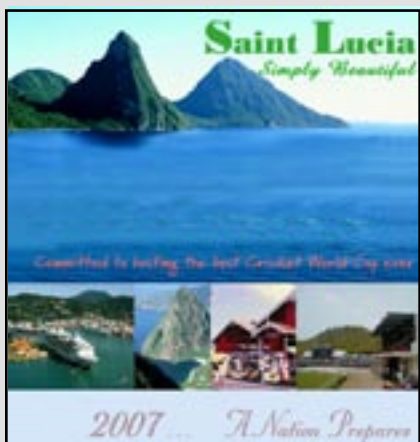




# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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Rodents can be controlled - page 6

# ST. LUCIA RECEIVES ACADEMY AWARD

## PITONS NOW WORLD HERITAGE SITE



## 700 HUNDRED MORE ROOMS COMING FROM COCO CREOLE, DISCOVERY BAY AND COCONUT BAY



## HOSTING CWC 2007: LATEST PRESS CONFERENCE HELD WEDNESDAY BY HEAD OF CWC 2007



## AMERICAN AIRLINES BACK IN ST. LUCIA



**A**s the only Caribbean recipient of the Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences, Saint Lucia's tourism industry has been elevated to an elite grouping of the finest, tourism destinations.

United States Journalist, Jeremy Bits, who spoke on behalf of the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences, said the award set those destinations apart, for their overall excellence and outstanding commitment to hospitality.

"Places like the world famous Ritz in Paris, the Peninsular in Hong Kong, the Oriental in Bangkok, the Mars logo Club in Palm Beach Florida, Seaborne Cruise Lines, all of these hospitality and tourist desti-

nation have been recognized with the American Academy's International Five Star Diamond Award. And tonight we honour the island of St. Lucia for excellence in tourism, the first island in the Caribbean to hold that type of honour, and American Airlines, as well for their new air service to the island of Saint Lucia", Mr. Bits informed.

Mr. Joseph Cinque, President of the American Academy presented the Five Star Diamond Award to Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony on the weekend, during a special function at the Royal St. Lucian Hotel. Dr. Anthony noted that St. Lucia was well aware of the fierce global rivalry that went on in the international tourism business, and as a result the industry and its workforce, refused to bask in complacency.

"We know that the global competi-

tion in tourism is getting stronger everyday, and some might say tougher and tougher. The pressure to create new jobs and the pressure to grow the industry must be balanced with the value, quality and sustainability. Receiving this award tonight encourages me to believe that we are on the right path, this is not to say that we have completed our journey, but that we have reached an important milestone", the Prime Minister said.

Dr. Anthony surmised that with the recent designation of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site, the island's hosting of World Cup matches in 2007 and now the Islands latest award, along with the expectation that the island's hotel occupancy will be increased by 750 rooms within the next six months, 2004 has been a good year for tourism in Saint Lucia.



**"Take ②" - A fifteen minute news review of the week.**  
Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

**Government Notebook**  
A fresh news package daily  
on all local radio stations





# Report on Health Study presented to Government

**The Health Study Report is now in the hands of Cabinet. Hon. Mario Michel, Minister for Education and Deputy Prime Minister received the report on behalf of Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony. The study was conducted by the Health Study Commission established by Cabinet to conduct investigations into St. Lucia's medical system.**

Chairman of the Commission Sir Richie Haynes said that the Health Study was an extremely exhaustive one, which required the collaboration of public health institutions, health

professionals, officials in the Ministry of Health and related ministries.

The Health Study Report makes recommendations on programs of action over the next few years that are expected to evolve into major changes in the culture, physical structure and delivery of health care in St. Lucia.

"When you look at the overall situation in St. Lucia, we concur with previous studies that you have a good infrastructure, in terms of your primary health care, in terms of the relationships, and so on. The question is how to make it function and how to make

individuals in the system function, how to change the culture in some instances quite acutely", remarked Sir Richie.

The Report further makes recommendations to address the defects in the legislative structure governing health services. It also highlights the concerns of doctors and nurses.

"You have a solid core of qualified consultants at the level of doctors, you have a solid core of well educated nurses, and we have been very, very impressed with the presentations that the nurses made. I think that the big issues like migration of nurses, the vari-

ous levels of dissatisfaction in the nursing services, the role that they should play in the governance of management of the system, all that is dealt with and there are specific recommendations", Sir Richie assured.

