

GLOBAL EYES

MAGAZINE

Volume 2 No. 5

December 2006

Calgary Singer Wows Winnipegers



John Jack Wins 2006 Dinamba Award



Inside



*May you find
some silence amidst
the noise of the
season to reflect on
your
wonderful
blessings.
Thanks to all
our friends and
supporters*

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Inductee**



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Global Eyes Magazine is published between 4 and 6 times per year. It promotes Black culture and aims to bridge understanding between Blacks and other cultural groups.

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Lordy, Lordy, Lordy – Look whose Family is growing?



*Richard,
Sandhya,
Mandella
and
Moksha*

Former Winnipeggers, the much beloved Sandhya Singh and Richard Sharpe have made the community proud by being so productive in Ottawa. They left with a son, Mandela, gained a daughter, Moksha and now they are expecting a third child soon! Canada should be proud of you guys, giving over and above the required effort to improve the population of the country. Good on you and we love you for it.

Global Eyes Volunteers

**Calgary Singer
Much more ...**



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Bona Fide Rocks



Bona Fide, hip hop duo, entertained students over the lunch break at the Manitoba Human Right 2006 Conference held at the Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre in November. The duo were fantastic. They had the students moving their bodies.

Attention!! Immigration Stories Wanted

The CCOM needs stories of immigration for its upcoming publication. If you have a story to tell call Madeline Coopsammy at 897-5763 for more info.



Reflection on Christmas

It's Christmas and it is supposed to be a jolly time. It is for most people. There is lots of food, presents, Christmas carols ringing through the air on the radios, television shows, and families travel from far and wide to be together. The sentimental values are clear. I am not so sure where the birth of Christ come into this but it is the underlying theme for all the activities. We go out of our way to be generous, making sure that those who are hungry are fed, those who are naked are clothed and those who have nothing have a present for Christmas. It is a beautiful spectacle to watch the impact and the colour this season brings to the faces of grown ups and children. It is a time filled with sentiments and our own childhood flies up in our faces and lends more impact to the season, especially if our experiences were pleasant.

There is another side to the season that draws blood from the hearts. Those are the refugees who had to flee their homes for safety in another leave. Many have left behind loved ones they cannot afford to return to see. Some cannot even afford to send a gift because they themselves do not have jobs. Christmas for those people bring tears, sadness and a nostalgia for the homeland. We also remember sadly or fondly those who are not with us at this special time, those who were snatched away either naturally or by violence, the pain comes fresh again. We remember badly.

This is life we must accept. Life marches on blindly unaware of its impact on mortals for it follows its own laws and we are drawn into its path consciously or unconsciously. For those who think of the past, or reflect on the future, you are missing the greatest gift, which is life today, the moments that is now. Christmas is a day to celebrate life and if you are breathing you have a reason to celebrate. There are many ways you can honour the day, have breakfast with someone you do not know, invite a beggar for dinner or share the blessings with someone in a hospital. These are the feasts of the spirit.

From all of us at Global Eyes Have a Merry Christmas to all of you and be good to yourselves as you are to those you meet.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

The idea of a review of the question of dual citizenship has appeared to evoke some concern in the minds of many immigrants. Dual citizenship has long been accepted as a way of being Canadian. The thought that any review is seen, as a negative thing is short sighted. It is good practice to review policies periodically.

Citizenship in any country should not be taken as a matter of fact. It is the highest honour an individual can have in any country. It tells you where you belong and it gives you all sorts of rights and responsibilities. These should not be taken for granted.

For many new immigrants, maintaining citizenship in one's home country allows them to feel they have not abandoned their country altogether; they can still return. It is difficult to let go of the mother country but sometimes letting go and moving on is the best for an individual. It provides you with more clarity of direction and less confusion as to where your allegiance should lie. On the other hand, having citizenship in several countries may allow the individual to develop a greater sense of what it is to be a world citizen and thereby develop a greater love and allegiance to the good of the world.

I hope there will be a review of this important phenomena of dual citizenship to give Canadians a say on what they expect of citizens and what are the requirements and the commitment of good citizenship. We all need to have a say in constructing the Canadian Citizen.

