Here’s another forum for you to share your views with Jamaica and the rest of the world. Send us your 150-word comment on top of:

The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax us at 1-876-922-6223 or email: overseas@gleanerjm.com.

EDITORIAL – July 24-28

MONDAY – WHAT OF THE PROMISED JCF REVIEW?

The editorial questioned what has happened to the internal review recommended by the Simmons Enquiry and which the Jamaica Constabulary Force had agreed to do in relation to the conduct of police personnel who were part of the operation in 2010 to arrest political crime boss of Tivoli Gardens, Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke.

The editorial notes that this is a matter which is increasingly getting attention from anti-corruption agencies and the world’s governments: noting the need for secrecy in some transactions, it suggests ultimately the ruling of the Cabinet should be challengeable before a judge in chambers or a panel of judges in chambers.

WEDNESDAY – MR CHUCK’S APPEAL DOESN’T GO FAR ENOUGH

The editorial suggested that the Holness administration delayed the implementation of the legislation concerning the creation of a single anti-corruption agency and take another hard look at it in view of the criticisms raised.

As the Bill now stands, the legislation, if it proceeds, would cede to governments blatant powers if, as they wished, entrenched corruption. The Bill requires more than the tinkering offered by the Justice minister, Delroy Chuck.

The editorial suggested changes that would excise the egregious section that permits the Cabinet to essentially place a stamp of secrecy on any contract, and place it out of bounds of the Commission’s investigator, unless the Cabinet agrees to seal the contract.

THURSDAY – MR HOLNESS SHOULD LISTEN TO BISHOP GREGORY

The editorial supports The Anglican Bishop in Charge of Jamaica and Grand Cayman in his insistence of the illogic of the Jamaica’s Buggery Law. It said Mr. Holness and his administration should treat the bishop’s intervention as a teachable moment, do the right thing and repeal the law.

FRIDAY – CONJUGAL VISITS AS PRISONS COLLAPSE

The editorial noted that Security Minister Robert Montague’s announced policy for private prison visits for inmates of Jamaica’s correctional facilities as Mr. Anthony Turner chairman of the Federation of Correctional Officers had stated placed the cart way ahead of the horse. The two correctional institutions were also falling apart.

The editorial advised that the government reopen discussion with the UK Government over the proposed assistance to Jamaica in building a state-of-the-art prison.

THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.

THE WEEKLY GLEANER

EDITORIAL & LETTERS

LETTERS

Mixed feelings as we celebrate Emancipation Day

THE EDITOR, Sir: All WR celebrate the 179th anniversary of the end of slavery on the first of August. Emancipation Day, it is important that we fully understand what emancipation was all about. Enslaved people had no say in how slavery, this crime against humanity, was to be brought to an end. What we now know was hidden from our eyes for over 100 years. The planters were paid £20,000,000 by the British government for their “loss” of business opportunity. This £20,000,000 was to be voted on by the British Parliament, a forum in which the enslaved people had no say. It represented a further reparation to the planters for the loss of their slaves.

The abolition of their enslavement was originally scheduled to take place in 1834 and not in 1838. The hidden fact, alluded to above, is that slavery ought to have ended at this time. What we had to do was therefore, go hand in hand with the repatriation of the enslaved peoples during this last lap of forced labor in 1840 as the planters wanted. The apprenticeship system was intended to be a further four years for enslaved field workers, payable to the planters to be a further £47,000,000!

The experience of the enslaved people during this last lap of forced labor was the draining of the last ounce of blood from them to maximize the value of these additional years hand-in-hand with the abolition of their enslavement, we have therefore, go hand in hand with the repatriation of the enslaved peoples during this last lap of forced labor in 1840 as the planters wanted. The apprenticeship system was intended to be a further four years for enslaved field workers, payable to the planters to be a further £47,000,000!

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The police had indicated that it would be establishing an internal panel to carry out the review but there has been no indication that the review board was appointed and discharged its duties and submitted a report. If the board had submitted a report which was not made public the editorial said this didn’t bode well for a constabulary that is in a struggle for the trust of citizens.

The hidden fact, alluded to above, is that slavery ought to have ended in 1834 and not in 1838. The experience of the enslaved people during this last lap of forced labor in 1840 as the planters wanted. The apprenticeship system was intended to be a further four years for enslaved field workers, payable to the planters to be a further £47,000,000!

We need to understand the conceptional nature of the contract of marriage. Christians bring forth emphatically into the midst of it. Accordingly, if the Constitution genuinely accords religious freedom, they should not be compelled to renounce their faith.

People who are so separated that they do not want to have any sexual relations with each other will presumably pursuant to filing for dissolution of the marriage, obtain an order from the court to determine the distance that should be maintained between them.

You can’t yourself a spouse, after divorce, to no longer be sexually involved, while remaining in the same location/residence, ostensibly because you have children together, when in truth and in fact it may be because you want the other to continue to support you financially like a slave.

This is a BLATANT family law injustice perpetuated in Jamaica, which is worse in America.

We should not be playing politics with the law.

KYLEN W. DENNIS

Mosa, Kingston 7

Conjugal visits may reform prison inmates

THE EDITOR, Sir: ROBERT MONTAGUE, minister of national security, has once again caused tongues to wag when saying with his announcement that his ministry is considering allowing conjugal visits for some prisoners.

I support the minister on this one, and it can be reformulated. In fact, incorporating conjugal visits into our prison systems could be a useful component as a reform programme. Many countries, including Germany, Australia, Brazil, and even the US, practice conjugal visits, but not in their federal prisons.

Conjugal visits are commonplace in many First World countries. In fact, when I worked in China as an English tutor, I realised how much effort China pays to implementing the principles of humanitarianism. Criminals are not only provided with proper living conditions, but their human dignity is also respected. The Chinese don’t just punish criminals. Instead, they emphasise reform.

With feasible rules and regulation, conjugal visits in our prisons could bring forth positive outcomes. CLAUDE MCPHERSON

mcpheersonclaude83@gmail.com

Marital rape mistaken for grievous sexual assault

THE EDITOR, Sir: I QUESTION how the law can impose an obligation on one spouse to financially support the other, while it does not compel either not to unreasonably withhold sexual gratification from the other.

At the same time, knowingly infecting a spouse with a sexually transmitted disease should be treated under a separate offence clause, with severity of the penalty depending on the infection.

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With feasible rules and regulation, conjugal visits in our prisons could bring forth positive outcomes. CLAUDE MCPHERSON

mcpheersonclaude83@gmail.com

BUDDY, YUN

LIFE OF CRIME

OVERT YU GOING TO PRISON FOR A LONG TIME!

YU SPOUSE CAN FORGET ABOUT YUH!

HONEY, DON’T WORRY! BOBBY PROMISE US CONJUGAL VISITS!
Goverment has no plan in place to harness potential of J’cans overseas

A

S THE dust settled on the recently concluded Diaspora conference in Kingston, at least one former political rep believes much more could have been done to make the biennial meet useful. Curtis Ward, former Ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations believes that government does not have a clear plan on how to take advantage of the potential of its citizens living overseas.

“I believe the Conference achieved the main objective of the government in terms of letting the Diaspora understand the push for Diaspora investment and acknowleding the importance of the Diaspora in the government’s growth objective,” Ambassador Ward says.