As the government of St. Lucia continues to invest heavily in the physical infrastructure of the health services, human resource compatibility has become key, according to Minister Michel: "We are confident that your report, ably assisted by others - Mrs. Jennifer Astafan, Dr. Barbara Johnson and Mr. Cletus Springer - will provide the sort of recommendation, the sort of framework that we require to end this gulf that has existed, and which enables us to work hand in hand with the human resource situation, together with the improvement in the health sector, to ensure that we can take the health system forward".

## Finance facility established to help firms become CSME-ready

**The 10th Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community is billed as the test for the completion of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). A process, which started 31 years ago, is all tied into one year, with the December 31st 2005 deadline fast approaching.**

Addressing the opening ceremony this morning was host Prime Minister, Patrick Manning. Mr. Manning spoke of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the financing of the programme of the CSME. He spoke of a facility, which allows companies in the region to borrow from the domestic market on terms and conditions favorable to them.

Speaking of a CARICOM Trade Support Programme, which was launched in Jamaica this month, Mr. Manning said it sought to support and strengthen the region's private sector, by providing assistance to firms, so as to enable them to improve their competitiveness and export capability: "This is part of our strategy to make businesses in our region CSME-ready on a timely basis". The facility of TT\$100 million contemplates interest free loans to non-Trinidad and Tobago companies.

Pointing to challenges in respect of the energy supplies, which Trinidad and Tobago is presently exploring to put together a comprehensive policy on regional energy supplies to support CARICOM member states, Mr. Manning said, "Trinidad and Tobago established, effective 1st July 2004, a grant facility capitalized at a maximum of TT\$25 million per month. By the end of October last, just a few days ago, TT\$100 million would have already accrued. Over one year, which is the period for which this facility will operate in the first instance, with the option for its renewal thereafter, this facility will realize and accumulation of TT\$300 million".

The Trinidad and Tobago government is also looking at developing a network of pipelines to supply oil to its regional neighbours. Mr. Manning informed that the feasibility studies for the distribution of natural gas to the region through a pipeline, indicated that this effort would require, not one, but two major lines across the region. One line he said, would extend from Tobago to Barbados and unto Martinique, with

a spur south to St. Lucia, and would move further north to Guadeloupe, with another spur to Dominica. There is the potential for an additional spur from Guadeloupe to Antigua and St. Kitts. He noted that the extension of gas supplies to the region would "bring every island to the service within the ambit we hold for Tobago, and for Trinidad and Tobago."

Grenada's Prime Minister and Chairman of CARICOM, Dr Keith Mitchel gave an impassioned speech thanking his colleague Heads of Government for their continued support for Grenada in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. He spoke of the continuing needs of Grenada, and called on colleagues to provide scholarships for the hundreds of Grenadian youths, who are now facing a bleak future following Ivan. He called for persons in the tourism industry in the region to reach out to Grenadians in the industry, to provide jobs for at least

one year for the hundreds who are now displaced.

Mr. Mitchel said the lessons of Grenada have made regional integration a religion for Grenada. He said it was an



Patrick Manning



Dr Keith Mitchel

## Governor-General wants greater recognition for war veterans

**As the world again observes Veterans' Week and Remembrance Day, the St. Lucian society has been called upon to reflect on what can best be described as the challenge of peace in modern times.**

In her message on this particular occasion, Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy has endeavoured to shift attention from society's role as spectators in this global environment of sectarian violence, acts of terrorism and genocide, to one of being a vanguard for peace.

According to Dame Pearlette, maintaining peace at both the personal and political level calls for among other things, compas-

sion, patience, humility, integrity and the capacity to listen.

"On both the personal and national level, we can take on our own acts of bridge-building to bring our communities, our world closer together. The voices of the victims of the conflicts may be silent or silenced forever, but we can get their histories from those who witnessed and survived, and use their experiences, their perceptions, to start building those bridges", the Governor-General said.

Dame Pearlette made an appeal for greater acknowledgement to be given to the millions, who have died in pursuit of peace, as well those who are still alive, so

that their death may not be in vain.

"Many of those who took part in the conflicts or who assured the welfare of their comrades on and off the battlefield are still with us today. We honour their effort and their service. Let the tribute that we pay them today, go beyond lip service; let it touch their lives in a practical way, as they too remember their fallen comrades and reflect on their own contribution, however small or unsung, to the fragile peace we now enjoy", Governor-General Dame Pearlette Louisy said

Veterans Week and Remembrance Day is observed annually in the month of November.