As new Canadians, how committed we are to our new country? What are we prepared to sacrifice for it? Are we more consumed with what happens elsewhere in the world than what happens here? What does our Canadian citizenship mean to us, spiritually, economically, psychically and morally? Do we appreciate what we commit to when we become citizens. Before taking the Oath these questions must be clear in our own minds.

This review might be an eye opening experience for all Canadians, both old and new, including our distinct nation, Quebec and the original peoples of this land - our Aboriginal sisters and brothers.

Regulars

Letter to my Daughter

My dear daughter,

I am always amazed at the generous spirit that pervades the community at this time of the year. I got to thinking that people are really basically good and altruistic. How else could places like the Christmas Cheer Board, Winnipeg Harvest and all the other Charities in this small city boast increases in donations and gifts over previous for those less fortunate than ourselves. I think our nature it is to be kind, to take care of each other. This is so positive that to witness it leaves me with a fulfilled feeling.

This is not to say that this is the best way to deal with the systemic problems of poverty. Of course not, in an ideal world no one would live through the sympathies of other. There should be enough work so that we all could earn our daily bread. This is what gives us our self-esteem. However life is not perfect. We are called upon to take care of our neighbours.

I was looking at a show on poverty the other day, and among those who lived on the street were three people

who had been selected to be interviewed. One was a woman who said she had earned up to \$7000 per month but lost her job and then her house, as she could not maintain the mortgage before long she could not afford anywhere and she ended up on the street. Another man was a reporter who had a stroke and that led down the slippery slope to the streets, the next man had a family with children. He and his wife divorced and he said she got everything and he had to support his children. He lost his job and found himself on the street. It is true what they say; we're only a pay cheque away from poverty.

Showing generosity is a virtue we ought to practice each day and this does not mean only in giving but also in lobbying governments to provide living wages for those who can work and better services to those who for one reason or another cannot participate in the workforce. This way, people will be helped with their self-esteem in tact. The spirit of Christmas is all about love. When there is love there is perfection.

Love, mom

Global Counsellor

Dear Global Counsellor,

My folks are driving me crazy. They want to live my life. They do not respect my choices and my decision. A few weeks ago, I told my dad that I don't want to go to university that I loved to work with my hand and was going to be a carpenter. I love to work with my hands and to find solutions to difficult problems in housing. My dad just about hit the roof and was so mad he could barely speak. He told me to get out of his house that I was nothing but a lazy bum. Counsellor, that hurts but I am not backing down. I am not going to waste money going for something that I do not want. I love my dad, I know he means well but this one is for me to choose, not him. How can I be myself and respect my dad at the same time. Crazy

Dear Crazy,

The only way you can respect your dad is to respect yourself. If you do not respect yourself you can't truly respect anyone else. You go ahead and do what you have to do, your father will come around. If he does not, that will be his loss. We all have been given a life to live and it is wrong for someone to live his or her own life and want to live another's. That's like double dipping. Parents got to get over their egos and listen to their children. Being a mechanic is as honourable as a doctor or lawyer, if that's where your heart is. Whatever you do, do

not give in or the bonds between father and son will be broken forever. You will always blame your dad for whatever happens to you after that.

Dear Global Counsellor,

I have been separated from my husband for 6 years now. He cheated on me with a mutual friend and then left me for her. I thought I had gotten over it but when Christmas comes around I feel this sadness and an uncontrollable rage against the woman who stole my husband. Sometimes I feel that I want to kill her. Why am I still holding on to a life I know will never return and what can I do to move on. I don't like to feel this way. I am a good person but it's not fair. I've been nothing but a good loving wife and this is what happen, this is what I get. Frightened

Dear Frightened,

What you are experiencing is Christmas blues. The flip side of rage is despair. What are you afraid of? Is it being alone during Christmas? Our emotions are heightened during this time. You are feeling unlovable and worthless. Your self esteem is taking a beating. You are not to be blamed for your husband's choices. His choices do not reflect upon your worth but it only shows that your husband's deception. You need to surround yourself with positive influences of friends and family members. Do

cont'd on p6

Global Eyes Magazine December 2006

In Your Back Yard

Sierra Leoneans Helps their Own

While some communities raise funds to assist students in Winnipeg others are raising funds to help those less fortunate back in the home country. Sierra Leone community is one such country.

