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Haitians went to the polls last month, and when the results were finally made public Rene Prival was elected president of the troubled Caribbean nation to replace his mentor Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been forced to flee the country in Feb. 2004, page 7.



Coach Leo Beenhakker took Trinidad and Tobago's "Soca Warriors" to South Florida last month as part of preparations for their historic berth in this summer's soccer World Cup in Germany. The training camp was intended to identify possible additions to the squad for upcoming matches, including the game's biggest showpiece tournament, page 24



PORTIA WINS PNP POWER

~ Portia Simpson Miller has made history by becoming the first woman elected president of the People's National Party (PNP) in Jamaica; and is set to become the first female prime minister of the Caribbean island as well, page 2.

Lionel Tate guilty, faces prison again



~ The troubled teenaged son of a Caribbean-born law enforcement officer in Florida could be behind bars for many years after pleading guilty to armed robbery, page 23.

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Portia takes PNP power

GORDON WILLIAMS

The day after Portia Simpson Miller grabbed hold of the reins of the People's National Party - the first time in history a woman had moved to the helm of Jamaica's ruling party and the fourth PNP president ever - the streets of the Caribbean nation appeared generally hushed.

On a bright Sunday morning, few seemed stung by the excitement of the events that had transpired the night before, which sent the island nation hurtling towards a new era in politics, and even fewer found the election results worth laboring over.

"Everybody did dun know Portia did a guh win," a man told his friend as the two talked along Knutsford Boulevard in Kingston's uptown business district.

For years popularity polls had prepared Jamaicans for a possible win by Simpson Miller, despite her facing a battery of three other candidates all boasting superior academic credentials and the all-too-familiar gender quotient, oft repeated points of debate throughout the campaign leading up to the Feb. 25 party election brought on by the impending retirement of long time PNP President and Prime Minister P.J. Patterson.

The margin of her victory, securing 1,775 of the 3,808 votes cast by PNP delegates, was hardly surprising either. Finance Minister Dr. Omar Davies, who earned 283 votes from his "Prosperity" campaign; and former Minister Dr. Karl Blythe (204) had been viewed by Jamaicans as long shots to relieve Patterson. Davies was viewed as aloof and at times arrogant; Blythe had long left the PNP Cabinet tagged to a scandal involving a government housing agency.

But Dr. Peter Phillips, current minister of national security, was a different proposition. He had been viewed by many political observers, inside and out of the PNP, as the one chosen, to succeed Patterson. Yet his "Solid As A Rock" campaign, burdened by Jamaica's spiraling murder rate which placed the island of just over 2.6 million dubiously atop the list of the world's worst, eventually crumbled to dust when confronted by "Team Portia", whose supporters seemed eager to shake up the old boys club that long ruled the PNP's - and Jamaica's - upper level politics.

UNITY CALL

The 1,538 votes secured by Dr. Phillips would not be

enough, despite the generous embrace in victory by Simpson Miller, coupled with her outstretched attempts at reconciliation to unify the PNP following a testy campaign.

"Now it's time for unity, and if there are wounds to be healed, it's time for healing," she said in her victory speech delivered to a wildly cheering audience.

Simpson had been ush-



Dr. Peter Phillips, left, who finished second in the PNP leadership race, congratulates the winner Simpson Miller.

ered onto the packed stage in full yellow to the beat of Shaggy's "Strength Of A Woman", and she vowed to draw on that force to bridge the party divide opened by campaign jostling.

"I come to you with a promise of hope as we will continue the transformation of the People's National Party and a promise of hope that all of us will unite to work for a better and brighter Jamaica," she said.

But on a night they unabashedly burst into sustained, unbridled joy, many of Simpson Miller's supporters refused to immediately forget the innuendos and "disses" they claimed Phillips's campaign relied on in attack against their new party leader. As Phillips left the PNP's St. Andrew headquarters on election night, he and his campaign team were taunted by dancing Team Portia supporters who chanted "Portia, a Portia!", "PhD couldn't save yuh!" and "Woman time now!"

HISTORIC

Earlier in the evening Patterson, and PNP Chairman Robert Pickersgill had alluded

to the historic significance of the evening, a PNP in transition which would look to future battles with the main Opposition Jamaica Labour Party also boasting new leadership. Patterson told the crowd that the winner would lead the PNP and, in the next few weeks, become prime minister when he officially took the responsibility of announcing the election



Simpson Miller supporters celebrate their candidate's victory.

results. That he chose to do it in "alphabetical order" only heightened the crowd's expectations, with the exact total of Simpson Miller's winning tally largely drowned out by thunderous applause marking the start of a new era.

"Today is a great and historic day for the People's National Party and for Jamaica and I thank you for helping me to write history," Simpson Miller would later acknowledge.

"For the first time we're having a female president and a female prime minister of Jamaica and I am honored," she also said striving for humility. "And as I said to you throughout the campaign, it's

MEET PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER JAMAICA'S P.M. DESIGNATE

Date of birth: Dec. 12, 1945.

Education: St. Martin's High School; Union Institute and University of Miami, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in public administration; Jamaica Institute of Management/University of California Berkeley, where she received a certificate in advanced management; Harvard's executive program for leaders in development at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Family: Married to Errald Miller, former head of Cable and Wireless in Jamaica.

Hobbies: Music, reading, horse-back riding and sports.

Politics: More than three decades. Served as a councillor in the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. Member of Parliament for South West St. Andrew since 1976. Has served as People's National Party vice president and president of the PNP Women's Movement.

Government: Has held the Cabinet posts of minister of labor welfare and sport, minister of tourism and sport, minister of local government, community development and sport.



not about me. I'm just the messenger. I am the vessel. I am the servant."

However, the process which launched her into the PNP's leadership was not entirely smooth. Voting started that morning at a local high school and ended with the counting of ballots at the PNP HQ later in the afternoon. Some delegates, many who traveled overnight from all across the island, complained bitterly of not being allowed to cast their vote. One despondent delegate, who came from Westmoreland in the western end of the island, told *Caribbean Today* that when he first tried to vote he was told that his name was not on the list, although, he said, he had been properly registered, "picture tek and all." He was advised to return later in the day as he would be part of the substitute's list. But when he did that, he was told that his name was not on that list either. The elderly man, clothes soiled by the dusty grounds, slumped into a chair, near tears, under a tree which shaded him from the afternoon sun, but not disappointment and frustration.

Yet later, by the time Patterson's teasing hints as to who would succeed him had ignited the crowd, which packed the streets outside the HQ, word had already spread that Simpson Miller had secured victory. So the gathering was dominated by yellow shirts and waving yellow flags proclaiming "Team Portia". When Patterson proclaimed his labor and sport minister

the new PNP leader the crowd erupted, dancing, singing, shouting and spraying beer, soft drinks and juices high into the night air.

Yet if the PNP, particularly Simpson Miller's supporters, could not restrain their jubilation, by the following day the rest of the nation was already soberly looking to business as usual. Even on election day, a local track and field meet, barley a mile away from the PNP HQ, had drawn a sizeable crowd far more interested in baton changes, fast times and school loyalty than party politics. It is that group, the Jamaican wider public which polls repeatedly show is caring less and less for political wranglings, which Simpson Miller will now have to focus on.

That was not lost on the new PNP leader, who somehow found the fresh legs to run a victory lap at the National Stadium to enthusiastic applause from those attending the Gibson Relays. For her, and Jamaica, the real race may have just started. A Sunday morning stroll across Jamaica the day after her proudest political moment could have told her as much.

Gordon Williams is the managing editor of Caribbean Today news magazine. He covered the PNP election in Kingston.

Main cover and page 2 photographs by Michael Sloyer.



Correction

In *Caribbean Today's* Feb. 2006 edition a story titled "Seaplane crash spoils holiday celebrations in The Bahamas" stated Sophia Sherman died the day before her birthday, not her daughter Bethany, as reported. We regret the error.

U.S. Senate approves bill for Caribbean American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, CMC - The United States Senate last month unanimously approved a bill that would designate a national Caribbean American Heritage Month.

The bill, authored by California Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the U.S. throughout the country's history.



Lee

"Establishing a Caribbean American heritage month will help pay tribute to the tremendous contributions Caribbean Americans have made throughout the history of this country," Lee said. "They have influenced every aspect of American culture, society and government. Their history is interwoven with ours and should be recognized and celebrated."

"I appreciate the bipartisan support of my colleagues

binding, Lee plans to work with supporters to urge President Bush to follow

Congress's lead by proclaiming June National Caribbean American Heritage Month in

time for official celebrations this summer. *Caribbean Americans*

welcome the bill, page 4.



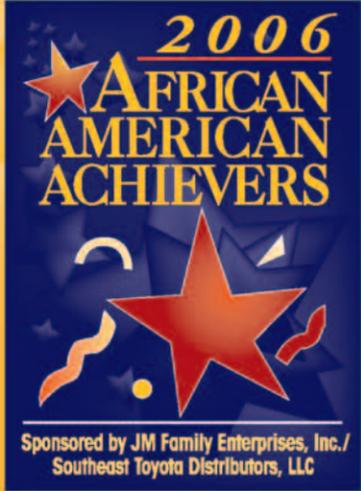
Bush

in both the House and the Senate, especially Senator (Charles E.) Schumer (D-New York), in passing this measure," Lee added, "and I hope that President (George W.) Bush will act quickly to designate June as national Caribbean American month."

SUPPORT NEEDED

The House of Representatives approved Lee's bill, known as House of Congress Resolution 71, on June 27 last year, with 81 co-sponsors and support from more than 40 non-governmental organizations working on Caribbean American issues. Under Congress's rules, established in the 104th Congress, only the president has the authority to designate a period for annual national recognition of a community or cause, but Congress may express the opinion that there is cause for such recognition.

Though the bill is non-



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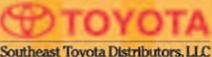
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Miami honors Caribbean nationals as community icons

DAMIAN P. GREGORY

MIAMI - The Caribbean held a strong presence among those honored last month as community icons by the City of Miami.

Three of 12 recipients recognized in celebration of Black History Month were born in the region.

Among the honorees was the Jamaican-born Grammy award-winning quintet Inner Circle band, which was recognized for a music career that stretches back to the mid-1970s in their native land. The group signed with renowned record label Island Records in 1978. It has had its share of adversity too when lead singer Jacob Miller was killed in a car accident just before the group's major crossover success. In 1993 the group's "Bad Boys" won a Grammy award for "Best Reggae Album".

ACTIVISTS

Two Haitian-born community activists were also

honored by Miami. Reverend Jean Fritz Bazin was recognized for his work in the area of religion and Lavarice Gaudin as a local activist.

Rev. Bazin, who has lived on many islands in the Caribbean including Barbados, Jamaica and his native Haiti, used the awards ceremony to send a message of unity for all the members of the black community.

"We have to stick together or we will all perish together," he said.

Gaudin, who moved to the United States from Haiti in 1981 and has served as president of the Haitian Refugee Center as well as the Organization for the Development of Haiti, was praised for his dedication to educating the community about the plight of Haitians in South Florida.

"There are some people who come, work hard and leave the cause," Marlene Bastien, president of the Haitian Women of Miami, said. "There are others who



Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, left, and City Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, fourth from right, pose with members of the Grammy award-winning Inner Circle music group, one of the community icons honored by the city recently.

never leave."

CONNECTIONS

But they were not the only people with Caribbean roots. Judge John Johnson, who was singled out for his work in the area of law, is the youngest of seven children born to Bahamian immigrants.

The family settled in Miami in 1903. Johnson was first appointed to the bench in Nov. 1955 and retired from practicing law in 1991. As a judge he presided over 50,000 cases.

Also honored at the Feb. 15 ceremony were Dr. Carl E. Yaeger, Jr., for his contributions in medicine; former

Miami Dolphins football player Nat Moore, in the area of sports; visual artist Dinizulu Gene Tinnie for art; former Miami Commissioner Thelma Vernell Anderson Gibson for politics; and former broadcast journalist Edwin L. O'Dell for journalism. Former Miami attorney George F. Knox for philanthropy; Miami-Dade County Public Schools' board member Dr. Robert Ingram for education; and real estate developer Otis Pitts, Jr., for his work in business, rounded out the list of honorees.

Last month's function marked the third year that the award was conferred on those who have made outstanding contributions to the black cause in Miami.

Damian P. Gregory is Caribbean Today's deputy managing editor.



Parents sue ex-suspect, dad in Aruba missing girl case

NELSON A. KING

NEW YORK, CMC - The parents of an Alabama, United States teen who disappeared last year during a high school trip to Aruba has filed a lawsuit against a teen once considered a suspect in the case, as well as his dad.

Neither Joran van der Sloot, 17, nor his father, Aruban Judge Paul van der Sloot, are facing criminal charges related to Natalee Holloway, but a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court last month contends they are responsible for her disappearance.

The suit, filed by Natalee's parents, Elizabeth Ann Twitty and Dave Edward Holloway, accuses Joran of "malicious, wanton and willful disregard for the rights, safety and well being of the plaintiffs and their daughter."

Natalee was last seen with Joran and two of his friends by her classmates, according to court papers, in the early morning hours of May 30.

"The next hours of Natalee's young life were marked by torment, terror and debasement", the suit charges.

NO EVIDENCE

Joran and the others were eventually arrested and held several weeks before being released because of lack of

evidence. But Natalee's family, including her mother and father, has been speaking out about the case. The suit charges that the "wholly permissive environment that passed as the Van der Sloot home had dire consequences for Natalee".

Investigators working for



Holloway

the Holloways served the Van der Sloots with papers on Feb. 16 just after the family landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. None of the parties live in New York. Scott Balber, the Holloway family lawyer, said the fact the Van der Sloots were served in New York allowed his clients to take the case to a New York judge and avoid the Aruban court system.

Aruban Tourist authorities said last month that the Holloway case has tarnished the image of the relatively peaceful Dutch-Caribbean island.



Six-year-old Haitian American schoolboy suspended over sexual harassment claim

BOSTON, Massachusetts, CMC - A six-year-old Haitian American schoolboy, who was suspended for sexual harassment, does not even understand the term, according to his mother.

"He doesn't even know what that word 'sexual' is," Berthena Dorinvil, 38, told the **Boston Globe** newspaper last month.

"I don't see how I'm going to explain it to him," she added. "I can't. He's just too young for that."

Dorinvil said Brocton school district officials told her that her son was being suspended for three days for putting two fingers inside a girl's waistband and touching her back.

"My son told me that the girl touched him first, so he touched her back," the Haitian

mother told reporters. "I was shocked. I was crying. I was out of control."

DEFENSE

School officials defended the boy's suspension, but wouldn't comment on what he is supposed to have done.

"We take all allegations of sexual harassment very seriously," said Brockton schools Superintendent Basan Nembirkow. "Principals are trained to handle these difficult situations."

