

# Sweet TnT

MAGAZINE

Issue #2

November 1, 2012

**Curry duck,  
yummy!**

**The Pierrot Grenade  
and his country**

**Lady G's  
food stall**

**Language war**

**Liming in  
Gasparee  
Caves**



# Sweet TnT

MAGAZINE

## Editor's note

Sweet TnT Magazine is ready for the world! Issue 2 is packed with the culture of Trinidad and Tobago just like Issue 1. We are on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Issuu, and so far the response from the public is sweet! Our Facebook page is alive with tasteful images, quotes and comments. We thank all the people who clicked "like" on the page for their support. Also, special thanks to all the citizens, foreigners and advertisers who have contributed in every way to the magazine. The abundance of support is a true expression of how passionate people are about Trinidad and Tobago and are willing to assist in the promotion of our beautiful twin islands.

Special congratulations to the team members of Sweet TnT Magazine for working extremely hard in putting together our magnificent publication, website, promotional campaign, and social networking sites. Our talented team is another representation of how sweet T&T can be.

In this issue, we feature stories on lifestyle, Creole language, food, and places. Some highlights are T&T's Pierrot Grenade (Felix Edinborough) talking about his country, food business owner Gail David sharing her story about working in Trinidad, and culture seeker Chantelle Wilson's experience of her trip to Gasparee Caves Down the Islands and her photos of a family's visit to Fort King George in Tobago. All this and more in this issue of Sweet TnT Magazine!

As we prepare for upcoming issues in 2013, we continue to invite the public to share the culture of Trinidad and Tobago with the world in this magazine. Citizens and foreigners may share stories, poems, photos, comics, favourite quotes from books, videos, and comments. All contributions that reflect the positive aspects of Trinidad and Tobago will be published. Our aim is to show the abundance of sweetness that exists in our country despite the negative happenings around us. You may email your contributions to:

[contact@sweettntmagazine.com](mailto:contact@sweettntmagazine.com) or  
[sweettntmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:sweettntmagazine@gmail.com) for large files.

Remember to "like" the Facebook page on  
[www.facebook.com/sweettntmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/sweettntmagazine) for updates.  
Enjoy!