The Sierra Leone National Association of Manitoba (SALNAM) based in Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada recently awarded scholarships to five first year students, (Alie Koroma, Abdul K. Kamara, Mariatu Sannoh Sesay, Jariatu Koroma and Fatmata Koroma) of the Government Technical Institute (Trade Centre) Kissy Dock Yard in Freetown, pursuing various courses including building construction, business studies and engineering.

Mr. Ahmed Muckson of the Organization for Peace Reconciliation and Development (OPARD) presented the recipients Leones 500,000 (about \$200 Canadian) to cover tuition and other incidental school fees, on behalf of SALAM.

Mr. Muckson said education is the key to development, adding that it is only through education that we can be able to eliminate poverty. He explained that SALNAM was established by Sierra Leoneans residing in Manitoba,



Canada since 1980 mainly to assist the Sierra Leone community in Manitoba and their fellow compatriots in Sierra Leone. He also disclosed that during the war, SALNAM assisted over 55 war affected and refugee families to be resettled in Canada.

The Principal of the institute, Mr. Joseph Cole thanked the donors for their patriotic initiative, which he described as laudable. He pleaded to the awardees to make good use of the scholarship, so that SALNAM's gesture will not go in vain. "May the Almighty God bless our brothers in Canada for this laudable gesture, we pray that God continue to guide and provide for them as they think about helping their fellow countrymen" he said. He called on other Sierra Leoneans living in the diaspora to emulate the fine example of SALNAM.

The Sierra Leone community raised the funds through socials and other fund raising ventures organized. Members of the SALNAM executive are Alex Bockarie President, David Mahdi Koroma Vice President, Sylvanus Otterbein Secretary General, Nancy Sam-Hunter Ass Secretary General, Alieu Sesay Financial Secretary, Alhassan Sesay Treasurer. (As seen in Photo above).

(Information taken from article that appeared in Standard Times Press Newspaper)

Peter Koroma is the Man of Year

On November 18, 2006 at the Portuguese Community Centre, Peter Koroma was awarded the Man of the Year award by the Sierra Leone Community in recognition of his relentless effort, contributions to and support of the members of the Sierra Leone Community. Peter Koroma is also the fundraising chair for the African-Canadian Cultural Heritage Centre (ACCHC). His passion for fundraising is phenomenal, and the award bears testament to his dedication and abilities to serve not only his community, but the African Community in Manitoba as well. On behalf of the ACCHC Executive and the Board, please join with me in congratulating Peter Koroma for achieving the Man of the Year award.

Global Counsellor

cont'd from p5

something to improve your mood – attend to your spirit. Read inspirational words to connect you to your spirit, pray (if you are religious) or volunteer at a soup kitchen. Don't waste a minute agonizing over a man who has not shown you any respect, who has cheated on you and finally moved in with his other woman. If you need a partner start looking for one and you will find that there are many suitors out there to love and to love you . Reclaim the power over your emotions.

Local Woman Acclaimed Writer

Lisa Codrington, 29, a River East Collegiate graduate did not show much promise in writing and she had no confidence in her ability to write but the University of Manitoba graduate in Theatre Studies who moved to Toronto after her graduation and enrolled in the acting program at Ryerson College was surprised where her first play "Cast Iron" was named among the top 5 entries for the Governor General Award.

Currently Codrington is in England as a cast member of the highly successful and popular musical "Da Kink in my Hair."

Cast Iron is a one-woman play about a 75 year old Bajan woman living in a Winnipeg Nursing Home who tries to come to terms with the real reason she left Barbados and the secret she carried all these years. Codrington performed the play at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2002 and also in Barbados. Codrington is interested in bringing the play to Winnipeg.

She has some advice to aspiring theatre students. She advised that it is important that they take the time to develop their craft.



Shining Examples

Tasha Carriere Spillett, the 17 year old daughter of Leslie Spillett, is the 2006 winner of the Dr. Sybil Shack Award which is given out annually at the Human Rights Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties. Receiving her award at the luncheon at York the Hotel, on December 10, International Human Rights Day, Tasha thanked her Aboriginal community, the youths she worked with and all those who have helped her get to where she is today. She said she could not have done it alone and that she received the award on behalf of all of those people.

