

The logo for 'TEENTIMES 25' is positioned at the top of the page. The word 'TEENTIMES' is written in a colorful, blocky font where each letter has a different color (T: blue, E: yellow, E: green, N: orange, T: yellow, I: orange, M: orange, E: orange, S: orange). The number '25' is in a purple, stylized font with a gear-like detail on the '5'. The entire logo is enclosed in a black speech bubble shape. Below the logo, the tagline 'FOR THE YOUTH, BY THE YOUTH!' is written in a white, sans-serif font.

**TEENTIMES 25**  
FOR THE YOUTH, BY THE YOUTH!

November 2020  
VOL. 10 NO. 4

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue pinstriped suit jacket. They are looking at a wall covered in numerous colorful sticky notes (yellow, pink, green) on a light green background. The person's head is at the top, and their back is to the camera.

# The people's priorities

*Survey results page 3*

# 5 amazing jobs you could land with the right STEM education

When you think of someone who codes, you might picture a person hunched over a laptop in a dark garage. But that was the stereotype of yesteryear. Today, STEM careers have taken on a wildly different perception, and some of the coolest jobs around require a background in science, technology, engineering and math. After all, someone had to build and program all of the apps and gadgets you can't live without, right?



## 1. NASA Curiosity Driver

Below, we highlight five cool STEM jobs you should be jealous of. (And soon you could be an asteroid hunter!) Know someone else with a sweet science or tech gig? Let us know in the comments.

Who doesn't love Curiosity? The Mars rover touched down on the Red Planet in August and has beamed back photos, news of the weather, checked in on Foursquare and scored a nomination to be *Time's* Person of the Year. While we're all in the awe of this amazing robot, you might not realize that there is a human at the helm, navigating Curiosity over Martian terrain. One of the drivers is Vandl Tompkins (shown above with Curiosity's Earth twin), and she has one of the coolest jobs on (and beyond) earth. She holds a Ph.D. in Ro-

botics, M.S. in Robotics, M.S. in Computer Science and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, and spends her days "problem-solving with an incredible team".

## 2. EA Environmental Scanner

Those EA golf games are pretty lifelike, huh? That's because it's someone's job to fly around the world and scan famous golf courses and arenas so they can be as real as possible. That someone is Shannon Yates, who's been an environmental modeller for 12 years, and has been working on Tiger Woods PGA Tour since 2008. For his work on the golf game, Yates spends

up to eight days capturing thousands of high resolution photos and surveying an entire golf course using HDS (high definition survey) equipment, Cyclone and Scene. He logs as many as 150 scan locations on a golf course, which provides raw data that's within 6mm of accuracy.

After returning to the studio, Yates and team process and export the data to Maya, the 3D modelling application EA uses to create and texture the art you see and interact with in game. So don't take that lush grass for granted - there's a lot of data in each blade, and you can thank Yates for it.

## 3. Professional Hacker

David Parker is the Director of R&D at Novacoast, where he works in computer security, often dabbling in "James Bond-like projects." Penetration testing, which is also known as ethical hacking or white hat hacking, is the term used to describe what Parker does when anyone from banks to hospitals to educational institutions and government hires him to break into their systems as a malicious hacker or unhappy employee would. After breaking in, Parker and his team present a detailed report that "usually shocks

the executives," and then he helps them remediate their security vulnerabilities and develop custom software to make their systems safer yet easy to use.

## 4. Shapeways 3D Printing Materials Manager

William Wagner is a hybrid of a 3D Printing Engineer and a Materials manager. In short, he ensures that each customer's creations are produced as quickly as possible, and he also explores how new materials can be integrated into 3D printing (Shapeways prints in ceramic, steel and more) to enhance the technology. He's always looking to improve product quality and production efficiency. "Additive manufacturing is a relatively new field, so the technology is still in a volatile state of evolution," explains Wagner.

## 5. Tumblr Product Manager

Tumblr is home to 92.7 million blogs, which churn out 76,139,943 pieces of content per day and yield 20 billion

monthly page-views. The word "Tumblr" has pretty much become synonymous with "blog", and it takes a lot of work to keep a product like that top-notch. Renee Perron is project manager at Tumblr, where she helps the product engineering team complete their projects on time and with all the tools they need, so that Tumblr can become better and better. "What that involves is some QA, light coding, filing and assigning site bugs, helping to prioritize new features, working with outside partners, and lots of running around and asking people for favours," says Perron. She works in the project management system Atlassian JIRA, combs through Zendesk support tickets and makes small PHP changes to improve the Tumblr experience for its millions of users.

Source: [teenkid-snews.com](http://teenkid-snews.com)



TEENTIMES  
FOR THE YOUTH OF THE YOUTH  
is a publication of  
The Daily Herald  
Coordinator  
Rochelayne Rommy-Richardson  
Asst. Coordinator  
Nichele Abreu-Smith  
Fashion Editors  
Jennyvier Poullino  
Maya Ellis  
Content Coordinator  
Sarafina Walters  
Senior Writers  
Cecily Nicholas  
Chantalia van Heynegem  
Haila Forde  
Juliana Guerin  
Kandice Chambers  
Kiana Blanc  
Rohan Goswami  
Vanessa Mathew  
Junior Members  
Antonet Espinosa  
Dija Sachdev  
Evelyne Ilceus  
Henry Ramchandani  
Kenzira Hall  
Lavisha Dadlani  
Mary Jean Pariza Acevedo  
Noshavyah Whinfield  
Photographer  
Elvis Harigan  
Graphic Designer  
Evadney "Eve" Henriques  
Proof Reader  
Sharon Van Arnevan  
Contact info:  
Email:  
[teentimesxm@gmail.com](mailto:teentimesxm@gmail.com)



## ASKING FOR A FRIEND

### Dear Teen Times:

I have a really strict mom so I usually block her from seeing my WhatsApp status. However, one day she asked me to borrow my phone to make a call and I handed her the phone forgetting that WhatsApp was still open. She clicked my status and now she knows what I've been posting and that I have her blocked. Because of that, she is very upset and is threatening to take away my phone. What should I do?

### ~Seeking trust

### Dear Seeking trust:

We advise that you be more open with your parent. That way, she knows what you're doing and is not constantly worrying about what is going on behind her back. Also, while you're being open, mention your reason for blocking her; and watch what you're posting online, because what you post is how people will view you.

# Results of Teen Times Priorities Survey

At Teen Times, we often wonder how it is that various governments over the years have managed to address all sorts of issues and projects that don't necessarily carry the priority stamp of approval from the people.

It cannot be that elected officials do not know what their priorities should be, they campaign on the same issues every election. And if you campaign on the same issues every election, isn't that already a sign that the SAME issues are not being addressed by those elected over and over and we are stagnant?

So we wondered: Why can't a group of elected people get together and say, "Ok look! These are the priorities for our people and these are what we will solve in the first year of our term." We see it in other Caribbean destinations, why not St. Maarten? Or maybe we are wrong; maybe the people think their priority issues are indeed being tackled.

However, to make sure and to get clarity, we recently ran a very to-the-point survey online (via Facebook) and asked readers what St. Maarten's priorities should be. Some 18 options were given and respondents had to give a score on a scale of 1 to 10 for each option, with 10 being the highest and 1 the lowest. We ran the survey from November 9 to 16, and received 163 responses.

Here's the list of average scores, in order of highest to lowest:

01. Tackle high cost of living (GEBE, food) 9.07
02. Improve internet service 8.97
03. Effective disaster planning 8.75
04. Elderly care (pension reform) 8.69
05. Education reform 8.62
06. Job creation 8.6
07. Affordable housing 8.53
08. Economic diversification (not just Tourism) 8.53
09. More positive youth activities 8.28
10. Tackling crime / assist police 8.18
11. Tax reform 8.15



12. Performing arts centre 7.96
13. Position SXM as a regional innovator and tech leader. 7.2
14. New brand name hotels 3.71
15. Decolonization 3.47 (ten people didn't answer which could mean they had no opinion or don't know what decolonization is)
16. Independence for SXM 3.2
17. A drag racing strip 2.52
18. A Dolphinarium 1.93

One thing we do not want to do is to assume anything. Because we did not provide the option for respondents to clarify or provide content to their answers, we can only guess about certain motivations and reasons, and we will comment as such. The trend from top to bottom is very clear; however, in terms of what people think should be the priority areas.

•**Cost of living** taking the top spot should surprise no one. Many people live from pay check to pay check; penny to penny. After expenses are paid, there is barely anything left. Yet, there is no concrete explanation for GEBE prices, ever increasing food prices, low minimum wage, poor pension amount,

property rent, etc., etc. We are of the opinion that if you address cost of living, you are more than halfway there in delivering quality of life for your people. Who knew?

•**Improved internet service** almost made the top spot. Internet has evolved into a necessity of life. Yet, we are stuck with service that is oftentimes as bad as dial-up internet. Worst yet, we still do not know the reasons for this despite constant complaining.

•**Effective disaster planning** also scored high. Maybe that's because after every disaster – hurricanes and now a pandemic – we go broke within a month! So St. Maarten can't sustain itself for two months after a disaster? Where is the proper planning?

•**Job creation** scored an 8.6 while the **construction of brand name hotels** scored 3.71. Strangely people did

not mention because it is the only survey option that saw people decline to answer. Ten people didn't answer. We assume it's either because they don't understand the issue, or they are torn. But 153 people scored it low; so even if the 10 had responded, it would not have changed the low average score. Telling people they don't need to be consulted probably isn't helping either. You are spending the people's money in the process. Not consult them? Strange to us.

•**Independence for SXM** also scored very low on the priority scale at 3.2. In our opinion, the reason is simple: If you cannot address and solve options 1 to 10, talking independence to the people will be an uphill battle to say the least. Perhaps the people behind independence should redirect their efforts to pressuring government to ensure structures are in place to support an independent nation; or at least improve quality of life for your residents first. Saying that we can do it in the lead-up to independence or after we get independence is not a convincing argument for people who do not trust or have little faith in their government.

•**Dolphinarium:** To be fair, government had no plans to build one. But government can facilitate one. So in case anybody was thinking about it, the subject remains a huge NO!

•As we are a youth group and youth publication, we were happy to note the scores for more positive youth activities, **education reform** and the realization of a **Performing Arts Center**, which is very close to our heart. We will be making a lot of noise regarding the latter. Stay tuned.

We are sure there are a number of other areas of priority, such as the environment, but we will tackle those another time. Thank you for taking the time to participate in our survey.



not relate the two: because if you attract brand name hotels, you create jobs. Or maybe people want different types of jobs that go along with economic diversification which scored 8.53 in our survey. Perhaps people are also impatient with a fragile tourism sector that mostly provides seasonal employment, increased traffic and environmental problems.

