CASE STUDY REPORT

What are the motivating factors for news blogging?

The case of Barbados Underground.

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Abstract

News blogs have emerged as a trusted source of information and influence in Western society. Studies examining the motivations for blogging have found that they are varied and change over time. This case study explores the phenomenon in a Caribbean context, where cultural, political, and societal issues set the region apart from others. An analysis was done of the Barbados Underground blog utilising the theoretical frameworks of bricolage and envelopment. The case study indicates that motivations for blogging via Barbados Underground are both intrinsic and extrinsic and outlines how online spaces for public discourse are evolving to challenge both mainstream media and each other.

Introduction

The eruption of the La Soufrière volcano on April 9, 2021 on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines resulted in the displacement of thousands of residents. News of the eruption, resultant dislocation, and impact of the ashfall was carried by media organizations worldwide. Within days, a Barbadian blogger published an opinion headlined La Soufrière Volcano Erupts that suggested a link between the eruption and geothermal drilling in a nearby area (Green, 2021). On that social media platform, the article drew more than 50 seemingly unedited comments from individuals, many of whom used aliases. Bound by stricter standards of journalism and libel and defamation laws, traditional media (Barbados Today, 2021; Barbados Nation, 2021) stuck to opinion pieces that follow established tenets of journalism, including the publication of information that could only be verified. This case pinpoints stark differences between traditional media and bloggers, one of which is the different standards that must be met for the publication of any material.

Such barriers have contributed to the emergence of blogs as a trusted source of information and influence (Lowrey, 2006) and accuracy and relevance (Lasica, 2003). Lasica said their interactive nature allows them to be more representative of perspectives from different audiences. That interactive nature allows audiences unfettered access to post comments, which (Lowrey, 2006; Bowman & Willis, 2003) suggests acts as its own checks and balances. Safa et al. (2014) contends that bloggers have engaged in this type of participatory journalism to facilitate freedom of expression, while Pinjamaa (2016) believes bloggers use this medium as a form of self-expression and self-actualization. However, Lowrey (2006) argues that bloggers, much like traditional media, may be motivated by their own self-interest rather than that of the society. This article focuses on the motivations for news blogging in the Caribbean where cultural, political, and societal issues set the region apart from others. To shed light on this issue, an analysis would be done of the Barbados Underground blog utilising the theoretical frameworks of bricolage and envelopment.

Literature Review

Blogging and its motivations

Social media has facilitated the evolution of online blogging, which in its original form utilized Web 2.0 to create and publish content (Toffler, 1980 as cited in Pinjamaa, 2016), inclusive of the bloggers' opinions and perspectives on issues. Many bloggers now operate solely on social media platforms and have a multiplicity of interests. Blogging presents a platform for catharsis through self-expression, to connect with others, transfer knowledge, to become entrepreneurs, to gain notoriety, and offers validation. Li & Lin (2012) noted that the motivations are varied and change over time. Researchers have examined the intrinsic and extrinsic motivation for blogging. Ryan & Deci (2000) described intrinsic motivation as the performance of an activity for its inherent satisfaction rather than external prods, pressures, or rewards, while extrinsic motivation suggests that an activity is carried out to achieve separate outcomes. They argue that most blogging is not intrinsically motivated. Such views have been challenged by Li & Lin (2012). However, in analysing the motivations, Ekdale et al. (2010) found that though intrinsic motivations remained over time, there was an increase in extrinsic motivation. One such incentive is financial rewards**.** For those who influence audience attitudes through blogs, tweets, and the use of other social media, described as social media influencers (Freberg et al., 2011), they can earn money through advertising, brand endorsements and affiliate marketing. More followers translate to more money. One of Nigeria's most successful bloggers Linda Ikeji started the practice in 2006 as a hobby (Morlin-Yron, 2016). The former model has since established herself as an international brand and has 1.8 million Twitter followers and 6.3 million following her Instagram account. Blogging is now the primary source of income for the multimillionaire, who also leveraged her brand to start a television station and her own social network to rival Facebook.

