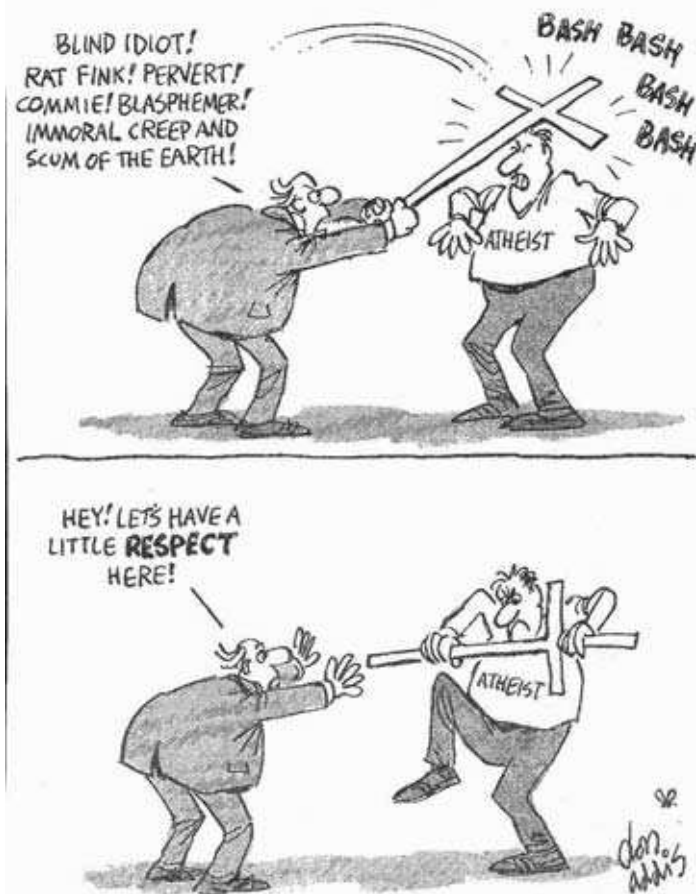
an atheist was in the 18th century.

Atheism, like any other religion, comes in many different "flavours." Many philosophers and writers have come to put atheism in different groups. The simplest grouping system is implicit and explicit atheism. The theory behind this grouping is as follows: If a baby is born and is never acquainted with God, it grows up away from society and therefore does not believe in God. This person is an atheist not by choice but by lack of knowing; therefore he or she is an implicit atheist; whereas, someone who has been raised in society and shown the way to some type of God but chooses to not believe is an explicit atheist. Other groups of atheism include practical atheism and theoretical atheism, both of which are way too complicated to explain in one short article.

I asked two atheists about their faith (or lack thereof) and both wanted to remain anonymous, so they will be named Atheist Boy and Atheist Girl. To keep it simple, I asked them only two questions: 1. Why did you decide to become an atheist? 2. What does atheism mean to you? Here are their answers:

Atheist Girl: Before I was an atheist, I was a Roman Catholic who never questioned my religion or what was told to me; I just did as I was told, went to church and believed in God without any real reason. Then when someone very close to me passed away, I heard a very religious person saying some things about the church and I realised how hypocritical it all was. I did some research and decided there wasn't any real reason to believe in God. So I stopped believing, and I feel as if I've found the truth in not believing in what others want me to believe. To me, atheism is believing in yourself. It is said that humans need something to believe in, something to get them through the day; well, I believe that God is a substitute and believing in God only makes you have limits to what you can achieve.

Atheist Boy: I was an atheist since I was young. For as long as I can remember, religion didn't make sense to me. So I just chose not to accept it. When I became an atheist, I did not even know there was a name for it. I just saw it as not believing. Atheism to me means not believing in the theories of religion, because in my opinion, normal religions are contradictory, unexplainable and a bit idiotic. Atheism is not believing; that is what I think.



Monthly advice to parents

Parents! Your home is not a democracy

Okay, look, parents, some of you need to wake up! When it comes to your teen and drugs, too many like to say "not my child" when the tell-tale signs are staring you in your face! Things go on in your house that you don't know about and, most of the time, your home or your teen's room is the starting point for everything drug related.

How can parents tell when their child is abusing substances? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to this serious dilemma that more and more of us parents are facing every day. Teens are very, very good at hiding their substance use from their parents. They become very adept at lying and can be stoned out of their minds yet still look you in the eye and deny that there is anything going on.

Drug use is commonplace among young people. Some teens use it sparingly, others abuse and sell it. In any case, here are some signs to look for:

Change in personality
Your loving child turns mean. This can happen with the onset of puberty, but it is much worse when there is substance abuse going on. Do you feel like no matter what you say or do, you just can't win? Are you afraid or reluctant to confront your child due to violent outbursts or reactions from them when you attempt to enquire about any part of their lives? (Source: *Teen Health*)

Just remember, when a teen is backed into a corner, he may have discovered that the best defence is an offense, and many teens, particularly boys, find that by coming back with loud yelling, they can be very intimidating to their mothers.

Suspect drug use if your child has lately become very irritable, unpleasant to or bullying of other family members, very easy to provoke, starts to use a lot of profanity, seems tired, worn out and apathetic a lot of the time, or develops a nagging cough, appears to have the sniffles or runny nose, or develops nosebleeds frequently.

Change in appearance
Your child's appearance has gone down

the tubes. If it's like night and day with your child and the way he or she dresses, that's a sure sign something is probably up.

Teen seems very out of it

Your child seems unusually apathetic, staring into space a lot, not focused on anything, is very vague when you try to carry on a conversation, and generally seems out of it. These could be a sign that something is up.

Questionable friends

You are pretty sure your child's close friends are abusing drugs. Your child may even admit that some of his friends are using drugs, but will always deny that he/she has any part in it. If your child is spending a lot of time with these friends, don't believe it.

Your home is not a democracy!

Another important note is that much as you would like to give your kids freedom to say what goes on in your home, it is your home; you are paying for it; you have the final word. You are first and foremost the parent, and much as you want to be friends



with them, sometimes being a parent and being a best friend to your child is a huge conflict.

So don't try to be your child's best friend, particularly if your child is severely acting out. Your child has friends, he needs a parent! You should always be in charge of your own home and the last word on any situation should be YOUR last word. However, in too many households, the kids are

running the show, leaving their parents in the dust while they pursue their illicit activities. Your household should NOT be a democracy. Just because you are a parent does not mean you have to be a doormat. You have rights too, and your child should know you intend to look out for your own rights.

