

FOCAL POINT

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Quote

*“Twenty years from now
you would be more
disappointed in the
things that you didn’t get
to do, instead of the
things that you did do”*

by : Mark Twain



Changing of the Guard



On 23rd March, 2004, we all trekked to the various polling stations in an effort to exercise our franchise and vote for our preferred candidates.

After what was arguably the most hotly contested general election of recent history in Antigua and Barbuda, we as a nation, have voted to “Change the Guard.”

By a ratio of 3:1, a landslide statistically speaking, the United Progressive Party has taken over the reins of political power in our island state. We have a new Prime Minister in the person of the Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer. The Establishment Department joins to offer best wishes to the new Prime Minister and his administration. We also wish the outgoing Prime Minister and his administration good luck in their future endeavours.

Our Best Wishes

In our second issue of Focal Point, dated April, 2003 we placed the spotlight on Mrs. J.M. Euslayn Lewis, former Chief Establishment Officer of the Establishment Department.

It is with greatest pleasure that we make mention of her once again in order to congratulate her in her newly appointed position as Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

We, her former staff at the Establishment Department who have received abundant wisdom, knowledge and guidance from her over the years, say heartiest **CONGRATULATIONS**. We are already missing you.

We are sending her one of her quotes which she has bestowed on us.

“The Civil Service requires that one retains one’s integrity no matter the pressures. Objectivity and good judgement are the Hallmarks of fairplay.”

BIRTHDAYS

It occurs to me that this second quarter of the year is packed to the rafters with reasons to celebrate so let's get ready to party. Coming up we have Easter, International Cricket being played here, Sailing Week, Fishing Tournament, Labour Day and the Whitsuntide celebration.

The Establishment Department has its own celebrations of birthdays in the Department and our celebrants are:

- *Lorraine Floyde*
- *Annetta Harris*
- *Daniel Knight*
- *Darnell George*
- *Marcia Thomas*

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## Easter Special



One of our favourite local Easter time dishes is Ducana and Saltfish. Mmmmm!! Saltfish is a regular part of the local fare and so most of us are veterans at its preparation, but unfortunately we can't say the same for Ducana. Our own Stacey Gregg has submitted a recipe for Ducana, as well as some suggested choices of home made drinks to serve with the meal. The preparation of this meal can be a family effort (nice way to involve everyone in a project together).

### Method:

Sift flour, salt and spices in a bowl. Add potato, coconut and pumpkin. Mix well. Add sugar. Mix to a very thick batter with milk or water. Drop batter into squares of banana leaves or foil paper. Fold securely. Tie with strips of banana stem. Cook in rapidly boiling water until firm. Serve with salt fish, antrovers topped with tomato sauce and a raw vegetable salad or as a dessert with syrup.

### Drinks:

Ginger Beer  
Passion Fruit

Lemonade  
Tamarind

### Ducana

- 2 cups grated sweet potato
- 2 cups grated coconut
- 2 cups grated pumpkin (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- Brown sugar to taste
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 dash of salt
- Milk or water to mix
- Sterilized banana leaves and
- Strips of banana stem/Foil Paper
- 1/2 tsp Grated nutmeg



## GONE TOO SOON



The questions asked were, “What?!?”, “Who Ruthlyn?”, “Can this be true?” and the like. As the day wore on and further confirmations surfaced, it became clear that our greatest fears were true. Our dearly beloved sister Ruthlyn Davis had left us forever. How I’ll miss that ready smile. It seemed to have happened so suddenly since she never appeared to be ill. She had a happy spirit and a peaceful soul and doted on her daughter and granddaughter.

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We must keep a close eye on the issue of our health. In this day and age with modern techniques for early detection of problems, it is important that we keep abreast of our medical situations. Two old adages seem to fit here, they are, “prevention is better than cure,” and short of this, “a stitch in time saves nine.” Many of us shy away from seeking out medical consultations under the flimsy excuse that ‘I don’t feel sick’. What a cop out!! So important is this issue, that things medical feature prominently in our **Civil Service Regulations**. Read on .....

## Did you know ??

**19.** (1) A person selected for appointment to an office in the Civil Service, shall within three months of selection for appointment and before his appointment is confirmed, be required to undergo and pass a medical examination conducted by a Government Medical Officer.

(2) The Chief Establishment Officer shall give every person selected for appointment to an office in the Service, together with a letter of appointment, a medical form in Form P5 and P6 which the person selected for appointment shall complete and submit to the Government Medical Officer when presenting himself or herself for medical examination.

