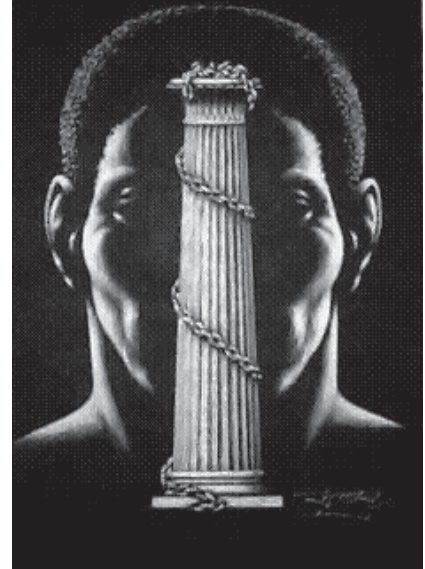
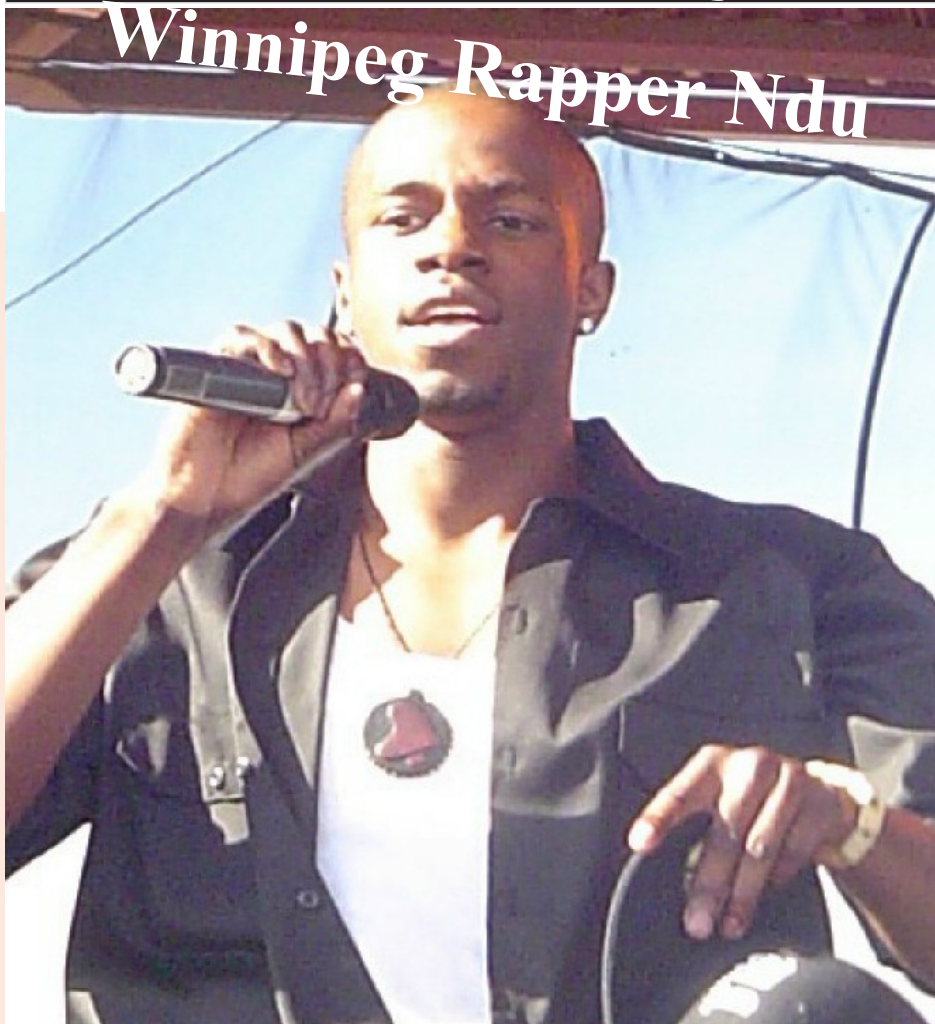


## Black History 2007 Edition



Symbol of Black Resilience



Maiko performing at the Legislature on IWD. She is accompanied by James, guitarist, from Dr. Rage and the Uppercuts Band.



Children at Congress of Black Women's Kwanzaa Celebration

**Fact**  
In 1518 the first slave were dispatched across the Atlantic



First Nation people performs mini pow wow to welcome newcomers



Governor General, Michaëlle Jean in Africa

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p14

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Zizi's continuing saga

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Much more

### Check it out!



A Typical  
Slave  
Market in  
Africa



Millennium  
Library recognizes  
Rose Tilbrook  
p14



Sean Hervo  
among U of M  
students  
volunteers who  
went New  
Orleans p.5



Barbados  
celebrates  
40th  
Independence  
anniversary  
p.25

## Remember

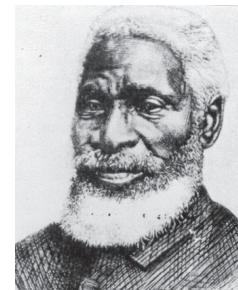
These roses are for our ancestors  
who died in the struggle for freedom,  
who fought so that their heirs would  
have a better life. Thanks to all of  
them, we are here today.



## Slavery Timeline



1444 - first slaves brought to  
Portugal from Mauritania  
1445- Portuguese contracted  
with sub-Saharan Africa  
1471 - Portuguese arrive in the Gold  
Coast  
1482 -Portuguese builds Elmira Castle on  
the Gold Coast  
1488- Bartholomew Diaz goes round the  
Cape of Good Hope  
1490 First Portuguese Missionaries goes  
to Congo  
1490 - Sugar Plantations established on  
the island of Sao Tome  
1500 - first slaves shipped to Spanish  
colonies in South America via Spain  
1516 - Benin ceases to export male slaves  
1518 - first direct shipment of slaves  
from Africa to the Americas  
1780's - slave trade at its peak  
1776 - American war of Independence  
1787 - "Thoughts & Sentiments on the  
Evils of Slavery" by Quobbna Ottobah  
Cugoano published.  
1789 - French Revolution. "Life of  
Olaudah Equiano" published.  
1791- Slave revolt in Haiti (Santo  
Domingo) led by Toussaint L'Overture  
1804 - Haiti independence. Danes pass  
laws against slave trade  
1807 - British passed declaring slave  
trade illegal  
1808 - North America abolish slave trade  
1814 - Dutch outlaw slave trade  
1848 - Emancipation of all French slaves  
1865 -slavery abolished in the USA  
1888 - Slavery abolished in Bra



**Josiah Henson** was born a  
slave on June 15, 1789 in Charles  
County, Maryland. He was sold  
three times before he reached the  
age of eighteen. By 1830, Henson  
had saved \$350 to purchase his  
freedom. After giving his master  
the money he was told that the  
price had increased to \$1,000.

**Global Eyes Magazine** is published between 4 times a year. The aim of this publication is to promote the contributions of people of African descent in their communities and to inspire youths to continue building on the legacy left by our forefathers. We also try to bridge understanding between Blacks and other cultures to promote human rights and understanding in the world.

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# Editorial

## Take One - 200 Years of Freedom

This year we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act which outlawed the slave trade throughout the British Empire. This marked the beginning of the end of for the transatlantic traffic in human being. The British Government apologized and condemned slavery as evil act.

Marking this historic event has given the world an opportunity to examine the way we treat each other as human beings.

It is not a time for pointing fingers. It is a time to look ahead and recognize how far we have come as a people. The journey is far from over but we are on the right path.

After two hundred years of separation from our ancestral homes and disconnect from our roots, it was uplifting to listen to Oprah's history on PBS recently. Through the miracle of modern technology she was able to trace her roots to a tribe in Liberia. And in the not too distant future it might become so easy for any individual to trace his or her root and connect the dots. For some reason, unbeknownst to me, this information is important to people. It engenders pride and centeredness, heals and consolidates.

The other day I met a young woman from the Caribbean who told me that her partner is a man from Sierra Leone; She said that when she compared stories her grandmother told her, they matched the stories of her partner's grandmother.. The circle is closing. After two hundred years, Africans within the Diaspora and those of the continent are reconnecting as they should. This alone is cause for celebration.

Together we must now fight the enemies of progress – racism, discrimination, homophobia, ageism, sexism and all the isms. That is our task. We must make this world a garden for our children where they will be judged only by the fragrance of their individual rose.

# Global Briefs

## Guyanese Ballplayer



Guyanese in the USA and elsewhere reveled in the fact that Jason David #42, Right Quarter Cornerback for the Indianapolis Colts who played in the recent

super bowl, son of Walter David and Dawn McLean David of Linden, Demerara Guyana, that he is a "home boy."

Jason's dad was a former sprinter for Linden and a Trade School alumnus. His mother Dawn was a nurse at the Mackenzie hospital. Here is the connection, Jason was born in Edmonton Canada but moved to California when he was four after his parents separated. Jason dad still lives, works and coaches track and field in Edmonton.

Jason is tiny but considered to be quite tough guy. He played college ball at Washington State.

Edmontonians also basked in Jason's success.

(Thanks to Sandra Seeraj for this tip)

## Ricky Martin Named King of Puerto Rican Parade

Ricky Martin, Puerto Rico's top pop singer was named king of the 50th annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York. Parade organizers said the honor recognizes Martin's musical success and his efforts to fight the exploitation of children worldwide.

Martin, named Person of the Year in 2006 by the Latin Recording Academy, accepted with gusto. "I am honored and very humbly accept the invitation to participate in the 50th anniversary of the national Puerto Rican parade," he said.



## Portrait of A Beautiful Black Woman



Supermodel Tyra Banks shows off her svelte figure after being called "fat woman."

## Removing Barriers

Poor people of Winnipeg will benefit from traditional banking services due to an investment of \$300,000 by the three levels of government in the Community Financial Services Project. The two year pilot project will now afford banking services to poor people what other middle and upper income households take for granted. It is hoped that this initiative will help save this group of people much needed dollars previously spent on cheque cashing services, Payday Loan and Western Union outlets. The Community Financial Services Centre, temporarily located at Mount Carmel Clinic, will move into the former Royal Bank Canada Branch at 888 Main Street after the renovation is completed. Among the services that will be offered includes micro credit to allow clients to build their credit history.

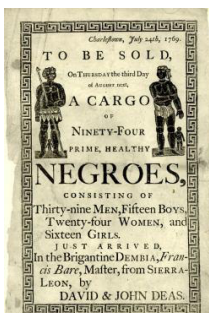
Global Eyes Magazine March 2007

## History about Black History Month

In 1915, Woodson, an African-American, scholar, historian and Harvard graduate, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which brought a unique and positive perspective to the study of Black history. On February 12, 1926, he initiated the second week of February as Black History Week. That week was chosen because it included the birthday of Fredrick Douglass, a runaway slave who later became a progressive advocate of anti-slavery and women's suffrage.