An activist with a passionate commitment to the elimination of racism, Tasha is a certified anti-racism facilitator. She completed the required 40 hours training and has given more than 600 hours of volunteer work in this regard. She was a founding member of United Against Racism and is regarded as a role model in the community. Tasha promises to continue her work more vigorously because it is important. She said all we need to do is to respect one another and work together for change.

African American Fraternity Celebrates 100th Anniversary

What do W.E.B. DuBois, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Paul Robeson, Duke Ellington and Cornel West have in common? Besides being black intellectuals and activists, these men all were brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation's oldest black fraternity, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. The fraternity will be featured in a documentary titled "Alpha Phi Alpha Men: A Century of Leadership" on local PBS stations during the month of February. In a recent interview with interviewed an Alpha Phi Alpha brother from Cornell University, the campus where the fraternity was founded. LeNorman J. Strong, the president of the

Iota Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, is the assistant vice president for student and academic services at Cornell University. The fraternity was started by the "seven jewels," or the seven young black men "who looked around and saw the absence of black men who were at Cornell the year before," Strong says. The fraternity originally was a study and support group for the black students, but it became a fraternity on Dec. 4, 1906. "Their commitment was to start a study club to ensure academic success of their classmates," Strong says. . .

African Caribbean Youths Inspire Community

Aron Haile, an accomplished student, entrepreneur, software developer, theatre arts enthusiast and adventurer and a role model in the Toronto newcomer community died accidentally while holidaying in his homeland, Eritrea, just short of his 30th birthday leaving a legacy community building behind.

On December 10, at an INSPIRE gala event on Harbour Front with more than 400 attendees, Xclusive Entertainment Group and Harmony Movement, an anti-discrimination group and the Haile family celebrated Aron's memory by establishing a scholarship and leadership initiative in his name. The Aron Ambassador Leadership Program (AALP) will start next January. The program that will allow marginalized youth to develop mentors in the community while learning the core fundamentals of success.

The event was graced by local stars such as Farley Flex as graced with local stars Farley Flex, popular Canadian Idol Judge who emceed the event, Citytv reporter Tracy Moore, and Canadian singer Keshia Chante.

Five individuals and a community website operator were honoured for their contributions to sports, education, arts, health and entrepreneurship. Three high school students each received a \$1,500 bursary.

Award recipient Devon Thompson talked about life in the Jane-Finch area. "There was no one, no program to help direct us," he said of his own youth. "Many of my friends have gone through some really hard times and they could've been great people if someone would do something about it," he added. "Kids are our future and I work with them 24/7. That's my life now."

Heaven Mehari, an Eritrea native raised in Rexdale, took up the responsibility of caring for her siblings six years ago, when her mother was disabled in a car crash. When her father was injured at work four years later, Mehari worked full-time to support them all, but never gave up her dream for more education.

"You just can't get bogged down, but keep your head up to move forward," said the bursary recipient, 24, who plans to study nursing at Humber next year.

"A lot of communities are good at leaning on each other for support, but not our community," noted Moore, who is of Jamaican heritage. "It's important that we organize ourselves and look down the ladder to help give our youth a hand. That's what we need to fix things."

Arsema Berhane (health), Danielle Francis (community), Janvere Lyder (sports) and Weyni Mengesha (arts). Kandece Brown, of James Cardinal McGuigan High School, and Gael Kanza, of Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School, also received bursaries.



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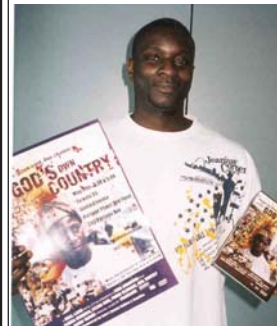


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David Alao
Goldsmith



Open House at the Leg

Have you ever attended an Open House at the Legislative Building? Well, if you haven't I urge you to make sure you get yourself there next year. It is a privilege for Manitobans to party at our great and beautiful building and hobnob with the most powerful people in our province – the Premier and the MLAs who represent you. Each minister received and feted people in their own offices. It was my first time. I thought it's a fabulous idea. There was entertainment and lots of food.

Although it was one of our colder days, the place was packed. Several children's choirs performed. The day ended on a higher than usual note with the Legislative choir composed of the Premier and MLA's led by the Leader of the House the Honourable George Hicks. It was an interesting pull in all directions but the audience got the gist of it.