Declining trust in the media

Many blogs have been recognised as trusted sources for information (Ting et al., 2014). Conversely, trust in traditional media for news and information continues to decline (Toff et al., 2020; Edelman Trust Barometer, 2021; Newman et al., 2020). A poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and USAFacts in 2020 found this is due to the inability of the audience to determine the veracity of the information, one-sided information, and conflicting reports about the same set of facts from different sources (Riccardi & Fingerhut, 2020). Toff et al. (2020) go further to suggest that media have not truly reflected the voices and perspectives of communities they serve caused, in part, by challenges posed in serving a diverse audience and their changing expectations. Research has pointed to other contributing factors such as organizational constraints (Lowrey, 2006), lack of access to certain information (Tolmie et al., 2017), and a filtering system that affects the relevance of news that could make it less engaging (Storr, 2016). Such distrust and failure to cover some issues deemed important by the public have created a void that bloggers and other citizen journalists have stepped in to fill.

Citizen journalism

Dare (2011) describes citizen journalism as a practice that allows the users or audience to collect, report, analyze and disseminate news and information, all of which have been facilitated by technologies, including the internet.

Bowman & Willis (2003) stated the following:

> Increasingly, audiences are becoming stakeholders in the news process. Rather than passively accepting news coverage decided upon by a handful of editors, they fire off emails, post criticism of perceived editorial shortcomings on weblogs and in forums, and support or fund an independent editorial enterprise (p. 51).

The rise of citizen journalism has been linked to situations of conflict, some of the notable cases being the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street and the more recent Black

Lives Matter protest, as well as a response to the tight control traditional media had on the distribution of information. Storr (2016) pointed to the usefulness of citizen journalists in disseminating information from rural areas where traditional media have not provided adequate coverage. While such issues have helped to democratize the news, it also serves to raise issues centred on the relevance of traditional media. In his examination of the situation in Nigeria, Dare (2011) said, "legacy media continues to struggle to secure its turf as the "authoritative" voice and the manager and processor of news in the face of citizen journalism" (p. 14). Studies have analysed the credibility of citizen journalists (Storr, 2016; Bowman & Willis, 2003; Lasica, 2003). On the other hand, an increasing number of journalists have turned to blogs for ideas about news stories. A survey of the influence of social media on reporting found nearly 70% of all reporters check a blog list on a regular basis for story ideas, story angles and insight into how the public view issues (Marketing Charts, 2008). Some 61.8% of the North American journalists surveyed also said that blogs were having a significant impact on the tone and editorial direction of news reporting. Lowrey (2008) suggests journalists may engage in this practice to "maintain control over the raw material of source information and to ensure they are not scooped by bloggers. It may even be a form of co-optation, whereby journalists begin to think of blogging as a reporting tool" (p. 75). Bowman & Willis (2003) said the use of real-world identity by bloggers adds a level of credibility.

Theoretical frameworks

Though globalization has facilitated the uptake of technology in the Caribbean, Sankatsing (2003) posits that it has been used by developed countries in the West to condition people in the Caribbean and other regions to believe that Western societies are the epitome and should be imitated. He contends that through deliberate actions, people of the region were made to believe that things that were critical to an indigenous Caribbean, such as culture, history, and sense of internal social dynamism were not good enough. Sankatsing described this process as envelopment. Meanwhile, Dunn (2014) notes that the

origins of communications infrastructure in the Caribbean created media that perpetuated British values and systems in colonial societies as a form of imperial control. Scholars have researched how technology has been used as a geopolitical strategy to exert influence and dominance (Wu, 2020; Rahman, 2020). In the case of the United States, it began steering more financial support to innovators and multinational companies from as early as the 1960s (Rahman, 2020). A resultant effect of such investments is the proliferation of American social media platforms in the Anglophone Caribbean. WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, and Twitter lead the way (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2018), despite China having five of the eight most popular social media sites globally in 2020 (Statista, n.d). Proximity, traditional trade and power relations and language have also contributed to the U.S cementing its technological footprint in the region. In Barbados, social media usage mirrors the proclivity for American social media in the Anglophone Caribbean so much so that use of such platforms has surpassed that of legacy media - newspapers, television, and radio (Howard, 2018). Facebook (41%) was the most used platform followed by YouTube (40%), Instagram (33%), Pinterest (25%), Snapchat (20%), LinkedIn (15%) and Twitter (13%), (Howard, 2018). Trends and practices such as blogging, first recognised through the actions of an American in 1994, have become pervasive globally and have trickled down to smaller countries like Barbados. Dunn et al. (2021) concur that the globalization agenda set by North America and Europe, which comprise the Global North, has created a culture of imitation; however he believes that digital technologies could be used by the people in the Caribbean to liberate themselves. Storr (2016) concluded "unless Caribbean countries find innovative ways to use these technologies to create something new, their dependency will continue and concerns for the erosion of cultural identity will be heightened" (p. 64).

