Editorial

Yup! You guessed it! The first issue of the WIAA newsletter brought to you by West Indians and Africans on campus who want to share with you their culture, history and any information that pertains to their respective regions. We want to give you our own insight into things relating to our nations and perhaps succeed in making the world of the West Indies and Africa more real to the Hamilton Community. Enjoy this first issue, and we do want your feedback!

Vako Tamaklo ’09

Unfavorable Reasons for Interest and Growth

Although the third democratic elections took place in April of 2004, South Africa is already looking to its future. The nation has already embarked on a national campaign for its regional elections. A recent Markinor Poll shows:

Voters in South Africa’s six major urban areas will send a strong signal of discontent over service delivery in next month’s local government election, reducing the ANC’s majority but keeping it in power.”

The mass’ discontent could be used as part of the arsenal of the opposing Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Democratic Alliance (DA), and New National Party (NNP) during their current campaigns. Tony Leon, leader of the (NNP), is notorious for noting the shortcomings of the ANC during campaigns nearing the ends of the ANC’s previous three terms in office. Unfortunately for the opposing parties, the polls also show that ANC support may increase in percentage for the regional or Local Governmental Elections that will be held on March 1st, 2006: 83% of participants see the ANC as gaining power/votes and 17% see it as loosing power/votes.

The positive outcome of the poll is that there is an expected growth in the voter population and voter interest. The young democracy is experiencing a great amount of respect and interest from its beneficiaries, even though the interest spawns from discontent. Everyone has a voice, and South Africans realize that if they want change, they need to vote and be part of the solution to their problems and discontents.

Luvuyo Mandela ’09

Democratic Consolidation in Haiti

Democracy consolidation has remained unstable in Haiti since the last decade. The democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in 2004 amid an uprising and under heavy pressure from the United States and France. An interim government was immediately installed to organize new elections to elect a new government. Many Haitians, joined by the Caribbean Community bloc (CARICOM) and many African nations, have questioned the legality of the interim government. For example, Gerard Latortue was flown from Florida to be installed as Prime Minister, a direct violation of the Haitian 1987 Constitution Title V, Chapter III, Article 157 § 4 and § 5. § 4 requires prospective prime minister to practice a profession in Haiti and § 5 requires the person to have resided in Haiti for five consecutive years prior to his/her inauguration. Latortue neither practices a profession nor lives in Haiti. Most troubling though, the process in installing the interim government itself was unconstitutional. The process was led by the U.S. from the start.

Anarchy ruled Haiti since the regime change. A United Nations peacekeeping force (MINUSTAH) was sent to assist the interim government to reestablish security in the country. MINUSTAH’s presence in Haiti remained ineffective to bring order to many Haitian cities. The interim government used the lawlessness to marginalize Mr. Aristide’s supporters. By early 2006, thousands of Aristide’s supporters were jailed indefinitely without formal charges, a clear violation of Haitian laws. Many prominent leaders from the Aristide government were also jailed indefinitely without being charged, including the former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, and Father Gerard Jean-Juste, whom the Amnesty International called a prisoner of conscience since he had been jailed for expressing views that the interim authorities did not like.

The interim government finally held parliamentary and presidential elections on February 7, 2006. Réné Garcia Préval, a close associate of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, won the election with over 51.21% of the votes. Mr. Préval ruled Haiti from 1996 to 2001. He is championed by all Haitians; rich and poor, black and mulattoes. Hopefully his friendly approach to the political crisis in Haiti and his inclusiveness will enhance consolidating democracy in Haiti.

Byssainthe-Loubens Theork ’06

DISCLAIMER: the views held and expressed by the individual writers of the articles are not that of the organization (WIAA) as a whole.
A Beat to a Different Drum

Quarterfinal teams

Left with 8 of the 16 qualified teams, the quarterfinals consisted of: Egypt, Cote d’voire, Cameroon, Congo DR, Tunisia, Guinea, Nigeria ad Senegal.

Upsets during the tournaments led to many questions about the world cup qualified teams. One of the biggest upset was between Ghana and Zimbabwe, a 2-1 win for Zimbabwe, the underdog, that sent Ghana home and opened an opportunity for Senegal to move on to the quarter finals.

The elimination of Togo at the bottom of Group B brought up the question of whether the world cup qualified team would be able to stand against their opponents in the world cup. The same question arose for Angola, also in group B, who lost the chance of qualifying after a draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the quarter finals, Egypt proved to be unstoppable with their swift defeat of Congo DR, 4-1. Cote d’voire made an astonishing appearance as a world cup qualifying team with their 13-12 penalty shootout win over Cameroon after a long fight to a 1-1 draw match. Nigeria struggled in their match against Tunisia but managed to pull of a 6-5 penalty shoot out win.

The Most Successful Political Party

If the question of what political party was the most successful in the world was posed to a group of students in America, the probability is that the answers would divided between Democrats and Americans. If the answer was posed to a random number of students from each continent, I suspect that the overwhelming majority would suggest a developed country. This would not be a surprising outcome considering that a political successful party would be in a region with little political instability and this is stereotypically always associated with developed countries.

Ironically, the most successful politically party in the world, according to the Vice President of Botswana, Ian Khama is the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). His reasoning is that this because it has ruled for 40 years non-stop. This has been amidst the existence of a multi party state. However the opposition has been fragmented and disorganized. As a consequence it has until recently, had little support from the general population. Ian Khama further asserted that because of this “non – stop” governance the BDP has been able to maintain sound economic growth at an average of 7% since 1966, invested in education and health infrastructure as well and has gained a lot of experience on how to rule.

Thus the Vice president because of the experience the BDP party has accrued, believes that the opposition is incompetent and not a good possible alternative to govern the country. He went on further to say that the opposition is largely non-existent. This is an interesting statement because acknowledging the growing presence of the opposition validates them. By acting as if they are not important in the countries progress makes them appear more fragmented than they actually are. The “most successful political” party in the world is showing that like all political parties, oppositions are eventually a commendable threat to their rule. This threat might end the BDP governance and along with it obliterate the title “most successful political party in the world” if there were ever such a political party.

Tumelano Gopolang ’08

WIAA Calendar Spring 2006

March 9th February – First monthly WIAA newsletter in circulation
April 10th March – WIAA newsletter in circulation
11th April Panel Discussion – Current events in the Caribbean
15th Cultural Event – African and West Indian dance, music, fashion show and food. Followed by a party with African and West Indian music.
24th April – WIAA newsletter in circulation