Douglass founded newspapers and delivered many lectures about the evils of slavery. Through his writings and personal interaction, he educated a targeted international White audience about the need to eradicate slavery. Douglass' friends and associates included members of the British Parliament and Ireland liberation leader Daniel O'Connell. Their support helped to abolish slavery in England, Ireland, and the United States.

During the 1960s, Black History Week was extended to Black History Month in order to accommodate the demand for an increased number of African heritage activities. The activities are organized to highlight and celebrate the numerous past and present contributions that Blacks make to society. Events are usually in major cities and towns with a reasonable population of Blacks, and take place



in all artistic forms, including spiritual reflections and tours to Africa. This is also a month in which we forecast our "progress" to regain our productive identity after many year

of nursing the wounds caused by colonization and the notion of White supremacy.

The 70th anniversary of Black History Month, in 1996, marked a new era in the life of many Blacks throughout North America with the inaugural Million Man March, in which over two million Black males gathered in Washington, D.C. to discuss the negative issues that affect their lives and to make a pledge to respect themselves, family, community and the universe.

The march also gave rise to the terms, "the new Black man" and "the new Black woman," and together, "the new Blacks." This new meaning to our identity means "from this day forward," we will pay more attention to loving ourselves, our brothers, our sisters and the rest of society.

Iawanza Kunjufu, an equal rights advocate, stressed at the time "Remember, our number one problem is not drugs or crime, but self hatred. Study your history and learn to love yourself."

Dr. Steven Miller, an Irish-Italian-American scholar and poet, once said to a predominantly White audience at a poetry reading in New York City, "Look back into your own history, look back far enough and you will most likely find that parts of you evolved from the intelligence, power and beauty of Blackness."



Signs of progress in Black/White relations in some US communities

## Joan Higginbotham

42-year-old Joan Higginbotham

became the third African-American woman in space. Her job is to operate the robotic arm for the International Space Station.

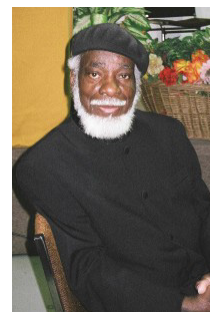


Higginbotham follows in the footsteps of Black female astronauts Mae Jemison and Stephanie Wilson. She has an electrical-engineering degree from Southern Illinois University and master's degrees in engineering management and space systems from Florida's Institute of Technology—debunking the myth that women and minorities don't excel in science and math. A native of Chicago's South Side, she is also an avid bodybuilder.

Higginbotham is joined on the flight by veteran astronaut Robert Curbeam, Jr., marking the first time that two African-Americans are flying in space together

## Vanguards

Dudley Laws is one of our



Canadians leaders who continues the struggle for equity and justice (*Global Eyes Magazine* 02/06)

"We must pay our debts to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves." Alice walker, Pulitzer Prize winning writer

*Global Eyes Magazine* March 2007

## Veteran Journalist Dies

Eucryl Anthony Calder, 57, died earlier this year at his home at Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara after a prolonged illness.



Mr. Calder's last assignment was that of Editor of the Guyana

Chronicle where he had also served as acting Editor-in-Chief for a while.

Tony, as he was familiarly called, started his career as a journalist as a freelancer. He worked at the New Nation as a reporter, with the Guyana Information Service as an Information Assistant, the Mirror newspaper as a reporter, the Caribbean News Agency as its local correspondent, Chief News Editor of the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, and Editor in Chief of the Kaieteur News.

Anthony is one of four brothers, Frank, Alvin and Nills Campbell, who served as full time journalists.

He leaves to mourn 13 children, eleven siblings, and several nieces and nephews

## Rev. Sharpton urges African Americans to seek out their Roots

The outspoken civil rights leader, Rev. Al Sharpton was shocked to find out that among his ancestors is Strom Armstrong. Thurmond, a South Carolina senator, once considered an icon of racial segregation. During his 1948 bid for president, he promised to preserve segregation and filibustered for more than 24 hours against a civil rights bill in 1957.

Sharpton said it is "probably the most shocking thing in my life" and said he wanted a DNA test to see if their families are linked by blood. He urged all blacks to explore their histories despite "the ugly things it might reveal."

## Black Princess a First for Disney

NEW ORLEANS - The Walt Disney Co. has started production on an animated musical fairy tale called "The Frog Princess," which will be set in New Orleans and feature the Walt Disney Studio's first black princess.

The film, set for release in 2009, also is the first hand-drawn film Disney has committed to since pledging last month to return to the traditional animation that made it a worldwide brand.

"The Frog Princess," a musical scored by composer Randy Newman, is "an American fairy tale" starring a girl named Maddy who lives in the French Quarter in New Orleans, said John Lasseter, chief creative director for Disney and Pixar Animation Studios.



## U of M Student Volunteers in New Orleans

Sean Hervo, 2nd year engineering student at University of Manitoba, was among the 60 odd university students from Manitoba who used their spring break to go to New Orleans to build homes for the needy. Instead of building homes they first had to help clear away the wreckage that a tornado left in its wake days before they arrived. Sean said they worked hard during the days and in



## Looking Ahead to the Next 200 years

Black people have to stop the infantile longing for mother Africa. We are now grown up people and our lives are different. It does not mean forgetting our history, or our past. That is what makes us strong. But we must come to terms with our lives in the Western World and the fact that no one is going anywhere back to Africa. We must see ourselves as Canadians, Americans, Germans, or wherever we happen to be we have to embrace the culture and move on. W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and many others have tried to undo history but could not. They eventually returned to their homes in the West.

Some of us are fraught with ambiguities, we are African yet not. Our world view is different, or experience with racism is different and we have for all intent and purposes have become a different breed of people of African descent. This does not preclude us from migrating to Africa but we should not expect any favours, any kind of special welcome as long lost brothers and sisters. If we can be objective about it, we will not be disappointed and frustrated.

Time we grow up and embrace the land which had taught us how to live in the world.

## Meaning of Slave

The term slave had its origin in the word slav. The Slavs who inhabited Eastern Europe were taken as slaves by the Muslims of Spain during the 9th century AD. Slaves were kept in many ancient societies - Judaism, Russian, Islamic, Christians etc.

*U of M Students cont'd*  
the evenings checked out the bar scenes most of which were in the French quarters which he said was a direct contrast to where the poorer folks lived. Sean said it was an eye-opening experience and he learned a lot from the trip.

## Yearnings of an Exiled Heart



For those from the African continent who may boast of having a direct connection to the motherland and may sometimes feel superior to their long lost brothers and sisters, whose connection is far removed, this story is instructive.

Ekow Eshun, Journalist, Artistic Director of Institute of Contemporary Art, was born in London to Ghanaian parents in 1968. Tired of being a “black man” in London, he set out in search of an identity. He had no illusion about Ghana. He knew of its political upheavals and basic facts about the place. For him, it was not like a pilgrimage. It was a voyage of discovery and a place he could feel “at home”.

“All I knew is that if Ghana did not live up to my expectation, I would have nothing left to hold on to”.

Graduate of the London School of Economics, Eshun grew up in a Ghanaian community in London. He ate the food, wore the clothes on special occasions was surrounded by people who celebrated the culture. He lived in Ghana as a child for three years before returning to London. His mental image of Ghana was frozen in the 70’s. He experienced culture shock

when he saw the SUV’s, Mercedes Benz and all the accoutrements of modern life alongside the poverty and the ostentatious subservience of the underclass - waiters, service workers etc. Eshun cringed. He was mistaken by his people for a rich African American. He travelled around the countryside and was overwhelmed by the poverty of the villagers. After a month of travelling around, he could not wait to leave.

Eshun said he felt a sense of alienation similar to those of African Americans who returned to Africa whose roots are far more distant.

It dawned on him that it was not about the country but about loss of identity, it’s about exile, it’s about dashed expectations of solidarity.

While in Ghana, Eshun also found out the horrible truth that his ancestors participated and benefitted from the transatlantic slave trade.

“You imagine that the events in history takes place in some nebulous other time unrelated to your own, yet I feel the consequences of my ancestors everyday in Britain. The shock is physical, you feel winded, the sun is too bright, your head aches” he said . Eshun left with more questions than answers. Does growing up in a white society makes you white? Though you are faced with daily reminders than you are not. Do you settle and live at the margins of two nebulous worlds?

## Happenings Around Town

Horace Patterson Foundation

April 15 - Watch out for Scholarship Application Forms

June 9 – “Walk the Talk” Walkathon, St. Vital Park, Duck Pond

July 15 –Annual deadline for Receipt of Scholarship Applications

September 15, 2007 – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards “Black and White Ball” final confirmation of date and location to follow.

For more info on any of the events call 254-1744.

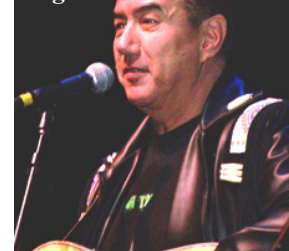
### Rock Against Racism

The Maple Leafs Collegiate Unity Group sponsored its 2nd annual Rock Against Racism Concert on February 15, 2007 at the Burton Cummings Centre to raise awareness of racial discrimination and promote unity and human rights. Approximately 1000 people attended the event and many local entertainers including Tom Jackson, Fresh IE, Burpee the Brat Packs, Carabello among several others donated their time to this

cause. Several community organizations including the Manitoba Human Rights Commission Museum for Human Rights and Amnesty International made presentations about their organizations. Hon. Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP Winnipeg North received an award of appreciation from the organizers of the Event. Winner of the 2003 YMCA Youth Peace Medal and 2006 Manitoba Human Rights Youth Award, the In its 12th year, the Maple Leaf Collegiate Unity Group’s annual activities include a 12 km march from Maple Leaf Collegiate School to the Manitoba Legislature and an annual unity dinner.

Proceeds from this year’s event will go to Winnipeg Harvest, Amnesty International, Manitoba Human Rights Commission Youth Conference and Maple Leaf’s Collegiate Project to Build A School in Sierra Leone.

Tom Jackson, Country Singer



Fantastic First Nation Youth Dancers



# Gaffing Wid Buddy

Dis year we celebrate 200 years since slavery abolished. Dat's a lang and a shart time depending on how yuh luk at it.

It's time fuh we luk bak and luk ahead to si whch we bin an whch we a goh.

Leh me tell yuh up front, it's no time fuh blaming, no time fuh recriminations an cryin oh Laad Gaad racism and how we bin hard put. We know dere is racism - dat is no secret. What we have to ask owaself is how dis ting happened, what forces led to its farmation. Wan word comes in me mind - GREED. Dat is what fuelled owa slavery. Everywan benefitted - owa own people and the European traders. Dey all gat rich from owa blood and sweat. A latta damage was done to us to bruk up owa spirits but no man can undo what the Creator Lord has done. The Creator gave us gifts - strength, compassion, determination, intelligence, common sense, creativity, joyful heart, uniqueness in hair and skin so beautiful.