## PM calls for renewed interest in Remembrance Day

**The public is being called upon to re-new interest in the contribution that local British ex-service men and women made in World War One and Two, and particularly, to show a sense of humanity towards them.**

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony made the call during his weekly radio address - Conversations with the Nation. He lamented that the historical significance of Remembrance Day appeared to be unknown to younger generations of Saint Lucians, although the annual observance this year marked its 60th Anniversary.

"Some must wonder why, every year around this time, war veterans display their medals and participate in the commemorative parades, or why this particular month

of November every year is called Remembrance Day, or why the red poppy goes on sale at this time every year, or why the veterans gather on the white structure on the Square called the Cenotaph, on which several names are described," said Dr. Anthony.

Dr. Anthony expressed concern that this lack of knowledge may be at the root of dwindling public interest in the welfare of ex-servicemen and women, as well as the steady reduction in Poppy sales noted over the years.

The trend of lower poppy sales has hit the veterans very hard, particularly since the proceeds were used to provide many of them with small incomes, Dr. Anthony said: "So buying a poppy is not just an act

of remembrance. The proceeds go to the Ex-Services League to assist its members. By wearing a poppy during this period, we are demonstrating our appreciation for those who died and for those who survived. By contributing to the Ex-Services League, we are helping desperate old soldiers like the one who Mrs. Pilgrim graphically described as living in a basket."

The Prime Minister made a plea for all St. Lucians to turn out at the Remembrance Day parades this coming Sunday and talk to the old soldiers, join them, and pay tribute to those who did not survive.

The Remembrance Day ceremony will take place on Sunday November 14th, 2004.

# CARICOM to forge ahead with the 2005 deadline



Prime Ministers Patrick Manning, Keith Mitchel and Owen Arthur flanked by CARICOM officials at the recent 10th Special Meeting

**The 10th Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community ended its first day with a decision on a top agenda issue - to keep the 2005 deadline for the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market.**

All 15 member states of CARICOM have pledged to remove all remaining restrictions to become CSME compliant. Prime Minister of Barbados and CARICOM's lead minister on the Single Market and Economy, Honourable Owen Arthur said at a press conference

Monday night that he believed the Heads of Government had achieved a lot. He said, "I do not want to overstate the accomplishments, but we have achieved much when all 15 territories, including Montserrat, a country of its circumstances announced it will be ready for the CSME by 2005."

A major outcome on Monday was an agreement to move beyond the five categories of workers to encourage greater mobility of people within the region. The Prime Minister of Dominica, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit has been given a mandate to draw up the necessary instruments for the consideration of Heads of Government when they meet in February of 2005.

Heads also agreed to set up the Regional Development Fund under article 158 of the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. This is an area of tremendous interest to countries like St. Lucia. The Barbados Prime Minister said, "If you're gonna have the Caribbean is-

lands function in the same economic space, an extraordinary effort has to be made to lift up those on the lower rung of the development ladder. Therefore, from the very outset of integration, one of the ancilliary aspects, what we may call the policy infrastructure has been determined to bring a regional development fund into existence... we have been working with the CDB on how this fund will be structured and be made to come into existence to the benefit of the region."

The expectation is for all arrangements for the Regional Development Fund to be accomplished by the time all member countries are at the stage of final implementation of the Single Market.

Mr. Arthur said the 10th Special Conference had an ambitious agenda, and at the end of the first day was satisfied that 15 separate economies had not relaxed the timetable to fusing one single economy.

He said the region was doing what only Europe had done, and was doing so as sovereign entitled, unlike Europe. He said since the process began, over 400 pieces of legislation have been removed between the 15 member countries to put the Caribbean on the road to the 2005 goal for a Single Market

## New Payables and Purchasing System coming

**The Ministry of Finance is re-engineering the business processes of the Government of Saint Lucia. The Ministry has been collaborating with the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Programme (ECEMP) in executing the exercise dubbed "Strengthening Financial Management."**

The project, which will specifically introduce a new Payables and Purchasing System for the government, is being spearheaded by the Department of the Accountant General. Accountant General, Mr. Agosta Degazon said the project had covered two critical phases and was now into its third phase.

