

Sweet TnT

MAGAZINE

Issue #3 January 1, 2013

Mas man

**Novelist
faces the
Creole
language**

**Maritimers
on the
runway**

**T&TEC staff
lightens up
in Tobago**

**Canada Hall's
hermits for life**



Sweet TnT

MAGAZINE

Trinidad and Tobago culture for so!



[Click here to view magazine](#)



[Click here to view magazine](#)



ADVERTISE WITH US

Call 782-4808

or email us at

contact@sweettntmagazine.com



T&T men on de road



Carnival 2013 is here and many people are getting ready for the road. In these Sean Nero 2012 Carnival photos, cover included, Yuma and Tribe mas men show how it is done in T&T with their sunglasses, cups, and the right amount of energy.

Editor's note

It's a new year and we have successfully published our third issue of Sweet TnT Magazine. As usual, the magazine that is posted on www.sweettntmagazine.com caters to the tech savvy generation who get most of their information from laptops, tablets, and smart phones and continues to reach people from all over the world using the Internet.

Our team however learned something new during our promotional campaign launch in November 2012. We interacted with numerous cultural ambassadors in Trinidad and Tobago who are eager to show the world their culture beyond major celebrations through our magazine. They have been anxious to tell their friends and families living abroad about the website stating that they want to show them how we do things here in T&T. We felt the need to bring the magazine closer to our local people so this year, we also have a print version! Now people at national libraries, universities, restaurants, and hotels can enjoy this magazine as a hard copy.

In this issue, we have three very interesting interviews. A medical doctor who is also a novelist tells us about the challenges she faced while writing the Creole language. An economist who runs her own make-up studio plans to take the industry to another level. Last, just when we thought that Milner Hall of the University of the West Indies was indeed the "Hall of Halls" as claimed by a Milnerite in Issue #1 of this magazine, a group of hermits of Canada Hall proudly tell us that their Hall is the best Hall because "you are a hermit for life". Issue #3 also features staff members of Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and Maritime Financial Group enjoying sports and fashion and having a ball outside their work environment. Also, there is an interesting article on the food debate and experiences of persons in Palo Seco and Santa Rosa.

Once again, congratulations to our team members for putting together another impressive issue of Sweet TnT Magazine. Special thanks to all the persons who contributed to the publication in every way. We appreciate the support we get from our advertisers, readers, and Facebook fans and hope our relationship will grow even stronger. This continuing support of Sweet TnT Magazine shows us how passionate people are about spreading the positive aspects of our country, which still has an abundance of sweetness in the midst of many ills around us.

We continue to invite readers to share their light experiences in T&T with the world through our magazine. We welcome your articles, photographs, poems, comments and videos. Feel free to send your information to contact@sweettntmagazine.com or sweettntmagazine@gmail.com for large files and see it in upcoming issues of Sweet TnT Magazine. Our readership is very wide and we want to continue to show people who know nothing about our culture the little things that make us say, "This country sweet too bad!"

Joyanne James
Editor

Contents



Maritimers on the runway	7
Canada Hall	10
Economist in the make-up industry	13

Creole Corner

Dr Beverley Ann Scott book review	17
Late For Work poem	19



Cook-off in Woodbrook	21
The great food import bill debate	23



Palo Seco Beach	25
Santa Rosa Park	26
T&TEC staff in Tobago	30

Credits

Editor Joyanne James	Media consultant Andrew Pitman
Layout/comic artist Andrina James	Webmaster Andre Harrington
Marketing representative Jevan Soyer	Publisher Culturama Publishing Company 31 Maitagual Road, San Juan, Trinidad
Writers/photographers Rachael Cedeno Kielon Hilaire Chantelle Wilson Edwin O'neil Ian Ivey Sean Nero	Printer TechXpress 579 First Street, Edinburgh 500, Chaguanas, Trinidad



Proud vendors at Tunapuna Market

Vendors are all smiles at Tunapuna Market as they pose with their goods for Sweet TnT Magazine's camera on Sunday, December 30, 2012. Some foods on display are Cavali fish and lobster (above); shrimp, dasheen bush, breadfruit, mangoes, carambola aka five fingers fruit, and pomegranate (at right and below); and melongene, lettuce, plum, and hot pepper (below). See Ian Ivey's article on the great food import bill debate in the Food section. Photos: Jevan Soyer





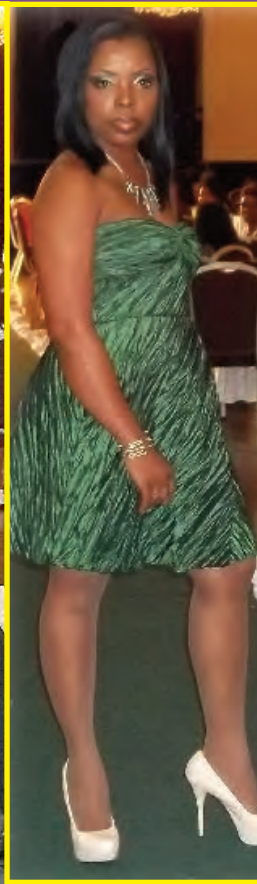
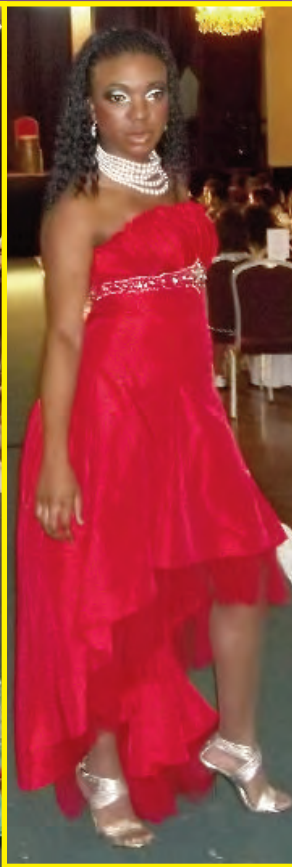
We Buy
Gold

TURN YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY
INTO CASH!