Dese gifts caused us to survive de hell of slavery. No time to luk back. Luk at us nah man - we've bin to de moon an back, we bring style an class to the West, we bring new coo words an phraseology to de dry English lingo, we bring songs an music unheard befoh, we bring colour to de White world, laughter, technology, science... need I cantinue.

What we need to do now is to be vigilant. We now have to talk about wrangdoings when we see it no matta whch it happen. Slavery still happening man, we gatta talk loud.

We gotta instill pride in de youn wans, teach dem de history, keep telling dem de can do whateva de put de mind to because de have been blessed wid gifts by de Creator Lord..

Time fuh owa children to raise de head an walk on God's earth with pride an dignity because we are de inheritors, we are de survivors. Noting can stap us now but owaself. Peace out man I luv you and a luv me.

# Black Girl/White Girl - Joyce Carol Oates



**Blackgirl/white girl** by Joyce Carol Oates explores the uneasy alliance between black and white girls in the years after Vietnam. The story is about Minette Switt, 18 year old Minister's daughters a scholarship at Schuler college, a liberal arts school near Philadelphia and Genna Meade, also a freshman at college established by her Quaker ancestors. Meade was born into wealth but was lonely and felt neglected by the adults in her life. Meade and Swift became roommates at College.

Their stories run along parallel lines. On the one hand Genna is self-effacing and eager to

please while Meade is angry and arrogant.

The book opens after Minette died under mysterious circumstances on the eve of her 19th birthday. Genna now 30 tells the story in flashback.

Her inquiry leads her to believe that she might have been able to prevent the tragedy. Genna while captivated by her strong will roommate who refuses to take root in this place of privilege was however tired of Minette's ability to take the most innocuous overtures with an irate "scusme" while stomping angrily about.

Genna came from a dysfunction family of Mad Max Meade, an attorney who defended draft dodgers. Her grandmother operated an underground railroad to lead slaves to freedom.

However Mad Max Meade appears to have his own underground network, a web of secrecy that confuses his daughter.

# How to Succeed in Business without being White - E. Graves

People of African ancestry are becoming business owners in unprecedented numbers, and Earl G. Graves serves as their role model and mentor. Graves, one of the most influential and well-known executives in the world, in this timely and important book shows how he, the son of a West Indian garment worker, became a multimillionaire entrepreneur, director of several of America's *Fortune* 500 corporations and a philanthropist. Using his own story (which includes careers in the military, real estate and public service as an assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy), and those of dozens of other black men and women who have made it in the business world as examples,



Graves offers inspirational and down-to-earth advice to help readers take advantage of opportunities to achieve personal and professional success. From overcoming the challenges Blacks confront in getting financing for new ventures to identifying the best industries and jobs for black job-seekers and cultivating the behaviors needed to make it as an entrepreneur, *How to Succeed in Business Without Being White* clearly lights the path readers can take to overcome adversity and succeed in today's largely

white business environment

Celebrating 200 years of the Abolition of  
Transatlantic slave trade

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## HEALTHWISE

**7 Hints For Health** from "Food, Fasting, and Health" by Evangelist Lester Roloff

1. Eat uncooked food one day each week.
2. Fast at least three meals a week.
3. Do not eat fast.
4. Do not drink things real hot or real cold.
5. Do not drink liquids with your meals.
6. Drink your fruit juices at least forty-five minutes before you eat and wait at least two hours after you eat before you drink fruit juices or vegetable juices.
7. DO NOT eat starches, sugar, or sweet fruits such as raisins, dates, and figs with meats or fruits such as asgrapefruit, oranges, lemons, apples, pears, peaches.

## Some of our Inspiring Heroes

### Oscar Peterson

Born in Montréal, Oscar Peterson is recognized the world over as one of the greatest pianists in the history of jazz music. Combining classical mastery with jazz improvisation, he has redefined his art, giving the world a new style of jazz.



### Mary Ann Shadd

Mary Ann Shadd arrived in Canada at the time of the Underground Railroad to teach the children of arriving refugees and distribute anti-slavery materials. She was a woman of many talents. Mary Ann Shadd earned her law degree at the end of the American Civil War and worked as a lawyer, teacher, lecturer, suffragist and publisher. She was the first woman in Canada to become a publisher, starting the Provincial Freeman in 1853.

### Rosemary Brown

Rosemary Brown came to Canada from her native Jamaica in 1950 to attend McGill University in Montréal. First elected to the British Columbia legislature in 1972, she served until her retirement in 1986. She also ran for the leadership of the federal New Democratic Party in 1974.

### James Mink

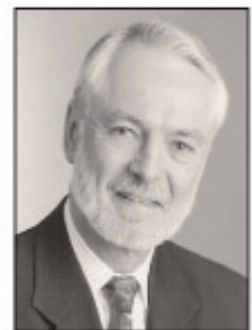
Mink, owner of the Mansion Inn and Livery. Mink, the son of former slaves who in the 1840s, was one of Toronto's most successful business people as the owner stagecoaches that carried people between Toronto and Kingston.



**Diane McGifford**  
MLA for Lord Roberts

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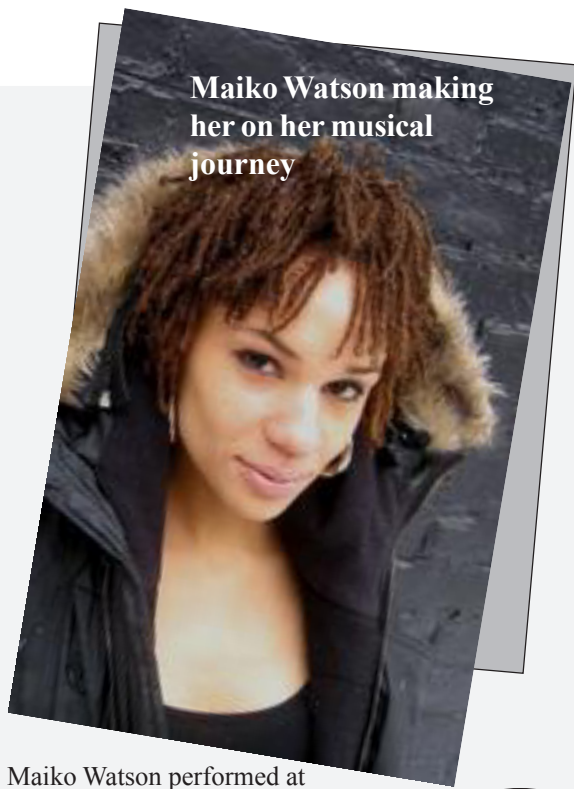
Proud to  
Celebrate with  
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**Tim Sale**  
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fortrouge@mts.net





**Maiko Watson making her on her musical journey**

Maiko Watson performed at the Legislative Building at the invitation of the Manitoba Women's Directorate for International Women's Day. Maiko sang her own songs and Donna Summers "Working Hard for my Money" to reflect the theme of this year's celebration "Women and Work". She was accompanied by on his guitar, from



Dr. Rage and the Uppercuts a popular local rock band.

**Forest Whitaker, Oscar Winner**



Forest Whitaker, winner of the Oscar Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*. Many felt it was an award that was long overdue for this hard working actor.



Senaya, Senegal-born Canadian singer sang in in Winnipeg at the Franco Manitoba Cultural Centre. Her debut album *Garde la tête haute* was released in fall 2005. She is into funk, R&B and Caribbean rhythms.

**Brandy faces serious trouble**



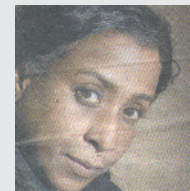
The parents of Aboudihai Ahmed and Labridi Zohra filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court, against 27 year old Brandy Norwood, singer-actress for \$50 million claiming that Brandy was driving recklessly when her Land Rover struck the back of a vehicle in which the two victims were passengers.

**The Polished Hoe**

Toronto's Obsidian Theatre adapted Austin Clarke's Award winning book, *The Polished Hoe*. into a play starring Alison Sealy-Smith as Mary Mathilda Adapted by director Colin Taylor and Sealy Smith, the play focuses on Mathilda's confession to the murder of a white man on the fictional Caribbean island, Bimshire.

"Mary's story is at one level Mary's peculiar history and on another level a bit of a metaphor for the entire Caribbean" says Sealy-Smith.

Sealy-Smith said she had to mint the word "water sheddedness," to describe Mary's voice.



The play ran from February 22<sup>nd</sup> until March 4, at the Enwave Theatre on

Queen Street.

**Karim Morgan enjoys acting successes**

Karim Morgan, 28, Jamaican born actor plays the role of the stowaway in the epic tale, *The Sheep and the Whale* which is written by Moroccan-born Canadian writer Ahmed Ghazali and directed by Iranian-born Soheil Parsa. *The Sheep and the Whale* tells the story of the hardships refugees face to achieve the life that most Canadians enjoy – a safe country. Morgan's character talks about the history of Africa how his plans have been altered and how he is terrified for his own life.

A graduate of Ryerson's theatre school, Morgan said his parents were not crazy about his career choice and equated it to being something like a waiter but after they recognized his incredible for acting they have warmed up to the idea. Other plays in which he had starring roles include "In the freedom of Dreams: The Story of Nelson Mandela", Merrily we roll along, and appeared on CBC Sunday Showcase among others.



# In Your Backyard

## ACAM's Career Fair a Growing Success



From left to right: Gregory Jackson, Cpl Kelsey Giesbrecht, Mr. Jim Ogunnoiki, Cpt. Dan DuBois, Ms Sondra Housen, Mrs. Blue Hodges

The African Canadian Association of Manitoba (ACAM) -sponsored 8th annual job fair on February 17 at the Elmwood Elementary School on Chalmers, drew more than 700 participants and some 25 potential employers.

Mr. Andrew Swan, MLA, for Minto and City Councillor Elaine Thomas brought greetings.

This year many of the booths had treats such as chocolates, mints, toffees and freebies like pens and other stuff to lure participants to their booth.

The Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Hydro, IPSOS Reid, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Service Canada were among the potential employers.

The event was held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Booth attendants were treated to delicious barbecue chicken

and peas and rice.

Mr. Jim Ogunnoiki, founder and co-ordinator gave a special welcome to Canada Safeway Stores which joined the event for the first time.

Mr. Ogunnoiki said that the job recruitment fair was established as a way of reaching out to the wider community to provide a service for youths and adults who were looking for gainful employment or career information.