"Our five core business practices identified under this project are Accounting, Funds Management, HR, Payroll, and Procurement. It also involves reviewing our legal framework. There will also be a review of our organisation and revised job descriptions to go along with those streamlined procedures". Mr. Degazon explained.

Team Leader for Procurement, Tessa Felicien said the Accountant General's Department now delivers a faster service, particularly since the tedious Voucher System had been discontinued and is being replaced by an automated

process.

"With the voucher system, what you had at first was this manual system, whereby you had both the procurement and the LPO (Local Purchase Order) joined with the invoice.

Customers constantly complain that Treasury is taking way too long in the processing of vouchers, when in fact, sometimes the system was very involved", Miss Felicien explained.

Currently all governments departments are electronically connected via the new financial system known as Smartstream.

# Association to deepen relations with China formally launched

**The relationship between St. Lucia and China is set to expand with the formal launching of the St. Lucia-China Friendship Association which took place at the Conference Room of the National Insurance Corporation on Friday, November 5, 2004.**

Vice President of the Association, Minister for Labour Relations, Public Service and Co-operatives, Hon. Velon John gave some background on the formation of the Association.

"In our opinion", Minister John said, "this is a milestone in our relationship with China, a relationship that began when this government, in its wisdom, and a sense of perspicacity, decided to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1997, and by so doing, recognising the historical fact that there is one China, and Taiwan is indeed an integral part of China. But diplomatic relations has its limitations and possibilities, and it was our awareness of that in some measure, that prompted us to establish a non-governmental nexus that will transcend these limitations, expand these possibilities and sublimate the relationship between the people of the two countries."

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to St. Lucia, His Excellency Gu Huamin was proud of the initiative to launch such an organisation, and said it would reinforce friendship between the two nations.

"The major aim of the Association is to promote friendly and constructive relations with the People's Republic of China and their non governmental

organisations, to facilitate culture and other exchanges that would reinforce the links of friendship between the two countries and facilitate, augment and enhance non-governmental diplomacy between China and St. Lucia," Ambassador Gu said.

At the end of his address Ambassador Gu presented an initial cheque donation of EC\$3,000.00 to the newly

formed association to assist in its establishment.

President of the Association and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Earl Bousquet used the occasion to launch a publication entitled "Ten Days Behind the Great Wall," which is a compilation of articles he wrote while leading a team of 21 regional journalists on a tour of China earlier this year.



Vice President Hon. Velon John, addresses the audience whilst President Earl Bousquet looks on



# Remembering our PM in conversation



**Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony**

**H**ello Again, St. Lucia, after a reflective week of shared pain about the untimely death of Jany and the unfortunate loss of the little ones of Lady Spice, we must turn our attention to the challenges of daily living.

It is that time of the year when, once more, we have to participate in an activity that is sixty years old, but whose significance is lost to our younger generation. I speak of the activities on Remembrance Day, next Sunday, November 14, 2004.

Some must wonder why, every year around this time, war veterans display their medals and participate in the commemorative parades; or, why this particular day in the month of November every year is called Remembrance Day; or, why the Red Poppy goes on sale at this time every year; or, why the veterans gather around that white structure on the Square called the Cenotaph, on which several names and dates are inscribed.

#### **For King and Country...**

The veterans of whom I speak participated in the two World Wars of the last century, a few in the First World War of 1914-1918 and others in the Second World War of 1939-45. They left these shores, served in different countries and fought different battles, but against a common enemy.

Britain was at war, and as St. Lucia was a British colony inhabited by British subjects, St. Lucia was also at war. Our veterans made sacrifices in the name of King and Country.

#### **Remembering Those Who Didn't Return**

When these survivors of World War

II get together on the Derek Walcott Square after attending mass on Remembrance Day, they do so not only to meet and greet each other, but also to recall valour and sacrifice on the altar of death. They also get together to remember those who did not survive, those who served with them and did not return. And they are not alone. As we also see each year at this time on TV, throughout the world, on both sides of the Atlantic, similar activities are held to remember those who fought and died in the two World Wars.

#### **Humble and Committed Service**

The veterans in St. Lucia belong to the British Ex-Services League. Every year, they are brought together, largely through the efforts of their humble and committed Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Pilgrim, who enlisted in the Auxiliary Services during World War II.

