

# The Scott Report

The Leader in community news

## SO LONG FAREWELL, ADIEU, ADIEU, ADIEU

### FITZGERALD SCOTT ENDS SCOTT REPORT



### UPCOMING EVENTS

PARANG SHOW, ST. JOSEPH PARK  
6 PM-10PM DECEMBER 5TH 2009

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION  
20TH DECEMBER 2009  
ARANGUEZ PARK AROUND 10 AM

SPORTS AND FAMILY DAY, AKAL ROAD  
(PETIT BOURG)( 681-3517)  
EASTER MONDAY 10 AM 2010.

### Did you know?

That you can treat dandruff just as well with either an antiseptic such as Savlon or vinegar, as with a dandruff shampoo like Head and Shoulders.



The overall winning community in the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition gets a prize to the value of TT\$200,000.00, which is used towards a project in the community.

That [www.gov.tt](http://www.gov.tt) is the government's web portal and a lot of the information in this section comes from there.

Concrete needs to be kept moist for up to 7 days to cure correctly, often under plastic. Otherwise it usually cracks.



The X in Xmas is an abbreviation for Christ and has been used for more than 1,000 yrs. It is actually the first letter in the Greek word for Christ according to Wikipedia and other sites.

The Adolescent Mothers Programme offers services such as: Day care, individual and group counselling etc.  
Tel. (868) 623-6301

It costs \$40 to apply for a liquor licence in Trinidad and Tobago.

It takes sunlight 8 minutes to get from the sun to the Earth.

Studies show that even adult circumcision reduces a heterosexual man's risk of getting HIV by 60%. It also reduces the risk of other STDs.



# SO LONG FAREWELL, ADIEU ADIEU ADIEU... RUMBLING IN ST. JOSEPH BY F. SCOTT

The Scott Report managed to use its *considerable* leverage to arrange an interview with Fitzgerald Scott, the creator of the Scott Report in light of the fact that there will be no more issues of the paper. This is what he had to say.

**The Scott Report (TSR): Good day Mr. Scott. Thank you for joining us today. Tell us briefly who you are and why you started the Scott Report.**

**Fitzgerald Scott:** Good day. Well I am Fitzgerald Scott, Junior according to my birth-paper and I am someone who likes to be involved in new and interesting challenges. I am a computer scientist and programmer by education and I hope a Jack of all trades yet a master of them all (smiles). I say that because I don't like labels I think they restrict people's thinking. They prevent people from seeing a teacher as a successful father and a scientist and a politician and everything else someone is in a given day and above all from trying new things.

I started the Scott Report while looking for ways to advertise my own skills. I realized that the price of full page advertisement in a national paper for one day was more expensive than printing a neighbourhood paper. Once I saw that I thought "You know I would really like to see a neighbourhood paper" so I started reading and researching the topic online and I came up the crazy notion that I could actually do it. I was pretty excited and scared but thought I needed to try.

**(TSR): So what has that experience been like?**

**Fitzgerald Scott:** Well it has been tremendously difficult and disappointing at times, yet very fulfilling but also quite meaningless. Basically I'm still the same person five issues afterward winding up as I was at the beginning but as is the case with every experience I've gone through, there is a rainbow of different emotions until one arrives at the end. At first it was tremendously scary to actually approach potential advertisers in the neighbourhood, then it was very disappointing when they didn't respond as I had hoped, then it was frustrating trying to gather news stories and ... suffice to say there are a number of negatives as one might imagine. One of the positives however is actually writing. Like everyone else I have strong opinions on certain matters and I love trying to figure things out. So deciding how to put things so they sound good and expressing my views at the same time is something I honestly enjoy. Getting positive feedback from readers is also great. Even good negative feedback I enjoy.

It's a very intimidating and at the same time quite satisfying moment handing the paper to a stranger and watching them actually read it and not immediately roll it up or drop it in a corner but actually read it and seem interested in what is in it. Or better yet start up a conversation about something they read in it.

Ultimately though, the failure of the paper is saddening but at the same time from an optimistic point of view exciting, because I can try something else. Even the wealthiest men in the world, like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet regularly encounter failure after failure. What makes them successful is of course "luck" and that they never stop trying new things and learning so overall the successes greatly outweigh the failures. It's not about the money or the fame for them, though both are great, it's about trying to do something new and maybe succeeding.

**(TSR): Speaking of the paper failing, why are you ending it?**

**Fitzgerald Scott:** In putting out the paper I've paced myself to only bring it out every six months, which is something I could and still can afford. However there are two main reasons for shutting up shop now.

Firstly, at the current rate the paper cannot support itself either through advertisements or donations and does not seem likely to. Unfortunately, unlike the person that stands on the corner reading the Scott Report, advertisers have put this opportunity aside. Does it mean that the Scott Report is a bad idea? Not anymore than when Christopher Columbus couldn't convince Portugal to back him and barely convinced Spain. It just means this idea's time may not have come.

With regards to donations a handful of readers have come forward in the three years, some with large amounts and some with smaller but no less heartwarming donations. Regrettably the largest financial donator is still me and quite simply I need to try other ideas that might eventually turn around



Fitzgerald Scott Jr.

**(TSR): Why do you do that?**

**Fitzgerald Scott:** I wanted to guarantee that as many people as possible would get the paper and though it was exceedingly difficult, my mother told me how the Syrians would go door to door selling fabric and I thought if they could go through that to get where they are, who am I? I also do it because **there's no one else to do it.** I do everything, take the pictures, do the interviews, write the stories, set the layout, deliver the papers, everything. I am even doing this interview of myself. Yes it's strange but pretty funny too and since I don't have any advertisers to alarm in this issue I thought why not :)

**(TSR): Why a last issue, isn't it a waste of time?**

**Fitzgerald Scott:** I love a sense of closure, I hate when television shows don't have a proper final episode and I would hate to leave people wondering what happened to the paper. Also if anyone has an *original* way to keep the paper going and even expand this is their absolute last chance.

And so the charade ends though a couple of you always knew and many suspected, The Scott Report is only one person. In all the four previous issues only 6 articles and in this issue 2 more plus the crime statistics, have been done by anyone besides myself and only one was actually written with the intention of being in the paper. I had one fellow that I paid to help me with the deliveries for one issue but unfortunately before they were done he stopped picking up or returning my calls. So basically aside from the actually printing and the 8 articles, everything has been me. Even learning how to use the layout software and getting advice from the printers on how to improve.

So while it would take for example 20 people, 2hrs to deliver all the papers I do, I takes me about 40 hours over at least 2 weeks and 35 km to do on my own. It's not something I look forward to so as a result this is the last issue.

The saddest thing I noted recently is that when I tell people that it's the last issue... nothing. No "That's too bad," no "really," no, nothing. I can't quite figure it out but I'm out of space to muse. At least when I told someone this right after the last issue I got a "Why", which I thought was funny since I'd just explained that I'm actually *paying* as it were, to do the work of at least 5 people.

For the inquisitive among you, the five issues of the Scott Report from 2007 to now have cost just over \$24,000 to print and we (smile) received about \$4,000 in advertising and around \$2,500 in donations. Some of the donors are below, If you gave and don't see your name it means I've forgotten you. Just joking but thank you all the same and I wish I had remembered you.

Jennifer and her mom Mrs. Bertrand, Mr. Phyers, Mrs. Penny, Mr. Dookeran, Elton Peters, Yohan and his brother and Ms. Bernice Forde of Mt. Hope.

Eileen Craig, Mr. Self and his mom Mrs. Self, Anand of LA, a lady from a garage sale at Mt. Hope Tabernacle and the upholsterer of Mt. Lambert. Kiddies Kindergarten and Fruitland of Petit Bourg.

A guy from Champs Fleurs and a guy from Caiman St. Joseph.

The advertisers were Carib, Zion's Travels Ltd, Albert Peters Woodworking Limited and Laughlin and de Gannes.

And so WE of The Scott Report bid you ADIEU and Seasons Greetings!

and fund a Scott Report reincarnation but perhaps not. If the paper did at least pay for itself I would probably continue working for free though. Secondly delivering the actual newspapers is one of the hardest things that I've ever done. Yes I deliver every single paper that anyone ever gets in their mailbox usually more than 2900, by hand.



I pass the group of limers on about the 2nd street behind the medical centre in St Joseph. I must admit black, white, indian, chinese or syrian, a group of idle young men liming at the side of the road is never a welcoming sight. I imagine this is why they are a familiar tool used to harass young women in movies. Someone sniggers as I pass, it's a free country I could snigger that they have nothing better to do with their brains than watch the road instead of reading a book or watching the Discovery channel or playing a game but C'est la vie. I turn to deliver a paper on a dead end road. The view is great so I pause and take a picture of the huge valley in front of me. As I return to the car, "Ay papers man" the 6 foot plus, muscled, tattooed guy with the least pleasant expression is approaching alone, probably not a threat. As with most people I assume he wants a paper which I offer. He takes it. "You just walk down dey?" It's obvious I did but I say yes. "Why" he continues. Is he the police? What's with the 20 questions? "Because there was a mailbox there" I say. "Doh go down dey" he says holding my paper. I'm wondering if he's looking out for my safety until he completes himself with "Right!" I'm a little stunned so as he leaves with his veiled threat delivered I ask him, "Do you know me?"

Mr. Red-skinned-tattooed-arms shouts with his back to me walking away down the dead end street which turns to a track as it descends into the valley, "I don't want to f\*\*\*ing know you" he says my paper in hand. I enquire as to where he lives. "Why you want to know where I ... live."

## ST. JOSEPH CARNIVAL PRIZE GIVING BY F. SCOTT



Calypso Champions to the left and Yanick Holdip receiving his award

## THE LOLLY-MAN BY F. SCOTT



Driving around Mt. Lambert the other day we bounced up with one of the ice cream vendors who sell Flavorite products and went by the name of "Best". We chatted with him for a while and learnt that he was not an entrepreneur as we always thought people like him were but an employee of Flavorite. Best has been working for Flavorite for the past 4 years and according to him there could be as many as 100 different "lolly men" working for the

company plying their frozen products in different communities and at rallies and special events across the country. Best appreciates the job and takes it as it comes admitting that it can be hard and is not for everyone. "Many are called but few are chosen" he says and he is glad to be one of the chosen because he makes his money and isn't robbing anyone or doing anything wrong. He takes the workout he gets in stride mentioning that no matter how rich one is one needs to exercise anyway.