WE BUY GOLD, SILVER, PLATNIUM, PAWN TICKETS, BROKEN JEWELRY, NEW JEWELRY
20 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE, PORT OF SPAIN CHAGUANAS SAN FERNANDO CUREPE COUVA ST JAMES LONG CIRCULAR MALL

CALL 383.3693 FOR MORE INFO

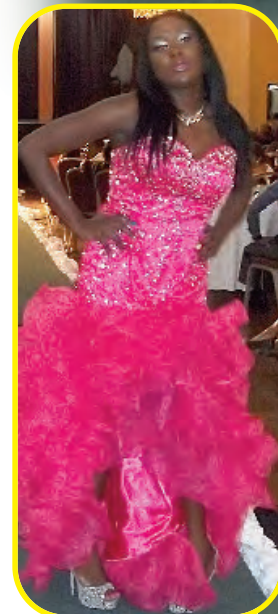
VACANCIES ALWAYS AVAILABLE CALL NOW OR EMAIL WEBUYGOLDLTD@GMAIL.COM



Maritimers on the runway

Glamour was in the air as Maritimers Sports Club presented their first Runway Sell Off at Cascadia Hotel Ballroom on November 11, 2012. An evening of elegance unfolded with friends and families sharing smiles and laughter as models strutted their stuff along the runway that extended through the audience giving all a close view of high quality fashion from talented designers.

Models were members of the Maritimers Sports Club who were mostly staff and family members of the Maritime Financial Group. Even their children as young as three to five years old paraded on the runway. The models were trained by Sergio Montano. The show was produced by a committee consisting of Deborah King, Clair Sylvester-Daly, Annmarie

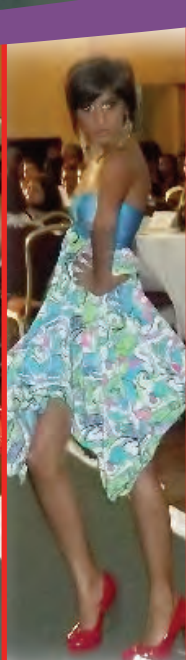
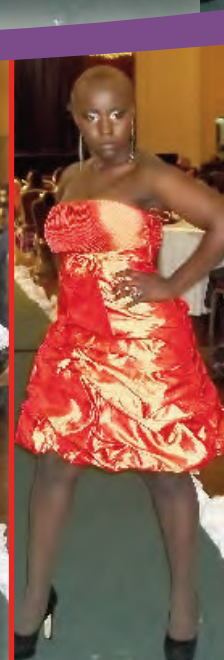
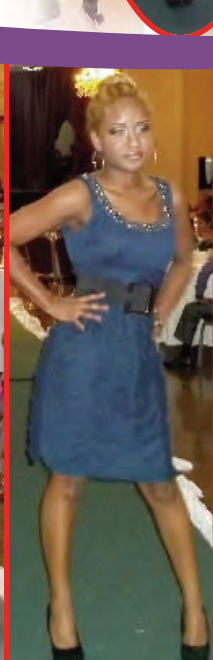
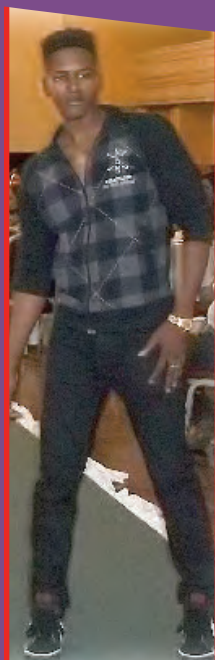
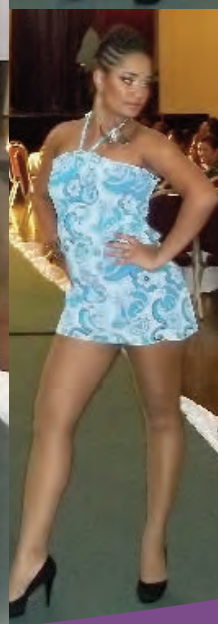
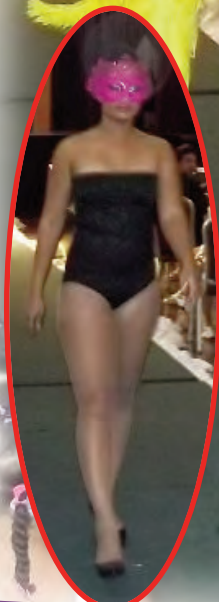


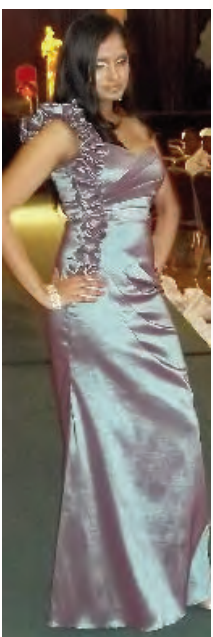
Barbaste, Rachel Belle, Allison Thomas, Claudelle Graham-Waldron, Melissa Paul and Pansy Montano.

Guests were greeted by Stephen Baboolal and Nisha Ramroop-Kong as they came in the ballroom. MC Katyan Roach gave a warm welcome and thanked all for their support. She hosted the show with great humour and kept the proceedings on course. The National Anthem was elegantly sung by Alannah Stoute. Music was provided by CEO John Henry Smith of JCS Sounds who played soca, dancehall, R&B, hip hop, romantic styles and pop music. Live entertainment was performed by Makeda Bermingham and Western Laventille Drummers. Marsha Woodly serenaded the audience with her beautiful voice during a wedding segment.

