



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



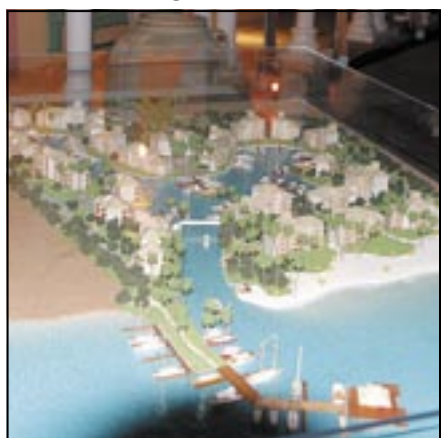
Launch of 2005 St. Lucia Jazz line-up - page 2



Craig Barnard announcing The Landing - page 1 & 8



Nobel Laureate Week - pages 2, 4, 5, 6



Another Resort Marina - page 8



Security for CWC 2007 - page 3

First Private Marina Resort Development "The Landings" Launched

On the heels of Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony's announcement that unemployment would be his top area of focus for 2005, a major project has come to the fore to give credence to Dr. Anthony's thrust. Thursday evening, Craig Barnard, shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Landing lunched the marina and residential resort believed to be the island's first private marine development, and St. Lucia's largest ever private capital project. The Landing which will be erected at pigeon point will cost some US \$130 million and will mostly be a condominium project.

Speaking at the ceremony held at the Le Sport Body Holiday, Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony welcomed the investment as a boost to the country's tourism sector and expressed enthusiasm for the huge number of jobs that will be created as a result. Prime Minister Anthony also assured St. Lucians that access to the beach will not be compromised.

"We will guarantee access to the various parts of the beach but at the same time too, those who feel a sense of loss must also understand that we have issues to resolve and it is good music when I hear that at least 600 St. Lucians will be employed on this property," Dr. Anthony said.

Minister for Tourism, Honourable Phillip J Pierre said the Landing is the first enterprise to take advantage of Government incentives to developers for World Cup Cricket 2007:

"The Landing will bring to St. Lucia a new type of product. 2004 was the best year for tourism in St. Lucia but we need to change, we need to create a level of accommodation that will bring a calibre of visitor that can help attract airlift to the St. Lucia and an upscale development like the Landing will help us do that."

The 228 units and Marina are expected to be built in 4 phases and will provide a huge number of jobs for construction workers. The resort, when



Prime Minister Dr. Denny Anthony

completed will be managed by the current management of the Le Sport Body Holiday, SunSwept. Director of Marketing, Michael Bryant said, "The Landings is the shape of things to come".

The 19-acre site has 730 ft of frontage on a golden sandy beach on Rodney Bay, adjacent to the derelict "Rosewood" site and near the most established tourist centre in St. Lucia.

The development is being designed to the highest of world class resorts' standards. The Landing's amenities will include yacht mooring and slips, beach club, water sports, sunset lounge located on the pier, helicopter transport to and from the major airports and surrounding islands, gourmet restaurant, fitness club, luxury spa and salon, concierge services, swimming pools, tennis courts and resort reception area. Owners at The Landings also get a lifetime membership of the St. Lucia Golf and Country Club, which is a 5 minutes drive from the resort.

The development is being marketed in the UK and Ireland by Premier Resorts of Richmond Surrey, who say that property prices at The Landings offer excellent value for money when compared to beach front and marina developments on neighbouring Barbados. Graeme Grant, Chairman of Premier Resorts said, "The prices at Port St Charles in Barbados, a similar marina development that has virtually sold out, are currently over 40% higher than The Landings. And nowadays you will find it hard to find a beachfront property in the Caribbean for under \$1,000,000".

Construction of the resort will com-

mence in November 2005 with the first phase planned to open in February 2007.

St. Lucia is bracing itself for an influx of visitors in 2007, when it hosts the cricket world cup at the Beausejour Ground. The English cricket team will be based in St. Lucia both before and during the tournament. New direct flights from the UK with British Midlands, in addition to existing Virgin, British Airways and BWIA flights are also now in place to bring cricket fans and tourists alike to the island. Properties at The Landings will provide much needed rental accommodations for this influx of visitors.

Local impact

Aside from providing much needed accommodation space to host the Cricket World Cup in 2007, "The Landings" will have an enormous impact on the local economy. The development will create many construction jobs during the next few years. On completion the Landings resort will create ongoing employment opportunities for up to 600 St. Lucians. Added to this, the five star nature of the resort will open top quality training opportunities for its employees. Recent economic surveys also indicate that there will be a "multiplier" effect on local employment prospects, when the spin-off wealth injected into the economy provides many more jobs in the community. The additional facilities for yachtsmen is also very much needed. The revenue per person per stay-over day derived from yachts is ever growing and it forms a substantial part of the tourist economy.