Year after year, Mrs. Pilgrim and her fellow veterans work tirelessly to encourage the society to remember their efforts and their contributions to the cause of freedom. Every year they toil, unfazed by the fact that many others turn their backs and even ridicule them. Mrs. Pilgrim perseveres in the cause of these men and women, though, with each passing year, it becomes harder and harder. Her commitment, though weakened, endures. She deserves our admiration, respect and most important of all, our SUPPORT.

#### **The Red Poppy and "Flanders Field"**

Remembrance Day is celebrated in the month of November for historical reasons. That is the month when red poppies go on sale at various locations.

These red poppies symbolize the eternal strength of the spirit of those who died during the wars. It has its origins in a poem called "In Flanders Field", which was written by Dr John Mc Crae in May 1915, during the First World

War.

The story of the Red Poppy is interesting. Poppies are resilient. They only grow in uprooted soil. Their seeds can lie in the ground for years, only to sprout when that soil is disturbed or ploughed. Dr Mc Crae, who fought on the Western Front, was in a field of flowering poppies in Flanders when he wrote this poem, which has basically become one of the anthems of the veterans of both World Wars. Since then, the Poppy has been adopted as the symbol for Remembrance Day.

#### **Dwindling Interest...**

Unfortunately, as the memories of the World Wars fade so too has the symbolism of the poppy lost its appeal.

Once upon a time children were encouraged to go out and see the parades on Remembrance Day. Together with their parents, they gathered around the Square. Others followed the uniformed police, members of the Cadet Corps, visiting regiments from other countries, unarmed contingents like the St. Lucia Fire Service, the St. Lucia Red Cross, the Boys Scout Association and the Ex-Services League, through the streets of Castries.

Today, however, the numbers are dwindling and interest in Remembrance Day seems to be waning. Poppy sales are not like they used to be. As a result, the income from public donations, on which our veterans depend, has declined significantly.

## HIGH LEVEL CHINESE DELEGATION GOVERNOR-GENERAL, DAVID



# Our War Veterans n with the Nation

**But Not All Are Forgotten...**

Just a few days ago I heard Mrs. Pilgrim appealing to the public, as usual, to remember the veterans. This year, she made a special case for one destitute old soldier who has become homeless and who, she said, “now lives in a basket.” He is not alone. Many of the old veterans today feel forgotten, rejected and neglected. Many walk the streets in penury; and many die after a life in misery. We must remember them.

I was quite pleased earlier this year when Mr. Martin Thompson, a member of the Royal British Legion who is resident in Germany, visited St. Lucia to join us in paying special tribute to four St. Lucian war veterans whose bodies never made it home. The location of their remains had been a mystery for quite some time.

Mr. Thompson and the members of the local British Ex-Services League, led by Mrs. Pilgrim, organized a Memorial Service for the four young men, aged between 19 and 34, whose names are inscribed on the Cenotaph on Derek Walcott Square. The four men honoured were: Flying Officer Hugh Terrence Etienne, a Royal Air Force volunteer who has no known grave, but in whose name a plaque exists at a War Grave in Surrey; David Shingleton-Smith, also of the Royal Air Force Reserve, who died at age 19 and is buried at the Cheltenham Cemetery in the UK; Flight Sergeant Henry Eugene Middleton Dulieu, a Flight Navigator with the Royal Air Force Reserve who



**The Cenotaph at Derek Walcott Square**

died at age 34; and Denis Claude Desmond DuBoulay, a Pilot Officer and Air Gunner with the Royal Canadian Air Force, who died at age 20.

Mr Thompson, who researches and traces the history of fallen soldiers

from the wars, confirmed that both Flight Sergeant Dulieu and Pilot Officer DuBoulay are buried at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Berlin in Germany. His research has helped to solve several family puzzles and restore restless minds to peace.

**“Sixty years of Tomorrows...”**

The veterans remind us that those who died “left without seeing tomorrow”; and that they did so “to give us 60 years of tomorrows.” The veterans everywhere pledge, every year, that those who never made it “will not be forgotten, because there will always be more tomorrows.”

**Guarding Our Freedom Jealously...**

But there’s also a more powerful message from their gathering: it is, that we must guard our freedom jealously and fearlessly because it is precious.

These elderly men and women, who wear their medals with pride every year, were moved to put their lives on the line because they felt their freedom was at stake, even though they lived under a colonial yoke. Some of them remind us, with wagging fingers, that if Hitler had taken over Britain, France and the rest of Europe, the course of world history would have changed -- and our history too, would have been different. Indeed, I am often reminded of a late veteran who used to say that “had it not been for the Russians, we would have been speaking German in these islands today.”