The segments presented were High Fashion, Elegantly Casual, African, Indian, Evening, Wedding, Carnival, and Swim apparel. Designers were Ricky B, Adrian Foster, Milan Dash, Prem Baboolal, Heidi Walcott, Stacy Smith, Leeann Dindial, Chris Thomas, Rosie Brathwaite, Nicholas Baggy and some garments were provided by Susan Exclusive Sizes.

The team gave special thanks to all persons who played a part in the production of the show inclusive of Cascadia Hotel and HR Manager Sheree Ann Ramsingh. The show was well organised and very entertaining. Guests were treated to refreshments and left completely satisfied. — **Jevan Soyer**





Life in T&T by A. James sweettntmagazine.com

Why buy new outfits for Carnival time when ah could borrow clothes from meh lil sister?!



Canada Hall

a real brotherhood



Once again Rachael Cedenio shares with readers a Hall story at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. Milner Hall was featured in Issue #1 on www.sweettntmagazine.com and now Canada Hall hermits Carey Forrester (Hall Chair), Bridgemohan Harry and Winston Scott tell us about their Hall.

So what exactly is a hermit?

Carey: Well we're not at liberty to tell you what exactly a hermit is (grinning), we cannot discuss that for obvious reasons. But the pull for becoming a hermit, in my opinion, is basically because the hermitage is like a brotherhood. You know most of us here are international students so you don't really have that backbone here that supports, family support, so when you come here it's like this is the family you have. These set of men are becoming your brothers now so you have to adapt. I mean we all come from different backgrounds so it's not like home where you have your mother, your father, your brother, your sister, where everybody has similar traits. You come here and everybody is different. Everybody has different traits, different characteristics and different levels in life.

So is it something that equalises you basically like a family?

Carey: Yes, basically. I might come from, for example, the Garrison that's like Laventille and you might come from somewhere like Diego Martin, and you might think that you are better off than me because you have more money and you can afford this, and I can't.

But, being a part of the hermitage basically teaches you that everybody is equal and that although we may be from different statuses in the society, this is your brother. And it teaches you to act as a family.

You basically look out for each of them. Say for example you're doing a degree and being the average person you can't

*Once a
hermit
always a
hermit*

undertake a degree by yourself without help from other people. No matter how bright you feel you are, at some point there must be something that you don't understand. And being a hermit you know you may have somebody who is in the class or doing the same course as you, either a year above or in your year, and I mean sometimes you might miss something and you know you have that support structure where that person might explain it to you.

Sometimes you're studying at two o'clock in the morning and you can't get it, you have your brother right there, he comes in and just explains that to you and you understand, so to me there are more pros than cons. With every group you have some disadvantages but to me the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

Is the hermitage limited to campus life or is it something that extends to life after UWI?

Carey: It extends to the wider society too because as a brotherhood it's like a family so let's say I'm in a company and I have a big managerial position, if I see a person applying and I get to know that's a hermit well then, more than likely, that person will have first preference. Not because of prejudice but first because of the morals and values that were taught. I mean you would be disappointed if you just go out on a limb and that person doesn't live up to the standard. But at the same time you're expecting a certain standard, a certain quality if this person is a hermit.

What does the hall do for campus?

Carey: We participate in, like, charity events. One of the events we participate in is "Habitat for Humanity".

Winston: Habitat for Humanity is an organisation where



Las Cuevas Beach Lodge

Las Cuevas Beach Lodge is a small unique hotel catering to eco-lovers and quiet type interested in local culture and cuisine. Turtle watching, bathing, diving, hiking and deep sea fishing available. Local food from fresh produce and daily caught seafood.

Snugly nestled on a hillside overlooking the Caribbean Sea, against a background of mountains of the Northern Range, and surrounded by lush tropical rain forest, our lodge offers all the ingredients of a Caribbean vacation and more. Sun, sand and sea with the added bonus of crystal clear rivers, deep green valleys and majestic mountains.

Las Cuevas Beach is a nesting ground for leatherback turtles. The turtle watching season runs from February to August and many adult females return to lay their eggs on the same beach where they were hatched many years ago after navigating the world's oceans. They come ashore at night and if not disturbed, will lay about 60-80 tennis ball size eggs, several times during the season.

Tours are available to observe this phenomenon of nature.

Amenities: • Bar • Laundry/Dry cleaning services • Restaurant
• Airport shuttle • Fax (for guests) • Complimentary breakfast
• Room service • Non-smoking rooms • Beach access

Visit us at <http://www.lascuevasbeachlodge.net/>



Government builds houses around Trinidad for poor people. Often times when they have these projects they seek labourers so we as men would go out in a group and give a day's work or two.

Bridgemohan: Presently, I've been looking into doing something for St Michael's Home but because the guys have exams right now we're looking at that for next year.

Winston: Also the "UWI Can Drive" was an initiative of past hermits. You bring a can so you can enter a party and the cans go to the children's home.

Bridgemohan: And we also contribute to other organisations that need help.

Winston: Well let me expand about fraternities. Speaking in general people fear what they don't know and I've been here for... this is my fourth year. I've done my undergrad and I'm doing my master's now and I've heard people call the hermitage several names. Some people call it a cult, some people call it a homosexual group whatever whatever. But as I said, people fear what they don't know and on that basis we, without prejudice, go on and do what we do.

Even administration, not only Canada but all the other halls, they don't want this kind of brotherhood to develop. And it doesn't span from just here, this admin, but the wider society on a whole. I've heard these arguments against developing such institutions at UWI.

I don't know if you know about the "Skull on Bones Society". It's a big society worldwide. It has men who are very powerful in high places and it was developed in Yale University. Up to today they still have that society. It's made up of the elite group of students and they have meetings every Thursday in the old dormitory still up to today. And that was developed from in the 18th century.