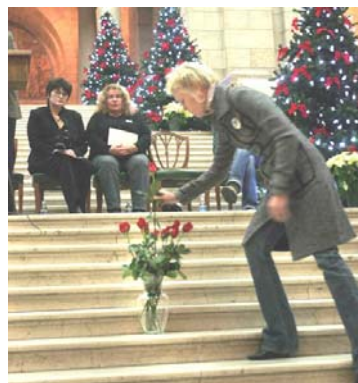
Memorial Day

On December 6, the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council held its annual sunrise memorial ceremony. It was a briskly chilled morning but like true Peggars, the house was packed and the proceedings moved many to tears. Roses were laid by a bevy of young Manitoba women as Cecile Gousseau read the names of the 14 women who were gunned down in Montreal on this day in 1989 by a gunman Candle lighting and moments of

silence were observed. The speakers called on the younger generation of women to take up the torch to fight violence against women and girls. "We must remember women who have lost their lives either through murder, suicide or mysterious disappearances. We must remember them as we continue this fight".

Challenges and Choices

Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba's annual Challenges and Choices took place at the University of Winnipeg with 70 plus first and second generation of immigrant youths from several schools in the city. The students heard personal stories of challenges faced by university students who are either first or second generation in their early days of adjustment to a new culture and the



Karen Kolotylo one of 14 girls to place flowers in the vase



Christine Ndai and Rachel Alao doing the hi life

choices they had to make to arrive where they are today.

The Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council held

its annual elections of **Executive and Committee Chairs.** Zofia DeWitt, Chair, Dr. Izzat Ibrahim, Vice Chair, Dr. Madhu Gupta Secretary. **Committee Chairs are:** Beatrice Watson - Anti-Racism; Marisa Foster - Culture, Graham Buckingham - Outreach, George Penner - Immigration-, Patsy Grant - Education. Congrats and good luck.

Two more cultural centers

for community events; MEAAC held its last Council meeting at City Oasis – the Indo Chinese Cultural Centre. It is a beautiful state of the art facility with a huge hall suitable for socials, banquets or conference. These buildings can only survive if the community supports them by using the facilities for cultural events. There is also an elevator and multimedia

equipment available on site for rental.

The Caribbean Centre on Fife Street has been busy with activities as it is upgrading it to meet the community needs. The Youths have frequent activities there as well as a very successful seniors forum

The Barbados Association

party was awesome. The food could have been a tad better in my opinion. The best part of the meal was the bread and the dessert. Anyway, I won't be too hard on Louis. I know he can do better. The music was electric, great selection and people danced their feet off to the end. (Full story in February Issue)

John Jack is the new inductee into the Dinamba family. At the last Dinamba Yam Festival, John Jack won the coveted honour. He looks the part, doesn't he? As he received the award, a Nigerian woman, Rachel Alao, Direct of Helping Hands Resource Centre remarked, "he really looks like a real African Chief".

MAME Presents Dr. Lara Fitznor with Educator of the Year Award



Dr. Fitznor poses with her daughter

staunch advocate of Aboriginal issues and concerns spoke about bridging diversity through anti-colonialism/racism.

A Cree woman from Northern Manitoba, Dr. Fitznor said she came from a family of 16. Her father was Cree and German and was not granted Indian status because of the racism embedded in the Indian Act, she said.

Dr. Fitznor said that language is a strong part of culture and of the 54 known Aboriginal languages only three are slated to survive. These are Cree, Ojibway and the Inuit languages.

There is no post colonialism for Aboriginal people because the government still controls them, Dr. Fitznor said and added that the Aboriginal people face a lot of racism today and many people think of treaties as

affecting only Aboriginal people and do not make an effort to understand what these treaties are. "All Canadians should know the treaties. All Canadians are treaty people", she said.

Dr. Fitznor has made it her life's work to help people understand racism and its impact on marginalized people. She does it to hundreds of students each year. Her approach impressed, Michelle Jean Paul, a student teacher and who have taken Dr. Fitznor classes. Jean Paul asserted that she found Dr. Fitznor courses enlightening and that she learned a lot from the professor.

The Multiculturalism Act was instrumental in opening the way for Aboriginal people to do their work. In closing Dr. Fitznor quoted an Aboriginal saying "May we all walk in the good way".