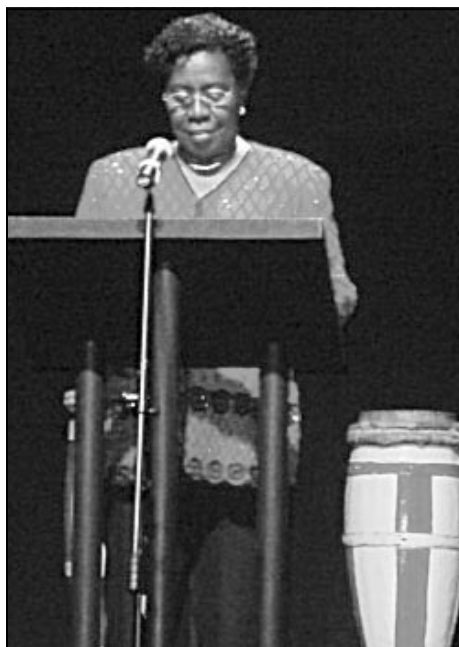


"Take ②" - A fifteen minute news review of the week.
Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

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



Nobel Laureates Week opening sets standards



**Governor-General,
Dame Pearlette Louisy**

The Cultural Development Foundation has rated Sunday's launch of Nobel Laureates Week 2005, as a resounding success. The quality of theatrical per-

formances, coupled with the readings from top regional and local poets, including Nobel Laureates Derek Walcott and Seamus Heaney, has raised the bar for future productions.

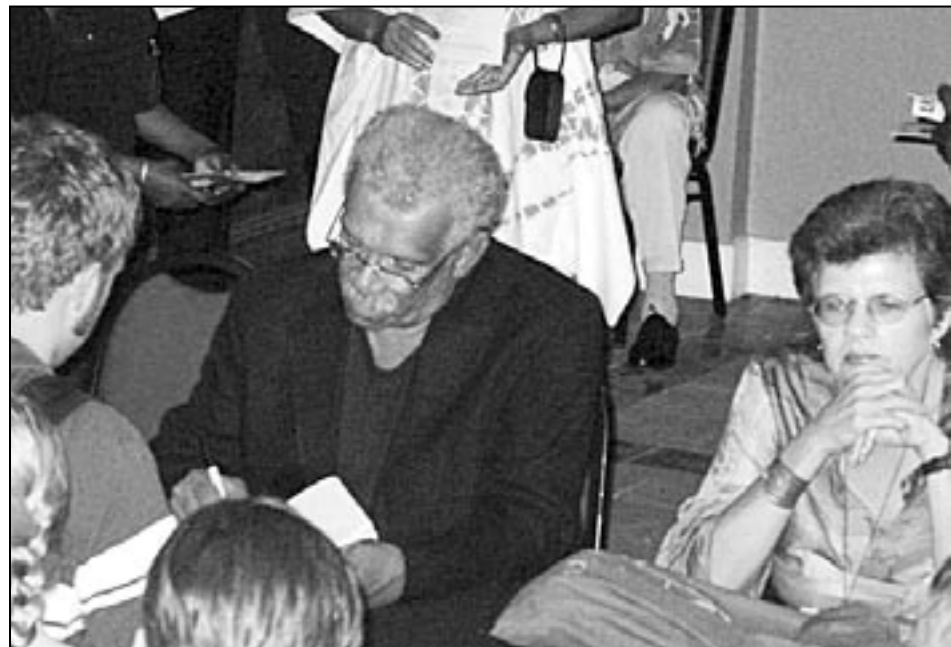
Performances of excerpts from The Odyssey and the Burial at Thebes were met with reverberating applause from a large and appreciative audience. A number of Secondary Schools students who were present at the launch said they were grateful for the opportunity to experience the staging of plays from the Nobel Laureates.

Director of the CDF, Teddy Francis, remarked that "Sunday's production was a memorable night in the history of the arts on Saint Lucia." Many of those in attendance expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the night's proceedings, and this Francis noted set the pace for a high level of theatre in future productions.

Activities to mark Nobel Laureates Week continued on Monday evening with a live in-studio panel discussion

on 'The Caribbean Single Market and Economy: Echoes of Sir Arthur Lewis'. The Panel included Calixte Leon, External Trade Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs, Virginia Paul, Senior Program Officer at the OECS, and

former CARICOM Ambassador Earl Huntley. Director of Commerce, Titus Preville was moderator for the 90-minute discussion, which was simulcast on NTN, DBS, HTS and RSL at 8:00 p.m. Several persons called the programme.



Derek Walcott signing autographs

2005 St. Lucia Jazz to raise standards • UB40, Isley Brothers in mega line-up



Tourism Minister, Philip Pierre



Audience at launch of jazz line-up

With the announcement of the line-up for St. Lucia Jazz 2005, the Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLBT) has said that major changes will be made in order to ensure the survival of the event. The announcement came Wednesday evening at a media launch at the Rex St. Lucian Hotel.

This year's line-up includes Pharoah Saunders, Kevin Mahogany, Chante Moore and husband Kenny Lattimore, along with Gonzalo Rubalcaba, New Edition and the Isley Brothers, featuring Ron Isley. The line-up also includes St. Lucian Rob 'Zye' Taylor and internationally renowned reggae band UB40, who will be the head liner for the final day of Jazz at Pigeon Island.

While more acts remain to be announced, the St. Lucia Tourist Board is promising the biggest St. Lucia Jazz ever. Director of Tourism Hilary Modeste said the Board has had to keep redefining its strategy in order to keep the product, St. Lucia Jazz on the cutting edge.

"Those changes had to be made because the event has grown to such an extent, that in order for us to continue to provide that level of satisfaction, that level of enjoyment which we must

provide to our patrons, it is necessary to make some changes," Mr. Modeste said.

The changes are said to be dramatic. The main stage will be relocated to a

wider area, stretching as far away as Fort Rodney in order to accommodate a larger audience. The St. Lucia National Trust has supported the changes, which include the pruning of trees to allow the stage to have an Atlantic Sea background, a trademark of St. Lucia Jazz.