Joyanne James  
Editor

Sweet TnT Magazine is an  
online and printed publication

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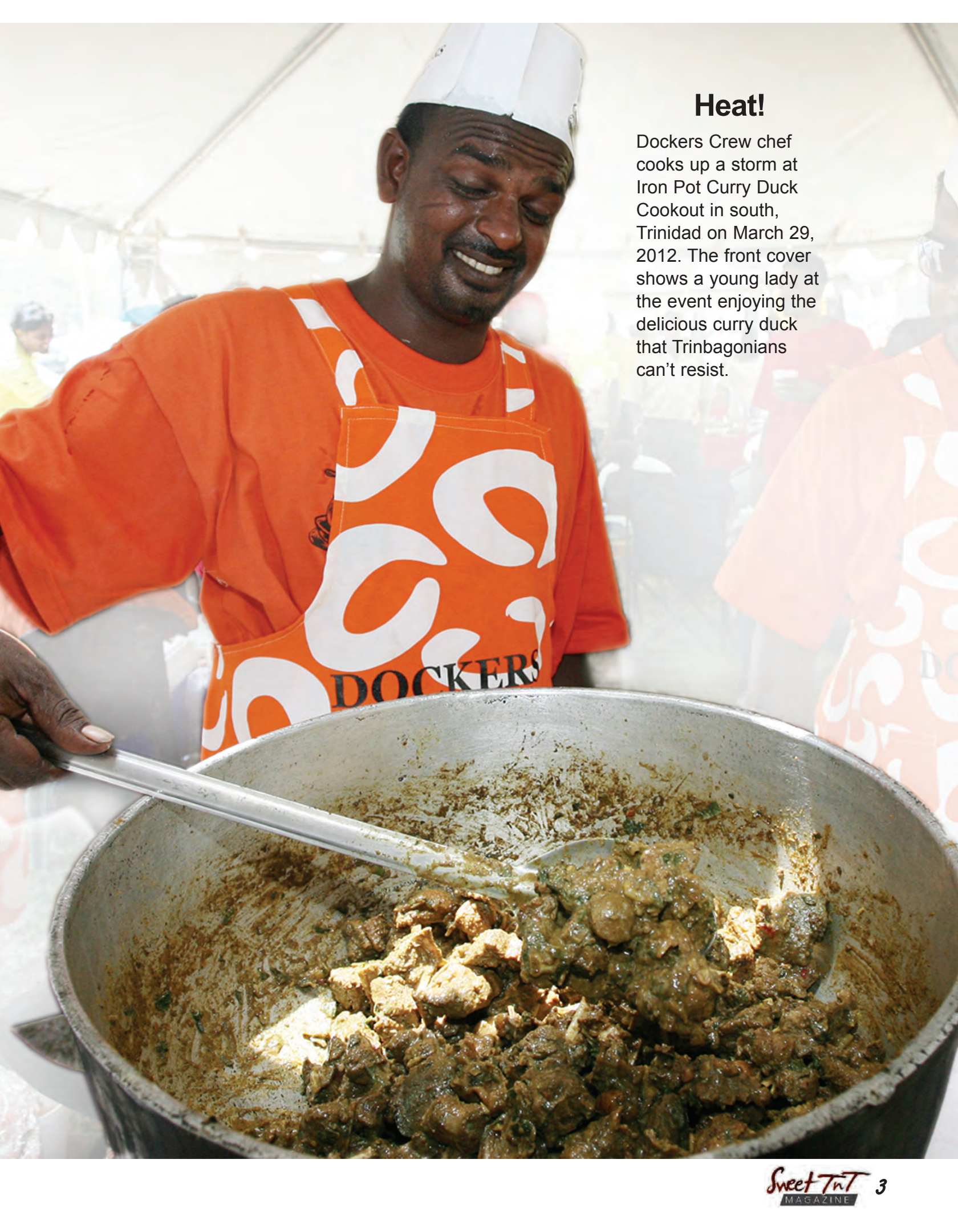
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## Heat!

Dockers Crew chef cooks up a storm at Iron Pot Curry Duck Cookout in south, Trinidad on March 29, 2012. The front cover shows a young lady at the event enjoying the delicious curry duck that Trinbagonians can't resist.



# Las Cuevas Beach Lodge

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# On wildness!



Some may call it “clowning around”, “playing the fool”, or just “having fun”, many Trinbagonians say “we on wildness!”

These young fellas who were liming in Maitagual Road, San Juan, had fun with Sweet TnT Magazine’s camera while they demonstrated the modern way to lime on the block with their cell phones.

During this photo taking event the guys laughed, teased each other, and consistently repeated the phrase, “All yuh real wild!”



# The Pierrot Grenade and his country

*'Sweet TnT' talks to  
Felix Edinborough*

Describe the character Pierrot Grenade.

The Pierrot Grenade is a very colourful character that carries a costume that is a reflection of his language. What do I mean by that? The PG spells words by breaking a word into syllables and weaving a "colourful" story with these syllables to come up with a new and humorous expression, just as the costume is made up of colourful strips (syllables) that are sewn together to make a costume.

Why did you choose the character Pierrot Grenade to promote T&T's culture?

I did not choose the PG, it chose me. What do I mean? I had written a Best Village carnival script and needed a carnival character as narrator. I thought first of the Midnight Robber but then thought that his kind of speech was too serious so I opted for the Pierrot Grenade and found that I could not get anyone from the group to perform it as I thought it should be

performed, so I decided to do it.

It was very successful and I was asked to do it again and again and audiences began to like the portrayal more and more. So I just had to continue. I say that it chose me for I never intended to continue with this character but I had to, for the more people saw it the more it was in demand and there was no one else doing it so that was my fortunate fate.