While blogging has been established as big business in some markets, it is fledging in others. As a result, some engage in the practice as a hobby (Bronstein, 2015) or see it as a way of supplementing their income, while holding full-time jobs. These financial constraints

and inability to generate their own content has resulted in some bloggers reposting material produced by traditional media. Safa et al. (2014) said news bloggers "do not generate original content but rely on the sources for their links and as inspiration for their commentary" (p. 5). The phrase best used to explain this practice is bricolage. Strauss (1962) described it as making use of material that is at the disposal of an individual to create something new due to limited resources. In this scenario, the individual is not required to have the necessary knowledge or skill to gather or produce. Strauss' theory has been reinterpreted over time and has been applied to explain a range of phenomena. Deuze (2006) argues that such activities should not be confused with unlimited freedom and creativity as many offer repurposed or aggregated material. Deuze said this has an element of distantiation, which he defines as a 'manipulation of the dominant way of doing or understanding things in order to juxtapose, challenge, or even subvert the mainstream" p.68.

In his analysis of media, communication and cultural studies, Hartley (2002) points to borrowing, mixture, hybridity, and plagiarism as trademarks of the person engaged in the practice of bricolage. It is well documented that both bloggers and persons in societies at large have engaged in plagiarism. Morlin-Yron (2016) cited an incident in 2014 in which the blog operated by Linda Ikeji was temporarily taken offline following allegations of plagiarism. At the same time, there have been numerous instances in which content has been plagiarised from social media blogs. In the Philippines, Senator Vicente "Tito" Sotto III admitted to copying the work of a blogger in 2012 (Rappler, 2012). The senator initially denied the report, but one of his staffers later admitted this was done, and defended the action by stating that blogs were public domain.

Based on the issues highlighted, social media and blogging are dynamic phenomena. While many characteristics remain the same and the ubiquitous nature of the platforms is undeniable, modifications have been made to suit the societies and conditions under which bloggers operate. In the view of Dunn (2018), blogging has "given people the opportunity to not only create their own content but to also "lend their voices, uninvited, into

debates about public and even private affairs globally" p. 9. Such discussions have consequences for the media, politics, and policy (Farrell & Drezner, 2008).

Method

A qualitative approach was determined as best suited to the aim of uncovering motivations for news blogging in the Barbados context. As noted by Hammerberg et. al (2016), "qualitative methods are used to answer questions about experience, meaning and perspective, most often from the standpoint of the participant." They further note that such data are usually difficult to count or measure. Accordingly, it was determined that to understand the motivating factors for news blogging in Barbados, it would be necessary to conduct an in-depth interview with a blogger operating in that space.

Several qualitative techniques were used to gather data and identify potential interview subject(s). Firstly, an online search was conducted to identify Barbados-focused blogs. This was followed by filtering the blogs found by content that focused on news (current affairs and politics), leading to the identification of three blogs – Barbados Free Press, Barbados Underground and The Chase Files. Barbados Free Press announced the suspension of its regular operations in 2015 and was therefore not considered for inclusion as a potential interview subject. Requests for interviews were sent to the other two blogs via the email address provided on their website or social networking profile. Both bloggers agreed to the interview; however, only Barbados Underground fulfilled the request. The interview was conducted March 31 – April 1, 2021 via email as per the request of the respondent. The respondent also answered follow-up questions to their initial responses, sent via email on April 5, 2021. Interview responses were reviewed and analyzed to arrive at the findings elaborated herein.