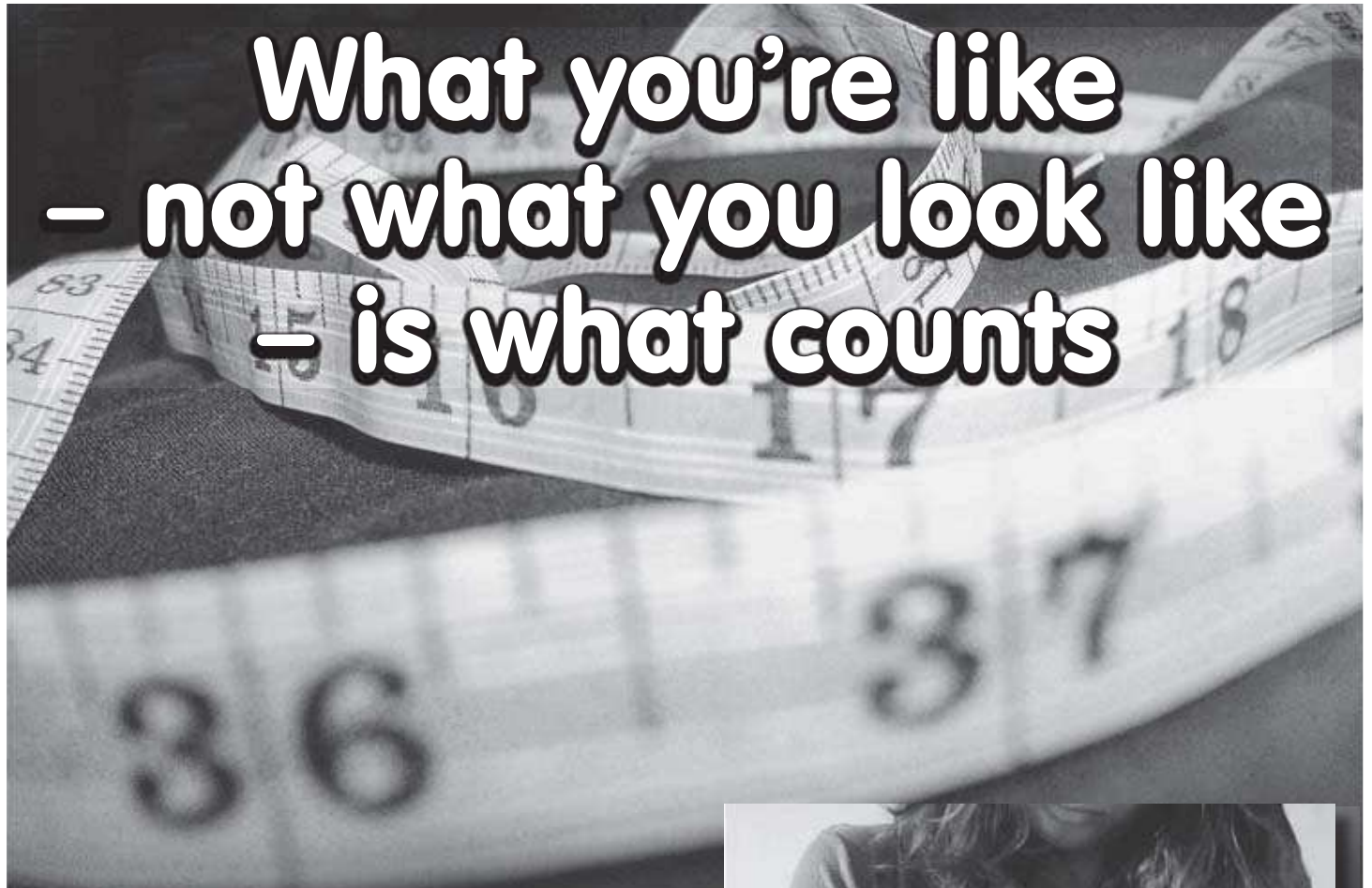
However, keep in mind that your responsibility as a parent, first and foremost, is to keep your

child SAFE! Therefore, if you need to conduct periodic investigations by snooping around their rooms, then do it with a clean conscience.

If your teenage child gets angry at you for anything you've done, like searching their room, tell them, "You may hate me for this, but you'll be alive and not dead in a gutter somewhere."



What you're like – not what you look like – is what counts



By Jasmine Grannum

As children become teenagers, their self-esteem level rises and lowers like a roller-coaster. It comes with puberty when their body image and everything else changes: their way of thinking, their behaviour and their attitude are changing all the time. Many teenagers stress about how they look, it's either they are too skinny or too fat, which lowers their self-esteem level and depresses them. Many teenagers make fun of their friends; they tease their classmates about their body type or the way they dress and look.

Why so many teens struggle with a negative body image

For some, a negative body image is made worse by comparing themselves to models and actors on TV, in the movies and in magazines, even though the body type many of them represent is not realistic or healthy for most people.

How to improve my body image

Improving your body

image takes time; it also involves improving your self-esteem in most cases. The first step involves accepting your body, no matter how big, small, fat, thin, dark or light it is. When you have a negative thought about your body, tell yourself to stop and remind yourself of something you like about yourself or the way you look.

The following are the results of a survey conducted among St. Maarten teenagers about their self-esteem level and how they felt about their body image:

Name at least one thing a person can do to you that may raise or decrease your self-esteem level?

"An action that gets my self-esteem high is when I get kind comments."

"My self-esteem rises when I am insulted."

"I get really mad when people tell me I am too fat and I have to lose weight."

Do you think your body image has anything to do with your self-esteem level?

"No, I do not think my body image has anything

to do with my self-esteem level because I think I am perfect the way I am, and I would not change a thing about myself."

"Yes, I do think so because sometimes I think I don't look good or fit enough, which sometimes depresses me."

"My body image has nothing to do with my self-esteem level because I have self-confidence no matter what shape I am."

What would you do if someone walks up to you and makes fun of you?

"If someone walks up to me and makes fun of me, I would walk away because it is a waste of time if the person has nothing positive to say."

"I would get in a huge fight with the person."

"I would try to laugh it off, but I might feel offended if the attack was personal."

Does it hurt you when someone else is being bullied or teased about his or her body image?

"If someone is being bullied or teased about his/her image, it would not hurt my feelings because it has nothing to do with me."



"It gets me really furious because no one should be bullied due to their body."

"Yes, because no one deserves that. You are not your body."

These answers are all different, but there are still

many teenagers in St. Maarten and the world who have a huge issue with the way they look. But it's also important to recognize there are some things about yourself that you can't change – and that, for the most part, doesn't matter that much.

So you've got chubby fingers or big feet, who really cares? Most people don't notice, and if they do, it probably doesn't matter to them nearly as much as it matters to you. What you're like – not what you look like – is what counts.

Your US \$10 came from tourism

By Sakir De Castro

The Caribbean is a nature lover's dream, welcoming visitors in search of the wonders of the natural world: Creatures, plants and landscapes unmatched in diversity and beauty. The three Ss: sun, sea and sand are the main attractions for any tourist choosing the Caribbean for his or her vacation destination.

Tourism is one of the Caribbean's oldest businesses and, for most Caribbean destinations like St. Maarten, the only business. As the travel and tourism industry is said to be one of the biggest in the world, it provides many benefits to those who travel, as well as to those who live in tourist places like the Caribbean. As St. Maarten is also located in the Caribbean, it offers many essentials that are necessary for the people of our island, and that is something most teenagers do not seem to recognize.

Tourism drives the St. Maarten economy. Where tourism goes, St. Maarten's economy follows. If it's booming, the economy is booming; if it's declining, as has been in the past few years (due to the economic crisis in the United States, which is one of our major tourist exporters), our economy will also decline. This happens because tourism is basically our island's main source of income.