Dorinvil, a stay-at-home mom, who said she is raising her son by the conservative standards of Haitian evangelicalism, has not brought her son back to the Downey Elementary School since the Jan. 30 suspension. She wants him transferred to another

school. Experts say only in rare, troubling cases can children that young truly sexually harass another.

"The connotation is you're getting some kind of sexual gratification, or wanting sexual gratification, or are putting pressure on for some kind of sexual gratification, when a six-year-old doesn't have that capacity," said Christopher Murray, a civil rights attorney who has handled school discipline cases.

A New York City school official said the department does deal with sexual harassment by youngsters, but a typical punishment would not involve suspension.

"It does happen, kids get curious," he said. "Usually, the kids get put into counselling."



Caribbean nationals welcome bill to celebrate region's heritage

NEW YORK, CMC - Caribbean nationals in the United States have expressed delight over last month's passage of a bill in the U.S. Senate that would make June Caribbean American Heritage Month.

"This is an idea whose time has come," exclaimed Vera E. Weekes, the Montserratian-born outreach coordinator at the Caribbean Research Centre at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

"This bill is an attempt to acknowledge and publicize our contribution to the

American society and our gratitude and indebtedness to the Caribbean nations that nurtured and educated us to be citizens of our host nation," she added.

New York City Councilman Dr. Kendall Stewart, the Vincentian-born chair of the Council's Committee on Immigration, said the bill, if signed into law by President George Bush,



Stewart

would give Caribbean nationals more recognition for their work and contribution to American society.

"That would be beautiful that we can have a month set aside for our heritage," he said, stating that he would gladly shift Caribbean celebrations at City Hall from August to June.

"It would be a great day for Caribbean people since Caribbean Americans have been playing a great role in the development of this country," he added.



PROCLAIMING HER CHAMPION



Veronica Campbell, second right, Jamaican Olympic gold medalist, displays a proclamation presented to her by Councilwoman Yvette D. Clarke, left, from the City of New York. The proclamation was awarded in recognition of Campbell's athletic achievements. She was in New York last month to participate in the 60-meter sprint at the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden, an event Campbell won. Also present at the ceremony were Dr. Una Clarke, vice-president of Empire State Development Corporation, and Dr. Basil K. Bryan, Jamaica's consul general to New York.

N.Y. politicians condemn attacks on Caribbean American labor leader

NEW YORK, CMC - A Caribbean American politician has introduced a resolution in New York City Council calling on members to repudiate what is characterized as "ignorant and bigoted" attacks by a popular radio personality on Trinidadian-born labor leader Roger Toussaint.

Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, and representative for the 40th Councilmanic District in Brooklyn, last month introduced the resolution with support from colleagues Leroy Comrie, the council's deputy majority leader, of Jamaican roots, and John Liu, an Asian American, who represents the 20th Councilmanic District in Queens.

"Simply put, this distasteful display of self-hatred and bigotry has once again shown Hot 97 to be a forum for the destruction of our community," said Clarke, whose district comprises an overwhelming number of Caribbean nationals. "Time and again, this radio station has provided a forum for the flourishing of everything negative in hip-



Toussaint

hop. "I am introducing this resolution to send a message that this type of bigotry will not be tolerated by anyone," she added. "Hot 97 and their parent corporation, Emmis Communications, owe a deep apology to the Caribbean community and all New Yorkers."

'INSULTING' MISS JONES

Using the pseudonym, "Miss Jones", Tarsha Nicole Jones, on her morning radio program on Hot 97/WQHT-FM, on Dec. 20, referred to Toussaint, who heads the

"Simply put, this distasteful display of self-hatred and bigotry has once again shown Hot 97 to be a forum for the destruction of our community"

- Yvette D. Clarke

union representing bus and subway workers in New York City, as a "dumb coconut who probably doesn't have a green card." She then proceeded to perform what is described as "an insulting skit," depicting Toussaint as being arrested and deported.

Toussaint's Transport Workers Union, Local 100,

last December paralyzed New York City for three successive days, at the height of the Christmas season, when it took strike action against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the agency that oversees subway and bus employees.

Jones had come under similar fire almost a year ago for making disparaging remarks about Asians during the tsunami disaster.

Clarke said Jones and management of the radio station seemingly have not learned from the resulting public outcry, demonstrations and suspensions.

"This is totally unacceptable," Liu said, "and we will hold those responsible accountable for their actions."

"Tarsha Jones has a long history of foot-in-mouth disease and has demonstrated her unique talent for spewing garbage," Comrie said. "Her use of words 'dumb coconut' illustrates that she is a young woman, who, obviously, harbors a lot of self-loathing and hatred for human beings in general and her own community."



Antigua protests U.S. anti-gambling legislation

WASHINGTON, CMC- The Antigua and Barbuda government is protesting two recent Internet gambling bills introduced in the United States Congress, which it said were in direct contravention to a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.

In 2005, Antigua won a case against the U.S. in the WTO over America's prohibition on Internet gambling services offered to its consumers from Antigua, and under WTO procedures the U.S was given until April 3, 2006 to bring its laws into compliance with the WTO decision.

However, Antigua is complaining that the only pieces of legislation introduced into the Congress to date have been bills sponsored by Congressmen Jim Leach (R-Iowa) and Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia), both of whom seek to impose further restrictions on Internet gambling.

CONTRARY

In a Feb. 16, 2006 letter to U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, Antigua's Ambassador to the WTO Dr. John Ashe noted that both pieces of legislation were in a number of respects directly contrary to the ruling of the WTO in the gambling dispute.

"As of today," noted Ambassador Ashe, "with less than two months remaining on an 11 month and two week compliance period, to our knowledge no legislation has been introduced into the Congress that would seek to bring the United States into compliance with the (WTO) recommendations."

"Further, your government has given no indication to Antigua and Barbuda as to how the United States intends to effect such compliance. The only legislative efforts so far, the Goodlatte Bill and the Leach Bill, are baldly contrary to the rulings and recommendations of the (WTO)."

"We can only assume that this legislation was neither sponsored by nor enjoys the support of the U.S. Trade Representative and the current American administration."

Mark Mendel, lead counsel representing Antigua in the WTO case, observed that the exceptions to the Internet gambling prohibition contained in both of the bills highlight the discriminatory trade effect of the U.S prohibition on the cross-border provision of gambling and betting services into the U.S.

"By creating carve-outs for certain domestic remote gambling opportunities, including in particular wholly-intrastate remote gambling, both of these pieces of legislation fly directly in the face of the WTO ruling. The economic basis of the U.S. restrictions simply cannot be more obvious," Mendel said.

Ambassador Ashe further expressed his country's commitment to the case, noting, "Antigua and Barbuda stands prepared to ensure that our people reap the benefits of this historic decision," he said. "We will use the avenues open to us at the WTO and otherwise to see that the United States complies with the decision in a timely and comprehensive manner."



Britain blasts T&T police in strong travel advisory

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Following the attack last month on three British golfers and the rape of an elderly British tourist in Tobago, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office has criticized the Tobago authorities and the police in a strongly worded updated travel warning.

In its latest advisory, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office accused Tobago's law enforcement as "weak" and said the "inability of the Tobago authorities to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators is a serious concern."

Checks with Tobago

police revealed that the three men questioned in connection with the cutlass attack on the foreigners have been released because they could not have been positively identified as the attackers.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, recommends against staying in villas in the south west of the island around the Mount Irvine Golf Club.

There have been several violent attacks, including rape against British nationals, in Trinidad's sister island of Tobago recently.



High emigration, brain drain from the Caribbean ~ IMF

NELSON A. KING

WASHINGTON, CMC – An International Monetary Fund (IMF) working paper has suggested that there is evidence of high emigration and brain drain from the Caribbean.

The paper says Caribbean countries have lost 10 percent to 40 percent of their labor force to emigration to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries.

“The migration rate is particularly high for the high-skilled,” it says. “Many countries have lost more than 70 percent of their labor force, with more than 12 years of completed schooling – among the highest emigration rates in the world.”

REMITTANCE LOAD

The paper also says the region is the world’s largest recipient of remittances as a percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), constituting about 13 percent of the region’s GDP in 2002.

“Simple welfare calculations suggest that the losses due to high-skill migration outweigh the official remittances to the Caribbean region,” it says. “The results suggest that there is, indeed, some evidence for brain drain from the Caribbean.”

The paper says the majority of Caribbean countries

have lost more than 50 percent of the labor force in the tertiary education segment and more than 30 percent in the secondary education segment (nine to 12 years of schooling).

For instance, it says, the tertiary educated labor force in Jamaica and Guyana has been reduced by 85 percent and 89 percent, respectively, due to emigration to OECD-member countries.

Though Haiti has the lowest aggregate emigration rate – about 10 percent – in the region, its tertiary-educated labor force has been reduced by 84 percent due to emigration to OECD-member countries.

In fact, the paper says, almost all Caribbean nations are among the top 20 countries in the world with the highest tertiary-educated migration rates.

“The magnitude of these migration rates suggests that, potentially, emigration can have large impacts on the local labor markets and on the welfare of those who stay behind in the Caribbean countries,” it says.

It says that the total losses due to skilled migration – which includes the “emigration loss,” externality effects, and government expenditure on educating the migrants – outweigh the recorded remittances for the Caribbean region on average, and for almost all the

individual Caribbean countries.

CHANGES

The working paper says that the simple labor demand-supply framework suggest that changes in domestic labor supply and wages due to emigration lead to a net welfare reduction, or emigration loss, for the producers and workers who have stayed behind.

It says that the welfare loss occurs due to the movement of infra-marginal workers, or those who paid less than their marginal product.

The paper laments that high-skilled workers often confer “externalities” to those stayed behind by affecting their productivity through transfer of know-how and through better monitoring and motivation.

“If high-skilled workers confer a positive externality, then the loss due to their migration will be higher than the simple emigration loss,” it says.

The paper concludes that the total losses due to skilled migration, which includes the “emigration loss,” externality effects and government expenditures on educating the migrants – outweigh the recorded remittance for the Caribbean region on average and for almost all the individual Caribbean countries.



St. Vincent calls for better U.S.-Caribbean relations

NEW YORK, CMC – St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has called for a “new language of discourse” between the region and the United States.

He made the call against the background of what he claimed was insufficient appreciation by many United States’ leaders of the depth and maturity of democracy in the region.

In his acceptance speech, after receiving the 2005 “Democracy Prize” from the Brooklyn-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) last month, Gonsalves said this “new language of discourse” is critically significant in U.S.-Caribbean foreign relations.

“The dialogue ought not to be simply between a superpower on the one hand and mini states on the other,” he told the gala ceremony at El Caribe Country Club in Brooklyn. “That is a limited and limiting conversation.

“It ought to be between two civilizations – American and Caribbean – which are inextricably intertwined through commerce, trade, culture, tourists, migrants, crime, security, and liberal democracy,” he added.

The Vincentian leader, whose speech was entitled “Good Governance, Regional, Integration and Foreign Policy: A Caribbean Perspective,” said this “conversation” must be grounded jointly in “people’s own humanization.”

Gonsalves, a former lecturer in government at the University of the West Indies (UWI), said the region’s profound commitment to democratic values constitutes “an umbilical link” with the “giant neighbor to the north” – the United States.

‘CLUMSY PATERNALISM’

But, unfortunately, he said, American diplomats and leaders “at practically every level of government” have often displayed “clumsy paternalism” towards the region. It

is, therefore, partially for this “American attitude,” he said, that prompted the late Barbados Prime Minister Errol Barrow to assert in 1986: “It is dehumanizing and false to view the Caribbean as potential American problems. We don’t need lessons in



Gonsalves

democracy from anyone.

“However severe the economic difficulties facing the Caribbean, we are viable, functioning societies with the intellectual and institutional resources to understand and grapple with our problems,” Gonsalves quoted Barrow as saying.

‘NOT ACCIDENTS’

Gonsalves, an ardent proponent of Caribbean integration, said while the region is awash with only small nation-states, it is fallacious to deduce that “they possess no sense of being in a defined seascape and landscape.

“These nation-states are not accidents, not dots on a map, not merely pieces of ‘nice real estate,’ to use the infelicitous phrase of one American policy maker of the 1980s,” he said. “They contain populations with a history, a legitimacy and a trajectory of nobility.”

Gonsalves was the third Caribbean leader to receive the institute’s “Democracy Prize”, following the footsteps of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning in 2003 and Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur last year.



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~ Eye on Haiti

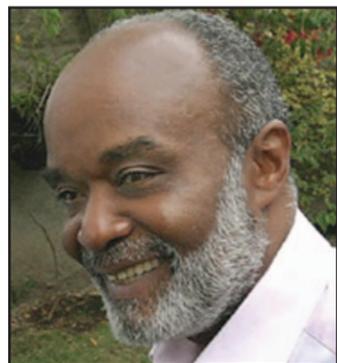
Préval declared winner of Haiti's tumultuous presidential elections

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, CMC – Haiti's electoral council last month declared frontrunner Rene Préval the winner of the Feb. 7 presidential elections, after officials agreed to toss out thousands of disputed ballots amid allegations of fraud and manipulation and volatile protests.

"We...reached a solution to the problem," said Max Mathurin, president of the Provisional electoral council. "We feel a huge satisfaction at having liberated the country from a truly difficult situation."

The elections had triggered massive street protests by backers of Préval, who said fraud was being carried out to deprive him of the 50 percent plus one vote needed for a

first-round victory. Préval, an agronomist and former president, replaces Jean-Bertrand



Préval

Aristide, his former mentor, who was ousted in a bloody rebellion two years ago.

The 63-year-old Préval had

said the number of blank and missing ballots rose to keep his total just below the required mark for a first round victory, although Haitian law recognizes a blank vote as a form of protest.

The agreement gave Préval 51.5 percent of the vote, avoiding a costly runoff.

However Préval's opponent Leslie Manigat has branded the victory a "coup d'etat."

Last month thousands of supporters of the former ally of deposed President Aristide staged demonstrations through the streets of the capital, Port au Prince, demanding that Préval be declared the winner.



Is the Caribbean ready to re-admit Haiti?

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – It has been more than two years in the waiting, but Haiti seems poised to re-enter the fold of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) even though regional leaders have been told that they need to put in place mechanisms to expel members who do not embrace electoral democracy.

Haiti's return was made dependent on the outcome of the Feb. 7 presidential and legislative council elections being certified as being free and fair and having met the standards set by both the regional and international community for voters exercising their democratic rights to elect a government of their choice.

Outgoing Jamaica Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the elder regional statesman



Patterson

who has announced that he would be quitting active politics by April this year, said history would judge whether the stance adopted by CARICOM in not accepting the United States-imposed interim administration in Port Au Prince in 2004 was the correct policy.

"We must always operate foreign policies that are governed by principle and not by expediency," he told a news conference last month at the end of the CARICOM 17th inter-session summit in Port of Spain.