Dr. Fitznor was accompanied by her daughter, sister, nieces and members of Ka Ni Ka Ni Chich, of which she is a Board members.

The Manitoba Association of Multicultural Education held its Educator of the Year Award dinner at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on McPhillips Street on October 20, 2006.

The recipient of this year's award and the guest speaker was Dr. Lara Fitznor, professor of Native Studies at University of Manitoba.

Dr. Fitznor, a well-known anti-racism activist and



Michelle Jean Paul presents the Award to Dr. Fitznor



MAME President, Mr. Simon La Plante, welcomes attendees



Japanese Cultural Association dancers provided entertainment

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Sale hurry!!



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Rosie O'Donnell Disappoints Asians

In our diverse and culturally sensitive world we have to change the way we talk about one another and the way we treat each other. It is all for the better. This would force comedians like Rosie O'Donnell to come up with original jokes rather than depend upon the cheap racial slaps to get a laugh.

On the December 5 segment of *The View*, O'Donnell made fun of the way Chinese people speak. She joked about how Danny DeVito's recent seemingly drunken appearance on the ABC daytime talk show had become international news "You know, you can imagine in China it's like 'ching

chong, ching chong chong, Danny DeVito, ching chong chong chong, drunk, "The View," ching chong."

One Chinese viewer said that to say ching chong to some Asian people is as bad as the n-word.

Some people might say that as a society, we are becoming too serious and sensitive without a sense of humour. They say that because they do not want to work towards change and like the status quo. Research has shown that many of those people are inherently racists. Our world is calling upon us to grow up and become more civilized and to improve upon the way we do things. That's not so bad.

Cultural Intelligence



Finding a balance between work and family life affects women of all ages and ethnic backgrounds-but in different ways. Recently, a group of black women, mostly made up of lawyers, technology experts, corporate managers and entrepreneurs, discussed the opt-out issue in addition to books and

articles on the matter and found that most of what is being said does not pertain to them. "They don't speak to my reality," says Robin Rucker Gaillard, a lawyer and mother of two. "We don't generally have the time or luxury for the guilt and competition that some white mothers engage in."

Congratulation to the 2006 Grauates and Board Members of Okin International Yoruba School



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Tasha Spillett Wins Dr. Sybil Shack Human Rights Award

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www.patmartin.ca

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



**Pat
Martin**

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**Dr. Festus
Brotherson**
(1949-2006)



Dr. Festus Lysius Brotherson, Professor of Political Science and Senior Research Associate at the University of Miami, Florida and tenured professor at Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio, recently died of a massive stroke..

A senior member, political commentator under the Burnham-led People's National Congress, Brotherson was editor of the party's New Nation newspaper. He also served as senior political analyst, Consulate of Guyana in Los Angeles.

Dr. Brotherson parted ways with the PNC when Desmond Hoyte became leader. He has been a nemesis to the PNC since then through his vitriolic commentaries in Newspapers. Dr. Brotherson is survived by his wife and a son.

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Recipes

Savory Egg, Ham, and Cheese Crepes

Serves 4

Description

If a wheat or gluten allergy won't usually allow you to enjoy crepes, then this delicious breakfast dish is for you!

Chickpea flour — a nonwheat, gluten-free flour made from ground dried chickpeas — creates filling, protein- and iron-rich crepes that are just as tasty as they are nutritious. Look for the flour in your health food store. If you have some fresh herbs on hand, add a chopped tablespoon or two just before rolling up the crepes.

Ingredients

Crepe Batter:

1/3 cup chickpea flour

1/3 cup 1 percent milk

1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons warm water

1 large egg

1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons canola oil

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Crepes:

2 teaspoons canola oil, divided

4 (1-ounce) slices low-fat, low-sodium boiled or smoked ham (not honey glazed)

4 (3/4-ounce) slices reduced-fat Swiss cheese

4 large eggs, lightly beaten

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

For the crepe batter: Purée flour, milk, water, egg, oil, salt, and pepper in a blender until smooth, about 1 minute. Set aside to rest for 15 minutes.