•**Now a special mention for decolonization**, which scored very low 3.47 on the priority scale. We say special



Feature

# What are our MPs up to?

*We like to keep tabs on our Members of Parliament (MPs) every now and then and check-in on what they as MPs are working on for our country. It is our way of holding our elected reps accountable (in a good way) because all we want to see is positive work being done for St. Maarten, as we will inherit it one day. Therefore, through the secretariat of Parliament, we sent all MPs just one question: What legislation are you working on to improve the lives of the people of St. Maarten?*

MP Angelique J.G. Romou



the screening process for candidate Ministers. This is something that remains a serious point of contention whenever each new government begins the formation process.

"We're always reminded that there is no law or that the screening has to be screened, but no action has ever been taken to address this gap in our legislative system. This, as well as some items related to electoral reform, is what's on our faction docket for this Parliamentary year," the PFP told Teen Times.

• **MP Angelique Romou**

MP Romou is the Chairlady of the Committee for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Her committee is currently tackling one of her initiatives, which has to do with Special Education. Additionally, we can expect MP Romou to actively work on the following issues, most of which will require new or amended legislation:

- **Education, well-being and empowerment of our youth**
  - Development of a Spatial Education Law which will seek to establish official secondary schools for special education.
  - Provision of care and social support for Special Needs children and their parents.
  - Championing of better care of the youth of St. Maarten by establishing a national Multi-Disciplinary Team across ministries and NGOs.
  - Address the lack of status of St. Maarten Vocational Training School (MP Romou once taught at this school and knows where the shortcomings are). She will address the inadequacies in education policies and legislation that do not address the effective functioning of the school.
  - Access to extra-curricular activities for all children.
  - Establishment of a Gifted Scholarship Program for youngsters gifted in sports and arts. The Study Financing ordinance will be addressed to facilitate this.
- **Social issues**
  - Introduction of Positive Work Practices pilot project that promotes healthy family lifestyles with the end goal leading to amendments to existing labour laws to mandate these practices. For example, personal leave hours to allow parents to attend open days at school to observe their children.
  - Establishment of a food assistance program for our senior citizens.

The USP faction (MPs Claudius Buncamper and Akeem Arrindell), the PFP faction (MPs Mellissa Gumbs and Raeyhon Peterson) and National Alliance MP Solange Duncan were the only MPs to respond. We contacted MP Sarah Wescot-Williams separately for a story on the ban on single use plastics, also published in this issue. No other MP had responded by press time; but that's okay, we'll take what we have.

Here is what the MPs who responded are working on, or will be working on, during their term, which (we must say) has already lost a year due to COVID-19.

• **MPs Buncamper and Arrindell**

• **The Animal Cruelty Law:** This law already exists in St. Maarten and the proper enforcement is something we are also currently reviewing. The law will safeguard animals' rights and prevent cruelty to animals as much as possible.

• **A Tolerance Policy for decriminalization of possession, use and production of cannabis:** This policy will decriminalize the possession and growing of a "yet to be determined" maximum amount of cannabis for personal/recreational use.

• **Code of conduct and gift policy for parliamentarians:** To finalize the code of conduct and gifts policy for parliamentarians, which will prevent them from finding themselves in positions of conflict of interest.

• **Law on breathalyser test:** This law will allow law enforcement officers to perform a breathalyser test on individuals suspected of being intoxicated or under



the influence of alcohol while driving a vehicle on the public road, or being a nuisance to society. Presently, there is no legal manner to determine the state of such persons unless they freely submit to a blood test.

• **Law on noise pollution:** This law will equip law enforcement officers with a device to measure and determine the level of noise being produced.

• **Also on tap for the USP:** The adaptation of the electoral laws; reviewing the draft penal code.

• **MP Solange Duncan**

Besides chairing Parliamentary committees (more on what this is in a next issue), MP Duncan will focus on the following (some of which tie in with the results of our priority survey – so that's a good thing):

• **Education reform:**

- Amendments to improve Special Needs education (primary & secondary level).
- Law governing CXC education.
- Amendments to innovate primary and secondary education curriculums.
- Cultural and Heritage Law.

• **Healthcare reform:**

- Various legislative amendments to improve operational environment for and increase private physicians, thera-

pists.

- Amendments to improve mental healthcare provision.

• **Economic reform:**

- Law for development and protection of local MSMEs.
- Various legislative amendments to reduce poverty and vulnerability.

• **Public sector reform:**

- Amendments to the regulations regarding the structure and organization of government to improve efficiency, governance and civil service.

• **Environmental protection:**

- Law on national land park protection.
- Law on beach/sea (marine) protection.

• **MPs Mellisa Gumbs & Raeyhon Peterson**

As a faction, PFP is currently in the process of reviewing pending legislation from former sitting Parliaments that are in line with the items the party highlighted in its manifesto. This includes any legislation that encourages small business development, improving healthcare provisions and access, especially for women, and others.

The party chose this route because there are quite some pieces pending from previous Parliaments, at various stages in the legislative process. Aside from this, PFP is also working on a draft national ordinance to regulate

# MP Sarah – Blazing an important trail

By Cecilly Nicholas

*As we all know, pollution has a major effect on our environment. The use of plastic has a harmful effect on wildlife on the island as well as on marine life. When we use plastic, we often do not dispose of it correctly. Seeing that plastic is not biodegradable; plastic items can take up 1000 years to properly decompose in landfills. In this article, I will be interviewing Member of Parliament Sarah Wescott Williams about her initiative to ban the use of single use plastics. MP Sarah, as we like to call her, has found a well of energy to make this issue a top priority.*



## 1. What was your motivation in doing so?

The environment is one of my main concerns and the harmful effects of plastic on our environment in particular. The black “shopping” bags in our trees are a constant reminder that plastic will not just disappear. After some research into where to start and how best to approach it, I decided to start the process of banning the use of single use plastic bags in the General Police Ordinance.

## 2. Was the legislation passed? What measures are there in place to ensure compliance?

The legislation was passed unanimously on November 3, 2020. Close coordination with the government and between the relevant ministries are important to ensure compliance. The penalty for offenders is the highest in the entire Police Ordinance.

## 3. What is the process for introducing new legislation in parliament?

Any one or more members can introduce an initiative law, which can be a new law proposal or an amendment to an existing law.



Once submitted, it has to go to the Council of Advice, who advises and the initiative taker(s) has to react. Then it is ready for handling – first in central committee and then in a public meeting, where it is voted upon.

## 4. How long does the process take?

That varies. For example, the initiative law to ban single use plastic bags was submitted in August 2018.

## 5. Who is responsible to make sure that the legislation is enforced?

The government is – and parliament can exercise control through questions, etc.

## 6. When do you anticipate that the legislation will result in the complete eradication of the use of single use plastic bags on St. Maarten?

It's a process. During the trajectory, I included plastic straws and Styrofoam. So these are also banned as per July 1, 2021.

## 7. Do you have any other planned proposed legislation with reference to the environment?

I want to propose a harmful material ban, which will include many other harmful materials.

## 8. What do you think has had the biggest impact on St. Maarten's environment?

Our (solid) waste management, the landfill, our uncontrolled lagoon; lack of enforcement of, for example, the Waste Ordinance, the Hillside policy, etc.

## 9. What advice would you give to my generation with regard to the protection of the local environment?

Continue with the awareness, seeking buy-in from the population at large. Enforcement will always be a challenge, so people need to understand and appreciate why they are required to comply. Of course, there should be policies in place and sanctions, issued by the government, the proverbial stick behind the door.

*Although the ban of single use plastic is being established, we as the community can also find ways to stop plastic from being released into the environment, such as avoiding the use of single use plastic, recycling, and properly decomposing plastic items.*



# A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CHILD RESILIENCE AND PROTECTION PROJECT



*Teen Times recently took note of a general press release regarding the Child Resilience and Protection Project, funded by the St. Maarten Recovery, Reconstruction, and Resilience Trust Fund, through the World Bank. As it relates to young people, we naturally have an interest in the project and sent a few questions to World Bank reps for a little more information.*

*strengthening the systems that keep children safe. Please elaborate on which systems you referred to and how they will be strengthened?*

The Child Resilience and Protection Project is a Trust Fund project to help Sint Maarten's children and teens become stronger and build skills to cope with shocks, such as hurricanes. It also helps educators and parents to give their children the kind of support they need and it supports schools to be prepared for natural or other kinds of disasters. UNICEF-NL will receive the funds to carry out all project activities and programs together with the Government of Sint Maarten.

**• Why is it so important to protect children during and after natural disasters?**

During natural disasters, children tend to be more vulnerable. We know from the Government of Sint Maarten and the Police Department that there have been more incidents involving violence to children since Irma. Also, there have been cases of children being taken off-island without their legal guardian.

We also know from the experience of other countries in the Caribbean that trauma and stress among the entire population have risen after hurricanes Irma and Maria, and this also affects children. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic could cause further stress on families.

That is why we are very pleased that the Child Resilience and Protection Project, implemented by UNICEF, is starting. It will support the work of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (MECYS), the Court of Guardianship, and VSA to help children and families cope and to keep children safer.

The project will build on government plans that are already in place and support MECYS, VSA and the Court of Guardianship in their work. It will help in several ways. First of all, it will "help children's helpers". Persons around a vulnerable child, such as teachers, social workers and family members, do not always know how to support the child. That is why the project will help upgrade Sint Maarten's child protection referral and case management system and train professionals and communities to take the right steps when they suspect that a child may need help due to their situation. This way, kids can get the right professional help as quickly as possible. Each ministry will have a system to collect, analyse, and share the information they need so they can work together more easily. Of course, all of this information will remain confidential.

The project will also train social workers, health care providers, including mental health care providers, teachers, police officers, and case workers, according to the latest methods, to better understand children's rights and to deal with and prevent difficult situations. Also, the project will sponsor awareness campaigns aimed at the Sint Maarten public and at children in particular. These campaigns will raise awareness about children's rights and point to actions that children and families can take to seek support and better cope in these difficult times.

Finally, the project will help to set up agreements with other Dutch Caribbean islands and Sint Maarten about the evacuation of minors to make sure that children have the legal permission to leave and are protected when leaving the island. This way, there is less risk of children being kidnapped or trafficked.

**• How will you assist in the disaster preparedness of schools? Do you mean structural (physical) or via programs?**

**• You mentioned** MECYS has already done

a lot in terms of disaster preparedness for schools. The project will further support the Safety and Emergency Teams in schools to update their safety plans. Also, school professionals will receive new training to implement safety plans and practice safety drills. This way, pupils, teachers, and the entire school community know what to do in case of an emergency.