When we asked the "Lolly man" how crime affects him he said that one is taking a chance doing the job because people can try to rob you but if they do it's best to just let them go. If one tries to scramble with someone he said, they could end up getting shot or "a bus head" and the person could still take what they want.

All in all though, as he mentioned, Best seemed to be happy with the job.

I can't remember if he curses again but there was a good bit of it coming from him throughout so I don't think I need to be specific, "Because I've already put a copy in that mailbox." Meaning "I certainly don't want to waste another copy on the likes of you." Lots more interesting verbiage to which my modest training kicks in and I simply respond "Yes sir, Yes sir, Yes sir."

Mr. Red-skinned-tattooed-arms removes the copy from the mailbox, which more than likely is not his and continues down the hillside. Young Mr. Rastaman at the side of the road grins. I continue on my way. Honestly I'm more than prepared to have people rip up the paper in front of my face, rather than to leave one in the hands of someone who feels it necessary to randomly threaten then curse me.

I am constantly amazed that anyone has the guts to approach random people they do not know to make threats and such. If one thinks they know the person, sure take a chance, maybe you know that this person won't respond in a dangerous manner, but a stranger? How do thieves for example put their lives in their own hands approaching people for what they could easily make in a day's work, with no repercussions? Not everyone is a hero and this is what these people must count on but what if someone is having a bad day and they just aren't in the mood to be intimidated. I know several people who carry pen knives and bigger for protection. When is it that a thief or one of these people who "think dey bad" will run in to one of these people and be in the wrong place at the wrong time? For all we know it probably happens quite a bit.

The First Capital Committee group of St. Joseph held a prize giving ceremony for the winners of St. Joseph's Carnival celebration recently. The calypso winners performed their renditions and at the end a parang group from the area also graced the proceedings with its tunes. It was very enjoyable.

Yanick Holdip of Mt. Lambert the National Junior King of Carnival 2009, (<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,95563.html>) was present and collected his trophy for St. Joseph's King of Carnival 2008. He usually participates in celebrations in St. Joseph and in Port of Spain but because he won the national competition this year he had other commitments.

## HUMMINGBIRDS FOR ST. JOSEPH BY F. SCOTT

The First Capital Committee group of St. Joseph was successful in nominating local residents Alvin Corneal and the members of the Flores Family for National medals we were told by group member Mano Marcellin. Mr. Corneal received his Hummingbird silver medal for his contributions to sport, namely through playing football, cricket and coaching for the nation.

The Flores Family received their Hummingbird silver medal for their contributions to music

i.e. through parang. Their prowess being demonstrat-



Mr. Corneal

ed in having won many national music competitions many times over.

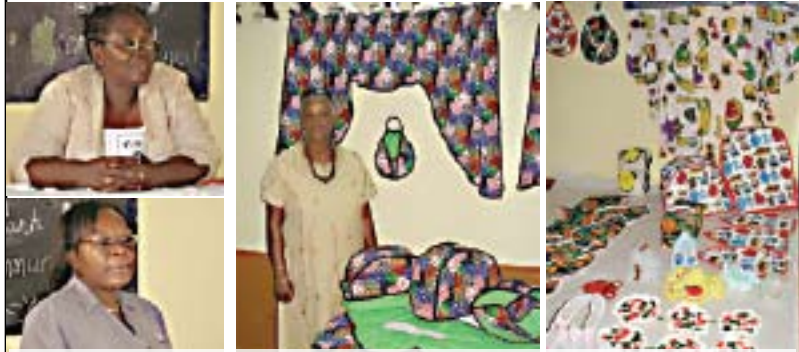
# GRADUATION

# MT. HOPE

# SAFETY ADVICE from members of The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Crime and Problem Analysis Branch

On September 7th the Household Craft Class held at the Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert community centre held a graduation. The class members said that while strict, the tutor Ms. Mayfield Browne was very good. Members of the Ballroom Dancing class provided entertainment.

There was also a draperies class graduation, however the only person taking pictures, a young lady, refused to give us a contact number to try to get them from her at a later date.



Top left Ms Browne, Bottom left government rep and right student displays

Well the explosions from carbide, firecrackers and other sources came back though not 24/7 like before. The noises peaked around Divali and then died off somewhat but every so often someone let's one go, whether it be 3pm or 3 am.

Speeding seems to have subsided a lot as well. Whereas before a day couldn't go by without the roar of some vehicle going up or heading down a hill, these days a day can go by, perhaps two.

The drain we mentioned in the last edition still remains un-repaired but we spoke to Mr. Perreira recently and he said he passed on the information, so we'll see. Round the corner though a leak in the middle of the road has been fixed by WASA finally we presume.

Mrs. Maingot of National Ave, Mt. Hope a former community council member who passed on recently will be missed.

There was a home invasion a while ago, which sounded pretty scary. People were tied up while the thieves went about their business even talking to the neighbours like nothing was wrong reportedly.

I would like to recommend the initiation of a community crime patrol, where groups of resident's, men women and children get some exercise walking about the community at different times of the day and night. Naturally I'm talking about groups of people not just myself since for some reason my superpowers haven't kicked in.

Anyone interested give me a call at 772-8995

## How to win that Heart

(Though you haven't got a clue)

- Remember there are lots of fish in the sea DO NOT PIN HAPPINESS ON ONE PERSON
- Eye contact. Nothing is more attractive or scarier than gazing into someone's eyes, use wisely
- Physical contact is also indispensable in trying to get someone to fall for you, again use carefully. Briefly at first then more based on comfort.
- Mirroring, do what they do. For example if they fold their arms wait a couple seconds then do it too. Seems like it's too obvious, it's not.
- Teasing, it's how to can get their attention. Be careful the person knows you're joking and not just making fun of them. Otherwise it can backfire.
- Perfume/Cologne. People love the stuff. Don't make it hard to breath around you, just use enough. Try different smells, you might be using the wrong one.
- Be fun to be around. No one likes a grouch!

## Correspondence

Miss Bernice Forde

Mt. Hope

Thanks for the Scott Report this is the 2nd one I received, enclosed is \$10.00 for the 2 received and the 3 to come.

Bye for now

Bernice Forde.

## Response

Thank you Miss Forde for being so nice to write in and donate.

Thank you as well Mr. Richards for the call and the support.

Unfortunately your memory technique for getting back to us did not work since we haven't heard from you since :)

## WE NEED A SUPERHERO!



Somehow in spite of the increase in murders I have not seen a single superhero emerge. Of course I am speaking tongue in cheek... of course, but this would be the perfect time for a Batman or Superman or Flash to start patrolling the streets. We would have to count Spiderman out unfortunately because we don't have the high rise buildings around for him to swing from but then few places do. As long as he didn't mind jogging or he bought a car he should be okay though.

Starting from dusk or even during the day, we would see Superman flying around or hovering

over different areas, the Batmobile would be driving around through neighborhoods and Spiderman would be either jogging or maybe taking a lift with Batman or somebody. He was a poor student after all. Maybe he would be going UWI or UTT.

We would feel safer because all we would have to do is shout or scream and here someone would come. Well it might depend on exactly how many superheroes we had available and their different super powers or specialties but we would definitely feel safer.

These selfless individuals would protect the innocent by putting themselves and by extension their friends and family, in harm's way over and over again for free. Hmm that might actually become a problem. Yes people would feel safer and yes they might be happier but on the flip side a decrease in crime might put a lot of people out of work. Similar, but not exactly so to the

movie the "Incredibles" I can see the headlines now, "Heroes put Security out of Work" meaning both the Ministry of National Security and its arms and security firms. The security industry might take issue, some might start to question what right these vigilantes have to be taking jobs away, "Weh they come from, we doh want dem." The rising uproar might spell the end of heroes, if they're lucky, because worse might be to come.

I can see one of them making a mistake and perhaps hurting someone and hearing "Ani!" or one of the talk show hosts berating them up and down. "This Superman is a clown!! He is a mook! How he could see somebody..."

Eventually, with crime being low, "blue collar" crime that is, unless we somehow managed to have a white collar superhero or a super accountant, perhaps "Counting Man", people might start taking the heroes for granted and become resentful.

"Buh wha happen to Batman and Spiderman nuh, telling me to wait fuh the traffic light tuh cross, they too fass and outta place. Leh dem go and find some rapist to ketch."

"But wey them superheroes is, dem good fuh nuttens. Dezz people robbing me and I shouting and screaming and nobody coming. Wha dey good for?" Finally the superheroes might just quit, if not physically, mentally.

"Batman somebody just get chop by the rum shop, come nah!"

"So wuh yuh want me do fuh dat, ent the man who chop him done gone?"

Call the ambulance!"

"Spiderman come nuh you might be able to ketch him still!"

"Yuh see me I eh lucky with that yes, is too many times I almost geh myself chop or shoot checking fuh odda people, I good. I done make up for Uncle Ben years ago"



What kind of activities should I be on the lookout for?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
  - Suspicious persons lurking around houses and parked cars.
  - Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
  - Cars, vans or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
  - A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Report these incidents to the police . Talk about concerns and problems to trusted neighbours.

How should I report these incidents?

- Call 9-9-9- or your district police. ( For anonymity call 5-5-5 or Crime Stoppers: 800-Tips).

- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect; sex and race, age, height, distinctive characteristics, etc.
- Describe the vehicle if one is involved; colour, make, model etc.

How to protect yourself from armed robbery:

- Travel on well-lighted streets.
- If you must travel at night regularly, don't carry more than you can afford to lose.
- There is safety in numbers.
- Avoid shortcuts through deserted areas.

If you are confronted.....

- Do Not Resist! Cooperate! Give the criminal whatever he wants. Your life is important!
- Never try to be a hero and apprehend a criminal yourself.
- If a criminal says he has a weapon never try to call his bluff.

How to protect yourself from vehicle robbery:

- Be cautious entering your car as someone may be hiding inside. Park in well-lighted areas.
- Never resist the suspects' effort to take the vehicle.