"The strength and collaborations with various government departments, the City of Winnipeg and the private sector has made this program very successful. As a result many lives have been positively impacted". Ogunnoiki, originally from Nigeria said he is familiar with the concerns and issues of the ethnocultural community when it comes to finding that first job

## ACAM's Dinner Theatre "Going Back Home"

The Jamaica Hall was packed on 17th February for its fundraising dinner theatre, "Going Back Home". Written and produced by Errol Bryan, is about Mable, played by Monica Rhiney, who decides to return to Jamaica after 18 years. Mabel's excitement turns into frustration and anger with the rules and regulations of air travel starting with her overweight luggage and a series of irritations with Customs, and finding no one at the airport to greet her. She told them she was arriving at 1600 hours and that was the problem. She ended up going with a mini bus whose driver rollicked throughout the journey with loud reggae music. These scenes were hilarious. This play is worth seeing. The cast members



Mrs. Laurel Wright recited the opening poem



### Ascene in the aeroplane

were: H. Irving, Carmen Bryan, Monica Rhiney, Dorothy Palmer Yvonne Chance, Daphne Clacken, Laurel Wright, Shereen Murray, William Beech, Glen Wolf, Errol Bryan and Yvonne Chase. Errol Bryan, past president and one of the founding members of the African Canadian Association of Manitoba played the part of a policeman. The cast are all part of ACAM's theatre group which has been in existence for seven years.

## Winnipeg's Robert Burns Club Celebrates 100

The Winnipeg Robert Burns Club No. 197 celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Burns supper at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Thursday January 25, 2007. The evening was a celebration of the Scottish Poet's memory. Burns was seen as the people's poets. His poetry was concerned about the lives of ordinary working people who revered his words as it spoke to them in a language that was common to them. The evening was filled with combination of speeches, highland dances, the bagpipe music with the centre piece being the cutting of the haggis, the food that ordinary poor folks survived on during those hard old days. The Hon. Rev. Bill Blaikie gave the toast to the Immortal Memory.

The evening was filled with laughter, good food and good company.



Left - Cutting of the respected haggis; right highland dancers

**"Culture can enslave or empower"  
..Dr. Martin Luther King"**

# Time to switch hats - what does it mean to be white?

Are people of African heritage comfortable in their skins.. their hair texture - the most unique among all human beings? Are we self-conscious about our uniqueness? Our lips are no longer like the Chimps, our skin is less hairy, our hair not as straight and we are more proportionally built than others.

Some say we secretly wish we were white. Well, that's not so outlandish. After all who likes to stick out like a sore thumb. It's human nature to try to blend in.

As people of African ancestry with a history of being exploited, humiliated and dehumanized in a strange world among strange people, we are forced to examine and re-examine ourselves. This keeps us from going insane. We keep asking the big questions - why am I hated, why am I here, how did I get here, what being black means in a white world or any world?

We would not have felt

this way if we were accepted, felt included and treated equitably in white society.

While slavery has been abolished in principle for 200 years the systemic machinery still continue to keep us in slave like conditions - at the bottom of every ladder there is to climb in society.

We ask, why is this happening to us, what do they see when they see us, do they see a human being or a black being?

This conflict leads many blacks to find solutions and they think it could be found in the motherland, home, a place they will feel safe, loved, accepted. When she gets there, she finds no one remembers her. He is now a stranger to his home. He does not even feel at home in the motherland because their ways are now so different from his.

She asks the question what does it mean to be a person of African descent in a white dominated world when her own thoughts are white?

Two hundred years after slavery has been abolished and the world is changing ever so quickly, perhaps it is time for whites to face the horrible truth that they have been lied to as well, that they are not superior to anyone and they do not deserve the unearned privileges that they have enjoyed over the years.

Perhaps our world will be a lot better if white people start asking the questions: what does it mean to be a white person? Why am I where am I today? Why am I privileged? Why have I benefitted from Affirmative Action even before the word was coined? Who told me that I am white? What does it all mean?

Perhaps, this is the break we need towards a whole and just society.

## Missing piece of Slave History

The African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Markham Ontario was founded by runaway slaves on the Underground Railway and of historic significance to the Ontario Black History Society. Five years ago this church was razed down by the Toronto City Council and replaced by Condos and town houses by Wittington development Company with the promise that a commemorative artwork will be placed on the site in remembrance of the those who worshipped there., but to date nothing has been done and no one seems to know who is responsible for what. Wittington claims to have contributed \$100,000 towards the art project and

## Guyana PM Calls for Reparation for Slave Trade

Guyana's President Joins the Call for Reparation Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Guyana's President called for European Nations to pay reparations for the slave trade and denounced the British apology as lip service. Bharrat was addressing a commemorative ceremony for the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade which included diplomatic envoys of Britain, the European Union and the United States.

"Now that some members of the international community have recognized their active role in this despicable system, they need to go one step further and support reparation" President Jagdeo suggested.

Bharrat Jagdeo said he was not celebrating Britain's passage of legislation 200 years ago on March 25, in 1807 abolishing the slave trade, but instead observing the struggle of slave revolts.



the money is with the City. This place was a venue for the runaway slaves to gather, socialize and worship their Lord. The Black History Society does not intend to rest until the artwork is erected.

**George Hickes**  
 MLA for Point Douglas



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## Winnipeg Rapper Begins to Make His Mark *You've gotta check him out*



His broad smile and boyish enthusiasm will melt your heart and his talent will melt your pocket book to go and listen to him rap his heart out.

Ndu (pronounced Indo) is one of Winnipeg's up and coming rappers to watch. At the tender age of 20 he has approximately 10 years of rapping experience under his belt and has just produced his first CD "Twilight" which he financed himself. It's a solo band. He wrote all the rhymes himself and Andrew McKay added the beats.

"I did that to prove to my parents that I am serious about music and that it is not a hobby."

"My parents like my music but they still feel that school is important so I have to find a balance."

Ndu's music is easy to listen to, his voice is warm and sometimes his rapping sounds like smooth jazz. There is an honest down to earth approach to the rhythmic beat. listen to.

Ndu says he writes his

own rappoetry.

The 6'4" athletic build handsome rapper is clean shaven revealing an innocent boyish personality. And girls, he is still available!

A university of Manitoba 2nd year student in the Liberal Arts program, Ndu said he has performed at various venues in Winnipeg.

Among his major performances include headlining at Tomi Tola restaurant at their "Tales by the Moonlight" event hosted by Arinze Eze

Ndu says he started writing poems in Grade 8 and to get in touch with himself as a minority in this country.

"For a long time I was the only black male in the schools I attended," he said. Ndu attended kindergarten at Samuel Burland and Junior High at Glenlawn Collegiate and High School at Kelvin.

"My writing got much better in Grades 9 and 10. A friend used to proof read my work ." Ndu takes his music seriously. He speaks intelligently about the issues he tries to tackle. His rhymes are thoughtful and provocative.

He has big dreams. Among his dreams is to return to Nigeria one day and help those less fortunate than

## Isaiah Washington Bows to Pressure

Isaiah Washington's homophobic insult to a colleague on Grey's Anatomy provoked segments of the public's outrage and they called on ABC to discipline him even to fire him.

In a prepared statement Washington apologized to his colleagues on Grey's Anatomy and the fans of the show and especially to the lesbian and gay community for using an unacceptable term to describe co-star T.R. Knight.

Washington admitted that by his repeating the word at the Golden Globe Awards he had spoiled what might

have been a perfectly good night for his colleagues.

"I can neither defend nor explain my behavior. I can also no longer deny to myself that there are issues I obviously need to examine within my own soul, and I've asked for help."

Washington said he welcomed "the chance to meet with leaders of the gay and lesbian community to apologize in person and to talk about what I can do to heal the wounds I've opened."

Later Washington announced he will attend a rehab centre to deal with his homophobia.

On a positive note, **Isaiah Washington** found out through DNA testing that his ancestors came from Sierra Leone. Washington started a non-profit foundation last year to improve the lives of people in the West African nation and recently donated \$25,000 to a computer animation project that aims to detail the Atlantic slave trade as it relates to Bunce Island, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century slave-trading castle that sent an unknown number of Africans captives to North America. "



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*Cont.'d on p17*

## Regular Columns

### Global Counsellor

**Dear Global Counsellor,**

I am an 18 year old African girl. My boyfriend is a white Canadian. This last Valentine's day my boyfriend did not even give me a card let alone a rose. He did not even call to wish me a happy valentine's day. I was hurt and felt humiliated. My friends got some card or something special from their boyfriends not me. When I asked him why he never sent me a card or wished me a happy valentine's day. He said that he did not think that Africans celebrated Valentine's Day since it is a European thing. He also said he did not believe in it because it's just another commercial event for people to spend money on stupid consumer goods. It is because I am an African he thinks I am not worth it?

**Confused**

**Dear Confused,**

I don't think it's because you are African. It is always a let down when a boyfriend does not use a perfect opportunity to let you know how special you are to him and to celebrate your love. We have come to expect some kind of show of affection at this time., though some men especially if they are environmentalist or have certain values do not get sucked into these things. Does he show his love in other ways - honouring your birthday, treat you to dinners, movies or buy you gifts for no reason but because he loves you?. Try to understand where he is coming from maybe you might come to appreciate him for his take on things. If he is a cheapskate that's another issue. How do you feel about a cheapskate. If it does not mesh with your values move on, show him to the curb..

*Global counsellor.*

**Dear Global Counsellor,**

I am a Caucasian girl 20 years old. I left home at 18 and went on my own. I partied a lot and dabbled in drugs. I did not want to listen to my folks. I lived with my boyfriend. After a year and a half I realized he was not a good influence and he had no ambition. I broke up with him and lived with a couple of my girlfriends. I don't get along with my girlfriends and instead of losing them, I want to move out but I can't afford to live on my own, I am not making enough money. I phoned my folks and asked if I can move back in to my old room. They said they have converted my room into a study and that there was no place there for me that I chose the life I have. I am so hurt and mad at my parents, how can a parent turn against their own child like this. Is this the love of a real parent? Don't they care what happens to me.

**So alone**

### Letter to My daughter

My dear Daughter,

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Abolition of Slavery in principle and for many this may seem like such a long time and it is. But when I think about the 300 years that slavery in its most violent form was practiced against our forefathers, I ask myself how did any of them survive and what strength they must muster to risk anything they have to fight for freedom and a better way of life. But like they say a drop of one would one day erode a mountain. It is so true. The human life was not created to live in the darkness of oppression and ignorance. We were made to live in the light and it is true of every human being. They reach for the light no matter where they are. They seek freedom. Here we are today. What would our ancestors think or say. I think they would smile and say, *we're almost at the top of the mountain children keep on going you will get there.*

People of African ancestry have risen to the greatest heights in every society in which they live. They have climbed the walls of economic, social, political and spiritual powers. From Harriet Tubman, who led her people out of the wilderness of slavery to the promised land of Canada to Rosa Parks who took a stand and created a revolution followed by Martin Luther King who cried from the mountain top not to judge his people by the colour of their skin but by the content to his character to Malcolm X who taught us to love and embrace our blackness; the Maroons of the Caribbean, Cuffy of Guyana, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, LFS Burnham to Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, we have seen the growth from generation to generation. I could list pages upon pages filled with our heroes in the various areas of life, who made it in spite of the continuing discrimination and racism embedded in our societies. If people who had so little to go on could make it to the top and be recognized, what is stopping our youths today? My child, slavery is part of our history; we cannot deny nor forget it. For we must forever work that this part of history never repeats itself. You must not be limited by your past. The future is glorious. It is for you to design the life you want. Lift your head up and walk bravely into tomorrow. Tomorrow belongs to you.