"History will judge us for the integrity of the policies we pursued and I applaud the determination of the people of Haiti to have a government chosen by them, which reflects the democratic will of the people."

Patterson has said that the regional leaders had mandated CARICOM Chairman Patrick Manning to issue an invitation to the new government in Port au Prince to attend the next summit in St. Kitts in July, but only after the elections were declared free and fair.

Despite suspending Haiti from participating in the activities of CARICOM following the controversial departure of its elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Caribbean countries tried desperately to have the issue remain on the front burner only to be stumped by moves by the U.S. and France, the two countries Aristide blamed for engineering his removal. In the end, they had no choice but to agree to an Organization of American States (OAS) backed inquiry that has not achieved much to date.

DIVIDED

The regional leaders themselves became divided on whether or not there should be a "constructive engagement" with the administration of the interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, with St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana remaining faithful to their



Manning

original positions of having nothing to do with what the St. Vincent Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves described as "a selected administration." However, in an interview with CMC last month, following the poll in Haiti, Latortue hit back at regional leaders who had earlier suggested that they would not have sent troops to the French-speaking Caribbean country to prop up the regime.

"Who are they in the Caribbean and where are they going to get the troops anyway to send here?" questioned Latortue.

"People are talking, let them talk," he continued, adding that "the day will come I believe when good sense will prevail."

"We don't need troops from St. Lucia nor from St. Vincent. We don't need them. Let me say that on behalf of the country of Haiti. Thank God. We will not need troops from them," he stressed.

Latortue himself has sought to defuse the tension within the region and prior to the summit here paid an official visit to Port of Spain at the invitation of host Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Manning. Before he left Port of Spain, Latortue urged the regional leaders to send a fact-finding mission to Port au Prince to observe first hand the changes that had occurred since Aristide's departure in Feb. 2004. That invitation remains on the table.

When he addressed the summit, St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony applauded the Haitian voters

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Aristide can return to Haiti ~ Préval

GUY DELVA

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - Haiti's president-elect said his one-time mentor, ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, could come back in the country if he wanted, and promised to restore security and order to stimulate private investments in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

Rene Préval said Aristide, who is living in exile in South Africa, could return to his country because the constitution bans exile.

"The constitution provides that no Haitian needs a visa to leave the country or to come back to the country," Préval stated.

"As to whether president Aristide will be involved in politics or will go to teach, that's a question you should address to him, not to me," Préval told journalists during his first news conference since he was declared the winner last month.

In a statement on Feb. 21, Aristide said he would be back to Haiti soon.

Aristide fled the country on Feb. 29, 2004 in the face of a bloody armed revolt and under United States and French pressure to quit.

ASSURANCE

Préval ensured his administration would create a secure environment to encourage private investments in order to create jobs and opportunities for the Haitian population. He declined to comment on the formation of the next govern-



Aristide

ment, saying he had to wait for the configuration.

According to the constitution, the party that holds the majority in Parliament will pick the prime minister and form the government. A runoff election for the legislative branch is scheduled to take place on Mar. 19.

Préval encouraged Haitians to turn out massively to elect parliamentarians whose support will be crucial for the implementation of his plans.

About the security in the country, particularly in dangerous places such as the slum of Cité Soleil, Préval said military action could not solve the problem.

"I'm convinced that the problem cannot be solved militarily because it would have already been solved. We had U.S. troops, we had French and Canadian troops on the territory. The military could not solve it," he said.

He promised to discuss with different groups to find a solution through dialogue.

Préval is due to take office

Way clear for Haiti's re-entry into CARICOM

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Haiti's re-entry into the Caribbean community (CARICOM) is on the horizon, according to Secretary General Dr. Edwin Carrington.

"We were informed that the election in Haiti has resulted in a choice of a president and now we are ready to receive Haiti back into the institutions of the Caribbean community," Carrington said.

Rene Préval's victory at the recent polls has removed the major hurdle which jeopardized the re-entry process into CARICOM.

"We will now have a government that is duly and democratically elected by the people of Haiti and we will now sit with Haiti to discuss the

conditions of its re-entry into CARICOM," Carrington said last month.

With the 18-month expiration of the moratorium Haiti requested to meet its obligations to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, and its exclusion from the regional body at an end, Carrington said the climate is ripe for Haiti's re-entry pending "discussions taking place."

QUESTIONS

"We now have to sit with Haiti on this and other issues,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Controversy in St. Lucia over casino license for U.S. company

CASTRIES, St. Lucia - The controversy over a plan by government to set up a casino in the capital continues to rage here with the prime minister, the minister of tourism and the heads of two related institutions coming out in support of the decision to grant a license to an American-based operator to establish the island's first such gaming enterprise.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony, Tourism Minister Phillip J. Pierre, the Chairman of the St. Lucia Gaming Authority (SLGA) Lisle Chase and the Executive Vice President of the St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA) Terrence Gustave have been trying to set the record straight after criticism by a former prime minister and a leading Catholic priest.

Leader of the Opposition United Workers Party (UWP) Sir John Compton recently called on churches and those opposed to a casino to protest the granting of the Gaming Operators License to Treasure Bay (St. Lucia) Ltd. to open the island's first casino.

Approached by the press for a response, Catholic priest Father Michel Francis said the church's silence was by no means consent and reiterated his belief that the presence of a casino in St. Lucia "will do untold damage to the island's social fabric." He said research had been undertaken by the church in Barbados on the impact of casinos on the island, which had proven that "the negative effects far outweighed the positives, and they voted against it."

'DRIVEN AWAY'

Fr. Francis also claimed that the church's research had shown that "in the U.S.A., our neighbor, where casinos are

located, many communities were driven away" because of them. He said protest by the church at this time would be somewhat ineffective, since the government had the legal authority to grant licenses.

The priest felt, however, that there was "not enough fair debate" before the granting of the license.

But Chase, chairman of the St. Lucia Gaming Authority, does not agree. Chase, a chartered accountant who is also chief executive officer of the Financial Centre Corporation of St. Lucia, insists that the authority granted the license "in keeping with the law" and that "procedures were observed every step of the way."

He explained that "from the beginning, advertisements had been placed in the local press indicating a license had been applied for and inviting persons desirous of objecting to the granting of such a license to write and inform the Secretary to the Board of the Authority."

Those advertisements, he indicated, were followed by others inviting persons who had submitted objections to a special meeting of the Gaming Authority at the NIC Building in Castries on June 22, 2005.

That meeting had been convened specifically "for the purpose of considering the application by Treasure Bay (St. Lucia) Limited for a Gaming Operators Licence."

Chase also indicated that subsequent to the application by the U.S.-based operator, the required due diligence was pur-

sued before a license was granted last year.

Recently, Sir John queried government silence on the project after receiving a faxed copy of an article from the **St. Croix Avis** newspaper, quoting Treasure Bay officials as saying they will be beginning to construct the hotel here on 15,000 square feet of land later this year. The article also quoted the company's local lawyer, Peter Foster, as acknowledging the project was on the cards.

"For a government, which seeks to brag every time they do anything, however small, their spin doctors have been remarkably quiet about a casino deal reported in the **Daily News** of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands on January 18 this year," Sir John noted.

Approached by the press, Prime Minister Anthony acknowledged the Authority had granted an operators license to the applicant to operate the island's first "stand alone" casino. He said this matter had been addressed before in official addresses to Parliament and tourism policy speeches by himself and the minister of tourism and the license was granted only after "due diligence was observed and the letter of the law was followed."

The tourism minister, for his part, accused Sir John of "playing politics" with the casino issue. Asked to comment, Pierre, who was acting prime minister at the time, said the government "had complied in full with the laws" in considering the application.

CONCERNS

Gustave, while being "aware of the concerns" expressed by others, reflected the historical view of his association, that a casino would be

welcomed, as it would help "diversify the island's tourism product."

Gustave took issue with the claim that the presence of a casino here would destroy or harm the island's social fabric or add to or worsen its social ills. Saying that "all the island's social ills cannot be blamed on tourism," he pointed out that research had shown that "while most visitors don't come to St.



Compton

Lucia based on whether there is a casino on the island or not, most who come would visit a casino if one existed here."

Pierre, the minister of tourism, indicated that the license granted to Treasure Bay is governed by a Cabinet conclusion which requires that the operations of the casino "shall be subject to periodic independent professional review" in order to ensure the terms and conditions of the license are carried out in full.

He said he understood the reiteration of the church's long-held position, but lamented that "Sir John Compton is playing politics with the issue."

Pierre recalled that when asked what his position was regarding the opening of a casino here, Sir John made it clear that he was "not opposed to casinos and not interested in the moral argument."

All he was interested in, Sir John said, was "the fact that those who made noise before are silent now."

"It's all part of his policy of engaging in political mischief," said Pierre of Sir John's call on the church to "speak out."

Prior to 1997, the St. Lucia Labour Party under the leadership of Julian R. Hunte, opposed the introduction of casinos to St. Lucia. But this policy changed after the party won the 1997 general election under the leadership of Prime Minister Anthony. The current Labour administration introduced the Gaming Authority Control Act in 2000 and it was amended in 2003.

Treasure Bay is the first applicant to have been issued a gaming license.

- CMC



Anthony

Is the Caribbean ready to re-admit Haiti?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

for their "typical bravery and courage" in exercising their right elect a president of their choice "in the face of untold odds.

"I speak for the government of St. Lucia when I say I am very happy that Haiti, has, once again embraced electoral democracy. From all indications, the people of Haiti have shown incredible enthusiasm for the electoral process," he said.

LESSONS

Anthony said there were indeed lessons to be learnt from the Haitian experience and as a result "a clear and unambiguous message must issue from this community that it will not tolerate or accept the unlawful and unconstitutional interruption of the democratic process."

During their summit, Caribbean leaders adopted the Charter of Civil Society, which was first recommended in 1992 by the West Indian Commission. It has 11 major points, including the need to "to uphold the right of people to make political choices" as well as "to create a truly participatory political environment within the Caribbean community which will be propitious to genuine consultation in the process of governance."

Gonsalves has, however, been more cautious in his approach to re-admitting Haiti, telling reporters that it appears from the various media reports that there had been an overwhelming enthusiasm to go to the polls by the Haitians. But he hinted he was not sure "whether those reports are selective.

"I know that some offi-

cials have been falling over themselves early to proclaim everything fine and dandy. I am not going there yet until I see the official report from our own people."

Ironically, if Haiti is re-admitted to the CARICOM fold, it would most likely be

Way clear for Haiti's re-entry into CARICOM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

including how are they prepared to come on board with that (Revised Treaty of Chaguarams which it has not signed) and what is the process of acceding to the various elements of the Single Market.

"These are all questions still to be answered but none was more difficult than the one that has just been surmounted.

"I think with the goodwill

doing so under the same president, Rene Préval, who brought it into the regional grouping in the first place nine years ago.

- CMC



and the commitment and the fact that legally, Haiti is already a member of the community, I think we will easily settle those problems," Carrington said.

"It's just a wonderful moment."

What goes around may be coming around in Haiti, Viewpoint Page 9.



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VIEWPOINT

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What goes around, comes around in Haiti

GORDON WILLIAMS

Just over two years ago Jean-Bertrand Aristide's run as Haiti's president ended. Whoever wanted him out – whether the United States, the Haitian people or both – did not obscure the facts: the nation's duly elected leader was removed from office, but not by the ballot.

That may have satisfied the anti-Aristide supporters no end, but the smile must have, by now, slipped painfully from their faces as the results of last month's elections finally became public.

There is a saying in the Caribbean: "Mind you swap black dog fi monkey". No personal slight intended to either Aristide or newly elected President Rene Préal, but it seems the old saying may have come to light. Now, instead of Aristide, Haiti will be led by one of his protégés.

And everybody got their wish granted, right? Not quite. The U.S. was happy Aristide was gone. Democratic elections were held. A replacement was voted in. Sounds good so far. But if the new man at the top is a chip off the old Aristide block, then what exactly was gained?

ANSWER

To get the answer to that, then a scan of the fallout from the Feb. 7 voting may help. Early reports indicated that Préal had swept away his opponents, securing up to 90 percent of the votes. But then, as it became obvious that that result would ensure there would be no March run off – or "do over" – elections, and Préal would rule, suddenly his margin of victory began to dwindle...rapidly. The counts and recounts of ballots, from an election that was eagerly declared by observers to be fair and free from fraud,

shrank his vote tally closer to 50 percent. And it took more than a week to shrink it too. Some call that being careful, others "care to fool", as in some force trying desperately to figure how to fool the world as it watched the oldest 'democracy' in the Western Hemisphere at work. The violent street protests which followed the delay indicated that the wool was not fitting comfortably over the eyes of the Haitian people this time around.

Eventually, Préal prevailed. Getting just over 51 percent of the vote means he gets to be president. Some people, namely those who booted his mentor out of office, may not like that too much. So a dilemma emerges. If the anti-Aristide forces saw it fit to remove him from office by any means necessary, claiming he wanted out anyway, what will happen if he is suddenly asked by the new president to return from Africa to Haiti and play a role in the new government? Préal has already said there is no reason to prevent Aristide's return. Aristide has said he will be returning to Haiti "as soon as possible." Interesting times are truly ahead.

CARIBBEAN DELIGHT

As for the Caribbean's position, which largely resented the ouster of Aristide in the first place, what will that be? Well, there have been leadership elections in the region since Aristide left, but not much has changed. Take Ralph Gonsalves in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for example. He was against the removal of Aristide and the interim government led by Gerard Latortue from day one, and did not see Haiti as a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

The chauvinist's rules

I have been accused of chauvinism. But who really is a chauvinist anyway?

The dictionary defines chauvinism as n. 'the sentiments of a Chauvin; absurdly exaggerated patriotism, military zeal or enthusiasm for a cause.'

The word was of course taken from the French general Chauvin, an enthusiastic adherent of Napoleon and describes anyone possessed by an absurdly exaggerated enthusiasm for a cause, belligerent patriotism or military zeal. So, in effect, anyone can be a chauvinist, male or female.

For some reason though, men got branded with the term male chauvinist by women who happened not to like the opinion or ways of some men. Whenever a man expressed what he thought was correct behavior, and just happened to ruffle the feathers of some females, he was immediately branded a male chauvinist.

The term became popular during the feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. For some strange reason though, I have never heard the term female chauvinist, even though many ball-breaking, bra-burning females were even more fanatical about their cause than even the most extreme so-called male chauvinist.

MANY FORMS

But chauvinism has its place, and it comes in many forms, overtly or covertly. As a matter of fact, some women welcome it, even though they would never give it a name, preferring to say, "My man is so assertive, so manly, so in charge."

I know so many women who were once free spirited, beautiful, independent souls, who upon being married took on the mantle of subjugated wife, never to have an opinion, speak up for herself, taken out of the spotlight,



TONY ROBINSON

cowed down and playing second fiddle in the two person band called marriage; a willing participant and a welcoming partner to the male chauvinist. She does everything that the man says, and dare not backchat him, and his dinner better be ready when he gets home too.