**What do you have in common with the Pierrot Grenade?**

I think that the PG is a natural Trini character for we are a people who like to use puns and metaphors when describing people and things. Do you realise how many people in T&T have nicknames? A nickname is usually a pun or a metaphor. When you call a friend "Ocean" or "Chimney" we know that this is a figurative description of the person. Often when talking with my friends I use puns. It makes the conversation more interesting and makes people think and heightens their sense of humour.

**What is your attitude towards your country Trinidad and Tobago?**

I love my country very much and that is why I grieve for the way I see it going. Having travelled a lot I know what a developed country is like and I do not see that kind of maturity in T&T. We can make this place a "paradise" but our leaders lack either the vision or the will to stick to principles.

The best of us need guidance and discipline but for the majority of us, unless we have someone constantly calling us up when we are tempted to go the wrong way, we fall into bad habits. So our attitude has deteriorated because we have been left on our own for too long. Forty seven years is very young for a country.

**What norms, beliefs and unique things representing the culture of Trinidad and Tobago do you appreciate the most?**

I am not sure about what I appreciate the most but I know we have much in our culture that I cherish. I am very much involved in culture because of our dances that have so many influences that we can come up with a "rainbow" that others admire. Our steelband and calypso are

**"I have seen T&T culture move people in various parts of the world and it can continue doing this as long as our cultural ambassadors take their role seriously."**

unique. Though many countries can boast of their hospitality we tend to make others very comfortable because of our genuine friendliness.

**In what ways do you think other entertainers promote T&T's culture successfully?**

T&T culture is promoted especially through pan and cultural groups which present our music (calypso) and dance. I have several times been part of cultural contingents that go abroad to present programmes and I see how people appreciate what we have to offer especially with the pan.

**What advice would you give to young people who are passionate about T&T's culture and would like to promote it using story, song, poetry, etc?**

You need to have confidence that what you are doing will be appreciated and once you work at it seriously you can be successful. The material is not the most important thing but how you present it. To present it for audiences to appreciate it you have to work at it night and day. The words of Shakespeare are no more true than in this popular saying:

*The heights of great men reached  
and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight  
But they, while their companions  
slept,  
Kept toiling endless through the  
night.*



**Felix Edinborough as the Pierrot Grenade**

Photos: Raymond Syms

**What is your vision for T&T's culture in the future throughout the world (language, music, etc)?**

I have seen T&T culture move people in various parts of the world and it can continue doing this as long as our cultural ambassadors take their role seriously. I think that all of us who present the culture have a great responsibility in our country.

**- J James**



# Local Indian fashion

**A**s natives of Trinidad and Tobago, if we're asked to talk about the cultural contribution of East Indians, the iconic images that come to mind often relate to festivals, music and food.

There's Divali, the celebration of the triumph of light over darkness, the vibrant rhythm of chutney, a mixture of Hindi and soca music, and exotic cuisine like roti consisting of kneaded flour cooked on the stovetop almost looking like a pancake, except larger and less fluffy, and best enjoyed with curry.

An area which is often not given its full due, however, is fashion. Like in India, the Indian wear in T&T comes in various styles and patterns. It is made of silk or synthetic textiles which come in many vibrant colours, exquisitely embroidered, sometimes with real gold thread and draped in an array of aesthetically creative designs.

On an ordinary day you're very likely to encounter the *sari*. This garment is a rectangular piece of cloth about five to six yards long. In ancient India most of the clothes contained no

stitching and were ready to be worn as soon as they came off of the loom. The sari is an example of this; it is worn by women and must be wrapped around the waist, making pleats at the front. The remaining length is draped around the shoulder.

If you are concerned about the level of exposure of the woman's torso, well the sari is intended to expose the woman's midriff and belly button only, so you'll be relieved to learn that it is worn with a *choli*, or tight fitted short blouse, the sleeves of which are usually up to the elbows or to the middle of the upper arm. It is a stitched blouse that has buttons either in the front or the back.

Instead of the sari the *choli* is also sometimes worn with a *ghagra*. As long as the ankles, this is a skirt with sewn-in pleats that is secured at the waist.