Results

Description of Barbados Underground

Barbados Underground (BU) (www.barbadosunderground.net) is a blog established in April 2007. It is hosted via WordPress, with associated social networking accounts on Facebook (400 followers), Instagram (316 followers) and Twitter (1,013 followers) which serve to extend the reach of the blogs posted on the website. Its slogan is "Bringing news and opinions to the people" and its stated motto paraphrases a quote attributed to 19th century British journalist, George Linnaeus Banks: "For the cause that lacks assistance, the wrong that needs resistance, for the future in the distance, and the good that [BU] can do". The description provided on the associated social networking accounts underscore the blog's intent to fill a perceived void in the coverage by mainstream media. It aims to be a space where people can freely debate social, political, and economic issues without fear of censorship or reprisal, even if these views may diverge from or challenge the status quo. When asked to define the blog and identify its key topics of interest, the founder, who publishes under the pseudonym 'David King' and ascribes himself the role of "blogmaster", said:

> The blog is a virtual rumshop. The strict definition of a blog is one where the blogmaster's opinion is supreme and commenters' comments tolerated. The nuance at BU is that the opinions of commenters are valued, and this is illustrated by the several submissions/blogs routinely submitted for blog posting.

> Pillar issues of governance, corruption and the political still feature. It is a niche space the blog operates in. Commenters are encouraged to submit views on any issues but there are core/pillar issues that are recycled. (D. King, personal communication, April 1, 2021)

This description was supported by a review of the blog's content for the period March 1 – 31, 2021 (See Appendix). The topics ventilated fall under the identified niche areas and posts are credited to a variety of authors. Some posts are authored by King, while others are comments under blogs that were singled out and made into unique posts based on King's editorial judgment. Other blogs are submissions sent to King via email or through the blog's submission portal for publication, including commentaries from people who are also regular columnists in mainstream media publications. According to King, this is confirmation that people, including high-profile figures with some influence, appreciate the less regulated expression allowed on BU:

> BU commenters share an unvarnished perspective which mainstream social commentators value. This is aided by the fact [that more] 'risqué' commentary may be tolerated on BU [when] compared to traditional media.

Meanwhile, the content of the blog aligns with Strauss' description of bricolage as the blog posts are a mixture of original content and commentary, often inspired by the topics dominating the current news cycle and with links to online content produced by mainstream media. According to King, this reflects the evolution of how information flows within society, whereby citizen journalism has become a source for the traditional media. However, he maintains that the two platforms are different and continue to play separate roles, despite some level of convergence.

Motivations for news blogging

Traditional public discourse as conducted by the mainstream media is seen to be controlled by political and economic elites. The Association of Caribbean Media Workers (2005) identified political pressures, lack of freedom of information legislation, commercial interests and ownership of the press, as well as unprofessional conduct to be the biggest threats to the practice of journalism in Barbados. When asked about his view of the media in Barbados, King questioned their independence, stating:

The traditional media is hamstrung in its editorial position by the pandering to the advertising dollar and the heavy influence of the political class in a small country where incestuous behaviour is a feature.

King further pinpointed a singular incident as the catalyst for creating the BU blog. He explained:

A popular radio station (Voice of Barbados) hosted a talk show program with the Minister of Tourism at the time Noel Lynch and his participation was conditional on a strident social commentator Adrian Loveridge NOT being permitted to sit in the same studio. Loveridge had to be located in another room at the radio station. I thought this was an exercise of naked political power and a surrender on its mandate by the Fourth Estate.

The envelopment construct speaks to the cognitive dissonance that occurs when the ideals and worldview of the global North about the role of the media confront the cultural reality in the Caribbean, and we see this demonstrated in the Barbados media landscape. It is instructive that King, in his assessment and expectations of the functions of mass media in Barbadian society, invokes the concept of the 'Fourth Estate' - which originated in Victorian England (also Imperial Britain) and positioned the press as a watchdog to keep the political and commercial elites accountable within a properly functioning democracy. This reference point is nonetheless consistent with the aforementioned motto of BU, which also originates in Victorian England. However, the origins of mainstream media in the Caribbean is not one of freedom of expression but rather one of maintaining and supporting the status quo (Dunn, 2014). This puts it squarely in ideological conflict with the freedoms allowed in the digital space in which blogs operate. Although the Constitution of Barbados protects the right to freedom of expression, and Barbados is perceived as being an environment that is supportive of a free press (Deutsch Karlekar & Cook, 2008), in practice, there is a sense that

the mainstream media is constrained by cultural and commercial considerations. Storr (2016) describes it thus:

> In democratic models of governance that push openness, freedom of expression, and personal liberties, Caribbean societies clash with Western interpretations of how these ideals should work in public discourse. (p. 94)

For some, news blogging provides a level of anonymity that reduces the perceived risk of covering potentially controversial topics. When asked to describe the format of BU and why this approach is used, King said:

> The blog is a project. It is not heavily censored; it is about self censorship and self regulating to stoke the feeling of ownership. Some regulars therefore will fuel topics of interest by keeping the BU family updated, example food security, tourism, governance, corruption etcetera.

