

Island Governor Gerald Berkel's speech celebrating Statia Day

My Fellow Statians, on Statia day we celebrate who we are as a community. We walk down memory lane and reflect on the glory days, such as the first salute heard round the world that gave rise to the world greatest democracy. On this day we also reflect on our reality of today. Where are we now? Where are we going? Last year on this very podium we looked into the future with great anticipation to a year of significant developments. Since then we have experienced a referendum, an election, and most recently the completion of the evaluation of the past five years as a public entity. While the reports are completed and being studied, we are now faced with the yet another important question. What's next? There are many opinions with regard to what is next for St. Eustatius, and I suspect that we will enter a period of discussions regarding our collective future taking into account the events of the past year.

In order for us to be successful regardless of the path ultimately chosen we must insure that we build a solid foundation from which this journey must move forward. A solid foundation requires us all as a community to come together in support of one collective vision. It must be clear that uniting behind a collec-

tive vision does not exclude critical thinking and debate; rather, I believe the opposite to be true for history has shown that every successful democracy was developed through a process of dialog. With all stakeholders actively engaged, critical thinking and open public debate ultimately yielded a vision that was reflective of a wide cross section of the community, who, in turn is committed to working toward achieving this shared vision.

I have been told that I often have a way of creating an unrealistic image of society, that in fact a united community around one goal is unlikely. Well my fellow Statian's, history has shown us that unity is the only way any community has been able to concur their challenges and achieve their goals. For this reason we know by heart the popular statement "united we stand and divided we fall." So yes, I believe that unity is possible and a necessity if we are to be successful. Pondering this possibility, I suggest we then consider the question. How do we unite our community in order to achieve this future that we all envision?

My fellow Statians, I believe this unity is possible through first and foremost sincere and personal commitment. We must all be

prepared to make a concerted effort to contribute positively to a united community by actively seeking in your daily life, at home and at work, to build bridges and resolve conflicts. We should seek to find common ground in the interest of the betterment of our society.

Next, we must foster an environment of respect one for another. A society where respect is allowed to be eroded is a society on the road to disaster. It is imperative that we safeguard this very important human characteristic of our society and imbed it in our cultural fabric. Respect for oneself, respect for our parents, respect for seniors in our society, respect for elected and appointed representative's, respect for law and order. We cannot build a united community if we are not committed to instilling in our children and showing by our own example a sense of respect and order.

Respect is a key component of a united community; it allows everyone the ability to benefit fully of the rights afforded to them while equally fulfilling their obligation to society to be productive, to build up, and to contribute ultimately to leaving Statia a better place for the generation that will follow.

Next, in order to unite in mutual respect we should

seek to foster an environment of inclusion. As a community challenged with limited resources we must seek to maximize all resources available to us by promoting an environment of inclusion and cooperation. We must recognize and make best use of the private sector partners, social partners, religious organizations, and regional and national partners in addressing the various challenges economic, social or environmental that we face.

Statia has great potential and now the time is here to actually achieve this potential we are all so convinced of. The time is now to re-actualize a sense of urgency in making progress. Quite recently the longest standing political standoff of this hemisphere was ended when the United States and Cuba started the process of normalizing relations.

My fellow Statians building bridges does not mean

conceding nor does it erode our right to formulate, fight for, and strive towards the achieving of our goals. By building bridges we help to create a mutually beneficial environment where all involved contributes toward a brighter future.

Today, as we celebrate being Statian, I call on us

all to commit to these basic principles of personal commitment, fostering an attitude of mutual respect, and active inclusion of all sectors of our society as we move forward in rebuilding our beloved Golden Rock. I thank you all and wish you all a Happy Statia Day.

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

6	2		5									
3	7	8		9							6	
1				4	7							
			7	2		5	9					
8				6			1					
2	7			8	9							
			9	1						2		
8				7		1	6	5				
				3		7	8					

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

8	2	3	7	1	5	4	9	6
9	5	7	3	6	4	8	2	1
4	6	1	2	8	9	3	7	5
2	9	6	1	4	3	5	8	7
7	3	8	9	5	6	2	1	4
5	1	4	8	2	7	9	6	3
3	7	2	4	9	1	6	5	8
1	8	5	6	3	2	7	4	9
6	4	9	5	7	8	1	3	2

11/18 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆ © 2015 by Universal Uclick