An outfit with an entirely different look is the *salwar-kameez*. It is very similar to the contemporary pants suit but with a pyjama-like finish as the leg is wide at the top but usually narrowed at the ankles with a string. The pants part of the outfit is called the *salwar*. The *kameez* is the top that is worn over

it, a shapely piece that resembles either a long shirt or short fitted dress.

Both the *salwar-kameez* and the *ghagra-choli* are worn with the *dupatta*, a rectangular piece of cloth used to cover the head and the chest area. Accessories such as bangles, earrings and the like usually also adorn the final outfit.

On the men's side a very fashionable choice is the *kurta* or *panjabi* which is basically a loose shirt that falls either just above or somewhere below the knees. This simple yet trendy outfit can be worn with jeans, which illustrates the adaptability of the *kurta* as both casual and formal wear.

There are many more beautiful and creative designs that people usually wear for occasions like Indian Arrival Day and Divali. These are the moments for you if you desire to observe the colours and variety of Indian wear in full force. Of course they are also worn to weddings and other formal occasions as well, and are by no means limited to a particular race. Anyone who has an appreciation for trendy, sophisticated dress can wear Indian fashion.

— R Cedeno

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# A day at Shark River

There are scores of people in the water, and that famous “Jaws” music starts playing in the background. You already know that a vile beast is about to rise from beneath, and someone’s leg will soon be gnawed upon by teeth.

But, imagine, what if that creature turns out to be a boy, grinning at you with mischievous intent. Or a girl, wearing just a two-piece bathing suit, her hair all wet and sketched against her sopping face. Frowning does little in casting them back whence they came, as even the knowledge that this river had long ago been infested with sharks never prevents them from having a fun time at this place.

Positioned between the “turtle” villages of Toco and Matelot in Trinidad, Shark River has always been a favourite

among the neighbouring residents. People usually spend a full day there obtaining an experience that is relatively different from the one you typically get at the sea. The people in the pictures convey this quite nicely.

One group in particular was busy laying out a net in the middle of the pond to catch some fish, while one or two of them had chosen to sit at the riverbank and stare in wonderment as they were not ready to bathe as yet. Some played games in the water – splash! And others just took it easy as they traversed the shallower parts of the river, creating a concord of harmonious rings that engulfed them wherever they went.

The greatest thing is that most of the people were so friendly that a woman even cheered one of the snapshots (while

she and two others were comfortably sitting in the middle of the river) with a big smile and a mild tribute to a beer she was drinking.

Oddly, on this occasion there was no music or food present at the scene – or perhaps some invisible sharks had just gobbled the goods up when the swimmers’ backs were turned – yet the happy ambience resonating from the people’s mouths were enough to invigorate their inner beats.

In many cases where there is a mass body of water there is always some way to have fun. Combine that with the coolness of the river, the crudeness of good people, and the collectiveness of nature, and bathing in just about any river will definitely ensure a most entertaining time.

– K Hilaire



# Language war

*Boy, is years ah hearing people arguing 'bout our creole language or dialect versus Standard English... De linguists and de intellectuals from de university... De officials in de Ministry... Toute bagai. And yuh know wid all de argue dey argue and all de debate dey debate, nothing ain't really solve up to dis day... But while dey arguing on and on, we slowly losing de creole language...*

– Excerpt taken from Miguel Browne's *De Creole Tongue*, 1999

A group of Americans once asked me to tell them about my country, so I cleared my throat and gave the most impressive cultural presentation I have ever given in my life. To my surprise, they were very disappointed because they were hoping to hear what a Trini sounded like and what I gave them was “ordinary English with a slight Jamaican accent”. Imagine that, the only thing they identified as “Caribbean” in my speech was my accent and they had the nerve to call it “Jamaican”.

So, I said, “All yuh want to hear real Trini, well ah go give all yuh dat.” Those few words probably sounded like “uga muga” because they looked at each other in awe and waited for the Amazing Creole clown to say something else.