And because tourism drives our economy, its rise and fall can affect our government, businesses and households drastically through basically increasing or decreasing their purchasing power, which simply means how much they can buy with their income or salary. And, unfortunately, this can also affect you as a teen through a simple thing called chain reaction.

For example, a simple version: 16-year old Timothy has a US \$10-dollar allowance his dad gives him every week. Timothy's dad John owns a local bar in the middle of St. Peters called Johnnie's Bar where tourists seldom seem to dwell. Now let's say one of John's best clients, Jason, spends an average of \$10 dollars a day at the bar.

John would then use that \$10 dollars to give his son his allowance for that week. Little did Timothy know that Jason works in the hospitality sector and deals directly with tourists that come to our island through the harbour. Jason as an employee receives a monthly salary from his employer, but just to make it simple, let's say that same \$10 that eventually became Timothy's allowance was given directly to Jason from a tourist in the harbour as a tip for doing a good job.

Now as you can see from this example, two businesses or sectors you would usually think have no link together – a bar in St. Peters and a tourist in the harbour – still have an economic link. In some countries, this even happens through different sectors; which is good for the stabilization of a country.

But as I said before, tourism is our island's main source of income. So it is important to all of us, even to you as a teenager, for tourism on the island to increase significantly. That is why we have to respect and be thankful for tourists that come to our island and not complain about them, and as some may say, tell them to go back where they came from. Tourism has brought prosperity and new opportunities to our small island.

So my advice to Jason next time he sees a tourist would be to greet them and thank them for coming to our beautiful island St. Maarten!



College?

Nah, not for me

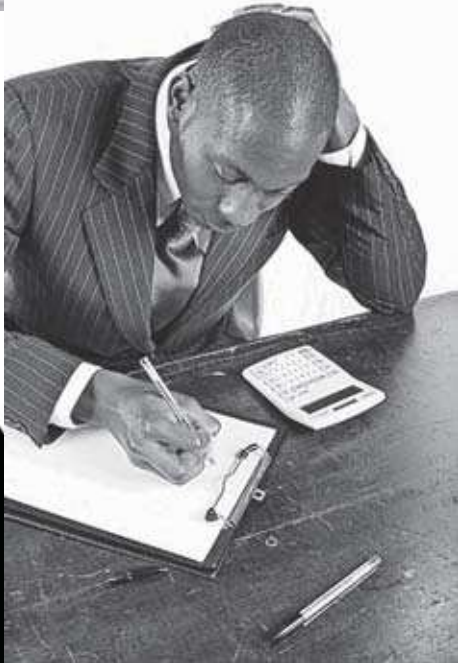
~ Why do young people 'stay home' ~



Why are so many young people choosing to stay on St. Maarten and work instead of furthering their studies abroad? Why do so many young people who work choose not to upgrade themselves and get elevated personally or in their field of work? Two questions, plenty of complex answers; but the trend is there! Young high school graduates for various reasons are opting to go for the "quick buck" or "easy money" rather than furthering their studies to improve themselves.

At the beginning of every school year, as you walk into the banks, the airport, GEBE, casinos or other places of business, you see recently graduated young people, the majority of whom are quite comfortable in low-entrance jobs. For some reason, attaining a higher form of education, even locally, does not appeal to them.

This causes one whole set of problems on various levels including employers having to "import" foreign higher management because locally the education level isn't there. A country the size of St. Maarten does not have a sizable labour market to take on the growing numbers of high school graduates, consequently adding to the youth unemployment figures and so on and so forth.



When debating the advantages of attaining higher education, the case is of course compelling. As good jobs increasingly require more

education, college is widely seen as the ticket to personal economic security and global competitiveness. And yet, there's an undercurrent of concern about a group of students, sometimes called "the forgotten half," which, for whatever reason, does not think college is for them.

But why? That's what we wanted to find out! So in typical Teen Times fashion, we decided to interview some of these young adults who have chosen to "stay home." To maintain their privacy, we will not use their names, but as will be observed in their remarks, some of the reasons were of course very selfish, others were a matter of circumstances, and most really didn't want to leave.

To help mommy
Surprising was the number of young adults who listed "having to help at home" as the main reason for not leaving; and by a wide margin, the majority was male. This ties right into the single-mom scenario and the pressure it puts on children when they come of age to work to help support the home.

"My mother struggled for years to put me and my sister through school and, as cost of living was going up, I knew she could never support the house alone. So I concentrated on getting my MPC diploma just so her sacrifice wouldn't go to waste. I went straight to work and didn't even think twice about it," one young male worker said.

Early parenthood
For one female employee at the airport, it was having to work to support her child; it was the same case for the male worker at GEBE, as well as a female bank teller and a female supermarket cashier. Having children when they were not fully ready or before they had had the chance to take advantage of a college education ranked high on the list of reasons for young adults to stay at home.

"I really had no choice. It was my child; my responsibility. So I stayed to work and support my child," the bank teller said. "The funny part is, the father of the baby left to go further his studies and really

has nothing to do with us. Isn't that ironic?"

No drive (from parents)
"Okay, I know it is up to me to push myself, but my folks never really cared if I went or stayed and I think they liked the fact that I stayed to help with a little change every now and then," one young worker said, perfectly describing another factor in youth staying at home.

Many parental figures, perhaps because they didn't obtain a tertiary education themselves, mistakenly do not instill the importance of higher learning in their children. Typical of St. Maarten, parents too often accept the mediocre, and their children, more often than not, fall right in line. Notice we said many, not all parents. But the "many" are too many, judging from the answers we received.

Another phenomenon in the "lack of parental drive" category is how undisciplined parents cost their children scholarships. Many young adults told us it wasn't that they didn't want to leave, but that they couldn't leave. Why? Either mom or dad or both didn't pay their taxes for x-number of years and were in too much trouble to get it settled quickly.

Then, there are those young adults, mostly of foreign descent, who went through high school without having their legal status regulated by their parents. So after they graduated, the necessary papers that would allow them to get a scholarship were not in place. How is this even possible at some of our schools? That's a story for another issue!

Fast money, no college
Unfortunately, the lure of a "lousy" US \$800 or \$1,000 a month is appealing to many high school graduates. For young adults who still live at home and have no financial commitments, we guess that's "money." Many we spoke to had no problem admitting they were tired of school and just wanted to get out there and make a buck.

They admitted they wanted

to buy themselves nice stuff and college was not for them. Why? They couldn't say. One young female worker said, "I just felt it, I just knew it wasn't for me. I had a hard time being disciplined and getting high school work done. I'm gonna go in another man's country and change? That wasn't happening. I wanted to just finish with school and make some money." Many more echoed her statement.

When asked if they will seek to improve themselves in their work environment through courses, etc., another replied, "Nah; I'm comfortable where I am. If the course is free, maybe, but I'm good with what I'm making and where I am."