Marketing Manager of the Tourist Board Ian Herman, said the new stage location was tested when a Kenny Rogers show was held last year at Pigeon Island, answering to issues of emergency: "Emergency exits are very vital when you have these major events. This new position allows us to have a minimum of 5 exits so that, if something happens, people can leave that area easily and quickly."

The rains last year brought with it some lessons, and this year, the stage will be bigger to accommodate more movement of artistes, their musicians and dancers. The stage covering will also change to allow mechanical control.

The 2005 Saint Lucia Jazz will run from April 29th to May 5th.



L - R: Costello Michel, SLTB Chairman; Philip Pierre, Tourism Minister; and Hilary Modeste, Director of Tourism

St. Lucia PM presents \$148,000 cheque to Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada: St. Lucia's Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony, who is presently on three-day official visit to Cayenne (French Guiana), on Friday presented a cheque for the amount of \$148,000, on behalf of the Government and people of St. Lucia, to Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell during a brief ceremony in St. George's.

Prime Minister Anthony pointed out that the funds were put together by "ordinary St. Lucians", following the destruction of Grenada at the hands of Hurricane Ivan in September of 2004. Dr. Anthony added that it was the desire of the people of St. Lucia that the money be used in the area of housing, as so many houses were destroyed or damaged by Ivan, and many Grenadians were uninsured.

In accepting the cheque, Dr. Mitchell expressed deep appreciation on the part of the Government and people of Grenada, pointing out that Hurricane Ivan had shown "the sense of commitment" to one another that exists between Caribbean countries."

The presentation came at the conclusion of a meeting between Heads of Government of the OECS Grouping and World Bank President James Wolfensohn, which was held at the Caribbean Hall on the campus of the St. George's University.

At the one-day meeting, it was agreed to establish a methodology to

prioritise the developmental needs of the sub-region. The decision makers were, Prime Ministers Keith Mitchell, Kenny Anthony, Denzil Douglas, Roosevelt Skerrit, Baldwin Spencer and Ralph Gonsalves, OECS Secretary General Len Ishmael, Eastern



Grenada after Hurricane Ivan

Caribbean Central Bank Governor Sir Dwight Venner and a delegation from the World Bank headed by President James Wolfensohn.

Dr. Mitchell called the meeting historic, and said the presence of the World Bank President in Grenada, the

second visit for Mr. Wolfensohn to the sub-region, demonstrated his commitment to the sub-region. There was a similar get together in St. Kitts in November of 2002.

In speaking with Caribbean Net News via the telephone, President Wolfensohn described the meeting as "extraordinarily useful," noting that several areas were reviewed, adding that one thing that stuck with him was the sub-region's susceptibility to natural disasters.

An agreement was also reached whereby the Bank would report back to the Heads within 60 days, and provide a list of priorities for their endorsement

by which the skills obtained through the training can be translated into jobs and business opportunities; the rising crime rates in many OECS States and the wider Caribbean; public sector reform and commercialisation of government services; as well as the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) were also looked at.

Meanwhile, in his welcome remarks, Dr. Mitchell, who also chaired the meeting, provided an update on the CKLN, which has been registered in Grenada as a non-profit foundation under the Companies Ordinance.

According to him, the Network is "now ready to open offices, open bank accounts and begin operations at its headquarters in St. George's. Discussions are underway with E-Links Americas to provide the low cost satellite connections."

It was also said that, an Aide Memoire had been agreed between E-Links Americas and the CKLN Foundation for the provision of the satellite connectivity and the networking elements to connect the tertiary institutions into a network.

Mitchell disclosed that the first phase of institutional strengthening of tertiary education institutions had begun in nine countries and these are: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"We acknowledge the unwavering support of the World Bank, without which the Network could not have progressed as far as it has, during the past 12 months. In particular, I take this opportunity, and I know I speak on behalf of all Heads here today, to pay tribute to you, Mr. Wolfensohn, for your personal commitment to this Project," Dr. Mitchell said.

Security for Cricket World Cup in place



Beausejour Cricket Ground
when completed

World Cup St. Lucia Ltd., the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for Cricket World Cup 2007 has laid out plans and proposals for security of patrons, cricketers and officials during the hosting of matches in Cricket World Cup 2007.