While I did manage to tell them about our comedy concerts, Promenade doubles, and the hurricane-free luck we had, I found myself struggling to do this in my own language knowing that they were carefully analysing every word that came out of my mouth. It is strange how I master the Creole when I am speaking with Trinidadians, but suddenly I was thinking hard about what I was saying. I felt like I was coining



Spanish sentences together and I had to think carefully about each word before I said it out loud.

I understand that this problem stems from the notion that Standard English is superior in comparison with our language, and I know that some people may even say that we do not even own a language, but a broken form of English.

A few years ago, Miguel Browne addressed this issue in “De Creole Tongue”, a monologue from his book *Talk Dat Talk*. He listed a number of institutions in society that have attempted to do something about this language war between Standard English and our Creole language. His contribution was also an attempt to do something.

Years later, his words, “we slowly losing de creole language”, still stand. If young people compare their Creole

speech with that of their grandparents they will learn that many words, sentence structures and sayings have been drastically altered and now resemble the English language.

When we say, “Ah doh want it,” we believe that we are speaking real hardcore Trini language because we say “ah” instead of “I” and “doh” for “don’t”, but the truth is that the statement has been modified from hardcore Trini, “Me eh wa it,” to Standard English, “I don’t want it.”

Some folks may wonder why they should even care about all of this when speaking English makes you sound more intelligent than speaking Creole.

The funny thing is it seems to me that we are the only ones who have a problem with how we sound when speaking with foreigners. I carefully observed the way many people from Jamaica, Barbados, St Vincent, Grenada and Guyana spoke to Americans, and I realised they did not give a rat’s... uh... tail... who understood them or not.

I do admire the Jamaicans for representing the Caribbean with their language in movies like *Predator 2*, *Marked for Death* and *First Sunday*. Even the Americans try to sound like Jamaicans in the movie *Cool Runnings*. What a day it will be when Americans try to sound like Trinidadians!

While all those soca artistes and comedians must be commended for travelling the world and spreading the language through their concerts, the people of Trinidad and Tobago also have a great role to play.

We must make it our duty to do like Miguel Browne, Paul Keens-Douglas, Rachel Price, Machel Montano and many more Creole soldiers and try to save what is left of our language by sharing it with the world.

– J James

# Maracas beach lime



**T**hey say the maxi reaching Cane Farm 7 0'clock on the dot for people in the area, so I make sure and wake up 5 in the morning to reach on time. Imagine 6.56, I sweating down the place rushing, thinking I real late, and when I reach 7.05, not a soul in sight. Is only after 10 to 15 minutes later people start to come. "Trini people again," somebody bawl out.

People sitting down by the roadside, standing up by the bus stop and others gone to buy drinks, all just waiting for the maxi to reach. This is the second time we crew was going on a beach lime and we was expecting it to be bigger than before.

Soon the maxi come and was on its way to the other pick-up spots where it get pack up like sardine with people in every corner.

While going to Maracas Beach, the driver start to play dancehall and soca music, which turn the maxi into a party. It was unbelievable how people find space to dance. Everybody had a cup with a drink like Hennessy, Stag or Smirnoff.

In order to reach safely the driver took his time with all the curves and bends on the road, but with all the excite-



ment happening in the maxi, within a blink of an eye we reach the beach in no time.

Without hesitation people fly outside to take in the salty sea breeze. The air was smelling strong with the mouth-watering bake and shark that most people desired and rushed for. Nonetheless, food was prepared so we had choices.

The boys immediately geared up to play football, divided into two teams, and went to an open space where they could play their game. After the girls assured the boys that they would come and watch them play, they wandered off by the oceanside to take pictures. They soon joined the boys and acted as cheerleaders, singing and dancing hysterically until they find the game was getting lame.

They ran in the middle of the game and lured the boys to the beachside where all the wildness start.

People who didn't intend to bathe were thrown into the water and after the boys threw in some of the girls' hair it was mayhem... girls against boys. It was an innocent play fight.