What the conference failed to do is convince members of the Diaspora that the government has in place the necessary mechanism to take advantage of Diaspora potential in terms of investment vehicles and Diaspora expertise. It seems the government recognises this deficiency but not where the solutions lie, he summed.

Ambassador Ward was among sev- eral from the North American contin- gent who gave feedback during inter- views with the Weekly Gleaner days after the July conference.

“Part of the problem is there was no broad consultation with mem- bers of the Diaspora prior to the conference to help the government focus more on mechanisms which should have been rolled out at this conference. Everything seems to be still on the drawing board,” he said.

The government had lots of sectoral information to share and I believe that’s welcomed by many, but that is the same menu at all the Diaspora conferences. The government has to play a role in cre- ating the structure going forward if it is to be successful,” he said.

Mark Millward

FAISSA

Goverment has no plan in place to harness potential of J’cans overseas

Goverment has no plan in place to harness potential of J’cans overseas

FAISSA

Goverment has no plan in place to harness potential of J’cans overseas

ORE Overi Se eaeodai@eleanerjm.com

Greater connection, ‘real’ issues discussed, participants say

NEIL ARMSTRONG

Freelance Editor

TORONTO:

SOME MEMBERS of the Canadian delegation who attended the Jamaica Diaspora Conference, July 23-26, in Kingston hoped it was a good opportunity to connect but highlighted some aspects that could be improved.

Donika Jones, who lives in Nunavut, says she attended the conference with an open mind as she lives in the northern most territory of Canada and as a result was removed from a lot of the planning that happened.

“Overall, I thought it was a great conference I loved the fact that people were able to come together from different regions.”

However, there were a few things that she would have liked to see such as a little more presence and the plenary sessions.

“We’re here and so when we get there and we have individuals who can answer these questions, that’s the best time to do it. That’s when we’re actually able to get answers to the things we’d like to hear or probe a little deeper. I would have liked to see some of that.”

Jones also wanted more opportunity to connect in the larger groups beyond the regional groupings.

“It was great that we had events in the evening when we could connect with people and we could meet them in a social setting, but it would have also been nice to have smaller breakout sessions that were related to other topics that intersect to multiple regions so that you’re able to make connections on a profes- sional level but also in a larger forum.”

Jones attended the conference in 2008 as one of the Future Leaders delegates.

Adama Patterson, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association, attended the conference for the first time and said her expectations were met.

She went expecting to talk about the issues that people identified were really important, such as education, health and crime, which she did, and to meet other folk from the UK, Canada and the US, who are doing work on the ground.

She was happy that it was held in Kingston, which to her, was the right setting to illustrate some of the challenges they were talking about.

“We’re here and so when we get there and we

closed the meeting we were able to make connections with people and see where the potential is and look for the right people to contact.”

The conference exceeded expectations. Every talk was accepted as the countries number one national project aimed at job cre- ation and economic growth.

Dr Gary Rhule, director of public health, City of Hartford, also com- mended the focus on small group talks.

“The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference’s theme ‘Partnering for Growth’ was ideal and the discus- sions exceeded expectations. Every sector focused on root-cause analy- sis of issues that may impede growth, and committed to put forth innovative solutions so that real economic growth can be achieved and sustained.

If we can harness a fraction of the energy and optimism that came out of the conference, and imple- ment the action plans in a focused and determined way, nothing can stop Jamaica and its people from its true destiny of greatness,” he said.

Lew Buchanan, entrepreneur and CEO - LewLaw Energy, also lauded the meet, highlighting the non- partisan mood of conference.

“This is by far the best Diaspora conference I have attended. There was a shift from the perception that the Diaspora is partial to one party so it was impressed by the comments made by the prime min- ister and the opposition leader to not only reinvent but continue to work on improving the relation- ship with the Diaspora.

I continue to be hopeful that we can create a dynamic Diaspora that is very responsive to the develop- ment of our beautiful country.”

Dr Gary Rhule
Diaspora Task Force outlines measures to tackle crime

WILTON DYER

KINGSTON: Restoring the pride, professionalism of the police force enhancing its morale, Jamaicans at home and abroad speaking with one voice, are important elements in the anti-crime fight according to Dr. Rupert Francis head of Diaspora’s Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force.

In an interview with the North American Gleaner during the Diaspora’s seventh Biennial Conference on Tuesday July 25 at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston, Dr Francis shared a quick resume of his thoughts on the anti-crime fight. Reporting on the task force’s involvement, he reminded that the task force was formed last year and draws on the professional skills in North America and England of some of Jamaica’s finest Jamaicans with the professional competencies within and retired from security portfolios.

The main components of the strategy is (a) the establishment of safer cities, modelled off a similar programme undertaken by the Los Angeles Police Department, (b) the establishment of an Intelligent Fusion Centre which co-ordinates better intelligence processes which would make intelligence gathering and sharing, the driver of the anti-crime process; (c) Youth Empowerment Programme primarily through education and projects, more cadets in school for example imparting the right values in schools and inner cities utilising the formation of clubs and working through sports as is currently underway with projects in Montego Bay and Portmore; (d) expediting the resolution of the backlog of court cases, particularly those involving crimes; and (e) training and assistance to the security forces.

Emphasising that corruption must also be rooted out while enhancing fundamental values, Dr Francis said the majority of the police force were not involved in corruption and were professional. “Let us work with them.”

He added “Let us hold them accountable.” He was pleased that the army was involved in the special operations initiative as he felt they would be a stabilising influence.

“Jamaicans in the Diaspora and Jamaicans at home think about the work that young people, who are deaf, are doing, their viable business, and the people who are supporting them.”

Patterson went on the social enterprise tour that Jamaica Institute of Deaf Can! Coffee to learn about the screening business that is being developed and the wood-working enterprise.

“We liked that the conference was punctuated by some of the things happening in Jamaica on the ground, said Dr. Francis said “the recommendation and then, what’s the follow then the progress, the things that came out of the discussions, the recommendation and then, what’s the follow up, so, what’s the transparency and the reporting?”

For me that was the piece that remains yet to be seen.”

There were opportunities for engagement, networking, meeting folks who are doing work, and to see some of the things happening in Jamaica on the ground, said Patterson.

She went on the social enterprise tour that Jamaica National sponsored to visit Deaf Can! Coffee to learn about the work that young people, who are deaf, are doing, their viable business, and the people who are supporting them.

Patterson also visited Alpha Boys School and saw the screening business that is being developed and the wood-working enterprise.

“I liked that the conference was punctuated by some of the things that are working and that are good.”

“Let us hold them accountable.” He was pleased that the army was involved in the special operations initiative as he felt they would be a stabilising influence.

“Jamaicans in the Diaspora and Jamaicans at home think about the work that young people, who are deaf, are doing, their viable business, and the people who are supporting them.”
Ja must take charge of human, natural resources – Garvey

CHRISTOPHER SERJU
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA NEEDS to take charge of its natural, human and other resources in a structured way to reverse the dependency on imported foods, as a first step to economic independence, was the charge from Dr Julius Garvey to the second plenary session of the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 at the Jamaica Conference Centre on Tuesday.