Love, mom

### BLACK HISTORY FACTS

Did you know that approximately 42% of all slave went to the Caribbean, 38% to Brazil and 5% to North American?  
Over 54,000 trips were made

from Africa to the Americas carrying approximately six million Africans. Ships carried between 250 to 600 Africans packed like sardines.

## Haiti Needs Teachers - Can you Help?

Project Teach/Konbit Pwof is offering its annual professional development seminar for Haitian teachers. This year's seminar will take place in Haiti's northwest corner, Port-de-Paix, July 2-13, 2007.

The seminar, attended by teachers who may never have had any teacher training, covers methodology for delivering all core subjects at various grade levels, with a strong emphasis on respecting and protecting children's rights and the importance of a teacher's role in society.

A group of dedicated teachers and school administrators from Europe and across North America come together to form a volunteer team to deliver the seminar. We are looking for others to join with us and help. In particular, we need specialists in French Language Arts, Writing, Math, Social Studies (all levels), Conflict resolution, and Kindergarten.

Work and interact with teachers from a unique and fascinating part of the world. Help make a difference. Visit [www.projectteachhaiti.org](http://www.projectteachhaiti.org) for more information.

*Cont'd from p13*

### Global Counsellor Dear Alone,

I feel for you. Parents are supposed to come to our rescue every time. We expect and demand as a right. Parents have feelings too. Your parents love you. Maybe they are testing you. Have you apologized to them and asked them for a second chance. You've been on your own for two years and into drugs. Drugs change a person. Your parents maybe afraid of what that has done to you. You have to win them over. You have to convince

them that you have changed and about to turn over a new leaf. Perhaps you can suggest a trial period to see how it works. Maybe when they see you are really serious about taking charge of your life in a positive way, they may be more open to helping you out. You have broken fences with your parents and you have to repair them in a sincere way. I am sure they will come around. For as you say, what parent would not want to help their child out? They need to be sure you are for real.  
Global Counsellor.



## Shining Examples

Rose Tilbrook was recently recognized by the Winnipeg Millennium Library for completing 25 years of outstanding service.

At a special ceremony held on March 23rd in the Carol Shields Room at the Library, Rose along with several other long-standing employees, was publicly appreciated for her service. Rose is a community builder with memberships in several organizations



including Congress of Black Women, Ugandan Association, City of Winnipeg Equity Committee and MEAAC. Congratulations to Rose for this achievement.

## 2007 Black History Community Award Winners

### *Religion*

**Evangelist Rachel Alao**

*Support to Black Community*

**Dr. Louisa Loeb**

*Human Rights*

**Beatrice Watson**

*International Community Service*

**Mr. Casper Shade, Esq.**

*International Community Service*

**Mrs. Carmen Nembhardt**

*Arts & Entertainment*

**Arinze Eze**

*Education and Community Service (Posthumously)*

**Mrs. Lena Anderson**

## Genesis of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

On March 21, 1960, in Sharpeville, South Africa, a peaceful protest against Apartheid came to a tragic end when police opened fire, killing 69 people and wounding many others. In 1966, to commemorate this tragic event and to encourage and promote harmonious race relations, the United Nations declared March 21st as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

**Hon. Michaele Jean Connects With her roots**



Canada's Governor General, Michaele Jean got much more than she had bargained for during her virgin trip to Africa recently. Touching the soil to which her soul is connected through the institution of slavery violent waves of emotions washed over her uncontrollably.

The governor General said she felt as though she had returned home and felt comfortable among the people who looked like her but who spoke another tongue.

Like Blacks all over the world, The Governor General is a survivor of one of history's most difficult slave trade that lasted more than 300 years.

In speeches she gave, she spoke about her ancestors who were strapped in ships to make the long, tortuous journey across the Atlantic Ocean and she stands as a testimony to that.

Michaele Jean has however come from a more heroic past. The Haitian slaves could not be contained for long and were the first to be freed in the West under the heroic Toussaint LeOverture who

won the battle against Napoleon Bona Parte to secure his people's freedom..

"At last I have made it to Africa. I have been waiting for this moment my entire life" she explained to her African brothers and sisters.

"For me as a Black woman, this continent where I now find myself speaking to you for the first time is where it all began".

The Governor General said her trip to Africa was however, not about recriminations or feeling sorry for oneself but about offering hope for a brighter future, she told the Algerians. During her pilgrimage to Ghana she made her way through the Door of No Return, the door which through thousands of her ancestors passed onto ships that carried them to the Americas. Like so many



**The Forgotten Scientist**

Mr. Percy Julian was born in Montgomery, Ala., in 1899 and died in 1975. He is one of the most important scientists of the 20th century. In 1999 the American Chemical Society recognized his synthesis of physostigmine, a glaucoma drug, as one of the top 25 achievements in the history of American chemistry. His work included the synthesis of cortisone, an anti-inflammatory



used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and many other conditions He was the first black chemist ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

He received a Masters Degree from Harvard University and a doctorate from University of Vienna as Harvard refused to support his doctorate.

Hew was married and had two children. One of his sons, Percy Julian Jr. is a civil rights lawyer in Wisconsin. He taught at Howard and DePauw Universities at Glidden Company. His research made possible a fire-retardant foam widely used in World War II and the mass production of synthetic progesterone. In 1953 he had established Julian Laboratories (which he sold for more than \$2 million in 1961), and he later formed Julian Research Institute, a non-profit organization. He won accolades for his support of the civil rights struggle and was able to hire many black scientists and inspire many more.

On his graduation day at DePauw University, his great-grandmother bared her shoulders and, for the first time, showed him the deep scars that remained from a beating she had received as a slave during the last days of the Civil War. She then clutched his Phi Beta Kappa key in her hand and said, "This is worth all the scars."

**Filmmaker Spike Lee**



Spike Lee makes important contribution in promoting of African American culture, history and issues through films telling the story the way he sees it.

**Robert Hayden**

1913-1980 - Poet Laureat

....Rises from their anguish and their power,  
Harriet Tubman,  
woman of earth,  
whipscarred,



a summoning,  
a shining  
Mean  
to be free  
And this was  
the way of it,  
brethren,  
brethren,  
way we journeyed from  
Can't to Can.

(Excerpt from Runagate, Runagate)

## Foods that connect us to their roots

**Cala:** Sweetened rice cake, African in origin, served with morning café au lait, formerly sold by black women in the French Quarter of New Orleans. In Georgia, this sweetened rice cake was called saraka. A woman born in slavery in the 1930s recalls her mother making the cakes: “Yesium. I membuh how she made it. She wash rice, ann po off all duh watah. She let wet rice sit all night, and put in mawtuhm an beat it tuh paste wid wooden pastle. She add honey, sometime shuguh, add it in flood cake wid uh kams. Saraka, she call um.”

**Calalu:** Thick soup or stew similar to gumbo. Ferdinand Ortiz traced calalu to African coilu, which is a Mandingo name for a plant resembling spinach. In Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, it is a rich soup or stew in which one or more kinds of calalu leaves are the chief ingredients. Calalu is also the name given to several plants having edible leaves, eaten as greens and in soup, or used medicinally.

**Coffee:** Word derived from Kaffa, region in Ethiopia.

**Cowpeas:** *Vigna unguiculata*, black-eyed peas. Used in the southern U.S. by both blacks and whites. Traveled from Africa to North America in holds of slave ships as food for the cargoes.

**Cush, chushie:** Sweet, fried cornmeal cake that first appeared in American English in 1770. Gullah kush or kushkush. Related to Hausa via Arabic kusha.

**Fufu:** Called “turn meal and flour” in South Carolina. A mixture of cornmeal and flour is poured into a pot of boiling water. From this fufu mixture, enslaved Africans made “hot cakes” in the fields, which were sometimes called ashcakes or hoecakes. These evolved into “pancakes” and “hotwater cornbread.” Fufu is a common food throughout Africa and the New World; it consists of yams, plantains, and cassava roots (manioc, tapioca) cut into pieces and boiled together; maize or Indian corn beaten into one mass and eaten with pepper, boiled in a pot with okra. A substantial dish of fufu is composed of eddoes, ochas, and mashed plantains made savory with rich crabs and pungent with cayenne pepper.

**Goober:** A Bantu word for peanut. Another word for peanut is pinder from the Congo word mpinda. The first known records of the word are in Jamaica in 1707, and in South Carolina in 1848. Pinder Town is the name of a place in South Carolina.

**Grits:** Enslaved Africans took hominy (the hauled dried kernels of Indian corn) and made grits by

grinding the corn hauls and cooking them; grits is similar to eb, which is eaten in Africa.

**Guinea Corn:** Guinea Corn, also called sorghum and millet (*Sorghum vulgave*), is an indigenous African crop transported to North America by Africans.

**Gumbo:** This word is similar to the Tshiluba word kingombo and the Umbundu word ochingombo. It is a soup made of okra pods, shrimp, and powdered sassafras leaves. It was known to most southerners by the 1780s.

**Gunger Cake:** Gingerbread, which is a dark molasses cake flavored with the powdered root of the ginger plant, is thought to have originated in the Congo and been carried to North America by enslaved Africans.

**Hop’n johns:** Traditional West African dish of black-eyed peas and rice cooked together. It is common in black southern cuisine.

**Jambalaya:** Bantu tshimbolebole, dish of tender, cooked corn. African-influenced dish similar to gumbo, particular to New Orleans. Africans brought to Louisiana from the Kongo.

**Jollof Rice:** Style of cooking red rice brought to the American South by the Mande of West Africa.

**Juba:** Traditional slave food. Refers to the food that enslaved Africans working in the plantation house collected from the “massa’s” leftovers. Such leftovers were called juba, jibba, or jiba. On Saturday or Sunday, the leftovers were thrown together; no one could distinguish the meat from the bread and vegetables. This juba was placed in a huge pot, and those working in the ‘Big House’ shared it with those working in the fields.

**Maluvu:** Tshiluba maluvu, palm wine. Produced throughout Africa from sap or juice collected from palm trees. African Americans continued to make it in Savannah, Georgia; in South Carolina, the palmetto tree is the source of this potent brew. In some cases, African Americans extracted material from the center the palmetto tree, called palm cabbage or palmetto cabbage, and cooked or fermented it for wine.

**Millet Bread:** The seeds of various grasses made into bread were used as food on the slave ships that carried enslaved Africans to the Americas.

**Okra:** *Abelmoschus esculentus*, also called guibo and guimyombo, originated in what geo-botanists call the Abyssinian (Ethiopian) center of human food zones. It is still cultivated in present-day Ethiopia on the plateau portions of Eritrea, and in parts of the Sudan. It also became the essential ingredient of Louisiana gumbo.



**Peanut Oil:** First introduced by enslaved Africans in the American South, especially in deep-fat frying, a cooking style that originated in western and central Africa.

**Pone Bread:** Enslaved Africans made mush from cornmeal and called it pone bread, a mush cake similar to mush patties baked in African for centuries.