Then they played water games but became tired fast because of the huge strong waves that trampled people, which is typical of Maracas. Then they calmly lie down on the beachside, covered by the towering coconut tree, and waited until food was served. After eating, everybody was looking like "macajuel" so they spread out on the sand and give one another talks for the rest of the evening.

When the long fun-filled day came to an end, everyone was tired, stuffed with food, slightly intoxicated and ready to go home. Unlike the journey to go to the beach, the drive home started quiet and serene until the cake fight began along with a dancing session. Because is we, the night had to end with dancing. The maxi driver then dropped everyone home and the lime turned out to be better than the first one after all. - *C Wilson*

# True Trini flavour for real!

This one tells of an energetic woman, living in Carenage, to whom many people refer as “Aunty Sharon”. Each day, before the rise of the sun, Sharon would have at least one thing on her mind: how can I satisfy all my customers today?

Sharon professionally conducts a business from her cosy abode – she’s a freelance baker by day and night. From as early as the brink of dawn, to the times when owls refuse to sleep, aromas such as beef, potato, veggie stew, and other succulent flavours would seep through every nook and cranny of this baker’s home.

Have you ever eaten a currants roll? In case you don’t know, it is an oven baked pastry that’s internally emblazoned with juicy black currants (prunes that are similar to raisins). Sharon’s rolls are so crunchy that the moment your teeth sink into them, the flakes graciously dissolve in your mouth. Then your taste buds are blissfully bombarded by the sugary currants.

What about a sweetbread? This is a baked sweetened flour delicacy that contains grated coconut, a moist, heavenly crust, and often looks like its insides are raided with rainbow coloured fruit.

These are just two of the products Sharon bakes that are indigenous to the Caribbean. On a regular basis, her kitchen is filled with a plethora of pies, breads,

lunches, and dinners... which brings this little food outing to the next chapter.

Sharon also bakes a mean potato pie. She uses standard ingredients, just like anyone else – salt, flour, potato – but her real secret lies in the extra ingredients like shadon beni (one of the more popular Caribbean spices), onions and hints of garlic. When these flavorful components are combined they allow Sharon to produce a version of potato pie that is quite unforgettable – just be sure you have enough “belly” to endure the taste of her meanest ingredient – pepper. The thing is HOT!

But oven goods aside, occasionally Sharon would go the extra mile to please her pickiest customers. “Oil-down” anyone? Most locals are aware of what “oil-down” is; just hearing the word could evoke random images of people rubbing their tummies in delightful anticipation.

Oil-down is a popular lunch, often cooked on Sundays, that’s made with chunks of fresh breadfruit, an array of scrumptious seasonings, and can optionally be spiced up with nearly any type of meat. When this food is hot, the breadfruit tastes like warm butter melting in your mouth, and as slithers down your throat it tempts you to say cheesy things like, “Wow, what a mouthful!”

Sharon’s cooking has become

so popular that some customers even take it upon themselves to blindly attack her with food cravings. No longer would some of them give her a call, telling her what they’d like ahead of time; they usually stop by, shamelessly uninvited. When this happens, Sharon quickly promises them that she would see what she could do, and then she rushes into her kitchen and whips something up as promptly as she can.

Her tag line says it all: “If your taste buds are seeking food of true Trini flavour, you can’t go wrong by giving Aunty Sharon a moment of your time.”

– K Hilaire





# Serving breakfast, lunch and a bright smile!



Gail David passionately shares her experience as a small business owner in the food industry in Trinidad. She owns Lady G's food stall in Port of Spain.

**M**y name is Gail David, I'm 36 years of age and my kids are the main reason I started my food business. I had my first child, a son, when I was 14 years old and my second child, a daughter, when I was 17. I went into this business to make sure that my children don't go through what I had to go through. I realised there was no turning back. I had to set a good example for them so they would not make the same mistakes that I made.

I always loved doing food because I grew up with a Tobago heritage. I got into the business and it carried me far. I love the food industry and everything in it, which even made me bring in my son who is now 17. In fact, he is the cook right now in the kitchen. His name is Shane David and I taught him the trade. He also wants to open a food business right here in Trinidad.