The fact is that most of the young adults we spoke to know quite well that many jobs in St. Maarten don't require a college education. There are examples walking around that prove that it is certainly not required to earn a very comfortable and indeed at times exceptional living. But these jobs do require skills, though. The thing is to find a training program or an educational program that will give you those skills, and not to just drift along, not go to college and suddenly have neither the college degree nor occupational skills.

For too many of these "stay at home" young people, that message has not hit home. For others, it has and, to be fair, some we spoke to are actually attending USM while working or taking other courses on the side: "I stayed home because of various reasons. Maybe it was a combination of everything. But I know I want to excel and move up in my job as well. I don't know about others, but it doesn't sit well with me to see someone a few years older than me come in from some foreign country and making more money and have more benefits because he has the papers and I don't. No, that doesn't sit well with me at all."

We encouraged that young male telephone company employee to print that message and send in a mass email!

5 THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT

From Kristin Swenson

The Bible is a peculiar book, and it's hard to get straight information about it. If you're one of those people with a nagging feeling that you should know more about the Bible than you do – or even if you can recite chapter and verse (but don't know that those chapters and verses come from a 13th century archbishop of Canterbury and a 16th century Parisian, respectively) – then these five basic things will catapult you to a new level of biblical literacy. Though I might be handing you clunky corrective eyewear instead of sexy kitten glasses, I promise it will change the way you look at the Good Book, clarifying and focusing your understanding.

1. Every Bible is actually a collection of books. The word itself means something like "little library." Many of the Bible's books developed over a long period of time and include the input of a lot of people (ancient Israelites, Babylonian Jews and Greek pastors, to name a few), reflecting particu-

lar places (urban Jerusalem, the northern Galilee, rural Judah and ancient Persia, for example) and times (spanning as much as 1,000 years for the Old Testament and a couple of centuries for the New Testament). Plus, the collection as a whole developed over centuries. This helps to explain the tremendous variety of theological perspectives, literary style, and sometimes perplexing preoccupations (which animal parts go to which parties in which categories of sacrifices, e.g.), as well as why some texts disagree with others.

2. Not everyone who believes in it has the same Bible. There are actually different bibles, though they all started with Jews (but before Judaism, *per se*). The Christian Bible includes and depends upon the Jewish bible – the Protestant Christian Old Testament is composed of the same books as the Jewish Hebrew Bible, arranged in a different order; and non-Protestant Christians include a few more books and parts of books (which also originated in Jewish circles) in their Old Testaments. The books of the

Christian New Testament reflect the process of Jesus' followers gradually distinguishing themselves from his religion, Judaism.

3. The Bible came after the literature it comprises. In other words, the material that became biblical wasn't written in order to be part of a Bible. This helps to explain the existence of a book of erotic love poetry (Song of Songs), one that doesn't mention God (Esther), another of intimate personal correspondence (Paul's letter to Philemon) and maybe why none of it was written by Jesus. The biblical texts are not disinterested reporting of objective facts but come from people of faith informed by particular beliefs.

4. If you're reading the Bible in English, you're reading a translation. With the exception of a small minority of Aramaic texts, the books of the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible were all written in Hebrew. The books of the New Testament were written in Greek. Every translation is by nature interpretation. If you've ever studied a foreign language, you know



that it's impossible to convert exactly and for all time the literature or speech of any given language into another. A translator has to make choices. There are often several ways to render the original text, and changes in English affect the meaning we read as well.

5. Finally, this information about the Bible is compatible with belief in it. A person can simultaneously accept these truths about the Bible and the Bible as the Word of God. Doing so may require recalibrating assumptions, though, to allow for the possibility that God patiently works through people and time, enjoys a good debate and prefers inviting conversa-

tion over issuing absolutes. (Even the Ten Commandments, which would seem to be as absolute as anything, show up in two places in the Bible – and with some differences.)

The Bible's endurance is astonishing. It continues to instruct and to inspire (in all sorts of interpretations and ways) the millions of people for whom it is their sacred and authoritative text. And it continues to ignite the imagination and enrich the speech, literature and art of people outside of the biblical faiths, too. Knowing the few bits of information provided here, as plain and pedantic as they may seem, makes it possible to make sense of

the Bible – its uses and abuses – for yourself. It's like having the kind of friend who you know will keep you straight, surprise and delight you and encourage you to keep becoming exactly you. This information is more than a starting point. It's also a companion along the way, enabling new insights, providing correctives, and allowing space for the dynamism of your own ideas and learning.

Kristin Swenson is the author of Bible Babel: Making Sense of the Most Talked About Book of All Time. She is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University.



Motiance's "M & M" recital April 16

~ Musical Theatre and More ~



Motiance Dance School, on entering its 26th year welcomed a myriad of new adventures and relationships, amongst which a rendezvous with Musical Theatre; the world of song, dance and drama, expertly exposed by two talented teachers Joost de Jong and Dirkjan Jansen from The Netherlands. This exchange was made possible partially by Kultura, a branch of the Mondriaan Foundation.

This genre of the performing arts has found the world stage, particularly in New York on "Broadway" as has Nicole de Weever, Motiance's and St. Maarten's ambassador of the arts, found her way on Broadway and the world stage. Experiences she shared with us all on her recent visit home.

Motivated to share the world of Musical Theatre, Motiance implemented afterschool programs in four high schools and has succeeded in bringing the youth of these schools

together for which they were distinguished in The Netherlands and the Caribbean by being nominated for the project "Art Moves" sponsored by the Oranje Fonds.

For the first time Motiance brings together teens from the Sundial School, St. Maarten Academy (PSVE), Milton Peters College and St. Dominic High School who have committed themselves as "Company Members" in a Musical Theatre performance. For many this is also their first performance on stage with a performing art school.

As the words "Musical Theatre" implies, these teenagers are learning to demonstrate their skills at singing, dance and drama in front of an audience. The coordination and skill of combining these three things while on stage is no minor feat. With only seven months in full activity on the island you will be pleasantly surprised at the talent and production you will see on stage in Motiance upcoming annual recital.

Many teens have found their niche in the various other classes and dance disciplines offered at Mo-

tiance, especially the lively Hip Hop class taught by the energetic teacher, Zoya. These teens dedicate several hours a week to the classes and practice.

Motiance prides itself with being able to keep the founding director's, Cees van Dolderen, dream alive by offering these teens scholarships to the dance school where they are able to engage in a healthy after school activity in line with their interest and passion!

Thriving on all these new "M"rgies and relationships Motiance has given them tribute by titling this year's recital, in short, "M & M", an evening of entertainment where the students will transport you through a New York based fantasy of song dance and drama.

One Show Only!

Saturday April 16, 2011 at 6:00pm at the L.B. Scot Sports Auditorium in Philipsburg. ONLY \$10 general admission. Tickets available at Van Dorp in Simpson Bay and Madame Estate, Family Dental Clinic Colebay, Miguel's Hair Salon, Motiance Dance School and at the door.



TECHUMAN SPEAKS

Browsers and I/O

By Yannick Mardenborough

Hello and welcome again to another bit of tech talk. Whether it's about what's new or an explanation on something you may not know about. I'll make this easy and simple for anyone to comprehend and broaden your incite on technology, mainly on the tech we may be using on a constant basis.