**Rice:** *Oryza sativa* and *Oryza glaberrimi*, were indigenous varieties of rice imported in 1685 from the island of Madagascar to South Carolina. Some historians contend that enslaved Africans first showed white Americans how to cultivate rice. By 1740, rice had become a major staple in the South Carolina farming and slave-based economy.

**Tania:** *Colocasia esculenta*, coco yam; eddo in West Africa; Tanya in West Indies. Appears indigenous to Central Africa with two known varieties: "Old coco yam" (*Colocaccia antiquorum*) probably originated in the Congo basin, with its earliest citation being made by the Portuguese in the 15th century; "Coco yam Tania" (*Xanthosomaa sagitifolium*) was a popular root plant in Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina.

**Watermelon:** *Citrullus vulgaris*, spread from Sudan to Egypt during the second millennium B.C.E. Now, it is distributed throughout the world. The transatlantic slave trade served as a major vehicle in transporting watermelon to the New World, where it remained a favorite among blacks and whites alike. Enslaved field hands often planted watermelon in the fields so they could enjoy them in July and August, the two hottest months of the year, while they hoed and picked cotton.

## Remembering a Community Hero

The community came out in full force to say goodbye to Lena Anderson, who recently joined the love of her life O.T. Anderson in heaven.

A dedicated educator, Lena contributed significantly to the community and was recognized with many plaques and certificates. She was a member of the Congress of Black Women, Past President of the Immigrant Women's Association, a member of BEAM and many other organizations too many to mention. She enjoyed singing and was a member of the popular Jamaican Folk Ensemble. She was a past president



of IWAM and received an Award in recognition of her contribution to the organization. Under Lena's presidency the organization held one of its biggest conferences.

Anyone who knew Lena, knew she was a classy, strikingly beautiful lady and had the gift of the gab.

More importantly she was a wife who did not hesitate to show her devotion and love to her husband OT. Lena's memorial was held in the same church as OT and her children gave her the proper send off as she would have appreciated.

Lena's legacy to the community will be remembered in the annals of history of Manitoba.

## Pa Williams A respected Leader Passes On

The African community mourned the passing of one of its community Elders recently. He was fondly known as Pa Williams. He was the husband of Mrs. Kofo Akininlola Williams, father of Mrs. Titi Olude and father in law of Mr. Segun Olude who represented the family at a

memorial service sponsored by the Immanuel Fellowship Church, where Pa Williams faithfully served the Lord. Pa Williams was a professional engineer. He was a generous soul who walked among and served those less fortunate than himself. He earned every respect and accolade he received from the community.


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## Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

As a student at Oberlin College in Ohio, Ishmael Beah didn't talk about his life in Sierra Leone as a boy soldier who was forced to kill — or be killed, until he was in a fiction workshop and shocked his teacher, novelist Dan Chacon by what he wrote and told him “you either had a sick imagination or this stuff is true”.

“At 26, Beah has written a chilling account of his old life. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$22), that describes how at 12, his parents were murdered by rebels and he was swept up in a civil war for more than three years.

The book describes how Beah and other youngsters, armed by the Sierra Leone Army, were fueled by revenge and “brown brown,” cocaine mixed with gunpowder.

Beah lost his childhood, then found it — thanks to a woman in New York, Laura Simms 59, a professional storyteller whom he met at the UN's International Children's Parliament in 1996, his life took his life in a different direction. Beah said he was impressed by Simms storytelling.

## Humour



A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about. For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money, totaling \$95,000. He asked her about the contents. “When we were to be married,” she said, “my grandmother

told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll.” The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness. “Honey,” he said, “that explains the doll, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?” “Oh,” she said, “that's the money I made from selling the dolls.” Women will love this... A Prayer.....Dear Lord, I pray for Wisdom to understand my man; Love to forgive him; And Patience for his moods; Because Lord, if I pray for strength, I'll beat him to death. Amen! And I don't know how to crochet. ( M. Thomas)

## Ndu Cont'd from p12

himself through a charitable foundation he aspires to establish.

Ndu said he is passionate about bringing understanding to people through his music.

“Diversity is a beautiful thing,” he said.

When asked to comment on the violence perceived in hip hop music, Ndu said “the media is giving hip hop a bad rap (no pun intended). Hip hop is no different from TV shows where there are sex and violence. We try to reflect what is going on in society to bring about change”.

Ndu, youngest of four siblings, said rappers generally reflect what they see in society and when they rap about women it is because of the way some women behave.

Spiritually he believes in Christian principles and said he also believed there was Muhammad.

“Music is powerful and I want to make it my duty in service to humanity to provide music that is positive and uplifting to the soul.

“Music will always be part of what I do and who I am, it does not matter whether I get signed onto a big label or not, I will still be rapping and making music”.

Some of Ndu's influences and role models include Tupac, DMX, Nas, and Notorious B.I.G.

While Ndu hopes to be picked up by a label to he is determined that he will not go that route at the price of giving up his creative control.

When he finds some spare time Ndu enjoys a game of basketball.

## Community Leader Honoured with Prestigious Award

Dr. Romulo Magsino, the only Filipino Dean in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba, has received The Panama ng Phillipino (Legacy of Filipino) prestigious Award given to an overseas Filipino who has brought honour and recognition to The Philippines through excellence and distinction and who has demonstrated social consciousness, as manifested by a strong community spirit and leadership.

The Award was presented to Dr. Magsino during an awards ceremony held at the Malacan Palace in Manila last December. Philippines President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cited Dr. Magsino's lifelong commitment to excellence in higher education and his leadership within the Filipino community, which raised awareness of the important role of immigrants in the cultural diversity of Manitoba. Dr. Magsino is also the lifelong Dean Emeritus at the University of Manitoba.

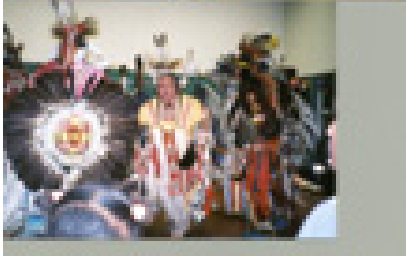


# First Annual All my Relations - A welcoming Ceremony for Newcomers

Crossways In Commons came alive with dance, food, camaraderie as First Nations Elders put out the welcome mat for newcomers to Canada.

The event aptly named *All My Relations*, was organized by a collection of organizations including West Broadway Corporation, Manitoba Multicultural Resources Centre, Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Mary Jane's Cooking School and First Nations, Elder Art Shofley. Community members contributed ethnic food that were delicious and plentiful.

Adults and children participated in the circle pow wow dance.



*First Nations Dance (top)  
Middleeastern foods (mid)  
Foods from the Congo (next)*



**Daniel Negussie** (left) the brain-child of the idea of bringing the communities together to get to know each other

Negussie, who chaired the event said that plans will soon be underway to sponsor

the second annual All My Relations event

## Carrying on the Dreams of African Ancestors

King of Pop, **Michael Jackson** and **Harry Bellafonte** gone where most have not gone before in their chosen Arts



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**Black History Month Award Winner!!!**

## Is Black History Still Necessary

Actor Morgan Freeman created a small firestorm last month when he told Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes" that he finds Black History Month "ridiculous."

Americans perpetuate racism, Freeman said, by relegating Black history to one month when Black history is American history, he said.

Scholars and historians, including Dr. Conrad Worrill, chairman of the National Black United Front, repel the capitalization of the celebration, but agree Black Americans still need February - and every day - to reflect on the accomplishments of Black Americans who contributed countless inventions and innovations into society.

"I don't even know how he could form his mouth to say that," Worrill said. "(Freeman) showed how backwards he is. Obviously we need Black history month. People of African ancestry need to know their history more than any other group."

Without Black History Month, many wouldn't know that mostly slaves built the nation's capital building, or that the Union Army would not have won the civil war without African-Americans in its regiments. Many may not even realize that some "misguided" Blacks even fought on the Confederates side during the Civil War, Kelley said.

Northwestern University's Dr. Darlene Hine said Black history is vital to American history, but February allows Black Americans to celebrate and revel in their heritage.

"No one believes that a month is sufficient enough to fully explore the lives and experiences of African Americans," said Hine, professor of African American and African American Women's History. "But it is absolutely essential for the country to continue teaching and training scholars to explore, invest and write about the contributions of people of African American descent have made to the creation of American civilization."

### **Global Eyes asked some African Canadians whether there is still need for Black History Month:**

**Charity Zimbabwe:** "I have no idea about slavery. Whatever happened back then should be thought. There is a reason why it happened and everyone should know. It is important for our children"

**Lemma:** "Black history month is about my black folks that came here and fought for the rights and succeeded. Somebody has paid the price. We should continue because we should learn from that so that the bad things do not happen again. It also makes people remember we exist and

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### *Do we still need Black History Month*

what we went through and are still going through as a group".

**Gregory Jackson:** "I have an interest in Black History but I think it should be incorporated into regular history education"

**Busola Ramuyele:** "I don't know much about it. I hear about it but don't learn much about it."

**Anon:** We should always celebrate it. It's a continuous thing for me. Everyday I am thankful for where I am because of those who have gone before."

**Babatunde:** It's the day we got liberated from slavery. I think we should change the name to something else to make it more inclusive.

**Mizhitz:** "It means a lot to me. It is what I am. I want to know more about the history of my people. I want to know more about the history of my people. I belong there and therefore I want to learn everything about Black History.

**Rae Ann (11 years old):** Black History Month means freedom. Because people fought for our rights we are now free. If they didn't we would still have been slaves so Black History Month means freedom and we have to remember that.

**Antoinette:** Black history month is important to me. It should continue. It is important that we know about our history.

# Greetings

On behalf of the citizens of Manitoba, we are pleased to extend best wishes to our Black and Caribbean communities.

Manitobans are fortunate to live in such a welcoming, multicultural society enriched by the respect and personal freedoms that too many people elsewhere in the world are still denied. We must continue to work together to ensure diversity is valued and encouraged in our province.

As you may know, the United Nations recently declared March 25, 2007 as the International Day for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. We are proud to join the rest of the world in officially honouring the memory of those who lost their lives in this profoundly bleak era of human history. The world must always remember past injustices to ensure that they never happen again.

In February, Manitobans celebrated Black History Month, paying special tribute to the historical, social and cultural contributions of Black people to our province and the world. This annual observance reminds us of the progress society has made toward human equality and racial harmony. It also inspires us to continue to strive for the highest standards of human rights and dignity all around the globe.

At this time of year – and, indeed, year round – we encourage all Manitobans to celebrate diversity and the important role it plays in shaping the excellent quality of life we enjoy in our province.



**Gary Doer**  
Premier



**Nancy Allan**  
Minister responsible  
for Multiculturalism



**Manitoba** 

## ZIZI, the Continuing Story

After the officers left, Zizi dropped herself in the loveseat and she cried, and cried. She cried because she was confused. She cried because she was overwhelmed. She thought of Guyana, how beautiful it was. In spite of the crime, the poverty, the hardship, it was home.