For the crepes: Heat 1 teaspoon of the oil in an 8-inch nonstick skillet or crepe pan over medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons of the batter, tilting the pan so that batter forms a thin layer. Cook until edges begin to brown, about 1 minute. Carefully flip the crepe over and cook until golden on the bottom, about 1 more minute. Transfer crepe, golden-side down, to a plate. Without adding any additional oil, repeat with remaining batter, stacking crepes, to make all 4 crepes.

Festival of the Yam

The Nnadi family welcomed their guests to the Festival of the Yam once again at the Holy Family Church on Archibald. At this traditional festival of Nigerian origins, yam is celebrated as the King of Food and the Food of Kings.

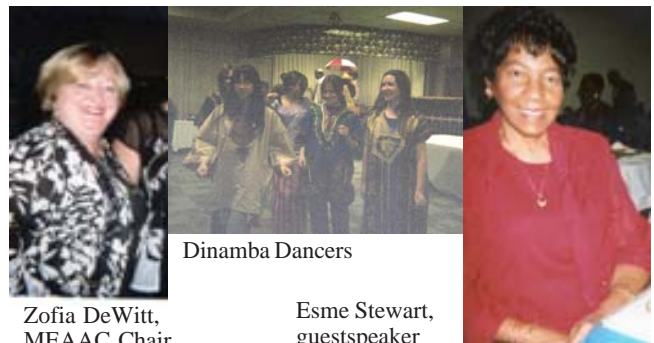
The dinner was preceded by the re-enactment of the Yam Dance. This year the actors were all but a couple of Africans, which lends credibility to the intercultural nature of Dinamba.

Each year the Dinamba Intercultural Organization confers the Award of the Yam to a deserving person in the community who has embraced diversity in their paid or volunteer work. This year that person was John Jack, retired school Principal of Andrew Mynarski School, advocate of diversity and anti-racism and past Chair of the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advocacy and Advisory Council. Jack accepted the honour with pride and humility.

Esme Stewart, one of the past recipients of the Award was the guest speaker at this year's event. She spoke about the importance of being thankful and having a positive attitude in life. These she said are keys to successful living.



John Jack winner of 2006 Dinamba Award flanked by his wife Verona and his daughter Sherry (left)



Zofia DeWitt,
MEAAC Chair

Dinamba Dancers

Esme Stewart,
guestspeaker

Season's Greetings

Holiday time in Manitoba is filled with great excitement and anticipation as people of different cultures celebrate according to their beliefs. As we gather together, we observe many unique customs reflecting our rich cultural diversity. We are a vibrant blend of many people from many lands working together towards harmony, acceptance and prosperity for all our citizens.

In Manitoba we share our diversity and strong multicultural mosaic all year round with special events and festivals. Discovering the customs and beliefs of others reminds us of our common ties and helps us learn more about each other and ourselves. Sharing our traditions with other members of the community is an important part of our lives, no matter what the season.

On behalf of the Manitoba government we thank all citizens of all cultures for their ongoing contributions to our province. We sincerely hope that your holidays are joyful and the New Year brings good health, good fortune and happiness to you and your family.



Gary Deser
Premier



Nancy Allan
Minister responsible for Multiculturalism



Guyanese Chosen as Provost of Radford University

Guyanese born Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Dean of the Honors College at Florida was recently named as Radford University's first Provost in its 96-year history. Griffith was chosen from a pool of 78



applicants, including several from overseas. A specialist on Caribbean and Inter-American security, crime, terrorism issues and the illegal drug trade, he has written three books and edited or co-edited another four, most recently *Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror* (2004). “

Griffith is married to Francille Griffith, a Registered Nurse who also holds a Master of Science degree in Health Services Administration from the University of St. Francis in Illinois. They have two children, Shakina Aisha and Ivelaw Lamar.

Mr. Jim Ogunnoiki (top - r), President Yisa Akinbolaji, the artist (bottom - r)

Okin International Yoruba School Cultural Dance Group



Okin International Yoruba School Honours new Graduates

The 2006 annual cultural gala recognizing the newest graduands of the Yoruba School was held at the Afro-Caribbean Hall on Watt Street on Saturday December 7, 2006.