**• How will the capacity of St. Maarten's education system be strengthened?**

Programs consist of mostly group-oriented activities in schools. For example, the renowned Return to Happiness program, which helps children ages 5-12 to cope with traumatic events through play, creativity, or singing, will receive support. The Return to Happiness program was already used successfully by MECYS in 2018 and 2019. Teachers were then trained to use this method and master trainers were educated so they can continue teaching the method to even more teachers. Now it will restart with the support of UNICEF-NL.

Also, educators will be trained to better detect distress symptoms. Additionally, a program will be developed to support teachers to deal with their own stress and help them to interact more effectively with students who may show signs of psychosocial distress and refer them to the right services.

**• How will you approach communities with regard to their psychological wellbeing? What can the communities of St. Maarten expect?**

UNICEF will implement programs that focus on children and parents who need various types of support. For instance, one program will

enable children and parents to better cope with shocks and recover from traumatic events through recreational and/or social interactions. Additional topics could also be covered, including security, self-esteem, and resilience. Involved parents will get support in a wide range of themes, such as financial hardship, positive parenting, and child protection.

Adolescents will also be supported. Strengthening the Youth Help Desk will allow adolescents to access information on issues related to health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, anxiety and stress management, gender-based violence, bullying, and domestic violence. The Youth Help Desk can also help to refer adolescents to adequate services. Also, members of the Sint Maarten Youth Council and Youth Parliament, as well as youth who have participated in events, such as regional conferences on youth rights, will be able to learn and share their knowledge by participating in the operation of the Youth Help Desk. Adolescents will also receive support to enhance their life skills. For example, they will be trained in problem-solving, communication, managing emotions, and teamwork, which will help them seize future (job) opportunities.

**• How will you measure the success of this project?**

We will measure and report on the number of professionals trained in violence prevention and post-disaster psychosocial support skills. The number and quality of safety exercises executed will be reviewed, and we also wish to know how many children suffering from distress symptoms will be referred to adequate services.



# What does St. Maarten Day mean to you?

By Kandice Chambers

**What is St. Maarten Day to you? St. Maarten is a 36-square mile island that consists of two territories: The French side and the Dutch side. The island is known for many things internationally, such as being able to watch the planes land and take off on the beach, the cuisine, the beaches and the music.**

On the beautiful island of St. Maarten, there is a national holiday known as St. Maarten Day. It is celebrated on November 11, in commemoration of the country's national holiday. A national day is the date on which festivities recognize the nationality of a nation or a non-sovereign country. A senior writer of Teen Times decided to get the perspective of many young teens on what the national holiday means to them.

The following questions were asked:

1. What does St. Maarten Day mean to you?
2. Do you know the importance of St. Maarten's Day?
3. As a student studying abroad, what do you do in order to celebrate the holiday?

After interviewing six individuals, some stated that the holiday means nothing to

them. They see it as a day to simply dress up and go out or spend time with family. One person even stated that the food is the only thing they look forward to and that the holiday itself has no importance to them. One of the respondents did state that through dance, they learned to appreciate the importance of St. Maarten Day and is now able to fully understand what the holiday signifies.

Another individual stated that St. Maarten is important to him because this is where he was born and raised. As a student athlete studying abroad, playing on the college basketball team, he informed me that they had a basketball game on 11/11 and his coach and commentators of the game gave a word of respect on behalf of the team player wishing him a Happy St. Maarten Day. He gladly informed Teen Times that before he switched schools in the US, he and many other students from Sint Maarten would celebrate the holiday together.

Personally, I feel that that the youths of St. Maarten need to be taught about the importance of St. Maarten's national holiday as it plays a major role in our culture. A lot of them told me that before the virus, they always

got dressed up and went out to eat or they would meet up with their family and spend the day together eating traditional food. St. Maarten Day should be seen and treated with respect. It should be seen as a day full of radiating culture, love and joy. It should be special to the residents of St. Maarten, as it is their culture.

They are various events that are held on St. Maarten Day, such as cook-outs in the Carnival Village, cultural parades, bike shows, relay races, and different activities on both the French and Dutch sides of the island. The people of St. Maarten do a wonderful job every year in keeping the culture and history of the island alive. The youths of the island need to take into con-

sid-eration that this is their heritage and it cannot die out. Culture is important as it shapes an individual's life, way of thinking and how one behaves in public settings.

To the youths of St. Maarten, appreciate St. Maarten Day more and learn the importance of it. This 36-square mile island is our paradise. Embrace it and educate yourselves!



Feature

# BACK TO SCHOOL – LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

By Sarafina Walter

**How do you feel about it? Are you nervous? Happy? Sad? Totally indifferent towards it? Whether you're satisfied or completely dejected with the decision to reopen the schools, you should voice your opinion on it. After all, you're the one who is now putting your health at risk in order to ensure you get a proper education. Hence the reason we took the opportunity to interview students in an effort to know exactly how they feel.**

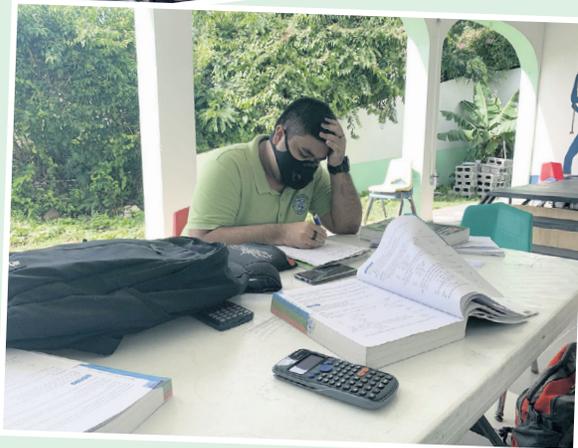
**Which do you like more; online school or in-person school?**

- **Ravindra Persaud (St. Dominic High)**

I prefer online as of current, due to the mere fact that it is such a grave transition. Having been out of school for approximately seven months and just avidly delving back intensely in the work and stress is utterly absurd.

- **MPC student**

I am a little in between, because I like in-person school more when it comes to the motivation. I need to know that I am in school, have to get ready and go to school and that I have to focus on the class and my work. But



I also like the responsibility that online school gives me that I wouldn't get if I were in physical school. For example, when I'm home and school is over, I still feel like I'm obligated to keep working because it feels like I haven't done any school. Whereas, if I were in physical school, I would use the excuse that I was away from home at school all day and would just relax for the rest of the day, instead of continuing with my school-work.

- **Edesha Hodge (MPC)**

I like in-person school because it's more informative for me and I learn much better and my concentration is much better, because I can actually follow the teacher. Being behind a computer or device is just too tiring, especially when it's long hours. My concentration doesn't last for that amount of time. I am behind the computer for approximately nine hours straight (sometimes more) because I have assignments to make and it has become very painful for my eyes. Hence the reason I prefer in-person school. Also, online schooling doesn't work for me – I don't learn anything, if I am being completely honest.

**Do you believe your school is taking all necessary precautions to ensure your safety? Please include one or more examples of said precautions.**

- **Sundial student**

Yes. For example, they sanitize us and check our temperature before we enter the school.

- **Oluwatoyin Aladejana (St. Dominic High)**

Yes, I do believe they have taken the necessary precautions by placing a hand sanitizer dispenser at the entrance of the school. They are also developing a blended system so that we do in-person school on some days and online school on other days.

- **St. Maarten Academy/ PSVE student**

Honestly, I do not know whether they are taking safety precautions.



Feature

• **MPC student**  
I believe my school tries to take as many precautions as possible – and claims it takes all the necessary precautions – but I think it can do better. For example, they waste money on putting sinks everywhere so students wash their hands before entering the school, while hand sanitizer is more than enough. They just come up with a bunch of weird “precautions” and can sometimes be very wishy-washy about whether or not these are “advisements” or rules.

• **MPC student**  
Yes, we finally have soap, toilet paper and hand-paper in the bathrooms now. They also give us products and wipes to clean the tables when we come into class; and they take your temperature and you have to wash your hands before you come into the school.

**How do you feel about going back to in-person school?**

• **Oluwatoyin Aladejana (St. Dominic High)**  
I am nervous mainly because, if there is an outbreak when we restart school and I happen to infect my parents, it’ll be hard for them to deal with COVID as they are of an older age.

• **Denzel Washington (MPC)**  
Going back to school doesn’t bother me because I feel that a balance between online and in-person school is perfect. When I am at home, I get more done as I have fewer distractions, but at school I understand the theories a bit better.

• **Mira Raghosing (MPC)**  
It doesn’t bother me, because I’ve learned to adapt to both environments and

my grades don’t fluctuate because of it. Even though I like online school more, in-person school has given me the chance to see my friends again and the quality of some in-person classes is just better than in online school.

• **MPC student**  
I am disappointed. At first, I was happy about going back to in-person school, but now that I actually am in school, I am disappointed. This is mostly because my school is doing blended learning and the teachers have a habit of focusing only on the kids in the physical classroom and forgetting that the students online exist. It’s high-key stalling my education.

**What tips would you like to give to your school administration regarding their way of handling COVID and online or in-person school?**

• **Ravindra Persaud (St. Dominic High)**  
St. Dominic high is too small to accommodate everyone. Blended learning should be implemented following a split session of students going from Monday, Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday and Friday is strictly ZOOM.

• **MAC High**  
You can’t expect us to have on the mask all the time.

• **Mira Raghosing (MPC)**  
I would like them to know that even though they are following all the steps and taking all the important measures, it’s still going to be very hard to keep control of all of the students and make sure they are all following the rules during the whole school day, because there are a lot of students and it’s hard to keep an eye on all of them at all times.