This explanation alludes to the conclusion of Dunn et al. (2021) that despite the culture of imitation seen in the use of digital technologies in the Caribbean, they can be used by people in the Caribbean as a tool for liberation. Additionally, by providing a space for ideas and opinions to contend and without the same commercial considerations as mainstream media, BU can be considered as using digital technology to innovate and repackage a very popular programming format in the mainstream Caribbean media landscape - the radio call-in programme, where listeners become integral contributors to the station's content by engaging a moderator in on-air discussion about issues of the day. Thus, blogs like BU are able to use platforms developed and maintained in the United States of America (WordPress, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to challenge the status quo of Barbadian society in the interest of what they perceive to be the greater good. According to King, BU provides him with a deep sense of personal satisfaction, describing it as "a way to serve country that allows for actualization i.e. a sense of fulfilling a purpose, making a difference". He noted that this comes with some measure of personal sacrifice, including the

loss of time for personal or family matters and legal challenges with WordPress due to complaints filed by those offended by blogs and attendant comments. He remains motivated to blog because he sees BU as a "disruptive player" that provides a necessary perspective on public sentiment to society's decision makers. He said:

> BU targets the decision makers mainly in the political space, members of government, leaders in the private sector etcetera. The expectation is to serve as a pulse check to arm decisionmakers with a 3D view of issues, especially the contentious and controversial.

> The satisfaction is knowing there is a channel to voice or express opinions. In a democracy this is important to ensuring the system of democracy practiced is a 'breathing' system. The pulse check is mainly knowing that the channel is sending and receiving signals.

Indeed, Broome and Adugu (2015) credit BU and the now defunct Barbados Free Press blog with providing checks and balances to local officials. It is difficult to validate the claim that the blog reflects widespread public views without the ability to verify the visitor traffic to the website, but King maintains that there are enough unique visitors to the blog to encourage the belief that there is a good mix of visitors beyond regular commenters. He noted as well that one of the biggest challenges was to prevent the blog becoming an echo chamber of the same voices, noting that he used tactics such as giving prominence to comments from new visitors to the blog and making deliberately provocative posts as blogmaster.

Similarly, it is difficult to ascertain whether the blog has a direct influence on its aforementioned target audience. King said there were instances where it was possible to track "traditional media, editorials and public commentary" to views expressed and opinions posted to BU, but he did not provide specific examples although he noted that this was reflected in the confidential documents and documents received by the blog. The blog does

appear to have the attention of some decision makers, as it was observed that regular contributors to the blog include an Opposition Senator and the leader of one of the political parties that contested recent General Elections (See Appendix). In addition, past regular contributors have included high-profile figures in academia and business. Furthermore, it was observed that the BU Instagram account is followed by the official Instagram account of the current Prime Minister of Barbados. Nonetheless, in the absence of an explicit or clear causation emanating from an issue or topic tackled by BU, it is not possible to say to what extent engaging with BU content influences the decision making of influential persons.

King also indicated his openness to change and willingness to leverage digital technology to keep up with the fast pace of change in online spaces, although it was observed that he has yet to focus on maximizing the reach of BU's social networking channels despite the popularity of those platforms in Barbados. The 'memeification' of news content has become an increasingly popular way of driving public discourse and could arguably be considered as being more influential than traditional news blogs as these are occasionally explicitly referenced by decision makers in their public pronouncements, indicating that this type of content is making an impact at all levels of society. Out of this practice has emerged the creation of meme accounts where memes interspersed with unverified breaking news content and clippings from mainstream media as well as advertising as some businesses seek to capitalize on the accounts' large followings. However, King indicated that the decision not to monetize BU is a deliberate one and expressed "disappointment not enough bloggers have emerged in the period [since the launch of BU] to carry the torch to shine a light at the underbelly of society".