ACROSS

- 1 Lacking sufficient funds
- 6 Close noisily
- 10 TV remote button
- 14 Crowbar
- 15 Walk the floor
- 16 As strong __ ox
- 17 Sports building
- 18 Filled with a wonder
- 19 Lab experiment
- 20 Pieces
- 22 Sharp as a tack
- 24 Word of lament
- 25 Baby's nightie
- 26 Yell
- 29 Also-ran
- 30 Battery size
- 31 Nonconformist
- 33 "Ode to a Nightingale" poet
- 37 Fashionable
- 39 Actor Matt __
- 41 Serving two purposes
- 42 Praise
- 44 " __ are red, violets are..."
- 46 __ boots; Jean-Claude Killy's footwear
- 47 Tablecloths, sheets, etc.
- 49 Played miniature golf
- 51 Child's vehicle
- 54 Plato or Delany
- 55 Seaisickness
- 56 Formal dance locale
- 60 Curry & others
- 61 Regretted
- 63 Do penance
- 64 Imogene __
- 65 __ out a living; got by
- 66 Labyrinths
- 67 __ over; faint
- 68 Refuse to obey
- 69 Squeeze

DOWN

- 1 __ in the face; insult
- 2 Long sandwich
- 3 Finished; done
- 4 Apartment, often
- 5 Movie preview
- 6 Bridges
- 7 Regulations
- 8 Top card
- 9 Military awards
- 10 Was important
- 11 Spend all of
- 12 Sample bite
- 13 Join, as a club
- 21 Rowed
- 23 Try to find
- 25 Songs for one
- 26 Can't __ it; is unsuccessful
- 27 Setting for TV's "Magnum, P.I."
- 28 __-back; relaxed
- 29 Citrus fruit
- 32 Wearing less
- 34 Smallest continent: abbr.
- 35 __ back; recant
- 36 Went down a fire pole

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21				22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28			29							
30			31		32			33		34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
			47		48			49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/18/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	M	S	S	C	A	L	D	E	N	D	S
B	O	O	T	T	H	R	E	E	N	O	A	H
C	A	R	E	R	A	K	E	S	V	O	T	E
S	M	E	L	L	E	D	W	I	D	E	N	E
			L	A	W	B	A	S	I	L		
U	N	C	A	P	R	O	Y	V	O	C	A	L
L	A	I	R	P	A	L	W	A	P	I	T	I
C	O	T	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	G	A	L
E	M	E	R	G	E	V	I	N	H	A	L	T
R	I	S	E	R	M	A	N	G	I	R	L	S
			D	E	F	E	R	P	U	B		
D	I	S	C	E	R	N	S	O	M	A	L	L
I	O	T	A	E	A	G	E	R	C	O	R	D
S	W	A	P	S	C	E	N	T	H	O	O	D
C	A	B	S	H	E	E	D	S	I	N	N	S

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Remember to practise the politics of nuance

Dear Editor,

Nuance, the intelligence that emerges between reason and emotion, seems to be lacking these days after the devastating attacks in Paris. This brief intervention is one that seeks to remain faithful to nuance. In these dark times the fever of exclusive-camp-thinking (Us against Them) threatens to infest even our brightest minds.

In their zest to display their global knowledge, as in those who question why a Parisian life should weigh more than say a Kenyan (a country also reeling from lethal attacks by religious extremists), or spontaneous fellow feeling – those who say that an attack on Paris is an attack on all French and St. Martinois living in Paris – intellectuals, politicians, journalists, and activists on St. Martin and St. Maarten run the risk of forgetting what solidarity entails. Solidarity is never ex-

clusive. Such is camp-thinking, and this is what we get when some quarters claim that "we are the West and with the West," while others retort "the West is the place that oppresses and cannibalizes the Rest." Solidarity, which is charity, is far removed when one hears words like these uttered by our brightest minds.

Solidarity is always shared with the weak and threatened across ideological divides. Terms like the West and the Rest; the defenders of democracy and the terrorists; Us versus Them, give way to looking at and looking after those who will suffer when the power hungry dehumanize each other and lead most to forget the individuality of each other. We, St. Martinois and St. Maarteners, are not the victims of Paris, neither are we the ones in Kenya, Palestine or Syria. We are not the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers,

sons or daughters plunged into mourning. We are not, no matter how many times some of us have visited the French capital or how many of us can claim a historical connection to the victims. What are those people that today can and must stand with those weak persons: Muslim, Christian, secular and whatever, that threaten to be victimized due to acts of revenge.

One can only hope that this will be the tone of the coming interventions by our brightest minds.

Dr. Franco Guadeloupe – President and Interim Dean of Academics, USM
Erwin Wolthuis – Division Head of the Hospitality and Business programs
Dr. Natasha Gittens – Director of the SCELL
Josue Ferrol – Division Head of the pre-USM program
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