Fraternities like this are really found all over the world and it's easier on Canada Hall because it's all male. We don't have a female to interject and come up and say, "Well no, my menstruation comes up that day" or "I need a bathroom", you understand? We men, when we come together, we select a leader, we adhere to the rules and regulations easier. It's easier to compromise and say alright, even though I am richer than him or I'm from an upscale neighborhood and he's from a poor neighborhood there's compromise. We'll eat the same food and if he doesn't have I'll share with him.

Is the brotherhood really that ideal?

Bridgemohan: No, we have fights but nothing that isn't easily resolved. The brotherhood isn't perfect but it works well.

Would you say Canada Hall is the best hall?

Winston: Yes, the reason Canada Hall is the best hall is it's the only hall without a gate and it's the only hall where no robberies take place. You don't hear about an outsider coming inside the hall or a laptop missing out of a room. We have an open door and those things don't happen. So there has to be something behind these walls that keeps us protected and that is the brotherhood that looks out for each other. So that's why it is the best hall.

Once a hermit always a hermit, it's a lifetime thing. I've met doctors, lawyers, people in high places who stayed at the hall and when they ask me, "Where are you staying?" and I tell them

Canada Hall, they go right back to their UWI days. These are big men you'd think would let go of this kind of thing. No, it's with you for life.

But hall life is good. I think it's the best thing you can ever experience as a university student. I think everybody should have at least one year of hall life if you go through any university. Just like in Cuba where you have one year of military service, a university student should have one year of hall life, just to experience that unitary coexistence with somebody from a different background.

What the university is promoting on paper is integration, however what they practise is segregation. Most times the other halls might have activities and you as a student displaying your ID are barred from those activities not by the students from the hall but by the rules and the regulations set by UWI. So I don't know how they expect to achieve unity.

And in the work world today you have to socialise and you can't choose who you're going to work with. You meet people of different backgrounds that you have to work with and this brotherhood teaches you that you are one and how to cope with people from different backgrounds.

If given another chance would you choose to make the same decision to stay on Canada Hall?

Winston: After I experienced the morals and values portrayed by this noble hall I wouldn't go elsewhere and pledge allegiance to any other fraternity or institution.

Readers may share stories, photographs, poems, comments and any content related to their life experiences in Trinidad and Tobago whether as a citizen or visitor. Send your information to contact@sweettntmagazine.com and see it in upcoming issues of Sweet TnT Magazine on www.sweettntmagazine.com.



Local economist has big plans for

Make-up industry in T&T



Nazera Abdul-Haqq

Nazera Abdul-Haqq, 25, is both an economist and make-up artist by profession. She has a master's degree in Economics from UWI, St Augustine, and is a practicing economist. At her home, she runs a make-up studio of which she is very proud. She shares with Sweet TnT Magazine's readers insights about her experiences as a make-up artist in Trinidad and gives a sneak peek of her plans for the field.

I always had a passion for make-up. I work as an economist during the day and do make-up on evenings and weekends. My mummy gave me the dining room and I turned it into a studio at the side of our house in Trincity. I have a fair amount of clients who like my work so business is alright. My best job was for Carnival 2012 when I did my friend Stacy's make-up giving her the zebra look. She was very satisfied with it and I look forward to doing more creative jobs in 2013.

My worst job was for a bridal party of seven when the



bride kept on crying. When I was finished with her she cried some more causing me to do over the make-up on her eyes. Although she kept spoiling the make-up, it was important for me to be patient because at weddings it can be very frustrating when people get emotional – for example, when the bride's mummy comes in and she cries even more. So, for weddings I usually have to prepare myself and say, "Let's go!"

My intention is to do make-up on a much higher level. I plan to go abroad to study make-up professionally because in Trinidad and Tobago it is

not taught at the level that I want to learn. People here teach bridal and carnival make-up which is very simple and does not require any kind of theatrical skills. I want to do make-up for television where you create characters from scratch like the hobbits in Lord of the Rings. I must be able to construct something as far as my imagination can go. My plan is to learn how to do this well and come back to Trinidad and Tobago and teach it. I want to create a devil, hide eyebrows, make scars, give the illusion of an arm cut off, or make someone look older. I want to teach





Make-up studio in Trinicity

people here how to make all sorts of creatures using silicone.

Since there is no demand for this skill in T&T at present, I want to train people and export services just like the energy sector in T&T. The energy service sector is the most competitive service sector in Trinidad. We have schools that train technicians and then export their services abroad. My plan is to do the same for artists here who would work in other countries and come back to Trinidad and Tobago where they have their lives and families. By creating a Trinidad and Tobago brand the artists' incomes would be repatriated here.

My advice to other artists would be to not confine yourself to what you think is make-up. It is not only about bridal and carnival make-up where you put on a few gems. You have to think outside the box and try to be the best in whatever area you want to make your career path,

whether it is make-up or hairdressing. You want to have the latest styles and techniques in everything. To do that, you must become certified. Get the training you need. Trends change very fast and you don't want to be twenty steps behind