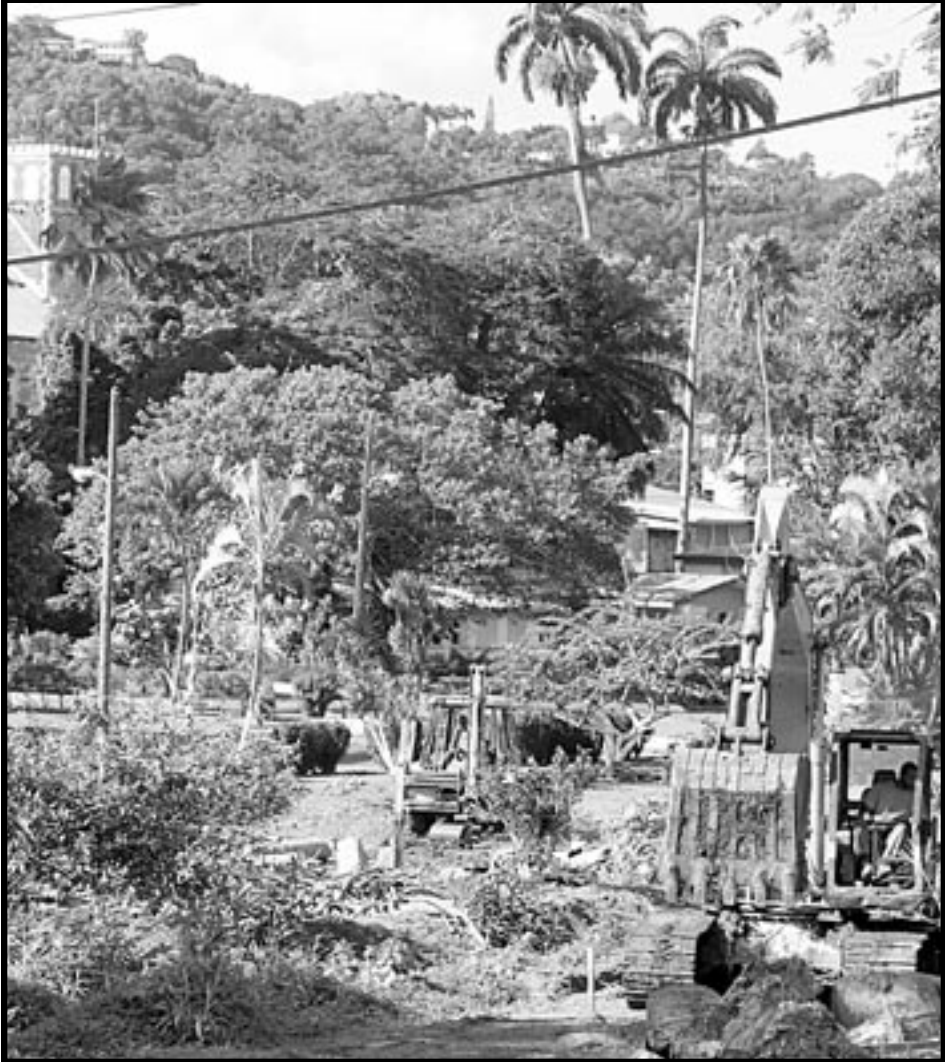
The proposals were discussed at a meeting on Thursday January 20th, between the LOC and Mr. John Collymore, Security Director at the CWC Inc. in Jamaica. Among the issues

which will receive attention are mass evacuation in the event of an emergency; items not allowed into the ground; and security at official events held on non-match days. Mr. Collymore was apprised of the plans to build a new Venue Operations Centre (VOC) at the Beausejour Cricket Ground, which will facilitate the management of security, medical and emergency services.

Mr. Collymore expressed satisfaction with plans for the level of vehicle and pedestrian management which, the LOC indicated have been tested at one day international games during the past two years. LOC Chairman Dr. Jimmy Fletcher informed Mr. Collymore of plans for the establishment of a local security committee, which will work in collaboration with the CWC 2007 Security Directorate in making the 2007 games the best ever.

Mr. Collymore visited Saint Lucia as part of a tour of all venues selected to host matches in the Cricket World Cup 2007.

Drainage project to reduce flooding in Castries underway



OECS Customs Departments getting software system upgrade



The OECS Secretariat is working with the Caribbean Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), to upgrade the software system currently used by Customs Departments in the OECS, in an effort to help them better deal with the increasing volume and complexity of international trade.

On Monday OECS Customs officials and trade and finance experts met at the Bay Gardens Hotel, to discuss the implementation of ASYCUDA ++, which will replace the obsolete ASYCUDA software, introduced to the Caribbean in the early 1990's.

Communications Officer at the OECS Secretariat Kendal Morgan, said that among the many benefits to be realized from the new ASYCUDA ++ software system, are improved revenue control and networking among Customs Departments.

"It would allow the brokers and other people who do business with Customs

to be able from their own base, from their own business to be able to track things at the customs, and to be able to input from their businesses unto the customs data system, and generally to help the customs department in OECS countries better prepare themselves for entry into the proposed Caricom Single market and Economy (CSME), Mr. Morgan said.

Monday's meeting also focused on deciding on a location for centralizing the new computerized system, so that participating countries can approach its implementation as a joint effort: "There are six participating OECS countries as far as this project is concerned. These are St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua-Barbuda, St. Kitts/Nevis, Dominica and Grenada. They are looking at Barbados as an example, because they have had some experience in the upgraded system. They are also looking at where St. Lucia has gone with it, because St. Lucia started introducing the system with some CDB funding, sometime ago, so the meeting will determine whether it will become the model for the rest of the region", he informed.

Approximately US\$3.2 million will be spent on the project over a period of 33 months.

OECS Secretariat to oversee Regional HIV/AIDS Project

O ECS Secretariat has signed an agreement to be Principle Recipient for a grant of 2.4 million US dollars for care, treatment and support to persons affected with HIV/AIDS in Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States over the next two years.

OECS Director General Dr. Len Ishmael signed the agreement on Friday January 14th on behalf of the Secretariat, while Minister of Health of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Douglas Slater signed in his capacity as Chairman of the OECS Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM). The RCM is an ad hoc committee appointed by regional Ministers of Health to facilitate information sharing (e.g. lessons learned, best practices), aggregate country monitoring and evaluation

information, donor reporting, and coordinate regional training and technical assistance for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM).

The Global Fund has approved a grant of US\$10.1 million over five years, and the recently signed agreement represents Phase One, which covers the first two years.

As Principle Recipient, the OECS Secretariat will work closely with Ministers of Health and National AIDS Secretariats in the Member States, supporting the implementation of programmes, and monitoring and evaluating the success of the activities undertaken.