She can go nowhere and do nothing without consulting him first and getting his permission and approval. Believe me, they exist, right here in the 21st century. And there you were, thinking that phenomena like slavery and piracy on the high seas were wiped out. Only the names have been changed.

RULES

So the chauvinist does have his place in our modern world and here are some rules for the noble or perhaps ignoble art of chauvinism.

Any reader of the comic strip Andy Capp will know that Andy is the ultimate male chauvinist. Poor Flo, his wife, caters to him hand and foot, while he does nothing but laze around on the couch all day then drink beer at the pub all night. Andy got it made and many men would love to be

like him. As Andy asks, "How many men does it take to open a beer?" None, it should be opened when she brings it.

The chauvinist should so train his woman that he never has to open a beer bottle by himself as long as she is present. Not only should she open it, but it should be poured just the right way to give it a nice head. Now the beer may just be a metaphor for other things that the woman should do for the male chauvinist. She shouldn't even have to ask if he's hungry, but have his dinner prepared for him whenever he gets home. That is the beauty of having a microwave, no meal should take more than two minutes to be piping hot, just about the same time it takes her to hear when he drives in, opens the door, goes to the bathroom for a pee, changes his clothes, picks up the remote and relaxes on the couch.

I have been to functions and seen wives struggling with two plates in their hands at the buffet line, while the husbands stand idly by and engage their friends in conversation. I'm usually in the buffet line serving myself. Also, check out who gets out of the car at fast food joints to get the order. In most cases it's the women. Chauvinism comes in many forms, and some men have it down so pat that it's not even apparent.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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CARIB Comments

• **"I am telling all the Caribbean people. I am not the American puppet, I am not the puppet of anybody, I am my own man"** –



Gerard Latortue, outgoing interim president of Haiti after general elections in that country last month.

• **"Ato's orientation is in track and field. He is not a politician...He won't ever be a politician"** - Guy Boldon, the father of four time Olympic medalist Ato Boldon last month saying he

is distressed and somewhat shocked about his son's decision to accept an appointment as a senator for the Opposition United National Congress in Trinidad and Tobago.

• **"This is an extraordinary crime"** – Trinidad and Tobago's Opposition Chief Whip Ganga Singh referring to an alleged plot to destabilize the United National Congress ahead of the 2002 general elections by planting drugs and mortar bombs in the water tank of Opposition Senator Sadiq Baksh.



• **"Those who seek to make mileage out of people's misery should reconsider this behavior. It will not be tolerated and will**

not be seen nor treated as a basis for forcing the hands of the administration" – Head of the Presidential Secretariat and Cabinet Secretary Dr. Roger Luncheon accusing un-named persons of seeking to make political mileage from the flooding that has severely affected villages of West Coast Berbice in Guyana recently.



• **"He has converted his own party into a political hell-hole"** – Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur commenting on David Thompson, who is reportedly seeking to lead the Opposition Democratic Labour Party after Clyde Mascoll resigned from that post.

• **"People of the community**

have taken us at our word. It is our duty to ensure all the relevant procedures are in place to guarantee its efficient function" - CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington urging the region to take advantage of opportunities available under the Caribbean Single Market, which came into effect in January.

• **"It does sound a little odd"** – Roman Catholic priest Father Michel Francis responding to Prime Minister Kenny Anthony's announcement that he would bring in international observers for St. Lucia's elections, scheduled for this year, although the country has a reputation for clean and fair elections.

• **"I firmly believe that my God will vindicate me"** – Eric Williams, who resigned as Trinidad and Tobago's energy

minister to face seven fraud charges.

• **"May I assure you that it is on the basis of competence, not race, that appointments have been made and will continue to be made to the commission and to any other which it falls to me as president to make"** - Trinidad and Tobago President George Maxwell Richards dismissing calls by the Trinidad chapter of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) for a restructuring of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) to deal with what it termed the "racial imbalance" within the independent electoral body.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



What goes around, comes around in Haiti

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

part of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) unless he was sure a government elected by the people was in place. Now he gets his wish.

Gonsalves is not alone in CARICOM. Jamaica also has a new leader, not from general elections involving the entire country, but from a vote within the ruling People's National Party (PNP). So if the former PNP Leader and Prime Minister P.J. Patterson was so against the toppling of Aristide, don't expect the new party leader and prime minister to have a change of heart on that either. All that may

happen is that CARICOM will probably end up embracing the Aristide protégé Préval and the new Haiti government; not such a good plan for those opposed to Aristide in the first place. In an odd way, the ouster of Aristide may lead to the wider regional acceptance of the Aristide influence.

So the end game is still in progress. Those who wanted to eliminate the taste of Aristide are now faced with freshly cooked plate of Aristide-flavored goodies. Head of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Larry Birns, described Préval's win was "a putative victory for

Aristide."

So eat up and enjoy. Spitting it out would seem like bad table manners, because this meal is exactly what was ordered. Or was it?

It seems like some people may already be heading back to the kitchen, I mean drawing board. The recent election has sparked concern that the

U.S. is losing its influence in Latin America and the Caribbean. So if the protege turns out to be anything like his mentor, then the next menu will become more tricky and pricey too. Préval might not be too easy to digest. And if Aristide (with his own bitter aftertaste from the Feb. 2004 experience) is triumphantly

added to the pot back in Haiti, well the combo meal deal may have its own unique flavor.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



The chauvinist's rules

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Letting her carry the stuff is no magic, just chauvinism at it's best.

FUNNY...OR NOT

Why do women have smaller feet than men? It's one of those evolutionary things that allows women to stand closer to the kitchen sink. Another sexist male chauvinist joke you'll say, but beneath the laughter, or disgust on the ladies' part, is a grain of truth.

The fact is, more women wash dishes than men and I have never seen a commercial for dishwashing liquid aimed at men. A good chauvinist will recognize this, and when he buys a present for his woman,

he'll ensure that it's some sort of kitchen appliance. "After all, she doesn't really expect me to do the dishes now, does she?"

Ladies, before you react violently, answer this question, who upon visiting each other offers to wash up the dishes more, the man or the woman? Usually it's the woman. A chauvinist recognizes this, and lets his woman know from the outset that her place is in the kitchen, nearer the sink with her smaller feet, Darwin's theory of evolutionary sink displacement ratio and all that.

The chauvinist asks, "If your dog is barking at the back door and your wife is yelling at the front door, who do you let in first?" The dog of course. He'll shut up once you let him in. All the confirmed male chauvinists that I know never allow their women to chat too much. If she starts to utter a word, all it takes is a glance in her direction and the words stop in her throat.

People, I have witnessed this many times, and I marvel at the mastery of the true chauvinist as he handles his woman with the same skill and dexterity as a horse or lion tamer handles his animals. My chauvinist friends have told me that scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90 per-

cent. It's called a wedding cake. For some strange reason, no matter how highly sexed a woman is at the outset, as soon as she gets married, sex becomes secondary, then thirdly, then fourthly, then fifthly until it drops completely off the top 10. Some say that it's the chauvinists view, but I have heard the same tale too often to doubt it.

In fact the woman doesn't even have to be married, but just be with the man for a few years and watch her sex drive diminish. Where do you think they got the age old excuse from, "Not tonight dear, I have a headache." Perhaps it's the female version of male chauvinism, but I'll have to explore that at a later date.

And finally, what's worse than a male chauvinist pig? A woman who won't do what she's told. So there you have it, a brief guide to male chauvinists, an insight into the chauvinist's mind and a few hints for the budding chauvinist. Heed them at your peril as some women tend not to appreciate the old art of chauvinism as much as they used to in the past. But still, there are many who still relish it. It's still practiced, just don't give it a name.

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Dr. Wentworth Jarrett

Positive outlook for Caribbean tourism in 2006

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - There are favorable prospects for the region's tourism sector this year, on the heels of a rocky 2005, which saw moderate growth overall.

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) forecasts that business will turnaround and the region could expect growth to range between 2.5 percent and three percent this year.

The organization reported last month that arrivals last year increased by 3.6 percent, with total long stay arrivals reaching 22.5 million visitors. Tourist expenditure increased to some \$23 billion.

This 3.6 percent growth in tourist arrivals in 2005 follows increases of 7.1 percent in 2003, and 6.9 percent in 2004. Arley Sobers, the CTO's director of information management and research, added that 2005 was a challenging year for Caribbean tourism.

IMPROVEMENTS

The region's major markets each recorded some improvements - the United

States grew by 0.2 percent, Canada, six percent and Europe seven percent.

The Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries, particularly Cuba and the Dominican Republic were the hot spots. Just over two million tourists visited Havana, a 13 percent increase in arrivals, while 3.7 million visitors vacationed in the Dominican Republic, an increase of 7.2 percent.

In contrast, arrivals to Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries were modest, reaching just over three million visitors.

Cruise passengers visitations declined last year by two percent to 19.8 million. However, Sobers does not believe this is cause for great worry as he outlined the fac-



Cuba has become a tourism hotspot in the Caribbean.

tors leading to the reduction.

"Firstly, the unusual slow growth in capacity in 2005 and the re-deployment of capacity to destinations outside the region after three successive years due to political instability elsewhere and with the post 9/11 tendency to base more capacity in Florida and the renewed focus on shorter cruises, the most southerly destinations in the Caribbean have recorded the sharpest decreases," he said.



Bahamas tourism ads cause controversy in New York

NEW YORK, CMC - An advertising campaign by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism last month created controversy in New York, with some subway riders objecting to the manner in which the islands are being promoted underground.

The ad campaign, running on at least one out of four subway cars in the city, is potentially in view of as many as five million subway riders. It is standing out, but not necessarily because it is getting people onto planes. Under the heading "Instant Escape No.1: How to Turn a Subway Seat into a Hammock", one advertisement seems to encourage riders to hog subway seats as if resting in a hammock.

Another ad seems to encourage riders to imitate fishing in the Caribbean by snagging subway track detritus by putting something sticky on a cellular phone and attaching it to a scarf. It's called "Instant Escape No.2: How to Fly Fish with a Scarf and a Cell Phone".

CONTRADICTION

The ads apparently contradict the official rules of conduct of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the agency that oversees the city's subways and buses, which says there should be no hogging of seats. Some

subway riders have criticized the campaign, saying that they violate subway rules.

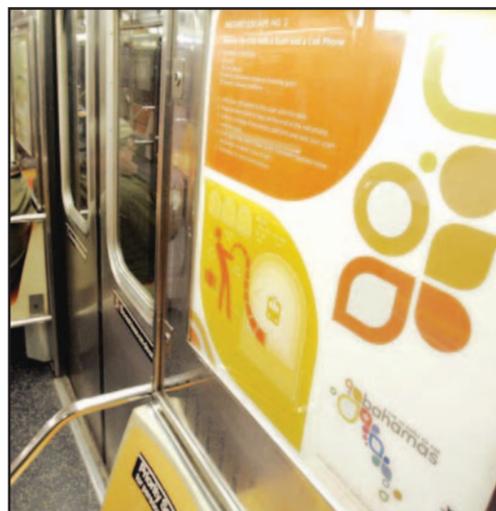
"I know they're not irresponsible because they're done in jest," said David Yockelson, 41, an investment banker from Rye Brook, New York. "But it was interesting that they'd be so bold about it."

At the time of this story the MTA declined to comment on the growing controversy, but CBS Outdoor, formerly Viacom Outdoor, which distributes advertising on the subway, said it was blindsided by the tourism ads. It said it would remove the hammock and the fly-fishing ads.

"Two of their executions do advocate behavior that is clearly unsafe, and we have organized to have those removed and replaced with more appropriate Bahamas copy," said Jodi Senese, a CBS Outdoor spokeswoman, last month.

UNDER THE RADAR

Senese said The Bahamas subway campaign slipped



One of the controversial subway ads.

under the radar because, in general, tourism ads do not come under the same kind of scrutiny as radio station or liquor company ads.

"We don't act as censors, but, clearly, if an ad advocates something that compromises the safety of the community," Senese said, "we will not post it or, in fact, act to remove the same ad copy."

But Rosemary Abendroth, a spokeswoman for Fallon Advertising, the Minneapolis agency that developed the campaign, defended the ads.

"You have to admit, it's great stuff," she said.



TOURISM BRIEFS

• Caribbean tourism study

The Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) and PRO INVEST, an agency of the Centre for Development Enterprise of the European Union, has announced the launch of a research study to gauge how much the Caribbean tourism accommodation sector spends on locally-provided goods and services, including its tax contribution to governments.

"Until now, there had been no available data that quantifies and validates how the expenditures of Caribbean lodging establishments find their way into the local economy by supporting directly the wellbeing of workers, local entrepreneurs, professionals, small, medium and large corporations, and other economic sectors - even government revenues that help finance the running of the country," said Berthia Parle, president of CHA.

• New tramway boosts St. Lucia's tourism

St. Lucia's Tourism Minister Phillip J. Pierre says a \$4 million aerial tramway project nearing completion here, promises to change the landscape, create jobs and add to the diversity of the island's tourism product.

Rainforest Sky Rides, located in the northeast Babonneau area, is establishing a tramway similar to one that exists in neighboring Dominica. It is being constructed on 1,200 acres of government land in the mountainous area and it will take clients on a 90-minute ride above and between the surrounding mountains.

• Delta adds second daily flight to Bermuda from Atlanta

Delta Air Lines is to double its daily service between Atlanta and Bermuda by adding a second flight from May 26.

Tourism Minister Ewart Brown said the added service would increase the airline's daily capacity by 64 percent - the highest it had been since 2000. Delta is to replace the one Boeing 757 flight by using two Boeing 737s on the route. Brown said the new service would also be of benefit as it

would enable greater flexibility to travelers.

• U.S. company to develop old Club Med

A Connecticut-based company has been named as the new developer of the former Club Med resort at Bermuda's east end which has been closed for 18 years.

Tourism Minister Ewart Brown last month named KJA Development Inc., which he said was also involved in a hotel project in St. Lucia, as the new developer with former St. George's Mayor E. Michael Jones as the firm's on-island representative.

• CTO honors past chairmen, benefactors

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) Foundation last month bestowed special honors on seven past chairmen and six major benefactors at a gala ceremony in midtown Manhattan.

The honored past chairmen were James Berrien, president and publisher of Forbes Magazine Group; Barbara Gilliam, president of Barbara Gilliam Public Relations; Alexandra Golinkin, vice president and publisher of Lucky magazine; and Stephen Hicks, president of Island Resort Tours, Inc.

• Development confab set for April

The economic benefits of sustainable tourism and its implications for the social and cultural environment, will be the central focus of the 8th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development, also known as the Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC-8), to be held this year in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The April 25-29 conference, which has as its theme "Keeping the Right Balance - Economic Progress and Sustainable Tourism", will stress the importance of balancing the gains of tourism development while cherishing



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FOOD

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Pair cheese and wine for a fun, tasty party

(FeatureSource) Cheese and wine have a great deal in common, and they have been enjoyed together since ancient times.