- Do everything possible to avoid being taken hostage.
- When driving keep all the doors and windows locked and closed if possible.
- When you stop in traffic, leave enough room to see the tires of the vehicle ahead.
- Take a quick look at your surroundings before you get in or out of your vehicle.
- Do not leave items visible in vehicle. Such as laptops, handbags, cell phones, cash, etc.)

How to protect yourself from residential breakings:

LOCKS

- Keep your doors & windows locked, whether you are at home or not.
- Use deadbolt locks with one -inch throw (the part that extends into the door jam when locked) on all exterior doors, and ensure that exterior doors are solid wood or metal.
- Keep garage doors shut and locked.
- Keep gates to back yard padlocked but ensure everyone knows where the keys are in case of emergency.

LIGHTS

- Keep exterior lights on at night. Consider motion sensor lights or

"dusk-to-dawn" lights to make outside lighting easy.

- Consider placing interior lights on random timers, so lights turn on and off at different times in the evening.

LANDSCAPING

- Keep trees, shrubs, and bushes trimmed away from doors & windows to eliminate hiding places for criminals.
- Consider "Planting for Prevention" and plant cactus or thorny bushes near windows & hiding places.

How to protect yourself from sexual assault:

- Be alert!
- Walk with confidence and purpose.
- Walk in well-lighted areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings, know who is around you and what's going on.
- Don't let drugs or alcohol cloud your judgment. Trust your gut, if your instincts tell you to leave, then leave—immediately!
- If you think you're being followed, change directions and look for open stores, restaurants, or a lighted home.

Be Safe! A message from your local Police.

## Well Ain't That Cute But It's WRONG! (A National Day of Prayer to solve crime) By Keegan Bharath

Without virtue, God is a mere name. Plotinus, Enneads, II, 9 ( 33 ), 15, 39

"Do you think a national day of prayer would help solve the current crime situation?" This was a CNC 3, 7pm newscast poll question. At the end of the newscast 55% said Yes and 45% said No. Regarding those who said 'Yes,' I want you to enter their minds for a brief moment. It is their belief that a national day of prayer would help solve the current crime situation. The following scenario is a description of how those viewers expect this to unfold.



A national day of prayer is called and the various religious organizations representing the diversity of faiths assemble at a particular venue. The various religious leaders offer prayer in their usually mode along with the participation of the audience. The nation is overflowed with prayers from Christians, Muslims, Spiritual Baptist, Hindu, etcetera. We are reminded about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the oneness of God, the different orishas, Krishna and Hanuman, and everyone shouts Om shanti, AllahuAkbar, Amen. The "Trini" God (remember 'God is ah 'Trini") then absorbs the different prayers, which in essence beg for his intervention in the current criminal paradise of T&T.

The next day the Almighty acts on the prayers offered by the religious leaders by putting a halt to all murders, robberies, rape, corruption etcetera in our beloved country. At last the people have found the solution to the crime problem. What we needed all along was to assemble our religious leaders in a national day of prayer to awake the "Trini" God from his slumber with our passionate plea for his help. This is the outcome the notorious '55%' think will materialize with the aftermath of a national day of prayer.

The cartoon "Two stupid dogs" features a segment where an angry man screams at the top of his lungs as a little birdie tweets. Well ain't that cute but it's wrong! WRONG!!!WRONG!" he says. Those ignorant clowns who think a national day of prayer would help solve the current crime situation are simply WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!

The CNC 3 News poll question is utterly absurd and it is not directed towards reasonably minded citizens. It reflects the level of intellectual bankruptcy that pervades the media in T&T. This question is useless because it can't generate a rational discourse on how we must tackle the issue of crime and it inherently allows the citizenry to abdicate their personal responsibility. I am not against those concerned citizens who pray daily in hope of a better future for our society. However, I am extremely disgusted at those clowns in T&T who advocate the view that a "National day of Prayer" would solve the crime situation. We must not tolerate this 'Obeya logic' as a way to structure our thinking in solving problems. Further it is high time we abandon this foolish idea that only prayer, prayer, and more "prayers" to a "Trini" God would help us out of trouble. As far as I am concerned, God grants no favours to any nation or individual and 'He' is indifferent to ritualized prayers that are not fortified with a personal will to do the right thing at all times.

What we need from CNC 3 and the other television networks are enlightened discussions on ways in which we can strengthen law enforcement, dispense swift justice and assess the impact of the social dynamics in crime by examining the breakdown of the family structure, educational issues, and community issues. These initiatives would put the reasonably minded citizen in a state of awareness of the relevant issues involved and position the public to act against the current tidal wave of criminal onslaught. Forget CNC 3 and the '55%' who said 'Yes' to a national day of prayer to solve the current crime situation. Well ain't that cute, but it's WRONG! WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!

## Our La Riene Rive Queen by Fitzgerald Scott

For the first time in quite a while at the very least, Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert had an entry in the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition, the La Riene Rive category. Our entry was 17 year old Jamillia Duke. Ms. Duke, of Breeze Avenue Mt. Hope said that she saw a flier in the area about the competition and decided to take a chance.

The mastermind behind our La Reine Rive entry is Mrs. Donna Persad. Mrs. Persad said she wanted to prove to everyone who said it couldn't be done that Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert could have a proper La Reine Rive entrant in 12-13 days. So she devoted significant time, energy and finances to accomplishing this goal by finding an entrant and grooming her. Ms. Duke said that she practiced for several hours everyday and really wanted to win. She was tutored in her singing and performing by Mrs Donna Persad.

Unfortunately after two performances, a preliminary at Town Hall, which we attended and one at Queen's Hall, our queen did not progress to the finals. She did manage however, to surprise at least one resident of Mt. Lambert, Stashelle George, a Bmobile Dance Off winner, who was very excited to see Ms. Duke perform.

In our opinion Ms. Duke has a very beautiful voice and she certainly has enough guts and initiative in coming forward and practicing hard for what she wanted to deserve our respect.

At the time she had just finished her examinations and was waiting on her results. She had been provisionally accepted to COSTAATT pending her



Jamillia Duke left and centre and the Malick entrant on the left

final grades. Ms. Duke wants to be an accountant like her aunt and is now currently in school. While we were at the Town Hall venue we ran into some of the finalists of the Sea Lots Community Queen Pageant who introduced themselves on stage. Perhaps it's time for a Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert Community Queen Pageant.



Sea Lots Queen finalists

## The Aranguez Park Celebration Committee by F Scott



Mr. Nagar

The Aranguez Park Celebration committee held an event for Divali opposite the Aranguez Plaza on Saturday Oct 18th from around 7pm to 10:30 pm. The group also celebrates other events at the Aranguez park, such as Christmas, Eid and Sai

Baba's Birthday if we recall correctly among other things. When we spoke to Mr. Nagar, the Chairman of the committee he said that it had

been in existence for about 10 to 11 years.

We were informed that the larger celebration had occurred the day before on Friday beginning in the morning when different groups of children had come to the park and were hosted during the celebrations. When we passed through around 9pm on Saturday lots of people were still around looking on at the singing and performances.

Mr. Nagar said the Christmas celebration was carded for the morning of Sunday



20th at the Aranguez Park at around 10 am. Interested parties can enquire at the temple in the park.

## Mt. Lambert R.C. Continues Reading Initiative by F Scott



Teachers & principal Mt. Lambert RC and 28 items

colouring books, kites, dolls, trucks and even binoculars to the school to be used as prizes for the students.

As we said last time, the students have to submit something showing that they understand the books that they read, whether it be an actual report or a drawing of the story.

We didn't mention it to the principal or the teachers but we would really like to also start an initiative to reach the children at the bottom of the class. It might be cynical but we believe the children who are doing well will likely do well regardless. We think the ones that need our help are the ones that aren't doing well. We remember too many of our primary school friends who still couldn't read well up to standard 3, 4 and even 5 and we do not want that to be the case with any other children. Hopefully the reading competition will help them all in the mean time.

The Scott Report is actually begging the surrounding communities and the individuals in

them to assist not only Mt. Lambert R.C. but all the schools in the area in whatever way they can. Whether it be in after school activities like the cub scouts and girl guides, offering to mentor children, donating prizes for initiatives like this one or any other way you can think of, please give of yourself.

Because of inflation the young children in primary school right now are the ones who will be paying for your pensions in years to come and things in Trinidad and Tobago from this point on can be better, worse or remain the same. The choice is yours to either do something now with children who can use your help or blame yourself for not doing something when you could have. From left to right in the picture are Miss Joan Paponette of std. 1, Miss Gail Marshall of second year infants, Mrs. Kathleen Warner-Lall, the principal, Mrs. Stephanie Badall Singh std. 1 and Miss Joy Mc Leod second year infants

## SKY CONNECTIONS: SOMETHING POSITIVE IN MT. D'OR BY F. SCOTT



Greasy pole 2008

We were more than a little "psyched" to hear a loud speaker announcing what sounded like an enjoyable event to be held up in Mt. D'Or at the community centre there a number of months ago.



So we took down the contact number to be able to talk to someone involved.

Unfortunately we weren't able to attend the event which was carded to start with a marathon on the Eastern Main Road at 7 am and also promised a football tournament and some exciting cash prizes.

The number we had taken was for "Anthony" but in due course we were able to sit down and talk to Mt. D'Or resident Natalie John another member and obtain a couple pictures of the event.

Sky Connection is a group of about 20 members that was started last year in Ms. John's yard with the goal of providing a positive outlet for residents. The members come from all over Mt. D'Or as opposed to another group Spring Valley we were told that might have members



Natalie John

mainly from close to the spring in Mt D'Or.

The first major event that they held was last year on the 31st of August 2008. They changed the date this year to the 30th in order to accommodate the MP, Mr. Kennedy Swaratsingh we believe but he still did not make it.

The group got the support of the MP though in the form of fish for a barbecue at the event. Local businesses that reportedly supported them were, Bermudez, Nestlé, Republic Bank and

Unilever. Cheques were provided that were used to fund dance outfits and provide prizes for the marathon and football competition. The Ministry of Sport provided \$5,000 in trophies, medals and other sporting paraphernalia we were told.

The activities included a mini-marathon, a football tournament, a "bouncy" castle and clowns for the kids, dancing and a greasy pole.