I love my country. I am staying in Trinidad and will not leave my country because here we still have neighbours. It isn't just people. You can still go to your neighbour and ask for something and say, "I will bring it back later for you," and trust



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me, it is not so outside in the States. Everyone is for themselves. I have experience with that when I went abroad once and I prefer my country any day.

I choose my country because it is magnificent. We could walk home when the sun is shining and when the rain is falling. The citizens are a happy people. We have our problems, but we are generally a happy people. We have a little crime situation now but I believe we could get through it with the communities coming together. It is a lovely country to come to because of the happy spirit. Don't talk about we Carnival! Everything going good for us.

Business in Trinidad is sometimes fast and other times slow and that is why we need the tourism industry to improve. We need the tourists to come to get lovely good food. I specialise in any creole food. I can do Chinese, Indian curry, Creole, anything. I can also do outside dishes like Mexican chicken and Arabic dishes like Musaca pie. I can do anything and I do it here.

At month end when a lot of people come, I do the side dishes. I also do dishes like crab and dumpling, Tobago dishes, barbeque lamb and others at lunch time. For breakfast we do the local dishes like salt fish and buljol, smoke herring, fry fish fillet and all these little different things.



We have natural bake that is hand kneaded and we also have our local bakery breads that we also sell.

I believe I have a good relationship with my customers. Trinidadians like "mamaguy". They like names like "Darling", "Lover", "Baby" and others. They really like you to call them these names. You have to have a good relationship with your customers because without

them you don't have a business. So you must show your customers that side of you and that always keeps them coming. My biggest crowd is at lunch time when all kinds of people come from different offices. My weekends are a lot slower because I don't have my usual business crowd. I also have other locals but they are in the minority as compared with the business community.

At one time a customer told me that I carried her back home. She was an old lady about 87 years old. She said I carried her back to when she was a child when her mother got up and made a hot cup of tea for her with a nice coconut bread straight from the oven and her salt fish buljol. She was a child again.

This gift is definitely going on to my generations. My advice to young people working in Trinidad is to stay in your country. Build your country. At least anywhere you go in the world you'll know you have somewhere to come back to. The country is a welcoming country. So stay, build and don't give up! Even though you make mistakes at times don't give up because at the age of 17 I had two kids and I did not give up. Right now I have six children but I can take care of each and every one of them and send them to school. So don't give up, never give up cause you can make it.



One Shot  
Photography

715-1908  
219E6B1B

# Liming in Gasparee Caves

## Down the Islands

I have always heard about the famous Gasparee Caves Down the Islands and for a long time I really wanted to go. Earlier this year, I went by my hairdresser and one of her clients was talking about how she and her church group recently had a lime down Gasparee. While I was eavesdropping on their

conversation I finally found out how to organise a trip of my own.

The very next day in work at T&TEC I asked a bunch of people if they ever heard about or went to Gasparee Caves. I also asked a couple of my other friends the same thing. I really was just thinking of a small group, possibly ten people,



but that number turned into 23 because everyone either brought a sister, brother, cousin, husband or best friend. And even though the process of making sure people were going - the collection of money to make down payments and organising the trip - was tiring, it was definitely worth it. The girls organised the food and the boys the drinks. We had vodka, scotch, orange juice, and soda. We made fried wings, sandwiches and other finger foods. All of this was for a supposedly four-hour trip.

On the way to the island everyone was really anticipating how the place would be. We were also trying to

imagine what life would be like living on one the islands we passed. When we arrived we met the tour guide who took us up to a house where we put down our bags, coolers and other stuff. The walk to the house felt never ending. It felt like we were exercising while walking up the hill but the scenery was really nice.

At the house everyone immediately started to eat, drink, talk, laugh and really enjoy themselves. Ayanna Best thanked everyone for coming, then she presented Shervon Bushell with a birthday cheese cake, a gift on behalf of the T&TEC team, and everyone sang the Happy Birthday song. It





was a little surprise we prepared for him as his birthday was the day before.