The nine OECS Member States with a combined population of 609,000 have

an estimated 5000 persons living with HIV/AIDS. It is feared that a prevalence rate approaching one percent of population in small island nations can rapidly affect the economic stability and overall health of the region.

OECS governments have identified the fight against HIV/AIDS as critical to the sub-region's long term economic growth and human development. They have recognized the importance of a coordinated strategy to turn the tide of the pandemic, and have worked together to develop a plan to treat all persons living with HIV/AIDS and to prevent further infections.

The governments have pledged to use the grant funds to make treatment available to all HIV/AIDS patients who need it, and to provide adequate care

and support services to all individuals living with HIV and their families.

The programme is targeting a 50 percent reduction in hospitalization for HIV/AIDS and the HIV/AIDS mortality rate. The provision of anti-retroviral drugs and availability of Opportunistic Infection drugs is expected to dramatically decrease cost to care for HIV/AIDS patients. All known positives will have a Clinical Care team to manage their progress and provide psycho social, nutritional and family support. It is hoped that transmission from HIV infected mothers to their babies will be reduced from between 25-30 percent to under 10 percent. Training, outreach and media campaigns will be used to reduce stigma and discrimination in the work place and the community.

Health Fair coming to Castries City Hall



Section of Victoria Hospital housing the Leprosy Unit

The Leprosy Control Unit of the Ministry of Health is preparing to host what it believes will be a successful health fair this year. The annual exhibition will take place on Saturday January 29th at the Castries City Hall, and forms part of activities in observance of World Leprosy Day on Sunday, January 30th.

Consultant Dermatologist and Program Manager for the Leprosy Control Unit, Dr. Merlina Joseph, said the

health fair would educate the public on the various signs of leprosy and how the disease can be detected. She said the health fair would also provide an opportunity for persons to expand their knowledge on the various aspects of health, such as diabetes and hypertension.

"We are also going to focus on preventive health care in terms of proper nutrition and proper exercising. It is really important that the St. Lucian public is aware of skin diseases, because we do not pay attention to our skin unless we have something like skin cancer, but there are also other minor illnesses like Eczema, what we commonly know as Lotta, which is a fungal disease, acne and other diseases of the skin, which can actually be an indicator of internal problems. We do want the public to come out and know about these things, especially Leprosy, because we seem to have forgotten leprosy and we still have leprosy in St. Lucia in very high numbers", Dr. Joseph said.

The health fair will run from 10:00am to 2:30pm at the Castries City Hall.

Lobel Laureate Week 2005 Schools' Choral Singing Competition

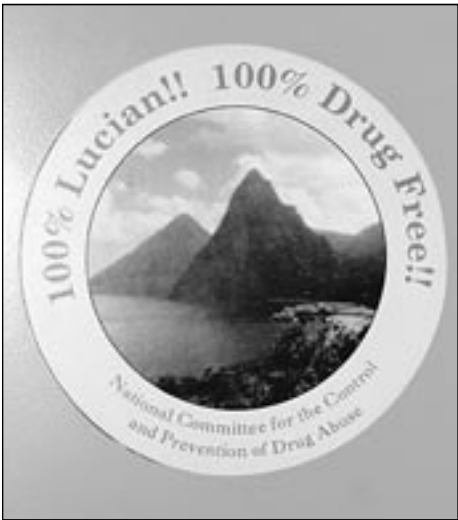


Anse La Raye Primary



Babonneau Secondary

Local chapter on drug abuse launched



St. Lucia is now a part of the Caribbean Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (CCPADD), with the launching Wednesday, January 19 of a local chapter. The activity which took place at the Green Parrot Hotel incorporates the island in the activities and programmes of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA), in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle in the region.

At a Health Summit Conference in Antigua last year, the ICPA gave a mandate for the region to take hold

and help reverse the repercussions of a rising drug problem in the Caribbean, through the establishment of a Caribbean Charter. President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, Clement Charles said since then National Committees have sprung up in all Caribbean territories.

“It is indeed an opportunity and a great moment that NCPADD with all other part takers or stakeholders within the whole thrust of St. Lucia who seek to help reduce the abuse of licit substances, whether they be alcohol or other substance and also to fight against illicit substance in helping our country to remain healthy and beautiful,” Mr. Charles said.

Director of the ICPA, Dr. Peter Landless said the organization was happy to network with other organizations with

the common goal of keeping society drug free. However, he also lamented the fact that legal substances like alcohol and tobacco have been forgotten in the whole debate over drug abuse.

“Alcohol”, he said, “gets forgotten because it is legal; tobacco is legal and yet the effects are so deleterious. The statistics tell us that five million people die every year from tobacco related causes. Five million every year!”

The Caribbean Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency has, in the meantime made a plea for St. Lucia to speed up the process that will enable it to ratify the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Mr. Victor Roach said the country, as a result will, among other things be in a position to put legislation in place that will ban smoking in public buildings and work places.

NCF consults with nation

The National Community Foundation (NCF), on Wednesday, January 26th staged a national consultation at the National Insurance Corporation’s conference room. The half-day activity targeted some 100 persons, representing organizations and groups working with older persons and youth at risk.

The Executive Director of the National Community Foundation (NCF) Jancinta Lee believed that these groups and organizations could benefit from the Foundation, if given the opportunity to get to know more about its operations. Participants were provided with information on the NCF, and its two committees, the Youth at Risk, and the Older Persons.

There was also a presentation by Ezra Jn. Baptist, the Deputy PS in the

Ministry of Health. He looked at the social landscape, the status of youth versus older persons in St. Lucia. There was also time for persons to talk about best practices, and what it is that they have been doing in their organizations that have been very successful.