Sponsored at no-cost to the public, a sumptuous Nigerian traditional meal was served and provided cultural entertainment by the Okin International Yoruba school cultural dancers, DJ Fuji Music by K.B. and group, that delighted audience

Jim Ogunnoiki, an elder in the African community one of the founders of 14-member families, of the school that started 13 years ago. The school operates during the regular school year on Saturdays from 10 am-2:00 pm at Kelvin High School. The purpose of the school is to maintain and share Yoruba culture with the community. The bilingual course teaches more than language, students learn about Yoruba's rich cultural traditions, its traditional foods, poetry, drama and songs. The Yoruba school recognizes both the oral and written traditions of the culture and celebrates important events in both the

Christian and Muslim faiths, the two major religions in Nigeria.

Students pay a nominal fee of \$20 per year for the privilege of learning Yoruba. It is open to all, not just Nigerians. Yoruba is one of the main languages spoken in Nigeria alongside Ebo and Hausa, and can come in useful for anyone trying to do business in Nigeria or if you are in a cross-cultural marriage or for anyone planning to take a vacation in Nigeria. Bargaining is part of the way people do business in Nigeria, and knowing a little Yoruba can go a long way in walking away from a good bargain. The courses are recognized and accredited for grades 9 to 12 by the Department of Education. “The Yoruba community student represents a perpetual cycle of growth and renewal. It is a proud day for their families as well as the community as these talented graduates prepare to join the ranks of our esteem future professionals,” said Mr. Ogunnoiki in his welcoming speech.



Guyanese Football Team Needs Help

Football fans in Guyana currently have something massive to shout about as their team is undergoing an astonishing upswing in footballing fortunes.

The tiny former Dutch and British Colony with a population of just over 700,000 has not lost a match in over two years, and, extended their unbeaten run to an amazing 14 games. The smallest nation on mainland South America and one which shares far more, culturally speaking, with the Caribbean than its host continent, have put together a side to be proud of and are in the throes of a wondrous revival.

In a stretch of 14 matches, the team - coached by Jamaal Shabazz (who also incidentally holds the reins the country's women's national team) - have not lost a game since their ill-fated FIFA World Cup™ qualifying run in 2004 where they lost 8-1 on aggregate over two legs to Grenada with suspensions and injuries affecting the side



hard. Yet, in the space of two years the side has undergone a remarkable transformation.

To continue this winning streak into the 2007 Caribbean Cup Finals in Trinidad from January 12 to 23, the football team needs your help in ensuring they get the best training to compete. They are in dire needs of funds. The South Florida Guyanese Association has responded and have started to fundraising ball rolling for the team. Each Guyanese is asked to contribute a mere \$5.00 towards this national cause. Here are some details on how to get your money there: **GFF**

(Guyana Football Federation)" *and mail donations to *SFGA, P.O. Box 524663, Miami, FL 33152*. Electronic deposits can also be made to: *Routing # 067006432, Acct # 2000015462660* at any Wachovia bank. *Check out the full story at the website. <http://fifa.com/en/mens/index/0,2527,126530,00.html?articleid=126530>

Calgary Singer Hits all the right Notes at Kings Head

Calgary R&B Singer/lyricist, Lynn Olagundoye,



performed at the Kings Head recently to a packed house. Her powerful and smooth voice mesmerized the audience to a hush silence. Lynn incorporates elements of funk, jazz, alternative rock, afrobeat, roots reggae and oldschool pop. Lynn's debut CD "African Violet" released on the Winnipeg Absurd Machine Records label.

During her years in college Lynn often performed with the Guerilla Funk Monster and was inspired to write

and produce a few songs for a Holla Productions stage event in the spring of 2004.

Lynn's voice stand out from the crowd with freshness. There is something real and sincere about her performance. Listening to Lynne was a pleasure to ears.

Among of Lynn's inspirations musically are Lauryn Hill, Jill Scott and Erica Badu." The seeds of Africa Violet grew from a chance collaboration with Guerilla Funk Monster. A well-placed conversation with then classmate and now bandmate/co-writer James Musulak led Olagundoye to lay down some backing vocals for Guerilla Funk Monster's last album, Bomb. From there, Africa Violet was born.

"James and I were in the same class and he just happened to tell me about looking for female vocals for some tracks Guerilla Funk Monster were working on," says Olagundoye. "I was actually really shy about my singing at that time, but for some odd reason I offered to help. I was then introduced to the rest of the guys and we've been working together ever since."

Maiko Watson opened for Lynn at the Kings Head.



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