The greasy pole last year was taller than a lamppost according to Ms. John and apparently they spoke about it on the radio for three days. This year it was not as tall last year, but still took hours to climb.

Prophet Benjamin reportedly attended the event.

## Data on Crimes in:

by F. Scott

Aranguez, Mt Lambert, Mt Hope, Petit Bourg, St. Joseph & Champ Fleurs areas

for the year 2008 and the period January 1 - September 30 2009

January 1 - September 30 2009

AREAS	Murders	Woundings & Shootings	Rapes Incest Sexual Off.	Burglaries & Breakings	Robberies	General Larceny	Larceny Motor Vehicles	Larceny Dwelling House	Total	Projected
Mt Hope	0	0	1	5	3	2	2	0	13	17
Mt. Lambert	2	0	1	3	5	2	1	0	14	19
Petit Bourg	1	0	0	7	2	0	1	0	11	15
Champ Fleur	5	1	2	13	19	2	4	1	47	63
St Joseph	3	0	0	1	7	6	2	0	19	25
Aranguez	1	1	9	10	28	17	7	0	73	97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>236</b>
Projected	16	3	17	52	85	39	23	1	236	

2008

AREAS	Murders	Woundings & Shootings	Rapes Incest Sexual Off.	Burglaries & Breakings	Robberies	General Larceny	Larceny Motor Vehicles	Larceny Dwelling House	Total
Mt Hope	1	0	0	2	9	4	5	1	22
Mt. Lambert	0	0	0	9	3	2	1	0	15
Petit Bourg	0	0	0	7	4	4	3	0	18
Champ Fleur	7	1	0	12	18	10	2	0	50
St Joseph	3	0	0	3	4	5	0	0	15
Aranguez	5	3	0	5	33	15	10	1	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>192</b>

We received this data on reported crime from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Crime and Problem Analysis Branch. Since obviously the year isn't over and we only have information up to September for 2009 we've extrapolated the numbers and made projections based on crimes already reported for the year. These projections are labelled as such in the tables. Even without the extrapolations though we can see that sexual offences have apparently increased as well as burglaries and break-ins. There has been an overall increase in reported crimes and Mt. Lambert, Champ Fleurs, St. Joseph and Aranguez seem to have been responsible for the increase, whereas Mt. Hope and Petit Bourg had reductions. To to reduce crime in all our neighbourhoods we can implement the advice from page 5 which was also obtained from TTPSC CAPA

# Your local government at work by F. Scott



Mr. Perreira

We spoke with Mr. Perreira the councillor for the area again recently, this is what he told us.

A bridge to connect Mitugual (My Tower) and Akal Road is 98% completed.

The bridge provides another route out of that area, in case of emergency, which was previously one way in and out. When the bridge is 100% complete work will start on land slippage that is occurring higher in Mitugual.

Bleachers are to be built around the basketball court at the Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert Community Centre.

In Champs Fleurs a retaining wall is to be built to shore up more land threatened by slippage and work will continue in Oliver Trace Extension Mt. D'Or where a major retaining wall had been started but where funding had run out.

Scavenging or "rubbish pickups" contracts have recently been renewed and the days for pickup by the "open tray" truck are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and for the garbage trucks are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mr. Perreira said that the performance of the garbage collectors and the CEPEP crews were praised. We mentioned that only recently have garbage trucks started going through Breezy heights, as best they can. The response was that the HDC had not handed over these contracts to the Corporation until a short time ago.

We enquired about whether a garbage dumpster might be placed at the front entrance of Breezy Heights, we thought it might discourage people from continuing to dump their garbage on vacant lots opposite homes in spite of the regular pickups. Mr. Perreira said he was one of the few councillors who did not request these containers because in the past on Mt. Hope Road people would throw dead animals etc and set fire to the refuse leading to a horrible stench. Once the bins were removed CEPEP and other members of the community managed to beautify the area with park benches and plants.

In response to complaints, when the bins were removed from Mt. Hope Road, that the

garbage trucks did not go into Hope Place or Mt. Hope Extension. Mr. Perreira said small jitneys were used to collect the garbage in these areas and it solved the problem. Mr. Perreira indicated that if there was a similar problem at Breezy Heights with regards to garbage pickup because of congestion due to parking a jitney could be used as well.

We told Mr. Perreira that we had spoken with Mrs. Debbie Alexander of Breezy Heights. He recalled that the Corporation had put in some humps in that area to discourage vehicular break-ins and speeding in the area that she had contacted them about. Since he hadn't heard from her in a while Mr. Perreira thought that Mrs. Alexander might be thinking "leh me not worry him again" since the humps had been put in.

Mr. Perreira expressed disappointment in WASA given the amount of water wastage in some areas while other have no water. He said he reported a water leak in front of his home around 8 or 9 months ago. A van came from WASA when he was not at home which the residents reportedly told him but nothing happened for months so he called them again. A few days later WASA representatives came for a second time and placed a red arrow showing where the leak was but once more months have passed to no avail. He said in spite of the fact that his water supply was not 24/7, he was glad to have a regular supply but the number of leaks and the response was simply not satisfactory especially off the main road.

The local government reform bill is to be taken to parliament soon Mr. Perreira mentioned and it's passage would mean that two of the nations regional corporations would no longer exist. The San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation in particular would no longer be and councillors would be split between the Port of Spain Regional Corporation and the Tunapuna Regional Corporation. We asked Mr. Perreira if he thought that this would improve things. He said that the councillors of the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation and many in the Tunapuna Regional Corporation did not believe so. He said that given that the Tunapuna Regional Corporation was the largest in the nation increasing it further might lead to problems.

After numerous complaints of horseback riding, cycling and the training of dangerous dogs at the Aranguez Savannah, as well as at least one

incident where someone was reportedly knocked over by a horse, the Corporation installed signs prohibiting the use of the area for these activities. Mr. Perreira said that in less than a month of the signs installation he received a call telling him that someone had defaced one of them. Given good forensic work the perpetrator/s might be easy to find.

In Hope Place Mt. Hope, major infrastructure improvements are carded. A retaining wall, box drains and road resurfacing are to be implemented for the 2009-2010 financial year development program. Mr. Perreira said that when he first became councillor the area only had one or two public lights. It was like a "dark hole" where reportedly cars were stripped and females were raped. When he got funding he managed to put in a number of new lights.

Illegal structures and abandoned lots was another issue Mr. Perreira raised and he said the Corporation and CEPEP had to get out of their way to maintain them in order to help keep order. He believes that the new changes to the land taxes may discourage people from abandoning these properties. He is reserving judgement on the tax changes, which he believes will raise his rates, until the dust has settled

Statutory meetings of the San Juan Laventille Regional Corporation or meetings open to public presence but not participation are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from around 1 or 1:30pm to around 3pm or later.

The Akal Road Sport and Cultural Organisation will be hosting its Sports and Family day on Easter Monday 2010 with the local government representative Mr. Perreira who is a resident of Akal Rd and a member of the organisation. Events usually start around 9 or 10 am and all are invited to attend. Akal Road is in north of the Main Rd in Petit Bourg.



Defaced sign Aranguez savannah

# My soured love affair with PriceSmart by F Scott

I have had a long and storied history with wholesale clubs, the first of which was Costco a US chain, so much so that for the longest while I kept calling PriceSmart, Costco. Now I call Costco, PriceSmart. Anyway after a long honeymoon with Pricesmart and a period where we drifted apart I had another big fight with her and now I've called it quits unless I need 24 rolls of toilet paper or something. I figured hey if I actually need to walk with a DVD showing how badly my \$1,500 purchase works just to get my money back, maybe I should avoid making any more large expenditures there.

Things weren't always so tense between us. When I used to work in Port of Spain I would often go there and fill up on \$800-\$1500 in just groceries, not every weekend naturally or even every other week but often. I got a drill, pressure cooker and a vacuum all of which I have today at decent prices and without any significant problems.

The problems only started as the price tags went up. First I bought a printer for around a \$1,000. Being an "Internet guy" I researched the "ying yang" out of it before I bought what they had. I figured that one bad review about the printer jamming wasn't such a big deal. Everyone else seemed to think it was great. Unfortunately they sold an almost identical device as a copier just without a computer connection, which I accidentally bought so I returned that, paid the difference and finally had my printer. There is actually another small story but who has the time; suffice to say I was momentarily happy. Then I realised that the one bad review was probably the only accurate one. In one instance, out of 20 pages the brand new printer jammed more than 15 times. Yes, I had to open it more than 15 times to take out the pages.

When I tried to return it I realized that I had entered the PriceSmart zone. As it turns out if you just want to return the printer I was told, they could do that right away. As I had told them was a problem with it, this needed to be verified by a technician even though all I wanted was my money back. After about 5 failed visits to PriceSmart over the course of a month, where I braved horrible traffic and wasted my lunch hours I finally got a refund. Part of the reason it took 5 visits is because, at least in my experience none of the numbers for PriceSmart, and they have a lot, worked. Every time I went I asked for a number and it was the same ones from the phone book. Every time I called, the phone just rang and rang and rang and rang. I think I got through once, to Chaguanas which was not where I bought the printer but I was testing them. Then I never got anyone ever again even at Chaguanas.

After that fiasco a lot of people would have turned their backs on PriceSmart but I was forgiving. Eventually though I realized the same thing that I did at the other food club. I was buying all sorts of high priced stuff that I would never normally buy because that was what they had. Did I really need two and a half pounds of mixed nuts or 10 pounds of something else? Sure I was

"saving" money but the more stuff I had at the house the faster I used it, unless it was toilet paper or garbage bags or something. In time PriceSmart and I decided to see other people for a while.

I started seeing PriceSmart again after a long while because my "aunt" became a member and asked me to take her there. We weren't really together again because I simply bought things on my aunt's card but it was a lot like old times. Then I bought a pressure washer without doing any research and there my problems began anew. I quickly regretted my decision when I learnt that the brand wasn't being made anymore so I just tested out the pressure washer with a mind to returning it. In doing so I realized that it didn't run for more than about 10 minutes before it conked out and wouldn't run anymore so I felt justified in returning it the next day. This time I figured I knew that I shouldn't mention that there was a problem just in case that triggered the response I had gotten before.