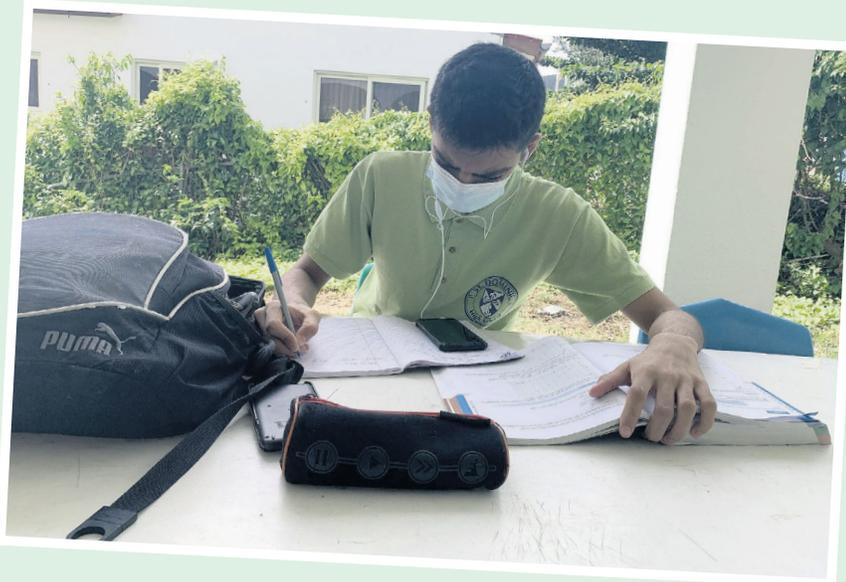
• **MPC student**  
They can’t expect us to wear the mask 24/7. I’ve seen plenty of people walking around without the masks on. I also believe they should leave us students in a classroom and have the teachers come to us, instead of having multiple students walking up and down all the time. As for the blended learning, I just want the teachers to be more aware that they also have students trying to learn from home and the ones in their classroom shouldn’t have all the attention. They should also make the teachers wash

their hands when they come into the school too. I don’t see them doing that and I don’t understand why we have to wash our hands and they don’t.

• **MPC student**  
Start making the students switch classes; make the teachers switch classes to prevent as much traffic as possible. I also think it would be a good idea to provide free water bottles for the kids that are dependent on the water coolers; and provide masks in case a student forgets one and has to miss a whole school day because of it.

• **Oluwatoyin Aladejana (St. Dominic High)**  
No. There isn’t anything that I could think of that they are not already doing.

*Since the opening of schools for in-person learning, students have expressed their disappointment and/or indifference towards the change. However, whether they are happy or sad, more times than not, students always have tips for the school administration. It is their only hope that the schools take the tips into serious consideration moving forward and continue their efforts to make sure that all their students – in-person and online – understand the work and stay safe while doing so.*



# Far from home, dealing with Mr. Covid Part 2

Chantalia Van Heynegen

**All around the world, students are facing many challenges with school, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a member of Teen Times, I got the opportunity to interview some students who are furthering their studies abroad. Here's some feedback from some students on how they're adjusting to the new way of learning and living - many thanks to all the students who participated.**

**•Eirisdalys in the Netherlands**

**1. Are you currently attending school via distance learning or on campus?**

I'm attending school via distance learning, but I have in-person class once a week. When we have in-person class, we have to sit 1.5 metres away from each other.

**2. How are you adjusting to the new mode of learning that has been implemented?**

I am getting used to it, but it is hard. I rather attend in-person school, because it's harder to learn and interact with your teachers virtually and it is also hard for me to focus while staring at a screen.

**3. Are you experiencing any challenges thus far either with distance- or on campus- learning?**

My classmates and I aren't really close and it's a bit awkward when we have in-per-

son class. This is due to the lack of in-person interaction. It makes it harder to get to know and feel comfortable around each other. Also the Wi-Fi connections fail sometimes, and this makes it hard to keep track with what the teachers are explaining and join classes online.

**4. How does it feel to be away from your family during this pandemic?**

I just moved here so I feel fine for now. I talk with my close family members every day. That helps a lot and makes me feel pleased and happy.

**5. Has the pandemic affected you in any way?**

It has affected my ability to make new friends here, due to the lack of interaction.

**6. Do you keep track of the Covid-19 cases in your area?**

I used to keep track of them, but I stopped since it can get depressing and hectic.

**7. What precautions has the government implemented to protect the country you're currently in?**

We have to wear a facemask in public transportation; we have to keep a distance of 1.5 metres from others; we can't go out in groups of more than four people; all the fun activity locations are closed; and everything else closes early.

**•Shaylan in the Netherlands**

**1. Are you currently**

**attending school via distance learning or on campus?**

I am currently doing distance learning and I also have in-person school once a week.

**2. How are you adjusting to the new mode of learning that has been implemented?**

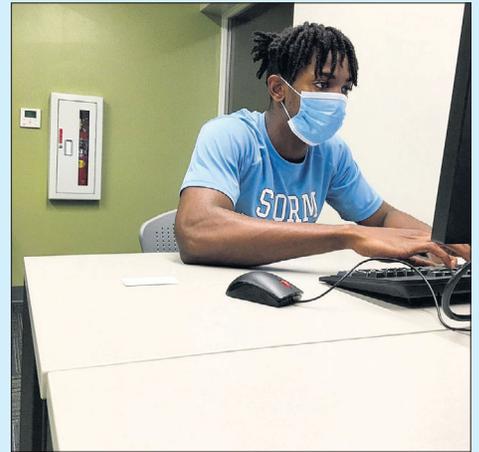
I must say that I've adjusted quickly, especially because I was receiving online classes in St. Maarten as well, so it wasn't something that was unfamiliar to me. It's really hard for me to choose which form of learning I prefer, because I get benefits from both. With distance learning, I do not have to wake up extra early and travel every day to reach to school. It may also lower the chances of potentially catching the virus. With in-person learning, I am able to concentrate better and I feel more in tune with what I'm being taught. It is also great for socializing and getting to know new people.

**3. Are you experiencing any challenges thus far either with distance- or on campus- learning?**

The challenges I am faced with thus far is the workload and the Dutch language. It can be quite challenging to express myself the way I want to in Dutch.

**4. How does it feel to be away from your family during this pandemic?**

It can be very overwhelming, but I am also aware of what I went away to accomplish so I



find comfort in that.

**5. Has the pandemic affected you in any way?**

Yes, it did. It made me more self-conscious of my surroundings. I don't hug or shake hands like I used to.

**6. Do you keep track of the Covid-19 cases in your area?**

No, I do not keep track of the cases in my area. I just make sure to take the necessary steps to avoid catching the virus.

**7. What precautions has the government implemented to protect the country you're currently in?**

Everyone traveling via bus, tram or train must wear a facemask. Also, certain stores require customers to wear a facemask and use sanitizer before entering.

**•Densely in the Netherlands**

**1. Are you currently attending school via distance learning or on campus?**

I am currently attending school both online and in-person. Due to the pandemic, I attend school in-person once per week and I attend school online the other days.

**2. How are you adjusting to the new mode of learning that has been implemented?**

I am adjusting quite better than I thought. It was a bit hard at first coping with the new learning implementations and trying to find techniques that suit me, because I have been at-

tending school physically my whole life. However, I must say I rather the old-school way - the physical way, raising your hand to ask a question and being around your peers - learning and socializing all at once.

**3. Are you experiencing any challenges thus far either with distance- or on campus- learning?**

Some routine challenges are contacting my professors when I don't understand my assignments: I will sometimes have to contact them via email, which is a lengthy process and not relevant anymore when I receive a reply most times; submitting an assignment in a limited amount of time, because of the popular assumption that "being home makes it easier to get it done"; exams online (this is the hardest part of having school online); and finally, being easily distracted because you are in the comfortable surroundings of your home.

**4. How does it feel to be away from your family during this pandemic?**

Being away from family during this pandemic actually gives me motivation to make them proud. It's an adrenaline boost to know that your parents are looking forward to your future by giving you the fullest support you need for every day. Some days are gloomy, but over-

...continued on pg. 11



Feature

# Far from home ...continued from pg. 10

all, they are my support system and energy source to keep going.

## 5. Has the pandemic affected you in any way?

The pandemic has affected me majorly: plans, regimens, and guaranteed appointments were either postponed or cancelled. When corona first took its ownership over our lives, I was working and saving to leave St. Maarten for school with the intended plans I had set. Corona made alternative plans. I was on the verge of cancelling and crashing my dreams, because the pandemic made a very hard situation much more difficult, I was jobless with payment plans. Nevertheless, persistence allowed me to take a different route and I got through.

## 6. Do you keep track of the Covid-19 cases in your area?

Before, I would not; but I recently became more aware of the high rise in cases in my area and it took a toll on my whereabouts, my routine actions and my health. Where I am located is currently a red zone area in the country, so I am more cautious than before.

## 7. What precautions has the government implemented to protect the country you're currently in?

The government is currently taking decisions to start a second lockdown due to the high rise in cases per day, which is 6000+ per day at the moment. With this being said, fines are given out for not following corona safety measures, such as the 1.5 metre-distance in any public area, wearing of facemask in public, and consistently sanitizing at each entrance of any public or private operation.

## •Jundanyah in the Netherlands

**1. Are you currently attending school via distance learning or on campus?**  
I am currently attending school via distance learning.

**2. How are you adjusting to the new mode of learning**



## that has been implemented?

I rather attend in-person school because school online is somewhat good and somewhat bad. School online is a bit of a hustle as you have more things than usual to do than before, and this can be very stressful. It is very stressful because the teachers now think that since you are home, you have more time to do more things, but they need to understand that we as students also have other classes. At the school that I'm attending, I have 17 subjects so it's very stressful for me at times. The good part about school online is basically the fact that you don't have to get up early to go outside in the cold to reach school on time. But on a whole, I rather attend school physically.

## 3. Are you experiencing any challenges thus far either with distance- or on campus- learning?

For me, the only thing that is challenging right now is getting the right amount of explanation for certain subjects. I'm not next to the teacher to get a detailed opinion on certain things; therefore, I miss certain points and sometimes I still do not know what to do.

## 4. How does it feel to be away from your family during this pandemic?

Well, I feel fine because I communicate with my family back home in St. Maarten quite a lot and they ensure that they are safe so I have nothing to worry about.

## 5. Has the pandemic affected you in any way?

The pandemic has not affected me really because I'm still doing great. The only thing that will have a strain on me is finding a job for stage, because in the Netherlands, they are not really taking in anybody new due to COVID-19.

**6. Do you keep track**

of the Covid-19 cases in your area?

## 2. How are you adjusting to the new mode of learning that has been implemented?

Honestly, it's the same for me seeing that I can attend in-person classes. Nothing is new, other than wearing a facemask everywhere I go. Only difficult thing that I am adjusting to is practicing with a mask - other than that, everything is normal. I rather attending school physically because I am the type to grasp things faster in person. I find online classes are harder because you are your own teacher. I have one online class and it is giving me trouble, seeing that I can't get the information up front at hand.

## 3. Are you experiencing any challenges thus far either with distance- or on campus- learning?

I am not experiencing any challenges thus far, but some stuff that is different is that we are not allowed to do exams on paper anymore. Everything is online; our exams are done online. Teachers are not allowed to hand out anything in class. We are assigned to sit with someone we know. For example, I am assigned to sit with one of my basketball teammates in whatever class I am in, as this makes it easier for them to know who I was in contact with in case I were to catch the virus.

## 4. How does it feel to be away from your family during this

pandemic?