Her mother, her sisters, her brothers and childhood friends were all there. She thought if she was back home she would have had a lot of support. Her cousin Patsy had been a faithful rock and Zizi although buried in her own misery, felt sorry for Patsy and wished things were different. Patsy was like a sister. She stood beside Zizi as she had always done since they were children running around in the schoolyard. They were not that young and innocent anymore. Patsy had a broken marriage and a broken promise to deal with and on top of that she had two young impressionable sons. She did not need more problems. They boys were great, they liked to give Zizi plenty of hugs. When they hugged Zizi she felt good. She trusted the love they gave her. She knew their love was real and that kept her together. If those little boys knew how much their care and tenderness towards their aunty Zizi meant they might have kept their small, warm hands about her all the time. She loved them so much and would do anything to protect them, even move out to her own apartment, though she did not feel she was ready. It is time, she told herself.

She was not going to say a word to Patsy until she found a place to live. Just a one room apartment with a large sofa for the boys to sleep on when they came over. She imagined she would spend a lot of time with them. She would keep them over night to give Patsy a break. They would watch movie, play games and eat popcorn. These thoughts brought a smile to her lips.

Zizi pulled herself together before going into the kitchen where Patsy and the boys were having a little snack.

“They’re gone?” Patsy asked surprised “I did not hear a thing”.

“I closed the door quietly behind them,” Zizi said.

“So, everything is okay... they got what they wanted?”

“For now,” Zizi smiled toying with the officer’s business card

“What’s that card?”

“Business card ...in case something new pops into my head,” Zizi snapped her fingers dramatically.

“It’s nah ova yet yuh know” Patsy broke into creolese

“Tell me nah” Zizi sucked her teeth and put on a brave face, “girl I am going to mek meself a cuppa tea to cool down me nerves”.

“Tek some fried plantains. I just made some fuh dese boys. They love fried plantain girl. Ah neva seen anything suh ... it’s like de barn in Guyana,” Patsy chuckled.

“It’s all in the genes... and culture”, Zizi turned to the boys, “plantain gon mek me you strong like a lion, man”,

Zizi said and beckoned the boys to her. She hugged and kissed their foreheads. “Let me feel your muscle”. She took turns feeling each BICEPS. “You guys are on your way”.

“Okay .....” Patsy said to the boys.

“There’s the code word, mom and aunty Zi want to talk big people story. We’re going to play some computer games”, Joey, the older of the two boys said

“Yeah... we are on our way.”

Patsy and Zizi laughed hard.

“You see what I have to put up with?”

“They are smart with a sense of humour.”

The two of them smiled until the smile naturally faded.

“I don’t want to talk about me anymore, I want to know where you and your estranged husband are at in your reconciliation process?”

“Reconciliation process! Who said anything about reconciliation?”

“You ought to think about it Patsy, I mean it. Those two boys need their dad close by. They are growing fast”, Zizi sighed heavily. “You’re like my sister... always have and now you have really sealed that. You are my sister and I want what is best for you and my nephews”.

“Me too.”

“We all make mistakes. He loves those kids. They need a father to look up to. It’s not like there was any kind of abuse. He is just being a stubborn jackass. Don’t you still love him?”

“You know I do but how long must I put up with his shit?”

“Did you just wake up and notice his shit or was it there all along?”

“It was there all along”.

“And you chose to marry him with his shit... right”

“Yes, but I thought he’d change once we are married”

”Assumptions, assumptions, assumptions... Patsy, Patsy, Patsy... you married the man because you loved him, warts and all, why throw that away. Work with him and maybe you might learn to live with it and he might change on his own. Please one more chance for the boys’ sake.”

Patsy sighed twice. “I don’t know. We’re are comfortable together... I don’t want that to change again.”

“Nothing will change and besides, I may find myself another man.... a good one this time, hopefully,” Zizi laughed a belly laugh. “God, knowing my luck it may be another doozer.”

Patsy laughed back “usually you get it right the third time.”

“Or is it that bad thing comes in threes.”

“Didn’t nobody broke your heart at home after Leroy left you there.”

“No... unless you count Keith my preteen crush in about fifth standard. He was so cute and so different. He wasn’t like the rest of the boys. He never was allowed to play and he was always dressed with his clean, starched and ironed shirt” Zizi giggled, “but he was so short man.”

## ZIZI - continued

“Yeah, you only liked him because he was the headmaster’s son and was the local bigshot. Zizi you always dreamed bigger than anyone of us. You always had your nose sniffing anything that’s different, interesting and sophisticated and that’s who you are. I always hated you for not being content with being your poor self, you walked as if you owned the world and you did, in a strange way everyone looked up to you with your raggedy dress.”

“Girl, you joking. You know how people hated my big mouth and my attempt to correct their slangish.”

“Yeah Zi, you were a know it all. You always pretend to be so smart

““Pretend... I was the smartest girl in our town.”

“Dream on sista,” Patsy looked her up and down jokingly. There was a pause. “Seriously Zizi, you have to go to university, get the Canadian credential and just sock to them.”

“Oh my God, life is so much more complicated when we grow up. You know what?” Her eyes lighted up “just before I came to Canada I ran into Keith, girl and he looked like hell, not that sweet little boy, got a few teeth missing in the front and smiling as if it’s nothing. He said he was working for himself and a cousin or somebody was going to send for him to live in the States.”

“You can’t always predict how someone will turn out... besides, perhaps headmaster damaged the boy with the way he used to beat Keith especially when he was drunk.”

“You’re right. Keith used to get a lot of blows from that man and he was not all that smart.”

“When people live in fear they can’t learn.”

There was a pause and Zizi used this to focus on Patsy

“So what are you going to do with your sweetheart?”

Patsy grimaced “Girl leh da man go lang he way.”

“He’s not da man, he is your husband and the children of your sons and he is prepared to change. He made it clear, not because you want him to change but because he wants to change. He saw himself becoming his own absent father and he does not like that. He wants to be a man who takes care of his family and he is prepared to do that, what do you say about giving him a chance?”

“Do you really think that’s a good idea? What about if it does not work out? What will that do to my sons.. raise their hopes to be dashed again?” Patsy asked thoughtfully, her voice softening.

“Patsy, you have to believe that it is going to work and you have to work to make it work. I’ll be around to help you. I will babysit those boys and I will take them for weekends and give you guys a chance to bond again?”

“Take them where for weekends?”

“My apartment”

“Are you moving out without telling me?”

“I haven’t found the place yet but I am looking”

“How would you go to university and live on your own like that?”

“I’ll manage. I have to do this... girl I can’t live with you

here forever, it is so comfortable. You’re aaight girlfriend. But, I’m a grown woman and I have to start acting like one by starting to be responsible for myself. I won’t go too far. I’ll stay within walking distance so that we can still be family. I really want this for you Pat...I know you love the guy, admit it”

“I’ve grown so attached to you being here, it won’t be the same.”

“It’d be better. You’ll have a place to hang out, the boys will have a place to get away from crazy mom and dad and we all will be happier. I have a few dollars saved. I’ll be alright.”

## Beautiful Jamaica has its problems



Ria Bacon photographed these young women in December 2006 on Barbican Road in Kingston, Jamaica. She explained in her blog, the week before Christmas, many of the poorer areas of Kingston get a quick makeover, as hundreds of local residents hack at overgrown pavements and daub the kerbs with whitewash. They are motivated not by a spontaneous burst of civic pride, but rather by the promise of a day’s work, usually paid for by the local politician. For some, it will be one of a few rare days of paid employment each year. Most of the workers are women. They are paid J\$1,000 per day but this is only a band aid solution to the poverty in the country. As the Jamaican-Chinese proverb says: Give a gyal a brush an’ she paint for a day. Give ‘er a heducation, a microcredit loan, a clean and safe environment .Ah man! Jus’ give ‘er de damn brush, y’hear?!

\*\*\*

Fear of stigma and discrimination is a major factor preventing people with HIV/AIDS from seeking treatment or from admitting their HIV status publicly. For this woman, however, photographed in the streets of Kingston, Jamaica by blogger Ria Bacon, social stigma is hardly a concern. “When I asked to take her picture, I suggested that I wouldn’t photograph her face. “Nah man,” she aid “P’haps udda people learn from my mistakes.” When I showed her the picture, she smiled sadly: “Bwoy, dat a huggly face!” [Boy, that’s an ugly face!]”



## Contrarian

**The White man's burden**  
 I feel the white man's burden of guilt is getting heavier and heavier and all the nations that a white colonial master has ever affected are squeezing that ball of guilt for every once of sympathy it can get. I am amazed at some of the stunts people from the so-called third world get away with when they come to the West. Privileges they never gave, nor received, nor believed in back home, they claim forcefully and when they do not get it they cry racism and discrimination and the white person cowers to that horrible stigma of being a racist. Wake up people or we are all doomed. Let commonsense prevail and not just giving out rights to the detriment of the majority.

Look at what the mess you have made to childrens' rights at the detriment of parental rights. You have taken our children out of our homes and into foster homes and then let them loose at 18 into the arms of the drug dealers and all the other horrible forces out there. Would it have been so bad if a parent through the love of their children spank the child a

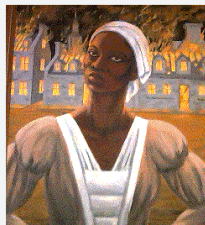
little bit and kept him at home? Wouldn't it have been better. Even writing the word spank gives me guilt because it makes me feel like a horrible person. Our society has titled too far.

We talk about our culture and the rights to cultural practices. What about me, my individual culture? What about my right not to have people eat meat in front of me in the lunchroom? Culture as it used nowadays is just another way of separating people and feed ethnocentricities. Yes I cook and eat certain foods, but I can easily eat other foods as well. I may choose to be a vegan and practice that way of life. However that is my business and I do not have to turn the whole country up side down to practice it. If the state stick to the matter of administering the country properly and let people take care of their own individual cultures. We do not allow prayers in school but we allow people to express religions through dress in schools and workplace. Just what the heck do we stand for..