(3) The Government Medical Officer who examines an officer selected for appointment, shall send to the Chief Medical Officer, a report in Form P/6 of the examination of the officer together with the form referred to in paragraph (2).

(4) The Chief Medical Officer shall on receipt of the report and the form referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) submit them to the Chief Establishment Officer.

**20.** (1) Where the Commission considers at any time that an officer is not medically fit to perform his duties, the Commission may require the officer to submit to a medical examination by a Medical Board constituted by the Chief Medical Officer.

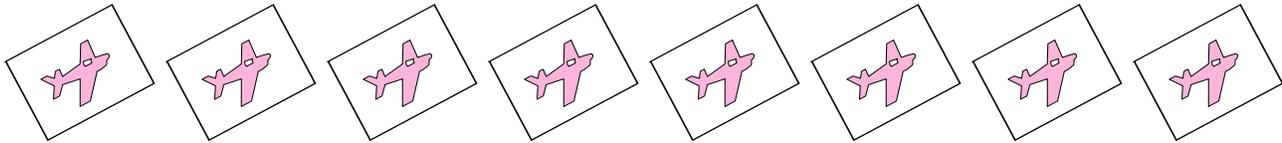
(2) Where an officer has been on sick leave for a continuous period of three months, he shall be required to submit to a medical examination by a Medical Board constituted by the Chief Medical Officer.

### HEALTH WATCH

The health service community has recently noticed a sudden rise in ‘Gastro-like’ symptoms. The most obvious symptoms are vomiting and diarrhea which can quickly lead to dehydration which, if left unchecked, can lead to serious complications.

Investigations into the source of the outbreak are ongoing and health officials are cautioning the population to maintain proper hygiene habits and also to sterilize our water properly.

**TAKE HEED FOLKS !!!!**



## **Fly Away**

Now that spring has arrived in the Northern Hemisphere, and we consider that weather as an improvement over the winter, we can see our Civil Service tourists travelling on Leave Passage Grants. They are stepping out, donning their travel hats and are going to see the world. This quarter, most are about to retire. What a nice way to begin that new phase of life with a transitional break from the rigours of workday life with an overseas holiday to recharge batteries and prepare for the future. Our tourists this quarter are:

|                      |                                                 |          |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Bernadette Kirwan    | Nursing Assistant, Hol. Hospital                | Retiring |
| Selena Grant         | Supt. of Public Nurses, Medical Division        | Retiring |
| Joshua James         | Operations Officer, V.C. Bird Int'l Airport     | Retiring |
| Christophene Lewis   | Snr. Executive Officer, Property Evaluation     | Serving  |
| Garethlyn Grant      | Ward Sister, Holberton Hospital                 | Retiring |
| Ivy-Jean Benjamin    | Deputy Supt. Public Health Nurses Med. Division | Retiring |
| Errol George         | Aerodrome Supt., V.C. Bird Int'l Airport        | Retiring |
| Rosita Francis       | Principal Asst. Secretary, Ministry of Finance  | Retiring |
| xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx |                                                 |          |

### ***SAFETY TIPS 4 SAILING WEEK***

1. Say No To Drugs
2. Be Wise! Condomise!
3. Don't Drink and Drive
4. Secure Your Money  
If You Want To Be Happy
5. Don't Park In The Dark



## **Happy**

**Mother's Day  
09.05.04**

**&  
Father's Day  
20.6.04**

# WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY

MONDAY 15TH MARCH, 2004  
**THEME: CONSUMERS AND WATER**

**An exhibition on Water was mounted at the Division of Prices and Consumer Affairs in celebration of the 22nd anniversary of World Consumer Rights Day, Monday March 15th.**

This event took the form of a variety of displays and presentations on water purification, recycling, bottling and the importance of conservation.

World Consumer Rights Day is an important occasion for mobilizing citizen action and for promoting the basic rights of consumers, including the provision and availability of water, hence this year's theme: **Consumers and Water**.

Consumers International, an independent, non profit organization has been spearheading the observation of World Consumer Rights Day since its inception in 1983, and has a membership of over 250 consumer organizations in 111 countries including Latin America and the Caribbean. Its specially prepared kit highlights a number of issues related to the supply of water, with detailed information on - **Access to Water and Sanitation, Ownership, Pricing and Subsidies, Sustainability, Standards, Regulation and Conflict Resolution, Representation and Consumer Advocacy**.

There were also startling revelations that 'one in six of the world's people have no access to clean water and twice as many lack adequate sanitation ....'. The United Nations further predicts that by 2050, at least one out of four people is likely to live in countries affected by chronic or recurrent shortages of freshwater.