At this week’s consultation the NCF provided information on proposed projects and the funding for those projects.

The three-year old National Community Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit organization, which has rendered significant financial assistance to individuals, groups, and organizations on the island.

The Foundation focuses on seven areas which include Youth at Risk, Older Persons, Disadvantaged Children, Health Care, Homeless Persons, Pensioners and Persons with Disabilities.

Nobel Laureate Week 2005
Stage preparation for Saturday’s drama production,
“Open Balconies”
by Floreta Nicholas at the National Cultural Centre - 7:00 p.m.

Children with disabilities in the spotlight

Agencies who have a stake in the care and protection of children with disabilities are today (January 26th), attending a consultation convened by the Education Unit of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association.

The Unit has over the years, spearheaded the Multi Impaired and Visually Impaired Programme, providing services for multi-handicapped children.

Executive Director of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association, Mr. Anthony Avril said there was need for a general increase in resources directed to addressing the needs of multi-handicapped children in St. Lucia.

“What is happening is that we need all to come together to consolidate a national service and then we will be able to really deal with the problem”, Mr. Avril said, adding, “what we’re

hoping to come out of this consultation is that we will walk away with some sort of strategy at least the beginning of some strategy, that will help us to begin addressing the problem ... the need as we see it is for a structured and well coordinated national service.”

Dr. W.A. Webson from the Hilton Perkins International Project will facilitate the consultation scheduled to

commence this morning, January 26th, at the conference room of the Ministry of Education.

The Hilton Perkins Project and the Hilton Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts USA, currently fund the Multi Impaired and Visually Impairment Programme of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association.

The UWI reaches out to communities



The University of the West Indies School of Continuing Studies and Distance Education Centre (UWIDEC) is forging ahead with its Community Outreach Programme launched late last year.

As part of the Outreach Programme, the University Centre plans to play a contributory role in activities to mark Saint Lucia’s 26th Anniversary of Independence.

Co-ordinator of the Outreach Programme, Ms. Francilia Bernard said the institution was discussing the concept of hosting a series of lectures with the Cultural Development Foundation.

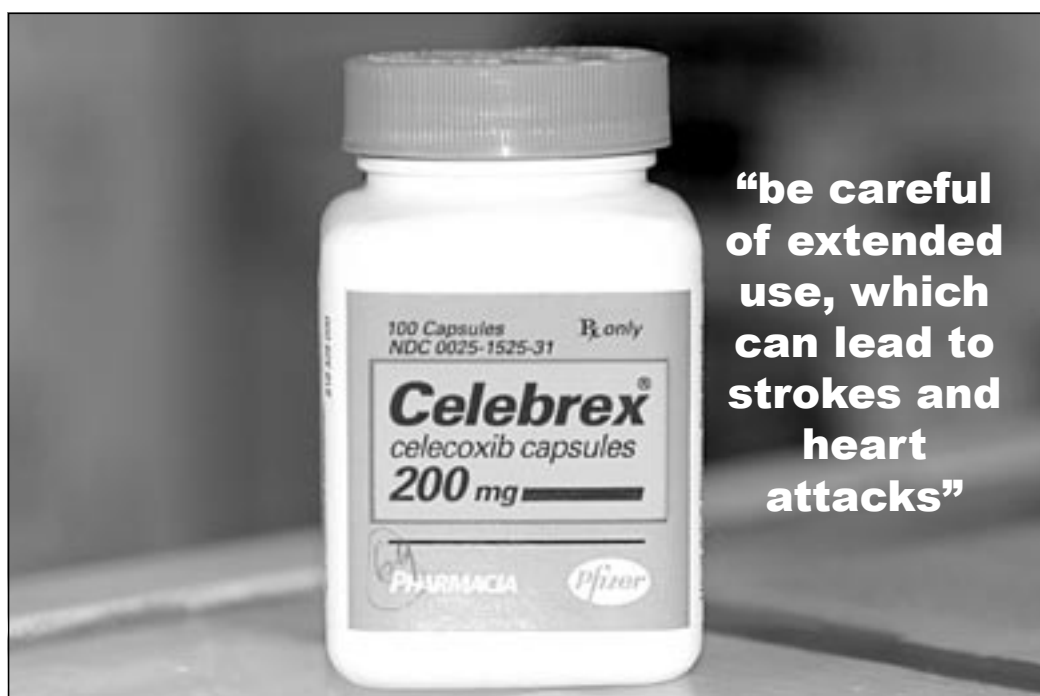
“The official launching of the lectures will take place on February 22nd , which is Independence Day. The lectures or the theme will revolve around Independence, Nationhood and Regionalism. A variety of lectures will be held between the months of February, and we’re looking at July Carnival, where we will incorporate lectures revolving also around the arts”, Ms. Bernard informed.

More collaboration initiated by the University Outreach Programme is to follow with other organisations in the community, among which will be a special project with the Saint Lucia National Trust.

“We are going to look at research in relation to Trust sites, and recruiting a researcher in the areas where research is lacking. We’re going to look at case studies focussing on specific aspects of the work that has already been done by the National Trust but has not been publicized or documented,” Ms. Bernard said.

Additionally, the University of the West Indies School of Continuing Education and Distance Education Centre has endorsed a number of courses conducted by local educational and training agencies, among which are the National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF), the Small Enterprises Development Unit (SEDU) and the Institute of Self Improvement Systems (ISIS).

OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services issues advisory



Ministry of Health has endorsed a Public Health Advisory issued by the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (PPS), on Non – steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs commonly referred to as NSAIDS.

The Advisory has triggered concern from the medical community, including the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), regarding the serious side effects that can occur if the drugs are not utilised in conformity with stipulated directions.

Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Stephen King said the drugs,

such as Aleve, Celebrex, Voltaren and Cataflam are very effective in treating many medical conditions. But importantly, consumers must be careful of extended use of the drugs, which can lead to strokes and heart attacks. The drugs are also best used under the guidance of a medical doctor for a limited time.

“What Saint Lucia is saying and the PPS in fact, is that we support the United States Food and Drug Administration guidelines. First of all, the doctors need to weight the risk benefit of using non-steroidal anti inflammatory drugs in the drugs I mentioned with their patients, and discuss with their patients so that everybody is quite clear, and understands that the benefits outweigh the risk of using the drug,” Dr. King said.

Dr. King said he did not expect the drugs would be removed from public use at this time. Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs are among the most popular drugs prescribed worldwide.

Caricom Secretariat speaks on flooding in Guyana

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) CARICOM Secretary-General, His Excellency Edwin W. Carrington, now back from the United Nations Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in Mauritius, today (Monday, January 24, 2005) met with the Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite and staff to assess the impact on staff and operations of the Secretariat, of the current flood situation in Georgetown and surrounding areas.

The Secretary-General was pleased to note that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) have already been providing some assistance to Guyana. The Secretariat will be contacting other regional agencies especially the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre (CAREC), the Caribbean Environmen-

tal Health Institute (CEHI) regarding such response, as they may be able to provide.

The Secretariat, for its part, is providing assistance to affected staff, both present and past. Also, staff members have expressed a wish to assist the people of Guyana and arrangements are being made to enable them to do so.

Meanwhile the Secretariat, which has been closed since Monday, 17 January because of the significant dislocations suffered by the majority of staff members, will re-open on Tuesday, January 25. In light of the difficulties still being experienced by many staff members, the Secretariat will however, operate at limited capacity to carry on the work of the Community. This involves pressing ahead with preparations for several upcoming meetings of the Community including the Sixteenth Intersessional Meeting in Suriname 16-17 February.

Nobel Laureate Week 2005 Putting poetry into music



Nobel Laureate Week 2005 Writers' Forum



One of the organizations recognising this week's Nobel Laureate Week is the Saint Lucia Writers Association. On Tuesday, January 25th, the informal group of poets held an evening of Poetry Recitals, punctuated by a mix of some dramatic and dub poetry.

The event which was held at the Cultural Development Foundation boasted twenty very entertaining

pieces based on several themes, including social commentary of the day.

The group of about ten poets performed before a very receptive audience. The Saint Lucia Writers forum is the brainchild of the Castries Central Library through its Community Outreach Programme. The group meets every Tuesday evening at the library.

NEMO assists region with Damage Assessment Training

The Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) continues to collaborate with fellow disaster offices in the region to have the Caribbean prepared for all contingencies.

During the last two weeks of January, the Director of NEMO in collaboration with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) will be conducting two training workshops in Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) for The National Emergency Planning Organisation (NEPO) of Dominica and the Na-

tional Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

As with Saint Lucia's NEMO, these Secretariats are charged with ensuring that the population is prepared for a disaster. The training will cover areas, such as Teamwork, Data Gathering, Analyzing and Interpreting Needs, Establishing Priorities and The Way Forward.

OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for providing non-food humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters.

Dominica after the recent earthquake



Public Participation in Piton logo competition disappointing

The St. Lucia World Heritage Committee is expressing disappointment with the level of public participation in its logo competition being held ahead of an inscription ceremony, officially recognizing the Piton Management Area as a World Heritage Site. Not one entry has been submitted since the initiation of the contest.

The competition is being used to select a logo for the Inscription Ceremony and thereafter, documents and paraphernalia of the Pitons Management Area.

Secretary of the Committee Darnely Lebourne said that though many have inquired about the competition, no entries have been submitted. Mr. Lebourne said exciting prizes are to be won and members of the public should

take advantage of the competition. The Committee, he said was looking into extending the deadline originally set for January 30th, 2005.

“The logo is very important, because what it will be is the official emblem of the sight, and that will be used to authenticate promotional material and products and to identify the site, which is the Piton management area”, Mr. Lebourne said, adding, “despite this issue, plans to hold the inscription ceremony is going smoothly”. He has before, called for the participation of the public in this historic event.

“We have a National Organizing Committee; we have had four meetings to date and there is another meeting coming up. There is a smaller planning core, involving the PS and other persons who are intimately involved



The Pitons

in the process. We have done sight visits, we’ve had meeting with the police at the level of the Assistant Commissioner of Police looking at Security issues, and generally things are falling in place”, Mr. Labourne said.

Entry forms for the logo competition can be collected at all branches of the Bank of St. Lucia, the St. Lucia National Trust, the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation and the National Commission for UNESCO.

US\$2.4M for persons affected by HIV/AIDS

Director General of the OECS Secretariat Dr. Len Ishmael, said the secretariat was taking its responsibility very seriously, as principal recipient of a US\$2.4 million grant to support persons infected with HIV/AIDS and affected families in member countries over the next two years.

Dr. Ishmael made the statement at a press briefing of the contents of an agreement signed one week ago. Also present was Chairman of the OECS Regional Coordinating Mechanism, Dr. Douglas Slater.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS program has approved a grant of US\$10.1 million over five years and the recently signed agreement represent phase one.