The people I met at PriceSmart told me I could return it without a problem; they just had



to test it to make sure it was fine. I was slightly alarmed because of the problem I ran into but I put that aside. After that time though things started spiralling again, I was back in the PriceSmart zone. I got a call a couple days later saying that the pressure washer was fine and I could come and pick it up. "Pick it up? Pick up my money you mean?" No, no one had slipped they weren't going to take it back. So I figured maybe it was just me. Maybe if I just followed the directions the pressure washer would work.

It didn't and I took it back yet again but this time I said what was wrong with it. There was no difference in the response I got except that this time they were adamant that it was in fact fine. I was at my wits end. I was out \$1500 for something that didn't work. Fast forward a bit and I decided I would record more than an hour of the pressure

washer in "inaction" which I would take to PriceSmart and show them. If they didn't give me back my money the video was going up on the Internet on Youtube.

The DVD worked finally, nobody was defiant anymore, in fact they were sheepish so I was getting my money back but wait! I had bought the pressure washer on my aunt's shopper card so no one was giving me any money even though I had the receipt and she had come with me the last time and begged them to accept a letter from her so she wouldn't have to come back again. So after a month or so when she came back from her trip abroad I was finally able to get back my money. But what if I couldn't videotape the pressure washer or heaven forbid if there was no way she could come back to PriceSmart, what was I going to do with a \$1500 broken pressure washer that they didn't even make anymore?

One of the times that I went back to try to return the pressure washer, funny enough, there was a lady who had bought something talking to the manager about the club's return policy, she was being told the same friendly stuff I had heard before I tried bringing my purchases back. If you brought it back in 30 days with a receipt you wouldn't have any problems, if you opened it they would have to test it but other than that it wouldn't be a problem. Somehow I managed not to scream out that it was "All lies, lies, lies, I tell you!!!"

And so ends any meaningful relationship that I'll ever have with PriceSmart unless I need 200 plastic spoons or toilet paper or garbage bags. I have told only parts of two of my three big run-ins with her. I've left out the time when she broke the bolts off my mother's car wheels when I went to buy new tires and was "reluctant" to pay for it. She and I were not meant to be together in any major way it seems. Alas, alack.

## How to be Happy

- Smile: Even fake smiles affect your brain chemistry and improve your mood.
- Avoid the things and people that make you sad, when you can. Learn to walk away.
- Be kind. Seeing and making people happy makes you happy.
- "This too shall pass." Everything passes, look at Micheal Jackson, from twice accused pedophile to King of Pop again
- Did we mention smiling? Well do it again
- Go out, meet people. Take a maxi ride to anywhere, start a conversation with the person next to you.
- Remember EVERYONE FEELS SAD sometimes. Even the *perfect* people.

Remember you are a container of thoughts and habits. You decide which ones to keep.

## The MP Entertains

The member of Parliament for the area Kennedy Swaratsingh regaled the mothers at the Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert Community centre at the Mother's Day celebration there this year. Many mothers seemed to know and enjoy the songs but they were before my time.



## DANCAHOLIX- Community girl on the winning Dance Off team!! by F Scott



Jenniece John , Rae-Ann Cabralis, Stashelle George, Afiya Babb, Ru-Anne Cabralis and LaToya Bushe

It was a flier in a Mt. Lambert shop that started this story. The name of the group was Dancaholix and the flier said to vote for them in the Bmobile Dance Off. When we enquired it turned out that Stashelle George a Mt. Lambert resident was a member of the group. Now they're the winners of this year's Bmobile Dance Off competition. We spoke to Dancaholix and Stashelle before their win to get the scoop.

The Bmobile Dance Off competition is a sort of local dance version of "American Idol" on CNMG where both the judge's scores and texts from members of the public count toward who gets eliminated from the competition and who ultimately wins the top prizes.

Though the Trinidad Guardian lists the official website as www.danceofftt.com there was nothing there when we looked. Facebook is where most of the information about the competition is to be found.

Dancaholix's members are Jenniece John , Rae-Ann Cabralis, Stashelle George, Afiya Babb, Ru-Anne Cabralis and LaToya Bushe. Everyone is also a member of the Malick Folk Performing Company and have been for years. When they first heard of the competition they say they jumped at the chance to perform and of course try to win the \$100,000 first prize.

The 30 years old Malick Folk Performing Company according to the all female group is a cultural organization geared toward the year long Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy competition. In fact Ru-Anne Cabralis won Best Village Queen in 2008 and Rae-Ann Cabralis was in the running this year when we spoke to the girls. Malick Folk Performers have reportedly won the overall competition 9 times and their main competition appears to be the North-West Laventille Cultural Movement who won in 2008. In fact another dance group in the Bmobile Dance Off, "Friends Incorporated" are members of the North-West Laventille Cultural Movement and came fourth.

## An Acting Club

I need a cast for some performances that I'm interested in putting on. If you're interested call 772-8995 to set up an interview.

There's a non-refundable registration fee of \$50 and monthly fees of the same amount.

The money goes into making fliers for performances among other things.

If you're interested in public speaking, comedy or singing feel free to apply as well.

If you don't have commitment please don't bother; 2 absences in a row and you're on probation and there are fines for being late.

The Club is a certainty even if there is only one member.

The girls say that in spite of the fact that the Best Village Trophy competition is often thought of as a village or community affair they themselves and many others in the group come from all over Trinidad.

Ms. George told us that she is a "Best Village Baby" since her parents have always been involved in cultural activities including plays and the like so there was never a question as to whether she would be a part of that. As she grew older she also encouraged many of the current members of Dancaholix to join the Malick Folk Performing Company and the rest is history.

Surprisingly Stashelle and some of the others told us that they still get stage fright before a performance even to the point of having upset stomachs. She

says anyone who says they don't is lying, but once she gets out onto the stage it all falls away and the smiles that weren't there at practise and everything else come out at 100%.

The girls are really pleased that the Bmobile competition requires competitors to learn different genres of dance and work with different people. They believe it opens their horizons to the different styles of dance for example, "tutting" a style they had never even heard of before the competition but were required to incorporate into a performance.

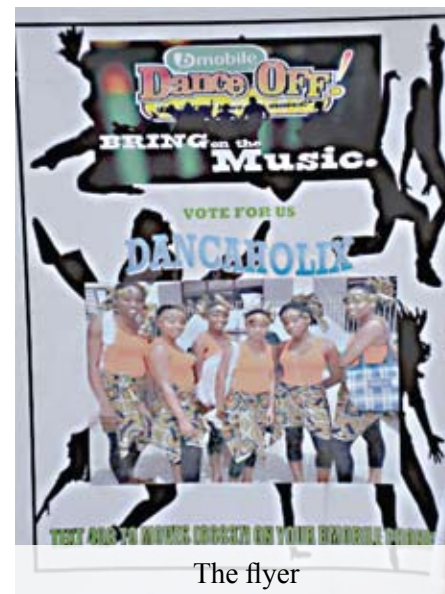
Stashelle herself isn't looking to be a professional dancer but she wants to learn as much as she can. She says that people in Mt. Lambert are often surprised that she lives there because her hectic schedule doesn't allow her to be around the area much. She wishes that more youths in the area would become involved in cultural activities. One way she suggests might be for them to join the Malick Folk Performers. Stashelle believes activities such as these would keep the youths occupied and away from bad influences because they would be so busy. She says she really loves dancing even though it is hard work.

Stashelle was especially proud to see someone from Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert taking part in the Best Village Queen preliminaries and even though she performs with Malick she was definitely supporting Ms. Duke. Ms. George says she wonders what sorts of activities actually take place at the Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert community centre.

Every week after the taping of Bmobile Dance Off the girls had a lot of work to do. There was choreography to be set and learnt, costumes to prepare, fund raising to pay for the new costumes and pay for phone cards to text in and vote for themselves and for other people to vote for them as well. In addition there was regular practise for the Malick Folk Performers and for all the girls except Stashelle, who works, there was also school.

We were surprised to learn from the girls that dance is being introduced into schools as a subject. Tranquility is supposed to be one of the schools introducing it.

As the grand prize winners of Bmobile Dance Off the girls were obviously ecstatic. When we asked Stashelle beforehand what they would do if they won she said excitedly "Jump and shout for Jesus" which she apparently did with the entire group when the results were announced. She told us they had so many people that they would need to thank.



The flyer

## My First Robbery by F Scott

When the girl hit the pavement like a bag of flour I thought her friend had probably gone a little too far. I mean it was one thing to make a joke with your friend and quite another to actually end up hurting them. But unfortunately for her it wasn't a joke and as the guy ran off and up the incline like a racehorse into the darkness I realised he wasn't her friend either. The entire incident took less than 5 seconds, just outside Port of Spain on the main road not far from Coconut Growers Association.

This was the first time I actually witnessed a robbery. As the girl realised that pursuit was pointless and the people called her back to the maxi everyone started the usual "I did know was something funny bout that young boy." For the record, as must be obvious by now, I didn't know there "was something funny bout that young boy." I certainly didn't know even up to when he was standing waiting for his change and probably decided that the young ladies hand bag was worth more than any change he was getting. And I definitely didn't know when we got on the maxi.

What was he wearing, were there any distinguishing marks, what was his height, body type etc. ? He was black, perhaps my height, not fat and had an uncombed Afro. That's as much as I could tell from my seat behind him.

The driver turned the maxi around and drove the young woman back to towards Port of Spain where a large number of police vehicles were parked just outside of the Beetham. She said she had a relative who was a police officer. I think for whatever reason, the maxi passengers felt that perhaps she might be better taken care of because of this, because of the noise she made. Since she had lost everything I decided to give her money for transportation. I figured it was the least I could do and I would be grateful if someone did it for me in that situation. Aside from that it helped ease my mind about not realising more quickly what was going on and stopping it from happening.