**Nazism: A Common Threat**

Some may argue that the two World

Wars were wars between Colonial and Imperial powers of the day. That may have been so, but the undisputable fact is that Hitler wanted to impose on the world a virulent theology of racism that threatened every Black man, woman and child on every continent. The Jews were the first; the Black race was next!

**Remembering the Forgotten!**

So, buying a poppy is not just an act of remembrance. The proceeds go to the Ex-Services League to assist its members. By wearing a poppy during this period, we are demonstrating our appreciation for those who died and for those who have survived. By contributing to the Ex-Services League, we are helping desperate old soldiers like the one who Mrs. Pilgrim so graphically described as “living in a basket.”

**Conclusion**

So, let us all join them and pay tribute to those alive and those who did not survive. Let us turn out at the Remembrance Day parades this coming Sunday and talk to the “old soldiers”. Ask them to recount their stories and give them a listening ear. Spend a few minutes with them. Listen to their stories. Do not wound their pride.

Mrs. Dorothy Pilgrim and the Ex-Services League need your help, our help. So, buy a poppy and give a helping hand.

Until next week, may God Bless our Veterans of the two World Wars and the souls of those who have since departed.

## ELEGATION MEETS WITH AME PEARLETTE LOUISY





# Rodent Control Programme on the move

**The Rodent Control Coordination Unit (RCCU) has been set up and is housed on the 1st Floor - Ministry of Health. The Staff is comprised of a Programme Coordinator, a Communications Officer, an Environmental Officer and eight Vector Control Officers.**

The main objective of the Programme is to “control the population and Rats and Mice on the island.” The Programme will directly link poor san-

itation practices to the high level infestation which will compel our specific objective of a clean St Lucia.

The programmes’ theme is “Clean up Our Environment, Bait Control Rats and Mice infestation.” This theme has a specific intention for the public to get involve and take ownership of the Rodent Control Programme.

The design of the Programme is to be carried out in phases; first phase is a National Awareness and Education

Campaign, during which a survey will be carried out by means of a questionnaire, to access the infestation of rats and mice in households in the North and South of the island. The second phase is the Sanitation, Exclusion and Baiting. The third phase Surveillance, a combination of active and passive surveillance, which will be carried out during this period.

The RCCU can be contacted for further information at [Rodentsunit@hotmail.com](mailto:Rodentsunit@hotmail.com)



**(L) Dr. Perlinder Dupre and Mrs. Rose Aubertin**



## Martinique gearing to assist with new hospital

**A team from the University Hospital Complex of Martinique was on in St. Lucia last week, meeting with local health officials and other stakeholders involved the construction of the new hospital.**

The team shared its experience with St. Lucia, with a view to assisting the island in the development of a new general hospital and its health sector in general.

The new general hospital for St. Lucia is still in its design stage, but as

the pictures become clearer, stakeholders are ensuring that the health sector is prepared for implementation well ahead of the hospital’s completion in some 4 to 5 years.

The discussion with the La Menard Hospital was spearheaded by the National Authorizing Office of the European Development Fund. National Authorising Officer, Wilfred Pierre said the island would receive much needed assistance in medical information technology, telemedicine and bio-medical

technology.

Explaining further, Mr. Pierre said, “That is the equipment for the hospital to really do evaluation, and suggest to us the best type of equipment to get. They are also looking to provide us with assistance, in terms of human resource development, training for our health practitioners, such as nurses in the most recent techniques”.

St. Lucians, for many years have travelled to Martinique for medical services. But this is expected to

change, when the island’s new hospital is commissioned before the end of 2009. Mission Coordinator for the La Menard visit, Miss Francois Tanic, said this would not hamper the good relationship shared between the two countries in the area of health.

The Martinique delegation also paid a courtesy call on the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Hon. Jon Odlum, as well as engaged in a tour of the Victoria Hospital.

## Teachers undergoing training in creative writing

**Primary and Secondary School teachers undergoing training at the Division of Teacher Education at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC), are the major players in two innovative projects dubbed “The Writers Garden and the Writers Workshop”.**

The projects form part of a special course - The Teaching of Writing - which introduces the student-teachers to a refreshing set of classroom techniques.

The teachers are expected to inject a new element of creativity into the

subject area of Language and Writing upon their return to the classroom.