“Our land, our labour are being used to produce our resources for the marketing, you might say, of rich people, either in this country or abroad, and this is a pattern that has gone on obviously since colonisation. And we’ve fallen into the same situation in terms of the World Trade Organisation and the IMF (Internal Monetary Fund) and the conditionalities. So it’s time for us to reverse that. We need to use our land, our labour and our resources for ourselves, in terms of production, and you know we have to be able to feed ourselves. I mean, that’s fairly simple. We can’t depend on imported food,” the executive director of operations of Farm Up Jamaica told The Gleaner.

SHOULD FEED OURSELVES

“We have US$800 million worth of food that we are importing and we have wonderful weather. We can grow three or four crops per year. We should be able to feed ourselves and be self-sufficient in terms of food. So this is why I’m involved with Farm Up Jamaica, and we want to move that forward.”

A cardiothoracic surgeon by profession, Julius is the second son of Marcus Garvey, Jamaica’s first national hero.

Agriculture, he said, is the most important of humanity’s activities, the engine of rural employment, and the foundation of sustainable development and a healthy lifestyle. However, over the past 60 years, food production, processing and distribution has been taken out of the hands of small farmers and producers and placed in the hands of global corporate giants such as Cargill, Monsanto, Philip Morris and Nestle, a mistake for which the world will continue to pay dearly, Garvey warned.

... NEED FOR CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL PARADIGM

According to Dr Julius Garvey, monoculture (cultivation of a single crop in a given area), artificial fertilisers, pesticides, genetically-modified organisms, heavily subsidised agri-business, and unfair global trade rules set by the World Trade Organisation have given us industrialisation and globalisation of our food system. This has led to monoculture farms that have put a burden on our groundwater and energy resources; it has caused the disappearance of species and pesti- cide pollution, and has resulted in destabilisation of the climate.”

Speaking on Tuesday to the second plenary session of the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 at the Jamaica Conference Centre, he said this system endangers the delicate balance between nature and culture that supports our very existence, pointing to the inappropriate development in the interest of the rich and those consumers in rich countries.

“Third-World production capacity has therefore been utilised in the interest of the rich, and we’re trapped by the privileges of private wealth creation. Clearly, a paradigm shift is needed. Third-World land, labour and capital need to be devoted to Third World needs,” noted the executive director of operations of Farm Up Jamaica.

What is needed to change the industrial agricultural paradigm are small, bio-diverse organic farms, free of chemicals, toxins and patented seeds so that we can bypass the corporate food empire. Agro-ecology is increasingly recognised as the way forward, capable of increasing productivity goals without depleting the soil and environment and disempowering communities.”

Education ministry welcomes Diaspora alliance

PAUL CLARKE
Gleaner Writer

Partnerships between the Government, corporate Jamaica, and the Diaspora will be the most effective way of producing quality, early childhood educational facilities, Ruel Reid, education minister, has said.

“Corporate and Diaspora support is very important as, unfortunately, Government alone cannot do it. The best model is this kind of partnership and partnership with the community,” said Reid.

Reid was among a small touring group, including members of the Diaspora, who visited the Union Gardens Infant School in South St Andrew, last week.

The school was developed out of an initiative of the Union Gardens Foundation, which was established in 2014 by Glen Christian, chairman of the Caribbean and Kirk Distributors Group, and Gary ‘Butch’ Hendrickson, chairman of National Baking Company Ltd.

The two-year-old institution was constructed at a cost of approximately 817.4 million through public-private partnership.

Reid, who told the Diaspora Conference on Monday that 17 new schools were needed to be built across the island to adequately account for the number of spaces necessary, said that the public-private partnership arrangement at Union Gardens Infant would be replicated across the island.

“This is the perfect model. If the private sector can come and we establish new institutions like this, particularly the decolonising of basic schools that are not up to standard, build bigger institutions, which this one is, and we have more capacity and the best facilities, this is going to meet the quality standard that we require at the early childhood level,” he said.

International Confection Consonation Group representative for the Diaspora Dr Conrad Ingram told The Gleaner that he took the tour to ascertain what assistance the school still needs in order to fast-track assistance by providing funding.

“We are on tour of this wonderful infant school, just looking at what we can do here, to see what the needs are for some of these schools – this one and others – and then we go back to our base in Atlanta and use that as a springboard to raise additional funds to meet these kinds of needs. He said that the school represented a model of what private partnership and the Diaspora can do to uplift the quality of institutions across Jamaica.”

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Education ministry welcomes Diaspora alliance
Huge demand for J’can black castor oil
US$100m market beckons

Avia Collinder
Business Reporter

THE JAMAICA Castor Industry Association (JCIA), working with Jampro, is hoping to tap into a growing market for Jamaican black castor oil and commercial grade castor oil, which has a prospective value of US$100 million or more.

On Tuesday, the two entities organised a workshop focused on mechanised processes for castor oil, meant to position processors to reliably supply foreign markets.

Mechanisation, the presenters said, would improve margins, reduce inefficiencies and promote consistency of quality among providers.

Castor oil has commercial and cosmetic applications and India is the world’s largest producer. Jamaican black castor oil is mainly used for personal care. Interim president of JCIA, Joel Harris, told Gleaner Business the commodity is in demand by communities of African descent and Latino markets mainly for cosmetic purposes, inclusive of hair growth and skincare.

“Research shows a demand of between US$100 million between the United States and the UK, and US$200 million in Africa,” he said.

JCIA is seeking to grow the number of Jamaicans involved in the production of black castor oil, while attempting to corral those in the market into participating in a more streamlined production process to improve product quality. Jamaican black castor oil is distinguished by its dark colour, which results from roasting of the bean.

The traditional method of extracting the oil features a manual process of picking, threshing, roasting, boiling, beating the bean to a pulp with mortar and pestle and then boiling to obtain the oil.

The Mechanical Process
Mechanical processes include a crop drier, thresher, rotary roaster, motorised grinder and hydraulic oil press. It increases the amount of oil obtained from the beans from 19.42 per cent to 38.84 per cent, said workshop presenter Noel Terrier, who is also a JCIA trainer and CEO of Temple Foods in Portland.

Further, the caked material produced can be used for biofuel, either to be sold or used as an energy source for the black castor oil producer, he said.

“This is a golden opportunity to get it right,” Harris said at the workshop, adding that the association will be able to attract funding once members are adequately trained.

LOCAL ENTERPRISES

Literature from Jampro states that the standardisation of castor oil production “has become the number one objective in negotiating trade agreements with foreign and local enterprises that can generate thousands of job opportunities and additional revenue generation.”

The workshop aimed to educate oil producers on leading industry standards for oil processing as well as tap into their knowledge for the benefit of the collective.

JCIA comprises 120 individual members and community group heads. The group is also hoping to find more individuals to farm the bean or collect it in the wild.

On the local market, Harris said, a four-ounce bottle of castor oil retails for $1,000, while the eight-ounce sells for $1,600. In the United States, the four-ounce bottle retails for between US$8 and US$9, he said.

Harris’ own company, Shavuot Limited of Winters Pen in St Catherine which also does herbal teas and spices under the Shavuot brand has been manufacturing Jamaican black castor oil for two years, producing two 55-gallon drums on a monthly basis.