First I would like to correct an error in my previous article. I



mentioned AMD's Graphics core technology on its processors as Sandy Bridge, however, the correct name for AMD's new processors is Fusion.

To follow up on the tablet market, the apple iPad 2 has been released. The current generation iPad now sports two cameras and a dual core processor, which Apple claims to be faster in speed and graphics performance. Another important tablet that was released was the Motorola Xoom running Androids new Operating System built for tablets, Android 3.0. Check the Net for more info on those.

We all use the internet, so therefore we all use web browsers to surf the net. It may be Microsoft Internet explorer, Safari, Mozilla Firefox, Google chrome or Opera; just to name the major ones. Updates for these browsers with notable features are always in development, but for the past month, Mozilla, Microsoft and Google have released quite anticipated updates for their web browsers. Internet explorer, for-

merly hated by most, has made a comeback with Internet explorer 9. This major update has been added with compelling features that has changed the minds of some users. It is only available for persons running Windows Vista or 7.

The browser now has a clean look with more room for viewing the webpage. Also it now supports HTML5, more about this in later articles, and a download manager, Firefox comes in with version 4 offering a redesigned interface, and new features such as grouped tabbing, sync, and updates to HTML5. Chrome has had a few updates to the newest version of the browser. It now supports sync and the options now appear in tabs rather than separate dialogue boxes. A cool feature of chrome is, however, its integration of plug-ins such as adobe flash, and its own PDF viewer. With the integration, you simply download the web browser and necessary plug-in is built in and updated with the browser, thus making it more secure and isolated from your system. Now which browser should you choose? It all comes down to you and your own experiences. Perform your own

tests of different web browsers and see for yourself why for these new updates, no browser is bad choice.

Here is something most of us take for granted I/O (input/output). Whether it may be USB ports E-Sata ports or others, it is something we use every day, namely USB ports for external drives. Let me break it down a bit. USB or Universal Serial Bus is an interface used to establish a connection between a device and a controller (i.e. a computer). This interface allows for connection for a broad range of devices such as, mice, keyboards, webcam, storage device, Media players, cell phones, etc. they also transfer electric power to charge devices that support it. Another interface is the E-SATAp interface. In simple terms, this interface uses the same interface as the one that controls your internal hard drive into your computer. The interface provides higher transfer rates from USB 2.0 ports. What most might not know is that most laptops that come paired with an E-sata port



also double as a USB 2.0 port.

Intel, however, plans to change the game with a new data interface called light peak. This interface debuted on the Macbook Pro under the name Thunderbolt which replaces the standard Display Port found in past and other versions of the Macbook. This interface is capable of transfer rates faster than USB 3.0, which is the new and latest Version of the USB interface. The port can transfer both a video signal for external monitors and even large numbers of largely sized files.

This is what's new with the technology field; next issue I'll break the terms down for everyone. I'll be gearing up explaining what matters most when making important computer decisions. See you next issue.

NINTENDO 3DS™

On March 27, 2011, a remarkable handheld device was brought into the market. Nintendo has released a glasses free 3D version of the Nintendo DS called the 3DS. Apart from a 3D screen the device also features an inner camera and dual out cameras for 3D photo and video capture in VGA, 640x480, resolutions.

The List of games released in 3D:

- Rayman 3D
- Bust-A-Move Universe
- Super Monkey Ball 3D
- Ridge Racer 3DS
- Nintendogs + Cats
- Pro Evolution Soccer 2011 3D
- The Sims 3 3DS
- Madden NFL Football 3DS



Get Fit! Get Fit!

By Alicia Miller

Teens, both male and female, should give a lot of importance to their physical fitness, as it helps in the growth and development of their body. A global study shows that most teens spend at least 30 hours a week watching TV and eating high fat content snacks. Nearly 50% of teens and young adults do not do any sort of physical activity on a regular basis. Teen girls are more inactive than teen boys. As teenagers grow up, many of them even tend to avoid participating in physical education class in their schools.

Importance of physical fitness for teens

Physical fitness is important as it keeps our body free from illness. It enables the body's organs, like the heart, lungs and muscles, to function efficiently. Physical fitness makes our body more energetic, which in turn helps us to carry out our daily chores without getting fatigued. It also contributes towards keeping our mind healthy, fresh and free from stress-related problems. In order to keep ourselves physically fit, we need physical exercise, a balanced diet and proper rest.

Today, most teens lack physical activity, which results in the slowing down of their metabolic processes. As a result, obesity among teens is increasing at a rapid rate. When teens gain a lot of weight, it affects them both physically and psychologically. They find it difficult to move around, run or play in a free manner like other young people. This makes them mentally depressed and frustrated. If the fat remains accumulated in the body for a long period of time, then it becomes difficult to get rid of that excessive fat and lose weight. It is also likely that overweight teens will grow up to be obese adults. Young adults with a heavy body are more prone to diabetes, heart ailments and arthritis.

Teens should keep themselves physically fit, as it will help them look attractive, feel good about themselves and enable them to work smartly. Physical activity is important for building and maintenance of healthy muscles, bones and joints. It helps in making the body more flexible and it increases the strength and endurance of the muscles. It also reduces unwanted body fat and helps keep a check on body weight. Physical activities like sports and exercises are required to keep the body fit, mentally healthy, get rid of depression and frustration, and improve self-esteem.

Some physical exercises for teens

Some teens may not like to get into the rigors of physical training. But, it is not essential to undergo rigorous sessions of strenuous physical exercises. A moderate amount of physical activity every day is enough to stay fit. Teens may prefer to enjoy aerobic exercises, which have a lot of variety and are fun to do. Other forms of exercise that have a good mix of fun and pleasure are swimming, ice skating, cycling, skiing, trampoline, etc. Some indoor and outdoor sports like soccer, hockey and basketball involve a lot of group activity which allows teens some scope to spend time with friends and keeps them physically active as well. Even a brisk 30-minute walk or a 15- to 20-minute jogging session in the morning is good enough.



Any activity chosen for physical exercise must lead to hard breathing and good sweating. Benefits of physical exercise can be obtained, if they are practiced regularly. Care should be taken that the exercises are not overdone, as that can cause injury and weakening of bones.

Here in St. Maarten, government can help by making it compulsory in the school curriculum for students to be in at least one sport activity, for example volley ball, basketball or tennis. Government can also introduce more Caribbean sports such as net ball, where main events are kept each school year.

Teens should consider joining a gym that provides other activities such as Taebo, Zumba or Aerobics where they can work out an hour cardio activity at least three times a week. Rayette Harrel's Zumba Fitness Centre on Illidge road is one gym that provides all the activities mentioned. The first class is free and then after that students pay US \$45 monthly. Those who join now can get the "two for the price of one" Carnival special.

Joining a gym on your own might not motivate you, so it is advisable that you join with a group; this can also turn out to be cheaper.

“.....is now in a relationship...or maybe not!”