So what's the moral of this story if one can be found? The young woman was already holding her bag tightly enough that the man actually dragged her out of the maxi and onto the pavement in his attempt to get it. I don't think that would have happened if she hadn't tried to secure it well. I and two other ladies from the community council had gone to a La Reine Rive event at Town Hall carded for 6 p.m. We had no idea we would be leaving at around 10 p.m. before the results were even announced meaning, sometimes it's difficult to avoid travelling late. So no luck thus far in find-

ing a moral

The guy did get out in Laventille which is not known for its peace and tranquillity. He was male, with a non-too-tidy look. It was late. He saw an opportunity where the young woman had her purse presumably on her lap and he had a few moments as he left the maxi and stood waiting for his change to decide whether to go for it or not.

So the moral or the lessons I've tried to decipher from this are:

- Be vigilant, especially at night and in "tough" neighbourhoods.
- Think like a thief, don't make it easy for them to "scope" you out and plan their tactics. You scope yourself out and see what your weaknesses are and try to counter them, be prepared and try to have a plan for what you might do if you are approached, you can bet that your assailant does no matter how stupid it is.
- Do not be afraid to seem rude to protect yourself. If someone suspect is too close to you have no qualms about backing up or asking them to.
- Sometimes nothing works.

One of the striking things about the whole incident to me was how very like a school yard "raffing" it was. No gun, no knife, no blows, just a simple "grab it and run" taking money, identification that would take weeks to replace, phone numbers of everyone you know, house keys and more.

In recounting this story to a friend of mine by the name of Petal who sometimes stays in Mt. Hope in Breezy Heights, I learnt that she had been the victim of a violent crime herself earlier in the year. She mentioned that because she had felt uncomfortable with the situation she was already readying herself for something when the attack came and was therefore able to escape the situation. Thankfully she said her attackers were caught and she had identified them to the police. I thought this was very brave and I certainly congratulate her for doing the right thing.

The reason I mention her by name is because I have no other way to reach her. Apparently her phone was stolen and resold to someone else who bought it for the use of their child. After being off for several days and after a number of calls the female I spoke to instructed me to tell Petal that she should continue calling the phone until they decided to pick it up. Apparently however, they've decided to keep it and simply not answer calls from people they don't know. At the very least the matter should be reported to TSTT and the police. The number is 390-4061.

## Your Worthless Raise by F Scott



We all "know" that if we could just have more money life would be so much better. We could buy a bigger house, better clothes, travel and enjoy the good life. So why on earth would I think that a raise is worthless? How exactly does that make any sense at all?

Well let's start with a very simple example. Imagine that in the whole of world we only

make enough ingredients for 5 pizzas per fortnight and pizza is the only thing for sale. Now imagine that there is only \$5 paid out in the whole world every fortnight and you and 4 other people get all of it, \$1 each. With \$1 you can buy exactly 1 pizza, and on any given fortnight all 5 pizzas are sold to you and the others at the same time.

Next let's imagine that everyone gets a raise of \$1 each, how many pizzas can you buy now? Well you could technically buy 2 pizzas if the price remained the same but who would let you buy their pizza? Remember, there are still only 5 pizzas in the world and everyone has the same amount of money and buy the pizzas at the same time. If there's going to be a bidding war the only thing that will happen is that the price of the pizza will go to \$2. Absolutely nothing would change except that pizzas would become twice as expensive. This in a nutshell is one way to explain inflation. The available money and prices go up, but one's buying power doesn't. The only way you would be any better off is if you were the only person to get a raise but then you would only be better off by buying someone else's

pizza.

In case it needs to be spelt out, what I am saying is that the government and businesses increasing people salaries does nothing in the long term except make things cost more, unless there are actually more goods and services available or in the case above more pizzas. These extra goods and services must come from increased productivity i.e. better management, better work ethic, mechanisation, automation etc. otherwise it's from more work which no one wants to do. Naturally my example is a very simple one and neglects a lot of factors but if it didn't, neither of us would understand it. :) The point of it is that what we all want in not more money but more goods and services and when we forget that money merely represents existing goods and services, like pizza, and chase money, we end up like Alice in Wonderland "running as fast as we can, just to stay in the same place." Without more actual pizzas being available all the wage increases in the world are worse than a waste of time.

One of the funniest/frustrating things to see when I came back to Trinidad and Tobago was the actual creation of inflation right before my eyes. At first, if any of them can be said to be first, one trade union and institution would negotiate a wage increase A because prices were increasing. Then some weeks or months later another trade union and a different institution would negotiate another wage increase B. B was either in line with or higher than wage increase A because of the new price increases fuelled in part by A. Then some weeks or months after that at another negotiation a group would get even more of an increase because of the inflation again partly caused by A, and B and on and on seemingly forever.

The worse thing is that even knowing that this activity contributes to inflation no one is likely to ever be the one to stop, because no one wants to lose out, so we all do, especially those who save but we're out of space.

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL YOUTH CONCERT BY FITZGERALD SCOTT

The St. Vincent de Paul Youth held a benefit concert/fundraiser on Sun 12th July 2009 for what we hear was a worthy cause. As such I decided to go.

When I arrived no one wanted to take my money but since I didn't want to take advantage I figured I would hunt down the appropriate person and force my hard earned money on them which I did.

There were quite a number of different acts latin dancing, East Indian dancing, singing poetry, a skit, which were decent enough but I particularly enjoyed the parang band. I was in and out of the concert unfortunately because of a project I had to keep an eye on so I missed a couple of acts but from what I say the large crowd seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.



Los Amigos Cantadores



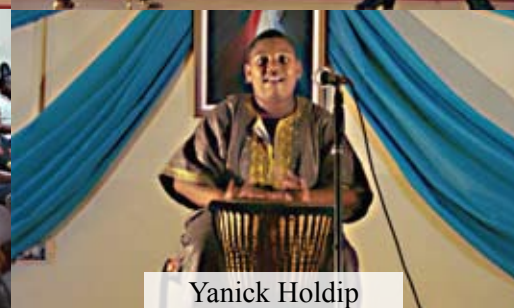
Raveena Rampaul



Ms. Bartholemew and Mr. Nichollas



The crowd



Yanick Holdip

## DANCE BY FITZGERALD SCOTT

*Though I still often feel the same way, when I wrote this I was especially peeved.*



I hate learning couples dancing. I've got to say I really do. No not all the time just the part when I'm actually learning something and practicing it with someone else.

Hmm, okay I hate it all the time :P Just joking ... maybe. No, I'm not a masochist and really it isn't as bad as it sounds... Why do I keep minimizing my pain?

It all started when my sister came for a visit and decided that I should take up dancing after she left. For years I've put off taking a class in whatever type of dancing. Why was I even interested in taking a class at all? Simply because my sister has taken them and while I complain about her a lot I like to try a lot of the activities she's involved in at least once. Its fun to have things in common with her. Besides, girls apparently like dancing and I like girls, usually, more when they're being nice, so I decided to take the plunge.

First off I can completely understand now why most men, like myself decide not to learn to dance and why women enjoy it so. It seems to me that the most incompetent of female dancers can manage to scrape up some level of enjoyment dancing with a male of modest capability. It might not be the highlight of their night but they can get by. There might be a twist a turn, a dip, who knows. On the flip side however since men lead, all is lost when the roles are reversed and the more experienced person by far is the female, much as is the case during physical intimacy no

one is happy.

Unfortunately in my limited experience as a beginner the female of the species often but not always either has no clue what the guy is supposed to do, or what she is supposed to do or in the worse case both because since the guy "leads" she doesn't need to know.

And here we have a root cause of my frustration. "You're not doing it right," "What am I not doing right?" "The turn/whatever," "How do you know?" "That's not what XXXX does." "Okay what does he do, how should I do it?" "I don't know, I just know you aren't doing it right." After hearing this a number of times one is quite ready to either dance with a mannequin if one can find one or shoot oneself.

One of the most frustrating words in all of dance for me is "lead." If I could find a way to eradicate the word I think I would. This word is so frustrating to me because at different times it means different things but nobody tells you what it means right this minute. Oh they'll show you for half a second but that's probably it. Does it mean I'm supposed to press your back or tug your hand? Does it mean I twirl my forearm or push your palm? What oh what does it mean right now today?!!

All that said it isn't really all women's fault and I know because I've been in their shoes though not regarding dancing. I can't say I would or have ever reacted in the way that my most unpleasant dance partners have because I never feel comfortable making someone else uncomfortable even while they're doing that to me, but here's my explanation.

Before I had my license or a car while I was in Miami, I was a professional passenger, much like some beginner and intermediate female couples dancers I've encountered. All I knew was that we were going here or there and we might have made a turn and hit a traffic light then I was

day dreaming and blam we had arrived. How did we get there? You would be better off asking me about the temperature on Jupiter on March 1st 1964. I had no idea. So much so that one day I was unfortunate enough to get a ride from someone who didn't know how to get to where I was going. Naturally they were not too happy to learn that I didn't either so it didn't turn out very well. Coincidentally the driver was female. Once I started driving though I figured out where everything was.

So my current metaphor for learning to dance with a non-expert and even sometimes even expert female partner is like learning to drive/navigate with someone who can't really drive but has spent a lot of time riding in cars. Sometimes it doesn't turn out very well.

So onto the next nail in my palm, yes I am being crucified. So imagine this, you're a passenger surrounded by professional drivers and beginner drivers. Would you ever willingly get in the car of a student driver? Well that's exactly a male beginner-couples-dancer's problem. It's like trying to get a job with no experience.

I've been a beginner at a great many things, from computers to gymnastics to karate to videos games so I'm pretty used to hating things at the beginning because I can't get them right away. The difference with dancing is it's the first time in forever that I've actually needed another human to practice with and of course having to depend on someone who has no vested interest in helping you is just as pleasant as it sounds. Here's a hint, there's a lot of whining even ... no, especially when they're worse than you are. Why? Because if they're worse than you are they can't do anything without an expert lead. I know because I would dance with the instructor who would say "That's fine" and then immediately dance with them right in front of her and they'd complain. Umm hello!