He said that having invested $3 million in the start-up for the castor oil segment, the operation became profitable after two months.

Publix Super Markets founder George Jenkins was once asked how much he thought he’d be worth, had he not given so much away. He responded without hesitation,

“PROBABLY NOTHING.”

Why do we support those dedicated to our children’s futures, or those who provide meals or shelter for our neighbors in need? Because it is, as George Jenkins believed long before and long after he established Publix Charities, a privilege. It has been our privilege to touch so many lives over the past 50 years, and we are committed to moving forward with the same vital purpose: to nourish our communities. Learn more at publixcharities.org/50years.
The triumph of will – National Heroes

OUR HEROES were first named in the 1960s when Jamaica celebrated its independence and celebrated what can be termed a cultural renaissance. Committees were convened to establish national emblems such as our flag, our anthem, our symbols, our coat of arms and our heroes.

The order of National Hero of Jamaica was created in 1965. The first heroes named were Sir Alexander Bustamante and Sir Norman Manley, the founders of the JLP and the PNP respectively. The process of making heroes concurrent was Paul Bogle, a farmer and preacher who led the 1905 Morant Bay Rebellion, and Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), a journalist and printer. In 1975 two more heroes were named: Sam Sharpe, who wound his last words stand as testimony to the type of man he was and the cause to which he was so deeply committed: “I would rather die in yonder gallows,” he declared, “than live for a minute more in slavery.”

This Christmas Rebellion or Sharpe’s Rebellion as it is also known, was pivotal to hastening the process of emancipation. Soon after, the British House of Commons adopted a motion calling for a Select Committee to be appointed to put an end to slavery throughout the British Empire. Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay is named after him and his picture appears on the $50 bill.

SAM SHARPE

SAM SHARPE, born in the parish of St. James, and named after his master, is also a folk figure. He is known for his pivotal role in the 1831 Christmas Rebellion on the Kensington Estate—a rebellion credited as instrumental to full emancipation in 1838. Sharpe (right), a Baptist preacher, was literate, a strong speaker and very religious. Sharpe had read many British anti-slavery bulletins and believed that Jamaica’s only chance for redemption was the total abolition of slavery.

Sharpe came up with an idea of passive resistance and communicated this message to slaves after prayer meetings on different estates. He explained his belief that the slaves had been freed in England but kept enslaved by the planters in Jamaica, and described how they could conduct a peaceful strike a few days after Christmas by simply refusing to return to work in the fields unless their concerns were heard. Between 18,000–50,000 slaves joined in as news of the idea spread to Trelawny, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester. Daddy Sharpe’s peaceful protest was not to be however. It quickly turned into the largest slave rebellion in the island’s history.

On December 27, 1831, the Kensington Estate was set alight as a signal of the rebellion. Soon multiple fires broke out and all thoughts of non-violence fled. Great houses and cane fields in the west were burned and hundreds of lives were lost. By the first week in January the rebellion had been put down by the militia—the dead included 16 whites and 500 slaves! Most slaves having died during the period of retribution that followed the rebellion. One such slave was Sam Sharpe who on May 28, 1832 was tried and hung for his part as organizer.

Sharpe’s last words stand as testimony to the type of man he was and the cause to which he was so deeply committed: “I would rather die in yonder gallows,” he declared, “than live for a minute more in slavery.”

The Christmas Rebellion or Sharpe’s Rebellion is also known, was pivotal to hastening the process of emancipation. Soon after the British House of Commons adopted a motion calling for a Select Committee to be appointed to put an end to slavery throughout the British Empire. Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay is named after him and his picture appears on the $50 bill.
NANNY THE MAROONS

Nanny is a folk figure (see statute right) – an individual who sparked numerous stories and legends. She nimbly straddles the realms of reality and myth. In 1517, when the Spanish ruled Jamaica, the first group of Africans arrived as slaves. When the British captured the island in 1655, many of the Spanish left, and their slaves became free. These ex-slaves fled to different hilly areas around the island. There they banded together to fight against the British and protect their freedom. They became known as Maroons.

Over three centuries of slavery on the island, some slaves, like Nanny, escaped from the plantations and joined them. Some believe the name Maroon comes from the Spanish word, ‘cimarron’ meaning ‘wild’.

Although there is some dispute as to whether Nanny actually existed or whether she stands as a composite of Maroon female leaders, references to a leader “Nanny” are recorded in contemporary eyewitness accounts of 18th century Jamaican history and in secondary material.

For example, the Treaty of 1739/40 mentions granting “Nanny and the people residing with her 500 acres of land in Portland.” In 1735 the slave, Cupid, reported seeing “three white men that were taken in some of these parties carried to Nanny Town and there put to death by Nanny.” Her name and influence are cornerstones of Maroon oral tradition.

Although said to be small and wiry she is recognized as a champion of freedom, a female warrior who promoted guerrilla warfare tactics against her British foes. She is recognized as a leader who symbolized hope in times of crisis and fostered respect for her own Ashanti traditions. She is also immortalized as a high priestess with great powers.

Numerous legends swirl about her. One credits her with creating a “nanny pot”, a cauldron of water that boiled without fire and trapped unsuspecting British soldiers’ enemies of her people the Maroons. Still others speak of deflecting fire by catching bullets and/or cannon balls in her buttocks. Some say she is sister to other great Maroon leaders — Cudjoe, Accompong, Cuffy, Quao and Paro.

Nanny is said to have died in the 1750s and is buried at “Bump Grave” in what is now known as Moore Town in Portland, at the eastern end of Jamaica. Today Jamaicans honour Nanny as a National Hero out of respect for her wise, fighting spirit and her commitment to freedom and independence. An artist’s impression of her can be found on the $500 bill.

HERO HIGHLIGHTS

Gordon House is named after the Rt. Excellent George William Gordon. He was born in the parish of St. Andrew and his picture appears on the $10 coin.

Edna Manley’s statue of the Rt. Excellent Paul Bogle stands in front of the Morant Bay Courthouse in St. Thomas. He was born in the parish of St. Thomas and his picture appears on the ten-cent coin.

Marcus Garvey Drive is named after the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey. He was born in the parish of St. Ann and his picture appears on the twenty-dollar and the 25 cent coins.

Norman Manley International Airport and the Law School at the U.W.I are named after the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley. He was born in the parish of Manchester and his picture appears on the $5 coin. He is buried at National Heroes Park.

Bustamante Highway and Port Bustamante are named after the Rt. Excellent Sir William Alexander Bustamante. He was born in the parish of Hanover and his picture appears on the $1 coin. He is buried at National Heroes Park.

