



PROGRAMMANUS

PRODUCENT: MADELEINE NILSSON/STEVE HANKEY
PROJEKTLEDARE: RALF PERSSON
SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2019-11-09

NEWSREEL WORLD

Saturday 9 November 2019

Alanna Leslie: Hi. The famous former boxer, Mike Tyson, wants to boost tourism on the islands of Antigua and Barbuda by promoting his marijuana business there. It's all legal in that part of the world. But is relying on a narcotic for economic prosperity a good idea? We're going to see what the people who live there think. I'm Alanna Leslie and it's time for Newsreel World: news from English speaking countries all over the world.

Canada

Alanna Leslie: But first, influencers in Canada. We heard about the protests in Hong Kong in the last episode. Well, an influencer from Canada has got into trouble for utilising those protests as a way of increasing his followers. Toby Guu travelled to Hong Kong to record videos that would both, as he says:

Toby Guu: *I wanted to share the brutality, the pain and the difficulties that residents here in Hong Kong are experiencing every single day.*

Alanna Leslie: but also...

Toby Guu: *I was trying to get more views, I was trying to get this video to explode, I was trying to get exposure. It looks like I got that, but in a bad way.*

Alanna Leslie: He travelled with a fabricated press pass and has been criticised for unfairly portraying the protesters as "asking for a fight". His story got us thinking about whether people do or should believe what influencers say online anymore? One study recently has shown only 4 percent of people worldwide now do. We're heading to Canada to hear more from Aliya Pabani.

Aliya Pabani: It's closing time at Sketch a youth art space in Toronto and people are rushing to finish their prints and sewing projects or clearing chairs before they head home. Taylor is sitting at a table doing some beadwork and, I ask if he follows any influencers:

Taylor: Like Kim Kardashian? Yeah, no. Like, it makes me feel like there's no good in the world. And like, people are just trying to sell product when, in reality, it's just a scam to get money.

Aliya Pabani: Another young artist named Milan feels the same way.

Milan: I don't think I need anyone to tell you what products are good.

Aliya Pabani: But she does follow Adrienne Maree Brown, a kind of political influencer with over 50.000 followers on Instagram.



Milan: And they're, like, constantly telling folks about their challenges in their life and just, kind of, sharing on levels that, you guess, I wouldn't see on some more superficial influencer accounts.

Aliya Pabani: But not everyone shares their scepticism about influencers who endorse brands. At the bus stop outside. Sophia tells me about a YouTube blogger named Emma Chamberlain, who has over 8 million subscribers and a partnership with the designer brand Louis Vuitton.

Sophia: She thrifts a lot of clothes and, that, when I saw her thrifting videos, I wanted to go thrift as well. And she's also like one of those relatable YouTubers because she came from just doing YouTube for fun and now she made money out of it and a whole career out of it, which is really cool.

Antigua and Barbuda

Alanna Leslie: Now, Antigua and Barbuda... Since retiring from boxing, former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson has become an entrepreneur in, amongst other things, the production of marijuana. After the American state of California legalised weed for recreational use in 2016, Tyson opened the cannabis company Tyson Holistic. It currently sells half a million dollars of weed each month, and it's looking to expand beyond the United States to Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reportedly agreed a deal with Tyson to bring his business to the islands. To see what people there think about it all, we're heading to Antigua...

Zoe Carlton: Here in Antigua and Barbuda, the current status of cannabis is confusing. Cannabis, or marijuana, is NOT legal but it has been decriminalised. No longer an agrarian country, the nation depends on tourism for its economy. This includes medical tourism, which in the case of cannabis means travelling to the country to consume the narcotic for health purposes. But what do young people here think?

Junior Ezekiel: I think the cannabis thing is okay for me, from my behalf. But from other people perspective, I can't say. But, right here, is this something good for the community? But we want to know exactly what we're going to get out of it, as the grower.

Jessica Fletcher: I think if we, as locals, we can generate it within our pockets instead of getting someone from outside of the country. So that will make revenue for us instead of celebrity... Tyson.

Zoe Carlton: There are of course health concerns too. The government is determined that this is done properly with the requisite conditions and governance before any license is approved. This is Zoe Carlton reporting for Newsreel World on the islands of Antigua and Barbuda.

Pakistan

Alanna Leslie: Now, Pakistan... Cricketer Nida Dar has become the first female cricketer from Pakistan to play in an international league. She's signed with the Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash League, one of the biggest women's club cricket leagues in the world. This is remarkable because Pakistan has only had a women's international team



since 1997. Plus, in the 1990s, when Nida was growing up, religion prohibited women from playing sport in public. The current women's big bash season runs from October until December.

Zambia

Alanna Leslie: Now, Zambia... Some of you may be fans of being in plays or acting in the theatre at school, or even just being the class clown! My life wouldn't be the same without theatre, and some of my happiest professional moments have come from acting on stage. So it's fun and it can bring a lot of happiness to people. But can it fundamentally change your life for the better? In Zambia's capital Lusaka, and other provinces, it can and does through a company called Barefeet theatre. Our reporter Kennedy Gondwe paid them a visit.

Kennedy Gondwe: Every other week day in Zambia's capital, Lusaka, a group of street kids or children on the streets as they prefer to be called, meet under dance, song and theatre. And through entertainment, Barefeet get vulnerable children and young people in Zambia off the streets by providing creative opportunities to learn, express themselves and achieve their full potential. According to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, Zambia's prevalence for HIV decreased from thirteen point three percent in 2014 to eleven point six percent two years later. Yet the epidemic still stands as one of the main reasons thousands of children roam the streets in the country, owing to one or both of their parents dying because of HIV. When they get integrated into Barefeet, however, these children get workshopped on different subjects and through them taking part in dance, song and theatre; their confidence is somewhat restored. The executive director Grace Tombozi Banda, explains why entertainment is key in her organization's activities.

Grace Tombozi Banda: Dance and song is one of their universal languages of the world. It's very easy to communicate and people free up as soon as you start dancing, as soon as you laugh, people free up. And it's the same with the young people. There's a saying "when you hear you forget, when you do, you remember." So I think it's a universal language, which is very easy to communicate, especially with young people.

Kennedy Gondwe: I have come to Barefeet offices and it appears my visit has coincided with a rehearsal for a play that talks about early marriages, another common problem in Zambia. And one of the main acts in the rehearsal is Isaac Njobvu, a former street child Barefeet took under their wings.

Isaac Njobvu: I was once a guy who used to take drugs and I was inspired through their performances and that's how I joined them.

Kennedy Gondwe: How has your life changed when you look back?

Isaac Njobvu: I think I'm a changed guy now. I don't take drugs, I don't take alcohol, for my life has been transformed into another person who is so caring, a person that wants to encourage other people to change as well, to find something that can keep them busy for a lifetime.

Kennedy Gondwe: Such life changing stories are music to the ears of Miss Banda.



Grace Tombozi Banda: You feel like you're doing something right. There's so many problems going on in the world. So even one person that changes is a huge plus. And it always, because everyone just needs to do the best that they can. So, also as Barefeet, were just doing the best that we can. And, you know, that's just the best feeling one can have.

Kennedy Gondwe: For now, the enticing dance and sounds of Barefeet performance can only continue reverberating through the streets of Lusaka and leaving more children's lives touched. Reporting for Newsreel World from Lusaka in Zambia, this has been Kennedy Gondwe.

Alanna Leslie: Thanks, Kennedy. That's it for today. This is Newsreel World. I'm Alana Leslie. Let's catch up soon.