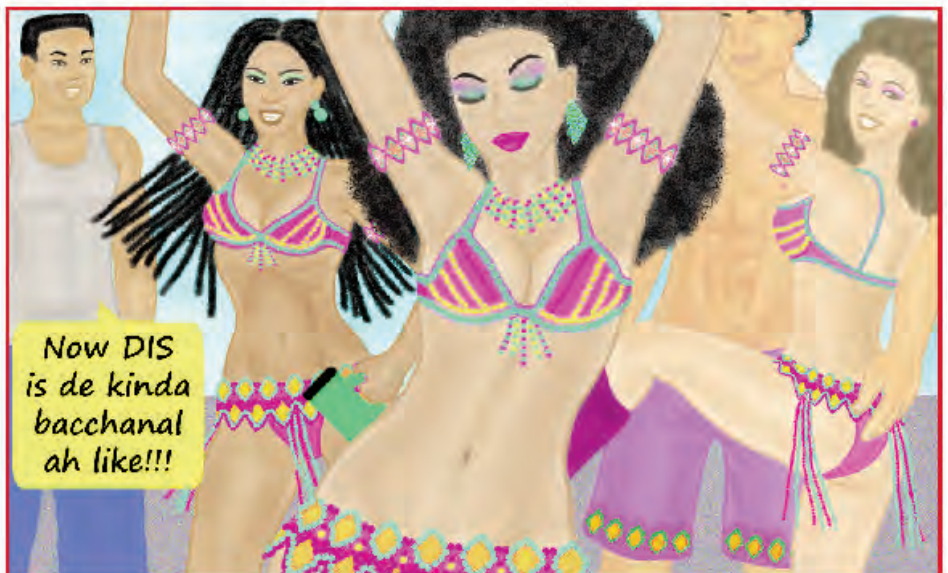
in Trinidad and Tobago while the rest of the world is moving forward in the profession that you choose. I don't want to make up pretty faces alone, I want to create anything my imagination allows me to.

Life in T&T by A. James sweettntmagazine.com

Ah cyah take dis kinda bacchanal!
Ah going St James and watch mas!



Now DIS
is de kinda
bacchanal
ah like!!!



GADGETEER

All The Best Technology In Your Hands



GADGETEER HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

KINDLES FOR ALL YOUR READING AND ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES.

KINDLE FIRE \$1650.00

**ASUS X401A
INTEL® CORE™ I3 PROCESSOR IN-
TEL® CELERON® DUAL CORE PRO-
CESSOR**

**DDR3 1600 MHZ SDRAM UP TO 4G
MEMORY**

320GB 5400RPM HARD DRIVE

ONLY \$3000.00

IPODS FOR ALL YOUR MUSIC NEEDS

IPOD NANO \$1250.00

IPOD SHUFFLE \$450

**PLUS MANY MORE LAPTOPS, ACCES-
SORIES, TABLETS. CHECK US OUT
NOW.**

**Contact Us At
223-9598**

Or Visit Us At

**Suite 204 Kawalsingh,
Building Montrose,
Chaguanas.**



Gadgeteer.



GADGETEER

TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR HANDS

QRC boy from the Beetham!

Medical doctor Beverley Ann Scott, writer of *The Stolen Cascadura*, shares with Sweet TnT Magazine insights about the Trinidad-based novel and the challenges she faced while writing the Creole language for her characters.

My name is Beverley Ann Scott and I am a medical doctor by profession. I worked for many years in the business and banking sector and then decided that I wanted to make a change in my life. I studied Information Systems and Management and obtained my first degree at School of Accounting and Management in that area. However I wanted a profession that would allow me to have more contact with people in their most vulnerable moments and so I changed career and became a medical doctor.

I have always enjoyed writing. When I was in school I enjoyed reading West Indian Literature. However most of the readings were very dated and far removed from the reality of my life. I wanted to write a novel that was uniquely Caribbean, modern and one that both old and young could enjoy. While writing this novel I thought especially of young adult readers, teenagers in school. I wanted to write a book that would appeal to that age

Many stories about Trinidad people written in Creole style

group but that would also have deeper meaning.

The Stolen Cascadura

The *Stolen Cascadura*, launched in 2007, is a West Indian novel set in Trinidad which revolves around characters from different socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The main characters come from two different backgrounds. Some are from the Beetham while others are from the more affluent parts of Trinidad and then there are those from the East. Their lives become intertwined in true Trinidad fashion and in some instances irreversibly changed. The book deals with the issues of class, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, and vagrancy. It deals with these issues in an enter-



Dr Beverley Ann Scott

taining way and uses simple language which makes it easier for the average person to read.

Most of the feedback has been good. Readers have been very vocal about what they like and dislike about the novel. This really encourages me and challenges me to keep writing and to do better. I don't expect my work to appeal to everybody but I do enjoy getting feedback from my readers, both the good and the bad feedback because that way I know when I've done something well as well as when I need to improve on something.

Standard English and TT Creole

I used very simple language in *The Stolen Cascadura*. My writing style is extremely simple. I do not know how to write any other way. I try when I am writing to imagine my characters as they speak and act and move as if they were real persons. So my writing reflects that simplicity. I do not use Standard English throughout. I use local dialect or what

The Truth Be Told

"Again Jesse? Why yuh want to go dere so much Jesse? Eh. Yuh ent feel dat yuh should give de boy some space?" It was Friday night and Ms Janice was not happy. "Ma is not like ah asking to go dere yuh know. He wants me dere and his mother too. She even told me so last weekend," Jesse replied defiantly. "She say dat yes but yuh know wha she saying bout yuh behind yuh back. Ah tired tell yuh all skin teeth is not grin yuh know." Ms Janice steupsed and turned down the heat on her stove. She was making fry bakes and saltfish buljol for dinner. "And why ah only hearing bout dis now at dis hour ah de night? And how come arrangements being made wit you now as if you doh have a mudder. Ah doh like this ting at all, at all, at all. Since when you get so bazodee about dis boy dat yuh cyah even listen to what yuh mudder trying to tell yuh eh chile."

Excerpt taken from *The Stolen Cascadura*, chapter 16, page 237

some call Creole. This makes my characters more alive and so it is easier for my readers to identify with them.

Most of the characters in the novel spoke Creole but because the novel deals with issues of class among many others, I tried to distinguish some characters by having them use proper English all the time. Socioeconomic status was a determining factor in deciding who would speak more Creole and who would not. I wanted everybody to speak some Creole because I think in our culture everybody speaks some Creole but I needed to make a distinction between certain characters so I could not allow everybody to speak Creole all the time.