Being away from my family during this pandemic is very sad. I am always thinking about them, seeing the fact I am not physically there with them to know what's going on during times like these. At the same time, I am happy. Why am I happy? I am happy because it made our relationship even stronger. I have also noticed how strong of an individual I am and how dedicated I am. I came here for one purpose, and that is to get the job done

**5. Has the pandemic affected you in any way?**

## of the Covid-19 cases in your area?

Yes, I do. I make sure that I'm safe at all times.

## 7. What precautions has the government implemented to protect the country you're currently in?

We are not allowed on any public transportation unless we have a mask on. In certain supermarkets, you must wear a mask. If you are feeling ill, you cannot leave the house; you must call a doctor immediately. If you are with a group of six or more, you can get a fine. You have to be 1.5 metres away from someone. You must always wash your hands or disinfect with hand sanitizer. When you attend school, make sure you wear a mask if you're roaming in the hallways.

## •Kofi in Beatrice, Nebraska

## 1. Are you currently attending school via distance learning or on campus?

I attend the Southeast Community College, which is located in Beatrice, Nebraska. I am currently attending school on campus,



## 6. Do you keep track of the Covid-19 cases in your area?

Yes, I do. Every day I take time out of my day to go and do research on cases out here in Nebraska. I try my best to keep social distancing and take the necessary precautions.

## 7. What precautions has the government implemented to protect the country you're currently in?

We are required to wear a mask everywhere we go. Large gatherings are not allowed. After reading the newspaper four days ago, a doctor stated, "We're at record numbers and going up, so we know we need to do more in terms of restricting those opportunities that allow the virus to spread, social distancing is a must." Masks are mandatory everywhere we go.



# A casual Ralph Lauren

Our new models had some fun th  
Armani Exchange on Frontstreet.  
fitting for these times. Makeup w  
Pantophlet and big thanks goes c  
and Staff of Ralph Lauren who alwa  
our fashic





# al day at Lauren

his month at Polo Ralph Lauren & It was a very casual shoot, kinda was done by the amazing Altisha out to the awesome Management says cooperate with Teen Times and on shoots.



# REVAMPING PHILIPSBURG TEENAGER STYLE!

By Lavisha Dadlani

**Duty-free stores, open-air restaurants and casinos line the hustling streets of town, creating a scene that has remained the same for decades, known to all of St. Maarten and its tourists as Philipsburg. Arguably the biggest tourist hub of our island and one of the main happening spots for many events, Philipsburg is a place that is very near and dear to the hearts of all St. Maarteners.**

With a plethora of shops selling goods, ranging from jewellery to cosmetics, as well as a selection of restaurants, Front Street does have an array of touristic features to offer. But something we are not taking into account is the needs of the youth of St. Maarten. People tend to overlook the opinions of teenagers, but in reality, we are able to shed insightful light on certain issues that our island faces, which can in turn assist in enhancing our home.

In order to get to the root of what the youth expect to see in town, 12 teenagers participated in a questionnaire, sent out via social media. The following stood out from the responses:

**1. As a teenager on St. Maarten, do you like how Philipsburg is currently set-up?**

Some 75 percent agreed that they do not enjoy the present way that town is structured.

**2. What do you think town is lacking?**

The answers ranged from entertainment places to teen hangout areas. Some of the participants also made it known that Philipsburg should not only try to appeal to tourists but also to locals.

**3. What would you like to see in Philipsburg that would benefit the youth?**

Various ideas were submitted, but the outstanding ideas included recreational activities, such as



a gaming lounge/computer café, a study hall, an arcade, as well as a shopping mall. There were also new business suggestions, in particular, newer franchises involving clothing shops like H&M and eateries like Starbucks.

**4. Do you think your additions to Philipsburg would help to attract or repel tourists?**

Many, if not all, agreed on the fact that their improvements would indeed attract more visitors. It would bring a sense of enthusiasm and a vibrant appeal to regular tourists as well as locals who would engage in the new incorporations that Front Street would offer. A wider variety of options for enjoyment in Philipsburg will in turn draw more St. Maarteners and travellers to this new highlighted version of our capital. There will be many opportunities for the youth in terms of getting jobs with well-known brands that can be used to their advantage when/if they go abroad to live. Therefore, it is truly safe to say that these new enhancements have the potential to tremendously boost our economy.

With coronavirus forcing businesses to shut down and doing some unfortunate damage to our island's economy, this article hopefully brings some ambitious thoughts to business owners, opening their eyes to the many possibilities that our island can potentially offer regardless of our size.

Not only will these latest editions benefit the youth of the island, but the modernised Philipsburg will definitely be the new eye-catcher for tourists, giving them a reason to revisit St. Maarten. Moreover, teenagers are eager to see their paradise flourish into an even more resourceful island when the elements of structure and creativity are restored to our treasured Philipsburg.

# What the youth want

By Juliana Guerina

**"Where should we hang out, though?" A question we often ask when planning hangouts with friends. Unfortunately, there aren't many hangout areas or activities available for the youth here on our island. As time goes on, you will eventually start getting bored or everything will just seem repetitive. We often hear adults complain about teenagers being in places where they aren't supposed to be, but I believe it's because of the lack of areas available for the youth. Many of the youth, including myself, would like to see the government give us more activities and places designated just for the youth.**

Below is an interview I did with some of my friends about what exactly they would like to see the government do and why they think it isn't getting done.

**1. What activities/places would you like to see the government open up for the youth?**

**A:** I would like them to invest more

in the youth and the general upkeep of the island rather than useless things. The youth should be provided with many more opportunities to develop in the arts, sports, and education. Also, it should be a matter of priority to fix the roads and other places damaged after the passing of Hurricane Irma.

**B:** I want the government to provide us with activities like paint ball, go-karting and more sport auditoriums, or maybe fix our current ones.

**C:** I would like things like karaoke rooms, study halls and arcades because, honestly, there are not many places for us to hang out; it's always the same places.

**D:** Activities like paint ball, a big arcade and maybe a computer room for games, and school should have a designated area to hang out.

**2. Why do you think the government keeps asking from the youth but never delivering?**

**A:** Well, the government asks the youth in my opinion because they would like to maintain a public image that they are trying to do what they can for the betterment of the country, but in reality

they aren't gonna do anything.

**B:** I feel like they never deliver because they don't have the funds for them, or they just don't bother.

**C:** I feel like they ask us to make us think that they will give us something. But from what I'm seeing, I feel like they prioritize things like casinos and bars more instead of giving us things like a sports auditorium, which we've been asking for, and safe places where we can hang out.

**D:** Honestly, I don't really know. I feel like they ask and then forget, or sometimes they don't even listen to what we want.

Recreation and leisure are important for all ages, but it is especially crucial during children's formative years. The youth should be provided with a safe and fun environment to play and hang out. This would also reduce crime and diminish gang violence. Other benefits include positive socialization with peers, improved communication skills, appropriate behaviour development, and a feeling of community and acceptance for all, which will make our community and island prosper.



Feature

# POSSIBLE CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL THREATENING CARIBBEAN ECOLOGY

By Diya Sachdev

**The Caribbean, of all places in the world, is one that should be on everyone's bucket list. The blue seas, the white-sand beaches and peaceful sunsets make pretty much everywhere else seem quite drab. The Caribbean's warm and blissfully clear sea is brimming with beautiful marine life including bottlenose dolphins, coral, rays, turtles and rainbow-coloured tropical fish. The blissfully pale shimmery stretches of sand and the sparkling crystal clear waters are irresistible, making the region a popular tourist destination. However, can you imagine the toll a devastating oil spill can take on this pristine paradise and its thriving aquatic environment? Unfortunately, a stationary Venezuelan tanker holding a massive 80 million gallons of oil has led to growing concerns of a potential environmental disaster**

**that threatens none other than our beautiful Caribbean.**

An oil tanker filled with 1.3 million barrels of crude oil is floating 24 miles off Venezuela in the Gulf of Paria, a region home to economically paramount fisheries and vulnerable marine life. Known as the FSO Nabarima, this oil tanker – stranded here in the Gulf of Paria for nearly two years – serves the function of a stationary storage facility. It has been pictured listing, rusting and is now sparking fears that it will spill its contents. The Nabarima holds an astonishingly substantial amount of crude oil, which surpasses the oil spilled during the 1989 Exxon-Valdez disaster in Alaska. If even a fraction of the Nabarima's contents was to spill, it would engender an environmental disaster that extends into the Caribbean Sea, deteriorating its ecology for years to come.

Despite the fact that the ship remains sta-



ble at this moment, it still possesses the potential of causing a catastrophic oil spill since its current resting position is at an angle of approximately 25 degrees, presenting the possibility of the vessel capsizing. This situation has raised scepticism and concern, consequently inducing an environmental watchdog group based in Trinidad and Tobago called Fishermen and Friends of the Sea (FFOS) to initiate the process of returning the crude oil back to Venezuelan soil, a process that in itself is possibly environmentally hazardous as well.

It is helpful to be knowledgeable of the cataclysmic consequences of this oil spill, should it occur. Oil spills coat everything

they come in contact with, wreaking harm as they spread from a large spill as oil slick, clinging to every rock and grain of sand in their path. Oil spills show no mercy to the marine environment, significantly damaging wildlife, marine ecosystems, and coastal environments. Oil-covered carcasses of organisms are a universal symbol of environmental damage wreaked by oil spills. Oil spills affect these organisms in a myriad of ways, one of the most predominant being the onset of hypothermia or overheating due to coating the organisms' natural insulation (feathers or fur) with oil. Additionally, oil spills deplete nesting grounds (for instance, the coastline which is where sea turtle eggs are laid),

potentially causing serious long-term effects on an entire species.

Oil spills take a deadly toll on aquatic plants by depriving them of absorbed oxygen and sunlight (light penetration and oxygen absorption is limited due to the layer of oil floating on the water's surface). Several fish die by ingestion of oil, or they may serve as an entry point for oil into global food chains. In this manner, top consumers such as humans and larger fish, for whom these smaller species serve as a nutrition source, are harmed through indirect ingestion of oil. Moreover, oil spills impact us economically by ceasing fishing and recreational tourist activities at the contaminated

site due to its harmfulness and unsightly appearance. Being a region with its top revenue generating economic activity as tourism, the Caribbean is particularly in great danger.

On a final note, we can hope that the immense crude oil contents of the Nabarima are emptied safely, not posing any of the above-mentioned threats to our flourishing and immaculate Caribbean environment. As is apparent from this article, such an oil spill, where an incomprehensible amount of oil is set free to dictate the harmful condition of our environment, is a matter of great concern.