The tour guide then told us it was time to go down to the caves. When we heard “caves” we were really thinking of something small with two little bats flying around and a shallow pool of water to just put in our feet. Little did we know that the cave was going to be this huge underground amazing place.

Walking down into the cave was scary at first but when we were deep inside everyone was like “wow.” The structure really gave that “horror movie” finish but it was fascinating to see that our little country had such an awesome site. The water inside the cave was crystal clear where even though it was about seven to 14 feet deep we could actually see right down to the bottom. When the light from an opening on top hit the waters, the reflection on the walls seemed as if there were tiny mirrors just sparkling in different colours.

To show how deep the water

was the tour guide jumped in first, then Ayanna followed. Like a domino effect everyone joined them. The buoyancy of the water even allowed people who couldn't swim to come in because they would always stay afloat. It then became a photo fiesta. There were group shots, single shots, shots with husbands and wives, and with best friends. The tour guide gave us some stories of the place and of other groups that came. He was really friendly and in turn we offered him drinks and food.

After a good while in the cave it was time for us to leave. So we all came out the water, walked around to see the rest of the cave and of course took some more pictures. We went to the house, changed our clothes and prepared to leave. This trip was definitely worth it. I would recommend every Trinbagonian or visitor to make a visit, especially with good, mad, fun friends like I did.

– C Wilson



# Tobago family trip



The Cruickshank family having fun at Fort King George, Tobago



Scenes at Fort King George. Photos by Chantelle Wilson

# The ultimate NATURE PARK in Valencia

When was the last time you saw a single place that caters for possibly everything that is fun?

An unplanned visit to the Valencia Nature Centre and Heritage Park alongside the Valencia Old Road really caught me off guard as I had never heard of or seen this place before.

When I first stepped onto the park's compound everything seemed average, but just five minutes after being toured around, boy, did I encounter some breathtaking surprises! I am never one to fall for exaggerated claims, but Trevor Anthony is a person who never makes such claims, when in fact he has every right to do so.

Attractions include horse-back riding, swimming, hiking, waterfalls, river lime, petting farm, equestrian centre, outdoor kitchens, barbecue huts, basketball, cricket, hopscotch, marbles, cookouts, parties, sports







days, field trips, family reunions, sightseeing, and exotic trees and plants. In the development stage are a pool set, miniature island, streamlined watercourse, condominiums, hotel, guest rooms, camping and fishing facilities, mini market, plant nursery and wildlife park, just to name a few. At the beginning it all sounded pretty extreme, but the more I walked around and listened to Trevor and his wife Merle talk about the place, the more I understood just how much a man on a seemingly impossible mission is capable of.

Trevor has done mostly everything all by himself, at least when it comes to seeing his outstanding park grow wings of its own. For over a decade, he has been knocking on countless doors, public and private institutions, yet no one seemed to want to aid him in creating the ultimate nature park. Trevor is no Martin Luther King but he does have a dream – though a more typical dream that involves thousands of people putting down their electronic devices and enjoying the fresh air and the tropical sun. But this is far from the only thing he dreams about.

Being “ultimate” in anything requires the sort of zest that world-class professionals possess – motivation. Trevor plans to utilise all his resources to eventually create

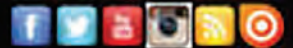


Trinidad and Tobago’s grandest entertainment park. He is determined that if no one wants to help him fulfil his dream, then he’ll do it all by himself, and if I must say so, the pictures that I took conveyed a very well-rounded vision.

Imagine, what if you could learn to ride a horse for under US \$2 or take a mountain hike for only thrice the price? Or what about renting a well-equipped kitchen near a riverbank with a bunch of friends for around US \$80 per day? Not bad, huh? Especially when you consider the park is fully equipped to allow you to do all of this right now.

Kudos to Trevor and Merle Anthony for giving T&T’s citizens and visitors this luxurious place in Valencia to experience the ultimate time of their life. – *K. Hilaire*





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