I tried to use speech for each character that would help portray that character better. So for example in portraying a bandit, I used the type of language that I would expect a bandit to use. In portraying a wealthy lady who was important in society I used the sort of language in keeping with that character. Socioeconomic status played a big part as did the level of education of the character and the setting in which the person was speaking. For example even though the character Eddy was from the Beetham, he was going to QRC and was surrounded by young men speaking in a certain way during the day time. So I tried to straddle his character between some good English and some Creole.

Language challenges

My biggest challenge was writing Creole. The usage of words is varied as is the spelling. At first I tried to write out the words in the way in which they sounded but that was also very challenging. When I had to spell a simple word like “nothing”, I had to decide if when writing it in Creole I was going to spell it as “nutting” or “nuttin” because usually in Creole the “h” and the “g” are not pronounced. So I had to decide early and try to standardise it throughout the text and this proved very difficult. I used the Cote-ce-Cote-la dictionary to help me. However even after writing many things in Creole, I found myself re-reading the Creole out loud and not liking the way it sounded or even looked on the page.

It is much easier for me to write in Standard English because that is how we

“Creole is beautiful. It is our heritage and we must embrace it. Everyone will not like the use of Creole. I had some readers tell me that they could not bear to read the Creole... But I also had readers applaud me for the use of Creole and thank me for making the book more readable.”



Cascadura

have all been taught to write. Writing in Creole is much more difficult than speaking Creole and for me this was a huge challenge but I was committed to the process and I think it paid off in the end. I felt it was important to have the characters speak in a way that was in keeping with their roles. Anything else I felt would be unrealistic. I could not have my bandits in the novel for example speaking the Queen’s English. So I had to keep working on it till I got it right.

In my second novel not launched yet, I was much more discriminate in my use of TT Creole. What I discovered was that there were some words that did not need to be placed in Creole in order to get their meanings across.

An example is the word “that”. I realised that it did not add much to the speech of my character by using the correct spelling as opposed to spelling it like “dat”. The same for a word like “children” which is pronounced as “chirren” in Creole. So what I think or at least I hope I did better this time around was use the Creole more effectively and when necessary. When it was not needed I did not use

it. I think that by doing this I make the work more readable for a wider audience.

Writing the spoken language

To the people who wish to express themselves in their spoken language but feel challenged to do so, I say don’t give up, don’t stop trying. Creole is beautiful. It is our heritage and we must embrace it. Everyone will not like the use of Creole. I had some readers tell me that they could not bear to read the

Creole. They said they disliked the wanton use of the Creole and they felt that it distracted them from the story. But I also had readers applaud me for the use of Creole and thank me for making the book more readable because for them that is what the Creole did.

Most people in our society, especially those of the post colonial era did not grow up reading Creole. So for many people Creole is not something they expect to read in a novel. But I firmly believe that we cannot escape the use of Creole especially in the spoken word when writing or even relating stories about our society. To do that would be to deny our unique identity and to hide the richness that is our culture.

Speaking Creole is easier than writing it and this is why persons writing it should be encouraged to get it in context and to get it right. I am still fine tuning the art of writing Creole but I would never give up on it as a form of expression because it is a representation of who we are as a people. So to all those who struggle with it, I say struggle on, because one day, future generations will thank you.

Late For Work

Ah hope ah geh something to go down de road
Before dem school chirren come out
Oh gosh, like ah talk too soon,
ah shoulda hush mih mouth
Is so much ah dem and dey earlier dan me
But dey does leave all de cars to full de maxis
I doh geh no horrors, cause is quarter to eight
Ah have fifteen minutes before ah could say ah late

Cars passing like bush with plenty of space
Old maxis empty or just one old face
I just like dem chirren, I want de best
New maxi, music, conductor like pest
De maxi ah want, ah does hardly see dem
And if ah do see one it full ah school chirren

Ah waiting and waiting an cya see none at all
Best ah walk up higher and pass dat fruit stall
But wey dem big maxi, like dey gone on strike
Ah know all dem drivers does do as dey like
Ah staying right here and ah not going further
Why must I walk, I ain commit no murder

De sun getting hotter and ah starting to sweat
Ah feeling annoyed and outta breath
De time getting later and ah feeling confuse
At this time, ah doh pick and choose
Anything dat pass ah putting out mih hand
Is now self ah stopping dem old bread van
But suddenly dey full and passing straight
Ah get more irritated at quarter past eight

Well now self ah vex and ah screaming inside
Mih patience run out and ah lost mih pride
Ah doh care how ah look, ah feel to cuss everybody
Is not ah good morning, so doh tell it to me

Ah late for work, ah cyar stop walking about
But wait, ah maxi stop and somebody come out
Yes drive, ah going, take one and go
As ah sit down, de fire in meh cooling slow
Ah feeling calm, doh mind ah late
Ah laugh at those who my maxi pass straight

— Joyanne James

Sweet TnT

MAGAZINE

Make T&T sweet again!

Share your stories, photos, poems and comments
about Trinidad and Tobago with the world on
www.sweettntmagazine.com



Send content to
contact@sweettntmagazine.com or
sweettntmagazine@gmail.com

and look for it in
upcoming issues
on the website

See Issues #1 and #2 on
www.sweettntmagazine.com
for Trinidad and Tobago

Culture for so!





**6-8 Coffee Street,
La Piqué,
San Fernando.**

653-0231 | 653-5959



We open to the public Thursday 3rd January, 2013
Opening Hours: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fue Che's menu is mainly grilled items!!

BREAKFAST: Pancakes, Grill Fusion Home-made Bread, Grill breakfast sausage, etc.