Pointing out that on a per capita basis, the Caribbean has the second highest rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the world, Dr. Ishmael said, “I think that is a stark reality for us. For small countries we just cannot afford to have an escalation of that rate, and everything must be done to reduce that substantively; these resources will particularly go forward in assisting us in our work to at least stabilize the rate of infection.”

The program is targeting a 50 % reduction in hospitalization for HIV patients and HIV/AIDS related deaths. It is hoped that transmission from HIV-infected mothers to their babies will be reduced from between 30 % to less than 10%.

Meanwhile Chairman of the OECS Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), which is the implementing agency for the project, said one of the main goals of the project would be to remove the barriers of discrimination and stigma that is meted out to infected patients. He said the allocated US\$2.4 million also makes provision for new cases that may arise during the first phase of the project.

“The goal that we want to get is that those persons living with HIV infection or AIDS must be the primary beneficiary of this project. That is most important and not only those living but those affected, because you may have a situation where one person is infected

and the whole family is affected. It will require an understanding and sensitivity by all”, Dr. Slater said.

The OECS governments have identified the fight against HIV/AIDS as critical to the sub region’s long term economic growth and human development. The governments have pledged to use the grant funds to provide care and support services to AIDS patients and their families.

One of the donor agencies is the Clinton Foundation, which has provided the services of Miss Berlanda Bailey, who will serve the RCM as project coordinator for a period of three months, by which time the full compliment of staff for the RCM would be in place.

SMED achieves 85% success

Program Manager of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Program (SMED), Michael Taylor said the USAID-sponsored programme based in Barbados has been making significant strides since its inception three years ago.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Program was designed to address the constraints faced by small and medium sized enterprises in the Eastern Caribbean.

Several OECS companies have benefited from the services of the program in a number of areas, some of which include marketing, computer and information technology, financing and training.

Speaking at a two-day forum in St. Lucia organized by the OECS Export Development Unit this week, Mr. Taylor said the program had interfaced with over 100 projects, resulting in some 85% success stories. He said employment, productivity and levels of sales in these projects had increased.

“My question however, at this

point, after three years is how ready are these 85 companies for taking a step hopefully in the 11 months into CSME. And not only are they ready, but what is it that they will need to do in order to

be competitive and to take their place, to find their way at the other level, as we move from the SME to a CSME, still operating within that program”, Mr. Taylor remarked.

Mr. Taylor said SMED was hoping to use the success stories to assist those companies that have not yet reached the set criteria. But as the program moves from one strategy to another, he said there was need to set goals for the way ahead.

He added that one of the challenges that continued to affect enterprises in the OECS, was small market size: “We need to see that our borders are not just Barbados or St. Lucia, Antigua or Grenada, and try to see how we could establish some synergies, alliances with persons or businesses which may be similar or doing one element of a particular product, in order to get that competitive base for the region to take us to another level.”



Materials ordered for renovation of the former Bottlers Ltd. factory in Vide Boutielle to be ready within six months for use by E-Services Ltd., which will employ 150 persons by year end and 400 within two years

Anse La Raye Primary and Babonneau Secondary win Schools' Choral Competition



Activities to mark Nobel Laureates Week continued today with Schools' Choral Singing Competition at the National Cultural Center. The Competition, which began at 10:00 a.m., was held under the theme: 'Celebrating the Joy and Beauty of Choral Music'.
Seven Primary Schools and four Secondary Schools participated in this

morning's concert. The Anse La Raye Primary emerged winner of the Primary Schools with the Bexon Primary in first place, the Ciceron Primary in second position and the Deniere Riviere and La Guerre Combined sharing the third spot.
In the Secondary Schools category, the Babonneau Secondary captured the

top prize. The Bocage Secondary had to settle for first place, while the Castries Comprehensive School and the Girls Vocational came in second and third respectively.
The Winners of today's competition will be featured in Thursday's Schools' Musical Concert also slated for the National Cultural Centre at 2:00 p.m. A

number of other schools will also participate in Thursday's Concert.
Today's activities marking Nobel Laureates Week will culminate with an evening of poetry and music with members of the Writers' Association. This will take place at the CDF Conference Room at Barnard Hill from 7:00 p.m.

Guests at the launch of The Landing, St. Lucia's newest Resort Marina



Another Resort Marina, "Plantation on Cotton Bay" taking shape at Cas En Bas



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Jan. 29th - Fri. Feb. 4th, 2005

Rebroadcast:- Live In-Studio Panel Discussion: The CARICOM Single Market & Economy – “Echoes of Sir Arthur Lewis” Sat. Jan. 29th, 7:30 p.m.

- St. Lucia National Youth Choir in Concert - Sun. Jan. 30th, 7:00 p.m.
- SPECIAL PRESENTATION: The GIS speaks with recently knighted former Prime Minister of saint Lucia, Sir Allan Louisy–Mon. Jan. 31st, 8:00 p.m.
- Living With Arthritis - Tues. Feb. 1st 8:00 p.m.
- Still We Rise - Wed. Feb. 2nd, 8:00 p.m.
- Flavours of St. Lucia (New Edition) – Creative Dishes Using Local Products Community – Thurs. Feb. 3rd, 8:30 p.m.
- From the Archives of the GIS: Lucian Kaiso 1995 – Fri. Feb. 4th, 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

- GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
- Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
- Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :
- Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):
- Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
- Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at www.stlucia.gov.lc and then click on the NTN icon.

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