## Price Check on Aisle Three by Fitzgerald Scott

Like almost everyone else, I'm price conscious so I wanted to know if Ramish & Leela supermarket in the vicinity of Mt. Lambert was really any cheaper than say, Hi Lo Food Stores. So after picking up a couple of things at "Ramish" I headed over to Hi Lo in St. Augustine for a little price comparison and this is what I found on September 22nd 2009

	Ramish and Leela, Mt. Lambert	Hi Lo Food stores, St. Augustine	Approx % difference
A tin of Carib Beer	\$6.99	\$8.79	26
Chief Saffron Powder 85g	\$5.50	\$5.99	9
2 litre Fanta Banana	\$6.60	\$6.99	7.4
Generic Cheese	\$35.25/kg	\$34.99/kg	-1
Blue Ribbon Chicken Bologna 200g	\$6.99	\$7.49	7.2
Mabel's Mauby 750ml	\$8.99	\$9.79	8.7

Average percentage savings at Ramish: 9.55%

Average percentage savings at Ramish without the beer: 6.26%

Average percentage savings at Ramish without the beer or cheese: 8.1%

I bought other things as well, like beans, popcorn etc. but I couldn't find the exact matching product at Hi Lo.

So Ramish seems to have a significant edge on Hi Lo but not by as much if you don't take the beer into account. Ignoring the cheese was interesting as well. I have to admit though, I expected Hi Lo to be considerably more expensive than Ramish.

## THE MAGIC OF THE MAGICJACK written by De Geek(Yes, Scott)

Like many of you these days, I call my sister in the US at the drop of a hat. Unlike many of you I call her house or her cell phone for free from my computer and she calls me back but only pays local US rates. That's because I have a magicJack and with it a US number local to my sister's location.

You may have seen the commercials for the product known as the magicJack. Some of you may have thought about it getting it and a smaller number, perhaps the "techie" among you actually went out and got one. I'm a type of "techie" and this is my experience.

The magicJack is a small device about the length, breadth and width of my index and middle fingers and it is used for making and receiving North-American calls. The cost of the first years worth of calls is covered in the purchase price of the device which is about \$40 USD abroad and \$300-\$400 at PRW, a local PC hardware distributor in El Socorro. Subsequent years can be purchased online for about \$20 USD.

The catch is that to use a magicJack you have to have high speed internet and a decent computer because calls use a lot of "internet speed," or bandwidth. Once you have high speed internet, setting up the magicJack and using it is almost 100% foolproof. Just follow the simple directions. Basically hook up the magicJack to the turned on, high speed ready PC, then to a phone and start following the directions on the screen, Under ideal circumstances the hardware hookup should take about 15 secs. Any longer and you probably shouldn't be allowed near a computer or a phone for that matter.

The first time account setup involves putting in a user name and password for the device, entering your name, email address etc and choosing a North-American phone number for people to call you. For me I chose an Atlanta number because that's where my sister lives so it's pretty cheap for her to call me. A large number of people in the US have free long distance so any US number can often work just as well.

At any rate for me the magicJack is fantastic, I call anyone anywhere in North-America anytime from my home phone for however long and I don't

For someone from Mt. Hope or Mt. Lambert for example Ramish can be quite convenient being mere minutes away. Unfortunately parking can be an issue if you don't know about the underground parking lot there and judging by all the space there is when I park there it seems to be either a well kept secret or people are scared to park there. I actually only remembered it again because I'm writing this article but it does feel scary being down there alone in spite of the camera.

Of course if you get one of Hi Lo's shopper cards you can get points towards special items, "woo hoo." Personally I prefer cash. Hi Lo is also close to RBTT bank and Marios amongst other things. For me though, all those things spell traffic, which doesn't count as a plus.

Hi Lo does have a significant piece of trump, in all fours parlance, and that is its bread. Aside from anything else this is what actually gets me to make the trek Hi Lo. Not only is it heavier and cheaper than other retail bread, it actually tastes better in my opinion. Just thinking about it makes me hungrier.

So what's the verdict? For less driving and possibly modest saving I'm picking Ramish. If I was a "Movie Towne" kinda guy though and valued a certain amount of glitz I would probably pick Hi Lo but I'm not so there goes that. Hi Lo will still see me when I'm in the area however just because of their bread.

Unfortunately for both Ramish and Hi Lo the parlour on Sixth Avenue, Mt. Lambert is even closer to many people in Mt. Lambert than either of them and has a good enough variety to make decent meals. I imagine that one pays for the convenience but not too much. We never did a "price check on aisle three" there.

Tru Valu has opened in the "Croisee" or KWAY SAY. No price check was done there either but it is in the same "delightful" location as Hi Lo was before it. It remains to be seen what's different

pay anything more than I already have. Just as great is that people anywhere in the world can call my US number for cheaper than the price of calling Trinidad. That includes people in North America like my sister, the UK, the Caribbean... basically the rest of the world.

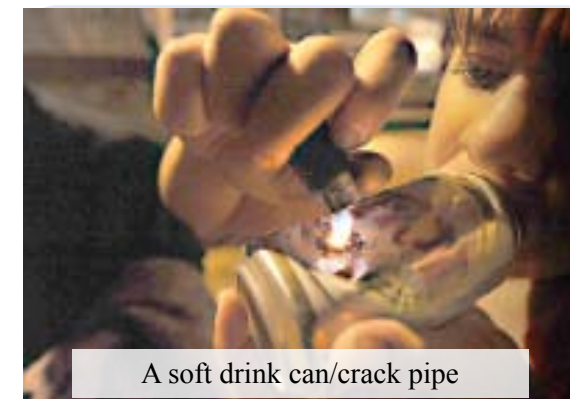
The system is not perfect, for example in the past there used to be interference on the line or the call didn't go through which I attribute to internet issues. When I switched from TSTT to Flow those problems disappeared. When you turn on your computer the magicJack turns on too with a little annoying advertisement that lasts about a minute. When I moved the magicJack from one computer to the next it used to ask me for a user name and password to make sure the device hadn't been stolen which was annoying but a good thing. I've lost contact information that I saved on it recently but that was probably because of my computer rather than the MagicJack. The customer service is not exactly stellar reportedly but I've never needed it.

Basically if one wants to complain about the magicJack there are things one can complain about though their BBB rating has improved substantially, however if you want to make a US or Canadian call or get one when you're at your computer, for free then there's nothing to whine about. The device just works like a regular phone which is distinctly great for non technical people or even with headphones through the computer for us "techies". Personally I've saved at least a \$1,000 on calls I would have made using other means and if I actually had to pay for the calls I've made knowing it was free it might be around \$5,000. Beyond that my sister has gone from practically never calling to calling 4 or 5 times a week. I highly recommend this device.



My MagicJack

# SMOKING CRACK ON GEORGE STREET F. SCOTT



A soft drink can/crack pipe

Like many people, I've heard of the words "piper" and "crackhead" before; "piper" being our Trinidadian word for people who use "crack" I presume because honestly I'm not certain. Earlier this year on George St. Port of Spain was the first time I've actually seen people "piping" and in broad daylight to boot. One particularly unkempt gentleman was franti-

cally moving back and forth pausing every so often to suck on one of those tiny liquor bottles, which he heated with a lighter and obviously contained his purchase. Another less excited, but no less dirty fellow was tapping his metal pipe on the ground to clear it and every so often gave it a little suck just to make sure. Before that I had only seen someone using hard drugs once before and that was when I went to school in the U.S. On the second or third night there a friends' son took me to hang out with some of his friends. There were a couple ladies there mixing and smoking something into cigarettes which obviously wasn't medication or "weed" for that matter. It was a little like in the movie "Ray" where they tell Ray Charles that he doesn't want any of what they were using except that unlike Ray, I definitely didn't want anything to do with it. At the time just like on George St. the other day, I couldn't quite believe what I was

seeing. I actually have no moral or lesson about what I saw. I suppose I could say how sad it is that people have been reduced to the circumstances that these people live in but on some level we each have our own "crack," something that sometimes puts blinders on our eyes so that we can't see where we are. I do know that I never want to get to that level where when the high wears off I realise I don't have anything and my prospects are dim. What I can say is how crazy it feels to see these things that the more sheltered among us like myself never see and how hard it is to imagine how different life must be for people who grow up around things like regular hard drug users and worse. To me the most awful demonstration of this is the movie "Trainspotting." Take a look it's a good movie to show young people interested in trying drugs.

## CITY GATE THEN AND NOW BY FITZGERALD SCOTT

I remember mentioning once about how I thought that effective police presence turned City Gate from a madhouse to something far more orderly. At the time I hadn't travelled through City Gate during rush hour for quite a while but recently I did and the changes that I saw a couple years ago are definitely persisting. Sure, people still rush the maxis and push and scramble to get in, something that could easily be changed if the police addressed the crowds in the same way they take maxi drivers to task, but nowhere near to the scrambling that I used to have to contend with in 2004 when I travelled regularly. This seems mainly because the police insist that maxi taxi drivers make room for the other vehicles when they come to pick up

passengers rather than doing whatever they want and blocking other vehicles. Due to this people can get on faster so the crowd doesn't get as large and unmanageable. The mornings are also markedly different; five years ago there was usually a long line of maxis waiting to deliver passengers. Some drivers would cut into the line which helped back up traffic and worst of all passengers would get off anywhere and walk between the maxi taxis slowing things down the most. When people got off, drivers had to be more careful and slow down more, then their passengers would get annoyed from waiting and get off too which made things worse. These days the police presence at City Gate

have definitely changed things. Sometimes they detour maxis to a loading area instead of the general disembarking area which means that one has to walk up the stairs to get out of City Gate but nothing in life is free and compared to how things were before it's a definite improvement that has persisted. The point of writing this is simply to show how things came be turned around in a major way without any laws being passed or presumably anyone being hired or fired or millions of dollars being spent. Things could probably be improved even further if systems were partially automated. We still need the threat of a ticket in the form of a physical police officer though.

## YOUNG ARTIST

Rayon John is a 7 year old artist that we met at a graduation for a community centre class. The intriguing thing about him was the fact that he was so absorbed in what he was doing. Usually children that age don't have much of an attention span but Rayon was focussed on his drawings which he coloured himself. Many of the drawings seem to be related to what might be one of Rayon's favourite tv shows "Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide" from Nickelodeon, a children's channel. Ned's mother and grandmother say that he is always drawing and they shared some of his pieces with us. They're pretty good. We might have the next Leroy Clarke on our hands.