The triumph of will – National Heroes

Nanny and Sam Sharpe – two of our seven National Heroes – the only two from the nineteenth century and the last two to be named – contributed significantly to Jamaica’s eventual emancipation. The story of any nation’s heroes is one of strength and sacrifice, bravery and courage, and the triumph of will.
The Competition for the words of the National Anthem of Jamaica was announced in September 1961. The selected lyrics would be published and a separate contest would be held for the music. Nearly one hundred entries for the words were received and it was subsequently announced, on March 17, 1962, that the competition for the words of the National Anthem would close on Saturday March 31, 1962. A Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament was responsible for making the final selection. However, members remained divided between two possible choices until July 19, 1962. Former Prime Minister Hon Edward Seaga, who was a member of the committee established by the House of Representatives for the design of the Jamaican flag and the national anthem, shares his personal account of how the National Anthem was created in the article From Colony to Independence. He wrote:

The committee was not inspired by any of the 12 entries sent to it by members of the public who composed songs for the competition to select a national anthem. But two entries stood out, one more so than the other. Because of the short period of time remaining, it was decided to use a tape recording of the entry selected for playing to members of the House in the lobby of Parliament to get opinions on suitability. The recording was without any accompaniment, which made the rendition very uninspiring. In the chamber of the House, members were vocally upset at the selection. Some wanted an entirely new composition.

Robert Lightbourne, whose beautiful composition had been rearranged and submitted,
In my contribution to the debate, I denounced the rearrangement of the Lightbourne composition, which I had heard him play on the piano at his home several times. I expressed concern that “what we have heard tonight is, to my mind, a watered-down version of that inspiring passages were omitted, including the climax that would have stirred the mind and heart. The omission of that part has made it something less than the best.”

I went on to urge, “If this is our national anthem, because when August 6 comes, I do not intend to stand for anything called a national song. If people are dissatisfied with this, it can be changed, but do not call it a national song and ask people to stand up.”

But I went on to urge, “If this is our last chance, then I am prepared to accept what we heard tonight as our national anthem, because when August 6 comes, I do not intend to stand for any other anthem of this country and I do not intend to stand up for anything called a national song. If people are dissatisfied with this, it can be changed, but do not call it a national song and ask people to stand up.”

Despite pleadings of the leader of government business in the House, Donald Rupiah, to make a decision in the interest of time, members would not agree. The House then adjourned in frustration.

The words for the anthem were arranged by Father Hugh Sherlock. They were a prayerful petition in keeping with the deeply expressed pleasure in “teaching a Lightbourne’s composition was arranged by bandleader Walter Offe. In my contribution to the debate, I denounced the rearrangement of the Lightbourne composition, which I had heard him play on the piano at his home several times. I expressed concern that “what we have heard tonight is, to my mind, a watered-down version of that inspiring passages were omitted, including the climax that would have stirred the mind and heart. The omission of that part has made it something less than the best.”

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Great effort had to be put into teaching an entire nation a new anthem in two weeks. That was my responsibility as part of my portfolio of culture and information. The assignment was given to the government public relations office to brief radio and other media. This was done with sufficient success to create a lively performance from spectators on the night when the national flag was raised.

The Jamaican anthem was fully accepted by Jamaicans. It is considered to be one of the most melodious of all anthems, though not a rousing national tribute.

Offe John Plant of the Hampshire Regiment, which was stationed in Jamaica at that time. The problem was that the music could not fit with the words. Mapletoft Poulle, an attorney, who also was a bandleader, was given the music and words to synchronize in a new arrangement. He was not successful, so he used four bars from Lightbourne’s composition and created a new melody to fit the words. But he was not able to arrange the composition for rendition by a band. Major Joe Williams, member of the Jamaica Military Band (later bandleader), was given the assignment and successfully arranged the final version for playing by a band and presented it for submission to the committee.

At some point before the audition in the House, a radio station got a tape of a Ted Wade entry and began playing it on the air as the proposed national anthem. It was arranged for band and choir. Naturally, this gave the Favours composition a considerable amount of attention. (ie, heels together) at the beginning and end of term in schools and at Independence celebrations.

The first verse of the National Anthem should be played or sung as specifically designated on the arrival of the Governor-General or the Prime Minister.

The National Anthem may be sung or played at public gatherings. Ringing of the National Anthem should form part of the ceremony of raising and lowering of the flag at the beginning and end of term in schools and at Independence celebrations.

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Jamaicans in Florida get ready to celebrate Jamaica 55

According to Consul General, Franz Hall, “This theme recognises the innate and unshakeable bond that Jamaicans have with their homeland, wherever they are located in the world. It also praises the contribution that Jamaicans have made, and continue to make, to nation building, whether at home or in the various places in which they have settled.

In South Florida, Jamaicans will have quite a bit of events to choose from over the weekend. The two days, Hero CPL T20 cricket festival at the Central Broward Regional Park, is a must for lovers of the game in Lauderhill.

The Jamaica Tallawah franchise which was recently acquired by a Florida-based Worldwide Sports Group can expect some support as they defend their title.

The annual Independence Ball, a collaboration of the Consulate General and JURA, will be held at the Signature Grande Hall in Davie, on Saturday, August 5, starting at 7 p.m. The (Independence) Community Awards and Scholarships will add to the pomp and pride of the evening.

Across town, in Cooper City, an Independence Jam session is scheduled for the Temple Beth Emmet Center, at 4807 South Flamengo Road, starting at 9 p.m.

The annual Independence (Ecumenical) Service is set for Sunday, August 6, at 4 pm. The Service will be held at The Faith Center, 5555 NW 95 Avenue, in Sunrise. This year’s sermon will be delivered by the Rev Charles H. Dufour, Archbishop Emeritus, Kingston, Jamaica. The officiating clergy will be Bishop Henry Fernandez, Senior Pastor of the Faith Center Ministries. Participating clergy will be the Reverend Jeremy Froyen, Associate to the Rector, Holy Sacrament Church, Pembroke Pines and Michael Maragh of the Power of Faith Ministries International, Portmore, St Catherine, Jamaica.

This year, the cultural performances will precede the Worship service and will include performances by the South Florida Caribbean Chorale, the Tallawah Mento Band with the Jamaica Folk Revue, and the Sierra Norwood Youth Voice Ensemble.

Also on Sunday, August 6, Jamaicans and friends of the island nation, will get an opportunity to celebrate at the annual Flag Day festival at Lauderhill Sports Park, at 7500 West Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderhill. Festivities will start at 2:00 pm, with the flag raising ceremony.

Further North, in Central Florida, the annual Independence Gala, hosted by the Jamaican American Association of Central Florida, will take place at the Holiday Inn & Suites Ballroom, 5905 Kirkman Road, Orlando, on Saturday, August 12. Start time is set for 7 pm.

This year’s celebration is themed, “Binding Together In Unity”, and will be keynoted by Jamaican, Orley Burey, Assistant State Attorney (9th Circuit), Orange and Osceola Counties.

Burey, who recently lost a bid for the Circuit Court Judgeship has praised the Association for its three decades of benevolence targeting disadvantaged youth, education and disaster mitigation both locally and overseas.

“This Association has, over the years, unified many Caribbean communities in the Central Florida area by hosting fundraising activities that go toward assistance in relieving suffering”, he wrote in a message for the event journal.

Hall said Independence presented the perfect opportunity for Jamaicans and their friends to reflect upon and embrace, “our colourful history, and honour the sacrifices of our forebears, who laid the foundation for nation-building”. What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
'On August 6, 1962 our pride, zeal and vision of Jamaicans were inspired by the knowledge that our independence would lead us in a path to development and growth and we would excel, on our own terms.

As we celebrate our country’s 54th year of independence, let’s individually reactivate yesterday’s forgotten aspirations; and, together, rekindle our national dreams. Jamaica…. it’s our time.'

