

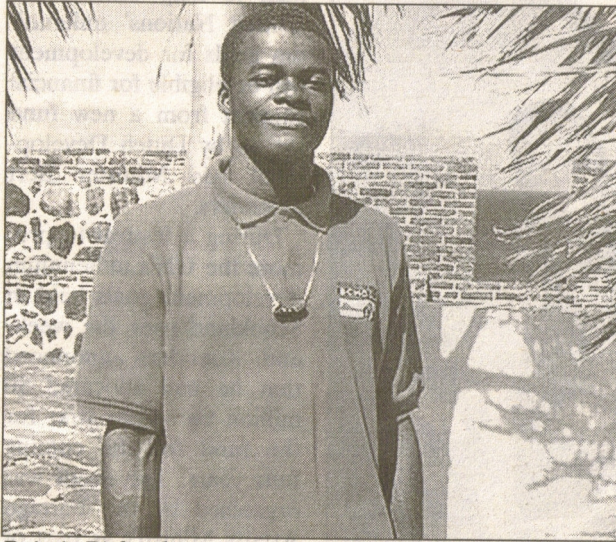
Junior Commissioner prepares for debate

ST. EUSTATIUS--As the five finalists of the Condé Nast "My Caribbean" essay competition wait in anticipation to learn who has been chosen to represent the island, Statia's Junior Commissioner of Tourism Raimie Richardson is also preparing for the 30th annual CTC conference.

Richardson (16) is HAVO-3 student from the Gwendolyn van Putten School. He will be representing the island in the Youth Congress debates sponsored by Travel + Leisure magazine during the Caribbean Tourism Conference (CTC).

Richardson enjoys traveling and looks forward to joining the Statia delegation to Puerto Rico in October. Once there, he will attend general CTC sessions and dinners, tour the island and meet with young people from other CTC member countries.

Richardson has a lot of work to do in preparation for CTC-30. Along with his favourite hobbies, gardening and playing sports, he will spend his summer working part-time, preparing for the chosen discussion topics and the dreaded mystery question.



Raimie Richardson

First Lady and committee Chairperson Sylvana Gittens will be training him on various levels of debating. He will also have to pass a "Know your Island" test in which he will be questioned on various topics, such as tourism, history, environment and culture.

The debate is expected to

be an exhilarating one, with questions about health and wellness, tourism and intra-regional travel within the Caribbean.

When asked to give a quote on the trip, he replied with a big smile, "I look forward to representing the island and can't wait for October."

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