World Consumer Rights Day was first celebrated in Antigua and Barbuda on March 15th 1992 in the Ministry of Trade. This year, the Division of Prices and Consumer Affairs, in partnership with the Consumer Guidance Council had been engaged in a week of activities in ob-

servance of this important event.

This began with a church service at the Grace Baptist Church, Villa, attended by officers and other participants. Other activities included live appearances on local radio as well as a panel discussion on the theme, 'Consumers and Water' on ABS Television. Participants included representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority, the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Division of Prices and Consumer Affairs.

A number of officials also spent the day in Barbuda, sensitizing the public on the rights and responsibilities of consumers. The event was afforded live coverage by the Abundant Life Radio.

The week's main event, however, was the **Exhibition on water, staged on World Consumer Rights Day, Monday 15th March**. This was preceded by a short opening ceremony which included an address by Water Manager, Mr. John Bradshaw. He outlined the activities of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority and the measures involved in ensuring adequate water supply for the nation.

Participants included:

- The Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority
- The Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards
- The Ministry of Agriculture
- Antigua Distillery Ltd.
- Allanas Spring Water
- Antigua and Barbuda Home and Office Depot
- Caribbean Water Treatment
- GCS Bottling
- Sandals Hotel - Maintenance Department

The Exhibition was well attended by a cross section of the general public, including students from secondary and primary schools.

# Passion



Our resident movie buff, Nicole Edwards, has been at it again. A new Mel Gibson movie is out and is causing quite a stir. This movie is entitled 'The Passion of Christ'. It has proven to be a controversial undertaking with people taking sides and pointing fingers. Nicole has submitted a review of the movie for us to peruse. Read on .....

For the first time in my life, when it comes to discussing a film, I've been rendered nearly speechless. Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of Christ,' which depicts the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus, defies the typical 'it's good' or 'it's bad' mentality of a review. It's so visually gripping, so heart-wrenching and so emotionally draining that writing about it simply can't do it justice.

Gibson, who directed and co-wrote the screenplay, went to great lengths to make sure his film was Biblically accurate and it shows. Jesus (played brilliantly by James Caviezel, 'Frequency') looks Jewish, instead of the blond-haired, blue-eyed man usually seen in the role. Every line spoken is in Aramaic or Latin (with English subtitles). Every prop used, from whips and swords to clothing and wigs, looks stunningly authentic. What emerges is the most realistic depiction of Christ's suffering ever put on screen.

Most films about Jesus begin at His birth, give a kind of Cliff's Notes glance-over of His life, and make crucifixion seem slightly unpleasant - not 'Passion'. The film is entirely about the journey to that specific event and shows it's possibly the most horrific method used to kill someone. 'Passion' begins as Jesus agonizes in the Garden of Gethsemane, so troubled by His upcoming duty that His sweat turns to blood.

As he prays, He fights a spiritual battle. He knows He must die and despite leading a sinless life, take on the sins of mankind so they can be saved. He has been abandoned by His followers. He is constantly tempted by Satan, who tells Jesus that one man can't possibly die

for everyone's sins. After setting aside His own will and seeking His Father's, Jesus is betrayed by Judas Iscariot (one of His disciples) and handed over to Jewish authorities and eventually the Roman government.

What follows is an unflinching look at the way Christ was killed. His beatings, scourging and eventual crucifixion at the hands of Roman soldiers is shown in graphic detail. Where other films would cut away the graphic scenes, 'Passion' zooms in - every punch, every piece of flesh ripped away, every drop of blood, every thorn in His crown and every nail driven into His body is vividly captured on camera.

The controversy that has surrounded 'Passion' in recent months (consisting mostly of claims that it's anti-semitic) is unfortunate. Yes, some Jews are responsible for the death of Jesus. But so are some Romans and most importantly, so are the rest of us. Everyone, whether literally or symbolically, placed Jesus on that cross to die. The film in no way implies that the Jewish nation as a whole is to blame for killing Him. Whether Christian or non-Christian, I strongly urge you to see this film!!

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Excerpts taken from [www.us.imdb.com](http://www.us.imdb.com)

## **Retirement and Gratuity**

There are a number of situations under which retirement or gratuity can be granted. These are laid out in the 1993 Civil Service Regulations and in even more detail in **Cap. 311 Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda**.

***Some of these situations include:***

- Age 60 (Mandatory)
- Age 55 (Optional)
- Age 50 (By application to the Public Service Commission)
- Medical Grounds
- Public Interest
- Marriage

The Act states as follows:

**6.** No pension, gratuity or other allowance shall be granted under this Act to any officer except on his retirement from the public service in one of the following cases :

(a) on attaining the age of sixty years, or on or after attaining the age of fifty-five years, if he opts to retire at that age and the Governor General acting on the advice of Cabinet grants his request.

