

# FLANKER DIGEST

## US Ambassador Meets Flanker Youths

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**By: Keirn Thomas**

A delegation from the Youth Crime Watch of Flanker (YCWF) attended the 20<sup>th</sup> National Youth Crime Prevention Conference in Orlando, Florida April 19-22, 2009, made a courtesy call at the office of former United States Ambassador to Jamaica, Sue Cobb. Ambassador Sue Cobb is responsible for the initiation of Youth Crime Watch programme in Jamaica (YCWJ) during her tenure. The meeting was facilitated by Chris DiCarlo and Gerald Rudoff, chief executive officer and international coordinator respectively, of the Youth Crime Watch of America (YCWA).



*Amb. Cobb speaks to YCWF delegation. In picture is Chris DiCarlo and Gerald Ruddof (with back turn)*

The Ambassador commended the group on the work that they have been doing to promote youth in Jamaica and pledge her continued support for the Youth Crime Watch programme and its ideals. Ambassador Cobb was particular impressed with the *Flanker Digest* and saw it as an important advocacy tool for the youth in the community and the country at large.

Four members of the YCWF accompanied Allan Bernard, National Chairman YCWJ to the YCWA annual conference, which looks at the work of young people in crime prevention locally (USA) and internationally. The conference saw many displays of youth in action as it relates to their fight against crime and

violence. Youth from all over America gave presentations on how to stop/reduce the level of crime in schools and communities as well as the reasons one should not partake in such activities. Workshops highlighted gang violence, vandalism and bullying among others. Sessions were informative and allowed for young people to interact and partake in the decision making process. A key component of the conference was the way in which adults and youth worked together to find solutions for problems.

The conference had a huge impact on the delegation and much of what was learnt will certainly be implemented in the community. The YCWF would like to thank the Flanker Peace and Justice Centre, the YCWJ, the YCWA and the United States Embassy for their support in empowering the youth of Flanker.

### Pictures from Conference



*From top – bottom: YCWF delegation chat with Doug Hughes and Marilyn Morris (YCWA Board of Directors). Keirn and Gerald Rudoff share a laugh. Delegation hang out with conference participant at social event.*

### Past Students Give Back

The computer department at the Flanker Primary and Junior High School was boosted with the donation of a computer from the promoters of 'Pepper Saturday'. Representatives of Wayot Clothing, the main promoters of the event, said this is the first in a series of donations geared towards developing and empowering the community. "As past students of the Flanker All Age School (former name) we feel that it is our duty to give back to the institution," they explained.



*Principal Hugh Miller accepts computer on behalf of school. Ms Thompson, the school's computer teacher, shares in the moment.*

Mr. Hugh Miller principal of the school was very grateful for the generosity of the past students and hopes that this gesture will open the doors to more assistance from other past students.

The benefactors encouraged the students who were at the handing over to make the best use of their school years and to utilise the technological services offered by the school.

Kudos to the Pepper Saturday and the Wayot team for what is indeed an excellent gesture.

**Youth Crime Watch  
of Jamaica cops International  
Award**

*By: Tonya Pratt*

For the second year running the Youth Crime Watch of Jamaica was highlighted at the National Youth Crime Prevention Conference put on annually by the Youth Crime Watch of America. At the 20<sup>th</sup> conference held in Orlando, Florida from April 19-22 Allan Bernard was the recipient of the International Casey Award for National Chairman of the Year 2009.

Allan has been the Chairman for the YCWJ since October 2008 and has been instrumental in the revamping and subsequently resurgence of the national body. Prior to this Mr. Bernard played a pivotal role in establishing the YCW group in Flanker and has continued to support the group throughout. The YCWF under his tutelage has grown to become the leading YCW site in the country with no signs of abating.

The YCW programme operates in 27 countries outside the United States of America and brings youth of all backgrounds together to identify and correct problems unique to their schools and communities. While The International Casey Award was presented to the National Chairman of the YCWJ, Allan credits the hard work of his executive team, and the commitment of the members of the respective YCW sites in Jamaica to the ideals of the programme for the success of the national body. He also noted that the work has just began and that he was looking forward to the continued support of all the stakeholders as the YCWJ

endeavour to roll out its mandate island wide.



*Allan Bernard (centre) in meeting with YCWJ executives*

**Community Round Up**

**Sports** – With the 2008-09 football season coming to an end, the community teams are facing contrasting fortunes. Seaview FC is riding high atop the standings in the St. James Division One competition. There seems to be no stopping Seaview for this year's title and promotion to the Senior league. Fogo United on the other hand, finds itself in the relegation zone of the Senior league. The haemorrhaging continues as Fogo does not look the shadow of the team it was two years ago when they were promoted to the Western Confederation league. Well... "A wi say Seaview straight... Fogo wi love yu still."

**Holiday Vibes** – Big up Nailly and Cappy for bringing back the Easter Fun Day Event to the Community. The fun-filled family event with fish fry, football, merry-go-round, bounce-a-bout and stage show (that ended at mid-night), was a refreshing departure from the normal entertainment and leisure space in the community. While there were many glitches in its execution, one could understand given the absence of such an event in recent times. Both patrons and promoters will no doubt grow to ap-

preciate and execute the next Nailly and Cappy promotion.

**Marching Band** – Time and time again the Flanker Community Marching Band has proven to be the best thing since slice bread, within and outside the community. This time the band demonstrated to Jamaica that it is among the best of them. They gave what is arguably their most memorable performance at the Farm Heights Community Fun Day. The Flanker troop outplayed the most reputed band of Montego Bay and Kingston, Heights Band and the Tivoli Band respectively. The audience was blown away by the music and dance of the Flanker Band. Many could not contain themselves they listened to the contemporary dancehall sounds coming from the Flanker Band. People were just simply amazed. In the word of one satisfied patron... "Flanker Band to di world".

**Music for the Life** – The Flanker community was treated a feast of music by the Day Spring Chorale. The choir which originates from Day Spring Christian Academy in Michigan USA was on a 10 days tour of Jamaica and Flanker was one of their many stops across the island. They were facilitated by the Flanker Peace and Justice Centre and performed on the grounds to the delight and appreciation of the large audience that came out to see them. The inspirational performance can only lead one to say, "If music be the food of life, play on."

*Flanker Digest* is a monthly publication with the aim of reporting on the issues and activities in the community. It is a free newsletter edited and compiled by the Youth Crime Watch of Flanker under the auspices of the Flanker Peace and Justice Centre.