Both are products of fermentation. Both may be consumed while fresh, simple, and young or in their more complex forms when they are aged and mature.

There are no hard and fast rules as to which wines should always be served with particular cheeses. There is an old adage that red wines go with hard cheeses and white wines with soft cheeses - but just like red wine with fish, there's always an exception.

TRADITION

Another tradition is that cheeses of a certain geographic region are best enjoyed with wines of the same region. But, just as one bottle of cabernet sauvignon from the Napa Valley is not like that of another vintage or another producer, neither is one Brie exactly like another. Both are living and constantly changing. This is what makes pairing cheese and wine interesting as well as delicious.

Harmony should always exist between the cheese and the wine. They should have similar intensities. There

should always be a balance - strong and powerful cheeses should be paired with similar wines and delicate cheeses should be paired with lighter wines.

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

The possibilities of pairing cheese and wine are endless. There are so many wines and so many cheeses. Below are some preferences:

- Young, mild and milky cheeses such as fresh goat cheese with light, fruity delicate wines such as Sauvignon Blanc and Beaujolais.
- Assertive, strong-flavored cheeses such as Provolone with young, robust red wines such as Chianti and Syrah.
- Aged mellow cheeses such as Parmigiano and Gouda with older, robust wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel.
- Strong, pungent cheeses such as Pont l'Evêque or Taleggio with young, full-bodied wine such as Merlot or sweet dessert wines such as late-harvest Reislings and Sauternes.



Wine and cheese, a delightful mix.

- Soft-ripened cheeses like Brie and Camembert with full-flavored Chardonnays or Champagne.
- Tangy strong goat cheeses such as Crottin di Chavignol with Burgundies.
- Blue cheeses such as Roquefort and Stilton with

sweet dessert wines like Port or Sauternes.

- Soft, rich cheeses without overpowering flavors are best with fine, older wines.

TASTES

For a cheese tasting, it is best to serve three to five different cheeses. You should buy a total of two to four ounces of cheese per person. Serve the cheese on a platter, tray or wooden board, placing the whole cheeses on grape leaves or a bed of herbs. Leave enough space around the cheeses for them to breathe. Provide one knife for each cheese and place the crackers or bread in a separate basket. The cheeses should be served at room temperature.

At a cheese or wine tasting, you should eat the cheeses in the order of their

strength, moving from the mildest cheeses to those that are more robust and finely to the strongest and most pungent cheeses. Eat the cheeses slowly and let them melt in your mouth. Then take a sip of wine and enjoy flavor combinations.

Taste is a personal preference. You may prefer one cheese with a particular wine while someone else may like an entirely different pairing.

My best recommendation is for you to be in a mood for experiment and enjoyment. Choose several cheeses and several wines. You will find one pairing that is best for you and another for someone else.

You can't go wrong. It will create conversation. It will be interesting. It will be delicious. And it will be lots of fun.

Author: Paula Lambert

Paula Lambert is the author of "The Cheese Lover's Cookbook & Guide" (Simon & Schuster). For more information contact Carrie Ross/ Publicity Manager, Simon & Schuster, Lifestyle Publicity 212-698-7147 or carrie.ross@simonandschuster.com



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- **Park & Recreation:** Construct and improve park and recreational facilities at North Shorecrest, Military Trail, Olinda, Marva Bannerman, and Jefferson Reaves Sr. Parks; and Little Haiti Soccer Park.
- **Public Library System:** Renovate and rehabilitate Edison, Allapattah, Lemon City, Little River, and Culmer/Overtown Branch Libraries.
- **Public Service Outreach Facilities:** New Haitian Community Center; Martin Luther King Business Center; and Puerto Rican Community Center; Allapattah and Wynwod Neighborhood Service Centers.

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THE OLD AND THE NEW



Veteran Jamaican reggae artiste George Nooks, left, has linked up with promising Canadian Steele for a duet titled "What's Wrong Wid Wi", which deals with the issue of black on black violence. The single, which was written by Steele, is being distributed by Tuff Gong International. The duo hooked up during Nooks's recent visit to Toronto. Steele then went to Jamaica, where both artistes promoted the song and shot the music video.

Guyana is new location for love comedy film

TORONTO, Canada, CMC - Canadian-based Nivelli International Inc last month announced that Guyana had been chosen as the location for a new love comedy.

The choice for shooting the film "Rainbow Raani" was shifted from South Africa even though one of the leading roles would have been played by South African Tarina Patel, the company said.

"However the logistical hurdles of filming in South Africa became more daunting when Tarina Patel could not fulfil certain promises to facilitate the venture," said Mickey Nivelli, the writer and director of the film.

"I am based in New York

and the hours of extra air travel and time difference between the continents would have made our scheduling very difficult. Above all, my roots, and that of the producer, Pradeep Samptani, a Guyanese, are deeply embedded in the West Indies. So, picking beautiful Guyana as the winner for the filming location was the wise and patriotic thing to do."

"Rainbow Raani" is a sexy comedy with a message that shatters geographic and gender barriers for true love. The story revolves around a musical band called "The Rainbows", comprising an African, an Indian, a caucasian and a Chinese player.

Marley's home chosen national heritage site

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Jamaicans last month celebrated the birthday of the legendary reggae singer, the late Bob Marley, with the authorities declaring the Bob Marley Museum as a national heritage site.

The museum is located on Hope Road in St. Andrew.

Marley's music dominated the

airwaves and celebrations in the place of his birth, the northern parish of St. Ann, and around the rest of the country.

The life of Marley was not only commemorated here, but around the world, with local musicians travelling to Ghana for concerts under the theme "Africa Unite", one of Marley's tunes. The concerts were organized by the Bob and Rita Marley Foundations under the auspices of the Ghanaian Ministry of Tourism and Modernization of the capital city.

Marley, who would have celebrated his 61st birthday on Feb. 6, rose to international fame for his critical political and social tunes, including "Get Up Stand Up" and "One Love". He died on May 11, 1981, of cancer at the age of 36 and one month after his death was honored with Jamaica's Order of Merit, the nation's third highest honor, in recogni-

tion of his outstanding contribution to Jamaican culture.

... 'Jr. Gong' strikes double Grammy

Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley's successful run in the music business continued last month when the son of the legendary Bob Marley won two Grammy Awards.

The younger Marley's "Welcome to Jamrock" earned the "Best Reggae Album" award, while the artiste also succeeded in the "Best Urban/Alternative Performance" category for the



Bob Marley



Damian Marley

title track of the album. "We win the two of them an mek history and that's a great feeling," Marley told the Jamaica **Weekend Star**.

The album "Welcome to Jamrock" was also certified gold last month, meaning that it had sold at least 500,000 copies. "Beautiful", another single from the album which features American singer Bobby Brown, was scheduled for release last month.

Nova hosts 'Rock My Soul: The Black Legacy of Rock & Roll' this month

The works of 10 Detroit-based black artists, each inspired by and representing African and African American music - the music of West Africa, slavery work songs and spirituals, blues, jazz, gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop - are on display this month at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in South Florida.

"Rock My Soul: The Black Legacy of Rock and Roll", a traveling exhibit of the Arts League of Michigan and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is part of NSU's African Presence 2006 Third Annual Art Exhibition, the highlight of the university's Black History

Month celebration, which continues from February and also includes a film series, public lectures, and a community forum.

The exhibition is being displayed in the second floor gallery of the Alvin Sherman Library, Research and Information Technology Center, on NSU's main campus in Fort Lauderdale.

Last year's African Presence exhibit, "The Caribbean Connection", featured the work of local artists and photographers, in addition to the collection, "Panaficanists", by acclaimed Jamaican artist Barrington Watson.



James Spearman's "Soul of Rock" is part of the exhibit at Nova Southeastern University

"Rock My Soul" is sponsored nationally by the Ford Foundation. Each one of the musical eras and genres in the exhibit is represented by works of art that convey the essence of the music and the spirit of the people who created them.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

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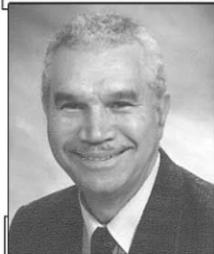
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ARTS / ENTERTAINMENT

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Five centuries of Caribbean history unfold at Miami museum

MIAMI, Florida – Rare books, maps and original documents, some dating back five centuries, are part of “Caribbean Collage: Archival Collections and the Construction of History” currently on display at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida here.

The public exhibition, one of the largest collections of Caribbean and library materials, opened late last month and is scheduled to run through June 4.

“Caribbean Collage” features items from the collection of the University of Florida’s George A. Smathers Libraries. It focuses on the British West Indies, Haiti and Cuba from the 18th to the early 20th centuries.

The exhibition is being presented in collaboration with the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections of the



Some of the highlights on display at “Caribbean Collage: Archival Collections and the Construction of History” in Miami.

Smathers Libraries.

“Visitors to the exhibition will have an opportunity to examine first-hand accounts of some of the most dramatic events in Caribbean history and will be encouraged to construct their own interpretations of the region’s past and its impact on the present,” Dr. Stephen Stuemppfle, chief cura-

tor of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, said in a recent press release.

TRACKING CHANGE

Drawing on several archival collections recently acquired by the Libraries, “Caribbean Collage” explores the Caribbean during a time of massive social change: slavery

ended, new forms of agriculture developed and independent nation-states, with distinct creole cultures, emerged.

The exhibition also examines these large-scale transformations through documents specific to people’s lives: let-

ters, diaries, ledger entries, business records, scrapbook clippings, photographs, drawings and similar items. Illustrated books and maps provide additional perspectives.

“Caribbean Collage” includes an overview of the Smathers Libraries’ collections, with material ranging from the early stages of European exploration to 20th century political events. Struggles for power within the region are highlighted in four focus areas: British Imperialism in the Caribbean (1756-1834), which covers the Seven Years’ War through Emancipation; the Haitian

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

St. Lucia Jazz Festival officially set for May 5-14

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC –The 15th St. Lucia Jazz Festival was officially launched last month, heralding the start of this year’s annual hosting of what is regarded as one of the world’s most popular music festivals.

Among those scheduled to grace the stage for this year’s May 5-14 festival are headliners, British-born R&B singer Seal; noted songwriter, singer and producer Babyface; Nancy Wilson; jazz percussionists Pancho Sanchez; and veteran soul singer Al Green.

Other main stage artists so far announced for the Pigeon Island National Park are Freddy Cole, brother of the late Nat King Cole; saxo-



Babyface

phonist Kenny Garret; rhythm and blues act Ciara; and Barbadian-born Rihanna.

Tourist Board Chairman Costello Michel said that as soon as other contracts are signed the other artistes

scheduled to appear will be named. He noted that despite the unique challenges of



Rihanna

organizing this year’s festival, the board had assembled what it thought was the best combination of possibilities for a wonderful

music event.

He cautioned that the board had to be “fiscally responsible” in its organiza-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

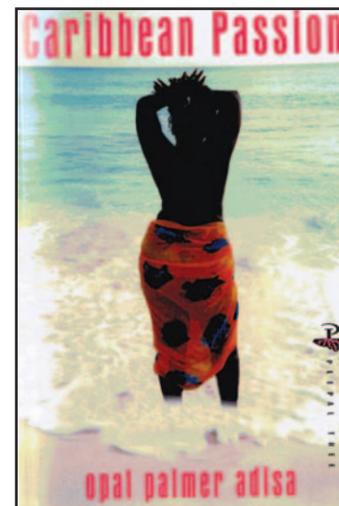
• **TITLE: CARIBBEAN PASSION**

• **AUTHOR: OPAL PALMER ADISA**

• **REVIEWED BY: GORDON WILLIAMS**

Writers’ passion is often linked to a single-minded purpose – a mission to “get it out”. It, of course, meaning the inspiration on the subject they yearn to write about.

In “Caribbean Passion”, Jamaican-born poet and storyteller Opal Palmer Adisa must have had a lot on her mind, judging from the variety of topics – “missions”, if you will – she seems to have her mind



set on to complete.

Yet conquer, she does,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

Livin' with the Waters
"Class Act"

Willow, I need help writing this paper for class.

I hope you're not talking about the kind of help where I do it and you watch TV.

That's an option ... But I don't understand how the government plans to fix the Everglades.

The goal is to fix the water so clean water is delivered where it is needed on time. That means cleaning the water, storing the water, and distributing it when it's needed.

So what you are trying to say is that the government is the dry cleaners for water?

I give up!

Fun Facts:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, has developed a plan to save the Everglades called the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

A class act, CERP seeks to improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water for a more sustainable south Florida. For more information about CERP, visit www.evergladesplan.org.

The Journey to Restore America's Everglades
A partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, Everglades National Park, and many other federal, state, local and tribal partners.

Cuban-born author releases encyclopedia on Caribbean

NEW JERSEY, CMC - A Cuban-born author in the United States, has released an encyclopedia which overviews the lives and works of Caribbean authors and gives special attention to the political, cultural, and historical contexts in which region's authors have lived and worked.

Danilo Figueredo, library director at Bloomfield College in New Jersey, has introduced the lives of Caribbean authors to the public with the release of the two volume "Encyclopedia of Caribbean Literature".

With over 700 entries, the book was written over three years, with contributions from over 40 experts. The encyclopedia is accessible to students and the general readers. Figueredo said he wrote the encyclopedia to introduce students and the general public to the literary treasures of the Caribbean.

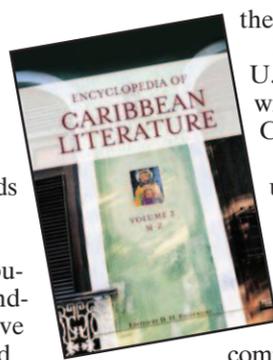
'FERTILE' REGION

"Some of the best contemporary novels in the world today are being written either in the Caribbean or by people

from the Caribbean," he said.

"Many think of the Caribbean as beautiful islands surrounded by inviting warm water, and populated with friendly folks who love music and good food," he added.

"But along with the palm trees and the beaches, there is a culture that is vibrant, rich, and complex, a culture often manifested in the literature from



the region."

Figueredo migrated to the U.S. when he was 14, settling with his family in Union City, N.J.

He received an undergraduate degree from Montclair State University in New Jersey, and a master's degree in Library Science from Rutgers University and another master's in comparative literature/Latin American studies from New York University.



'Rock My Soul'...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

The exhibit, which will be on display through Mar. 31, is sponsored by NSU's Office of University Relations, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services Office of Community Education and Diversity Affairs, and Comcast Spotlight.

For more information about "Rock My Soul: The Black Legacy of Rock and Roll" art exhibition, call 954-262-5357, or visit www.nova.edu/library/about/events/blacklegacy/legacy.html.