Ana da Silva Salazar

We've all seen it happen before: "Elisabeth is now in a relationship;" and before we even have a chance to change windows from your facebook page, BAM! 20 "likes!" (A like is a thumbs-up indication that you give on facebook pictures, status changes, etc.) Before the week is over, "Elisabeth is no longer listed in a relationship" or "Elisabeth is now single." And as you scroll through the comments, all the likes have turned to: "Oh, well, it wasn't worth it." Or "I'm here for you!" followed by arguments as to why various ones would like the new relationship update.

What is it about social networks that makes us young people feel the need to inform everyone of our every move, especially when it comes to showcasing our relationships? Facebook is a social network, which means it's a place to connect and interact with others who aren't usually around

you or to find old friends. But the clever thing about social networks, and facebook in particular, is that it could even be considered a place to find a significant other. Has this ever happened to you or a friend before the invention of facebook? Until facebook, countless faces you did not recognize walked past you; then facebook came around and now you find yourself pointing and leaning into your friends and saying, "Hey! That's so and so! I've seen her on facebook." The thing is, thanks to facebook, the possibility of meeting new people has become greater and also the chances of meeting a significant other - boyfriend or girlfriend.

Then when you meet in person, you keep talking and eventually begin dating and soon enough you're in what seems like a relationship (if all goes well); then the question arises: "Are we like... facebook 'official'?" And that's where things seem to turn south (or not). How could you tell the girl/guy you've been trying to be with most of the school year that you don't want to



add her to your relationship status? The problem is you probably don't want to publicly announce anything of the sort, but agree to it anyway, and before you know it: "Jeremy is now in a relationship with Maxine" BAM! 40 likes in a matter of 10 minutes. So, now you're public and all your friends, as well as your grandma, father, cousins, know! Exciting? But now there's one thing that most tend to forget - Facebook is open to everyone as long as you share information such as pictures, comments and wall posts with others.

your boyfriend/girlfriend or possibly sharing an inside joke.

Then tagged pictures reveal a party and s/he's been dancing with other girls/guys and sitting next to them the whole night. You see in their recent activity they've been commenting and liking the other's profile pictures far more than normal to you. Innocent or not, you're jealous and you wonder why the sudden attention from other girls/guys, arguments ensue over wall posts, things they wrote to others playfully or 'flirty' to you, the comments on pictures of guys/girls, the constant picture liking. But it doesn't stop only at the jealousy, liking certain "Like Pages" that show what pages you favour, what you virtually promote even if it's "Playboy" or "Drinking Games" can cause a stir-up or mild argument of "Why did you like that on facebook?" Even if you associate yourself or not with the above mentioned, it can be clearly seen that as easily as you get to know someone through facebook, if you're not mature enough to set aside a mind set that it's just a social network, before you know it, you'll be reading: "Jeremy is no longer listed in a relationship."

This is where jealousy, insecurity and embarrassment begin to set in. Before the relationship girls/guys wrote on your significant other's wall and possibly vice versa, but now it's a little different. As you spend time on facebook, you tend to be on your significant other's page a lot more than usual, dropping wall posts, or whatever it is you may do to show affection, and then you stop at a certain wall post or recently tagged picture: The wall post is from a former girlfriend/boyfriend or another person. Fact being it can be a completely harmless post, yet you find yourself feeling a turmoil inside, feeling jealous as to why the girl/guy may be "flirting" with

CANTO
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
Essay Competition

26th Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition
11th - 14th July, 2010
Curaçao

Essay Theme:
"Better city, better life with ICTs"

1st Place:

- Trip for 2 to attend CANTO 2010 (Curaçao)
- Hotel Accommodation
- One Notebook Computer plus US\$1000.00

2nd Place:

- One Notebook Computer plus US\$500.00

3rd Place:

- One Smartphone plus US\$250.00

4th Place:

- One Smartphone

Rules

- Open to all students from CANTO full member countries ages 15-17
- Essay may be sent via email/fax
- 600 words or less/typed - double spaced
- Identify all sources of information
- Must be in standard English
- Must include name, age and contact details of student
- Must include name of parent/guardian and school
- Deadline for submission of essays - May 3rd 2010
- Visit www.canto.org for complete list of rules

2009 Winner
Gabrielle Grant
Queens College
Barbados

For more information or to enter the competition, visit www.canto.org or contact Tricia Baltazar
CANTO-ITISD Essay Competition
67 Pictou St., Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Phone: 1 868 622-3770/4781/0829 FAX: 1 868 622-3751 Email: tbaltazar@canto.org

facebook
relationship status icons

- in a relationship
- ... one of us thinks we're in a relationship
- refusing to admit it's over
- in an on, off, on again type relationship
- in a relationship but we don't know what we're doing
- recently single and probably bitter
- in a relationship for the sex only
- in an open relationship



Unrest in the Middle East

By Hazel Alberts

Unrest in the Middle East started to be apparent in December 2010. The unrest first emerged, of course, in Tunisia. It took a mere 28 days for the Tunisian people to successfully get Ben Ali to step down from his position of president and dictator. The exact date on which Ben Ali resigned was January 14. Merely 11 days later, Egypt took its chance.

The unrest spread to many Arab countries such as Jordan, Libya and Yemen. During the protests in Tunisia, approximately 200 people lost their lives. Later, during the Egyptian protests, more than 600 people died. Libyan protests that have still not succeeded in getting Libya's leader Gaddafi to resign could have resulted in up to 10,000 deaths.

Ordinary people in the Middle East are obviously unhappy with the conditions they are forced to live in. These are countries with political systems that restrict people's freedom, and high food prices. The freedom of the people is restricted by leaders who have ruled for more than 20 years without any competi-

tion; and the people have been unable to protest or voice opinions opposing the leader of the country without being jailed.

Food prices have risen all over the world due to inflation. The Arab countries where protests are occurring are less wealthy and are thus affected more severely by inflation. In Arab countries, it is estimated that the people spend about 80% of their income on food only.

Social media like facebook and Twitter has played a big role in the protests in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and have been used to plan protests and to show the world things that, without the internet and social media, no one outside these countries might have ever known about.

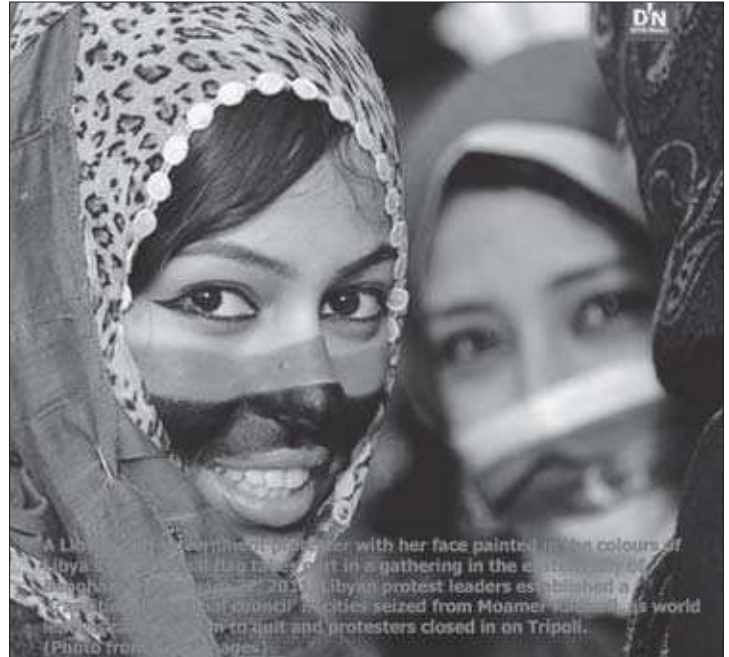
An example of this took place in Egypt after the death of Khaled Saeed, who was arrested by Egyptian police and then beaten to death. Pictures of Saeed's corpse were posted on facebook after this. A facebook page called "We are all Khaled Said" was created which now has over 100,000 "likes." The picture of

Saeed's corpse is said to have contributed greatly to the beginning of the Egyptian Revolution.