Happy Independence!
Jamaican Canadian Association to present awards at Independence Gala

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) will celebrate its 55th anniversary and Jamaica’s 55th year of Independence with its annual gala on August 5 at the Jamaican Canadian Centre in Toronto. Justice Donald McLeod of the Ontario Court of Justice will deliver the keynote address.

“It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating JCA and Jamaica’s 50th anniversary. How time flies! JCA has much to be thankful for and we continue to celebrate our collective presence and contribution in the GTA as well as ensure our voice is heard on issues that matter to our community. This year’s gala is gearing up to be a memorable one and I look forward to seeing you there,” says Adaoma Patterson, JCA president.

This year’s gala theme, Jamaica 55 – Celebrating Jamaicans at Home and Abroad, is very fitting and coincides with the many partnering activities taking place here in Canada and on the homeland via the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017, says the JCA.

Among the awards to be presented are: JCA community service, outstanding volunteer of the year, president’s award, continuous service, and lifetime. The emcees of the event are Marcia Brown and Kerry Lee Crawford. The Jay Douglas All Stars Band will provide entertainment along with Lethal Star Disco.

Part of the event proceeds will support the organisation’s scholarships and robotics programmes.

INDEPENDENCE FEATURE

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INDEPENDENCE FEATURE
More to Caribbean music culture than reggae and calypso

Many people are familiar with Caribbean songs in the forms of reggae and calypso. However, few people are familiar with the wealth of Caribbean folk songs.

On October 21, the women and men of the Toronto-based Heritage Singers Canada will commemorate their 40th anniversary with a celebratory concert, “Reflections – A Walk Down Memory Lane,” at the Toronto Centre for the Arts in North York. This 40th anniversary journey, revealing the cultural richness and creativity of Jamaican and Caribbean musical theatre, will include a Tribute to Jamaica’s cultural icon – Louise Bennett-Coverley (‘Miss Lou’). Medley of Jamaica’s award winning Festival Songs, and the nostalgic Mento music played on the authentic rhumba box – a favourite among visitors to the island would be played.

A touch of Hakka and Mandarin songs will be a first time treat. We will reminisce together to the rib-tickling scenes from past Heritage Pantomimes.

The group’s 30 members hail from various Caribbean and non-Caribbean countries such as Ghana and Pakistan, and come together to engage in what they love to do—sing.

With the leadership of its founder and musical director, Grace Carter-Henry Lyons, the Heritage Singers render secular, religious, and traditional folk songs in thoroughly engaging performances. Sometimes they sing a cappella, but usually they sing accompanied by any of a variety of instruments, including the keyboard, banjo, rhumba box, steel pan, guitars, and drums.

Dressed in various, colourful costumes created by the group, the Singers present captivating audio-visual performances as they sing with rhythmic body movements that complement and interpret the songs and music.

In one peppy, captivating song, guests at a Caribbean wedding ask their host for rum and wine. Instead, he gives them ginger beer, and the disappointed guests wail, “Oh, Oh, Oh, Mr Murdoch! What a burning shame!”

As ambassadors of culture bridging cultural gaps, the 40th anniversary gala production promises to transport the audience through forty years of the Heritage Singers’ colourful sights, captivating sounds, and moving songs.
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JAM TOWN Promotions is organizing the Winston ‘Merritone’ Blake Memorial Gala on Sunday, August 6, at The Crown Plaza Airport Hotel, 33 Carlson Court, in Toronto. The reception will be from 7.30-9.30 p.m., followed by superb entertainment and Caribbean menu.

‘Merritone’ to be honoured at Memorial Gala

The live performers listed to appear at the event include Canadian songbird Liberty Silver, keyboard artiste Eddie Bullen, comedian Mahaka Bryce, and Stranjah Cole, a ska and reggae legend who recently played to a capacity crowd at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto at a Canada Day celebration. Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Among the discos that will be supplying the music for dancing are Lloyd Coxzone with special guest Monts Merritone Blake and Eugene Psycho Soul.

The event will also be honouring some of Toronto’s reggae music icons. Among them are JoJo Bennett, Stranjah Cole and the late Jackie Mitto.

In 1974 an invitation from Del Wilks, a concert promoter, to Winston (Merritone) Blake and his brother Trevor, to play in Canada for the first time at the Masonic Temple on Yonge Street in downtown Toronto.

LARGE TURNOUT

Music lovers and fans who have been following the iconic disco in Jamaica, and who reside in Toronto, were out in large numbers. In addition to those who have been hearing about the Mighty Merritone Disco, many were having the opportunity of seeing him in person for the first time.

That first trip developed into an annual visit to Canada, mainly to Toronto, a city Blake has described as his second home.

Among the organisations, which began, requesting the services of Merritone Disco was his alma mater, Kingston College. Others included Excelsior High School, Calabar High School, and several other organisations hosting a function on a Saturday, and followed it with a boat cruise the next day, which normally attracted a capacity crowd.

On a few occasions Blake donated his services to the Jamaican Canadian Association. Now a room bears his name as a tribute for the charitable work he has done for the organisation.

Some of his annual Canadian events were the Merritone Music Carnival, held at some of Toronto top hotels. They included the International Plaza and the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond Hill.

He also played on Lake Ontario Boat Cruises and on the Enterprise 2000. These are some of the annual events held over the Caribbean Carnival Holiday Weekend in August.

Winston Blake made a great impact and contribution as an ambassador to Canada of Jamaican music over the years.

The Jamaican icon passed away in February 2016 leaving behind lasting memories.

Donations to The Winston ‘Merritone’ Blake Foundation Charity Organisation will go to the support of primary schools in Jamaica.
Back to serve! Jamaicans part of overseas mission to the island

OCCH RO10, 81 Ann:
Several Jamaicans living overseas and studying in the medical field have returned to the island, from time to time, as part of overseas-based medical missions to offer free health care to needy Jamaicans.

One such mission was in the island recently, thanks to Zion Care International which has partnered with Case Western University School of Dental Medicine in Ohio, the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, located in Tennessee, and the New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Itamar Carter of Case Western and Kamoka Powell of the Presbyterian Hospital are among a group of more than 16 medical personnel who make up the mission this year, offering dental services to children and adults in St Mary, Portland, and St Ann. Both are on their first mission.

Carter, whose parents are originally from Manchester, said he was raised in the United States, but returned to the less fortunate, to give back. “My grandmother instilled in me that we should always give back to the less fortunate,” he said, explaining his participation in the mission that he was extremely special.

When asked about his mission to Jamaica, he said: “This is extremely special to me because being from Jamaica and going away to get the education and coming back here is extremely special to me. The funniest thing is, when I speak to my peers I speak English, when I see a patient I speak patois and they’re like, ‘Wait! Did a man really Jamaican? A Yardie?’ And I’m like, ‘Yeah!’ The people draw to that. They feel proud, they feel happy for me and that alone makes me want to work harder. But me working hard is not for me alone, it’s for my people that grow me up - the dumpling, the salt fish, those things. So it makes me feel proud and honoured to be here to serve my country.”