SALADS: Mediterranean Grill Fish Salad, Grill Fusion Chicken Salad

SANDWICHES: Grill Ham Sandwich, Grill Fish Steak Sandwich, Grill Jumbo Hot Dog

GRILLED ITEMS: Grill Fusion Pork, Mediterranean B.B.Q Pigtail, Grill Shrimp, Grill Lamb Chops

SIDES: Wedges, Jasmine Rice, Onion Rings

SATURDAYS ONLY! Grill Fusion open with Soups: Pigtail a Soup, Oxtail Soup

These items are just a few items listed on the menu... Just to name a few

**Fue Che Grill Fusion is enriched with staff with great experience
of over 30 years in the Food & Beverage/Hospitality industry**



Crab and dumplin'





Crime Stoppers cook-off

Members of the Rotary Club of Port of Spain serve up sumptuous cuisine at Crime Stoppers inaugural Cook-Off held at the Princess Elizabeth Centre, Woodbrook, Port of Spain last October. Photos: Sean Nero

The great food import bill debate

By Ian Ivey

http://www.ttfi.net/article_view/522

What's the background?

One of the big focuses in the Caribbean region is the huge food import bills. In the last week of November a number of people from around the region – from public, private and R&D sectors – came together in Kingston, Jamaica, to participate in a high powered workshop titled "Adding Value to Local Foods for Food and Nutrition Security: Myth or Strategic Option". It was a fascinating event where some real myths were exposed and some much more focused strategic options identified.

What's the issue?

One of the big issues is import substitution. The government in T&T has said that it intends to reduce the national food



Cassava

import bill 50% by 2015. However, achieving such a radical turnaround is not likely to be as simple as the statement suggests.

Why is that?

One commentator, Mr Raffique Shah, said such a target is "over-optimistic as agriculture as a share of national GDP is today well below 1% and has declined as a

percentage compared to the preceding fiscal year". Shah noted that 62.5% of the current T&T food imports are in nine categories, namely:

- * 70,000 tonnes of wheat
- * 51,000 tonnes of maize
- * 15,000 tonnes of cheese and whole milk
- * 28,000 tonnes of compressed livestock feed
- * 28,000 tonnes of rice

Life in T&T by A. James sweettntmagazine.com



Sweet potato

- * 15,000 tonnes of soybean oil
- * 70,000 tonnes of sugar
- * 4,000 tonnes of beef
- * 4,000 tonnes of dried milk

He asks a very pertinent question. What substitutes can be produced in T&T to replace these relatively low value commodity products which are produced in highly efficient modern high-tech agricultural production environments at the most competitive international prices?

Why is it a pertinent question?

We examined an economic study done by Dr Ian Thompson at UWI Mona in Jamaica regarding the proposed use of cassava flour to replace wheat flour. There is just one problem. Even at today's relatively high wheat prices, wheat flour costs USD 95/kg and cassava flour USD 1.30/kg.

So that means if substitution was "enforced", local consumers would have to spend far more of their wages just to buy the same equivalent amount of basic

food – not exactly a good value proposition for them.

What's another example of a "bad" value proposition?

It's the sweet potato fries initiative that TTABA was pursuing here in T&T. They were paying the growers TTD 2.00/lb for raw sweet potatoes, processing them into fries and selling them to KFC TTD 0.67/lb – i.e. about a third of the cost of the raw

materials. So who pays the difference? The people in the country! In other words, T&T citizens would have helped KFC make even bigger profits by supplying them sweet potato fries at a fraction of the real cost because, at the end of the day, they would need to fund the gap between the raw material cost and the finished product sold to KFC. Luckily the deal appears to have collapsed.

What does this mean for T&T?

If T&T is going to reduce its reliance on imported food, then the approach needs to be based on viable value propositions. The original mega-farm projects, the 1000 acre sweet corn project, and replacing wheat flour with cassava flour are not going to deliver a viable value proposition for the citizens of T&T.

David Thomas of Market Movers summed up the real value proposition simply as follows: "The agricultural sector in small island nations should be maximising the addition of real value to locally produced food and the value created should be used to pay for the import, the cheap commodity foods (which will always be the case in relative terms if global food prices continue to increase)". That's it – sweet and simple. It's by far the best value proposition for our small island nations if we are serious about reducing our food and nutrition security risk.



Life in T&T by A. James sweettntmagazine.com



Nice and quiet Palo Seco Beach



One of the best kept secrets of the southland

Drive fifteen minutes from the Palo Seco Junction along the major road and you'll find yourself in a serene, relaxing place. At the Palo Seco Beach, the only sounds are the murmuring of the waves greeting the welcoming sand and the sea birds lazily spreading their feathers over the water as they sit cleaning them.

There are no cars or loud noises, only the sound of the wind as it moves the leaves on the huge trees or bends the tall grass that lines the roadside. Here, the sky is always clear except for a brilliant sun.

I went around asking people why they liked to come and what were their cherished memories. A woman lounging on the sand under a tree said, "As a child I loved to walk here in the morning with my favourite book in hand. I could sit for

hours under the shade of the carrot hut on the shore, just reading, and on days when I'm not busy I still like to do this."

A teenager wading close to the shore

shared, "Sometimes my little sister and I would come. Then we would splash in the water, build sand castles and do races, swimming first, and then running. I could also always find a beautiful shell to add to my collection at home."

This beach is probably one of the best kept secrets of the southland. It offers a quiet escape from the hectic world, kind of like a chance to rediscover Eden.

— Rachael Cedenó

DIRTY HEADLAMPS

We're mobile; will perform the work while you are at home or office!

FULL Restoration: Sanding, Cleaning & Polishing!

Job duration is approximately 80 minutes.

Prices Vary (depending on location & work required).

Must have a **SAFE ENVIRONMENT** for specialist & his vehicle.

Results may vary 90% - 100%

We will not entertain private/unknown numbers.



/DIRTYHEADLAMPS

CONTACT: 751-4843 ABDUL





Breezing through Santa Rosa Park

Here is a great landmark that occupies valued space in Arima. I visited the Santa Rosa Park to see what Trinidadians do there in the midst of all kinds of backchannel in the country. With an abundance of trees, a scarcity of people and possibly zero animals, I wondered what made this place so interesting for the people who I saw there every time I passed by.