# Know your world

By Sarbani Bag



## What's happening in Nigeria?

In these times of social distancing and the growing usage of social media, many individuals are starting to open their eyes to the social injustices worldwide. Being part of such a progressive age, we are constantly unlearning the ideologies instilled into us while growing up, and we are transforming our thoughts and knowledge into something more inclusive. Unfortunately, just beginning to understand these ideas are not enough, a great deal of advocacy and work must be done in order to implement these changes and reform our current systems. As a result, we tend to witness a lot of protests, outreach, petitions and such taking place worldwide. Countries such as Thailand, Brazil, India, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Peru are all crying out for justice for their respective matters and as individuals, who have the privilege to learn about these matters rather than experience it, it is essential for us to do the best we can to assist in these situations and bring them justice.

As social injustices are occurring across the globe, the issue in Nigeria must not go unseen. Although police brutality is commonly discussed in the United States and surrounding countries, this concept is no stranger to Nigeria among other countries. Nigeria is currently fighting for humanity as they are protesting to #EndSARS, and it is significant for everyone to acknowl-



edge it just as much as other issues and have this spark important discussions. That being said, what exactly is SARS? The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is a special Nigerian Police Force unit created in the 1990s to address widespread armed robbery crimes. This unit, which combats crimes, such as motor vehicle theft, kidnapping and the abuse of firearms, quickly became controversial following accusations against it, of violent harassment, physical and sexual violence, kidnapping, unlawful arrests, extortion, and stealing money from the same citizens they are meant to protect. Amnesty International stated that people detained by SARS have suffered torture; including hanging, mock execution and sexual violence.

Back in 2015, efforts were made to address the corruption of SARS. Consequently, the Complaint Response Unit (CRU) was established, and SARS was split into two separate units for organizational pur-



poses. However, these changes failed to make a difference. According to Amnesty International, majority of the police officers interviewed were unaware of these reforms. Additionally, the same trend occurred when Amnesty International researchers visited SARS units in Abuja and Enugu in the summer of 2016. Although the purpose of SARS was to decrease dangerous situations in Nigeria, it became apparent that they were neglectful of their duties and created more harm to the citizens.

On October 7, Nigerians began protesting and demanding change on the streets of the West African country to abolish this police unit. Although there isn't a specific person or organization behind these protests, according to BBC, these protests are being led by individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. These individu-



als have spoken up concerning the police unit profiling individuals based on certain features or aspects, such as having dreadlocks, tattoos, an iPhone, flashy cars and laptops. On October 11, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari dissolved the SARS unit due to the large protests in Nigeria and other countries with large Nigerian Diasporas. However, the Inspector General of Police also mentioned that all SARS officers would be redeployed to other police units leaving Nigerians uneasy. As a result, protestors requested for more changes, including reforming the systems in which the country is governed, justice for those killed and tortured, and an independent evaluation of SARS officers prior to being reassigned.

However, things immediately began to go downhill after slight changes were implemented. After two weeks of peaceful protesting, on October 20, a massacre took place at Lekki Toll Gate where numerous peaceful demonstrators were shot in the streets by Nigerian armed forces. In an attempt to prevent the filming of evidence, CCTV cameras and the electricity were shut off to the toll gate prior to the shooting by Nigerian authorities. However, there are a few videos and livestreams circling around social media displaying peaceful protestors singing their national anthem as they are being shot.

According to Amnesty International, at least 56 individuals died across Nigeria since the protests began and about 38 individuals were killed on October 20 alone. On the same day, the Executive Governor instated a 24-hour curfew to suppress citizens from peacefully protesting and ordered the army to execute this order. As the curfew notice was sent at 12:00pm and began at 4:00pm, it led to an anti-police riot in the city.

On October 22, the president did not address the massacre at Lekki, but indirectly threatened the protestors. Furthermore, the Nigerian military shared screenshots to twitter calling credible outlets "fake" news as a method to "debunk" and divert the attention placed on this important issue.

## How can you help Nigeria to #ENDSARS?

Although the unit has been dissolved, police brutality affects many minorities within Nigeria, such as those living above the poverty line, low-income groups, and the LG-BTQ+ community. It is evident that this police unit needs to be abolished among other changes in order for Nigerians to feel safe within their community. In order to assist in #EndSARS, you must amplify the voices of the Nigerian community by sharing reliable information, photos and videos. Whether your platform is big or small, utilize it to the best of your ability to spread awareness. Next, never stop educating yourself on the crisis in Nigeria. Continue to inform and keep yourself educated. Donate to Flut-terware, Feminist Coalition, Gatefield Impact and others in order to support the victims and protestors. Help report incidents such as police brutality, missing people and arrested protestors.

Visit [endsars.carrd.co](https://endsars.carrd.co) to find out more links and resources. Your efforts still create an impact whether it is big or small and may contribute to dissolving the issue. Hence, never stop educating yourself on issues occurring worldwide and always try to help in any way possible. Remaining ignorant during these times is a choice when you have access to multiple resources. You have the power to create the difference so please look beyond your own community. Recognize your privilege and understand that you have the ability to help with such issues occurring worldwide, instead of experiencing it first-hand. Have an open mind, read more and learn more. Create that difference.

Feature

# A CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

*"He is acting sus dawg, I don't wanna hang with him. Members of the LG-BTQ+ community have been hearing mean and hurtful statements like this directed towards them for years now. On our island, people are generally not very accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, and it is about time for that to change. Teens and the youth use slurs, such as f\*gg\*t, and directly make fun of people who are open and expressive about their sexuality. This sometimes results in uncalled-for violence towards the community. I will not say that this is the case for everyone, but I will say for sure that it is the most common practice.*

We cannot change whatever has happened in the past, but we can make sure to educate and call out discrimination and ignorance when we see it. This begins with the youth and the current education system. This article is primarily about students in the Catholic school subsystem, but when I did further research among students of other schools, I found out that the situation everywhere was similar.

Coming from a Catholic school, the views on this topic may be a bit more conservative than others, but this is not an excuse to shy away from important topics like this one. This article is not meant to single out the Catholic schools, rather it's simply meant to get the youth's perspective about the topics of school and the LGBTQ+ community, and the relation between the two.

I sent out a questionnaire to ask the students how they felt and the following are their responses:

**• Are you aware of the LG-BTQ+ community?**

- Yes sir.
- Yes.
- Yes, I am aware of the community.
- Yeah, I know of the community.

**• Do you support the community? Why? Why not?**

- Yes, of course, I support the LGBTQ+ community. I think that everyone deserves basic human rights regardless of their sexuality. I also don't see any reason why anyone would not support it.
- Yes. I do. I love them so much. I support them because there's nothing wrong with them. They are completely valid and their sexuality is not relevant in the way you treat someone.
- Yes, because everyone has the right to love who they want, regardless of gender. I also know many people who are dear to me and are part of that community and I love

them.

**• Do you think that the school supports the community? Why? Why not?**

- No the school doesn't. I just think that if they do, they don't do a good job of showing it. They completely shy away from anyone being anything other than straight. Regardless, I don't think they support the community or are doing enough to be a good ally.
- No. I haven't really seen them take any serious action on topics such as these or a student's personal identity and how they feel. Students also don't go to them to seek help.
- I don't think so; never heard them mention anything about it.
- I don't think the school as a whole has a standpoint on this; but I do know people who are supportive of the community as well as people who are not. As for the reason why, I think they believe in basic human rights regardless of sexuality just like me; and as for why not, it's most probably due to a belief called "heteronormativity". This term describes the normalization of believing that everyone is born with their sexuality, and that that sexuality is no other than "heterosexuality". Another reason might be they're simply homophobic and can't seem to mind their own business. I have seen and heard people use the Bible and God as a justification for why they are not supportive of the community. "It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" is a popular one actually, but at the same time they also fail to recognize that God says to love everybody.

**• Do you participate in the usage of slurs, such as "f\*gg\*t"? If yes, why so?**

- I do, because that is how we joke around.
- Absolutely not. There's no purpose for using that word or any slur for that matter. It's simply immature and useless.
- A few years ago when I was unaware of the meaning behind this word, I used it very loosely and I am sincerely sorry for that. However, now that I am educated and aware of the LGBTQ+ community, I know things that I should and should not say or do. But answering the question; No, I do not participate in the usage of the slur. However, the slur is actually pretty prevalent and normalized and used by STRAIGHT people who should not be using it. Some people might not even know it is a slur, and I'd like to give them the benefit of the doubt, because I myself was once that ignorant, stupid kid. I think the loose usage of this slur is due to the fact that the country I live in does not educate people enough, if at all, regarding the LGBTQ+ community.

**• Do you think that the school system on St. Maarten in general does enough to teach about the**

**LGBTQ+ community (such as references in classes, or sexual health being taught for all sexualities, rather than just hetero)?**

- No, I do not think that schools put any effort into educating the community. Referencing the previous question, we can see that because schools don't educate their students AND staff (sadly, yes, I know teachers that are homophobic) about the community, the usage of the "f" slur is so normalized.
- Not at all. Nowhere have you seen schools or anywhere say or teach about the LGBTQ+ community and there are more people around us that are part of it but choose to say nothing, due to prejudice and judgment.
- Definitely no. Not once in my entire life have I learned about anything other than straight in school. I had to learn about sexuality and the LGBTQ+ community from social media and people around me who most times were extremely homophobic. This is not the way to raise people; stop instilling homophobia and teaching as if LGBTQ+ people are invalid or wrong.

**• What do you think the school system can do to improve this?**

- Evolve with society. I find that the school has views, although religious, that make them seem like they're living 100 years ago. As a school, you should be inclusive and accepting of all your students. They can use the excuse of "they're representing us and we don't want that out there" - but frankly, that is just disappointing. Have classes about social issues like this. Educate about the community, not indoctrinate about discriminating against them. Mention them instead of shying away from the topic. Offer proper counselling and support for members of the community.
- Since I am not part of the community, I don't know if people who are will be comfortable with their sexuality being educated in class, but I do think that if done respectfully by someone who is fully aware and educated about the community, there will be good outcomes.
- The school can teach the students about the LGBTQ community. It does not have to be an everyday thing. After everyone finishes their exams in June, they could use the remaining time to educate the students since June is pride month.

**• Any extra comments on the LGBTQ+ community in general?**

- The LGBTQ+ community does not comprise only homosexuality; it also includes bisexuality, transgender, pan sexuality, non-binary, etc. I see harmful jokes about "gender crisis" made all the time in my class and it can potentially hurt those who are part of the community sitting in the class

knowing they are being made fun of.