As mentioned before, there has been an astounding number of deaths during the protests in Libya. In addition, Libya's ruler, Muammar Gaddafi, vowed not to stop violence against protesters when he said he would kill anyone who opposed him. He also refers to the opposition as rodents and blames them for being under the influence of substances such as drugs and alcohol. Gaddafi and those loyal to him have blamed Western society for wanting to restrict the freedom of the Libyan people and attempting to cause a civil war in Libya. However, Gaddafi also blames Al-Qaeda and Bin Laden for the protests in Libya. He believes they are drugging the Libyan people.

On March 18, Gaddafi had officially stated that he would cease violence against Libyan citizens. He did not follow up on his promise which resulted in immediate action from the United Nations. A no fly zone was implemented. This means Libyan armed forces are prohibited from flying above Libya. The purpose of the no fly zone is to protect civilians from Libyan attacks from aircraft. The UN also eliminated Gaddafi's means of harming citizens on the ground. Currently, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is in charge of the no fly zone as well as the naval arms (at sea). The opposition in Libya constantly struggles to take control of cities in Libya. Control of every city is passed back and forth between Gaddafi's forces and the opposition in what is now called the 2011 Libyan Civil War.

It is apparent that the people in the Middle East and North Africa are seeking freedom and better living conditions. Seeing that countries in their region are succeeding in standing up to the leaders of their respective countries gives the countries where protests are going on hope



A Libyan woman with her face painted in the colours of Libya's national flag takes part in a gathering in the city of Benghazi. In August 2011, Libyan protest leaders established a "National Council of Transitional Justice" to investigate human rights abuses committed by Moamer Gaddafi's world leader regime. The council has since been closed in on Tripoli. (Photo from Reuters)



that they too can achieve freedom.

While protests and unrest continue, we can only hope the violence against

the Libyan people as well as violence in other countries cease. After the resignation of leaders of these countries, citizens usually continue to struggle

because unrest remains, as they seek democracy, which is not easy to obtain where dictators had ruled for decades.



Youth taking charge

~ National Tree Day ~

By Melissa Ramessar
& Luis Hurtault

Tree Day is celebrated every year on March 22. This year SIMARC (Sint Maarten Archaeology Centre) students along with SIMARC director Dr. Jay B. Havisar celebrated Tree Day by planting trees at 11 community centres around the island. The type of tree SIMARC planted this year was the "Stinking Toe" tree.

SIMARC planted the Stinking Toe because it has a great history. This indigenous tree was selected "to take roots in the soil" in each community to highlight the importance of trees to life. In different places, the tree is known by various names: "Jatoba" in Brazil/Portugal, "Yatoba" in Curaçao, "Locus" in England and "Kawanari" to the Arawaks.

The Arawaks, who once settled on St. Maarten, prided this tree; and the agouti (a large rodent found in South America and the Caribbean) which they kept as pets (and used for food) ate the seed pods found on this tree as a source of energy.

On National Tree Day, Teen Times sought the views of four SIMARC students (Alicia Miller, Melissa Ramessar, Neil Gursahani and Tamara Reid); their supervisor Jay Havisar; and environmentalist Jadira Veen.

Jadira Veen

Q. What is one way you can raise awareness of Tree Day?

A. Awareness can be raised about Tree Day by targeting the youth. If we tell the youth about it, then they can tell other youth. This can change our behaviour towards planting a tree.

Q. What steps are you taking to improve your environment?

A. One step the Pride Foundation has taken to improve the environment is by advising local supermarkets to prevent the use of plastic bags.

Jay Havisar

Q. What is one way you can raise awareness of Tree Day?

A. One way you can raise awareness of Tree Day is by involving community members in the planting of trees, not just SIMARC but everyone else. Another way of course is by having a tree day and informing the community about this day and the importance.

Q. What steps are you taking to improve your environment?

A. Well, first of all by establishing a tree day on St. Maarten and involving the community. Also, throughout our research, the more you know about your environment, the better it is to protect it.

Neil Gursahani

Q. Why do you care about trees?

A. I care about trees because I am aware of all the benefits we as people get from them. Trees are very beneficial to all of us in a variety of ways, whereby they help the environment by removing the hazardous gases in our atmosphere i.e. carbon dioxide.

Q. What is your understanding of having trees in the environment?

A. Trees are very important to all of mankind and I believe we should do whatever we can in our power to help maintain them in our environment.

Alicia Miller

Q. Why do you care about trees?

A. To me, trees give us oxygen and therefore life to all living things. It is also a primary producer of many habitats.

Q. What are you doing to contribute to the environment?

I don't buy or use SPF products and I recycle.

Melissa Ramessar

Q. Why do you care about trees?

A. I care about trees because trees play a big role in our environment. Trees are beneficial not only to humans but to animals and the atmosphere.

Q. What is your understanding of having trees in the environment?

A. Without trees; there would be a lack of oxygen – the air which we breathe. There would also be a severe lack of food because most of the foods we eat come from plants. All in all, life would be nonexistent.

Tamara Reid

Q. What is one way you can raise awareness of Tree Day?

A. By talking about it with the people around you. Tree Day represents a day for celebrating and remembering the value of trees in our world.

Q. What are you doing to contribute to the environment?

A. I do not litter.

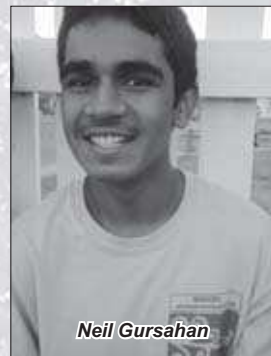
The first Tree Day in 2008 was marked by the planting of a flamboyant tree in front of the still-to-be completed Government Administration Building on the Pond. In 2009, to mark Tree Day, SIMARC students and Dr.



Jadira Veen



Jay Havisar



Neil Gursahani



Alicia Miller



Melissa Ramessar



Tamara Reid

Havisar along with their many supporters planted trees in the Philipsburg parking lot on Pond Fill road, in Emilio Wilson Park, Cay Hill Roundabout and other locations. To mark Tree Day in 2010, SIMARC planted a tree at each high school on the island. On Saturday, March 26, SIMARC students with Jay Havisar, Interact members of St. Dominic High School and several members of the public set out to the various community centres to plant trees in each community.

Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams said, "It takes nothing to plant a tree." Trees, however, are important to everyone on the island and the planet. The Prime Minister told the gathering of mainly young people, community council representatives and event sponsors of Tree Day, that thanks to the efforts of Archaeologist Jay Havisar and his SIMARC students, the efforts that started in 2008 have grown to a stage where "we can all be a part of it."

The strongest way to protect the environment and save the world is to protect the trees. Trees play an important role in keeping our air clean. If there is no fresh air available, life will be nonexistent. There are many things you can do to save trees. Planting trees must be encouraged as much



as possible to save the planet: Avoid cutting down trees unless there is an extreme need; prefer paperless communication instead of using paper; minimize the use of paper towel by using cloth towel or a handkerchief instead.

Dear Princess,

My best friend's boyfriend broke up with her because he feels the relationship isn't working out. The problem is that he made my best friend think everything was "gold" and "silver," when things weren't really like that. She is very hurt and really thinks there is another girl in the picture. But she regrets wasting her time with him and now wants to tell him how she really feels inside, but doesn't know how. Although she has told me she is letting him go mentally and emotionally, what as a best friend can I advise her to do?

Concerned best friend

Dear concerned best friend,

Well, I'm going to be straight up! You seem like you really care about your friend, so all you have to tell her is to send him to the left and raise her hand up because it's cheaper to be a single lady in these hard economic times. Let her see the upside to being single (she doesn't have to spend money on him for commercial holidays such as Valentine's, and instead spend her money on herself getting all jazzed up making herself look like a dime and a half). I mean so what if there's another girl in the picture? That just proves he was just what I said, "a boy," and not yet ready to become a man. She needs to also face reality because nothing can seem like silver and gold unless she has been ignoring signs. Even with what seems to be the perfect relationship, there will always have trouble. She has also realized that her time was wasted; tell her if he didn't take her feelings seriously the first time, what will make him consider them now? Just tell her to keep her chin up and remember that it's raining boys all day every day, so either she get an umbrella and a raincoat to shelter herself or get back in the game and share her umbrella with someone worth it.

Princess



Teen Features @ your library Reading is FUNdamental

You know the library has plenty of books, but did you know that the library staff is happy to help you improve your grades? They offer homework help and research assistance on school projects. In fact if you don't visit the library at least once a week, you are missing out! The library is full of interesting magazines which you can read in big comfy chairs or spread out at study tables! You can find fun, youth-oriented reading material, and rent DVDs and CDs too.

The St. Maarten Library Website is a great place to get homework help or book report assistance. You can also find out about university applications and careers that you can pursue. It's all there to help you succeed, so take advantage of this great resource!

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SAT. 10-1:00pm	

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Website: www.stmaartenlibrary.org

Just another hero

By Sharon M. Draper

Suppose someone showed up in your classroom carrying an AK-47. You have a split second to think; to act; to be a hero. But what is a hero? That question becomes all too real for Arielle, November, Jericho and their friends. But senior year is going well, and when the fire alarm goes off in English class, everyone assumes that Crazy Jack is trying to get out of another quiz. The alarm was pulled for a very different reason – a potentially deadly reason. There's only a matter of seconds to stop tragedy, and all eyes are searching for someone – anyone – to step up and do something.

The thief

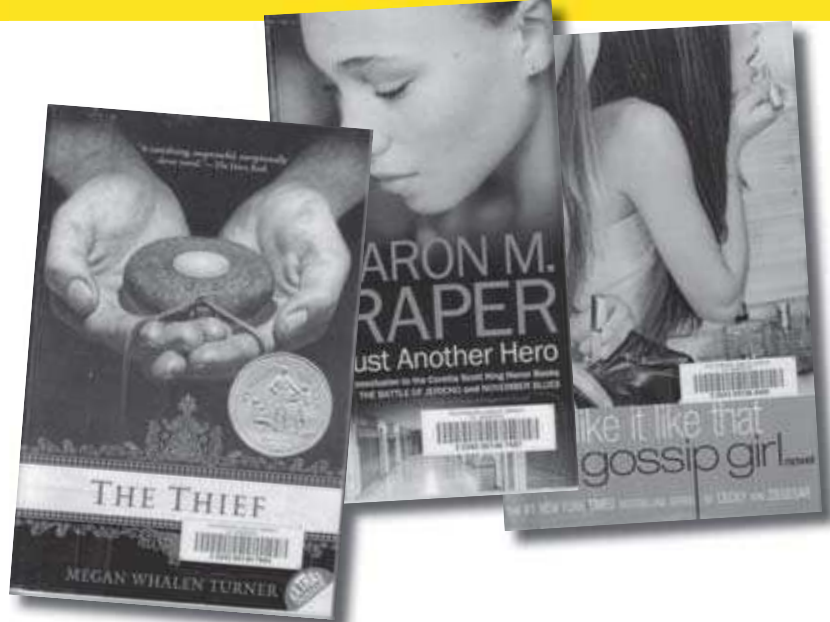
By Megan Whalen Turner

"I can steal anything." After Gen's bragging lands him in the king's prison, the chances of escape look slim. Then the king's scholar, the magus, needs the thief's skill for a seemingly impossible task – to steal a hidden treasure from another island. To the magus, Gen is just the tool. But Gen is a trickster and a survivor with a plan of his own.

I like it like that

By Cecily von Ziegesar

Series: Gossip Girl
Spring Break is here and it's time



for S & B to jet out to Sun Valley for plenty of après-ski hot tub fun. Too bad for those unfortunate few who have to stay in New York and intern among the city's most fabulous glitterati. Back on the slopes, when the ski house is this big, who can keep track of N, and who's sleeping where? So get out your cashmere-lined boots and meet me by the fire.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

By J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter is midway through both his training as a wizard and his coming-of-age. Harry wants to get away from the pernicious Dursleys and go to the Quidditch World Cup with Hermione, Ron and the Weasleys. He wants to dream about Cho Chang, his crush. He wants to

find out about the mysterious event that's supposed to take place at Hogwarts this year, an event involving two other rival schools of magic, and a competition that hasn't happened for hundreds of years. He wants to be a normal, 14-year old wizard. But unfortunately for Happy Potter, he's not normal – even by wizarding standards. And in this case, different can be deadly.

Dance Theater of St. Maarten

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THE LITTLE MERMAID

The Broadway Musical

Directed and
Choreographed by
Susha Hien
and
Ihndhira Marlin

Starring

ARIEL DANICA ZICHEM
PRINCE ERIC ANDREW SYLVESTE
URSULA IHNDHIRA MARLIN

Premiere

Sat, April 9th

8:00pm

\$25

Philipsburg
Cultural Center

Sunday, April 10th - 6:00pm

Saturday, April 16th - 8:00pm

Sunday, April 17th - 6:00pm

Children \$15

Adults \$20

*discounted tickets available
until March 31st at the
Dance Theater*

Tickets available at

Dance Theater of St. Maarten,
EBS Executive Business Services
and Van Dorp (Madam Estate)

For more information contact
544-3633 or 526-6914
e-mail info@dancesxm.com