In my observation, I can say that this is a place where many people come to take a little "sweat", where they power-walk or jog. The wide open spaces have made it a perfect place for the children and adults to fly their kites. Also, like many recreational grounds, people were simply relaxing or running about laughing and having fun.

I needed to know more than what I had seen so I asked a guy who was "breezing" what was his interest in the place. He said that he was currently waiting on a girl whom he met recently and they were going to begin the beautiful evening with a romantic walk in the park. This guy gave me an idea!

Also, I spoke to a woman while she

was jogging and she told me that she runs around the park after 3.00 in the afternoon five days each week. Her enthusiasm to share this personal information with a stranger tells me that she was in dire need

for some good company. Good thing I passed through the park that day!

Furthermore, while enjoying the atmosphere I took in the view of the surroundings outside the park and I noticed





Pathway in the park

from where I was sitting there were at least three schools, some flamboyant flat houses, and a magnificent, colossal church. It was even more soothing to see these buildings around the park.

Then I realised that my visit to the park had been much longer than I had planned. Even though I was not flying a kite or jogging with “my new friend”, I had spent the entire evening there all by myself even after I had already found out what I wanted to know.

While the Santa Rosa Park offered something different for many people, I found my thing that very evening. I stayed for the peacefulness, breezy atmosphere and green scenery. This was the only “bacchanal” that I needed to call it a perfect day. – **Kielon Hilaire**

A church close to
Santa Rosa Park





DESIGN

STUDIO

Design | 3D | Motion

Changing the world, one pixel at a time.

jason.m.banfield@gmail.com

(868) 764-6661

Copyright © 2012 Banfield Design Studio. All rights reserved



Moko Jumbies at Christmas Flea Market,
Harris Promenade, San Fernando



Library Corner, San Fernando



Fountain at Woodford Square, POS



Frederick Street, POS

Life in T&T by A. James sweettntmagazine.com



T&TEC staff lightens up in Tobago

Every year T&TEC has a football tournament where teams representing each area would compete against one another. This year the games were in Tobago and I was able to go to enjoy the trip and the action. Now everyone knows that it is the game we go for but somehow many of us really focus on the lime.

The tournament was on a Saturday so most people took the Friday evening boat across so that they could organise themselves. There were so many people on the port for the Friday evening boat that it seemed as if everyone in Trinidad decided to go Tobago that weekend and because of that the lines were queued outside the building. Nobody wanted to join those lines, so they bombarded anyone they knew in the lines with their tickets to check them in. The amount of "You know is a love!" that Terrance and Anton got from people when they were in the line it is a shame. Well thankfully



Supporters at the T&TEC tournament in Tobago.

everyone got checked in and made the boat, even though Kharnel and Oranzo cut it close by going for food in Long Circular Mall two minutes before the boat was ready to leave.

On the boat every man jack was asleep, which made the two and a half hours seem shorter. At the port in Tobago we all gathered and headed to our villa in Bon Accord. The drive wasn't too far from the airport but then again Tobago is small so nothing is really that far from anything. On the way men kept complaining about food saying, "I hungry like a slave!" Little did they know that Dwayne, Ayanna and Dianna surprised us with homemade pizzas, and with all those "slaves" to feed, within the blink of an eye most of the six pizzas I believe had finished.

That same night some of us decided to go to Tobago's famous night club Shade. There we met other T&TEC workers and we all just drank and danced the night away. We drank and danced so much that we forgot we had a football tournament that was to start in some hours.

The next morning those who were to play in the tournament and who had dealings with the sports club left early for the game and the rest of us stayed at the villa, liming and swimming in the pool. Slowly but surely everyone made their way to the games at the Dwight Yorke Stadium. By the time I arrived teams were competing in the quarters. I



Taking time to relax.

was in a bit of a pickle because my brother played for the Mt Hope side and the people I came with represented East Distribution. When that match was going on I was cheering for both sides. Anytime someone from either side scored I was screaming as loud as possible, so much so that people were watching me like a traitor.

Ultimately, East won that match and moved to semis where they played against their arch nemesis North. When I say nemesis I mean everything that T&TEC has that involves a competition, East and North are always neck to neck, friendly competition but competition

nonetheless. East won against North with penalty kicks which had the crowd crazy cheering, running and jumping all over.

The finals against Central were a nail biter. Everyone was at the sidelines, some spectators were even on the field like they wanted to join the players. This finals were so intense that the veins on Kerwyn's head were showing. The game drew 1-1 and it was down to penalties. It seemed as if people were praying for a win and God answered. That last penalty felt as if East won Champions League and of course there was once again screaming and cheering.

Writer Chantelle Wilson



T&TEC football team

The football side walked off the field shouting Arima! Arima! And like typical Trinis they joked with the manager about getting a day off from work. Anything to get a holiday is the Trini way. Drinks passed and we soon headed back to our villa. Some people went out to celebrate but I was "pooped."

The Sunday after was relaxing, well that was until the cricket game where West-Indies played against India. We were acting as if we were at the game or a bar, pounding the table, and shouting at the umpire.

Four o'clock snuck up on us and it was time to leave. We quickly packed and were off to the port to go to Trinidad as winners of T&TEC'S 2012 Football Tournament. What made the trip fun was just spending it with people you enjoy liming with. With them it is never about where they go or what they do, it's just about being with one another.

— Chantelle Wilson



Me and My Crew

Tell the
world about
your crew in

Sweet TnT
MAGAZINE

www.sweettntmagazine.com

Email your crew's story and photos to
contact@sweettntmagazine.com or
sweettntmagazine@gmail.com
and look for it in upcoming issues



See Issues #1 and #2 on
www.sweettntmagazine.com