- I honestly love them. I love how they aren't ashamed to express themselves and keep living their best lives. I also admire their strength, because of all the people who may judge them regularly and stuff, and I hope that things will get better for them in the future. It is UNFAIR for them to be treated as anything other than human, and society should just get over itself and learn to accept people - especially people who are different.
- I love you guys so much and you're completely valid and amazing. Nothing is wrong with you and you can love who you want to love; love always wins.
- I love the LGBTQ+ community and nothing is wrong with loving who you love and being who you are. Everyone needs love and don't let anyone tell you how to do so.
- It is already hard for a person to come out, and if the kid feels like they don't belong, it's even harder. So if we make a community in which they feel welcomed, many kids will be helped.

As you can see, the kids of the island are completely aware of the LGBTQ+ community and are in support of it. If this island needs to get better in terms of acceptance, it needs to work on its education system, as this problem is not limited to the Catholic education subsystem, but is rather a common issue of all the schools and needs to be addressed. Some of the suggestions of the youths are actually quite feasible, and do not require any drastic changes or cost, but are rather simple changes to the system we know at the moment. It is only a matter of applying these suggestions to the situation right now. I personally have many friends who are part of the community and I have nothing but love for them.

Since we are speaking about a Catholic school system, I got the opinion of a pastor on the topic. He said: "I don't mind it being taught in school because you are going to learn about it one way or another - if not in school, then elsewhere. Kids are taught many things that we, as parents, don't agree with, but we cannot control the system. Regardless of what you're taught at school or see on television, your faith should be strong enough to resist temptation."

Once again, I would like to say that this article mentions the Catholic school system, but this issue is present everywhere on the island and this article is simply to inform. To finish, I would like to just say to the LGBTQ+ community that you are strong, you are valid, and regardless of what society thinks, you matter.

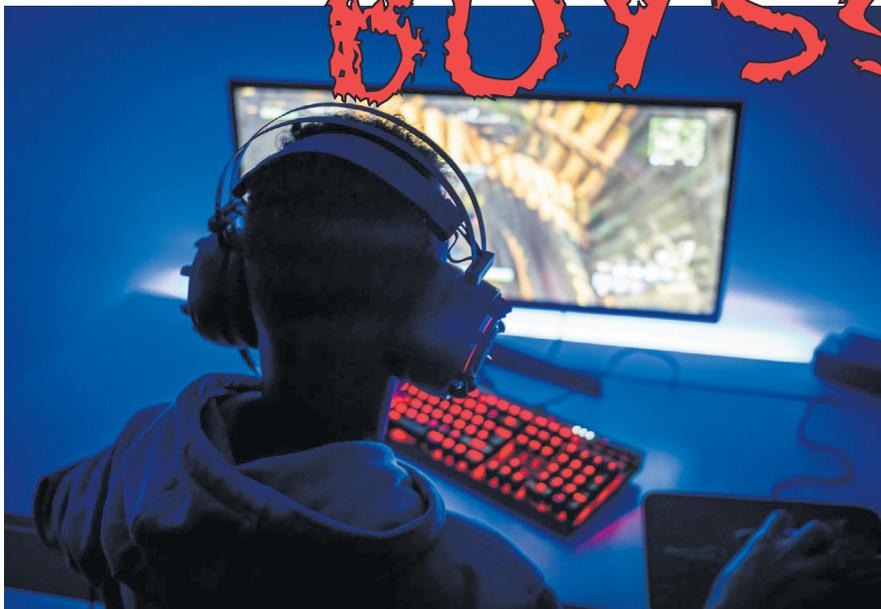
Feature

# WHERE ARE THE

# BOYS?

By Henny Ramchandani

Over the years, many organizations in Sint Maarten have come to the conclusion that females are more prominent in volunteering circles when compared to their male counterparts. I personally have also realized that from the different organizations I have volunteered in, there tends to be a minority of males. These organizations are curious as to why more females than males have been joining their organizations, because the difference in the number of females compared to males is great.



Nobody seems to have one solid answer as to why boys are seldom interested in anything other than sports or playing video games. The civic involvement (or lack thereof) of boys is at a really high rate on St. Maarten. They don't do anything in the community unless forced to by their school. Much of this also has to do with parenting.

Parents of boys are often-times too comfortable with their boys just being home. They see this as keeping them out of trouble. But while the boys are at home, parents also don't engage with them in any positive activities. Parents should not underestimate the power of connecting with boy children and encouraging them to participate in community events.

As a member of Teen Times, I was presented with the opportunity of interviewing some males who are not a part of any organization. I did this by composing a questionnaire and using an interactive approach to target a demographic of males within the 13-18 age range.

**•Are you in any organizations? If not, why?**

•I am not. I haven't found the right organization. I also haven't found the time to join any organization.

•No, because I do not have any free time.

•No, because I am busy with school and other hobbies.

•Nope, I don't find it necessary to be in one.

**•Are there any organizations that you find interesting? If so, are you planning to join this organization?**

•I find rotary interesting and I would be interested in joining.

•I don't really find any organizations that work out for me.

•I don't really find any organizations interesting at the moment and I don't think I'm going to join one anytime soon.

•No, it wouldn't make sense for me to join now when I'm leaving the island in less than a year.

**•Are there any issues/causes that interest you?**

•I feel that our world needs help and we can help each other.

• I am interested in helping to combat global warming and pollution.

•Not really. Racism is present and it sucks. People still judge you by your race and the colour of your skin, when we should all be equal.

•Yeah, anything that helps with the environment naturally interests me.

**•Have you ever tried to join an organization or has it just always been at the back of your mind?**

•I have tried to join an organization but it didn't work out.

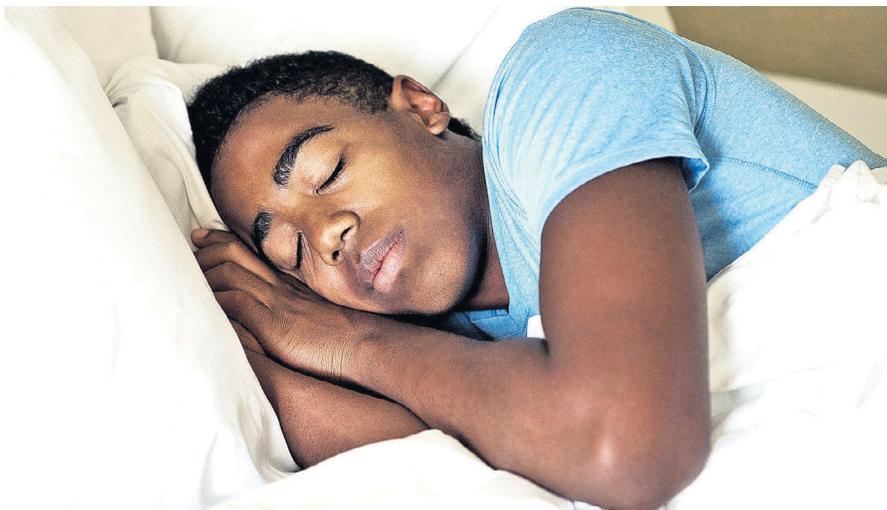
•It's always been at the back of my mind, but I never took the initiative to join one.

•I never really wanted to join other.



any organization.

•I joined the Rotary Club in second-third form, but got bored and left. I haven't tried joining one for these past two years now, and don't feel like joining one for now.



As you can see, many of the responses as to why the males have not been joining different organizations are due to the fact that they can't find time. Many of us, including myself, have struggled with time management. It gets hard to find time to do certain things with so much on your plate; but in all honesty, when I joined the Teen Times organization, it pushed me to manage my time. I encourage all the males to try and join an organization that really interests them and does not hinder their schedule. Trust me; it will be worth it in the end. As for parents, you also have a role to play. Encourage your boy children to get involved.



# ART

By Mary-Jean Acevedo

**Name:** Mia Ornella Manca Zamoni  
**Age:** 15  
**School:** Sint Maarten Academy  
**Class:** Form 3

**What is your art work about?**  
In this piece I wanted to represent mental health and emotions. The background colours express the emotions and the fact that no colour connects with the face, which shows how at one point we get to disconnect from our feelings if we do not get help. My message, or what I try to convey, is that it is important to talk about what happens to us so that we do not reach the point where we are numb to any kind of feeling or emotion.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

My inspiration came from the environment that exists in social media today, and how toxic it is when we all try to hide and pretend that everything is fine – creating a reality that does not exist, a reality without problems where everything is fine and if you are not okay, you better pretend to be, because if you don't, you won't fit in. Even if we know that this is not real, it's what we see all the time and it gives us the desire to be able to achieve something that is not real, a life with no problems.

**Name:** Jennifer Slac  
**Age:** 17

**School:** Finished school  
**What is your art work about?**  
Nothing in particular – I simply wanted to test out a painting on glass and I thought of painting a lady.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

I'm working on my art portfolio for my college application and I thought this would be the perfect opportunity for me to experiment with painting on glass.

**Name:** Juleissy Ruiz Sanchez  
**Age:** 17

**School:** Charlotte Brookson Academy of the Performing Arts  
**Class:** Form 4

**What is your art work about?**  
My artwork is about luck. I heard that in Japan a Koi fish represents strength, good fortune and luck; and judging by this year, I wanted

to draw something to give luck and strength to people who lost their love ones and jobs, and tell them that everything is going to be alright.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

My inspiration was to draw something with a beautiful meaning to it, as this year we haven't had the best experience in life. We've all had bad days so I wanted to draw something that represented good luck for the upcoming year and to tell everyone that this year showed us that we can all fight for what we've been through. I wish good luck to all.

**Name:** Ricardo Beauperthuy  
**Age:** 14

**School:** 3 Quartier d'orlean (French St. Martin)  
**Class:** 9th grade

**What is your art work about?**

My artwork depicts summer vacation after the COVID-19 pandemic is over – lying on the beach looking at the beautiful sunset.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

The artist that inspired me is none other than ZHC. I felt like his YouTube videos really motivated me to start my own YouTube challenge (@chado art). Go check it out on Facebook (@Chado H Beauperthuy) for more of my artwork. I hope that many will be inspired by my artwork as well, because art is my comfort zone.

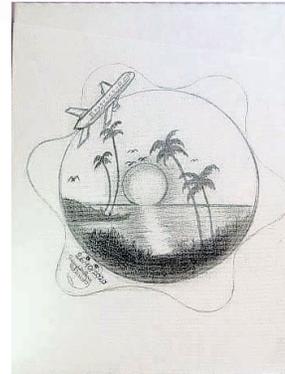
**Name:** J. Annabelle Verheij  
**Age:** 17

**What is your art work about?**

The title of this painting is called "Fighter". Every person that has talked to me about this painting has told me that they see different emotions: Fear, Anger, Sadness, Freedom – I love to hear what people think I'm trying to bring forth through my painting because every person has a different view.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

This painting was inspired by deep emotions and I chose to depict them with the help of a lion, because I find that they are very strong animals that don't give up easily.