Language Arts Lecturer at the Division of Teacher Education and Educational Administration, Ms. Lisa Sargusingh-Terrance said that the College was also promoting this new approach, which challenges teachers to realize that their individual creativity must be brought to bear, in order to effectively transmit knowledge.

“This course actually focuses on teaching our student teachers how to approach writing in their classrooms from a process approach and moving

away from what we call the traditional approach to writing, whereby the focus was just on the final product”, said Ms. Sargusingh-Terrance, adding, “we have gone through the stages of the writing process from pre-writing to publishing, which is actually what authors do when they write, and coming out of this course our students produced a number of pieces.”

Ms. Sargusingh-Terrance said the teachers have opted to display their creativity, using unique initiatives dubbed “The Writers Garden” and the “Writers

Workshop”: “The pieces that they are putting into the Writers Garden are not the typical kind of writing pieces that one would do in the classroom even at the Secondary level, because they wrote pieces such as obituaries and recipes, and it’s not obituaries for people, obituaries for things like a pencil, an obituary for a dead computer”.

The overall aim of the project is to ensure that the local education system produces persons who can become ‘the skilled writers and authors of the future’.

# Chamber educates members on Universal Health Care

**The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture will be hosting an Executive Luncheon on Thursday, November 11, 2004 at the Indies Conference Centre from 12:30 pm. The Guest Speakers are Dr. Stephen King, Chief Medical Officer and Ms. Emma Hippolyte, Director of the National Insurance Corporation.**

In September 1997, the Minister of Health appointed a Health Sector Reform Committee which started the most recent Health Sector Reform process. Cabinet in December 2000 approved the policy presented in the Health Sector Reform proposal document dated March 2000. The vision is a health sector that is designed to produce “wellness” in the comprehensive sense including mental, physical, and social health. The underlying belief is that a people who are well “holistically” will be maximally productive and therefore in a position to fully develop themselves, their families, their communities and the nation. Essentially, the health sector is responsible for ensuring that the most valuable national resource, that is, the people, will be well enough to allow for maximum human resource development.

Universal Health Care (UHC) is being proposed as a supplementary financial mechanism for the health

system. It proposes to: Maximize the use of health resources and create a more efficient health system capable of providing quality health services in the most effective manner; reduce the impact of poverty by making health care affordable and accessible to all in need of care; reduce the resource gap in health to allow for more comprehensive coverage of health needs; focus resources on priority needs; incorporate

appropriate incentive and accountability frameworks into all provider and health worker agreements to ensure value for money.

The overall aim of the Universal Health Care (UHC) is to ensure that no one in need of care will be denied to quality health services. It is believed that the country can deliver to the people a well functioning health system driven by a robust finance mechanism.

The people in turn can deliver to the country a reduced burden of disease and enhanced productivity.

Chamber Members and the wider Business Community can look forward to an informative presentation by Dr. Stephen King and Ms. Emma Hippolyte as they address issues on How Will UHC Work? How Much Will It Cost? Who Pays? When? and What Happens to the Private Sector?



Dr. King explains UHC to journalists at a recent workshop

## Nurses to be apprised on Men’s Health Issues

**Community Health Nurses have placed the issue, Challenging Men’s Health at the top of the agenda for their Conference on November 19, 2004.**

The annual event of the Community Health Nursing Service is designed to provide a forum to update the nurses on current health issues and how these issues impact on the delivery of professional health care by nurses.

During this year’s activity, the nurses will examine issues relating primarily to men’s health. They will review

Saint Lucia’s epidemiological profile on men’s health issues; analyse the psychosocial and cultural behaviour amongst men towards health care; enhance their skills in relating to men’s health issues; and develop ways of utilizing health promotion strategies to address selected men’s health issues.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen King will deliver the feature conference address, which is scheduled to take place at the Rex St. Lucian Hotel.

More information can be obtained from Susanna Jolie at tel. 452 4416

## Christmas gift extravaganza coming

**The Ministry of Commerce, Investment & Consumer Affairs in collaboration with ten companies from the craft and manufacturing sectors will be staging a Christmas gift extravaganza entitled ‘KADEAU NOEL’ on the following days: Saturday - November 27 at the J.Q. Charles Mall from 10 am - 6pm; Wednesday & Thursday - December 1 & 2 at the Coal Pot Restaurant, Vigie, from 12 noon - 2pm; Saturday - December 18 at the Gablewoods Mall from 10 am - 6 pm; The extravaganza provides an opportunity for participating companies to penetrate niche mar-**

kets locally for handicraft specialty gift items and increase sales of functional craft items during this Christmas season.