# BREEZY HEIGHTS WRITTEN BY F SCOTT



Mrs. Alexander left and another committee member

When Debbie Alexander moved into the Breezy Heights community two years ago as a fire victim, there were a lot of things that the community needed and while she has accomplished quite a bit there still remains a lot to be done. She told us she managed to get free mailboxes from TPOST, lighting for the community from T&TEC, humps put in to try to reduce strangers breaking into homes and vehicles and it seems led the setting up of an official management company to maintain the community among other things. Awnings have been put up to try to reduce water getting into apartments when it rains, a fence was put up to try to prevent people and things from falling down from the area in front of the highest apartment building, a NO PARKING zone was painted in to allow free passage of the garbage truck and emergency vehicles in the event of a fire or a medical emergency; it's a very long list of things that she says she's either done or lead the way on because they hadn't been done by the building contractor. Everything that she has done and still wants to do she is doing for free even as a director of the management company since we're told that none of the residents forming the company will be paid. The challenges that she and the community face and have faced reportedly include shoddy workmanship. Mrs. Alexander says that when she moved in her windows were welded shut. All the tiling in her bathroom has had to be replaced because it started raising up and the mortar would clog the drain. Rain water from the landing ran into her apartment and warped the laminate floor, meaning she had to replace her door to keep the water out and deal with the flooring. She has replaced all the plumbing in her apartment because of the poor quality and to prevent her home being flooded like at least one other apartment in the community when the water pressure was high. The plumbing cost her \$3,000. Several of the electrical outlets in her home do not work and others have been replaced. She says she doesn't know where she can drill safely because she cannot get a wiring plan of her apartment. The seams between the metal beams and the concrete which form the apartments were not watertight so when it rained the water would seep through and discolour the walls in her apartment.

All the above issues are just the problems that Mrs. Alexander faced in her apartment, even though others likely have similar stories. These issues represent part of the \$16,000 she says she has spent on her apartment already and it's only that low because she doesn't pay for labour since her husband is very handy. In another apartment we heard the entire window, frame and all apparently fell out recently, leaving the home exposed to the elements. In another the persistent smell of smoke was a precursor to a fire, allegedly started by poor wiring. There is only one way in and out of each apartment and the building for a resident and there aren't any fire escapes. While the burglar-proofing on the first floor was likely meant to protect residents there is a danger that they could be trapped because of it. There is no tank farm for any of the apartment buildings so when water goes, as it usually does everyday these days across Mt. Hope, that is it and watch out when it returns because we're told the pressure can be dangerously high. Initially there was also no wiring in the community or units for either phones or cable. There is/are no garbage receptacles for residents on the Western end of the community so many dump their garbage bags outside of the community opposite other residents homes where stray dogs just rip them apart. Land slippage or movement is apparently also taking place behind building three. There is a suspicion that water might be upwelling somewhere. With all these concerns Mrs. Alexander says if she could have moved to another government community she would have, however it isn't as simple as paying the difference and moving. She would have to go through the entire costly process she says with a hefty new legal fee and all. So thus far she hasn't bothered and with every passing day more money goes into her home. Aside from structural and infrastructure problems in the community, Mrs. Alexander tells us there are biological problems as well and both from residents doing what they shouldn't be and others not doing what they can. For example Mrs. Alexander says that 90% of the residents of one of the apartment buildings work for the police department and yet when most are asked to do something about persons selling "weed" in the area or breaking HDC rules or people parking improperly or anything for that matter they say that they're off duty. They then might suggest calling the St. Joseph police station. Worse than that Mrs. Alexander says, many officers are actually part of the problem sometimes having as many as five vehicles concerning them taking up space in congested areas rather than open spaces a little distance from the entrances to the buildings. From what she told us though we wouldn't be surprised if one day cars started to be towed for hampering traffic in the area. Especially since they are reportedly putting people's lives at risk in case of emergencies, medical, fire or otherwise and reducing the community's standard of living by restricting the passage of the garbage trucks and

other traffic. On a scale of 1 to 10 Mrs. Alexander put Breezy Heights at a "-0." She says she and her husband have driven around to 90% of the new communities built recently and many have security, proper signs listing the rules of the community, tank farms and more. We were told that Mountain View in Mendez Drive Champs Fleurs has walkways and benches, a beautiful social area, and mailboxes that look like safety deposit boxes at the bank. Savannah Villas which Mrs. Alexander said was touted as being an HDC success story apparently has both fire escapes and elevators. We couldn't find any useful information online relevant to this community but we did find that Mountain View has apparently been in the news. In December 2007 a resident complained to Newsday that like Breezy Heights, HDC had not had street lights installed in that area either and she was fearful to move into her residence because of it. They were unable to get any kind of response according to the report. Mrs. Alexander had quite a lot to tell us, more than we have space for actually but her complaints about the area seem similar to problems in many other government communities unfortunately, including La Horquetta which we are very familiar with. From poor wiring, bad plumbing, leaks, etc it seems construction hasn't really improved after all these years. The management company monthly meetings are every first Sunday in the month at 5 pm in Mt. Hope Secondary school. The meetings aren't only about the management of Breezy Heights but also include self development through tools obtained from the Ministry of Social development, parenting skills and empowerment for women. The meetings are also a venue to plan an annual children's Christmas Party and an annual adults Christmas dinner and dance. Hopefully by the New Year, HDC will release funds paid by residents to the management company to allow them to try to make improvements and maintain the community properly.



The makeshift dump of some Breezy Heights residents. Before the dogs and cats

# The Scott Report

The Leader in community news

## Why I don't lime by Fitzgerald Scott

One reason that I do not lime is because no one in my relevant immediate family does, pure and simple. As a little kid of around 5, I remember wanting to go to people's houses to play. But it was not to be. My mother, quite rightly in my opinion now, never thought the street was a safe place for someone of that age to be coming and going as they pleased and she wasn't going anywhere so neither was I.

From time to time people would come and lime at the house but it usually was not a regular thing and we didn't lime at other people's homes that much either so for me it actually became quite an odd thing to leave my house after I came home. It was either from school to home or from cub scouts to home or from the grocery to home. Home was usually the "full stop" or period at the end of the day. The notion of leaving my house to go lime somewhere after school aside from seeming almost sacrilegious would likely have been met with a "No" anyway.

Beyond my family's lack of liming once I started reading books at the library it was all over anyway. My mother took my sister and me there one Saturday morning when I was really young and that was it. Afterward I spent almost every free waking moment and a lot of them that were supposed to be for sleeping and homework, going from one book to the next or watching what little tv was available. As a result, time that I would otherwise have spent liming in school, after school, recess and lunch time was usually spent reading and sometimes glancing out the window to see what I was "missing" before I went back to my book.

For the limers among you this might actually seem sad, you might be confused as to how I could possibly enjoy that. For me it was the opposite, I couldn't and still cannot completely understand how one can spend hours upon hours liming every day. In a book I could actually be anywhere doing anything. If I'm liming, every single second of it I'm right there usually doing nothing, waiting for the next interesting thing to happen, whenever that is. Don't get me wrong from time to time I completely

enjoy liming, it's great, but everyday or most of the week or hour after hour on the weekend every weekend? Heaven forbid! It gets to the point that sometimes when I'm having a good time with people that I've met it can be sad because I know they might be upset with me pretty soon. Probably because I'm usually not ready to lime again until a long time from whenever we last did. In the meantime the best I can give is a "hi" every so often. By the time I'm ready again it's usually too late. It doesn't matter who it is or how nice they are, unless it's a girl I might like and unfortunately even then, a story that I'm reading or something that I'm working on or a place that I'm supposed to be usually takes precedence in my life. The day that I actually had nothing to do and we were sitting, talking and laughing usually isn't the beginning of a new liming relationship. It's just a day that I had free and given how I am, those days don't come around very often.

Basically as I understand it because of books and television, I need a certain minimum amount of mental activity that liming usually can't provide. A good hearty discussion with someone who knows a lot, that's fantastic; a debate, bring it on but just a regular non challenging lime, no way. If I have to sit for more than a couple minutes without a book or some type of interesting input, it is a fate worse than death for me. In fact, depending on whether or not I slept well the night before, I can't help falling asleep. Not very unusual you say? Well read on.

When I was in graduate school I wasn't sleeping very well but I realized that most of the time I was perfectly fine. I could go to work and do what I had to do and on evenings listen to the lecturers without any problem whatsoever...until they started to repeat themselves. My brain would go, "I think he was saying that already...zzzzz," and my eyes would droop and it would start. The beginning of a painful fight to keep my eyes open and my head up... until the lecturer started on new topic I didn't know or hadn't heard before. Then it was no problem keeping my eyes open anymore. That happened over and over for years.

Another reason I don't lime is because it usually leads to spending money and typically not \$5 or \$10 and I'm not one of those people that likes to spend money indiscriminately. Some call it being cheap. Those same people usually end up borrowing money from me or someone else. I had one friend who worked the exact same job that I did and limed quite a bit. We would get paid the very same amount on the very same day and three days afterward they were usually borrowing money from me until the day we got paid again. I had another friend who was similar except that they kept getting raises until they were making three times as much as I was but still borrowed from me.

I started liming regularly for a while some time ago just to see what I was missing and I quickly realised that one can easily put out \$300 to \$400 if not more, adjusting for the price increases, in one weekend. That's about the price of 5-6 return tickets to the U.S. every year and for what? Come Sunday night and Monday morning I usually didn't know.

There are more rationalizations I can think of as to why I personally don't lime but they're just that, rationalizations. Liming is just a habit that I've never developed a taste for and definitely does not go well with not wanting to spend a lot and that usually doesn't bother me. Except for the odd day when I don't have something to do which isn't often.

There are disadvantages to not liming though, sometimes limers can't understand you and think you have something against them. Or you get tired of having your "Hi's" ignored when they're engrossed in a lime and start ignoring them when they're liming so again they think you don't like them.

One's skill in differentiating different vehicles and licence plate numbers etc is also heightened from liming. Personally the only vehicle I can easily identify is my mother's and sometimes I have to wait until it gets close enough. So again people think you don't love them (smile) but what can one do. The only alternative is to start liming more and that won't be happening.



Truly developed nations find solutions for the *impossible* and sell them to developing countries. Until we routinely tackle and accomplish the impossible on our own we will always be 3rd world.