**Name:** Alexander Diego Zwaniken

**Age:** 18  
**School:** Caribbean International Academy  
**Class:** Grade 12

**What is your art work about?**

Art has only been a hobby that I briefly dreamed of doing as a profession. The art pieces I se-

lected were made recently after I started drawing with a tablet.

**What inspired you to create this artwork?**

Inspiration for these pictures nearly all come from anime. To put it simply, I enjoy the media so much I decided I wanted to be able to replicate it.

# Feature



# ENTERTAINMENT

## How Lizzo embraces the political power of fashion

During her September appearance in an episode of *Vogue*'s 73 Questions video series, Lizzo explained that she felt her stylistic choices have often been politicized. "Being a big, Black woman,



wearing what I wore on stage was instantly political and it made a statement," the 32-year-old singer told the magazine at the time. Though she admitted it was "annoying at first", the singer has since embraced the statement-making power of fashion, increasingly so in the weeks ahead of the presidential election.

When accepting the award for Top Song Sales Artist at the Billboard Music Awards earlier that month, she wore a monochromatic, off-the-shoulder mini-dress designed by Christian Siriano dotted by the word "vote" in bold, all-caps lettering. "I've been thinking a lot about suppression," she said in her acceptance speech, "and the voices that refuse to be suppressed."

It came as little surprise when, on Election Day (November 3), Lizzo pulled out her most powerful and breath-taking look of all. She appeared in a post to her Instagram feed wearing a sort of half-jumpsuit: The right side of her body was draped from shoulder to heel in an American flag; the left was completely bare, save for a heeled shoe and sparkling nail polish.

## Discovery Season 3 has solved its biggest Star Trek problem

Star Trek: Discovery's third season has solved the show's biggest problem by jettisoning the show's prequel trappings. The show's second season ended with a bold new direction; to defeat the ram-paging artificial intelligence called Control from destroying all organic life in the universe, Discovery jumped 930 years into the future.

Once they arrive in the 32nd century, the crew of the Discovery find a hugely transformed galactic landscape. A mysterious, cataclysmic event called the Burn wiped out the vast majority of dilithium in the known universe, making interstellar space travel much more challenging. The Burn also left Starfleet crippled and the Federation in

tatters, which resulted in the rise of rogue couriers and a general sense of lawlessness in the galaxy. As they adjust to their new reality, the crew of the Discovery also hope to bring some of their 23rd century hope and optimism to a radically different reality.

Discovery's famously complicated birth is now a matter of Star Trek lore; series co-creator Bryan Fuller left the series before the first season ever began shooting, citing creative differences with CBS All Access. That inaugural year was bumpy, to say the least. Curiously, the show was a prequel to Star Trek: The Original Series – set about a decade before the adventures of Captain Kirk's Enterprise. Setting the show in such a narrow sliver of Star Trek's sprawling canon always felt like a mistake, and the first season largely bore that out; it was a dark, violent season of television that largely seemed to miss the point of what makes Star Trek work at its best. It featured a head-scratching reinvention of the Klingons, an ill-defined cast of characters, and a bleak war setting that never felt right for the final frontier.

## Gucci Mane replaces T.I. to face off against Jeezy for 'Verzuz'

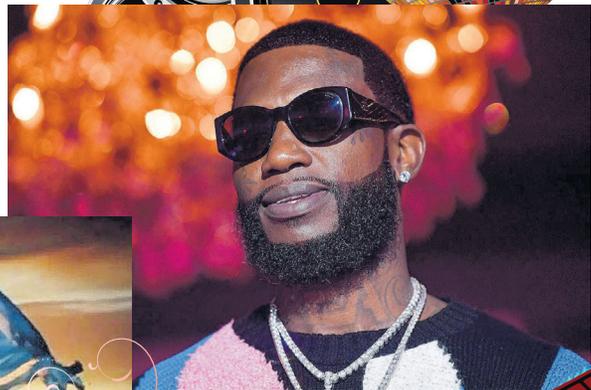
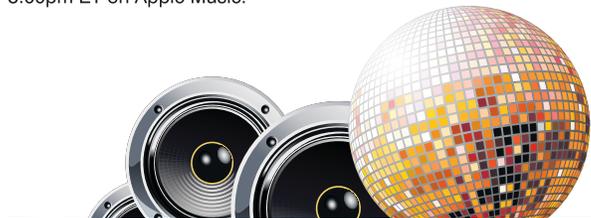
Scratch the previously announced Verzuz season two opener of T.I. battling Jeezy. Gucci Mane revealed late on Saturday, November 14, that the season premiere will instead feature himself facing off against Jeezy on Thursday, November 19.

"Tell buddy get ready," he tweeted along with the announcement graphic. "@verzuzonline nov 19 TrapGod vs SnoCone"

The "Back" rapper also shared the announcement on Sunday morning on Instagram. He captioned his post, "VerifiedSAY lil guwop SEE YOU ON THE 19th. DON'T SEND YA CLONE! BIG SNO #R2"

T.I., who had originally been scheduled to go up against Jeezy, chimed in on Instagram with the announcement. "Now THIS... Is what the people want to see," he wrote. "Trap Muzik salutes y'all."

The Verzuz battle is set to stream live from Atlanta beginning at 8:00pm ET on Apple Music.



Feature

# TECHNOLOGY

# TECHNOLOGY

# TECHNOLOGY

# Feature

## Oculus rolls out support for 90Hz games in first big Quest 2 update

Oculus has rolled out its first big update for the Quest 2 standalone virtual reality headset, fulfilling a few promises it made when the headset launched last month. Headlining the new features is the 90Hz refresh rate mode that now expands to all system-level apps by default – including through Oculus Link, which has officially exited beta.

The company says it's now allowing developers to ship Quest titles with native 90Hz support, as opposed to the Quest 2's 72Hz base refresh rate that was active by default. Soon, the likes of Superhot, Echo VR, Beat Saber, Vacation Simulator, Job Simulator, Racket: Nx, and Space Pirate Trainer will support the higher refresh rate. Hopefully, Tetris Effect and Rez Infinite will soon join that list.

If you connect the Quest 2 to your PC via an Oculus Link cable (or a cheaper, compatible USB 3.0 cable), you'll be able to toggle between 72Hz, 80Hz, or 90Hz through the Oculus app on PC. Oculus says it has improved overall visual quality when using the Link function and the automatic graphics profile settings have been re-tuned to tax your GPU harder for better performance. You'll find a new interface for tweaking graphical settings in the app, as well as for easily adjusting the render resolution for a sharper image.

Next week, Oculus is rolling out Oculus Move, the app that lets you track fitness metrics gathered from playing VR games. With it, you'll be able to see how many calories you've burned and minutes spent being physically active in games that you play. It seems kind of neat, especially if you aren't moving around all that much outside due to the pandemic.

There are two more additions: Later in November, Oculus is going to let you capture the headset's screen through the iOS or Android app, so you can make clips of your own. Before this, you had to either share recorded clips directly to Facebook or manually hook up your Quest 2 to your PC and drag-and-drop the files.



Lastly, Oculus is making it possible to gift games and experiences through the Oculus store, either in-browser or from within the app. You'll just need your friend's email address. The company mentioning this feature is timely, since the Black Friday sale at the Oculus Store will kick off next week, so maybe hold off on buying new games until then.

### Fortnite will reportedly be playable on iOS again through Nvidia's GeForce Now

Fortnite might come back to iPhones and iPads later this year, but not quite the way you're used to. The BBC reports that Fortnite will be available to play through Nvidia's cloud gaming service, GeForce Now. The service hasn't been announced for iOS yet, but the BBC reports an announcement is expected before the holidays.

GeForce Now will supposedly run inside of Safari, the web browser, rather than as a standalone app, because of Apple's restrictions on game streaming services that make it onerous to support them through the App Store. The service allows you to stream your personal library of games to laptops, mobile phones, and other devices that might not otherwise be able to run them well – or at all. A standard "Founders" plan currently costs \$5 per month, though you can play for limited time periods for free.

The result of a potential GeForce Now browser solution is that Fortnite would be available, but only for those who jump through the hoops needed to set up Nvidia's streaming service on an iPhone. In that scenario, Fortnite might look better, thanks to higher-fidelity graphics, because it's streamed from a PC. But there's no guarantee it'll run as responsively as the native Fortnite mobile app does, given that it'll be inside of a browser and could face latency issues and other snags.

### Nintendo's new Game & Watch handheld proves the company goes its own way

It's been a busy week for video game hardware. This week saw the debut of two next-generation platforms, with the launch of the PlayStation 5 and Microsoft's Xbox Series X and Series S devices. Each platform is built around new advances like ray-tracing and quick-loading SSDs. Meanwhile, today, Nintendo is releasing... a clock that plays Super Mario Bros. It might seem like strange timing, but it's also perfectly in keeping with Nintendo's history: this is a company that almost always goes its own way.

The new Game & Watch: Super Mario Bros. is an exceptionally cute piece of hardware. It's modelled after the classic Game & Watch handheld – the precursor to the Game Boy – with a colour scheme inspired by the original Japanese Famicom console. In terms of functionality, the device is incredibly straightforward. It has three built-in games, most notably the first SMB game. There's also Super Mario Bros. 2, better known in the West as The Lost Levels, a truly evil sequel that re-mixes the first game with devious features like killer mushrooms. Rounding out the line-up is Ball, a simple-yet-surprisingly-fun version of the 1980 LCD juggling game, this time starring Mario.

The games are all solid ports, and the screen is nice and bright while the handheld has a great D-pad. I've found myself picking up the Game & Watch regularly to sneak in a level or two whenever I have a few spare minutes. The lack of frills is almost nice: I can really focus on just playing the game. It even has save states, so you can pause the game and return back to the same spot whenever you want. Outside of the games, the Game & Watch's main function is, well, as a watch. One of the face buttons reads simply "time," and pushing it will bring back a Super Mario-themed clock with the plumber running and jumping across classic Mushroom Kingdom locales. The in-game time of day even changes along with the real world.



# Prevent the spread of COVID-19 in **7 STEPS**

- 01** Wash your hands frequently
- 02** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- 03** Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- 04** Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough
- 05** Stay at home if you feel unwell
- 06** If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first
- 07** Get information from trusted sources



## #StopTheSpread

Proper hygiene stops the spread of the virus.

# Handwashing 101

### 01

Wet your hands before applying soap.



### 02

Bring your palms together and rub soap all over the palms and backs of your hands, including between the fingers.



### 03

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.



### 04

Wipe your hands with a clean towel or paper towel and avoid rubbing too vigorously.