Conclusion

This case study of Barbados Underground provides a first-hand perspective and contributes to the knowledge of how the practice of news blogging - originated in the Global North - has been adapted and developed in the Caribbean context where there is

incongruence between Western media ideals and the legislative and cultural environment surrounding issues of freedom of expression, journalism and citizen participation in governance. King's motivations for blogging via Barbados Underground appear to be both intrinsic and extrinsic, as he notes a sense of personal satisfaction in engaging in this perceived civic duty as well as the aim of having an impact on the governance of Barbadian society. Despite its origins as a disruptive platform, Barbados Underground might now be described as a mature and perhaps even traditional example within the Barbadian blogosphere, especially when its philosophical underpinnings and modus operandi are examined. In recent years, more disruptive models of blogging and online discourse have emerged, particularly on social networking sites. These newer actors employ revenue-earning tactics, while news blogs like Barbados Underground are driven by a sense of civic duty. But just as the mainstream media have been forced to do, news blogs must also update their strategies and tactics to remain relevant and continue to fulfill their desired purpose.

This study would have been strengthened by a comparison with another news blogger, especially one with a different format and approach to Barbados Underground; however, numerous attempts to secure an interview were unsuccessful. Meanwhile, it would have been preferred to conduct a live interview with King to allow for more spontaneous responses, but this option was declined to protect his anonymity. Nonetheless, this case study has served to outline the various ways in which online spaces for public discourse are evolving to challenge both mainstream media and each other. Indeed, the proliferation of meme accounts and how their tactics could influence the practice of news blogging in the Caribbean is worthy of further research.

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Appendix

List of blogs published on Barbados Underground blog March 1 – 31, 2021.

DATE	TOPIC	AUTHOR	AUTHOR CATEGORY
March 1	COVID-19 treatment	Green Monkey Good News	Blog Contributor
March 2	Gender relations	Grenville Phillips	Former political candidate with a column in mainstream media publication
	COVID-19 impact	Amit	Blog Contributor
	LIAT industrial relations dispute	David King	Blogmaster
	COVID-19 national directives	Senator Caswell Franklyn	Opposition Senator and trade union leader
March 4	Allegations of cronyism and underperformance in teachers' union	Paula Seale	Blog Contributor
March 5	Scrutiny of management of National Insurance Scheme	David King	Blogmaster
March 7	Bible study analysis	Dr. GP	Blog Contributor
March 8	Decriminalization of cannabis	David King	Blogmaster
March 9	Sussexes interview with Oprah Winfrey and implications for Barbados' move to republic status	David King	Blogmaster

March 10	Government estimates of spending	David King	Blogmaster
March 11	Op-ed from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Alicia Bárcena	Submission by Denise Balgobin, Public Information Assistant, ECLAC
March 12	Legal challenge to COVID-19 directives	David King	Blogmaster
	Strategies for economic recovery	Peter Lawrence Thompson	Blog Contributor
March 14	Bible study analysis	Dr GP	Blog Contributor
March 15	Murder statistics 2020	Amit	Blog Contributor
March 16	COVID-19 vaccine	Tee White	Blog Contributor
March 17	COVID-19: Trinidadians stranded abroad	Dr Kumar Mahabir	Blog Contributor
March 17	Critique of a young political activist	Douglas Smith	Blog Contributor
March 19	Media reports of abuses at a state reform school	David King	Blogmaster
March 20	Commentary on improvement of public infrastructure	Grenville Phillips	Former political candidate with a column in mainstream media publication.
March 21	Commentary on parliamentary debate on public transport sector	David King	Blogmaster
March 22	COVID-19 response and prospects for economic recovery	David King	Blogmaster

	Reaction to media reports of abuses at a state reform school	Peter Thompson	Blog contributor
March 23	Law and order; anti-social behaviour	David King	Blogmaster
March 24	Home ownership in Barbados	Grenville Phillips	Former political candidate with a column in mainstream media publication.
March 25	COVID-19 situation report	David King	Blogmaster
March 26	Questions about unresolved issues in education sector	David King	Blogmaster
March 27	Increase in national minimum wage	David King	Blogmaster
March 28	Reaction to media reports of abuses at a state reform school	David King	Blogmaster
March 29	Call for increase in community collaboration e.g. to address food security	David King	Blogmaster
March 30	Derek Chauvin murder trial in the USA	David King	Blogmaster
	Apparent diplomatic snub of Barbados by US on climate change	David King	Blogmaster
March 31	Home ownership – lessons from the US	David King	Blogmaster