St. Lucia Jazz Festival officially set for May 5-14

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

tion of the St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

"We have to understand that although it is important to continue to have the best festival in the region, and probably one of the best in the world, we have to do it within the limitations of what a country like ours can afford to spend on one event," he told the launching ceremony.

GROWTH

The St. Lucia Jazz Festival has grown in stature over the past 15 years, moving from a sparsely attended event in 1991 to a worldwide calendar event today. Statistics have shown that the festival is the island's main overseas promoter, with more visitors getting exposure to the island through it than any other local event.

The festival has also contributed to increased visitor

arrivals each year. Its varied repertoire of popular performers each year draws repeat visitors from the English, Kweyol, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, as well as from locations in North America, South America and Europe. The annual festival is co-produced and promoted by the St. Lucia Tourist Board

and the United States-based Black Entertainment Television (BET). BET Digital Networks, of which St. Lucian Cybelle Brown is executive vice president, is also involved in the planning and execution of the island's best-known event.

Tourism Minister Philip J. Pierre, under whose watch the

jazz fest has consolidated and expanded island-wide, said he expects that this year's festival "will again attract record numbers, as we continue to cater for all tastes and take the spirit to all corners of the island, from Pigeon island to Fond d'Or and from Vieux Fort to Bodge."



'Caribbean Passion' takes a wild gallop

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

with a "likkle a dis, and a likkle a dat" as her countrymen and women would say. Adisa explores joy, pain, history, triumph, family connections, childhood, sisterhood, womanhood, motherhood...or just adult 'wood'. She touches on the sometimes untouchables, like sexual abuse and sex between different generations. And all the while she makes it a pleasant read.

BRAZEN

It would be a challenge, for example, to find anyone with the grasp of the sweetness of Jamaican patois and the "yard" experience not to smile at the brazen tirade of "Moda Young Gal", that passion-starved older woman who defies her age to dress young, act young and bed the young. And how she is enjoying it too.

"me can't even begin fi trace how we cross the age divide but me can tell you

how him hand vibrates de middle of me back how him tongue tease open de lips of me flower..."

In the same way Adisa is not at all shy to tell you how she openly embraces the often hush hush topic of sex, she is not afraid to go down even darker roads, where innocent young girls are lured and abused by older men, experiences that will force on them valuable lessons...and scar them for life.

However, she is the strong woman too, just like Jamaica's national heroine "Nanny", who fights back, determined, always dependable.

"when all turn irresolute she does be there all de time"

POKING

But just before the reader can slam down the 104-page text and say "no more", possibly frustrated at the thought that eating a coconut in the morning for example could actually be a woman openly yearning for sex, Adisa is

stopping short, reminding you that it is not depravity at all, just a poking at your own mind eager to lead it where you want it to go. Fiddling a bit with your own morality and the shy secrets concealed within. In other words, make up your own mind.

Like she says in "This Poem Is An Invitation": "an encounter is not commitment but I feel my wild gallop and I fear the calenture of your touch this poem is an invitation"

Caribbean people would do well to accept Adisa's invitation, take that "wild gallop" too with her as she conquers each mission with a passion few could muster.

PUBLISHER: PEEPAL TREE PRESS; 104 PAGES

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



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~ A Caribbean Today feature

Caribbean Business Council set for launch in June 2006

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - A new Caribbean Business Council (CBC) will be launched in Barbados in June to help promote private sector interest within the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME), Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur announced last month.



Arthur

Arthur, who has lead responsibility for the CSME within CARICOM, said that the council would also group "all the various entities that work to promote private interests in the region. "It is proposed that once the Caribbean Business Council has been created to represent the business community in the region, that the Caribbean Business Council would be made an associate organ of CARICOM and have its function and structure embedded in the treaty so that its purposes in regional integration can be institutionalized."

Arthur, who delivered a progress report to the leaders on the movement to establish the framework for the CARICOM Single Economy (CSE) by 2008, described the

Arthur, who has lead responsibility for the CSME within CARICOM, said that the council would also group "all the various entities that work to promote private interests in the region. "It is proposed that once the Caribbean Business Council has been created to represent the business community in the region, that the Caribbean Business Council would be made an associate organ of CARICOM and have its function and structure embedded in the treaty so that its purposes in regional integration can be institutionalized."

'POSITIVE'

Arthur, who delivered a progress report to the leaders on the movement to establish the framework for the CARICOM Single Economy (CSE) by 2008, described the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

Raise business capital and build credit using your personal network

Did you know that lack of business credit is the primary reason why many start-ups and early-stage businesses find it difficult to obtain financing from a bank or other commercial lender?

As a result, many small business owners turn to their personal network of relatives, friends, business associates, and other people they know to raise capital.

Take the case of Gary Goodman. After being turned away by several banks, Gary turned to his father to borrow money to launch Customer First Transmission Services, a Los Angeles-based AAMCO franchise that provides automotive parts, transmission services and general repairs.

"The banks were reluctant

to even consider my proposal," said Goodman. "The third-party financing I did manage to find carried exorbitant rates."

So Goodman asked his father if he would be willing to make a loan to his business. His father agreed, but on the condition that the loan be secured by the new company's assets.

A former technology specialist, Goodman searched for more information about how to structure a private loan with his father. Gary's search led him to CircleLending (www.circlelending.com), a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company that structures and manages loans that occur between relatives, friends, and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

Late returns may still be filed to claim U.S. tax deductions

DENNIS GINSBURG & MICHAEL ROSENBERG

Generally, a foreign corporation or nonresident alien individual owning income-producing United States real estate (such as a shopping center or office building) must file a U.S. income tax return in order to claim deductions for qualifying expenses.

Often, where the scope of the rental activity does not rise to the level of a U.S. trade or business (for example, in the case of the rental of a single condominium), an election may be made to treat any income from U.S. real property as income which is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. This will permit the taxpayer the benefit of allowable deductions (depreciation, interest, taxes, etc.) to reduce the tax that would otherwise be applicable if there were no U.S. trade or business (i.e., where there is insufficient activity to rise to the level of a trade or business, a flat tax of 30 percent would be imposed on gross rents without offset by deductions).

This very important election (often called the "Net Election") may only be made for a year if the taxpayer has

income from U.S. real property, but continues in effect thereafter even though, during a subsequent year, there is no real property income.

Obviously, absent deduc-

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires the filing of a U.S. income tax return on a "timely basis". A return must generally be filed within 16 months of the due date for filing the return for a year in the case of a nonresident (generally, depending on the facts, a calendar year nonresident may need to file his return by April 15 or June 15 of the year following the year for which the return is due) or 18 months for foreign corporation (after the Mar. 15 due date in the case of a calendar year foreign corporation).



tions, substantial U.S. income tax might be due while with the benefit of deductions, that tax will at least be less or there may be no tax liability.

CRITICAL

Now the point. Applicable U.S. tax law provides that a true and accurate U.S. income tax return must generally be filed in order to receive the benefit of deductions or credits. At the same time, the Net Election is made on the income tax return for the first year to which it applies. Thus, the need to file a U.S. tax return is obviously critical.

In this connection, the

The IRS can sometimes shorten this period by sending a notice of non-filing indicating that, with few exceptions, no deductions or credits may be claimed. These filing deadlines may be waived only if the IRS finds that a taxpayer acted reasonably and in good faith in failing to file a U.S. return. Obviously, the need to file a timely tax return is critical to the ability to claim deductions.

As examples, in the Flores case, these regulations and the statute itself were applied to disallow deductions

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

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~ A Caribbean Today feature

Cool resources for small U.S. businesses in hot water

It doesn't take much to scald a small business: disputes that just can't seem to be resolved, website security breaches, on-the-job accidents that send insurance rates soaring.

A number of issues can singe your business. When the heat is on, business owners need to know where to find help. And fast.

Today more than 26 million Americans operate small

businesses, and millions more will start over the next five years. Nearly all of those entrepreneurs will find themselves in a sticky situation at one time or another. Knowing exactly where to find solutions for problems can make the difference between success and failure.

"All businesses face challenges," says Daniel Kehrer, nationally syndicated business columnist and editor of "The 100 Best Resources for Small Business" (BizBest Media, \$19.95 at www.bizbest100.com). "Those that conquer their challenges have access to the best connections to solutions, which ultimately boosts profits and gets things done."

As a business owner and journalist, Kehrer has spent decades sniffing out resources that can provide solutions for the unique challenges faced by small businesses. Here are five: 1. The American Arbitration Association (AAA) is a not-for-profit organization that offers alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services. AAA provides a forum for hearing disputes via 34 offices in the

U.S. and use broadly accepted rules and a roster of 8,000 experts to help resolve cases.

2. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) helps resolve business disputes by using common sense alternatives to expensive legal actions. Programs are run through local BBBs under the direction of the group's national umbrella organization, the Virginia-based Council of Better Business Bureaus.

3. McAfee Security delivers software and service solutions that help small businesses secure and protect their computers and make their technology work better.

4. Norton AntiVirus from Symantec ranks among the world's most trusted anti-virus software. It repairs common virus infections automatically, without interrupting your work. It also scans and cleans both incoming and outgoing e-mail and defends against script-based viruses, even between virus definition updates. Also, Norton Personal Firewall is an easy-to-use program that keeps hackers out and your data in.

5. The National Safety Council (NSC) is an excellent source for workplace safety advice and information. NSC offers posters and banners, safety publications, software, training programs, videos and more. Their website has helpful information for small businesses in areas such as repetitive motion injuries, emergency care, ergonomics and compliance with standards set by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). NSC also offers an emergency preparedness package and info on proper use and handling of chemicals.

"There's a gold mine of help in every area," says Kehrer, "You just have to know where to find it." At www.bizbest100.com, get complete contact information for all resources listed here, and the free report "Six Resources That Can Really Make a Difference (ALL FREE!)"

Edited from FeatureSource. Author: MarketAbility



Caribbean Business Council set for launch in June 2006

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

deliberations as "positive."

Arthur said that the region was well advanced in many areas regarding a single economy, noting that there had also been plans to establish a monetary union by 2000 "and in support of that a convergence project to bring the economies closer." He said the treaty itself makes provision for a regional competition policy and the building of a regional competition commission to support the policy.

MARKET RULES

"I stress that because once we have a single Caribbean market the rules of competition within that market become very important," he said, noting that the matter had been discussed by the regional leaders at their 17th inter-session summit last

month.

He said he had also brought to the meeting a proposal for the region to stage four high level engagements during the course of this year. He said the engagements would involve the governments of the region, the private sector, the labor movement, the universities, the financial community and civil society "to let us accelerate work in those four areas so that we could meet the timetable that by the year 2008, the full work for the creation of the single economy involving production, integration, policy coordination monetary cooperation and institution capacity can be in place."

He said during in the coming months, the region would "see an effort to bring these things into fruition."



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Raise business capital and build credit...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

other private parties.

"CircleLending was a unique fit for what we needed," added Goodman. "We were able to set up a deferred payment structure, with an interest rate that was workable both for my father and my company."

In addition to providing loan documentation and management services, CircleLending also offers their clients the ability to use a private loan to build business credit. The company's optional Credit Buildersm service can be activated when the loan is being set up. If Credit Buildersm is activated, CircleLending will report payment history on the private loan to a leading credit

reporting agency.

"Small business loans from relatives and friends are nothing new," said Craig Venezia, vice president of Marketing at CircleLending. "As a matter of fact, over half of all small business owners raise money from relatives and friends. But only through CircleLending, can they use that private loan to build credit for their business."

CRUCIAL

Building a positive credit history for your business is crucial. Not only will it open up doors that are currently closed in the form of bank financing, it can also allow you to establish credit lines with your suppliers, acquire corporate credit cards, etc.

"If you're borrowing from relatives and friends anyway," points out Venezia, "why not make the most of it and use that loan to build business credit?"

For Gary Goodman, borrowing from his father certainly made sense. He was able to raise the capital he needed and also begin building business credit in the process. His father, on the other hand, was able to help out his son financially while feeling confident that it wouldn't drive a wedge between the two men since the private loan was being managed by a third-party company.

Author: FeatureSource Staff



Late returns may still be filed to claim U.S. tax deductions

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

for 1988 through 1992 because the required tax returns were not filed until 1993. Also, in Espinosa, deductions were disallowed to a Mexican individual who filed untimely tax returns after repeated requests by the IRS for him to file the required tax returns.

In addition, in the Inverworld case, a Cayman Islands financial services corporation that failed to file required returns was denied the benefit of all deductions.

HOPE

All hope may not be lost,

however, for those who have not yet filed required returns within the extended 16 and 18 month periods provided by the regulations and who might not qualify for a waiver of those periods.

Recently, in Swallow Holdings Ltd., the U.S. Tax Court held that the IRS regulations requiring the filing of tax returns within the limited time periods discussed above are invalid because of long-standing judicial decisions providing, perhaps, a "longer" time.

Under this case, tax returns filed before the IRS contacts a taxpayer (and even,

perhaps, for some period thereafter) are still valid returns allowing a taxpayer to claim deductions.

Thus, all may not be lost if you have not yet filed the required returns. Certainly, any foreign taxpayer whose returns are late should speak with their U.S. tax advisor as soon as possible to determine their alternatives.

Dennis Ginsburg and Michael Rosenberg are shareholders with the Coral Gables law firm of Packman, Neuwahl & Rosenberg and can be reached at 305-665-3311



Caribbean American politician steps up 'war' against HIV/AIDS in New York

NELSON A. KING

NEW YORK, CMC - A Caribbean American politician here has introduced three resolutions in New York City Council to raise further awareness about the spread of HIV/AIDS in Caribbean and African American communities.

Yvette D. Clarke, representative for the overwhelmingly Caribbean 40th Council District in Brooklyn, said she wanted to add her voice and energies in bringing further attention to "this war."

The first resolution called on New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to officially declare a state of emergency health crisis in communities of color and provide additional funding towards educating Caribbean and African Americans about the disease. The second appealed to the New York City Council to create a sub-committee to deal specifically with HIV/AIDS in the city, while the third resolution urged the city council to

commission a study of the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color.

EDUCATION NEED

"For too long, ignorance about HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean, African and



Clarke

African American communities has run rampant and the time has come for all the stakeholders to make sure that all our families and friends are educated about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment," said

Clarke, whose parents are Jamaican-born.

She urged Caribbean nationals to join others in helping to educate the masses about the consequences of the deadly disease.

"That is why I am calling on Mayor Bloomberg to declare a state of emergency health crisis in communities of color," Clarke said.

"This symbolic gesture from the city's top executive would help to heighten awareness," she added.

"Additionally, I would hope that this resolution and declaration would serve as an impetus for renewed commitment towards funding for HIV/AIDS education, treatment and research."