Powell, originally from Manchester, also felt extremely special to him. “It has been a great experience to come back and be able to help people in general so it’s a great feeling, it’s always good to be able to help people in general so you feel filled in my eyes. People are being helped and that’s what it’s really about, giving back to Jamaica. It’s a great feeling, it’s always good to be able to help people in general so to come back and be able to help your own people is a wonderful feeling.”

Itamar Carter (left) and Mauricio Anda of Case Western University School of Dental Medicine, part of the medical mission to Jamaica, at their hotel in Ocho Rios, St Ann.

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Mitzie Hunter, MPP
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St Thomas barber tops Caribbean competition

MORANT BAY, St Thomas: Hundreds of fellow parishioners flooded Facebook to congratulate 24-year-old Anthony Drysdale of St Thomas who was recently named Top Barber of the Caribbean.

Drysdale, who goes by the name Anthony King, was one of 10 participants in the World Beauty Culture Festival Barber Show, held in Trinidad and Tobago last month.

The native of Hampstead in Yallahs said he has entered and won quite a few barber shows, both locally and internationally, and welcomed the opportunity to participate in yet another when he was called upon and notified by the barber association in Trinidad. Anthony King, a man confident in his ability to sharply fade and design any head of hair, explained that he was not at all surprised by the win, but still extremely grateful.

Speaking of his hobby-turned-career, Drysdale says he has long been fascinated with the skill. “When I was growing up, I used to love to go by the barbershops and try it out on my younger brothers. Since then, I took it on and then, well, the sky is the limit,” he said, adding that he has been operating professionally since he was 16 years old.

Drysdale, who revealed that he is among the most sought-after barbers in Trinidad, where he has been operating for the last five years, credited the best part about being a barber to three characteristics.

“One, you’ll always be employed because people are always trimming their hair. Two, you get to meet a lot of people from various classes in society and, three, you’re always important in people’s lives, except Rastas,” he said, as he laughed out loud.

It is for these, among other reasons, that the trimming sensation explained that he is now on a mission to vocationalise the skill. “Right now, I’m working on getting barbering into schools. You know, just as how they learn mechanics and engineering, so, too, should they be able to learn the basics of barbering in schools. Make it into a subject, give them the option to choose. “Barbering is a skill and a job. The youth should have the option to learn it if it’s something they love or are interested in. Barbers will always be relevant,” he said.
‘IT JUST GETS BETTER WITH TIME’ – CONGRATS at 55!

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JUST DAYS before the start of the World Championships in Athletics in London, the highly anticipated book detailing the performances of track-and-field icon Usain Bolt is finally on the market.

The book, Usain Bolt: Legend, may be purchased at leading bookstores in Jamaica as well as the airport shops; Ian Randle Publishers at 16 Herb McKenley Drive; The Gleaner Company (Media) Limited, 7 North Street, and the Radio Jamaica Gift Shop at 32 Lyndhurst Road.

Published as a celebratory souvenir for Bolt’s fans, the book is a collaborative effort of The Gleaner’s Editorial Department and Ian Randle Publishers. It tracks the life, career, and Bolt’s memorable performances in words and stunning photographs.

“I cannot help but feel the excitement that so many others are feeling at this time,” said Gleaner Editor-in-Chief Garfield Grandison. “The book is here, right in time for the World Championships.”

He noted that the publication has been getting much traction and support from members of the public since the promotion started in early June.

Publisher Ian Randle said: “With this book, every Jamaican can own a piece of the memory of Usain Bolt. It is Jamaica’s most tangible tribute to one who has continuously brought us joy and pride for almost 10 years. It is the least we could do to honour and celebrate him.”

Corporate Jamaica has also lined up in support of the book, with entities such as JN Bank, the CHASE Fund, the Jamaica Tourist Board, J. Wray and Nephew Ltd, and Carri-Med purchasing copies in bulk. Also buying in bulk are COK Sodality Cooperative Credit Union, the Chinese Embassy in Kingston, Fidelity Motors, Proven Investments, and Sun Island Jamaica Ltd.
EVENTS/ENTERTAINMENT

ECIPS music festival for Sunday, August 20

Jamaica Barnday Freelance Photographer
Patrons enjoying Night Two (Saturday, July 22) of the just-ended Sunfest 2017.

The likes of multi-award winning, Platinum artist, Alcon, who will be honored on stage for his humanitarian work.

Dancehall’s newest sensation, Alkaline. Hip Hop’s Remzy Ma and Reggaton’s De La Ghetto will also share the stage. Representing reggae roots will be Queen Ifrica, Half Pint and Teflon. Elephant Man, “the energy god” and Kap Rich are also in the mix. R&B favorite, Freddie Jackson will sing for the ladies and Papa Michigan, Lady G, Nardo Ranks, Mega Banton, Tunga Stewart and Roy Ryan will perform a nostalgic set celebrating the music of the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. Genjah and Half Pint and Teflon. Elephant reggae roots will be Queen Ifrica, Reggaton’s De La Ghetto will also be honored on stage for his humanitarian work.

Platinum artist, Akon, who will demonstrate that we as a community can unite and enjoy a full day of family fun and good food, while being entertained by some of the best in the industry.” Families are encouraged to bring their blankets and beach chairs and come to the first ever cross-cultural celebration of its kind inside Roy Wilkins Park. The atmosphere will be relaxing and promises to bring an elevated level of enjoyment to the community.

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to normadelle.rose@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
UWI breached Brendan Bain’s right to freedom of expression, court rules

LIVERN BARRETT
Senior Gleaner Writer

THE FULL Court has ruled that the termination of the contract for University of the West Indies (UWI) lecturer Professor Brendan Bain was a breach of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

The appeal was brought by Bain, who was dismissed in August 2014, and some of the arguments made in the earlier case on termination of his contract by the UWI.

In addition to the defamation award, Bain was seeking nine months’ salary for breach of contract, which he said he was left in the contract.

He said he earned $812,380 per month.

But it is Gregory’s position that Section 61 of the Sexual Offences Act of 1864 which criminalises the “abominable” anal sex – consensual or otherwise – should be struck from the law books which has sparked a firestorm.
Mullings at his brilliant best

Leroy Brown
Gleaner Writer

A BLISTERING body attack that knocked the wind out of his opponent, Canadian Phil Rose, enabled Jamaica’s Sakima Mullings to win the Wray & Nephew 2017 Junior Middleweight Contender title at the Mico University College campus on Wednesday night, July 26 by sixth-round technical knockout.

The bout was scheduled for 10 rounds, and the stoppage came after one minute and eight seconds of the round had elapsed. Mullings thereby achieved the feat of winning a Contender title for the second time, having done so in 2014 as a welterweight.

The cheers from the large crowd were loud and prolonged during the fight, and many boxing aficionados said that on the night, Mullings reminded them of Michael ‘The Body Snatcher’ McCallum, one of Jamaica’s most famous boxing champions, who ruled the roost for many years as a world champion in the junior middleweight, middleweight, and light-heavyweight divisions, and who was noted for his body attacks.

Mullings and Rose successfully navigated their way to the finals of the Contender competition, which started on April 5, and an action-packed encounter was expected.

Both men delivered. Mullings had stated before the fight that he would be “using brain rather than brawn” to win this encounter, who was physically more imposing. It turned out, however, that he used a mixture of ring smarts and power punching to reach his destination.