### Heirs of Slavery

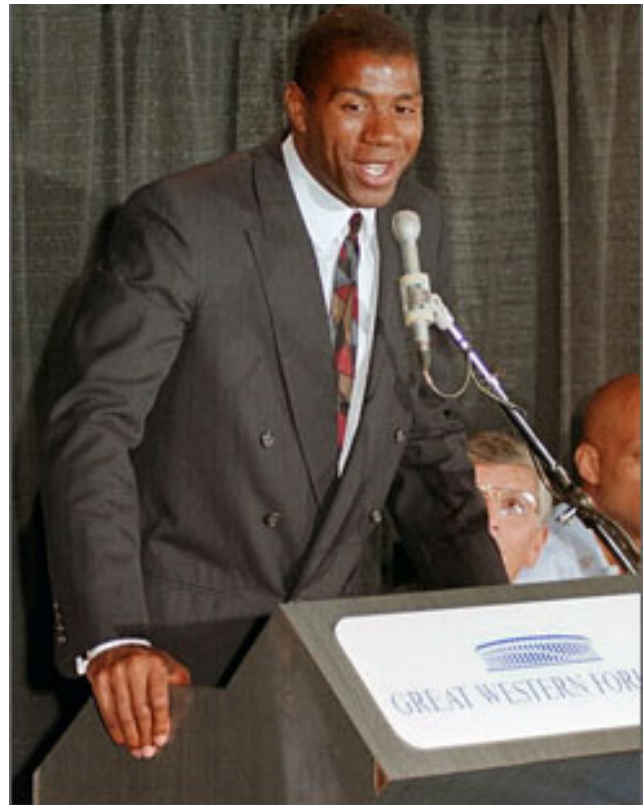


Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of the United States of America



Angelique Joseph, slave woman in Montreal sentenced to death for allegedly burning her masters's house.

## Magic Jumping Hoops for AIDS Awareness



Basketball fans and even those who were not were shocked and saddened the day when Magic Johnson, then 32 announced, 15 years ago that he had to quit the sport he loved because he was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS virus.

Now 15 years later at 47, Johnson looks as health as ever which makes some doubt that AIDS is the monster it is purported to be. Conscious of what it takes to look like him, Johnson is on a mission to bust the myth that AIDS is not the monster it is. His target is Afro Americans who account for 50% of the HIV population in the US considering that they make up only 15 % of the US population. "You can't take this attitude that you will be like Magic. In fact if you are young and

black, odds are that you won't be statistics show.

Johnson who announced he is partnering with the drug firm Abbott to try and cut AIDS rates among African Americans by 50% in the next five years. He also outlined a strategy to hold HIV testing drives in 10 to 13 cities each year, sponsor educational programs and advertising, backing grass roots advocacy programs and providing scholarships for doctors willing to staff HIV programs in African American communities.

"Johnson said he is not cured. He owes his well being to a multidrug cocktail he takes daily. Magic is the face of AIDS and he is on a crusade to stop the flow into the African American community.

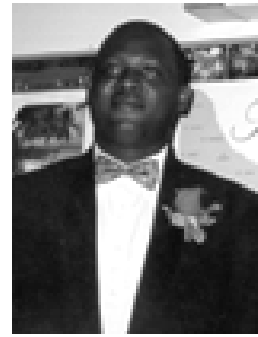




It was party time. Everyone reveled in the great music after the formalities were over.



Hon. George Hickey, MLA Point Douglas, (far right), Rupert Forde



Mr. Donovan Inniss, guest speaker



**Mrs. Pamela Nesbett** was honoured with a certificate of achievement for having served as the organization's secretary for more than 25 years.



**Mrs. Iona Aikins**, fondly known as Mother Aikins within the Barbadian community was given the royal acknowledgment as she entered the room out of respect for her being the most senior elder within the community. She has seen it all, having lived in Winnipeg for some 40 years. Mother Aikins accompanied by her daughter Heather tries to attend most events in the community in spite of her age.

## Barbados Celebrates 40

The Barbados Association of Winnipeg recently celebrated Barbados 40<sup>th</sup> independence Anniversary with a gala banquet and dance at the Centro Caboto Cultural Centre. The Association welcomed a cross section of the community including and politicians who brought greetings for the occasion.

The organization brought in businessman, Mr. Donovan Inniss from Barbados to be the guest speaker.

The 40 year old MBA graduate, president and owner of a Global company focussed his talk on Barbados socio-political and economic situation at this point in time.

Inniss paid tribute to the Father of Barbados and other trailblazers who have paid the way for Bajans to enjoy the social and economic prosperity that it currently enjoys, particularly the late Dr. Errol Barrow.

One of the pluses in Barbados is its free education. "If my parents had to pay school fees, I would not have been here today," Inniss said. "Barbados has made a positive mark in the global arena. It ranks 26<sup>th</sup> place in the world of economic freedom, 30<sup>th</sup> place in quality of life and it is the third oldest in the commonwealth parliament," Inniss said.

Donovan issued a warning about illegal aliens that threatens the Bajan identity.

"Citizens have a duty to highlight what is good and what is lacking in Barbados, Inniss said, "all is not well. We are starting to drift away from our political and moral goals."

He talked about the inaccessibility of owning homes and land due to skyrocketing prices, the influx of foreigners to the country. "This has raised the question of Bajan identity.

"Bajans have a cultural reference point that is truly original and with the influx of newcomers this will change," he argued.

Inniss said the healthcare and educational systems are not doing well.

"If we are going to prevail Bajan children should be able to speak a second language, including English.

The church should get off the fence and start taking an active role

in the development of our people.

"We stand at the precipice which will need all hands to help us from going over the cliff," Inniss said and called on Bajans abroad to help open trading opportunities for Bajans at home and to work with Bajans to help Barbados continue its progress on the world's stage.



**Congress of Black Women's annual Kwanzaa celebration at their new location at 26 Princess Street. The event was successful with a multicultural gathering of adults and children enjoying the festivities.**



## Oprah - God's Little Helper on Earth

Thanks to Oprah Winfrey, the Black child that God must have touched with His Magic Wand 250 girls in South Africa will enjoy the privilege of a first class education that they might have never dreamed they could have.

The school took five years and \$40 million to be built. Oprah pulled out all the stops for this one and ensured that the school was a jewel in the crown of Africa.

Oprah got her share of criticism for building too elitist a school for poor girls. Some criticized Oprah for not being as generous to Americans. Oprah countered that American children get free education. She also said that whenever she visited an inner-city school and asked the children what they wanted, most would want more material things – a sneaker or an ipod, whereas in Africa they don't

ask for things, they ask for uniforms, to go to school. The thirst for education in Africa is far greater than in America, she said.

Set on 22 acres of land in the town of Henly-on-Klip, about 40 miles outside of Johannesburg, the capital

Her best friend Gayle King, who helped Oprah create her vision, has her own theory as to why her friend has become obsessed with the school. "When I watched Oprah with those girls," she says, "I kept thinking she was meant to be a mother, and it

would happen one way or another." Indeed, Oprah constantly refers to her students as "my girls," and means it. She'll not only teach two leadership classes via satellite, she plans to spend a good deal of her retirement years in Henly-on-Klip. She's going to build a house on the school grounds—and she'll use the same dishes, sheets and curtains that the students do.

"I want to be near my girls and be in a position to see how they're doing," Oprah says. "I want to have a presence they can sense and feel comfortable with." The bonding has already begun. Recently, when Oprah had finished interviewing for the day, she escorted the girls back to their bus and gave each of them a big hug. One girl, Thelasa Msumbi, held on extra tight, then whispered in Oprah's ear: "We are your daughters now." Winfrey smiled. And yes, Thelasa got admitted.



of South Africa, Oprah said that the school is a fulfillment of "the fulfillment of my work on earth." But God is in the details. The 28-building complex features—yoga studio, beauty salon, large rooms, dorms – the whole works.

Oprah is God's angel on earth. "I wanted this to be a place of honor for them because these girls have never been treated with kindness. They've never been told they are pretty nor have wonderful dimples. I wanted to hear those things as a child."

# Healthy Recipes

Cont'd from p15

## Moroccan Chicken With Eggplant Garbanzo Ragout

This flavorful chicken entree proves that weight loss is no longer a matter of deprivation. On Ingredients

1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil, divided  
1 teaspoon sherry vinegar  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1 teaspoon ground coriander  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Salt and pepper  
2 (6-ounce) boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1 medium (about 8 ounces) eggplant, unpeeled, cut into 3/4-inch cubes  
1/2 medium onion, chopped  
1 cup garbanzo beans and 1/4 cup liquid drained from can  
8 ounces cherry tomatoes, halved  
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice  
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

### Instructions

1. Combine a teaspoon of the oil with the vinegar, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, salt, and pepper in a glass dish. Add chicken breasts; turn to coat. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate for up to 6 hours.

2. Heat remaining tablespoon of oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add chicken and cook, 4 minutes per side, or until cooked through. Using tongs, transfer chicken to platter; tent with foil to keep warm. In same skillet, cook eggplant and onion 8 minutes, until soft and slightly browned, stirring often. Stir in garbanzo beans with liquid, tomatoes, and lemon juice. Cook 3 minutes, smashing the tomatoes with a wooden spoon and stirring to blend flavors and warm through. Transfer to platter with chicken; garnish with parsley.

## Blancmange - A Creamy Dessert

### Ingredients

3/4 teaspoon unflavored gelatin  
2 tablespoons cold water  
1/3 cup unsweetened almond milk  
1/8 teaspoon almond extract  
1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 cup light or fat-free whipped topping  
1 cup diced strawberries  
2 small perfect strawberries for garnish (optional)

### Instructions

Lightly coat 2 (1/2-cup) ramekins or heart-shaped molds with cooking spray. Sprinkle gelatin over water in a cup and let stand for 2 minutes. Meanwhile, heat almond milk in a small saucepan over low heat, until

it comes to a bare simmer. Add gelatin mixture and cook, stirring constantly, until dissolved, about 1 minute. Stir in almond and vanilla extracts. Transfer to a small bowl set over a bowl of ice water and stir until the mixture is thickened slightly. Add the whipped topping and diced strawberries; stir to combine. Divide mixture between ramekins and chill for 2 hours or overnight. When ready to serve, run a knife around the edge of the blancmange and, using your finger to help coax it from the ramekin, gently turn each out onto a plate. Top each blancmange with a whole strawberry, if desired, and serve.

## Community Hero

**Norma Walker**, educator, activist with a passion for issues racism, violence against women, Black and immigrant women. Walker ran for political office on the New Democratic Party ticket.

She is a committed mother and grandmother and a role model for young women.



**Door of no return**



**Community Builder Cde. Wade Kojo Williams** has been in the forefront of advocating for African Canadians rights for 25 odd years.

*Global Eyes Magazine March 2007*

## Monday Night Hang with Steve Kirby



Director of the Jazz studies, University of Manitoba, Mr. Steve Kirby is a man on a mission. That mission is to make Winnipeg the coolest jazz city ever.

Since taking up residence in Winnipeg the jazz scene has picked up dramatically. Jazz is in the air more than ever. He has taken jazz to the people, in the streets, in clubs and the Forks waterfront.

You can enjoy up and coming jazz musicians each Monday night at Kirby's Monday Night Hang at Buccacino's restaurant 185, Osborne street. It's free.

Time to shake off the winter blues and hang with some cool people, meet talented musicians at this cool jazz hang out. It's a treat just to hear Kirby play. He is a master at his craft.

[www.patmartin.ca](http://www.patmartin.ca)

Please contact  
me if you need  
help with a  
federal issue.



Pat  
Martin

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***Greetings & best wishes  
on the celebration of  
Black History Month &  
the 200th Anniversary  
of the Abolishment  
of Slavery***

**Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP  
Winnipeg North**

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**Working with ...working for our community**