CRISIS

Clarke said the immigrant community in central Brooklyn, which comprises a sizeable proportion of Caribbean nationals, is at the epicentre of this "crisis."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

Concern over HIV/AIDS spread as movement increases in Caribbean

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - Regional officials, who met in St. Lucia last month, have expressed concern that the increased movement of people in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) could worsen the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region.

The issue was high on the agenda of a CARICOM workshop here which was designed to discuss AIDS/HIV and give young persons the opportunity to come up with ways of halting the spread of the disease.

Many have applauded the CARICOM Single Market (CSM), which facilitates free movement of goods and services across the region, but the initiative also has the potential for increased sexual activity as persons travel around the region.

"We may see an increase in the years ahead, with initiatives like the CSM, and the opening up and lifting of travel restrictions and the increase in the movement of people, an increase in the infection rate of HIV/AIDS and we want to ensure that we stem that especially among young people," says Regional AIDS/HIV

Consultant Robert Dabney.

STIGMA

Stigma and discrimination within the regional context was another critical component discussed by delegates from across the region, and it was recognized it still existed despite the fact that it had been widely publicized throughout the regional media.

However, delegates lamented the fact that there had been no regional campaign developed by young people for young people. Dabney explained that this was vital because studies carried out in Africa, the United States and Europe, and more recently in the Caribbean, pointed to the need for more communications among and between the youth.

"These studies show that the best way to reach young people with messages about reducing HIV/AIDS is to have other young people talk to them," he said. "Not necessarily old people with grey beards but young people spreading the message to young people."



Make the most of time spent with your doctor

(FeatureSource) If you have ever walked out of the doctor's office and realized you forgot to reveal key information to your doctor, you're not alone. Many unprepared patients walk in with aches and pains, only to walk out with incomplete diagnoses and accompanying disappointment.

But by respecting your time and your doctor's, and by treating your appointment like a 10-minute business meeting, you can optimize the time. When it comes to your health care, it's as much about quality time as it is about quantity of time.

"Of course, your relationship with your doctor must be based on trust and a mutual



Your health is your business; ask the doctor the right questions and always tell the truth.

goal of good health," says health care advocate M.D. Messina, author of "Health Care Self-Defense" at www.HealthCareSelfDefense.com.

customer.

Be responsible. You are not a victim in this encounter. Rather, you are an equal partner. Only you have the infor-

mation the doctor needs to make sure you don't leave your appointment disappointed. You are in control of your appointment. You have scheduled and are paying for this time to be with your doctor. You are not just a patient. You are the

Knowing how to manage your time with your doctor is the first step to avoid feeling like a victim. This also means managing your medical information and being prepared for your next appointment. Here are some guidelines from Messina's book:

- Give the doctor written facts, with your most troublesome concerns listed first.
- Have your past medical and drug history in an easy-to-access notebook.
- Record your current symptoms by time, severity and frequency.
- Limit your personal conversation and stick to the medical

reason you're there.

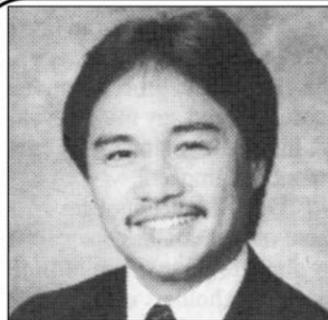
COURTESY

You expect your doctor to show you the courtesy of being informed. Show the doctor the same courtesy. It is your responsibility in this relationship to do the following:

- Provide medical background information.
- Answer detailed questions.
- Challenge the doctor's opinion at any time if you think he doesn't understand you.

Remember, you share the responsibility for the quality of health care you receive. Thus, be specific when you describe your symptoms. Get to the level of detail that helps

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)



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Why pop a pill when you can just skip the cheeseburger?

SUZY COHEN

QUESTION: I am still trying to lose weight from Christmas. I'm on a low-carb, high-protein diet and I take two medications, Paxil and Femhrt. I'm 30 pounds overweight and growing. What do you suggest? - C.C., Coral Springs, Fla.

ANSWER: You have to sweat to lose weight, tone up and speed up your body's metabolism - so exercise. You have many options to shed weight, but stay committed.

Your low-carb, high-protein diet apparently isn't working for you, and in any case it's not safe over the long term. These diets are very controversial because you consume many unhealthy fats that might clog arteries. You can get thinner, but you won't look so hot with heart disease, a potential result for some people.

Eating plenty of fresh, "living" foods - fruits and vegetables, nuts and grains - is important. Limit animal protein and cut out fried foods, soda and junk food, which is full of refined sugar, preservatives, dyes and chemicals.

Some people become dependent on medications such as appetite suppressants. One popular prescription drug, phentermine, is a heart stimulant. While it curbs a ravenous appetite, it can also

raise blood pressure, increase heart rate and cause addiction.

Isn't it safer to exercise self-control and trim down portions for a week? Your body will reset its "feel-full" threshold and you'll begin eating less at each meal. Suddenly, one slice of bread



There are often better diet options than popping pills.

will do when you used to devour half a loaf. By the way, white-flour breads are more fattening and less nutritious than whole-grain breads.

Interestingly, Paxil, for depression, can cause weight loss, sometimes significantly. On the other hand, Femhrt, a hormone-replacement drug, is the reason that many women pack on more pounds to their seat cushion than a La-Z-Boy recliner. Estrogen-containing drugs can do this.

The (United States Federal Drug Administration) FDA approved an over-the-counter form of Xenical (orlistat), the prescription fat blocker available since 1999. When Xenical gets its makeover, the relabeled version will be sold as "Alli" (pronounced AL-eye). It's nothing miraculous; people who took orlistat for two months lost about six pounds more than those who took dummy pills. Side effects include muscle pain, flatulence, diarrhea and sudden anal leakage. Personally, I'd rather block fat by putting duct tape over my mouth.

Why are we so willing to buy pills that could cause repelling side effects just to negate the effects of a fatty meal? Why can't we skip the buckets of fried chicken and greasy cheeseburgers?

I just can't figure this out and plan to give it serious consideration over my next Boston-creme donut.

DID YOU KNOW? Green tea, L-carnitine, bitter orange, fish oils and chromium are all natural supplements that can help you manage weight.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is a registered pharmacist. To contact her, visit www.dearpharmacist.com

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'Disturbing trends' in Caribbean education ~ CARICOM official

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - A senior Caribbean community (CARICOM) official has welcomed the move by regional governments to provide universal secondary education, but cautioned that the necessary mechanism must be put in place to ensure that students actually benefit from the educational opportunities.

Deputy Program Manager for Education at the CARICOM Secretariat Dr. Morella Joseph last month told regional journalists there were "disturbing trends" in the education system across CARICOM even as a number of countries move to offer universal access to secondary education.

"It is a good thing, yes. But you have to ensure that the mechanisms, the provisions are put in place so that every child will be able to leave school with some form of certification that is recognizable by

employers," Dr. Joseph, who taught for over 30 years, said.

The former teacher was speaking during a workshop in St. Lucia dubbed "Education for All" organized by the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) in collaboration with the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She said that on leaving secondary school students should be able to read, write, compute and "engage in some form of technology."

"You have to bear all this in mind when you are talking for education for all," she said.

Dr. Joseph noted that some students had problems transitioning the different physical surroundings and teaching styles in secondary school and this may result in truancy and dropouts.

Caribbean American politician steps up 'war' against HIV/AIDS in New York

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

She said the highest number of adults living with AIDS is in the districts of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, Flatbush and East Flatbush.

Clarke said AIDS is, and will remain for the near future, a "distressing part of our borough's life," basing her sentiments on a recent State University of New York/Downstate Medical Centre report. Though the report does not specifically give statistics on Caribbean nationals, it points out that more than half of AIDS cases in Brooklyn are among blacks; more children live with

AIDS in Brooklyn than any other borough; and most adults, men and women, living in Brooklyn, trace their infection to injection drug use.

"I represent a good portion of some of these communities, which is why the HIV/AIDS crisis is one that I have made a commitment to use my office to fight," Clarke said.

"And I believe this issue is serious enough that the New York City Council ought to put its resources towards making HIV/AIDS awareness in communities of color a priority," she said.

Make the most of time spent with your doctor

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

your doctor understand your condition. This will help your doctor help you.

- Tell the doctor exactly where and how it hurts.
- If something is uncomfortable, let the doctor know.
- Tell the doctor the truth. Do not dramatize or exaggerate. Don't downplay what's happening either.
- Don't be embarrassed. This is your health!
- Be honest. Lying or withholding information from your doctor will only delay proper treatment. Never assume your doctor knows what you're thinking or feeling.

Your doctor is a trained professional. Think of this person as a mechanic for your body. You wouldn't be embar-

rassed if your car were leaking fluids, so don't be embarrassed to tell your doctor if your parts are not performing. Tell the doctor as precisely as you can what the problem is. Ask yourself the following:

- Have I communicated everything I need to?
- Did I tell my doctor everything I came here to say?

ANSWERS

When your doctor comes back with a diagnosis, make sure he gives you answers that you understand. Record your doctor's comments in a notebook or on a tape recorder if you have trouble remembering them. Let your doctor repeat the information and clarify how she made the diagnosis. Don't be afraid to ask

questions.

When your appointment is finished, reflect on your interaction with your doctor. Was it productive? Did your doctor ask you information that you could not provide details for? Were you clear and concise about your symptoms? Did the doctor answer all your questions? When you left the doctor's office, did you feel you understood what you were told?

Remember a doctor's visit is like a business appointment. By treating it as such, you'll get the best possible health care at the lowest cost. You'll save you and your doctor time and money.

Author: MarketAbility

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Lionel Tate pleads guilty, faces up to 30 years in prison

DAMIAN P. GREGORY

Clad in his maximum security prison issue jumpsuit Lionel Tate - the troubled son of a Jamaican-born Florida Highway Patrol trooper and the youngest person in modern American history to be sentenced as an adult - has struck a deal to plead guilty to robbery, admitting that he held a Domino's Pizza deliveryman at gunpoint while still serving probation.

Tate, now 19, faces a sentence of at least 10, but a maximum of 30 years, behind bars, under the terms of the agreement.

Before he accepted the plea deal on Mar. 1, Tate

could have served two life sentences if he had been found guilty at trial, since it would have meant that he violated the terms of probation. Tate will find out his exact sentence when acting Circuit Court Judge Joel T. Lazarus rules on April 3.

An ugly war of words took place immediately following the hearing as Tate's mother Kathleen Grossett-Tate and a long-time supporter of the teenager Bobbie Duncan clashed in a bitter exchange.

"You caused your son this pain," Duncan told Grossett-Tate in front of the news media covering the hearing. "You are a devil."

Duncan, who is also

Jamaican-born, told **Caribbean Today** that she blames Tate's mother for most of the teenager's problems.

"She didn't care," Duncan said.

INFAMOUS

Tate rose to international fame almost seven years ago. At that time, then age 12 and weighing about 170 pounds, he was convicted of murdering playmate, six-year-old Tiffany Eunick. The girl, who weighed 48 pounds at the time, sustained 35 injuries - including a lacerated liver, fractured skull, broken rib and internal hemorrhaging - after Tate imitated wrestling moves on her while his mother slept upstairs in their Pembroke Park, Florida home.

Tate was sentenced to life in prison, but only served three years. That conviction was overturned in Jan. 2004 on appeal and Tate was set free and given 10 years probation.

But the teen was soon in more wrangling with the law. On Sept. 7, 2004 Tate was found by a Broward Sheriff's Officer in the company of another teen, who deputies said had had previous run-ins with the law. Tate and his

companion, Seldford Muir, were walking around at 2 a.m., authorities said. Tate had a pocket knife. Lazarus gave Tate another chance at freedom following that arrest, but tacked on five additional years probation, bringing Tate's probation to 15 years, before the robbery charge.

Damian P. Gregory is Caribbean Today's deputy managing editor.



Black elected officials honor Caribbean Today's publisher Peter Webley

Caribbean Today's founder and publisher Peter A. Webley was one of six people honored for community leadership by Broward Black Elected Officials at a "Spotlight on Leadership" fundraising gala last month in Florida.

Webley, who moved to the United States in 1979 from his native Jamaica, is a graduate of Calabar High School and is an alumnus of (then) Miami-Dade Community College and the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Webley, 45, started his career in the newspaper business as an advertising executive at **Miami Today** after graduation from college. However, he soon realized that there was a bigger need. Frustrated by the void that he saw in the community coverage of those from the Caribbean diaspora who live in the U.S. in mainstream media, he decided to start **Caribbean Today** on the back porch of his home. Today, the news magazine boasts a circulation of 39,000 and recently launched **caribbean today.com**, a web component to augment the monthly publication. He hopes that the award will galva-

nize members of the black community who have settled in South Florida to work together to forge stronger bonds that will go a long way in improving the community.

"We need to work together to build something that will



Webley

stand the test of time," Webley said. "It is time that we start putting our money where our mouths are."

The other five honorees singled out at the awards were: Commissioner E. Pat Larkins, Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne, Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Vernan Dooling, and Alcee L. Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives member.

- *Damian P. Gregory*



Lionel Tate, left, and his attorney Ellis Rubin, in the courtroom during a hearing when Tate admitted guilt in an armed robbery.

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Caribbean Today

Glen Johnson shines in battle of Jamaicans boxing showdown

GORDON WILLIAMS

Two United States-based Caribbean boxers put on an exciting show for fight fans late last month in their adopted hometown.

When the 12-round light heavyweight title fight was over at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Florida, Jamaican Glen the "Road Warrior" was crowned International Boxing Association (IBA) champion after scoring a unanimous victory over countryman Richard "The Destroyer" Hall.

The three judges scored the fight 118-109, 119-108 and 119-107 for Johnson, who dominated the bout from the start with superior offensive boxing skills, defensive savvy and power-packed punches which landed with precision and telling effect, forcing Hall to take a standing eight count in the second round and wobbling him on other occasions.

However, Hall, who had not fought since May 2004, did not disgrace himself, earning the respect of the fans and boxing experts who witnessed the spectacle. He threw his fair share of thunderous shots, but many landed on Johnson's arms and gloves causing little damage. Those who seemed genuinely surprised Hall did not fall for good, tops among them Johnson, turned instead to



- Photograph by Peter Webley

Jamaican boxers Glen Johnson, left, and Richard Hall exchange punches during their International Boxing Association title bout last month in Florida.

praise the Kingston-born fighter.

"I expected to finish the fight in about four rounds," Johnson said shortly after the Feb. 24 bout, "but Richard Hall, he's a lot tougher than I expected. I give him a lot of credit. He takes a lot of great shots. I hit him with some solid shots and he took 'em and he fought back. So I have to give him props. He really came to win and I just had to let him know that I am the superior fighter."

Hall said he did not anticipate the fight would last the 12 rounds either because of his long layoff from the ring and lack of adequate sparring leading up to the fight against Johnson, but added that he did all he could in the ring.

"I gave my best and stood up to the test," he said.