AGGRESSION

He was aggressive from the opening bell. Coming in behind the ropes and fed him a constant barrage of hooks to the body and head with both hands. Rose fought back gallantly, but Mullings, who told The Gleaner before the fight that “we have done our research on Rose and have a game plan for him,” gave no quarter.

His attacks were relentless, and although Rose fought back, Mullings was always able to stay one step ahead of him in the exchanges. The fourth round was the best for Rose, and he did make Mullings defend for a while in that round. Mullings quickly took over again in the fifth, and then accelerated and exploded in the sixth round. He attacked relentlessly, and a mixture of head and body shots told Rose down, but he was up quickly and took refuge and the mandatory eight count in Mullings’ corner.

Asked by New Jersey referee Steve Smoger if he wanted to continue, he said yes and was sent back to the centre of the ring. Within seconds, he was backed into a neutral corner and hammered by Mullings, at which stage Smoger stepped in and called a halt.

Mullings led on all the scorecards when the fight was called off.

Dave Dunbar from Canada 49-45 and judge Dave Dunbar from Canada 49-45 for Mullings.

Mullings told The Gleaner afterwards: “I made a promise to Jamaica to bring the Contender title home since it was won by an American last year, and I have done so. I also promised to be the first two-time Contender champi.

And I delivered. I am a very happy man tonight.”

Along with the title, he took home the first prize of $2.6 million. The second prize of $900,000 went to Rose; third prize of $250,000 to Tsetsi Davis, who lost to Mullings; and $200,000 to Richard Holmes, who was fourth.

Silver for Hudson at World Para Champs

Robert Bailey
Gleaner Writer

SHANE HUDSON, Jamaica’s lone medallist at the recently concluded World Para Athletics Championships in London, said he was very surprised by his performances at the meet.

Hudson won silver in the men’s 400m T47 event in 49.60 seconds behind Gunther Matzinger of Austria, who won the gold in 49.35 at the July 14-23 meet. At a function to honour him for his achievement at the Jamaica Olympic Association head office on Thursday, July 27, Hudson said:

“I am feeling great for this because it shows that hard work and determination pay off. I was surprised by my performance at the championships because I was having a lot of injuries going into the meet, and I didn’t really start full training until the last week in March.”

He added that the competition was not very difficult because he has always competed against the athletes in London, so he knew that he would have won a medal.

“I think I could have done better if I had just relaxed on that top curve, but that is just how it goes sometimes. I think this will boost my career a lot because I finished fourth last year in Rio de Janeiro,” he said.

David Richards, manager of Jamaica’s Paralympic team to London, said that despite only winning one medal at the meet, the athletes tried their best.

“The performances were a bit below par because we were expecting more medals. “There is room for improvement, most definitely but at the end of the day, Shane came out with a medal for us,” he said.

Richards added that Hudson had tried very hard to get gold.

“He fought gallantly for that gold medal, and coming down to the 190 metres mark, you saw that he was giving it his all, but at the end, the Austrian guy was very good in his technique,” Richards said.

Robert Bailey
Paralympian Shane Hudson with his silver medal at the Jamaica Olympic Association office.

www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Ja’s top swimmer Alia Atkinson returns to set two national records

JAMAICAN SWIMMING idol Alia Atkinson has made a stunning return from her brief sabbatical by breaking national records. The 28-year-old Jamaican swimming sensation who had a disappointing Olympic Games last year, decided to take a small break from the sport at the start of the year.

Atkinson returned about a month ago, and immediately established two new national records.

At the Southern Zone sectional championships in the US, early July, she broke her own national record in the women’s 100m butterfly, stopping the clock at 59.89 seconds, and became the first Jamaican woman to go under the minute barrier.

At the weekend at the Florida Gold Coast Senior Championships, she set a new national 100m freestyle record of 55.35.

Praught-Leer, who has a Jamaican father, first represented Jamaica in 2015. She placed 14th in the final at the Olympic Games last year.

She indicated from December that she would not compete in the world championship, because she needed some rest and to get certain personal things she had outstanding dealt with. She resumed training three months ago and it’s going exceedingly well. She is ready and we are expecting great things when she turns out for the 2017 FINA/Airwave Swimming World Cup Series starting August 2 in Moscow, Russia.

Manager expects Jamaican to do well

IAN FORBES, manager of Jamaica’s athletic team to the IAAF World Championships, is expecting a strong performance from the island’s athletes despite the transitional nature of the squad, and the absence of several standout performers over the past few years.

Forbes gave his optimistic view against the background of the absence of big names such as Asafa Powell and Veronica Campbell-Brown, who have both had injury issues this season, along with Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who is expecting her first child in the coming days, are among those absent from this Jamaican team.

He is looking to the squad’s younger and more inexperienced athletes to step up.

He said the youngsters have received some mentoring since their arrival at the pre-championships camp currently taking place at the University of Birmingham and believes that they are motivated to deliver a positive campaign for the country.

“The fundamentals of running the camp this time are very much the same as in 2012, but the difference is that they have new facilities to work with,” she added, pointing to the hosting of £55 million sport-fitness facility, which boasts, among other things, an Olympic-sized swimming pool with adjustable flooring, a gym with over 200 pieces of equipment, courts, studies, a sports science and physiotherapy space, and even a rock climbing wall.

The university also recently completed a new synthetic running track just a few days before the Jamaicans’ arrival on July 23.

“It’s working very well. We are somewhat in a stage of transition. A lot of our stalwarts, some have indicated that they are at the end of competing, and, of course, we have the very talented young ones coming up, and I think there has been a certain amount of mentoring that is taking place as well, so the site has been good,” Forbes said on Saturday.

He said the youngsters have received some mentoring since their arrival at the pre-championships camp currently taking place at the University of Birmingham and believes that they are motivated to deliver a positive campaign for the country.

WOOLDRIDGE noted that over 70 hosts Durban in South Africa was stripped of their previously held hosting rights due to financial constraints.

This is the second time that Birmingham is hosting the Jamaicans after providing the base for their London 2012 Olympic Games preparation.

Wooldridge, who said that the entire school community is again pointing to a sparkling new £55 million sport- fitness facility, which the Jamaican team is using as it currently prepares for the IAAF World Championships.

If the city’s bid is successful, the University of Birmingham and fantastic for the city to be welcoming back our friends from Jamaica,” Wooldridge stated before. A detailed tour of the university’s impressive sporting and fitness facilities, which are being utilised by the Jamaicans.

The Midlands city is going up against fellow British candidate Liverpool as well as the Canadian city of Victoria for the chance to host the 2022 Games, with another six cities expressing an interest in staging the event after original host Durban in South Africa was stripped of their previously held hosting rights due to financial constraints.

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Nicholas ‘Axeman’ Walters will end his nearly nine-month lay-off from the ring on August 19, when he takes on Mexican Arturo Santos Reyes in a 10-round bout in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.

ANDRE LOWE
Sports Editor

DIRECTOR OF Sports at the University of Birmingham Zena Wooldridge believes that hosting the Jamaican track and field delegation ahead of another major international championship will not only provide the best preparation for the Jamaicans, but also boost the city’s 2022 Commonwealth Games bid.

Please see BOOST, 27