(b) in the case of transfer to other public service, on or after attaining the age at which he is permitted by the law or regulations of the service in which he is last employed to retire on pension or gratuity:

Provided that if his service in such other public service is superannuated under the Federated Superannuation System for Universities or a similar insurance scheme, he has retired on one of the grounds mentioned in paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f);

(c) on the abolition of his office;

(d) on compulsory retirement for the purpose of facilitating improvement in the organization of the department to which he belongs, by which greater efficiency may be effected;

(e) on medical evidence to the satisfaction of the Governor-General that he is incapable by reason of any infirmity of mind or body of discharging the duties of his office and that such infirmity is likely to be permanent;

(f) in the case of termination of employment in the public interest as provided in this Act;

(g) on retirement in circumstances, not mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this section, rendering him eligible for a pension under the Pensions (Governors of Dominions &c.) Acts, 1911 to 1936, or any Act amending or replacing those Acts:

Provided that a gratuity may be granted to a female officer, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, who retires for the reason that she has married or is about to marry, notwithstanding that she is not otherwise eligible under this section for the grant of any pension, gratuity or other allowance.

*More details to come in future issues of 'Focal Point'.*



Surely, I would be remiss in my duties if I did not make mention of the Civil Service retirees for the second quarter of this year, congratulations to all of you. And you are:

|                          |                                                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Claudette Anthony</b> | <u>Premanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs</u>     |
| <b>Harry Lake</b>        | <u>Nursing Assistant, Holberton Hospital</u>             |
| <b>Roosevelt Roberts</b> | <u>Superintendent, Mental Hospital</u>                   |
| <b>Winifred James</b>    | <u>Night Supervisor, Holberton Hospital</u>              |
| <b>Selina Grant</b>      | <u>Deputy Superintendent, Public Health Nurses</u>       |
| <b>Ivor Forde</b>        | <u>Community Development Field Officer</u>               |
| <b>Janet Roberts</b>     | <u>Graduate Asst I, Ministry of Education</u>            |
| <b>Rupert Blaize</b>     | <u>Chief Officer, Her Majesty's Prison</u>               |
| <b>June Benjamin</b>     | <u>Petty Officer CI I, Public Library</u>                |
| <b>Errol George</b>      | <u>Aerodrome Superintendent, V.C. Bird Int'l Airport</u> |
| <b>Avernella Roberts</b> | <u>Domestic Aide, Holberton Hospital</u>                 |
| <b>Patrine Gordon</b>    | <u>Assistant Teacher III, Ministry of Education</u>      |
| <b>Bernadine Mason</b>   | <u>Assistant Teacher I, Ministry of Education</u>        |



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Should you have articles, ideas, comments or other correspondence to share with us, please send them to Focal Point c/o Establishment Department at the address, email or Fax facilities listed above.

**Programme of Events For Antigua Sailing Week 2004**

**Thursday 22nd April**

0800 Start of the Guadeloupe to Antigua Yacht Race, Des Haies-English Harbour  
1600 Cavalier Rum Beach Party at Pigeon Point Beach, Falmouth Harbour

**Friday 23rd April**

1500 Winner of Schools Art Competition Display opens at Admiral's Inn  
1800 Official ASW 2004 Press Briefing at Copper & Lumber Store Hotel

**Saturday 24th April**

1730 Skipper's Briefing at Temo Sports, Falmouth Harbour

**Sunday 25th April**

First Yacht Race at Dickenson Bay Race

**Monday 26th April**

Second Yacht Race - Olympic Courses off Dickenson Bay (Division A) and Jolly Harbour Race (Division B)

**Tuesday 27th April**

Third Yacht Race - Falmouth Harbour Race

**Wednesday 28th April**

1300 to 1700 Lay Day Activities at the Antigua Yacht Club

**Thursday 29th April**

Fourth Yacht - Windward/Leeward Courses (Division A and South Coast Race (Division B)

**Friday 30th April**

Fifth Yacht Race - The Ocean Race

**Saturday 01st May**

0900 Second Annual Bareboat Championship Race  
1500 to 1600 The Afternoon Presentation of Prizes, from Id Officer's Quarters Balcony, Nelson's Dockyard  
1800 The Royal Antiguan Police Band "Beats the Retreat" in Nelson's Dockyard  
2000 to 0200 Evening Prize Prize & Lord Nelson's Ball  
2100 The Evening Presentation of Prizes