NO KNOCKOUT

Before the fight almost everyone was guessing if he would, in fact, still be standing at the end. Nearly all the questions centered on his long layoff from the ring and whether or not he could withstand the fury of Johnson, who not only had "bigger fish to fry" as he looked to a future IBF title fight with Britain's Clinton Woods, but was also the man who destroyed highly rated Roy Jones Jr., the American who had outclassed Hall a few years ago. Hall also knew that Johnson would be in shape and sharp as his last bout was a win

against George Khalid Jones in Sept. 2005.

"You know he has been in activity all over," Hall said of his opponent after the fight.

But the tall rangy fighter thought he had a real chance going in.

"I had a dream about three weeks ago, that the only way I was gonna win this fight is by knocking him out," he said.

Johnson turned that into nightmare, repeatedly landing heavy blows to Hall's head as Hall took away Clarendon-born Johnson's game plan by defending well against the body punches. What was widely seen as a mere tune-up fight for Johnson, as he gets ready for Woods possibly this summer, turned into a clash of powerful punches and wills.

"It was a tough fight from the point of view that I thought Hall didn't have much ability to take the punishment that Glen was dishing out," said Johnson's manager Henry Foster after the fight. "So I was impressed with (Hall's durability)."

"He (Hall) showed a great chin, he showed a big heart," added Johnson's trainer Orlando Cuellar.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.

T&T wins Carib cricket

Trinidad and Tobago last month defeated Barbados by a mammoth 264 runs to win the Carib Beer Series, earning the twin island republic its first regional first-class cricket title in more than two decades.

The victory was achieved on the final day of T&T's last preliminary match in the series and propelled the winners to 36 points for a tie with Barbados. However, T&T claimed the title based on head-to-head results against its long time rivals.

Heroes of the win against Barbados included former West Indies fast bowler Mervyn Dillon, who captured eight wickets for 65 runs in the game to earn the "Man-of-the-Match" award. He received strong support from spin bowler Dave Mohammed.

Final scores in the game were T&T 259 and 319, Barbados 167 and 147.

Trinidad last won the regional first-class championship in 1985.

CMC reports contributed to this story.

T&T uses South Florida camp to stay sharp for soccer's World Cup

GORDON WILLIAMS

The Soca Warriors may have finally found the perfect vehicle to drive them onto soccer's biggest stage, but the Caribbean team is still tinkering with ways to get top performance from the engine.

Members of Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup-bound soccer squad rolled into South Florida last month for a four-day training camp, minus some of the group's top names, but still keen to stay sharp and add needed pieces for this summer's tournament in Germany.

The 15-man squad, which resided and trained at the Hilton hotel at Sunrise, did not include overseas-based stars, such as captain Dwight Yorke, Russell Latapy, Stern John and Dennis Lawrence, the goal-scoring hero from the final qualifier against Bahrain in November. But several fresh faces, others who played key roles in the qualifiers, and at least one long-time veteran attempting a comeback, were part of the squad invited by Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker to Florida, the third time the team has visited the site. "The coaches realize that it

was an ideal spot for such a training camp," Shaun Fuentes, the team's media officer, told *Caribbean Today*. "It has excellent training facilities a few meters away from the actual hotel."

AIM

The immediate aim was to keep the Caribbean-based players, most who were out of competition in T&T, in shape, and ready for an international friendly against Iceland late last month in England. It was also an opportunity to look at possible additions to complement the squad in time for Germany.

"What he (Beenhakker) is using the exercise for is to keep a few of the home-based players, professionals who were part of that team that played in the qualifying campaign, they're off-season right now...keep them involved in terms of what is happening to



Coach Beenhakker, left, and some of the T&T players in training in Florida recently.

the preparation," Fuentes explained.

"...So it's a way of keeping these guys fit and keeping them in the program, as well as he is using the opportunity to view some other potential players who can possibly break themselves into the team leading up to the World Cup."

A handful of the players who visited Florida are based in the United States. Most of the rest are based in T&T, with at least one out of contract from overseas teams and others returning from trials abroad. Of the players who made the trip, about four or

five were expected to be named to the squad for the Iceland game.

"I just think he is just looking to see who he can get from this batch to go up there and meet the rest of the squad (in England)," Fuentes said.

The camp included twice-a-day practices and a couple training games against local teams, including a 1-0 win over Florida International University and a 2-1 victory over Miami-based Honduras 5-Stars. Those too had a specific purpose.

"(Beenhakker) just wanted to see how well these players he has in training right now, how well they fit into a match situation and probably get a better idea of what they have to offer," Fuentes said.

VETERANS

Among the group were players who participated in the "Journey to Germany" campaign, including Cyd Gray, Silvio Spann and Aurtis Whitley, all part of the historic squad for the final play-off qualifier against Bahrain. Also in Florida was Anthony Rougier, a former T&T captain who last played for the Soca Warriors in a qualifier

against the U.S. in Feb. 2005. With T&T's defense appearing its most suspect unit, the burly defender could figure prominently in the final squad to Germany.

"(Rougier) is making a comeback," Fuentes said. "The coach has seen potential in him and he wants to have in the mix again."

As the T&T squad went through its paces under the watchful eyes of Beenhakker, other observers, from the Caribbean and much further away took keen interest as well, all charting the progress of the Soca Warriors to evaluate their chances against preliminary World Cup group opponents England, Paraguay and Sweden.

"In tournament (soccer) anything can happen," said T&T-born, South Florida sports store owner Steve Shand as he followed practice. "But it's going to be a tough battle (for T&T)...If we can come out of it with one win we would be happy."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.

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~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

U.S. and E.U. probe price fixing in air cargo business

More than a dozen airlines around the world have had their offices searched or were otherwise contacted by United States and European Union investigators probing the possibility of illegal price fixing in the air cargo business.

Officials with the European Commission and U.S. Department of Justice have provided few details about the probe and the searches that were carried out last month.

However, one of the airlines targeted, SAS AB's SAS Cargo in Copenhagen, Denmark, said the E.U. has alleged that cooperation among airlines began in 2000 and involved agreements about surcharges imposed by airlines to offset certain external costs.



Air cargo shipping has come under scrutiny.

Among the costs, according to SAS, are surcharges on fuel, added security after the Sept. 11 attacks and premiums for war-risk insurance after the start of the war in Iraq. SAS said in a statement it does not suspect any violations at its operations. The raids on Feb. 15 involved only possible price fixing in air cargo, E.U. antitrust spokesman Jonathan

Todd said in Brussels, Belgium.

When asked if there was also an investigation into collusion in setting fuel surcharges for passenger flights, he said: "I cannot make any comment on any other investigation that may or may not be going on. At any one time, the commission has several hundreds of antitrust investigations going on, of which only a small proportion are in the public domain."

SUSPECTED CARTELS

The commission said that the raids were a preliminary step in investigations into suspected cartels and it does not mean the companies raided are guilty of anti-competitive behavior.

Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona

confirmed that U.S. investigators were working with the E.U. and other foreign authorities in the probe, but declined to provide any details of the investigation. Atlanta-based shipping giant UPS Inc. has been "informally contacted" by the Justice Department regarding the probe, company spokesman Norm Black said. "UPS understands it is not part of the probe," Black said. "As is its practice, UPS will cooperate with requests from government agencies."

The largest U.S. airline, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, said it has received a subpoena from the Justice Department but has not been told it was a target of the investigation, spokesman Tim Wagner said. "And unlike some other airlines," he said, American didn't receive a search warrant. He said the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline would cooperate fully with investigators. United Airlines had its Frankfurt, Germany, office searched by E.U. officials, according to Chicago-based United spokesman Jeff

Green. He said other air freight carriers in Frankfurt had similar visits. He said he was unaware of any other searches or inquiries involving other United offices or airports.

Meanwhile in Chicago, Federal Bureau of Investigations spokesman Ross Rice confirmed last month that the FBI had searched the Air France-KLM cargo terminal at O'Hare International airport as part of an ongoing investigation. He would not say what the investigation was about. Among the other airlines that were searched or approached by investigators are Atlas Air Worldwide Holding Inc.'s Polar Air Cargo unit, Japan Airlines Corp., Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., British Airways PLC, Germany's Lufthansa AG, Luxembourg's Cargolux Airlines and Lan Chile. Most said they were cooperating with the probe.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc., whose cargo business makes up only a small (CONTINUED ON PAGE 27)

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The 'A' list of must-know terms in transportation and cargo

(The following terms are important in the transportation and cargo business and consumers may want to familiarize themselves with them.)

Advanced charge

A charge paid by a carrier to an agent or to another carrier, which the delivering carrier then collects from the con-

for shipment to the consignee.

e.g. about the status of the goods.

or rear of a vessel or an aircraft.

Advice note

A written piece of information

Aft

At, near or towards the stern

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 27)



Shipping is easier when you know the terms of the industry.

Absorption

Acceptance by the carrier of a portion of a joint rate or charge which is less than the amount which it would receive for the service in the absence of such joint rate or charge.

Acceptance of goods

The process of receiving a consignment from a consignor, usually against the issue of a receipt. As from this moment and on this place the carrier's responsibility for the consignment begins.

Acknowledgement of receipt

A notification relating to the receipt of e.g. goods, messages and documents.

Active inventory

Covers raw material, work in progress, finished products that will be used or sold within a given period without extra cost or loss. This term does not cover the so-called reserve inventory.

Actual demand

Customers' orders and often also the allocation of items, ingredients and/or raw materials to production or distribution.

Actual voyage number

A code for identification purposes of the voyage and vessel which actually transports the container/cargo.

Added value

The value attributed to products, and services as the result of a particular process (e.g. production process, storage, transport).

Advance arrangement

An agreement between the shipper and the carrier, concerning contacts between those parties prior to tendering the consignment.

Advanced amount

Cash or cash equivalents expressed in a monetary amount given to a driver to cover expenses during a trip.

signee. Such charges are usually for agents' forwarding fees and incidental expenses paid out of pocket for account of the shipment by an agent or other carrier (air cargo).

Advanced interline

An interline carrier that picks up cargo from the shipper and delivers it to another carrier

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~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

The 'A' list of must-know terms in transportation and cargo

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

Agency fee

Fee payable by a shipowner or ship operator to a port agent.

U.S., E.U. probe...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

fraction of its revenue, has not been contacted in the probe, spokeswoman Chris Kelly said. Memphis-based FedEx Corp. also has not been contacted, spokesman Jess Bunn said. In South Korea, the nation's antitrust watchdog said it had inspected local and foreign airlines in cooperation with similar actions by authorities in the United States and Europe. The commission did not mention what airlines were inspected.

But Korean Air Co. spokesman Cho Hyong-chol confirmed that officials visited that airline, adding that he had no details.

Edited from businessweek.com and the Associated Press.



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Aggregate inventory

The inventory for any group of items or products, involving multiple stock-keeping units. Synonym: Aggregate Stock.

AIM

Automatic Identification Manufacturers.

Allocation

The process of assigning activities, costs or facilities e.g. space to a certain organizational units.

Allotment

A share of the capacity of a means of transport assigned to a certain party, e.g. a carrier or an agent, for the purpose of the booking of cargo for a specific voyage.

Amidships

At or in the middle of a vessel.

Apparel

A vessel's outfit, such as rigging, anchor and life boats. The term used in distribution/transport of clothing for a single piece of clothing, a garment.

Application service provider

An online outsourcer or hosting service for applications, letting 'Net market makers rent instead of buying applications and services such as auctions, exchanges and catalog aggregation. Many application vendors are moving to a hosting model, but ASPs are often application-agnostic, plugging a feature of one application into a marketplace when appropriate and using another feature from another vendor elsewhere.

Edited and reprinted from eyefortransport transportation glossary.



What is a declared value for carriage?

A declared value for carriage is a value entered on the air waybill that determines a carrier's maximum liability in case of loss or damage to a shipment.

When no value is declared (NVD), a carrier's automatic limit of liability is determined by the contract of carriage and/or the carrier's tariff.

The most common automatic limits are \$.50 cents per pound for domestic shipments and \$9.07 per pound for international ones. When your declared value for carriage exceeds these limits, a fee is charged by the carrier for accepting additional risk.

In order to collect on a claim based on a declared value for carriage, you must prove:

- What carrier had the cargo when the loss or damage occurred.
- That the carrier was negligent in its treatment of the cargo.
- The lost or damaged cargo was really worth what you are claiming.



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Government dismisses claims it wants to decriminalize homosexuality in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Justice Minister and Attorney General A.J. Nicholson has made it clear that the government has no intention to get rid of the current legislation which makes homosexuality illegal.

Nicholson, in a release issued last month, responded to claims by a group of church leaders and members of the Lawyers' Christian Association that provisions in the proposed Charter of Rights could lead to the decriminalization of homosexuality. According to the justice minister, the parliamentary committee discussing the bill has already rejected such an application of the gay rights group, Jamaica Forum for Lesbians All-sexuals and Gays (J-Flag).

"You will recall that the people who hold an opposite view to the lawyers and the church representatives came and made submissions to us in the joint select committee and the position was fully ventilated and the government and the joint select committee decided

that there would be no opening of any door to same sex marriages or the decriminalization of homosexuality," he said.

OPPOSITION

The Christian groups had voiced their opposition to provisions of the charter claiming that it condoned homosexuality and abortion. The Lawyers'

Christian Fellowship has also written to Nicholson requesting that their concerns be heard by the Joint Select Committee of



Nicholson

Parliament that is reviewing the Charter of Rights Bill.

The report from the parliamentary committee will form the basis of an Act to amend the Jamaican Constitution to provide for the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. Opposition Leader Bruce Golding has supported the government in dis-

missing claims that the proposed Charter of Rights would open the door for the decriminalization of homosexuality. However, he urged the government to allow the church leaders to make their submissions before the parliamentary committee.



REGION BRIEFS

• **U.N. discusses Caribbean's crime rate**
The rising crime rate in Caribbean islands was scheduled among the items on the agenda of a week-long crime prevention conference called by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in South Africa late last month.

A Caribbean research team, led by Professor Ramesh Deosaran, director of the UWI Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, was scheduled to present research papers on the work of 10 of Trinidad and Tobago's organizations on crime and violence prevention, family mediation, drug addiction and prisoner rehabilitation and reduction of school delinquency.

• **Privy Council rejects Panday's application**

The Privy Council in London has thrown out an application by Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday to block criminal proceedings against him.

Last month's decision by the Law Lords has opened the way for his criminal trial to proceed on charges of failing to disclose a million dollar London bank account to the Integrity Commission while he held the office of prime minister.

• **Grenadians observe 32nd Independence**

Grenadians last month celebrated their 32nd anniversary of political Independence from Britain amid a warning that more sacrifices would be needed to restore the island's economic viability following the battering it got from two recent hurricanes.

In an address marking the occasion, Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell said that despite the assistance given from foreign countries, Grenadians must accept full responsibility for the rebuilding of the island.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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