The general public is invited to this exciting event, which will feature creative gift items, raffles, giveaways and music.

This event will offer a special opportunity for persons desirous of purchasing high quality unique, craft items.

Further information can be obtained from Fercinta Louisv or Cynthia Labadie at the Ministry of Commerce, at telephone number 468-4245 or 468-4219.

## Lots of cricket for national team coming

**The St. Lucia National Cricket Association has finalised a one year programme, which is expected to be approved by affiliates at the next Board of Management meeting. The cricket association has also secured office space at the Mindoo Phillip Park.**

The senior national cricket team is due to come up against regional powerhouse, Barbados in two, limited-overs matches. President of the local cricket association, Dennis James said the matches against the Barbadians would be a perfect setting for members of the team, who would be involved in the Windward Islands Cricket Series, which starts here at the end of this month.

“We have slated the St. Lucia versus

Barbados one-day matches on November 20 and 21 at the Beausejour cricket ground. We feel that it is a very good opportunity for our national cricket team. The following week would be the Windward Islands cricket tournament and the St. Lucia team will be participating. So we are hoping to use those two Barbados one-day matches to see where we are at in terms of our team, and to raise the morale of the St. Lucian cricketers,” Mr. James said.

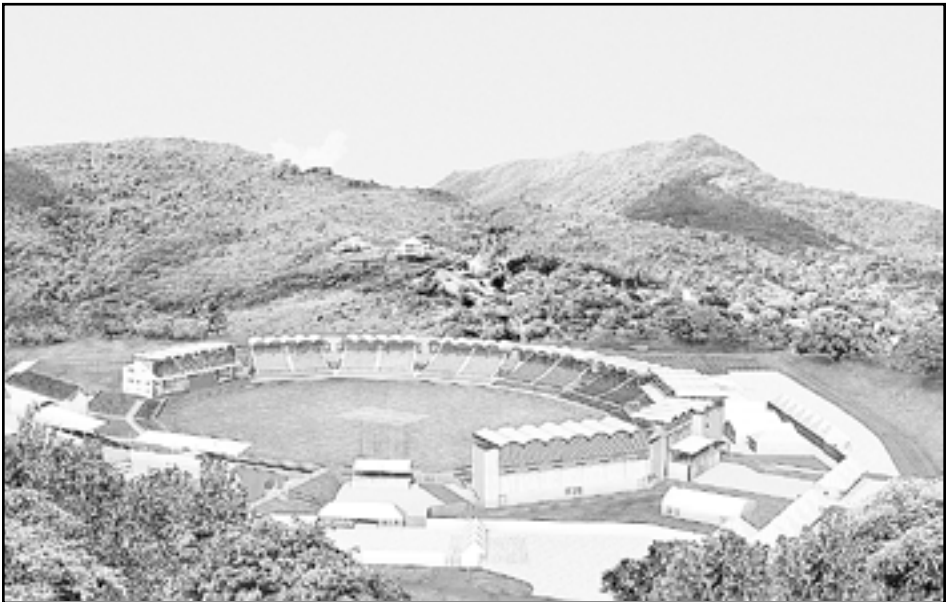
The Windward Islands cricket tournament will run from November 26th to December 6th, with matches to be played at the Beausejour Cricket Ground and the Mindoo Phillip Park.

An 18-member squad has been selected for the games against Barbados, with West Indies all rounder, Darren

Sammy as captain and Sergio Fedee, who is currently playing club cricket for the Young Men’s Progressive Club (YMPC) in Barbados as the vice-captain.

The other members of the team are John Eugene, Craig Emmanuel, Rus-

sell Emmanuel, Gerson Alexander, Gregg Wilson, Alvin La Feuille, Wendell Roberts, Wade Clovis, Alex Antoine, Shawn Straker, Alvin Prospere, Matthus St.Rose, Mervin Charles, Gairy Mathurin, Alleyne Prospere and Xavier Gabriel.



Artist impression of Beausejour Cricket Ground



# Cultural Icon Florita Marquis passes on



**In Church**



**On the way to Cemetery**



**At the funeral reception**